


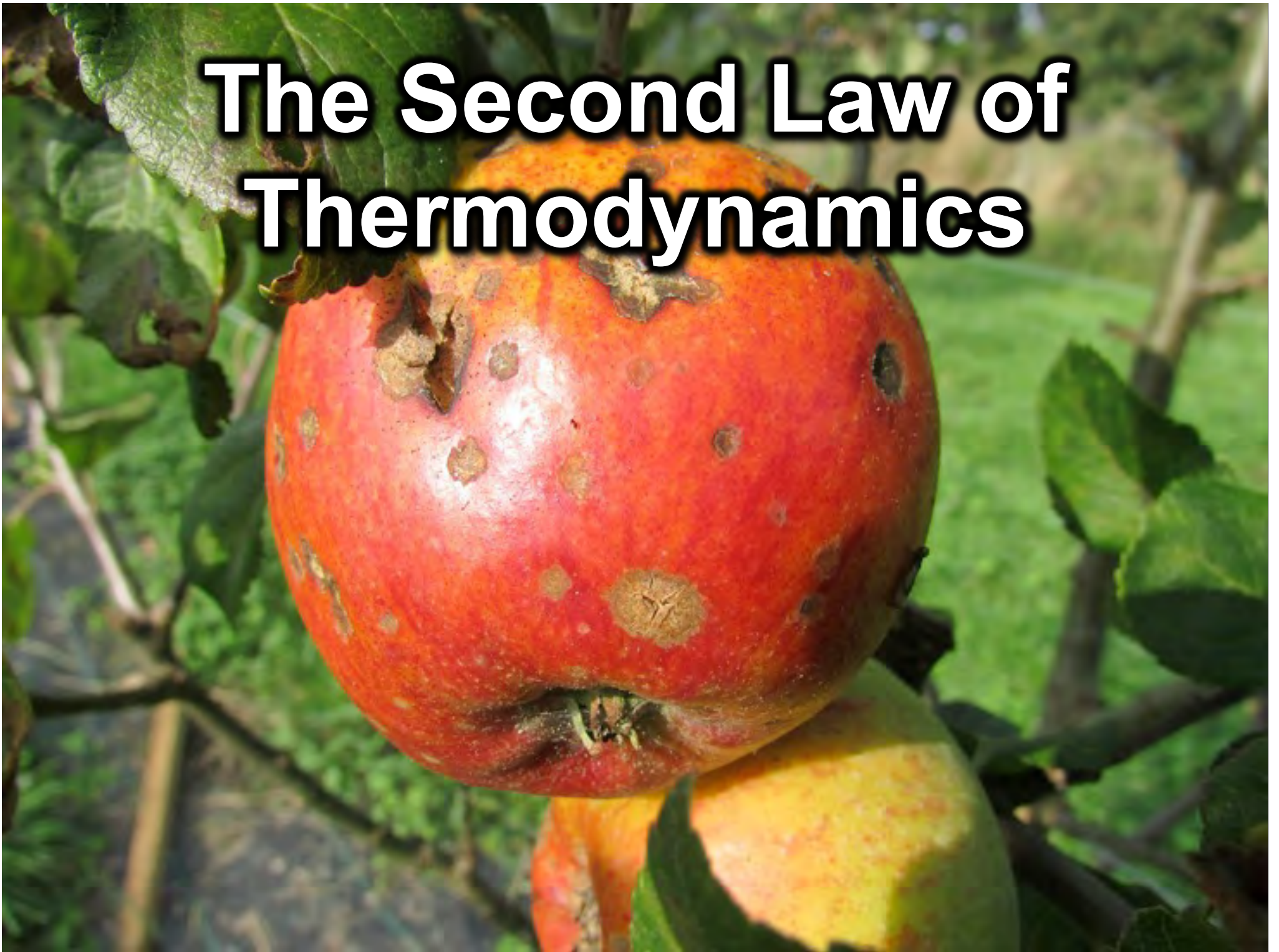
Be United



Ephesians

Dr. Rick Griffith • Crossroads International Church Singapore
BibleStudyDownloads.org

The Second Law of Thermodynamics



The Second Law of Thermodynamics

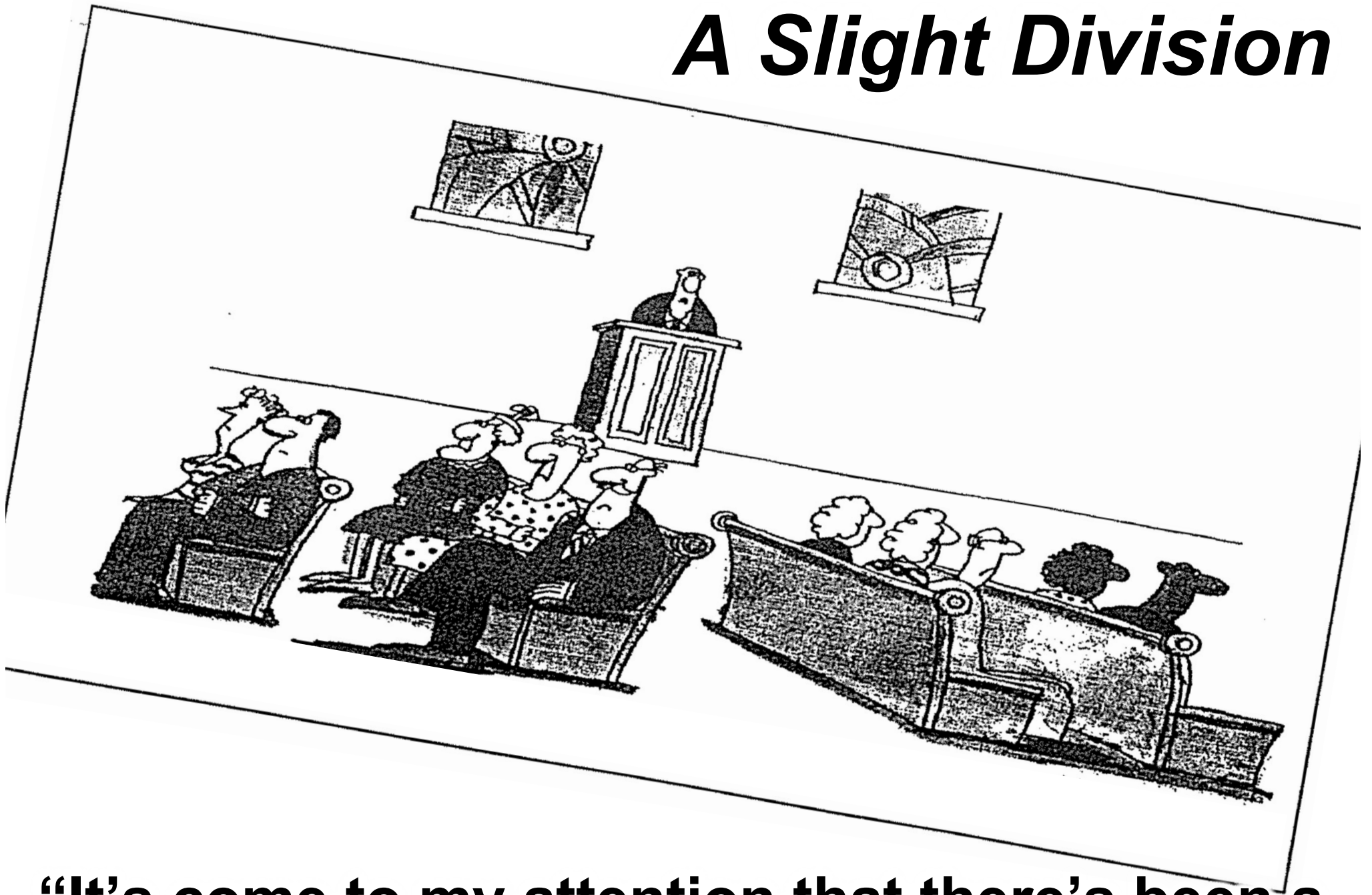


**You're right, we don't
have any dark sheep.
But they have their
own flocks. It's much
better that way!**

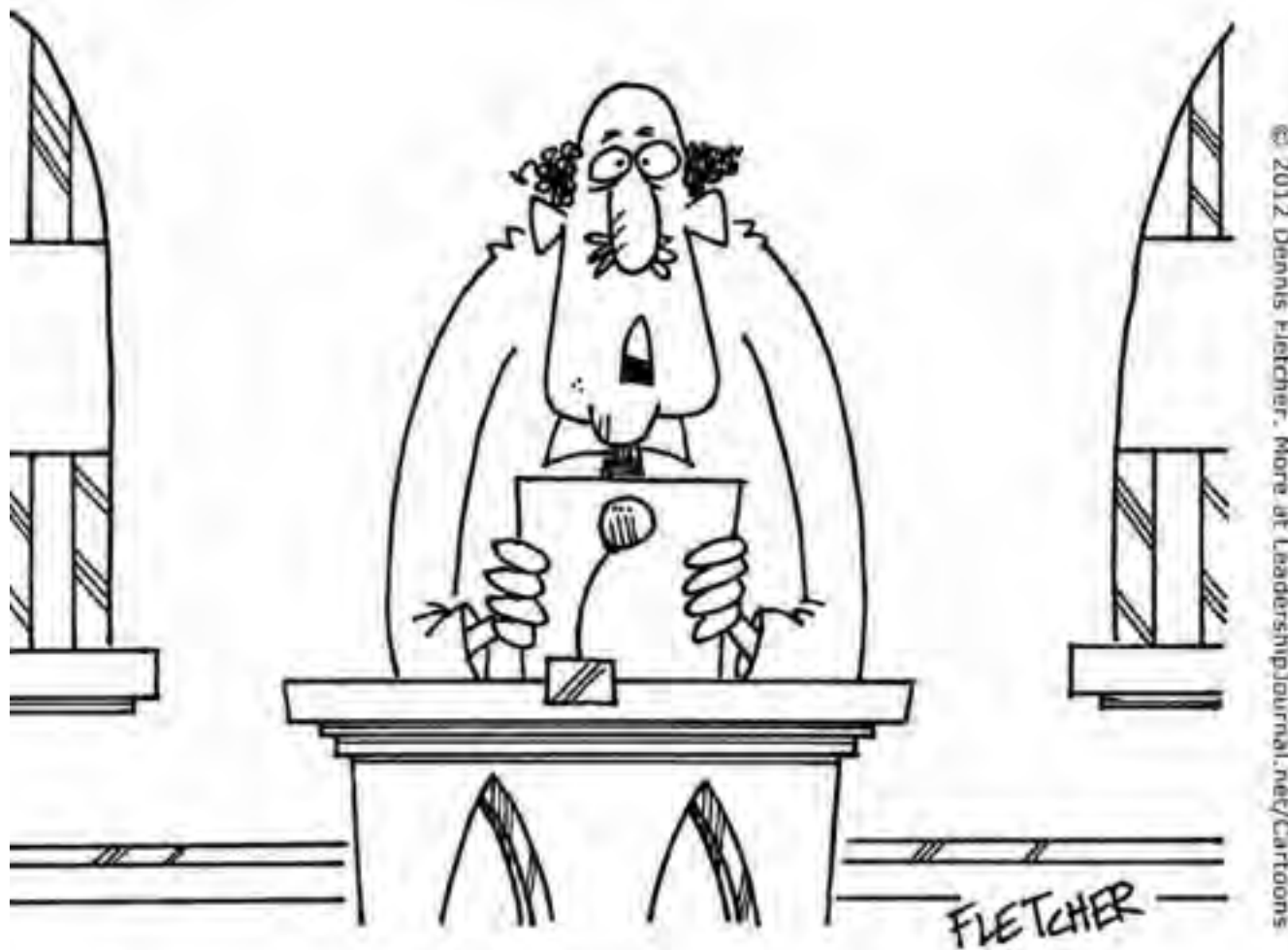


From Issue #77/February-March, 1984
"The Deer" magazine

A Slight Division



“It’s come to my attention that there’s been a minor split in the church.”



“...and the church unity workshop has been postponed until the deacons can agree on the date, time, and color of the participant name tags.”



“I sense a new unity in my church... away from apathy, and moving steadily toward opposition.”

How can our church
be united
despite our many different
kinds of people?

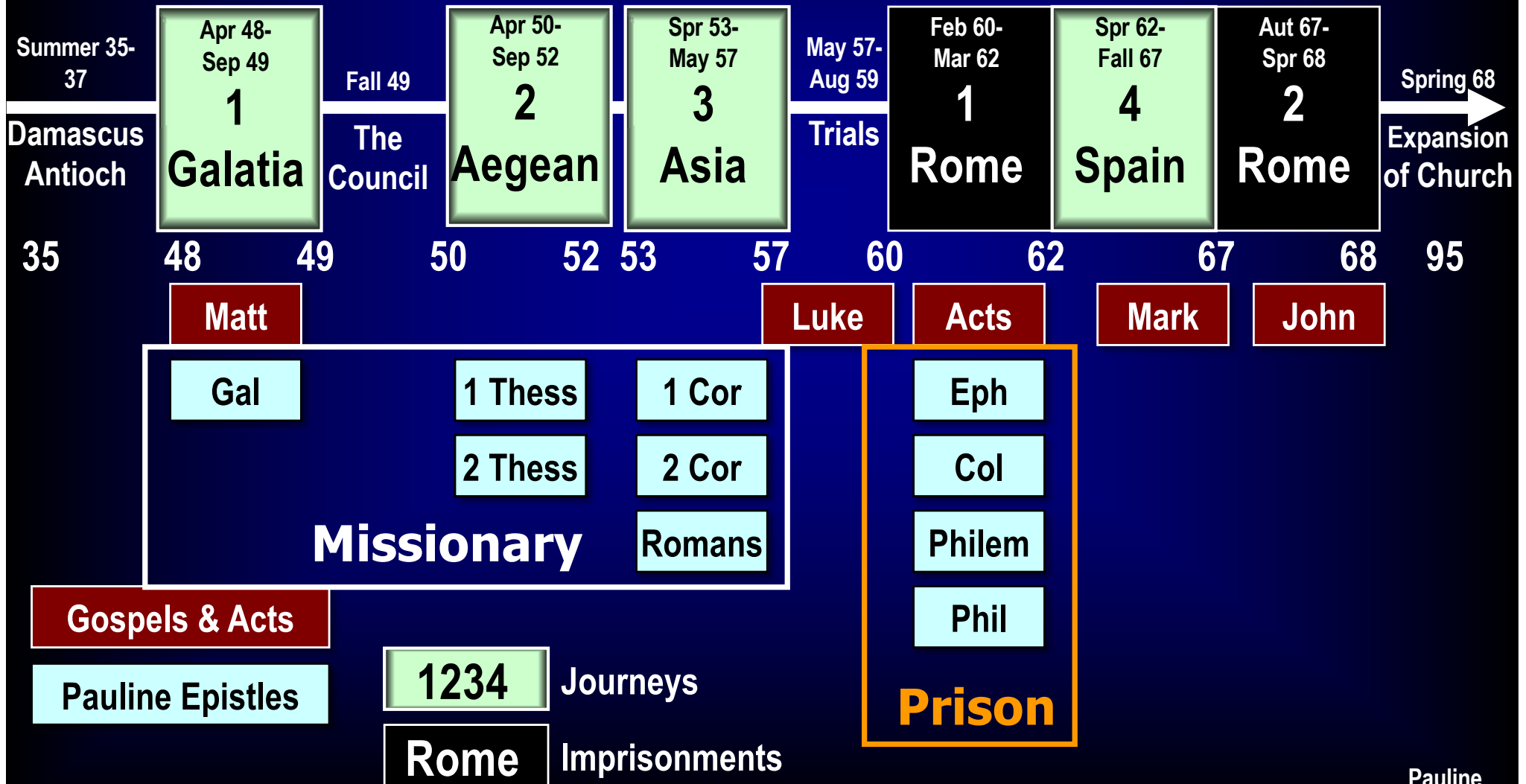


NT Overview (Paul's Letters)

38
124
39-41

“To the remotest part of the earth” (Acts 1:8)

Acts 9 13 14 15 16 18 21 27 28



Rome

Ephesus

EPHESIANS

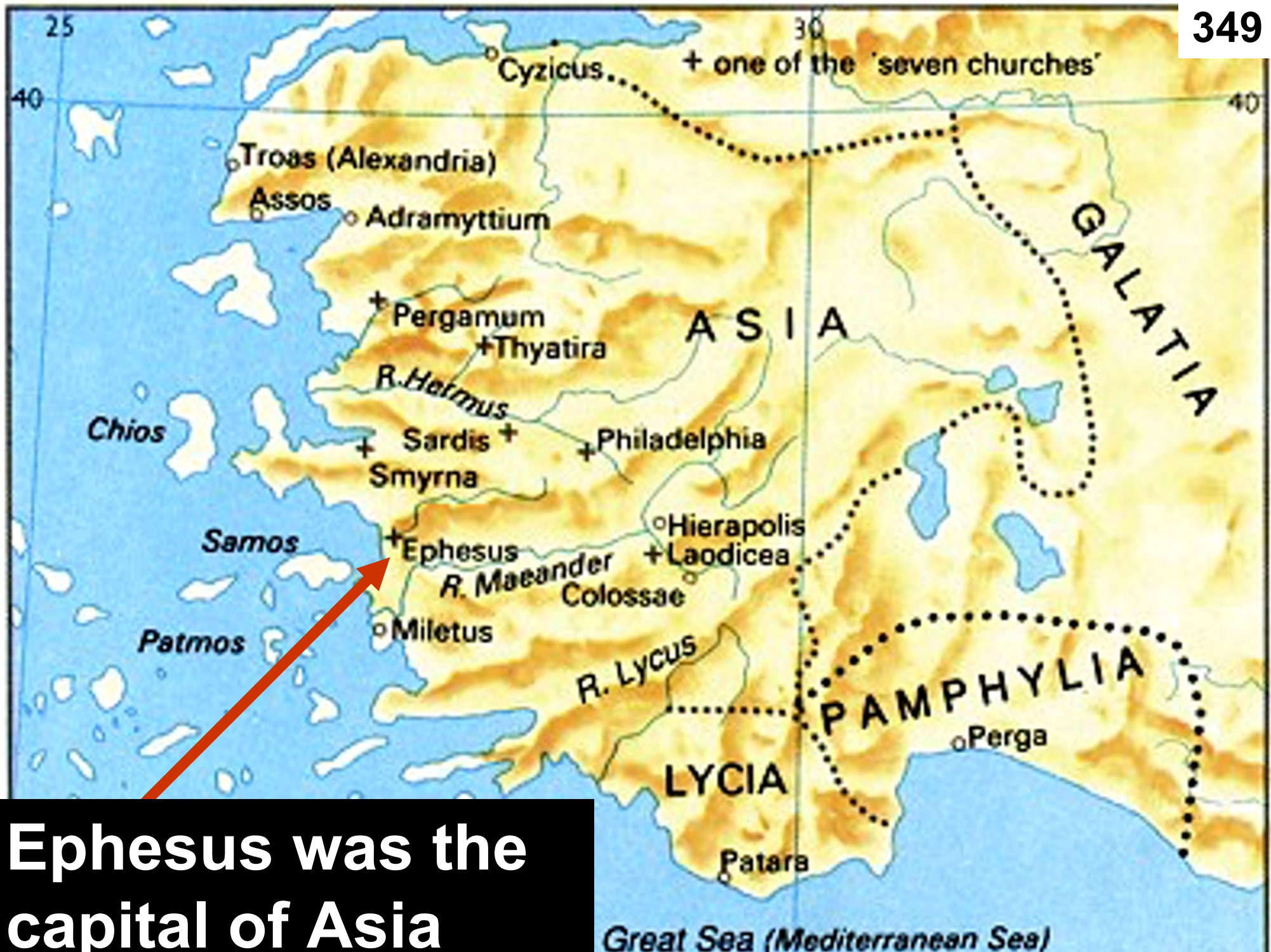


Key Word

175

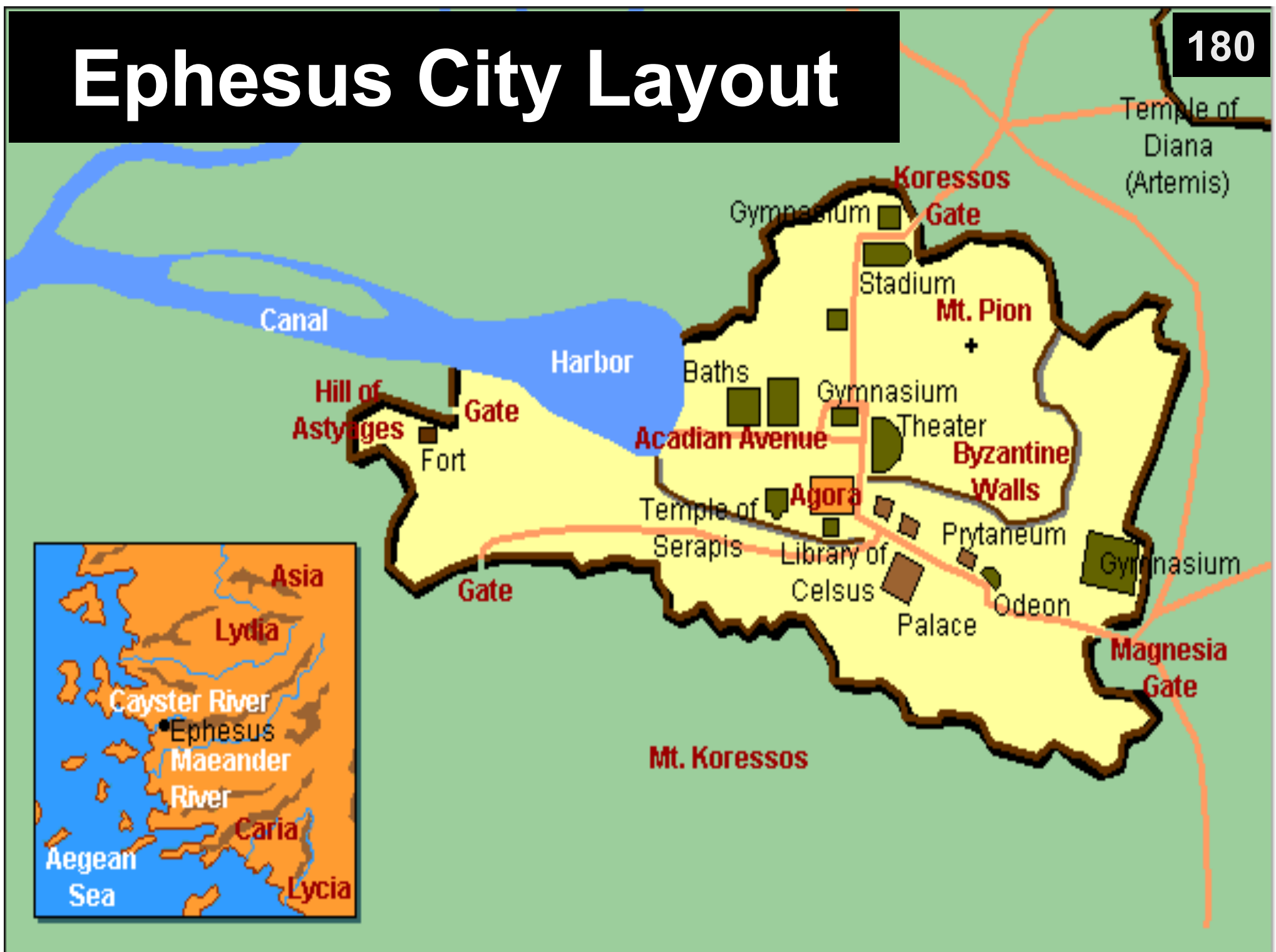
Unity

Ephesians



**Ephesus was the
capital of Asia**

Ephesus City Layout



Artemis, Goddess of Fertility



Marble Roads



(c) Jorgen Wouters



Seven Wonders of the Ancient World

The Temple of Artemis at Ephesus

180c

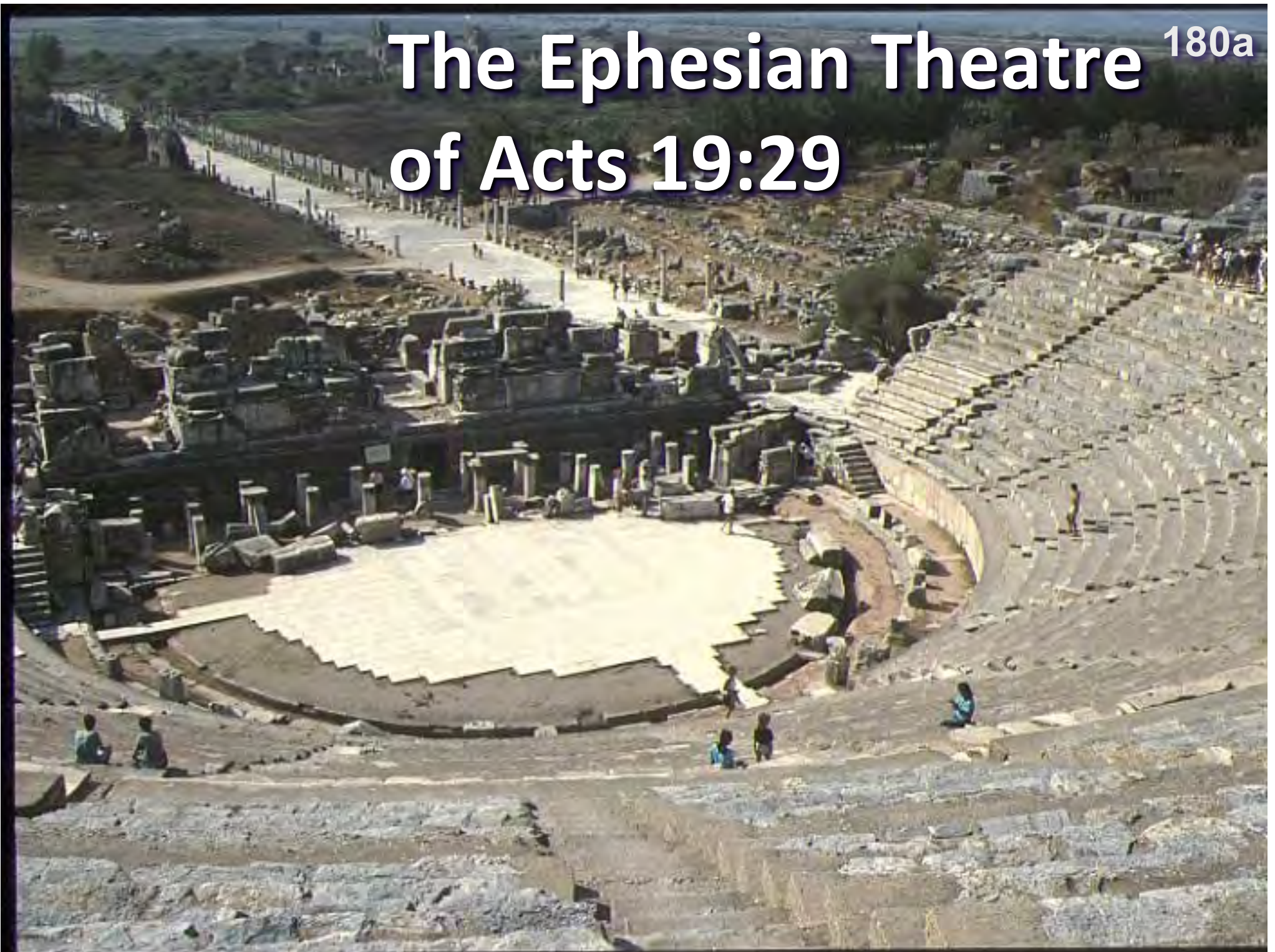


180c



The Temple of Diana (Artemis) Today

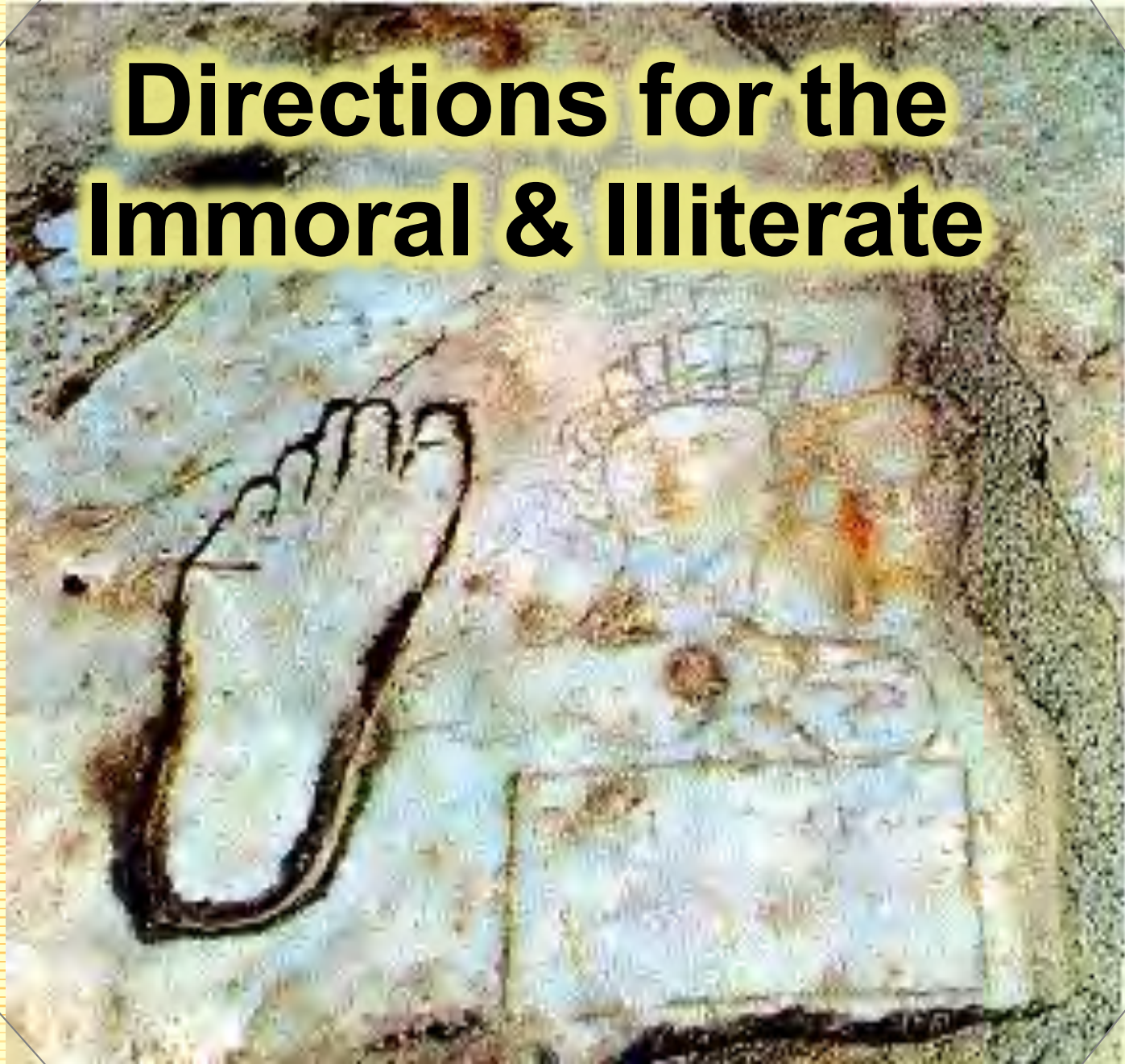
The Ephesian Theatre ^{180a} of Acts 19:29





Library

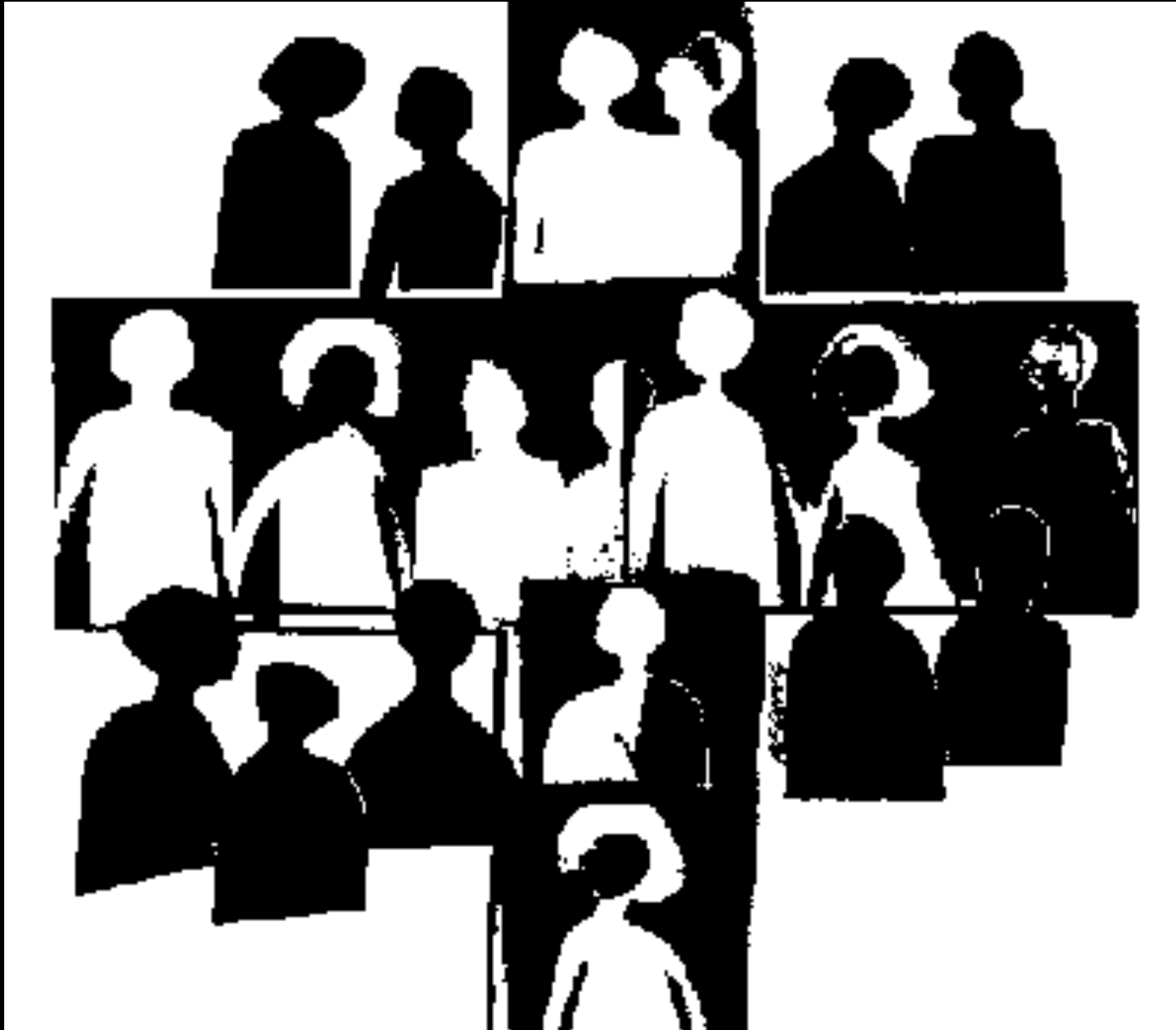
Directions for the Immoral & Illiterate



Toilets and aqueduct



Jew-Gentile Divisions



Theme

23

**Jew-Gentile Unity
Shown in Love**

Ephesians

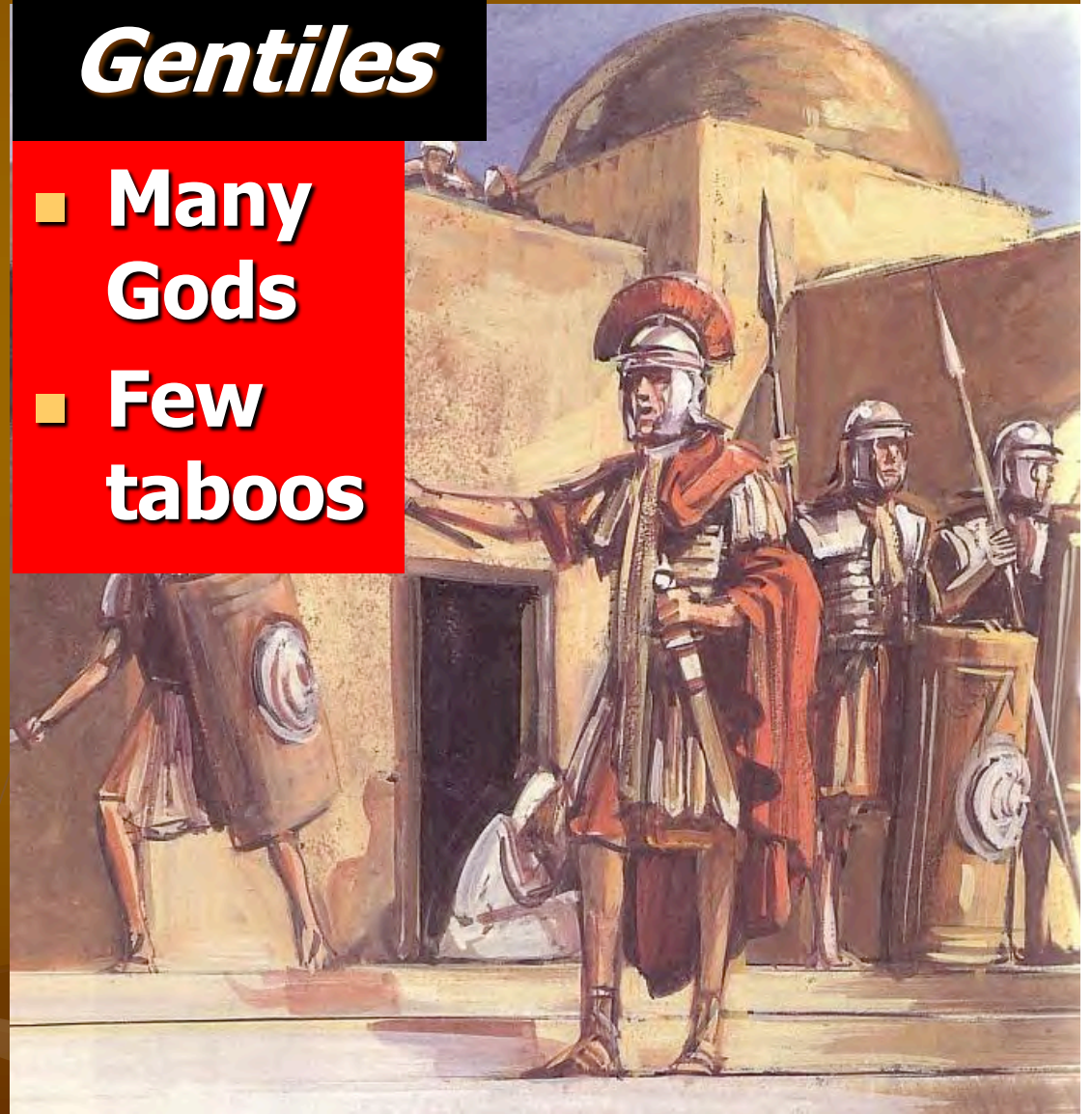
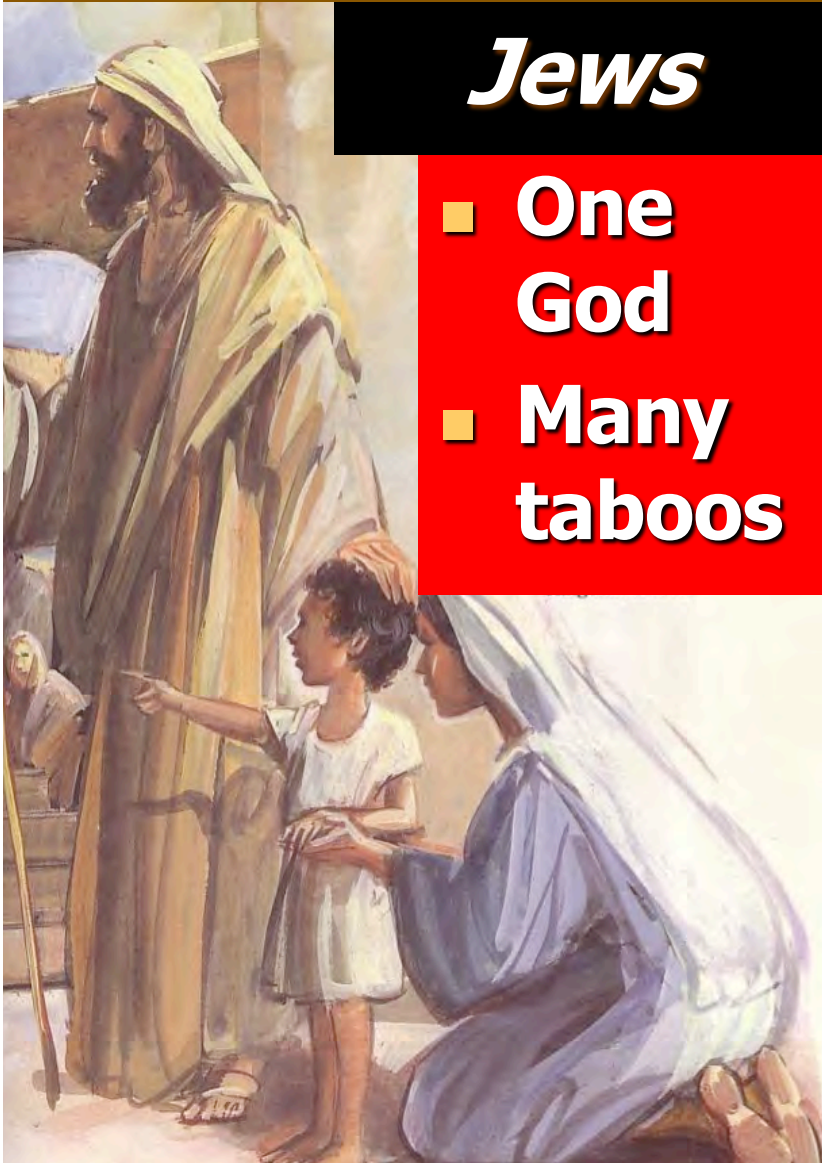
Sometimes Christians mistreat others of a different ethnic group

Jews

- One God
- Many taboos

Gentiles

- Many Gods
- Few taboos



Hebrew

- Favors **poetry**, imagery & symbolism

Writing Style

Greek

- Favors **outlines**, lists and bullet points

Adapted from Lynne M. Thompson, "Christmas: The Real Deal," interview with Ray Vander Laan, *Breakaway* magazine (Dec 2003): 7-9.

Hebrew

Numbers

Greek

- Sees numbers as a quality or **symbol**

- Sees numbers as a specific **quantity**

Adapted from Lynne M. Thompson, "Christmas: The Real Deal," interview with Ray Vander Laan, *Breakaway* magazine (Dec 2003): 7-9.

Hebrew

- Focuses on the **community** in relationship with God

Relation to God

Greek

- Focuses on the **individual's** relationship with God

Adapted from Lynne M. Thompson, "Christmas: The Real Deal," interview with Ray Vander Laan, *Breakaway* magazine (Dec 2003): 7-9.

Hebrew

- The kingdom of God begins **in this life.** Eternal life is lived in harmony with God.

Eternal Life

Greek

- The kingdom of God is **outside this world.** Eternal life will occur after this life ends.

Adapted from Lynne M. Thompson, "Christmas: The Real Deal," interview with Ray Vander Laan, *Breakaway* magazine (Dec 2003): 7-9.

Hebrew

Sin

Greek

- Sin is wrong **behavior** alone.
- They emphasize what one **does** in response to faith.

- Sin is wrong actions & **thinking**.
- They emphasize what a person **knows** about faith.

Adapted from Lynne M. Thompson, "Christmas: The Real Deal," interview with Ray Vander Laan, *Breakaway* magazine (Dec 2003): 7-9.

Hebrew

Greek

Existence of God

- Assumes that God exists

- Tries to prove God's existence

Adapted from Lynne M. Thompson, "Christmas: The Real Deal," interview with Ray Vander Laan, *Breakaway* magazine (Dec 2003): 7-9.

Hebrew

Faith

Greek

- **Relational and personal**
- Expressed in terms of **relationship** with God rather than rationalization

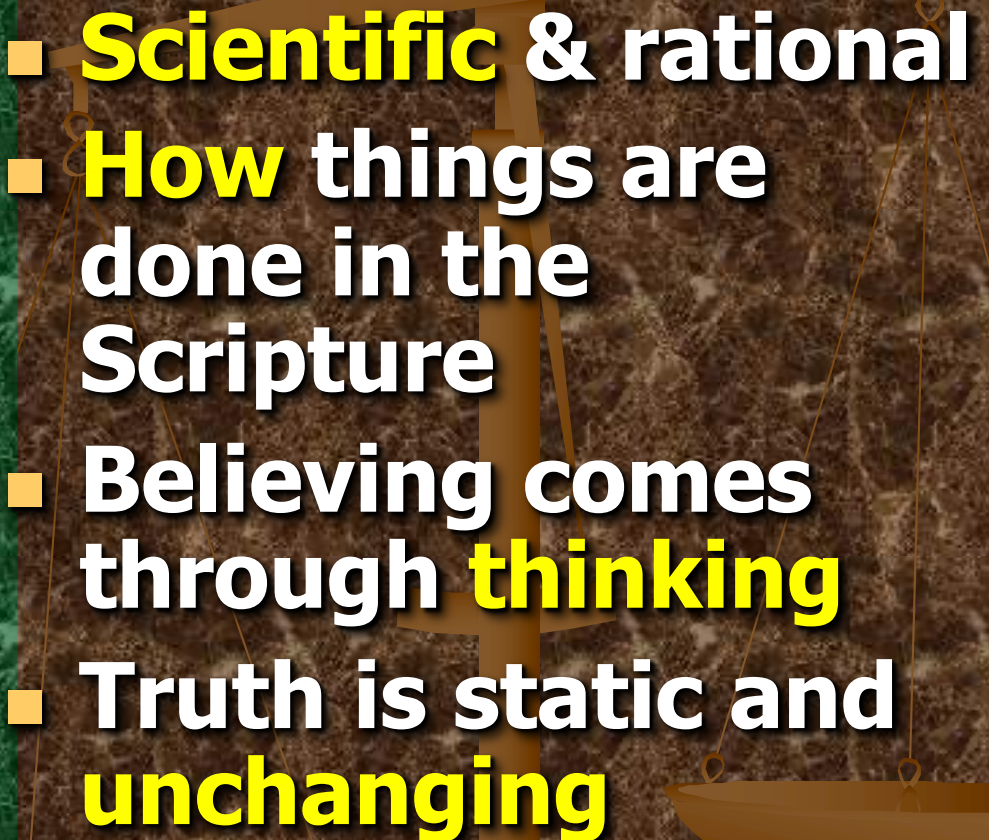
- **Intellectual and impersonal**
- Expressed in creeds and **doctrine** with support through proof texts

Adapted from Lynne M. Thompson, "Christmas: The Real Deal," interview with Ray Vander Laan, *Breakaway* magazine (Dec 2003): 7-9.

Hebrew

Truth

Greek

- 
- **Experiential**
 - **What** is done and who did it in Scripture
 - Believing comes through **experience**
 - Truth is unfolding and **relative**
 - **Scientific & rational**
 - **How** things are done in the Scripture
 - Believing comes through **thinking**
 - Truth is static and **unchanging**

Adapted from Lynne M. Thompson, "Christmas: The Real Deal," interview with Ray Vander Laan, *Breakaway* magazine (Dec 2003): 7-9.

How can our church
be united
despite our many different
kinds of people?



How to be united...



Eph 1–3

Ephesians 1

A topographical map of the Mediterranean region. A black dot in Italy is labeled 'Rome'. A black dot in Turkey is labeled 'Ephesus'. A white arrow with a grey outline points from Rome to Ephesus. The word 'EPHESIANS' is written in large white letters across the sea. At the bottom, a quote from Ephesians 1:1 NIV is displayed in white text with a black outline.

Rome

Ephesus

EPHESIANS

"This letter is from Paul, chosen by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus. I am writing to God's holy people in Ephesus ["To the saints in Ephesus" NIV], who are faithful followers of Christ Jesus" (Eph. 1:1 NIV).

Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ, ⁴just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be **holy and blameless before Him**. In love ⁵He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, ⁶to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ⁷In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace ⁸which He lavished on us. In all wisdom and insight ⁹He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him ¹⁰with a view to an administration suitable to the fullness of the times, *that is*, the summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things on the earth. In Him ¹¹also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will, ¹²to the end that we who were the first to hope in **Christ would be to the praise of His glory**. ¹³In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation — having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, ¹⁴who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of *God's own* possession, to the praise of His glory.

"All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed **us** with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms because **we** are united with Christ. ⁴Even before he made the world, God loved **us** and chose **us** in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. ⁵God decided in advance to adopt **us** into his own family by bringing **us** to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure. ⁶So **we** praise God for the glorious grace he has poured out on **us** who belong to his dear Son. ⁷He is so rich in kindness and grace that he purchased **our** freedom with the blood of his Son and forgave **our** sins."



⁸He has showered his kindness on **us**, along with all wisdom and understanding.

⁹God has now revealed to **us** his mysterious plan regarding Christ, a plan to fulfill his own purpose. ¹⁰He has revealed the plan: At the end of the ages, he put everything together in Christ—everything in heaven and on earth.

¹¹Furthermore, because **we** are united with Christ, **we** have received an inheritance from God, for he chose us before he made even the universe as part of his plan.


Jews who were first chosen by Christ would bring glory to God."

¹³And now **you** Gentiles have also heard the truth about the gospel. **You** have believed in Christ, just as he promised long ago."

God gave us Gentiles equal status with predestined Jews (1:3-23)!

"Having believed, you were marked in him with a **seal, the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴who is a **deposit guaranteeing our inheritance** until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory" (Eph. 1:13-14 NIV).**

"And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were **sealed for the day of redemption" (Eph. 4:30 NIV).**

A red wax seal is visible on the parchment background, partially overlapping the text on the right. The seal is circular with a textured, embossed design in the center, and a thin line of wax extends from it towards the bottom right.

*A Seal Guarantees Security
and Provides Assurance*



*Assurance
of
Salvation*

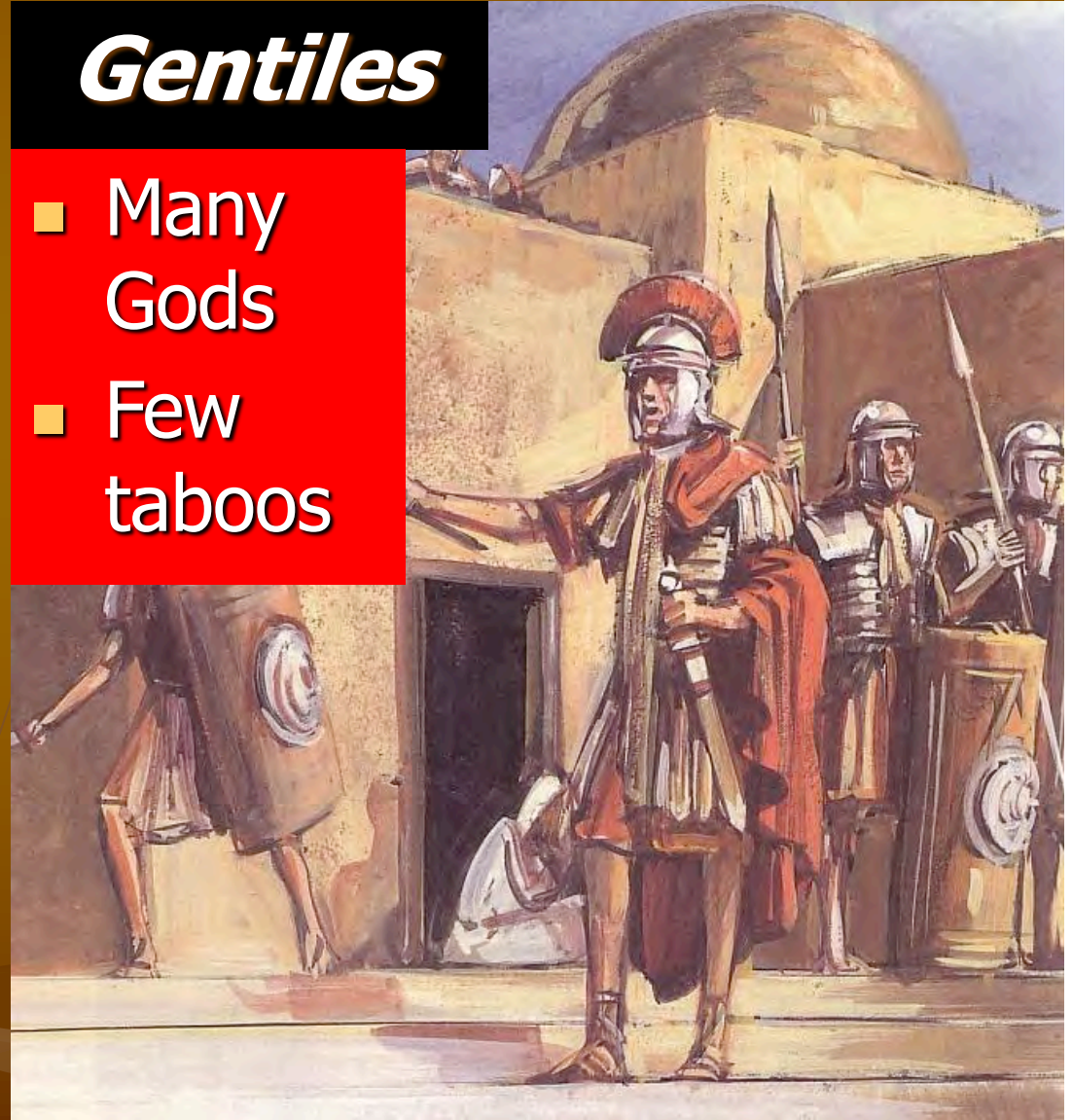
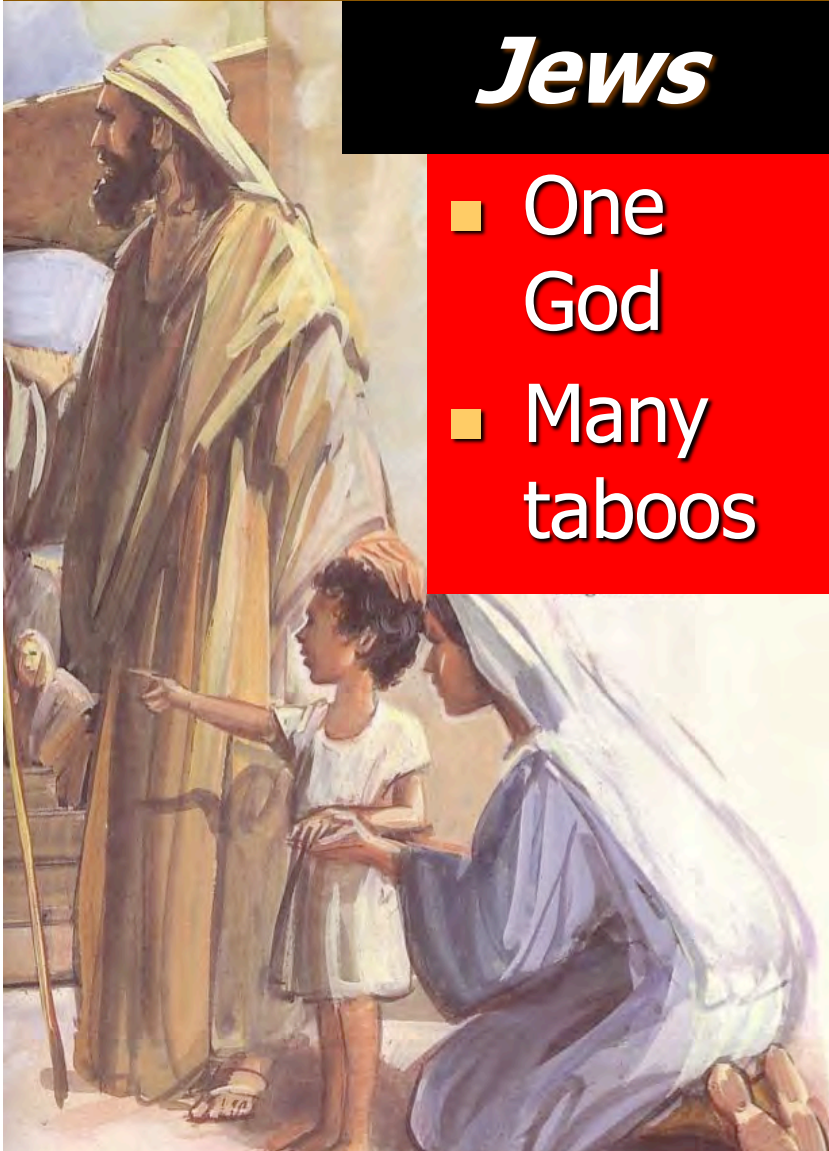
What About Ethnic Differences Now?

Jews

- One God
- Many taboos

Gentiles

- Many Gods
- Few taboos



The Cross Makes Ethnicity Irrelevant

Jew-Gentile

Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace. ⁴For there is one body and one Spirit, just as you have been called to one glorious hope for the future.

Ephesians 4:3-4 NLT

There is neither Jew nor Greek,
there is neither slave nor free,
there is neither male nor female,
for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Galatians 3:28 ESV

The Two-Headed Snake



The One-Headed Church

Christ as Head



**Many parts,
One body**

Ephesians 2



Why did God save us?

Because we were so helpless

"Once you were dead because of your disobedience and your many sins. ²You used to live in sin, just like the rest of the world, obeying the devil—the commander of the powers in the unseen world. He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God. ³All of us used to live that way, following the passionate desires and inclinations of our sinful nature. By our very nature we were subject to God's anger, just like everyone else" (Eph. 2:1-3 NLT).



How did God save us?

By his grace he gave us spiritual life

"But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much, ⁵that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God's grace that you have been saved!) ⁶For he raised us from the dead along with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ Jesus" (Eph. 2:4-6 NLT)



Why did God save us?

To show his grace through eternity!

"So God can point to us in all future ages as examples of the incredible wealth of his grace and kindness toward us, as shown in all he has done for us who are united with Christ Jesus" (Eph. 2:7 NLT)



How did God save us?

Through his grace—not our works

"God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. ⁹Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it" (Eph. 2:8-9 NLT)

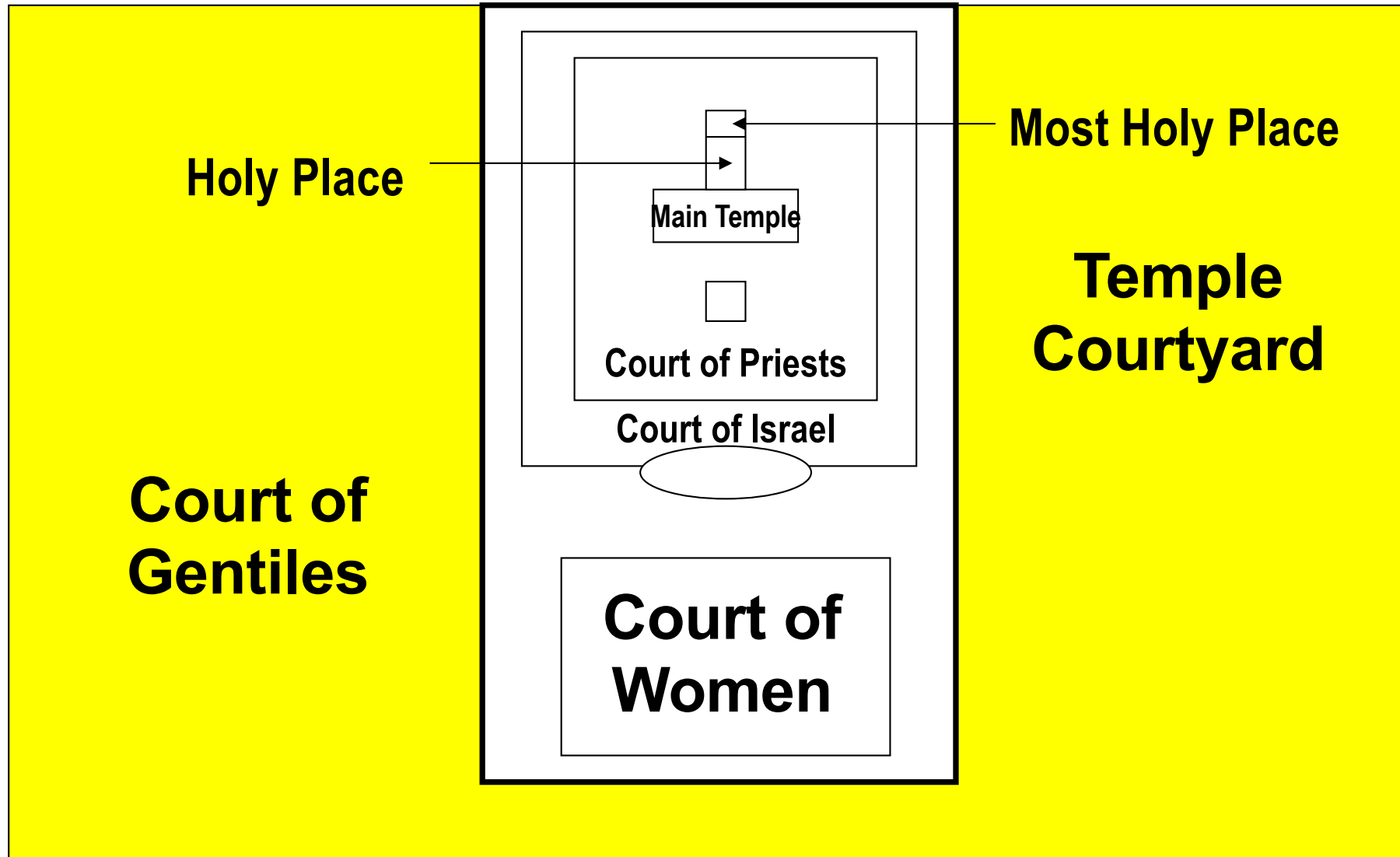


Why else did God save us?

To show his goodness through our good works!

"For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago" (Eph. 2:10 NLT)

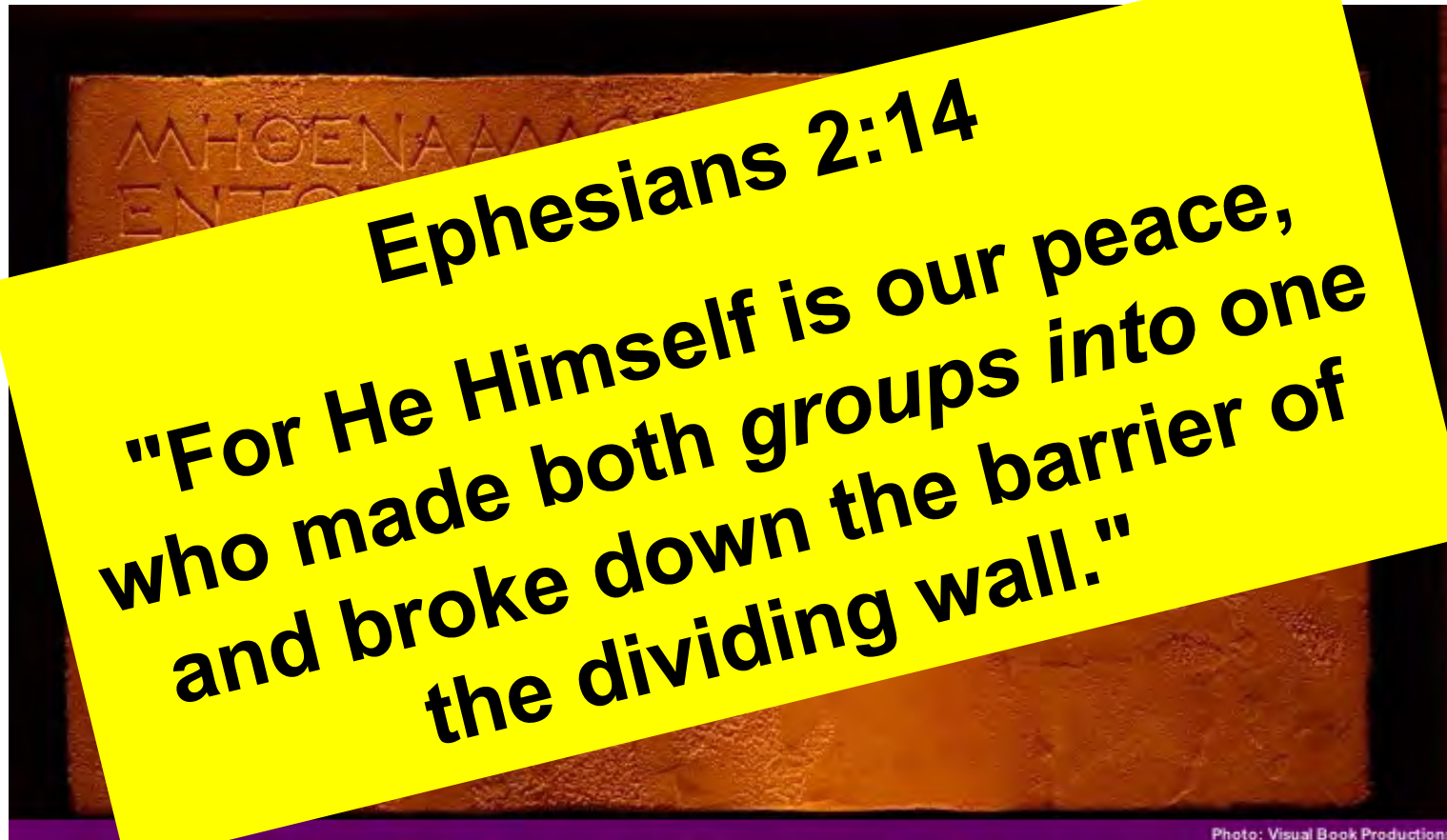
Divisions in Herod's Temple



Divisions in Herod's Temple



Warning of Dividing Wall for Gentiles



Ephesians 2:14

**"For He Himself is our peace,
who made both groups into one
and broke down the barrier of
the dividing wall."**

Photo: Visual Book Productions

**"Let no foreigner enter within the partition and enclosure
surrounding the temple. Whoever is arrested will be
responsible for his death which will follow."**

So then,

**you are no
longer
strangers**

and aliens

**but you are
fellow citizens
with the saints
and members of
the household of
God.**

أفسس 19:2

Ephesians 3

DISPENSATIONS (EPH. 3:2)

"...you know
God gave me
the **special
responsibility**
of extending his
grace to you
Gentiles"
(NLT)

"...you have
heard of the
stewardship
of God's
grace which
was given to
me for you"
(NAU)

"**administration**" (NIV)
"**dispensation**" (KJV)
οἰκονομία (Greek)
οἶκος (house) + *νόμος*
(law)
"**responsibility of
management, management
of a household, direction,
office**" (BDAG)

Time before Paul's
dispensation (Gentiles
came through Israel
under law)

Time of Paul's
dispensation (Gentiles
equal to Jews
under grace)

DISPENSATIONS IN EPHESIANS^{180f}

SALVATION BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH

-
- (1) Pre-Fall (2) Conscience Government (3) Patriarchal (4) Mosaic (2:15) (5) Church (3:2, 9) (6) Millennial (1:9-10)

ISRAEL ≠ CHURCH

PROGRESSIVE REVELATION

Why the Church?

**"God's purpose in all this was to use the church to display his wisdom in its rich variety to all the unseen rulers and authorities in the heavenly places"
(Ephesians 3:10 NLT).**

Are there apostles today?



God's household (the church) is:

"built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone"

(Eph. 2:20)

God's Household (Eph. 2:19-22)

19

*Non-Equipping Gifts
(Eph. 4:12b)*

Evangelists

Pastor-Teachers

Teachers

*Equipping Gifts
(Eph. 4:11-12a)*

Foundation: Apostles & Prophets (Eph. 2:20)

Foundation: The Lord Jesus Christ (1 Cor. 3:11)

How can our church
be united
despite our many different
kinds of people?



How to be united...



Eph 1–3

How to be united...



Love the Church

**Love
God**

Eph 4–6

Ephesians 4

Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

Ephesians 4:3



What unites us (Eph. 4:4-6)?

Body – fellowship of believers (Church)

Spirit – Holy Spirit activates fellowship

Hope – of the future

Lord – to whom we belong

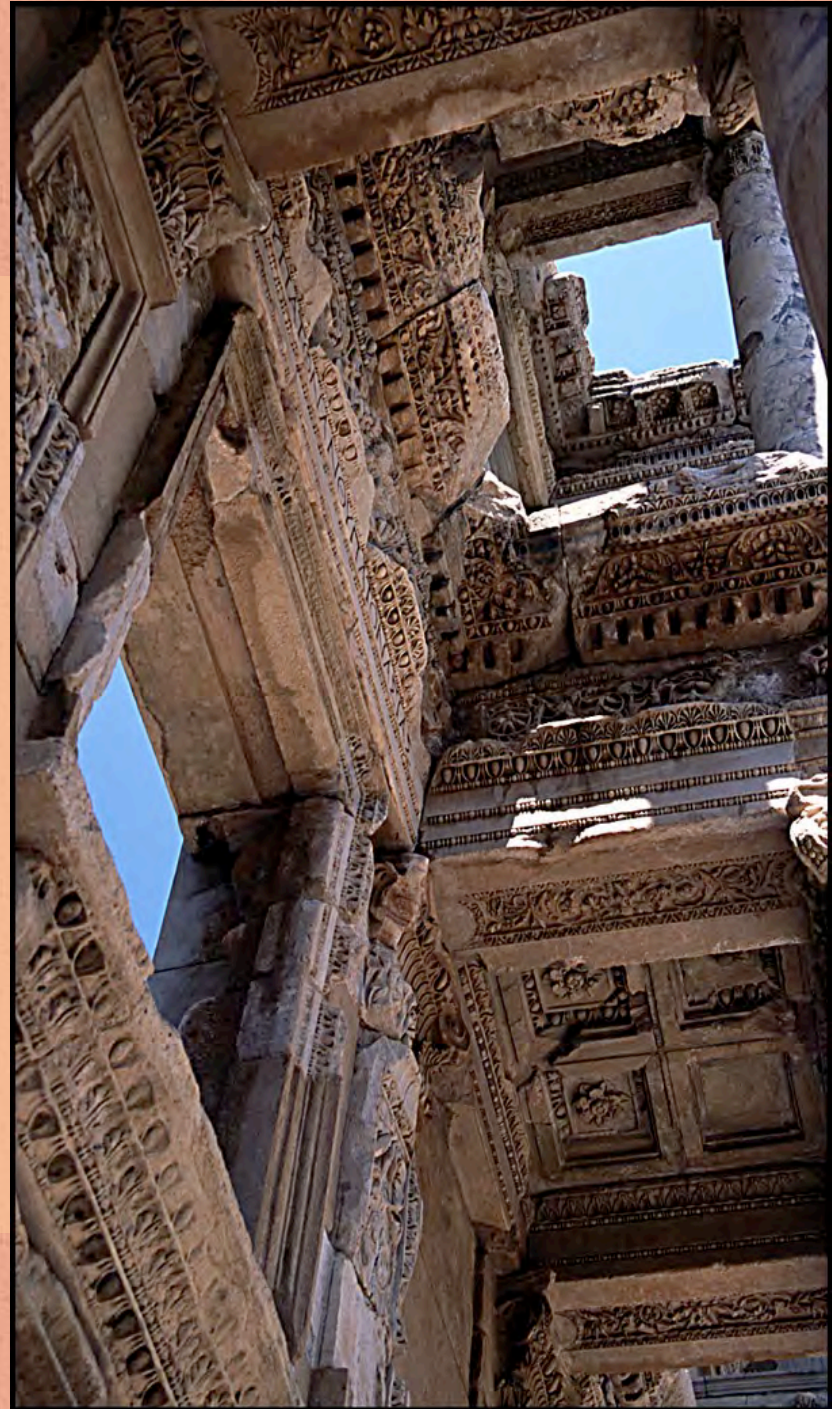
Faith – singular commitment

Baptism – sign of entry into the Church

God – our Father keeps us for eternity

Ephesians 4:1-16

- **Call to Unity (1-6)**
- **Way to Unity (7-16)**
 - Ascension (7-10)
 - Roles (11-12a)
 - Purpose (12b-13)
 - Results (14-16)



The Do's (4:17–5:2)

- Put on your new self (4:17-22)
- Think anew (4:23)
- Be holy (4:24)
- Tell the truth (4:25)
- Do not sin in anger (4:26-27)
- Don't steal (4:28)
- Speak graciously (4:29)
- Be kind, compassionate & forgiving (4:31–32)
- Imitate God's love (5:1-2)

Ephesians 5

The Don'ts (5:3-18)

- Sexual immorality (5:3)
- Greed (5:3)
- Impurity (5:3)
- Obscenity (5:4)
- Foolish talk, coarse joking (5:4-5)
- Drunkenness (5:18)

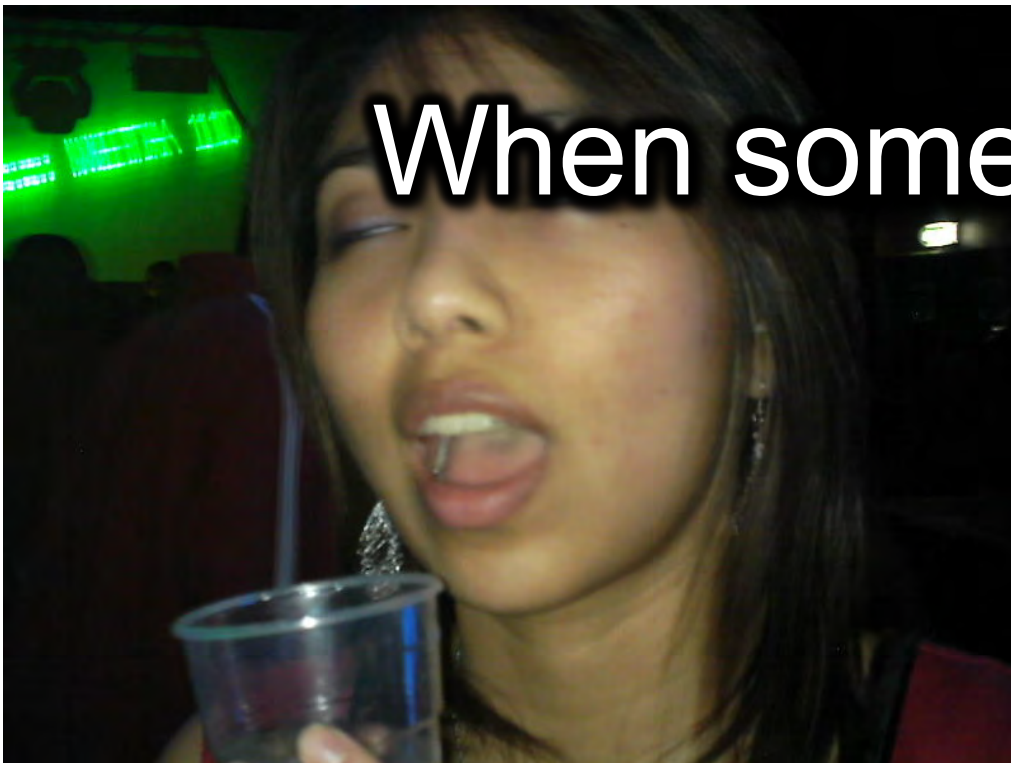
"So be careful how you live. Don't live like fools, but like those who are wise. ¹⁶Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days. ¹⁷Don't act thoughtlessly, but understand what the Lord wants you to do" (Eph 5:15-17 NLT).

"Therefore **be careful** how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, ¹⁶making the most of your time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷So then **do not be foolish**, but understand what the will of the Lord is" (Eph 5:15-17 NAU).

How can you “redeem the time”?



When someone is drunk...



Ephesians 5:18-20 NLT

Don't be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life.



Instead, be filled with the Holy Spirit,



¹⁹singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, and making music to the Lord in your hearts. ²⁰And give thanks for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Results of Spirit Filling (Eph 5:18-21)

- **Be filled with Spirit (5:18)**
- **Sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs (5:19a)**
- **Make music to the Lord (5:19b)**
- **Always be thankful (5:20)**
- **Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ (5:21)**

Ephesians 5:21–6:9


Submission in the family of God



Mutual Submission (Ephesians 5:21).

"Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ."





Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.

—Ephesians 5:22-27 NIV—



Ephesians 6

Parenting is the hardest job in the world



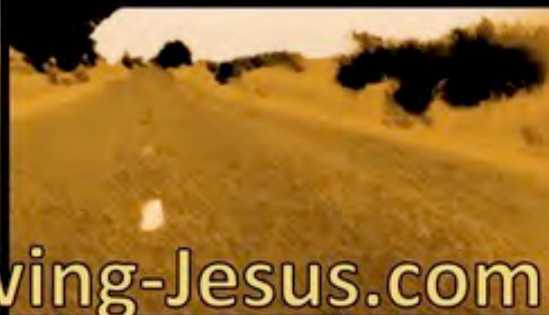


EPHESIANS 6:1

CHILDREN



OBEY YOUR PARENTS IN THE LORD
FOR THIS IS RIGHT



Knowing-Jesus.com



Love the Nations

**"Slaves, obey your earthly masters with deep respect and fear. Serve them sincerely as you would serve Christ"
(Ephesians 6:5 NLT).**

Love the Nations

"Try to please them all the time, not just when they are watching you. As slaves of Christ, do the will of God with all your heart. ⁷Work with enthusiasm, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people" (Ephesians 6:6-7 NLT).



Ephesians
6:10-20

The Armor of God



"A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. ¹²For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places" (Ephesians 6:10-12 NLT).



Ephesians 6:10-20

THE CHRISTIAN'S ARMOUR



**Paul
compared
us to a
Roman
soldier**



**Belt of
truth**

**Held up
flowing
robe and
sword**

= *integrity*



**Breastplate of
righteousness**



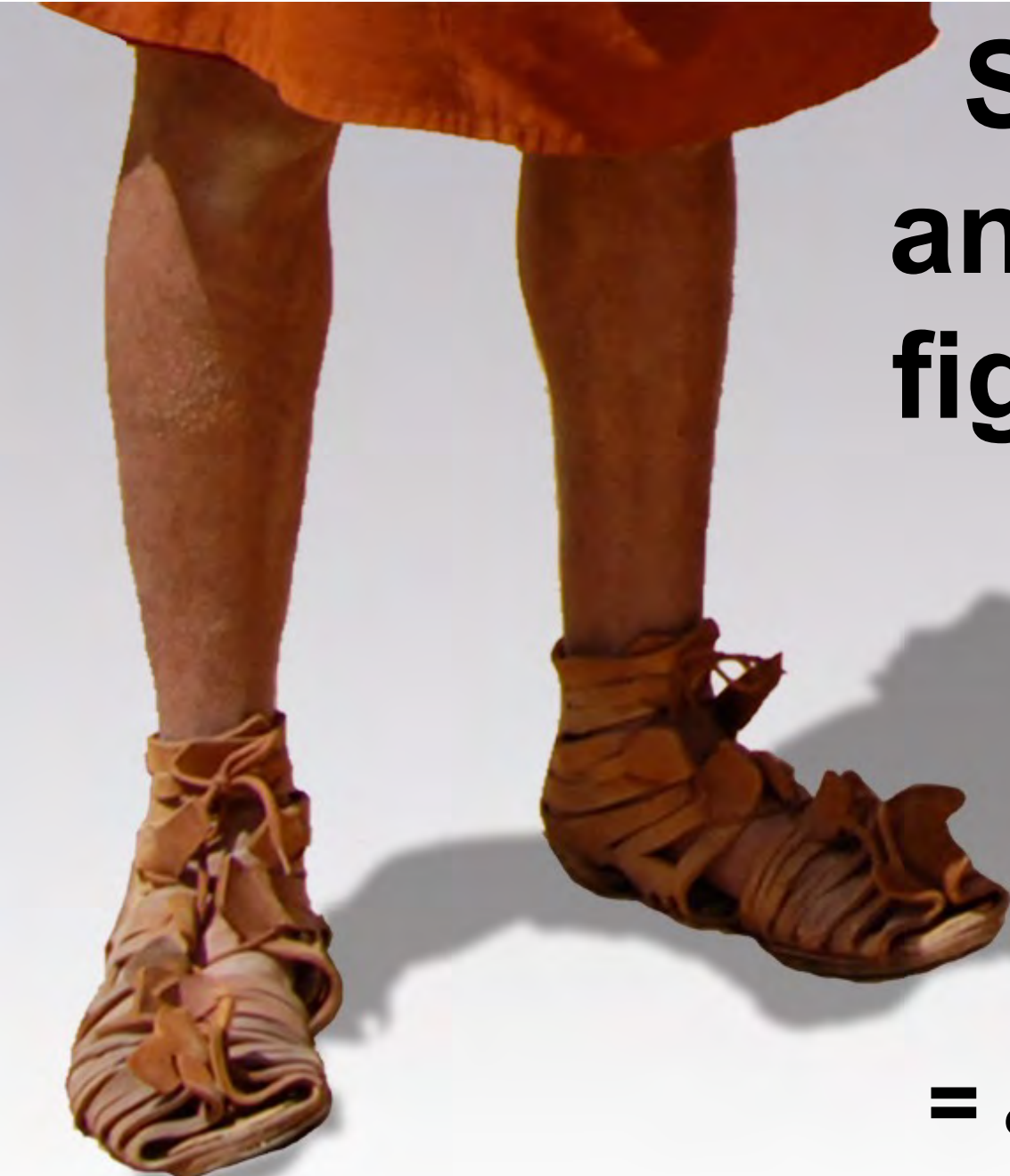


**Protected
vital organs**

**= *imputed
righteousness***

**Shoes
that lead
to peace**



A photograph of a person's lower legs and feet. They are wearing bright orange, strappy, lace-up sandals. The person is also wearing an orange skirt, which is visible at the top of the frame. The background is a plain, light-colored surface. The person's legs are positioned slightly apart, and their feet are pointing towards the bottom left of the frame. A soft shadow is cast on the ground to the right of the feet.

**Sure footing
and mobility to
fight anywhere**

**= *availability in
evangelism***



**Shield
of faith**

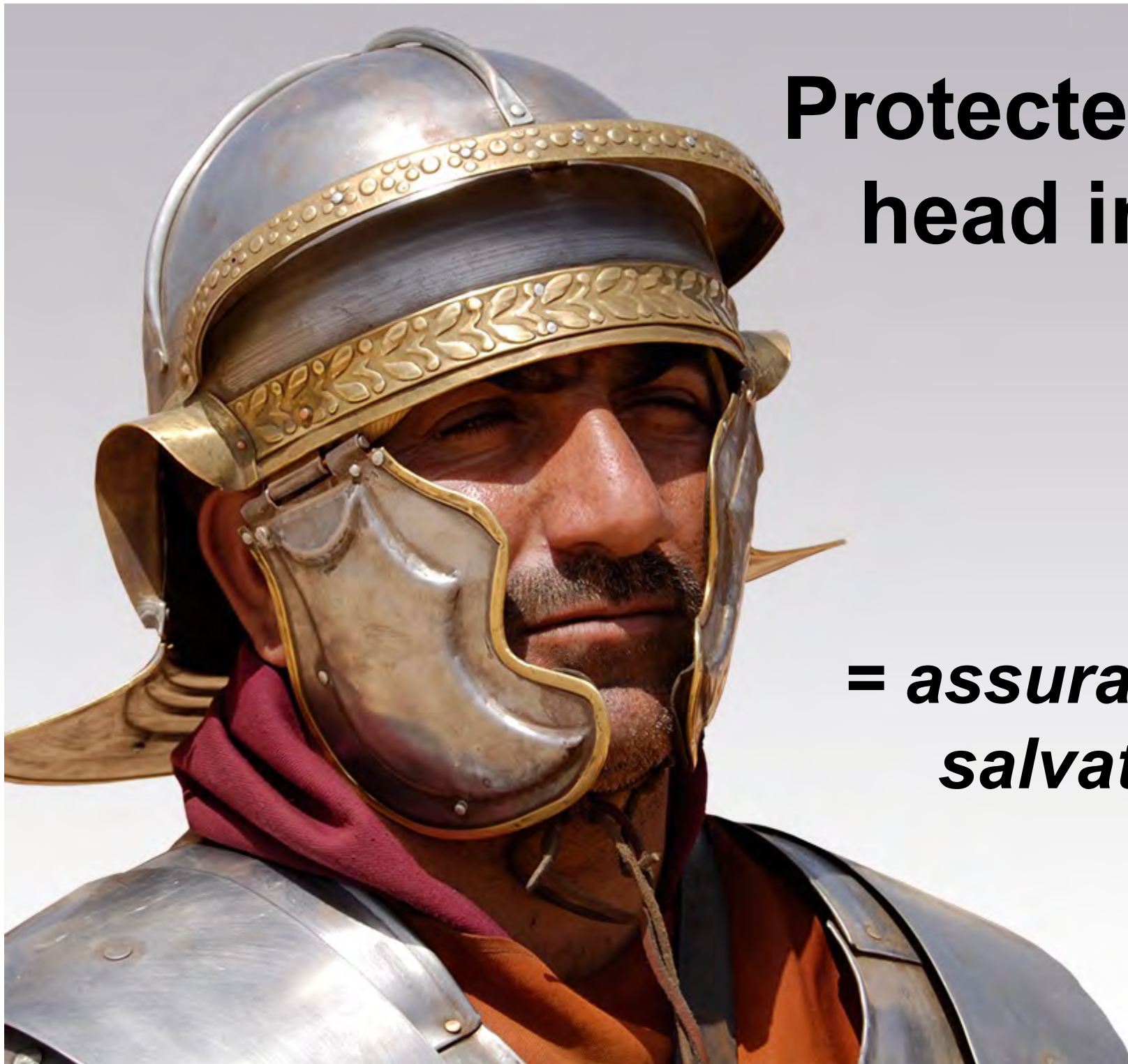
**Extinguished fiery
arrows and fended
off swords**

**= *faith to fight
temptations***





**Helmet of
salvation**



**Protected from
head injury**

**= *assurance of
salvation***

Sword of the Spirit





**Attacked
the foe or
defended
against
attack**

**= *using God's
Word***



**Unity in
battle**

“The Turtle”



**= advancing
together**

Protecting one another





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Use Your Weapons!



Love one another

²³ Peace be with you, dear brothers and sisters, and may God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you **love with faithfulness.**

²⁴ May God's grace be eternally upon all who **love our Lord Jesus Christ.**

Ephesians 6: 23-24 (NLT)



How can our church
be united
despite our many different
kinds of people?



**Love God, love the church as
equals, and love the nations**



Main Idea of Ephesians

How to be united...



Eph 1–3

How to be united...



Love the Church

**Love
God**

Eph 4–6

How to be united...



Love the Nations

Love the Church

Love
God

Ephesians

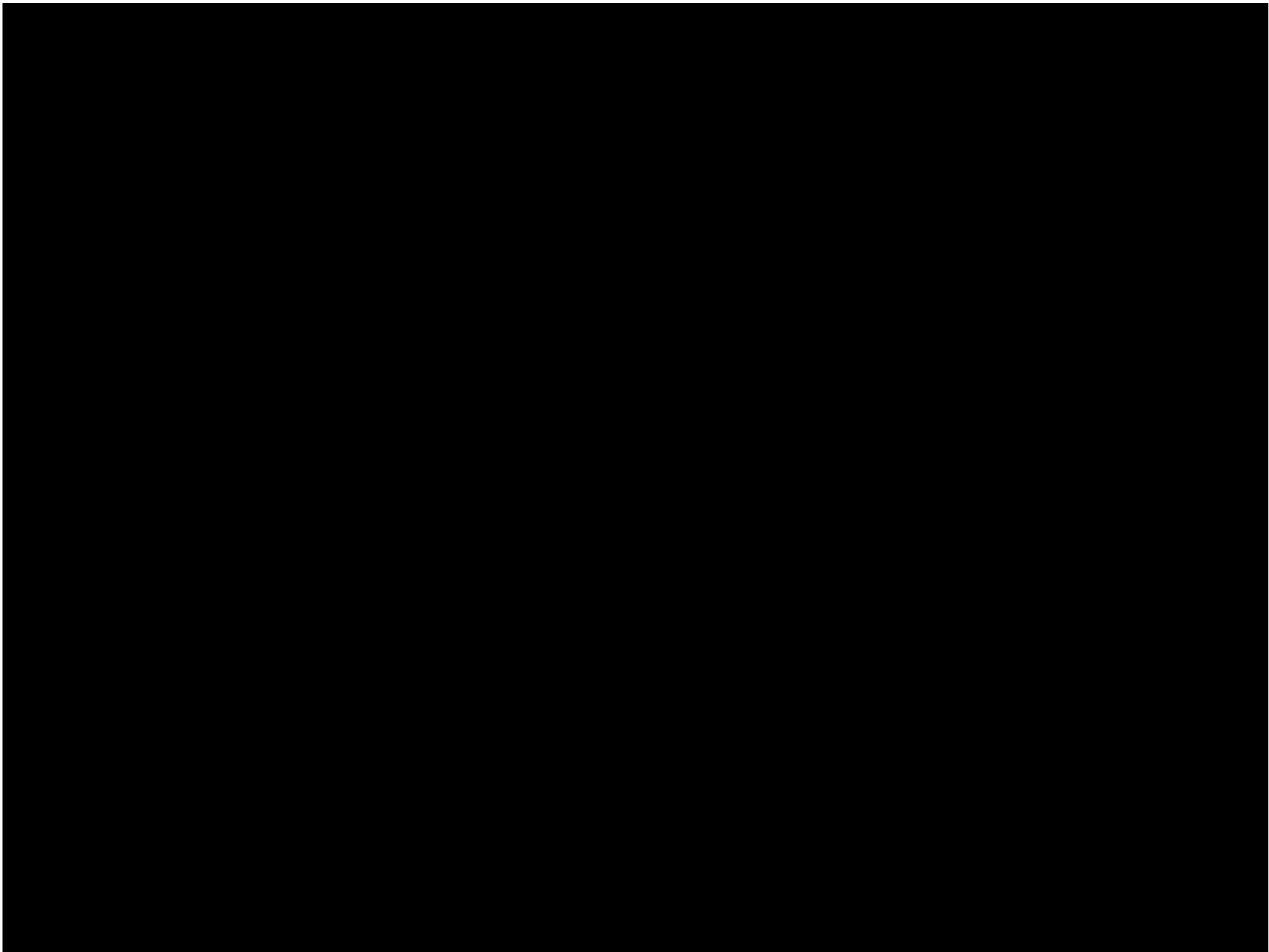
Think about it.



Do you really act like you are equal with other members of the body of Christ?

- **Maids?**
- **Former Muslims (Malays)?**
- **Believers in Prison?**
- **Poor churches of India, Myanmar, Bangladesh, etc.?**


How do you show your unity with believers different from you?



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A large background image for the main banner showing a pair of hands holding an open, small, black leather-bound book with yellowed pages. A semi-transparent dark grey box with white text is overlaid on the lower left of the image.

Welcome

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