



**Sunday, September 12, 2010: The Unity of the Body**

**Scripture: Psalm 133**

**Speaker: Joe Boot**

**Sermon Notes:**

1. Psalm 133 is a psalm that celebrates the unity of God's people under the anointed king.
2. The unity of God's people is central to both old and new covenants.
3. In the new covenant, God's people are united in Christ. The church is the body of Christ, among whom Christ's presence dwells by the Spirit (1 Cor 6.12-20).
4. Paul frequently rebukes the churches to which he writes because of factions, divisions, rivalries, and disunity (e.g., 1 Cor 3.3-11; Gal 5.16-26).
5. The unity of the body of Christ is God's will. It is good and pleasant (Ps 133.1).
6. The unity of the body is compared to the fragrant oil of Aaron's beard and fresh morning dew from Mt. Hermon and Zion (Ps 133.2-3).
7. "Life forever" is God's decreed blessing for the unity of God's people (Ps 133.3).
8. The biblical view of unity is not the equalitarianism of secular humanism, which is state enforced, reductionistic, and doesn't allow genuine diversity.
9. Unity in Christ and the Spirit recognizes genuine diversity and differences between people. In the body of Christ, there is unity in diversity, just as there is in the Trinity.
10. Both Islam and secular humanism reject the doctrine of the Triune God, and so reject genuine unity in diversity in society.
11. There does not need to be peace and tranquility for there to be unity. Covenant community life in the body of Christ is messy. We are called to tolerate one another's faults and forebear with one another.
12. Covenant relationship with the body of Christ should not be taken lightly. Christians are called to make a faithful commitment to covenant community.
13. Philippians 2.1-11 provides a biblical account of what covenant relationships should look like. We are to have the mind of Christ, whose humble sacrifice is the paradigm for our relationships with one another in the body of Christ.
14. Again, the decreed blessing for maintaining the unity of the body of Christ is life forevermore.

**Application Questions:**

1. In what ways does Psalm 133 celebrate your own experience of the covenant community life of the church? In what ways have you experienced the decreed blessing of Psalm 133?
2. Why does Paul place so much emphasis on the unity of the Church (e.g., Eph 2.11-22; Gal 3.16-26)?
3. How would you characterize the differences between our contemporary culture's view of unity and tolerance and the biblical view of unity and tolerance?
4. In what ways do we live out the paradigm of Christ's humility in our relationship with one another (Phil 2.5-11)?