

# One Heart and Soul

In Acts, we see what first-century Christianity was all about. We know what the early church taught, how they worshipped, and how they won souls for the glory of God.

We also see how they were committed to being one in the cause of Christ. Despite being a group of several thousand people, Luke describes the saints in Jerusalem as “one heart and soul” (Acts 4:32). That language indicates that there was a remarkable sense of unity and closeness in this church. They were not cold, distant, and indifferent towards one another.

How did they become this way?

## Devotion to the Lord

- This was the main message Peter emphasized in his famous sermon (Acts 2:36).
- Jesus is the Christ. This means that He is the Messiah. He is the Savior sent into the world to pay the penalty for sin.
- Jesus is the Lord. This means that He has supreme authority, rule, and power. He is the One that we should submit to in every aspect of our lives (Matthew 28:18).

## Devotion to the truth

- From the very beginning, the church was devoted to following the same standard. They were committed to the “apostles’ doctrine” (Acts 2:42). This doctrine was inspired by God (John 16:12-15).
- The Corinthian church failed to do this (1 Corinthians 1:10-11).
- Churches that are devoted to the truth avoid allowing trivial differences to divide and distract them from their work.

## Devotion to one another

- The early brethren helped one another in times of need (Acts 2:44-46).
- Barnabas was willing to sell property and give the proceeds to destitute brethren (Acts 4:32-37).
- Many people are like Barnabas in this church! An unselfish spirit promotes love and unity in a local church.

## Devotion to the lost

- Despite facing persecution, the Jerusalem church continued to grow every day (Acts 2:47). This was a result of the evangelistic work of the brethren.
- Even after being forced out of Jerusalem, the brethren continued to spread the gospel (Acts 8:4).
- Eternal and internal problems should never stop God’s people from fulfilling the marching orders of Jesus (Matthew 28:19).

## Conclusion:

Are you part of God’s family?

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