

Walking In Unity with God and with Believers

Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! 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. It is like the dew of Hermon. Descending upon the mountains of Zion; For there the LORD commanded the blessing- Life forevermore (Psalm 133).

This is a critical passage. The Church needs to come into unity with Christ. One way that the Church will do this is by having unity among believers. Psalm 133:1 says that unity among the brethren is a blessing. God delights when believers come together in unity. This is not simply done by a one time prayer meeting. Unity is done by living in a community of humility and meekness unto Christ.

Song of Ascents

It is important to notice that the title of this Psalm is called, "Blessed Unity of the People of God". It is also important to notice that this was one of the Songs of Ascents by King David. The Songs of Ascents (also called songs of Pilgrimage) were sung by the Jews when they would ascend to visit the Holy Temple three times annually for the festivals. They would go there to celebrate and worship during the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the Feast of the Harvest (first fruits), and the Feast of the Ingathering (done at the end of the year). These songs marked a time of unity among the people of Israel when they would go up mount Zion and worship the Lord. The song of ascents and the seasonal feasts...

- Helped people subordinate all experiences of life to the Lord
- Preserved the heritage of the faith
- Made the believing community distinct from the world
- Provided believers with the opportunity of fulfilling their religious duties regularly
- Fostered unity among the people
- Provided opportunities for greater praise and glory

It was a time to gather with all their brethren and worship the Lord together. This is what makes this Psalm so powerful. King David saw what the Lord was seeing and that the Jews going to worship before the Lord was a blessing.

Aaron the High Priest and Mount Hermon

King David related unity among the brethren to two things. He said it was like the anointing oil falling upon Aaron and it was like the dew of Hermon descending upon the mountains of Zion.

Aaron was the high priest during Moses's day. The oil represents the grace of the Holy Spirit. When unity among the people of God occurs God's grace flows through the Church and they will truly function as they were called to in connection with God.

Mount Hermon was one of the high mountains in Jerusalem. Some people say that mount Hermon was the mountain in which Jesus was transfigured, but this is not for certain. Mount Hermon is also spoken of in Song of Solomon as a high mountain of obstacle that the Shulamite must overcome in her relationship with God. When the people of God are in unity with Him and other believers it is like the grace and blessing of God flowing over us. It is important to note that the information about Aaron and mount Hermon are my personal opinion and if you can prove that they mean something else Biblically I would appreciate it.

There in that unity the Lord has commanded the blessing-Life forever. When the Church begins to walk

in unity with God and with other believers they will become a beacon of light for the nations.

Division

The devil however sees the threat of unity among the people of God and therefore tries to divide the Church so that life would not flow from it. As a result many denominations have arisen in Christianity and they have barriers against one another (i.e the Reformation, the Crusades, etc.)

The opposite of life is death, therefore the opposite of unity is division. Jesus said that a house divided cannot stand.

If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. And if a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand. And if Satan had risen up against himself, and is divided, he cannot stand but has an end. No one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man, and then he will plunder his house (Mark 3:24-27).

A kingdom will fall apart if the people are not unified. The church will not function to the way God has called her to unless she walks in unity. This is crucial to our young adult prayer meetings.

Examples of Unity and Division

Abraham Lincoln

Abraham Lincoln was running for Senate in Illinois in 1858. He was running for the Republican party. During this time the United States was divided concerning the issue of slavery. During this crucial hour in history Abraham Lincoln titled his speech “House Divided”.

“A house divided cannot stand'. I believe this government cannot endure permanently half slave and half free”.

“I do not expect the Union to be dissolved—I do not expect the house to fall--but I do expect it will cease to be divided. It will become all one thing or all the other”.

Since the United States did not agree on which side they would choose, as a result the Union did not stand and fell apart.

Count Zinzendorf and the Moravian Lamp Stand

This can also be seen during the days of Count Zinzendorf. The Count was born in 1700 and his family was part of the Pietist movement. At the age of four the Count began to pursue God in a deep way. In 1722 Zinzendorf bought a piece of land which he would later call Herrnhut (“The Watch of the Lord”). Zinzendorf then came into contact with a Moravian preacher name Christian David. He asked if the Moravians could find refuge on his land because they were John Huss's followers and were persecuted by the Catholic monarchs at the time (which is a result of division among the Church). Zinzendorf agreed. The community grew quickly, however there was division among the brethren. There were so many factions that Zinzendorf had to give up his court position in order to be the leader of the Moravians. He went on to instituted a new constitution for them. Then after the Moravians began to have a community of unity revival broke out and a 100 year, 24/7 prayer meeting emerged. 24 men and 24 women gave themselves to night and day prayer, and every hour two of them would minister before the Lord. A missions movement arose that incredibly changed the nation. John Wesley, came to the faith through the missions-minded Moravians. Usually 5,000:1 is the ratio of Protestants who go into the mission field. However during this time period the ratio was much smaller, 60:1. Some of the Moravians even sold themselves into slavery in order to fulfill the great commission.

This is what happens when the Church has unity with God and with others, revival breaks out. I'm not saying to compromise but I am saying to unify under the name of Christ. Do not dilute your message in order to have unity. That is not unity, that is called tolerance. We want unity under Christ, for this brings life. Division, offense, and bitterness will ultimately lead to death.

Other Biblical Passages About Divine Unity

When the day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance... (Acts 2:1-4).

The revival in the early Church began because they were in one accord in unity with Christ. The apostles always made sure that there were elders and deacons in the church and that they met at a congregation regularly.

Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus, that you may with one mind and one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ (Romans 15:5-6).

I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with long-suffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace... But to each one of us grace was given according to the measures of Christ gift...And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head- Christ (Ephesians 4:1-3,7,11-15).

The believers in Corinth did not use the spiritual gifts rightly. The gifts should have brought unity, but instead they were bringing division. This is one reason why Paul wrote to them.

Jezebel brought division in the church of Thyatira and the Lord gave her time to repent but she did not (Revelation 2:18-27).