

God's Design for Gospel Community | Psalm 133

Summer in the
PSALMS

 Center City Church

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.

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- “good” : right excellent agreeable, ethically and morally accurate.
- “pleasant” : enjoyment, senses are engaged, delightful, feelings of joy and ecstasy.

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Prov 8: 29-31

I was there when he set the limits of the seas, so they would not spread beyond their boundaries. And when he marked off the earth's foundations, I was the architect at his side. I was his constant delight, rejoicing always in his presence. And how happy I was with the world he created; how I rejoiced with the human family!

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Eph 4: 4-6

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.

Disciplines

- 1. Communion**
2. Commissioning
3. Community

Communion

*In the secret of His presence
How my soul delights to hide!
Oh, how precious are the lessons
Which I learn at Jesus' side!
Earthly cares can never vex me,
Neither trials lay me low;
For when Satan comes to tempt me,
To the secret place I go.*

Communion

*When my soul is faint and thirsty,
'Neath the shadow of His wing
There is cool and pleasant shelter,
And a fresh and crystal spring;
And my Savior rests beside me,
As we hold communion sweet;
If I tried, I could not utter
What He says when thus we meet.*

Communion

*Only this I know: I tell Him
All my doubts and griefs and fears;
Oh, how patiently He listens!
And my drooping soul He cheers;
Do you think He ne'er reproves me?
What a false friend He would be,
If He never, never told me
Of the sins which He must see.*

Communion

*Would you like to know that sweetness
Of the secret of the Lord?
Go and hide beneath His shadow;
This shall then be your reward;
And whene'er you leave the silence
Of that happy meeting-place,
By the Spirit bear the image
Of the Master in your face.*

Communion

Why is it so important that solitude (our communion with Christ) come before community? If we do not know we are the beloved sons and daughters of God, we're going to expect someone in the community to make us feel that way. They cannot.

Communion

We'll expect someone to give us that perfect, unconditional love. But community is not loneliness grabbing onto loneliness: "I'm so lonely, and you're so lonely." It's solitude grabbing onto solitude: "I am the beloved; you are the beloved; together we can build a home." - Henri Nouwen

Communion

*“Let him who cannot be alone beware of community...
Let him who is not in community beware of being alone...
Each by itself has profound perils and pitfalls. One who
wants fellowship without solitude plunges into the void of
words and feelings, and the one who seeks solitude
without fellowship perishes in the abyss of vanity, self-
infatuation and despair.”*

— Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Life Together

Disciplines

1. Communion
- 2. Commissioning**
3. Community

Commissioning

Acts 2: 42-44 And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common.

Commissioning

Acts 2: 45-47 And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

Disciplines

1. Communion
2. Commissioning
3. **Community**

Community

Eph 3: 7-8 Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God's grace, which was given me by the working of his power. To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ,

Community

Eph 3: 9-10 and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things, so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.

Disciplines

- 1. **Communion** - are you spending time with Jesus?
- 1. **Commissioning** - how can we love and serve our neighbor together?
- 1. **Community** - would you consider joining a community group?

Eph 2:13-14

*But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off
have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For
he himself is our peace, who has made us both
one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing
wall of hostility*

Eph 2:15-16

*by abolishing the law of commandments
expressed in ordinances, that he might create in
himself one new man in place of the two, so
making peace, and might reconcile us both to God
in one body through the cross, thereby killing the
hostility.*