

The heart of the problem: the heart.

ACTS:
A HISTORY BOOK
Living IN YOU.
VINTAGE IDEAS FOR LIVING TODAY

Acts: Part 8 Noah Largent 2/23/14

Acts 4:32-37 ³² All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had. ³³ With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all ³⁴ that there were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales ³⁵ and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need. (NIV)³⁶ & ³⁷ Joseph was one of the followers who had sold a piece of property and brought the money to the apostles. He was a Levite from Cyprus, and the apostles called him Barnabas, which means "one who encourages others." (CEV)

✠ 4 Marks of a healthy Church (family). -Acts 4:32-37

1. Unity of Purpose.
2. Everybody plays their part.
3. The generosity is voluntary.
4. Celebrating group and individual achievement.

What you do with money and possessions declares loudly what sort of a community (individual) you are.

-N.T. Wright Acts pg. 76

Ask yourself: Do your family and friends know that you expect them to ask you for assistance if they have a genuine need?

Luke's Controversial Claim: The real community of God is no longer centered around the Temple & it's daily sacrifices. Now God's Spirit is alive in this group of Jesus followers who believe that Jesus' sacrifice was once & for all.

Further Discussion:

1. Was Peter setting a trap for Sapphira in verse 8?
2. God's drastic and immediate judgement with Ananias & Sapphira's is a rare event in the New Testament, why does He do it?

Acts 5:1-11&14 But a man named Ananias, with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property, ² and with his wife's knowledge he kept back for himself some of the proceeds and brought only a part of it and laid it at the apostles' feet. ³ But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back for yourself part of the proceeds of the land? ⁴ While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not at your disposal? Why is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to man but to God." ⁵ When Ananias heard these words, he fell down and breathed his last. And great fear came upon all who heard of it. ⁶ The young men rose and wrapped him up and carried him out and buried him. (ESV) ⁷ About three hours later his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. ⁸ Peter asked her, "Tell me, is this the price you and Ananias got for the land?" "Yes," she said, "that is the price." ⁹ Peter said to her, "How could you conspire to test the Spirit of the Lord? Listen! The feet of the men who buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out also." ¹⁰ At that moment she fell down at his feet and died. Then the young men came in and, finding her dead, carried her out and buried her beside her husband. ¹¹ Great fear seized the whole church and all who heard about these events...(NIV) ¹⁴ Yet more than ever believers were added to the Lord, great numbers of both men and women. (NRSV)

✠ 3 Signs of cancer in a Church (family). -Acts 5:1-11

1. Lack of accountability.
2. Hypocrisy.
3. Judgement at the expense of grace!

Ask yourself: In my life where am I "testing" God?



✠ Verse 14: Jesus centered living changes us and attracts others to Him!

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