

Song of Ascents #14 - Ps 133 - When Brothers Live Together in Unity

Psalm 133:1-3 How good and pleasant it is when brothers **live together in unity!** 2 It is **like precious oil** poured on the head, running down on the beard, running down on Aaron's beard, down upon the collar of his robes. 3 It is as if **the dew of Hermon** were falling on Mount Zion. For there the **LORD bestows his blessing**, even life forevermore.

The unity he speaks of is not being in the same location, or looking the same way - not uniformity or conformity

- **It is LIVING TOGETHER ... (LIVE)** is the operative word
- Living together can be messy - the stuff of life gets in the way
- Living together can try our patience
- Living together makes it more likely that offenses will come
- We sometimes may think it best to avoid working toward unity - BUT
- **There the LORD bestows His blessing**

Unity is the heart of Jesus

He prayed in John 17: that we would be brought to complete unity

We are to be intentional about unity

Eph 4:1-6 As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I **urge you to live a life worthy of the calling** you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. **Make every effort** to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit— just as you were **called to one hope when you were called**— one Lord, one faith, one baptism; 6 one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

- We were called to ONE body, ONE spirit, ONE hope - make every every to live up to the calling to ONENESS

The basis/foundation of unity is our fellowship with Jesus

1Co 1:9-10 God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. 10 I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another in what you say and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly united in mind and thought.

- It is our fellowship with Jesus that drives us to deal with the issues of our heart that fight against unity - fellowship with Jesus will not allow unforgiveness to continue
- It is our fellowship with Jesus that aligns our heart more closely to His
- So that the things important to Him become IMPORTANT TO US

What does the “endeavor” process include?

We already read Eph 1:1-6 above - here are the points

- Be completely humble and gentle

- Be patient
- Bearing with one another in love

Phil 2:1-4

Phil 2:1-4 If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, 2 then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. 3 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. 4 Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

- Be like-minded
- Love
- One in spirit and purpose
- Avoid selfish ambition
- Avoid vain conceit
- In Humility consider others better than yourselves
- Not looking at my interests, but upon the interests of others

Col 3:12-17

Col 3:12-17 Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. 13 Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. 14 And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. 16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. 17 And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

- Compassion
- Kindness
- Humility
- Gentleness
- Patience
- Bear with each other
- Forgive whatever
- Love

Rom 15:5-7

Rom 15:5-7 May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, 6 so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. 7 Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.

- Accept one another - as He has accepted you - IN ORDER TO BRING PRAISE TO GOD

Jesus prayed...that we may be one

The evil one is against unity

- John 17:11-15 I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name — the name you gave me — so that they may be one as we are one....15 My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one.

Our independence and comfort zones compete against unity

- John 17:20-21 "My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, 21 that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you.

The basis/power of our unity is our relationship with him & is a message to the lost

- John 17:22-23 May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. 22 I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: 23 I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

How good and how pleasant is it for the brothers to live together in unity...for here the LORD bestows his blessing