

**Messy Church (1 Cor. 1:1-9)**  
**TCF, September 17, 2023**  
**Pastor Travis Connick**

**I. Have you noticed the church is a mess?**

- a. But the church is a hospital for sinners, not a museum for saints.
  - i. Misdeeds will be committed. Mistakes will be made.
- b. It leads people to figure out if their faith was placed in the church rather than the Lord?
  - i. Is my hope and identity rooted in the church or in the Lord?

**II. About Corinth (Review from last week).**

- a. Commercial Center (two major ports)
- b. Competitive Spirit (Isthmian Games)
- c. Pluralistic and Pagan
  - i. “Corinthian Girl” was slang for the temple prostitutes.

**III. About the Corinthian Church**

- a. Birthed in 51-52AD (Acts 18)
- b. After Paul left to go to Ephesus, he received not so glowing reports.
  - i. The church was full of life and full of problems.
    - 1. Splintered into factions.
    - 2. Sued each other in court.
    - 3. Sexual immorality.

**IV. Paul Writes to Speak Into the Mess (1 Cor. 1:1-9)**

- a. Greetings to the Church in Corinth (1-3)
  - i. Paul says three things about the nature of the Church.
    - 1. Built upon Apostolic Teaching
    - 2. Belongs to Christ (Acts 20:28)
    - 3. Banded Together with Other Believers.
      - a. Cooperation, not competition is the aim.
- b. Confidence in the Church in Corinth (4-9). And it's a confidence not grounded in their goodness, but the Lord's faithfulness.
  - i. In the Past, They've Received God's Grace Through Faith in Christ (4). God's Grace Given to a Believer Produces...
    - 1. The Removal of Sin
    - 2. The Restructuring of Our Hearts
    - 3. The Reversal of Our Values
  - ii. In the Present, They're Continually Being Enriched with God's Generous Gifts-Gifts of the Holy Spirit (5-7).
    - 1. The Lord has given each church everything they need to bear witness of Christ effectively in their community.
  - iii. In the Future, They Will Stand Guiltless Before the Lord (8-9).
    - 1. Colossians 1:22-23

**V. How Do You Live Well Within the Body of Christ? 3 Pieces of Pastoral Advice...**

- a. Find the Church You Hate the Least and Be a Contributing Member In It.
  - i. There's no perfect church, including this one. So find the one you hate the least and plug in.
- b. Focus on the Good That is There and Get Behind It, Even While Problems Persist.
  - i. There are many good churches doing good Gospel work. Focus on the good and trust the Lord is at work even when it's a bit messy.
  - ii. A house that has a lot of life in it, usually has a lot of messes as well.
- c. Fix Your Eyes on Jesus, Not the Church.
  - i. Paul mentions Jesus 9 times in 9 verses.
  - ii. Hebrews 12:2