

Sermon Outline and Discussion Guide for Adult Bible Study

March 9, 2014

Belgic Confession, Articles XXVII (27) & XXVIII (28)

How Good and Pleasant When Brothers Dwell in Unity

Psalm 133:1-3

Intro: In an extremely selfish and individualistic culture, Christianity serves as a beautiful witness to a corporate culture in which we care and confront, disciple and discipline, help each other and hold one another accountable, in which the life of one effects everyone else.

I. The Corporate Quality of Christianity (Psalm 133:1)

“Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity”

Article XXVIII Everyone is bound to join himself to the True Church.

We believe, since this holy congregation is an _____ of those who are saved, and outside of it there is no _____, ...all men are in duty bound to join and _____ themselves with it; maintaining the _____ of the Church; submitting themselves to the _____ and _____ thereof; bowing their necks under the _____ of Christ”

Corporate Images of the Christian Community:

The _____ of God; A _____ set on a hill; The _____ of Christ; The _____ of His pasture.

God’s Covenant Promise: “I will be your God and you will be My _____” (plural).

DQ. Do people view church membership as a solemn duty which they owe to God?

DQ. How do many people view church membership today?

DQ. How seriously do people take their duty to join a local ‘True Church’?

II. The Controversy Which Simple Brotherhood Brings

The Bible begins with brothers who were not dwelling in unity: _____ & _____.

_____ and his brothers. _____ and his brothers. _____ and His brothers.

Phil. 4:2 mentions two “sisters” who were engaged in controversy: _____ & _____.

List the two occasions when people are required to make a vow: _____ & _____.

DQ. Read Proverbs 17:17 “...a brother is born for adversity”. How do you explain this?

DQ. Highlight some of the controversies faced by the early church which the Bible records.

DQ. What do you see as controversies which the church today faces on the local level?

III. The Community Which Spiritual Brotherhood Builds (Psalm 133:2-3).

The two images this Psalm uses to depict the Spiritual Blessing of Unity are _____ & _____.
Both are symbols of God's _____. The church is not a man made _____.
The Holy Spirit is not to be _____ or _____ for in any way.

God blesses His people thru His Chosen High Priest. Our High Priest is _____.
The _____ of Mt. _____ is also a symbol of the Holy Spirit.
So the Holy Spirit blesses God's people with new _____ every _____.

DQ. How quickly do we tend to give up on other people? Why might this be?

DQ. How quickly do we begin feeling discouraged about our own life /church life?

DQ. If the refreshing of the Holy Spirit is a daily occurrence, why do we often feel so parched?