THE UNITY OF THE BRETHREN

Psalm 133:1-3

11-15-2025

"A song of degrees of David" - This psalm, like Psalms 120-134, formed a Jewish hymnbook that was used by pilgrims who travelled to Jerusalem for the yearly feasts of Passover, Pentecost and Tabernacles.

What a sight David sees as throngs of Israelites walk up the mountain ranges into Jerusalem. This gathering of young and old, rich and poor is remarkably special because it is not marked by jealousy, fighting, and alienations in the family of Israel. The scene is one of joy, love, and oneness! It is to such a sight that David exclaims, "Behold" -- look, see, visualize, the blessedness of unity!

*Experience the blessings of unity!
Four descriptions of unity:

I. Unity is GOOD (v. 1a)

Biblical unity is good -

1. Because its cause (source) is good

The source of Biblical unity is God.

God is called the author of peace, not confusion (I Cor. 14:33; II Cor. 13:11) SEE: Eph. 4:1-6; John 17:21

2. Because its effect (result) is good

The consequences of unity are truly good.

a. A work is accomplished for God's glory

We are laborers together with God (SEE: I Cor. 3:1-9)

b. A message is conveyed to the watching world (John 17:21 - "That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me."

II. Unity is PLEASANT (v. 1b)

The Hebrew word for "pleasant" is used of:

1. The harmony of good music (EX: of an orchestra) (as opposed to the annoying sound of wrong notes at wrong times - Ex: warm-up time)
2. The sweetness of honey (as opposed to bitter things)

A. Unity is pleasant to God

B. Unity is pleasant to ourselves

C. Unity is pleasant to others

"Behold how. . . pleasant it is. . ."

"Brethren" - It is understandable that the unsaved cannot get along, but for those in the same family to not get along is truly a travesty.

The opposite: Behold, how bad and how irritable (unsettling, troublesome)it is for brethren to dwell apart in disunity.

EX: Cain & Abel; Abram & Lot (Gen. 13:8 - "And Abram said unto Lot, Let there be no strife, I pray thee, between me and thee, and between my herdmen and thy herdmen; for we be brethren.") Jacob & Esau

God hates discord sown among the brethren.

It is Satan who sows tares of division (Mt. 13:39). He first divided man from God and then men from each other (Spurgeon, p. 171)

III. Unity is PRECIOUS (v. 2)

"Precious ointment" - the oil poured upon the high priest was precious because it was a one of a kind, rare, uncommon oil (Exod. 30:32 - "Upon man's flesh shall it not be poured, neither shall ye make nay other like it, after the composition of it: it is holy, and it shall be holy unto you.")

Unity like the anointing oil is a precious commodity. It is priceless! Cannot be bought, can't be imitated!

"Ran down . . . went down" - The profuse pouring of the costly oil drives home a point. Unity produces not a small smidgen of peace, joy, comfort, and blessing, but a bountiful supply.

EX: the woman who used the costly ointment on Jesus - did not view it as a waste!

IV. Unity is REFRESHING (v. 3)

Nothing is as refreshing in a hot, dry climate like Israel as the morning dew which glistens with the morning sun, giving a cool refreshing start to the day and supplying the water needed to prolong the life of the grass and vegetation.

"Unity is like a cool breeze on a hot day!"

CONCLUSION: V. 3

Just as God commands blessing upon Zion, so He commands blessing upon those who dwell in unity: "United we stand, divided we fall"

3 Essentials to Biblical unity:

1. Sharing a common relationship

(the oneness of being, which comes "in Christ" - see: Eph. 4:1-5)

2. Sharing common convictions

(a oneness of thinking which comes from the Bible - Amos 3:3; I Cor. 1:10)

Agreement not necessarily in every detail or fine point of doctrine, but in the indisputable, clearly revealed essentials.

3. Sharing a common goal

(a oneness of service which is focused on Christ)

4. Sharing a common cause

Disunity is so destructive because rather than working together you are working against each other.

Unity is:

1. Playing on the same team

2. Heading in the same direction

3. Serving the same Master

Four attitudes that promote unity:

1. Unselfishness

(Acts 4:32 - "And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common.)

2. Humility

(Phil. 2:2 - "Fulfill ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.)

3. Compassion & love

(I Pet. 3:8 - "Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous")

4. Peace

(Eph. 4:3 - "Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace")