

'poplar trees..'

*I will pour out My Spirit on your offspring and My blessing on your descendants.
They will spring up like grass in a meadow, like poplar trees by flowing streams*

Acts 20
v.17-38

- **dwelling together in unity**
[Psalm 133]

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The popular concept of unity is a fantasy-land where disagreements never surface and contrary opinions are never stated with force. We expect disagreement, forceful disagreement. So instead of unity, we use the word community.

The mark of community - true biblical unity - is not the absence of conflict. It's the presence of a reconciling spirit.

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- **dwelling together in unity**
[Psalm 133]
- **each believer plays a part**
[1 Corinthians 12]

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the eldership

- **elders** (v.17) [spiritual maturity]
- **overseers** (v.28) [pastoral authority]
- **shepherds** (v.28) [relational integrity]

Acts 20
v.17-38

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the role of elders

- **the flock**
 - God's church
 - sheep
- **the ministry**
 - Col.1.28f
 - Paul's ministry in Ephesus

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the appointment of elders

Acts 20
v.17-38

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