

**A CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP  
SONGS OF ASCENT  
A DIVINE UNITY**

**Text: Psalm 133**

**Key Word: Unity**

**Key Thought: Divine Unity has Unique Qualities**

We have now made it to the fourteenth “*Psalm of Ascent or Psalm of Degree.*” It has no doubt been a wonderful experience for those of us who love being taught by God’s Word. The Jews from all of the 12 tribes had gathered in Jerusalem to worship God and offer their sacrifices. Now it was time to say goodbye until they met for the next feast. It was like a family reunion but much larger. This has become one of the most popular Psalms in the Bible. Perhaps it is because we all have benefited from the unity that God requires for us to keep.

*“Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit  
through the bond of peace.”*

*Ephesians 4:3*

**\*\*\*** During World War II, Hitler commanded all religious groups to unite so that he could control them. Among the Brethren assemblies, half complied and half refused. Those who went along with the order had a much easier time. Those who did not, faced harsh persecution. In almost every family of those who resisted, someone died in a concentration camp.

When the war was over, feelings of bitterness ran deep between the groups and there was much tension. Finally they decided that the situation had to be healed. Leaders from each group met at a quiet retreat. For several days, each person spent time in prayer, examining his own heart in the light of Christ's commands. Then they came together. Francis Schaeffer, who told of the incident, asked a friend who was there, “*What did you do then?*”

“*We were just one,*” he replied. As they confessed their hostility and bitterness to God and yielded to His control, the Holy Spirit created a spirit of unity among them. Love filled their hearts and dissolved their hatred. When love prevails among believers, especially in times of strong disagreement, it presents to the world an indisputable mark of a true follower of Jesus Christ. **\*\*\***

*“Our Daily Bread”  
October 4, 1992*

It is believed that this Psalm originated at the time that King David was inaugurated by the 12 tribes. They also committed to the decision to make Jerusalem their city but also to gather all the material to construct their famous temple (Solomon's Temple).

It was time of joyfulness. It was time of hope and expectation. It was a time of unity. There are many groups that pride themselves on achieving unity. **But What Are the Distinguishing Differences When it Comes to Divine Unity?**

**I. DIVINE UNITY IS PLEASANT (Psalm 133:1)**

**II. DIVINE UNITY IS PRECIOUS (Psalm 133:2)**

**III. DIVINE UNITY IS PLENTIFUL (Psalm 133:2-3)**

**I. DIVINE UNITY IS PLEASANT (Psalm 133:1)**

As I quoted from the apostle Paul's writing earlier, we as the church are to **keep or maintain** the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. It is not our responsibility to produce unity because anything we make can easily become depleted. When it does, we quickly feel guilty of for not living up to the standards that God expects of us. It simply becomes a cycle of failure.

The problem is that anything that is manmade is quite different from anything that God makes. When God created the heavens and the earth He was pleased because it was perfect and it was pleasant. There was no war. There was no division. There was no separation. It was place of pleasant peace.

Once we get to heaven, we will enter gates of gold and walk on streets of gold. But the greatest difference will be how pleasant it will be. No tears, no death, no mourning nor crying and no more pain, no suffering (Revelation 21:4). Why will there be such a change?

*“Behold, the tabernacle is with men, and he shall dwell with them.”*

*Revelation 21:3*

Divine unity starts with God and ends with God for all eternity. The pleasantness that comes from God is not just good but very good. There are plenty of things in life that we find pleasant but they are not good for us. That is not so with God.

*“Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.”*

*James 1:17*

## I. DIVINE UNITY IS PLEASANT (Psalm 133:1) (Contd.)

The word used for “*pleasant*” means “*exceedingly delightful.*” This pleasant experience should be at its richest level when we gather each Sunday or any other gathering. It’s interesting that the Hebrew word for “*to live*” is a form on their verb “*shabat*” which means “*to rest.*” It is directly associated with the word “*Sabbath.*” Some of our best times of rest should take place as we come together for our services. But please don’t fall asleep - babies are excluded.

## II. DIVINE UNITY IS PRECIOUS (Psalm 133:2)

*“It is like precious oil poured on the head, running down on the beard, running down on Aaron’s beard, down on the collar of his robe.”*

*Psalm 133:2*

According to Leviticus 8:12 we are told that Moses anointed the head of his older brother Aaron to sanctify him when he was ordained into the priesthood. This oil was poured out so lavishly that it flowed down the beard of Aaron and even down unto his garment.

Oil is one of the symbols used in the Bible to describe the Holy Spirit. Even Jesus made it clear that He was anointed at the beginning of His ministry.

*“The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because **He has anointed Me** to preach the gospel to the poor. He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed.”*

*Luke 4:18*

One definition of the word “*precious*” is “*something of great value; not to be wasted or treated carelessly.*” I love comparing the Scriptures to see what God thinks when He uses specific words in His inscriptions of truth. **The Bible speaks of Jesus as precious.**

*“Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, **precious:** and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded. Unto you therefore which believe he is **precious:**”*

*I Peter 2:6 KJV*

## II. DIVINE UNITY IS PRECIOUS (Psalm 133:2) (Contd.)

It also says that the trying of our **faith is precious**.

*“That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ.”*

*I Peter 1:7 KJV*

One other thing that Peter spoke of were the **precious promises** to God.

*“Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises.”*

*II Peter 1:4 KJV*

There are many things that are precious in the Bible but the most important is the precious oil of the Holy Spirit as mentioned in this beautiful Psalm. Many have tried to imitate the precious unity of the Holy Spirit but no one can duplicate Him and His work in our lives.

*“This shall be a holy anointing oil to me throughout your generations.*

*32. It shall not be poured on man’s flesh; nor shall you make any other like it, according to its composition. It is holy, and it shall be holy to you.*

*33. Whoever compounds any like it, or whoever puts any of it on an outsider, shall be cut off from his people.”*

*Exodus 30:31-33*

Just before the death of Moses he pronounced a blessing unto the tribes of Israel. It is worth noting that he passed on things that were precious beginning with dew from heaven.

*“May the Lord bless his land with the **precious dew from heaven above** and with the deep waters that lie below;”*

*Deuteronomy 33:13*

### III. DIVINE UNITY IS PLENTIFUL (Psalm 133:2-3)

*“It is as if the dew of Hermon were falling on Mount Zion. For there the Lord bestows his blessing, even life forevermore.”*

*Psalm 133:3*

Mount Hermon is also known as the “*Mountain of the Chief*” as it stands at 2814 metres (9,232 feet) and covers an area of 1000 Sq. km (390 Sq. miles). It straddles the border of Syria and Lebanon. It has the highest UN maned station in the world. It extends into the Golan Heights.

The top of this mountain has snow on it year round. That is why it has such a copious dew. It flows down and into the Jordan River that needs the water because of the arid climate most of the year. **So when God provides unity to us, it comes with an overabundance to overcome the dryness that we often feel when it comes to unity.**

**Although disunity is not considered as the number one problem in the church, it is vital for our churches to be healthy.** We need an excessive dose of unity. It is just like our physical body that must function the way it was created to. Each cell has a purpose and it doesn't take long to notice it when just a few of those become contagious and spread their bacteria into healthy cells.

We need many more healthy cells of unity to combat the destruction that can take place. There are many scriptural metaphors to describe how we need the abundant unity that comes from God.

1. We are created in the **image of God** (Genesis 1:27)
2. Take off the **old man** and put on the **new man** (Ephesians 4:22-24)
3. God is the vine and **we are the branches** (John 15:5)
4. We are the **salt of the earth** (Matthew 5:13)
5. **We are the bride** that has been made ready (Revelation 19:7)

Oh that God would pour out His blessing like the dew of Mount Hermon upon His Church. We need to be drenched like the tents in the valley of this majestic mountain. There are multiple stories of travellers waking up after a good night's sleep with their tents dripping with the abundant dew.

The Church needs to awake from its slumber before the bridegroom calls out for us to gather for the marriage supper. We need not only the oil but also the dew of heaven to pour out upon us. May it flow out from us to a thirsty world around us.

C:\My Documents\WPWin(X7)\Sermons.2016\Psalms\Ascent\Psalms 133.wpd

Date: July 17/16

Place: FCA

Time: 10:30 Am

Song: Father Make us One - G

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**I. DIVINE UNITY IS PLEASANT (Psalm 133:1)**

*Revelation 21:4; Revelation 21:3; James 1:17*

**II. DIVINE UNITY IS PRECIOUS (Psalm 133:2)**

*Psalm 133:2; Leviticus 8:12; Luke 4:18; I Peter 2:6 KJV; I Peter 1:7 KJV;  
I Peter 1:4 KJV; Exodus 30:31-33; Deuteronomy 33:13*

**III. DIVINE UNITY IS PLENTIFUL (Psalm 133:2-3)**

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