



GOSPEL | COMMUNITY | MISSION

October 15, 2023
1 Corinthians 1:1-9
“A Messy Church and a Magnificent Savior”

QUESTIONS

(potential discussion/conversation questions to use in your GGs this week)

1. Tony opened his sermon by stating that "only imperfect churches exist today." Are you tempted to believe that Imago Dei is an exception to this statement? How can you as a group honor and love the church as God's "divine creation" without worshipping it as a "human invention"?
2. As we work our way through the first 9 verses of 1 Corinthians we see that every verse points back to Jesus and his redemptive work on the cross. Why is this good news for the unbeliever?
 - a. How is this also good news for the believer?
3. Understanding some of the historical context of Corinth and the cultural metropolis that it was contributes to Paul's need to make his divine authority clear to the Corinthian church. Why would it have been hard for the Corinthian church to submit to Paul's teaching?
 - a. Why is it challenging for people today to submit to Paul's teaching in the book of 1 Corinthians?
4. In verse 2, Paul calls the church in Corinth "sanctified in Christ Jesus" indicating their purity and holiness. Why would this have been hard to believe about the church in Corinth?
 - a. If you are "sanctified in Christ Jesus," how do you personally grow in holiness?
5. The whole book of 1 Corinthians addresses how the gospel enriches the church with unity and gifts. In a book where we know Paul is about to rebuke the church, he first acknowledges the blessings and gifts they have received in knowing Christ. In particular, what was the Corinthian church "rich" in?
 - a. Thinking back to last week and Adam's sermon on God's love, in what ways are all Christians rich?
 - b. How can you leverage your unique gifts to build up the church and serve others around you who are different from you (socially, generationally, racially, vocationally, socio-economically, etc.)?
6. Paul sets a beautiful example for us by praising God for the gifts that he sees among the Corinthian church without endorsing their behavior. How do you fight natural tendencies toward pride and self-exaltation when you see areas for growth in others?
7. Paul closes this section of thanksgiving by pointing to the revealing of Jesus through the faithfulness of God. How can you as a group help one another through the challenges and messiness of life with this hope?
 - a. Who in your life could benefit from hearing about this hope, specifically those in your community who are far from God?