

The Church Is Purified – Epic Church Week 3

2/18/18

I. A Healthy Church

A. Read Acts 4:34-36

1. Church had grown from 120 to over 20,000 in just a few months
2. People were giving, blessing and being blessed

II. Ananias and Sapphira

A. They were numbered with the disciples

1. Peter knew them by name.
2. They did sell their house and give some of the money to the church

B. They lied about the amount and they died as a result

C. Difficult Passage

1. It's AFTER the cross, after the price for sin had been payed,
2. In the era of dispensation of GRACE.

B. Acts is a Book of Firsts

1. 1st converts, 1st outpouring of the Holy Spirit, 1st missionaries, 1st church government, etc.
2. God was establishing the parameters of the New Testament Church.
3. Read Lev. 10:1-3 about Nadab and Abihu. (very similar events)

III. What Do We Glean from Ananias and Sapphira?

A. God sees the heart

1. You may look like a believer, act like a believer and still not be a true believer

B. God Is Still Holy!

1. We can NEVER forget His holiness

C. ALL Sin Has Consequences

1. Rom. 6:23

Discussion Questions:

1. The church in Acts was healthy. What are some of the signs of a healthy church? Is LifeSpring healthy? In what areas can we become healthier?
2. Were Ananias and Sapphira true believers who just made a mistake or were they wolves in sheep's clothing?
3. Would you sell your house and give money to the church if you were not a true believer?
4. What was Ananias and Sapphira's motivation for giving? Are we ever guilty of doing something for the honor or respect of others? If so, why don't we die like Ananias and Sapphira did?
5. How can we know God sees our heart but still do wrong things with wrong motives?
6. Discuss how holy God is. Should we fear His holiness or be in awe of it?
7. Every sin has a consequence. Some consequences are small, but some are life altering. How do we (or can we) lessen the consequences of our sin?
8. How does this passage altar your perception of God?