

# THE BLESSINGS OF UNITY

## Part 2 of 2

### Introduction –

“To live above with the saints we love will be glory. To live below with the saints we know is another story.” Ever feel this way? Well you’re certainly not alone. However, unity, as we saw in our last teaching and briefly review today is not an option for believers serious with God. Additionally, unity brings blessings from God Himself. This is the focus of today’s teaching...

*Phil 2:2 – “Make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being ONE in spirit and purpose.”*

### \*Message #1) UNITY IS CRITICAL & ESSENTIAL (REVIEW)...

1. JESUS PRAYER FOR IT!
2. SATAN FIGHTS AGAINST IT!
3. PAUL STRONGLY URGED IT!
4. GOD USES THE IT – THE PROCESS!
5. GOD BLESSES IT!

### \*Message #2) THE BLESSINGS OF UNITY...

*Psalms 133 – “How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in UNITY! It is like the precious oil poured on the head, running down on the beard, running down Aaron’s beard, down upon the collar of his robes. It is as if the dew of Hermon were falling on Mount Zion. For there the Lord bestows (commands) HIS BLESSING, even life forevermore.”*

### ***TWO ARE BETTER THAN ONE (ECCLESIASTES 4:9-12)...***

#### **1. GOOD RETURN (WORK)**

*v. 9 – “...Because they have a **good return** for their work.”*

- SYNERGY

#### **Further Discussion:**

1. What does the word, “synergy” mean?
2. Can you give any examples of synergy at work that confirm this point?

#### **2. HELP BACK UP**

*v. 10 – “**If one falls down** his friend can **help him up**. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up!*

- THE RIGHTEOUS FALLS 7X’S, BUT...

#### **Further Discussion:**

3. What is the significance of “7X’s”?
4. How does Galatians 6:1-2 fit into this point?

### **3. COMPANIONSHIP**

*v. 11 – “Also, if two lie down together, they will keep **warm**, but how can one keep warm alone?”*

- **PSALMS 68 – “GOD SET THE LONELY (SOLITAIRE) INTO FAMILIES”**
- **30 ONE ANOTHERS**

#### **Further Discussion:**

5. Why is it God’s will that we are “set into families”?
6. How does the local church especially fulfill this if functioning properly in the “30 One Others”?
7. Is it worth the risk?

### **4. DEFENSE**

*v. 12a – “Though one may be overpowered, two can **defend** themselves.”*

- **ONE – 1,000 / TWO – 10,000 TO FLIGHT**
- **HAVE EACH OTHER’S BACK**

#### **Further Discussion:**

8. How and why does this work?
9. Why is it important to have each other’s back? (Armor)

### **5. STRENGTH**

*v. 12b – “A cord of three strands is **not quickly broken**.”*

- **INTERTWINED**

#### **Further Discussion:**

10. What illustration did Pastor Rich share about rope that really demonstrates this point?
11. In order for this to work what must be true of the individual strands.

**Conclusion:** Can you see why UNITY is so ESSENTIAL to cling to and preserve, and so DESIRABLE to have? Are YOU willing to commit yourself to PRAY for and MAINTAIN unity at Valleyview? You’ll either be part of the enemy’s strategy or part of God’s solution. Remember, there’s a whole world out there counting on us!