



Life Group Sermon Study Notes

“Unite Nashville – Is it Possible?”

Pastor Jim Laffoon – August 2, 2020

Warm Up (10-15 minutes)

Choose a question below to answer or ask another. No right or wrong answers.

- What is your favorite food of an ethnicity different than yours?
- Share the first time you experienced bias or discrimination, whether you were on the giving or receiving end.

Word (10-15 minutes)

Sermons can be heard online at www.bethelworld.org

Psalm 133:1 ¹“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brothers to dwell together in unity! ²It is like the precious oil upon the head, Coming down upon the beard, Even Aaron's beard, Coming down upon the edge of his robes. ³It is like the dew of Hermon Coming down upon the mountains of Zion; For there the LORD commanded the blessing--life forever.”

This song by David exclaims the benefits of a united spiritual family. Love and friendship is good in itself, but then, this same goodness extends to the world around us. This verse tells us that God releases an anointing, like precious oil, which gives power, because of our unity and relationship with God and each other, to influence the world. Bethel can exemplify love.

Our first birth distinguishes us by ethnicity, gender, etc. and our second birth, when we accepted Christ as our Lord, brought us into a family of all Believers, in our local church and around the globe.

The early church is idealized as if they naturally lived right, without contention or wrong thoughts toward others. However, we see in the Epistles where early Christians were addressed for division existing between brothers, including the Jews and Gentiles, the rich and poor, and one nation over another.

Our Creator’s plan from the start was for us to be in relationship with Him, with others and with all of creation. Pursuing a life in that design then, provides a foretaste of the kingdom to come.

Things We are Called to Do:

Investigation - Let us examine our hearts, identifying and healing any conscious or unconscious bias toward gender, ethnicity, religion, political affiliation, and anything that separates persons. Unity begins within.

Study and learn about others to understand them better, educating ourselves in the differences and commonalities, their history, and culture. Be interested.

Inspiration – The body of Christ must be filled with the Holy Spirit. Cry out for God to fill us (Acts 2:4-6).

Identity – God wants our highest point of identity to be who we are in Christ, not only as individuals, but with all brothers as one in Christ Jesus. This means we recognize our ethnicities and differences, but we rise up to our new birth in Christ.

Intercession – Pray, and never underestimate its power; it is the effective means to fight spiritual battles (Ephesians 6:12). We look up to God in whatever state we are in and cry out for the Holy Spirit to fill us (Acts 2:4-6).

Pastor Laffoon called, “Bethel Family, this is your hour. Whatever your first birth, rise above your pain, stay filled in the Holy Spirit, pray, never losing sight of our calling. Join me on the journey of a lifetime.”

Discussion (10-15 minutes)

Choose one of the points below and discuss how the lesson applies to our lives.

- In light of God’s plan for all of humanity to live in harmony with each other, what would Jesus do in response to racial discrimination in America today?
- What are the implications to us if we “own the world we created”?

Prayer (10-15 minutes)

Pray for any of the following, as well as other requests you may have.

- Thank Jesus for the richness and beauty diverse relationships bring to our life.
- Pray that we, as a united Bethel family, are anointed to greatly impact our city, nation and world with the love of Christ Jesus.
- Pray for the Holy Spirit to fill us daily.