

THE POWER OF UNITY

Psalm 133 (Mev)

Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brothers to dwell together in unity! 2It is like precious oil upon the head, that runs down on the beard— even Aaron's beard— and going down to the collar of his garments; 3as the dew of Hermon, that descends upon the mountains of Zion, for there the Lord has commanded the blessing, even life forever.

Unity is a shared commitment to Christ that binds diverse people together in love, purpose, and obedience to God—without erasing God-given differences.

Why do so many people- even Christians, resist unity?

- A lack of understanding
- An “independent” spirit
- A bad experience in the past

The Word of God shows us that there is a dimension to our spiritual life that cannot be vibrant and healthy isolated from other believers.... People in unity reach into each other's lives.

Sustained spiritual growth and discipleship happen in the context of relationships!

**THREE TRUTHS OF UNITY WE
MUST RECOGNIZE:**

1. THE PICTURE OF UNITY.

What does it look like? Will I know it when I see it?

Acts 2:41-47 (Mev)

41 Then those who gladly received his word were baptized, and that day about three thousand souls were added to them. 42 They continued steadfastly in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread and in the prayers. 43 Fear came to every soul. And many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. 44 All who believed were together and had all things in common.

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45 They sold their property and goods and distributed them to all, according to their need.

46 And continuing daily with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart,

47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

The unity birthed in the upper room
created an atmosphere and
momentum where the Holy Spirit
could minister and move freely! Unity
among believers is an atmosphere
the Holy Spirit creates, AND the
atmosphere He operates best in!

2. THE “COMPANIONS” OF UNITY.

Unity produces a “greenhouse” effect.

According to scripture, some things seem to always be present where unity is! What things flourish and grow in the “atmosphere” unity creates?

- WORSHIP (Romans 15:5-6)

Now may the God of perseverance and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another in accordance with Christ Jesus,⁶ so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. (MEV)

MATURITY (Eph. 4:11-13)

¹¹ He gave some to be apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers, ¹² for the equipping of the saints, for the work of service, and for the building up of the body of Christ, ¹³ until we all come into the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, into a complete man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ (MEV)

ONE PURPOSE (1. Cor. 1:10, Phil. 2:1-5)

¹⁰ Now I ask you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak in agreement and that there be no divisions among you. But be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.

¹If there is any encouragement in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any compassion and mercy, ² then fulfill my joy and be like-minded, having the same love, being in unity with one mind. ³ Let nothing be done out of strife or conceit, but in humility let each esteem the other better than himself. ⁴ Let each of you look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. ⁵ Let this mind be in you all, which was also in Christ Jesus.

SPIRITUAL GIFTS (1 Cor12:4-7, Eph. 4:1-6)

*4 There are various gifts, but the same Spirit.
5 There are differences of administrations, but
the same Lord. 6 There are various
operations, but it is the same God who
operates all of them in all people. 7 But the
manifestation of the Spirit is given to
everyone for the common good.*

¹ I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, exhort you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you were called. ² With all humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another in love, ³ be eager to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴ There is one body and one Spirit, even as you were called in one hope of your calling, ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

Respect the law of “Reciprocals”

3. THE VALUE OF UNITY.

Apart from salvation itself, unity is one of the greatest gifts God gives to those He loves!

The laws of stewardship dictate
that if I recognize something is
from God, I must:

- Attach value to it (If it's important to God, it's important to me)

- Protect it.

- Cultivate it- position myself to receive more of it! Good stewardship of God's blessings sets me up to receive more blessings!

The active part of good stewardship is cooperating with the Holy Spirit as He works to create and sustain unity. At the same time, submit to God and resist the devil as he works to destroy unity...