— Psalm 133 —

The Pleasant Unity of the Whole Christ

A Song of Ascents. Of David.

[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,
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.

► Psalm 133 puts before our eyes both the ground and the _____ of our entire Christian faith and life, and that is unity.

► Unity is purely a _____ of God.

*John 17:20-23 - "I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; **that they all may be one**, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; **that they also may be one in Us**, that the world may believe that You sent Me. And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, **that they may be one just as We are one**: I in them, and You in Me**; that they may be made perfect in one**, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.*

Genesis 17:5 - No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you a father of many nations.

► Our culture wants us to conceive of ourselves as individual _____, bumping into one another. But God's design is that our existence is molecular, intimately bound up in and with the lives of others, both past and present.

*Hebrews 8:5 - …they serve a **copy and shadow** of the heavenly things. For when Moses was about to erect the tent, he was instructed by God, saying, "See that you make **everything according to the pattern** that was shown you on the mountain."*

*Genesis 1:27 - "Let Us make man in Our **image**, according to Our **likeness**; let them have **dominion** over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."*

► To love God and not love _____ made in His image is completely contradictory.

Exodus 30:30 - And you shall anoint Aaron and his sons, and consecrate them, that they may minister to Me as priests.

*Luke 4:18-19 - "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has **anointed** me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."*

*Colossians 1:15 **He is the image** of the invisible God.*

► Dew is significant in Scripture, and the reason is because it was extremely important in the middle east, especially during the hot summers when there was no rain. Just as having no rain was a sign of the _____, so was having no dew.

1 Kings 17:1 - And Elijah the Tishbite, of the inhabitants of Gilead, said to Ahab, "As the LORD God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, except at my word."

► Mt. Hermon is a symbol and reminder of God's great _____. The connection between Mt. Hermon and Mt. Zion is a symbol of the unity of all Israel, which will eventually be a _____-_____ unity accomplished in and through the gospel.

► Here in Psalm 133 we have this glorious picture of the work of Christ and the Spirit, both _____ in their own perfect, gracious ways, working to restore creation and redeem the world from sin.

*Ephesians 4:1-6 – I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, **eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace**. There is **one** body and **one** Spirit— just as you were called to the **one** hope that belongs to your call— **one** Lord, **one** faith, **one** baptism, **one** God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.*

► The water and blood of our sacraments _____ us far more profoundly than the water and blood of birth.

*1 Corinthians 1:10 Now I **plead with you**, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all **speak the same thing**, and that **there be no divisions among you**, but that you be*

perfectly joined together *in the same mind and in the same judgment.*

► Unity is preserved when everyone is looking outward toward others. Unity is destroyed when we are turned _____ toward ourselves.

"Make your patient's mind flit to and fro between an expression like 'the body of Christ' and the actual faces in the next pew. It matters very little, of course, what kind of people that next pew really contains. You may know one of them to be a great warrior on the Enemy's side. Doesn't matter. Your patient, thanks to Our Father below, is a fool. Provided that any of those neighbors sing out of tune, or have boots that squeak, or double chins, or odd clothes, the patient will quite easily believe that their religion must therefore be somehow ridiculous." – Screwtape, Letter 2

► Progressives, Marxists, and authoritarians demand uniformity. But the Triune God demands the harder work of love which binds diverse folks together in Himself. Because it's a much more beautiful _____. The Church's unity isn't one devoid of differences. It's as diverse as eyes, hands, and feet. But it is a unity that keeps those differences from working against each other, because it knows of a still more _____ way.

<u>The Law of Perfect Liberty</u>

► Love is _____. It is, like God, _____ to anger.

► Love is _____. Love doesn't see opportunities to serve others and give as a _____ but as a treat.

► Love does not _____. It isn't always complaining that it doesn't have what others have, because its eyes are looking _____ at the greatest gift.

► Love does not _____ itself, behave rudely, and does not seek its own.

"Humility is not thinking less of yourself, it's thinking of yourself less." – C.S. Lewis

► Love is not easily _____.

*"**Even although he were to call me a devil**, I should still not the less hold him in such honor that I must acknowledge him to be an illustrious servant of God."* - Calvin to Bullinger after Luther's harsh remarks."

► Love keeps no _____ of wrongs. It keeps a record of _____. Love doesn't stay angry, hurt, and _____ its wounds.

► Love also does not _____ in iniquity. It speaks the _____.

► Biblical love _____ all things, beginning with the burdens of others. It believes all things, namely that God can resurrect any situation or person. It _____ all things, namely good for our brothers and sisters. And it endures all things, even fierce invectives aimed at us by partners in the gospel.