

Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common. And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold...

...and laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need. Thus Joseph, who was also called by the apostles Barnabas (which means son of encouragement), a Levite, a native of Cyprus, sold a field that belonged to him and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet.

II. A healthy church practices the great grace of giving.

Their belief in the resurrection entrusted them with power to testify of the Gospel which Christ gave them.

Their belief in the resurrection promoted unity of purpose among them.

Their belief in the resurrection persuaded them to practice a lifestyle that Jesus demonstrated before them.

Do as God does. After all, you are his dear children. Let love be your guide. Christ loved us and offered his life for us as a sacrifice that pleases God.

Ephesians 5:1-2 (CEV)

II. A healthy church practices the great grace of giving.

They recognized God's grace was freely bestowed upon them. "Freely you have received; freely give." (Matthew 10:8b)

II. A healthy church practices the great grace of giving.

They brought their offerings to express their love for God.

THOSE WHO GIVE ARE WHO?

- 1. Those who give are those who are serious about the Word of God.
- 2. Those who give are those who are satisfied by the Son of God.
- 3. Those who give are those who are sensitive to the Spirit of God.

II. A healthy church practices the great grace of giving.

They took care of one another to express their love for each other.

We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love our brothers. The one who does not love remains in death.

1 John 3:14

Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.

John 13:35 (NLT)