

# **One in Heart and Mind** August 6, 2006

Acts 4.32-37

It has been said that when humankind fell from grace, we inherited not only a tendency to hide from God, but a tendency to hide from one another as well. As a result of this tendency, we have erected many barriers. These barriers effectively insulate us from one another and become a block to true unity in the Church.

Jesus prayed, in John 17, that we might be one even as he and the Father are one.

*"My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: I in them and you in me. **May they be brought to complete unity** to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me."*  
John 17.20-23

For that to happen, many barriers have to fall. Our text today describes the extent of that unity as it existed at the very beginning. I believe that deep down within us, we all long to be close, to be part of the same family, to be in tune and in touch with one another. As we look at this passage of Scripture before us, let's see what kind of unity the Spirit produced in this young church and what kind of unity he can produce in us.

## **A Unique Type of Unity**

*"All the **believers** were one in **heart and mind**."* Acts 4:32a

*"But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another."*  
1 John 1.7

*"Do two walk together unless they have agreed to do so?"* Amos 3:3

*"No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they shared everything they had."* Acts 4:32b

## **A Unity with Purpose and Direction**

*"With **great power** the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and **much grace** was upon them all."* Acts 4:33

## **A Unity of Resources**

*"There were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned lands or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone as he had need."* Acts 4:34-35

*"Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means Son of Encouragement), sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles' feet."* Acts 4:36-37