



Sermon Title: The Blessing

by: Pastor Rock Dillaman

Scriptures:

[Ephesians 4:1-3] ...walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

[Psalm 133:1-3] 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.

1. The unity of the Spirit is the holy, spiritual connection created by God's Spirit and shared by Jesus' followers.
2. The practice of Spirit unity helps the world believe Jesus was sent from God. (John 17:23)
3. The first blessing of practiced unity is knowing we're the answer to Jesus' prayer. The second is knowing our unity draws people to Jesus!
4. God calls attention to those who preserve unity!
5. Practiced unity advances spiritual maturity. Those who separate themselves from other believers because they believe they possess greater maturity end up separating themselves from maturity!
6. Any unity that demands those different than us do things our way is bogus!
7. Preserved unity flows out of love for Christ.
8. To value unity solely for its benefits is to commit idolatry.
9. The blessings of unity touch those who don't embrace unity.
10. If we aren't vigilant, culture will determine our wardrobe!
11. Unity refreshes our spirits through the differing perspectives of those different than us.

Growth Group Questions
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KICK-OFF

1. What are you hoping for in 2018?
2. Do you tend to be comfortable or uncomfortable when you're around people different from you? Explain.

THE GAME PLAN

1. What points from today's sermon challenged you, impacted you, or caught your attention and why?
2. Describe how you think the church is viewed or perceived by the unbelieving culture around us.
3. Share a recent example of how you were impacted or challenged to think differently by someone with differing perspectives than you.
4. What are some ways you can personally contribute to preserving unity within the church including here at ACAC?

OVERTIME

1. Read Jesus' prayer in John, chapter 17. What do you hear God saying?

