





729  
**MESSY**  
*church*







729

# MESSY church


**A STUDY OF 1ST CORINTHIANS**





*First 4 chapters address  
'messy issue' #1...*





***First 4 chapters address  
'messy issue' #1...  
...divisive factions between  
'parties in the church'.***





# *Foci for 2024-2025*





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## **Preeminence of Christ**





# *Foci for 2024-2025*

**Preeminence of Christ**  
**Unity of the Body**





# *Foci for 2024-2025*

**Preeminence of Christ**  
**Unity of the Body**  
**Maturity**





# *Foci for 2024-2025*

Preeminence of Christ

Unity of the Body

Maturity

**Perspective**





# *Foci for 2024-2025*

**Preeminence of Christ**

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Perspective



## **1 Corinthians 4:1-7**

- <sup>1</sup> This is how one should regard us,  
as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God.
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In fact, I do not even judge myself.
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**Greek: doulos**

**Definition: a slave, bondman, man of servile condition;  
one who gives himself up wholly to another's will,  
---those whose service is used by Christ in extending and advancing His  
cause among men; a servant, attendant.**



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**Definition:** an underling, a servant

**Usage:** an attendant, (a) an officer (b) an attendant in a synagogue, (c) a minister of the gospel.

– **properly**, a rower (a crewman on a boat),

an "under-rower" who mans the oars on a lower deck;

--**figuratively** a *subordinate* executing official orders, i.e. operating under direct and very specific orders.



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## Colossians 1:13-20

- <sup>13</sup> He (*God*) has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son,
- <sup>14</sup> in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.
- <sup>15</sup> He is the (*visible*) image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.
- <sup>16</sup> For by Him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through Him and for Him.
- <sup>17</sup> And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.
- <sup>18</sup> And He is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything He might be preeminent.
- <sup>19</sup> For in Him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,
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Jesus said,

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No one comes to the Father except through me.”

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### Greek: oikonomos

**Definition:** the manager of a household

**Usage:** a household manager, a steward, guardian.

*oikos*, "house, household" and *nemō*, "to allot, apportion")

– properly, a *steward* (literally, "household-manager").

often functioned as the "steward" of a household, and was generally a *freedman* – i.e. a *slave released* from forced, legal servitude and now serves of his own free will or surrender.



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**Definition:** a mystery or secret doctrine...  
**Usage:** a mystery, secret, of which initiation is necessary;  
in the NT: the counsels of God, once hidden but now revealed in the Gospel.  
In the Bible, a "mystery" is *not something unknowable*.  
Rather, it is what *'can only be known through revelation'*, because *God reveals it*.

De  
Us  
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*I dream of...* a Christianity which has balance,  
not only exegetically and intellectually,  
but also in the area of reality and beauty;  
an insistence that beginning with the Christian system  
as God has given it to men  
***in the verbalized propositional revelation of the Bible***  
one can move along and find that every area of life  
is touched by truth and a song.

He Is There and He Is Not Silent, Francis Schaeffer

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<sup>5</sup> Therefore do not pronounce judgment before the time,  
before the Lord comes,  
who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness  
and will disclose the purposes of the heart.  
Then each one will receive his commendation from God.



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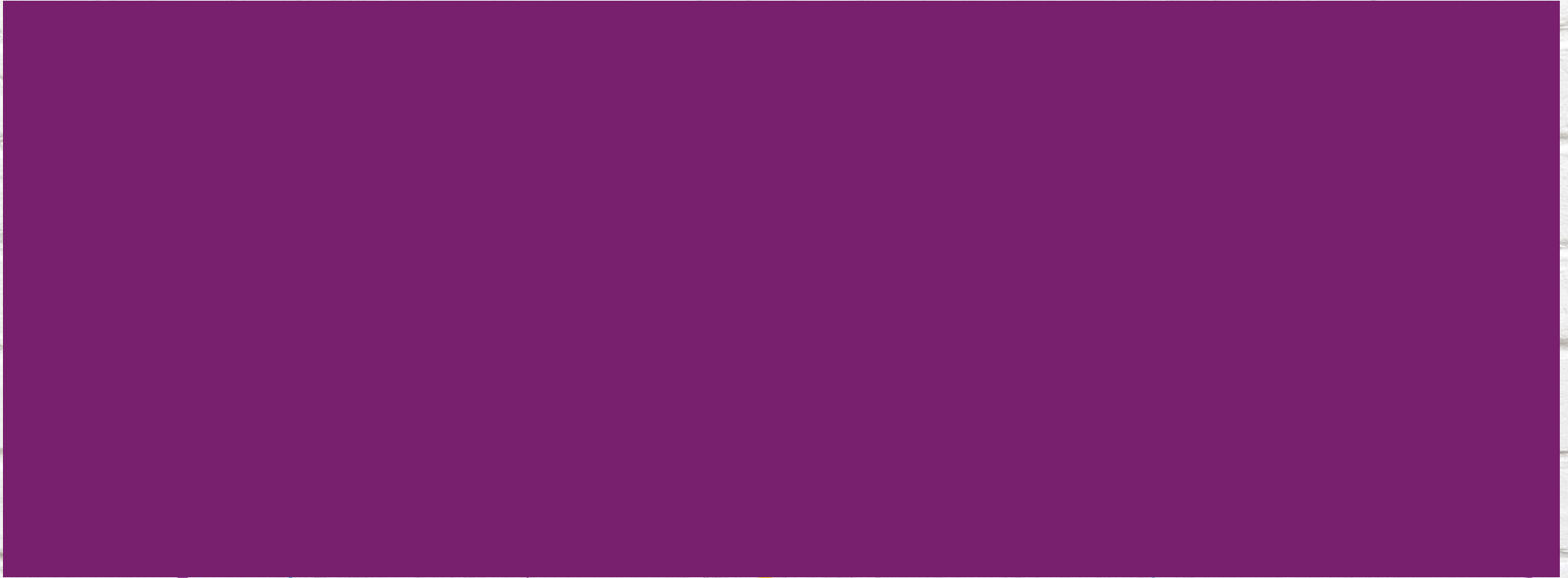
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*So...therefore...what now?*





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

**Row**





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

**Row with purpose**





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

Row with purpose

**Row together**





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

Row with purpose  
Row together

**Row under authority**





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

Row with purpose

Row together

Row under authority

**Row within the cadence of the Captain**





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

Row with purpose

Row together

Row under authority

Row within the cadence of the Captain

**Row with freedom and humility**



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

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**Row for an 'audience of One'**



