



Weekly Inspirations

By Pastor Pat Thompson

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How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity! (Psalm 133:1)

Every Mason is familiar with this text from Psalm 133. The words are among the first a candidate for the Entered Apprentice degree hears on the occasion of his initiation. This happens to be the New Revised Standard Version rendition.

About unity, Freemasonry has much to teach the world—except when we are *not* unified! Being unified does not mean that there is not a variety of passions and opinions; reasonable minds can and will differ. But unity of spirit goes to something much deeper, something much broader. It begins with common but sincere respect for others in their essential personhood. It does not demean or demonize those with whom we disagree but rather recognizes a foundational truth: *the brotherhood of man under the fatherhood of God*.

It pains me deeply when those with contrary opinions are portrayed as something akin to evil. Such an attitude dismisses the image of the divine spark within another. It trivializes the truth that the one with whom we disagree is equally a child of the One Great Architect and is deserving of the same respect as we are. It reads into motives and circumstances that may be unfounded and renders premature judgment. It is both intellectually dishonest and spiritually suspect. Only when we ourselves are the victims do we truly understand its disingenuousness.

Sowing or facilitating disunity is clearly unmasonic behavior.

The psalmist reminds us that dwelling in unity, however, is much more pleasant and productive. It begins with the premise that we are all equal in the eyes of God and encourages us to live in the harmony that God intended from the foundations of the universe.

I suspect that most of us are aware when we have failed to be unified in spirit because the condition is inherently out of sync with what we know in our hearts to be right. Masons have a special relationship with precision and perfection of design. As we keep ourselves properly circumscribed, it is impossible for us to materially err. That is why I chose to be a Mason.

Indeed, we have much to teach the rest of the world!

Faithfully and fraternally,

Pat