

# The Church That God Uses is Unified

Acts 2:41-47 and Acts 4:32-37

## Essence of Unity

- Unity in the church begins with our commitment to Christ.
- Unity comes from our commitment to the vision God has for our church.
- Unity comes from a commitment to each other.

## Evidence of Unity

<sup>41</sup>Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

<sup>42</sup>They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. <sup>43</sup>Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. <sup>44</sup>All the believers were together and had everything in common. <sup>45</sup>Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. <sup>46</sup>Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, <sup>47</sup>praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved. Acts 2:41-47

John 13:34-35: "So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples." (NLT)

## Effects of Unity

<sup>32</sup>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. <sup>33</sup>With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and much grace was upon them all. <sup>34</sup>There were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned lands 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 as he had need.

<sup>36</sup>Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means Son of Encouragement), <sup>37</sup> sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles' feet.

Acts 4:32-37

### **Effects of Unity**

- Power, encouragement, and freedom for the apostles
- Freedom for the followers
- Stewardship mindset
- Trust
- Undistracted ministry
- Joy
- People's lives are influenced (inside and outside the church)

### **Tough Questions**

How do I contribute to the unity of my church?

Are there any relationships I need to make right?

Are there any of my attitudes I need to change?

Am I holding back on giving my time, my talents, or my treasure?