



*In*

# Unison

The trumpeters and singers joined in unison, as with one voice, to give praise and thanks to the Lord.  
2 Chronicles 5:13

## With One Voice

### Who is to sing

After itemizing every created thing, including the sun and moon, fire and hail, snow and clouds, the Psalmist concludes his list with

...kings of the earth and all nations, you princes and all rulers on earth, young men and maidens, old men and children. Psalm 148:11-12

Who is to sing? No one is excepted; every person on this earth is to be praising the Lord.

### To whom do we sing

The second point is answered by the first three words of the Psalm

Praise the Lord! 148:1a

Can we emphasize that too much, or too often? In this world of mind-numbing distractions and false truth, can we hear too many reminders that it is the Lord who is to be the sole object of our praise and worship?

When the choir members arrive for practice, when they troop in on a Sunday morning, when musicals are staged and rehearsed and performed—the desire of every heart should be for the Lord. Every intent, the focus of every thought should be on the Lord.

### Why do we sing

Let them praise the name of the Lord, For His name alone is exalted; His glory is above the earth and heaven. 148:13 nkjv

Why? Because only the Lord's name is exalted—literally, “set on high”; it is only His glory that stands above earth and heaven.

With one voice.

We build unity and strength by joining our voices as one, in praise of the One, the mighty God of heaven, the only one worthy of our praise.

*In unison.*

*People who share the same focus will always sing in unison.*

Individuals become a family by having something in common. In the case of human relation, it is the blood flowing through their veins that binds them together. In the case of the family of God, however, the binding is accomplished by the blood flowing out of the veins of Christ.

A person may be drawn to participating in a choir by a love of singing—but it is that man or woman's love for Christ that will keep the song in their heart.

How do we sing in unison?

Singing in unison, as we use it here, does not mean everyone singing the same note, but that we all agree on three important points—illustrated by Psalm 148.



“If the presence of God is made known in our worship, if His living Presence truly saturates the proceedings, then not only will there be the reverence and order that characterize the holy God of an ordered creation, but a sense of the unexpected that reflects His endless creativity as He moulds and fashions our lives together.”  
Graham Kendrick, *Learning to Worship as a Way of Life*, (Bethany House, 1985).



Another passage that speaks to the idea of *who, to whom and why*, is found in Psalm 103:

Praise the LORD, O my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name.  
Praise the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits—  
Psalm 103:1-2

### Who

Where Psalm 148 speaks of every person praising the Lord, this Psalm speaks of every *part* of this person praising Him. What does this mean to me? That we are to truly mean it.

### To Whom

Of course: The Lord. All praise is to be upwardly focused.

### Why

Just look at all the blessings (benefits) He has showered into our lives! He blesses us—so we should bless Him. What better reason! And then this Psalm goes on to list some of those benefits.

who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion, who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.  
Psalm 103:3-5

### Koinonia

What we are really talking about, when we speak of believers singing in unison, is true fellowship: *koinonia*.

There is a mental picture that illustrates this relationship well—the relationship we have with each other because of the relationship we each share with Christ. The image takes the form of a pyramid.

At the point of the pyramid is God sitting on His throne. Forming the body of the pyramid are people knelt in worship. Now, notice the people: Near the base of the pyramid, where there is a broad expanse, the people are all doing the same thing—worshipping their God—but there is space between them. They aren't touching each other. But as they all draw closer to God, they are

drawn inexorably closer to each other, as the pyramid narrows toward the capstone, until their shoulders are rubbing and their bodies compacted against each other.

The closer we get to God—in worship, in study, in prayer—the closer we will be to His people who are doing the same. And *that* is true fellowship.

### Unity

Regarding the idea of unity, a couple of good references are:

“Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them.” Matthew 18:19-20

I appeal to you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another so that there may be no divisions among you and that you may be perfectly united in mind and thought.  
1 Corinthians 1:10

“The impulse to pursue God originates with God, but the outworking of that impulse is our following hard after Him. God is a person and, as such, can be cultivated as any person can. It is inherent in personality to be able to know other personalities, but full knowledge of one personality by another cannot be achieved in one encounter. It is only after long and loving mental intercourse that the full possibilities of both can be explored. Being made in [God's] image we have within us the capacity to know Him.” A.W. Tozer, *The Pursuit of God* (Christian Publications, 1982).

## Scripture

A song of ascents. Of David.  
How good and pleasant it is  
when brothers live together in unity!  
It is like precious oil poured on the head,  
running down on the beard,  
running down on Aaron's beard,  
down upon the collar of his robes.  
It is as if the dew of Hermon  
were falling on Mount Zion.  
For there the LORD bestows his blessing,  
even life forevermore. Psalm 133:1-3

Listen! Your watchmen lift up their voices;  
together they shout for joy.  
When the LORD returns to Zion,  
they will see it with their own eyes.  
Burst into songs of joy together,  
you ruins of Jerusalem,  
for the LORD has comforted his people,  
he has redeemed Jerusalem.  
The LORD will lay bare his holy arm  
in the sight of all the nations,  
and all the ends of the earth will see  
the salvation of our God. Isaiah 52:8-10

As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge  
you to live a life worthy of the calling  
you have received. Be completely  
humble and gentle; be patient, bear-  
ing with one another in love. Make  
every effort to keep the unity of the

May the God who gives endurance  
and encouragement give you a spirit  
of unity among yourselves as you fol-  
low Christ Jesus, so that with one  
heart and mouth you may glorify the  
God and Father of our Lord Jesus  
Christ. Romans 15:5-6

“Worship is not an unexpressed feeling, nor is it an empty formality. True worship is balanced and involves the mind, the emotions, and the will. It must be intelligent; it must reach deep within and be motivated by love; and it must lead to obedient actions that glorify God... Worship is personal and passionate, not formal and cold; and it is our response to the living God, voluntarily offered to Him as He has offered Himself to us.” Warren W. Wiersbe, *Real Worship* (Thomas Nelson, 1986).

Spirit through the bond of peace.  
There is one body and one Spirit—  
just as you were called to one hope  
when you were called—one Lord, one  
faith, one baptism; one God and Fa-  
ther of all, who is over all and through  
all and in all. Ephesians 4:1-6

## Hymns and Choruses

We are God's People (Leech)

Our God Has Made Us One (Borop)

Brethren, We Have Met to Worship  
(Atkins)

(We Are One in) The Bond of Love  
(Skillings)

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# In Unison

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