

In Praise of Unity

Psalm 133*

Great things come in small packages. This Psalm is short but it is a literary and spiritual gem that makes up in quality what it lacks in quantity.

The psalmist has four main points about the beauty of unity. First, it is fragrant gift. Second, it is refreshing to ourselves and others. Third, it is potentially available for everyone. Finally, it is the sure guarantee of God's blessing of eternal life.

In praise of unity (1)

Unity is a gift from God (2a)

Unity flows from one person to another (2b)

Unity is for the small and great alike (3a)

Unity is a preview of life forever (3b)

Are you a foot, a hand, or a gall-bladder?

¹⁴ Yes, the body has many different parts, not just one part. ¹⁵ If the foot says, "I am not a part of the body because I am not a hand," that does not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁶ And if the ear says, "I am not part of the body because I am not an eye," would that make it any less a part of the body? ¹⁷ If the whole body were an eye, how would you hear? Or if your whole body were an ear, how would you smell anything?

¹⁸ But our bodies have many parts, and God has put each part just where he wants it. ¹⁹ How strange a body would be if it had only one part! ²⁰ Yes, there are many parts, but only one body. ²¹ The eye can never say to the hand, "I don't need you." The head can't say to the feet, "I don't need you."

²² In fact, some parts of the body that seem weakest and least important are actually the most necessary. ²³ And the parts we regard as less honorable are those we clothe with the greatest care. So we carefully protect those parts that should not be seen, ²⁴ while the more honorable parts do not require this special care. So God has put the body together such that extra honor and care are given to those parts that have less dignity. ²⁵ This makes for harmony among the members, so that all the members care for each other. ²⁶ If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it, and if one part is honored, all the parts are glad.

²⁷ All of you together are Christ's body, and each of you is a part of it.

—Apostle Paul, First Letter to the Corinthians (12:14–27 NLT)

* These notes are prayerfully provided to aid, not replace, your personal study of God's Word.