

A painting of a church with a bell tower and a cross on top. The church is set against a background of warm, orange and red hues. The entire scene is overlaid with thick, dripping paint in various colors: orange, red, blue, and dark brown. The paint drips are thick and viscous, creating a 'messy' effect. The church itself is rendered in a painterly style with visible brushstrokes.

# 1 Corinthians

MESSY CHURCH  
MIGHTY CHRIST

For my part, brothers and sisters, I was not able to speak to you as spiritual people but as people of the flesh, as babies in Christ. <sup>2</sup> I gave you milk to drink, not solid food, since you were not yet ready for it. In fact, you are still not ready, <sup>3</sup> because you are still worldly. For since there is envy and strife among you, are you not worldly and behaving like mere humans? <sup>4</sup> For whenever someone says, “I belong to Paul,” and another, “I belong to Apollos,” are you not acting like mere humans?

1 Corinthians 3:1-4

1 Corinthians

MESSY CHURCH  
MIGHTY CHRIST



<sup>5</sup> What then is Apollos? What is Paul? They are servants through whom you believed, and each has the role the Lord has given. <sup>6</sup> I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. <sup>7</sup> So, then, neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. <sup>8</sup> Now he who plants and he who waters are one, and each will receive his own reward according to his own labor. <sup>9</sup> For we are God's coworkers. You are God's field, God's building.

1 Corinthians 3:5-9

1 Corinthians

MESSY CHURCH  
MIGHTY CHRIST

<sup>10</sup> According to God's grace that was given to me, I have laid a foundation as a skilled master builder, and another builds on it. But each one is to be careful how he builds on it. <sup>11</sup> For no one can lay any foundation other than what has been laid down. That foundation is Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 3:10-11

<sup>12</sup> If anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay, or straw, <sup>13</sup> each one's work will become obvious. For the day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire; the fire will test the quality of each one's work. <sup>14</sup> If anyone's work that he has built survives, he will receive a reward. <sup>15</sup> If anyone's work is burned up, he will experience loss, but he himself will be saved—but only as through fire.

**1 Corinthians 3:12-15**

**No doubt every Christian's work is mixed in quality; no doubt we all shall have the awesome sadness of seeing much of our work burned up. This should inspire all Christians to take more thorough care how we are building. Yet, whatever the extent of the loss we shall suffer, nothing in the eternal justice of that fire can tear us away from the love of God or from his salvation.**

**-David Prior**

<sup>16</sup> Don't you yourselves know that you are God's temple and that the Spirit of God lives in you? <sup>17</sup> If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him; for God's temple is holy, and that is what you are.

**1 Corinthians 3:16-17**



<sup>18</sup> Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you thinks he is wise in this age, let him become a fool so that he can become wise. <sup>19</sup> For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God, since it is written, He catches the wise in their craftiness; <sup>20</sup> and again, The Lord knows that the reasonings of the wise are futile. <sup>21</sup> So let no one boast in human leaders, for everything is yours—<sup>22</sup> whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or things present or things to come—everything is yours, <sup>23</sup> and you belong to Christ, and Christ belongs to God.

1 Corinthians 3:18-23

1 Corinthians

MESSY CHURCH  
MIGHTY CHRIST



**The crucified Christ may seem foolish to the world, but this has been God's way to give his people all that he has planned for them to enjoy in the present and the future, in life or in death.**

**-Paul Gardner**

Privilege  
Responsibility  
Reward

1 Corinthians

MESSY CHURCH  
MIGHTY CHRIST