

MESSY, UGLY CHURCH

1 Corinthians 1.1-9

BACKGROUND ON CORINTH

1 Corinthians 1.1-8

Paul had planted a church in Corinth, a Greek city, on his second missionary journey around 50 or 51 AD (Acts 18). It was a busy trade center, and a hub for politics, philosophy, worship of multiple gods, sensual living, and affluence. Paul eventually saw Crispus, the leader of the Jewish synagogue, become a believer in Jesus. Paul lived there 18 months, and eventually left with his new companions, Priscilla and Aquilla, to go to Ephesus, and eventually back to Israel. Between 52 and 55 AD, he started hearing reports of great misconduct, living worldly, arrogant, and not at all like followers of Christ.

GIFTED MIGHTILY, YET SINNING HEAVILY...

1 Corinthians 1.4-7

Though the purpose and tone of 1 Corinthians was largely confrontive, Paul, being very fatherly and patient, genuinely loved these wandering hearts. He begins with a brief Gospel reminder, as well as evidence of God's grace towards them, citing their giftedness in knowledge and speaking gifts.

**You can't have wisdom without knowledge,
But you can have knowledge without wisdom.**

...BUT CARRIED BY GRACE

1 Corinthians 1.4-9

**Here is a sad truth: the church is ugly.
But this is not the end of the truth.**

God will sustain us to the end, guiltless in the Day of the Lord, without stain or blemish. It's as if we were in the court of law, we've committed crimes, dirtied our garments, hands filthy with the grime of our sin. You take a polygraph test to prove your innocence or guilt, and you fail, you are guilty. But we are not carried into heaven by the results of a polygraph test, but by the results of a blood test.

Though the charges against you are a mile high, though the polygraph test proves your guilt, and the evidence proves beyond the shadow of a doubt that you have committed every treasonous act of sin against God, His blood will prove your innocence.

**I am not what I ought to be, I am not what I want to be.
I am not what I hope to be in a future world.
But I am not what I used to be, and by God's grace, I am what I am.**
- John Newton

NOTES:

This Week's Scripture to Memorize:

Colossians 3:14-15

¹⁴And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.

ARE YOU NEW HERE?

WELCOME TO LIFE MISSION!

We'd love for you to **fill out a Connection Card** so we can welcome you and answer any questions you may have. You can drop it in the offering basket during the service or take it to one of our teammates at the **Connection Booth** outside. Feel free to grab some coffee and snacks in the courtyard and hang out. We hope you'll **join us next Sunday** and consider making us your church family.

WHAT ABOUT THE KIDS?

Our childrens' ministry, which we call **Kids on Mission**, has classes for **newborns - 5th grade**. We have a great team of volunteers who have all been screened with background checks for extra security. Each week your child will get to **worship** with their class, followed by an **age-appropriate lesson** that points them towards Jesus and helps root them in the Word of God.

Visit our website to read more about the vision of Kids on Mission and a walkthrough of our curriculum. If you have any questions, email **Amber Willis at amber@lifemission.tv**

JUNIOR HIGH & HIGH SCHOOL

Our **6th - 8th graders** begin each Sunday by **worshipping with the adults** and then head to their classroom with their teacher and classmates for the rest of service. Visit our website to read more about our junior high ministry and a walkthrough of our curriculum.

Our **9th-12th graders stay in the service** with the adults because we believe that it is crucial for them to not "graduate the faith" when they graduate high school.

For more information about our Junior High & High School ministries, email **Tyler Willis at tyler@lifemission.tv**.

Contact Us

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COMMUNITY GROUP HOMEWORK

Before your group starts, is there anyone who can share the **Memory Verse**?

Read **1 Corinthians 1.1-10**. What stands out to you in this passage, and what stuck out to you most from the sermon on Sunday? _____

The church in Corinth was a mess. Sin was rampant, despite the fact that they were gifted by God and even seemed to have quite a bit of bible knowledge (**v. 5**). What insights might you draw from the observation that they were so sin-ridden despite being knowledge-filled?

Preaching the Gospel to Yourself

Read **verses 4-9** again. How do these verses specifically point you back to the Gospel of Christ when you are being discouraged by your sin and faults?

Repent and Confess

Read **1 Corinthians 13.1-3**, focusing on **verse 3**. Paul said that *even if you martyred yourself* for the Gospel, but didn't have love, he gains nothing. The Corinthian church had knowledge, but no wisdom. They misused or neglected their gifts. What ways do you think God has given you grace that you realize you are either misusing for your glory or are totally neglecting? How might you start the process of confession and repentance?

Ask for Provision

In light of these passages, what do you need to ask for from the Lord? And not just "love" or "wisdom," but "love" for what or who? Wisdom for what?

Your Life Mission

God has gifted you. Not just with talents and skills, but life experiences, a particular personality, hobbies and interests, etc. What relationships or situations are you in or could get into that you could use prayer for as it pertains to using these gifts with wisdom and in love, particularly with non-believers in your life? What is on your calendar that your brothers and sisters can pray for you to use those gifts?

End the evening in a time of prayer, praying through the theme of the night using the **P.R.A.Y.** model with your group. Make sure to end your time of prayer **Yielding with Thanksgiving** for God's sovereignty and plan for your life.



LIFE MISSION

C H U R C H

MAKING DISCIPLES WHO MAKE DISCIPLES LOCALLY AND GLOBALLY,
WHO ARE SAVED, EQUIPPED, AND SENT BY THE GOSPEL.



MESSY, UGLY CHURCH

1 Corinthians 1:1-9 // February 18, 2018

SUNDAYS AT 10AM

Life Mission Church Meets at Classical Academy High School
207 E Pennsylvania Ave, Escondido 92025

GET TO KNOW MORE ABOUT US ONLINE

LIFEMISSIONCHURCH.COM

