

# A GLORIOUS MESS

LESSONS FROM THE CHURCH AT CORINTH

The Crazy Cost of Bringing Jesus — 1 Corinthians 9

## A GLORIOUS MESS, Act 2: Part 6

Ed Noble, Lead Pastor • November 30 & December 2, 2012

**A GLORIOUS MESS** ▶▶▶ Making room (part of the glory... makes the mess): The GM is what God uses to bring His Good News, to bring Jesus to the world!

### WHEN YOU BECOME A CHRIST FOLLOWER...

- ▶ It's like you belong to the world in a whole new way
- ▶ It's like you are indebted to the whole world ... you are infected with THE CURE ... of course this threatens our individualism, isolation and insecurities!

**STARTS WITH** Radical Rethinking (1 Corinthians 9:1-14)

~~RIGHTS~~

~~FREEDOMS~~

### THREE CRAZY AND TOTALLY WORTH IT "COSTS"

1. SACRIFICE — We forego, we bare insults, we serve  
<sup>12</sup> *If others share the right over you, do we not more? Nevertheless, we did not use this right, but we endure all things so that we will cause no hindrance to the gospel of Christ...* <sup>18</sup> *What then is my reward? That, when I preach the gospel, I may offer the gospel without charge, so as not to make full use of my right in the gospel.*

1 Corinthians 9:12, 18

Break the INERTIA OF SILENCE — both natural and intentional but always requires some step of faith on our part.

2. STRIP — We let go of baggage and trappings

<sup>19</sup> *For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I may win more.* <sup>20</sup> *To the Jews I became as a Jew, so that I might win Jews; to those who are under the Law, as under the Law though not being myself under the Law, so that I might win those who are under the Law;* <sup>21</sup> *to those who are without law, as without law, though not being without the law of God but under the law of Christ, so that I might win those who are without law.* <sup>22</sup> *To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak; I have become all things to all men, so that I may by all means save some.* <sup>23</sup> *I do all things for the sake of the gospel, so that I may become a fellow partaker of it.*

1 Corinthians 9:19–23

3. STRAIN — We train, stretch, learn to hold ourselves in God's transforming presence.

<sup>24</sup> *Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win.* <sup>25</sup> *Everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. They then do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable.* <sup>26</sup> *Therefore I run in such a way, as not without aim; I box in such a way, as not beating the air;* <sup>27</sup> *but I discipline my body and make it my slave, so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified.*

**TRAINING** ▶▶ God, shaping our mind, emotions, body to...

- ↳ Present God as He really is... First to me and then to others
- ↳ LOVEABLE
- ↳ WORTHY (a.k.a. worth it)
- ↳ BEAUTIFUL

- The question for us: Who is going to pay the cost? Do "they" have to do the work to figure this out or are "we" supposed to do the work to make things comprehensible?

**AN EVEN BIGGER QUESTION:** Am I living a life that will make an eternal difference?

[www.journeycommunitychurch.com](http://www.journeycommunitychurch.com)

[edsjourney.org](http://edsjourney.org) • [twitter.com/ednoble](https://twitter.com/ednoble) • [facebook.com/ed.noble2](https://facebook.com/ed.noble2)