

All In

(Series: Reimagining Church; Message Fourteen)

Acts 4:32-5:11

THE SPIRIT-DRIVEN CHURCH

A. Acts 4:32 - “All believers were one in heart and mind”

1. One heart, one mind unity was what Jesus prayed about passionately

“My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me...that all of them may be one...as you and I are one.” (John 17:20f)

- a. Jesus died to make us right with God and one with each other
- b. Unity in the church comes at a price. It cost Jesus his life. It will cost us ours

2. Unity in the church is not primarily the leaders’ responsibility; it’s mine

3. It grieves God’s heart to watch his Church torn apart by pride, bitterness...

- a. There is no place in God’s family for tearing-down each other
- b. We’re to be of one heart and mind: loving, praying, forgiving...

“Make every effort to keep the unity of the spirit through the bond of peace”
(Ephesians 4:3)

B. Acts 4:32b - “No one claimed any of his possessions was his own but shared everything they had”

1. One of the first words (we) learn is “mine;” some never outgrow it

2. A miracle took place; the Spirit came; they united behind the mission

a. They took their eyes off themselves and placed them on a lost world

“Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourself. Serve the Lord. Be joyful in hope; patient in affliction; faithful in prayer” (Romans 12:9)

b. Love ultimately must become tangible

“If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need, but has not pity on him, how can the love of God be in him?” (1 John 3:17)

C. Acts 4:33 - “With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus and much grace was upon them all.”

1. The apostles prayed for boldness. God made them bold

2. It’s not about us; it’s all about Jesus

D. Acts 4:34 - “There was no needy persons among them. From time to time those who owned lands or houses sold them, brought the money from the sale and put it at the apostles feet and it was distributed to anyone as he had need.”

1. Voluntarily. There was a need. People stepped up

2. Generously. They shared freely in their love

3. Transformationally. Their attitudes, opinions, and values changed

4. Christ calls his disciples to be fully devoted, all-in, taking-up-the-cross

THE SELF-DRIVEN CHURCH

A. Ananias and Sapphira, how could you not fear the sovereign power of God?

1. “Fear” is a deep sense of reverence, admiration, adoration and wonder

2. Do you really know God?

a. Do you stand in awe of God’s creative power?

“God said, ‘Let there be light’ and there was light!” (Genesis 1:3)

b. Do you stand in awe of God’s holiness?

“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord almighty. The whole earth is full of his glory” (Isaiah 6:3)

c. Do you stand in awe of God’s marvelous grace?

B. Ananias and Sapphira, did you really think you could fool God?

1. Why would you try to fool God? There’s a clue in 4:37-37

a. Barnabas sold a field he owned. He brought all the money to the disciples.

The response was overwhelming

b. Ananias and Sapphira want acceptance and appreciation like Barnabas

2. When Christ is in you, and you’re in Christ, you are accepted

a. The penalty seems incredible harsh; the warning is clear; the stakes are high

b. We can fool a lot of people (and we try); but we can't fool God

“Nothing in all creation can hide from Him. Everything is naked and exposed before his eyes. This is the God to whom we must explain all that we have done. That is why we have a high priest who has gone to heaven - Jesus the Son of God. Let us cling to him and never stop trusting him.” (Hebrews 4:14)

C. The Spirit-driven church is an “All-in,” “All together” church

1. Are you all in? Your head, heart, voice, hands, feet, wallet

2. Are we in this together?