



3. The first church grows by meeting one another's needs.  
(Acts 4:34-37)

## Table Talk

- 1) (verse 32) What does it mean to be "of one heart and soul"? Have you ever experienced that? If so, share your experience. Does verse 32 mean that private property is bad? What DOES verse 32 imply about the believer's attitude toward private property?
- 2) (verse 33) What great power did the apostles demonstrate? (see chapter 3) What was the purpose of that great power? Why is the witness to the resurrection of Jesus so central to the apostles' message in Acts? (see, e.g., Acts 1:22; 4:2; 17:18) What impact do you think "great grace" had on the life of the first church? How might we imitate the first church in "great grace?"
- 3) (verses 34-35) What was the first church's approach to those who were needy? Do you think that there were any restrictions or organization to the care of the needy? (see some later such restrictions in 1 Tim. 5:3-16; 2 Thess. 3:10-12) How do we see hints of organization of care of the needy in verse 35? What makes the care of the needy in our own midst so important? Why should we think beyond material needs?
- 4) (verses 36-37) Why is Barnabas singled out as an example of kindness? Look at the verses in Acts about Barnabas' actions (Acts 9:27; 11:21-30; 13:1-4; 15:24-25). What kind of man is he? How can we cultivate a heart like Barnabas?
- 5) How do sacrificial unity, power and grace, and meeting one another's needs cause a church to grow? Which of these area(s) is the Lord leading you to grow in during 2021? How might we pray for East White Oak Bible Church in these areas?