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And we're coming to. Uh, we're still considering. Our care for one another. And we've we considered last week how the care for one another comes from A. A shaping of our hearts, in which we learn to love god with all our heart, soul, mind and strength. And so, rather than having a view of the world where i am the center of the universe, Uh, which comes Uh, which happened to us in Adam.

And none of us had to teach our kids that Uh, you just your mind boggles that anyone who wants to argue against original sin, if they've had children, Um, But, But that's one of the first wonderful things you learned children from your parents, isn't it? That you are not God.

There is a god, he is not you and you live in his world and who belong to him and you live for him and he gave christ for you because you don't live for him. And, And all of these wonderful things, but how that? Love then. For god, that that selflessness that comes first as god's creature made for him.

Expresses itself, especially then, to our brethren who are joined to him, and even to our neighbors, Uh, and even Even to our enemies. Uh, well we start to think especially of officers in these last three passages. Then If you see the on your outline there, first Corinthians 12, 28 through 31.

Uh ephesians 4 12 in its context and we'll take a little bit more context in first Corinthians 12 as well. And then in galatians. Uh, six through 10 as well. There's this, there's this wonderful Um, Portion of first corinthians 12. That is really so necessary. For those who are either tempted to feel themselves, outsiders, To the body of christ, although they are believers.

Let's say it that way for believers. You feel themselves outsiders to the body of christ, and then for believers, Uh, who are tempted to view others? Uh, other believers as outsiders in the body of christ. And you have this. If the foot should say, Uh, because i'm not a hand, i'm not of the body or the ears should say it verse 16.

The. The point is that, The body is made up of many members, and god is the one who made you different than everyone else in the body. Or than others in the body. And Verse 18 is essential. To the view of this entire thing, especially when we get to officers and not officers, There's this idea and you can even hear it to some extent.

If you observe some of the floor discussion at our general senate, there's this idea that if you're not an officer, then you, then you are somehow under a preciated or underutilized in the body. Uh, you know, and so, if the non-officer should say, because i am not an officer, i'm not a part of the body.

Is he? Therefore, or not a part, or is she To pertain to that particular discussion is she therefore not a part of the of course not. Uh, God verse 18 has set the members. Each one of them in the body just as he is pleased. And so, if you're having this discussion about who should be ordained to what office, the only real question is Whom has god been pleased.

To ordain to those offices. Uh, but if you If you feel like you're kind of an outsiderate church, maybe you're in a different season of life than other people, uh, that are in the church or you have different interests or abilities. In, in earthly things. The question is, Has god been pleased to put me in that body.

And then we submit to his authority and we trust his wisdom. We delight in and defend upon his work. And a big part of that work. Is. Is treasuring one another As led by the officers that he has given us, to help us to treasure one another So verse 18.

Back to first corinthians 12 here, god has set to members each one of them in the body just as he fleet please. If they were all one member, where would the body be? But now indeed there are many members yet, one body. And then it goes the other way.

Uh, you can't think of the others in the church. I have no need of them. This is one of the reasons why it's a great grief. Uh, when someone Decides that they don't feel. Uh, so close to a congregation anymore and they start to pull away. You know, they're making the verses 14 and 15 error It would be an error for those who are in the congregation and say, You know.

They really were kind of outsiders anyway. They didn't contribute much didn't really have a lot of fellowship. Uh, no big deal. Uh, you know, there are a lot of congregations, you can be a part of Uh, so Yeah, fairly well. Uh well uh we'll see you later. No. Uh, if god has been pleased to put us together, we should feel the pain.

Of other members pulling away and we need to we need to receive the instruction of of the holy spirit. If if we're not feeling that pain, the eye cannot say to the hand. I have no need of you or the head of the feet. I have no need of you.

Why? Ultimately, because of verse 18, Because god, Is the one he has set the members, each one of them in the body. Just as he pleased. He says, no rather those members of the body, which seem to be weaker our necessary. Again, why are they necessary? Well, because god Decided to make them necessary and even Gave us physical bodies.

Uh, vet communicate this to us sometimes in painful ways. I don't know if you have ever gotten like a bed post on either your big toe or your pinky toe, trying to get around the corner of the bed in the middle of the night and you're being real quiet because, you know, your wife has eight children and she hadn't slept and 20 years.

And, Uh, And there is Yeah. It's a it becomes an exponentially greater challenge as soon as i think you tote which did not seem to be a very important part of the body until three seconds ago. All right, and then there are Uh, there are the parts of the body.

That are less honorable, but even those, we pay very great attention to How we? How we cover them, how we are modest. About. And so unpresentable parts have greater modesty verse 23. Presentable parts have no need. Yeah, i yeah. I never have one of those uh, crazy dreams in which Uh, Uh, you know, if i Which i don't remember the last time i dreamed that i Got into the pulpit.

And i was still in my pajamas and i somehow had not remembered the shirt in the tie and all that. Um, But in those dreams, i was never afraid. That somebody might see my nose. When i'm When i'm in the pulpit. Was always as. Those bear arms or whatever.

Are presentable parts have no need god, composed the body, having given greater honor to the part, which lacks it that there should be no schism in the body. But that's division. Where

these are the these are the parts of the body of Of a congregation that are the Um, they're really important ones.

And these are the parts that aren't that important. There's nothing on your bodies. There you have. No body parts that are unimportant. And, Yeah, as soon as you start thinking about that, Uh, just Imagine having them cut off. And, Aaron nails. Don't count. Um, If one member suffers all the members suffer with it, Our phone member is honored all the members rejoice with it.

Now, here we go. Uh, you are the body of christ and members individually. So we want to build up. In the congregation, this mutual sympathy of if the one suffers all suffer with it. If the one is honored, all our honored with it, rejoicing in one another's. Joists mourning in one another's, griefs.

Bearing one another's burdens that we have this wonderful shared life. That the whole rest of the world knows they need knows, they lack, and have no idea. How to do it in a healthy way. And here it is in the body of christ. If the body of christ, Is healthy.

And so this is where church officers come in. One of the great things for which god has given his church officers, both to oversee ministry. In the means of grace and words, sacrament and prayer, primarily and to oversee ministry in bearing. One another's burdens. And participating in one another's, griefs and difficulties.

This is one of the great reasons that christ has given god has given here. It's God, who has mentioned in Ephesians 4. Its Christ is mentioned as having done that. Why is that children? Why is doesn't mention Christ as doing it in the one place and god as the one who's doing it in this place.

Because jesus is, God right. And so, God has appointed these in the church. Apostles, prophets teachers. And then you have miracles and healings, Which was very important, both for apostles. And for teachers until the new testament is written. Because you remember, As hebrews says, and other places say, That god attested to the authenticity of his word by the the miracles and the healings that were done.

And also tongues at the end of verse, 28 there. So you have apostles prophets teachers, those who are Uh, devoting themselves to prayer and the ministry of the word in the shepherding ministry. In the means of grace. You remember how this began with just the apostles? But in order that the apostles could devote themselves just about what happened in x6.

There was ordained another set of officers. And the disease other officers that are mentioned next in verse 28. Gifts. Gifts of helps. End of administration. They're not the ones now who do all the serving in the church, but they are the ones who facilitate all the service of the church.

This was not written so that somebody in the 70s could invent spiritual gift inventory, And you go down the list and you mark it. And if you're in a charismatic church, everybody's barking healings and tongues, you know, I believe god for this spiritual gift. What a blasphemous way of talking and they don't even realize it, don't despise them for it, they will despise themselves.

Uh, for it. But And thank god for his grace and patience within you be gracious and patient with them too. Okay, this is not designed for spiritual gift inventories. I have the gift of help. I have the gift of administration's. Uh, he's talking specifically now. About church officers. Who are appointed or ordained.

Uh, in the church for helping. The church function in the healthy way that he's aiming at in appreciating passage. And then he And then he asks the questions. There and he says, love is.

Is the more excellent way. And so, there are those. Uh, whom he has called to help and administer in the body's service to one another.

All of you are called to the ministry of service. In that use of the, of the word that sometimes gets translated deacon Um, All of you. Are called to deacon, serve One another. Uh, but there are particular ones who are appointed in the church for the purpose of helping that ministry, for the purpose of administrating, that ministry, or to use the language of the apostles.

And next chapter 6, those who we will set over this business. And, you know, If you think, That it's necessary. That women be set over the business. Because women. Are going to be on the receiving end of it. Remember that the first diagonal need, the one that initiated the organization of the deaconate was actually the service of widows.

And it was in that in that specific place. That they required men, why? Because it's god. Who does the appointing? And god gave as officers, god gave us those who were over. Uh over the business of the body, treating one another as honorable and having this shared life together, Um, God.

Appointed deacons. For that. Well, you have something similar although the deacons themselves are not mentioned. The diagonal service of the church to one another. Uh, does appear as A consequence of the ministry of The pastor teachers. And that's why we put Ephesians 4 here after first corinthians 12, So that you can see that in a similar context where the holy spirit is teaching us about a similar thing.

We ought to we ought to remember that there are officers appointed For help and administration. For the work that we are equipped. Equipped for, According to verse 12, And here, but to each one of us grace was given, this is ephesians 4:7 grace was given according to the measure of price gift, therefore, he says, when he ascended on high, he led captivity captive and gave gifts to men.

Now, this he ascended, what does it mean? But that he also first descended into lower parts of the earth. Now, this is always. Worth remembering. Who knows where that phrase lower parts of the earth comes from? But psalm,

Uh, well actually it might not be translated that way and during those Bibles You could, you could check for me in. But it's actually from psalm 139 And what it's describing there is jesus descending into the womb. Uh, being formed in the lower parts. Of the earth. Anyway, so this is christ.

Here, verse verse 9, he who descended is also the one who asked ended far above all the heavens that he might fill all things. And he himself, gave some to be. Okay, very high view. Of ordination in the church. This is one of the reasons why You know, i'm thankful for getting a new study committee because the other one didn't study anything.

Uh, but i'm hopeful. That this study committee is going to study the doctrine of ordination. Because in the doctrine of ordination we see that it is god. Who appointed verse first corinthians 12? It is christ himself, who gave some to be Ephesians verse 4. This is why there's a laying on of ants.

Because the ordination the appointment does not come. From those who are on the earth. It comes first and foremost in the greatest way from god himself. This is a good reason for you to be praying. Uh, for those among you. Uh who are going to be called and recognized and installed to the deaconate at Hopewell.

Because although God uses those earthly means and procedure. And we looked at that procedure in act 6. It is god. It is christ. Who appoints and gives them. Uh, to their office. So, ordination is actually a very important doctrine And he himself, gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists some pastors and teachers four, the equipping of the saints to work as deacons Now, i know it doesn't say that and probably any of your English translations.

But the word ministry, there is the same word. Because one of the great ways in which we show the transformation that christ has produced. And those who he says, is, by the way, we serve one another in the rest of our life on earth together. So, one of the great purposes of the ministry of the elders, the pastor teachers in the word in the sacraments in prayer.

In the, in the spiritual shepherding is said that we will do the earthly service. To one another, not just earthly service, but also Uh, we have great fellowship and spiritual services as well as you going to see in. In the rest of the passage. But it this word definitely covers ministering to one another in earthly need.

Now. Maybe the lord in his providential wisdom and mercy is bringing us into a season where we will have a lot more earthly need in our churches. I think one of the reasons why we're so messed up. Well. One of the many providential factors that has contributed to our being.

So, messed up on the office of the beaonet. Is we have not been needy For a long time. In our american churches generally speaking. And so, What the deaconate does. Uh, has kind of gotten fuzzy and obscured and If the lord. In mercy not that he wouldn't be not that he wouldn't be merciful to to grant this country uh revival and restoration so that we don't Destroy ourselves as we seem.

Literally hell bent on doing. Uh, That would be merciful but if the lord's mercy, instead. Is that suddenly christians? And very specifically christians, because we are those who can't get jobs and aren't allowed to buy and sell. And all those things that may be coming. If we're suddenly needy, Well.

One of the ways, we will bless God for that is for the reformation and restoration. We hope by his grace of the deaconate. And of believers diagonal service to one another. Yeah, what a sweet thing, it will be when we're really scraping. Each of us for the next meal.

For us to pull our resources and get those meals together. And when one comes into some to share with all, and then when it's another's turned that that they would share too. So We should be doing that already spiritually. We're very spiritually needed. You we don't have to wait for the, you know, for the economic Uh, stress to come.

All we need to do is know ourselves rightly before god, and we'll know our spiritual neediness and we can have this fellowship of serving one another. This work of ministry in verse 12 already, For the equipping of the saints, for the work of ministry. For the edifying of the body of christ, and then He talks, especially about our ministry to one another for the building up of the body in love, which comes from truth.

Not from fuzzy imprecise, theology. That can be blown about by Uh, by every wind and tossed about by every wave. That does not produce the love which builds up into christ. It produces. Caricatures. And And and sickly full of corruption forms. Forms of love things that even the world would call love.

Uh, the world does not think a very loving to grow in adherence to the exclusive clays of king jesus. Upon us and the exclusive claims of savior jesus for saving us. Uh, but we will. If our

doctrine. Remains true and that's, that's the ministry. Of the elders and the ongoing part versus 13 through 16.

We won't take the time to cover that now. Wow, the time. But, But i did want you to see that verse 12 there. Equipping. The saints for the work of ministry, we're all called to be deacons. In that sense, we're all called to be not ordained over the diagonal service of the church, but definitely in listed as workers in.

The diagonal service of the church. And that's one of the reasons. Why our lord jesus? When he ascended it to heaven as he's filling heaven? Gives on earth particular, men, whom he is ordained. To oversee. In this case ministry in the means of grace shepherding teaching. But first corinthians 12, Helping administration.

As well.

More time, i take to decide whether i really do want to push through your glyson 66 through 10. Um,

You know what? And and we can, if we take more of the context, we could take a class for it by itself. Let's stop there for today. Let's pray. Excuse me. Our father in heaven. Again, we pray for the brewer family, and our dear brother jonathan. Um, We pray.

Lord that That you would spare that you would heal that, you would get strength. And that you would give wisdom and skill and whatever is not else is necessary. Unto those ends. How we thank you, our god for the perfect wisdom in which you have arranged your body on earth, help us O Lord.

To have mines, conformed of the spirit minds can formed to christ both by how we see our own participation in the body, and by how we value others. And especially those who seem Weakest, or least necessary. And we pray that this would be a congregation that reflects Uh, what you have taught us?

That we would be not. Here is only but doers also Now bless us. Oh lord. As we come Prepare our hearts and minds, as we come unto the public worship. For, we ask it in jesus name. Amen.