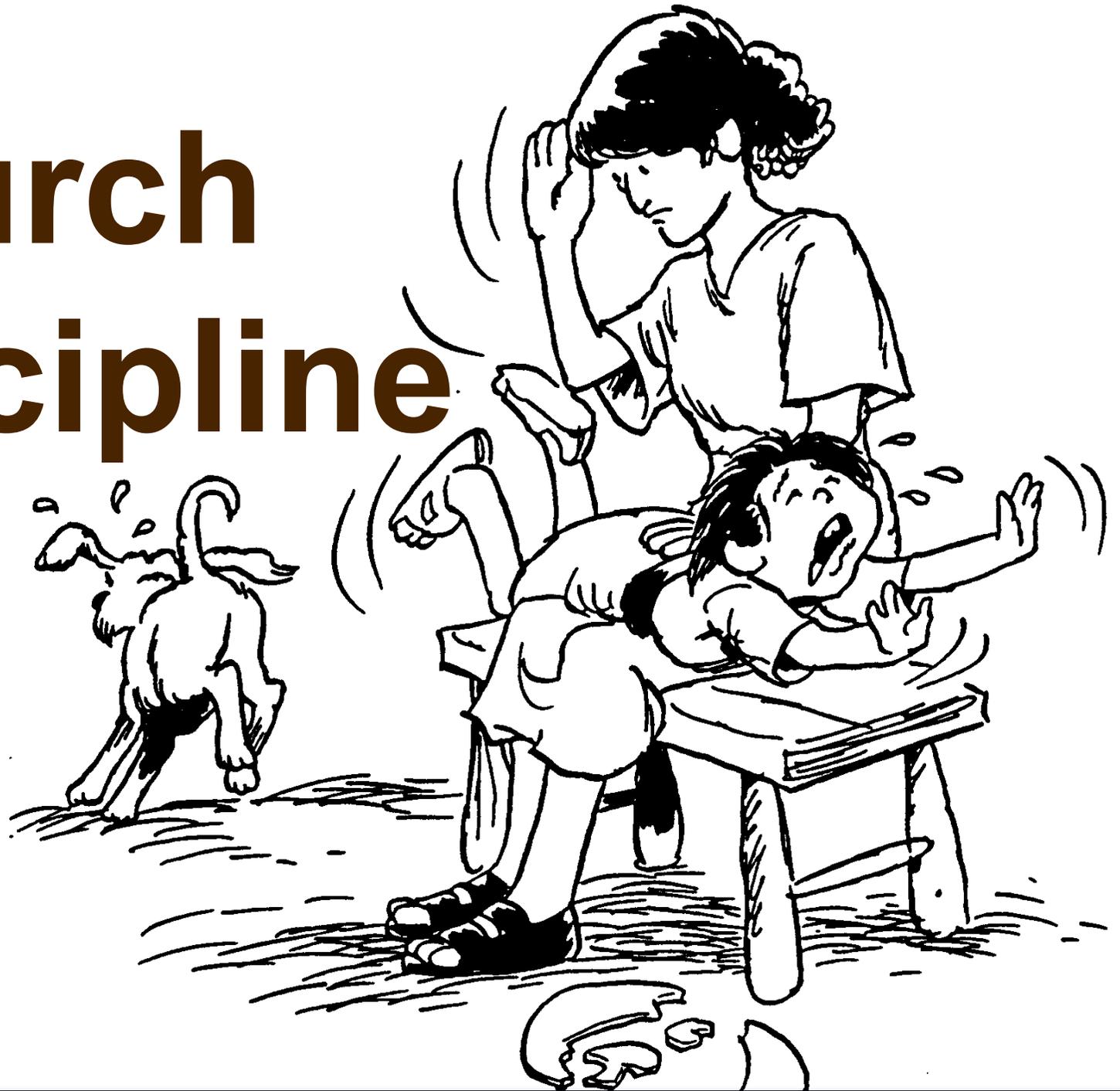


Church Discipline





**God's
Priority:**

HOLINESS



**Do you have a
PLAN for church
DISCIPLINE?**

Types of People in 1 Corinthians



**Carnal
Christian
(3:1)**



Non-Christian (2:14)



Christian (2:15)



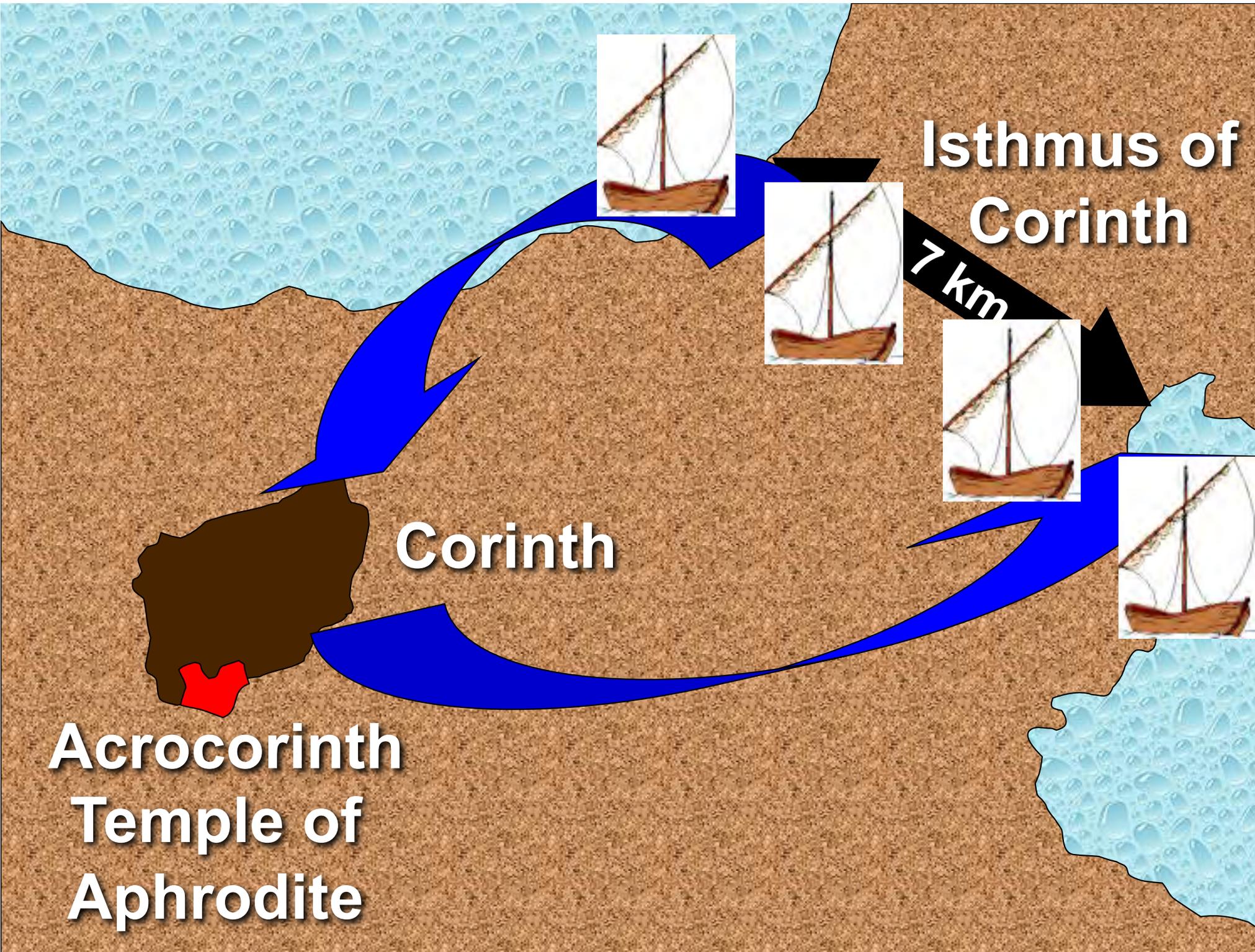
How do we
maintain **purity**
in the church?

Issues to Discuss

- A. **What** is church discipline?
- B. **Why** don't we often do it?
- C. What **results** when we fail to do it?
- D. **How** do we discipline believers?
- E. Why is discipline **important**?
- F. **What sins** are worthy of discipline?

Corinth: Crossroads of Immorality





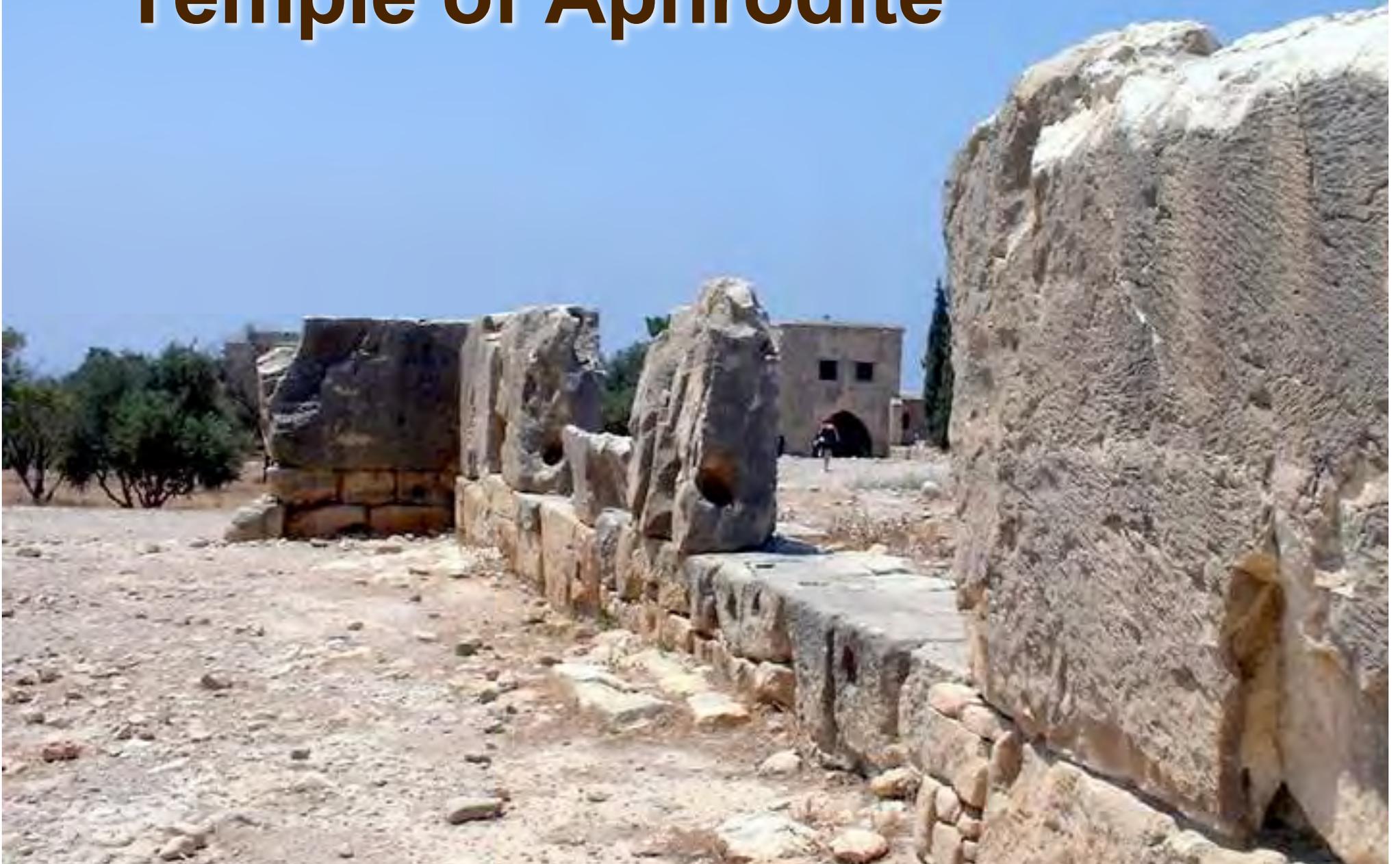
**Isthmus of
Corinth**

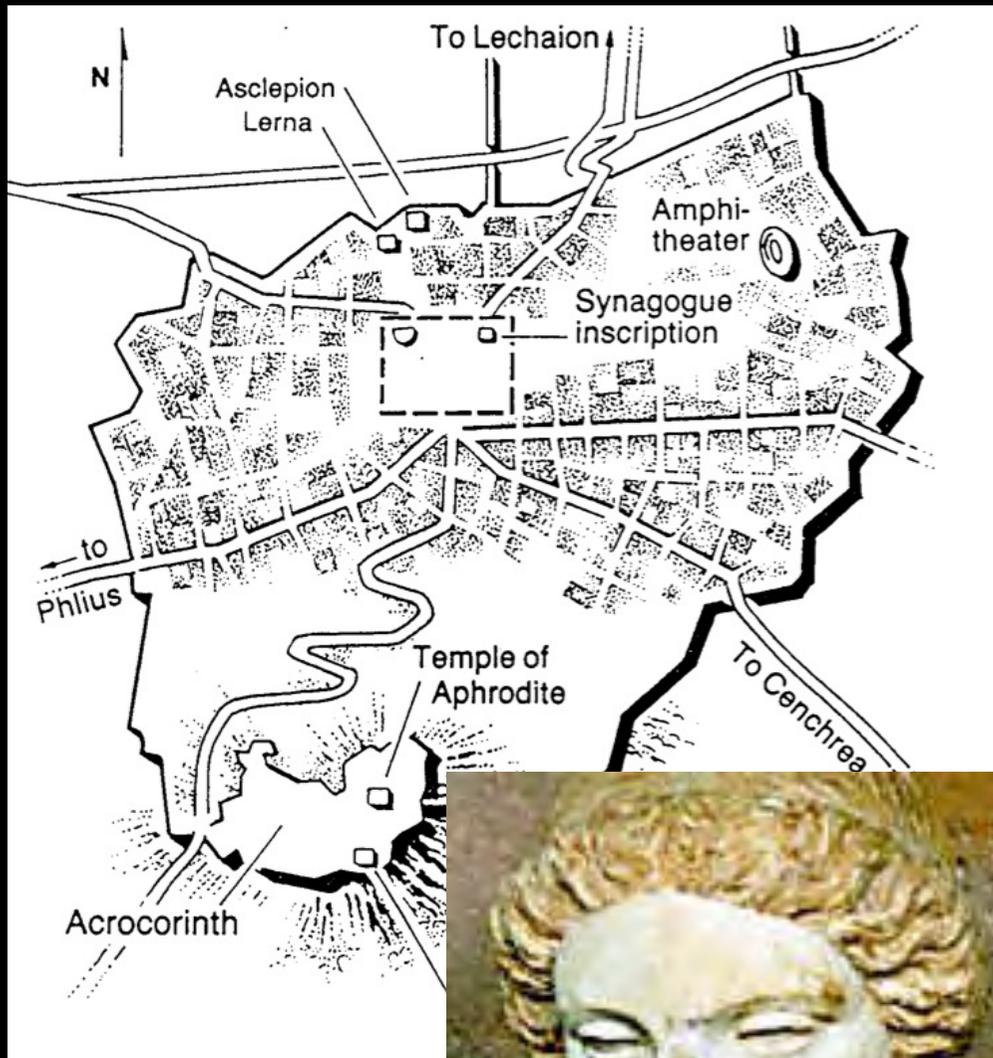
7 km

Corinth

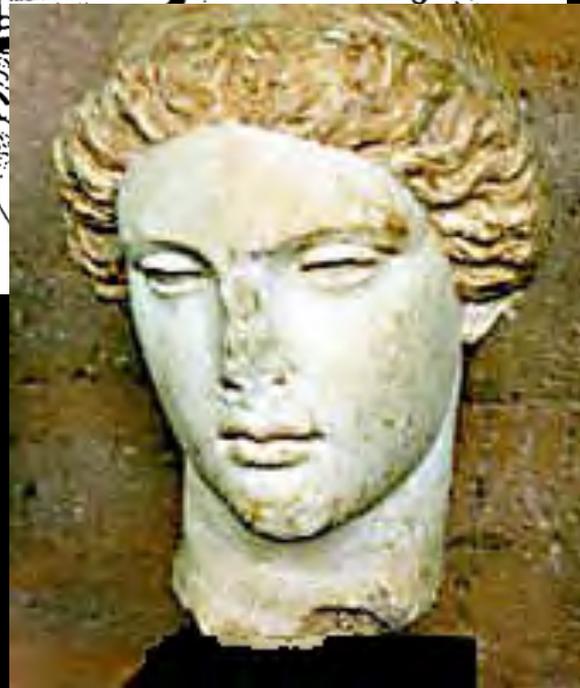
**Acrocorinth
Temple of
Aphrodite**

Temple of Aphrodite



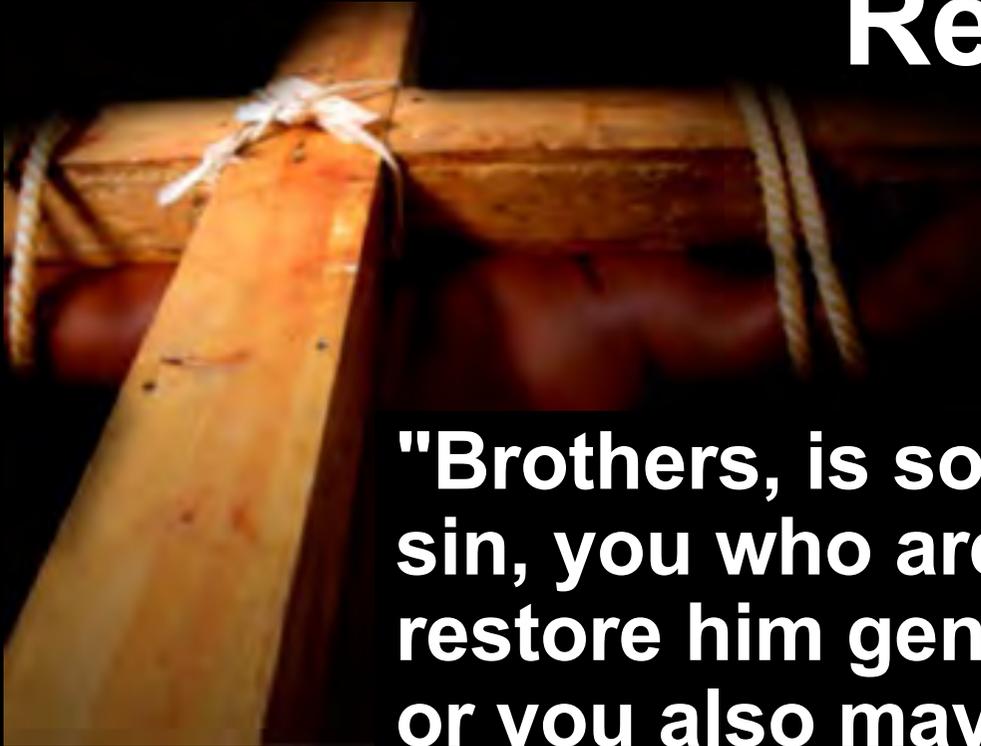


Temple of Aphrodite



*Greek
Goddess
of Love*

Personal Responsibility



"Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted."

Galatians 6:1



**Discipline is tough love to
restore wayward believers
to God and His Church**

Care enough to confront!

*Spanking
the Saints*



The image features two hands, one from the left and one from the right, holding a blue architectural blueprint. The hands are positioned as if presenting the blueprint. The blueprint contains various technical drawings, lines, and text such as 'ERIOR WALL CLEARANCE', 'BEDROOM', 'NEW PONY WALL (TYP BOTH SIDES)', and '22x30 ATTIC ACCESS'. The word 'RESTORATION' is written in large, white, serif capital letters across the center of the hands, with a blue horizontal bar underneath it. The text 'Our Goal:' is written in a bold, blue, sans-serif font with a yellow outline at the top left of the image.

Our Goal:

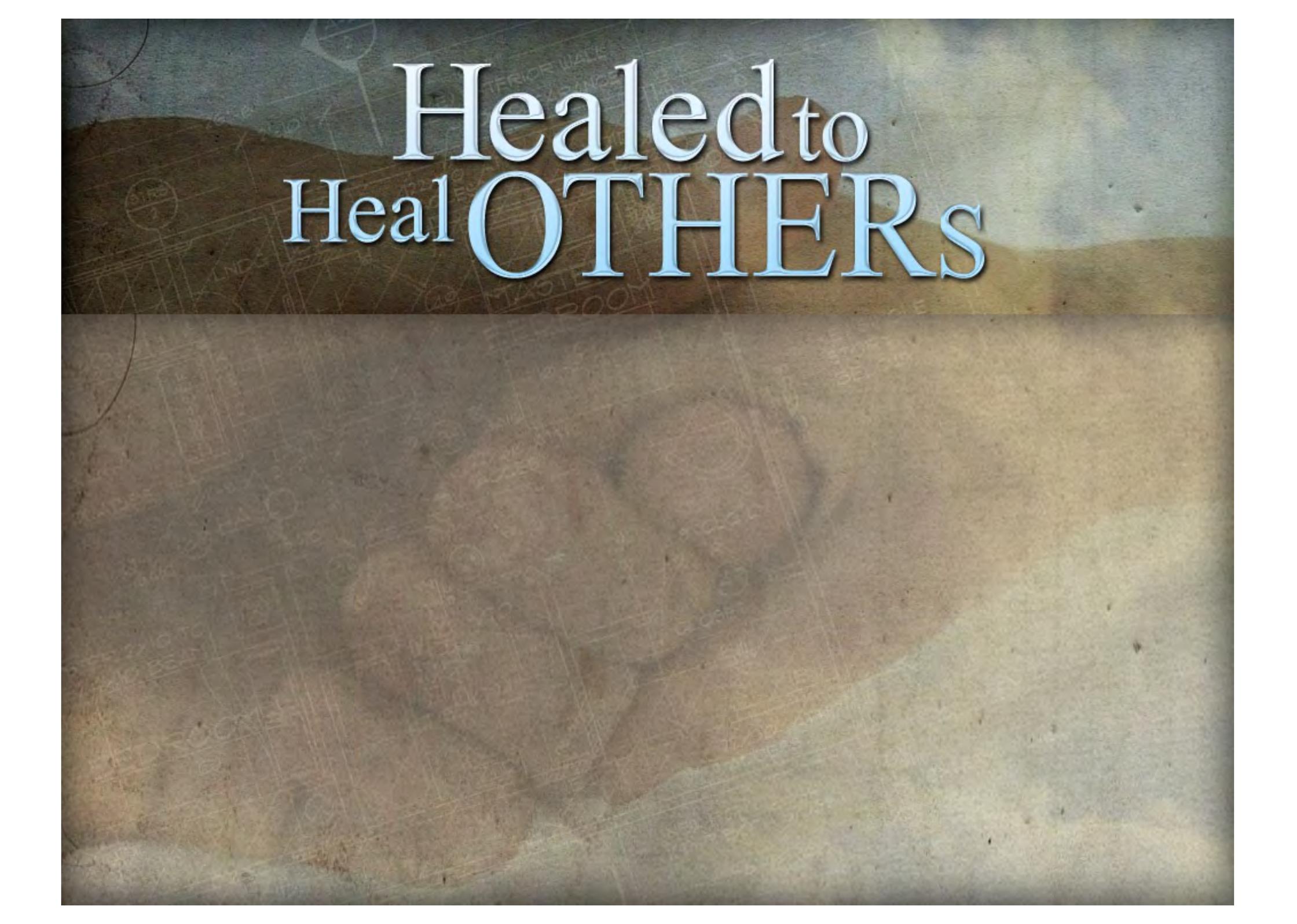
RESTORATION

“He HEALS
The BROKEN
in Heart and BINDS^{up}
their WOUNDS.”

Psalm 147:3

“So I will
RESTORE to YOU
the years that the locust
have **EATEN.**”

Joel 2:25



Healed to Heal OTHERs

What is Church Discipline?

1. What it is...
2. What it is not...
 - a) Excommunication
 - b) Public Humiliation
 - c) "Holier Than Thou"
 - d) "Heresy Hunts"



The Crossroads (1981-83)

China, 1981





Korea

China

Japan

Hong Kong

Taiwan

Macau

Thailand

Philippines

Malaysia

Singapore

Indonesia

Crossroads Ministry



Relational Pillars

**for all of your ministry
relationships**

Romance, 1982





Susan Kay Griffith



Matthew's Relational Pillars

5:23-24

You are: Offender

Issue: General



Matthew 5:23-24



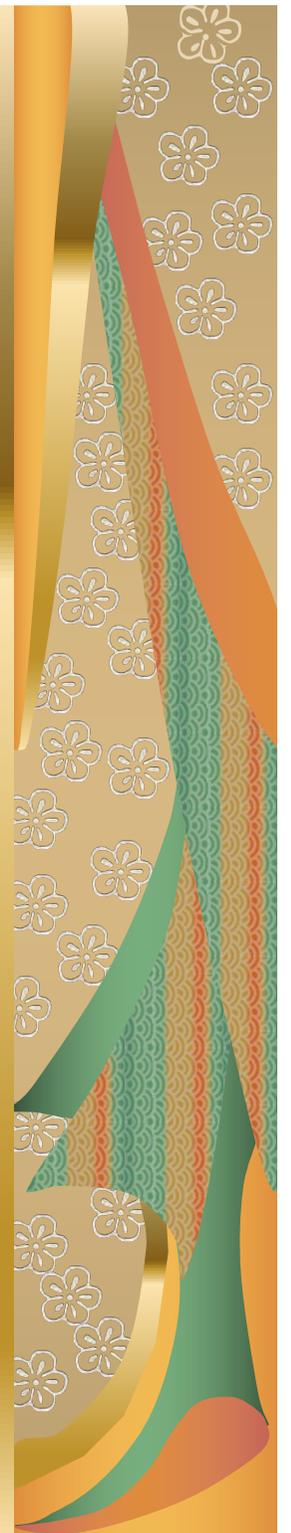
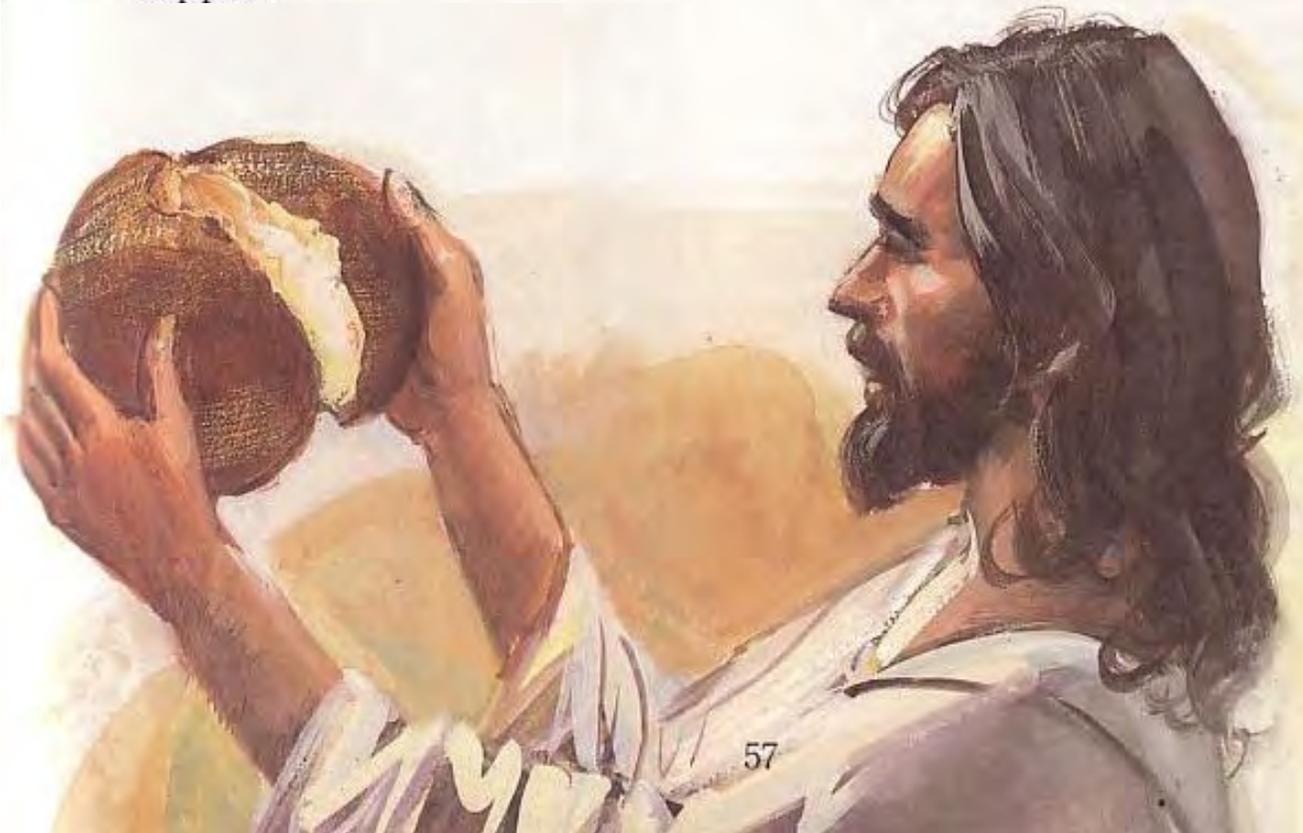
Matthew 5:23-24

"Therefore if you are presenting your offering **at the altar,** and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your offering there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and present your offering."



Why did Jesus choose bread and wine for His Last Supper?

The Lord's Supper



The Four Directions

(Adapted from David
Watson, *I Believe in
the Holy Spirit*)

Look

**Passover
(Jewish)**

**Lord's Supper
(Christian)**



Outward

Whole family involved
(Exod. 12:3-4, 16)

Fellowship and unity
(1 Cor. 11:17-22; 10:16-17)

Back

Deliverance from Egypt
(Exod. 12:31-42)

Deliverance from sin
(1 Cor. 11:23-25)

Forward

Wait for messianic age
(Ezek. 45:21)

Anticipate return of Christ
(1 Cor. 11:26; Mark 14:25)

Inward

Purify house of leaven
or evil (Exod. 12:8, 15)

Examine sin in yourself
(1 Cor. 11:27-32; cf. 5:6-8)





Matthew's Relational Pillars

5:23-24

18:15-17

You are: Offender

Offended

Issue: General

Sin



B. Reasons Churches Fail to Discipline

1. Ignorance
2. Doubt
3. Failure
4. Fear
5. Excuses
6. Impurity
7. Unsocial
8. Leaders divided

What's Your Personal Experience?

Share when you have seen church discipline succeed to restore a person. What was done right?

Or share a story when the process was done poorly and the person wasn't restored. What did you learn from it?

Results of Failing to Discipline

- 1. Lack of Purity**
- 2. Lack of Power**
- 3. Lack of Progress**
- 4. Lack of Unity**

Issues to Discuss

- A. What is church discipline?**
- B. Why don't we often do it?**
- C. What results when we fail to do it?**
- D. How do we discipline believers?**



How to Restore Relationships

Matthew 18:15-20

Matthew 18:15-20

If your brother sins against you, go and point out his fault, **just between the two** of you. If he listens, you have won your brother over. ¹⁶But if he does not listen, go with one or two others, so that the matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.' ¹⁷If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the **church**; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would a **pagan or a tax collector**. ¹⁸I tell you the truth, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹Again, I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ²⁰For wherever two or three are gathered in my name, I will be there with them and will restore to them what they have lost.

**How to
Restore
15-17**

**Why to
Restore
18-20**

Our First Question Today (for vv. 15-17)



*How do we
restore sinning
Christians
properly?*

Other Relationships



Matthew 18

The Value of **One**

1

Child
(1-9)

1

Sheep
(10-14)

1

Sinner
(15-20)

1

Debtor
(21-35)

God's 4-step restoring process...



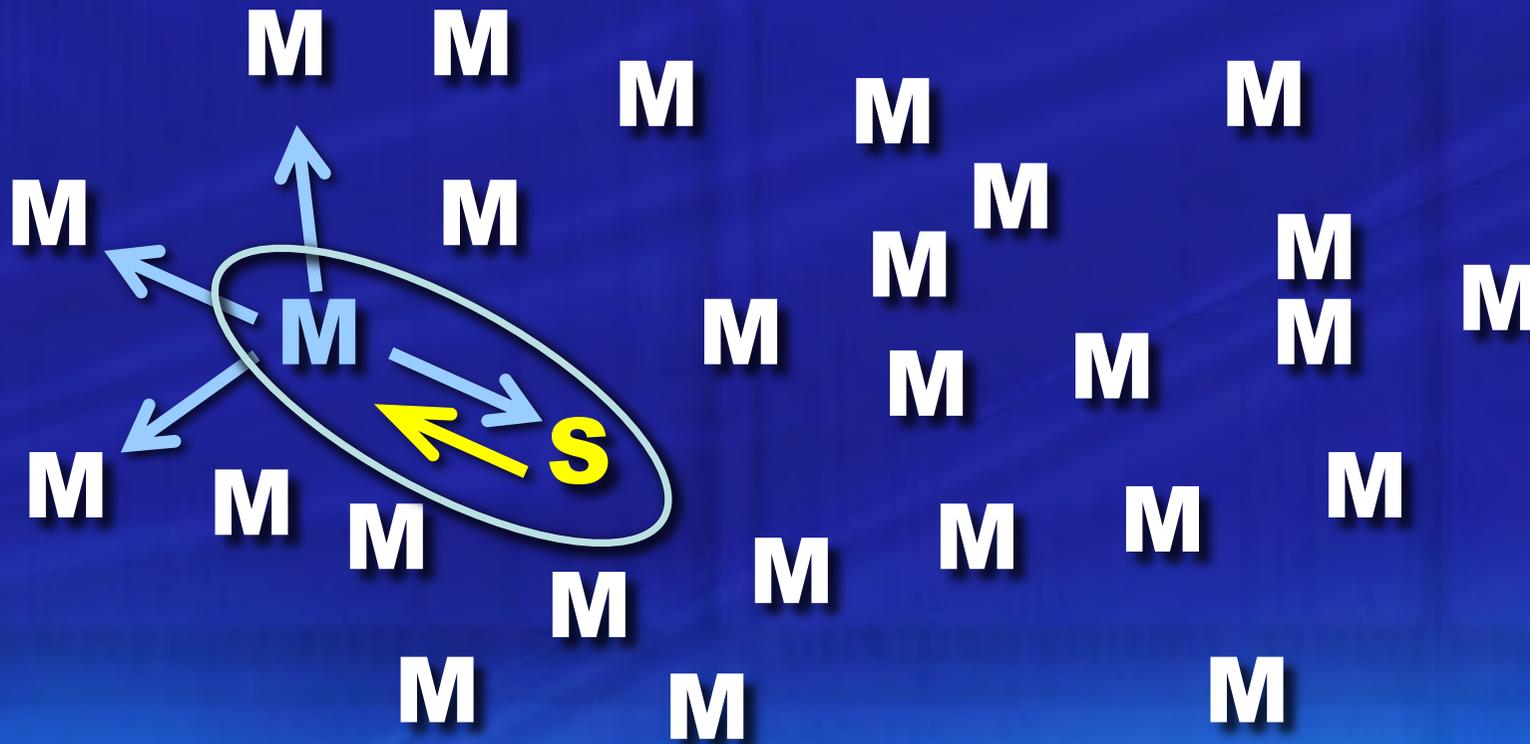
...reveals the issue to
more people each step

**I. God's way
to restore
believers in
sin is to keep
the matter as
private as
possible (15-
17).**



Step 1 to Restoration

Talk to the person by yourself



S = Sinner

M = Member



Matthew's Relational Pillars

5:23-24

18:15-17

You are:



Offender



Offended

Issue:

General

Sin



Matthew's Relational Pillars

5:23-24

18:15-17

You are: Offender

Offended

Issue: General

Sin

Initiative: You!

You!



Go in Person



1996





Brothers...

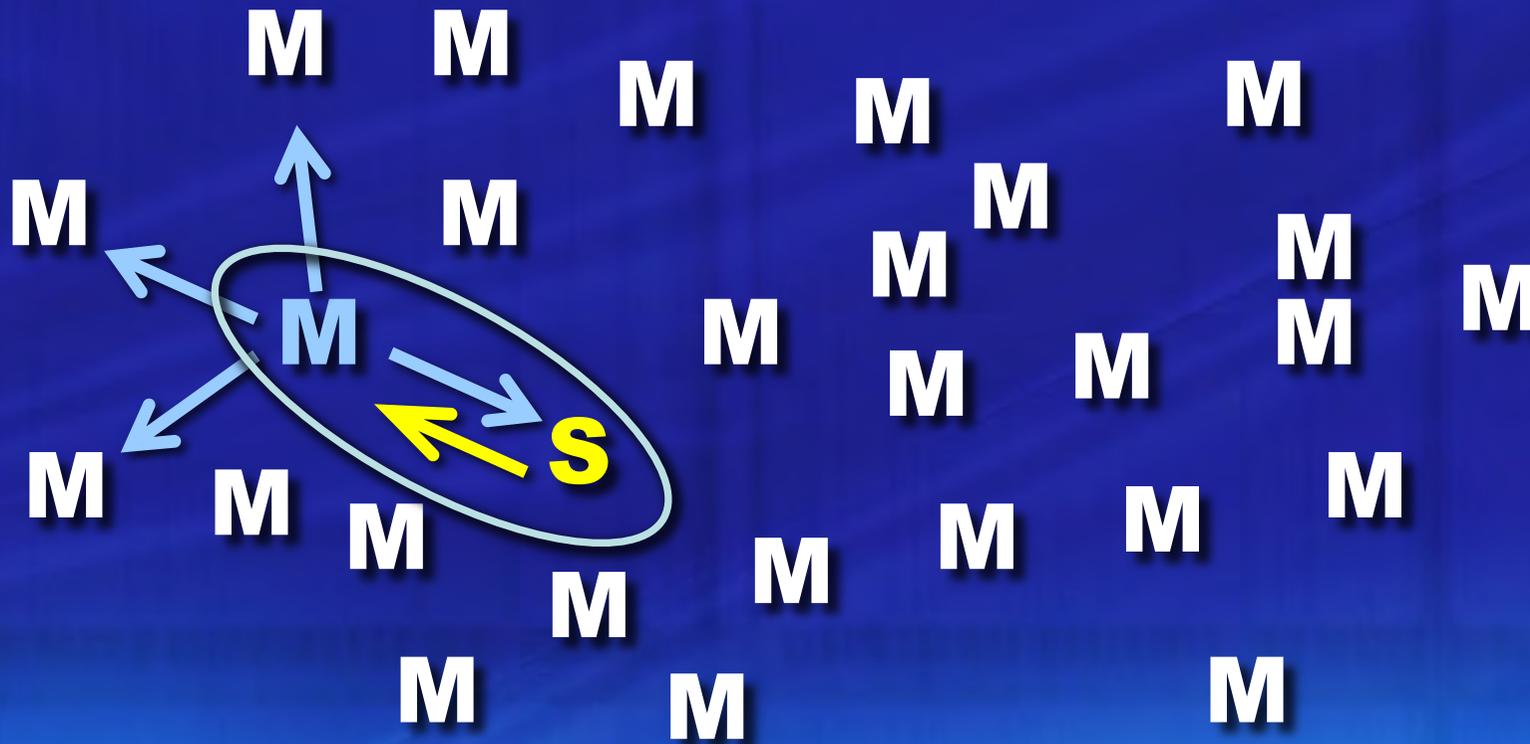
Why don't we confront others?

- **Ignorance**
- **Doubt**
- **Failure**
- **Fear**
- **Excuses**
- **Impurity**
- **Unsocial**



Step 1 to Restoration

Talk to the person by yourself



S = Sinner

M = Member

Step 2 to Restoration

Take 1-2 others along



S = Sinner

M = Member

Questions on Step 2

- 
- **Who should these people be?**
 - **Why take 1-2 others?**

עַל־פִּי נִשְׁלָשָׁה־עֵדִים יִקְוֶם דְּבַר:

יִחַטָּא עַל־פִּי שְׁנַי עֵדִים ± אִו

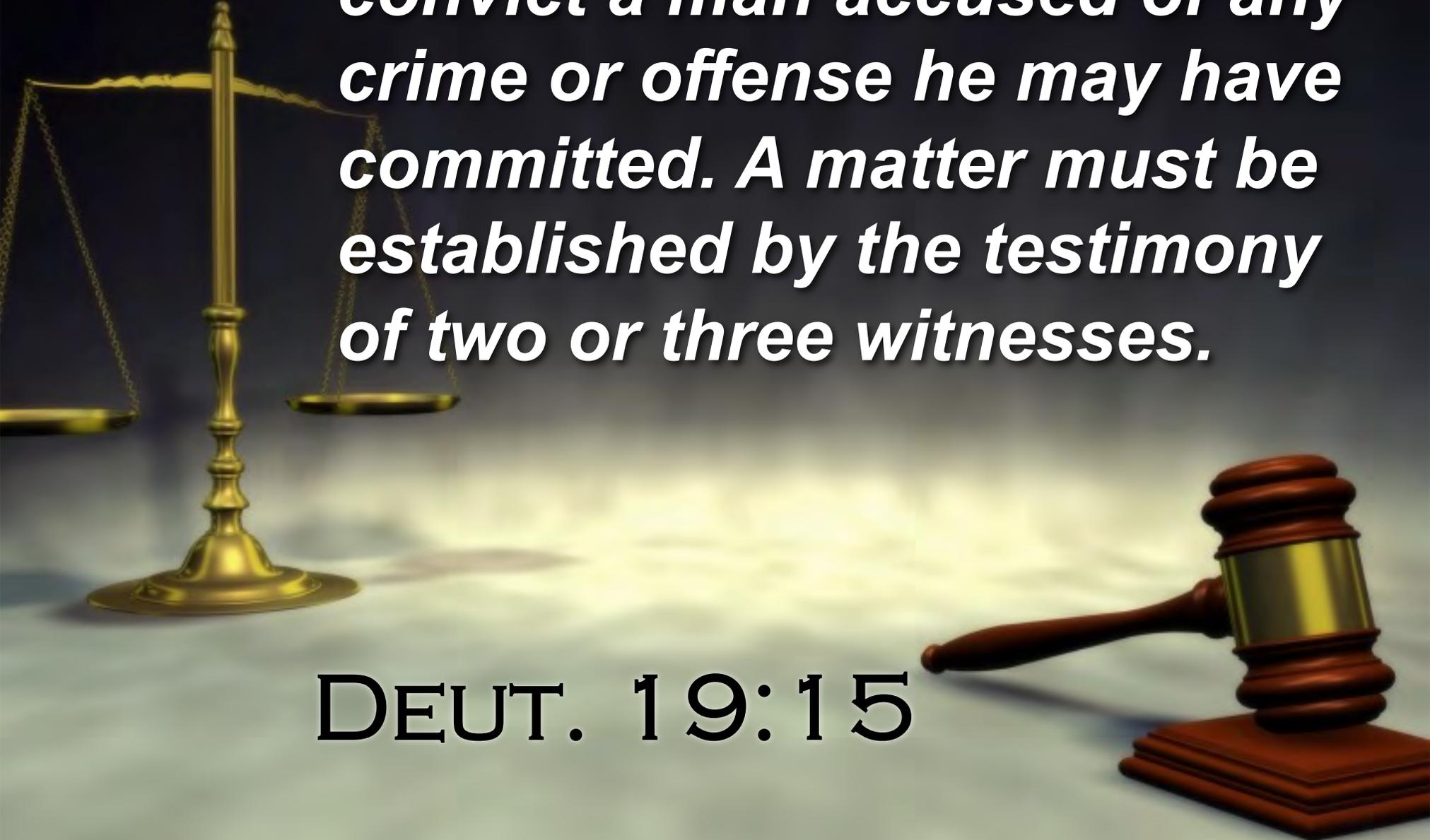
חֲטָאת בְּכָל־חַטָּא אֲשֶׁר

אֶחָד בְּאִישׁ לְכָל־עוֹן וְלִכְל

לֹא־יִקְוֶם עֵד

DEUT. 19:15



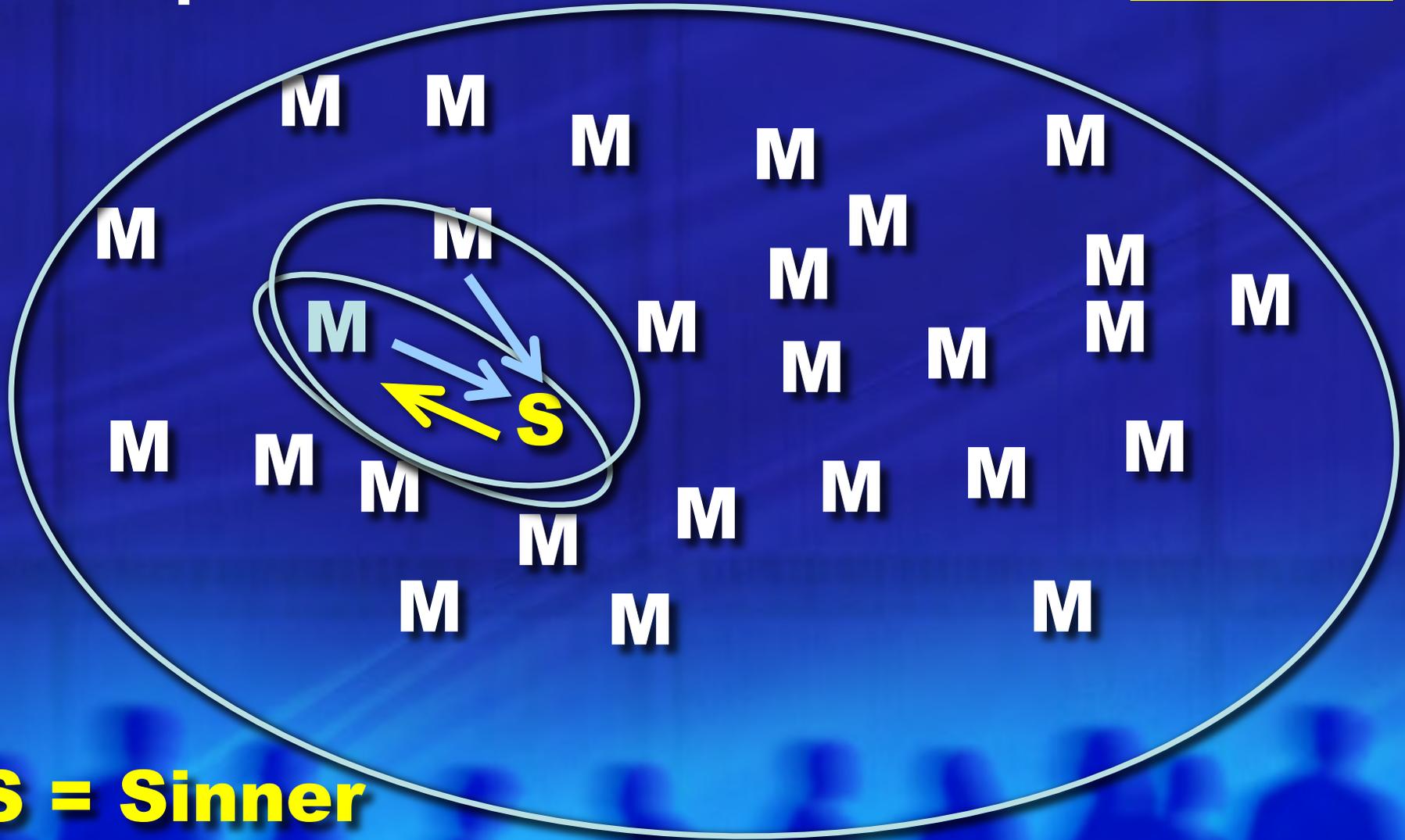
A golden scale of justice stands on the left, and a wooden gavel with a silver band rests on a white surface on the right. The background is a soft, glowing white light.

One witness is not enough to convict a man accused of any crime or offense he may have committed. A matter must be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.

DEUT. 19:15

Step 3 to Restoration

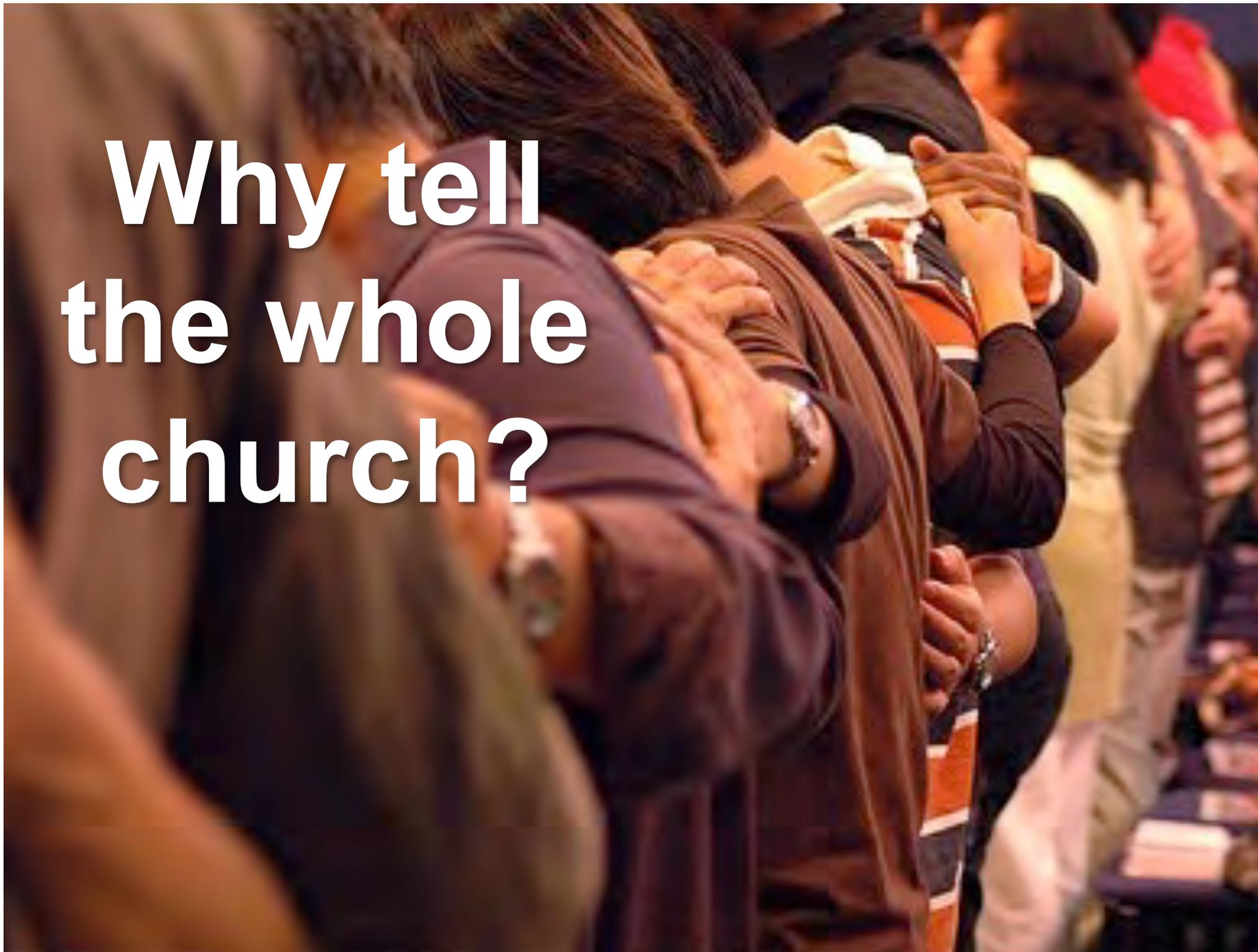
Expose the sin to the entire church



S = Sinner

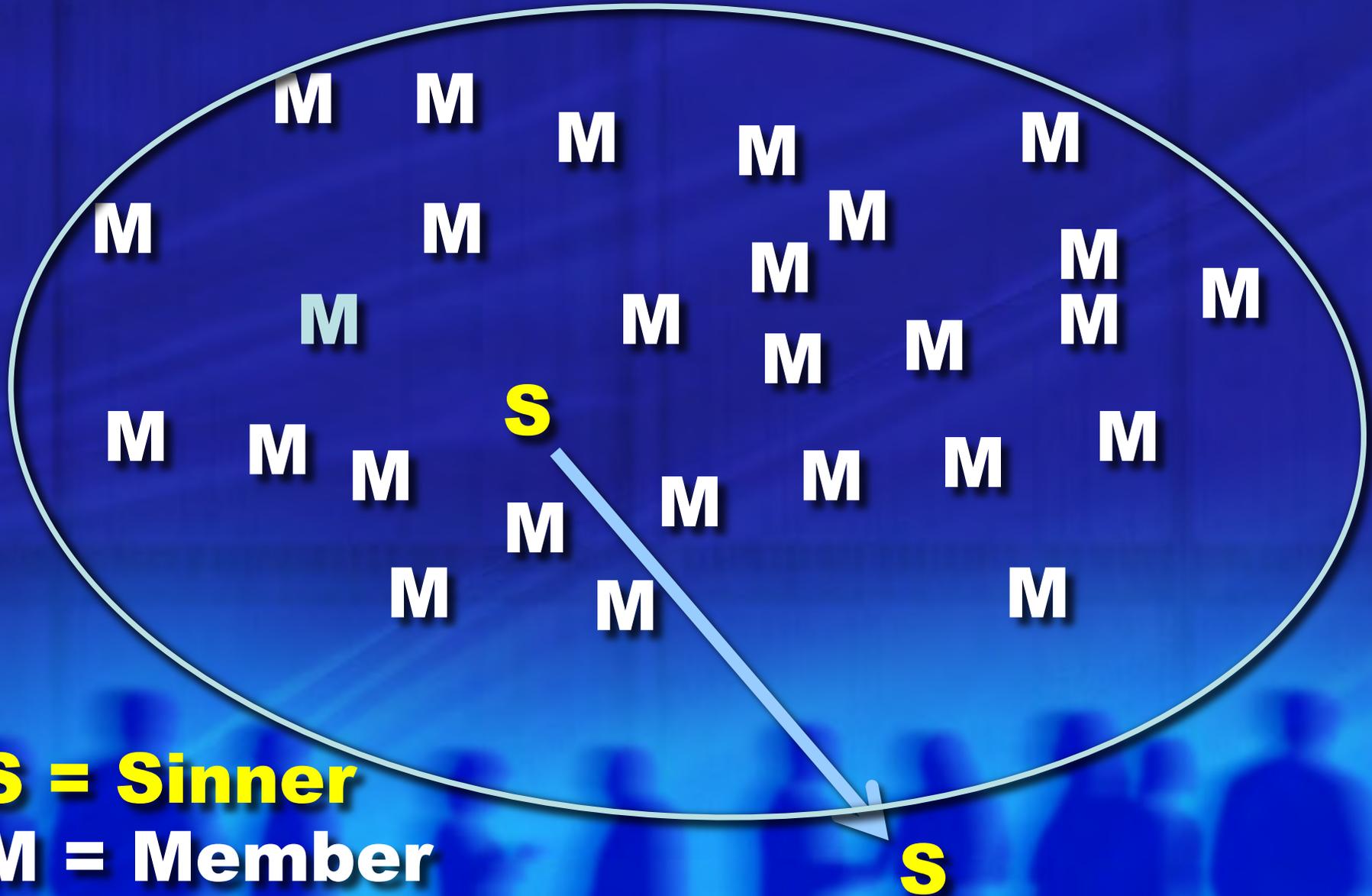
M = Member

**Why tell
the whole
church?**



Step 4 to Restoration

Treat the person like an unbeliever



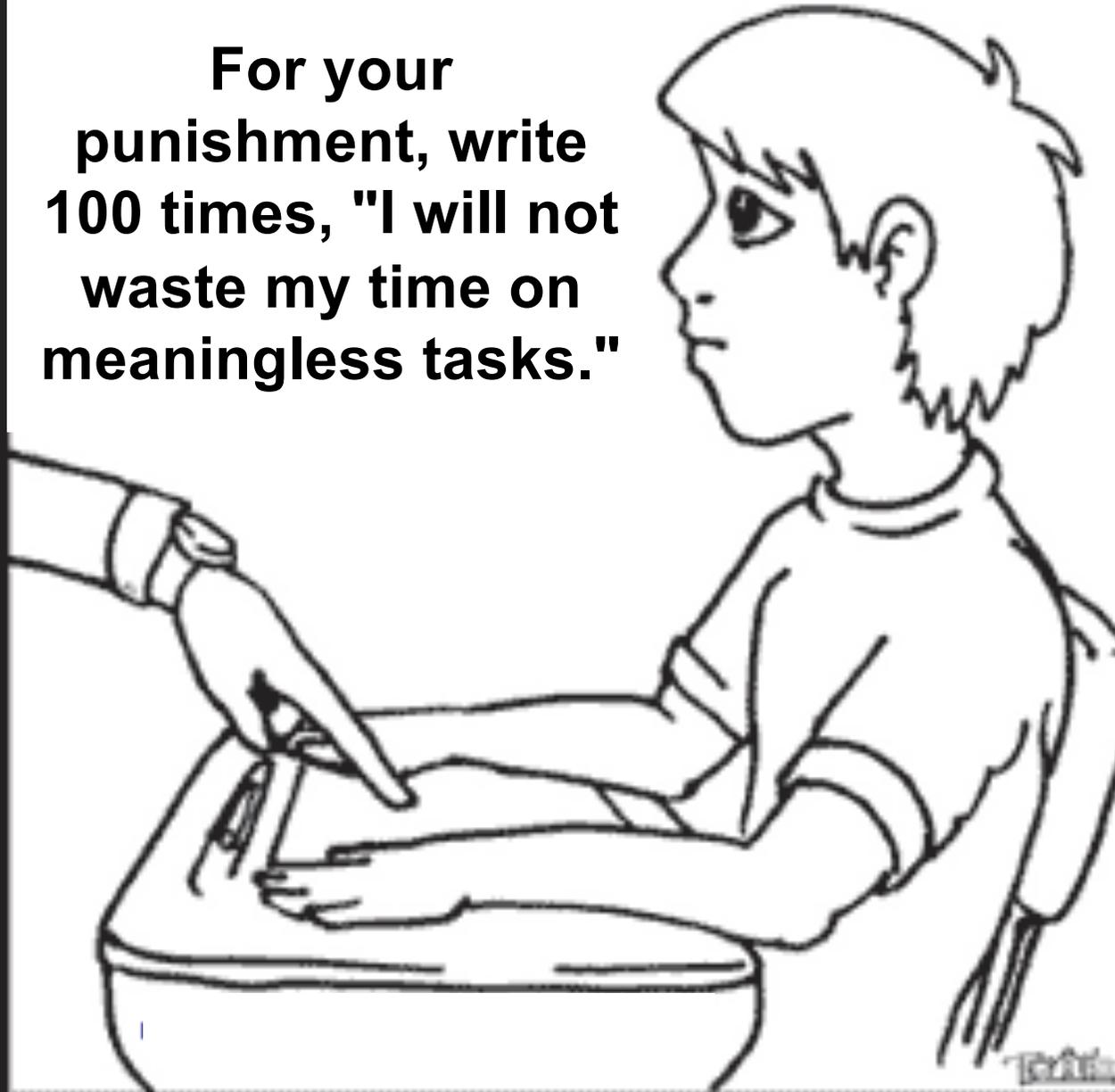
How NOT to Discipline



EXCOMMUNICATE !

But how should we discipline?

**For your
punishment, write
100 times, "I will not
waste my time on
meaningless tasks."**



How to Discipline Him/Her

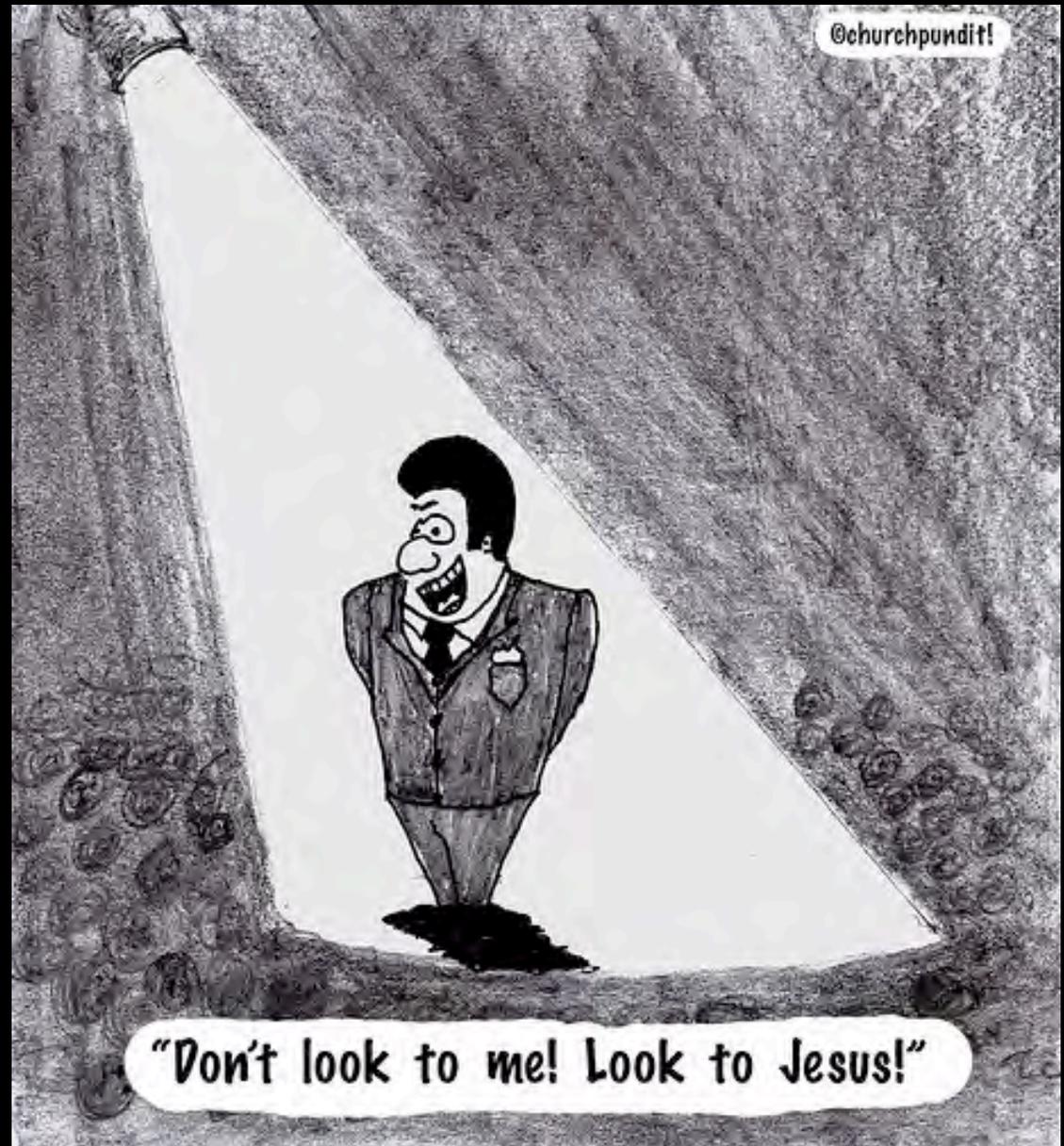


- Don't refer to him/her as a Christian.
 - Evangelize this person.
 - Don't let him/her take the Lord's Supper.
 - Remove the person from membership.
 - Remove this person from church roles.
-
- "Deliver over to Satan" one in sex sin (1 Cor. 5:5).
 - Don't eat with him/her (1 Cor. 5:11).
 - Prohibit him/her from attending church?

Unbeliever

Worse

Association
with immoral
people
depends on
whether or
not they are
Christians
(1 Cor 5:9-
13).



A. We can associate with an immoral unbeliever (1 Cor. 5:9-10).

but...

B. We can't associate with an immoral Christian (1 Cor. 5:11).



**Can you help me, Mrs. Martin?
This wasn't covered in any of my
education courses.**

Issues to Discuss

- A. What is church discipline?**
- B. Why don't we often do it?**
- C. What results when we fail to do it?**
- D. How do we discipline believers?**
- E. Why is discipline important?**

Reasons for Discipline

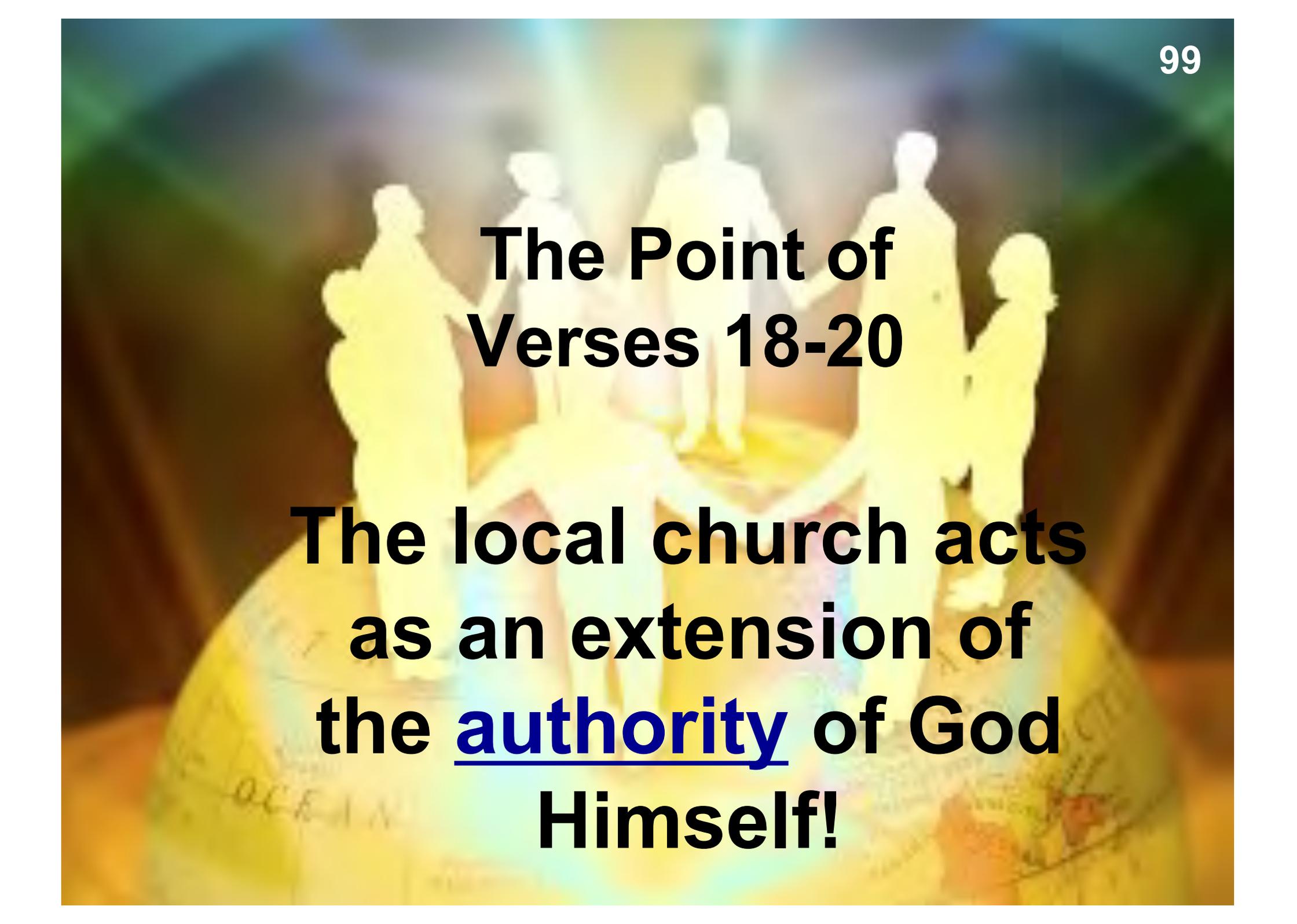
- 1. The Church Extends God's Authority
(Matt. 18:18-20)**
- 2. It Benefits the Offender**
- 3. It Benefits the Church Body**
- 4. It Benefits the Individual Believers Not
Living in Sin**
- 5. It Benefits the Authority Structures of
the Body**

Points 2-5 adapted from Ted Kitchens, *Aftershock: What to Do When Leaders
(and Others) Fail You* (Portland, Oregon: Multnomah, 1992)



Matthew 18:18-20 answers this question:

Why do we restore sinning Christians properly?

A group of people holding hands in a circle, standing on a globe. The scene is brightly lit, with a warm, golden glow. The people are silhouetted against the light, and their hands are joined in a circle. The globe they stand on is visible at the bottom, with some text like 'OCEAN' and 'AFRICA' partially visible. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light.

The Point of Verses 18-20

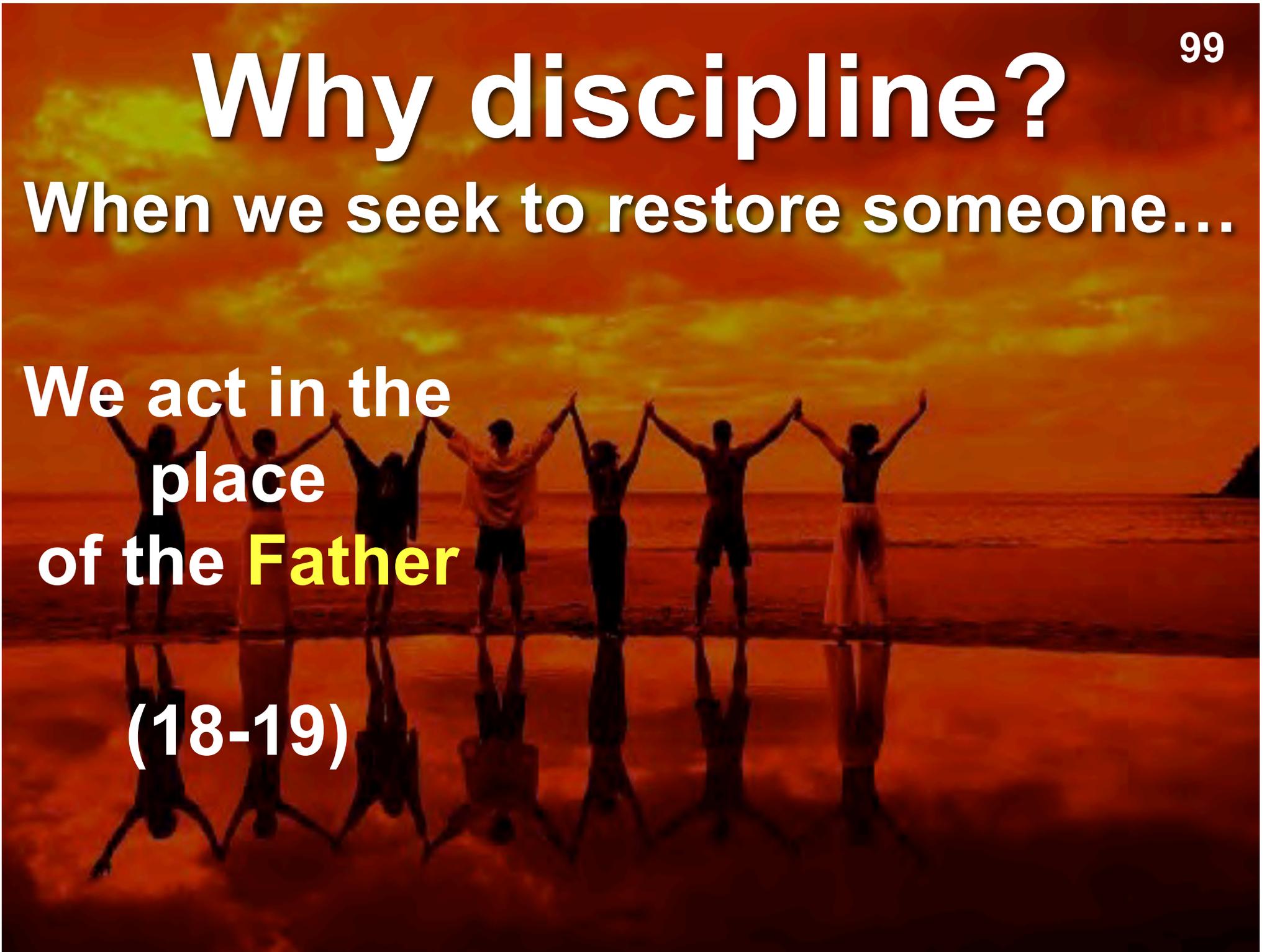
The local church acts
as an extension of
the authority of God
Himself!

Why discipline?

When we seek to restore someone...

We act in the
place
of the **Father**

(18-19)



NAU is a Better Translation...⁹⁹

NIV "I tell you the truth, whatever you bind on earth **will be** bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth **will be** loosed in heaven."

NAU "Truly I say to you, whatever you bind on earth **shall have been** bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth **shall have been** loosed in heaven."

Matthew 18:19

"Again, I tell you that if **two of you** on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven"
(NIV).





PSALM 82:1, 6
(TO ISRAEL'S
RULERS/GODS)

***"I said, 'You are
"gods"; you are all
sons of the Most
High... but you will
die like men..."***

Why discipline?

When we seek to restore someone...

We act in the
place
of the **Father**

(18-19)

We act in the
presence &
authority of **Christ**

(20)

Matthew 18:20

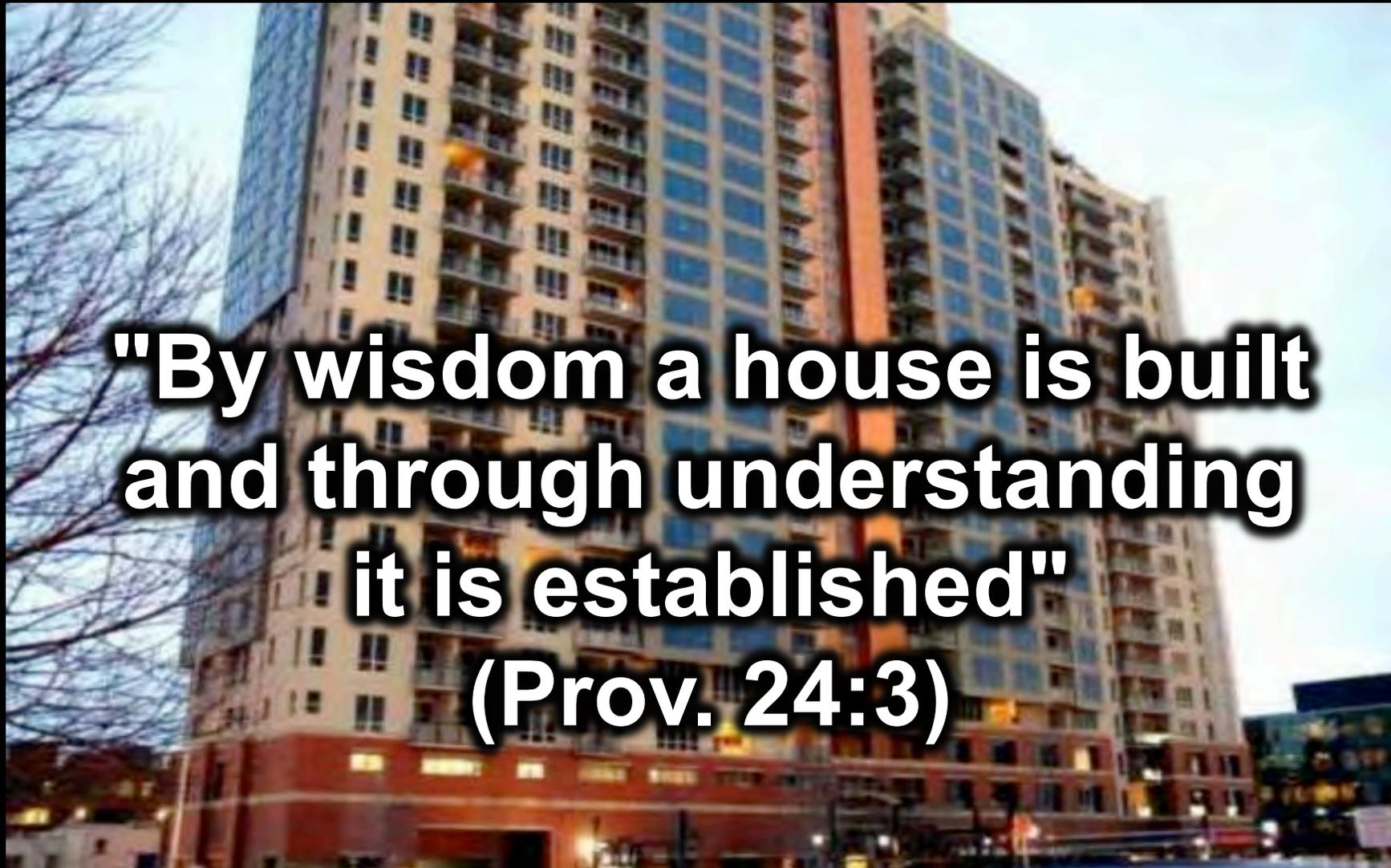


"For where
two or three
come together in
my name, there I
am with them"
(NIV).

Main Idea:

We must **restore**
sinning members
properly since we act
on God's **behalf**

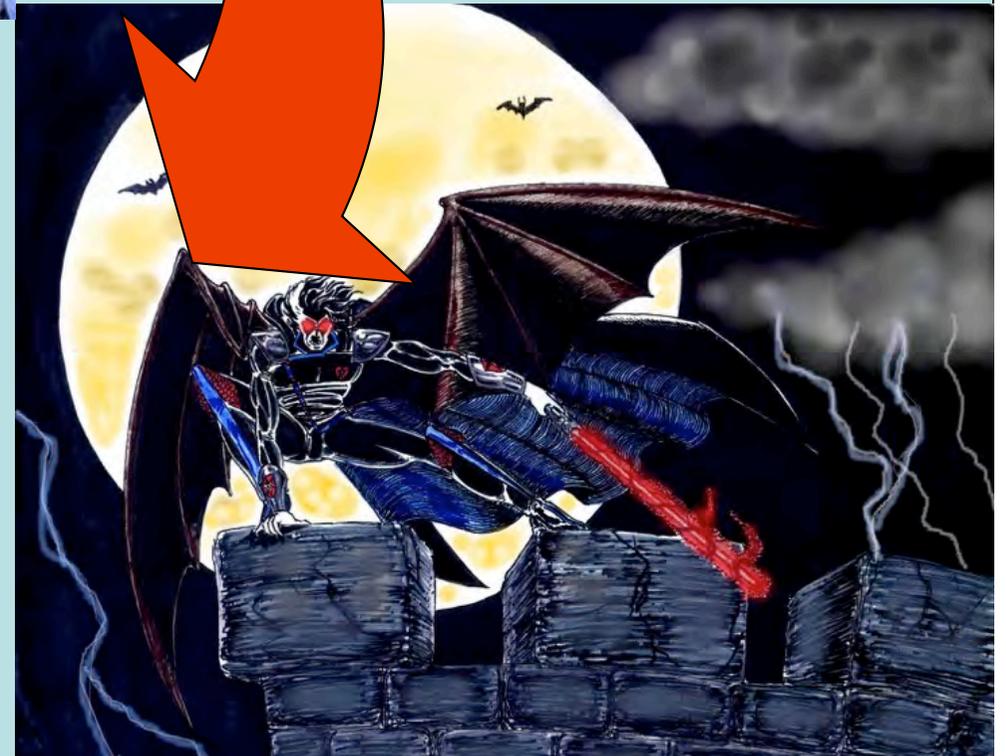
2. Discipline benefits the **offender** (1 Cor. 5:3-8)



"...deliver
over to Satan"



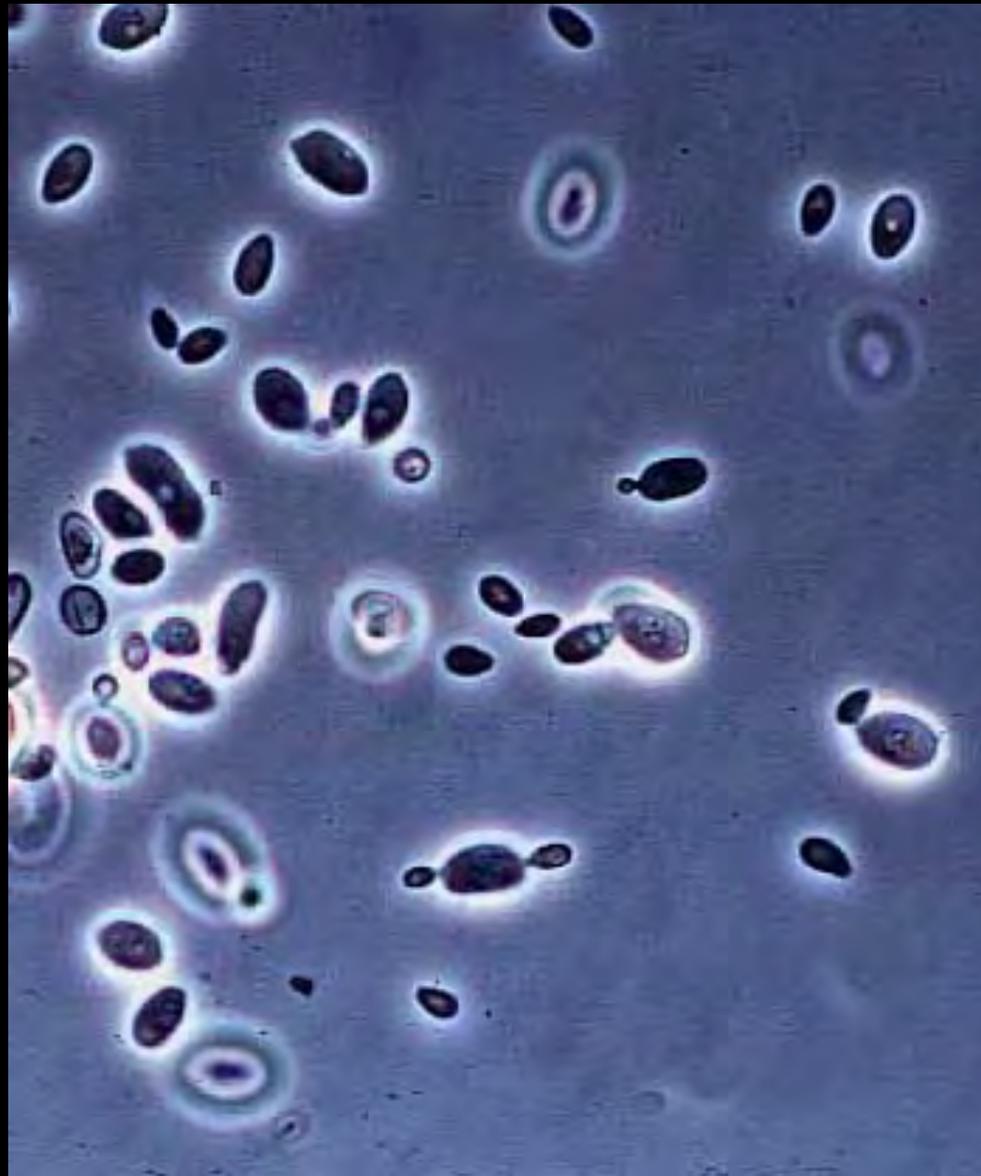
c) Discipline hands a
believer over to
Satan's dominion to
end his hypocrisy
(3-5)



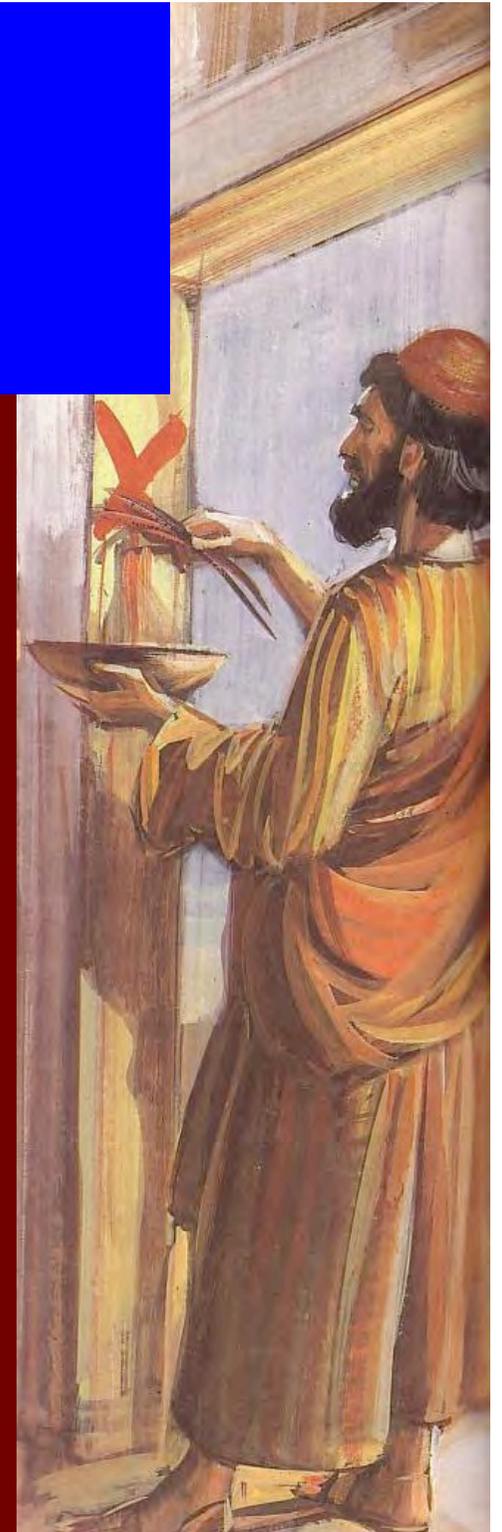
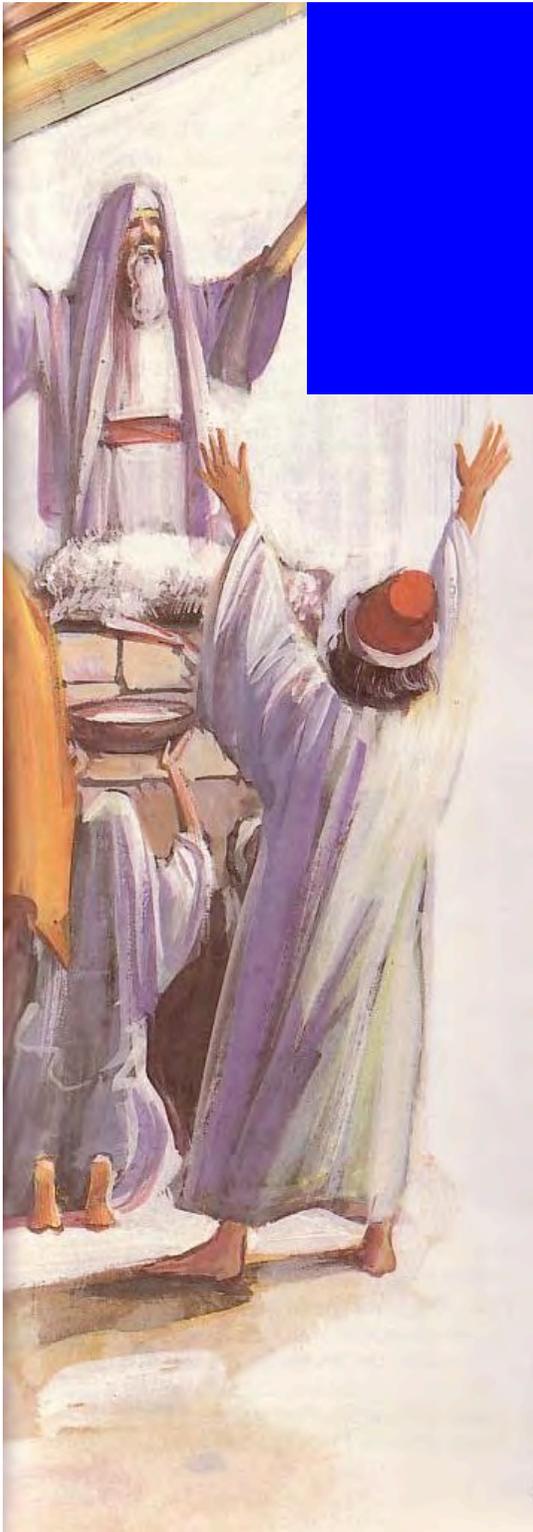


a) Discipline
maintains the
purity of
the *body*
(1 Cor. 5:6-8)

Yeast



Passover's Past Significance (Exodus 12)

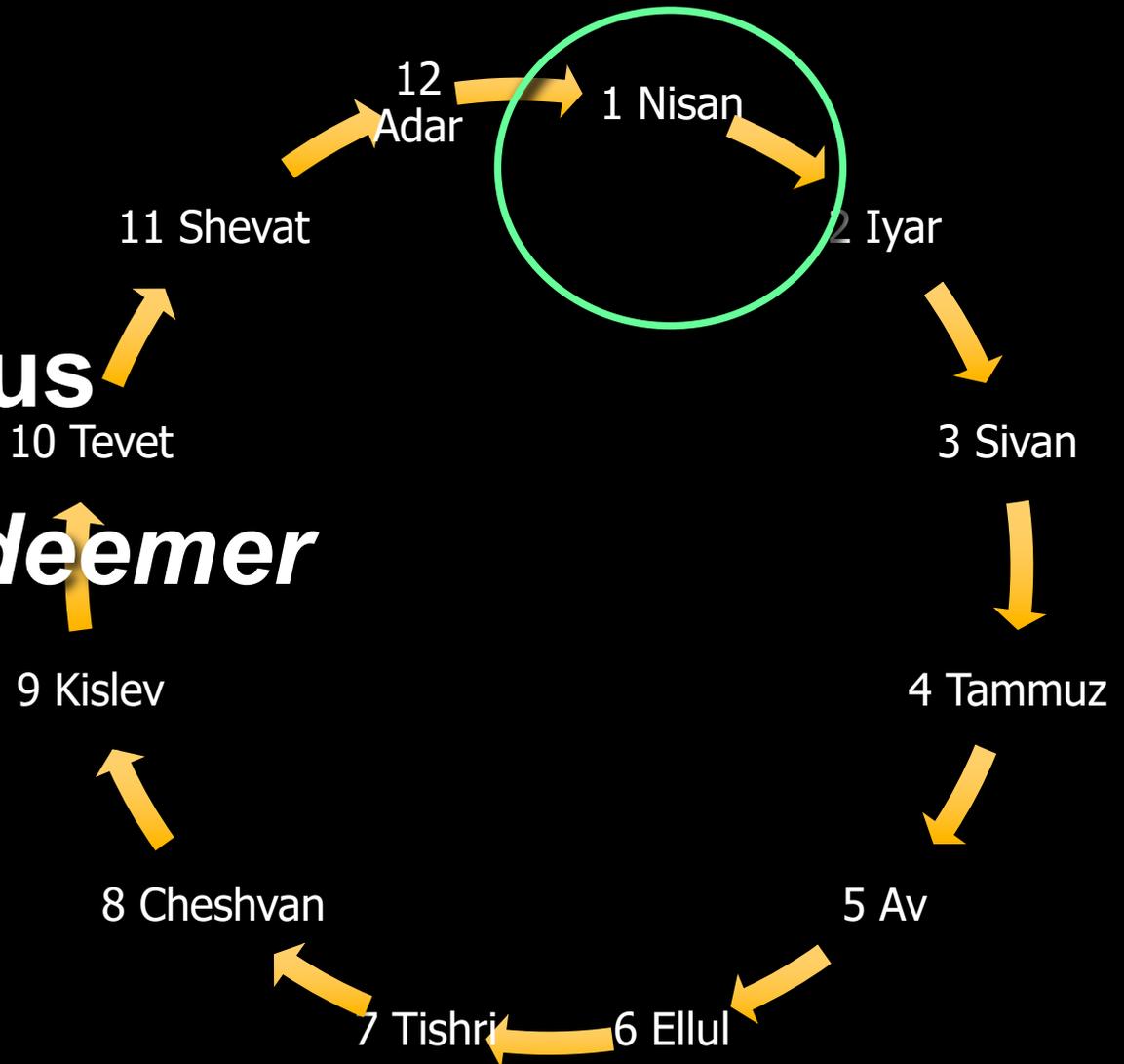


Feasts

Leviticus 23

Passover

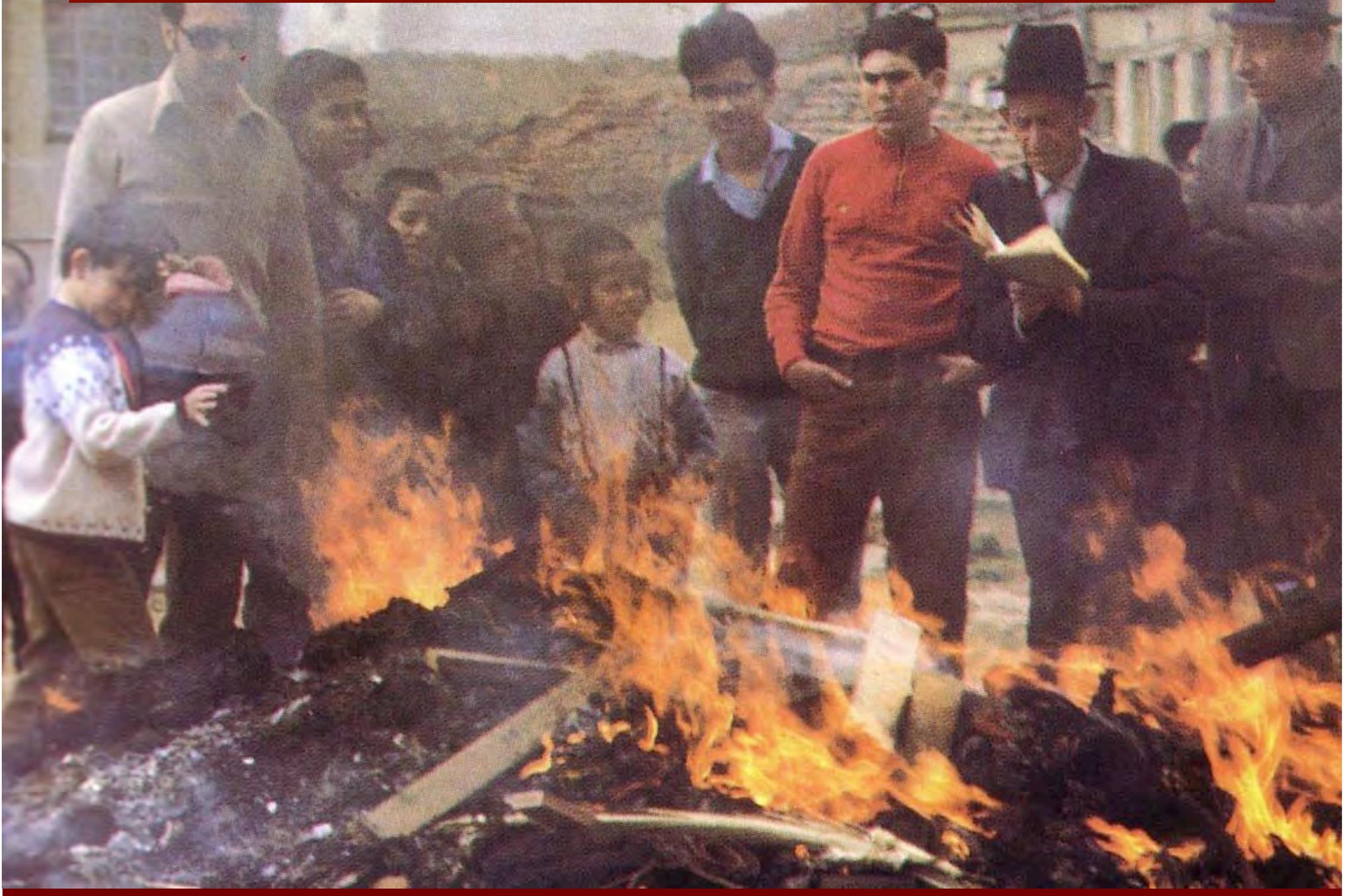
- **Recalls Exodus**
- ***Christ our redeemer***



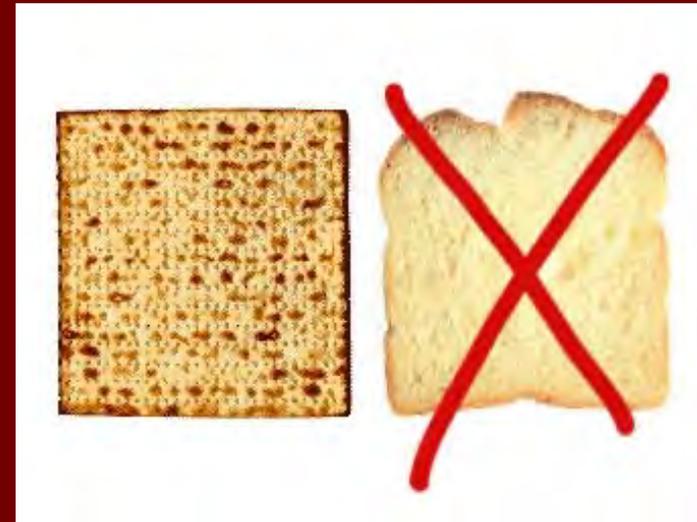
The Passover Lamb



"Burn All the Yeast!"



Feast of Unleavened Bread



Issues to Discuss

- A. What is church discipline?**
- B. Why don't we often do it?**
- C. What results when we fail to do it?**
- D. How do we discipline believers?**
- E. Why is discipline important?**
- F. What sins are worthy of discipline?**

What sins are "bad enough" for church discipline?

1 Cor 5:11

Sexually immoral

Greedy

Idolaters

Slanderers

Drunkards

Swindlers

Other Texts:

Divisive (Tit. 3:10)

Lazy (2 Thess. 3:6)

Sins Worthy of Discipline

- 1. Private offenses** that violate Christian love
- 2. Divisions** that hinder Christian unity
- 3. Moral deviations** that break Christian law
- 4. Teaching doctrines** that reject essential Christian truth



How do we
maintain **purity**
in the church?

Living in a "toss away age"

- **Cartons**

- **Carpets**

- **Cars**

- **Creatures** made in
God's image?

The Focus of 1 Corinthians 5



Guard church purity by
expelling
unrepentant believers



Matthew's Relational Pillars

5:23-24

18:15-17

You are: Offender

Offended

Issue: General

Sin

Initiative: You!

You!



The Overall Principle

"If possible, as far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men"

Romans 12:18

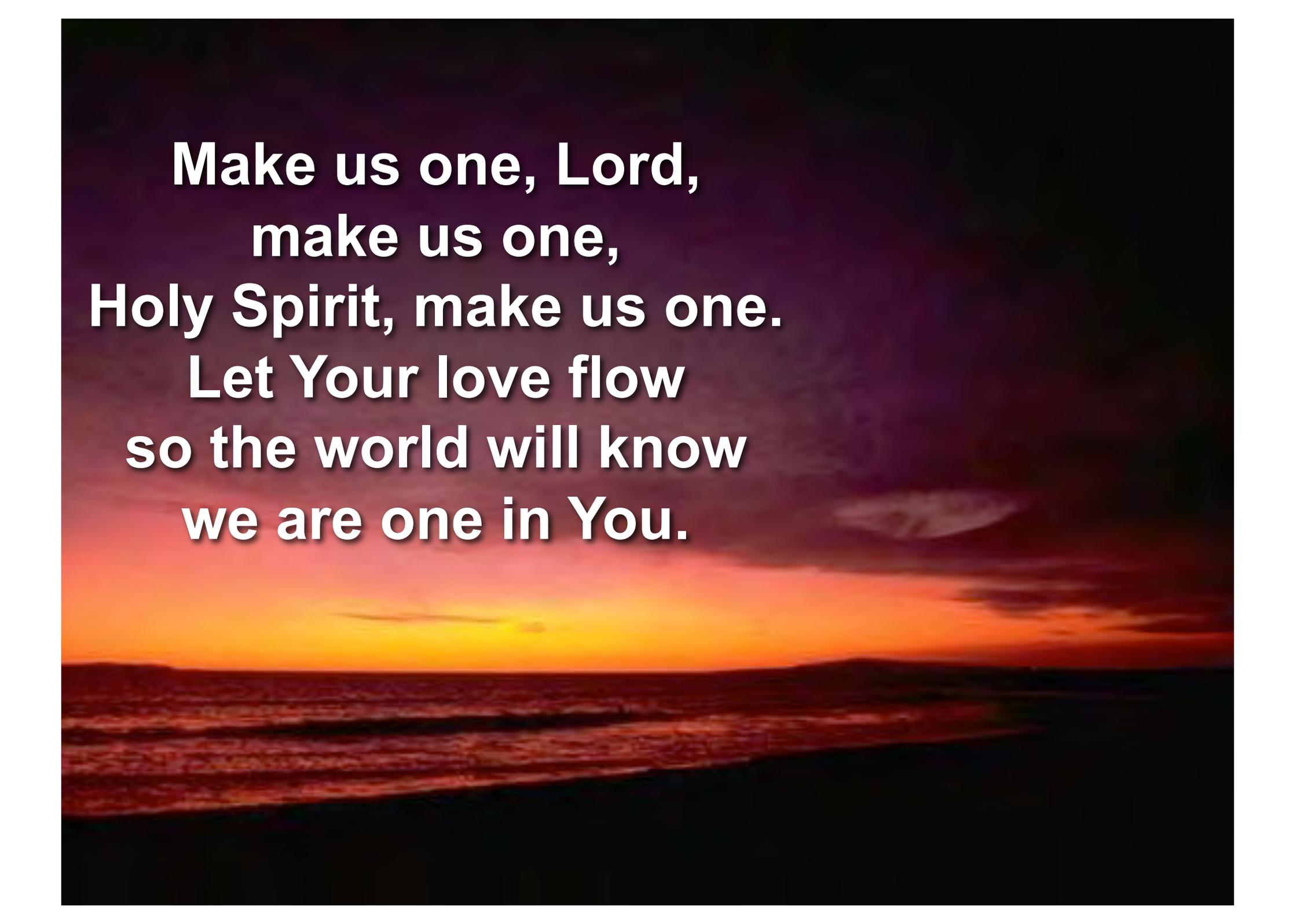




Matthew's Relational Pillars

The Overall Principle: Romans 12:18

<i>You are:</i>		Offender		Offended
<i>Issue:</i>		General		Sin
<i>Initiative:</i>		You!		You!



**Make us one, Lord,
make us one,
Holy Spirit, make us one.
Let Your love flow
so the world will know
we are one in You.**

- 1. What examples of self-centeredness do you see in society today?*
- 2. How do you think concern for self rather than others shows itself in the church?*



Individualism

JAMES 5:19-20

¹⁹My brothers, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring him back, ²⁰remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of his way will save him from death and cover over a multitude of sins.

Who are the wanderers?



πλανάω lead astray,
mislead, deceive; pass.
stray away, go astray; be
mistaken; be deceived or
misled; wander about

**This refers to Christians who reject
the will of God by straying from the
truth by their behavior in an active,
not passive sense**

The Wanderer is a Christian:

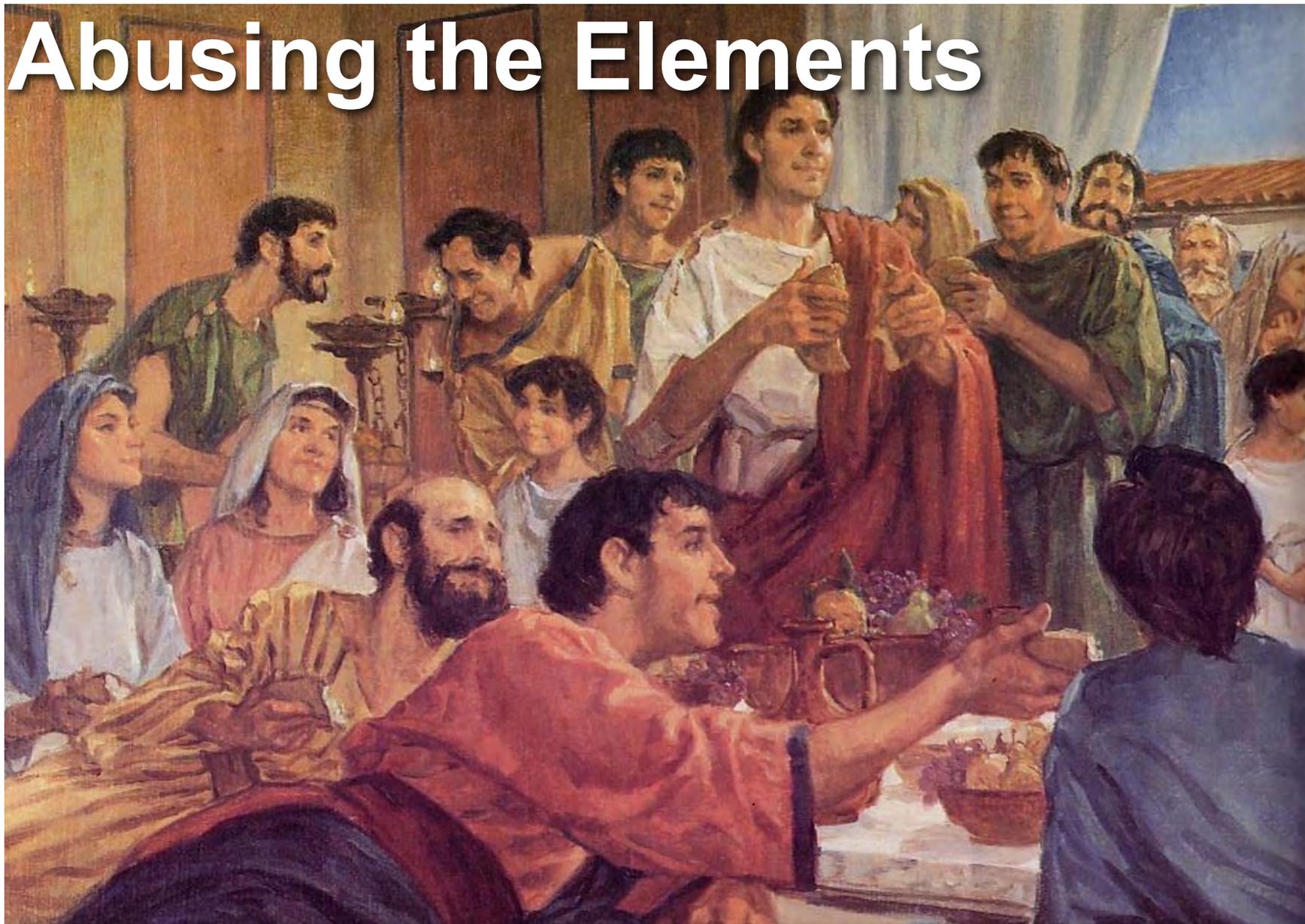
- **"My *brothers*, if *one of you*..."**
- **One cannot "wander from the truth" if he has not first experienced it.**



Divine Spankings

- **"My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, because the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes everyone he accepts as a son.' Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father? If you are not disciplined (and everyone undergoes discipline), then you are illegitimate children and not true sons" (Hebrews 12:5-8).**

Abusing the Elements



NIV 1 Corinthians 11:30 [Gluttony at the Lord's Supper]
"is why many among you are weak and sick, and a number of you have fallen asleep."

Some Sins Lead to Death

"If anyone sees his brother commit a sin that does not lead to death, he should pray and God will give him life. I refer to those whose sin does not lead to death. There is a sin that leads to death. I am not saying that he should pray about that" (1 John 5:16 NIV).



Making this Text Real to Me

▪ Whom do I need to help restore?

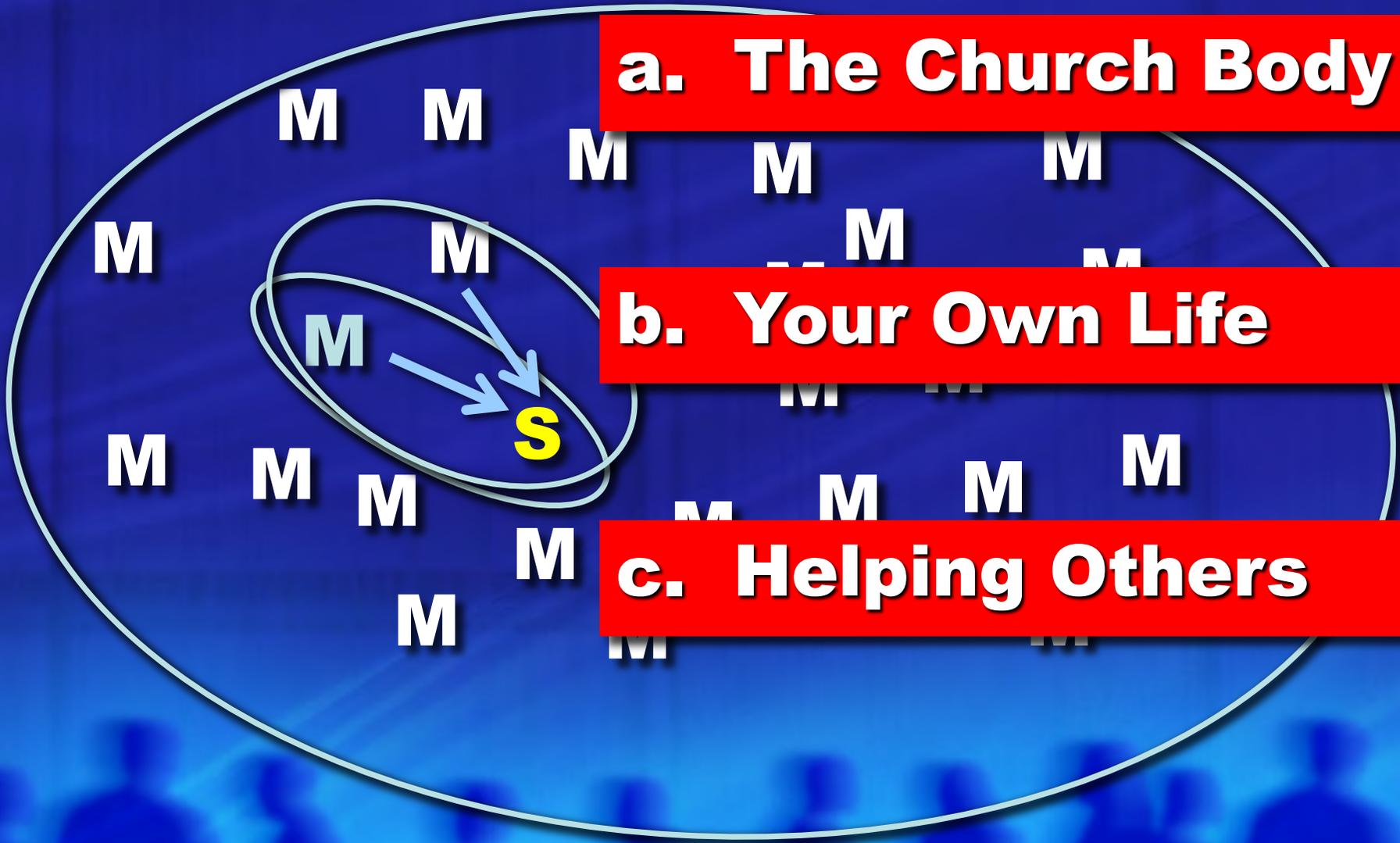
▪ How will I do it?

What's God Saying to You?

a. The Church Body

b. Your Own Life

c. Helping Others



I've Been Through a Fire

I've been through a fire
that has deepened my desire
to know the living God,
more and more.

It hasn't been much fun
but the work that it has done
in my life has made it worth the hurt

**You see, sometimes we
need the hard times
to bring us to our knees.
Otherwise, we do as we
please
and never heed Him.**



**But He always knows what's best
and it's when we're in the test
that we really come to know God
as He is**

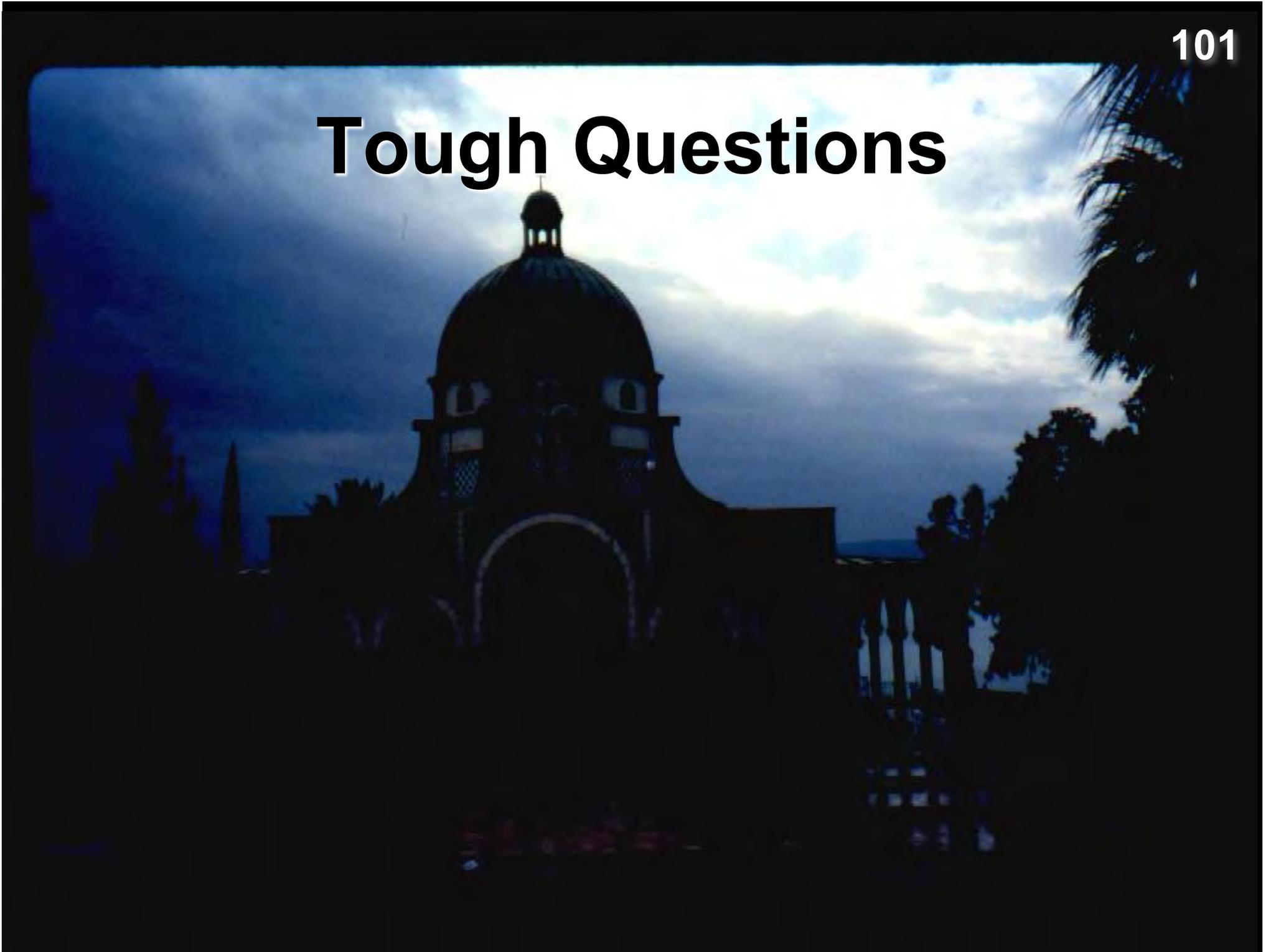


How can you keep your church pure?

- a. Start with your **own life**.
- b. Support the **leaders**.
- c. Care how **others** are *really* doing.



Tough Questions



1. What about non-members?



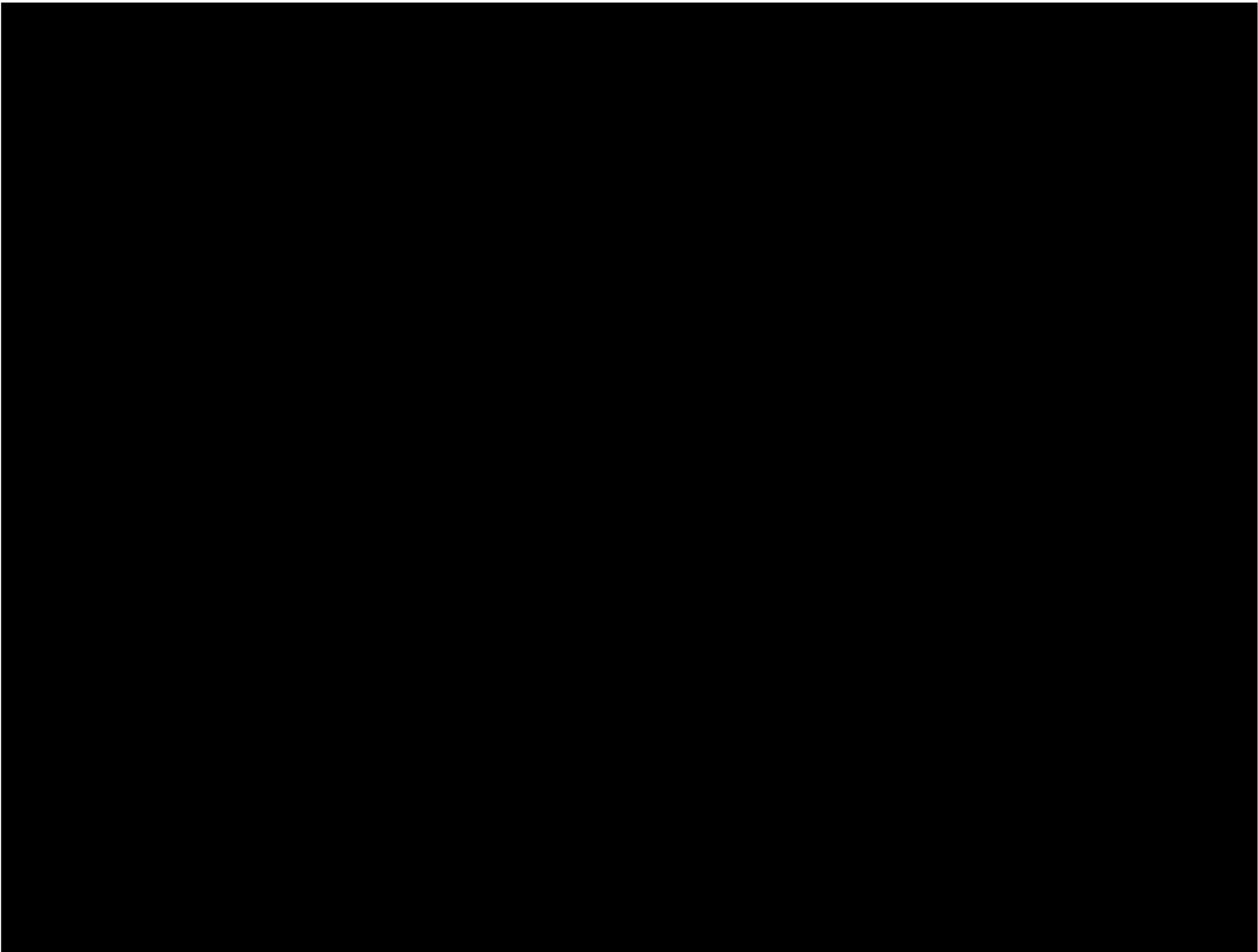
CHURCH
MEMBERSHIP
MATTERS



**2. Should we still
remove them publicly if
they request their
membership withdrawn?**

3. Should we pursue disciplined members to another church?

"Do unto others what you would have others do to you"



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