# ECONGIO.

the table community church

<sup>32</sup> Now the entire group of those who believed were of one heart and mind, and no one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but instead they held everything in common. <sup>33</sup> With great power the apostles were giving testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was on all of them. <sup>34</sup> For there was not a needy person among them because all those who owned lands or houses sold them, brought the proceeds of what was sold, <sup>35</sup> and laid them at the apostles' feet. This was then distributed to each person as any had need.

<sup>36</sup> Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus by birth, the one the apostles called Barnabas (which is translated Son of Encouragement), <sup>37</sup> sold a field he owned, brought the money, and laid it at the apostles' feet.

### The vision of a group is reflected in the community practice.

"The Christian is called not to individualism but to membership in the mystical body."

- CS Lewis

Matters of money are inescapable. They are at the heart of discipleship, but they are not the heart of discipleship. Money here will be used to destroy what money normally is used to create: distance and boundaries between people."

- Dr. Willie James Jennings

#### Communal Possession > Personal Ownership

#### Communal Sacrifice > Self-Preservation

#### Submission to Leadership > Autonomy

## A communal expression of the Kingdom of God in practice

"The point of a sign is to point to something that is real but not yet visible. . . . The Church is a sign of the Kingdom insofar as it is a foretaste. The Church is a sign that points people to a reality beyond what we can see."

- Lesslie Newbigin

"This is the very identity and purpose of the church—to be a 'pointing people,' a sign pointing to a new reality present and coming in the midst of the world."

- Michael Goheen

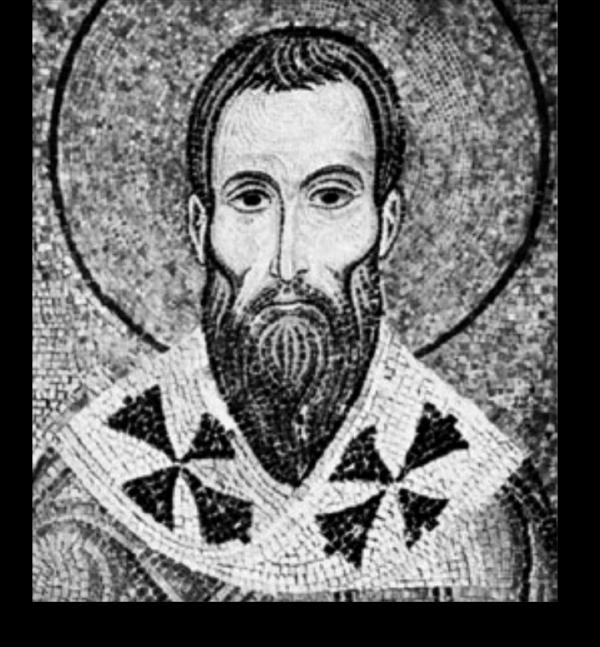


Photo Credit: Brittanica

How can you detach from seeing your possessions as "your own"? (How then are we to view "our" possessions?)

What does it look like - right here, right now - to be of one heart and one mind as a community of difference?

What does being a prophetic witness to the Gallatin Valley in 2025 look like in practice?