

Reflections on the Unity (& Diversity) of the Global and Local Church

Pastor Tyler Williams
Sunday August 3, 2025



Chimarrão Cuia

Psalm 133 – A Psalm of Ascent

How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!

²It is like precious oil poured on the head,
running down on the beard,
running down on Aaron's beard,
down on the collar of his robe.

³It is as if the dew of Hermon were falling on Mount Zion.

For there Yahweh bestows his blessing, even life forevermore!

Celebrating Unity

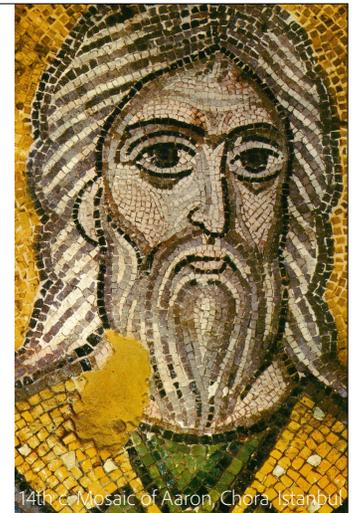
"Behold! How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!" (Ps 133:1).

- This harmony is considered to be "good" (*tov!* טוב) and "pleasant, agreeable, lovely" (*na'im* נעים).
- The praise and worship of God is also seen as good and pleasant (Ps 135:3; 147:1).

The Gift of Unity

"It is like precious oil poured on the head, running down on the beard, running down on Aaron's beard, down on the collar of his robe" (Ps 133:2).

- The oil brings to mind festive images of hospitality and the anointing of Aaron (Exodus 29:21; Leviticus 8:12).
- Oil was poured on one's head and flowed down, symbolizing that unity comes from above and goes beyond the priesthood.



14th c. Mosaic of Aaron, Chora, Istanbul

The Gift of Unity

"It is as if the dew of Hermon were *running down* on Mount Zion" (Ps 133:3a).

- In the same way the dew that falls on Mt. Hermon (including all the runoff), contributes significantly to the fertility of the region, the parallel image is the moisture from Hermon flowing down over Mount Zion.

Mt. Hermon, Israel (elevation 2813m)

Blessing Unity

"For there [Mt. Zion] Yahweh bestows his blessing, even life forevermore" (Ps 133:3b).

- God bestowed his blessing on Jerusalem/Zion when he chose it to be the site of his Temple.
- The pilgrim's journey concludes in Zion, as does the journey of the Psalms of Ascent (e.g., Psalm 134).
- Unity of the community of God itself is a blessing & gift from God.

The Gift of Unity

Our Unity is a gift of God and is found in Jesus

- Jesus is our High Priest and Redeemer (Hebrews 2:17; 4:15; 7:26).
- Jesus is greater than the temple (Matthew 12:6).

Recognizing our Unity

Extended Coffee Time!

- **Coffee** stations at the west front and the back; **Tea** at the east front
- Grab a drink and snack and perhaps talk to someone you may not recognize.
- Question: "What's the most significant thing in your walk with Christ recently?"

Reflections on the Unity (& Diversity) of the Global and Local Church, Part 2

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Unity in Diversity

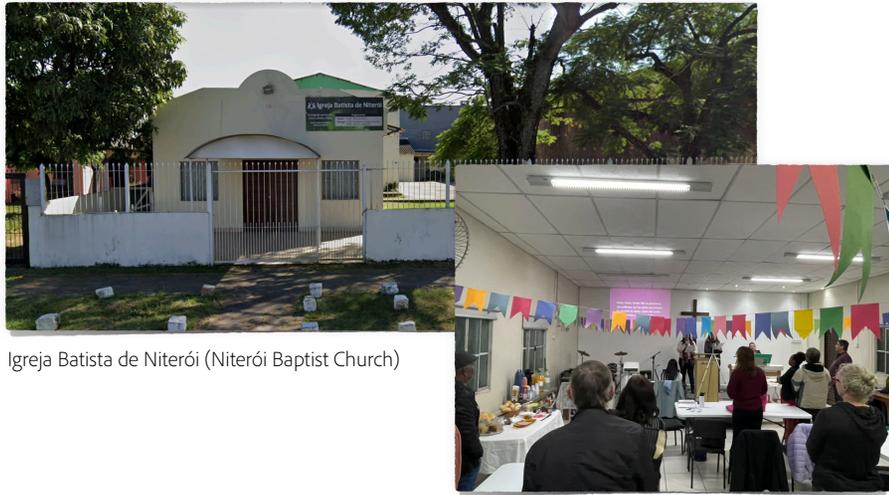
The stained glass Christ the Redeemer reflects the diversity of the church within its unity.

- Unity & Diversity of the body of Christ (Romans 12; 1Corinthians 10 & 12; Eph 4).
- The church spans different cultures worldwide, and locally different gifts and roles are expressed within the body, yet united in Christ through his death.



Cristo Redentor (Christ the Redeemer) on Corcovado Mountain overlooking Rio de Janeiro





Igreja Batista de Niterói (Niterói Baptist Church)

The Unity of the Table

A sign of our unity as the body of Christ.

“I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me” (John 17:20b-21).



The Unity of the Table

The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, ²⁴and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.” ²⁵In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.” ²⁶For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes (1Corinthians 11:23-26).

The Unity of the Table

Let's celebrate the unity we have in Christ and remember together Jesus' sacrifice on our behalf

