



- I. The great unity of the NT church reveals the failure of the enemy to destroy it via external pressure – 4:32.
- II. From external pressures to internal unity: how the HS strengthens the church – 4:32-37.
  - A. When the times are hard, believers pull closer together – the church is single-minded – v. 32.
  - B. The power of mutual sharing / Earthly possessions are held in common – v. 32.
  - C. Power is present in preaching – v. 33.
  - D. Preaching is focused on biblical priorities – v. 33.
  - E. Great grace abounds on all – v. 33.
  - F. Believers take care of one another's needs – v. 34.
  - G. God's people are moved to selfless acts – vv. 34-37.
    - i. Showcasing a special servant – vv. 36-37.
      - a. His name - Joseph (Barnabas) – prominent figure in Acts
      - b. His background
      - c. His example – sacrificial giving.
- III. The intense unity of the early believers forms a backdrop for introducing that which can undo the church, namely internal sin – 5:1-11.
  - A. When God's people let Satan take **control**, consequences are severe – 5:1-10.
    - i. Showcasing a **rebellious** couple
      - a. Their **names**
      - b. Their **sin**
      - c. The **progression** of their sin
        1. It begins with a desire to get **credit** for sacrificial giving without giving sacrificially.
        2. The desire for glory caused a husband to **forsake** his biblical leadership responsibilities and instead lead his family into complicit deception.
        3. Deception within the church plants seeds of **disunity** and gives Satan a foothold in it.
        4. God does not **tolerate** deception.
  - B. God's swift **judgment** teaches the rest of the church a lesson in consequences – 5:5, 11.

**The Big Idea:** When individual believers give God the **glory** and credit for all that they are and do on His behalf, it will keep them from **pride and deception** and ensure the **unity** of the local church.