

729
MESSY
church

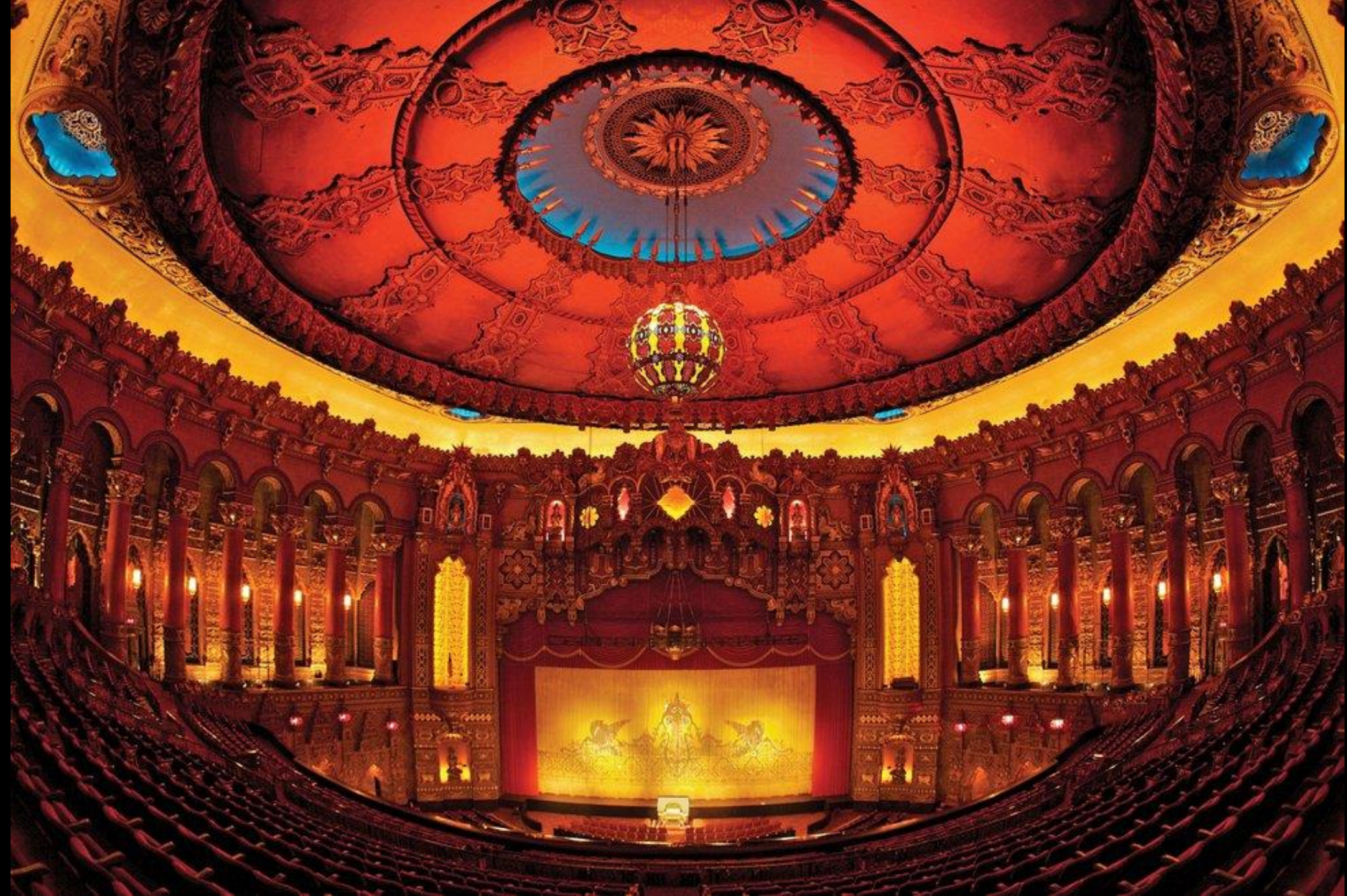




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MESSY church

A STUDY OF 1ST CORINTHIANS

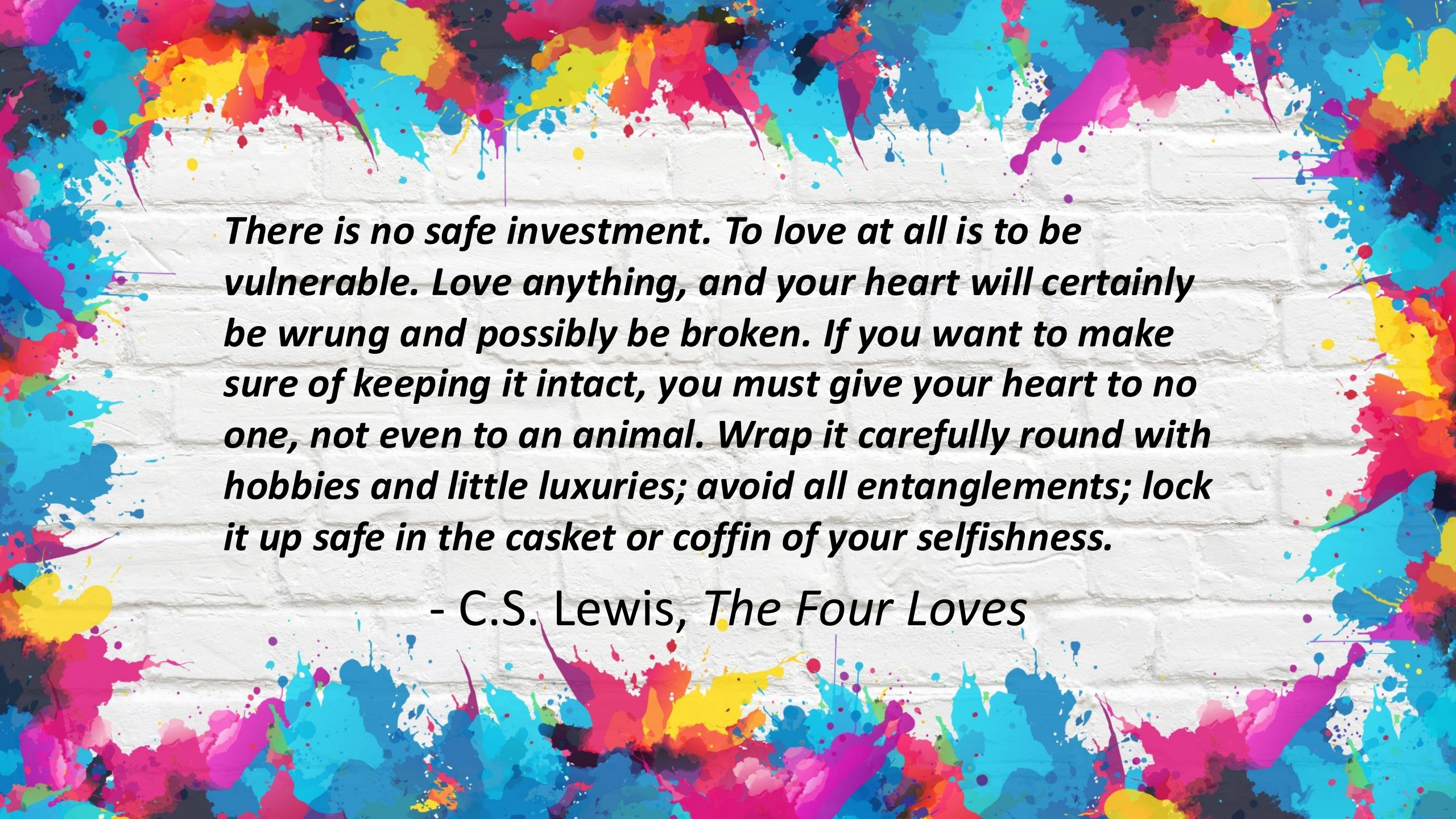




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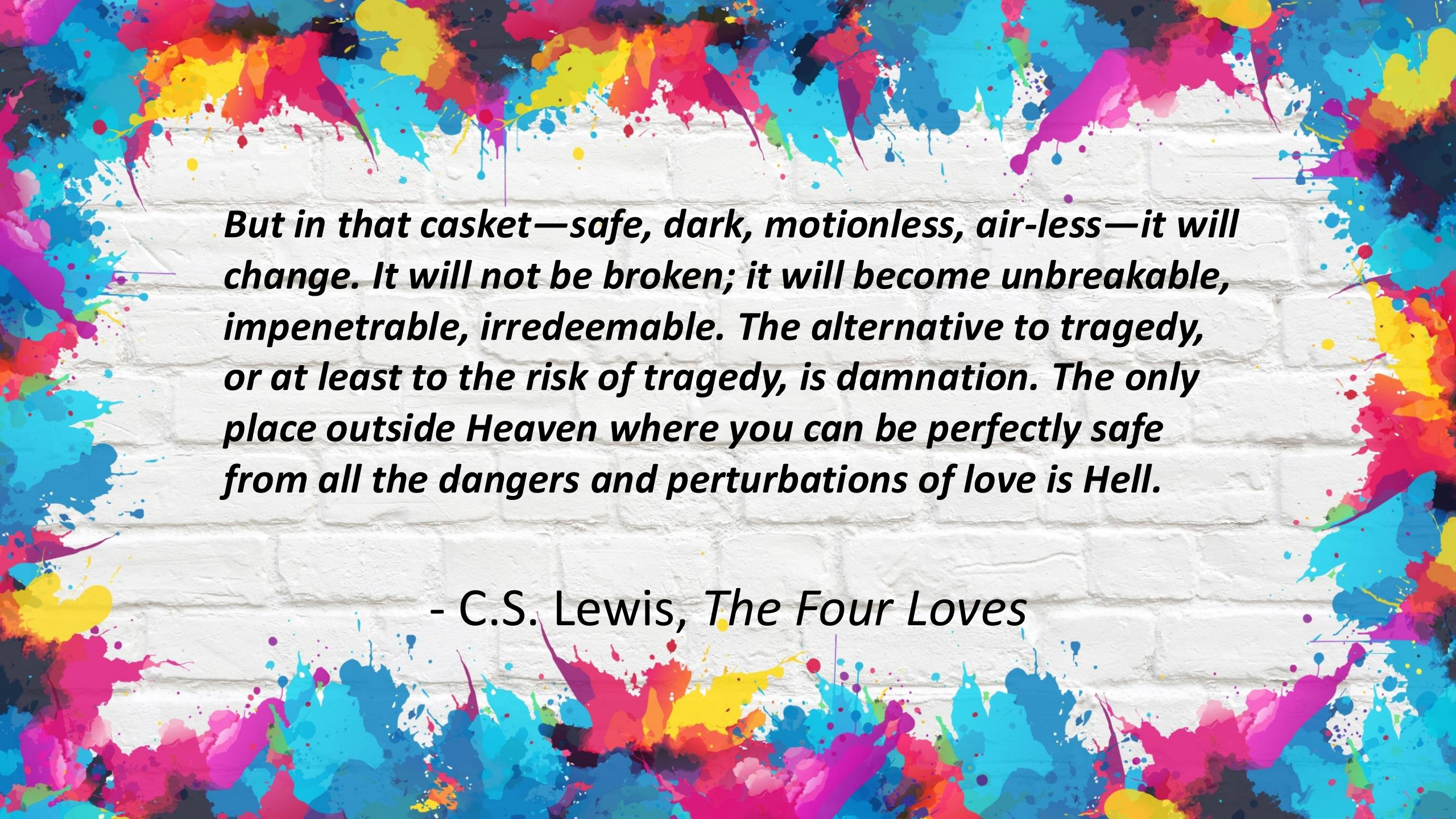
MESSY church

A STUDY OF 1ST CORINTHIANS



There is no safe investment. To love at all is to be vulnerable. Love anything, and your heart will certainly be wrung and possibly be broken. If you want to make sure of keeping it intact, you must give your heart to no one, not even to an animal. Wrap it carefully round with hobbies and little luxuries; avoid all entanglements; lock it up safe in the casket or coffin of your selfishness.

- C.S. Lewis, *The Four Loves*



But in that casket—safe, dark, motionless, air-less—it will change. It will not be broken; it will become unbreakable, impenetrable, irredeemable. The alternative to tragedy, or at least to the risk of tragedy, is damnation. The only place outside Heaven where you can be perfectly safe from all the dangers and perturbations of love is Hell.

- C.S. Lewis, *The Four Loves*



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A STUDY OF 1ST CORINTHIANS

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Rome

ITALY

ADRIATIC SEA

Illyricum

Moesia

BLACK SEA

TYRRHENIAN SEA

Macedonia

Thrace

Bithynia

GALATIA

Pontus

Brundisium

Apollonia

Pelagonia

Amphipolis

Philippi

Neapolis

Ancyra

Tavium

Kizil

Thessalônica

Beroea

Dium

Apollonia

Troas

Assus

Asia

Pessinus

Caesarea

Cappadociae

Nicopolis

Epirus

Achaea

Mitylene

Chios

Smyrna

Phrygia

Antioch

ASIA MINOR

Cappadocia

Commagene

Sicily

Rhegium

Syracuse

Corinthian Gulf

Delphi

ATHENS

Corinth

Ephesus

Laodicea

Colossae

Hierapolis

Iconium

Lystra

Derbe

Cilicia

and

Syria

MALTA

GREECE

CRETE

Gortyn

Miletus

Cos

Cnidus

Patara

Myra

Pisidia

Pamphylia

Tarsus

Antioch

Seleucia

Rhodes

Attalia

Perga

Lycia

Salamis

Paphos

Damascus

MEDITERRANEAN SEA

Cyrene

Cyrenaica

Alexandria

EGYPT

Nile

PALESTINE

Samaria

Caesarea

Joppa

Lydda

Jerusalem

Judaea

ARABIA

Jordan



Rome
Tres Tabernae
Forum of Appius
Puteoli

ITALY

Brundisium
Apollonia

TYRRHENIAN SEA

Sicily

Syracuse

MALTA

Rhegium

Corinthian Gulf

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Cyrenaica

Alexandria

EGYPT

BLACK SEA

Moesia

Macedonia

Thrace

Pelagonia
Thessalônica
Beroea

Amphipolis

Philippi
Neapolis

Apollonia

Dium

Troas

Assus
Adramyttium
Pergamum

Mitylene

Chios

Delphi

ATHENS

Corinth

Ephesus
Laodicea

Miletus

Cos

Cnidus

Rhodes

Lycia

Attalia

Patara

Myra

Asia

Phrygia

Antioch

Hierapolis
Colossae

Pisidia

Perga

Lycia

Attalia

Myra

Pamphylia

Salamis

Paphos

CYPRUS

Sidon

Tyre

Ptolemais

Samaria

Caesarea

Joppa

Lydda

Jerusalem

Judaea

Bithynia

Ancyra

Pessinus

Asia

Phrygia

Antioch

Hierapolis
Colossae

Pisidia

Perga

Lycia

Attalia

Myra

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Jerusalem

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Tavium

Caesarea
Cappadociae

Cappadocia

Commagene

Cilicia
and
Syria

Tarsus

Antioch
Seleucia

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MESSY
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Corinth



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- **Geographically strategic location**



Macedonia

Thessalonica

Troas


Achaia

Asia

Athens

Corinth

Ephesus

A stylized map of Greece and the Aegean Sea. The landmasses are shown in a light tan color against a blue background representing the sea. Two black callout boxes with white text are overlaid on the map. One box, labeled 'Athens', points to the eastern coast of the Greek mainland. The other box, labeled 'Corinth', points to the narrow Isthmus of Corinth.

Athens

Corinth











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- **Reputation for sexual exploration and expression**

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Acts 18

⁵ When Silas and Timothy arrived from Macedonia, Paul was occupied with the word, testifying to the Jews that the Christ was Jesus. ⁶ And when they opposed and reviled him, he shook out his garments and said to them, “Your blood be on your own heads! I am innocent. From now on I will go to the Gentiles.” ⁷ And he left there and went to the house of a man named Titius Justus, a worshiper of God. His house was next door to the synagogue.



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⁸ Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, believed in the Lord, together with his entire household. And many of the Corinthians hearing Paul believed and were baptized. ⁹ And the Lord said to Paul one night in a vision, “Do not be afraid, but go on speaking and do not be silent, ¹⁰ for I am with you, and no one will attack you to harm you, for I have many in this city who are my people.” ¹¹ And he stayed a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.

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¹² But when Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, the Jews made a united attack on Paul and brought him before the tribunal, ¹³ saying, “This man is persuading people to worship God contrary to the law.” ¹⁴ But when Paul was about to open his mouth, Gallio said to the Jews, “If it were a matter of wrongdoing or vicious crime, O Jews, I would have reason to accept your complaint. ¹⁵ But since it is a matter of questions about words and names and your own law, see to it yourselves. I refuse to be a judge of these things.”

¹⁶ And he drove them from the tribunal. ¹⁷ And they all seized Sosthenes, the ruler of the synagogue, and beat him in front of the tribunal. But Gallio paid no attention to any of this.

¹⁸ After this, Paul stayed many days longer and then took leave of the brothers and set sail for Syria, and with him Priscilla and Aquila.

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- **Paul received a letter with questions from the Corinthians (1 Cor. 7:1-2)**



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- Paul sent Timothy to visit and found church in turmoil
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- Paul sent Titus with a tearful severe letter (2 Cor. 2:3-4)
- **Many responded favorably but a rebellious faction remained and Paul wrote 2 Corinthians to address those who rejected him and the gospel.**



1 Corinthians - Outline

1-4 – Response to Chloe’s report about divisions and factions



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- 8 – Idolatry and damaging the faith of others



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- 12-14 – Major disorder with spiritual gifts and lack of love
- 15 – Theological error about Jesus' resurrection

729
MESSY
church





1 Corinthians 1

¹ Paul, called by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus, and our brother Sosthenes,

² To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:

³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.



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² To **the church of God** that is in Corinth, to those **sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints** together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:

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A white brick wall with colorful paint splatters at the top and bottom. The splatters are in shades of blue, yellow, red, and pink, creating a vibrant border around the central text.

God's heart is to redeem the mess.



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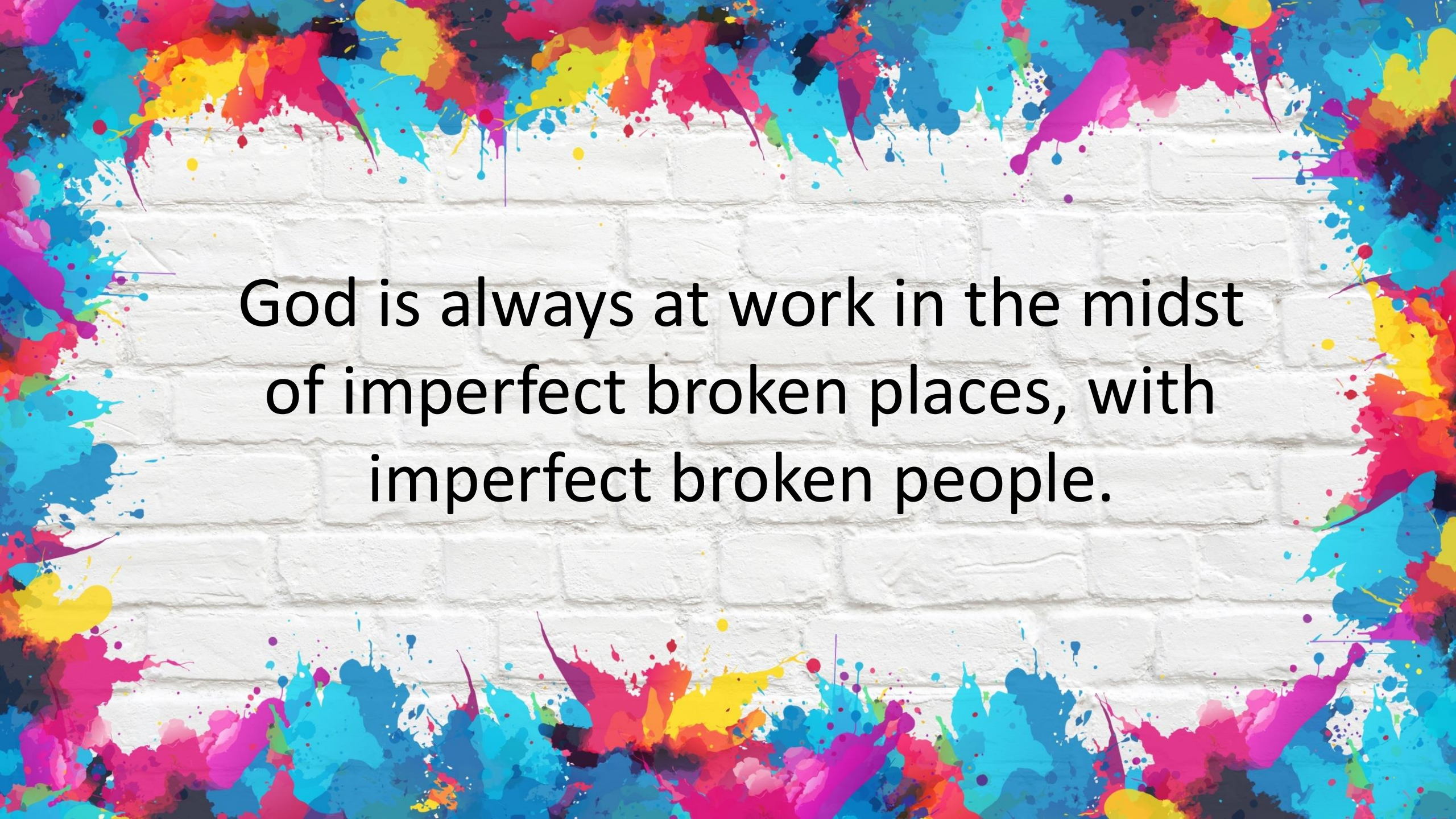
Following Jesus is messy.



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Following Jesus is messy.

The identity of the church is
defined by Jesus, not the mess.



God is always at work in the midst
of imperfect broken places, with
imperfect broken people.

So...Therefore...What now?



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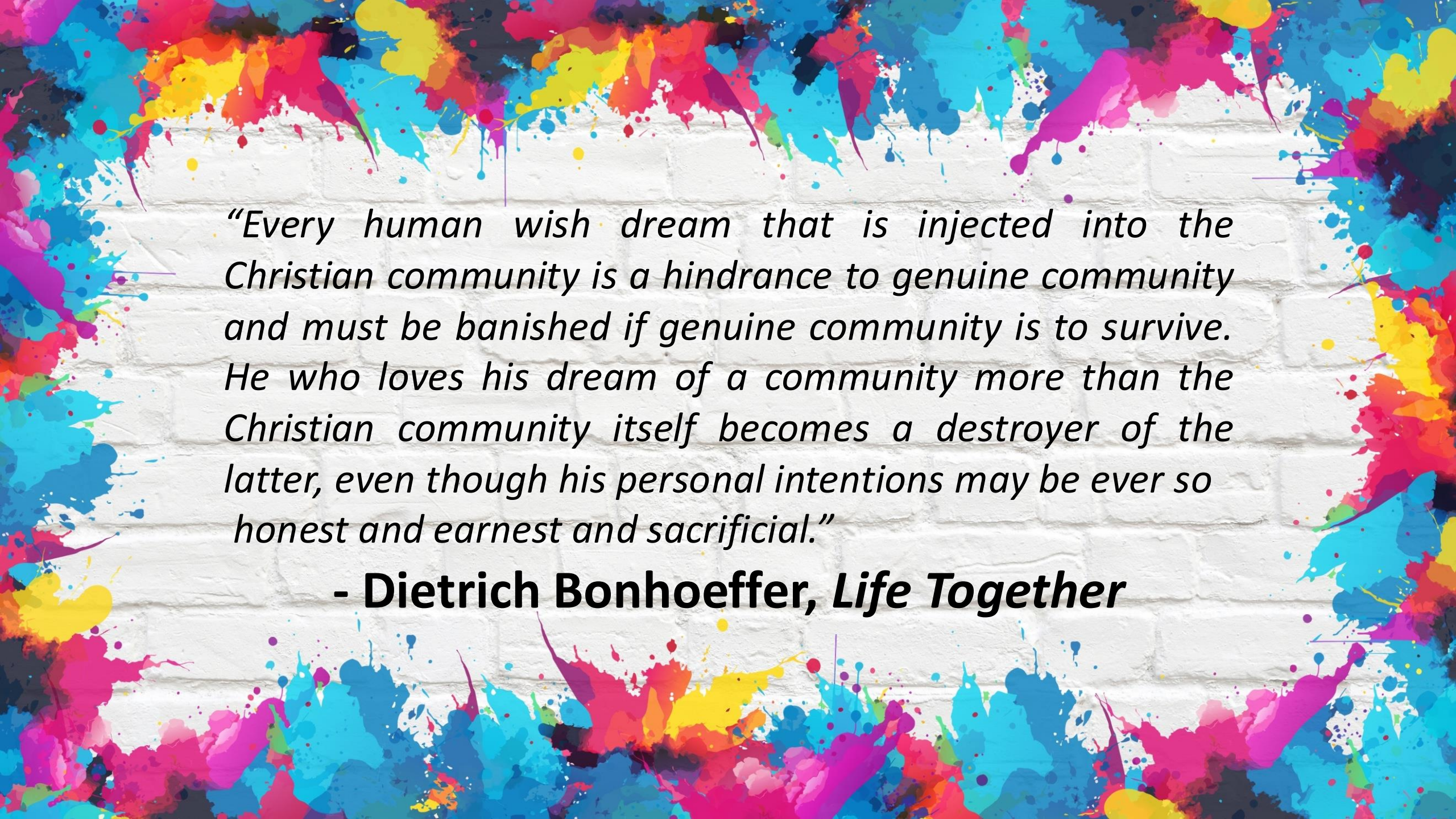


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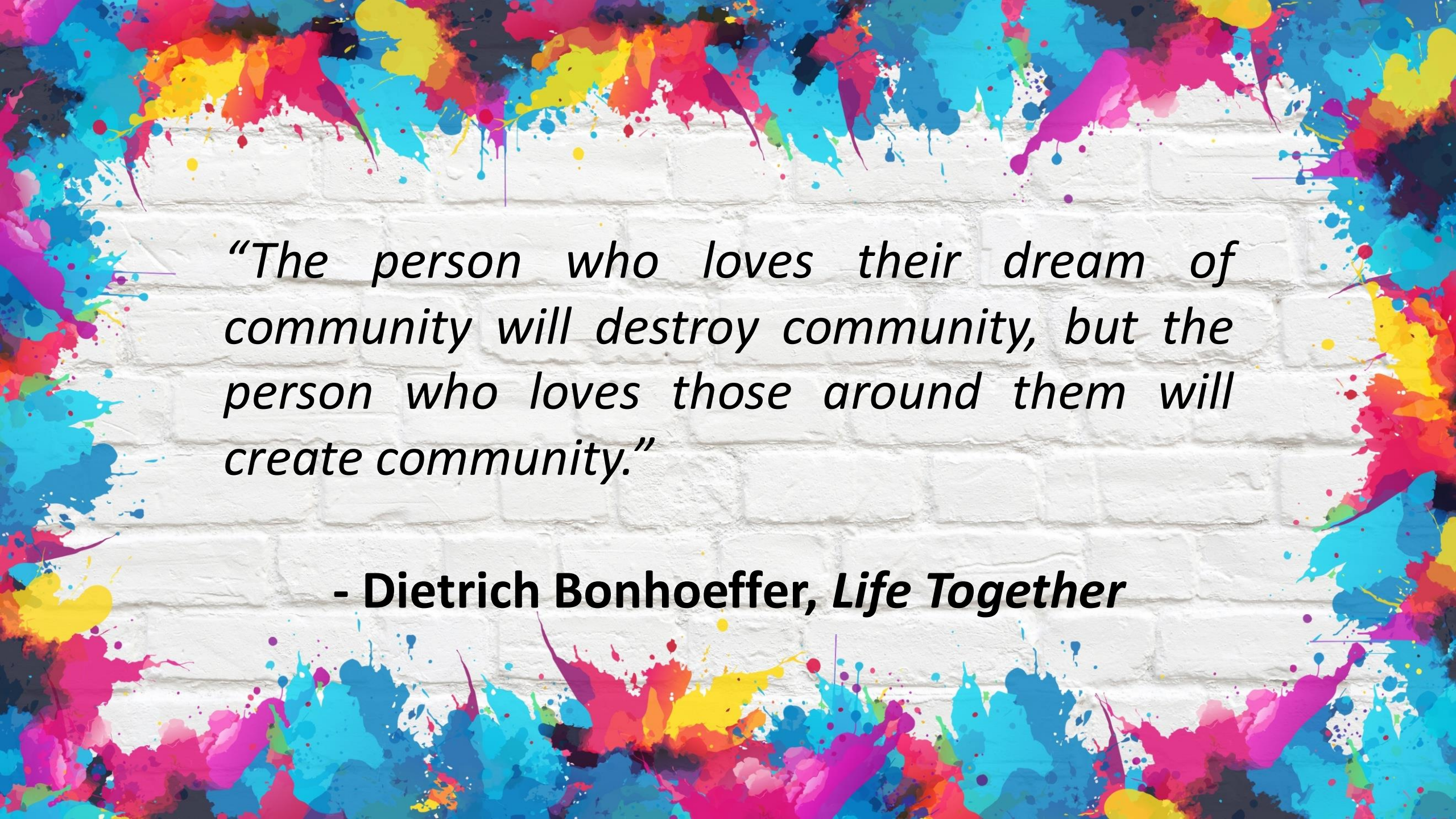
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“Every human wish dream that is injected into the Christian community is a hindrance to genuine community and must be banished if genuine community is to survive. He who loves his dream of a community more than the Christian community itself becomes a destroyer of the latter, even though his personal intentions may be ever so honest and earnest and sacrificial.”

- Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Life Together*



“The person who loves their dream of community will destroy community, but the person who loves those around them will create community.”

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