

## **Psalms of Ascent 133 “Good and Pleasant Unity”**

**Psalm 133:1-3**

**April 6, 2025**

Psalm 133:1-3

1 Behold, how good and pleasant it is  
when brothers dwell in unity!  
2 It is like the precious oil on the head,  
running down on the beard,  
on the beard of Aaron,  
running down on the collar of his robes!  
3 It is like the dew of Hermon,  
which falls on the mountains of Zion!  
For there the Lord has commanded the blessing,  
life forevermore.

“Dwell in unity”

Personal never meant private.

Unity doesn't mean uniformity.

Psalm 133:2

2 It is like the precious oil on the head,  
running down on the beard,  
on the beard of Aaron,  
running down on the collar of his robes!

Seeing my brother and sister as my priest changes relationships.

“The Christian needs another Christian who speaks God's Word to him. He needs him again and again when he becomes uncertain and discouraged, for by himself he cannot help himself without belying the truth. He needs his brother man as a bearer and proclaimer of the divine word of salvation. He needs his brother solely because of Jesus Christ. The Christ in his own heart is weaker than the Christ in the word of his brother, his own heart is uncertain, his brother's is sure.”

Psalm 133:3

3 It is like the dew of Hermon,  
which falls on the mountains of Zion!

The surprise of dew means that peace with one another is a gift from God.

James 3:17-18

17 But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere.  
18 And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

Down the beard, down the collar, dew falling.

The Church, a family or an institution?

Corinthians 11:17-21

17 But in the following instructions I do not commend you, because when you come together it is not for the better but for the worse.  
18 For, in the first place, when you come together as a church, I hear that there are divisions among you. And I believe it in part,<sup>[e]</sup> 19 for there must be factions among you in order that those who are genuine among you may be recognized. 20 When you come together, it is not the Lord's supper that you eat. 21 For in eating, each one goes ahead with his own meal. One goes hungry, another gets drunk.

Acts:44-45

44 And all who believed were together and had all things in common.  
45 And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need.

Jesus' body was broken so that we could be one.

### **Life group discussion questions**

- What did God say to you through his Word during our Sunday gathering?

- Psalm 133 is meant to provoke a desire for harmony in our relationships. When you think about family, friends, your neighborhood, work, our nation and church, where do you see a pleasant coming together and where are you experiencing disharmony?
- Read Psalm 120 alongside Psalm 133. How might the desire for peace increase from an experience of discord?
- Christians are meant to be deep lovers of peace. How can we engage in conflict with the overarching goal of peace?
- John Calvin makes the claim that “Any concord... which may prevail amongst men, is insipid, if not pervaded by a sweet savor of God’s worship.” What kind of peace can we expect if worship is weak?
- Considering the two illustrations used in Psalm 133 (oil down Aaron’s beard and the dew of Hermon), how are we being reminded that Christianity is a move towards more gladness and gratitude?
- Do you harbor any secret grudges? How are you being tempted to whitewash your causes? What if the church will be unable to progress apart from your relationships and pursuit of dwelling in unity?
- What is a step towards unity you can take this week? How can your Life Group support you in that step?