

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 overlaid with 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

“The Christian’s instincts of trust and worship are stimulated very powerfully by knowledge of the greatness of God.”

“We are modern people, and modern people, though they cherish great thoughts of themselves, have, as a rule, small thoughts of God.”

J.I. Packer in *Knowing God*

1 Corinthians 12:12-14

For just as the body is one and has many parts, and all the parts of that body, though many, are one body—so also is Christ. ¹³ For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and we were all given one Spirit to drink. ¹⁴ Indeed, the body is not one part but many.

1 Corinthians 12:1

Now concerning spiritual gifts: brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be unaware.

Romans 8:9

You, however, are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. If anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to him.

1 Corinthians 12:14-24

Indeed, the body is not one part but many. ¹⁵ If the foot should say, “Because I’m not a hand, I don’t belong to the body,” it is not for that reason any less a part of the body. ¹⁶ And if the ear should say, “Because I’m not an eye, I don’t belong to the body,” it is not for that reason any less a part of the body. ¹⁷ If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be...

¹⁸ But as it is, God has arranged each one of the parts in the body just as he wanted. ¹⁹ And if they were all the same part, where would the body be? ²⁰ As it is, there are many parts, but one body. ²¹ The eye cannot say to the hand, “I don’t need you!” Or again, the head can’t say to the feet, “I don’t need you!” ²² On the contrary, those parts of the body that are weaker are indispensable...

²³ And those parts of the body that we consider less honorable, we clothe these with greater honor, and our unrespectable parts are treated with greater respect, ²⁴ which our respectable parts do not need. Instead, God has put the body together together, giving greater honor to the less honorable,

1 Corinthians 12:18 & 24

¹⁸ But as it is, God has arranged each one of the parts in the body just as he wanted.

²⁴ ...Instead, God has put the body together...

1 Corinthians 12:24-31

God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the less honorable, ²⁵ so that there would be no division in the body, but that the members would have the same concern for each other. ²⁶ So if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it....

²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ, and individual members of it. ²⁸ And God has appointed [set in place] these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, next miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, leading, various kinds of tongues. ²⁹ Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all do miracles? ³⁰ Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? ³¹ But desire the greater gifts. And I will show you an even better way.

Ephesians 4:11-12

And he himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, ¹² to equip the saints for the work of ministry, to build up the body of Christ,

1 Corinthians 4:9

For I think God has displayed us, the apostles, in last place, like men condemned to die: We have become a spectacle to the world, both to angels and to people.

1 Corinthians 9:1

Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord?

1 Corinthians 12:18

But as it is, God has arranged each one of the parts in the body just as he wanted.

1 Corinthians 12:24b-25

Instead, God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the less honorable, ²⁵ so that there would be no division in the body, but that the members would have the same concern for each other.

Even evangelical language for conversion betrays this bias: a “*personal* relationship with Jesus Christ.” That is the necessary starting point, but we dare not stop until that relationship leads to intimate *interpersonal* relationships with other Christians.

Craig Blomberg

1 Corinthians 12:29-31

**Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers?
Do all do miracles? ³⁰ Do all have gifts of healing? Do
all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? ³¹ But desire
the greater gifts.**

1 Corinthians 14:1

Pursue love and desire spiritual gifts, and especially that you may prophesy.

1 Corinthians 9:22

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