



ACTS

UNHINDERED

Acts 4:32-5:11

“UN-HYPOCRITICAL”

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ACTS

1. Genuine Love (from the Spirit) – 4:32-37

“they had everything in common”

2. Disingenuous Love (against the Spirit) – 5:1-11

“Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit”

“An alternative title for this [section] might be ‘The strategy of Satan’. His strategy was carefully developed. He attacked on three fronts. His first and crudest tactic was physical violence; he tried to crush the church by persecution. His second and more cunning assault was moral corruption or compromise. Having failed to destroy the church from outside, he attempted through Ananias and Sapphira to insinuate evil into its interior life, and so ruin the Christian fellowship. His third and subtlest ploy was distraction....These then were his weapons—physical (persecution), moral (subversion) and professional (distraction).”

- John Stott, *“Satanic counter-attack”*

Why would Jesus do this?

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1. Genuine Love (from the Spirit) – 4:32-37

“they had everything in common”

Caring Community – not common nor communism

“We must have hearts that are harder than iron if we are not moved by the reading of this narrative. In those days the believers gave abundantly of what was their own; we in our day are content not just jealously to retain what we possess, but callously to rob others.... They sold their own possessions in those days; in our day it is the lust to purchase that reigns supreme. At that time love made each man’s own possessions common property for those in need; in our day such is the inhumanity of many, that they begrudge to the poor a common dwelling upon earth, the common use of water, air and sky.”

- John Calvin

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1. Genuine Love (from the Spirit) – 4:32-37

“they had everything in common”

Caring Community – not common nor communism

Christ’s Love in Common – love as they had been loved

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2. Disingenuous Love (against the Spirit) – 5:1-11

“Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit”

Full Example of Barnabas

False Example of Ananias and Saphira

“The story of Ananias is to the book of Acts what the story of Achan is to the book of Joshua. In both narratives an act of deceit interrupts the victorious progress of the people of God.”

- F. F. Bruce

“But the people of Israel broke faith in regard to the devoted things, for Achan the son of Carmi, son of Zabdi, son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, took some of the devoted things. And the anger of the LORD burned against the people of Israel. ...

And Achan answered Joshua, “Truly I have sinned against the LORD God of Israel, and this is what I did: when I saw among the spoil a beautiful cloak from Shinar, and 200 shekels of silver, and a bar of gold weighing 50 shekels, then I coveted them and took them. And see, they are hidden in the earth inside my tent, with the silver underneath.”

- Joshua 7:1, 20-21

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Full Example of Barnabas

False Example of Ananias and Saphira

Why would Jesus do this?

How does Jesus want us to act?

