

Going Deeper

EMBC Weekly Discipleship Study

“A Severe Grace” – Acts 5:1-11

The apostle Peter told Ananias that he was free to do as he wished before and after he sold his land (Acts 5:4). Christians have immense freedom to act and follow God according to their conscience.

What has been your method in making big decisions?

How have scripture, the Holy Spirit, or advice from others influenced decisions you have made?

The problem was not how much Ananias and Sapphira held back or gave to the church. The problem was that they were lying to God and the church in order to make themselves look better. This was a heart issue.

How has the opinion of others influenced your decision-making?

How can we check our motivations to make sure we are doing things for the right reasons?

Pastor David explained that healthy churches confront sin. Read Matthew 18:15-20, where Jesus describes how we are to act when we confront a sinning believer.

Describe a time when you have seen a church, or just individual believers, succeed or fail to confront sin. Did they follow Jesus' instructions in Matthew 18?

Why might we be reluctant to confront sin?

What are some possible results of a church appropriately addressing sin?

Peter gave Sapphira the opportunity to “come clean” even after her husband’s death (Acts 5:8). Jesus offers everyone the opportunity to be cleansed from his or her sin and receive forgiveness.

Share your testimony of when you first received Jesus as your savior and asked for forgiveness.

Why do you think some people do not accept God’s offer of forgiveness?

How have you responded when confronted by others about sin in your life?

How has confessing your sins, or lack of confession, affected your freedom in Jesus?

As we conclude, pray that we will not harbor sin in our hearts, but confess them to God and use our freedom to make decisions that will honor God.