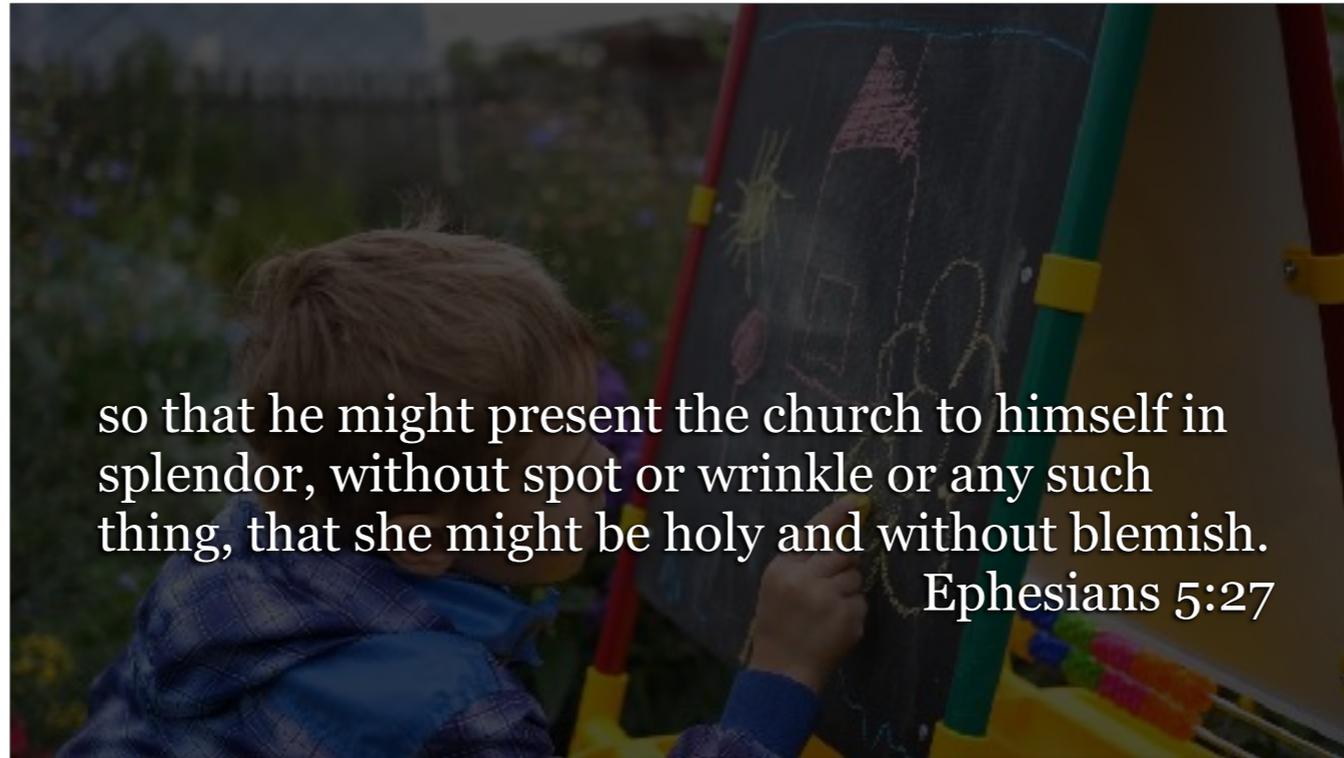


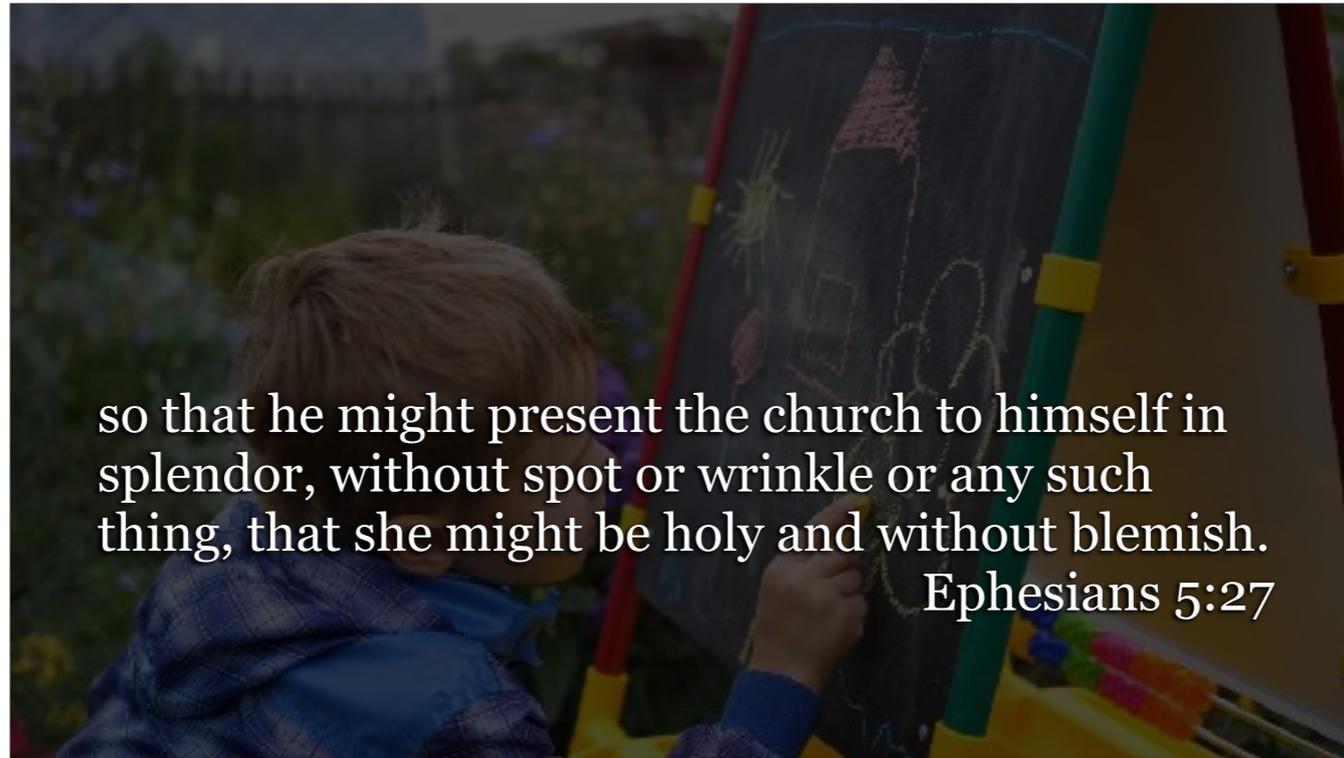
so that he might present the church to himself in  
splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such  
thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.  
Ephesians 5:27

- Ephesians 5:27 so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.
- When I was younger, I heard lessons frequently about how glorious the church is.
  - KJV, etc: “might present her to himself a glorious church”
- And I held to a very idealized view of what the church is



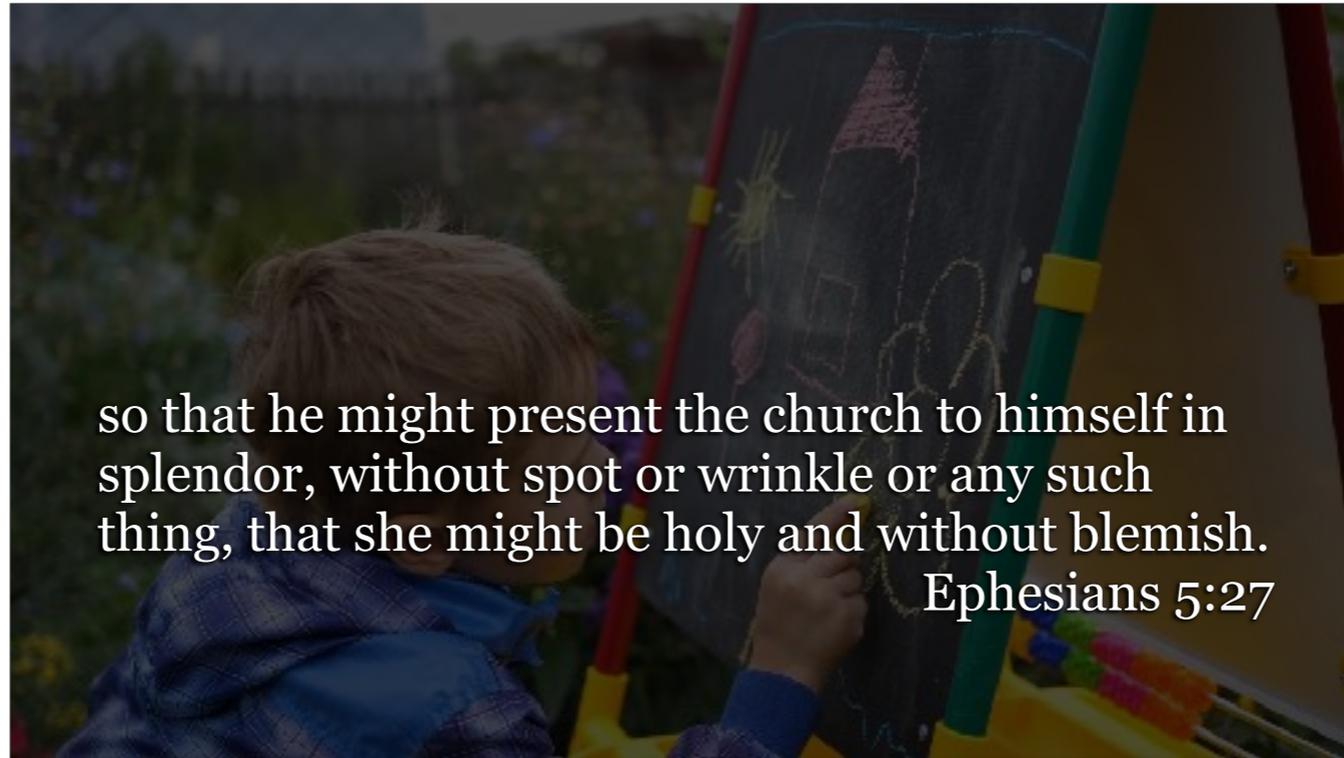
so that he might present the church to himself in  
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- Please don't mistake what I am about to say. I do believe that the church Jesus died for is glorious
- But usually the glory of the church was presented from a very distinct perspective, one that contrasted Jesus' church from other churches.



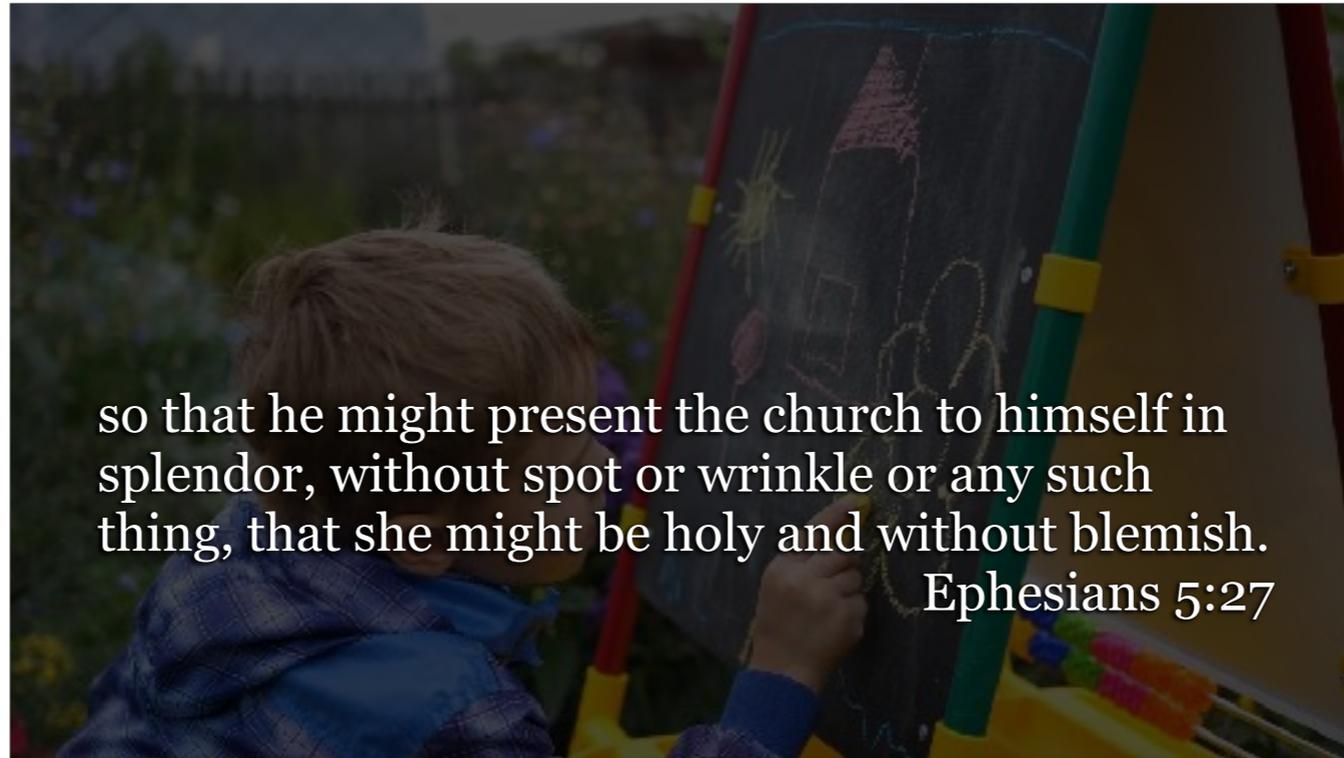
so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.  
Ephesians 5:27

- The church of Christ is glorious because we teach and believe the right things about salvation, worship, name of the church, how we spend our money, and similar things.
- We were also reminded that the church is people, not a building.
- Of course, there are a lot of important things to be considered.



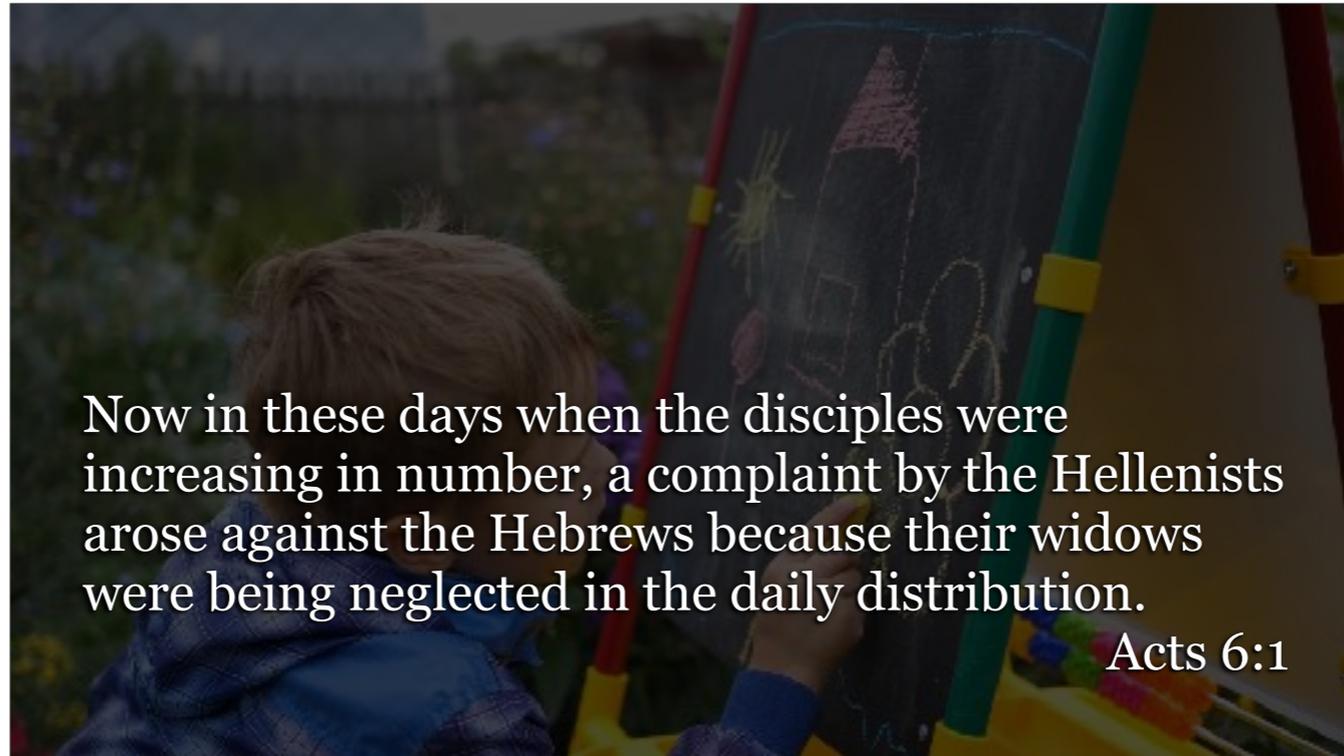
so that he might present the church to himself in  
splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such  
thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.  
Ephesians 5:27

- However, as I grew older and started paying attention, I also noticed that many of the people in the church don't seem so glorious. And some of the things that happened between these people were ... messy.
- And it seemed to me that while one aspect was important, other aspects of being a glorious church were being neglected



so that he might present the church to himself in  
splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such  
thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.  
Ephesians 5:27

- Yet constantly, incessantly, we were feed a diet of doctrines that mattered.
- And seldom were the people helped practically so that we could be children of God and that we could get along with each other.
- The problem is not God's plan, it's that we a children trying to imitate what God has planned.



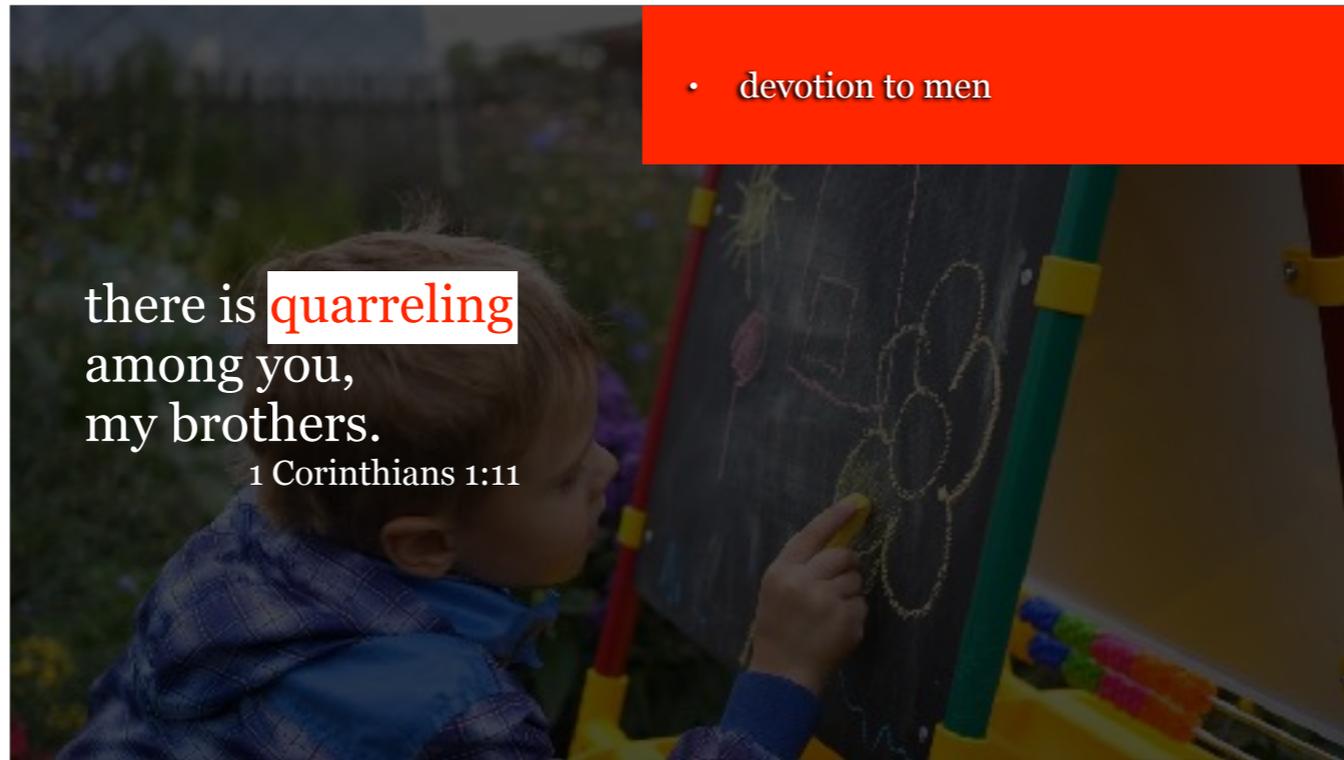
Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution.

Acts 6:1

- Sometimes a church is messy, and that's not necessarily sinful nor wrong
- Acts 6:1 Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution.
- Widows neglected because of a prejudice
- Complaining (justifiably)
- Apostles don't rebuke or give up or try to separate the church by the groups (they don't give in to the prejudices)
- They find a solution.



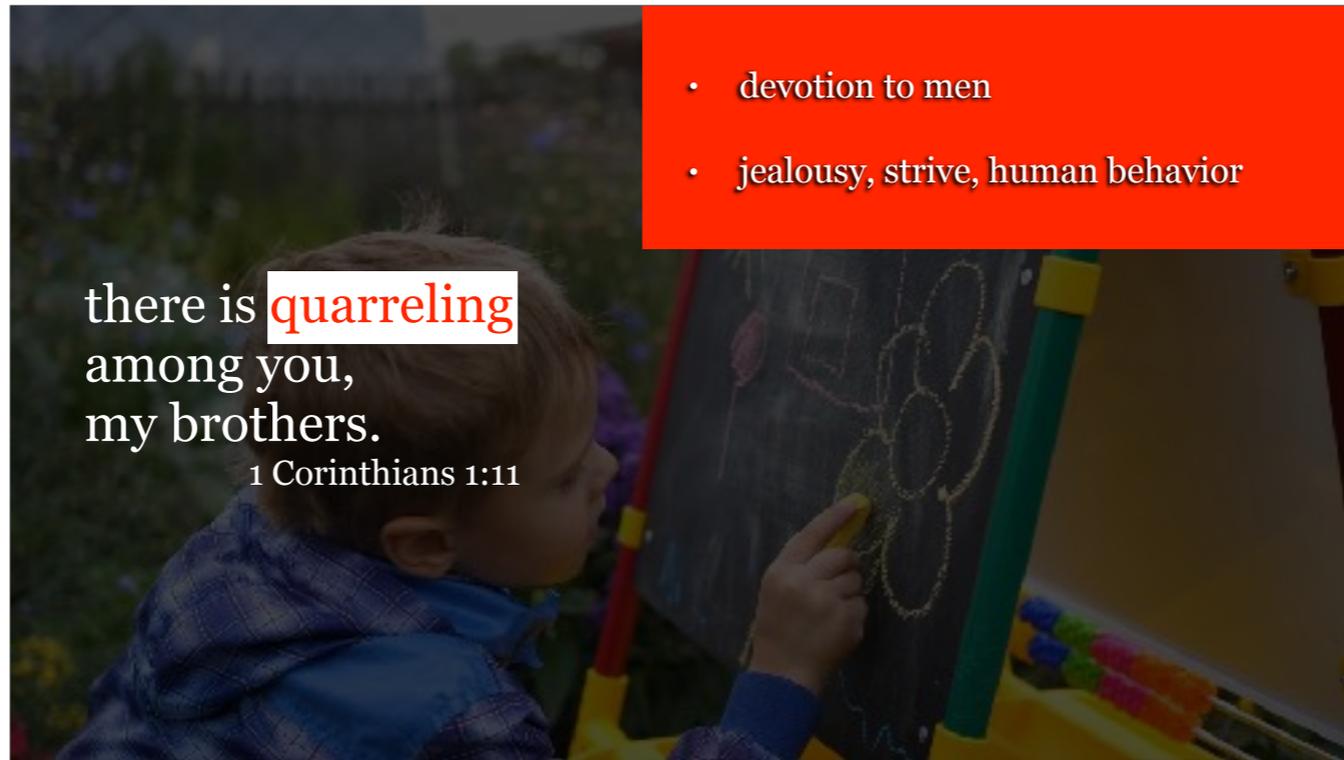
- The Church in Corinth
- Very negative
  - 1 Corinthians 1:11 For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there is quarreling among you, my brothers.



- Devotion to Men

- 1 Corinthians 1:12 What I mean is that each one of you says, “I follow Paul,” or “I follow Apollos,” or “I follow Cephas,” or “I follow Christ.”

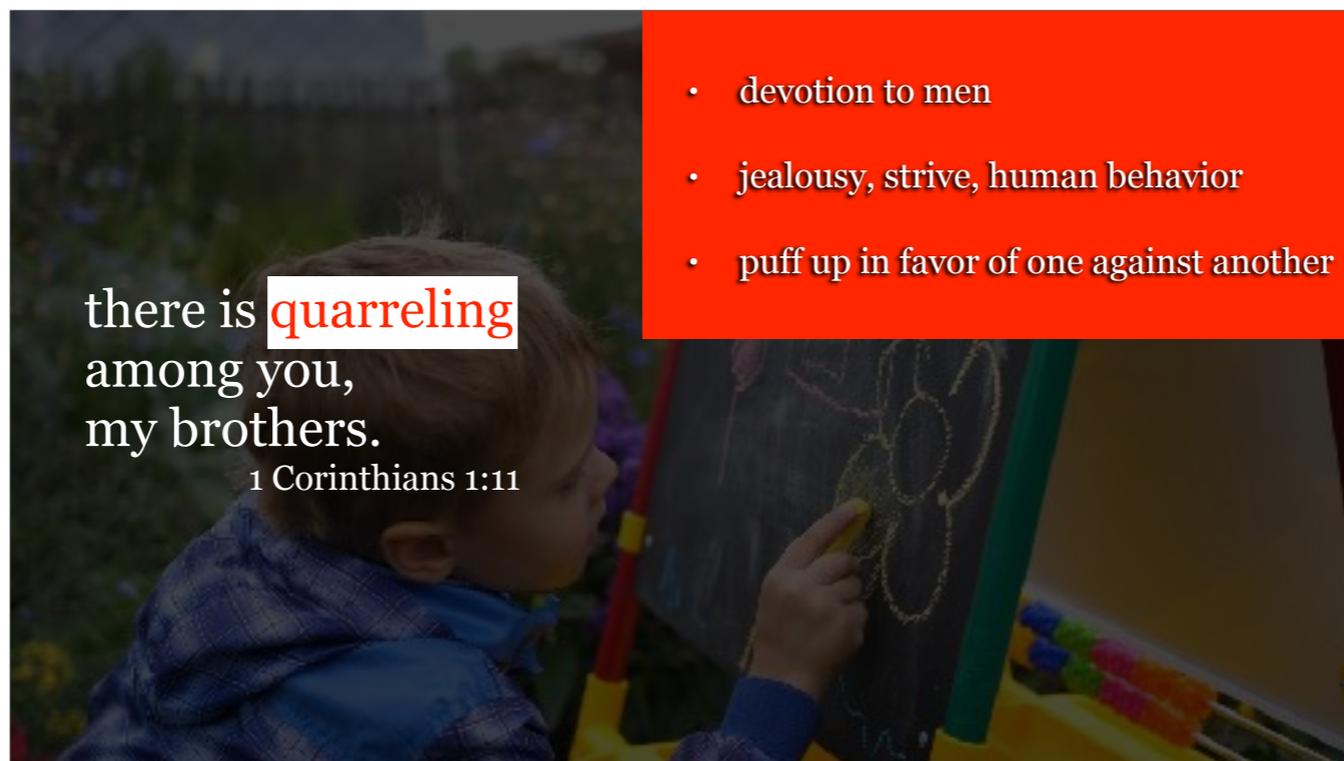
-



- devotion to men
- jealousy, strive, human behavior

there is **quarreling**  
among you,  
my brothers.  
1 Corinthians 1:11

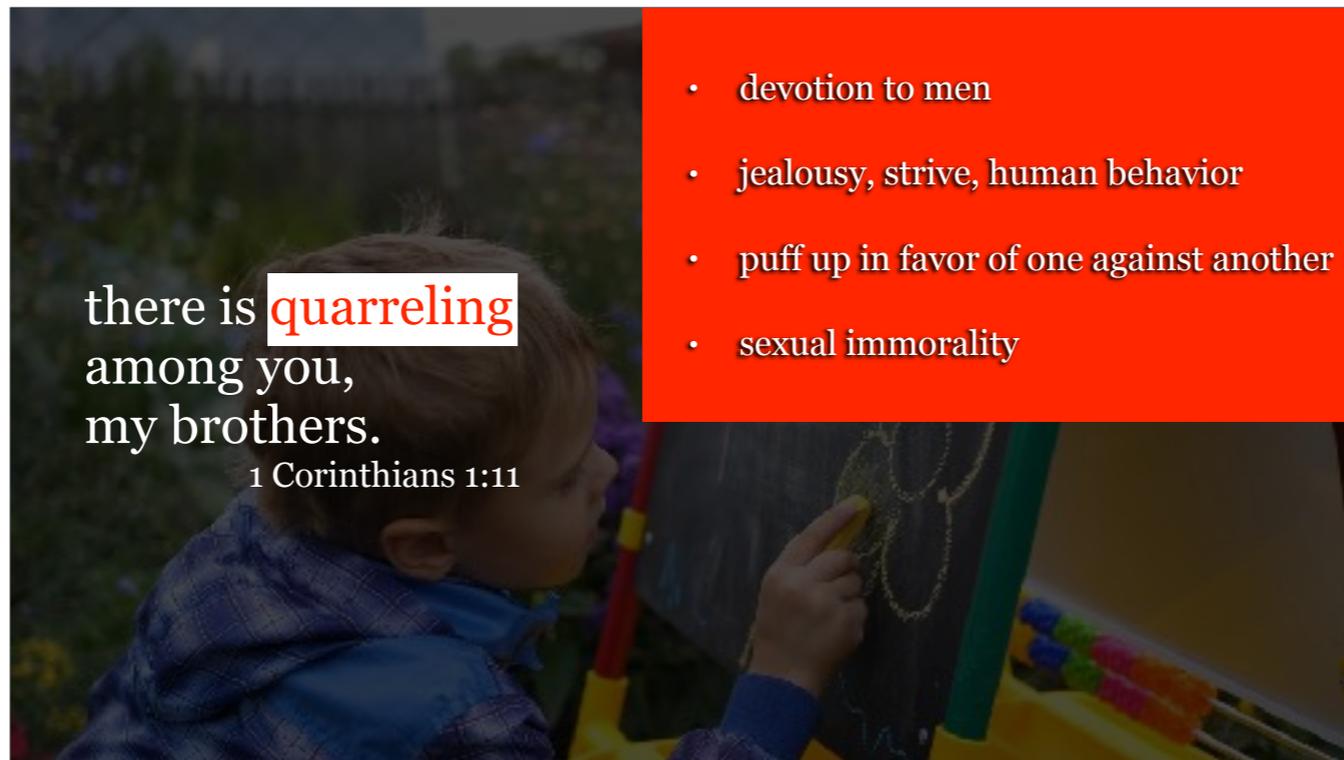
- Jealousy, Strife, Human behavior
  - 1 Corinthians 3:3 (ESV) 3 for you are still of the flesh. For while there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not of the flesh and behaving only in a human way?



there is **quarreling**  
among you,  
my brothers.  
1 Corinthians 1:11

- devotion to men
- jealousy, strive, human behavior
- puff up in favor of one against another

- Puffed up in favor of one against Another
  - 1 Corinthians 4:6 I have applied all these things to myself and Apollos for your benefit, brothers, that you may learn by us not to go beyond what is written, that none of you may be puffed up in favor of one against another.

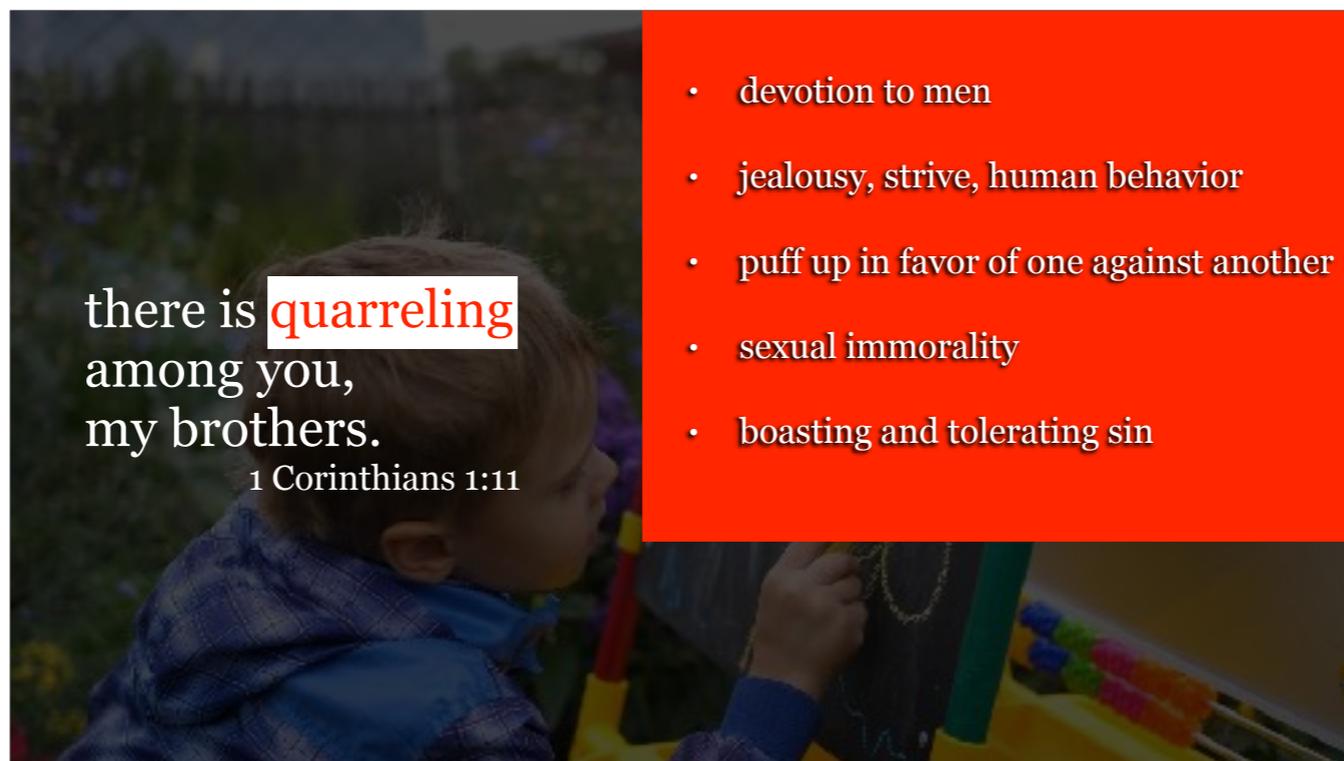
A young child in a blue jacket is shown from the side, focused on drawing on a chalkboard. The child is using a yellow chalk to draw a circular pattern. The background is slightly blurred, showing a green outdoor setting. The text is overlaid on the image.

there is **quarreling**  
among you,  
my brothers.  
1 Corinthians 1:11

- devotion to men
- jealousy, strive, human behavior
- puff up in favor of one against another
- sexual immorality

- Sexual Immorality

- 1 Corinthians 5:1 It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that is not tolerated even among pagans, for a man has his father's wife.

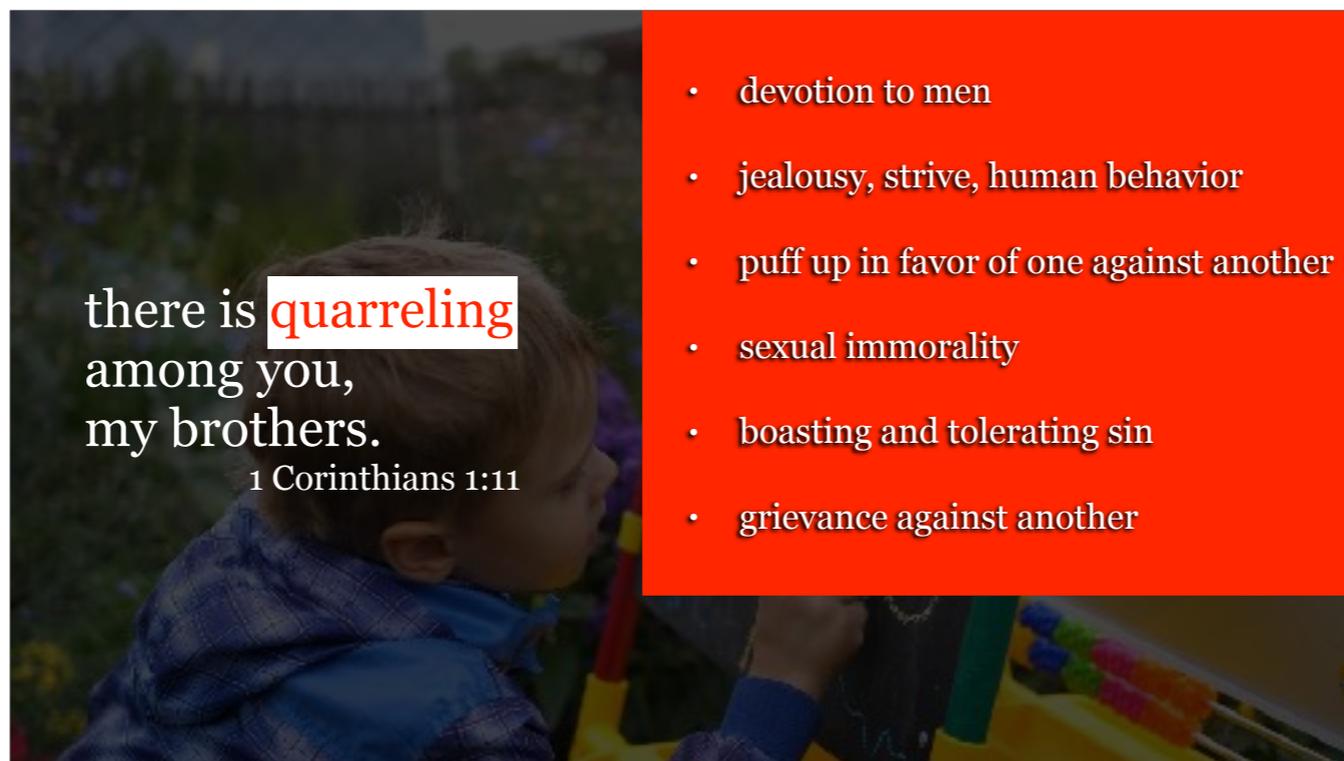


there is **quarreling**  
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my brothers.  
1 Corinthians 1:11

- devotion to men
- jealousy, strive, human behavior
- puff up in favor of one against another
- sexual immorality
- boasting and tolerating sin

- Boasting / tolerance

- 1 Corinthians 5:6 Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump?

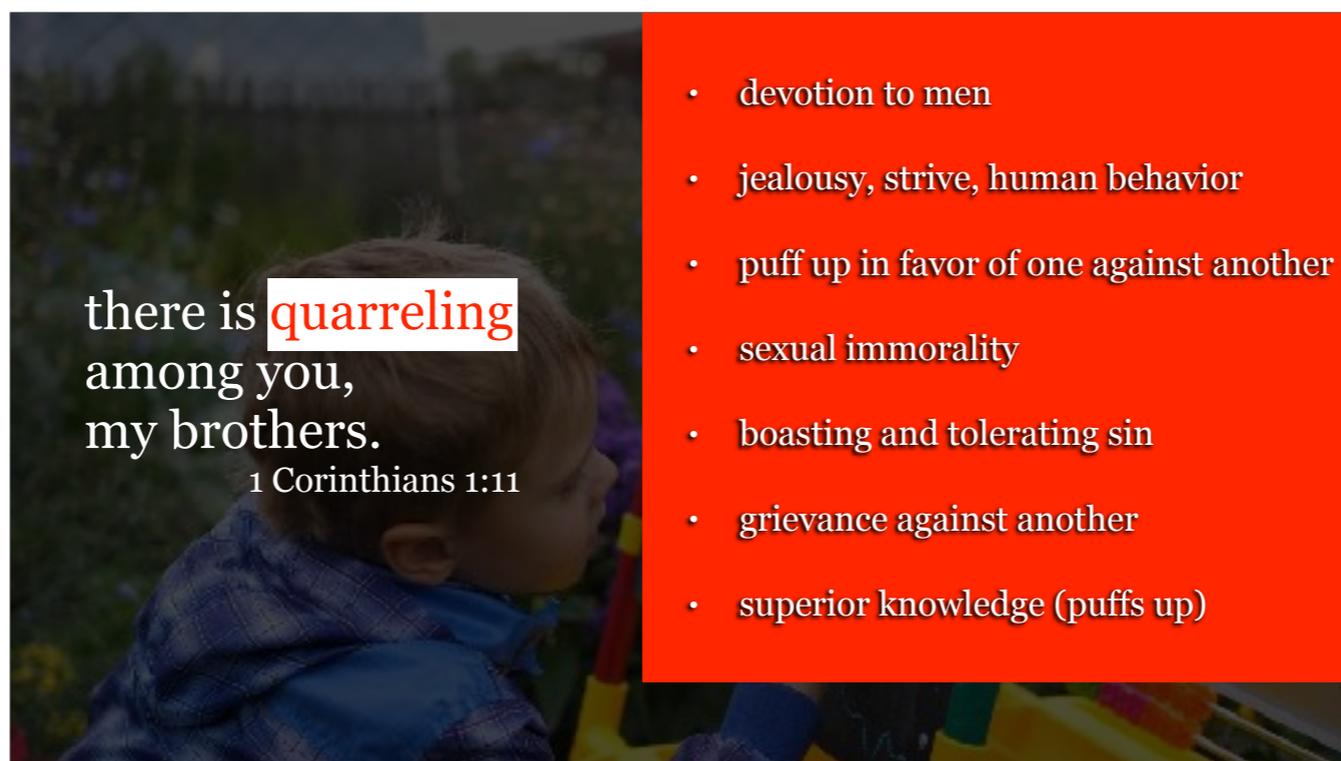


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- devotion to men
- jealousy, strive, human behavior
- puff up in favor of one against another
- sexual immorality
- boasting and tolerating sin
- grievance against another

- Grievances

- 1 Corinthians 6:1 When one of you has a grievance against another, does he dare go to law before the unrighteous instead of the saints?

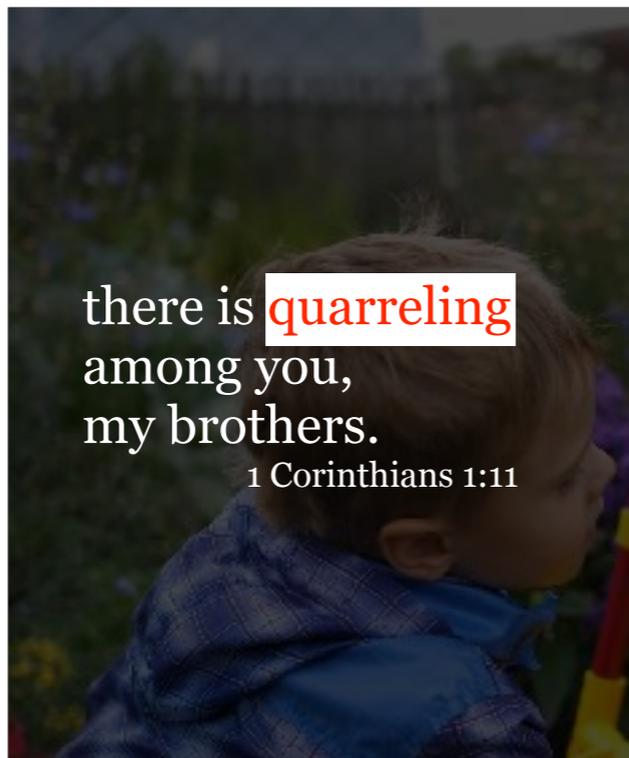


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- devotion to men
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- grievance against another
- superior knowledge (puffs up)

- Superior knowledge (puffs up)

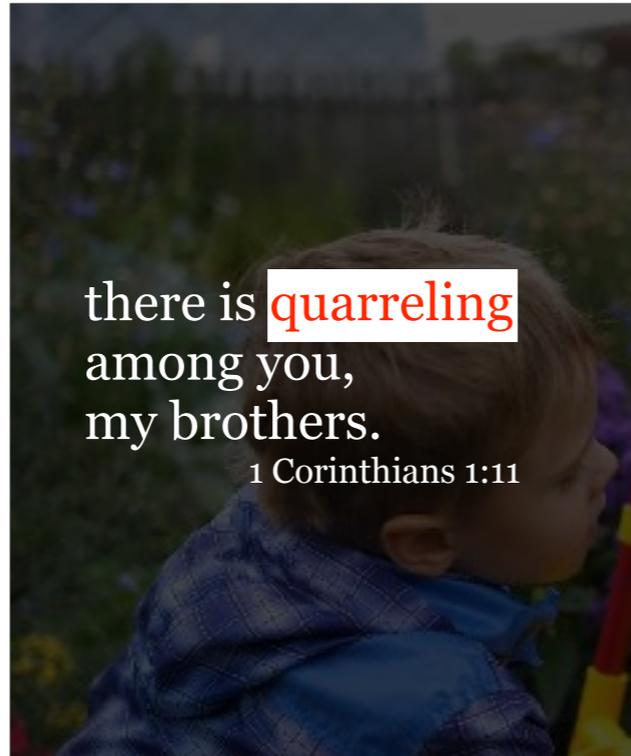
- 1 Corinthians 8:1 Now concerning food offered to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” This “knowledge” puffs up, but love builds up.



there is **quarreling**  
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1 Corinthians 1:11

- devotion to men
- jealousy, strive, human behavior
- puff up in favor of one against another
- sexual immorality
- boasting and tolerating sin
- grievance against another
- superior knowledge (puffs up)
- come together for the worse

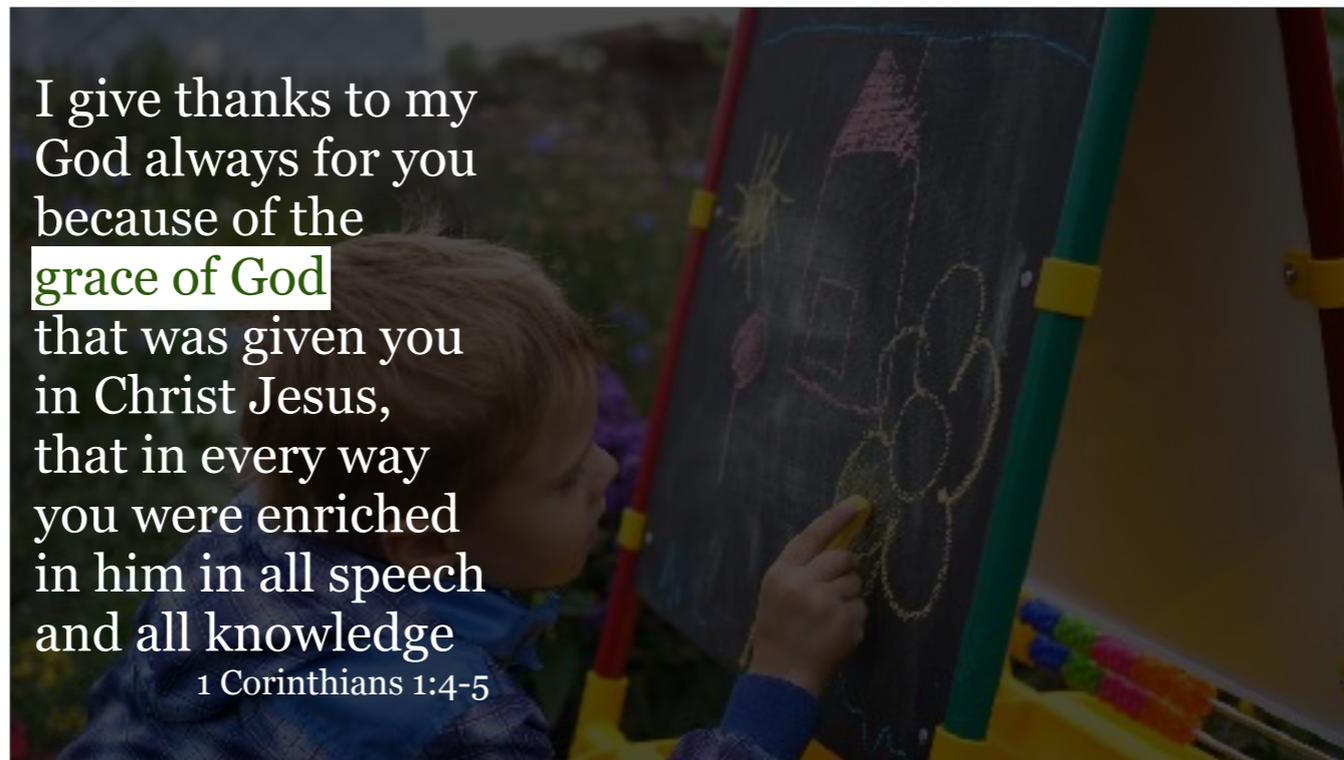
- Come together for the worse (Lord's Supper)
  - 1 Corinthians 11:17 But in the following instructions I do not commend you, because when you come together it is not for the better but for the worse.



there is **quarreling**  
among you,  
my brothers.  
1 Corinthians 1:11

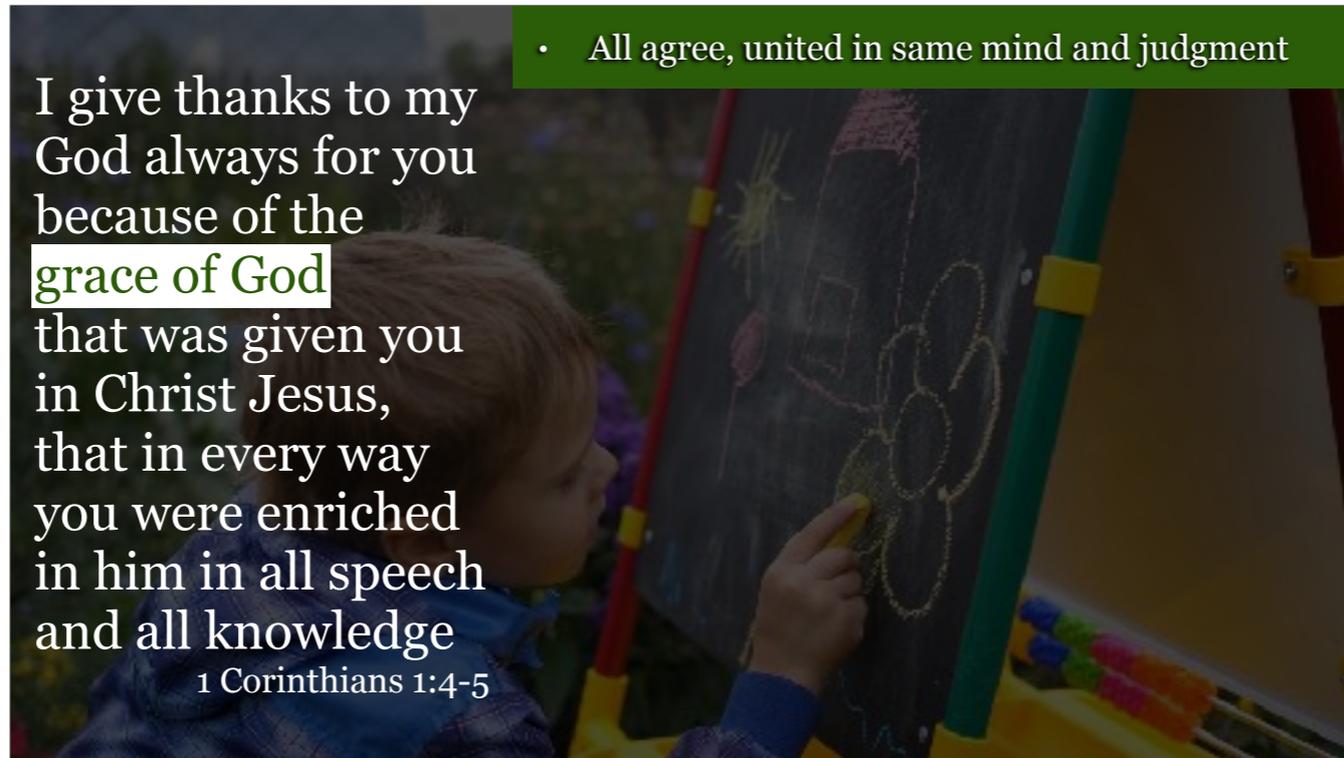
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- boasting and tolerating sin
- grievance against another
- superior knowledge (puffs up)
- come together for the worse

- Marriage questions
- Spiritual gift questions
- Resurrection questions



I give thanks to my  
God always for you  
because of the  
**grace of God**  
that was given you  
in Christ Jesus,  
that in every way  
you were enriched  
in him in all speech  
and all knowledge  
1 Corinthians 1:4-5

- Positives
- 1 Corinthians 1:4-5 — I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, 5 that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge—

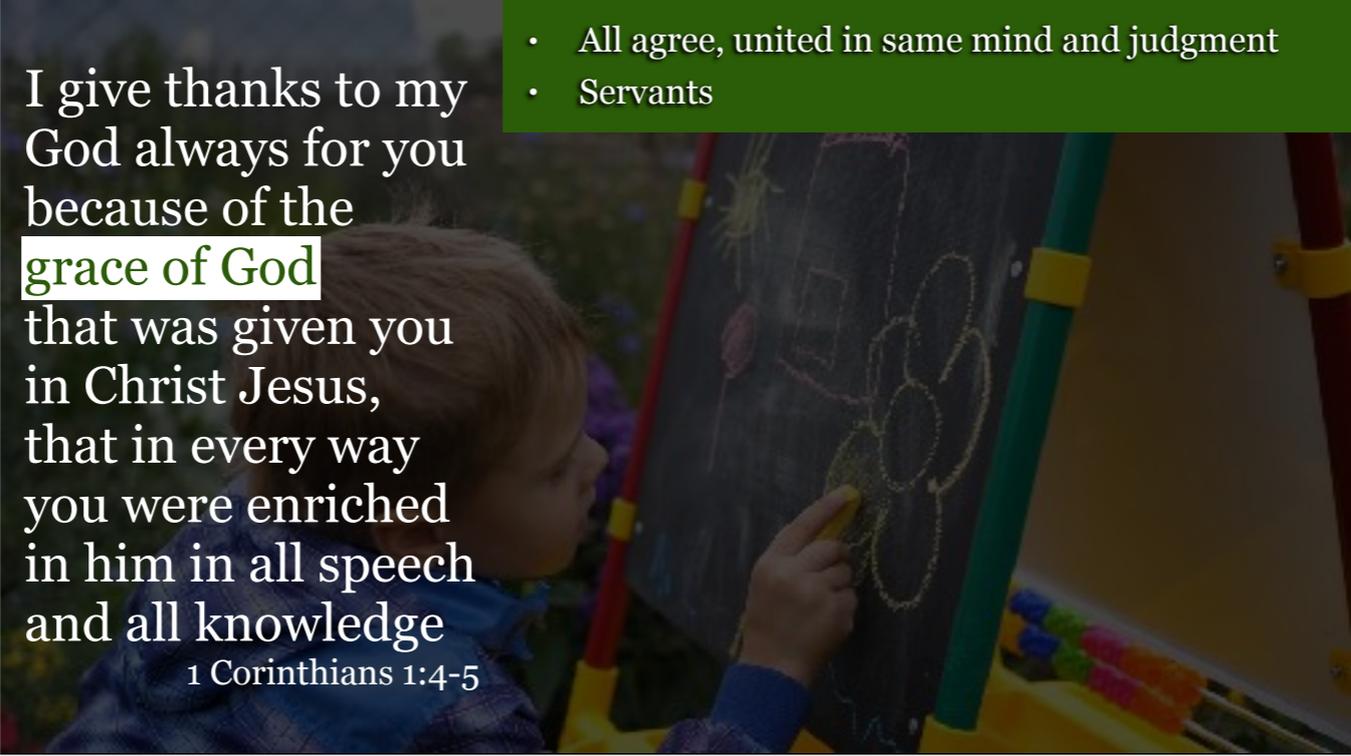
A young child with light brown hair is shown in profile, focused on drawing on a chalkboard. The child is wearing a blue patterned shirt. The chalkboard is mounted on a colorful easel with red, green, and yellow legs. The child is using a yellow chalk to draw a large, multi-petaled flower. The background is slightly blurred, showing some greenery. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

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1 Corinthians 1:4-5

- All agree, united in same mind and judgment

- All agree, united

- 1 Corinthians 1:10 I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment.

A young child with light brown hair is shown in profile, focused on drawing on a chalkboard. The child is wearing a blue patterned shirt. The chalkboard is mounted on a colorful easel with green and red legs. The child is using a yellow chalk to draw a series of overlapping circles, resembling a flower or a decorative pattern. The background is slightly blurred, showing what appears to be an outdoor setting with greenery.

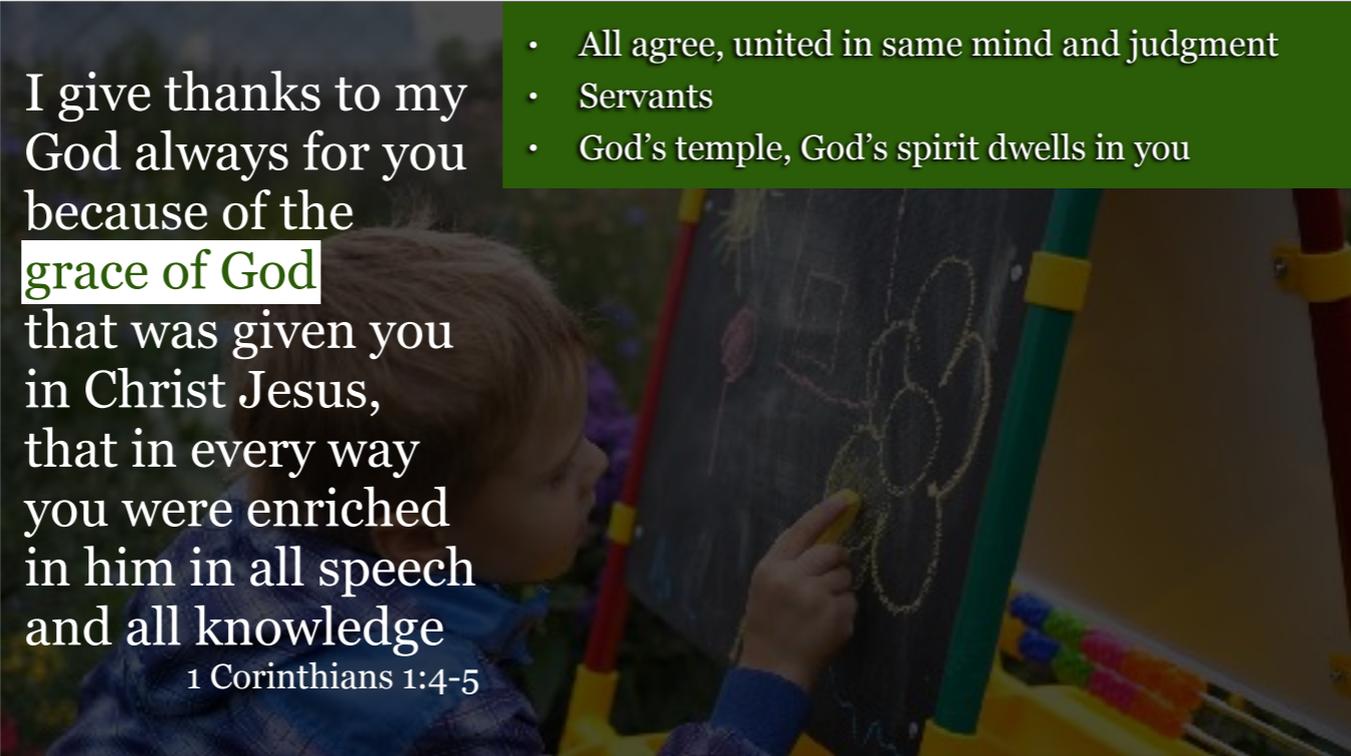
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1 Corinthians 1:4-5

- All agree, united in same mind and judgment
- Servants

- Servants

- 1 Corinthians 3:5-6 — What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, as the Lord assigned to each. 6 I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth.
- 1 Corinthians 4:1 This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God.

A young child with light brown hair is shown in profile, focused on drawing on a chalkboard. The child is wearing a blue patterned shirt. The chalkboard has some faint drawings on it, including what looks like a flower or a series of circles. The background is slightly blurred, showing some colorful objects, possibly toys or markers.

I give thanks to my  
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1 Corinthians 1:4-5

- All agree, united in same mind and judgment
- Servants
- God's temple, God's spirit dwells in you

- God's temple, Spirit dwells in you
  - 1 Corinthians 3:16 Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?

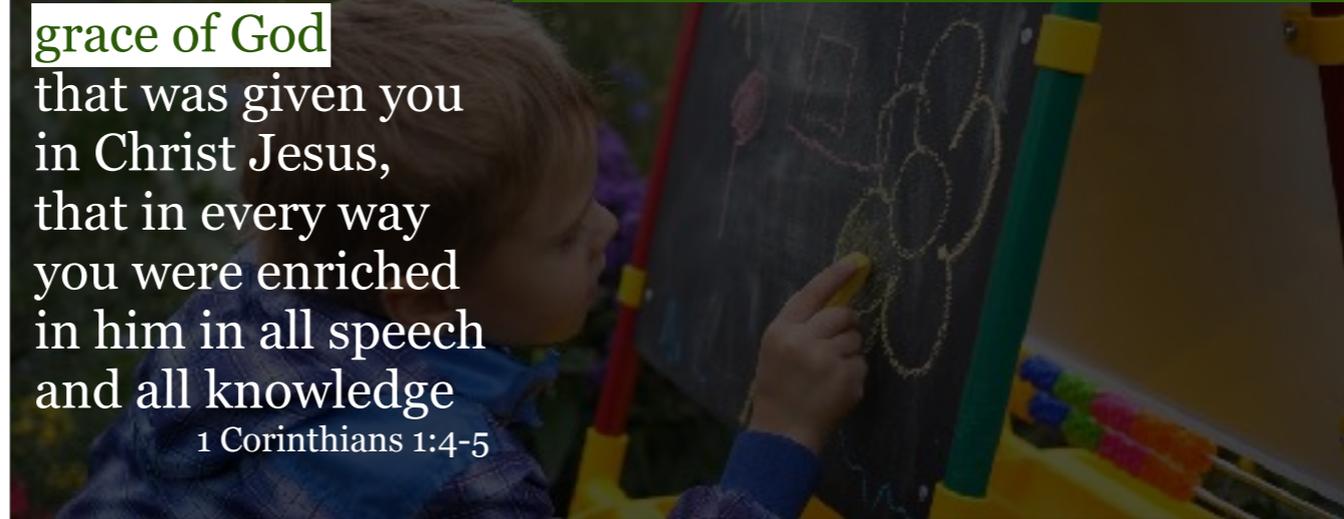
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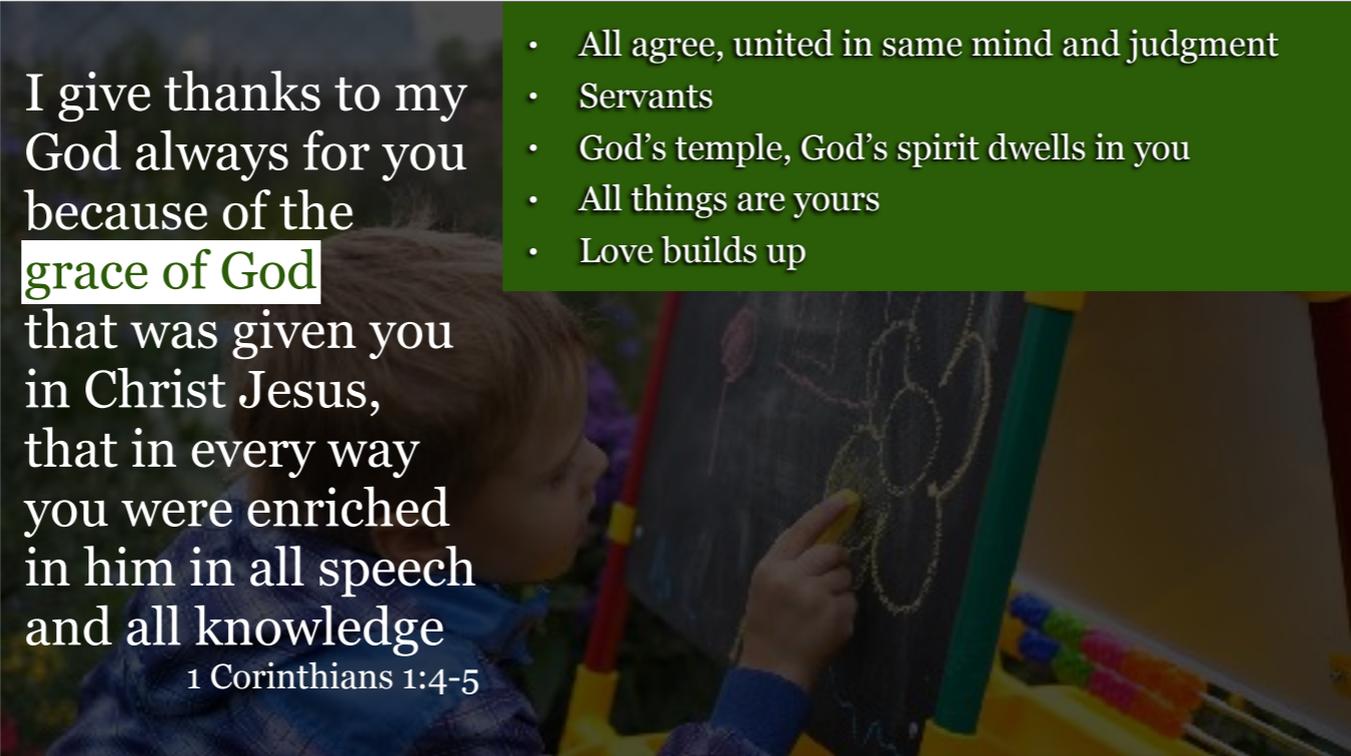
1 Corinthians 1:4-5

- All agree, united in same mind and judgment
- Servants
- God's temple, God's spirit dwells in you
- All things are yours



- All things are yours

- 1 Corinthians 3:21-23 — So let no one boast in men. For all things are yours, 22 whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future—all are yours, 23 and you are Christ's, and Christ is God's.

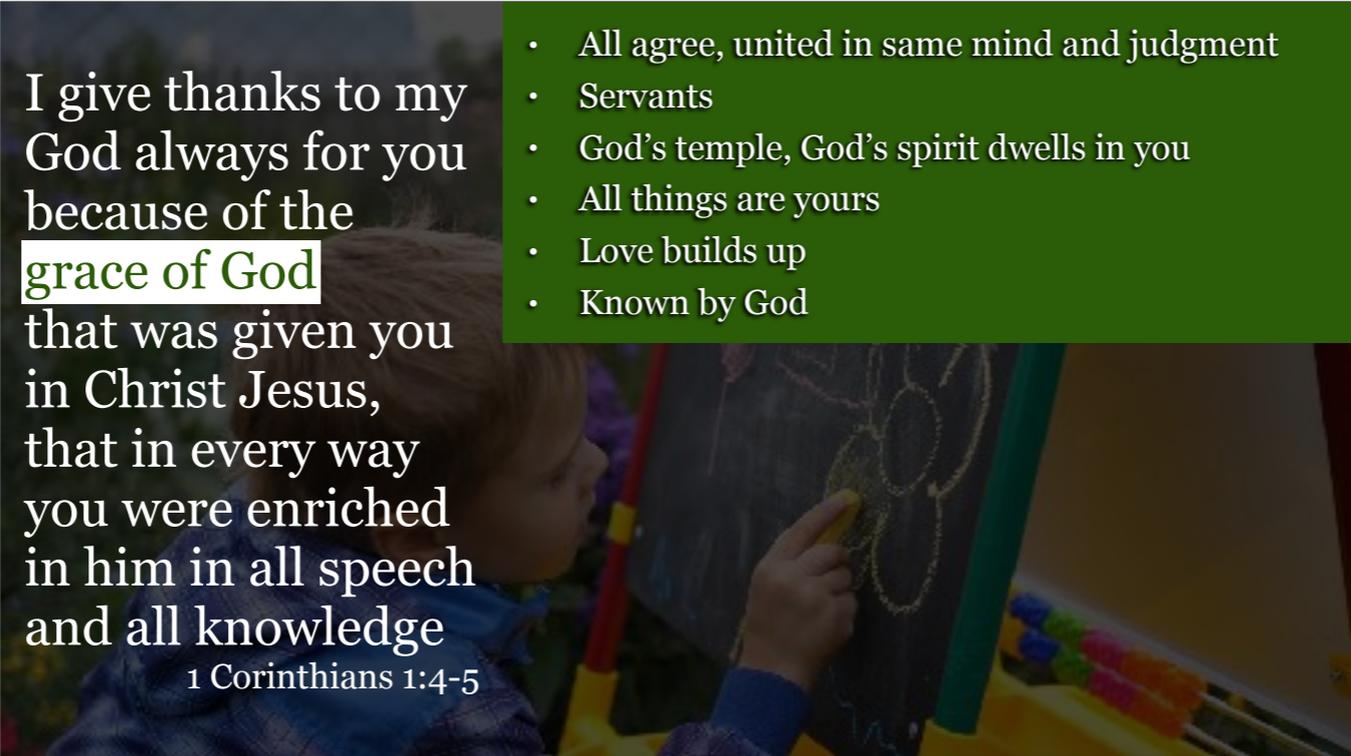
A young child with light brown hair is shown in profile, focused on drawing on a chalkboard. The child is wearing a blue patterned shirt. The chalkboard has some faint, circular drawings on it. In the background, there are colorful markers and a yellow container. The overall scene is dimly lit, with the child's face and the chalkboard being the primary light sources.

I give thanks to my  
God always for you  
because of the  
**grace of God**  
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1 Corinthians 1:4-5

- All agree, united in same mind and judgment
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- Love builds up

- Love builds up

- 1 Corinthians 8:1 Now concerning food offered to idols: we know that "all of us possess knowledge." This "knowledge" puffs up, but love builds up.

A child is shown from the side, focused on drawing on a chalkboard. The child is wearing a blue patterned shirt. The chalkboard has some faint drawings on it. The background is slightly blurred, showing what appears to be a classroom or play area with colorful markers on a table.

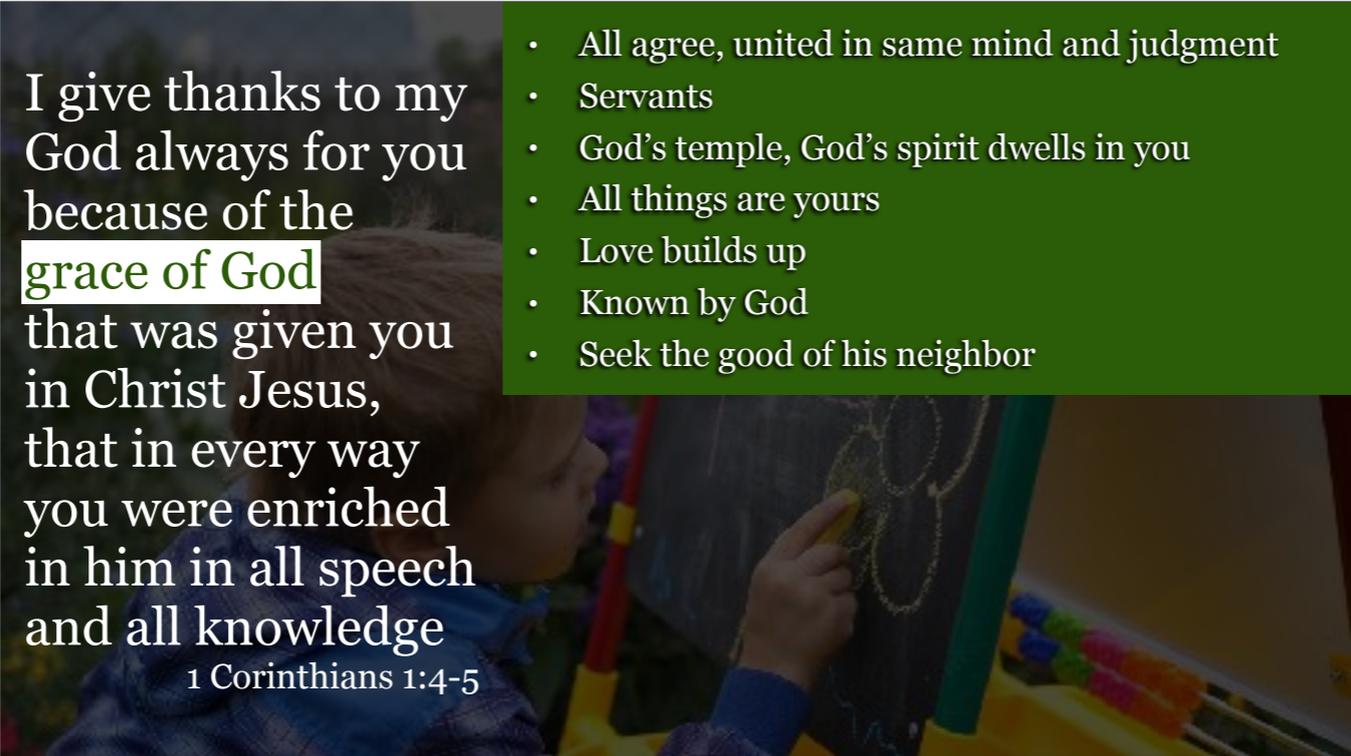
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1 Corinthians 1:4-5

- All agree, united in same mind and judgment
- Servants
- God's temple, God's spirit dwells in you
- All things are yours
- Love builds up
- Known by God

- Known by God

- 1 Corinthians 8:3 But if anyone loves God, he is known by God.

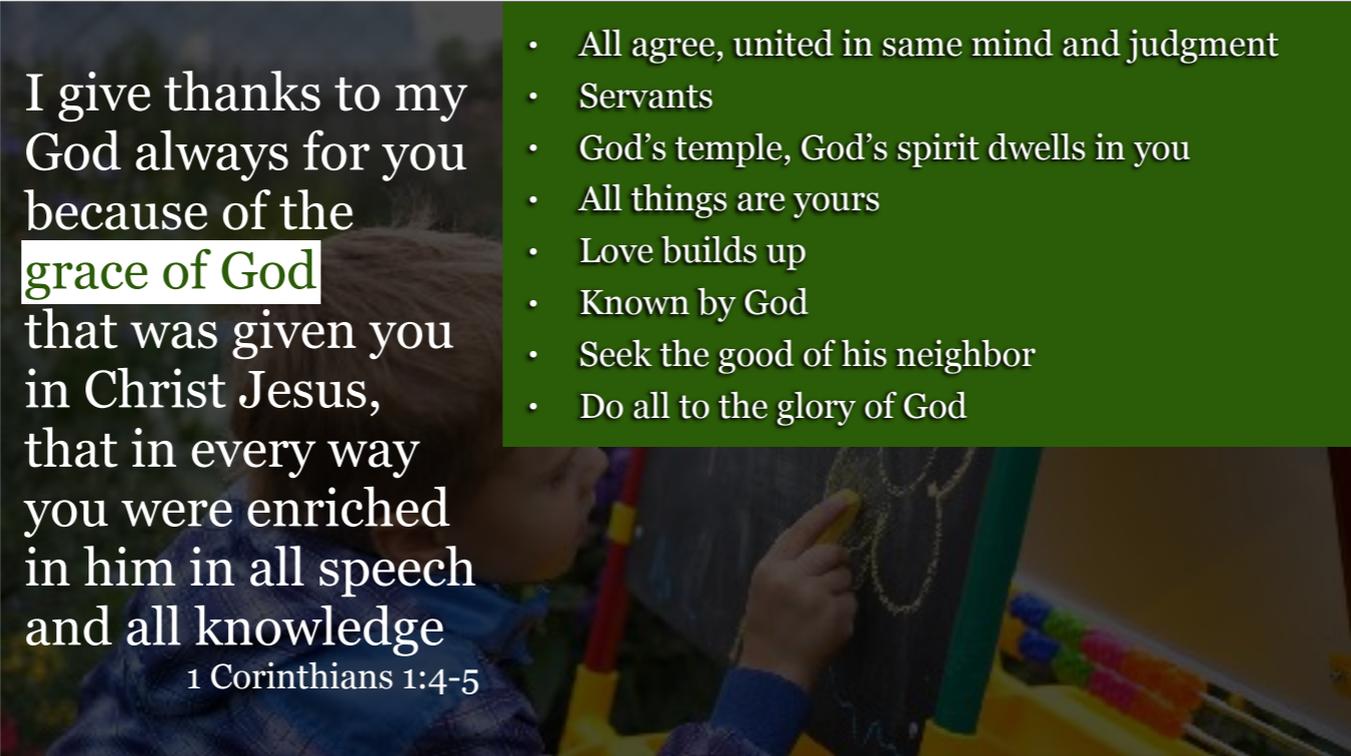
A child is shown from the side, focused on drawing on a whiteboard. The child is wearing a blue patterned shirt. The whiteboard has some faint, circular drawings on it. The background is slightly blurred, showing what appears to be a classroom or activity area with colorful markers and other items.

I give thanks to my  
God always for you  
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1 Corinthians 1:4-5

- All agree, united in same mind and judgment
- Servants
- God's temple, God's spirit dwells in you
- All things are yours
- Love builds up
- Known by God
- Seek the good of his neighbor

- Seek ... good of his neighbor
  - 1 Corinthians 10:23-24 — “All things are lawful,” but not all things are helpful. “All things are lawful,” but not all things build up. 24 Let no one seek his own good, but the good of his neighbor.

A child is shown from the side, focused on drawing on a chalkboard. The child's hand is visible, holding a piece of chalk. The chalkboard has some faint drawings on it. The background is slightly blurred, showing what appears to be a classroom or play area with colorful markers and other items.

I give thanks to my  
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- All things are yours
- Love builds up
- Known by God
- Seek the good of his neighbor
- Do all to the glory of God

- Do All to the Glory of god
  - 1 Corinthians 10:31 - 11:1 (ESV)
    - 31 So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

I give thanks to my  
God always for you  
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- Seek the good of his neighbor
- Do all to the glory of God
- I try to please everyone ... that they may be saved

- I try to please everyone; they may be saved
  - 1 Corinthians 10:33 just as I try to please everyone in everything I do, not seeking my own advantage, but that of many, that they may be saved. 1 Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.

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- Do all to the glory of God
- I try to please everyone ... that they may be saved
- Love is the greatest

- Love is the greatest

- 1 Corinthians 13 (ESV)

- 1 If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. 3 If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.
    - 4 Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant 5 or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; 6 it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. 7 Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.
    - 8 Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. 9 For we know in part and we prophesy in part, 10 but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. 11 When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways. 12 For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.
    - 13 So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

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1 Corinthians 1:4-5

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- Known by God
- Seek the good of his neighbor
- Do all to the glory of God
- I try to please everyone ... that they may be saved
- Love is the greatest
- Pursue love

- Pursue Love

- 1 Corinthians 14:1 Pursue love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy.

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- Seek the good of his neighbor
- Do all to the glory of God
- I try to please everyone ... that they may be saved
- Love is the greatest
- Pursue love
- All things be done for building up

- Building Up

- 1 Corinthians 14:26 What then, brothers? When you come together, each one has a hymn, a lesson, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation. Let all things be done for building up.

I give thanks to my  
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1 Corinthians 1:4-5

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- Do all to the glory of God
- I try to please everyone ... that they may be saved
- Love is the greatest
- Pursue love
- All things be done for building up
- God of peace

• God is a God ... of Peace

- 1 Corinthians 14:33 For God is not a God of confusion but of peace. As in all the churches of the saints,

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- I try to please everyone ... that they may be saved
- Love is the greatest
- Pursue love
- All things be done for building up
- God of peace
- Let all that you do be done in love

- All you do be done with love
  - 1 Corinthians 16:14 Let all that you do be done in love.
- Book with most mentions of love?
  - 1 John — 14
  - Second most? 1 Corinthians — 13
- Paul doesn't throw his hands up and turn away from these saints.
  - He sees the mess
  - He points them back to the basics: grace, love, peace, servant

Ephesus

abandoned the love  
you had at first

toil, patient endurance, cannot  
bear those who are evil, tested false  
apostles, bearing up



- 7 Churches
- Ephesus: abandoned the love you had at first; fallen; repent
- Ephesus: toil, patient endurance, cannot bear those who are evil, tested false apostles; bearing up; not grown weary

Ephesus	abandoned the love you had at first	toil, patient endurance, cannot bear those who are evil, tested false apostles, bearing up
Smyrna		tribulation, poverty, slander



- Smyrna: facing tribulation
- Smyrna: tribulation, poverty, slander

Ephesus	abandoned the love you had at first	toil, patient endurance, cannot bear those who are evil, tested false apostles, bearing up
Smyrna		tribulation, poverty, slander
Pergamum	idolatry and sexual immorality	hold fast, not denied my faith



- Pergamum: teaching of Balaam (idolatry and sexual immorality); and Nicolaitans: repent
- Pergamum: hold fast, not denied my faith

Ephesus	abandoned the love you had at first	toil, patient endurance, cannot bear those who are evil, tested false apostles, bearing up
Smyrna		tribulation, poverty, slander
Pergamum	idolatry and sexual immorality	hold fast, not denied my faith
Thyatira	idolatry and sexual immorality	works, love, faith, service, patient endurance, latter works exceed first

A photograph of a young child in a blue plaid shirt, seen from the side, drawing on a whiteboard with a yellow marker. The whiteboard has some faint, circular drawings on it. The background is slightly blurred, showing what appears to be a classroom or play area with colorful toys.

- Thyatira: tolerate Jezebel (sexual immorality, idolatry)
- Thyatira: works, love, faith, service, patient endurance, latter works exceed first

Ephesus	abandoned the love you had at first	toil, patient endurance, cannot bear those who are evil, tested false apostles, bearing up
Smyrna		tribulation, poverty, slander
Pergamum	idolatry and sexual immorality	hold fast, not denied my faith
Thyatira	idolatry and sexual immorality	works, love, faith, service, patient endurance, latter works exceed first
Sardis	dead	works, few who have not soiled their garments



- Sardis: dead, repent
- Sardis: works, few names not soiled their garments

Ephesus	abandoned the love you had at first	toil, patient endurance, cannot bear those who are evil, tested false apostles, bearing up
Smyrna		tribulation, poverty, slander
Pergamum	idolatry and sexual immorality	hold fast, not denied my faith
Thyatira	idolatry and sexual immorality	works, love, faith, service, patient endurance, latter works exceed first
Sardis	dead	works, few who have not soiled their garments
Philadelphia		open door, little power, kept my word, not denied my name, patient endurance

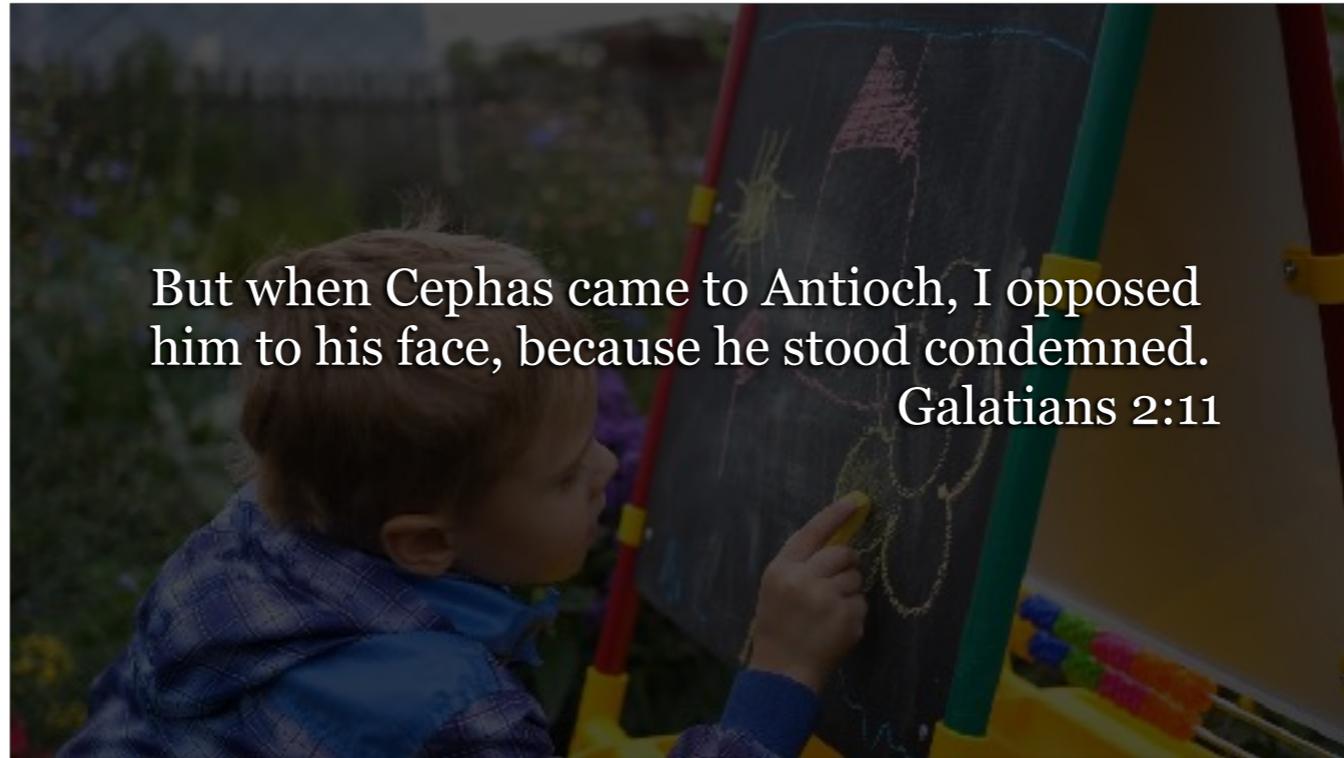
- Philadelphia:
- Philadelphia: open door; little power, kept my word, not denied my name; patient endurance

Ephesus	abandoned the love you had at first	toil, patient endurance, cannot bear those who are evil, tested false apostles, bearing up
Smyrna		tribulation, poverty, slander
Pergamum	idolatry and sexual immorality	hold fast, not denied my faith
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Sardis	dead	works, few who have not soiled their garments
Philadelphia		open door, little power, kept my word, not denied my name, patient endurance
Laodicea	lukewarm, wretched, pitiable, poor blind, naked	works

- Laodicea: lukewarm; wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, naked: zealous, repent
- Laodicea: works

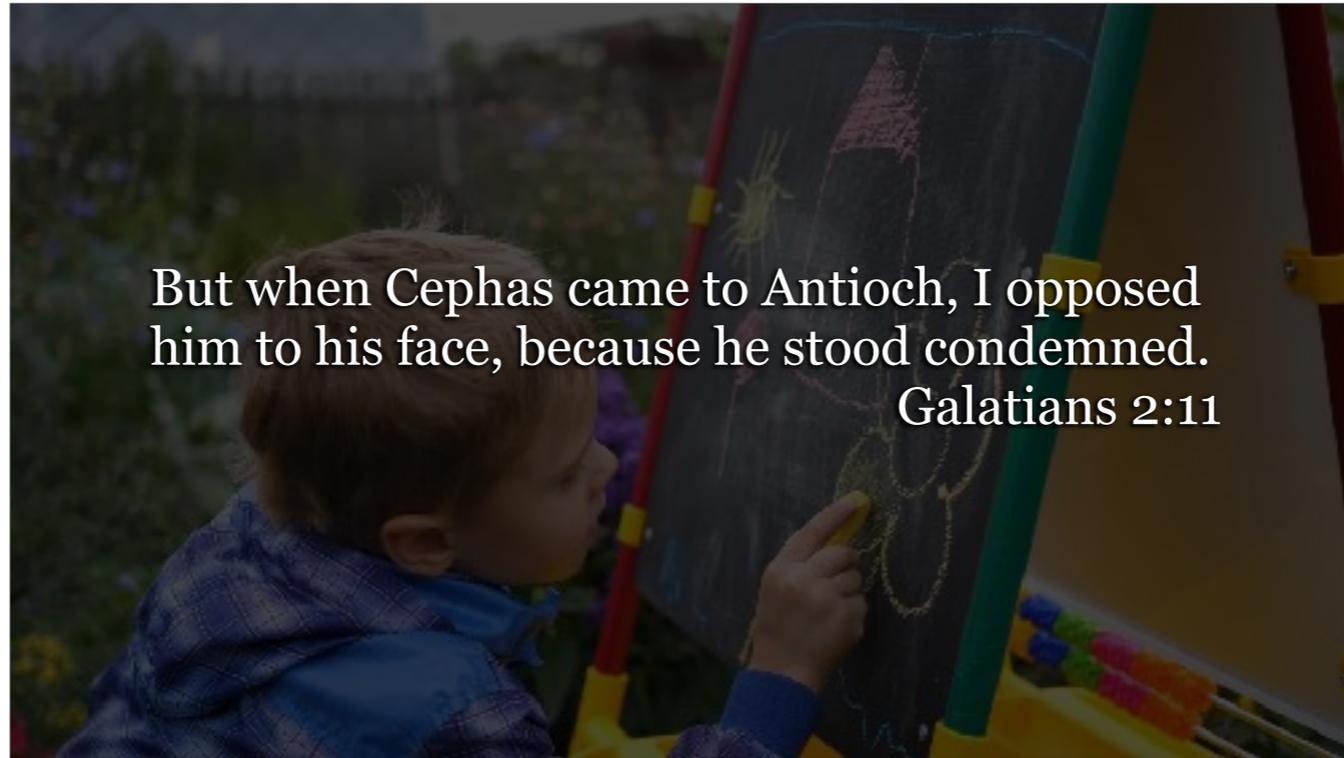
Ephesus	abandoned the love you had at first	toil, patient endurance, cannot bear those who are evil, tested false apostles, bearing up
Smyrna		tribulation, poverty, slander
Pergamum	idolatry and sexual immorality	hold fast, not denied my faith
Thyatira	idolatry and sexual immorality	works, love, faith, service, patient endurance, latter works exceed first
Sardis	dead	works, few who have not soiled their garments
Philadelphia		open door, little power, kept my word, not denied my name, patient endurance
Laodicea	lukewarm, wretched, pitiable, poor blind, naked	works

- Jesus sees all that is happening in these groups
- He sees their struggles ... he doesn't give up
- He sees the bad, the sin ... he tells them to repent
- He sees the good, and encourages them to keep on.



But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed  
him to his face, because he stood condemned.  
Galatians 2:11

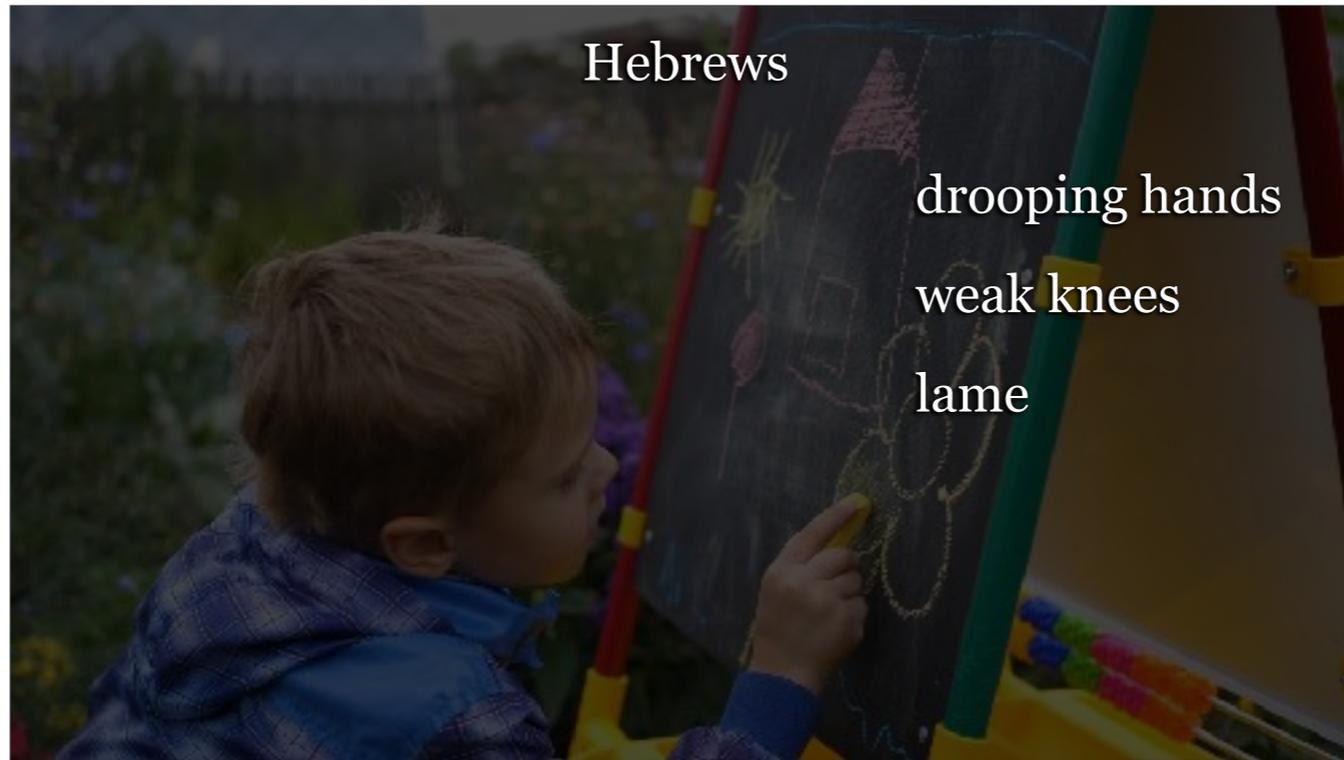
- 14 But when I saw that their conduct was not in step with the truth of the gospel,
- I said to Cephas before them all, “If you, though a Jew, live like a Gentile and not like a Jew, how can you force the Gentiles to live like Jews?”



- 14 But when I saw that their conduct was not in step with the truth of the gospel,
- I said to Cephas before them all, “If you, though a Jew, live like a Gentile and not like a Jew, how can you force the Gentiles to live like Jews?”
- Here Peter stands condemned. He is corrected by Paul.
- Standing for what is right, but bringing back Peter and Barnabas to unity with other saints.



- The Hebrews
- Hebrews 12:12-17 (ESV)
- 12 Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees, 13 and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather be healed. 14 Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord. 15 See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no “root of bitterness” springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled; 16 that no one is sexually immoral or unholy like Esau, who sold his birthright for a single meal. 17 For you know that afterward, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no chance to repent, though he sought it with tears.



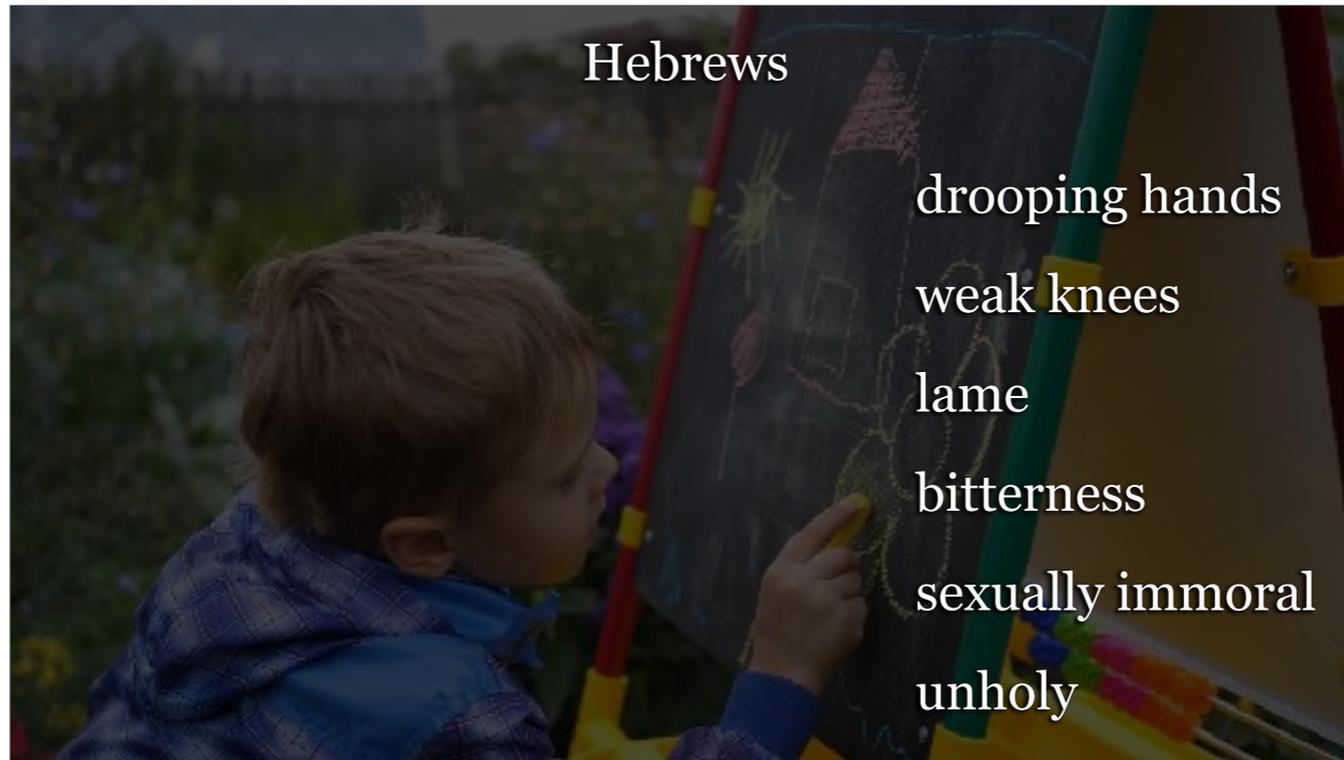
Hebrews

drooping hands

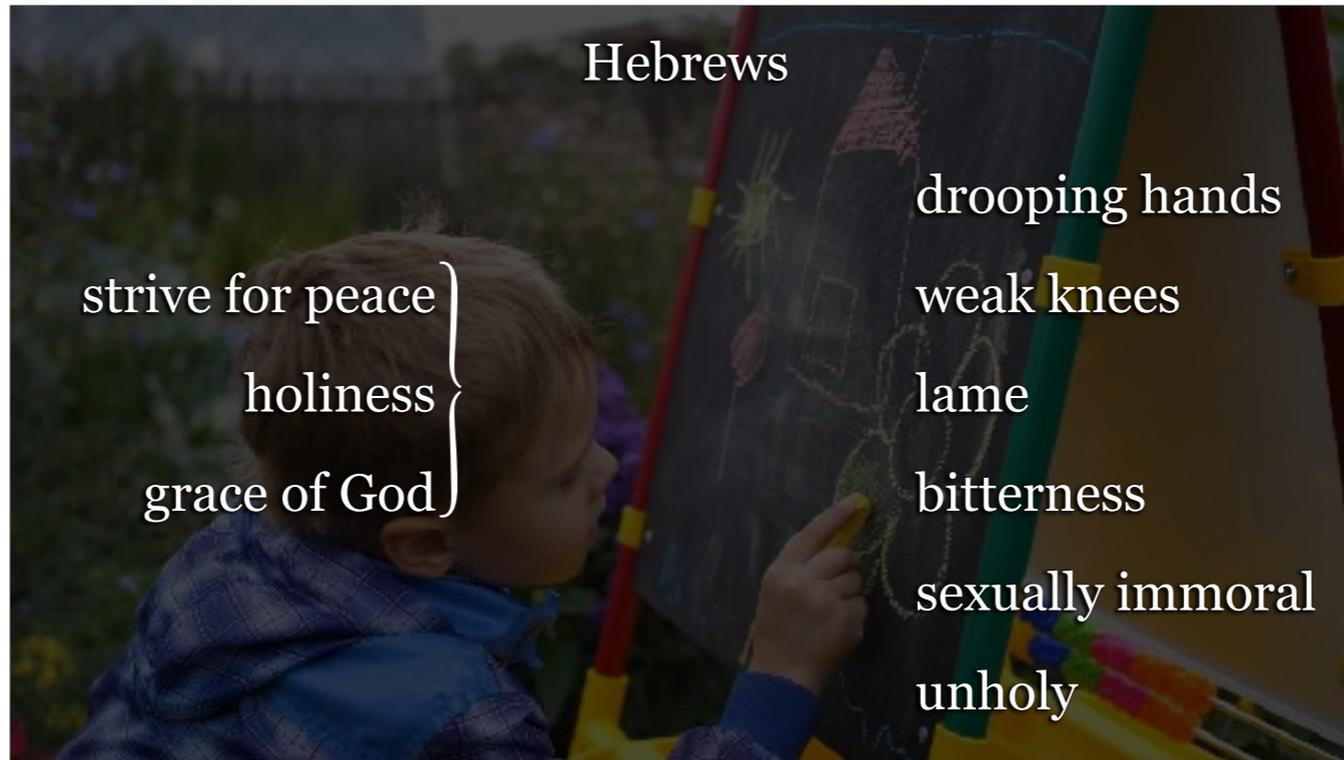
weak knees

lame

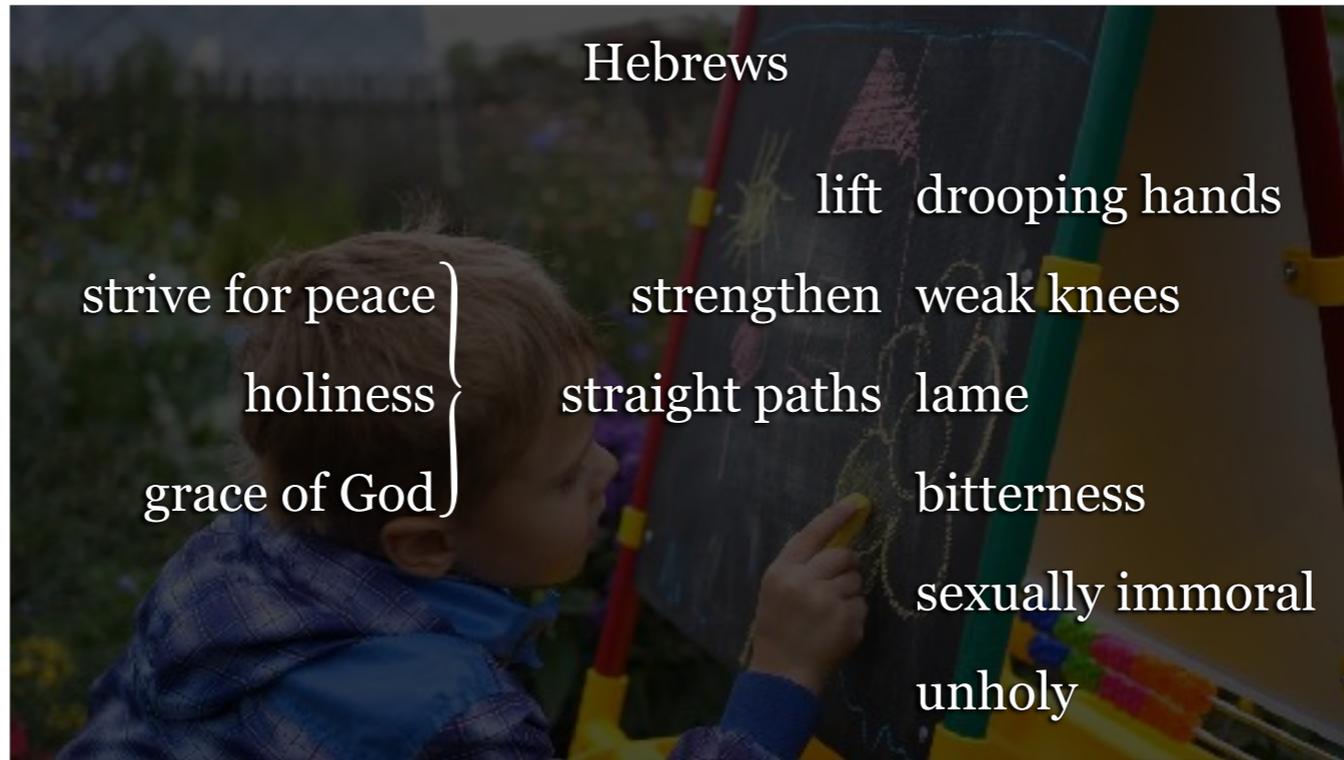
- 12 Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees, 13 and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather be healed.



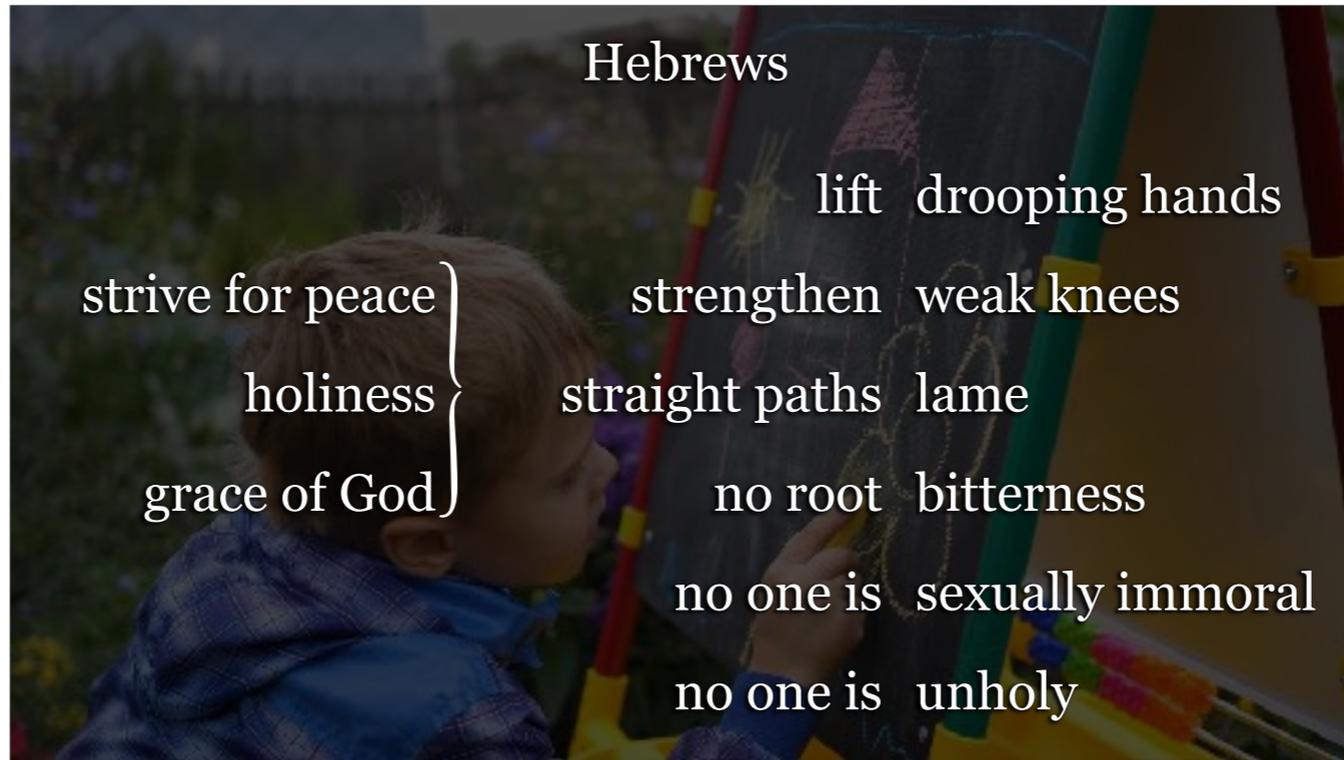
- that no “root of bitterness” springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled; 16 that no one is sexually immoral or unholy like Esau,



- 14 Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord. 15 See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God



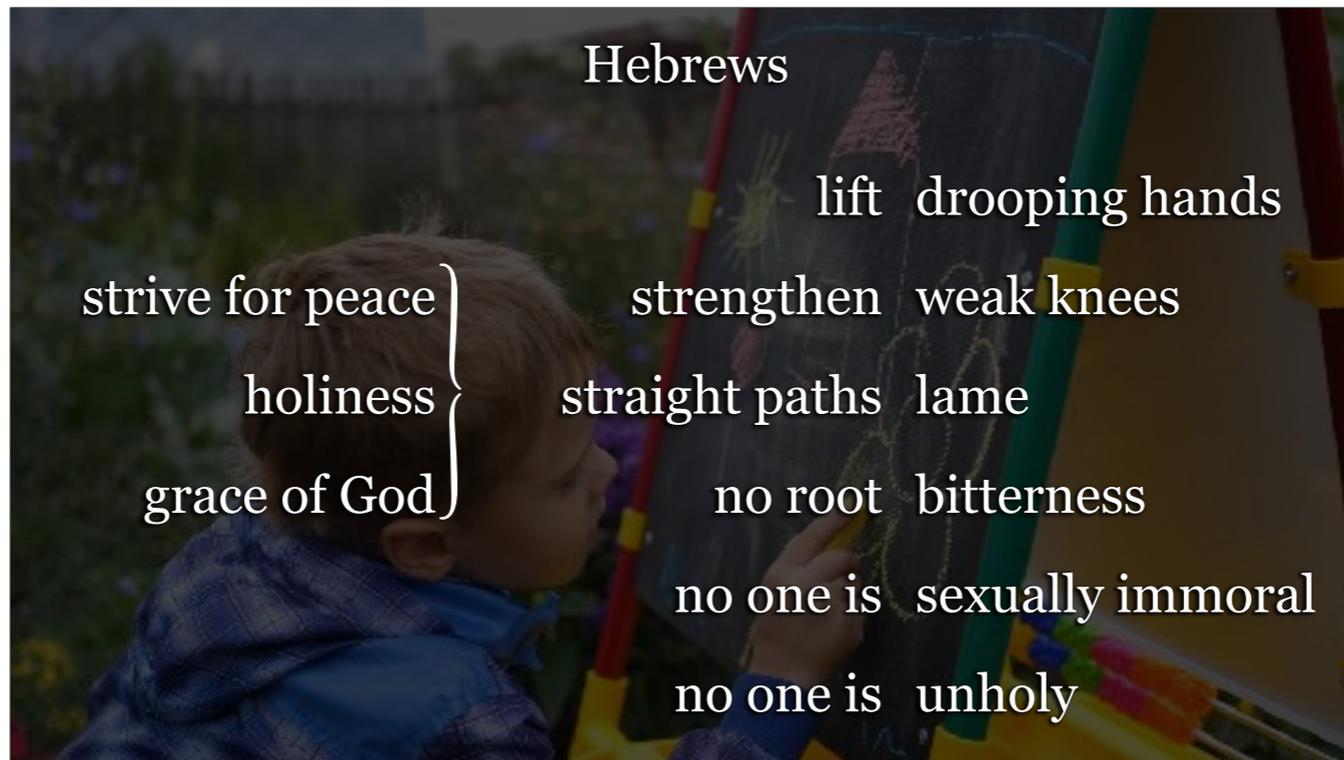
- Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees, 13 and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather be healed.



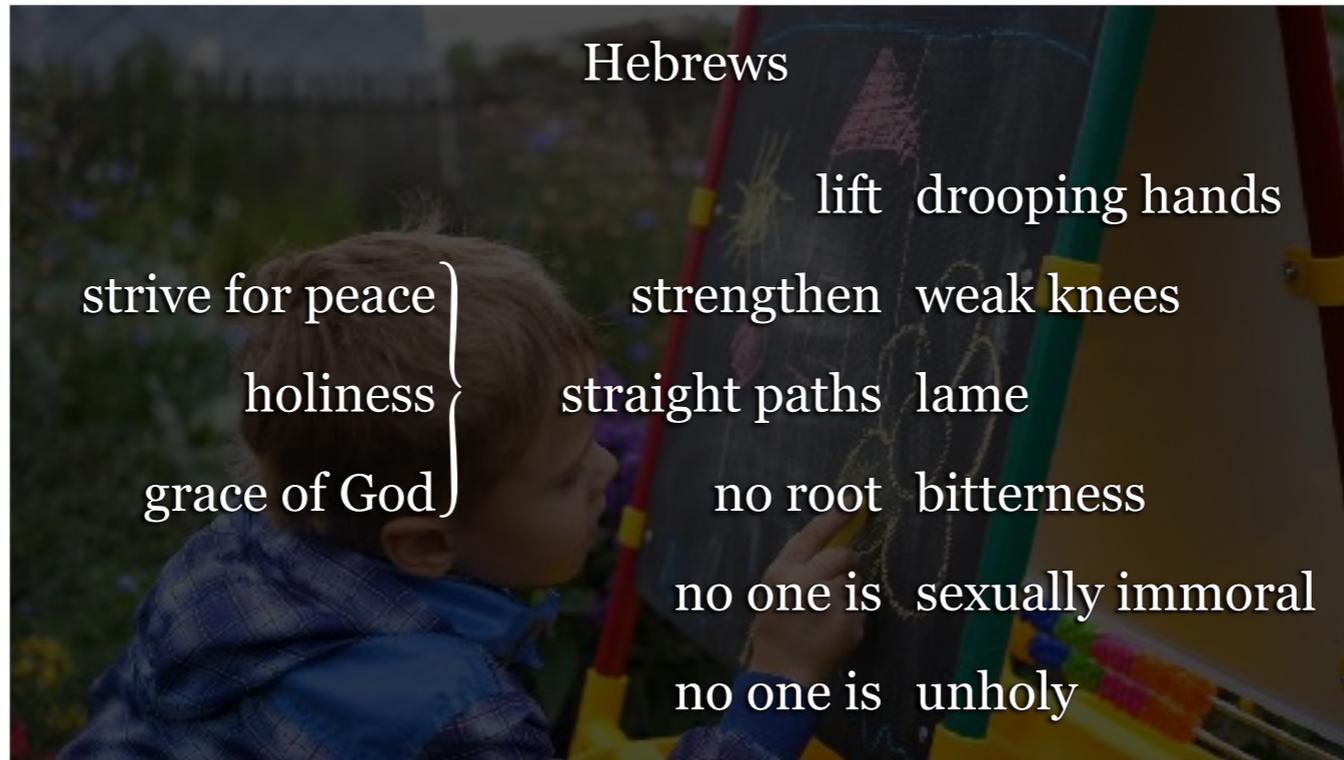
Hebrews

strive for peace	lift	drooping hands
holiness	strengthen	weak knees
grace of God	straight paths	lame
	no root	bitterness
	no one is	sexually immoral
	no one is	unholy

- that no “root of bitterness” springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled; 16 that no one is sexually immoral or unholy



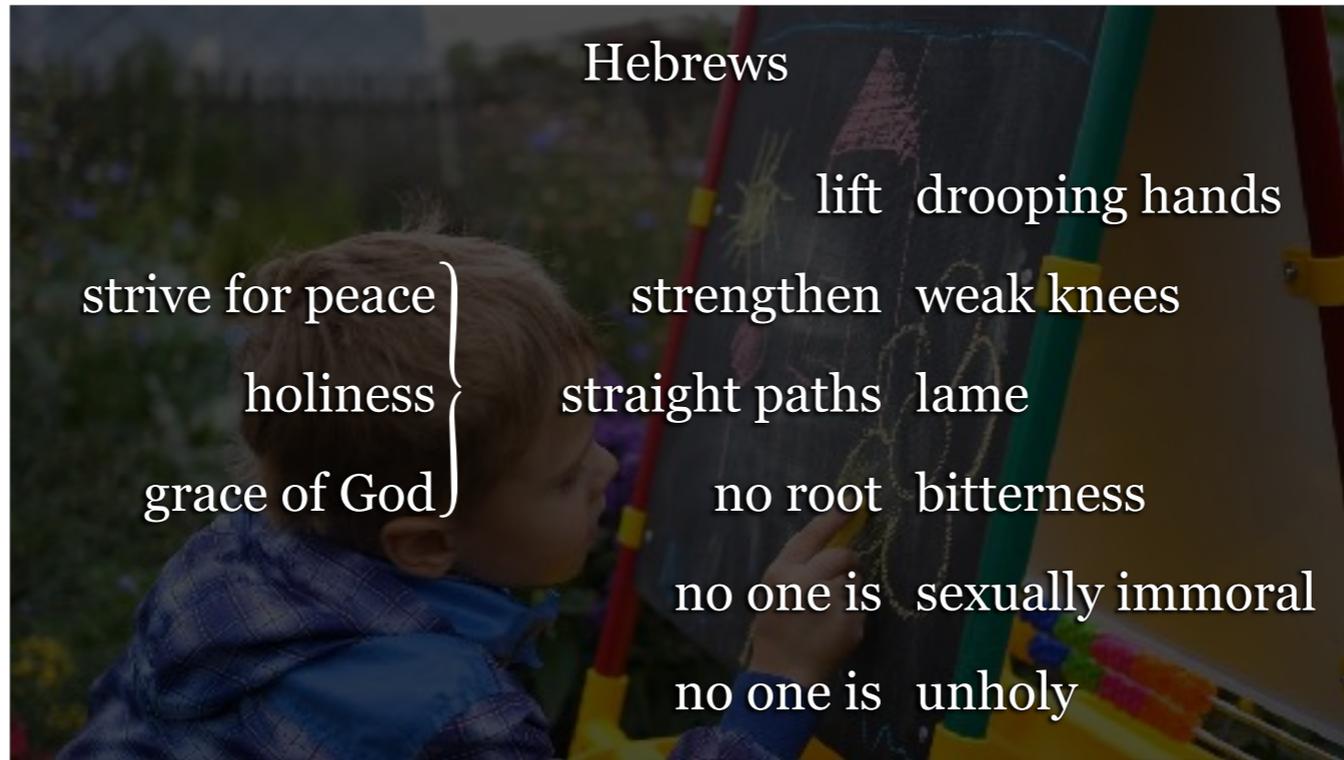
- The writer helps us see that a church has some in it who are struggling spiritual because they are weary and wounded
- And some are struggling with sin
- His solution
  - striving for each other: peace and holiness
  - no one fails to obtain the grace of God
    - We're a team working together toward a goal



Hebrews

	lift	drooping hands
strive for peace	strengthen	weak knees
holiness	straight paths	lame
grace of God	no root	bitterness
	no one is	sexually immoral
	no one is	unholy

- So we help each other to overcome our weariness and wounds
- And we help each other to maintain holiness
  - striving together against sin in our lives



- He doesn't assign this work just to the elders.
- Nor to the preacher
- He's talking to all of us.
- To see the mess, and to help us



- Hebrews 12:22-24 (ESV)
- 22 But you have come to Mount Zion
- and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem,
- and to innumerable angels in festal gathering,
- 23 and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven,



- and to God, the judge of all,
- and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect,
- 24 and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant,
- and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.



- Christ's church is glorious.
- But it can also be messy sometimes because of the challenges we face in helping each other obtain God's grace
- He's shown us that we must do this with love, and building each other up; peace and holiness
- So the key lies in how we see each other and how each of us sees ourselves



- Do we trust each other enough to be flawed?
- Do we love each other enough to help each other with our flaws, however serious?
- Do I trust others enough to let them help me with my flaws?

We implore you  
on behalf of Christ,  
be reconciled to God.

2 Corinthians 5:20

Call to Action

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Miscellaneous

#02

Compiled and Presented by:  
Dave Stewart  
2026 January 18  
[www.1corinthians1614.com](http://www.1corinthians1614.com)

## Messy Church

Ephesians 5:27

Synopsis: We are reminded by Paul that Christ's church is glorious. But when we look at our own congregation, and at many of the congregations in the New Testament, we see that they are also kind of messy. Our job is not to be a group without flaws. Rather we are to be sure that no one fails to obtain the grace of God. With aid from Redbeard the Hilarious.

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**“Let all that you do be done with love.”**