



## First Baptist Church Fair Oaks Ranch

**Psalm 133:1-3** “How wonderful and pleasant it is when brothers live together in harmony! For harmony is as precious as the anointing oil that was poured over Aaron’s head, that ran down his beard and onto the border of his robe. Harmony is as refreshing as the dew from Mount Hermon that falls on the mountains of Zion. And there the Lord has pronounced his blessing, even life everlasting.”

In Ephesians 4 we examined the importance of striving for unity with the church. In Psalm 133 the concept of harmony is also addressed. Unity refers to a oneness of truth and a collective identity and purpose in Christ; whereas harmony implies the peaceful and cooperative interaction among believers who see themselves as family not just congregants. Harmony emphasizes the quality of the relationship. For example, I can have unity with someone I don’t necessarily enjoy being around, but I cannot have harmony. This requires deeper intimacy and sacrificial love. Unity requires a singular purpose, but harmony requires a cooperative effort. Unity agrees we need to get from point A to point B; whereas harmony causes everyone to row at the same time, same way and same direction. Unity is required of Christians (Eph 4) harmony is the favored by product when believers treat each other as loved brothers and sisters.

Psalm 133 beautifully encapsulates the essence of harmony Verse 1 highlights the inherent goodness and pleasantness of living in harmony. Harmony is not just a desirable state; it is essential for the well-being of individuals and church communities. It fosters peace, cooperation, and mutual support, creating an environment where people can thrive. Harmony is crucial because it reflects the nature of God. In the Trinity, we see perfect harmony between the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. This divine harmony serves as a model for human relationships. Jesus prayed for His followers to be one, just as He and the Father are one (John 17:21).

Building harmony requires intentional effort and a commitment to certain principles. First is a mutual respect and love. Jesus commanded us to love one another as He has loved us (John 13:34). This love should be unconditional and sacrificial, putting others’ needs above our own. Respecting each other’s differences and valuing each person’s unique contributions also fosters harmony. Second is honest and genuine communication. Ephesians 4:29 advises, “Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.” Active listening, empathy, and speaking truth in love builds harmony. Third is being quick to forgive. Colossians 3:13 encourages us to bear with one another and forgive each other as the Lord forgave us. Holding onto grudges and past hurts will destroy harmony, but forgiveness restores relationships and promotes peace. Finally, humility is essential for harmony to exist. Philippians 2:3-4 instructs us to do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit but to consider others better than ourselves. Humility allows us to serve others and prioritize their needs, creating a harmonious environment.

Building harmony is one thing, but maintaining harmony through challenging times can be another thing altogether. It is “easy” to have harmony when everyone is getting along. As time, personalities and disappointments creep in, it is easy for harmony to begin to diminish. This is true in families and churches. Rather than pulling away or giving the ‘silent treatment’ when we don’t get our way, we must continue to interact and fellowship with each other. Hebrews 10:24-25 urges us to consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together. Seek quick and meaningful conflict resolution. Matthew 18:15-17 walks the believer through this process, however the



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fastest way to resolution is to not get offended in the first place. Refusing to take personal offense and always seeking peace even to your own determinant is how harmony is maintained.

This is hardly an easy task, however, consider what Psalm 133 declares. Harmony is as beautiful as the anointing oil that flowed down Aaron's face. Aaron was the first high priest and a typology of the eventual perfect priesthood of Jesus. It was not oil but blood that flowed down Jesus' face and when we see it as glorious and redeeming we are compelled to a harmony with our brothers and sisters rather than offense. It is through this harmony that we open the door to God's favor and blessing in our midst.

**Prayer:** Heavenly Father, our selfishness and pride prevent us from being able to truly enjoy harmony in our homes, families and church. Please forgive us that we are so quick to take offense and instead be eager not only to maintain unity but be desperate to build and maintain harmony as well that we might truly experience your favor in our midst. In Jesus Name.