

# **A Servant Heart**

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## **I. Humility in the new community. (Acts 4:32-33)**

- A. The birth of the church.
- B. Neither Jew nor Gentile - God was doing a new thing.
- C. What are the implications of a multitude/group having one heart/one soul?
- D. How would you characterize the group you meet with?

## **II. Biblical illustrations of one heart, one mind.**

### **A. 1 Samuel 14:6-7.**

- 1. Jonathan and his armor bearer.
- 2. God is not in the numbers game. God tends to work through individuals and small groups.
- 3. One unnamed armor bearer had the heart of a servant that opened up the door for victory.
  - a. New Testament examples.
    - 1) Paul *and* his companions endeavored to go to Macedonia.
    - 2) In Luke - we must be faithful to that which is another man's to receive our own.
- 4. The servant heart makes other people look good.

### **B. 1 Samuel 18.**

- 1. Jonathan had this same kind of relationship with David.
- 2. Their souls were knit together.
  - a. This was more than being knit by the externals and by organization.
  - b. A knitting in the inner man occurred here.

### **C. Romans 15:5.**

- 1. Be likeminded, one toward the other, with the same spirit.
- 2. This does not mean that everyone has to have the same temperament or tastes.

3. It is rather characterized by service and an apathy towards one's reputation.

D. 1 Corinthians 10.

1. Paul beseeches the believers that they would speak the same thing.
2. This is referring to the same manner, spirit, and concern.
3. There are no divisions among the believers here.
  - a. There is room for a variety of opinions.
  - b. But for essentials, there should be unity.

E. Philippians 1:27.

1. Be of one mind striving together for the advancement and defense of the gospel.
2. When on a team if you have seven members you ought to have seven brains, seven hearts, but one mind and one heart.

III. Implications of the one hearted community.

A. There was a spirit of generosity.

1. If we are pilgrims to another world, we have accumulated an awful lot of baggage from this world.
2. "When in doubt, throw it out."
3. Travel light.
4. Enemies of the cross are earthly minded. (Philippians 3)
5. We ought to be givers, not possessors.

B. There was a spirit of service.

IV. Consequences of those implications.

A. There was a spirit of power; lives were changed.

B. People were attracted to their witness.

1. Jesus taught with gentleness and firmness that attracted people.

C. Paul's example: he taught "not in word only..." (1 Thessalonians)

1. How much better a word *and* an action.
2. There is power that changes lives with this.

3. When you say He lives and do not demonstrate He lives by your life, it is a hollow mockery because although you have said the truth, you have not communicated it.

D. There was power in the fellowship because their lives bore witness to the resurrection - they were one.

E. There was grace.

1. Grace in speech.

2. Grace in acts.

3. Grace in suffering.

4. Grace in ministry. (2 Timothy 1:1)

5. Grace in steadfastness. (Hebrews 13:9)

F. Humility.

#### Application Questions.

1. How would you characterize the group you meet with? Do you have relationships with others that are marked by a oneness of heart?

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2. What were the two reasons the speaker says the new community of believers was humble? Where are you at with these characteristics? Explain.

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3. What steps can you take to foster one heart in your community and a spirit of generosity? Be specific.

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