

HOW WE PRACTICE FELLOWSHIP: UNITED IN OUR RESOURCES  
Acts 4:32-5:11 (CSB)

1. We can have TRUE fellowship with REAL unity in our resources. (Acts 4:32-37)

*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.*

Acts 4:32-37 (CSB)

*In those days some prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. <sup>28</sup> One of them, named Agabus, stood up and predicted by the Spirit that there would be a severe famine throughout the Roman world. This took place during the reign of Claudius. <sup>29</sup> Each of the disciples, according to his ability, determined to send relief to the brothers and sisters who lived in Judea. <sup>30</sup> They did this, sending it to the elders by means of Barnabas and Saul.*

Acts 11:27-30 (CSB)

2. We can't have TRUE fellowship with FAKE unity in our resources. (Acts 5:1-11)

*But a man named Ananias, with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property. <sup>2</sup> However, he kept back part of the proceeds with his wife's knowledge, and brought a portion of it and laid it at the apostles' feet. <sup>3</sup> "Ananias," Peter asked, "why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the proceeds of the land? <sup>4</sup> Wasn't it yours while you possessed it? And after it was sold, wasn't it at your disposal? Why is it that you planned this thing in your heart? You have not lied to people but to God." <sup>5</sup> When he heard these words, Ananias dropped dead, and a great fear came on all who heard. <sup>6</sup> The young men got up, wrapped his body, carried him out, and buried him. <sup>7</sup> About three hours later, his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. <sup>8</sup> "Tell me," Peter asked her, "did you sell the land for this price?" "Yes," she said, "for that price." <sup>9</sup> Then Peter said to her, "Why did you agree to test the Spirit of the Lord? Look, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out." <sup>10</sup> Instantly she dropped dead at his feet. When the young men came in, they found her dead, carried her out, and buried her beside her husband. <sup>11</sup> Then great fear came on the whole church and on all who heard these things.*

Acts 5:1-11 (CSB)

*The point is this: The person who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the person who sows generously will also reap generously. <sup>7</sup> Each person should do as he has decided in his heart—not reluctantly or out of compulsion, since God loves a cheerful giver. <sup>8</sup> And God is able to make every grace overflow to you, so that in every way, always having everything you need, you may excel in every good work. <sup>9</sup> As it is written: He distributed freely; he gave to the poor; his righteousness endures forever. <sup>10</sup> Now the one who provides seed for the sower and bread for food will also provide and multiply your seed and increase the harvest of your righteousness. <sup>11</sup> You will be enriched in every way for all generosity, which produces thanksgiving to God through us. <sup>12</sup> For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. <sup>13</sup> Because of the proof provided by this ministry, they will glorify God for your obedient confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone. <sup>14</sup> And as they pray on your behalf, they will have deep affection for you because of the surpassing grace of God in you. <sup>15</sup> Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!*

2 Corinthians 9:6-15 (CSB)

*Many signs and wonders were being done among the people through the hands of the apostles. They were all together in Solomon's Colonnade. <sup>13</sup> No one else dared to join them, but the people spoke well of them. <sup>14</sup> Believers were added to the Lord in increasing numbers—multitudes of both men and women. <sup>15</sup> As a result, they would carry the sick out into the streets and lay them on cots and mats so that when Peter came by, at least his shadow might fall on some of them. <sup>16</sup> In addition, a multitude came together from the towns surrounding Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those who were tormented by unclean spirits, and they were all healed.*

Acts 5:12-16 (CSB)