

Acts 4:32

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

The early church's radical economic sharing ('had all things common') exemplified Spirit-produced unity and love. The phrase 'of one heart and of one soul' indicates spiritual unity preceding and enabling material generosity. This voluntary communalism arose from transformed hearts, not external compulsion.

Historical Context

This summary describes the Jerusalem church in its earliest phase (AD 30-31), before persecution scattered believers. Acts records this as descriptive of early practice, not prescriptive for all times, as evidenced by Paul's later instructions assuming private property.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How should Christians today balance personal ownership with sacrificial generosity?
2. What does true spiritual unity look like in contemporary church community?

Interlinear Text

Τοῦ G3588	δὲ G1161	πλήθους G4128	τῶν G3588	πιστευσάντων G4100	ἣν G2258	ἣ G3588
	And	the multitude		of them that believed	they had	
καρδία G2588	καὶ G2532	ἡ G3588	ψυχὴ G5590	εἷς G1520	καὶ G2532	οὐδὲ G3761
of one heart	and	soul	any	and	any	of them that ought
						τι G5100
τῶν G3588	ὑπαρχόντων G5224	αὐτῷ G846	ἔλεγεν G3004	ἰδίου G2398	εἶναι G1511	
	of the things which he possessed		said	his own	was	
ἀλλ' G235	ἣν G2258	αὐτοῖς G846	ἅπαντα G537	κοινά G2839		
but	they had		all things	common		

Additional Cross-References

1 Corinthians 1:10 (Parallel theme): Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.

1 Peter 3:8 (Parallel theme): Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous:

2 Corinthians 13:11 (Parallel theme): Finally, brethren, farewell. Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you.

Jeremiah 32:39 (Parallel theme): And I will give them one heart, and one way, that they may fear me for ever, for the good of them, and of their children after them:

Acts 2:1 (Parallel theme): And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

Acts 1:14 (Parallel theme): These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren.

John 17:11 (Parallel theme): And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are.

2 Chronicles 30:12 (Parallel theme): Also in Judah the hand of God was to give them one heart to do the commandment of the king and of the princes, by the word of the LORD.

Philippians 1:27 (Faith): Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;

Romans 12:5 (Parallel theme): So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another.