

# Psalms 133:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!

## Analysis

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This brief wisdom psalm extols covenant community through the exclamation 'Behold!' (hinneh—look, pay attention). The dual adjectives 'good and pleasant' (tov and na'im) encompass both moral rightness and experiential enjoyment. 'Brethren dwelling together in unity' refers to harmonious relationships among God's people, particularly relevant in David's context of tribal tensions. The subsequent verses compare unity to precious anointing oil and life-giving dew, suggesting it's a divine blessing, not merely human achievement. Christ prayed for this unity (John 17:21), and Paul commands it (Ephesians 4:3; Philippians 2:2).

## Historical Context

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As a 'Song of Ascents,' this psalm celebrated pilgrimages when Israelites from all tribes gathered in Jerusalem, setting aside regional tensions to worship together. David, who united Israel's tribes, understood unity's fragility and value. The psalm reflects covenant theology where God's people are defined by corporate identity, not just individual faith.

## Related Passages

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**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

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**Genesis 13:8** (Parallel theme): And Abram said unto Lot, Let there be no strife, I pray thee, between me and thee, and between my herdmen and thy herdmen; for we be brethren.

**Genesis 45:24** (Parallel theme): So he sent his brethren away, and they departed: and he said unto them, See that ye fall not out by the way.

**Isaiah 11:6** (Parallel theme): The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them.

**Isaiah 11:13** (Parallel theme): The envy also of Ephraim shall depart, and the adversaries of Judah shall be cut off: Ephraim shall not envy Judah, and Judah shall not vex Ephraim.