



When Problems Arise

Brent Moody · Acts 4:32–5:11 · Series: **The Way Forward**

INTRODUCTION

- Now, the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common.
- Barnabas stands as this great example of the sort of person that you want within the Ecclesia.
- When you have people, you're often going to have problems. And that's just the reality.

1 The First Threat: Outright Hypocrisy and Deceit

Acts 5:1–11; Acts 5:14; Acts 18

- With his wife's knowledge, he kept back for himself some of the proceeds and brought only a part of it and laid it at the apostles' feet.
- What's happening here is not that they didn't give enough money to the church. That's not the problem. It is a failure of character.
- Priscilla and Aquila, who are united in advancing the truth. They're united in kingdom work. They teach together. They serve together.
- Discipline is not a threat to unity. A lack of discipline is a threat to unity in reality.
- And more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women.
- Just because there is the reality that with fallen people and people who are sinful, you can have people who are hypocrites, doesn't mean you shouldn't be part of God's people.

2 The Second Threat: An Unintentional Neglect

Acts 6:1–7

- It is an unintentional neglect that takes place within the body.
- There is a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution.
- A complaint for the good of others is not mere whining or selfishness.
- The leaders take the problem seriously, and they find a solution quickly that pleases the community.
- There's no ego involved. There's no defensiveness, no protecting image, no excuses.
- And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

3 Unity Threatened by a Desire for Power

Acts 20:30

- Unity sometimes is threatened by a desire for power.

- Peter says, May your silver perish with you because you thought you could obtain the gift of God with money.
- Repent, therefore, of this wickedness of yours, and pray to the Lord that if possible the intent of your heart may be forgiven you.
- His immediate reaction is pray for me to the Lord that nothing of what you have said may come upon me.
- Sadly, power corrupts and can even find its way within the ecclesia.
- It can be calculated deceit, like Ananias and Sapphira, or maybe it's just impulsive selfishness that, if not corrected, can grow worse and worse.

THE CHALLENGE

Follow the advice of Peter to Simon. Repent. Get rid of the wickedness and begin living anew, seeking forgiveness from the Lord.

MY NOTES
