April 4, 2024

Blessed Unity of the People of God

Psalm 133:1-3

^{"1}Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!² It is like the precious oil upon the head, running down on the beard...of Aaron, running down on the edge of his garments.³ It is like the dew of Hermon, descending upon the mountains of Zion; for there the LORD commanded the blessing—Life forevermore."

How good and pleasant it is to dwell together in unity! "Blessed" unity is God-activated. The scripture indicates this precious oil to be holy anointing oil, pouring down like spiritual showers. Acts 3:19 says that times of refreshing come from the presence of the Lord. Like the sweet aroma that arises from the fragrance of perfumed oils, *unity* among God's people refreshes and creates a pleasant atmosphere for all.

Because we have been welcomed into the love of Christ and received as dearly loved children by the Spirit of God's Son, we shall be one. We are able to love others by the same love which we've received. We can offer the world a place of safety and healing, become committed to inviting and receiving all people, and share with them the *Good News*, sprinkled by the fruit of the Spirit.

The early church shaped their lives around the practice of hospitality. Acts 2:46b-47a says, "They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people." How effective this could be in our churches and homes if we adopted the Apostle Paul's words in Colossians 1:10, and pledge, "I will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work", and in Romans 12:18, "As much as it is possible, I will live peaceably with all people."

Charles Spurgeon's prayer of unity says: "O for more of this rare virtue! Not the love which comes and goes, but that which dwells; not that spirit which separates and secludes, but that which dwells together; not that mind which is all for debate and difference, but that which dwells together in unity."

Psalm 133:3 tells us that the blessing of unity is something that God *commands*. Since we have life forevermore with the people of God, let us make every effort to enjoy unity with them now. The possibilities are endless!

Prayer: Heavenly Father, help us to see how precious all our lives are. We pray that we can wrap others in the conversation of the Good News that preserves and delights the soul. Help us to be strong and supportive, and be the link that brings others to you. May we offer others the fragrance of forgiveness and love as you, Lord, have given to us. Amen.

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