

In Psalm 133:1, David exclaims, "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity

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<u>Proverbs 16:18</u> warns that "pride goes before destruction." Many biblical stories point to pride as the one thing that separates us from each other. It works like a barrier instead of a glue that brings people together and allows us to dwell together in unity.

Unity equates to peace because when unity exists, it brings out the best in people. It is a universal concept that shows humans, as individuals and as a group, seek God as their spiritual foundation.

Unity strengthens the church. It fosters love and support among those who are believers. When believers are united, there is no better testament to one's love of God.

The Benefits of Coming Together in Christ

"Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment."—1 Corinthians 1:10

We are called to come together as believers. It's a significant part of our faith journey. Jesus prayed for the unity of believers, as He recognized its role in demonstrating God's love and glorifying Him (John 17:20-23). God desires unity because it reflects His nature. When we dwell together in unity as followers of Christ, we embody His teachings. Moreover, we can look forward to many benefits.

1) Embracing Diversity

The church is a melting pot of individuals from different economic and social classes, races, ages, and cultures. It's a wonderful celebration of those differences, and this exemplifies what David discussed in Psalm 133:1 about the importance of dwelling together in unity. It's about Learning to imitate the love of Jesus in our lives and how we respect and treat others.

Diversity strengthens the church by honoring the unique contributions each member brings forth. It becomes a welcoming space where we can foster learning, mutual respect, and collaboration.

2) Encouraging Each Other Spiritually

Participating in <u>biblical community can deepen one's faith</u> as we serve to encourage and support each other. When we dwell together in unity, we forge authentic relationships that serve us all.

Even the strongest believers have days when their faith is tested, especially during challenging times. And it is during these moments when we cherish our biblical community as they can become a source of spiritual support and encouragement. The continued support and commitment to this community based on faith enriches us spiritually, fosters growth, and helps develop resilience.

"Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus, that you may with one mind and one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ."—Romans 15:5-6

3) Strengthening the Church

A united church is a strong and loving church. There is no better way to honor God than to dwell together in unity.

While chaos and conflicts are part of human nature, surrendering to God and committing to live in His Godly ways inspires and motivates us to love our fellow believers as He did.

As mentioned, church members might showcase diversity in their beliefs, culture, and social class; however, committing to using those differences as a tool to grow the church and its mission can be a powerful thing.

4) Fostering Harmonious Relationships

For most people, the church is an extension of their family. Therefore, living in unity requires that you <u>treat your church members like family</u>.

The Psalm about how to dwell together in unity is about more than just turning the other cheek to differences with one another. A love like God is not about tolerance; it is also about finding a common bond in Christ and cultivating that bond. This mindset is how we can foster an atmosphere filled with love, collaboration, cooperation, and acceptance.

There is no better demonstration of God's love of the world and the unity of the body of Christ.

5) Becoming a Witness to the Power of God

Living in unity is about making a positive impact on the communities we serve and helping others witness the transformative power of Christ in their lives. When we come together as a biblical community, we draw and inspire others toward God's path. We become the light that God provides for others, which creates a source of hope and encouragement.

How to Dwell Together in Unity in Our Modern World

The call to dwell in unity as believers is as relevant and vital as ever. However, the principles in scripture may seem difficult to apply to the modern day. Fortunately, there are many ways we can rise above the present challenges associated with following God and establish unity.

Gather Together

The simplest way to foster lasting unity within the church and community is to gather in fellowship. For example, we can come together to do the following:

- Enjoy recreational activities
- Share meals
- Worship or sing songs

A God-centric fellowship is one that is hardest to break. But it is even stronger when we genuinely enjoy spending time with one another.

Follow Jesus' Example

"For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps."—1 Peter 2:21

God calls on His believers to follow the example He has set for them. Jesus' suffering highlights the selflessness and humility we must practice if we are to follow His example. And since He constantly advocates for unity, living a life like His disciples allows us to dwell together in unity.

Share God's Word

The opportunity to share God's word is paramount. It enables us to live in unity with each other because God's truth and wisdom become the foundation of our relationship. In addition, it encourages others to follow His path as we fulfill our duty to spread the word of God.

Love and Respect One Another

Forging a mutual love and respect for one another is the best way to live in unity. It becomes easier to maintain harmonious relationships with God and our fellow believers. Further, it aligns with the teachings in the Bible.

Practice Forgiveness and Empathy

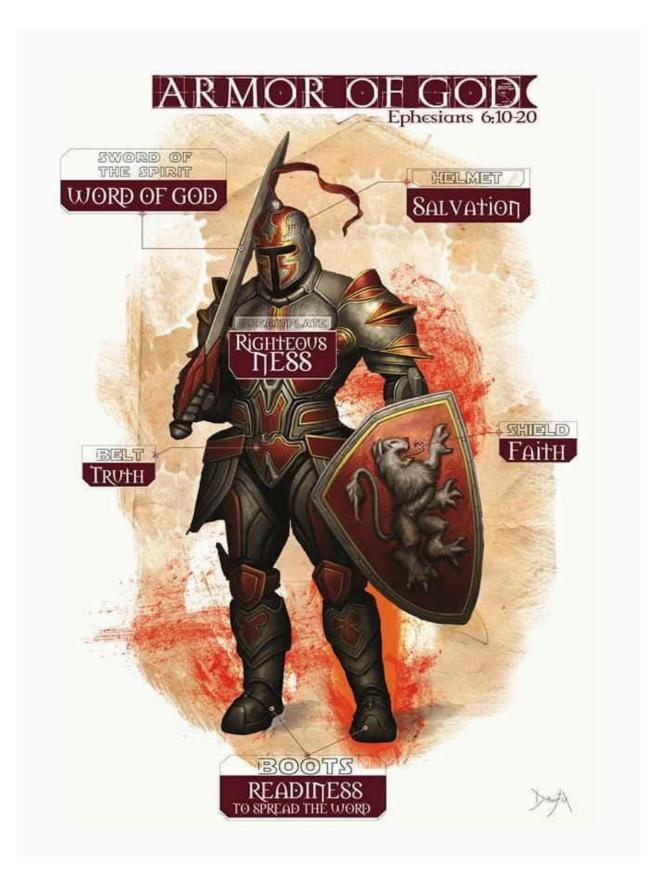
The modern world is marked with cultural and ideological differences that can lead to conflicts and divisions. When we acknowledge God's love and dwell together in unity, we give way for forgiveness and empathy to happen within families or communities, like the church.

Developing empathy also makes room for establishing unity as we can put ourselves in other people's shoes and understand why they believe or think the way they do. Unity isn't about agreeing all the time, but rather understanding that those differences are what make our community more special.

Takeaway

It's vital for us as believers to dwell together in unity. It's not just a goal to aspire for when we want to follow God's example. It is a fundamental foundation for living a life of spiritual growth and commitment. Keep Psalm 133:1 in mind as you move forward in your faith journey, and embrace your biblical community.

If you want to experience lasting unity through shared experiences, prayers, and services, join the movement to Restore God's People @ sbpastorsunited.org. Amen!



A STRONG UNITED ARMY OF THE LORD CANNOT BE DEFEATED