

July 15, 2018

In Community With Others

### Psalm 133

Unity in the family—whether it’s your particular family or the family of God—is a wonderful blessing. Psalm 133 puts it into bold word pictures, to help us desire unity; and make it possible, obtainable, and a high priority.

What competes with unity?

What makes it happen?

To whom would the Lord have me make overtures for unity?

*In times of conflict and economic distress, Psalm 133 is like water on parched ground. People who are divided and estranged from one another need God’s call to “live together in unity.” For them, this Psalm offers hope and the promise of kinship in Christ. People suffer scarcity in everything from food and housing, to justice and love. The message: God loves us abundantly and holds nothing back (N. Koester, 2009).*

- 1) *I’ll practice being unusually interested in others*
  - 2) *I’ll practice staying in the room with difference*
  - 3) *I’ll stop comparing my best with your worst*
- (Jim Henderson, No Joke Project, 2016)

*This Psalm runs from living in harmony to God’s blessing as if to say it all comes down to this: God’s blessing is life forevermore. This is the theological crux of the Psalm. Full harmony is somehow connected to life and blessing from God (S. Hannan, 2018).*

*Kinfolk living together in harmony is a means of the blessing being released. But the blessing is also an image for the wonder of kinfolk living together in harmony (J. Goldingay, 2008).*

**Next week:** *Psalm 134*

July 15, 2018

In Community With Others

### Psalm 133

Unity in the family—whether it’s your particular family or the family of God—is a wonderful blessing. Psalm 133 puts it into bold word pictures, to help us desire unity; and make it possible, obtainable, and a high priority.

What competes with unity?

What makes it happen?

To whom would the Lord have me make overtures for unity?

*In times of conflict and economic distress, Psalm 133 is like water on parched ground. People who are divided and estranged from one another need God’s call to “live together in unity.” For them, this Psalm offers hope and the promise of kinship in Christ. People suffer scarcity in everything from food and housing, to justice and love. The message: God loves us abundantly and holds nothing back (N. Koester, 2009).*

- 1) *I’ll practice being unusually interested in others*
  - 2) *I’ll practice staying in the room with difference*
  - 3) *I’ll stop comparing my best with your worst*
- (Jim Henderson, No Joke Project, 2016)

*This Psalm runs from living in harmony to God’s blessing as if to say it all comes down to this: God’s blessing is life forevermore. This is the theological crux of the Psalm. Full harmony is somehow connected to life and blessing from God (S. Hannan, 2018).*

*Kinfolk living together in harmony is a means of the blessing being released. But the blessing is also an image for the wonder of kinfolk living together in harmony (J. Goldingay, 2008).*

**Next week:** *Psalm 134*

**July 15, 2018**

In Community With Others

**SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THIS WEEK:**

**Today:** *Psalm 24* (What is God saying to you?)

---

**Monday:** *Isaiah 1:10-17*

---

**Tuesday:** *Matthew 10:1-10*

---

**Wednesday:** *Romans 15:1-13*

---

**Thursday:** *1 Corinthians 9:15-23*

---

**Friday:** *John 17:20-26*

---

**Saturday:** *Romans 14*

---

Father, we've listened to Your Word, and loved it; we've found comfort and inspiration in song and psalm; we've enjoyed the companionship of those who, with kindred minds and hearts, have praised and worshiped You. Now help us understand—as we leave this sacred place—we become Your Church in the street. In Christ we pray, Amen.

**July 15, 2018**

In Community With Others

**SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THIS WEEK:**

**Today:** *Psalm 24* (What is God saying to you?)

---

**Monday:** *Isaiah 1:10-17*

---

**Tuesday:** *Matthew 10:1-10*

---

**Wednesday:** *Romans 15:1-13*

---

**Thursday:** *1 Corinthians 9:15-23*

---

**Friday:** *John 17:20-26*

---

**Saturday:** *Romans 14*

---

Father, we've listened to Your Word, and loved it; we've found comfort and inspiration in song and psalm; we've enjoyed the companionship of those who, with kindred minds and hearts, have praised and worshiped You. Now help us understand—as we leave this sacred place—we become Your Church in the street. In Christ we pray, Amen.