

A painting of a church with a bell tower and a cross on top. The church is surrounded by trees and a grassy area. The entire scene is overlaid with thick, dripping paint in various colors including orange, red, blue, and dark brown. The paint drips are most prominent on the left and right sides of the image.

1 Corinthians

MESSY CHURCH
MIGHTY CHRIST

If any of you has a dispute against another, how dare you take it to court before the unrighteous, and not before the saints? ² Or don't you know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world is judged by you, are you unworthy to judge the trivial cases? ³ Don't you know that we will judge angels—how much more matters of this life?

...

⁴ So if you have such matters, do you appoint as your judges those who have no standing in the church? ⁵ I say this to your shame! Can it be that there is not one wise person among you who is able to arbitrate between fellow believers? ⁶ Instead, brother goes to court against brother, and that before unbelievers!

1 Corinthians 6:1-6

1 Corinthians

MESSY CHURCH
MIGHTY CHRIST

⁹ For this reason also, since the day we heard this, we haven't stopped praying for you. We are asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding, ¹⁰ so that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and growing in the knowledge of God,

Colossians 1:9-10

God has chosen what is insignificant and despised in the world—what is viewed as nothing—to bring to nothing what is viewed as something,²⁹ so that no one may boast in his presence.

1 Corinthians 1:28-29

I have written so that you will know how people ought to conduct themselves in God's household, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth.

1 Timothy 3:15

⁵ I say this to your shame! Can it be that there is not one wise person among you who is able to arbitrate between fellow believers? ⁶ Instead, brother goes to court against brother, and that before unbelievers!

1 Corinthians 6:5-6

Or don't you know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world is judged by you, are you unworthy to judge the trivial cases?

1 Corinthians 6:2

⁷ As it is, to have legal disputes against one another is already a defeat for you. Why not rather be wronged? Why not rather be cheated? ⁸ Instead, you yourselves do wrong and cheat—and you do this to brothers and sisters!

1 Corinthians 6:7-8

⁹ Don't you know that the unrighteous will not inherit God's kingdom? Do not be deceived: No sexually immoral people, idolaters, adulterers, or males who have sex with males, ¹⁰ no thieves, greedy people, drunkards, verbally abusive people, or swindlers will inherit God's kingdom. ¹¹ And some of you used to be like this. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

1 Corinthians 6:9-11

The question – don't you know – usually introduces a section in which Paul is especially concerned about their practice or behavior in the Christian life. It often occurs where he makes a theological statement that they should know but appear to be ignoring in the way they live. The main impact of the rhetorical device, however, is that it makes it clear that Paul regards what he is saying as foundational theology to be accepted by all, even if some at Corinth have apparently missed the point.

-Paul Gardner

If your life is characterized by a pattern of sin, and you're not moving away from it, seeking help for it, and relying on God's grace to put it to death, then considering this a warning about the possibility of deception.

1 Corinthians 6:11

“And some of you used to be like this.” (CSB)

“And such were some of you.” (ESV)

“And these, some of you were.”