

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 image is framed by thick, dripping paint in various colors: orange, red, blue, and dark brown. The paint drips are most prominent on the left and right sides, creating a 'messy' or 'splattered' effect.

1 Corinthians

MESSY CHURCH
MIGHTY CHRIST

1 Corinthians 9:19

Although I am free from all and not anyone's slave, I have made myself a slave to everyone, in order to win more people.

1 Corinthians 11:1

Imitate me, as I also imitate Christ.

1 Corinthians 9:19-23

Although I am free from all and not anyone's slave, I have made myself a slave to everyone, in order to win more people. ²⁰ To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win Jews; to those under the law, like one under the law—though I myself am not under the law—to win those under the law. ²¹ To those who are without the law, like one without the law—though I am not without God's law but under the law of Christ—to win those without the law...

²² To the weak I became weak, in order to win the weak. I have become all things to all people, so that I may by every possible means save some. ²³ Now I do all this because of the gospel, so that I may share in the blessings.

Matthew 18:15

If your brother sins against you, go tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have won your brother.

1 Corinthians 9:22-23

...I have become all things to all people, so that I may by every possible means save some.

²³ Now I do all this because of the gospel, so that I may share in the blessings.

We belong to the larger body of Christ WITH each other, and we belong TO each other as fellow slaves of Jesus.

1 Corinthians 9:21

To those who are without the law, like one without the law—though I am not without God's law but under the law of Christ—to win those without the law.

1 Corinthians 9:22

To the weak I became weak, in order to win the weak. I have become all things to all people, so that I may by every possible means save some.

1 Corinthians 1:27-29

God has chosen what is foolish in the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen what is weak in the world to shame the strong. ²⁸ 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 9:22-23

I have become all things to all people, so that I may by every possible means save some. ²³ Now I do all this because of the gospel, so that I may share in the blessings.

1 Corinthians 9:24-27

Don't you know that the runners in a stadium all race, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way to win the prize. ²⁵ Now everyone who competes exercises self-control in everything. They do it to receive a perishable crown, but we an imperishable crown. ²⁶ So I do not run like one who runs aimlessly or box like one beating the air...

²⁷ Instead, I discipline my body and bring it under strict control, so that after preaching to others, I myself will not be disqualified.

The need to run the race to the end did not fill Paul with doubt or shake his confidence. Instead, the admonition to run the race stimulated him to continue in the faith, and his perseverance bolstered his confidence that he would receive final salvation.

- Tom Schreiner