

in some particular thing they are in book itself, or in the epistles, that ~~they~~ error. When it describes how the early Christians, in the beginning of the Book of Acts, ~~had~~ had all things common, you read that statement alone and you are justified in drawing the conclusion that God wants Christians to have all things in common. Then, of course, the Christian Church should be a communistic organization, with no individual owning any private property. You can draw that conclusion, but you must never draw any conclusion from any part of the Scripture alone without the rest of the Scripture. And in this case, those few verses, in the second, third and fourth chapter of the Book of Acts, must not be taken alone, but in consideration of the rest of the book. And we don't go very far in the book before we find Ananias being condemned of the Lord for lying and saying that he was giving all his property to the church when he wasn't giving it. And you say right way, well, here is Ananias, he was killed all his property to the church, therefore every Christian should give all his property to the church. But look closely and you will find that Peter said to him, when the field belonged to you it was in your hands as you could do with it as you chose, and when you stole it you could give us as much or little as you chose of it, but for you to say that you have given it all when you haven't that is lying to the Holy Spirit, and God is going to take your life. He is not killed for having held back some of his property.

Peter said that he had a perfect right to hold back every cent of it, he is killed for lying to the Holy Ghost. And that is very important that Peter ~~did not~~ did not understand that the Christian had an obligation to surrender all his property, but the right to private ownership, Ananias had it in his power and he could do with it as he chose. It is lying, not a failure to join fully in a communistic organization, for which he was destroyed.

Now the early Christians had all things in common with great love to one another and with great love for the Holy Spirit. They didn't bother with individual money, they let the apostles handle all that and they simply were together. But we find before very long, in the Book of Acts, that