

OH HOW PLEASANT IT IS

Pastor's Desk – June 7, 2020

"In the eyes of the Lord, togetherness or unity
between His people is proper,
and it gratifies Him to no end.
It has the same effect on us.

Brethren who are consequently joined together,
receive the perks of the goodness and pleasantness unity produces.

That is why we should yearn for this unity,
because it is right, proper, and fitting
and because it is lovely, attractive, and appealing."

Excerpt from
Pastor's Desk: "Oh How Pleasant It Is"
by Pr. Teddy Santos
June 7, 2020



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Psa. 133:1 *“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is For brethren to dwell together in unity!”*

The first verse of this Psalm reveals the hope, the goal, the prayer of everyone who loves the Lord. What a grand notion it would be if all the people could live together in harmony! What movements we could achieve! What exceptional joy we would have! How beautiful that would be.

Indeed, this verse reveals the joy that results in brethren being united, when they are "at one." An irony of this "psalm of unity," however, is that the word "unity" does not literally appear in it! The literal translation of the last phrase is "when brethren dwell also together." The idea of unity is

unmistakably there, but the final Hebrew word is **yachad**, meaning "both," "together," "joined." The phrase can be translated, then, "when brethren are joined in dwelling" or "when brethren dwell together." "In unity" is the translator's understanding, not a direct translation.

The word "good" here is a reasonably general rendering, but the psalmist's opinion is "proper": "How proper it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!" "How fitting, how right it is for the people of God to be one."

Pleasant has the understanding of "attractive": "How attractive (lovely, charming) it is when the people of God dwell as one." And considering the fact that we are God's dwelling, we could say, "How wonderful it is when God's dwelling, the Temple of the living God, is one structure and not severed bits all over the place."

In the eyes of the Lord, togetherness or unity between His people is proper, and it gratifies Him to no end. It has the same effect on us. Brethren who are consequently joined together, receive the perks of the goodness and pleasantness unity produces. That is why we should yearn for this unity, because it is right, proper, and fitting and because it is lovely, attractive, and appealing.

At His service,
Pr. Teddy Santos