

## Better Together

### Psalm 133

September 21, 2014

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#### Series Theme: Growing in Unity

**Reality:** *“So we, though many, are one body in Christ...” (Rom. 12:5a)*

- **Expectation:** *“Live in harmony with one another.” (12:16a)*

**Reality:** *“In one Spirit we were all baptized into one body.” (I Cor. 12:13a)*

- **Expectation:** *“...no divisions....united in mind.” (1:10)*

**Reality:** *“...Christ Jesus... our peace...has made us one...” (Eph. 2:13-14)*

- **Expectation:** *“...eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.....” (4:3)*

**Reality:** *“...chosen race, royal priesthood, holy nation...” (I Peter 2:9a)*

- **Expectation:** *“...have unity of mind....” (3:8)*

**The Challenge:** to effectively \_\_\_\_\_ what we already are in \_\_\_\_\_.

- Today: Is the outworking of our position worth the effort?

Psalm 133 – ***“Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity! 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. It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion! For there the Lord has commanded the blessing, life forevermore.”*** (ESV, English Standard Version)

- **Principle:** To \_\_\_\_\_ pursue church unity is to invite God’s \_\_\_\_\_ and abundant life upon the church.

John 17:20-23 – ***“I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one..... I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.”*** (ESV)

- **Principle:** To \_\_\_\_\_ pursue church unity is to give \_\_\_\_\_ to our gospel message of God’s love.

Acts 4:32-34a – ***“Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common. And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them.....”*** (ESV)

- **Principle:** To \_\_\_\_\_ pursue church unity is to profoundly \_\_\_\_\_ the church’s testimony and ministry.

Romans 15:5-6 – ***“May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.”*** (ESV)

- **Principle:** To \_\_\_\_\_ pursue church unity is to place our heavenly Father in the \_\_\_\_\_ place of honor.

**Conclusion:** Is church unity worthy of diligent pursuit? Will you pray about your contribution to that unity?

### **For Personal and Small Group Reflection**

1. In your upbringing, what grade would you give to your “family unity”? How has that impacted you?
2. In the “Ministry Mapping Summary Report” written by SWCC in February, division and disunity was a stated concern. Would you agree? Why or why not?
3. How would you define “church unity”?
4. Read Psalm 133. What do you understand to be the background/context for this psalm?
5. What do the pictures of the anointing oil and the mountain dew communicate?
6. Read John 17:20-26, in which Jesus prays for all believers. In light of His prayer for oneness, is the multitude of churches in the Prescott area an indication of disunity? Why or why not?
7. How is church unity expressed in the Acts 4 passage? In your opinion, is this just a description of one church or is it a prescription for all churches? Defend your opinion.
8. Read Romans 15:5-6. How does church harmony glorify God?
9. In light of these scriptures, what is your desire for FBC? How would that look?
10. How will you pray for FBC this week? What will you pray regarding your role in a church that seeks to “grow in unity”?