

Psalm 133 Unity

Psalm 133 is one of the 14 Psalms or songs of Ascent -

A) These are songs the people of Israel would sing – journey up to Jerusalem -

B) Psalms 120 -134 – make up this group of Psalms

C) Psalm 133 is the 2nd to last song in the group
1) Theme of This Psalm is Unity

Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!

2 It is like the precious oil upon the head, running down on the beard, the beard of Aaron, running down on the edge of his garments.

3 It is like the dew of Hermon, descending upon the mountains of Zion; For there the Lord commanded the blessing— Life forevermore.

PRAY

One out of many - That used to be the American ideal,

A) **One people** formed out of many diverse cultures, languages, and nations.

B) One nation under God! The great melting pot!

C) But we have discovered in our not-so-long history that unity is not that easy to maintain

Some Sociologist assert that America is more divided right now than in any time in HER history since the civil war

A) We see it where ever we turn right now.

B) Please don't tune me out – now trying to get political – not my point

1) I am simply reminding us of this fact – America is messed up right now.

C) Aside from God sending an ALL OUT revival and our nation turning back to God –

1) Unity is not a possibility for America

D) But what might be an IMPOSSIBILITY for America is an IMPERATIVE for the church

Unity is not uniformity –

A) Uniformity is where a group all dress the same – looks the same - whether they like it or not

B) They espouse the same ideologies whether they believe them or not

C) **Uniformity is forced** – Military – Private schools - Places of Business

Unity is different than that

A) Unity is taking people who look different – who have different ideas about things –

B) Who different backgrounds – races – economics

C) They are brought together by a common theme, person or event – that they are committed to –

D) It willingly shapes the way they do life – it shapes their priorities

1) Unity is Organic – not manufactured –

That my friends has been the beauty of the church of Jesus Christ since it's beginning

A) Sin separates, sin creates disharmony and hostility every man for himself

B) I am going to GET MINE!!!

C) But God stepped into the mess we had made of his world – Sending his son Jesus –

1) Cross to rescue us from our sin – penalty – power

D) Rose again to impart HIS LIFE TO US

Jesus united Hostile groups – Jew vs Gentile – a feud that had been going on for 1,000's years – died

A) Created one new Humanity – THE REDEEMED

B) Made up of JEW -GENTILE – SLAVE – FREE RICH – POOR –

1) Every nation – tongue – tribe – people – Made one in JESUS!

When It comes to the church – There is a unity that already exist that is to be celebrated

A) Sinners – unified under the banner of an Empty Cross and an Empty tomb

B) Connected by blood – the Blood that flows from our saviors veins

C) The Unity we have in the church is meant to be celebrated and fought for / protected

D) Ephesians 4:3 – **We are to endeavor – (give diligence and maximum effort) to keep the unity and the bond of peace we have in Jesus**

So the question I want us to answer today is this: Why is unity so important – 3 reasons from our text

A) #1 Unity blesses our heavenly father - Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!

B) First of all I want to draw your attention to two words – **Dwell together**

1) Live together – gather together –

C) It blesses the father when his kids come together like we are today in unity

D) I can relate to that as a dad – **It is the best when I can get all my kids together in one room –**

E) Hard to do right now – because Aaron and Brooklyn – are in OKC

1) So they join us via Face time or Marco Polo – NICE – it works

Oh but what a difference when they actually fly out and are present with us in person

A) Sometimes I just sit back and stare and listen as they are sitting there together – laughing – BEST

B) I think our Heavenly father feels the same way

1) He loves when we are gathered together in his name like this today.

C) Yes – it is great that we have the technology to have some of you join us virtually

1) But it is just not the same –

D) Reason the Lord exhorted his people – **don't forsake the assembling of yourselves... manner of some.**

His people gathered in Unity is a big deal to the Lord – John 17 – Jesus High priestly prayer

A) He prays twice in that prayer that his Church would be one!

B) **Let them be one – like you and I father are one**

1) #1 Unity is important because it blesses our heavenly father

Unity is important #2 Unity empowers the church

2 It is like the precious oil upon the head, running down on the beard, The beard of Aaron, running down on the edge of his garments.

A) Aaron was the High Priest over Israel –

B) And when he was picked for that position – and all the priest after him

1) As part of their ordination into Ministry they were anointed with oil

C) Note -Head all the way to the edges of his garment

1) Head to toe – Anointed

D) Oil in Scripture is symbolic of the Holy Spirit

1) COVERED – HEAD TO TOE by the HS

Now our High Priest today is Jesus Himself

A) But in 1 Peter 2:9 – we the church are called a Royal Priesthood

But you *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; 1 Peter 2:9

B) We too are anointed by the Holy Spirit

Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, ²² set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come. 2 Corinthians 1:21-22

C) The Holy Spirit has anointed us to stand firm in Jesus

1) and to empower us **to WALK** with Jesus **to LIVE** for Jesus – and **TO SHARE** Jesus with the World

Jesus TOLD his disciples – not going to leave you orphans

A) Send My Spirit – HELPER – Lead you, guide you, teach you and empower you

B) Jesus told his Disciples to go into Jerusalem and wait for the Holy Spirit to come upon them –

C) **It happened on the day of Pentecost** – as we were dwelling together in Unity in an upper room

D) I believe the Psalmist is telling us – Like with Aaron –

1) there is a special anointing that happens – when gather together –

E) **The Lord fills us with a fresh anointing that enables us to – LIVE FOR HIM – this world.**

1) Unity #1 Blesses...Dad / #2 Empowers the church

#3 Refreshes the World

A) Here is what is interesting about that anointing oil - it was a “precious oil”

B) According to Exodus 30 it was A blending of myrrh, cinnamon, cane, and cassia

1) it gave off a wonderful fragrance

C) Where ever the High priest went you smelt that fragrance

1) Aaron is nearby

Listen there is a stench in our world today.

A) Most people – this place stinks – who can we trust – who can you believe

B) In our world – there is a strong stench of pride, selfishness, dissension,

C) Paul declared that our lives can give off the fragrance of Jesus to the world around us

D) A fragrance of Love – and peace, self-sacrifice – of caring for others above caring for self

E) The fragrance of the fruit of the Spirit

But it is not just the fragrance of Jesus in our lives that refreshes the world

A) **2nd analogy - 3 It is like the dew of Hermon, descending upon the mountains of Zion;**

B) the dew of Hermon is meant to symbolize a source of vitality and life and refreshment

C) This – the Bible says – is what true community is like. It is like water in the desert.

1) It is like a fertile river valley in the wilderness.

Now there is a miraculous aspect to what is being said here that the average reader easy to miss

A) You see – Hermon is in the North – the highest peak in Israel

B) Where as the MTs of Zion are in the south – Jerusalem – much shorter

C) But get this – there is no way that the Dew of Hermon could run down on Zion –

1) The Distance between the two peaks would make it impossible

So when he says it is like the Dew of Hermon – descending upon the MTs of Zion –

A) The Jewish reader would know – that would be a miracle

B) Unity is a miraculous – refreshment to the world

C) People come into a setting like this from the desert of life –

1) they see young and old – different races – backgrounds – dwelling together in Unity –

D) different than anywhere I have ever been

E) Jesus Revolution – Young old – hippies and suits – Love love -

Isn't there unity at Sporting events

A) Ever been to a Chargers/ Raiders game- Dodgers/ Padre

B) I guess there is a unity if you are sitting in the same section with fans rooting for same team.

C) Even that vanishes once the game is over – and everyone is trying to get out of the parking lot

1) Not a lot of deferring to one another there – right ?
– get out of my way you jerk

When the church is functioning in Unity – it can be unlike anything the world has ever seen.

A) Still problems – but they are dealt with in a spirit of grace – and love – forgiveness

B)Heart of compassion for each other and the world

1)Sets us apart

C)When someone who has been being beat up by the world – walks into that kind of community

D)It is like fresh water for someone wandering in the desert

So Unity is important:

#1 Blesses our heavenly Father

#2 Empowers the Church

#3 Refreshes the world

We celebrate our Unity today with Communion

A)Acknowledging – these two elements the bread and the cup – symbolize what unites us

B)The Body of Jesus – given for us

1)Took the punishment / pain – bore the shame that we all deserved

C)The Blood of Jesus that cleanses us from our sin

D)The Resurrected life of Jesus – His spirit in each one of our hearts – connects us

Partake of that today – Celebrate our unity

A)Warning – Don't partake in an unworthy manner

B)Another option – Give your life to Jesus today

1)Open your heart – pray

C)Song – You partake as you are ready.

Another way we celebrate our unity is through baptism.

A)Baptism is the outward declaration that God has done a work in your heart

B)Mark of being a Disciple – Believe and be Baptized

1)Going on record

C)Symbolizes – death and a resurrection

Continue to worship –

A)Folks are going to get baptized today

B)Come line up – one by one enter – pray –

1)Baptize – in the name of the Father/ Son/ Holy Spirit

C)If you made a decision to follow Jesus today

1)Make that known today – joining these folks and getting baptized too