

God's Beautiful Messy Church (1 Corinthians)
Week's Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:1-9
Discussion Guide: January 2, 2022

CHECK UP:

Memory Work Review: Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved. - Acts 2:46-47

How did you emphasize "life together" for yourself this past week?

OPEN:

- What adjectives would you use to describe the church?
 - o From your experience, why do the words beautiful and messy seem appropriate?

READ and ASK: 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

- What "titles" does Paul give the Corinthian church?
- When Paul prays in gratitude for the Corinthian church, what positive attributes come to his mind?
- Knowing that Paul is writing to address some serious issues within this church (division, sexual immorality, abuse of the Lord's Supper, suing one another etc...), how can he also say, "He will also keep you firm to the end, so that you will be blameless"?
 - o What should we learn from this? (see Romans 6:1-4)
- In what direction does Paul seem to be pointing the Corinthian church?
 - o What is Paul confident of?
- From a high-level view, what do you think Paul is trying to emphasize in his greeting to the Corinthian church?
 - o How do you think he is setting the tone for the rest of the letter?

APPLY:

- In what ways are you thankful for our church? What benefit would it be to remember those things in your prayer life?
- How does it encourage you to know that Paul is writing to address some serious sin issues in this church, and yet he uses words like sanctified, holy, gifted, and blameless?
- NEXT STEP(S): What do you need to do this week, knowing that in Christ God sees you as blameless and beautiful regardless of whatever mess you are in? (ex. worship, give thanks, surrender, repent, believe...)

Memory Work:

God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

-1 Corinthians 1:9

Next Week's Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:10-17