



Ashland Church of Christ 2006

Pressing Toward the Upward Call of God



“I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 3:14).

Let Us Help One Another — Fellowship “They Had All Things in Common”

Text: Acts 2:40-47; Acts 4:32-35

Key Text: *Acts 4:32, “Now the multitude of those who believed were of one heart and one soul; neither did anyone say that any of the things he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common.”*

Introduction:

- 1) It is not wrong to own land (Acts 5:3-4).
- 2) However, we need to use our possessions to the glory of God (Mark 10:17-22).
- 3) Further, our benevolence needs to be balanced and universal (Matthew 25:31-46, 28:18-20).

I. They had things in common that were secular.

- A. They understood the source of physical things (Hebrews 3:4).
- B. They understood the selection they could make (Acts 5:3-4).
- C. They understood the fleeting nature of material things (Matthew 6:19-21).
- D. They understood the addictive nature of materialism (Mark 10:17-22).
- E. They understood how they should use their material things (Matthew 25:14-30).

- II. They had things in common that were sacred.
 - A. They had the same God (Acts 2:26-47, 4:32).
 - B. They had the same message of God (Acts 8:14-25, 17:11).
 - C. They had the same gifts from God (Acts 2:38).
 - D. They had the same opportunities to worship God (Acts 2:42).
 - E. They had a fear of God (Acts 2:43).

- III. They had things in common that were spiritual.
 - A. The work of the ministry — benevolence (Ephesians 4:11-16).
 - B. The equipping of the saints — edification (Ephesians 4:11-16).
 - C. The edifying (‘building up’ — ASV) of the body of Christ — evangelism (Ephesians 4:11-16).
 - D. They had fellowship with each other (Proverbs 30:27).
 - E. They were able to worship together (Acts 2:42, 4:32).

- IV. They had things in common that were solitary.
 - A. A sense of purpose (Philippians 1:21).
 - B. They were able to remember Whose they were (Matthew 8:22).
 - C. They drew lines of fellowship (Ephesians 5:11).
 - D. Application: We need to focus on the things which are really important.
 - E. The Bible only makes Christians only and the only Christians.

- V. They had things in common that were sure.
 - A. A God to worship (John 4:24).
 - B. A life to live (Philippians 1:21).
 - C. A kingdom of which to be a part (Acts 2:47).
 - D. A world to enjoy (Psalm 19:1).
 - E. A salvation what will take you home (2Peter 3:21).