

1Corinthians 18-08-19a

Good morning, welcome to the Sunday morning services at Grace and Truth Bible Church. It is Soggy outside, but it's warm and dry inside our internet connection came back. So we're Ready to proceed with our usual Sunday morning Worship and fellowship.

It's great to see everyone here and to not see everyone who's not here and yet know that you're there and We're Be picking up this morning our study in 1st Corinthians chapter 12 looking at the issue of gifts As they were understood and practiced gifts of the Holy Spirit in the Corinthian Church It is a wonderful passage for us, even though the temporary gifts have ceased The principles that guided their operation and function apply to our operation and function and It's a wonderful thing to be able to have a safe set of illustrations that none of us are directly speaking in tongues or interpreting them or We don't have to worry too much about women praying with their heads covered or uncovered and so on Yeah, I think God did a wonderful thing in Creating Content in his word that We can easily access and yet it isn't awkward or embarrassing to look at and to say Well, are you talking about me? Are you am I not doing my tongues right or is my head not wearing the right hat or whatever? especially in a smaller group, you know, sometimes I Worry and I'm sure many other pastors of small groups worry that when you're covering a particular Section of Scripture you're preaching at someone or you see you have someone in mind and it's just a thinly veiled finger-wagging session and the great feature of a section like this is Nobody can take it personally that we don't have these Issues and yet we should all take it personally when it comes to the timeless principle that is involved Timeless in the sense that it's it's throughout our age. And so we're going to be watching for those Guiding truths and those characteristics that should be a part of our function both as we Minister to and seek to be a blessing to one another and to those who are outside Well, let's take a moment to ask God's blessing on our worship our fellowship our instruction and our eventual witness, that's the You may recognize that it's an acronym you pick up in seminary that the It's an Ephesians 4 thing, but the functions of the church are loosely Summarized under the acronym wife Wifee You know church is thought to be the Bride of Christ It's interesting to me the Bible never actually says that comes very close in Ephesians Husbands love your wives as Christ loved the church gave himself for it, but it doesn't ever say There's no specific statement that the church is the Bride of Christ. So after long years of just Sort of mindlessly repeating that you may have noticed in recent Months or last couple of years since I figured that out I've stopped saying that I've said we are his body and we are his presence and a lot of other things But I've stopped saying the church is the Bride of Christ just because the Bible never explicitly says that however wife wife worship instruction fellowship and E is evangelism in the seminary's mode, but this is our witness our what effect do we have? What do we look like to the world and that's a valid concept when you say evangelism? it sounds like we need to be out there with a Bat in one hand and a Bible in the other trying to drag people into the kingdom, but it's more It are we visible? Are we present? Are we shining a light that draws people to the Father through Christ? So our worship our instruction our fellowship and our Our evangelism in the sense of our Visible presence in the world and what

what effect we have and Paul is going to talk about that here in these next few chapters And it's important for us to understand the balance.

We don't want to be unbalanced in Being overly aggressive and trying to you know, win people to Christ, which is also a concept that's not in Scripture much less the phrase but at the same time we don't want to be cloistered and unavailable and uninterested and Cut off and and separate and isolated so that If God had somebody that was interested in in coming to himself and learning about the Savior We'd be the last person they thought of because we're just kind of grumpy and uncommunicative So we want to find the balance and ask God's blessing on all of those functions both in our life individually and in our Identity as a local fellowship, shall we pray father? We thank you this morning for the rain. We've had such a wonderful bounty of precipitation here in the month of August when it can often be very dry and parched and it's a reminder of the rain that falls many times on our own souls as It talks about in Hebrews where we have the opportunity to learn and grow because of your grace The rain falls on the just and the unjust but if we are just and it falls on us it should produce those fruits that reflect your glory and are an ever-present reminder both inside and outside the fellowship of believers of your presence your power and the Role of the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior and The King of Kings and Lord of Lords, we thank you for this passage that is before us this morning We ask your blessing on us as we study it together. May each one find in it's those truths that will be uplifting comforting encouraging strengthening guiding and pertinent applicable as we look at the the Situations that you have placed us in individually and together as a group.

We pray these things in Jesus name. Amen So, let me just toss you this because there's something on it As we Look at this. We started chapter 12 last time and let's review the part that we have studied so far Paul says now concerning spiritual things spiritual gifts Spiritual Functions if you will I Do not want you to be ignorant Do not want you to be ignorant This is a phrase that as we saw Paul has used many times In other places and when he does there's usually an issue that has gone awry I do not want you to be ignorant.

So the Specific topic here is you know that when you were Gentiles when you were pagans carried away to these dumb idols By whatever did you was it hereditary? Did you choose it at when you became an adult? This kind of reminds us of how did you come to Christ? How did you become a believer in the Lord Jesus? Some of us were fortunate to be in a Christian household and be aware of the issues of salvation at a very early age some people in their youth or early adulthood and Some people later than that and by whatever means we are at a particular place in our faith by choice and It was true people who had made pagan idol choices some of them well, their daddy was the priest and of the you know, the The Idolatrous worship others came to it through friends or through social influence or it was a club or a click However, you were led. I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God calls Jesus anathema Anathema Yesus is the phrase and of course anathema Paul even uses this if anyone doesn't follow these teachings Let him be anathema this means Separation get away from it. It's it's a curse anathema

anyone who hangs on a tree this could have come from Judaistic types who saw the Lord Jesus as a criminal who was rightly condemned and judged by the Roman government and You know that he's cursed by applying your Old Testament and he hung on a tree the cross being a tree therefore he's cursed and trying to keep the Judaistic Fellowship intact the synagogue click intact and not have people defecting in their view to Christ more likely in my view is that this is the Gnostic influence in Corinth.

There's been whole books written about The origins of Gnosticism and how it is manifest in Corinth and that there were those who? Felt like you needed to separate your spiritual life from your earthly life and this happens a lot today And and it has happened one of my favorite One of many of my favorite statesman quartet songs Jay Kessings. I don't want this modern religion You know you go to church on the Sunday to let them know who you are But as soon as the service is over you head for the nearest bar so to speak I don't think anybody goes to the bar on Sunday necessarily, but but you know so immediately Put your spiritual identity on the shelf and live like the world and then on on certain occasions you you dust off your Christianity and and This has always been a problem but the notion that No one speaking by the Spirit of God calls Jesus a curse that you just separate the material from the Spiritual and and he was spiritually a great guy, but see God didn't even sustain him He let him be crucified and because the body is nothing the the earthly Operation is nothing. It's all in your mind.

It's in your spirit It's the ethereal the otherworldly and so what I do with my body doesn't matter I can fornicate I can prostitute I can Be as worldly as I want to be because the flesh is nothing. It's perishing. It's it's temporary anyway, so why bother? I'll serve God in my mind type of thing and this was very appealing because you could claim to be very Righteous and spiritual, but you just can't see it because you're looking at the at the earthly body here Don't pay any attention to this listen to what I say don't pay attention to what I do Kind of a thing and so you could be as righteous as you say you are Which has analogs in the modern day I read a real interesting Complaint By The people I'm learning a whole new vocabulary that because of social media and such vocabulary takes over and there are hashtags and things but Even the liberal Unevangelized left has realized that political correctness has run amok in our society And so if you see this term, you'll you'll know what it is.

Maybe you already do I had never been acquainted with it, but people who are sort of self righteously politically correct are called SJW's and They'll say well, you know that this whole SJW thing is happening and it stands for social justice warrior and You're all for feminism you're all for being anti bigot and anti racist and you know anti Patriarchal society and you're against all kinds of things and this makes you righteous You're sitting in your chair, and you don't lift a finger. You don't actually do anything You don't contribute to anything, but you're righteous because of what you're for and so It reminds me in the Old Testament when God is is condemning his people for being Great warriors of the of the beer mug, you know, you're you're a great hero at the party You know, you can drink more than anybody you can get the lampshade on your head faster than

anybody You know This is your this is your heroism and your courage and your identity and your claim to fame is you can out party everybody else and so they're the phrase in that passage actually says you're your heroes of of the table of the drinking and of the eating and That's what you're known for somebody says. Oh, yeah old Ahab boy.

He can sure Pour down the ale, you know, he can really knock out the food when it comes by him And so social justice warrior is is borrowed righteousness you you you seek your acceptance and your acclaim Because you say the right things and you're you're for it it's it's what I'm for and all of this social media piling on that happens where there will suddenly be a Trending topic and everybody is coming down with almost no facts and and usually very inaccurately and incompletely reported Oh a policeman beat up somebody who wasn't white Everybody piles on and there's all of these pontifications. Well, there's social justice warriors They're out there fighting battles. They know not of and it costs them nothing but a few keystrokes well, this is the Nature of this righteousness that that went on in the idol temple what I do doesn't matter pay no attention to who I cheated or who I swindled or who I ignored I'm I'm serving my God with my mind and you see elements of this and what we already covered about What do you do at a meal with the Lord's people if you are insensitive and indifferent and you're out for number one? Because what you do doesn't matter Your thinking is wrong.

It's extremely important that we have that Beneficial toward others type of love that will sacrifice oneself So this is another aspect of that No one can say Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit And this is probably one of the earliest confessions in the church that Jesus is Lord The Name on his thigh in Revelation 19 when he returns is what what's written on his thigh when he comes on the white horse? It's in all caps in your new King James and even your old King James, I think What's what's the Lord's title as he rides in on the white horse to end the tribulation? King of Kings and Lord of Lords He is the Lord and Jesus is Lord is Essential to salvation If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart God has raised him from the dead so this is Something that we see throughout scripture, I'm going to give you a couple of scriptures here 1st Timothy 6:15 Talking about God Manifesting in his own time. He who is the blessed and only potentate the king of kings and Lord of lords Revelation 1:5 Where John is in the introductory portion of the apocalypse and he says, you know grace to you from Jesus Christ the faithful witness The firstborn from the dead and the ruler over the kings of the earth This is his authority on the earth over civilization he is the Lord Revelation 17:14 These make war with the Lamb and the Lamb will overcome them for he is Lord of lords and king of kings and those Who are with him are called chosen and faithful If you want to be with the Lord when he returns in white to vanquish foes and set up the millennial kingdom Those who are with him are called chosen and faithful Everybody gets the call. There's a lot of people who are called but they're not chosen and they're not faithful there are people who are called and they respond to the call and they're they're chosen because They they walk they step forward when their name is called, but they're not faithful We if we're inconsistent if we're hit and miss called chosen and faithful revelation 17:14 And of course the one I first quoted 19:16 on his robe and on his thigh a name written Why do you

suppose the Lord Jesus would need a name written in two different places on his clothing? Well, he's returning to an earth that doesn't know him. More about that idea of what's recognizable and what's not in a moment, but 1916 he has a name on his robe and on his thigh. It's on the upper part and on the lower part King of Kings and Lord of Lords. But you remember that as early as the day of Pentecost The Lord Jesus is identified as Lord. Peter stands up and says therefore let all the house of Israel know. This is Acts 2. 2 is the Pentecost chapter, right? 236 of Acts Peter says therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly truly verily That God has made this Jesus whom you crucified both Lord and Christ. It's the first one of the first pronouncements about the Lord Jesus on the day of Pentecost is that God has made him Lord and Christ. And it's important to recognize both of those. You remember the Philippian jailer Earthquake Paul and the rest of them in there and their chains are broken and the jailer thinks he's done for and that they've all Escaped and they say no we're still here and he says sirs.

What must I do to be saved? Acts 16 30 and the next verse says believe on what? the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved. It's no accident. Every word counts believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. You'll be saved this means that you understand who he is that he is the Son of God and That he is alive He's resurrected from the dead.

You don't believe in Buddha or Confucius or Muhammad or somebody that's dead. You believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. You don't believe in what he was you believe in what he is. And of course Romans 10 9 confessing with your mouth the Lord Jesus so this is an important part of who Jesus is and Belief in him belief in his name calling on his name. There's none other name under heaven whereby we must be saved his name his identity his person incorporates and an essential component of it is that he is Lord and We need to be careful not to forget that Jesus himself said this in John 13 13 You call me teacher and Lord and you say well for so I am. He is Teacher a lot of people acknowledge him as a wonderful man. He had great teachings. Oh that sermon on the mount that golden rule great stuff. Do they acknowledge him as Lord? Not even close. You call me teacher and Lord and you say well, that's straight from the Lord Jesus. You remember in Philippians 2 that he emptied himself took on the form of a servant came in the likeness of men Being found in appearance as a man he humbled himself became obedient to death even the death on the cross for this reason God has highly exalted him and given him the name that is above every name so that at the name of Jesus Every knee should bow and every tongue in heaven on earth and under the earth and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ What is Lord? What is it? Every tongue is going to confess? That Jesus Christ is Savior that Jesus Christ is King that Jesus Christ is the suffering servant That Jesus Christ is a wonderful man great preacher great teacher that Jesus Christ is Lord every tongue will confess To the glory of God the Father who made him both Lord and Christ so not to be overlooked here the spirit Will speak through those who are honoring the Lord Jesus Christ as Lord and that is the core. It is the foundation stone in what we know as the Christian confession. What does it mean to be a Christian you believe Jesus Christ is Lord? That's what makes you a Christian. You believe he's the Son of God raised from the dead. You claim him as your Savior even even his work in

Atonement is subordinate to his identity as The God-man It's a central concept in Salvation something to remember if you have the opportunity to share the gospel with someone it comes to us in very odd times and places sometimes and You say somebody says oh I just think being a good person is what gets you in or heaven is now and hell is now and you know It's pretty much all about what happens in the presence you say That there is a Creator God, and he's got a son Jesus Christ and that son has come and partaken of our flesh and died for us and because of that we because he partook and took our death we can partake and take hold of his life and that Notion that when we die here.

It's not over Is central to the Lordship of the Lord Jesus Christ if there's an eternity who's in it and who made it And how did this all come about it's the Creator God and his son the Lord Jesus Christ? so Just doing good works of course doesn't cut it It is the confession We talk about Peter giving the great confession who do men say that I am well, you're you're a good man You're a great teacher. You're Elijah. You're one of the prophets.

Who do you say that I am what how did Peter reply? You are the Christ the son of the Living God God has made him both Christ and Lord Lord and Christ son of the Living God, that's Lord capital L Then we move on here, and he says so I would not have you be ignorant There are diversities of gifts with the same spirit, and then we have this wonderful Trinitarian affirmation, which is a fancy way of saying you can see all three persons of God incorporated in these verses Never ceases to amaze me that that people stumble. I just read another big long Deal where someone was talking about how all the Trinity It's inscrutable, and we try to explain it, but we can never touch the hem of the garment of the Trinity I don't know where that comes from It's a three-person corporation the members have equal power But they have arranged themselves for the purposes of the human experiment Into the father the son and the spirit and they have said as an example to you all we are going to subordinate the Holy Spirit is subordinate to the son and the father the son is the one who sends the Holy Spirit who gives him the information that he is going to speak and then he is subordinate to the father the father is over all and It's a corporation You can talk about God incorporated when you say God you can be talking about all three at once because they are acting Corporately and together for a common goal common purpose common interest Have identical priorities identical plan identical Grace and personal attributes, but then each of them has specific functions that the others do not do Who is the recipient of prayer? God the Father you never see anyone in Scripture in any part of the New Testament praying to the Lord Jesus ever Jesus Disciple said teach us to pray said well after I'm gone. Just talk to me didn't say that When you pray say our Father who is in heaven So prayer is directed to the Father in the name of the Son by the power of the Holy Spirit do not pray to the Holy Spirit I'm a little in the middle or on the fence in terms of Addressing the Lord Jesus.

He's at the Father's right hand if the Holy Spirit transmits our prayer up there He's going to hear it, but it is directed to the Father go to the top. You know if you're having trouble getting action Go over the heads of everybody else and get to the one that's got the decision-making ability and the

decisions are made by God the Father They are Implemented by God the Son in the power of God the Holy Spirit Nothing wrong with being appreciative. I am sure if you address the Lord Jesus and thank him for what he's done.

He will listen but It's important that we know the protocol You know even rock Singers if they get presented to the Queen of England they are schooled in Do you reach your hand out you know do you say hey Queen? You when you when you're in a receiving line You know you don't speak until you're spoken to there There's a protocol and to avoid embarrassing yourself and looking gauche and ignorant and uninformed at least know How it's supposed to work? so we have the Trinity here and so There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit Holy Spirit there are differences of ministries the Akina services Services is a great translation for Diakonoι here. It's a service. It's a function that benefits others But the same Lord, that's the Lord Jesus Christ the same word that was used in verse 3 Jesus is Lord and There are diversities of works this comes from Energia.

This is functions things that get accomplished They're not always services, but there are things that get done. It is the same God God the Father who works all in all Manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for profit This is a really interesting word profit. I mentioned it last time.

It's soon Pharaoh which means basically to to bear with or to you you get the idea that you're gathering something and bringing it together and It is translated advantage in a lot of places and For all is not there It's a for advantage for profit for a more general good and Then it says for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit in other words if somebody says Here's a practical course that we should take which is wisdom. Here's the solution to a problem. Here's the here's the the plan wisdom Should characterize plans Word of knowledge.

This is factual information based on facts. You may change your plan I'm always interested that contractors are so Unusually sensitive to weather because especially if they have to drive all the way out here in the country and it's an hour hour and 15 minutes from South Tulsa There they watch the weather why drive all the way up here only to find out that it's going to thunderstorm all day and they can't Work outside So the knowledge is What the weather is going to do? The wisdom is this is the plan for the day. It's going to be bright and sunny.

We're going to work Knowledge tells us it's going to rain. We'll do one of our other jobs. That is an indoor situation To another faith by the same Spirit to another gifts of healing by the same Spirit Why does he keep focusing on same Spirit same Spirit same Spirit same Spirit these things should harmonize they should not conflict Now, why would they conflict? Why would they be at odds or opposed or contradictory to one another if people are trying to do them? In the energy of the flesh or in the wisdom of the flesh or with the knowledge of the flesh That's Not going to be harmonious.

There's not going to be an overall. This would be like having a battalion of Marines composed of three companies that each have three platoons and all of the platoons you don't give them any five-paragraph order you don't have any Command structure that is passing down a unified plan that originated at battalion headquarters instead you just tell the platoons, you know those guys wearing the Black pajamas or the you know, the weird epaulets and the funny hats. That's the enemy Let's go wipe them out and so everybody's got their own so you've got a platoon coming this way and another one coming this way and one of them sits A minefield the other one walks into it Somebody sets up fields of fire other but people try to march through it You've got artillery firing into spaces where air is trying to come in.

You're knocking your own planes out of the sky It's confusion why because it's not Coordinated and centrally controlled by somebody that's got the master plan that a lot of the platoons don't even know the details of You know all this might all be a feint. We're going to demonstrate and get the enemy's attention here like Waving your left hand like you're fixing to jab and then do an uppercut with your right when they're not looking and people say if you don't know that this is just a You're supposed to make a lot of noise and you know If you're trying to be sneaky and the enemy doesn't find you Well, that's not a good distraction and when the right hook comes they're ready for it and you don't know the big plan you've got to go with what you're told and Trust it and know that there is someone above you who is coordinating the whole thing and there's a reason Why this thing that you're doing looks so Amazing and yet doesn't seem to actually be accomplishing anything God's got the whole picture and there's nothing worse than being part of a of a fake You know You're the receiver running down Looking as though you're going to catch the touchdown pass and you draw all the coverage down there and yet you're not the guy they throw the ball to you draw you stretch the coverage and then you throw it a guy in the middle and He's the guy that runs the touchdown you say but I ran further and I ran harder and everybody was watching me and well of course, that's the plan because There's something that you don't fully understand going on so All from the same spirit now. I want to give you a quick observation here looking at this and other passages about the early manifestation of spiritual gifts One of the differences between the ongoing gifts that are listed helps and pastoring and teaching and Evangelism and such and by the way evangelism is a gift and just like not everybody should preach Some of us aren't cut out for it others of us God cut the cloth and that's you know You don't answer back and say why have you made me thus you just function but Not all of us are evangelists and we shouldn't go try to tackle people and and Point their attention to eternity and Christ and so on God is using us for something else We don't all have the gift.

We should all have the function and know how to do it You should be able to teach a doctrinal point, especially if you've got kids you learn it in church pass it on to your children You're you're taking on that function, but we have an assigned spiritual gift but in the early church one unique feature and difference in these temporary gifts is Not only were they temporary in the duration of the church age They're they're just in the first few years, but they are temporary in the assignment to a person this week in the fellowship You suddenly have a word of knowledge. Well, you're not

the word of knowledge guy every every week This Sunday this this meeting You had a word of knowledge This Sunday you spoke in tongues and somebody stood over here and understood that language and interpreted it It was it was Farsi or it was some African language or it was some northern European proto language or whatever somebody stood up and spoke it and There was somebody else there maybe from that region and they are amazed that they are hearing the Word of God in their own language But everybody else is saying well, that's great for that guy. But what's he saying? well then somebody with the gift of interpretation would come up and interpret it for all of the rest and It was efficient because it didn't all have to be said twice once in this guy's language and once in everybody else's It could be interpreted phrase by phrase by this person who has the gift of interpretation and I think that there was very little tongue speaking That didn't benefit somebody who only had that language And interpretation was so that everybody else could understand and benefit from the message as well, but this could vary session by session meeting by meeting week by week and That's why it says to one is given notice.

It says in verse 8 to one is given a word of wisdom It's not the word in Greek. It's a word of wisdom You you might suddenly have an insight from the Holy Spirit and you share it with the group On you know, here's an elegant solution to the difficulty. Here's somebody that has a need we know what we could do You remember when we got that piece of property donated to us? What if we sold that took the proceeds and somebody says wow that that's of the spirit but you wouldn't be the constant word of knowledge person or the word of wisdom person or the One who suddenly demonstrates great faith it this could could vary Because these are the earliest days and so you're not gonna anytime you need a miracle you don't go down there to You know discus's house and say hey discus.

I need a miracle and whoa. I'm the I'm the miracle man This would vary From time to time and that's why it is given and he says there's a variety of these and there's a variety of assignment in those early days Because these are not characteristics. You don't become Simon the sorcerer, but you become Simon Because you have the gift of miracles.

You don't become you know Aristotle because you've got the word of wisdom or the word of knowledge And so in different occasions these would manifest in in different ways One in the same spirit verse 11 works all these things distributing to each one individually as he wills Now what is the analog of that today? It's not so much that since the temporary gifts are gone We don't typically have a sudden burst of inspiration where well, I've never been particularly Musically creative, but suddenly I have a song or I've never been you know insightful in the scripture, but suddenly I've got a giant lightning strike of You know that all makes sense to me. I woke up at 2 a.m. And wrote it all down And I read it this morning, and I've got it all figured out We now have more subtle but permanently assigned Spiritual gifts and you can see this documented in Scripture Over the course of the writing of the New Testament We know the earlier letters and the later letters first Corinthians is one of the earliest and by the end Paul himself You know Paul says Coming up here. I speak in tongues more than you all and I thank God for that Well when

the occasion was necessary, but it's not Paul's primary function.

What is his permanently assigned? gift and function He's an apostle his apostleship always functions tongues was sporadic But in his role it happened a lot because as he told him back in chapter 2 I came to you in demonstrations of the spirit I authenticated myself to you and part of that would have been these more spectacular temporary gifts so These are called Charismata from which we get charisma, and he's going to list nine gifts in this context wisdom knowledge prophecy Okay, those are our Content related gifts right wisdom knowledge and prophecy faith healing miracles then Discernment speaking in tongues and interpretation of tongues so You had we'll see this in verses 8 through 10 here that we're just now looking at we'll see it again in verse 28 God has appointed these in the church Apostles prophets teachers after that miracles then gifts of healings helps administrations varieties of tongues at the very end You can also write out in the margin there somewhere Romans 12 6 through 8 and Romans is a much later letter from Paul Romans is one of his late letters and listen to the List that he gives this is Romans 12 6 through 8 having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us if prophecy Let us prophesy in proportion to our faith ministry Let us use it in our ministry he who teaches in teaching He who exhorts in exhortation he who gives with liberality he who leads with diligence he who shows mercy with cheerfulness You don't have the temporary gifts listed in Romans It's a later letter, and you notice the the emphasis on communication prophecy ministry and teaching exhortation and so on so There's a total of maybe 20 gifts in the New Testament that are listed But varieties of gifts the same spirit so even though those functions those services those those gifts and those works may differ They should be Coordinate they should all be for the advantage the general advantage not your personal advantage not your personal problem solution, but for the good of all so That brings us to verse 12 Which sums this up as the body is one and has many members But all the members of that one body being many are one body So also is Christ, and I would add in parentheses so also is the Trinity you know because we're all Church, and we're all body of Christ. It doesn't make us all the same thing We have assignments. We have functions.

There is an order For by one spirit verse 13 we were all baptized into one body Whether Jews or Greeks whether slaves are free and have all been made to drink into one spirit and Into is I think a later addition we drink one spirit this Is the living water that Jesus spoke of at the well in John chapter 4? This he spoke of the spirit the water that that quenches thirst and and it's Permanent and it multiplies and it issues forth for the benefit of others In fact the body is not one member But many if the foot should say because I am NOT a hand I'm not of the body is it therefore not of the body And I'll give you an example remember when he said In verse 1 here concerning these spiritual things these spiritual gifts brethren. I do not want you to be ignorant and I mentioned that I've seen Countless references in this and other passages when Paul uses the word brethren And they say well by this he means brothers and sisters. You know he's addressing everybody in the church No, he's not he's not When it says brethren he's talking to the men in the church if he wanted to say brothers and sisters There are some instances of brothers and sisters Everybody

in this day of sensitivity and inclusiveness says well when he says brothers It's it's like in the old days when we would say he You know We meant he or she That's not Paul's Statement, and it's not his intent now Let me explain what I'm saying because we'll still end up being sort of politically correct but I Heard somebody make a really great point I've steered away you notice of all the New Testament books.

We've done. We've not done any of the pastorals yet we haven't done first and second Timothy or Titus and Ever since school ever since I was little really those of I well those are the pastorals They're called the pastorals those are Paul's letters to preachers And I thought well probably the least applicable book for a general group of Christians is going to be something that's only aimed at pastors I was wrong and One of the when we finish Corinthians if we do second after that I want to do all three pastorals But here's why Who is Paul addressing in those three books first and second Timothy and Titus? Who's he talking to? Timothy and Titus those guys are pastors now Is it only for them or only for guys like them the great insight and a pastor to Bible Church? I visited made this point. I thought man that is brilliant.

So glad he made this point because I never thought of it It's great to study the pastorals because this is the Apostle telling the pastor what they need to tell the people And if you're the people your pastor may or may not be covering all the ground, but you've got This this is like for me Having the service manual for some piece of equipment I've got I've got all kinds of stuff and one of the first things I do when I get a thing especially since I get A lot of it used is I go find the manual you can almost always find an online copy of a manual Well, a lot of these manuals are for the technician You go you get a book on your car that's used by mechanics Well, I want that book because I might need to do some of that mechanic-ing myself. I want a service manual on my Whatever I've got Because there's information in there that's useful to me, even though it's aimed at the service technician. It benefits me Well Timothy and Titus those books are a wonderful compendium of what a church ought to know This is the the manual for the pastor on What to emphasize what to teach how to organize how to be effective as a local assembly? And so if you're in the local assembly, what a great thing you get to look over the shoulder that the order is given to the pastor and Find out what your church is supposed to be about and you can also find out whether or not your pastor is doing his job I say that to say this When Paul says brethren, who's he talking to you can't say Oh Paul wasn't just writing to Timothy He was writing to all the ladies in the church.

No, he wasn't he was writing to Timothy, but that doesn't mean that we can't Understand it. We've we've known this since we were little you think about the Old Testament Who did God talk to in the Old Testament? the church No Old Testament is addressed to Israel, right? So are we supposed to ignore it because it's not to us We're supposed to be the smarter ones. We can take what God said to Israel and extrapolate and interpolate and Extract the wonderful truths that that God communicated at first blush to Israel it benefits us ladies are Smart enough to listen to what is being told to the men in the church and They can figure out if the men are doing their job or not

Because they've heard the instructions to the men, but the instructions are to the men.

That's why it says brothers a Lot of other words you could have used if he wanted to be inclusive He's not being inclusive because who's supposed to be ensuring that these things happen in the church the men Did he say now women don't listen all you women leave the room I've got some secrets I'm going to impart to the men No you're supposed to listen and you're supposed to know but it's not addressed to you because the primary responsibility for the fulfillment and the There's two big emphasis here as we go to the break. Just remember Paul is writing about two things to Corinth in this section there is Diversity in the church, but that is no excuse for disorder diversity should not be disorder there should be unity you think about the Ethnicity and culturalism and all that in in our country today if you emphasize diversity and ethnicity at the expense of unity and cohesion and singleness of purpose singleness of identity singleness of function you're making the Corinthian mistake and the reason Paul is going to spend these chapters talking about this is Diversity has run amok everybody is different and everybody's waving the flag for their little difference instead of focusing on advantage single mission the expression of love the the drawing all People to the Father through Christ has been lost. It's every man for himself and his well You know, we're the tongue speakers and we're the word of knowledge guys and we're this and we're that we're the other So he says brethren for a reason the brethren are the ones who are supposed to make sure that this thing sticks together and That the women don't divide by going out on their own in their particular case It was this head covering thing praying and prophesying they were The brethren weren't doing their job and the women were taking hold of this and running with it Paul says you can't do that brothers You need to be sure that this stuff is done decently and in good order so there is Disorder in the church and it creates confusion So things should be done in an orderly manner and in a unified manner and those are not necessarily the same thing You can be unified in a wrong direction So Properly and Orderly Proper subordination to the ministry of the Holy Spirit and the These gifts that are given by the Spirit and the ministries that are assigned by the Lord Jesus and the work that is overseen by God the Father there is that same structure here and it's important to look for that and to support it So we're one body But if the body starts conflicting with itself That's what this next section is all about foot saying because I'm not a hand.

I'm not of the body What happened to the unity what happened to the coordination and that's what's happening in Corinth? And so that's what we need to watch for listen We'll pause here and take our break when we come back. We're gonna see something very interesting in this next section About the members of the body being weaker, but being necessary We reminds me of Captain Kirk talking to this guy with godlike powers And he says I can take all your pain away and Kirk says leave me alone. I need my pain.

I need my weakness Why does the body have necessary weakness necessary weak members We'll come back from the break and see if we can figure that out