

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 thick and textured, creating a sense of messiness and spontaneity.

1 Corinthians

MESSY CHURCH
MIGHTY CHRIST

“Bondage of some kind is inescapable. We will all serve somebody or something. It is only a question of whom and how.”

Brad Littlejohn in *Called to Freedom*

Acts 2:23

He was delivered up according to God's determined plan and foreknowledge, you used lawless people to nail him to a cross and kill him.

Romans 8:1-2

...there is now no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus,¹ ² because the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and death.

In Christ, you have been set free! Now use your freedom to be a slave of God and a slave of your neighbor.

1 Corinthians 10:23-28

Everything is permissible,” but not everything is beneficial. “Everything is permissible,” but not everything builds up. ²⁴ No one is to seek his own good, but the good of the other person.

²⁵ Eat everything that is sold in the meat market, without raising questions for the sake of conscience, ²⁶ since the earth is the Lord’s, and all that is in it...

²⁷ If any of the unbelievers invites you over and you want to go, eat everything that is set before you, without raising questions for the sake of conscience. ²⁸ But if someone says to you, “This is food from a sacrifice,” do not eat it, out of consideration for the one who told you, and for the sake of conscience.

First Corinthians 10:23-11:1 calls believers to glorify God by imitating Jesus through denying self and sacrificially serving others.

Psalm 24:1

The earth and everything in it, the world and its inhabitants, belong to the LORD;

1 Corinthians 10:28-30

But if someone says to you, “This is food from a sacrifice,” do not eat it, out of consideration for the one who told you, and for the sake of conscience. ²⁹ I do not mean your own conscience, but the other person’s. For why is my freedom judged by another person’s conscience? ³⁰ If I partake with thanksgiving, why am I criticized because of something for which I give thanks?

1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1

So (Therefore), whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God.

³² Give no offense to Jews or Greeks or the church of God, ³³ just as I also try to please everyone in everything, not seeking my own benefit, but the benefit of many, so that they may be saved.

11 Imitate me, as I also imitate Christ.

Your chief slogan is no longer, “Everything is permissible. I can do what I want.” Your new theme is: I get to live to glorify God by imitating Jesus Christ’s self-denial and sacrificial service in the church and in the world.

Colossians 3:16-17

Let the word of Christ dwell richly among you, in all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another through psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

1 Corinthians 1:23

We preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to the Jews and foolishness to the Gentiles.

1 Corinthians 10:33

...I also try to please everyone in everything, not seeking my own benefit, but the benefit of many, so that they may be saved.

“please”

I want the recipient to know that I count him/her as worthy of my willingness to soften or change my attitude, my words, or my approach.

1 Corinthians 10:16-17

The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a sharing in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a sharing in the body of Christ? ¹⁷ Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, since all of us share the one bread.

1 Corinthians 11:27-29

So, then, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sin against the body and blood of the Lord. ²⁸ Let a person examine himself; in this way let him eat the bread and drink from the cup. ²⁹ For whoever eats and drinks without recognizing the body, eats and drinks judgment on himself.