

# The Church

## - One Heart and One Soul -



Acts 2:42



What are the keys to a strong active church?

# THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

Holy Spirit

they went to the ro  
they were staying, I  
James, and Andrew  
Bartholomew and  
Alphaeus, and Si

God's manual for the strong living church..



# Key #1 Devoted to God..

- Acts 2:42 And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.



## Key #2 Being United..

- Acts 4:32 Now the multitude of those who believed were **of one heart and one soul**; neither did anyone say that any of the things he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common.



*One Heart, One Soul.*

Now the multitude of those who believed were of one heart and one soul . . . Acts 4:32a



Godly unity makes a church strong



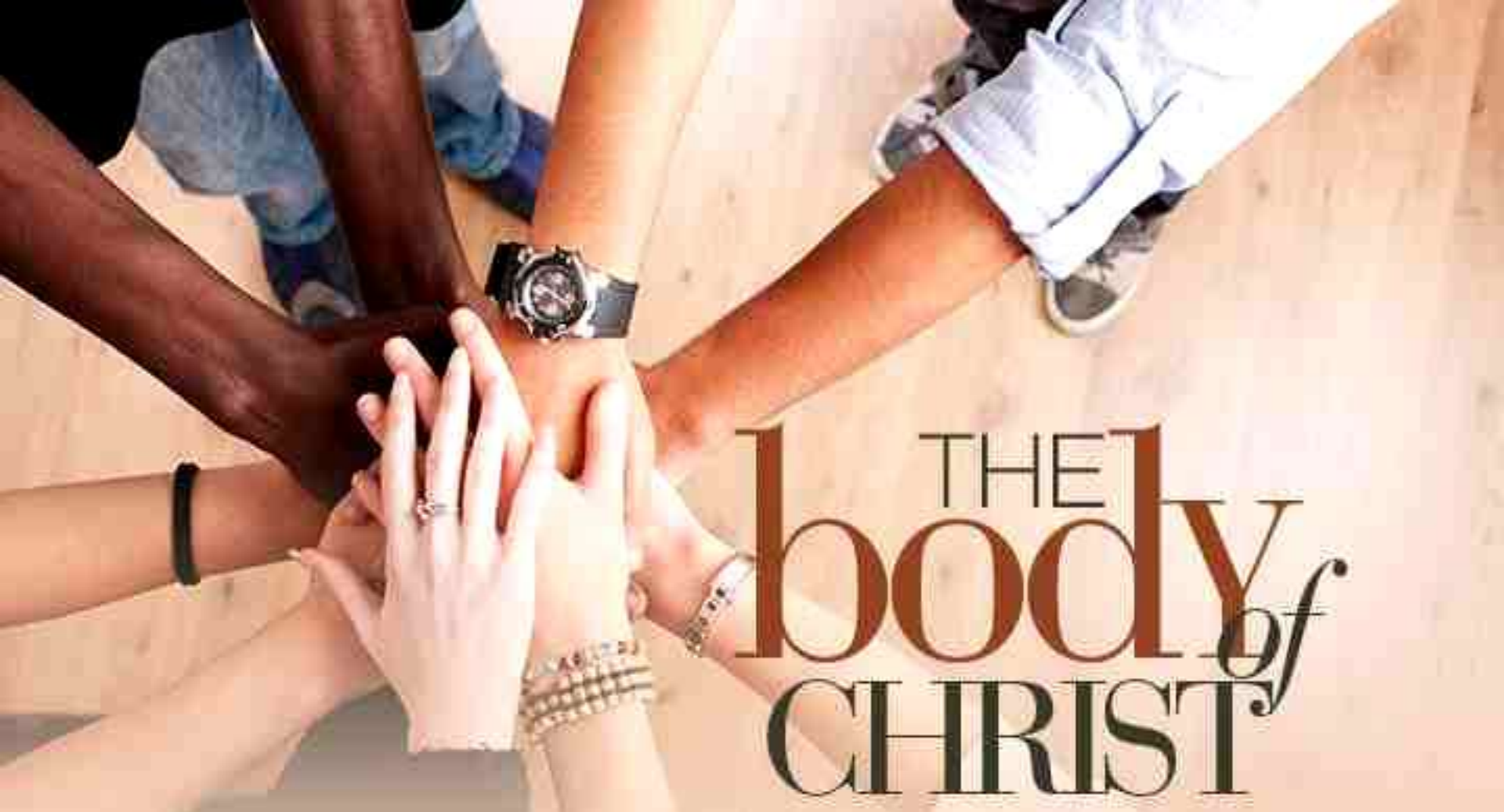
Unity goes beyond outward agreement



# Part of something bigger than themselves..

- One heart and soul...
  - The center of life and being
  - The seat of thoughts and emotions
  - Ephesians 5:23-25 For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body... just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her..





# THE body of CHRIST

Romans 12:4-5 For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, 5 so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.

# Benefit of the body placed above benefit of individual..

- Acts 4:32 Now the multitude of those who believed were of one heart and one soul; neither did anyone say that any of the things he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common.
- Acts 5:4 While it remained, was it not your own? And after it was sold, was it not in your own control?
  - They had individual ownership, not communism

# Benefit of the body placed above benefit of individual..

- Philippians 2:3-8 Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. 4 Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.
- 5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, **being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God,** 7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.



# Subordinating our own goals to the goals of the body..

- We each have our own lives to lead..
  - Providing for our families..
    - 1 Timothy 5:8 But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.
  - We still have our own jobs, homes, goals..
    - These goals are subordinated to Christ and His body
    - Individual pursuits now take on new purpose

# Unity in Christ overshadowed diversity of backgrounds..

- Acts 2:5-11 And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven. 6 And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused, because everyone heard them speak in his own language..
- Acts 6:1-2 Now in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplying, there arose a complaint against the Hebrews by the Hellenists, because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution.



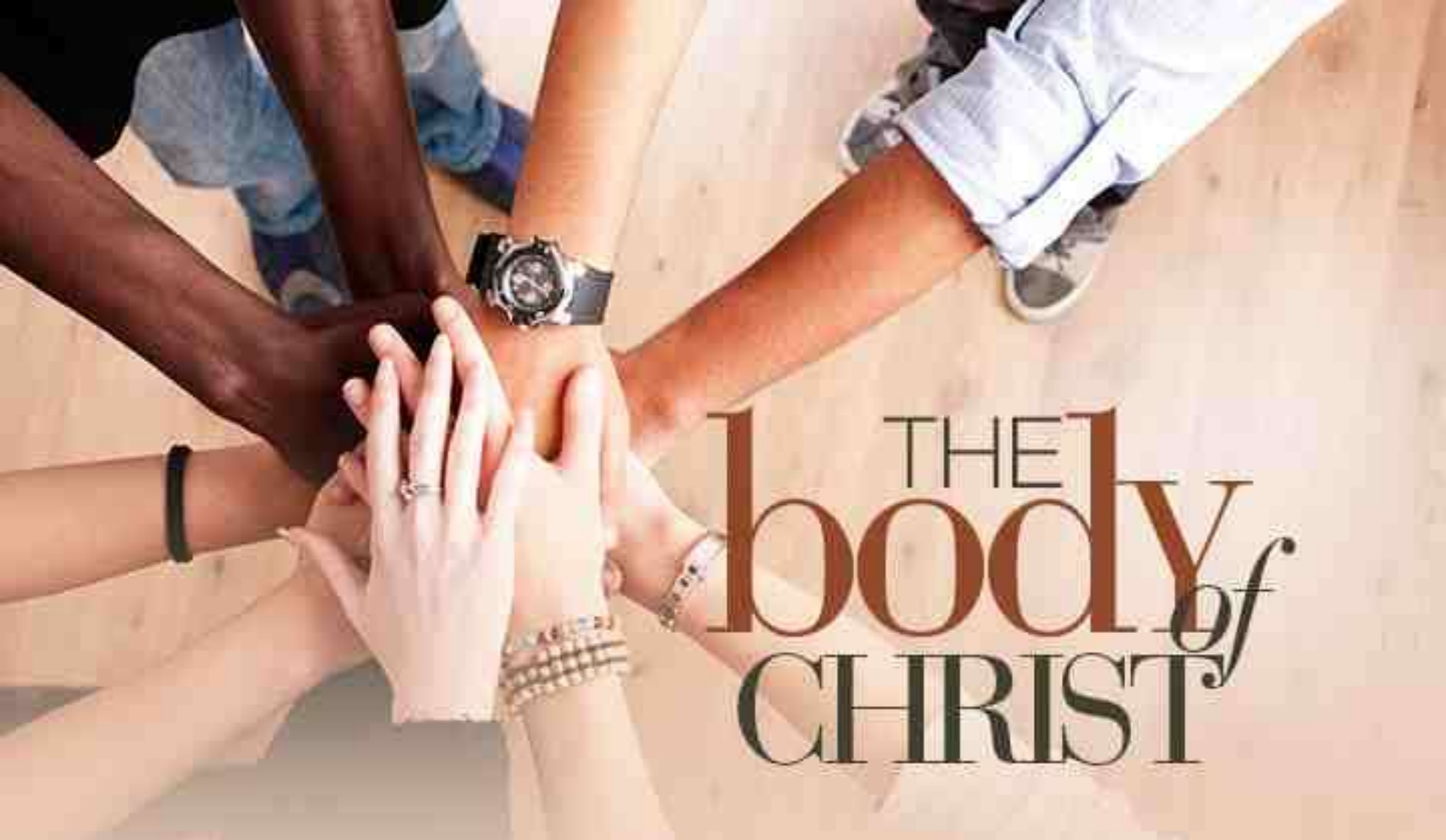
# Unity in Christ overshadowed diversity of backgrounds..

- Colossians 3:9-11 you have put off the old man with his deeds, 10 and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, 11 where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all.



# Unity increases our testimony of the risen Jesus..

- Acts 4:33 And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them all.
- John 17:20-21 "I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; 21 that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.



# THE body *of* CHRIST

We are part of something bigger than ourselves..  
We must place the body above our own lives

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