

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

PSALMS-LESSON 29

WEEK OF APRIL 26–May 1

DWELLING IN UNITY

PSALM 133

“Nowhere has the nature of true unity--that unity which binds men together, not by artificial restraints, but as brethren of one heart--been more faithfully described, nowhere has it been so gracefully illustrated as in this short ode.” [Psalms, Vol. 3](#), James Montgomery Boice, pg 1159

This Psalm is another of the pilgrim songs sung by the people of Israel as they ascended to Jerusalem to gather at the tabernacle or temple to worship the Lord together. The pilgrims sang of the blessed spiritual unity provided by the Lord. This Psalm was an important reminder to them as they made the arduous and sometimes dangerous journey from their homes scattered through the land of Israel in anticipation of the sweetness of assembling with brothers and sisters to worship the Lord on Mount Zion.

As we study and meditate upon this Song of Ascents, thank the Lord for the unity we have in Christ. Ask the Lord to give us an ever-increasing love for His redeemed and to guard the unity He provides by the power of His Spirit.

Read Psalm 133:1 Expression of Praise of Dwelling in Unity

“Behold” is used twice in the Psalter; here in **verse 1** and also in **Psalm 134:1**. “The Hebrew text begins with “Behold” drawing attention to what must have seemed an extraordinary reality at that time.” [Id.](#) pg.1159

1. What is that extraordinary reality expressed in **verse 1**?
2. Who are the brothers to whom David refers? How is that explained in **Galatians 3:26-29**?
3. What does it mean to “dwell together in unity” from **Jeremiah 32:38-39** and **John 17:20-23**?
4. Unity is described as good, because the unity here described flows from God’s moral goodness. How is that unity “pleasant”, lovely or a sweet aroma from **John 13:34-35** and **2 Cor. 2:14-15**?

Read Psalm 133:2-3a Picture of Source of and Gift of Unity

5. How does David poetically describe the blessing of unity in **verse 2**? (Read also **Exodus 30:22-33** which describes the details and significance of the anointing of Aaron and sons with oil)

“Anointing was done at God's direction, in His way, with His authority, and any blessing it conferred was from God. In **verse 2**, the threefold repetition “*running down*”, “*running down*” and “*down*”- the Hebrew uses the same verb each time - emphasizing that the blessing of Aaron's anointing was from above himself, that is, from God.” Id. pg.1159

6. In **verse 3a**, what is the illustration of the unity of the brethren gathered on Mt. Zion?

“[T]he points again are the same as the anointing oil: as the dew comes down from heaven and covers everything, so the unity of brothers is a blessing from God and draws them all together.”

The Psalms, Vol. 3, Allen P. Ross, pg. 751

Read Psalm 133:3b Perfect Unity of Eternity

7. What blessing does God command in **verse 3b**? From **Revelation 21:1-5**, when is it that brothers will dwell in perfect unity untainted by sin?

8. We cannot manufacture unity in our own strength. Unity is a result of our common bond in Christ. However, we are commanded, by the power of His spirit and obedience to His Word, to strive to guard and protect unity. What practical instruction for the preservation and protection of the unity of the redeemed is provided by the following verses:

- **Ephesians 4:1-6**

- **Ephesians 4:11-16**

- **Philippians 2:1-4**

- **Hebrews 10:23-25**

9. Which of the passages from question 8 are you acting upon and what will you change to faithfully grow in applying those truths to your daily living?