



Working it Out wk1: God is In It

Introduction: There are a lot of problems in the church, because it is made up of people who sin. We can shake our heads and fists when the sin is revealed, we can walk away, or we can continue to work it out as God works in and on each of us, together to become this Messy Necessity called the church. As we look at 1 Corinthians, be reminded that God was in it, and still is.

Discussion Questions

1. Respond to this quote by Eugene Peterson that Jeremy used in the sermon: *There's nobody who doesn't have problems with the church, because there's sin in the church. But there's no other place to be a Christian except the church.*
2. Read **Acts 18:9-11** What does it mean when God says He has many people in this city? There were people who God was calling to him, but was using Paul to do the work. What can we learn from that in our context?
3. Read **Acts 18:17 & 1 Corinthians 1:1-3** What do we know about Sosthenes (might look at larger story in Acts 18)? Why might it matter to the church in Corinth that this letter had him as a co-signer?
4. What problems do you know exist in the church that Paul is addressing? What are some common reasons people get discouraged by problems within the church, and how can we support them?
5. The letter of 1 Corinthians will include many topics that seem controversial or difficult to understand. Why is it important to wrestle with difficult biblical teachings instead of trying to make them more palatable? Can you think of a time when a difficult biblical teaching challenged you to grow in your faith?
6. How can we embrace the messiness of church life and work through issues with humility?

Shaping Your Mind – *To the church of God in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be his holy people, together with all those everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ—their Lord and ours:³ Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

Moving Forward – *“God has a habit of bringing light to the darkness”.*