

# 2010 ... To Love, Serve, and Share!

## *Fighting Against God*

January 31, 2010

### **Review: Unity of Believers**

<sup>32</sup> All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had. <sup>33</sup> With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all <sup>34</sup> that there were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales <sup>35</sup> and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need. **Acts 4:32-35 TNIV**

### **The Good Example of Barnabas –**

<sup>36</sup> For instance, there was Joseph, the one the apostles nicknamed Barnabas (which means “Son of Encouragement”). He was from the tribe of Levi and came from the island of Cyprus. <sup>37</sup> He sold a field he owned and brought the money to the apostles. **Acts 4:36-37 NLT**

### **The Bad Example of Ananias and Sapphira –**

<sup>1</sup> But there was a certain man named Ananias who, with his wife, Sapphira, sold some property. <sup>2</sup> He brought part of the money to the apostles, claiming it was the full amount. With his wife's consent, he kept the rest. <sup>3</sup> Then Peter said, “Ananias, why have you let Satan fill your heart? You lied to the Holy Spirit, and you kept some of the money for yourself. <sup>4</sup> The property was yours to sell or not sell, as you wished. And after selling it, the money was also yours to give away. How could you do a thing like this? You weren't lying to us but to God!”

**Acts 5:1-4 NLT**



### **The Church –**

<sup>11</sup> Great fear gripped the entire church and everyone else who heard what had happened.

<sup>12</sup> The apostles were performing many miraculous signs and wonders among the people. And all the believers were meeting regularly at the Temple in the area known as Solomon's Colonnade. <sup>13</sup> But no one else dared to join them, even though all the people had high regard for them. <sup>14</sup> Yet more and more people believed and were brought to the Lord—crowds of both men and women. **Acts 5:11-14 NLT**

### **The Purpose –**

<sup>17</sup> The high priest and his officials, who were Sadducees, were filled with jealousy. <sup>18</sup> They arrested the apostles and put them in the public jail. <sup>19</sup> But an angel of the Lord came at night, opened the gates of the jail, and brought them out. Then he told them, <sup>20</sup> “Go to the Temple and give the people this message of life!” **Acts 5:17-20 NLT**

### **The Advice –**

<sup>27</sup> Then they brought the apostles before the high council, where the high priest confronted them. <sup>28</sup> “Didn't we tell you never again to teach in this man's name?” he demanded. “Instead, you have filled all Jerusalem with your teaching about him, and you want to make us responsible for his death!” <sup>29</sup> But Peter and the apostles replied, “We must obey God rather than any human authority.” **Acts 5:27-29 NLT**

<sup>33</sup> When they heard this, the high council was furious and decided to kill them. <sup>34</sup> But one member, a Pharisee named Gamaliel, who was an expert in religious law and respected by all the people, stood up and ordered that the men be sent outside the council chamber for a while. <sup>35</sup> Then he said to his colleagues, “Men of Israel, take care what you are planning to do to these men!...

<sup>38</sup> “So my advice is, leave these men alone. Let them go. If they are planning and doing these things merely on their own, it will soon be overthrown. <sup>39</sup> But if it is from God, you will not be able to overthrow them. You may even find yourselves fighting against God!”

**Acts 5:33-35; 38-39 NLT**