

Leadership Meeting

Welcome

India/Campaign Report (7.1 million)

What could threaten our plans or derail what God is doing in our church?

- **Change:** new people, tough decisions, staff movement, restructuring. Normal organizational growth stuff.
- **Culture/current events-** scary
 - o If I touch on it, what if I don't touch on some other issue the next week. We cannot go from being a church focused on a Jesus to becoming a cultural commentator.
 - o If I touch on it but do not have time to say everything that should be said
 - o Can we talk about issues without feeling obligated to pick a side, to be right, to identify the enemy.
 - o Do we have enough humility and awareness to know we are not always right and we may not have all the facts.
- **Conflict/correction**

Therefore, as we prepare to take this step, I want to come back to where we started.

Read: Psalm 133

1. Unity Is Delightful. "How good and pleasant it is" (v. 1)

Explain: Unity is good and pleasant. Unity is not uniformity. We do not have to all agree about everything. In fact, that is a cult not a church. However, we are united around Jesus, our love and trust in scripture and our love for each other. If we stay focused on Jesus, when we are with Him and becoming like Him then the fruit of the spirit is increasing in our lives which is good, it is delightful, and strengthens our relationships.

Argue: Galatians 5:22.

Illustrate: Kids- Your relationships are more valuable than whatever you are fighting about. In fact, by next week, you will probably not remember what you are fighting about.

Argue: John 13:35, "They will know you are my followers by your love for one another."

Apply: When there is unity, love in an organization you can feel it. It is delightful! People can feel it.

2. Unity Is Spiritual. "Like the precious oil on the head..." (v. 2)

Explain: David compares unity to the **anointing oil poured on Aaron's head** (Exodus 30:22–33). **This oil** symbolizes the Holy Spirit's presence and consecration. Notice the oil flows **down** from head to beard to robe. Unity flows from me, through our staff, through our leaders, through our church, into our city. Unity begins with us and flows into culture.

Illustrate: Vision, Mission, Values, Passion Points- This is all important. We need to keep communicating these ideas but even more important is for us to be with Jesus so our love for each other and our love for our city are evident.

Argue: Ephesians 4:3, "Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace."

Make every effort:

- **If I hurt you, talk to me. Matthew 18**
- **If I am attacked, defend me. Proverbs 16:28**, "A perverse man stirs up dissension and a gossip separates close friends."
- **Trust the team**- No one in our church is making decisions alone, including me.
- **When people fail**- love them, forgive them, help them back on the path. Galatians 6:1

Romans 15:5-6: "May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,"

Apply: We all have to cultivate, protect, and fight for unity!

3. Unity Is Refreshing. "Like the dew of Hermon..." (v. 3a)

Explain: Mount Hermon was very fertile because of heavy dew. It was a tropical type climate. Where there is unity, God's Spirit refreshes the soul, renews strength, and brings fruitfulness. When believers walk in unity, churches flourish. When unity breaks, spiritual drought sets in.

Illustrate: Early church, India- the church is a place of rest and refuge. India conference- part of the goal is to allow them to get a way for a few days, to be encouraged, to be together, to be refreshed so they can go back out there and fight another day.

Illustrate: "I have never experienced anything like this." When we are united by our love for Jesus and each other people can feel it when they are with us. It is refreshing. It is like a cold ice tea on a hot summer day.

Argue: **Philippians 2:2**, "Complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind."

1 Peter 3:8: "Finally, all of you should be of one mind. Sympathize with each other. Love each other as brothers and sisters. Be tenderhearted, and keep a humble attitude."

Apply: Unity is a blessing because it is safe, it allows me to rest, I am not nervous, fearful, anxious. I know I am loved and we are together.

4. Unity Is Blessed. "For there the LORD commanded the blessing, life forevermore" (v. 3b)

Explain: What does David mean?

- "Commanded", To order, to appoint or ordain. To set in motion by divine decree. God is not allowing it but ordering the blessing, it is certain.
- "There", Not everywhere but in a specific place, wherever God's people stand united. Here at Hunter Hills and there at Horse Pen Creek. There! Where ever we stand united!
- Blessing- The full scope of God's favor, presence, and life!

Prayer for unity

Invitation