

## Questions for Grace Group Discussion

Read Matthew 6:1-5 How could the principles from today's sermon help to explain why Jesus was so serious about these things in Matthew 6:1-5?

Read Matthew 23:5-7, 25-28 and ask the same question.

How could Matthew 22:36-40 provide a helpful perspective for those who are struggling with the sins that you just read about in Matthew 6 and 23?

How could Matthew 23:37 suggest the ultimate answer for people prone to the sins of Matthew 6 and 23?

## Ananias and Sapphira: Why?

### 1. The enemy of the new people of God:

#### a. Satan is an infiltrator.

2 Corinthians 11:14 *Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.*

#### i. Infiltrate the church with autonomy to undermine \_\_\_\_\_ to the risen King.

"Ananias and Sapphira wanted to join God's community while also retaining their personal autonomy from God's authority. They thereby risked infiltrating God's church with Satan's agenda." (Keener)

Numbers 25

#### ii. Infiltrate the church with \_\_\_\_\_ to undermine the reality of the risen King and His church.

#### b. Satan is an imitator.

#### c. Satan is a \_\_\_\_\_ who opposes God's work.

Numbers 14

Joshua 7

Acts 13:4-12

**2. The reality of the new people of God:**

**a. Because the body of Christ was real, sinning against the body was sinning against Christ.**

**b. Because the reality was exciting, \_\_\_\_\_ was damaging.**

**c. Because the church was new, its foundation had to be laid very carefully.**

**d. Because of the Spirit's real presence in the church, sin against the church tested the Spirit.**

**e. Because the church was the new \_\_\_\_\_ of God, its purity must be guarded.**

**i. Impurity must be removed.**

*2 Cor. 6:16-17 What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, "I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Therefore go out from their midst, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch no unclean thing..."*

*1 Cor. 5:2, 6-7 Let him who has done this be removed from among you.... Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened.*

Joshua 7

*1 Cor. 3:16-17 Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple.*

**ii. God must be treated as \_\_\_\_\_.**

"Here is the passage's point: the Spirit knows everything that happens in the community. People are accountable." (Bock)

"When Ananias lied to Peter and the church, it was a sin against the Spirit who creates, fills, and sustains the church." (Peterson)

"One simply does not tamper with the divine Spirit." (Polhill)

Leviticus 10; 2 Sam. 6; 1 Sam. 6:19