

# IN THE EARLIEST CHURCH

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## **Acts 4:32-5:5**

<sup>32</sup> 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.



## **Acts 4:32-5:5**

<sup>33</sup> And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all.



## **Acts 4:32-5:5**

<sup>34</sup> 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



## **Acts 4:32-5:5**

<sup>35</sup> and laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.



## **Acts 4:32-5:5**

<sup>36</sup> Thus Joseph, who was also called by the apostles Barnabas (which means son of encouragement), a Levite, a native of Cyprus,



## **Acts 4:32-5:5**

<sup>37</sup> sold a field that belonged to him and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet.



## **Acts 4:32-5:5**

<sup>5:1</sup> But a man named Ananias, with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property,



## **Acts 4:32-5:5**

<sup>2</sup> and with his wife's knowledge he kept back for himself some of the proceeds and brought only a part of it and laid it at the apostles' feet.



## **Acts 4:32-5:5**

<sup>3</sup> But Peter said, “Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back for yourself part of the proceeds of the land?”



## **Acts 4:32-5:5**

<sup>4</sup> While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not at your disposal?



## **Acts 4:32-5:5**

Why is it that you have contrived this deed  
in your heart? You have not lied to man  
but to God.”



## **Acts 4:32-5:5**

<sup>5</sup> When Ananias heard these words, he fell down and breathed his last. And great fear came upon all who heard of it.



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# The benevolence of the earliest church:

- 1. Corrects two of our errors**



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## **Acts 4:34-35**

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## **Ephesians 4:28**

Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need.



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# The benevolence of the earliest church:

1. **Corrects two of our errors**
2. **Prioritized relationships**



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“For it is disgraceful that, when no Jew ever has to beg, and the impious Galileans support not only their own poor but ours as well, all men see that our people lack aid from us.”

- Emperor Julian ~AD 361



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## **Galatians 6:10**

So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.



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## **2 Thessalonians 3:10**

For even when we were with you, we would give you this command: If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat.



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# The benevolence of the earliest church:

1. **Corrects two of our errors**
2. **Prioritized relationships**
3. **Reminds us of Jesus**



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**Every Need Met**