MESSY GRACE- a study in 1corinthians

Part 1

I. The Introduction (vv. 1-9)

A. The establishment of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. whenever serious issues are being dealt with, the person attempting to correct problems

must ensure that he or she is working within the authority that has been given to them

a. if you have not been given that authority, you must partner with one who has

2. those working outside their authority are disrespecting the order that God has instituted

in the Church

a. it is not an either-or proposition, regarding correction of problems IN the Church, and

respect for the order OF the Church

i. those who would posit such are usually either unknowingly or deliberately facilitating

division in the Body of Christ

B. The picture of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. what Paul desires is for the Church to be unified behind a right understanding of what the

Church should be

a. a church of grace, of peace and of holiness

b. a church sanctified (set apart) for the purposes of Jesus

c. a blessed church – flowing in the gifts and blessings of God

d. a church living with the awareness of the return of Christ, and of the accountability that

knowledge produces

i. and strengthened to stand on that day in blamelessness

2. the unity that Paul is seeking isn’t a “sort of” unity, but a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ one

a. this theme of the perfecting of Jesus is one that Paul returns to multiple times in his

letters to the Corinthians

i. perfection is not something we walk in on this earth, but we should never allow a

lesser standard to motivate us

II. The Foundation (vv. 10-25)

A. Every other issue that Paul will address revolves around the groundwork being laid here

1. the first issue – \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

a. as we will see, this is far from the last, but it is the most significant problem, and without

it being addressed, the others cannot be either

2. the disunity in Corinth revolved around \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

a. one did not have the option of simply “finding a church that suited them”

i. and so what happened was that factions arose that attempted to steer the church

towards the style that they were most comfortable with

b. once you begin to elevate one style, you automatically diminish another

i. we need to be careful that we are not creating a church for the saved, but for the lost

c. the phrase “us who are being saved” indicates on ongoing process at work in us

B. The gospel we preach

1. sounds foolish apart from the enlightening work of the Holy Spirit

2. is not based on human wisdom or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

a. man’s wisdom will never allow for such leaps of faith, nor for such seemingly strange

requirements for salvation

i. the gospel of Jesus Christ differs from world religions in that it is the only one that is

not based on what we do to reach God, but on what He did to reach us

3. is not dependent on signs or on intellectual reason, but on the drawing of God and the

application of faith, in the sufficiency of the cross of Christ

a. the idea of God Himself entering into an exchange wherein he becomes cursed so that we

can become blessed, is a stumbling block to the Jewish understanding of the

transcendence of God

b. the idea that we contribute nothing but our own sinfulness is folly to the Greco-Roman

way of thinking

III. What God is Doing Through His Church (vv. 26-31)

A. We are saved for a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. it is not simply salvation for salvation’s sake, but so that we can participate in the ongoing

work of God

a. this idea of God working goes back to our earliest understanding of Him

i. the idea that He would take time to “rest” speaks of His natural activity – that of

creative work

b. we are called to enter into not only His blessing, but His nature

2. we are not saved because of our inherent value, but out of God’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

a. it has been established that we possess no innate righteousness; here also we see that

we do not contribute anything in the way of wisdom (understanding), influence (power

to accomplish), or nobility (position that obliges)

b. God chose us to reveal His power through our weakness

i. as He did with the Israelites

B. We must choose to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with the purposes of God

1. choosing to gravitate towards our defects, instead of towards God’s perfection, limits the

effect of the work of God in us

a. even as Jesus was limited in His ability to do miracles among the unbelieving (Mark 6:5)

2. Paul is stressing to them the importance of considering who they were, are, and what they

are called to, so as to prepare them for what must be corrected in the church