

Announcements:

- EVC is sponsoring a table at the Heritage Home Banquet and we have purchased 10 seats for people wishing to attend. The dinner is being held on the evening of September 22nd. If you or people in your group desire to attend please contact me. Tickets are already paid for and will be assigned on a first come first serve basis.
- Reminder: 9/23 Leadership Day Retreat. Please begin to inform me through email if you can or cannot attend. It will be a Spirit filled awesome day at a Manresa beach house and it is free to you as leaders. I think we can have coffee, juice, and morning refreshments by 10:00AM and begin promptly at 10:30AM. Break for lunch and some built-in time on the beach in the middle of the day. We will conclude about 5:00PM and those that want to hang out can join us for some praise and fellowship on the beach (around the fire if it is cold). We will have lunch brought over for the day so I will need a head count. Anyone that wants to volunteer to assist me in coordinating food and drinks, I would welcome the help that day.

Psalm 133 - The Blessing of Unity

1. What do you understand it to mean in Psalm 133, verse 1; "live together in unity"?

- Let people share what unity in Christ is all about. It is far more than getting along, being friends, or even depending upon one another. It is a joint sense of belonging. It is a oneness in purpose and calling. A feeling that we all belong to God and are responsible to care for one another and minister together. It is the same God, Son and Spirit in each of us.

The idea of God's children living in unity and harmony with one another seems to be a clear biblical message both in this Psalm and throughout the Bible. This week meditate upon these scriptures: Ephesians 4:1-6, 1 Peter 3:8-9, Colossians 3:12-17,

- These are powerful verses that teach us that we are called into a life of humbleness, gentleness, patience, love, unity, peace, hope, harmony, compassion, sympathy, kindness, forgiveness, thankfulness, teaching and admonishing with wisdom and gratitude and giving thanks and glory to God.

2. What other bible verses come to mind that have convinced and encouraged you that living in unity with one another is God's plan?

- Let individuals share the word of God with one another. Be prepared to share the word the Lord has given to you.

3. How has being in unity with a small group of brothers and sisters been good and pleasant?

- Answers will vary. Share how it has helped you and use it to encourage one another and spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Hebrews 10:23-25

4. What are the blessings that have been brought into your life through brothers and sisters in Christ?

- Use this as a time to praise God for what He has done and is doing in the lives of your small group members.

5. How can you help others begin discover the "sweet smell" of living in unity with brothers and sisters in a small group?

- Discuss how you as individuals and as a group can encourage other people to join a small group. Most people will respond better to a personal and real invitation to join a group far better than any flyer or announcement will draw them.

Please spend some time praying this week as a group that God would draw His children into unity through a small group. We believe everyone should get connected in a small group and experience unity in Christ. Pray also that men at EVC will step up to the calling to form and lead a small group this fall.