

Christian Unity, Generosity, and Leadership

Acts 4:32-37



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Introduction

This Sunday, we are continuing our series, *The Spreading Flame*, as we study Acts 4:32–37. This passage gives us a picture of what life looked like for the early church. Based in their belief in Christ's resurrection and their union with Christ, the Christians also had unity with one another and were generous in how they cared for each other. This passage also shows us how belief in Christ is lived out by Christian leaders and hints at how different Christian communities need to function differently. Overall, this passage challenges us to ask – does my belief in Christ shape the way I think about and live in community with other Christians?

Belief in the resurrection of Christ leads to...

- a. Christian unity
- b. Christian generosity
- c. Christian leaders who lead by example

Christian community can and should look different in different contexts.

Notes

Questions to Ponder

1. Our passage speaks about how “the full number of those who believed” (v. 32) lived in community. What does it mean that the Christians were in “one heart and one soul” (v. 32)? How is their belief in Christ connected to their unity with each other? How should such unity be lived out in Grandview today?
2. A key theme in this passage is the generosity of the Christians toward one another. The early Christians were selling their possessions to help one another in order that “There was not a needy person among them” (v. 34). How should Christian generosity be lived out today? How does the church look to help those in genuine need while also guarding against being exploited?
3. In verses 36–37, we learn about Barnabas, an important figure in the early church and an Apostle who worked closely with Paul (see Acts 14:14). In Acts 4, Barnabas is introduced as one who leads in being generous and sacrificing for others. Why is it important that the actions of Barnabas are listed here? How should leaders today model generosity and unity in Christian community?
4. Seeing as this account of the church is happening early in the book of Acts and thus early on in the history of the church, in what ways has the growth and expansion of the Christian faith impacted the way we do ministry in the church? What is the difference in practicing generosity in a church of 50 versus a church of 250 versus a church of 1,000?
5. Close your time together by praying for one another.