

## Find the Treasure

<b>Scripture:</b>	
<b>Announcements:</b>	
<b>Scripture Reading:</b>	
<b>RECAP:</b>	<p>So, once again we are in a study on how God has gifted each and everyone of us and that we should use those gifts for the building of the church.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Last week we looked at unity in the church.</li> <li>— — In 1 Cor. 12:12-20 we looked at the word one, as in the church being one, appeared 9 times.</li> <li>— — — So we understood from last week that we are all important to the church and that when we are not working in the body then the body is suffering.</li> <li>— — — — So for the church to function properly it needs all of its member to be working and function for the sharing the gospel and the growth of the kingdom.</li> </ul>
<b>INTRODUCTION:</b>	<p>So this week we will be building on the idea of unity in the church and the idea of every member of the church is important to the church.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— We will see that God has purpose of each and everyone of the people of the church.</li> <li>— — We will talk about the treasure that God has give the church and how we often don't even seek that treasure out.</li> <li>— — — We will look at how God honors the less honored.</li> <li>— — — — How a healthy church seeks the greater things for the church and not for a individual.</li> </ul>
<b>Passage Begins</b>	

**Scripture:**

**1 Corinthians 12:21–31 (NAS): 21 And the eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you”; or again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.”**

One of the commentator used the word interdependence when talking about the way the “body” or church should function.

— Interdependence is exactly the right word because it means: The dependence of two or more people or things on each other.

— — When it come to a church this is what we should be. This is how a church should function.

— — — This was not how the Corinthian church was functioning and this is not how many church function today.

— — — — If you every wonder what is wrong with the church in America today it is many things but this would be very high on this list.

— — — — — So, if you are a part of a church I think it is important to ask yourself, “is my church functioning as a interdependent church?”

— — — — — — Or can your church function as separate piece very well?

**Scripture:**

Thomas Schreiner wrote this, “Those who think they can be independent are deluded; they are, so to speak, cutting off their own hands or feet.”

—What Schreiner is saying is that we in our culture and in our dad seek to be independent.

— — This is what school teaches us, our jobs teach us, and what life teaches us.

— — — It is okay to be independent in many things but when it come to the church and being a part of the church we are not to be independent but dependent.

— — — — **READ: 1 Corinthians 1:10 (NAS):** 10 Now I exhort you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all agree and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be made complete in the same mind and in the same judgment.

— — — — **READ: Ephesians 4:1–6 (NAS):** 1 Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, 2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, 3 being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. 4 There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6 one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all.

**Scripture:**

This was a problem in the Corinthian church was that there were a lot of individual in the church.  
— It was not a family, a body, a team but a lot of individual trying to show their worth.  
— — But what our passage is telling us and what the verses we just looked at is that it is not about showing off our individual worth but it is about what God deems to be worthy.  
— — — Which is a church that is not full of individuals but full of a family.  
— — — — There are those in many churches today that are about themselves and making sure they are seen and heard.  
— — — — — Christians we can not be like this. We have to deny ourselves and take up our cross and follow Christ.  
— — — — — — **READ: *Philippians 2:3–4 (NAS)*: 3 Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; 4 do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.**

**Scripture:**

**22 On the contrary, it is much truer that the members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary;**

**23 and those members of the body which we deem less honorable, on these we bestow more abundant honor, and our less presentable members become much more presentable,**

**24 whereas our more presentable members have no need of it. But God has so composed the body, giving more abundant honor to that member which lacked,**

Every member is necessary even the less honorable ones are necessary for the function of the church.

—God has cause the church to come together and be His representative to the world so God has structured the church so that every person plays an important role in shining the light of Christ to the world.

— — What Paul is saying is: maybe your not the pastor, or on the worship team, a prophet, maybe you don't speak in tongues, or have the gift of healing; but you are as important to the function of the church as one with these gifts.

— — — Know that if what you do for the church is not out in the open for all to see that you may not have honor from being a visible figure but your have honor that God give you.

— — — — Leon Morris wrote, "God's arrangement of the members in the body does away with clashing and blends all into one harmonious whole."

— — — — — **READ: Romans 12:4–5 (NAS):** 4 For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function,

5 so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.

**Scripture:**

**25 so that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another.**

**26 And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.**

**27 Now you are Christ's body, and individually members of it.**

This is it! This is what is attractive to the world outside the church about the church.

— In the greatest growth period in the early church they looked at a secular view of what cause the church to grow so fast.

— — What they found from the secular world was what was attractive was how the church cared for each other.

— — — God's design for the church is that we have **EQUAL** concern for each other. No one member is to be lavished with special care while the others are neglected.

— — — — We should care for each other equally and when one suffers we all suffer and when one of us is honored we are all honored.

— — — — — Scheiner wrote, "The church as a body is built up and edified when the members of the church love one another."

— — — — — **READ: Romans 12:15 (NAS):** 15 Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.

— — — — — **READ: Galatians 6:2 (NAS):** 2 Bear one another's burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ.

Church this is what was attractive to the world in the early church days and in a world where people are starved for acceptance and wanting a place to belong we have it.

— Non-believers, know that the church will accept you know matter how weird you are, or how different you are, or how normal you are.

— — You have a place to belong and it is in the church.

— — — One of my favorite songs right now is by a guy named Jason Upton.

— — — — Jason sings a song called Scarecrow I am not sure what the meaning of the song is about but as I listen to the word I find a meaning that is powerful.

— — — — — Upton talks about being a bird and that the Scarecrow scares the foolish bird away.

— — — — — He writes about the field that the Scarecrow is guarding saying, "And find the treasure waiting in a field, waiting in a field, is waiting in a field."

**Scripture:**

What I take from Upton's song is that God has a bountiful treasure for believer and non-believer alike.

—But instead of being foolish birds who are scared of something that does not have life but is a distraction from the treasure, we should be wise birds that listen to our hearts and hear God calling us to the treasure that awaits us.

— — Non-believers that treasure is Jesus Christ the righteous who will give you life and life abundant.

— — — Believes there is a treasure in the church you are in but it seems like we leave that bountiful treasure for whatever scares us away.

— — — — I challenge you to get to know the treasure of people that God has placed right next to you usually in church.

— — — — — Don't let the business of life, the distractions of the world, the laziness that so easily can control us, or whatever keep you from finding the treasure that is the people in your church.

**28 And God has appointed in the church, first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, various kinds of tongues.**

**29 All are not apostles, are they? All are not prophets, are they? All are not teachers, are they? All are not workers of miracles, are they?**

**30 All do not have gifts of healings, do they? All do not speak with tongues, do they? All do not interpret, do they?**

Paul then lists gifted people.

—He begins with the apostles, prophets, and teachers.

— — The apostles were the foundation of the church and had to have at least 2 things to qualify them to be apostles: 1. they had to see the resurrected Lord; 2. They had to be commissioned.

— — — Schriener wrote, "the apostles are named first because they laid the foundation of the church, which is Jesus Christ the crucified and risen one."

— — — — **READ: Luke 6:13 (NAS):** 13 And when day came, He called His disciples to Him and chose twelve of them, whom He also named as apostles:

— — — — Paul received His apostleship later: **READ: Galatians 1:11-12 (NAS):** I would have you know, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. 12 For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ.

**Scripture:**

The next on the list is prophets.  
— They spoke the spontaneous words that God has given them to give to the church.  
— — Prophets and the apostles are the foundation of the church: **READ: Ephesians 2:19–20 (NAS):** 19 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God’s household, 20 having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone,  
— The next is teachers.  
— — Teachers take what God has said in the Scripture and explain what has already been written.  
— — — **READ: Ephesians 4:11–12 (NAS):** 11 And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ;

Paul then move to the gifts as opposed the people who exercise the gift when he speaks of the gift of miracles, healing, helps, administration, and tongues.  
— But the focus is not necessarily on the gifts but on the diversity in the church. The answer to all the question asked in verses 29-30 is no. Paul does this to hammer home the idea of diversity in the church.  
— — Schriener wrote, “Paul desired absolute clarity on this matter: there was no demand or expectation that a person would exercise all the gifts. In fact, God has arranged matters so that the gifts are distributed in such a way that they are not shared by all equally.”  
— — Morris wrote, “No gift can be despised on the grounds that all have it, for all differ.”

**Scripture:**

**31 But earnestly desire the greater gifts.**

Then Paul finishes off this section with this which seems like a contradiction from everything he had just said.

—Why seek to have the greater gifts? Wouldn't this decrease diversity in the church? Wouldn't this make ears into eyes?

— —It is not a contradiction because Paul is speaking to the whole church; the body.

— — —So what Paul is saying is seek the greater gifts not for themselves but for the church corporately.

— — — —Mark Taylor wrote, "To desire what is 'greater' likely means to desire what is the most beneficial for the church."

So, what do we take from today?

—Have you found the treasure in the field; first and foremost Christ? Second, the treasure of people that God has put in your church?

—Do you see the beauty of diversity in your church?

—Do you desire what is greatest for the church or for yourself?

—Are you interdependent on the church or are you perfectly independent of the church?

—Lastly, don't let the scarecrows of this world keep you from God, from His people, and from utilizing your gifts for the further of the kingdom.

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