

Title: *One heart, one soul*
Speaker: *Alistair Kingwill*
Date: *13 May 2012*
Time: *17:00*



Message

A: The purpose of unity

Psalm 133

¹ Behold, how good and how pleasant it is For brethren to dwell together in unity! ² It is like the precious oil upon the head, Running down on the beard, The beard of Aaron, Running down on the edge of his garments. ³ It is like the dew of Hermon, Descending upon the mountains of Zion; For there the LORD commanded the blessing— Life forevermore.

1. It is good and pleasant.
2. It brings the full priestly anointing.
3. It causes blessing and life forevermore.

B: What prevents unity?

1. Suspicion, scepticism -> intimidation, doubt, fear.
2. Condemnation, guilt -> isolation, deception.
3. Comparison, competition -> inferiority or pride.

C: How is unity established?

Ephesians 4

Paul writes specifically about unity in the body of Christ.

C1: Commit to obey the truth

Ephesians 4:1-6

¹ I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, ² with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, ³ endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴ There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism; ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

C2: Commit to grow in faith

Ephesians 4:7-15

⁷ But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift.

⁸ Therefore He says: "When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts to men." ⁹ (Now this, "He ascended"—what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth?

¹⁰ He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.)

¹¹ And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, ¹² for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, ¹³ till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; ¹⁴ that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, ¹⁵ but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—

C3: Commit to serve the body

Ephesians 4:16

from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

D: The result of unity

Acts 4:32-33

³² Now the multitude of those who believed were of **one heart and one soul**; neither did anyone say that any of the things he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common. ³³ And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. **And great grace was upon them all.**