

ONE message. people. mission.



One Heart, One Soul

Acts 4:32 – 5:11

Overview

- **The Holy Spirit awakens & binds the church together as one**
 - The church is full of those who believe and were of One heart and One soul
 - Sin divides, the Gospel unites because it overcomes sin
 - The thing they had in common, the thing that made them One was Gospel that was brought to bear upon each believer in the awakening power of the Spirit
 - The unity that they enjoyed was in the Gospel, not in anything else
 - Their gathering, their church was bound together not by ethnicity, people group, music style, or any other agenda other than the very thing that birthed them, the Spirit of God testifying to the work of Christ
- **A people united in the bond of the Holy Spirit serves those who are in need**
 - The God of love served them in their greatest need & the Spirit awoken them, so they likewise serve those who are in need both in their church and the community at large
 - They were radical in their attitudes and actions
 - Sold plots of land so that no one would have need
 - Motivation here is the thing that brought them together in the first place: Gospel
- **Sin denies the Holy Spirit & brings division to the church**
 - Author has placed 4.32-37 next to 5.1-11 to contrast the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace and the divisiveness of selfish motives inside the walls of the church
 - Peter equates the Holy Spirit to God (Vss. 3 and 4)
 - Denying the Holy Spirit is denying the very bond that is keeping them together
 - Deceit & Dishonesty (sin) is serious enough that it must be dealt with, otherwise division comes
 - Sin divides, and the Gospel unites
 - Annanias & Saphira were sinning & it had to be dealt with
 - So our sin must be dealt with

Questions

Discussion Starter: What are some things in society that you would say are very “united”? What do you think makes them that way?

1. What is it about the nature of God & the Gospel that makes people of one heart and one soul?
2. How can we as a church pursue greater “oneness?”
3. How can we as a church pursue greater diversity in our church, not for the purpose of mere diversity, but to communicate the diversity of God’s world and what will constitute heaven?
4. What should the church ultimately be about? Why does it gather and what is its common association?

5. What are some needs in our church that could be met? What are some needs in our community that could be met? (Try and think more organically/individually here, not institutionally)
6. What is it that makes us nervous about selling or giving away our things or our time? What are we trying to hold onto? What do we think we will lose? (Why don't we think about what we will gain?)
7. Understanding there are needy around us, those apart from Christ are the most needy...why?
8. Why is it about sin that is so divisive and what is it about the Gospel that is uniting?
9. Discuss how our personal sins can cause harm to the body of Christ at large.

Accountability Question: What sins are you harboring that could cause division at Restoration Church?