

The Beauty of Unity

Psalm 133:1-3

Introduction:

We live in the tension between real life and ideals. The ideal of Christian faith is to see all different ethnicities come together. But in real life, we are separated by different languages, cultures, and ethnicities. Although the two churches believe in the same God, same Bible, and same Spirit, we normally worship separately because of cultural and language differences. This doesn't mean that we are different children of God. We are all God's people and we are all children of God.

We last worshipped together in the month of June during Pentecost Sunday. The message that Pastor Morgan gave was very insightful. He told us we are one church, two congregations. As we celebrate World Communion Sunday, I would like to give thanks to God for allowing us to worship together in one unity. I would like to preach Psalm 133, one of the shortest and sweetest Psalms in the Old Testament on unity.

Thesis:

V 1 How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!

The psalmist (David) is saying, "Look, Look, how good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!" What is the most beautiful thing in this world? To have unity amongst brothers and sisters. In other words, they are in harmony with one another. These are not just blood-related brothers and sisters. These are brothers and sisters, who call God, their "abba father." Brothers and sisters who have the same faith of Jesus Christ. According to this Psalm, the fact that we are in the same campus, the same building, and worshipping the same God is a beautiful thing. After Onnuri church relocated to West Valley church location, I heard the following story. "I happened to see the church sign as I was driving." I saw that there were two church names on one invitation board. One in English and one in Korean." I was stunned.

That's why he was interested in the church and he ultimately became a member of this church. Even the church sign can make a great impact on the people of this world. The world is divided over many reasons. Ethnic division, language disparity, and cultural differences/ can result in political and financial disputes. If division grows, wars grow. God wants us to live in unity and love with one another. That is why God sent His only Son. Jesus came to die and destroy barriers. When you look at Ephesians 2:14, he destroyed the barrier between Jews and Gentiles.

14 For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility (Ephesians 2:14)

Whoever believes in Jesus Christ, is a child of God and part of the family of God. That is the gospel. Also, Scripture says that all people have one lineage.

In Acts 17:26, "From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth.

We are all from the same lineage (Adam and Eve). In verses 2 and 3, there are two similes. First is in verse 2,

Verse 2: It is like precious oil poured on the head, running down on the beard, running down on Aaron's beard, down on the collar of his robe.

How does the Bible describe unity among brothers and sisters? It is like precious oil poured on the head, running down on the beard, running down on Aaron's beard, down on the collar of his robe. One of the most beautiful festivals in Israel's history was the ordination of Aaron's priesthood (Leviticus 8). When they came out of Egypt and lived in the wilderness, Moses anointed his brother Aaron as the high priest by God's command (see photo).

This was not only a blessing to Moses' and Aaron's families, but also a most amazing festival that made the way for the whole nation of Israel to come before God. The Israelites were worshippers. They were set apart to serve the holy and one true God.

They were called to praise and worship God in Jerusalem three times a year during the Passover, Pentecost, and Tabernacles. Each time the priests led the people to confess Israel's sins to receive God's forgiveness and blessings. Aaron and his descendants required the anointing of oil on their heads to work. Therefore, this is a parable telling the precious grace and blessings of God upon Israel. The oil that flowed from Aaron's head to his collar symbolized God's blessings pouring out not only to the priests but also to the entire nation of Israel.

Verse 3a: "It is as if the dew of Hermon were falling on Mount Zion."

There is another metaphor that comes in verse 3a.

The last parable was about Aaron's priesthood, and this one is about the land of Israel. "It is as if the dew of Hermon were falling on Mount Zion." Mount Hermon was and still is the tallest mountain in the land of Israel. It is almost 10,000 feet above sea level (9232 feet), 2814 meters. Baekdusan, the highest mountain on the Korean peninsula, is 2744 meters. Mount Hermon is higher than the Korean Baekdusan mountain. Hermon is called the roof of Israel. The top of the mountain is covered with white snow all year round

Mount Hermon is famous for its dew. So even in the driest seasons, Mount Hermon is lush with green trees and bushes. However, Mount Zion is not. Mount Zion is located in the land of the tribe of Judah, where there is little rain and little dew in the summer. In short, it is a very dry area. However, today's text says that the dew of Hermon is falling on Mount Zion.

If the people of God live in unity and in harmony, the blessings of God will come from all Israel from the north to the south. Now we are reaching the conclusion of this Psalm. It comes together in verse 3b.

Verse 3b: For there the Lord bestows his blessing, even life forevermore.

God blesses “there” (in the verse) when Israel is united. Where is “there” that the Bible is speaking about? Jerusalem. Although Israel extends long from north to south, and the 11 tribes live separately, Where is Jerusalem for us today? Our place of worship, or our center of worship, is our Jerusalem. Of course, Israel's Jerusalem is still important today.

But we do not need to go to Jerusalem to worship. We gather on this campus and worship at least once a week, and this is 'there'. This is where God bestows His blessing over us. What is the blessing? It is eternal life.

There are two meanings of eternal life. One is that we die, are resurrected, judgment erased, and live with the Lord in eternal heaven.

The other meaning of eternal life is that as we live on earth, we experience the grace and love of God in abundance when we love one another. If we believe in Jesus as our Savior, we have already received eternal life. The Bible says:

John 5:24 “Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life.

This means that if we believe in Jesus, we have eternal life. When the Israelites gathered in Jerusalem to unite and worship together, they already had eternal life.

Today, the Holy Spirit dwells in West Valley and Onnuri Church. The place where the Holy Spirit dwells is the temple, the house of God, and Christ is there. Jesus says, “Where there are two or three of you gathered in my name, I am also” (Matthew 18:19). Therefore, this is the temple, and there is eternal life.

I long for you to receive eternal life after your resurrection. I also bless you today to enjoy eternal life while on earth, the supreme blessing from the Lord.

Conclusion:

Beloved West Valley and Onnuri church members,

What does God want from all of us? As the Scripture says today, we ought to unite in serving God together. When we do so, God will anoint us with the oil of the Holy Spirit, so that we may have eternal life that we can taste and enjoy. This is the best blessing we can receive. I bless you in the name of the Lord Jesus that this blessing will come to both West Valley Church and Onnuri Church.