

Church – The Beginnings, Part 12
Powerfully Testifying about the Resurrection of Jesus Christ
Acts 4:32-33 | 01/15/2017
NEW LIFE FELLOWSHIP
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Acts 4:32-33

³² Now the large group of those who believed were of **one heart and mind**, and no one said that any of his possessions was his own, but instead they held everything in common. ³³ And the apostles were giving testimony with **GREAT POWER** to the resurrection of the **LORD Jesus**, and **GREAT GRACE** was on all of them.

1. **The Community of Faith – it was not communism – but possessions were to be used for the common purpose of loving one another and spreading the gospel of Christ not for self-indulgence, etc. (see Luke 12:15; 14:33; Acts 2:44-45)**

2. **The Apostles were Powerfully Testifying about the Resurrection of the LORD Jesus**
 - a. **Testifying from their own experience with the Resurrected Jesus after He rose from the dead (see the Gospels → Matthew 28, Mark 16, Luke 24, John 21 & 22, Acts 1 & 2)**
This was first-hand testimony, unique in all of history. They were living eye witnesses God’s Crime Scene – Just like in today’s Police Forensic Science (CSI) – Scientific and Historical Data is used to determine Truth of what happened and who did it.
Facts of the Case: (Research: → Google: Acti Pilati and Justin Martyr)
 - i. **Crucified, Dead → Jesus of Nazareth – recorded by the Roman Government**
 - ii. **Tomb – was occupied and had Roman Imperial seal, but is, now, EMPTY**
 - iii. **The Disciples of Jesus claim that they’ve been with Him, alive, for 40 days**
 - iv. **Rumors that somehow those same disciples overcame the guards at the tomb or snuck in while the guards were asleep and stole the dead body of Jesus from the sealed tomb. (Could those disciples have gotten away with that?)**

(For More Research: <http://truth-that-matters.com/resurrection.htm>)

 - v. **Question: How can our testimony of the Power of Christ’s Resurrection, in changing our lives, personally, be helpful to those around us, today?**

 - b. **The Central Importance of the Resurrection to Christianity (the faith of following Christ)**
 - i. **If Jesus did NOT Rise from the Dead, then Christianity is a Lie, a Fraud, Fake, NOT Real, NOT TRUE.**

 - ii. **If Jesus Rose from the Dead, just like the Bible says, just like the disciples testified, just like Jesus predicted His Crucifixion, Death, Burial, and Resurrection before those events happened → that Proves that the Bible is True**

Let’s look at 1 Corinthians 15:1-20

1 Corinthians 15:1-20

Now I make known to you, brethren, the **gospel** which **I preached to you**, which also you **received**, in which also you **stand**, ² by which also you are **saved**, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain.

³ For I delivered to you as of **first importance** what I also received, that **Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures**, ⁴ and that **He was buried**, and that **He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures**, ⁵ and that He appeared to Cephas (*i.e. Peter*), then to the twelve. ⁶ After that He appeared to **more than five hundred brethren at one time**, most of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep; ⁷ then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles; ⁸ and last of all, as to one untimely born, He appeared to **me** also. ⁹ For I am the least of the apostles, and not fit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰ But by the **grace** of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me did not prove vain; but I labored even more than all of them, yet not I, but **the grace of God** with me. ¹¹ Whether then it was I or they, so **we preach and so you believed**.

¹² Now if Christ is preached, that He has been **raised from the dead**, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³ But if there is no resurrection of the dead, not even Christ has been raised; ¹⁴ and if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is vain, your faith also is vain. ¹⁵ Moreover we are even found to be false witnesses of God, because we testified against God that He raised Christ, whom He did not raise, if in fact the dead are not raised. ¹⁶ For **if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised**; ¹⁷ and if Christ has not been raised, **your faith is worthless**; you are **still in your sins**. ¹⁸ Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have **perished**. ¹⁹ If we have **hoped in Christ in this life only**, we are of all men most to be **pitied**.

²⁰ But **now Christ has been raised from the dead**, the **first fruits** of those who are asleep.