

DROPPING YOUR GUARD: THE VALUE OF OPEN RELATIONSHIPS

UNITED AND INVINCIBLE
JOSHUA 1; 6; 8; 10; JOHN 17:20–23



The Heart of the Matter

The psalmist wrote a chorus of worship that emphasizes the benefits believers experience when they are united in their fellowship. The opening lines read:

*How good and pleasant it is
when brothers live together in unity!
It is like precious oil poured on the head.
(Psalm 133:1–2 NIV)*

We are discovering the truth of that in this series on congregational relationships. Being together in unity is indeed good, “like precious oil,” as David put it in his psalm. Not just being together, but being together *in unity*. As we shall learn from the ancient account in Joshua, when God is in the midst of His unified people, they are invincible.



Discovering the Way

1. Some Things to Remember (John 17:20–23; 1 John 3:14)

To be assimilated as a believer is to be absorbed in the life of the unified body. Unity requires closing ranks and minimizing our differences so there can be deeper involvement. Involvement means adjusting our lives so we can be participants, not spectators.

2. New Territory to Conquer (Joshua 1:16–18; 6:2–20; 8:3–8; 10:9–13; 1 John 3:16)

God’s people rallied fearlessly around their leader and their Lord. They accepted a new and unusual strategy without resistance. They worked as a team to accomplish an objective without jealousy. They trusted God to assist them and didn’t doubt.



Starting Your Journey

The pursuit of unity is hard work, but it’s worth it. The place of humility is of highest importance, but it’s rarely seen.



Tools for Digging Deeper



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The Value of Open
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