**R862 Rumination for 1st August, 2021 by K.C. Ung**

The **T**heme: **dwell together in unity** [berita-bethel-ung.com](http://www.berita-bethel-ung.com/)

The **T**ext: *Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to* ***dwell together in unity****!* Psa. 133:1

The **T**hots:

A **P**ilgrim **P**salm when families came to together to Worship the Lord.

1. **The Statement on Unity. Psa. 133:1**

*Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to* ***dwell together in unity****!*

1. The **C**all for Unity – *Behold*.
2. The **C**haracter of the Unity –
3. The **D**elight of Togetherness – *how good and how pleasant.*
4. The **D**welling in Togetherness - *dwell together*
5. Without **D**ivisiveness in Togetherness – ***in unity***

Cf. The **D**iversity in the Togetherness – Eph. 4:3-6

***D****iligently keeping* ***the unity of the Spirit*** *with the peace that binds us* Eph. 4:4-6 (HCSB)

1. *There is* ***one*** *body and* ***one*** *Spirit—just as you were called to* ***one*** *hope at your calling—*
2. ***One*** *Lord,* ***one*** *faith,* ***one*** *baptism,* ***one*** *God and Father of* ***all****,*
* **One for all; and All for One.**
1. *Who is above* ***all*** *and through all and in* ***all****.*
* **One for all, and One Above All.**

Note: It is not the **E**limination of **E**nmity in the **E**cumenism of **U**niformity. Lk. 23:12

*And the same day Pilate and Herod were made friends together:*

*for before they were at enmity between themselves.*

1. The **C**haracters in the Unity – *brethren*.
2. It is the Uni**ty** of Spirit-**B**orn-again **B**rethren – ***the Unity of the Spirit*** Eph. 4:3; Phil. 2:1-2 HCSB

Cf. ***If*** *then there is any encouragement in Christ,* ***if*** *any consolation of love,*

***if*** *any fellowship with the Spirit,* ***if*** *any affection and mercy…*

1. The **E**nablement for this Unity – ***if*** = since.
2. The **E**ncouragement to this Unity – ***If*** *then there is any encouragement in Christ…* Phil. 2:1, HCSB
3. The **E**mployment of this Unity – ***if*** *any consolation of love,*
4. The **E**mpowerment for this Unity – ***if*** *any fellowship with the Spirit,*
5. The **E**nvironment of this Unity – ***if*** *any affection and mercy,*
6. It is with the **A**ffini**ty** of Paul, their **B**eloved **B**rother – *Fulfil ye my joy…* Phil. 2:2, HCSB
7. **A**gree with one **A**nother *- Be* ***L****ikeminded,* i.e.,be of the same mind;
8. Have the same **A**ffection *- Having the same* ***L****ove.*
9. *Being of one* ***A****ccord,* **L**iving together*.*
10. Be of one **A**pproachi.e., *of one mind…*
* ***L****et nothing be done through strife or vainglory* Phil. 2:3, HCSB
* *But in* ***L****owliness of mind*
* ***L****ook not every man on his own things, but... on the things of others.*
1. **The Similarities - Psa. 133:2, 3**
2. It is like the **P**recious **O**il **O**r **O**intment used for the **C**onsecration of the High **P**riest. Psa. 133:2

 *It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard,*

 *even Aaron's beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments;*

1. This **U**nity is **U**nique as the **P**riest’s **P**erfume was **P**recious: Exo. 30:37-38

*And as for the perfume which thou shalt make, ye shall not make to yourselves according to the composition thereof: it shall be unto thee holy for the LORD. Whosoever shall make like unto that,*

*to smell thereto, shall even be cut off from his people.*

1. This **U**nity is Spontaneous as the **P**erfume was **F**ree, **F**ragrant and **F**lowing down Aaron’s garments.
* It is not the **U**niformity **F**orced on **P**eople to do and wear the same thing.
1. It is like the **D**escending **D**ew on Mt. Hermon – its **C**omparison and the Lord’s **C**ommand. Psa. 133:3

*As the dew of Hermon, and as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion:*

*for there the LORD commanded the blessing, even life for evermore.:*

1. It was **C**opious and Life-giving; hence, bringing Blessing to His people.
2. It was of the Lord’s **C**ommand; the Lord’s promise to Bless where there is unity.
3. It should **C**haracterise His **C**hurch *for evermore –* For the Church, His Body is One.I Cor.12:12

*For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body,*

*being many, are one body: so also is Christ.*

* Likewise, should the Brethren this day Unite in One Voice

to Praise and Worship Him in Unity and Spontaneity.

*Blest be the tie that binds Our hearts in Christian love;*

 *The fellowship of kindred minds Is like to that above.* John Fawcett

**REFLECTIONS FOR THE WEEK R. 862**

1. Paul, writing to the believers in Ephesus also touched on the *unity of the brethren*.

He referred to it as the *Unity of the Spirit*.

Consider therefore what he wrote then: Eph. 4:1-6

*I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, with all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love;*

*Endeavouring to keep* ***the unity of the Spirit*** *in the bond of peace.*

*There is* ***one*** *body, and* ***one*** *Spirit, even as ye are called in* ***one*** *hope of your calling;*

***One*** *Lord,* ***one*** *faith,* ***one*** *baptism,*

***One*** *God and Father of* ***all****, who is above* ***all****, and through* ***all****, and in you* ***all****.*

Paul mentioned and defined this unity as *The Unity of the Spirit* (Eph. 4:3), i.e.

the Unity that is brought about by and in the Spirit. He is the Acknowledged Source and

Sphere of this Unity, only then, can it result in a bond (or fellowship) of peace among its members. But who then are these members?

Certainly, they are all those who have believed in the Lord Jesus Christ without any tag of social standing, societal status, sectorial divisions, etc. etc. except being “*brethren”*, i.e. Spirit-born-again believers, brothers and sisters in the Lord –

*For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.* (I Cor. 12:12, NRSV).

This *one body…with Christ* is brought about by *the one Spirit* [when] *we were all baptized*

*into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one*

*Spirit.* (ICor. 12:13, NRSV), thus bringing about The Unity of/in the Spirit.

Today, also in keeping with the Lord’s Prayer (Jn. 17:21-23, KJV) – *That they all may be one; as Thou, Father, art in Me, and I in Thee…that they may be one, even as We are one:*

there are efforts to unite the numerous churches, denominations, sects, and various groups and even religions of various ilk into a United Church or an Ecumenical Movement embracing all these by putting aside all fundamental and basic biblical doctrines which are the foundation of the church, and differences for a compromised uniformity in practices and gatherings. Is this the Unity of the Spirit? **REFLECT**

**1 Corinthians 12:12-13** (MSG)

*12 You can easily enough see how this kind of thing works by looking no further than your own body. Your body has many parts—limbs, organs, cells—but no matter how many parts you can name, you're still one body. It's exactly the same with Christ.*

*13 By means of his one Spirit, we all said good-bye to our partial and piecemeal lives. We each used to independently call our own shots, but then we entered into a large and integrated life in which he has the final say in everything. (This is what we proclaimed in word and action when we were baptized.) Each of us is now a part of his resurrection body, refreshed and sustained at one fountain—his Spirit—where we all come to drink. The old labels we once used to identify ourselves—labels like Jew or Greek, slave or free—are no longer useful. We need something larger, more comprehensive.*

The above translation is taken from The Message, a modern-day paraphrase of the text in I Cor. 12:12, 13. Compare this with the NRSV translation in Question 1 above or with the King James Translation below: I Cor. 12:12-13:

*For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.*

Which version do you prefer? Which gives you a better idea of Unity in the Spirit? Why?

 **REFLECT.**

**Points To Ponder:** *Is* ***U****niformity* ***U****nity?* ***C****an Veri****ty*** *be* ***C****ompromised for Uni****ty****?*