

## Acts 4:32-5:11

Barnabus had a grace gift that manifested. Ananias had a selfish desire to imitate grace.

The unity of the early church for this brief time may have been an early fulfillment of Jesus words of unity and love that would be characteristic of his people mentioned in John 17. The oneness promised.

Soon, division, opinion, self-willed personalities, corruption and persecution broke upset the manifestation of this unity.

4:32 –

Common purse or communal living was practiced, regulated and enforced at Qumran.

Here in the early church it was voluntary.

Members sold possessions and land to care for others

“For a time” – this worked “for a time” until all the resources were sold and the profits used up

Next phase of this social experiment was poverty because there was no production or labor involved

The Gentile churches had to start supporting the Jerusalem saints because:

1. Acts 11:28 – famine
2. Acts 8:1 – persecution and the loss of family, friends, employment, inheritance, etc.
3. 1 Corinthians 16:1 – Galatia, Macedonia and Achaia (Galatia, Thessalonica, Philippi, Corinth, and others) collected money and sent it to Jerusalem church
4. 2 Corinthians 8:1-4; 12-15; 9:1-4
5. Romans 15:24-35

Barnabus

1. A Jew
2. From Cyprus
3. A Levite - the teaching tribe
4. Relatives in Jerusalem – Aunt Mary and Cousin John Mark (Acts 12:12; Colossians 4:10)
5. Land owner – Levites had begun to own land at least by Jeremiah’s day
6. Son of Encouragement – His gift became his name. He help Mark and Saul (Acts 9:27)

Ananias

Ananias tries to compete with Barnabus

Barnabus’ gift was empowered by the grace of God, not human motivation.

Ananias tired to imitate the Holy Spirit for personal recognition and selfish gain

Barnabus was grace; Ananius was imitation, deceit, completion with Holy Spirit.

Direct connection to Achan’s Sin in Joshua 7

Distracted and destroyed by money like Simon Magus, Elymas Sorcerer, Judas, Gehazi

Judgment in the church 1 Corinthians 5:5; 1 Corinthians 3:16-17