

All
the
Believers
were of *ONE*
HEART
and **SOUL**.



Luke 4:32

A New, Improved Formula?
Text: Acts 4:32 – 5:16
Series: The book of Acts, #5
Pastor Lyle L. Wahl
November 24, 2024

Theme: **An effective church meets the challenges of life.**

The positive challenge: Unity.

1. Unity defined. (4:32)
2. Unity in action. (4:32, 34-37)

The negative challenge: Hypocrisy.

1. The challenge. (5:1-2)
2. Meeting the challenge. (5:3-11)

A profile of effective ministry.

1. A witness with great power. (4:33)
2. A fellowship which meets needs. (4:34)
3. A life worthy of respect. (5:11-13)
4. A ministry blessed with fruit. (5:14-16)

In My Life This Week

As you use this daily guide, write out your observations and responses on a separate piece of paper and save them with this sheet for reference.

Monday. Read Acts 4:32-37, focusing on the challenge and reality of unity in the church. How do you define or describe unity? What is the difference between unity and unanimity or uniformity? Remember that Christian unity is created by the Holy Spirit, and we are to live in it in ways that show (see also Ephesians 4:3).

Tuesday. Read Acts 5:1-11. What is hypocrisy? Why did Peter say Ananias and Sapphira lied to God (4)? Why do you think God immediately and severely judged them? In your own life, beyond failures and the need for growth, are there any ways in which you are hypocritical?

Wednesday. Read Acts 4:33 - 5:16. Today focus on the first two marks of effective ministry noted here, a witness with great power and a fellowship which meets needs. Could Luke describe your witness as he did the apostles' in 4:33? If not, why not? Describe the attitudes and lessons about material things and helping each other.

Thursday. The last two marks of effective ministry noted in this section are lives worthy of respect and a ministry blessed with fruit (5:11-16). Move through the specifics of their situation and list some principles that apply to you, to us as a church? Use them both as tools to evaluate and plan for your spiritual growth.

Friday – Saturday. Advent begins on Sunday. We will return to Acts after Christmas. We plan to look at *Waiting* as we start moving toward Christmas. Think about waiting, the waiting for Christ to come, and our waiting to celebrate His birth as you prepare for our time together.