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Our gracious God and our heavenly father, how we thank you and praise you. In. You is all light, all life. Oh goodness. All righteousness. You are the provider of all things you have. Full power, you created all things they belong to you. They are for your glory. And you created that you might be generous to the creatures and To all of your creature's father.

Uh, but To none. So much as you have been. Generous to us and giving us to be in your image and giving us. To be in fellowship with you. Even. That you might give yourself for us. When we? Would forfeit. These privileges, these honors. He's blessings. And so we come to you lord.

Now as those For whom you have given yourself. That you might also give yourself to us. And we are amazed even remembering these things before you in prayer. We bless your name for the day. That is set apart. Especially for dwelling upon you and enjoying in that consecrated. Now blood bought Fellowship with you.

Uh, your sanctifying us. Unto yourself and your sanctifying the day unto our, sanctification in you and to you. And now lord, as we come to think about from your word, some of the ways in which we display. You are greatness as our god and provider your greatness as the savior of by whose grace.

We are renewed in your image. We pray lord, for the help of your spirit. By. Uh, by his divine sustaining and directing These words were written on the pages of scripture. And for whose fellowship now and ministry and power. Now we ask that your word might be written in the hearts of your people.

That christ might be displayed in us and glorified in his church. And, The church might be done. Good, and the world might be done. Good. By those who are in christ jesus. So, we asked these things in his name. Amen.

So we've seen god, invading his worlds twice in the fullness of time. God sent forth his son. Born of a woman born under the law. Uh, both that he might live that righteous life for us in our place. And demonstrating. The, the kindness and goodness to God, of god, to those from whom.

Those whom he was saving not only from sin, but from the misery, Uh, that is the consequence of sin in this world has righteous life and atoning death. And also teaching then. Uh, what we who follow him, what we, who believe in him, you're our united to him. How we ought to live.

And we, we came from the conduct and the Instruction. Of the lord jesus to finding that second invasion of god into his world. Now, not only having sent forth his son into the in the fullness of time, but because we are sons in the lord jesus, when we believe in the lord, jesus christ under united to him.

We are adopted in, to the heavenly family. Christs, our elder, brother god. As our own father even even to the extent that each of us has a portion of the firstborn in jesus as co air is joined heirs with the lord. Jesus christ, there's one line item in the in god's.

Eternal will and testament, and that is to his son, he bequeats everything. And in his son, there is a multitude of firstborn, wonderful phrase and hebrews 12, the assembly of the firstborn and it doesn't show up in the english, but the word firstborn there is plural. Uh, the whole multitude, our first born in, But one of the great things that then comes out of this adoption, Is that god's purpose?

Even before the world began? This is what the destiny of the predestinedists is to be conformed. To the sun. That he would be the firstborn among many brethren, Romans, 8, or predestined to the adoptionist sons of, Ephesians 1. Um, And so that precipitated the second invasion because we are sons, God sent his spirit the spirit of his son into our hearts.

And so we get that kind of two invasion language from galatians chapter 4, And then, in the opening chapters of Acts, We? Uh, we see the consequences of the fruit of The second invasion as the spirit. The third person of the godhead is sent not only to be with us.

He He will be with you, the lord jesus promised about the spirit, but even in us, he will be in you. And producing in us then our christ likeness. And so believers. Start to show the character of christ that we that we saw especially in. Ministry and earthly things, at least in this.

In this course, when we were considering the character of christ the diagonal ministry of christ as it were, In the gospels. The problem was. Uh, that we are not yet completely conformed to him. This is a process in the christian life in this world that never finally reaches completion.

Uh and so in the wonderful service and love in material things and earthly things, Among the brethren that was the consequence of the spirit beginning to form christ's in them. In the midst of it, there was also sin There was mismanagement, there was complaining, there was forgetting others. And so there's this already, but not yet.

Tension in the church. And the deaconate was one of god's great answers to the problem of that remaining sin. It's obviously not a final solution. But it does show that christ. That christ cares for the increasingly christ's like deaconal ministry in the church. And so as he gave the church elders, And at first apostles, Uh, who are over the church in, especially the ministry and the means of grace.

When the public worship and the discipleship. Uh, through the means of grace. So also, he He gave the church deacons and we saw many things than About the deaconate that we're precipitated. By that original situation. And the The ordination. Of the first yak in it. Next six. And now we come into the apostolic age of the spirit that was begun there in the in the early chapters of act 6,

Is one of my children. Common to refill. My water, please. Thank you. Probably none of the rest of you will ever win that race. Um, I won't tell you who always wins at home. There are a couple of candidates, but Uh, bless God. We have dutiful children. Um, But this, this apostolic age of the spirit, which we are still in, Uh, the last days had begun.

Uh, first corinthians 10, the ends of the ages have come upon them. Paul describing how Timothy's ministry is going to experience. Many of the things that paul's ministry experienced referring to both of their ministries as the last days. So, it's not as if there were problems that didn't exist yet.

That paul was telling Timothy about, so that we could come read 2,000 years later. And With all the historical ignorance, we can muster Think that we are the first generation ever to experience. Things. At this. Um, Depravity of this level or even in the church and so forth. Uh

but we are in this same age, this is one, the part of the wonderful applicability of the whole new testament to us is that we are still in that period between Uh, pentecost, and the return.

So, as we As we? Come then into. Uh, the the edge of the church. Between pentecost and the return. We're actually going to visit first Uh, a passage that we've already seen just so that. That we can see. A little bit of the. The connection between these things that That we've just heard in the summary.

So, philippians chapter 2. Therefore if there is any consolation in christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the spirit If any affection and mercy. And so you've got the, the two invasions and you've got The, the comfort of justification and adoption. Um, having received consolation in Christ and the ongoing encouragement.

That we have in the christian life. In god's adopting love and christ's uniting love. And then the second invasion, if any fellowship of the spirit if any affection and mercy that the spirit reproducing in his people, what was already uh in christ reproducing it now from christ. Fulfill my joy by being like-minded.

If it's in christ, if it's all in the same christ, if it's all by the same spirit, it should be in everyone. Uh, these are not things that, you know, some christians. Uh have and others don't it's something that all christians ought to be growing in. You don't get to say well you know humility isn't my spiritual gift.

I just don't feel cold to prefer others to myself. Um, No. The the the christ who came not to lord it over others, although he has all authority and heaven and earth but said with reference to that i am among you as one who serves and he uses Of the verb.

From which we. From which the word deacon actually comes in office. Over service. He says, fulfill my joy by being like-minded. Having the same love being of one, accord of one mind, Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit but in lowliness of mind. Let each esteem others better than himself.

Excuse me. Let each of you look out, not only for his own interests. But also for the interests of others. And how does this come? Obviously, we've already gotten it from. Verse one. But it's much more explicit in verse 5. Let this mind be in you. Which was also in.

Christ, jesus. And we'll see that it's probably going to be. Uh, not until two weeks from today and probably, Not for another week after that until we get to second Corinthians 8. Um, We will get to Romans 12. Uh, lord willing in the in the next few minutes. Uh, but just so that you can see That there is this offering of the self up to god.

As as following christ. Uh connection to these other passages in which the spirit treats, how we love others in the use of material things, and the management of earthly things. Uh, second components, eight five. Um, Not only as we had hoped, but first, They first gave them themselves to the lord and then to us.

By the will of god talking about service for the collection. And going. Uh, right then into Uh, the imitation. Of the lord jesus christ verse 9. You know, the grace of our lord jesus christ that though he was rich yet for your sakes, he became poor That you through his quality might become rich christ who has given himself.

As an offering unto god, a pleasing aroma opening versus of Ephesians 5. Which lord willing will here soon. In the preaching this morning. As the example of giving ourselves unto God, and

then in our giving ourselves unto God, therefore Giving ourselves to one another even in our use of earthly things.

Uh, this means Uh, children. That you can go beyond sharing. There are things in the grocery stores called beyond meat. That is a negative thing. It might means not nearly as good as meat. But, In the christian household, you can go beyond sharing, which is a wonderful thing. From.

Uh, from Household, socialism and communism to household christianity. You can go from sharing to generosity. Giving yourself to god first being more delighted for your sibling. To enjoy something. So that there are two enjoyments now in the use of the thing. Uh, the siblings enjoyment and the one who gave it to yielded, it enjoying the others enjoyment And then if all are loving the lord's together, the lord blessing, the means of his grace and the mutual generosity, then you may end up with all things equally, but you don't get there through the communistic way.

Uh, you get beyond sharing. To the generosity to the word from which sharing comes. But it's not always true. True fellowship. In the lord, this is this is what In the use of our material things. This is one of the great ways that we get to imitate christ and have the same mind.

Uh, that was in him with one another. So, one of the The first great places that we have. In in the new testament of this. Uh, of responding to the gospel. Uh, by by sowing the union, our union with christ, one of the great responding to the gospel passages in the whole bible's romans chapter 12.

And so we go there next. And you you see after this wonderful exposition. Of the gospel in the first 11, chapters.

After this wonderful, exposition of the gospel in the first 11 chapters, He comes now and he says i'm a seat to you therefore brethren by the mercies of god. That you present, your bodies, a living sacrifice, Holy acceptable to god, which is your reasonable service. There's no more sacrifice to be offered.

Jesus christ, sacrifices once, for all, but he continues to give himself, holy to god and those who are in him. Give themselves. Holy unto god. And as he as he opens us up as Uh, the response of worship in the life. Specifically what we do with our bodies. Uh, note that very physical word in verse 1.

It is. The Greek word behind the Latin word behind the english word for corpse. Uh, and recognizing that your physical flesh exists. For responding to with your whole life. This god who has saved us entirely by what christ has done. And not at all by what we have done and he is not only removed the guilt of our sin, but even now in God's province as we're We're just now into chapter 7.

In the midweek sermons and we have then for for several weeks. Now, been seeing how he has delivered us not just from the guilt of our sin, but from the power, the dominion of our sin. That now we We bear fruit unto God. We bear fruit unto holiness. We're not, we're not bound by covenant to be enslaved to sin anymore.

We are literally bound by covenant to be joined to christ. And just as our savior lives entirely unto God, we live entirely unto God. And this has to do not just with fuzzy feelings and not even just with precise and rich and thorough doctrine. It has to do with our bodies.

That's what we do with our hands. And what we do with our feet, what we do with our eyes, what we do with our words, what we do with our stuff, Uh we have that also in chapter 6 how the members of who you are is every aspect. Every part of who you are, not just body parts.

But even whatever the lord has given. Given to you. And so, He begins with this. This offering unto God. And then, when we get to verse 7 and verse 8, In that section in three through eight. And then, Verse. 10. 11, 13. In in 1913, there are specific diacinol.

Applications of this and applications in what we do in our daily and weekly life was one another, especially As continuing to be in the age of misery, which is a consequence of sin, we rejoice to alleviate misery. As a rejoicing in christ who has removed. Our sin. And so verse 7, the word ministry, let us use it in our ministering.

Uh, Everyone who has the spiritual gift of Well. Let me tell you. The, the word behind that is the again, the A word that has the same root as this word for deacon. It is service. It is. It is counting one another. As being as important as ourselves imitating, the lord jesus, who is among us.

As one who serves preferring one, another And not operating out of selfishness, but considering others needs. Because we have the mind of Christ in us. It is deaconing. Now. Everyone who has the spiritual gift of deaconing. Raise your hand. All right, it should be all of you. Uh, there are many many gifts as we're going to see.

Uh, serving helping. A one point, he talked in this passage actually i think it's a diverse end of verse 13. Yes Um, Uh, the uh, Yeah, a gift of hospitality. It's well, i guess nine to 13 for everyone. Uh, the gift of hospitality is for everyone. For commanded here to practice a hospitality.

We're commanded in first peter four, uh, to practice hospitality. Uh, We are not to think. Of of gifts. Merely as things that are from god for the church. In special ways in particular individuals, there are some gifts that every Christian has Everyone has the gift of giving. If you have anything, You have you have the gift of giving?

The widow with her two mics, the churches in Macedonia whose extreme poverty Resulted in generosity. Uh, And, So the the first one here in in verse 7, Everyone. Everyone has. Um, The, the gift. Of service. Not everyone has Uh, the gift of preaching. As in verse 6. Everyone does have to some extent.

Gift of comfort encouragement. Exhortation not public exhortation in the assemblies of the church. But one of the reasons why the The ministry of the eldership in ephesians 4 is so necessary is because everybody part to speaking to every other body part, the truth and love, this is what love does.

It's speaks the truth. Uh, do not fall. For the world's definition of love, this is a month in which celebration of false definition of love. Is. Is. In your face from everyone. Um, But there are loves that god hates. Says, do not love the world or the things of the world.

If you love the world, the love of god is not in you. There are loves that god hates. And so, we are to speak the truth and love so. Um, That's a bonus there in verse 8. But just to show you that here in verses. Uh, seven and eight.

We are, we are Uh, treating gifts that Apply more generally. Uh, to the church the giving and the showing mercy. Everyone is to show mercy but showing mercy begrudgingly does not. Offer

yourself to god as living sacrifice showing. Showing mercy. To someone as Uh, A demonstration or a display of yourself, instead of a display of christ.

That's not an offering unto God, it's showing mercy with cheerfulness. Uh, giving with generosity. Not tight fistedly. Uh, looking for how much you can give Looking for how much need there is. So that you can give as As much as you can to meet the need rather than looking at considering how much you have to get.

You can ask the same question with both motivations, can't you? All right. How much you need? Well, you think you can get away. You get along with less. How much do you need? Are you sure you don't need more. Right? The, how much do you need? Question, can come in both flavors?

Um, No, the lord doesn't give us the ability to cover everything. That's one of the reasons. Uh, for corporate uh, giving and Corporate collection. But initially Uh generally speaking, these are to be person to person the right hand. Not knowing with the left hand is doing So, The the believing response to and display of union with christ includes.

Uh, distribution to the needs of the saints. So Um, Moving down into. Verse 13. Now. Perhaps this, it'll help you just Uh, just to hear some of the general. Descriptions. These are If if this ain't you, you ain't a christian type stuff, right? Unpretended love. Verse 9 hating, what is evil and cleaning to what is good.

If you don't do that, you're not a christian. You know, and if you got someone who preaches and teaches and rather than emphasizing that you need to hate what is evil and bring to what is good. Uh they make it sound like everybody. Yeah, everybody is evil in the same way and There's no real difference between.

Believers in the world. And We just Uh, want to be authentic by which they mean, don't ever make anyone feel bad about their evil? Then you have a wolf, not a Uh, not a Um, a sheep, not a shepherd. Uh, be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love.

When someone says, you know, that church just isn't very loving. But they're really saying is, i'm not sure that church was a church. They might, they may not mean to say that. Because there are lots of churches that have A superficial country club. Association of love. There's lots of different ways to have comradery and mutual affection.

But you can't have christ. Genuinely without brotherly affection. Okay. In honor giving preference to one another, not lagging. And diligence fervent and spirit serving the lord. Can you imagine someone who actually believes that jesus is god? The son who has given himself for us and given himself to us that in him.

We may give ourselves to him and to the father by the spirit. And they're lazy about it. Slog is about it. Careless about it. Fucking imagine it because we all have remaining sin. But it wasn't, it must not be. So It is completely inconsistent with who the lord jesus is and what he has done and what he has made us to be Okay, so these are all Um, These are all necessary to do christianity rejoicing and hope patience and tribulation continuing steadfastly in prayer.

And then verse 13. Distributing to the needs of the saints. Distributing to the needs of the saints. Uh, If there is, A need in the church and the deacons are someone under the deacons Um, Let's, The congregation know about it, every single one in the church who possibly can Should consider it an assignment to them.

Distributing to one, another taking care of one, another participating in helping one another. Uh, I think that's oh i'll say about that. I won't get too specific. Uh, that's for the deacons to do. One of the things that deacons will do in the future is Uh, when it's the same five, or six volunteers for every need.

Uh, they're going to, they're going to call up somebody who maybe hasn't been to church in a few weeks. Or had not helped with a need. Recently, a few times around and say. Uh, you know what you profess Christ, you have the spiritual gift of distributing to the needs of the saints, time to use it.

Yeah, if you if you need help. There's help for that but it's helped so that you can participate in that ministry too. Because this is part of being a christian. This is part of me in the church. And given. Uh, given to hospitality. Not just being willing to open your home.

Maybe. If somebody is super desperate, Uh, but looking for opportunities. Uh, to have To have people over. To open the home. We don't have. Uh, Well i i won't go there. That's too much detail for just now and we're We're running at a time. Uh, Let's let's go ahead and look at first, Peter 4:9.

And then if, if you have any questions that we can answer, Within a couple of minutes, we'll, we'll answer it and if not, we'll start lord willing in in a couple weeks time, With the answering of the questions. Again, first peter, four verse 7. Uh, remember this is This is written.

Over 1900 years ago. Uh, just to get you out of your left behind the mindset, if you grew up with that. But the end of all things, as at hand, therefore be serious, unwatchable in your prayers, And above all things have fervent love. For one another for love will cover a multitude of sins.

Be hospitable to one another. Without rumbling. In both cases. The ferment love of the brethren for one, another spills over into hospitality. Now, hospitality the word that that's the same word in both places and it's it's a compound word made out of a word for love and a word for stranger.

And so the love that we have for brothers first and it is the household of god. Uh first as we'll see when we get to galatians 6, letter e, if you're using an outline it does spill over in love for neighbor, the neighbor is also miserable. From sin. Or from the effects of sin.

In this world. We still live. In the world, their first need. Their first need is the gospel of christ. Um, One of the things that, Actually, i'm gonna Make a note to treat this because i miss, i forgot to do something in verse 13. And i'm sorry you could pray for me.

It's one of those. Uh, slow braiding days. But talking about, How? Uh, distributing of the need of the saints that phrase in the first half of verse 13 in romans 12 relates to the love of the stranger and practicing hospitality. Um, Because one thing that is not in the new testament, Is corporate collection in the congregation.

That is then used to give To the needs of those who are not. Uh, members of christ's church. One of well i guess i started doing it now. I'll repeat it in a couple weeks time because i want to i want to spend more time of it time on it.

Uh, the diagonal answer to the guy who shows up. Uh, and and says can can the church give me a little money. I just need gas to get to wherever Is. According to the bible. The money that the church collects is not for that. But you are poorer. Than you think.

Because what you need is christ. And what you do is you send an elder out or send the minister out. I'll be Um, And pray for me that i that i'll be not as busy as i have been on lord's days recently. And that comes with with better preparation and a lot of other things.

Uh, but i won't talk to them about their true poverty. I don't tell them the church has something for that. And i'll tell them that the church is full of generous individuals. And, That we have. Men who help us be wise, so that we don't hurt you. By the way, that we help you.

And the deacons will oversee, whatever, whatever is done. But there is not. Corporate collection. Of material wealth. For unbelievers in the new testament at all. That is not god's god's design. Uh, all individually. With your neighbors. That's a different question and we'll Uh, look at that more in. In Romans 12, 13 and 1st, Peter.

Four nine, lord willing in a couple weeks. And i'll take questions at that time because we don't even have time for the question anymore. I'm sorry about that. Let's break. Our father in heaven, we thank you for your indescribable gift. Uh, we thank you that. Um, the great reason that you love a cheerful giver.

Is that you? Who are the ever blessed? God have been pleased in yourself. To give yourself. And to create all things out of generosity. And even. To create in generosity those Who would need you yourself? Personally. And lord, that is what we are. And you have given yourself to us in christ.

And you've given yourself to us in your spirit, And you have given yourself to us, Father, in that adoption. That we have in christ, and by your spirit And so we bless your name and we pray that you would make us a giving people. Of all that we are and all that we have.

We thank you for the role that the deacons have in the church and overseeing this for us. And we pray o lord that you would be preparing those men whom you have called And guiding us by your spirit as we go through the process. And recognizing. Those who you prepare and lord bless them, even now.

And their ministries and their homes. And bless them when the day comes and the ministry and the congregation. That christ might be exalted in this congregation of his church. For we ask it in his name. Amen.