

THANK GOD FOR MESSY PEOPLE

1 Corinthians 1:4-8

If we want to _____ messy people, then we need to learn to thank God for messy people; Paul does in vv.4-8

STEP # 1: THANK _____

- A. Paul's thanksgiving is not focused on the Corinthians, but on _____—who He is and what He is doing
- B. In 1 Thessalonians, Paul gave thanks for their _____ love & hope, but he could not do that in 1 Cor.
- C. Whether the mess is in our own lives or the lives of others, we can focus on God & what he is _____

STEP # 2: THANK GOD _____

- A. Paul probably used prayer _____ and when he daily prayed for the Corinthians, he gave thanks
- B. If we have a problem with other believers—think they are a mess, they should be on our prayer _____
- C. We should not just pray, but give thanks for what God is doing in their lives—it will help our _____

STEP # 3: THANK GOD FOR HIS _____

- A. Paul was convinced of one vital fact: while many in the church had problems, God had _____ them
- B. Look for evidence of God's grace in others: how far they have _____ not how far they yet need to go
- C. This principles applies not just to individuals, but also to our local church—thank God for His _____

STEP # 4: THANK GOD FOR HIS GRACE IN _____

- A. NKJV: "the grace of God which was given to you BY Christ Jesus" is more literally "_____ Christ Jesus"
- B. God poured out His grace on them because they were "in Christ"—because of their _____ with Him
- C. We need to learn to see messy believers as God sees them in Christ—wrapped in His _____

STEP # 5: THANK GOD FOR HIS _____

- A. In v.5 Paul gave thanks that the Corinthians were "enriched in all _____ and all knowledge"
- B. V.7 uses the word *charisma* = *charis* (grace) + *ma* (action) meaning "_____ that results from grace"
- C. This word *charisma* is also used 5 times in 1 Cor.12 as a word for spiritual _____ or "grace gifts"
- D. V.5 lists 2 categories of spiritual gifts: speaking (teaching, prophecy, tongues) & knowledge (wisdom)
- E. Paul gave thanks for precisely the gifts that were causing so many _____ in the that local church
- F. Why? Because they were _____ of the work of the Holy Spirit—evidence of genuine salvation!

STEP # 6: THANK GOD THAT THE TESTIMONY ABOUT JESUS WAS _____ IN THEM

- A. "Confirmed" was used in secular Greek of laying a _____ : the message of Jesus was reliable
- B. Some Bible scholars believe the message was confirmed by the use of spiritual _____ among them
- C. Rather, inner confirmation: the Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are _____ of God.

STEP # 7: THANK GOD THAT HE WILL CONFIRM THEM UNBLAMEABLE TO THE _____

- A. In vv.7-8 Paul switches the focus to the _____ —why? To prepare to address the subject later
- B. Paul states one of the most encouraging promises about God: God always _____ what He starts
- C. God promises to do what no human being can: make messy believers unblameable and _____