



## Sermon Title: The Place of Blessing

by: Pastor Rock Dillaman

**Scripture:** Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brothers to dwell together in unity! It is like the precious oil upon the head, coming down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard, coming down upon the edge of his robes. It is like the dew of Hermon coming down upon the mountains of Zion; for there the Lord commanded the blessing - life forever. [Psalm 133:1-3]

1. God wants His church in the present to look like His church in eternity.
2. God's church must be shaped by His Word and Spirit - not the opinions of people outside - or inside - the church!
3. The moments when God speaks reveal something of His intended message.
4. You don't inspire unity by dividing your fellow believers into the *enlightened* and the *ignorant*! That only serves to create arrogant "winners" and resistant "losers!"
5. Unity increases the church's witness.
6. Preserving unity is hard work!
7. Unity doesn't mean everyone acts like the majority. It means everyone acts like a child of God.
8. Unity is a key indicator of the filling of the Holy Spirit and submission to the Lordship of Christ in every aspect of life.
9. Unity is the remedy for many of the dry places in our lives.
10. Unity enhances our growth in grace and in the knowledge of God.
11. Unity refreshes our spirits.
12. The blessings that follow unity are commanded – not conditional!

## Growth Group Questions

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#### PRE-GAME

1. Share a favorite memory from this summer.
2. What are you looking forward to as we begin a new Growth Group year?

#### KICK-OFF

1. What did you find most challenging, helpful, or troubling in the sermon today and why?
2. In what ways have you observed *disunity* harm the church and the gospel message?
3. What potential hazards can you see that threaten “unity” in the body of Christ including ACAC? What role can you play to help combat these hazardous threats?
4. What are some ways we can “preserve” unity in our group this year while avoiding the potential hazards of division?

#### THE PLAYBOOK

Read some of the passages below and discuss any insights into today’s message.

- Ephesians 4:2-3
- Colossians 3:14
- Matthew 23:12

#### PRACTICE

- What are some things you personally need to “work hard” at in order to help preserve unity in the church? Are you willing to do so with God’s help? If so, what are some practical action steps you can begin to take immediately?
- Examine your heart before the Lord. Is there something you need to repent of that has contributed to division within the body of Christ? If so, what is it?