

Many commentators have described the Apostle Paul's words in First Corinthians chapter thirteen as the greatest exposition on love in the whole of literature! Here Paul says that if a person's deeds are not done for the glory of God and the benefit of others, they will return to him void!

In other words, it is the motive behind one's actions that determine their worth, and good deeds can be negated by motives, no matter how costly or beneficial they are to the recipients. We see an excellent example of this perfect and genuine love played out in the Book of Acts. Luke writes:

*Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common.*

*(Acts 4:32-33)*

Absolutely amazing! Paul goes on to say believers even sold their land and houses in order to meet the needs of the whole community and further the Gospel! How the Lord Jesus must have rejoiced at this; it was a direct answer to His last prayer for the Church before the Crucifixion!

But as the Lord had also warned, wolves came in among them disguised as sheep. Ananias and his wife Sapphira sold a piece of property and pretended to give the total amount to the Church, but kept back part of it.

The swift and harsh judgement on both of them was intended to be a lesson for believers in every age of how hateful lies, hypocrisy, and vainglory is to God, and why Christians need to be always vigilant in prayer and self-examination to avoid falling prey to such temptations!