

THE MULTITUDE AND UNITY

ACTS 4:32-37

Introduction:

- A. The church has gathered at Jerusalem
  - 1) They have been baptized in spirit
  - 2) They have received the, "spirituals"
  
- B. The first signs of persecution appear
  - 1) The healing of the lame man
  - 2) The gathering of the council
  
- C. Peter and John are "detained"
  - 1) They are "threatened"
  - 2) They are "threatened further"
  
- D. They are then, "let go"
  - 1) They went to their, "own company"
  - 2) They prayed for holdness to preach God's word
  - 3) The "place" was shaken, God granted their request

I. The Multitude and Unity      Vs. 32

- A. "And the multitude of them that believed"
  - 1) "multitude" = plethos = "fullness", "a great number"
  - 2) "believed" = pisteuo = "to be persuaded", "rely", "trust"
  - 3) Think of the diversity of cultures
  
- B. "were of one heart and of one soul"
  - 1) "heart" = kardia = "the heart", "the starting point of the developments and manifestations of personal life"
  - 2) "soul" = psuche = "the life", the "me" or "you"
  - 3) This was the body of Christ, it must have one heart and one soul.  
His heart and His soul!

C. The church, any true church, every true church is the body of Christ.  
The body must have one heart and one soul.

- 1) They were single-minded, thought the same
- 2) They were single-hearted, loved or they hated the same things

D. "Neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things in common."

- 1) "and not one of them said that any of the things which he had was his property only" Bas.
- 2) "common" = koinos = "pertaining equally to all"
- 3) They were not "communists"! were theistic
- 4) "Possessed" = ta = things + uparchonta = "being", "existing", "the things which one possesses"

## II. The Result of True Unity Vs. 33

A. "And with great power gave the Apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus:"

- 1) "great" = megas =
- 2) "power" = dunameis =
- 3) "witness" = marturion =
- 4) "resurrection" = anastaseos =

B. "and great grace was upon them all"

- 1) "great" = megale =
- 2) "grace" = charis =
- 3) "and God's favor rested richly upon them."
- 4) "and a wonderful spirit of generosity pervaded the whole fellowship"

## III. Unity and Sharing, How? Vs. 34-37

A. The giving-up of things Vs. 34

- 1) "lacked" = endees = "in want", "destitute"
- 2) "possessors" = ktetop = "what has been purchased", papri = "owners of real estate"
- 3) "sold" = piprasko = "to sell"
- 4) "prices" = time = "value", "price"

B. The laying down of things Vs. 35

- 1) "laid them down at the Apostles feet"
- 2) "distribution" = dia = "again" + didomi = "to give" = "so that each could have what share of it he needed." Knox

C. A good example of it Vs. 36-37

- 1) His identification Vs. 36
- 2) His act Vs. 37

IV. Diversity, Unity, and Sharing

A. Diversity is not a hindrance

- 1) Age, Education
- 2) Economic

B. Unity

- 1) The basis of true unity is truth
- 2) False unity of shared recreational interests

C. Sharing of things

- 1) Give it up
- 2) Lay it down

