





MESSY
church




729

MESSY church

A STUDY OF 1ST CORINTHIANS



*The first 4 chapters address
'messy issue' #1...*



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

1 Corinthians 4:1-7

- ¹ This is how one should regard us,
as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God.
- ² Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful.
- ³ But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you
or by any human court.
In fact, I do not even judge myself.
- ⁴ For I am not aware of anything against myself,
but I am not thereby acquitted. It is the Lord who judges me.

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Greek: hupéretés

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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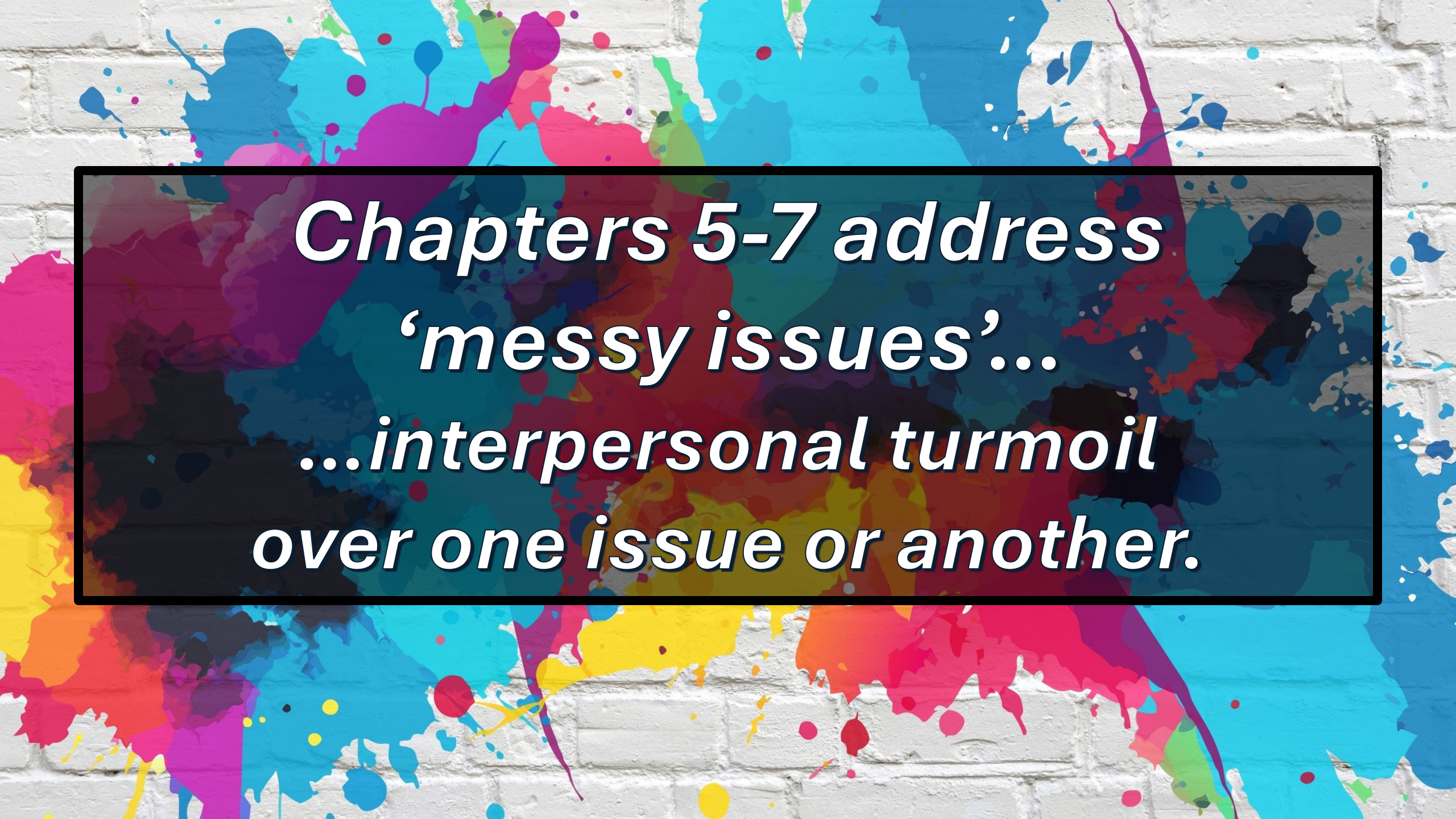
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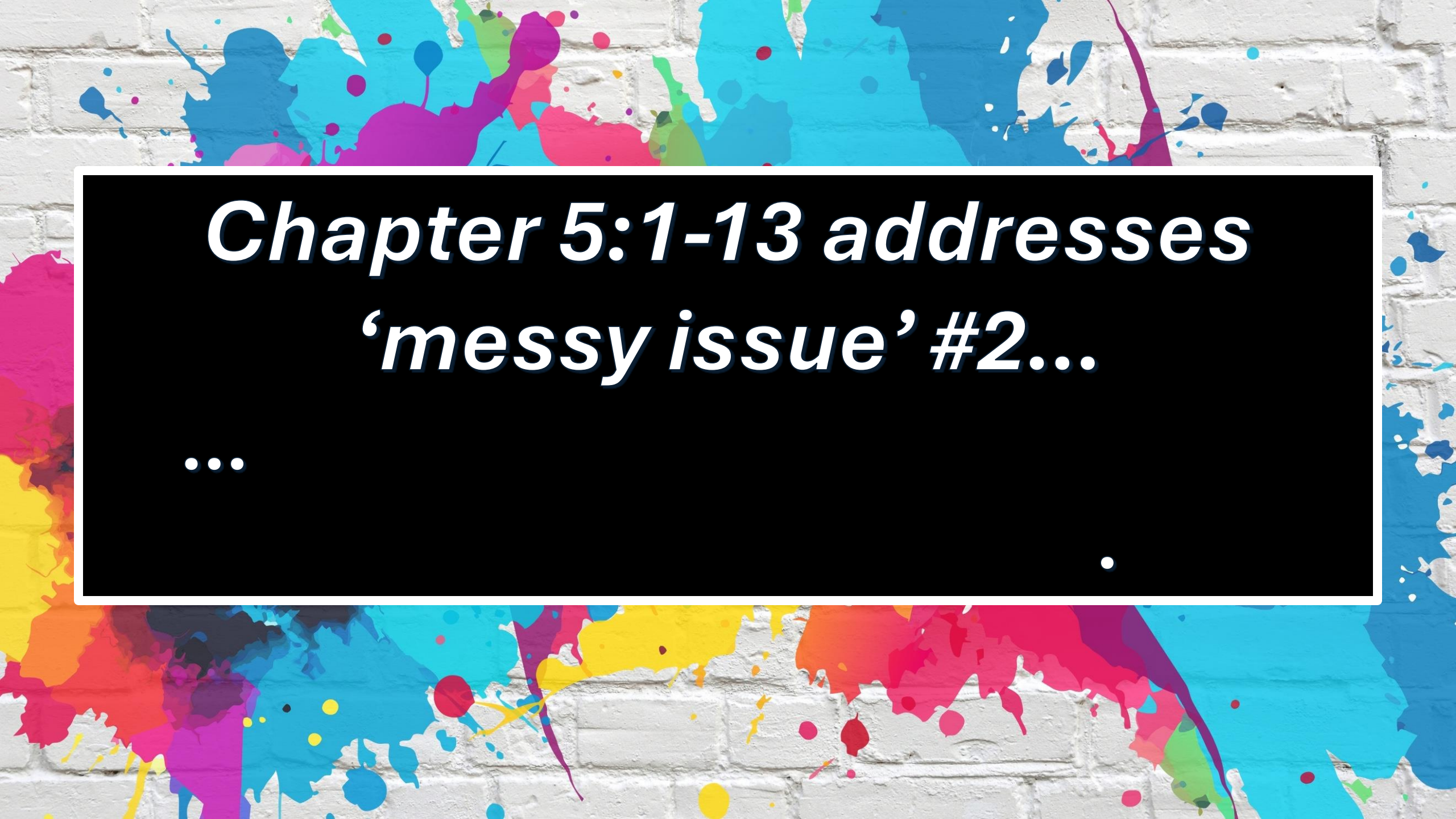
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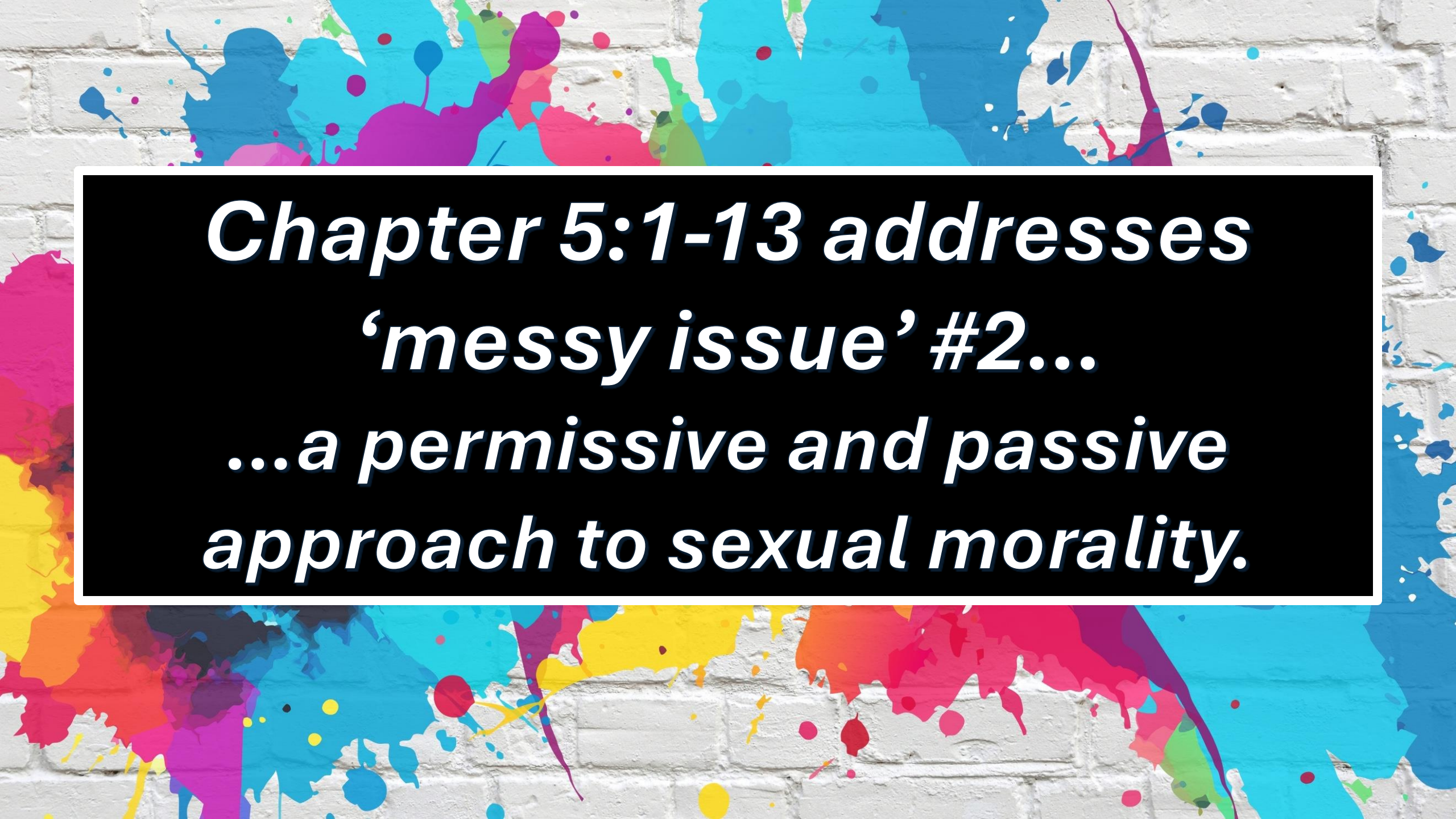
***Chapters 5-7 address
'messy issues'...
...interpersonal turmoil
over one issue or another.***



***Chapter 5:1-13 addresses
'messy issue' #2...***

...

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***Chapter 5:1-13 addresses
'messy issue' #2...
...a permissive and passive
approach to sexual morality.***

I Corinthians 5:1-13

- ¹ It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that is not tolerated even among pagans, for a man has his father's wife.
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Definition: Sexual immorality, fornication, '*prostitution*'

Meaning: fornication, whoredom; in a sense an act of idolatry.

In the New Testament, "porneia" is used to describe various forms of sexual immorality, including fornication, adultery, and other illicit sexual practices.

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Being made in the image of God is the core identity of humankind, with our sexuality being a unique and special expression of His handiwork for and in each individual.

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Being made in the image of God is the core identity of humankind, with our sexuality being a unique and special expression of His handiwork for and in each individual. **Like everything else, it too has been marred and scarred by the by the fall of mankind and the brokenness of our experience.**

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“God given” indicates that there is a source of design that includes a standard for “absolute” that is required for there to be anything that could reveal that there is a clear picture of morality....

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Absolutes are the foundation for **Truth**.

Truth is the foundation for **Morality**.

Therefore...if there are no **absolutes**, it means there is no such thing as **truth**, which means there is nothing that is inherently **moral or immoral**...morality is shattered.

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21st century 'Wild West' frontier vigilante justice...

...when life seems meaningless or pointless, we seem to hope that somehow sex can retain some sort of significance that meets the deepest needs we have for profound relational connection, personal value, and emotional intimacy.

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“We may wonder why Paul spoke so often about sexual sin. It was not because Christians had some hang-up about it. It is because the area of sex was one of the most dramatic places where the ethics of Greek culture clashed with the ethics of Jesus. Sexual immorality was an accepted fact of life for the common person in Greek culture, but it was not to be so among the followers of Jesus.”

(David Guzik, former pastor at Calvary Chapel, Santa Barbara, CA)

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“Mistresses we keep for the sake of pleasure, concubines for the daily care of the body, but wives to bear us legitimate children and to be faithful guardians of our households.”

(Common 1st century Greek saying)

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**-Adultery-
-Incest-
-Fornication-
...clearly violating the moral norms even among the unbelieving world.**

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Forbidden in the Old Testament (Tanakh), Torah

- Deuteronomy 27:20;
- Leviticus 18:8;
- Amos 2:7

Forbidden in Roman Law

“lex Iulia de adulteriis” 18 BC

Punishable by exile on an island

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Greek: pentheó

Definition: To mourn, to lament, to grieve, to feel the depth of guilt.

In the ancient Jewish and Greco-Roman cultures, mourning was a significant social and religious practice. It involved various expressions of grief, such as weeping, wearing sackcloth, fasting, and other outward signs of sorrow.

Mourning was not only a personal experience but also a communal one, often observed in response to death, national calamity, or sin. The act of mourning was seen as a way to honor the deceased, express repentance, or seek divine intervention.

3

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**4 When you are assembled in the name of the Lord Jesus and my spirit is
 present, with the power of our Lord Jesus,
5 you are to deliver this man to Satan for the destruction of the
 flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord.**

6 Your boasting is not good.

Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump?

7 Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump,
 as you really are unleavened.

For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed.

8 Let us therefore celebrate the festival, not with the old leaven,
 the leaven of malice and evil,
 but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

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**9 I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people—
10 not at all meaning the sexually immoral of this world,
or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters,
since then you would need to go out of the world.**

11 But now I am writing to you not to associate with anyone who bears the name of brother if he is guilty of sexual immorality or greed, or is an idolater, reviler, drunkard, or swindler—
--not even to eat with such a one.

12 For what have I to do with judging outsiders?
Is it not those inside the church whom you are to judge?

13 God judges those outside.

“Purge the evil person from among you.”

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Paradigm for relating to an immoral **world**



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I am not going to
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**That
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I Corinthians 5

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I will humbly and
lovingly take
responsibility to...

**protect God's call
for holiness in each
and every believer.**

I Corinthians 5

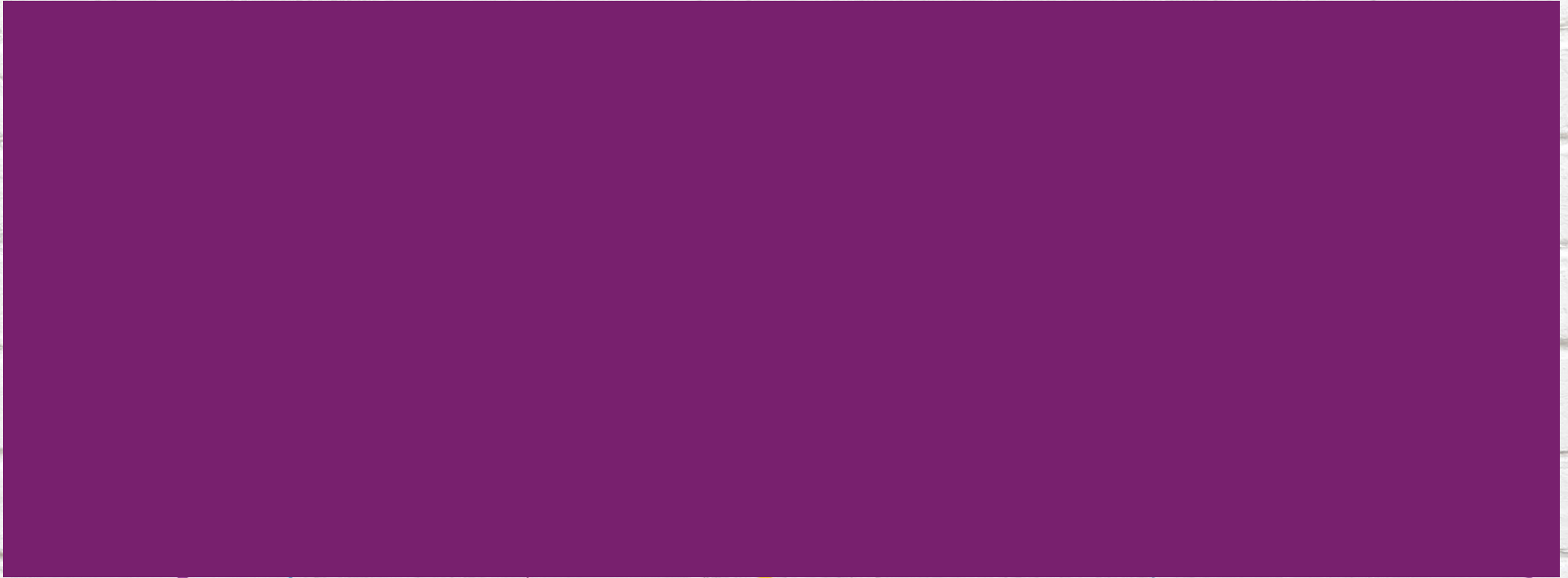
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So...therefore...what now?



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Our sexual morality is a profoundly powerful dimension of our lives that is rooted in the creative truth of God Himself...

So...therefore...what now?

Our sexual morality is a profoundly powerful dimension of our lives that is rooted in the creative truth of God Himself...

...and, unfortunately, it has been counterfeited by the world with the effect of unraveling what is good for the human soul.

So...therefore...what now?

The assembly, the fellowship, the church is responsible to courageously identify when and what runs contrary to God's design among those who identify with Christ...



So...therefore...what now?

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Galatians 6:1

Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted.

So...therefore...what now?

Live in the world but do not be of the world...
...it is God's dominion to judge.



So...therefore...what now?

Live in the world but do not be of the world...
...it is God's dominion to judge.

**Our responsibility is to engage those
in the body of Christ for their own good
and the good of one another.**

So...therefore...what now?

Exclusion from fellowship in the body of Christ
is the most severe action that we can take.

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**But sometimes pain is the best path
to change, growth and repentance.**

The image features a white brick wall as a background. At the top and bottom edges, there are vibrant, multi-colored paint splatters in shades of blue, yellow, red, pink, and purple. The text is centered on the wall in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

**Are we willing to protect the integrity
of God's design for human sexuality
in the church, in the fellowship,
in the community of believers?**