

BIBLICAL UNITY INCENTIVES

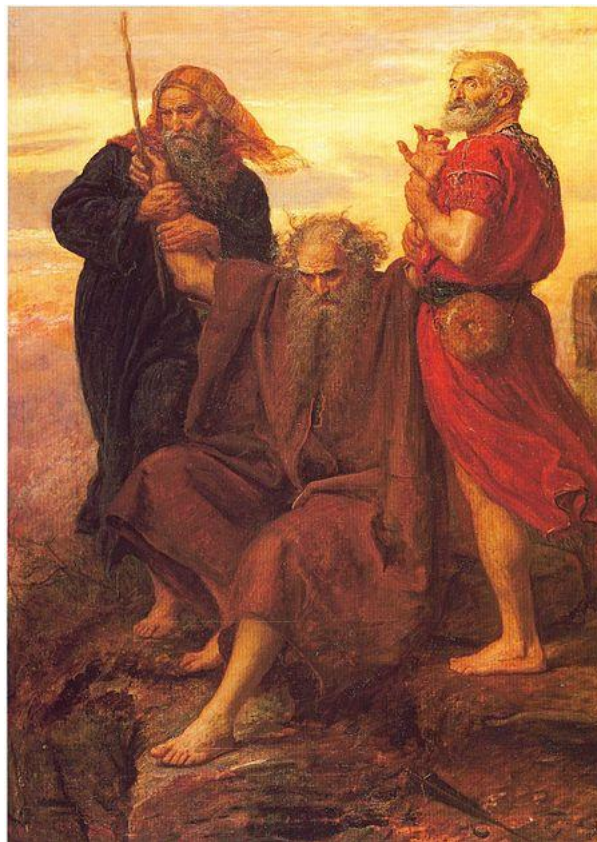
Extract from Devotional Questions – Psalm 133, Answers to Questions

See also Dr Peter S. Ruckman's commentary *The Book of Psalms* Volume 2 pp 1055-1060

1. Why is unity good and pleasant (Psalm 133:1)?

The scripture gives at least 17 reasons why “**unity**” Psalm 133:1, Ephesians 4:3, 13 of believers is *good and pleasant* because when in effect:

- **The Lord Jesus Christ is in the midst.** “For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them” Matthew 18:20.
- **Witness is borne to the Lord Jesus Christ.** “By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another” John 13:35.
- **God is faithfully glorified.** “Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be likeminded one toward another according to Christ Jesus: That ye may with one mind and one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ” Romans 15:5-6.
- **Intercessory prayer is effective.** “Now I beseech you, brethren, for the Lord Jesus Christ’s sake, and for the love of the Spirit, that ye strive together with me in your prayers to God for me” Romans 15:30.
- **Co-labourership with God is effective.** “For we are labourers together with God: ye are God’s husbandry, ye are God’s building” 1 Corinthians 3:9.
- **The ministry is expanded.** “Ye also helping together by prayer for us, that for the gift bestowed upon us by the means of many persons thanks may be given by many on our behalf” 2 Corinthians 1:11.
- **Leaders support members in fulfilment of “the law of Christ.”** “Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. Bear ye one another’s burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ” Galatians 6:1-2.
- **God’s holiness is made known.** “Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord” Ephesians 2:19-21.



Victory O Lord!

John Everett Millais 1871

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Victory_O_Lord!

“Aaron and Hur stayed up his hands...and his hands were steady until the going down of the sun”

Exodus 17:12

“Members one of another”

Romans 12:5

- **The Body of Christ is built up.** “That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love” Ephesians 4:14-16.
- **“Righteousness and true holiness” and honesty are encouraged.** “And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness. Wherefore putting away lying, speaking every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another” Ephesians 4:23-25.
- **Steadfastness in the Gospel against opposition is encouraged.** “Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel; And in nothing terrified by your adversaries: which is to them an evident token of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that of God” Philippians 1:27-28.
- **Humility and mutual support are encouraged.** “Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others” Philippians 2:3-4 with 1 Peter 5:5.
- **Ministry of “the holy scriptures” 2 Timothy 3:15 is enriched.** “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord” Colossians 3:16.
- **God’s love with respect to Calvary, Romans 5:8, is extended to the wider community.** “And the Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all men, even as we do toward you” 1 Thessalonians 3:12 with 2 Corinthians 5:18-20.
- **Good works in anticipation of the Lord’s Return are exhorted.** “And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching” Hebrews 10:24-25.
- **Spiritual gifts are exercised most effectively to mutual benefit and God’s glory.** “As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen” 1 Peter 4:10-11.
- **Sin is resisted by “the blood of Jesus Christ.”** “But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin” 1 John 1:7.

“If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them”

John 13:17