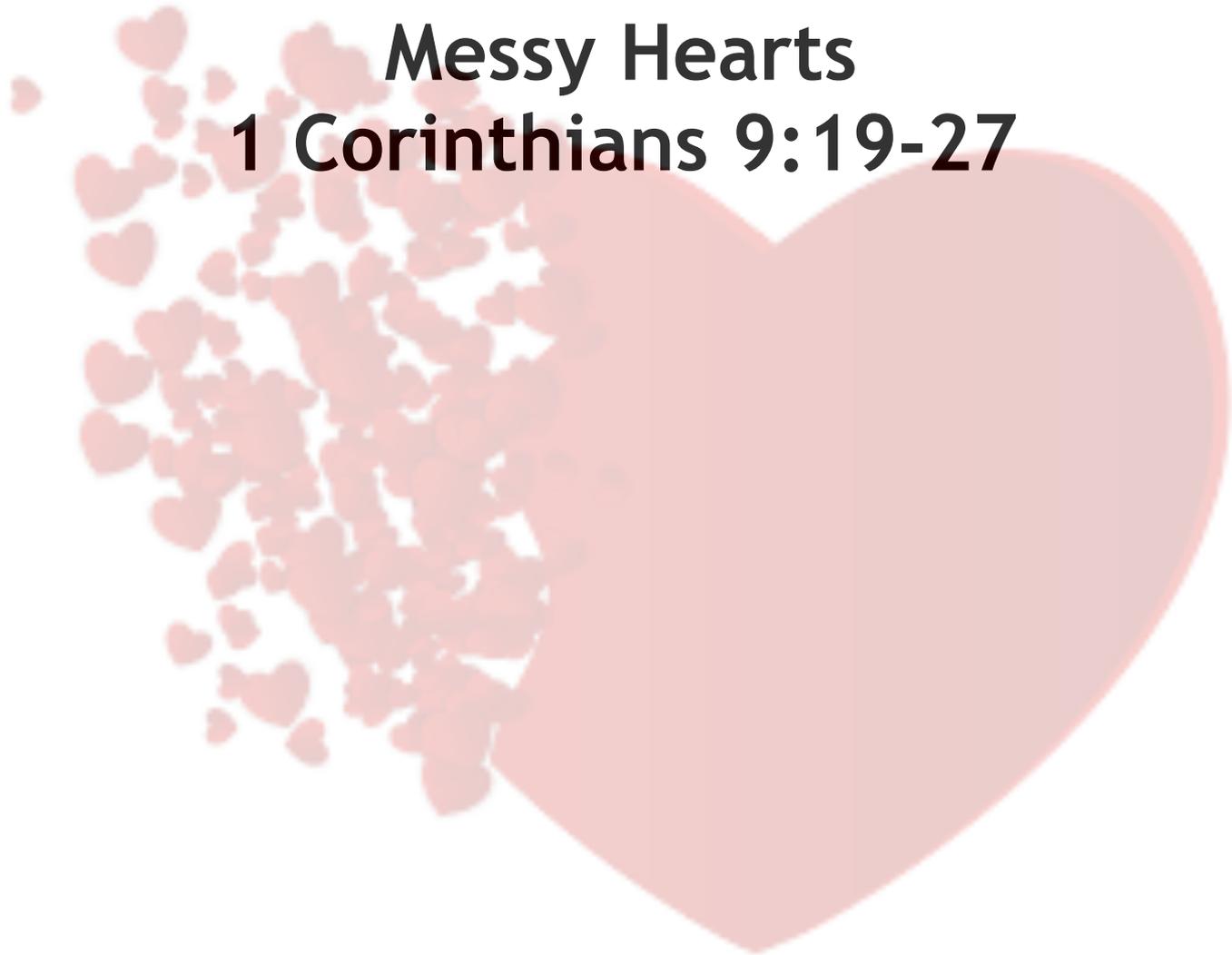


# Messy Hearts

## 1 Corinthians 9:19-27



# Self-Denial

**Be Prepared To Do Anything For Others For Their Salvation**

**1 Corinthians 9:19** *For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win the more;*

Our love and responsibility towards God is more important than independent individuality or our individual rights.

**Romans 14:14-16**

# Self-Denial

**1 Corinthians 9:20** *and to the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might win Jews; to those who are under the law, as under the law, that I might win those who are under the law*

...in other words he would still participate in the ceremonies, traditions and practices of Judaism, abide by the rules and regulations NOT because he had to, but for the purpose of winning Jews to Jesus

# Self-Denial

**1 Corinthians 9:21** *to those who are without law, as without law (not being without law toward God, but under law toward Christ), that I might win those who are without law;*

...in other words Paul was willing to live and work among the Gentiles as long as what he participated in did not violate God's moral laws..

**1 Corinthians 9:22a** *to the weak I became as weak, that I might win the weak*

...in other words for those Jews and Gentiles that just don't get it I will continue to present Jesus.

# Self-Discipline

God's Word Expects US to Share the Good News of Jesus

**1 Corinthians 9:22b** *I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some.*

**1 Corinthians 9:23** *Now this I do for the gospel's sake, that I may be partaker of it with you.*

**Hebrew 12:1-2** *...and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith...*

# Self-Discipline

**1 Corinthians 9:24-27** *Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown. Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air. But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.*

The test of our Christian life is the INTEGRITY of our heart, mind and soul that is honest before God. In other words we are consistently what we say we are..

# Self-Discipline

***Therefore I run thus. . . not with uncertainty:*** this is someone who is running in the correct lane in the race.

***Thus I fight. . . not as one who beats the air:*** one who is not wasting energy or time.

***But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection:*** bring it into subjection, discipline or literally to give one a black eye

***...lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified:*** The noun “disqualified” means ***rejected or unfit***

# Self-Control

We are to say no to any compromise to our Biblical integrity.

**Living with integrity means we live in WHOLENESS**

Integrity of heart and life means our life is *NOT fragmented, NOT fractioned*. Integrity of heart and life is *total commitment, complete attention and undivided priority to the boundaries of God's Word*.

**Psalm 86:11** *Teach me Your way, O Lord; I will walk in Your truth; unite my heart to fear Your name.*

# Self-Control

As Believers in Jesus our integrity means that we are *entirely* focused on God's Word, Values, and His Will. The benefit of biblical integrity is the peace of God (peace literally means *to be whole*).

**Proverbs 4:23** *Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life.*