



Campbell Chapel

Sermon by Bob Bradley



Unity

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Bob Bradley

Psalm 133:1 Behold, how good and how pleasant *it is* for brethren to dwell together in unity!

Psalm 133:2 *It is* like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, *even* Aaron's beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments;

Psalm 133:3 As the dew of Hermon, *and as the dew* that descended upon the mountains of Zion: for there the LORD commanded the blessing, *even* life for evermore.

There are three verses of it. There are not many words when you look at it. However, there is a tremendous message here in this Psalm. David is speaking and talking about something that is very important in our world. If we are going to succeed in life, and be a blessing to people, and be all that God wants us to be, and if we are going to let God have His way in our lives then we are going to have to have what David is talking about here. It makes life enjoyable. It makes life worth living. This thing that David is talking about.

David mentions *unity*. The word *unity* is a good word. When you look up the word *unity* in the Hebrew—I cannot pronounce it—but it means *alike*, or *to be together*. In the Hebrew, it means *oneness*. So, actually it means the same thing in the Greek and the Hebrew. We know what it means. It means together, to be together, to be able to share together, to be at one, to have love one for another, to be at peace with one another. That is really what unity is about.

David is writing to people that needed unity because if they had not needed it then he would not have been writing about it and telling about how precious that it is. First of all, he says to look or behold.

I thought today, something is very beautiful when a family has unity. If you see a family that gets along, you see dad and mom, and the children, and maybe the grandchildren; it is a wonderful thing to see them get along. It is a wonderful thing to see them have unity. It is a wonderful thing to see them have love. It is a wonderful thing to see them have togetherness. It is a wonderful thing. Is it not? We do not see much of that in our world today. It seems like that every family you see there is some kind of contention, division, or problems, or something going on. however, it is a beautiful thing to see a family that is together in unity.

He says, "how good is it"? He says behold or look, I want to show you something. I want you to look at something at how good this is; how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity. If you go all the way back in the beginning; do you know what you will find out? You will find out that there have always been problems

with families. Cane killed Able. Didn't he? We know that they were brothers. If you go just a few chapters down in the book of Genesis, we can read about Lot and Abraham. They were family but yet they had issues, problems.

If you go on down through there and read a little bit more, you can read about David was a great guy and he had a bunch of children. However, his children rose up and wanted to kill him and overthrow him. Therefore, we know that even as great a man as David and his family had issues.

If you look at Joseph, Joseph's brothers hated him the Bible says. The Bible tells us that they even sold him as a slave. We know that they took him to Egypt.

If you go to the New Testament when you read about—we know that Jesus' disciples even had conflicts together. They even had problems. They even had all kinds of issues. Who was the greatest? Do you remember that story? They had a division among them because they wanted to know who was the greatest.

When you look at the Apostle Paul, we know he had some issues; he and Barnabas did over John Mark. Do you remember that? They had the discussion, or the division, or the problem became so great that we know that Paul went one way and Barnabas went another way.

If you read on down through there through the Epistles, you will find out that churches had problems. The churches had issues...and problems with people getting along. That has always been. There will always will be people that cannot get along, that is always a problem.

The Bible tells us if you read the book of Romans, it tells us to live peaceably with all men as much as lies within us. amen! There may be people that we cannot get along with. However, do you know what we can do? We can still yet love them. We do not have to kick their dog. We do not run over their mailbox. We do not have to do any of that. We can still yet love them even though they may not love us. They may not like us. They may not like us. They may not like what we stand for. That does not mean we need to brought into the trap of not liking them.

Here is the lesson tonight. Here is the lesson that the writer here, David, wants us to know.

Psalm 133:1 Behold, how good and how pleasant *it is* for brethren to dwell together in unity!

It is a good thing. *Good* is a word that means to be good. It is a good thing. It is a word that means bountiful, fertile, something about attractive, suitable, fine, or respectable.

When David said, I want to show you something here that is good, respectable, something that you should respect. He uses the word *pleasant*. *Pleasant* means to give pleasure. It means agreeable, gratifying, acceptable, agreeable, to welcome, to be refreshing, enjoyable, or pleasing.

He is saying, fellows I want to show you something that is very good. It is something that is desirable. It is something that when you see it you will want to have it. It is something that will bring gratification to you. It will be pleasurable to you. It is something that you will enjoy and welcome.

As a Christian do you know what? Do you know what we should enjoy? Do you know what we should welcome into our hearts and our life? We should welcome unity. Amen! To have love one for another. To be agreeable. God did not make us all clones. We are not all alike. We do not think the same way. We may have a different thought about things.

Do you know what we do not do? When people love Jesus Christ, first of all, and they are in unity and harmony with Him, living in His will; do you know what we will never have to worry too much about? We will never have to worry about people like that causing a big uproar. You will find out that people who causes problems in a church are spiritually immature people who are not living in the will of God, who knows nothing about unity. They know nothing about unity with God or with God's people. They know nothing about that.

Yet, if they would just look and see how important unity was and what it would bring in their lives, I think it would change their mind. Unity is something we need. Unity is something that we need to love one another. We need to be united one with another.

Again, we may not all agree on what color carpet that we need, or the roof that we need, or the color of it; but do you know what we do all agree on if we are in unity with God and with each other? Do you know what we will not do? We will not deny the blood. We will not throw that out. We will not take the Bible and tear it apart and take parts of it out. Do you know what we can do? We can agree on things that are important. We can disagree on things that are not important and still yet go ahead and do things that brings glory to God. Amen!

Not everybody agrees with your wife. Truth! Did you throw her out when you did not agree with her the first time? No. The first time she did not agree with you, she did not get rid of you either.

It is the same way. We are all different people. We have to be unified. If we are going to be able to make a change in this world—I am not talking about just the Baptists; I am talking about the church worldwide. I am talking about the people who have been born again. The Methodists, the Catholics, the Nazarenes, the Pentecostals, and everybody that has been born again; if we are going to change this world, it is going to be because we come together as people that are born-again, people who are in harmony with the God of heaven, if we are going to change this world, we are going to have to do that.

We can talk about revival and all kinds of stuff. However, are we really living in unity and harmony with the God and God's people? Amen!

Psalm 133:1 Behold, how good and how pleasant *it is* for brethren to dwell together in unity!

The word *dwell* means to reside. It means to live as a resident. It means to abide, to occupy, to live.

David is saying that something that is beautiful, something that is so very pleasant is that when brethren dwell together in unity. Do you know what God does? When church people are born-again dwell together in unity, they have one goal in mind. Do you know what God does? It stirs God to pour out His blessing upon places.

In my life and in your life—the disciples, if you read Acts 1, after Jesus rose from the dead; do you know what He told them? He told them to stay in Jerusalem until they be endued from power on high. Do you know why Jesus told them that? Jesus knew that if these disciples were going to do anything that was going to bring glory to His name, then they had to have the anointing of the Holy Ghost before they could go forth and preach, teach, and change the world. They had to have the power of the Holy Ghost.

Do you know what friend? That has not changed any. If we are going to do anything today that is going to bring glory to God, it is because that he empowers us and we allow Him to work through us. That can only come when we are unified with each other, unified with Him, in harmony with Him, and living in His will. My spirituality does not depend on what you are going to do. It does not do that. Nor does your spirituality, what you do and do not do is going to cause me issues.

Here is the thing. We want God's blessing upon our churches, and buildings. If we want God's blessing upon our world, and upon our communities; then do you know what it takes? It takes a unified effort by born again people. Not everybody that comes to church is saved. Not everybody that comes to church is genuine. I am talking about people who are genuine, born-again people. We need to come together and be united in understanding. If we are going to win the lost then we are going to have to have one goal in mind and that is winning the lost. We are going to have to love. We are going to have to be united together. We are going to have to have unity. It is a great thing.

Get this. This is a wonderful thought here.

Psalm 133:2 *It is* like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, *even* Aaron's beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments;

If you read the book of Exodus, you will find out that God told Moses, and he gave instructions for the priesthood. We know that Aaron was the first priest. Do we not? We know that Aaron was Moses' brother. We also know that God told Moses...how to make the anointing oil. Do you remember reading that in there? It is in there. He told him what to put in it, what to add to it and how to make it.

I thought as I read that again today, some of the stuff that was in it, I do not have any idea what it was. However, as I read it the thought came across my mind, it had to be a

fragrance—there had to be a fragrance about this oil that smelled so pleasant. When you see some of the ingredients that was in it, that I know what was in it; the fragrance of this oil would have been something that would have been very sweet. It would have been something very pleasant to smell. Do you know what they did with it?

When you read, I think it is in chapter 30, of Exodus; when they anointed Aaron...they took this oil that God had given them the instructions on how to make, how much to put in of this or that, and took it and poured it on Aaron. They also anointed his sons. They poured it on his head. Do you know what it did? It ran down his head. It ran over his beard. It ran over his outer clothing. It ran all the way down to his feet. Does everybody get that? That is what happened. There is no doubt in my mind, when that happened, when they opened this bottle, this container of oil, and when they started pouring it on Aaron, the fragrance, the smell, the sweetness filled the whole place.

When you look at the Bible, and when you read some things in the Bible, you will find out something about oil that it represents the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit, when read about it; it can be compared to oil. Oil is a representative of the Spirit of God. He pours it on his head. It runs all the way down to his feet. It smells good. It smells wonderful. Do you know what is happening? The God of heaven is laying His hand upon Aaron.

Just like the disciples were told, you stay in Jerusalem until you be endued with power from on high. We know that in Acts 2, fifty days after Passover, they were all with one accord, and one place. Get that? They had unity. They were all together in one place. Does everybody get that? Suddenly, the Bible says, there was a sound from heaven, as of a mighty rushing wind. Do you know what happens? The Holy Ghost fell upon them all. The Holy Ghost fell upon them. That is how the church started.

If the church started, in the early church, if you read Acts 3 and 4, you will find out that they were together. They prayed together. They broke bread together. They shared what they had with each other and with the needs of people. Do you know what they could do? They could get together in a place or they could pray; do you know what would happen? The building would shake. The place would shake. Do you know why? It was because they had unity. They were together. They were praying to the God of heaven. Because they had unity, they had power with Almighty God. God shook the place. How long has it been since God shook you? How long has it been since His presence has touched your life and you knew beyond a shadow of a doubt that it was Him. How long has it been? A week, an hour, a day, a month, a year? Ever? Has God ever filled you with His presence that you knew it was Him. Do you know what you will find out if you remember? When those times, when His presence is a lot nearer than it is today, you will find out, if you will remember and be honest with yourself; it will be a time when you spent a lot more time reading your Bible. It will be a time when you were praying more. There was a whole lot more time that you were meditating upon the things of God. Amen! He would come. He would bless you. He would fill you. You knew beyond a shadow of a doubt that it was Him. You were united with Him. You had your ear on the book. You were listening to His Word. He filled you with His presence.

Here is the thought. We make up the body of Christ. Every saved individual in America, in the world, makes up the body of Christ. Amen!

I know we have different denominations. We have different churches. We have different buildings. We have all kinds of different stuff. However, if you are saved, you make up a part of the church of Jesus Christ.

We do not all look at things the same. Some people may practice stuff that we do not practice. We may not understand it. However, if we are saved and they are saved; then we make up the body of Christ. The body of Christ has one head. Do you know who that is? That is Jesus Christ. Get that.

Do you know what happens when they poured the oil on Aaron's head, it ran all the way down to his feet. It run all over his body.

Is it great today that when we are united and when we are in harmony with the God of heaven; the very presence of Almighty God starts in heaven? Do you know what he can do? He floods us with it. He bathes us in His presence. We can know beyond a shadow of a doubt that we are saved and that we are living where we need to be living. It will start on top of your head and it will go all the way to your feet when you are in harmony and unity with God and with God's people.

Get this. You cannot be in harmony with God and be out of fellowship with God's people. Cannot be. It is impossible. If you are looking at problems in your life and why God is not blessing your life then you may want to look and see what is going on in your life. It is not God's fault. It is not God's issues. It is our issues. If there are problems, and God is not blessing us like He used to; then we need to look at ourselves. We need to see where we are at. We need to see what we are doing. Amen! We need to figure that out. If we do that then life would be so much better. We can make a difference in our children and our grandchildren. We can make a difference in our community. We can actually do things that are bringing glory to God. We may be running our legs off but I promise you something, if we are out of unity with God and unity with God's people then you are wasting your time. You are wearing yourself out. That is all you are doing, if you do not have unity with Almighty God.

Get this one.

Psalm 133:3 As the dew of Hermon, *and as the dew* that descended upon the mountains of Zion: for there the LORD commanded the blessing, *even* life for evermore.

Mt Hermon is in the north. Mt Hermon reaches 10,000 or 11,000 feet into the sky. It is a towering mountain. It is the highest mountain in the land of Israel. Zion is in the south. It is maybe only 3,000 feet tall.

Get this. There is a lesson here. In the wintertime, snow falls on Mt. Hermon because it is 10,000 feet in the air with mountain ridges and things that—it is way up in the air.

Because of the snow that falls on the mountain, there is also in the summertime—dew. When you anything about Mt. Hermon, do you know what you will find out? The place on the tops of the mountains on Mt Hermon is always, when you wake up of the morning, if there have not been any storms or any turmoil in the night; there is always dew on the ground. You can look down in the valley. You can look down in the south. You can look at Mt Zion. They look totally different. Hermon has green lush vegetables and all kinds of fruits growing on it all through the summer. Mt Zion and that part of the country is parched and dried up. There is nothing happening. They are irrigating the place over there now. However, there is no water there. Although, a few miles up the road and a few miles higher, or a few thousand feet higher; it is green. It is lush. Things are growing. There is life. It is pretty to look at. There is food there for the shepherds to lead their sheep to. It is all because of the dew that falls there.

He makes this comparison to the dew to unity. Do you know what the dew does? The dew makes the grass grow. It makes the vegetables grow. It makes everything up there green, lush, pretty, and full of life.

Again, just down the road a few miles, everything is dried up. It is parched. Nothing is growing. He compares unity to the dew that is on Hermon.

Do you know what happens in our life? When we are unified, when we are living in God's will, we love Him, we agree with Him, we have accepted His will for our life, and we are in unity with God's people—that does not mean we agree with them all of the time, or that we always agree with everything they do or say—when we are in unity and we love people; do you know what happens in our life? Our life is just like the dew that is on Hermon. It makes things green. It makes things lush.

Listen. It is very visible. If you look at what is on Mt. Zion, and what is on Mt. Hermon; it is two different...you can tell the difference—the green, the lush, the fruits, the vegetables, and all that is growing on this mountain because of the dew; *and in contrast*, everything that is not growing in the valley because there is no dew.

Listen. Our lives are very visible. Our lives are an open book. I know we think sometimes that nobody knows what we do, that nobody knows what we are not doing. Do you know what? Most generally that is not true at all.

It is just like you looking at these two mountains. One is green and lush that is bringing forth fruit. You can see. It is very visible. The other one is dry and parched up with nothing growing. Our lives are the same way.

If there is no fruit in our lives then there is no dew in our lives. If our lives are all dried up, there is no fruit there. We are parched. There is nothing there that is edible. It is very visible in our lives. However, it is also very visible when our lives are green and lush, when we are living a life where people want to come and eat of the fruit we are bearing.

It is a serious thing. Unity is a very serious thing. No. We are not always going to agree on everything. No. Get this. People who are living in the will of God, people who loves Jesus Christ; do you know what they are not going to fall out over? They are not going to have a racket over what color of seats we get. Amen! They are not going to have a fight over which side of the auditorium we put the water fountain on. amen! They are not going to have trouble with what color of stripe we put in the parking lot. Amen! When that does happen, you can know there is a major issue somewhere. Somebody is way out of kilter somewhere. You cannot be unified and living in harmony with God and hate people. It is impossible.

He compares it here to the oil that ran down over Aaron's head, down his beard and all over him. That is what the spirit of God does for us. He will completely surround us. He will completely and He completely engulfs us and surrounds us with His presence so that we can go out and bring glory to His name. We cannot do anything without Him.

Do you know what Aaron could not do? Aaron could not have been the high priest had they not anointed him. It would not have worked. You cannot do the work of the God of heaven without having His Spirit within you. It is impossible.

You can be church members. Sure, you can. You might set on boards. You might be the president. You might do all kinds of stuff. You might be the pastor. However, you cannot do anything that is going to bring glory to God without His indwelling on the inside of us. Without His presence you cannot do anything that will bring glory His name.

The mountain was green. Mt. Hermon was green because of the dew that was there. Do you know when the dew came? It came every night. The blessing came every night unless there was storm, unless there was some turmoil, unless there was a lot of wind then the dew did not come. If you had wind, you had a storm and the dew was not there.

Get this. There is a lesson there for you. Listen. Do you know when God really blesses you and me? Even though we do have storms, and most of the time we create our own storm. The storms we have in life that we do not create, God will always bless us. He will always take care of us.

A church, a family that is in unity, a family that loves one another, a family that is glorifying God; do you know what God will do? He will pour out His blessing. The world may be going in a rage all around us. However, the Lord will pour out His blessing.

It does not take a thousand people to change Ironton, Ohio. We think if we had this many or that many—do you know what we need? Us. That is who is here. That is what it takes to change this community. Amen! That is what it takes. If you think it takes a thousand, you are wrong. If you think it takes that many, you will never do anything. Amen! It takes people who are willing to be at harmony with God, to live right, to live in the will of God and to love God's people and put our ear to the Bible.

Listen to what He is saying to us. It is precious. It is good. It is a pleasant sight. It is a pleasant thing to see when brothers dwell together in unity. Amen! It is a pleasant thing. It is a good thing. It is like the oil. It is like the dew.

Psalm 133:3 As the dew of Hermon, *and as the dew* that descended upon the mountains of Zion: for there the LORD commanded the blessing, *even* life for evermore.

Get this. This is a very important part of this lesson. If you are going to enjoy living here—I am not saying you are not saved—but if you are going to enjoy living here on planet earth; do you know what you are going to have to have? You are going to have to be indwelled by His Spirit. You are going to have to have unity with Him and His people. If you are going to live in this life and have life abundantly and enjoy life and a better quality of life tomorrow than you did today; then you are going to have to have unity, live in harmony, live in His will and be unified with God's people. You cannot be happy, you cannot enjoy life if you do not do it.

I know people that absolutely thrives on a racket. They love a racket. Now, they say they are saved—I am not saying they are not. I am not anybody's judge. However, they love a racket. If they cannot find out something on somebody then they will make it up as they go just to start a racket. Their lives are a mess. Their lives have fallen apart. They have no peace. They have no joy. They do not enjoy living. You talk to them a little bit and you...get the news that they found them somewhere where they have hurt themselves because they are so miserable in life.

Listen. Jesus Christ has fixed a way that we can live here and enjoy being here. Enjoy living here even though there are all kinds of issues here; we can enjoy living here and raise our families and be together with our families and hold our children's hands and our grandchildren's hands, pray, and eat together enjoying one another. That is what God wants us to do. that is part of God's plan for us. It is to enjoy family. For husbands and wives to enjoy one another and to enjoy our children and grandchildren. Enjoy living. Enjoy getting up and going to bed. God wants us to do that. However, we have to be in harmony with Him and unity with Him and God's people.

You can try all the gimmicks you want. You can send your money to 1-800-psychic all you want. Do you know what you will not find? You will not find any help there. You will not find any help there. When you find your help is when you get right with God and get right with God's people then you can find the help that you need.

Come and pray—