

729  
**MESSY**  
*church*





729

# MESSY church

**A STUDY OF 1ST CORINTHIANS**



***Front Window***

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***Rear Window***

***...a framework through which  
a message is seen and understood.***



**MESSY**  
church

# *Front Window*

*1 Corinthians 1:1-9*

A REVIEW OF OUR IDENTITY



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A REVIEW OF OUR IDENTITY

Sanctified in Christ Jesus ..... *set apart for a holy purpose.*



# Front Window

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

## A REVIEW OF OUR IDENTITY

- Sanctified** in Christ Jesus ..... *set apart for a holy purpose.*
- Called to be saints** ..... *set apart to be holy together.*



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1 Corinthians 1:1-9

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**Sanctified** in Christ Jesus ..... *set apart for a holy purpose.*

**Called to be saints** ..... *set apart to be holy together.*

Recipients of **grace and peace** from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ ..... *all His riches all at His expense.*



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**In every way enriched in Him** in all speech and all knowledge ... *bringing to light our understanding of life in His design.*





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God is faithful, **called into the fellowship of His Son**.....  
..... *relationship based on His character rather than ours.*

**MESSY**  
church

# Rear Window

*1 Corinthians 16:13-14*

A CALL TO ACTION





# Rear Window

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A CALL TO ACTION

**Be watchful,  
stand firm in the faith,  
act like men (*mature adults*),  
be strong.**

**Let all that you do be done in love.**



# Rear Window

*1 Corinthians 16:13-14*

A CALL TO ACTION

Invite people in,  
so you can lift people up,  
in order to call people out  
to something better,  
*together.*



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**MESSY** church

**I Corinthians 2:1-16**



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**I Corinthians 2:1-16**

**Wisdom**  
**Spiritual**  
**Natural**



## **I Corinthians 2:1-16**

- <sup>1</sup> And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with **lofty speech or wisdom**.
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**Greek:** *sophia*

**Definition:** skill, wisdom

**Usage:** wisdom, insight, skill (human or divine), –  
*wisdom* that intended to create clarity.

It is the root of the English terms,  
"sophistication" and "philosophy"  
– literally "the art of using wisdom,"  
or  
"the affection for wisdom."

**Greek culture retained an emphasis on 'wisdom' from the 5<sup>th</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> century BC development of "sophists"...**

**...teachers who emerged as a sort of '*professional*' thinkers' group who aimed at giving people rhetorical tools to deal with the development of the early experiments in democracy.**

The seat of authority, that had historically been located among the elite, the wealthy, and the those who bought into mythological beliefs,... was then beginning to include the everyday population,... with a focus that...

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***"Man is the measure of all things."***

**MESSY** church

*“Man is the measure of all things.”*

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*Greek gods were ‘gods’ made in the image of man...  
...had all the emotions and frailties of mankind.*



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**Protagoras (490-420 BC....pre-Socrates)**

means that there is no objective truth; it seems to have meant that each person's own personal history, experiences and expectations, developed over their lifetime, determine their judgments, opinions, and statements regarding "truth" (which is the title of the book in which Protagoras made this statement). When a person makes a judgment about a certain thing—good or bad or beautiful or unjust—that person will differ from other people's judgments because their experience has been different.

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***“Your truth is your truth, and my truth is my truth.”***

***“Man is the measure of all things.”***

***Greek gods were ‘gods’ made in the image of man...  
...had all the emotions and frailties of mankind.***

This concept of individual relativity was intended to be provocative; naturally, it drew fire from Plato and other philosophers, contrasting with both popular opinion and other philosophical doctrine that reality and its truth must have an objective grounding. But it was part of Protagoras' point that the statement is somewhat counterintuitive. He argued that believing that others' opinions about the world are valid and must be respected, even if our own experience of truth is different, is necessary for a community to base itself and its decisions on open, democratic debate.

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***In a biblical understanding...***

***Man was created in the image of God...  
...we carry the communicable attributes of God  
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***“God is the measure of all things.”***

While we can't become God, we can become like Him by imitating His “communicable attributes.”

*God is loving, just, good, merciful, gracious, faithful, truthful, patient, and wise.*

God has some basic attributes that make Him different from angels, human beings and all others created beings.

There are six divine attributes which belong to God Himself and cannot be communicable to other beings.

*They are: holiness omnipresence, omniscience, omnipotence, immutability, self-existence, and eternity.*



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# Godly Wisdom

- <sup>6</sup> Yet among the mature we do impart **wisdom**, although it is **not a wisdom of this age** or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to pass away.
- <sup>7</sup> But we impart a **secret and hidden wisdom of God**, which God decreed before the ages for our glory.
- <sup>8</sup> None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

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# Revelatory Wisdom

<sup>9</sup> But, as it is written,

“What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,  
nor the heart of man imagined,

what God has prepared for those who love him” —

<sup>10</sup> these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit.

For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God.

<sup>11</sup> For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him?

So also no one comprehends the **thoughts of God** except the Spirit of God.

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So also no one comprehends the **thoughts of God** except the Spirit of God.

<sup>12</sup> Now we have received not the spirit of the world,  
but the Spirit who is from God,  
that we might understand the things freely given us by God.

<sup>13</sup> And we impart this in words **not taught by human wisdom**  
but taught by the Spirit,  
interpreting **spiritual truths** to those who are spiritual.

<sup>14</sup> The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of  
God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to  
understand them because they are spiritually discerned.

<sup>15</sup> The spiritual person judges all things,  
but is himself to be judged by no one.

<sup>16</sup> “For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct  
him?” But we have the mind of Christ.

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*Big Ideas...*

**Wisdom**  
**Spiritual**  
**Natural**



*So...therefore...what now?*



*So...therefore...what now?*

**Where do you live?**



*So...therefore...what now?*

**Where do you live?**

“Man is the measure of all things.”



*So...therefore...what now?*

**Where do you live?**

“Man is the measure of all things.”

or

“God is the measure of all things.”

*So...therefore...what now?*

**Do you allow  
the spirit of this world  
to rob you of seeing  
yourself and the world  
for what it actually is?**



*So...therefore...what now?*

**Will you allow  
the Spirit of God  
to give you  
the mind of Christ  
so you can see yourself and this world  
through His eyes?**