

Acts: Church Blueprints

“Exemplary Martyrdom”

Acts 6:8-7:60

As the early Church grew in numbers and influence, persecution increased. Stephen is the first recorded Christian martyr, and his testimony provides a model for serious Christian commitment in every generation. This element of martyrdom is a necessary component for a successful twenty-first century church.

1. Historical Background: Public Boldness in Witness (6:8-7:53)

2. Church Blueprint: Exemplary Martyrdom (7:54-60)

- **Living Witness of Spiritual Authority (vv.54-56)**
 - ✓ His Stature (6:8; 7:55)

 - ✓ His Service (6:5, 8, 10)

 - ✓ His Secret (7:56)

- **Dying Witness of Personal Conviction (vv.57-60)**
 - ✓ His Composure (6:15; 7:57, 58)

 - ✓ His Confidence (7:59)

 - ✓ His Christlikeness (7:60)