



SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Week of January 12, 2025

Acts 4:32-37

Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common. 33 And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. 34 There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold 35 and laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need. 36 Thus Joseph, who was also called by the apostles Barnabas (which means son of encouragement), a Levite, a native of Cyprus, 37 sold a field that belonged to him and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet.

1. Why is it so shocking to our modern sensibilities that the early Christians did not consider anything as belonging to themselves, but instead shared everything in common? What does this reveal about their priorities, especially towards physical possessions and the riches of the present world?
2. Why do you think God desires His people to be of one heart and soul? (See John 17:21-23) Why would the world come to believe in Jesus - that God sent Jesus to earth - when they see the church loving one another?
3. What would you say to the person who says this passage is promoting socialism or communism?
4. How does the reality of the resurrection of Jesus foster such great love, care, generosity and self-sacrifice amongst believers? Do you fully grasp and believe in the resurrection of Christ? How would you know if you do or not?
5. Why is God's great grace necessary to change us from people who only want to get more, to believers who want to give more? Think about how you live. Are you in the group that is more concerned about getting things for you and your family or are you in the group that is more concerned about sharing for the common good of God's people and for the lost? How does the reality of the resurrection change us from one group to the other?