



Preacher : Peter Hamlett
Title Welcoming In His Presence
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Key Scripture

Notes

Final message in Welcoming His Presence series and summing up of that series

UNITY or as NLT puts it in Psalm 133
HARMONY

If music be the food of love, play on, give me excess of it

Sometime composers don't hear the music that they have written for many years

Do you know a master **composer**?

Surely! He's waiting to hear the music He has scored as He intends it full of glorious harmony

This word 'harmony' used in NLT and some other translations so much richer than 'unity' even though most versions use that translation.

Unison – all singing or playing the same tune - sometimes produces very good effect a but Harmony - blending musical lines together produces something far richer and more satisfying. Harmony gives depth and meaning to music

Psalm 133, altogether so sensory:-

- Scent – the sweet perfume
- Touch – the refreshing dew (very source of Jordan refreshing the bustling noisy city of Jerusalem)
- And of course sound - that the composer is waiting to hear

Some of the lessons I have learned about music making:-

- An expert musical director is able to get the best out of the best players or singers; and is capable of inspiring more ordinary players to produce something extra ordinary. Playing

Personal Response

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- alongside experts can achieve that too.
- Instruments have their distinctive voices (cf Paul 1 Corinthians 14 re spiritual gifts).
- Players need to listen to each other, to play their appointed part (except in jazz improvisation, ad lib - exception not rule!)
- Soloists have their place but God's scoring is more often than we sometimes realise for the full orchestra.
- Occasional discord (resolved) can add to the music's impact and effect

All of that we can apply to our life as the people of God as the ultimate Great Creator enables us to produce the life music which He delights to hear -

- Holy Spirit our MD; always look to Him and be responsive to His direction
- Gifted people should impart to one another
- We all have our appointed part to play – ALL are of essential importance
- We should always have regard and respect for one another in all the diversity of our character, gifting and ability. The result will be in so much more than sum of the parts
- We mustn't be a jazz band: keep to the score!
- We should appreciate the soloists but neither we nor they should regard them as any more important in God's eyes than we are. All of us are God's favourites!
- If there is that occasional discord: be peacemakers: ['children of God'] and for that matter, if you play a wrong note, learn by the mistake, then move on!

Harmony as God led David to sing about it must be heard in the total expression of our life together, just as our worship is a life thing and not just an occasional expression thing.

There are other analogies we can use to describe God's nature and character. Whatever analogy we understand best we need the Word of God, by which to live, to enable us more fully to enter into His purposes, to see the fulfilment of His Word as declared over our lives and the corporate life of His people here. Which leads us to another even more telling analogy

Jesus calls us His Bride to be and meanwhile to be His Body. In so many ways He seeks to get us to realise how important harmonic unity is in the church as it is within our physical bodies

God wants us to be united with Him; to partner with Him under the direction of Holy Spirit and to partner too with all others who are part of the true church with all its different expressions; each of us producing sweet aroma, refreshment and beautiful music to delight Him and captivate others. Jesus sees His Church as ONE in spite of many thousands of denominations and non-denominational churches, worldwide

King Saul: 'Bring me a man who can play well'

King Jesus: 'Be for me a people who play in the most beautiful harmony'

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Summing up the series of messages: what makes us attractive to God so that He loves to make His presence known amongst us?

True worship

- Far more than our Sunday come to Church Praise and Worship
- It's all about living a life of worship; acknowledging in all we do His worthiness
- Seeking to reflect his image, His character; His likeness.
- Worshipping him as Jesus said 'in spirit and in truth'

Prayer: much more than most of us have imagined:-

- In the Boardroom of Heaven
- In relationship with Almighty God
- Not just getting needs met
- Listening to Him more than we speak to Him
- Participating in the outworking of God's purposes
- Enabling us to go out and be His representatives, exercising His delegated authority

Purity: Jesus promises that when we are pure in heart we will see God! Purity in:-

- Conduct
- Speech
- Motivation
- Worship and service

When anything we do in the Name of Jesus is motivated by anything other than love for Him, we become a bunch of spiritual schizophrenics. Lifestyle contradicts message. And those who see us laugh at our claim to be disciples of Jesus. Which of course brings us to:-

Love

- The kind of agape love which is impossible of ourselves but wonderfully possible by the power of Holy Spirit. Practical, emotional, *spiritual*. Very much including, the call of Jesus to love the church – each other – as he does. This is my commandment that you love one another!
- God's love for us is a *Reckless love* (Cory Asbury song)
- 1 Corinthians 13 makes clear the vital necessity of love.
- Remember John Gaughan's song? Love is the key; but God provides a whole bunch of keys for our use all of which are of essential importance. At the end of Ephesians, we read of love with :-

Faith

- Represents the title deeds of eternity to which we are already entitled
- Comes by what? *Hearing* and hearing by what? *Word of God, in prophecy, in still*

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- *small voice to us personally yes but above all the written Word*
- Without which it's impossible to do what?
Please God
- Without what is dead? *Works: to evidence faith in action*

Faith:-

- Makes the Invisible into the visible
- Makes our natural sight and our natural mindset become supernatural
- But also makes a demand on us that we work at it; that we make our response to God's promises; listen to His voice. Although it's a gift of God it calls on us to awaken to the resources of Heaven and bring them into our world today
- Must have an objective: faith for *something*
- Operates best hand in hand with patience, as well as love

Unity

Philippians 2:1-2: Unity that is not just with one another but with Jesus Himself. All who are 'in Christ' are also intimately connected to one another; the life of Christ is at work in them.

God is looking for a people who evidence and demonstrate:-

- True worship
- Reality in prayer
- Integrity, purity in all that we are and consequently in all that we do
- Expectation and confidence in faith
- Love in everything
- Unity in Him, in harmony with one another and all God's people

Why do we seek to welcome – or host – His presence?

- Because: It's in our DNA; made in His image and likeness
- But so what? So that:-
 - + We may become so full of Him that it's natural for us to carry evidence of God's presence with us

- + We may receive power as people on Earth to live as Citizens of Heaven demonstrating that we have the answer to any and every problem, difficulty, conflict, sorrow and pain, participating in: God's Kingdom coming on Earth as in Heaven
- + Worship, prayer; purity; love; faith; unity all become present realities

Are we:-

- Determined - by faith - to release the aroma of worship, purity and love?
- Committed – with faith – to pray in the Spirit and with understanding?
- Ready - in faith - to raise the bar
- Willing not only to sing but to live out this declaration?

*We the redeemed shall be strong in purpose and unity declaring aloud: praise and glory, wisdom and thanks; honour and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever
... amen!*

Meditate on:

Act on: