Acts 4:32-5:11

In the early Church we see a radical unity:

1. Created by the gospel (4:32-33)

Ezekiel 36:26
Jeremiah 32:39

“Theyir loves, their hopes, their passions joined.” – John Wesley (speaking of the early Church)
They loved Christ, therefore, they loved one another.
They hoped in Christ’s return, therefore, they were not attached to the things of this world.
They were passionate about the gospel, therefore, they were committed to their mission.

2. Conveyed by generosity (4:34-37)

This was not Communism...
- There was private ownership in the early Church
- There were both wealthy and poor believers in the early Church
- The sharing taking place was voluntary, not based on compulsion
- The distribution of donated funds was based on need, not equality
- The radical generosity we see in the early Church was motivated by the Holy Spirit

“It is disgraceful that when no Jew ever has to beg, and the impious Galileans (Christians) support not only their own poor but ours as well, all men see that our people lack aid from us.”
– Roman Emperor, Julian (the Apostate), 4th c. A.D.

(v. 36) Barnabas = “Son of Encouragement”

3. Compromised by greed (5:1-4)

Satan seeks to attack the unity of the Church:
- By promoting personal deception and secrecy leading to hypocrisy in our lives
- By fostering distrust among brothers and sisters in Christ
- By promoting gossip, slander, and a lack of graciousness between believers
- By causing us to doubt that the Church is truly empowered to live differently from the world
- By telling the world that the Church is really no different from them

4. Championed by God (5:5-11)

Romans 5:1-2