



*Welcome to Sierra  
Community Church*








  
*Dad*  


**HAPPY FATHER'S DAY**

The background of the slide consists of several concentric circles in various shades of blue, creating a tunnel-like or ripple effect. The circles are centered and expand outwards from the middle of the frame.

# *the book of* **ACTS**

*The account of the growth of the Church*



# Oliver Cromwell





<sup>32</sup> 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. <sup>33</sup> 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



<sup>34</sup> 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 <sup>35</sup> and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need.



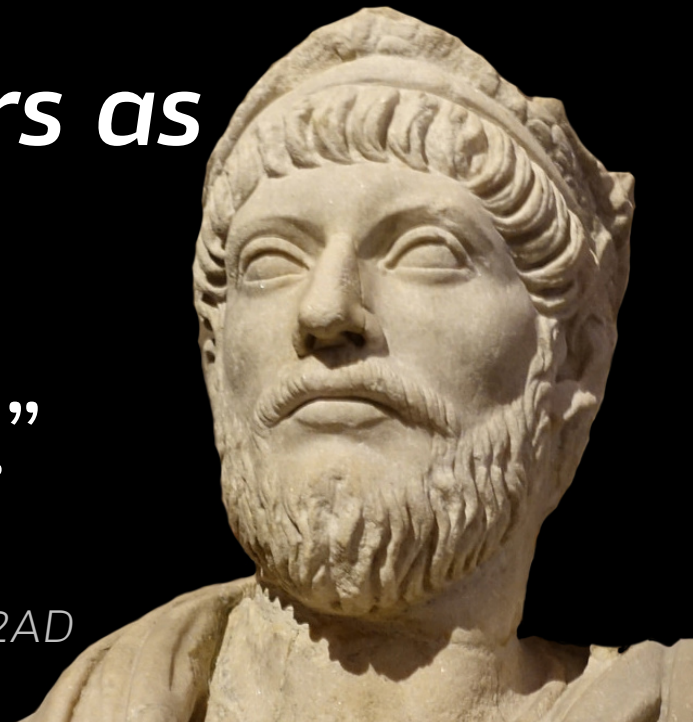
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“I think that when the poor happened to be neglected and overlooked by the priest, the impious Galileans (Christians) observed this and devoted themselves to benevolence... ***They support not only their poor, but ours as well***, everyone can see that our people lack aid from us.”

*Emperor Julian Letter to high priest of Galatia 362AD*



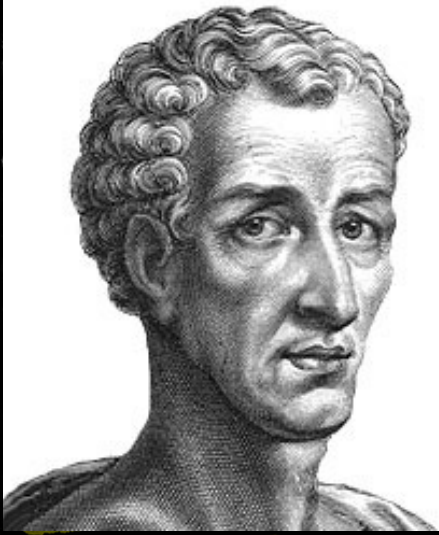


# 4 Marks of a healthy Church.

-Acts 4:32-37

Lucian of Samosata, a Greek philosopher who hated Christianity, said in one of his criticisms of it, “Their founder (*that’s Jesus*) persuaded them they should be like brothers to one another.

Therefore, they despised their own privacy and viewed all their possessions as common property!”






# The Yemen Project





Chapter 5  But a man named Ananias,  
together with his wife Sapphira, also sold a  
piece of property.<sup>2</sup> With his wife's full  
knowledge he kept back part of the money  
for himself, but brought the rest and put it  
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<sup>4</sup> Didn't it belong to you before it was sold? And after it was sold, wasn't the money at your disposal? What made you think of doing such a thing? You have not lied just to human beings but to God.” <sup>5</sup> When Ananias heard this, he fell down and died. And great fear seized all who heard what had happened. <sup>6</sup> Then some young men came forward, wrapped up his body, and carried him out and buried him.



<sup>7</sup> About three hours later his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. <sup>8</sup> Peter asked her, "Tell me, is this the price you and Ananias got for the land?" "Yes," she said, "that is the price." <sup>9</sup> 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."

<sup>10</sup> 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. <sup>11</sup> Great fear seized the whole church and all who heard about these events.

# Below The Surface

*Up to this point, the opposition to the Church comes from the outside. Now a new and more destructive opposition to the Church arises and it comes from within. **How does dishonesty affect a Marriage? Relationship with Kids? Coworkers?***



# Below The Surface

*There is a danger in seeking approval from others rather than God. It can cause us to misrepresent what is true in order to make ourselves look good or deter us from saying what we ought to because we fear what others will think of us.*

# *Obey God or Man?*

Acts 4:19 But Peter and John replied, “Judge for yourselves whether it ***is right in God’s sight to obey you rather than God.***”

Acts 5:29 Peter and the other apostles replied: “***We must obey God rather than men!***”

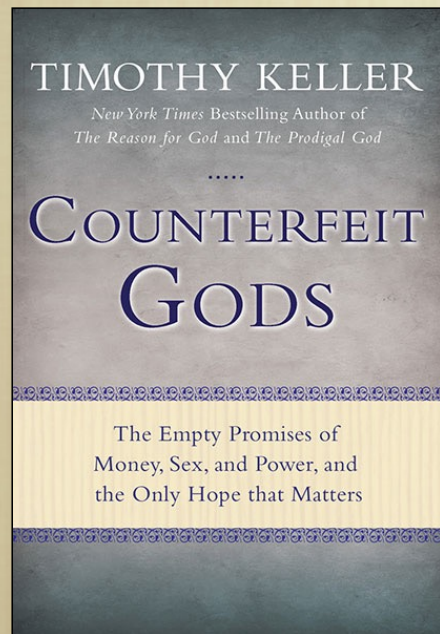
# Below The Surface

*The pursuit of money and it's power can be corrupting.*

*1 Timothy 6:10 For **the love of money** is the root of all evils. Some people in reaching for it have strayed from the faith and stabbed themselves with many pains.*



As a pastor I've had people come to me and confess that they struggle with almost every kind of sin. Almost. I cannot recall anyone ever coming to me and saying, "I spend too much money on myself. I think



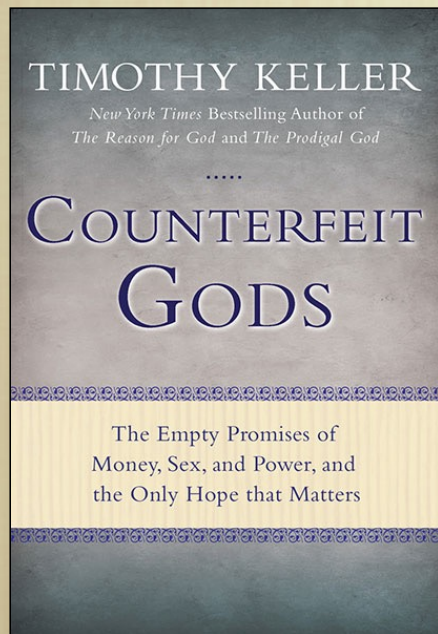
my greedy lust for money is harming my family, my soul, and people around me."

-*"Counterfeit Gods"* pg.52

“Jesus warns people far more often about greed than about sex, yet almost no one thinks they are guilty of it.

Therefore we should all begin with the

hypothesis that “this could easily be a problem for me.”



–“Counterfeit Gods” pg.53



# *“What Not to Do With Your Money”*

- Dan Wilvers 5 / 30 / 10

## 1. Money is a tool and test.

- a. It's a TOOL to be used for God's purposes in your life.
- b. Money TESTS our character, values, priorities, and responsibilities.

**SKYE JETHANI**



**WITH  
GOD  
DAILY**





Teaching a teenager to drive tests a parent's patience, nerves, and wisdom. It was a test I failed. I was driving with my oldest daughter the day before she was scheduled to get her driver's license when we stopped for gas. "Let me show you how to fill up the tank," I said to her as I got out of the car. "Dad," she said with an eye roll while pecking on her phone in the passenger seat, "I already know how to get gas." Like most 16-year-olds, she knew everything. Despite my better instincts, I didn't push the issue and filled the tank by myself.



The following night, just hours after getting her license, my daughter called saying the car wouldn't start. I went through a checklist of possible issues over the phone with her. "Did you leave the lights on?" "No." "Is the car in park?" "Yes." "Does the car have gas?" "Yes," she said, "I filled it up earlier today." My stomach sank. "What did you fill it up with?" I asked. "With gas," she said as if I was the child on the call. "What kind of gas? Was it diesel?" I asked. "Yes," she said enthusiastically.



“Why on earth would you use diesel?” I said.  
“You told me I should use the cheapest gas,”  
she replied, “and diesel was the cheapest.”  
Our 15-year-old Honda doesn’t run on diesel.

My stupidity cost me \$700, and it cost my  
daughter the ridicule of her high school  
friends who gave her the nickname “Diesel.”



# God's Power in and through us & the Church

*In life we face a similar choice as Ananias and Sapphira. God's way or ours. **When we follow God's way, we (and the Church) can experience God working in and through us in an amazing way!** There is no other way to get the real thing. We can't experience God's powerful presence in our lives by charting our own path in life. We can't have it both ways.*