

January 21, 2018
Acts 4:32-37

ALL THINGS IN COMMON

I. Introduction:

If one part of the body suffers, the whole body suffers.”
I Corinthians 12:25

II. Unpacking The Passage:

What caused the early church to grow so rapidly?

“31] After they prayed the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.” Acts 4:31

A. There was a preoccupation of _____

“32] All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they shared everything they had. “33] With great power the apostle continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and much grace was upon them all.” Acts 4:32-33

B. There was a preoccupation with _____

“32] All the believers were one in heart and mind. **No** one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but **they shared everything they had.**” Acts 4:32

“All the believers were together **and had everything in common.**” Acts 2:44

C. The Result Of Their Love And Care

"34] **There was no needy persons among them** For from time to time those who owned lands or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales." Acts 4:34

D. Who Distributed The Money?

"and put it at the apostles feet, and it was distributed to anyone as he had need." Acts 4:35

E. A Generous Believer

"36] Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means Son of Encouragement), 37] sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it as the apostles feet." Acts 4:36-37

III. Conclusion and Application:

Points To Ponder
Week of January 22nd to 27th
Acts 4:32-37

Open It

1. *If you had a successful yard sale, what would you do with the profits?
2. When have you worked with others to raise money for a worthy cause?
3. What possessions would you be willing to part with to help a friend in need?

Explore It

4. *What attitude did the believers have toward one another? (4:32)
5. How did the Christians show their unity? (4:32)
6. How effective was the apostles' witness? (4:33)
7. What godly quality enhanced the unity and service of the early Christians? (4:33)
8. How was the command of Deuteronomy 15:4 exemplified by the members of the early church? (4:34-35)
9. *What did some better-off Christians do from time to time? (4:34-35)
10. Why were there no needy persons among the members of the early church? (4:34)
11. Who dealt with the common fund of the church? (4:35)

12. How did the early wealthy believers disburse the money they got from selling their lands or houses? (4:35)
13. Who was Joseph? (4:36)
14. Who was Barnabas? (4:36)
15. *What was exemplary about Barnabas? (4:36-37)
16. How was Barnabas' generosity singled out? (4:36-37)
17. What did Barnabas do? (4:37)

Get It

18. *What is difficult about sharing the things we have?
19. How do the members of our church care for each other's physical needs?
20. How can you be generous toward our Christian family?
21. In what ways can you help our Christian leaders meet practical needs of people in the community?
22. *How can we copy Barnabas's example?
23. Where does generosity need to become more evident in the life of our church?
24. Which member of your congregation stands out as a true "Barnabas" in your view?

Apply It

25. What is one change you can make to improve your relationships with others in our church?
26. *What can you do to show Christian generosity to someone in need this week?