



THE LOVE OF THE CHURCH

Bringing Authenticity Back to Our Beliefs



Dude, are you throwing stones at my window? What do you have a phone for?

Okay, sorry, you're right.

Did you just throw your phone at my window?!

Messages



Edit

Don't you think it's funny how the person you're going to marry is on this earth as of right now?

Yeah, haha. That's weird.

Don't you ever wonder what they're doing?

Nope, I already know, she's texting me ;)

AWWWWW

But she just went to bed. So I'm talking to you now. :(



Send



Messages

Edit

Why aren't you answering?

Sorry, I dropped my phone and I can't find it. I'll text you when I find it.

Okay.

You find it yet?

No.

Okay, let me know when you do.



Send

Q W E R T Y U I O P

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.?123

space

Search



The LOVE of the Church

Bringing Authenticity Back to Our Beliefs

Acts 4:32-5:16



The Early Church



The **MISSION** of the Church

The **EMPOWERING** of the Church

The **FUNCTION** of the Church

The **BOLDNESS** of the Church

The **LOVE** of the Church

Acts 4:32-37



- ³² And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common.
- ³³ And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all.

Acts 4:32-37



³⁴ Neither was there any among them that lacked: for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the prices of the things that were sold,

³⁵ And laid them down at the apostles' feet: and distribution was made unto every man according as he had need.

Acts 4:32-37



- ³⁶ And Joses, who by the apostles was surnamed Barnabas, (which is, being interpreted, The son of consolation,) a Levite, and of the country of Cyprus,
- ³⁷ Having land, sold it, and brought the money, and laid it at the apostles' feet.

The Big-heartedness of Some

- ◆ They were of one heart.
- ◆ They were willing to share.
- ◆ They were grace-filled.
- ◆ They cared for one another.
- ◆ They were generous.



Do we
remember
the seven
functions
of the
church?

1 WORSHIP

Love the Lord with all your heart

2 MINISTRY

Love your neighbor as yourself

3 EVANGELISM

Go and make disciples

4 FELLOWSHIP

Baptizing them

5 DISCIPLESHIP

Teaching them to observe

6 COMPASSION

He had compassion for them

7 PRAYER

Pray earnestly to the Lord

The Big-heartedness of Some

They were
functioning as a
church ought to
function!



Acts 5:1-16



- ¹ But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession,
- ² And kept back part of the price, his wife also being privy to it, and brought a certain part, and laid it at the apostles' feet.

Acts 5:1-16



- ³ But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land?
- ⁴ Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God.

Acts 5:1-16



- ⁵ And Ananias hearing these words fell down, and gave up the ghost: and great fear came on all them that heard these things.
- ⁶ And the young men arose, wound him up, and carried him out, and buried him.
- ⁷ And it was about the space of three hours after, when his wife, not knowing what was done, came in.

Acts 5:1-16



⁸ And Peter answered unto her, Tell me whether ye sold the land for so much? And she said, Yea, for so much.

⁹ Then Peter said unto her, How is it that ye have agreed together to tempt the Spirit of the Lord? behold, the feet of them which have buried thy husband are at the door, and shall carry thee out.

Acts 5:1-16



- ¹⁰ Then fell she down straightway at his feet, and yielded up the ghost: and the young men came in, and found her dead, and, carrying her forth, buried her by her husband.
- ¹¹ And great fear came upon all the church, and upon as many as heard these things.

Acts 5:1-16



¹² And by the hands of the apostles were many signs and wonders wrought among the people; (and they were all with one accord in Solomon's porch.

¹³ And of the rest durst no man join himself to them: but the people magnified them.

¹⁴ And believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women.)

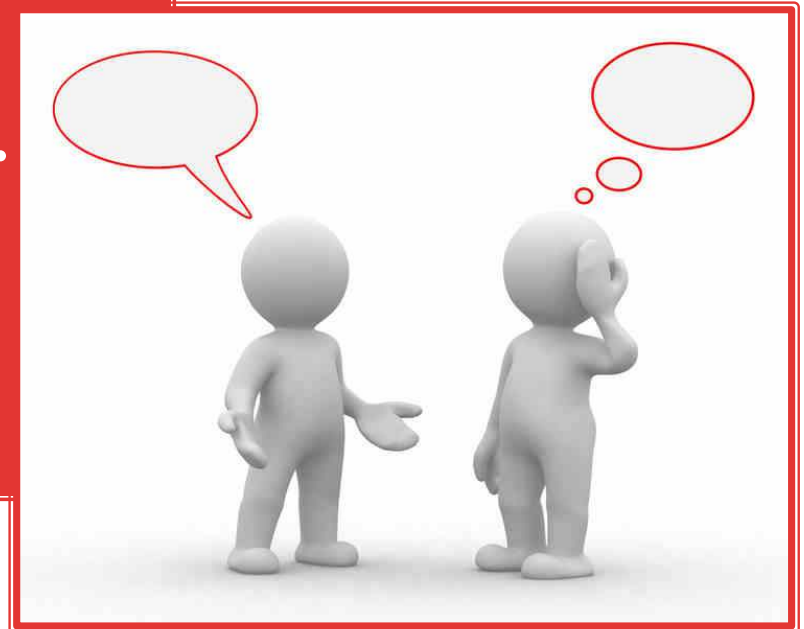
Acts 5:1-16



- ¹⁵ Insomuch that they brought forth the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and couches, that at the least the shadow of Peter passing by might overshadow some of them.
- ¹⁶ There came also a multitude out of the cities round about unto Jerusalem, bringing sick folks, and them which were vexed with unclean spirits: and they were healed every one.

The Two-Faced-ness of Others

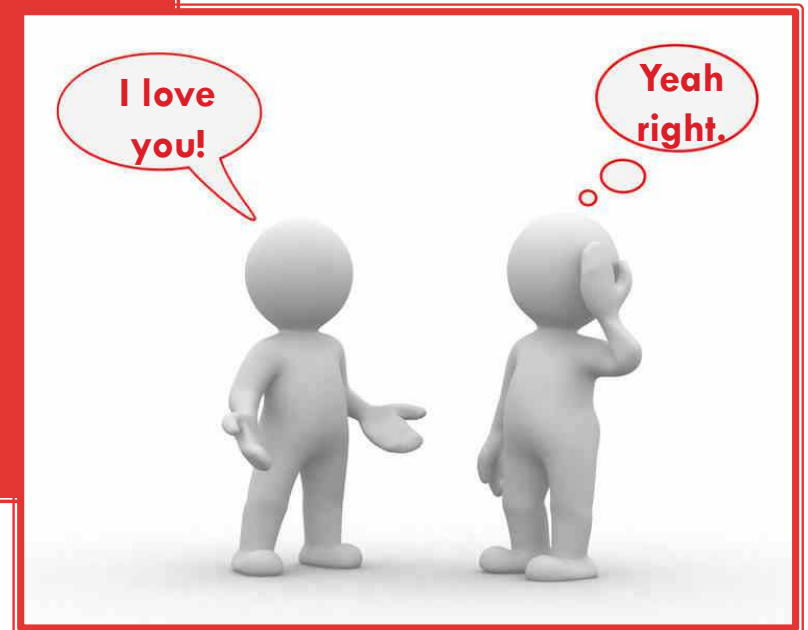
- ◆ They were deceitful.
- ◆ They were co-conspirators.
- ◆ They were hypocrites.
- ◆ They were seeking honor.
- ◆ They LIED and...
- ◆ They DIED.



The Two-Faced-ness of Others

What does God think of us when we are not authentic?

- ◆ Matthew 15:6b-9
- ◆ Amos 5:21-24
- ◆ 1 John 4:20-21





George MacDonald wrote...

“Half the misery in the world comes from trying to *look*, instead of trying to *be*, what one is not.”



DON'T JUST GO TO CHURCH...



