

Connected by Common Possessions

Acts 4:32-37 | Acts 5:1-4 | 2 Corinthians 9:6-7

THE TENSION

What my possessions quietly promise me
We want community without the cost of community

What if everything we possess
was not meant only for us?

A COMMUNITY WITH OPEN HANDS

GENEROSITY

Acts 4 (NIV)

32 All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had. **33** With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all **34** that there were no needy persons among them.

2 Corinthians 9 (NIV)

6 Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. **7** Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

What are you holding that could become a connection?

God is inviting us to trust him enough to hold what we have with open hands.

OPEN-HANDED GENEROSITY

- Ownership no longer overrules love.
- Needs are noticed, and resources move toward those needs.
- Generosity is thoughtful and voluntary - never coerced.

A COMMUNITY WITH HONEST HEARTS

INTEGRITY

Acts 4 (NIV)

34 For from time to time those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales **35** and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need. **36** Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means "son of encouragement"), **37** sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles' feet.

Acts 5 (NIV)

1 Now a man named Ananias, together with his wife Sapphira, also sold a piece of property. **2** With his wife's full knowledge he kept back part of the money for himself, but brought the rest and put it at the apostles' feet. **3** Then Peter said, "Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land? **4** Didn't it belong to you before it was sold? And after it was sold, wasn't the money at your disposal? What made you think of doing such a thing? You have not lied just to human beings but to God."

What if our church became a community with open hands?

COMMUNITY AROUND COMMON POSSESSIONS

- **Interdependency:** We allow ourselves to need and be needed.
- **Intergenerational life:** Resources and wisdom move between generations.
- **Children:** Children learn generosity by watching adults share life.
- **Responsibility:** Everyone contributes what they are able.
- **Sacrifice:** Real community eventually costs everyone something.

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