

COMMUNITY GROUP GUIDE

The blessing and difficulty of unity

INTRODUCTION |

Psalm 133:1 says that brothers and sisters walking in unity is a blessing. It uses the words “good” (JP: 幸せ shiaswase) and “pleasant” (JP: 楽しさ tanoshisa) to describe this living and walking together in blessed relationships.

SCRIPTURE | Psalm 133

A song of ascents. Of David.

1 How good and pleasant it is when God’s people live together in unity!² It is like precious oil poured on the head, running down on the beard, running down on Aaron’s beard, down on the collar of his robe.³ It is as if the dew of Hermon were falling on Mount Zion. For there the Lord bestows his blessing, even life forevermore.

QUESTIONS |

- 1: What was a time or relationship when you experienced this “good” (shiaswase) and “pleasant” (tanoshisa)?
- 2: Have you ever experienced the pain of difficult relationships at work, in family, or church? What was the relationship or situation, briefly. (Please share appropriately, without telling a person’s name or organization or church name.)
- 3: Do you agree that relationships in family, marriage, work, and church are sometimes difficult, and we need God’s grace and help? Why are relationships so difficult? What is a tendency you have that can hurt relationships? (Like not listening, or selfishness, or pride, or critical spirit toward others.)
- 4: Read John 17:21 and 17:23, and also I Thessalonians 1:5. How does unity in our relationships give power to our testimony about Christ and the gospel? Do you have any good examples of that to share? Have you ever seen bad unity hurt the witness of Christians and the church?
- 5: Read Ephesians 4:32 and Colossians 3:12-14. How does the gospel and a gospel walk help us to have unity?
- 6: Practical application for you: Do you have a sin or weakness to confess, a prayer request for a relationship, or another application to your life from the sermon and this discussion?

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REFERENCES |

John 17:21&23

21 That all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.

23 I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

1 Thessalonians 1:5

Because our gospel came to you not simply with words but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and deep conviction. You know how we lived among you for your sake.

Ephesians 4:32

Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

Colossians 3:12-14

12 Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. 13 Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. 14 And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

PRAYER |

- Give thanks together for the gospel of Jesus Christ, that our sins are forgiven, that we are loved, and called children of God. Pray together that we would know more of this this great love and grace that God gives to us.
- Pray that we would give this love and grace we have received to others in our families, church, and work.

UPCOMING EVENTS | This Week & Next Week

Lunchtime meeting (24 Otemachi)

Retirement home visit (26)

Worship & Fellowship (27), 2 services: 1st from 13:00, 2nd from 15:30

Prayer meeting (27) from 14:30, KDDI Hall

Grace City gospel (28)

Lunchtime meeting (30, Marunouchi, 12/1 Otemachi)

Obento project (12/3)

Worship & Fellowship (12/4), 2 services: 1st from 13:00, 2nd from 15:30