

The Sin of Ananias and Saphira

Religion means reconnecting ourselves to God. *Religio* — *re* = back + *ligare* = to bind (ligaments).

It is amazing how some are religious and some are not. In the first church there were only a few overcomers — those who relinked themselves to God, those who had Yahshua every morning in their heart.

Rev 3:20-21 talks about Yahshua being in the communication center. If He dwells there we know Him, we love Him, we are obedient. Then we are not only hearers of the word, we are effectual doers.

We used to try hard to get out of the word religious, but there is really no way to get out of it. True religion is to keep oneself unstained from the world. If you love the world, the love of God is not in you.

Did you ever feel Him knocking at the entrance of your heart? That gnawing? When we have Him in our heart we feel complete. When His love is in our heart, we are outgoing, kind, look at each other with approval, look each other in the eye, speak to one another, have compassion, and if someone doesn't have grace we warm up to him and help him to get back.

Most people in the Laodicean church didn't have Him in their hearts. Most of the people were still there in the community. This is very difficult to understand what happened there, but it is written down for our instruction. Ananias and Saphira sinned a sin unto death. It was proverbial. Our Father did it so all would fear. He finally had a people that fulfilled Dt 15:4,8.

Acts 2:44-45 — There were no needy among them. Acts 4:33-34 — Everyone had their needs met. They had enough diapers for their children (if they had any then), enough clothing, food to eat, houses to live in. If they really had a need they would get it. Everyone who had houses or properties would sell them and lay them at the

apostles' feet and they would make sure the needs were being met. Everyone was well cared for until Ananias and Saphira came in. They made a pact with each other: "We'll just keep some of the money if this or that doesn't work out." Then for the first time someone had a need in the Body. What those two had could have taken care of that need. It had never happened before. Joseph sold all his land and gave the proceeds to the apostles.

After Ananias and Saphira, probably nobody who would do the same as they did died a physical death anymore, but they went down to silence — they couldn't praise anymore; they were as good as dead, just like Ananias and Saphira.

Dt 15:4 is looking forward to the time when all of Israel would be a priesthood — the new covenant. The Levites lived like that. They shared their possessions. Paul said if we have food and clothing that is all that we need. What more would we need.

If we don't have communion with our Father, He knocks at the door wanting to get back into our communication center or, as it has been characterized, the throne of our life. If He is only in our spirit, we cannot say Yahshua is Sovereign. If He is Sovereign you have life and peace. If you are not in fellowship with Yahshua you are in fellowship with another spirit.

Sometimes you can think you are doing really well, but it is a deceptive spirit. Like the Laodiceans thought they were doing well. What should have been the Holy Spirit was transferred over to masquerading spirits, that made them think they had eternal life, that they were doing well (Acts 4:33-34; 1 Jn 3:17; Acts 2:44-45; 5:1).

When Ananias and Saphira held back money, a need arose in the Body. 1 Jn 3:17 — They were walking around while others had a need.

[It is good that we look in our Bibles so we can learn. We are here to learn the word of God. If the word of God is not written in your hearts you are still lost. Look at these things so that you remember. I am speaking in verses, expecting you to look

them up. Now you can explain these things to outsiders and they might understand how these things are related.]

Love demands community. When you start loving people you gather them around. When you start loving people, people start gathering around you and the whole Spirit that is in you will go into them. A community begins, like a beehive, a swarm, and they in turn will start others and others. There is no way you can obey the word outside of community. If you are legitimately sent out and start loving people, that is what is going to happen.

When you withhold something that you have, that you have for your own security, and there is a need that you see and you don't give, then you are dead, just as dead as Ananias and Saphira. The love of God is not in you. That is probably what happened in the first edah. If you want God's security you have to throw yours away.

“Teach them to observe all that I commanded you” — that's what the Master told them. In the first century that is what they did. People asked, “What must we do?” With many other words the apostles exhorted them. The people received faith to obey the gospel and formed the first community.

We will understand this more and more. There will be teachings about this. This is so we can explain to outsiders why we live in community. And if they are willing to do God's will they will see it and fall on their face and repent.

“No one can be my disciple,” our Master said, “unless he gives up all his possessions.” If they receive faith they will do it. It is a good test. Like the rich young ruler — He walked sadly away. He wanted to know what he must do in order to have eternal life.

Peter instead responded, “We've given up everything to follow You.”

We don't get eternal life because we give up our possessions. We receive eternal life because we have faith. We give up our possessions because we have faith.

If somebody would give all kinds of money to the community, but keeps a little bit back to get diapers for the next fifteen years, talk to his wife about it, because it's so hard to get diapers here, and then at the same time someone would walk around in rags — it would be a sin unto death.

In the Christian churches it wouldn't make any difference anyway because people all dress up on Sundays and you are not connected to their lives anyway and it all looks like everybody else does fine. Like we were poor, but my daddy always got Uncle Tommy's suits. They cost \$150, which was a lot of money back then. Uncle Tommy lived on the mountain and was rich. We were poor but everybody probably thought we were rich because of the way my daddy dressed. That's how it was. People in Christianity are just not connected to each other's lives.

[See also: "A Sin Unto Death; Fellowship Comes Through Praying" (941122P).]