Acts Chapter 4 and 5

How delightfully good
when brothers live together in harmony!
2 *It is like fine oil on the head,*
running down on the beard,
running down Aaron's beard
onto his robes.
3 *It is like the dew of Hermon[a]*
falling on the mountains of Zion.
For there the LORD has appointed the blessing—
life forevermore. // Psalm 133:1-3

Unity is Established by the Gospel

- The early church was united around the preaching of the Gospel by the Apostles
- ***20*** *"I pray not only for these, but also for those who believe in me through their word.* ***21*** *May they all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us, so that the world may believe you sent me.* ***22*** *I have given them the glory you have given me, so that they may be one as we are one.* ***23*** *I am in them and you are in me, so that they may be made completely one, that the world may know you have sent me and have loved them as you have loved me. // John 17:20-23*

Unity is Experienced by Generosity

- The early church expressed unity through their generosity toward members of the church
- ***9*** *Let us not get tired of doing good, for we will reap at the proper time if we don't give up.* ***10*** *Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us work for the good of all, especially for those who belong to the household of faith. // Galatians 6:9-10*
- We see in the example of Barnabas a willingness to give to the church to help the saints
- ***17*** *Instruct those who are rich in the present age not to be arrogant or to set their hope on the uncertainty of wealth, but on God, who richly provides us with all things to enjoy.* ***18*** *Instruct them to do what is good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and willing to share,* ***19*** *storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of what is truly life. // 1 Timothy 6:17-19*
- ***6*** *The point is this: The person who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the person who sows generously will also reap generously.* ***7*** *Each person should do as he has decided in his heart—not reluctantly or out of compulsion, since God loves a cheerful giver.* ***8*** *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.* ***10*** *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.* ***11*** *You will be enriched in every way for all generosity, which produces thanksgiving to God through us.* ***12*** *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.* ***13*** *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. // 2 Corinthians 9:6-8, 10-13

Unity is Threatened by Hypocrisy

- ***23*** *"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others.* ***24*** *You blind guides, straining out a gnat and swallowing a camel! // Matthew 23:23-24*
- *For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. // Romans 6:23*

The Ministry Continues

- ***23*** *And he went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people.* ***24*** *So his fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought him all the sick, those afflicted with various diseases and pains, those oppressed by demons, those having seizures, and paralytics, and he healed them.* ***25*** *And great crowds followed him from Galilee and the Decapolis, and from Jerusalem and Judea, and from beyond the Jordan. // Matthew 4:23-25*
- ***16*** *Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered and said to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter.* ***17*** *If this be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of your hand, O king.* ***18*** *But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up." // Daniel 3:16-18*
- ***10*** *When Daniel knew that the document had been signed, he went to his house where he had windows in his upper chamber open toward Jerusalem. He got down on his knees three times a day and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as he had done previously. // Daniel 6:10*
- *Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. // Romans 13:1*