



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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*1 Corinthians 1:1-9*

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



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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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**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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**Sustained to the end, guiltless** ..... covered by Christ's ransom payment..... *a guarantee to be cashed in later.*



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



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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.*

# Justification

**Sustained to the end, guarantee** ..... *covered by Christ's atonement payment..... a guarantee to be cashed in later.*

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



# Rear Window

*1 Corinthians 16:13-14*

A CALL TO ACTION





# Rear Window

*1 Corinthians 16:13-14*

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

Be watchful,

Sanctification

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

**MESSY** church

I Corinthians 2:1-16

**Wisdom**

**Spiritual...**

**Natural...**

**MESSY** church

| Corinthians 2:1-16

**Wisdom**

**Spiritual...**

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



**MESSY** church

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**Spiritual...** "God is the measure of all things."

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

**I Corinthians 2:1-16**

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**Spiritual...** "God is the measure of all things."

I Corinthians 2:16

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



**MESSY** church

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**Spiritual...** "God is the measure of all things."

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**Immature...** (fleshly, carnal)

I Corinthians 2:1-16

# Wisdom

**Spiritual...** "God is the measure of all things."

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

**Immature...** (fleshly, carnal) "a measure that does not have integrity, it is inconsistent."

## **I Corinthians 3:1-9**

<sup>1</sup> But I, brothers, could not address you as spiritual people,  
but as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ.

<sup>2</sup> I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for it.

And even now you are not yet ready,

<sup>3</sup> for you are still of the flesh.

For while there is jealousy and strife among you,  
are you not of the flesh and behaving only in a human way?

<sup>4</sup> For when one says, "I follow Paul," and another,  
"I follow Apollos," are you not being merely human?

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**Greek:** pneumatikos

**Definition:** spiritual

**Usage:** an adjective, derived *pneúma*, “spirit” .....

– **spiritual**; relating to the *realm of spirit*, i.e. the invisible sphere in which the *Holy Spirit* imparts faith, reveals Christ, transforms our character..

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Greek: sarkinos

**Definition:** of the flesh

**Usage:** fleshly, consisting of flesh, carnal.

Properly, of human like flesh.

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## Natural Man- in 2:14 ....

”The *natural* person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.”

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– ***spiritual***; relating to the *realm of spirit*, i.e. the invisible sphere in which the *Holy Spirit* imparts faith, reveals Christ, transforms our character..

**Greek:** psuchikos

**Definition:** natural, of the soul or mind;

the natural life alone apart from God's inworking of faith.

Typically describes the *natural* "lower" aspect of humanity, i.e. behavior that is *the broken behavior of humanity, a self-centered point of view.*

This stands in contrast to "spiritual"

– the higher, spiritual aspect of humanity that develops through *faith.*

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Greek: νέπιος

<sup>3</sup> for you

**Definition:** an infant, a simple-minded or immature person whose thinking or behavior is not fitting.

For w

**Usage:** unlearned, unenlightened; an infant, child.

are y

<sup>4</sup> For

*(as opposed to 'teknon' which is a young person who can handle 'solid food' and is able to be mentored, taught...)*

“I

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***Fleshly / Immature people*** make other people the issue and the target of their criticism and therefore their contempt... the false and unhealthy view of leadership in the church that elevates, separates and then isolates leaders out of the immaturity of others factional personal shame.

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*Fleshly / Immature people* make other people the issue and the target of their criticism and therefore their contempt... the false and unhealthy view of leadership in the church that elevates, separates and then isolates leaders out of the immaturity of others factional personal shame.

Henry Cloud, in his book *Changes That Heal*, identifies one of the four key dimensions of Christian maturity as the ability to function as a peer (even with people in positions of authority)...which requires that we deal with conflict face to face from a foundation of grace and truth as the guidelines.

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For when one says, “I follow Paul,” and another, “I follow Apollos,” are you not being merely human?

<sup>5</sup> What then is Apollos? What is Paul?

Servants through whom you believed,  
as the Lord assigned to each.

<sup>6</sup> I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth.

<sup>7</sup> So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything,  
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# MESSY church

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## Greek: diakonos

**Definition:** a servant, a minister (*not a position to play but an ability to serve*)

**Usage:** a waiter, servant; then of any one who performs any service, an administrator. – properly, "thoroughly raise up dust by moving in a hurry, and so to *minister*"; *ministry* (sacred service).

*Diákonos* "ministry" in the NT usually refers to the Lord inspiring His servants to carry out His plan for His people.

It is the root of the English terms, "*diaconate, deacon.*"

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# *Big Ideas...*

**Our petty squabbles with one another simply reveal the immaturity of our walk with Christ and creates divisions in that which is supposed to be a united and dynamic team-based effort under the tutelage of the master coach.**



# *Big Ideas...*

**We are designed, gifted and equipped to be involved in the growing process of those around us without taking up the mantle of being the key figure in anybody's life...that is God's place.**



# *Big Ideas...*

**Our walk with God  
is always dynamic and never static...  
we ought never to simply take on the label of  
Christ yet walk in the ways of a broken world.**



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





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

What in your life are  
inappropriate carry overs from  
your life before Christ?

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

Have you created relational  
divisions based on personal  
preferences?

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

How could you join forces  
with others in order to...

***“invite people in, and lift people up, so  
that we can call people out  
to something better...together”?***

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