

# UNITY FOR THE JOURNEY!

**Psalm 133:title** A Song of degrees of David.

**Psalm 133:1** **Behold**, how good (מִהֲטוֹב) and how pleasant (וּמִהֲנָעִים) 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.

**The text is both beautiful and structurally simple: Behold...unity!**

**This is good & pleasant! (1)**

**This is how good it is! (2-3a)**

**This is why it's so good! (3b)**

**Grasping the drift of the text:**

**1. Diversity is the norm!**

We love diversity and & all things diversity...at least in theory!

We can even discriminate & be racist to attain it!

**As I meditated on, read, & read about this text the background clicked!**

**Israel's unified journey to the temple in unity lasted less than 29 years.**

**David: no temple**

**Solomon: temple for about 29 years**

**931 BC: split**

**732 BC: Assyrian captivity**

**586 BC: destruction of the temple**

**516 BC: small temple rebuilt**

**Herod's Temple...**

**Now: no temple**

**There never was a great time or a good time!**

**1 Kings 12:25** Then Jeroboam built Shechem in mount Ephraim, and dwelt therein; and went out from thence, and built Penuel. **1 Kings 12:26** **And Jeroboam said in his heart, Now shall the kingdom return to the house of David: 1 Kings 12:27 If** this people go up to do sacrifice in the house of the LORD at Jerusalem, **then** shall the heart of this people turn again unto their lord, even unto Rehoboam king of Judah, **and** they shall kill me, and go again to Rehoboam king of Judah. **1 Kings 12:28** Whereupon the king took counsel, and made two calves of gold, and said unto them, **It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem:** behold thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt. **1 Kings 12:29** **And he set the one in Beth-el, and the other put he in Dan. 1 Kings 12:30 And this thing became a sin:** for the people went to worship before the one, even unto Dan. **1 Kings 12:31** **And he made an house of high places, and made priests of the lowest of the people, which were not of the sons of Levi. 1 Kings 12:32 And Jeroboam ordained a feast in the eighth month, on the fifteenth day of the month, like unto the feast that is in Judah, and he offered upon the altar.** So did he in Beth-el, sacrificing unto the calves that he had made: and he placed in Beth-el the priests of the high places which he had made. **1 Kings 12:33** So he offered upon the altar which he had made in Beth-el the fifteenth day of the eighth month, even in the month **which he had devised of his own heart;** and ordained a feast unto the children of Israel: and he offered upon the altar, and burnt incense.

**Acts 2:5** And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, **out of every nation under heaven.**

**Acts 2:6** Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language. **Acts 2:7** And they were all amazed and marvelled, saying one to another, Behold, are not all these which speak Galilaeans? **Acts 2:8** And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born?

**Acts 2:9** Parthians, and Medes, and Elamites, and the dwellers in Mesopotamia, and in Judaea, and Cappadocia, in Pontus, and Asia, **Acts 2:10** Phrygia, and Pamphylia, in Egypt, and in the parts of Libya about Cyrene, and strangers of Rome, Jews and proselytes, **Acts 2:11** Cretes and Arabians, we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God. **Acts 2:12** And they were all amazed, and were in doubt, saying one to another, What meaneth this? **Acts 2:13** Others mocking said, These men are full of new wine.

**Diversity (not as a philosophy / policy but as a reality):**

- Different tribes
- Different locations
- Different occupations
- Different social stratuses
- Different countries
- Different foods, dress, smells, hair styles...

## **2. Conformity is not necessary!**

With diversity, chaos is always a danger!

Conformity is often the “answer!” Often, this is forced conformity!

## **3. Unity is the need!**

**Psalm 133:1** Behold, how good (טוֹב) and how pleasant (נִיחַ) 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.

**In some ways, unity is simple and built-in! (Notice the texts doesn't tell us how to attain / achieve it)**

**Unity of destination**

**Unity of dangers & distractions**

**Unity of purpose (worship)**

**Unity of belief & practice**

**Ephesians 4:3** Endeavouring to keep the **unity of the Spirit** in the bond of peace.

**Ephesians 4:13** Till we all come in the **unity of the faith**, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: **Ephesians 4:14** 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;

**Jude 3** Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for **the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.**

**Unity of common humanity & human dilemmas!**