

Three Keys to Blessing

By Pattie DeLea



¹Behold, 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." Psalm 133:1-3

In this Psalm God commands a blessing upon unity. Unity means harmonious agreement, to be in accord in purpose, and to promote an undivided total effort. Amos 3:3 says, Can two walk together, unless they are agreed?" What is agreement? Again it means to have no conflict of purpose, it also means to concede. The key element in both definitions is "purpose". Ephesians 4:1-3 says, "I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." Guard unity (your agreement of purpose) because God desires for His blessings to be continual like grace, but if we don't guard this thing called unity and walk in it, we stop the flow of His blessings in our lives.

Every member of the Body of Christ must decide to walk in unity with the other members. Not just your church, but the body of Christ worldwide. Let's face it, the whole body may never agree on ways, methods of doing things, the hows, or the whys, but we can agree on purpose. There should be a oneness of heart saying we all agree on the bigger picture of seeing the Kingdom of God on earth as it is in heaven. That goal is far more important than any one individual goal. After all, we are members of one body with Jesus as the head of the church. When you don't agree on something, let God sort it out, your job is not to argue, but to love. Sometimes, love is to simply pray for the person or group you disagree with. Most times in a group situation, simply deferring to the leadership of that group goes a long way with God.

So, the question is how do you guard unity and therefore allow a clear pathway for the blessings of the Lord to flow? Unity can apply to you and your friends, family, ministry, church, job, even some hobbies. One of the best ways to guard unity of purpose is to walk in love. Psalm 24: 4 & 5 says, "He who has clean hands and a pure heart, Who has not lifted up his soul to an idol, Nor sworn deceitfully. He shall receive blessing from the LORD, And righteousness from the God of his salvation." As you keep a

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right heart attitude there is less and less of a discrepancy between your heart and your outward behaviors. Are you exactly the same at home as you are at church in front of other Christians? Remember, God sees every behavior. Is He pleased with you? Are you sitting in church listening to a great sermon and saying, "wow, if only so and so could hear this." You may have a wrong attitude if you are not applying in that moment the word of God to your own life. Walking in love takes a daily decision, as it involves not taking up offences. I challenge you, if you find you need a boost to do this, simply take the verses in 2 Corinthians 13:4-8 on love and put your name in each place. If you will pray this section of God's word daily putting your name in place of the word love, the Holy Spirit will use it to correct your every attitude. It is thrilling beyond belief. Try it daily for 30 days.

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The third step to walking in blessing is found in Psalm 86:11, "Teach me Your ways, O LORD: I will walk in Your truth; Unite my heart to fear Your name." You must ask God to teach you His ways. Examine what is influencing you, particularly when you are not in agreement on something. Is it your own opinion? Someone else's opinion? A problem you are going through? Another's problem you have taken on? An unrecognized offence you have taken on? Someone else's offence you have taken on? Did you get disappointed over unrealistic expectations from people? There are many possibilities, and each of us needs the Holy Spirit to sort these things in our hearts. Let God's word and ways work in you. It is obedience to those things that count, not your opinion! The only way to really know what is in your heart is to ask the Holy Spirit on a daily basis. Jeremiah 17:9 says, "The heart *is* deceitful above all *things*, And desperately wicked; Who can know it?" Selah.



Police cadets were given a test paper to determine their skills and abilities, which would help senior police officers place them. The paper went like this:

You are walking down a city street and you hear the honking of a horn. You turn around and see a truck laden with gasoline, charging down a hill out of control. At the crossroads it collides with a milk truck and an almighty explosion takes place and the driver of the milk truck is hurtled through the plate glass over a wall, whilst the driver of the gasoline tanker is trapped in his cab.

You are about to radio for help, when you hear a cry. You rush across the road, picking your way through the broken glass and flaming tarmac. There is the man from the milk truck drowning in a canal. He cannot swim.

You are just about to radio for help, when you hear another cry. It is a lady, about to give birth to her child. The explosion has brought on the birth, but she is trapped in her home, the door is stuck and she has no phone. She is in immediate need of medical attention.

You are just about to radio for help, when you hear a noise.

You look behind you and there is a group of men, totally drunk staggering across the road laughing at the whole affair.

In this situation what would you do?

One police cadet wrote: "Remove uniform and mingle with crowd!"

A grandmother was telling her little granddaughter what her own childhood was like. "We use to skate outside on a pond. I had a swing made from a tire. It hung from a tree in our front yard. We rode our pony. We picked wild raspberries in the woods."

The little girl was wide-eyed, taking this all in. At last she said, "I sure wish I'd gotten to know you sooner!"

She was in the bathroom, putting on her makeup, under the watchful eyes of her young granddaughter, as she'd done many times before. After she applied her lipstick and started to leave, the little girl said, "Grandma, you forgot to kiss the toilet paper good-bye!" I will probably never put lipstick on again without thinking about kissing the toilet paper good-bye.

A 6-year old was asked where his grandma lived. "Oh," he said, "she lives at the airport, and when we want her, we just go get her. Then, when we're done having her visit, we take her back to the airport."

A Merry

A minister waited in line to have his car filled with gas just before a long holiday weekend. The attendant worked quickly, but there were many cars ahead of him in front of the service station. Finally, the attendant motioned him toward a vacant pump.

"Reverend," said the young man, "Sorry about the delay. It seems as if everyone waits until the last minute to get ready for a long trip."

The minister chuckled, "I know what you mean. It's the same in my business."

There was a man who owned a chain of supermarkets. He was an extremely influential and powerful man.

One day, he took his five-year-old son with him on his "rounds" of the shops. The little boy looked on him in awe and wonder as his dad related to his staff and they to him, their boss. After visiting four or five big shops, they returned to the car when the little lad said thoughtfully, "Daddy, do all these people know that you can talk like Donald Duck?"

A teenage boy had just passed his driving test and inquired of his father as to when they could discuss his use of the family car.

His father said he'd make a deal with his son, "You bring your grades up from a C to a B average, study your Bible, and get your hair cut. Then we'll talk about the car."

The boy thought about that for a moment, and decided he'd settle for the offer, and they agreed on it.

After about six weeks his father said, "Son, you've brought your grades up and I've observed that you have been studying your Bible, but I'm disappointed you haven't had your hair cut."

The boy said, "You know Dad, I've been thinking about that, and I've noticed in my Bible studies that Samson had long hair, John the Baptist had long hair, Moses had long hair, and there's even strong evidence that Jesus had long hair.

To which the Dad replied, "Did you also notice that they all walked everywhere they went?"

After putting her grandchildren to bed, a grandmother changed into old slacks and a droopy blouse and proceeded to wash her hair. As she heard the children getting more and more rambunctious, her patience grew thin. Finally, she threw a towel around her head and stormed into their room, putting them back to bed with stern warnings.

As she left the room, she heard the three-year-old say with a trembling voice, "Who was THAT?"