

*The most carnal church in the NT era...*

The background image shows the interior of an ancient stone church. It features a series of large, rounded arches supported by thick, weathered stone columns. The walls are made of rough-hewn stone, and the floor is dirt and rubble. In the distance, two tall, narrow arched windows let in bright light. The overall atmosphere is one of historical decay and grandeur.

# 1 Corinthians 1–9

**Key Word**

120

**Sanctification**

**1 Corinthians**

# Theme

23

## Proper Functioning of the Church

### 1 Corinthians

# Key Verse

120

**"Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you have been bought with a price. Therefore honor God with your body" (6:19-20).**

**1 Corinthians**



## Summary Statement

Paul explains the **proper functioning of the church** in response to reports about the church's divisions, disorders, and doctrinal difficulties to assure that the church makes its **positional sanctification practical**.

# 1 Corinthians

# Kingdom Statement

27b

**Christ will hand His kingdom over to the Father so that the Triune God will be shown sovereign over everything (15:27b-28), including believers with resurrected bodies (15:50).**

**1 Corinthians**

**The way to celebrate the Lord's Supper in a worthy manner is to look forward by proclaiming Christ's second coming to enact the New Covenant (11:26).**

**1 Corinthians**

# Redemption

27b

**The gospel that Paul preached had three major elements: Christ's vicarious death, burial, and resurrection (15:3b-8), so that believers are secure in this salvation that can never be lost (1:8-9; 3:12-15; 5:4-5; 15:58).**

**1 Corinthians**

# Prophecy (Lord, Deity)

27b

**Those who do not love the Lord are cursed (16:22) while all believers in Christ will be resurrected (15:50).**

**1 Corinthians**

## Proper Functioning of the Church

Divisions		Disorders			Doctrine						
Answers Report from Chloe (1:11)		Answers Report from Chloe (1:11; 5:1)			Answers Letter from the Church (7:1; 8:1; 12:1; 15:1; 16:1)						
Leadership		Relationships			Theology						
Pride		Immorality			Selfishness						
Greeting & Problem	Misunderstandings	Incest	Lawsuits	Prostitution	Marriage	Liberty	Head Coverings	Lord's Supper	Gifts	Resurrection	Gospel Advance
1:1-17	1:18-4:21	5	6:1-11	6:12-20	7	8:1-11:1	11:2-16	11:17-34	12-14	15	16

Ephesus

May AD 56 (third missionary journey)

# 1 Corinthians



- 1 **E**xhortation to Christian unity
- 2 **R**esponse of natural man
- 3 **R**easons for Christian carnality
- 4 **O**bservations on Paul's ministry
- 5 **R**ebuking immorality in church
- 6 **S**ins against the body
  
- 7 **I**nstructions for marriage partners
- 8 **N**ever be stumbling block
  
- 9 **B**elievers must yield rights
- 10 **E**xpect victory over temptation
- 11 **H**ow to approach Communion
- 12 **A**bilities within Christ's body
- 13 **V**irtues of true love
- 14 **I**nstructions on using tongues
- 15 **O**rders in the resurrections
- 16 **R**eminders about spiritual helpers

# Be Different



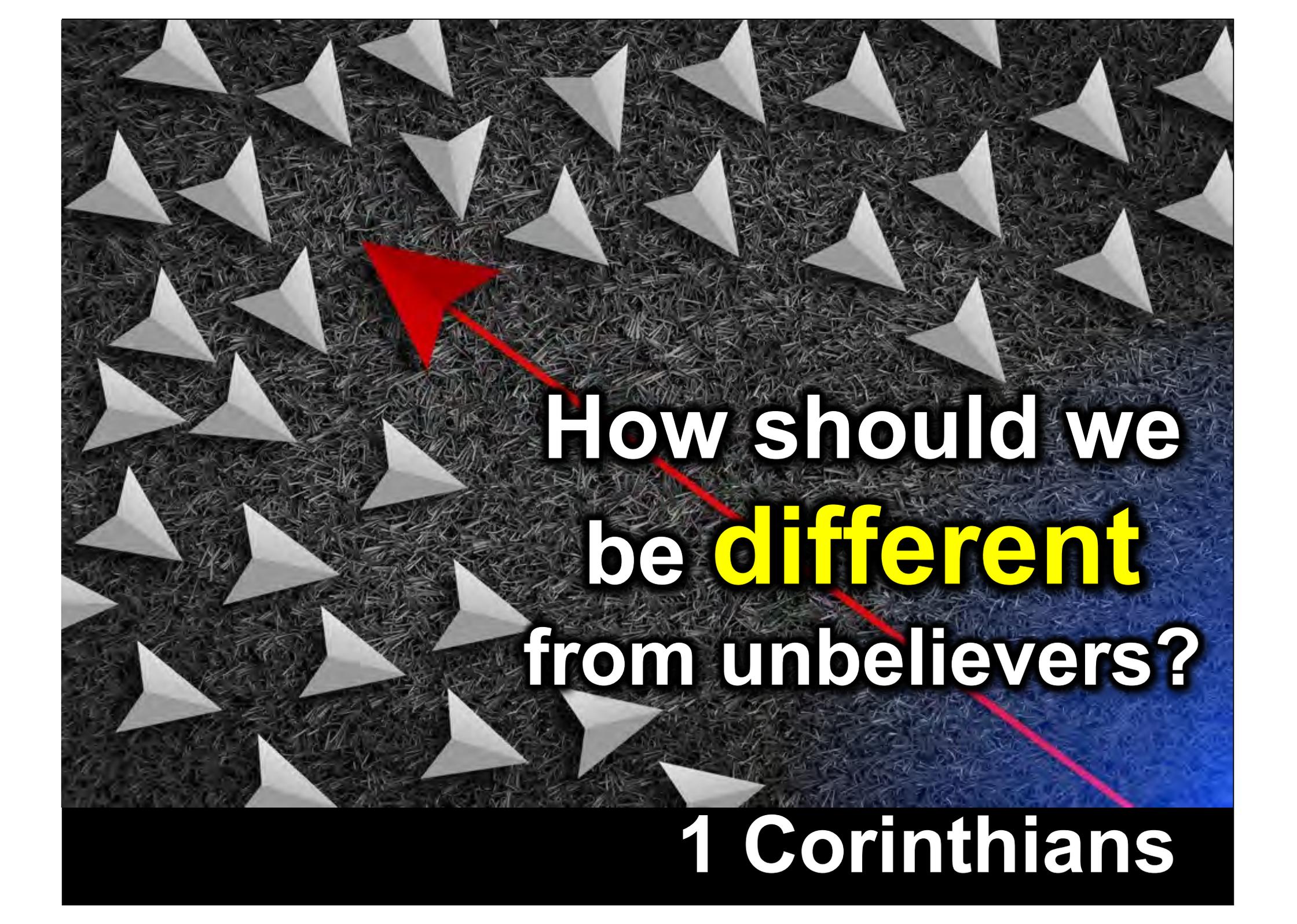
***1 Corinthians***

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

# Herd Mentality



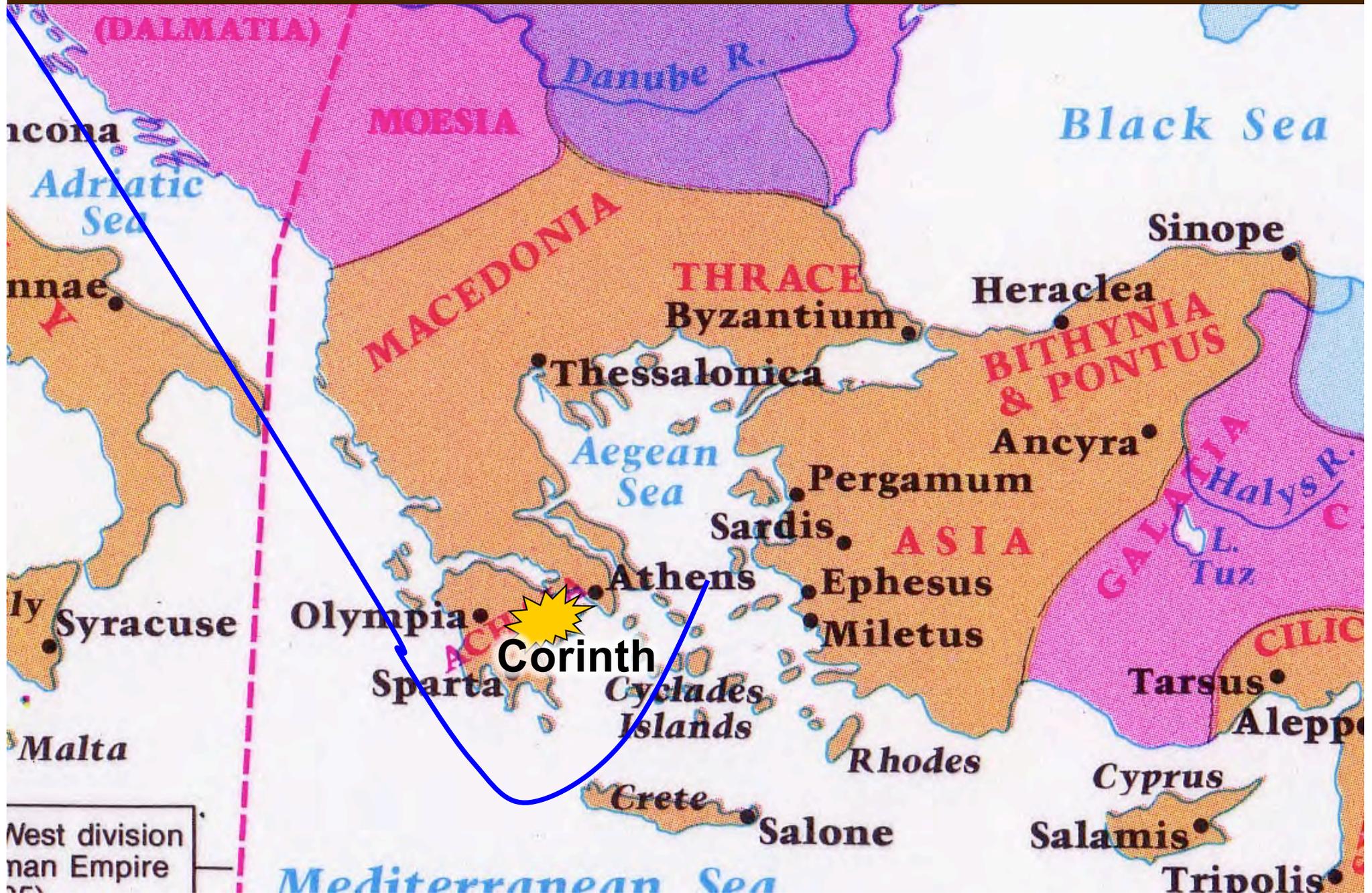
**1 Corinthians**



How should we  
be **different**  
from unbelievers?

1 Corinthians

# Corinth: Crossroads of Immorality



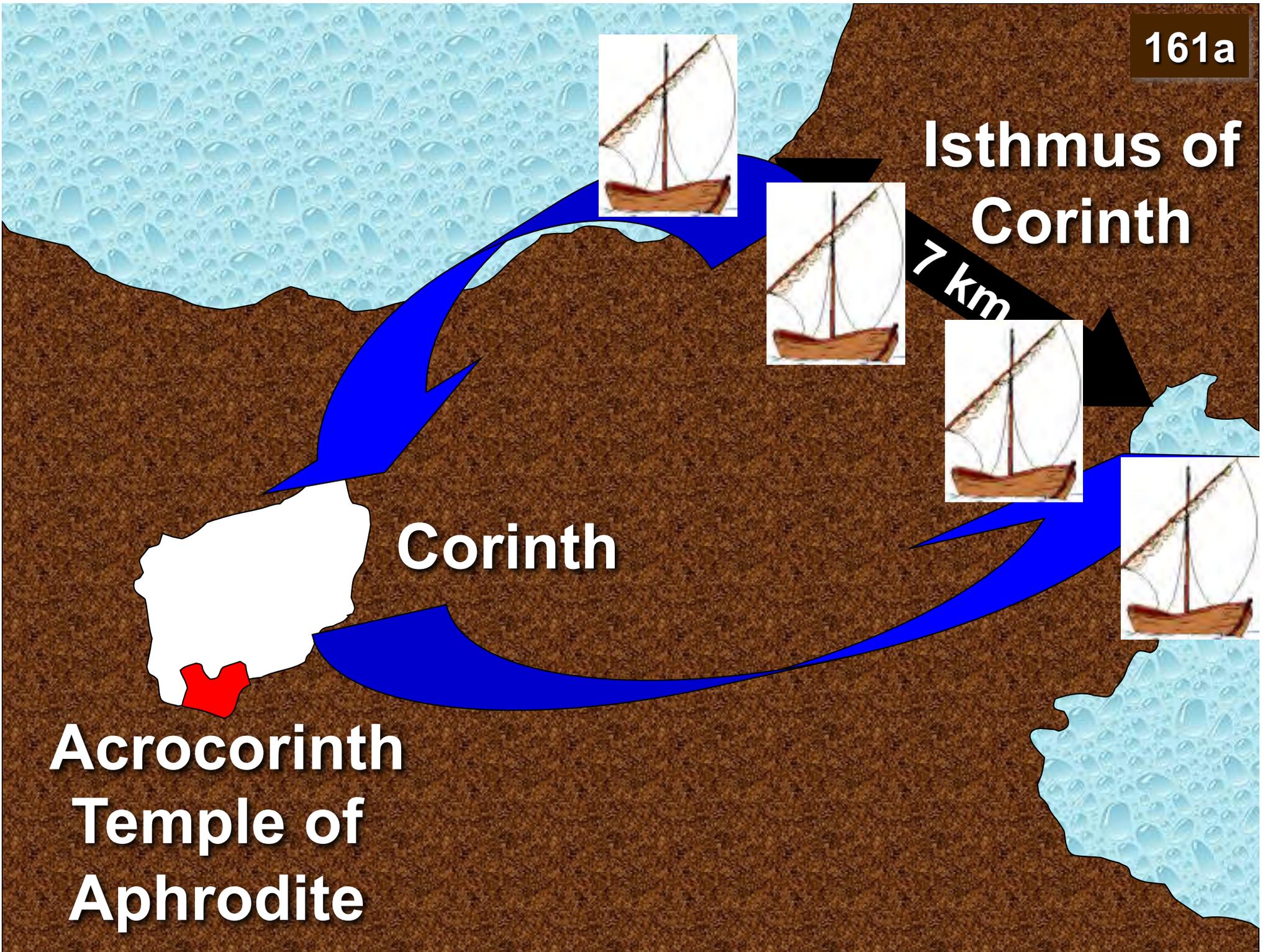
161a

Isthmus of  
Corinth

7 km

Corinth

Acrocorinth  
Temple of  
Aphrodite



*How should we...*

**BE  
UNITED**  
(1-4)

**BE  
MORAL**  
(5-6)

**BE  
DIFFERENT**

**BE  
SELFLESS**  
(7-16)

**1 Corinthians**

*...from unbelievers?*

# Main Idea

A collection of light bulbs, with one glowing yellow in the center, symbolizing an idea or inspiration.

Be **different** by being  
united, moral and selfless

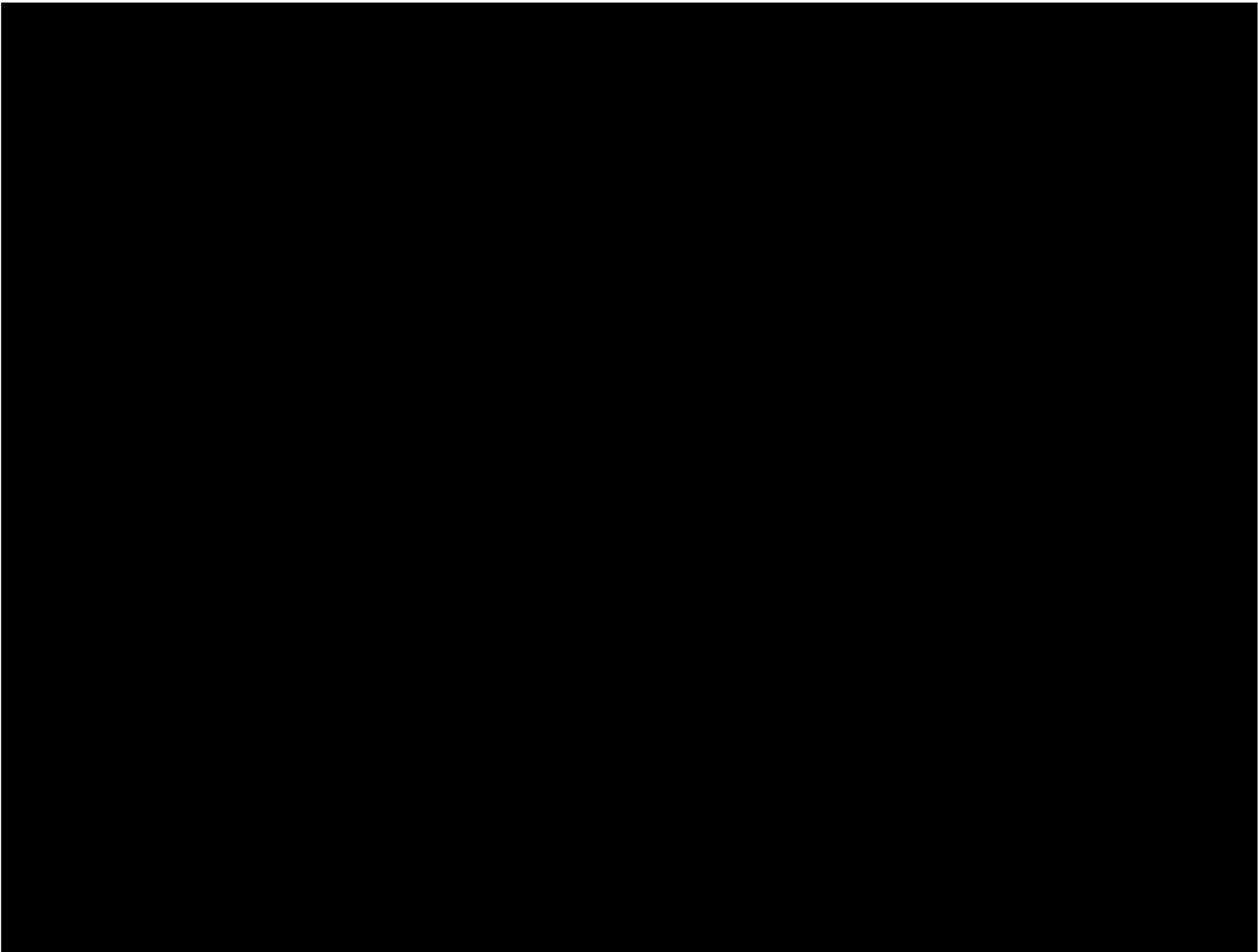
1 Corinthians

A large crowd of grey 3D human figures is shown from a high angle. In the center of the crowd, one figure is colored red and stands out. This red figure has its right arm raised, pointing upwards. The background is a plain, light color.

**Sanctified (1:2) = “Set apart by  
God as His possession”**

***Do you live like this?***

**Let 1 Corinthians change you!**



# What truth about church discipline impacted you most from your readings?



## First Corinthians

1. **E**xhortation to Christian unity
2. **R**esponse of natural man
3. **R**easons for Christian carnality
4. **O**bservations on Paul's ministry
5. **R**ebuking immorality in church
6. **S**ins against the body
7. **I**nstructions for marriage partners
8. **N**ever be a stumbling block
9. **B**elievers must yield rights
10. **E**xpect victory over temptation
11. **H**ow to approach Communion
12. **A**ilities within Christ's body
13. **V**irtues of true love
14. **I**nstructions on using tongues
15. **O**rders in the resurrections
16. **R**eminders about spiritual helpers

# NT Overview (Missionary + Key Words)

38  
124  
39-41

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

Acts 9 13 14 15 16 18 21 27 28



Kingdom

Justify

Sov 1

Sov 2

Disciple

Believe

Rapture

Tribulation

Sanctify

Gospels & Acts

Pauline Epistles

1234

Journeys

Rome

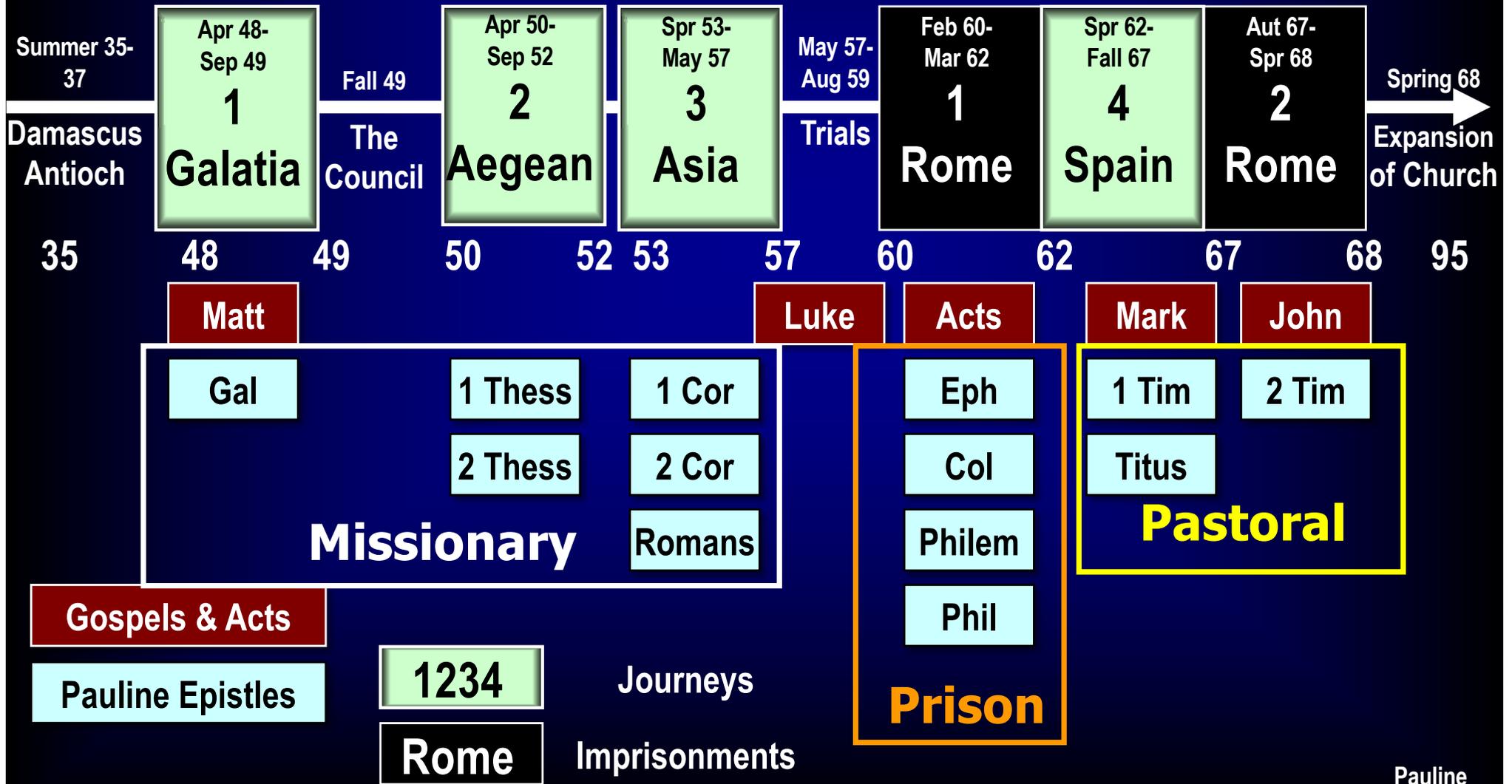
Imprisonments

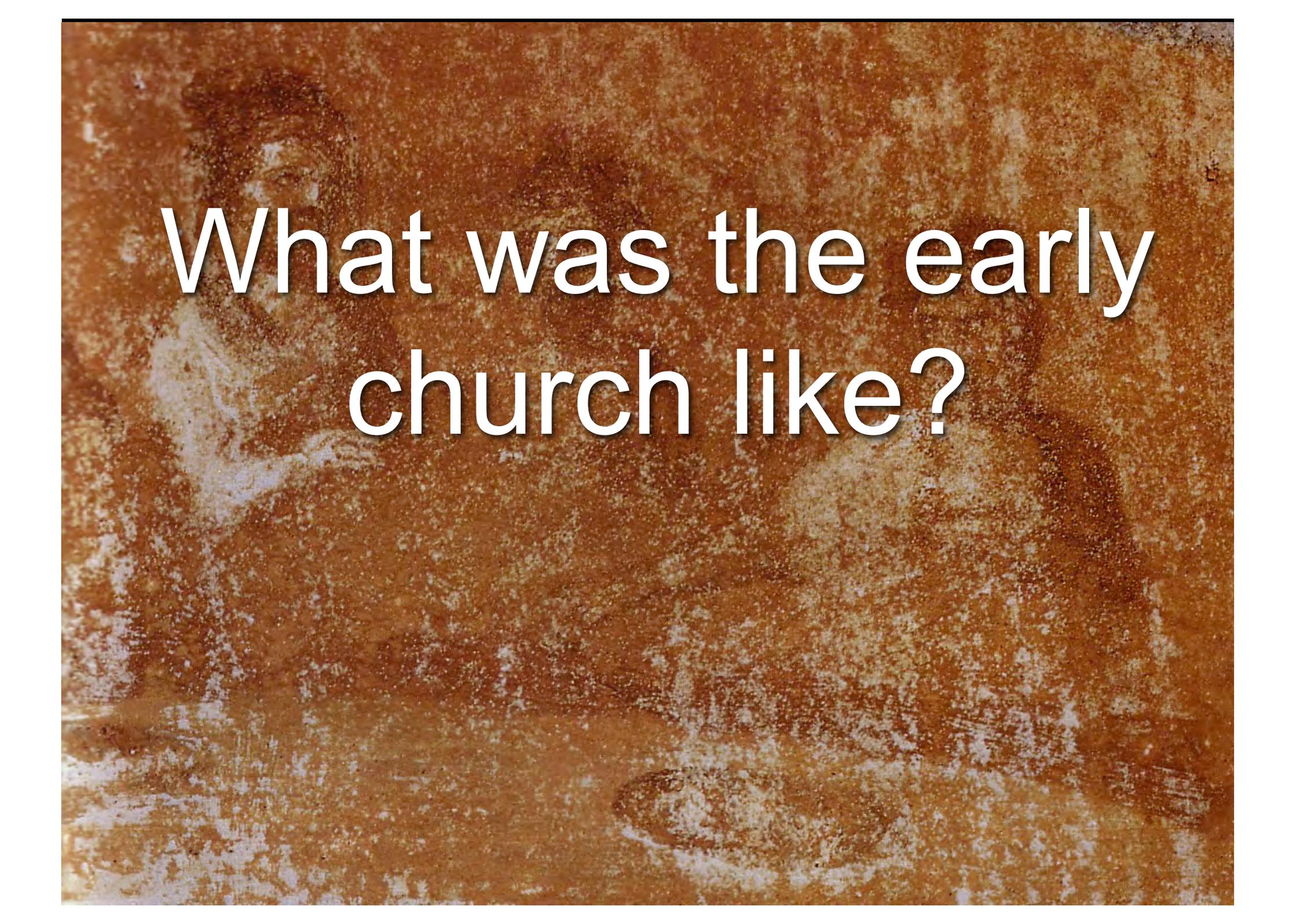
# NT Overview (Paul's Letters)

38  
124  
39-41

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

Acts 9 13 14 15 16 18 21 27 28





What was the early church like?

# Worship in Catacombs





**Perpetua's Martyrdom (AD 203)**

Divorce (7)

Gifts (12-14)

What was the  
early church *really*  
like?

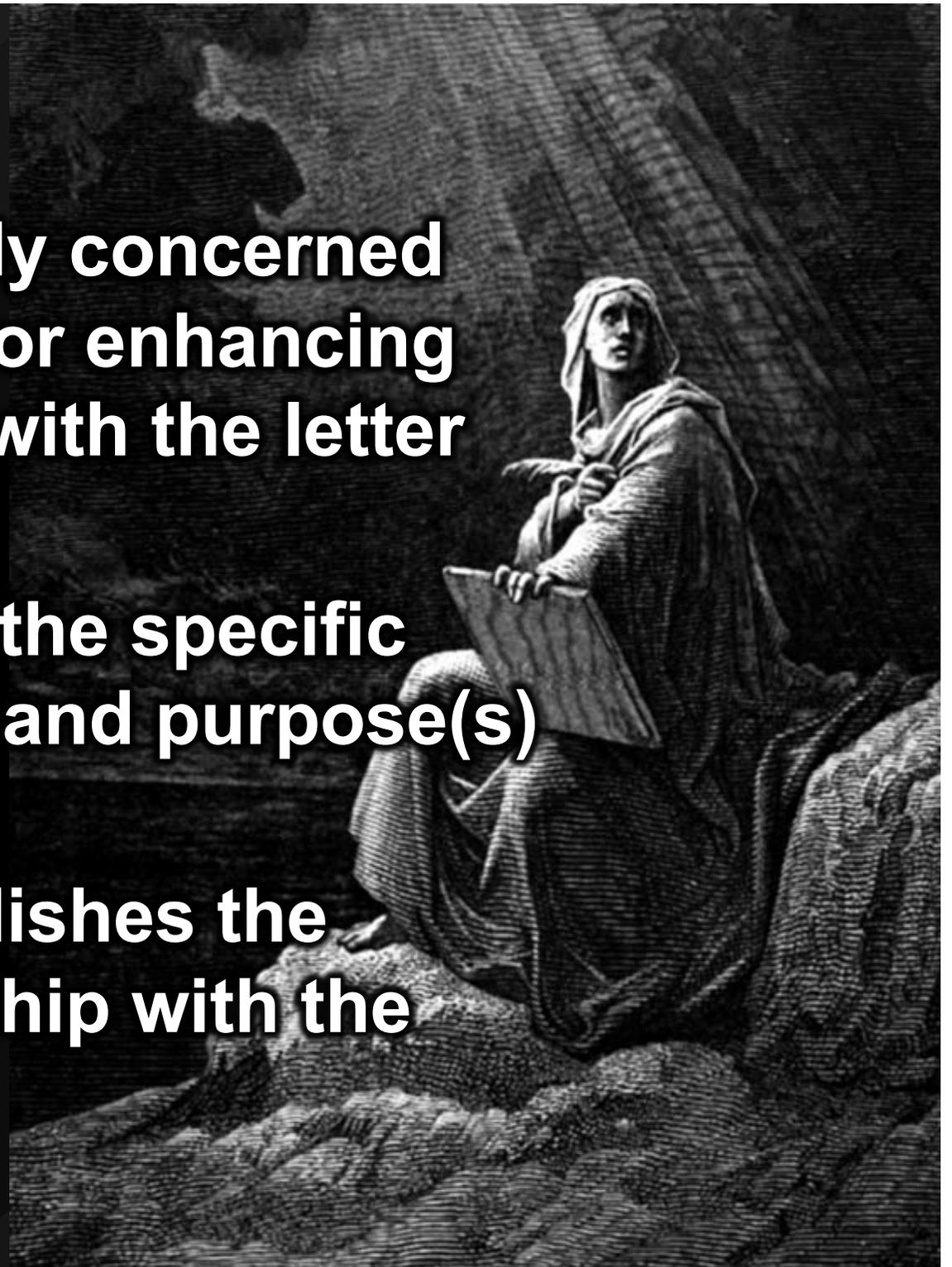
**1 Corinthians**

Idolatry (8-10)

Incest (5)

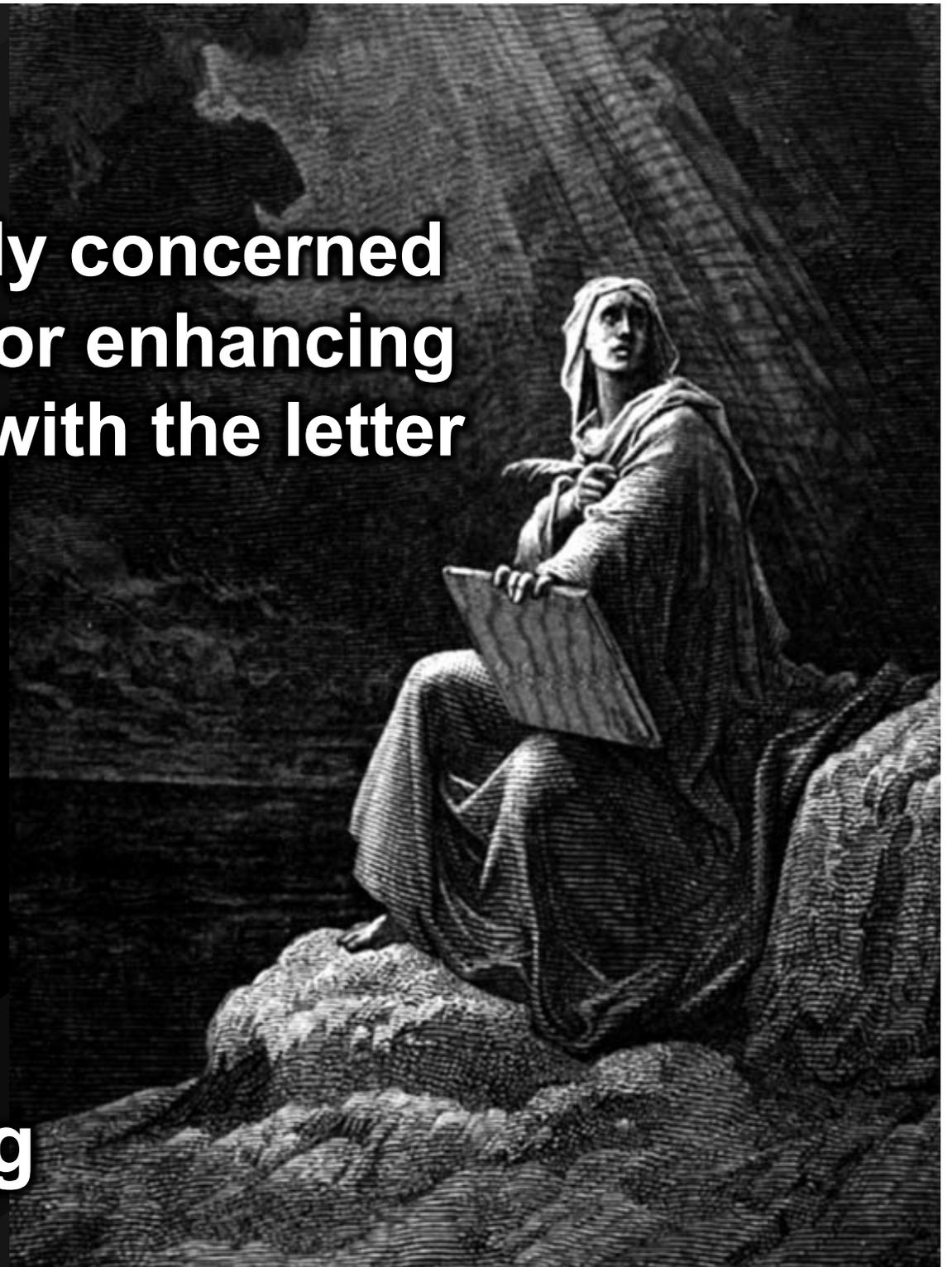
# Epistolary Form

- **Opening** - primarily concerned with establishing or enhancing personal contact with the letter recipient
- **Body** - deals with the specific historical context and purpose(s) of the letter.
- **Closing** – reestablishes the sender's relationship with the recipient



# Epistolary Form

- **Opening** - primarily concerned with establishing or enhancing personal contact with the letter recipient
  - Author
  - Readers
  - Greetings
  - Thanksgiving



# Overview of the Chapters

**1–4 Divisions**

**5–6 Disorders**

**7–16 Doctrinal Difficulties**

## Proper Functioning of the Church

Divisions		Disorders			Doctrine						
Answers Report from Chloe (1:11)		Answers Report from Chloe (1:11; 5:1)			Answers Letter from the Church (7:1; 8:1; 12:1; 15:1; 16:1)						
Leadership		Relationships			Theology						
Pride		Immorality			Selfishness						
Greeting & Problem	Misunderstandings	Incest	Lawsuits	Prostitution	Marriage	Liberty	Head Coverings	Lord's Supper	Gifts	Resurrection	Gospel Advance
1:1-17	1:18-4:21	5	6:1-11	6:12-20	7	8:1-11:1	11:2-16	11:17-34	12-14	15	16

Ephesus

May AD 56 (third missionary journey)

# 1 Corinthians: The Wayward Local Church

Reports

Questions

Division

Disorder

Difficulties

Concern  
1-4

Discipline  
5-6

Instruction  
7-16

Factions 1-2

Carnality  
3-4

Incest 5

Lawsuits 6

Immorality

Marriage 7

Idols 8-10

Worship  
11-14

Resurrection  
15

Collection 16

Solving church problems theologically

## Key Word Sanctification

### Key Verse

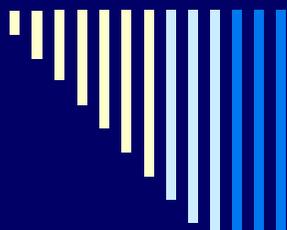
**"Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you have been bought with a price. Therefore honor God with your body"  
(1 Cor. 6:19-20).**

## Summary Statement

Paul explains the *proper functioning of the church* in response to reports about the Corinthians' divisions, disorders, and doctrinal difficulties to assure that the church makes its *positional sanctification practical*.

## Application

Does your church look "set apart" for God?  
Or is it plagued with divisions, disorders,  
and doctrinal difficulties which make it look  
the same as non-Christian groups?



# The Three Tenses of Salvation

TENSE	MY STATUS	FREE FROM SIN'S...	TIME	DOCTRINE OF...
Past	I have been saved	Penalty—by His death (Rom 3:21-24) Rule—by my death (6:3-7)	When I received Christ	Justification (Positional Sanctification)
Present	I am being saved	Power—by indwelling Spirit (8:2-14)	As I walk in the Spirit	(Progressive Sanctification)
Future	I shall be saved	Presence—by redemption of my body (8:22-25)	When I get my new body	Glorification (Final Sanctification)



## External Evidence

Support for Pauline authorship is upheld by even the most imaginative critics since the patristic evidence is so early.

1. The early church writers who advocated Paul as author include: Clement of Rome, Polycarp, and others, including the second century Muratonian Fragment.

2. Even the radical German critic F. C. Baur and his Tübingen School considered 1 Corinthians as one of the "four undisputed Epistles."

## Internal Evidence

The book itself argues even more strongly for Paul's authorship as it claims to be written by Paul (1:1).

# Circumstances

## Date

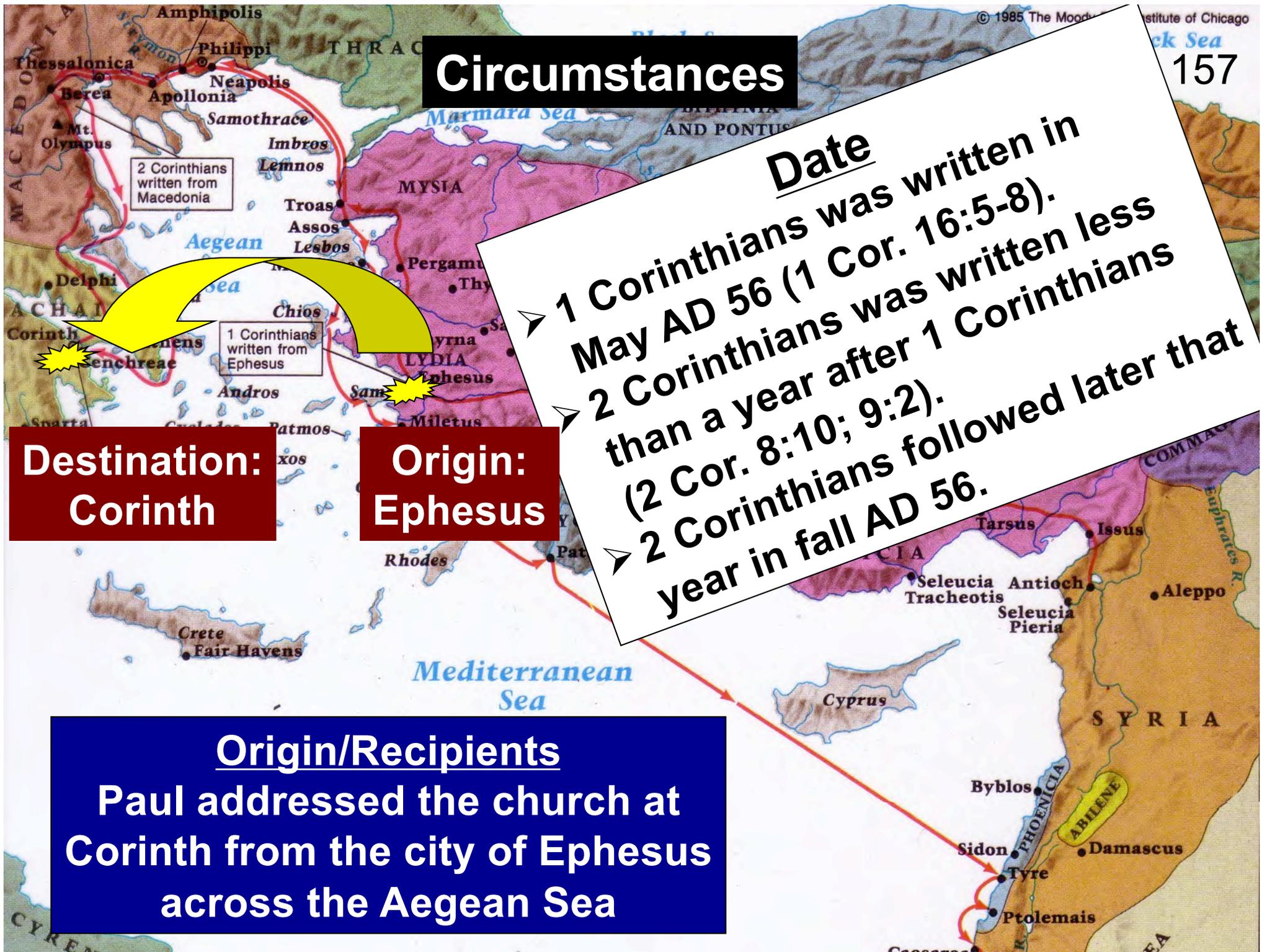
- 1 Corinthians was written in May AD 56 (1 Cor. 16:5-8).
- 2 Corinthians was written less than a year after 1 Corinthians (2 Cor. 8:10; 9:2).
- 2 Corinthians followed later that year in fall AD 56.

**Destination:  
Corinth**

**Origin:  
Ephesus**

## Origin/Recipients

Paul addressed the church at Corinth from the city of Ephesus across the Aegean Sea



## Occasion

Paul received bad news

(1) reports from

(2) reports of

(3) reports of

Therefore, Paul's letter is actually a response to these 3 issues, answering the problems of

1. divisions,
2. disorders and
3. difficulties raised in the church's questions.

from the church itself via three men (16:17).

# 1 Corinthians Characteristics

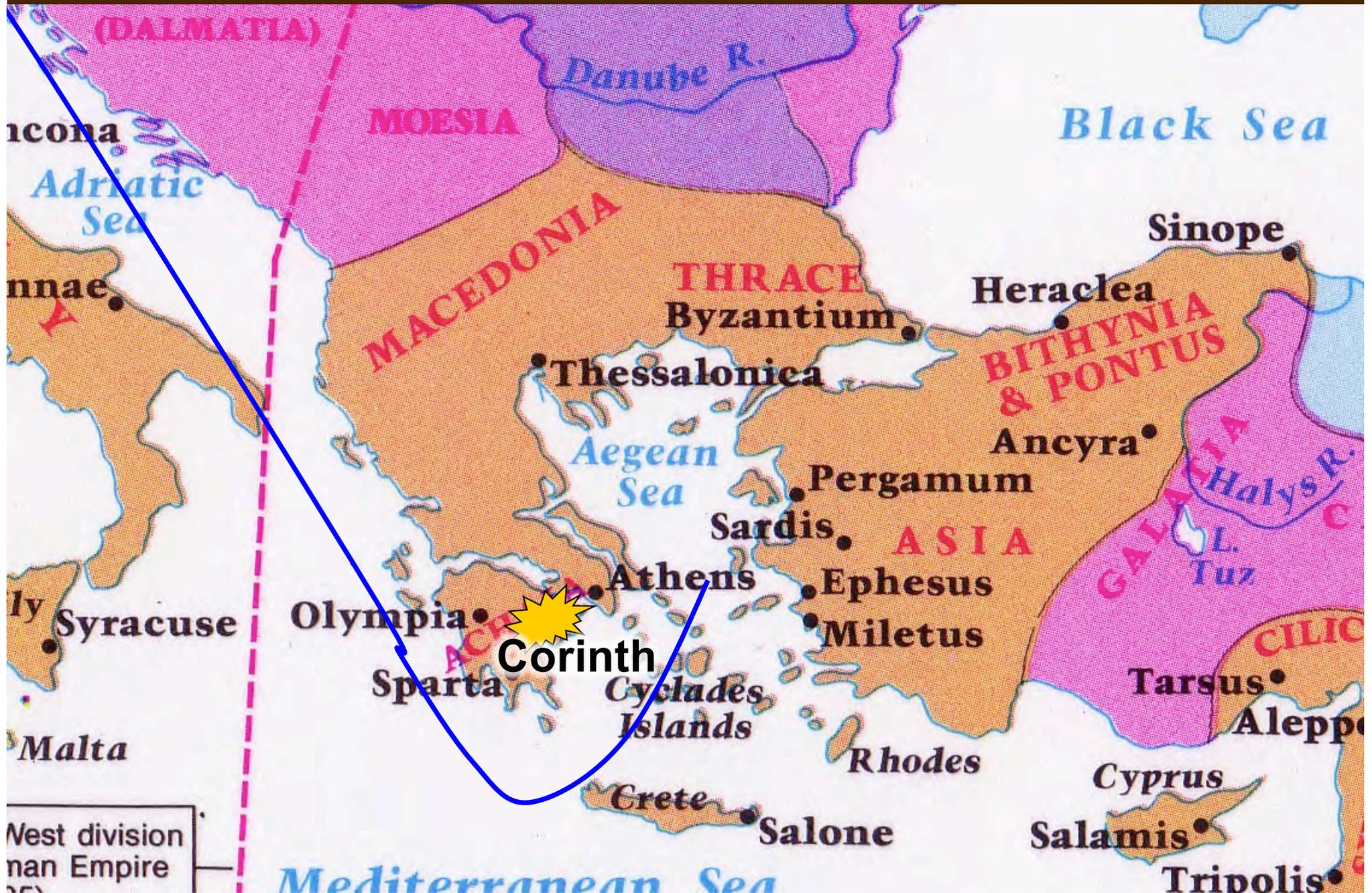
The most troublesome NT church

The most teaching on several topics:

Church discipline  
 Marriage  
 Role of Women  
 Spiritual Gifts  
 Christian liberty  
 Love  
 Gospel  
 Resurrection  
 Lawsuits  
 Lord's Supper

Probably Paul's second letter to Corinth (5:9)  
 He also wrote another letter between our 1 and 2 Cor.  
 So 1 Cor. is actually 2 Cor. and 2 Cor. is actually 4 Cor.

# Corinth: Crossroads of Immorality



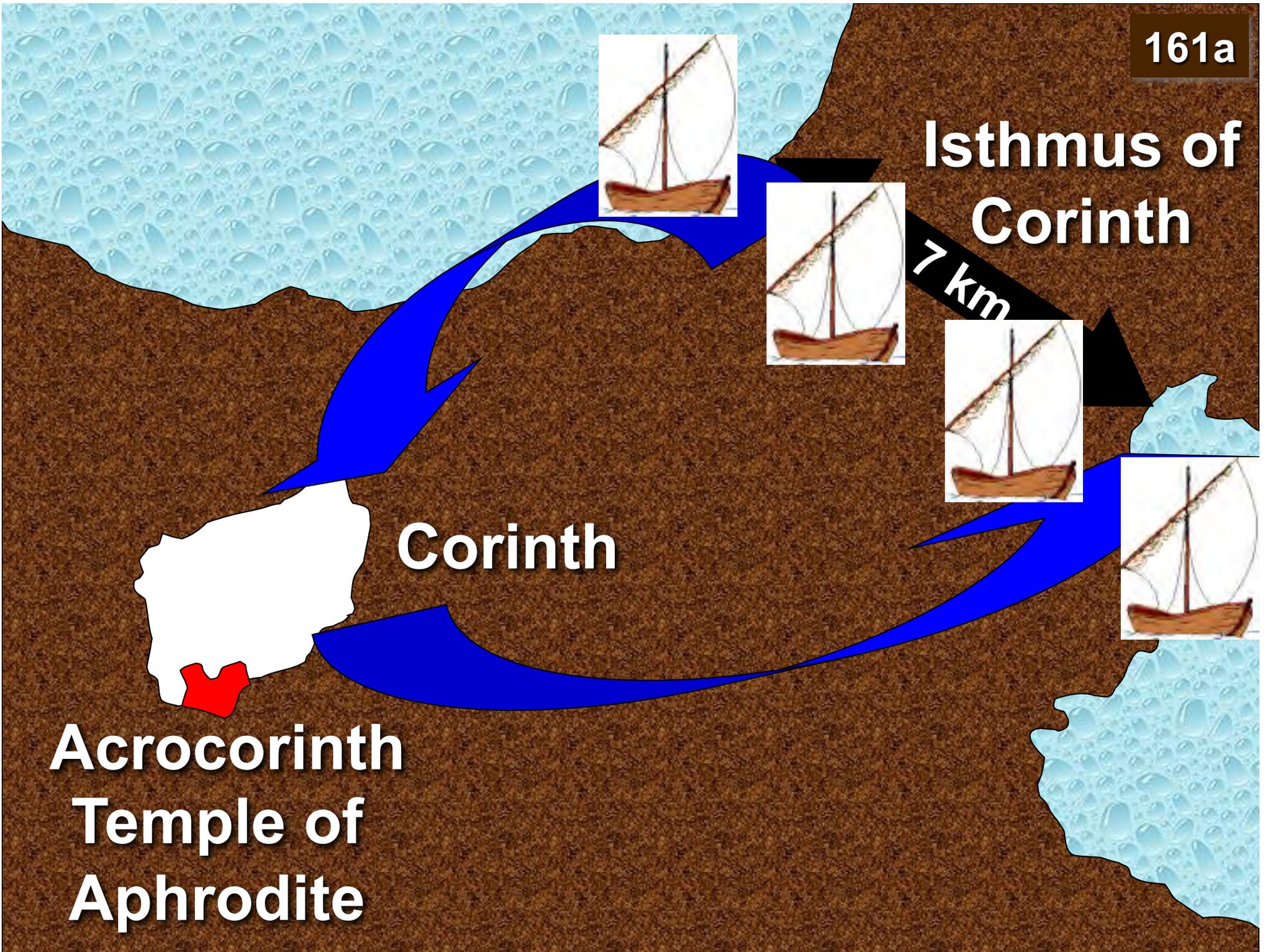
161a

Isthmus of  
Corinth

7 km

Corinth

Acrocorinth  
Temple of  
Aphrodite



# Diolkos at Corinth (First Century)



# Diolkos at Corinth (First Century)



# Diolkos at Corinth (First Century)



# Diolkos at Corinth (First Century)



# Canal at Corinth (built in 1893)



# Canal at Corinth (built in 1893)



# Canal at Corinth (built in 1893)





# Visiting Corinth



# Directions?



Ἔξοδος



**Way Out**



# Station Museum

...the first railway line in the world, the Stockton and Darlington Railway, was opened in 1825. It was a significant milestone in the history of transport, marking the beginning of the railway age. The railway revolutionized travel and trade, connecting distant parts of the world and facilitating the growth of industry and commerce. Today, the railway remains a vital mode of transport, providing a fast and efficient way to travel across the globe.

**ASPIRE BOARD**



**ON THE TRACKS OF HISTORY**

The railway has played a crucial role in the development of the region, connecting the coast to the inland and facilitating the growth of industry and commerce. Today, the railway remains a vital mode of transport, providing a fast and efficient way to travel across the globe.

The railway has played a crucial role in the development of the region, connecting the coast to the inland and facilitating the growth of industry and commerce. Today, the railway remains a vital mode of transport, providing a fast and efficient way to travel across the globe.





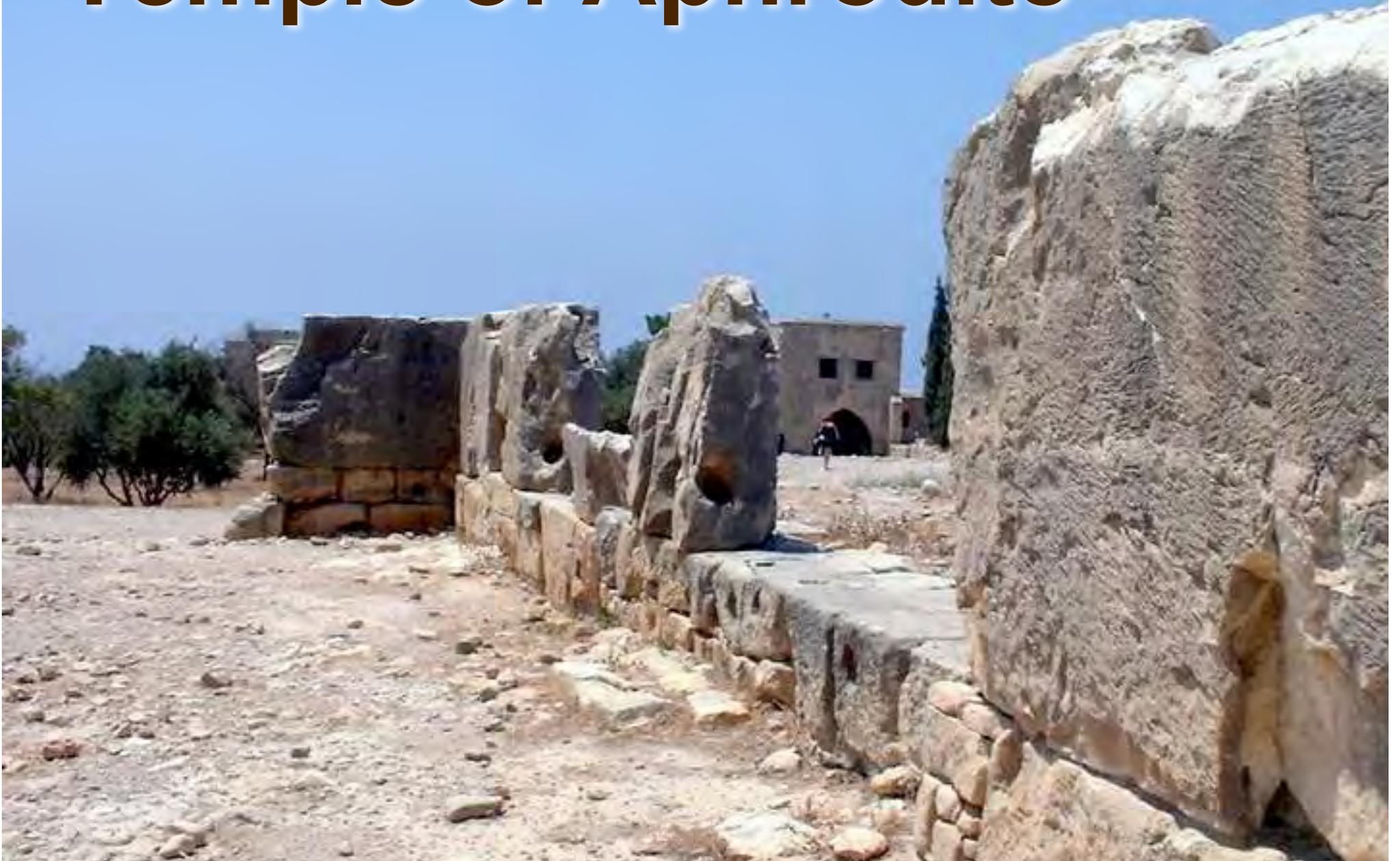
View of Acrocorinth from the City

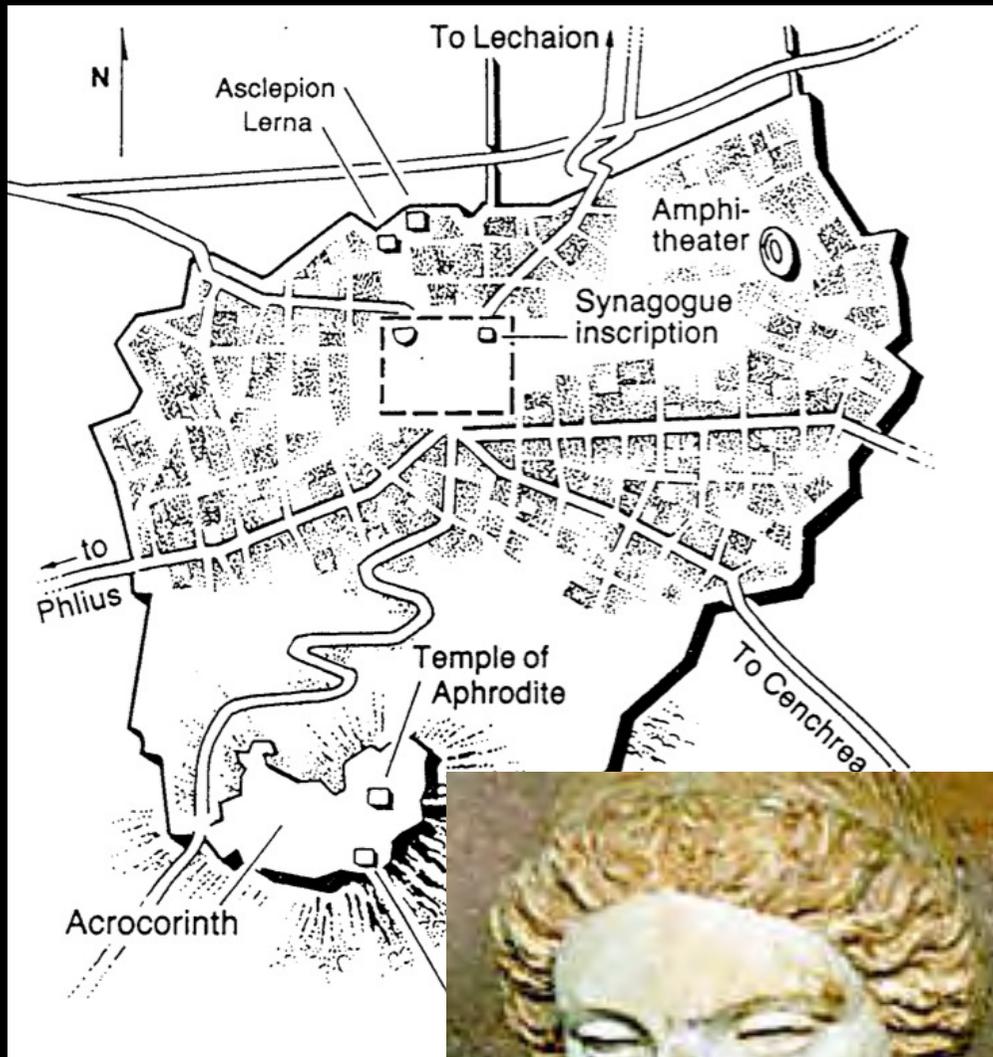


Immorality in  
All Seasons

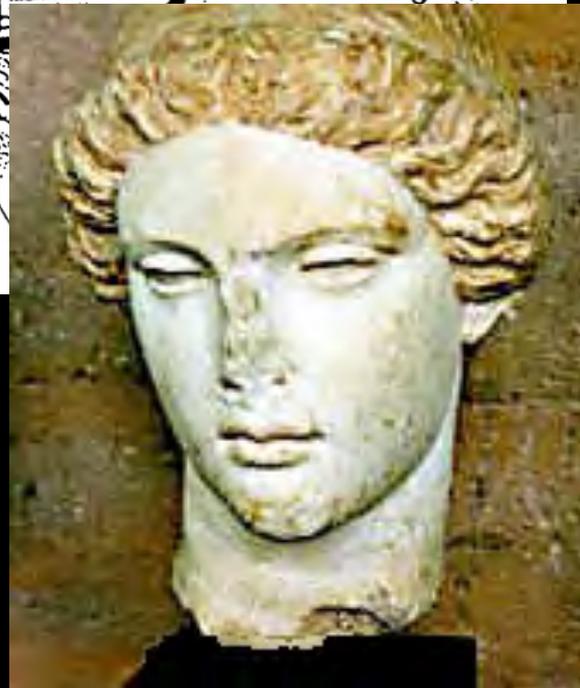


# Temple of Aphrodite





# Temple of Aphrodite



*Greek  
Goddess  
of Love*



# Meaningless Worship

***"If I speak with the tongues of men  
and angels but do not have love,  
I am a noisy gong or a clanging  
cymbal" (1 Cor. 13:1)***

# Characteristics of 1 Corinthians

Describes the most problematic church situation in the New Testament. It therefore contains a theology of how God responds graciously but firmly to a church.

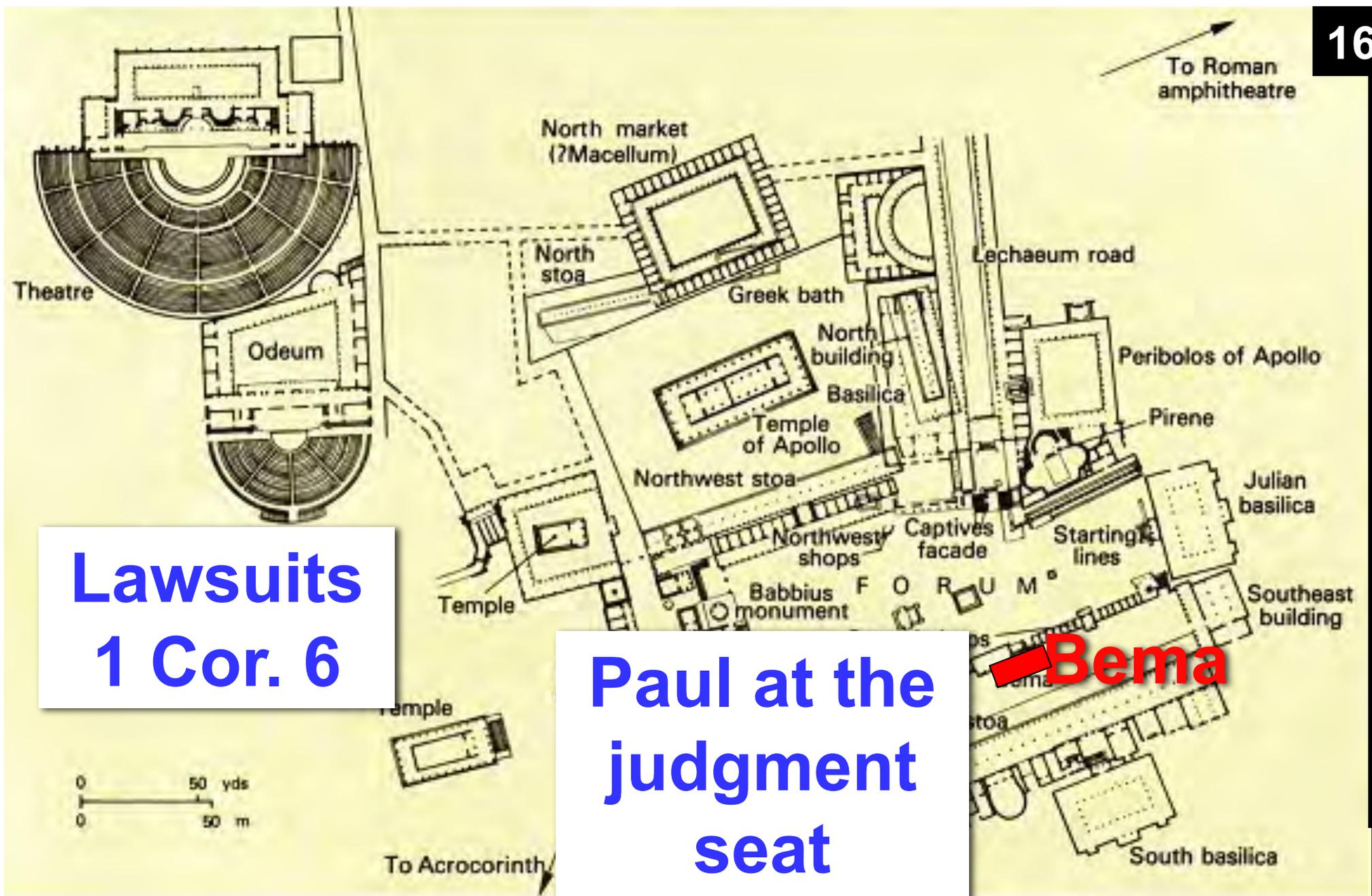
Provides more teaching on these topics than any other New Testament writing: church discipline, lawsuits among believers, marriage, Christian liberty, the role of women, the spiritual gifts, the gospel, and the union of the body.

This letter, though named 1 Corinthians, was not Paul's 1st letter to the church. He had already written a letter before this (1 Cor. 5:9) which is now lost and therefore not part of Scripture.

"Do not keep silent; for I am with you,  
and no one will attack you to hurt you; for  
I have many people in this city."—Acts 18:9–10



# The Agora (Marketplace)



**Lawsuits  
1 Cor. 6**

**Paul at the  
judgment  
seat  
Acts 18**

**Bema**

**The Bema at Corinth**

**(Chs. 1–4) Paul answers Chloe's report of divisions with the absurdity of exalting favorite teachers since their message is Christ crucified and minister simply as Christ's humble servants to convince the church to humble itself.**

**(Chs. 5–6) Paul answers the report of disorders in immorality and lawsuits to enable the Corinthian believers to realize that God has given them ability to make wise decisions to exercise church discipline.**

**(Chs. 7–16) Paul answers questions posed by the church about doctrinal difficulties the believers faced to enable them to make sanctification practical.**

# Be Different



***1 Corinthians***

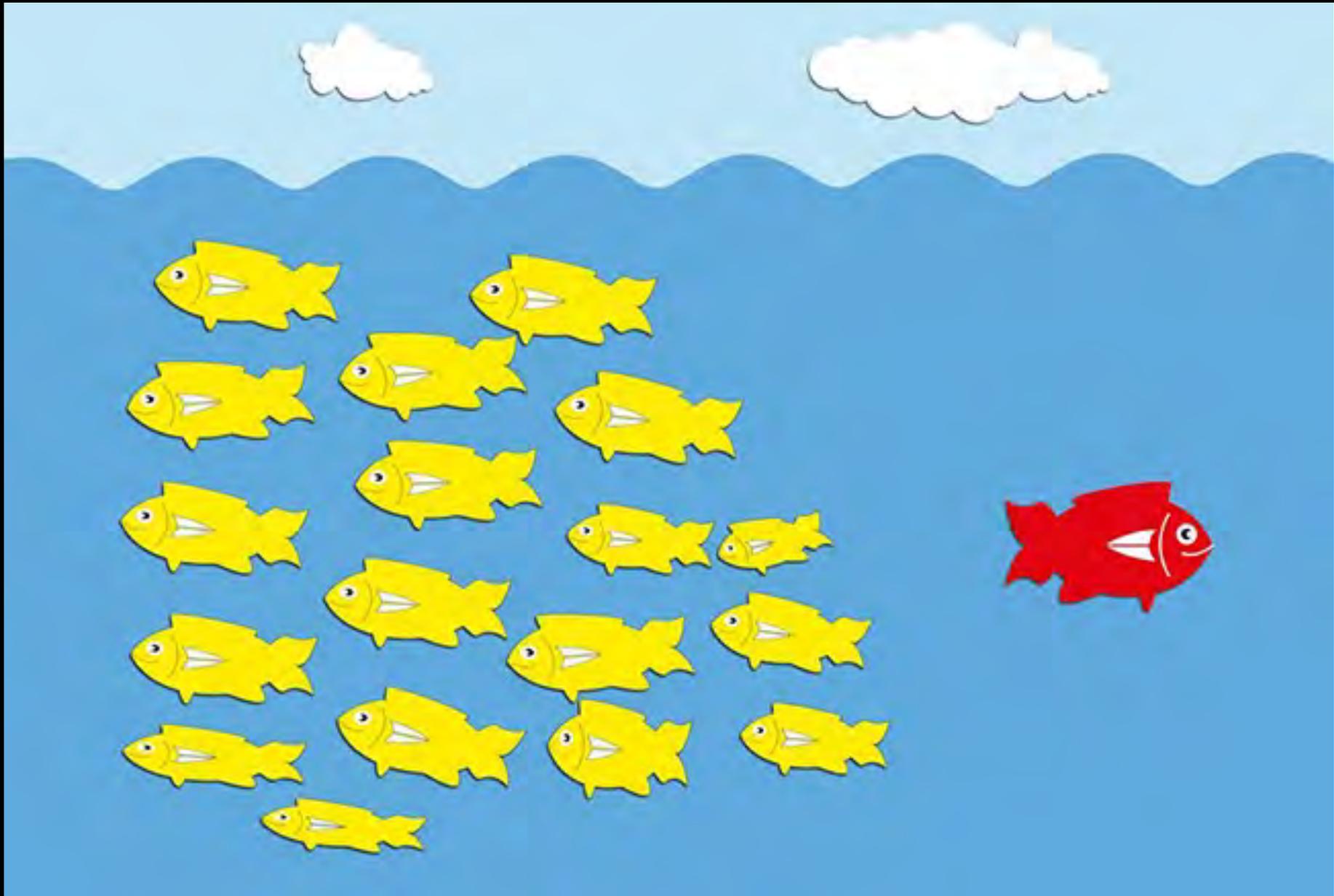
Dr. Rick Griffith • Crossroads International Church Singapore  
BibleStudyDownloads.org

# Herd Mentality



**1 Corinthians**

# Be Different



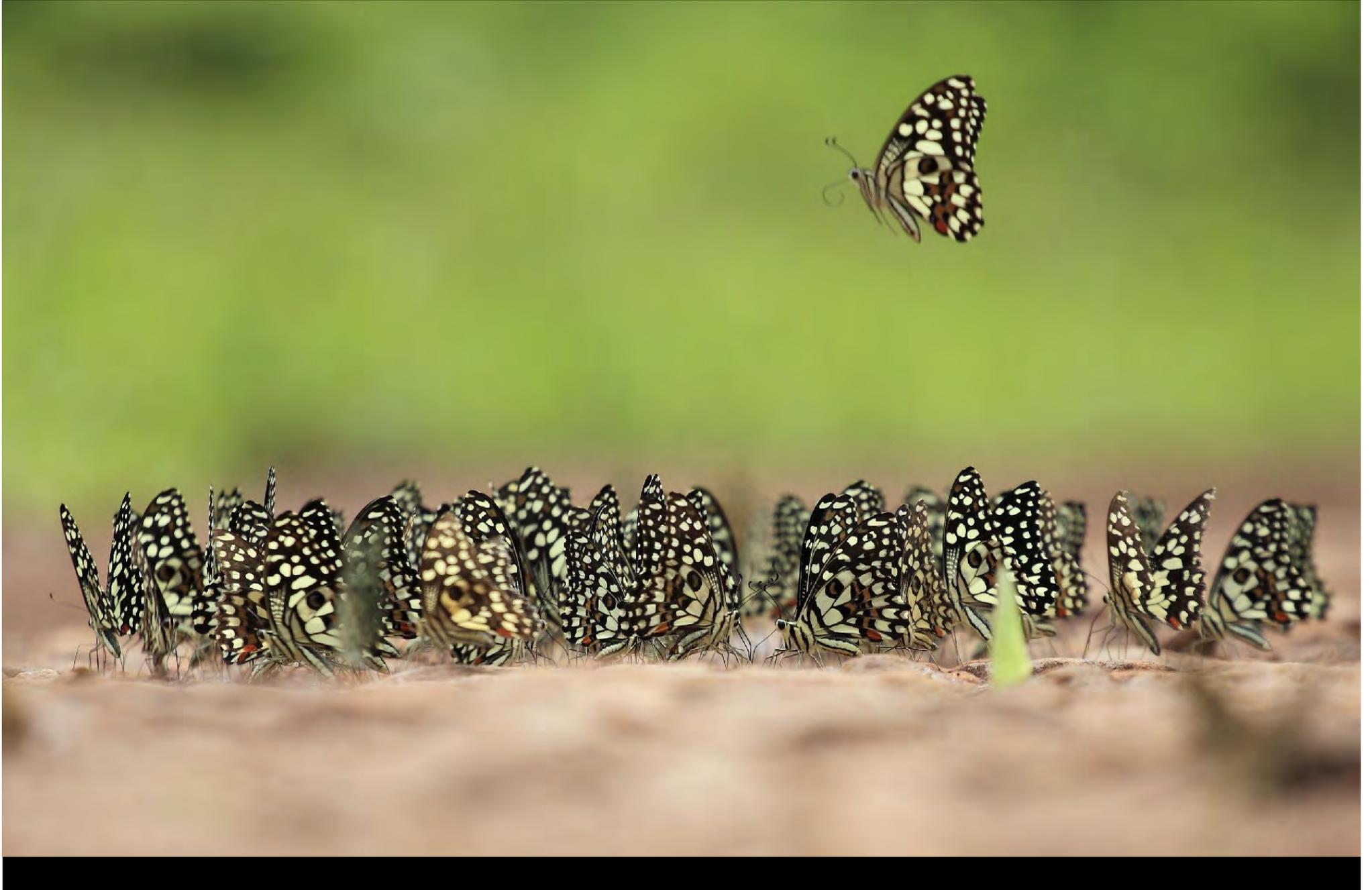
**Be different.**

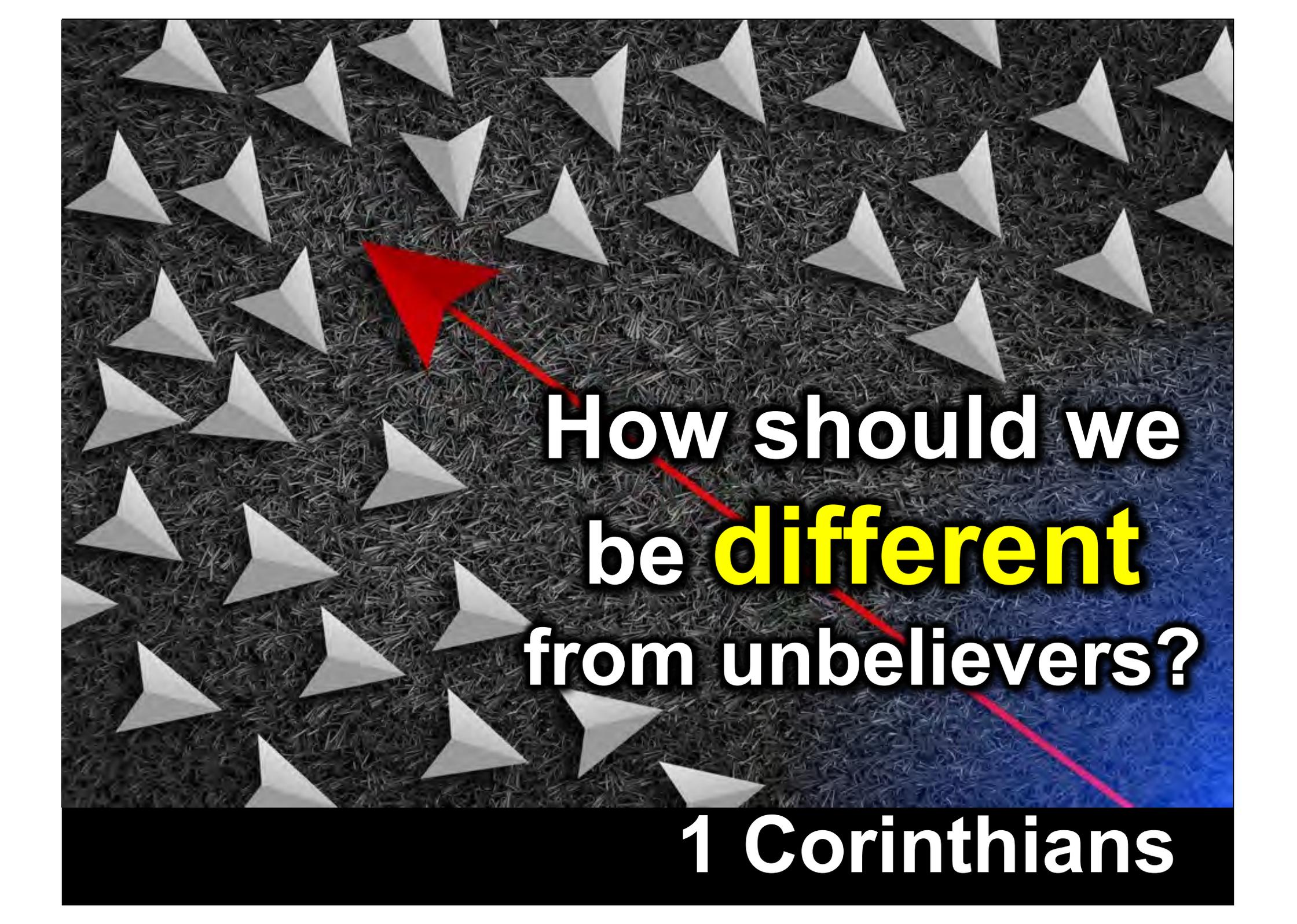




**Be Different**

**“Different” in this book means better.**

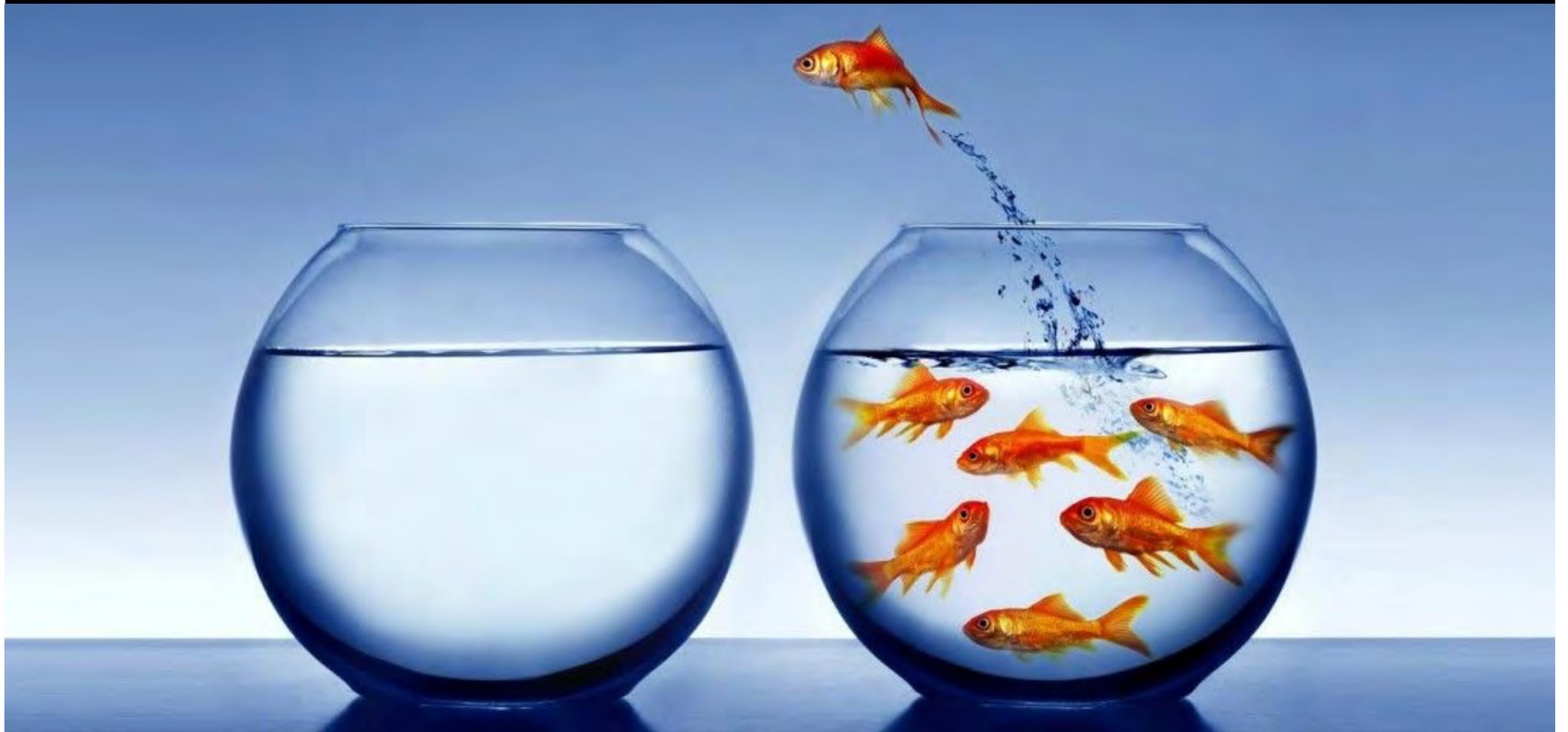




How should we  
be **different**  
from unbelievers?

1 Corinthians

# Background



**God put the Corinthian believers in their dark city to shine as his light.**



# Paul's 1st & 2nd Missionary Journeys 138-39



# Circumstances

## Date

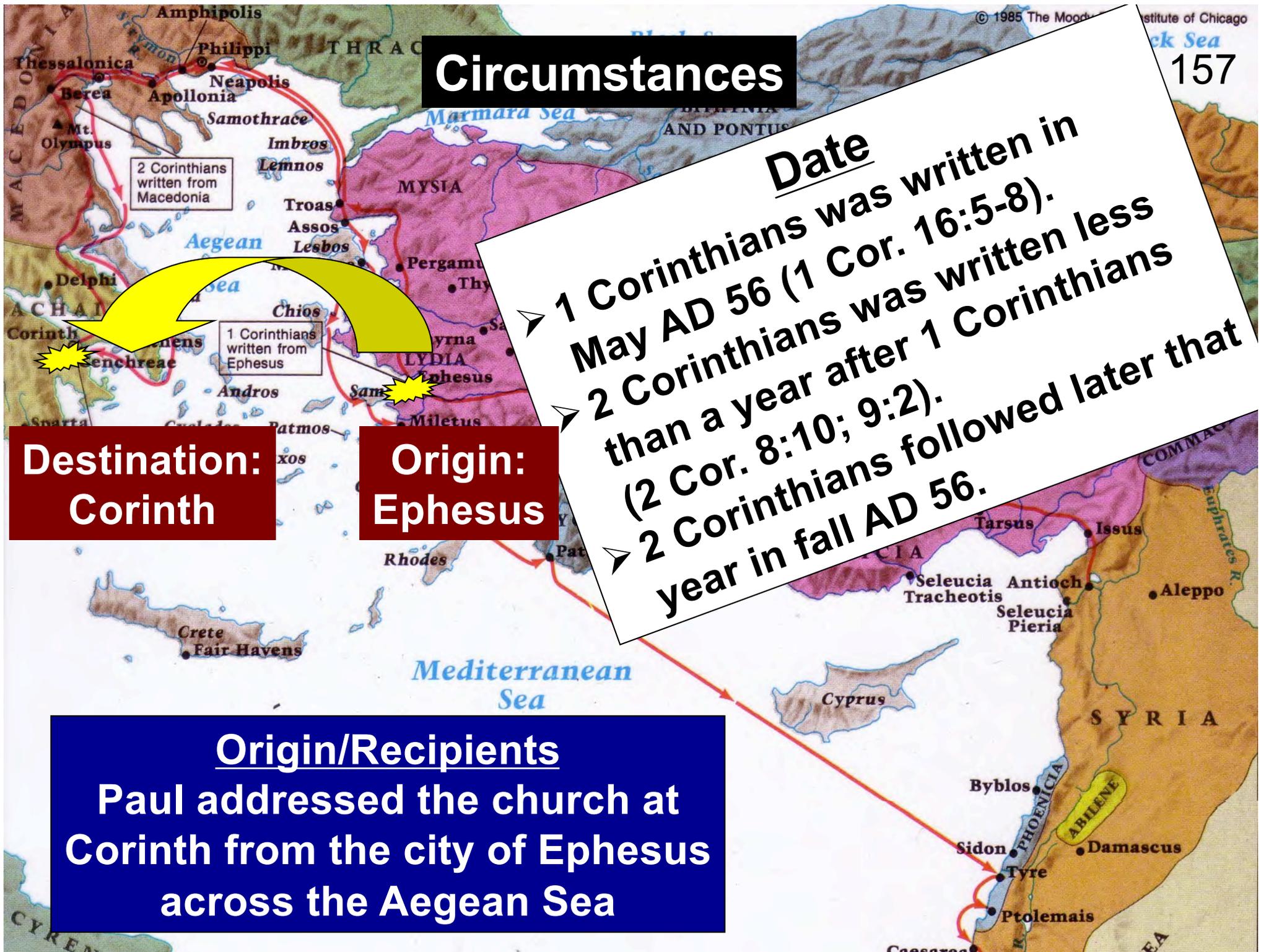
- 1 Corinthians was written in May AD 56 (1 Cor. 16:5-8).
- 2 Corinthians was written less than a year after 1 Corinthians (2 Cor. 8:10; 9:2).
- 2 Corinthians followed later that year in fall AD 56.

**Destination:  
Corinth**

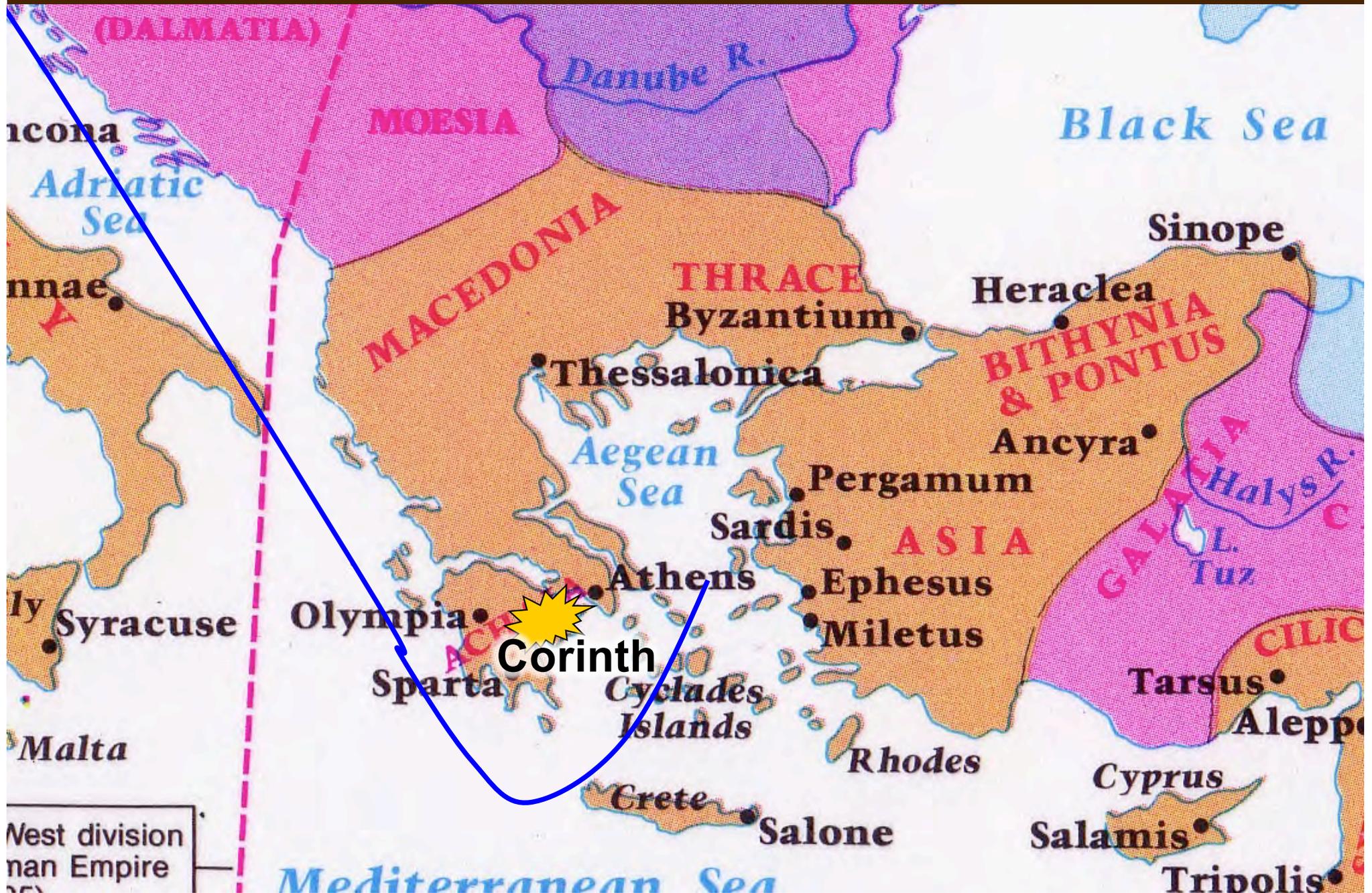
**Origin:  
Ephesus**

## Origin/Recipients

Paul addressed the church at Corinth from the city of Ephesus across the Aegean Sea



# Corinth: Crossroads of Immorality



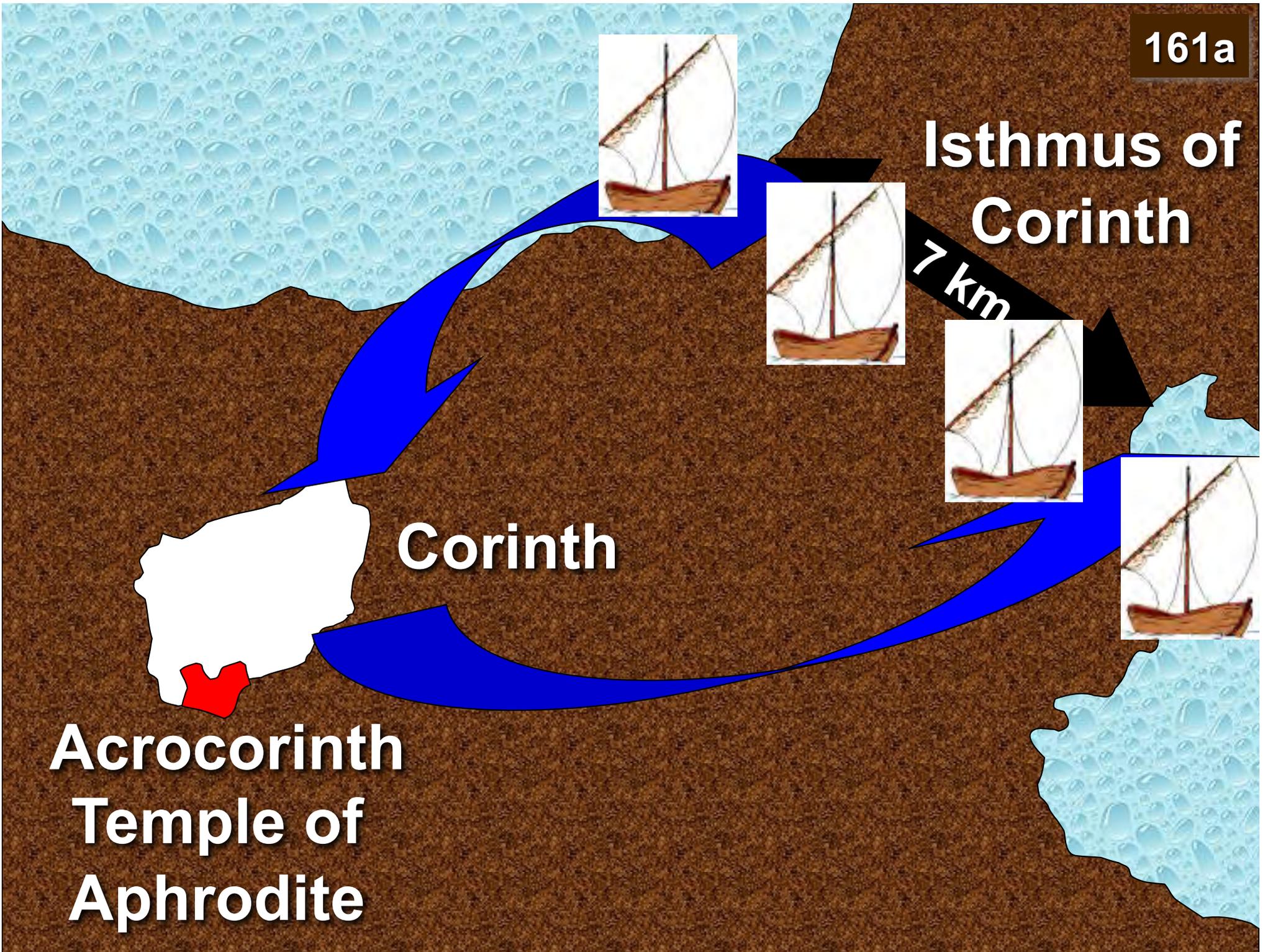
161a

Isthmus of  
Corinth

7 km

Corinth

Acrocorinth  
Temple of  
Aphrodite





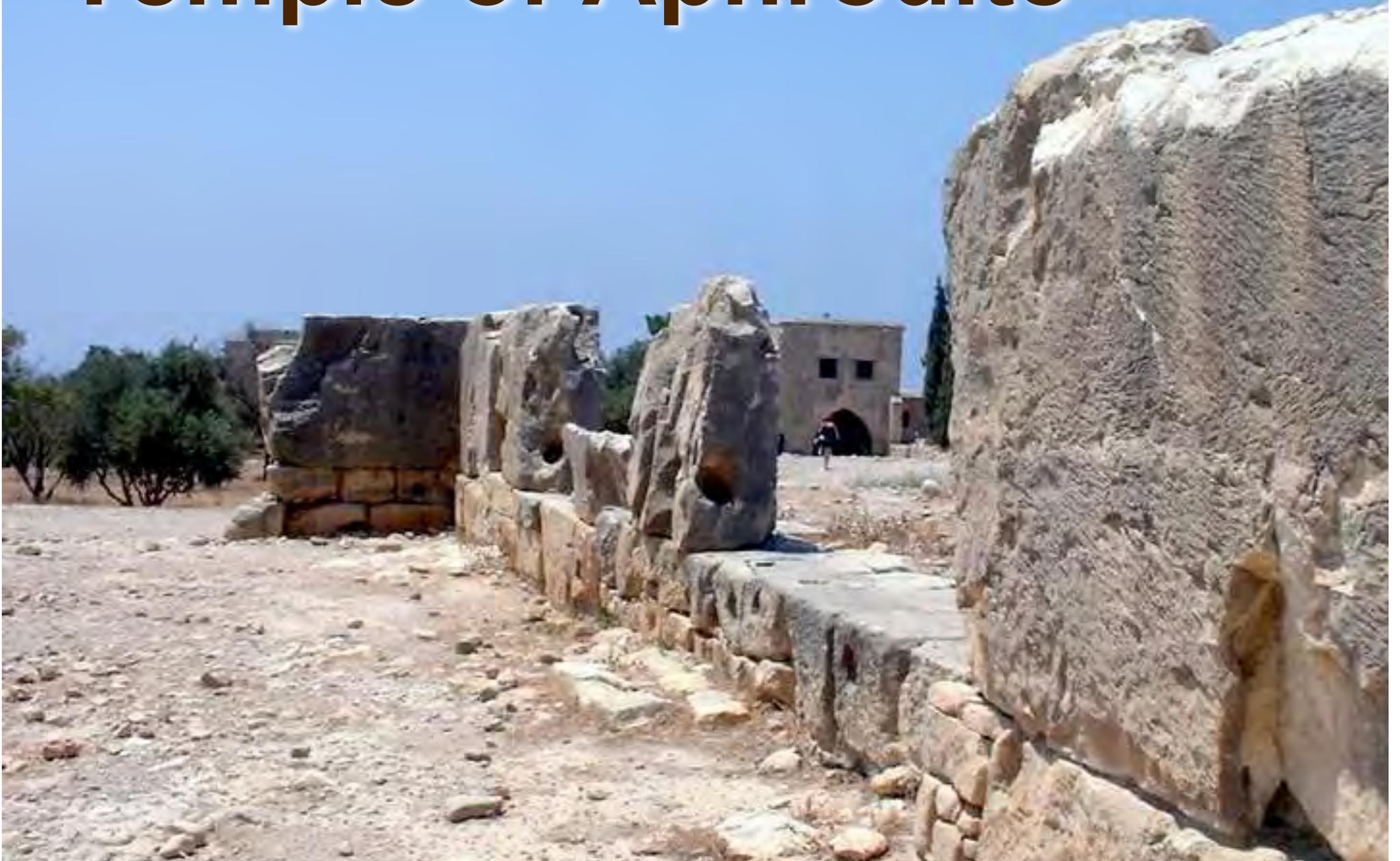
View of Acrocorinth from the City

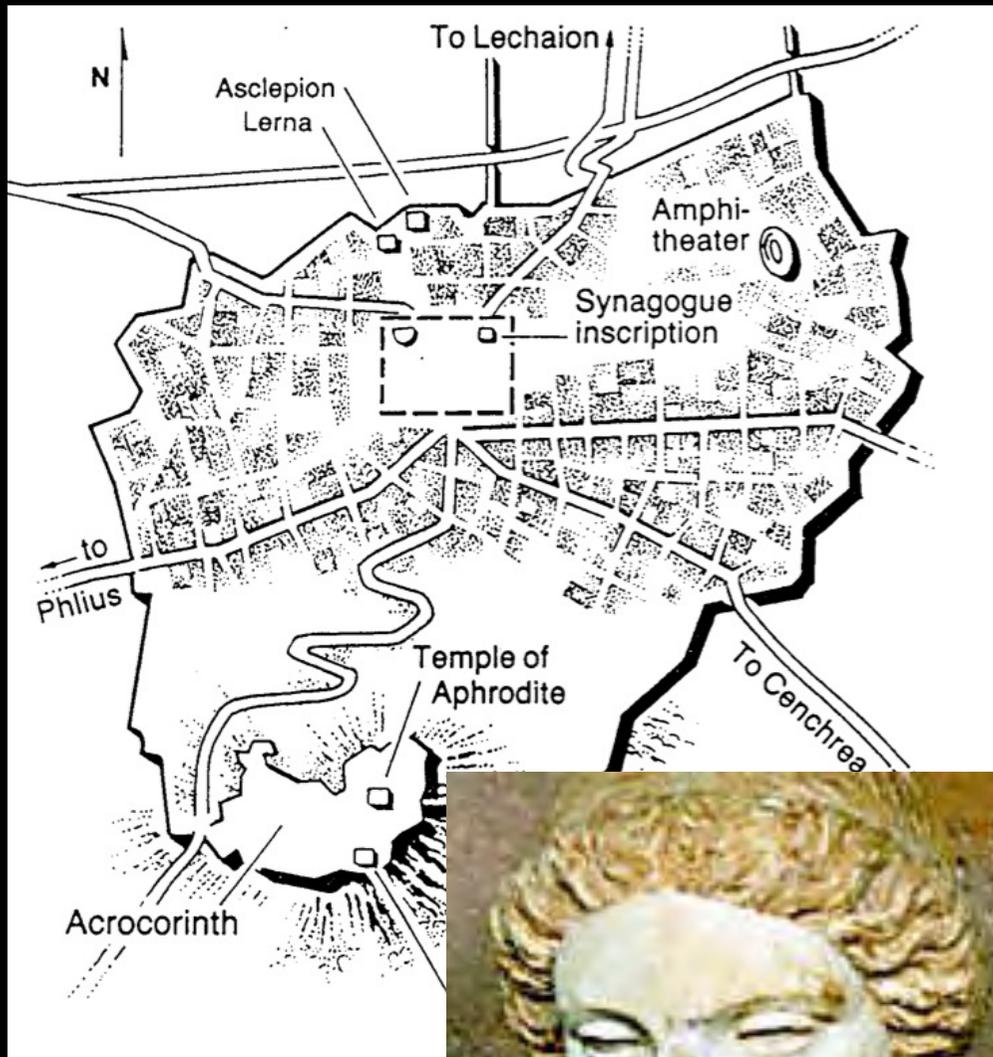


Immorality in  
All Seasons

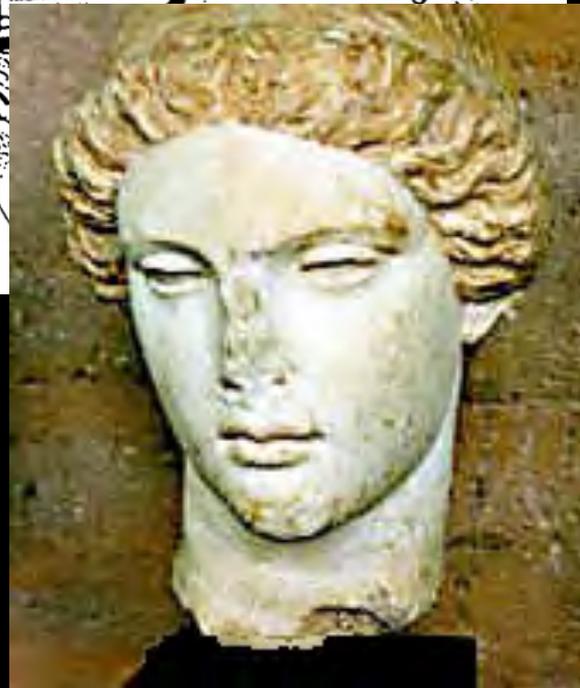


# Temple of Aphrodite



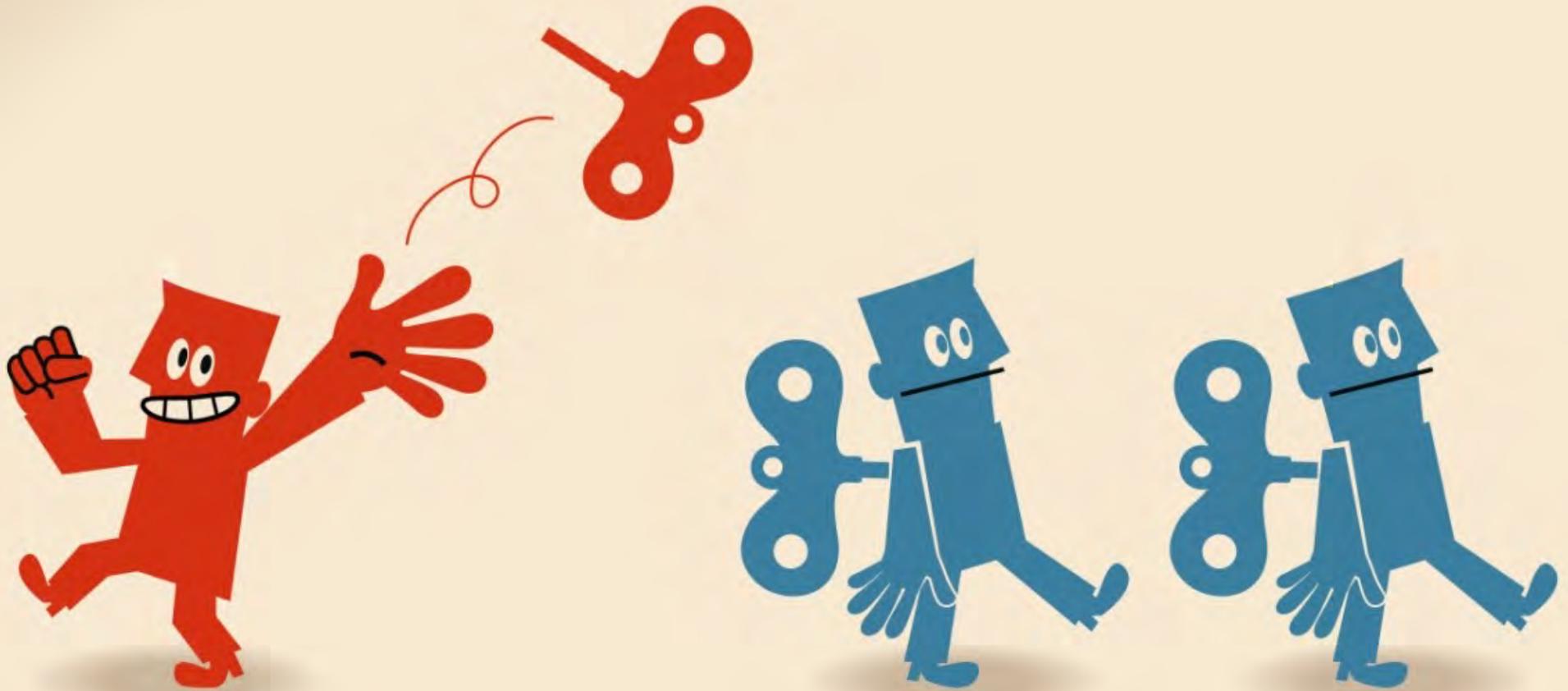


# Temple of Aphrodite



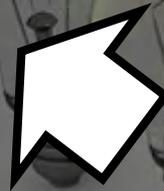
*Greek  
Goddess  
of Love*

**It takes courage not to do  
what everyone else is doing**



*How should we...*

**BE  
UNITED  
(1-4)**



**BE  
DIFFERENT**

**1 Corinthians**

*...from unbelievers?*

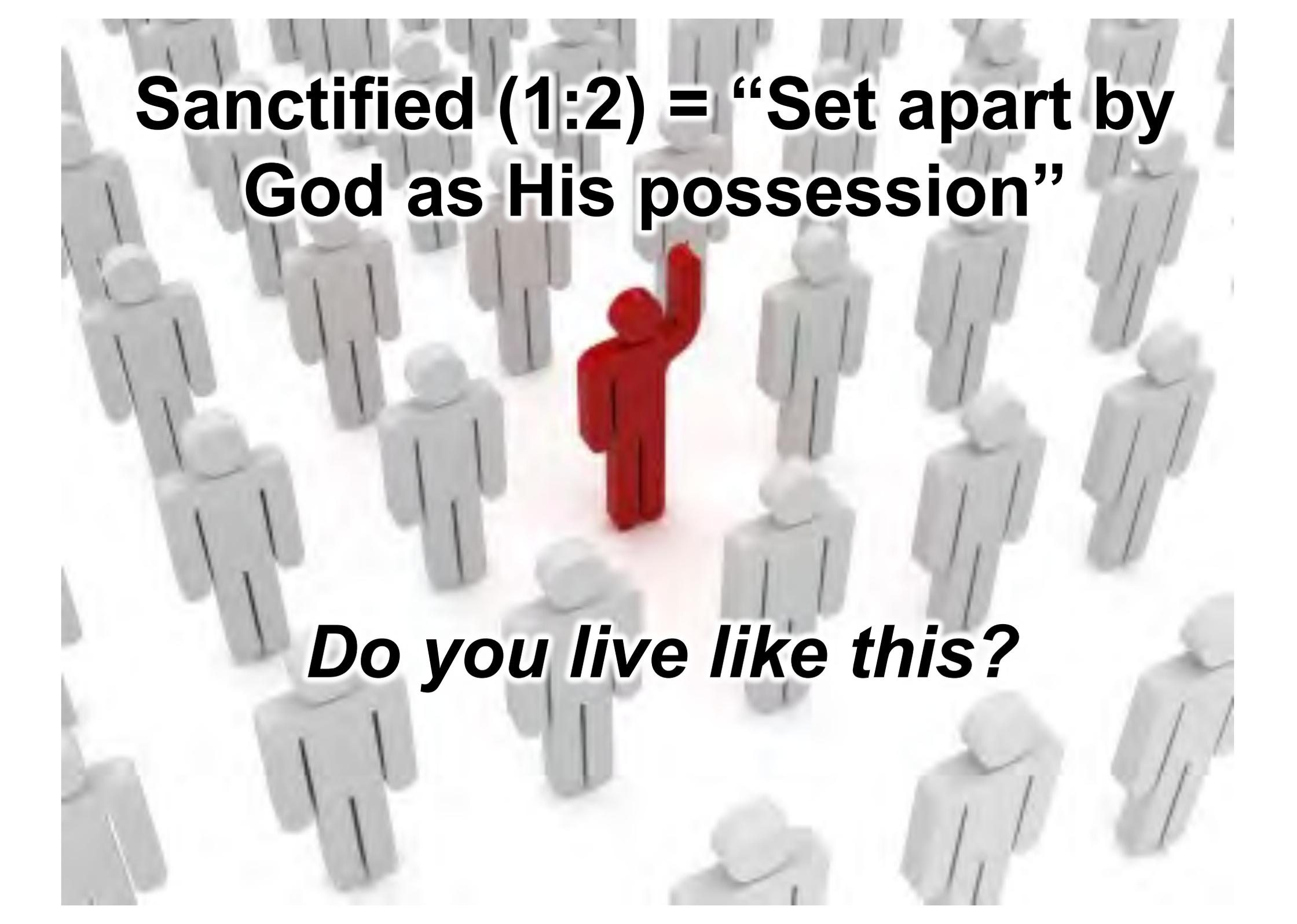
# 1 Corinthians 1

**Key Word**

120

**Sanctification**

**1 Corinthians**

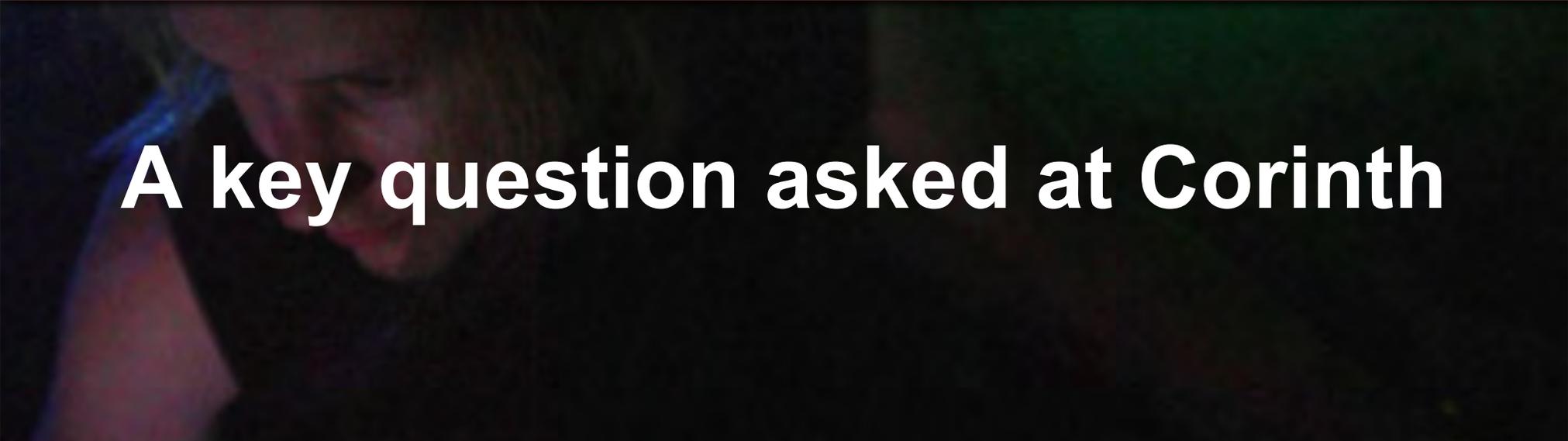
A large crowd of grey 3D human figures is shown from a high angle. In the center of the crowd, one figure is colored red and stands out. This red figure has its right arm raised, pointing upwards. The background is a plain, light-colored surface.

**Sanctified (1:2) = “Set apart by  
God as His possession”**

***Do you live like this?***



***Which* church leader  
should we follow?**



**A key question asked at Corinth**



I. Don't **divide** over  
favorite leaders  
(1:10-17)

# Parties at Corinth

**P**

**A**

**P**



# **A Newspaper Slip...**

**"What Jesus Saw in a Publican"**

**"What Jesus Saw in a Republican"**



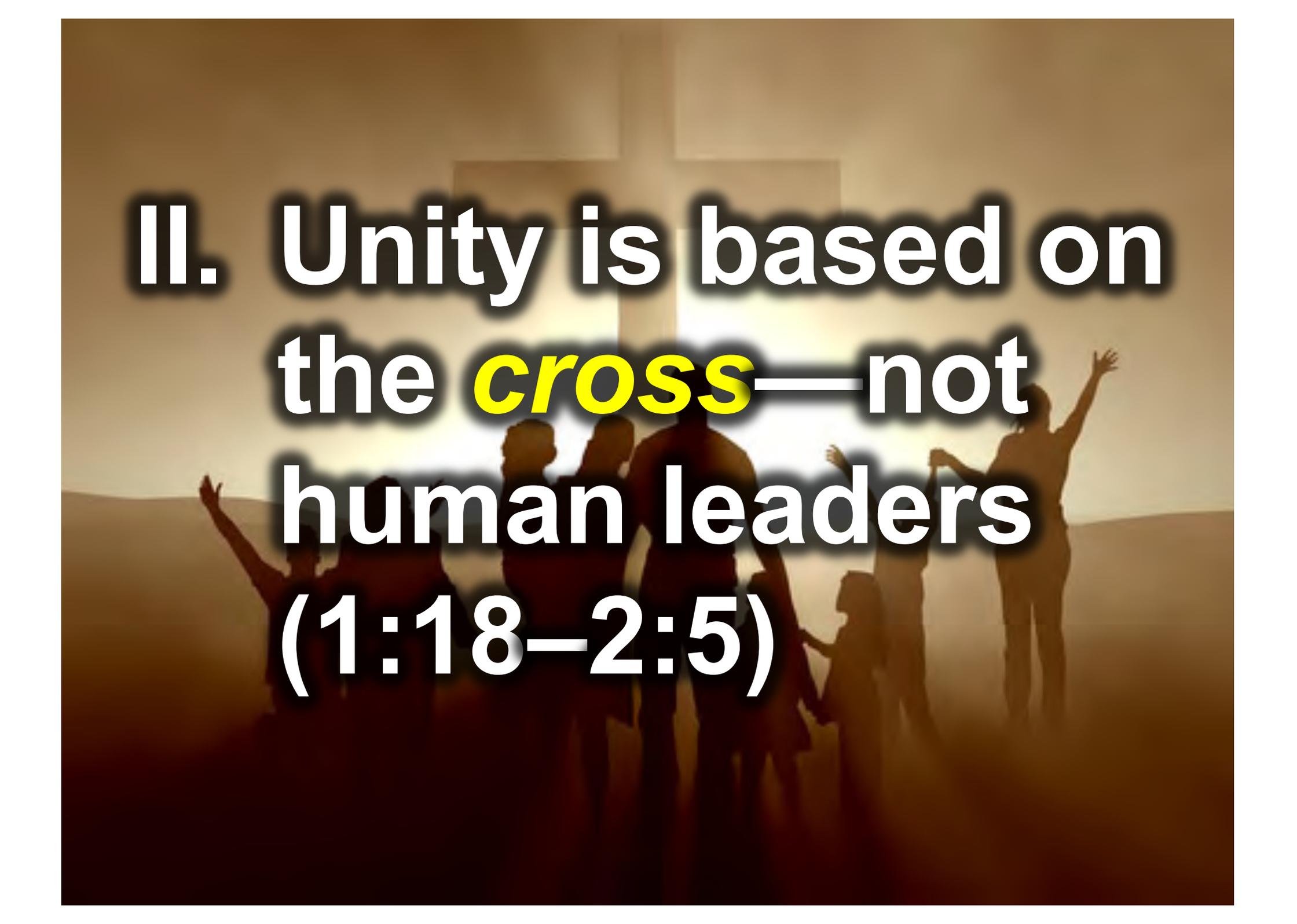
**"In the minutes, should I record this as a 'vigorous theological discussion' or a 'serious ecclesiastical debate'?"**

# Parties You Don't Want to Attend!

"Rickpublican"

"Tomocrat"

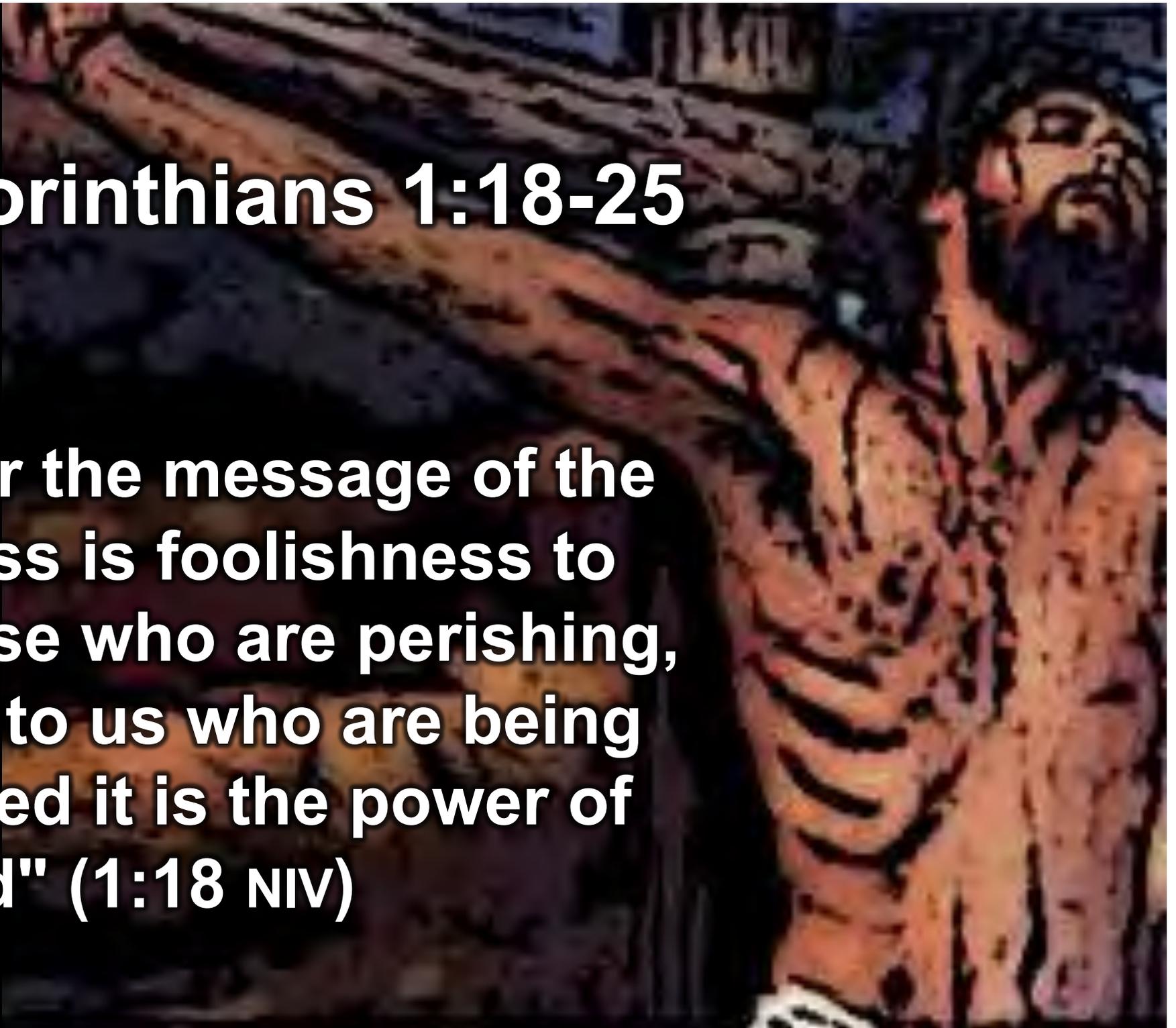




II. Unity is based on  
the **cross**—not  
human leaders  
(1:18–2:5)

# **1 Corinthians 1:18-25**

**"For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God" (1:18 NIV)**



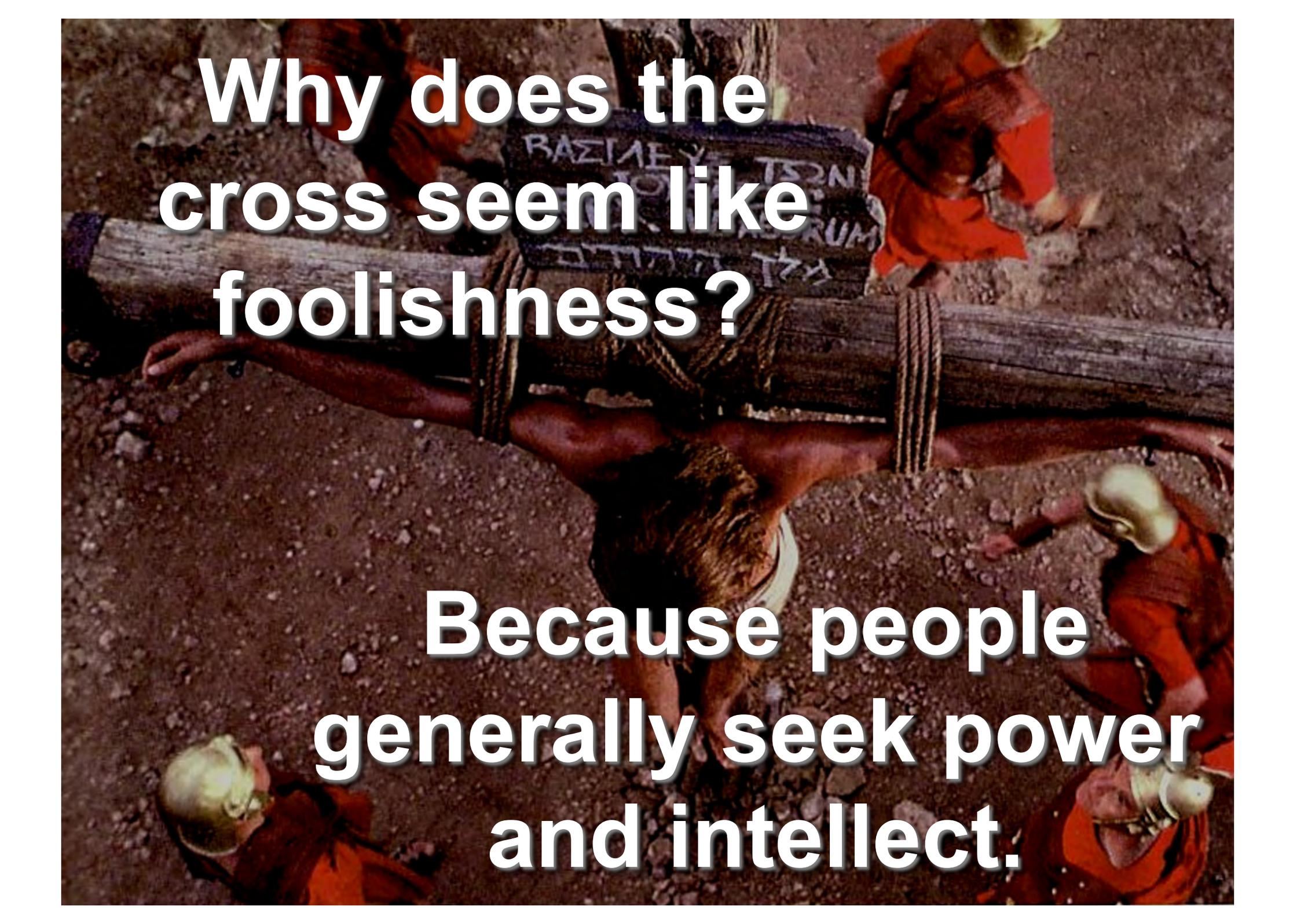
# Marriage Unity



A collage of various photographs showing a diverse group of people, including men and women of different ethnicities, playing drums together in a social setting. The photos are arranged in a grid-like pattern, with some overlapping. The overall atmosphere is one of community and shared activity.

**But what's the  
*source* of unity  
among God's  
people?**

**The Drum Café (UK teambuilding organization)**



**Why does the  
cross seem like  
foolishness?**

**Because people  
generally seek power  
and intellect.**

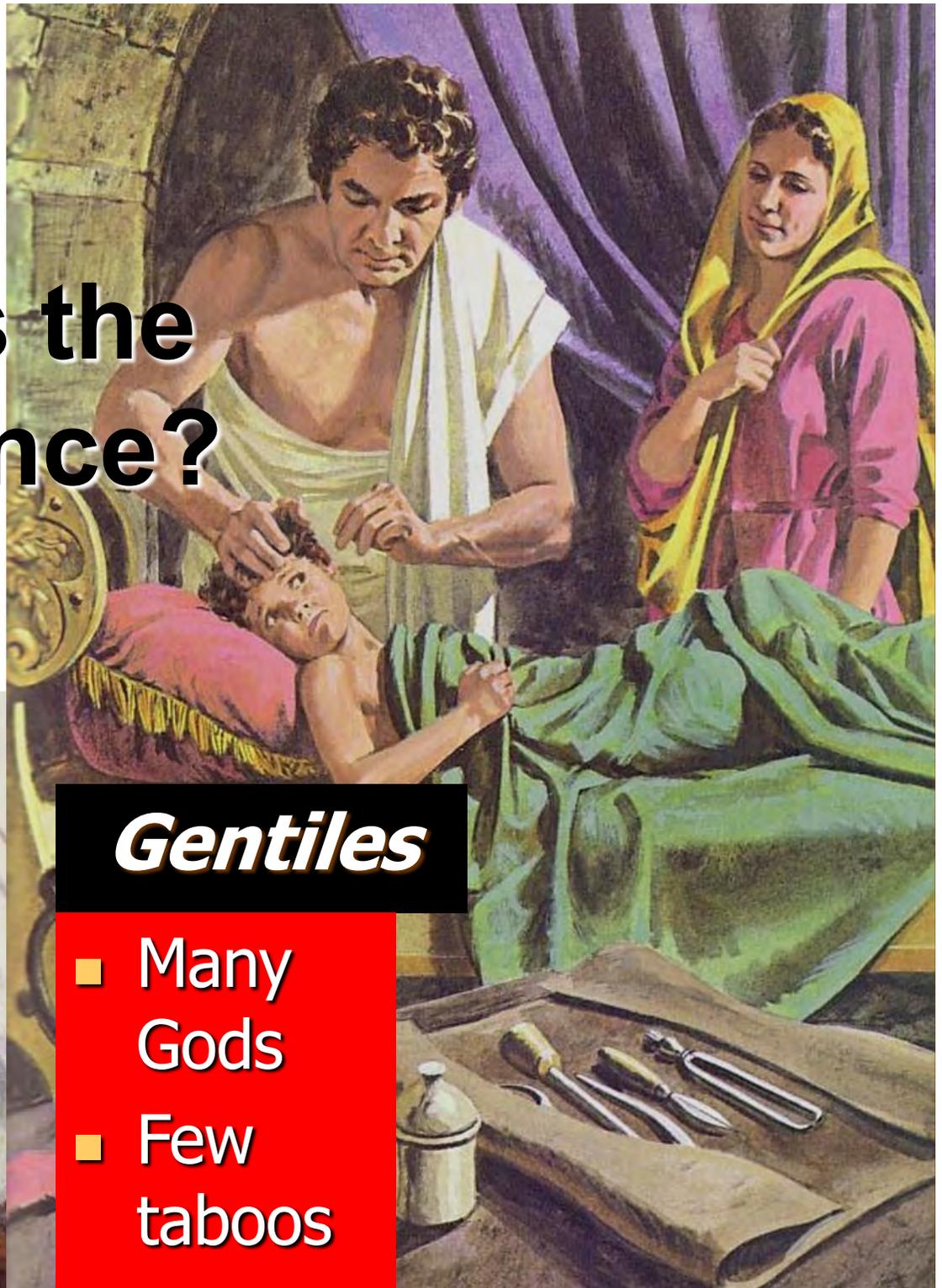
# What's the Difference?

## *Jews*

- One God
- Many taboos

## *Gentiles*

- Many Gods
- Few taboos



# East Meets West



**Power!**

**Jews**

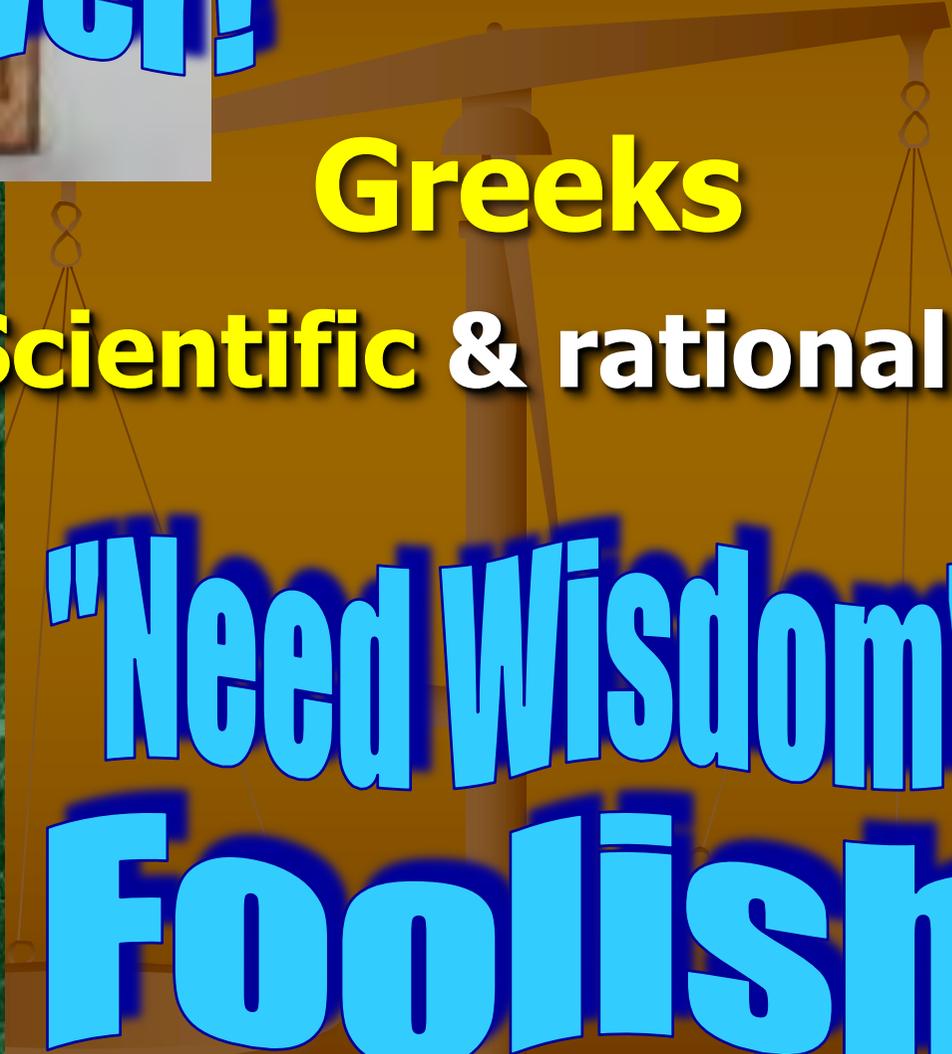
- **Experiential**

**"Need a Sign"**

**Offensive**

**Greeks**

- **Scientific & rational**



**"Need Wisdom"**

**Foolish**

# Paul's Key Point of 1 Cor. 1:

Don't divide over leaders  
because the **gospel** is  
based on a **crucified** man.



# How can we put the cross first?

**1. Don't idolize  
Christian  
leaders**

**2. Speak  
positively of  
leaders**

**3. Compliment  
without  
comparing**

**4. Submit to  
the elders**

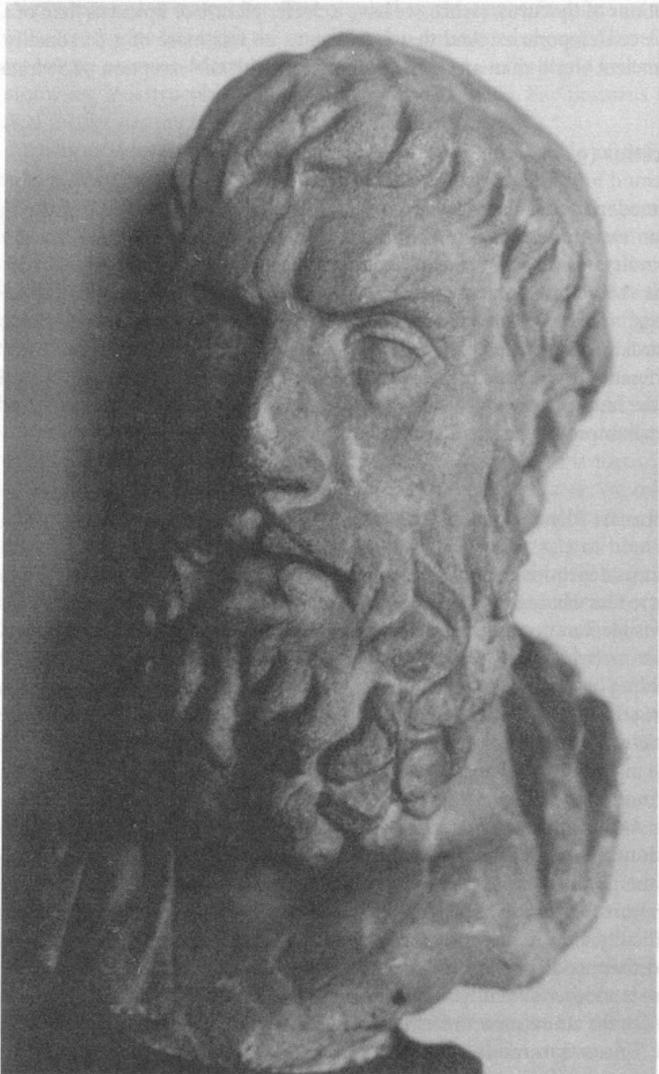


# 1 Corinthians 2

# Philosophies at Athens



# Epicureans and Stoics at the Parthenon



EPICURUS

Epicurus had more loyal followers than any other Hellenistic philosopher and created close-knit communities with similarities to Christian communities. (Borghese Museum, Rome)



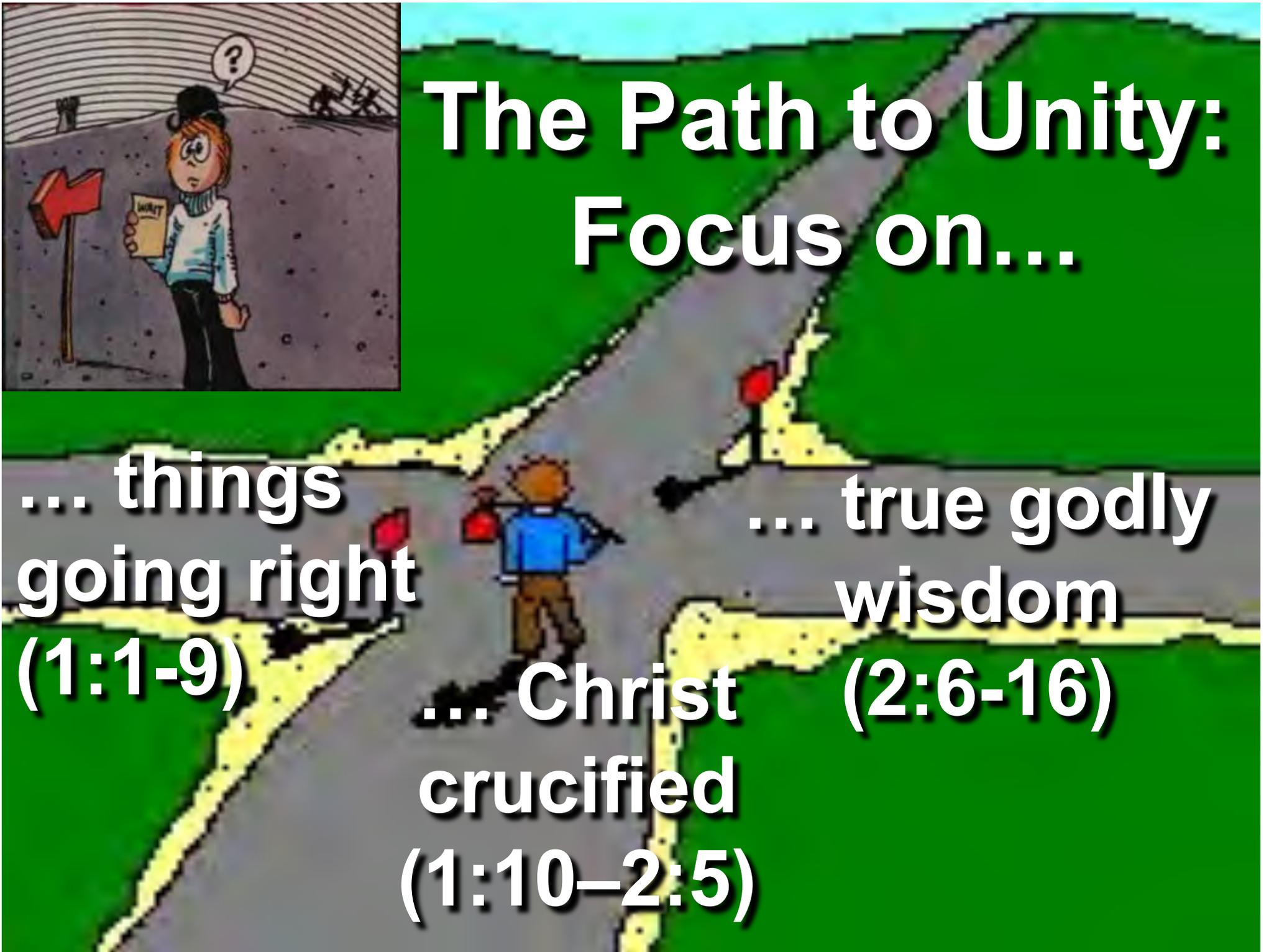


# The Path to Unity: Focus on...

... things  
going right  
(1:1-9)

... Christ  
crucified  
(1:10–2:5)

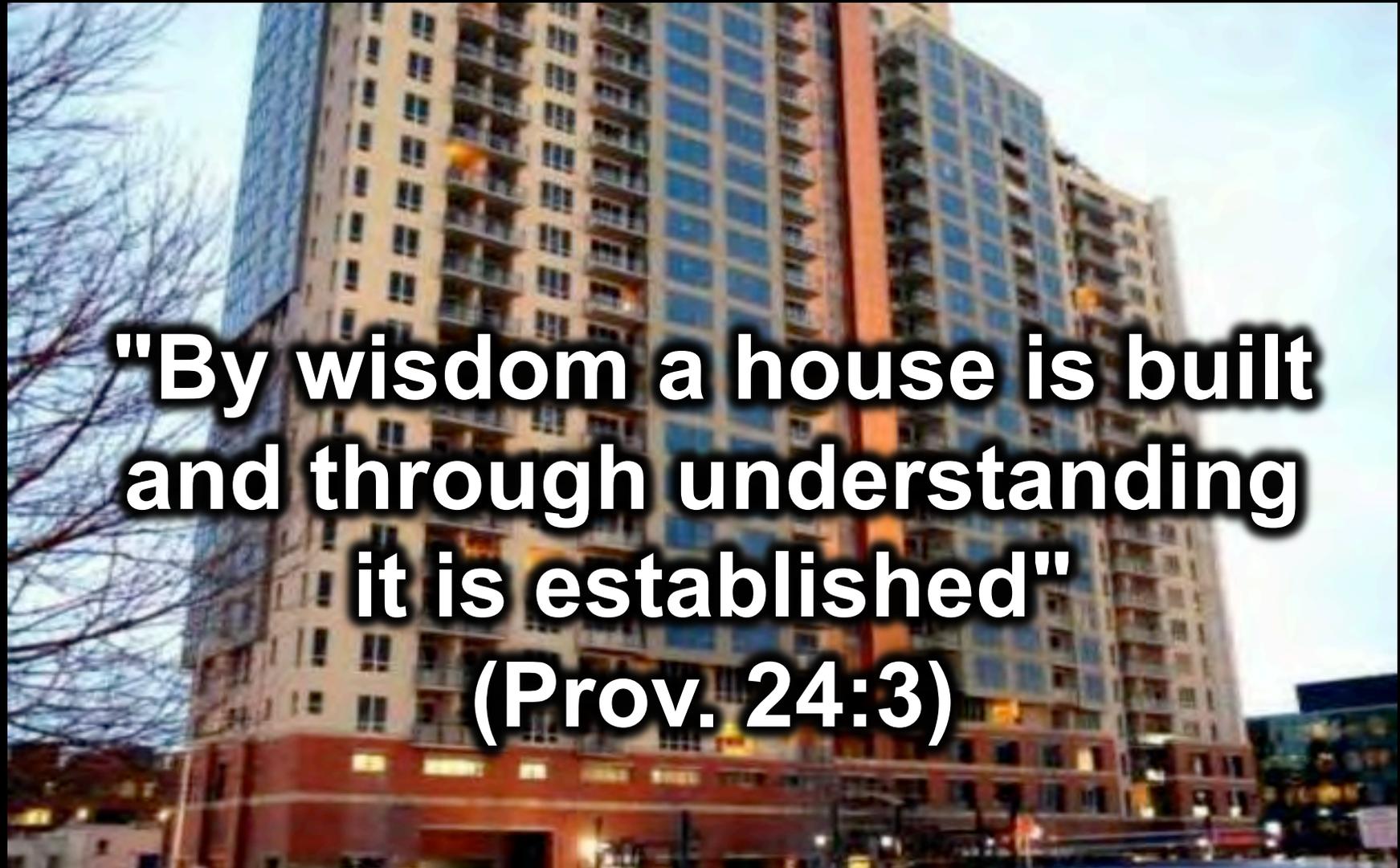
... true godly  
wisdom  
(2:6-16)



I. The gospel is God's secret message of **wisdom** that the world rejects (2:6-10).



**A. Believers do speak wisdom--  
God's wisdom (2:6)**



**"By wisdom a house is built  
and through understanding  
it is established"  
(Prov. 24:3)**

# Types of Wisdom



**vs.**



**Salvation is  
God's free gift**

**"There is no  
such thing as  
a free lunch"**

# Types of Wisdom



**vs.**



**God became man**

**God cannot  
become man**

## **B.C. by Johnny Hart**

**It seems to me that since the fall—  
without even thinking it odd—  
that man has had no trouble at all  
believing that he can be God.**

**How he could do this I cannot conceive,  
Tho, he certainly thinks that he can—  
And yet, he cannot bring himself to believe,  
that God can become a man.**

# Types of Wisdom



vs.



**You cannot  
visualize things  
into reality**

**"Just Imagine!"**

# Types of Wisdom



**vs.**



**Explosions  
create chaos  
—not order**

**"Big Bang!"**

# Types of Wisdom



**vs.**



**Sex outside of  
marriage hurts  
everyone**

**"Casual Sex"**

# Types of Wisdom



**vs.**

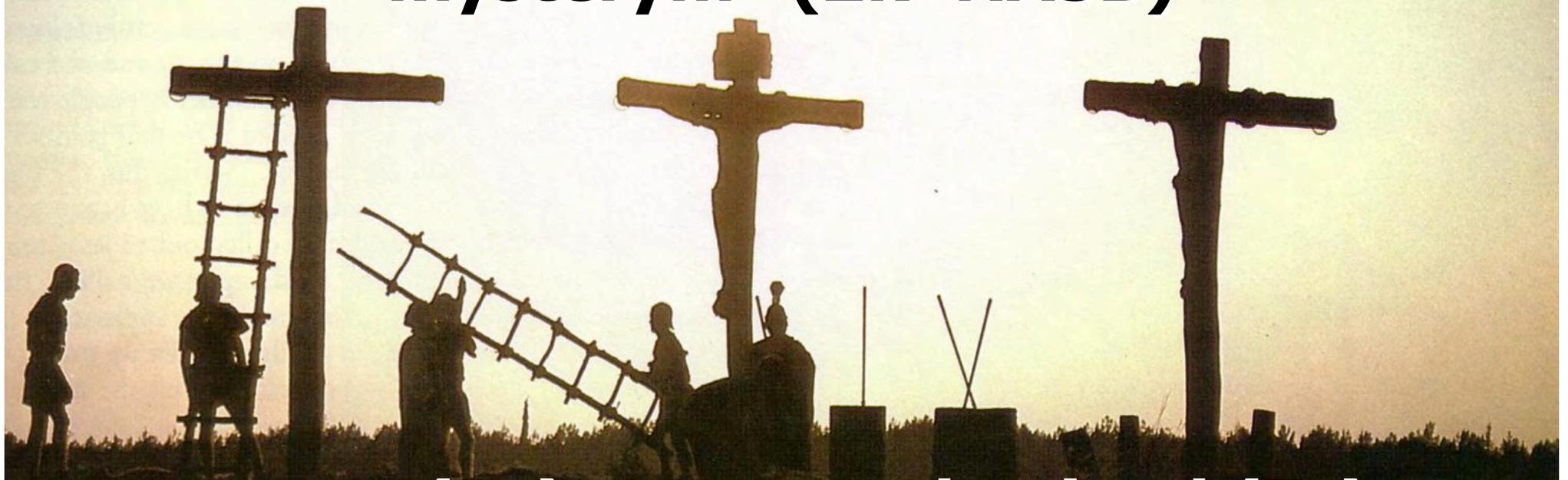


**Character is our  
most vital asset**

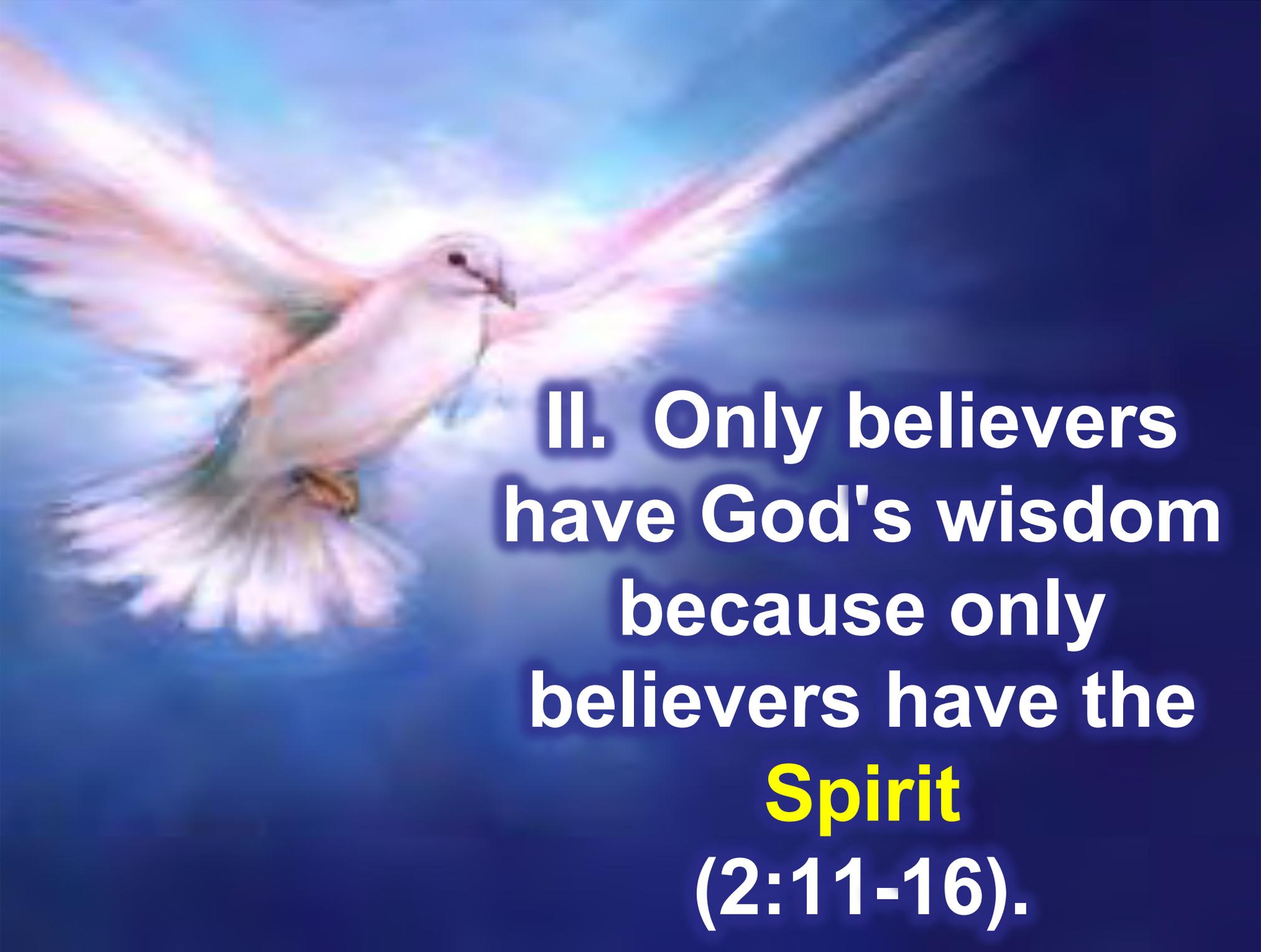
**Education is our  
most vital asset**

## B. Only **believers** understand God's wisdom (2:7-10)

**"but we speak God 's wisdom in a  
mystery..." (2:7 NASB)**



- **secret (7a)**
- **hidden (7b)**
- **predestined (7c)**
- **misunderstood (8)**
- **not even thought about (9-10)**

A white dove is shown in flight, its wings spread wide, against a bright blue sky with soft, white clouds. The dove is positioned on the left side of the frame, flying towards the right. The overall scene is peaceful and symbolic.

**II. Only believers  
have God's wisdom  
because only  
believers have the  
**Spirit**  
(2:11-16).**



Who sits in your chair?

# Types of People



**"Man without the Spirit"  
(Non-Christian)**

**2:14**



**"The Spiritual Man"  
(Christian)**

**2:15**

# The Focal Point of the Text



We can be truly united as a  
church by focusing on  
God's wisdom

# **What does God's wisdom look like?**

**Unity**

**Humility**

**Witnessing**

**Education**

**Bible**

# 1 Corinthians 3

# Church Unity

How can we have it?



# *How to have unity...*

*I. Don't be **carnal** by following only your favorite **leader** (3:1-4)*

# Types of People



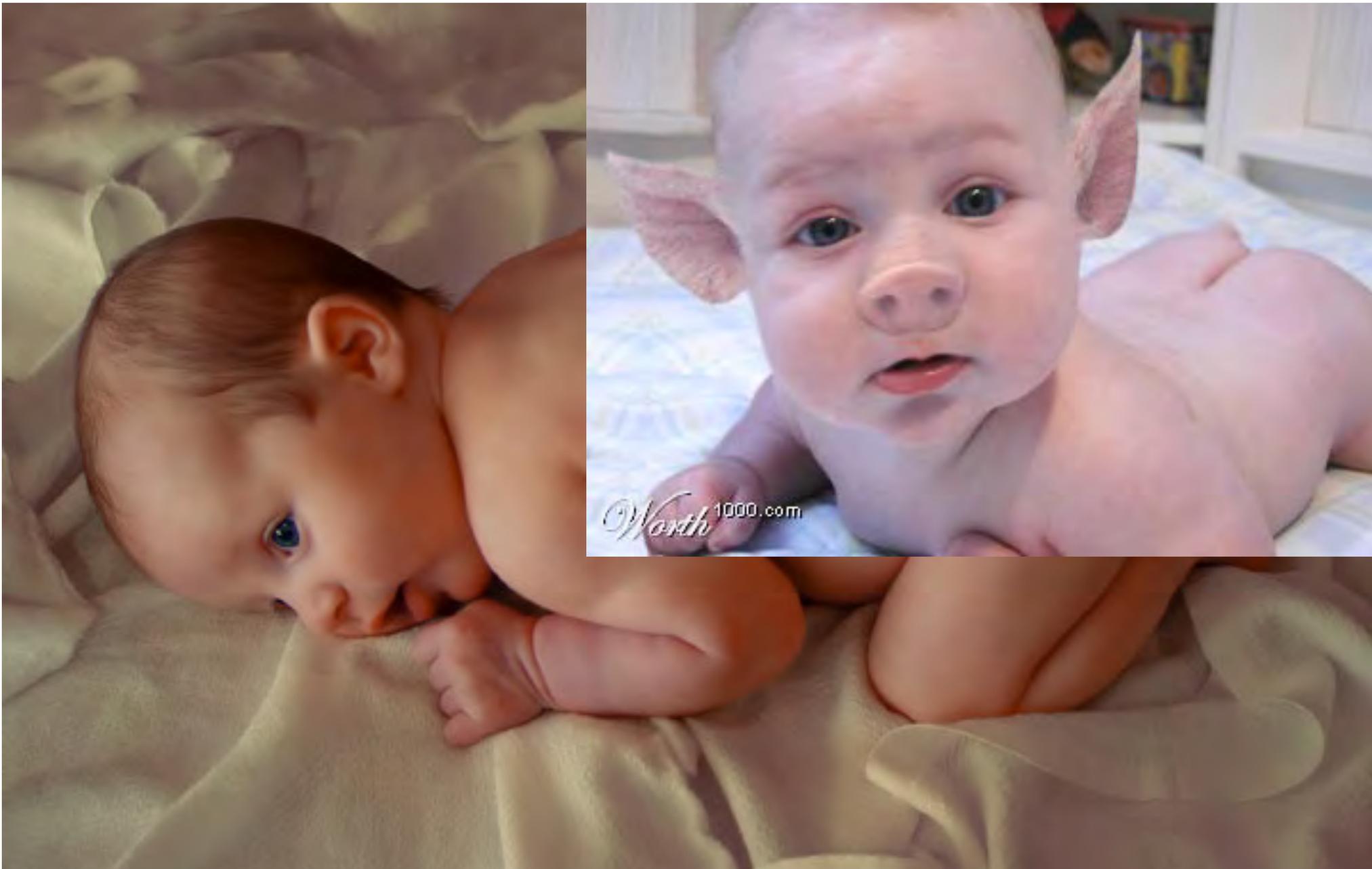
**Carnal  
Christian  
(3:1)**



**Non-Christian (2:14)**



**Christian (2:15)**



**"Carnal" means "fleshly"**

# Two Types of Carnality



**Sarkinos, "like flesh," 3:1**



**Sarkikos, "made of flesh," 3:3**

*Freshly Advice...*

**You gotta look out for #1**

**You deserve a break today**

**so get up and get away to...**



"It's All About Me" = Blatant Carnality



# **Carnality**

# **Selfishness**

- **Can't understand (3:2)**
- **Fight over rights (3:3)**
- **Divide over leaders (3:4)**



# From Egypt to Canaan

<b>Natural Man</b>	<b>Carnal Christian</b>	<b>Spiritual Christian</b>	<b>Rewarded Christian</b>
<b>In Egypt</b>	<b>In the Wilderness</b>	<b>Crossing the Jordan</b>	<b>Entering Rest</b>
<b>Ex. 1—Ex. 11</b>	<b>Ex. 12—Deut. 34</b>	<b>Josh. 1—Josh. 11</b>	<b>Josh. 12—Josh. 22</b>
<b>Slave Generation</b>	<b>Exodus Generation</b>	<b>Second Generation</b>	
<b>Lost</b>	<b>Redeemed</b>	<b>Discipleship</b>	<b>Rewarded</b>
<b>1 Cor. 2:14</b>	<b>1 Cor. 3:1-3</b>	<b>Rom. 12:1-2</b>	<b>2 Cor. 5:10</b>



*II. See all  **blessings**  as from  
 **God** —not leaders (3:5-23)*

# A. Leaders—like us all—are only instruments of God accountable to Him (3:5-15)



**A. Leaders—like us all—are only instruments of God accountable to Him (3:5-15)**

- 1. God causes church growth, not leaders (3:5-9).**
- 2. God will reward each believer's service (3:10-15).**



# THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST

*Is this a judgment for to  
determine salvation?*

*Or is it to reward  
believers?*

# The Bema Still Exists



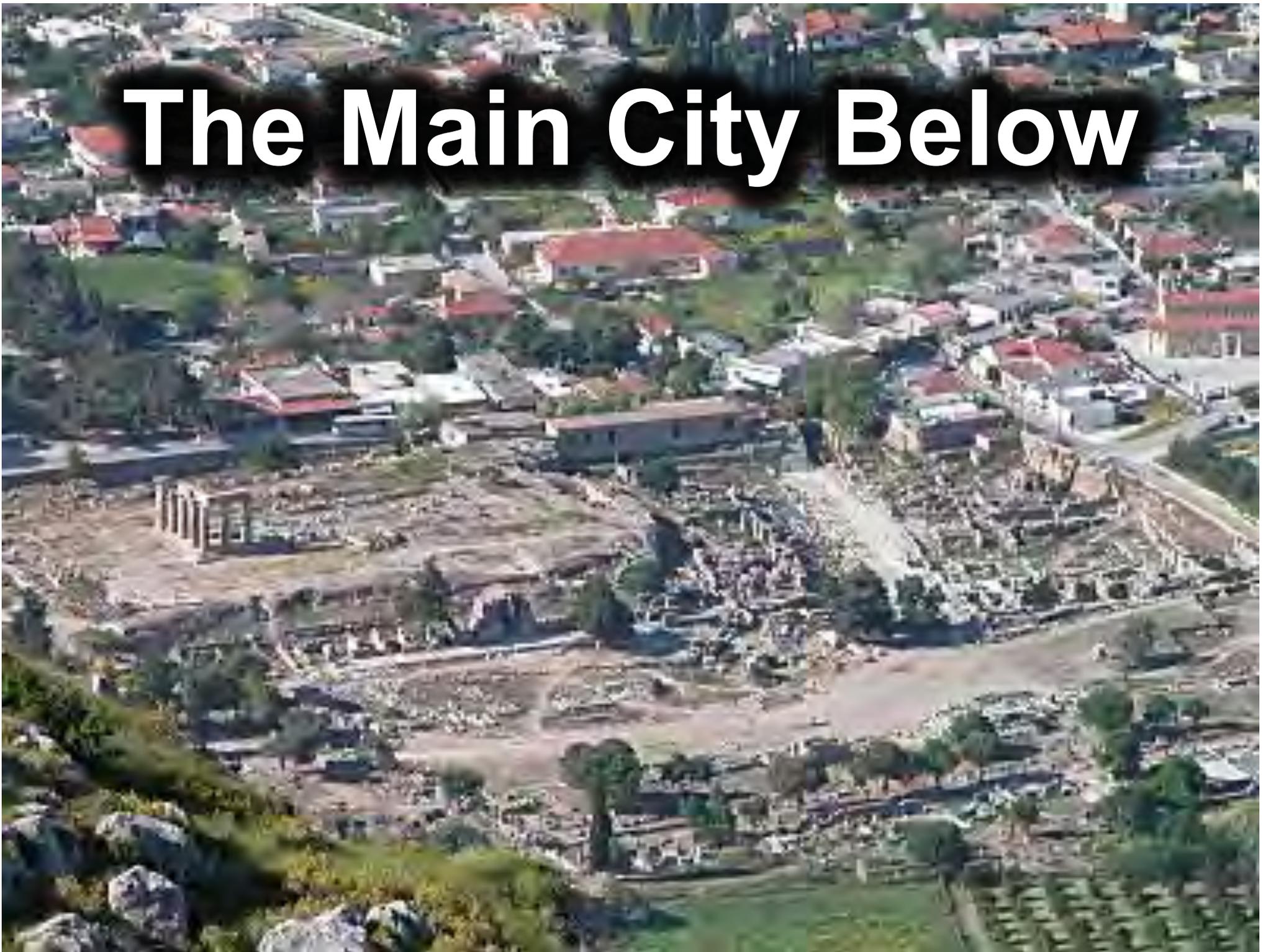
# Bema with Acrocorinth in Distance



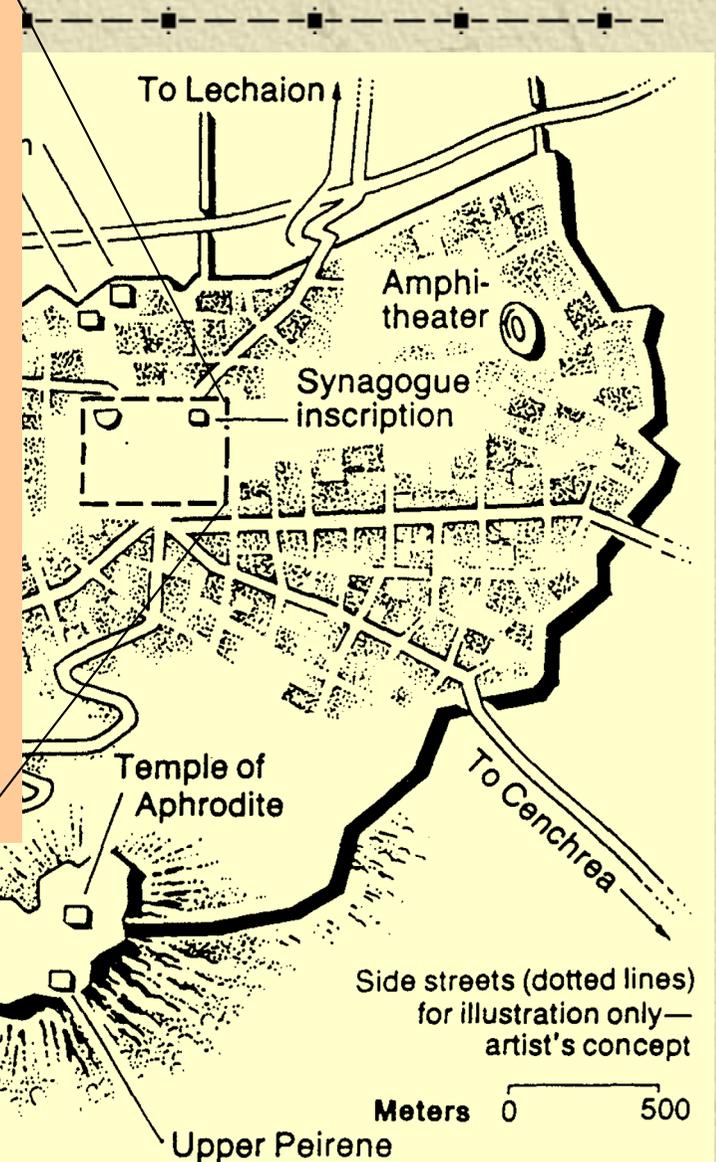
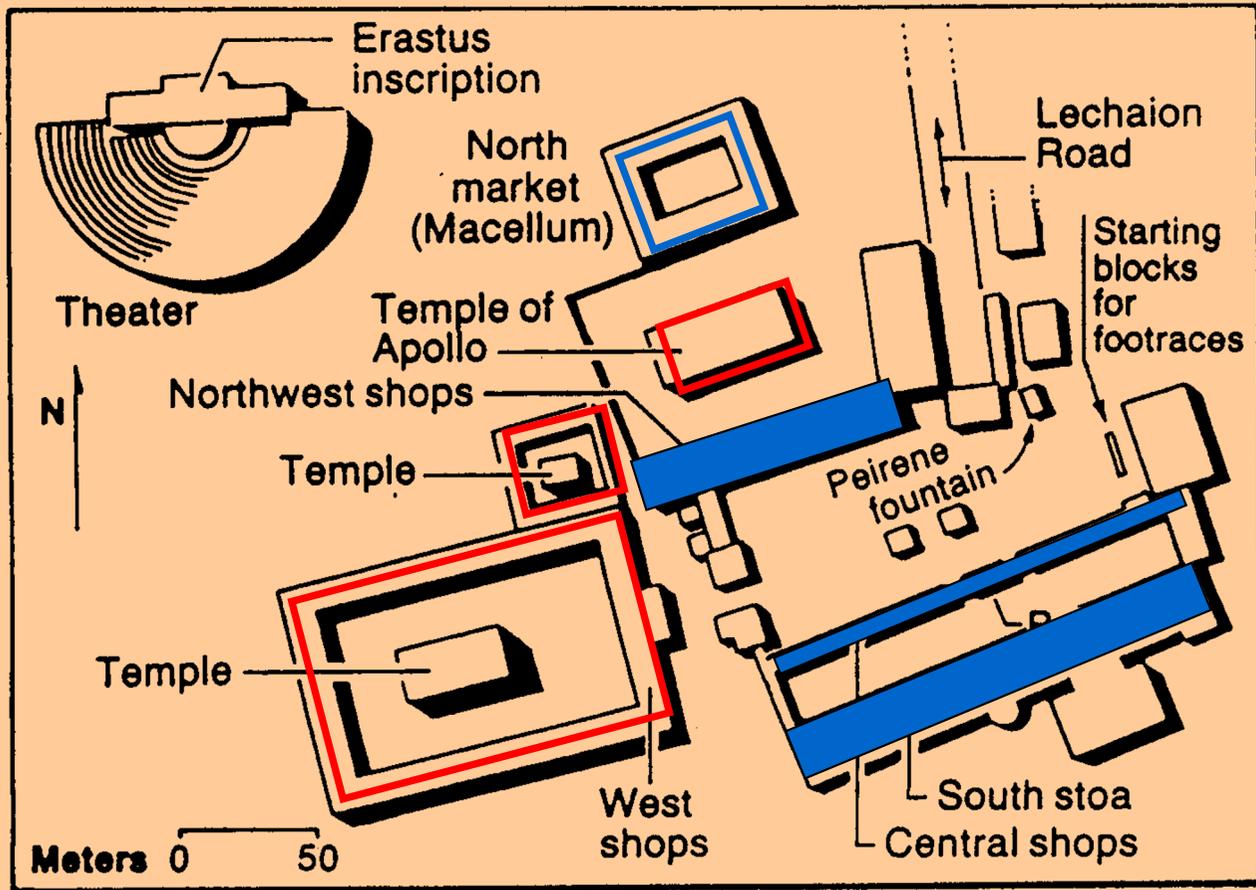
# View from Acrocorinth

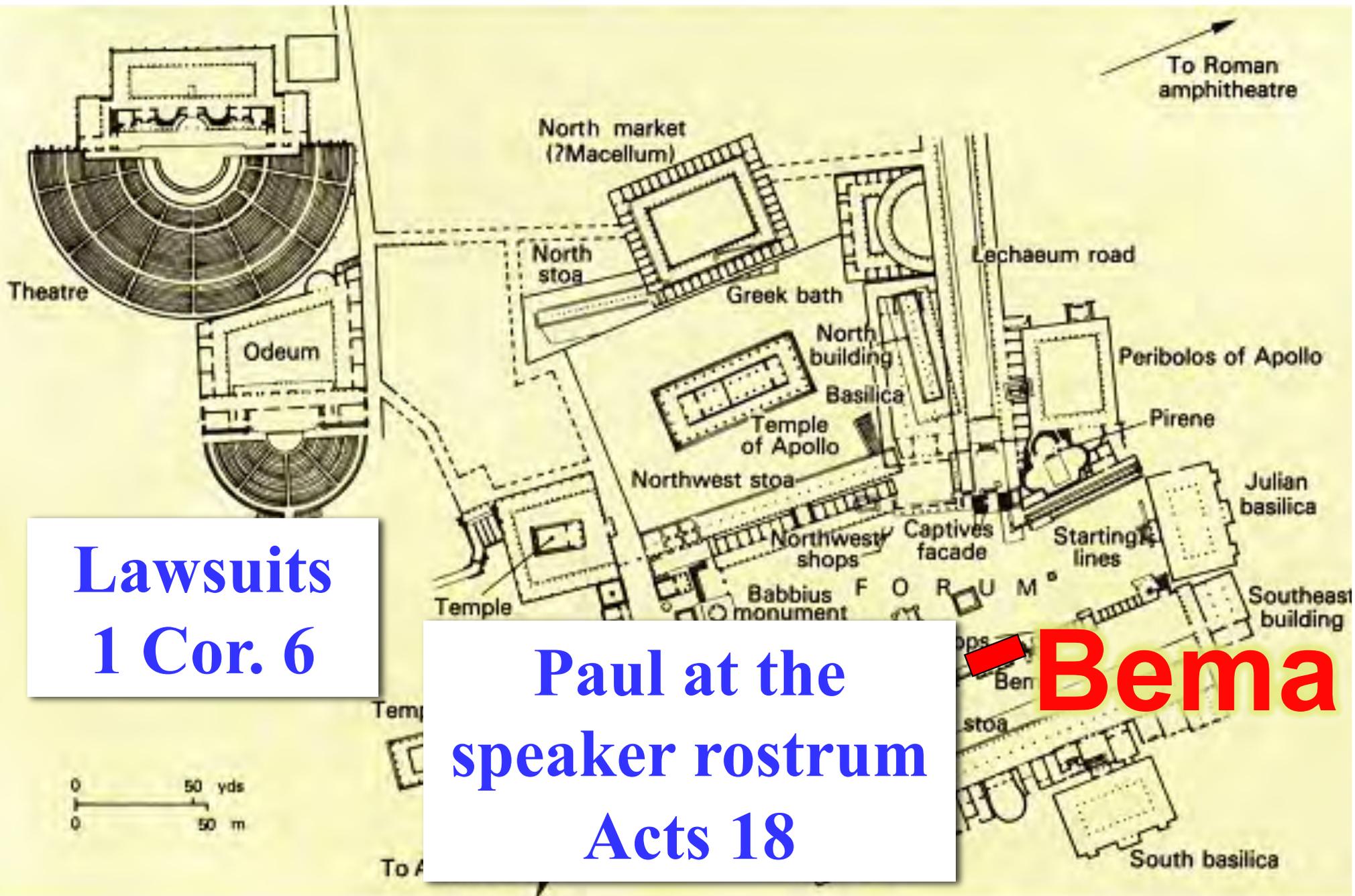


# The Main City Below



# The Corinthian Marketplace





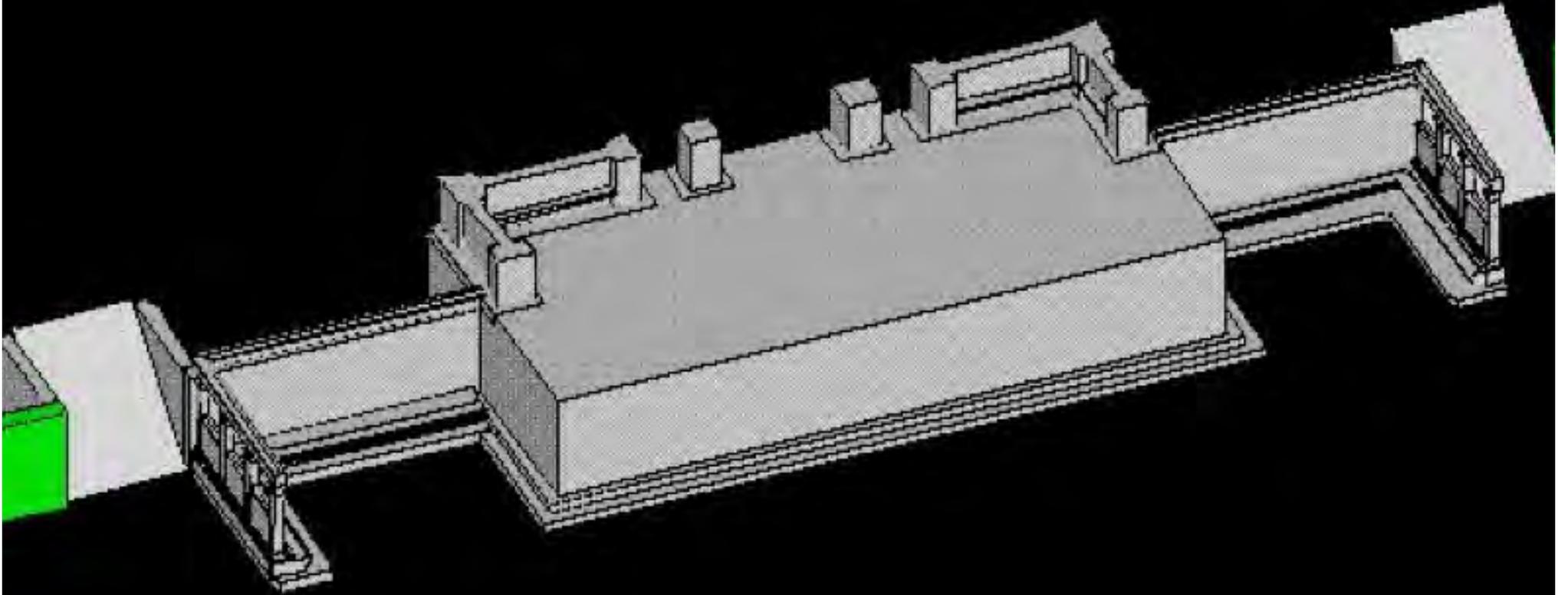
Lawsuits  
1 Cor. 6

Paul at the  
speaker rostrum  
Acts 18

**Bema**

# The Bema at Corinth

# Bema Close-up

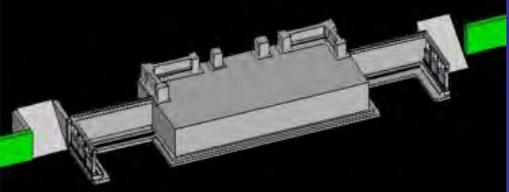


# The Speaker or Judge Above



# The One Being Judged or Rewarded Stood Below





# Bema for Rewards

"In Grecian games in Athens, the old arena contained a raised platform on which the president or umpire of the arena sat. From here he rewarded all the contestants; and here he rewarded all winners. It was called the '*bema*' or '*reward seat*.' It was never used as a judicial bench."

(L. Sale-Harrison, *Judgment Seat of Christ*, 8; cited by Pentecost, *Things to Come*, 220).

**REALITY?**



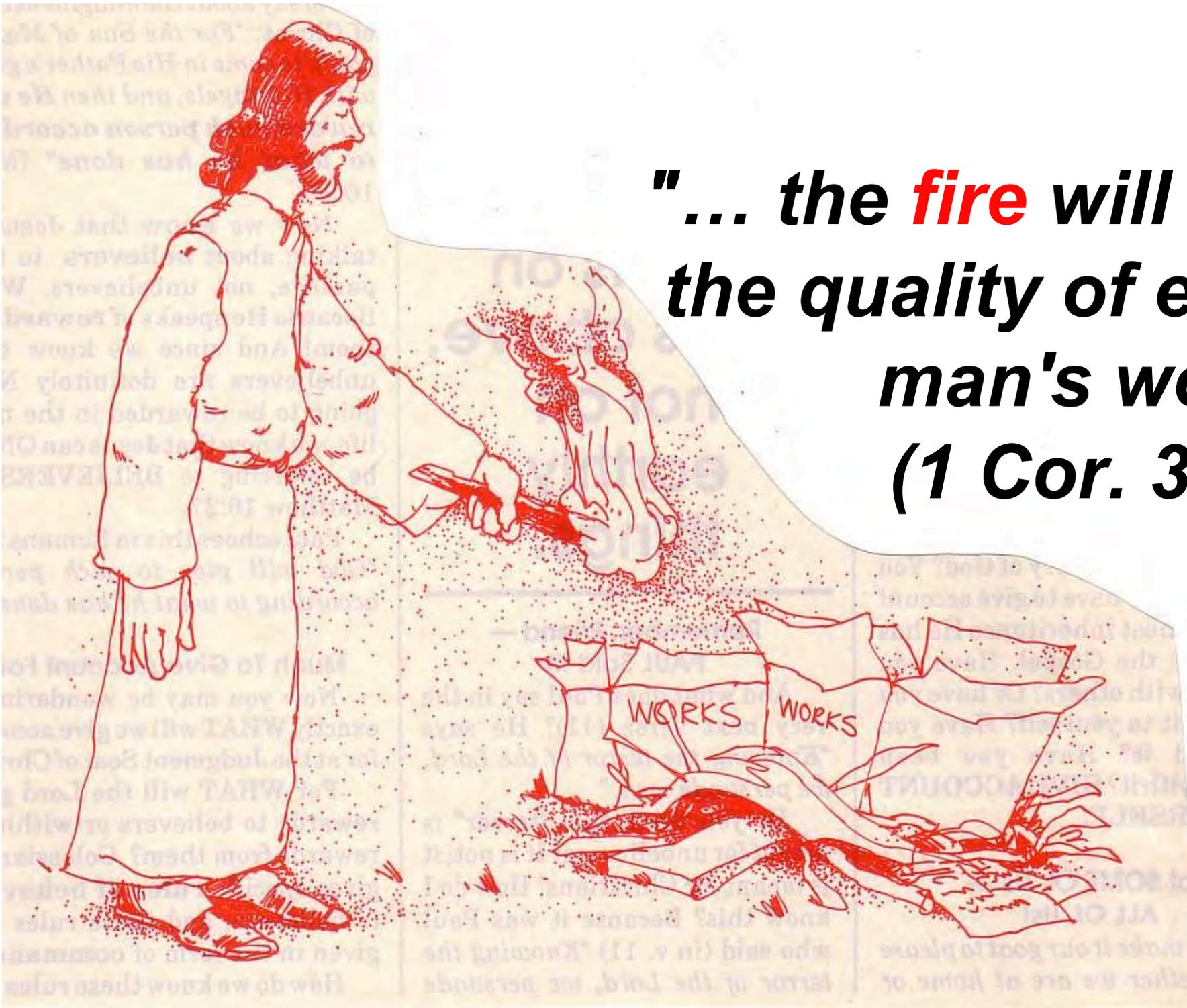


***The Bema is a Reward Seat***

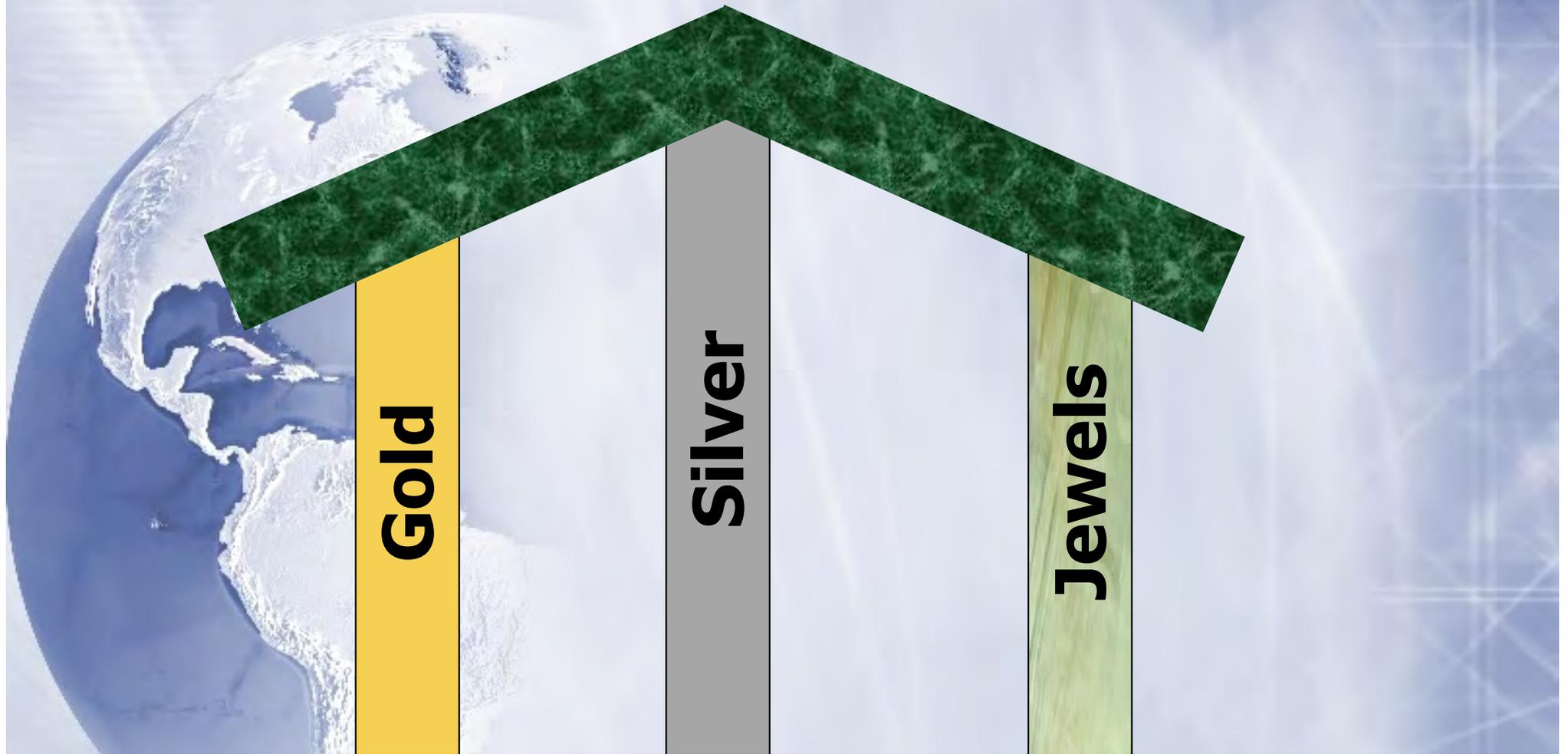


*D. Hill*

**"... the *fire* will test  
the quality of each  
man's work"  
(1 Cor. 3:13)**



# ***Lasting Building Materials (3:12a)***



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

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

# ***Perishable Building Materials (3:12b)***



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

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



**"saved  
as  
through  
fire..."  
(3:15)**

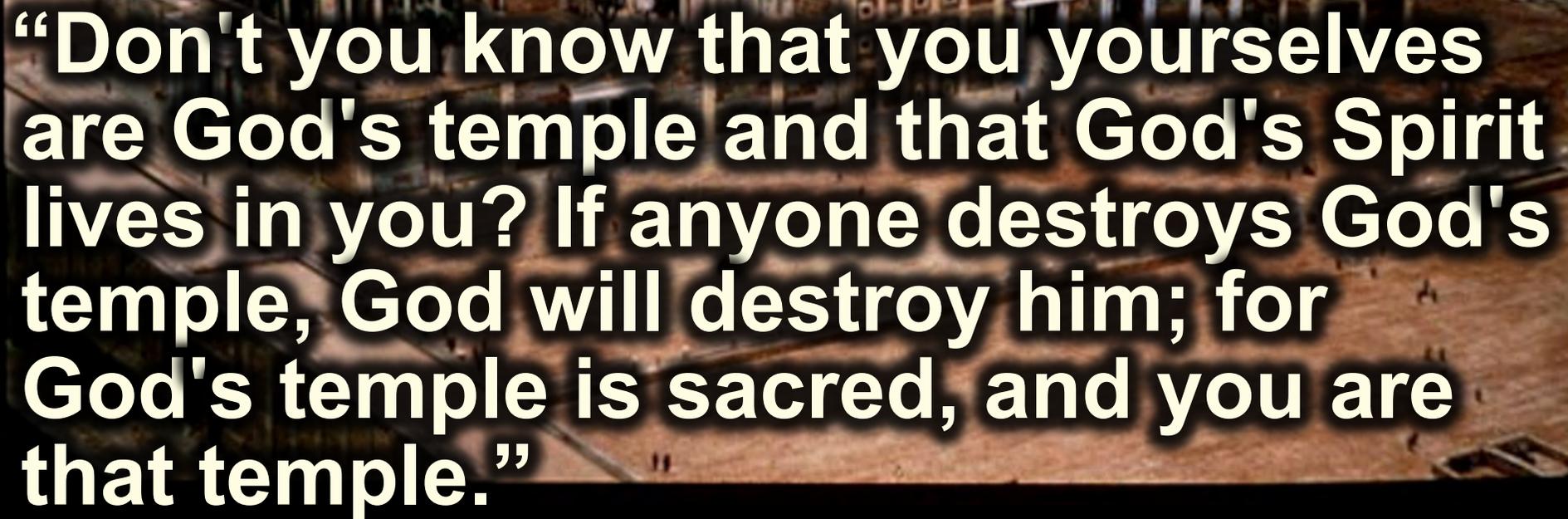
**B. God deserves credit for our blessings, not any man (3:16-23).**



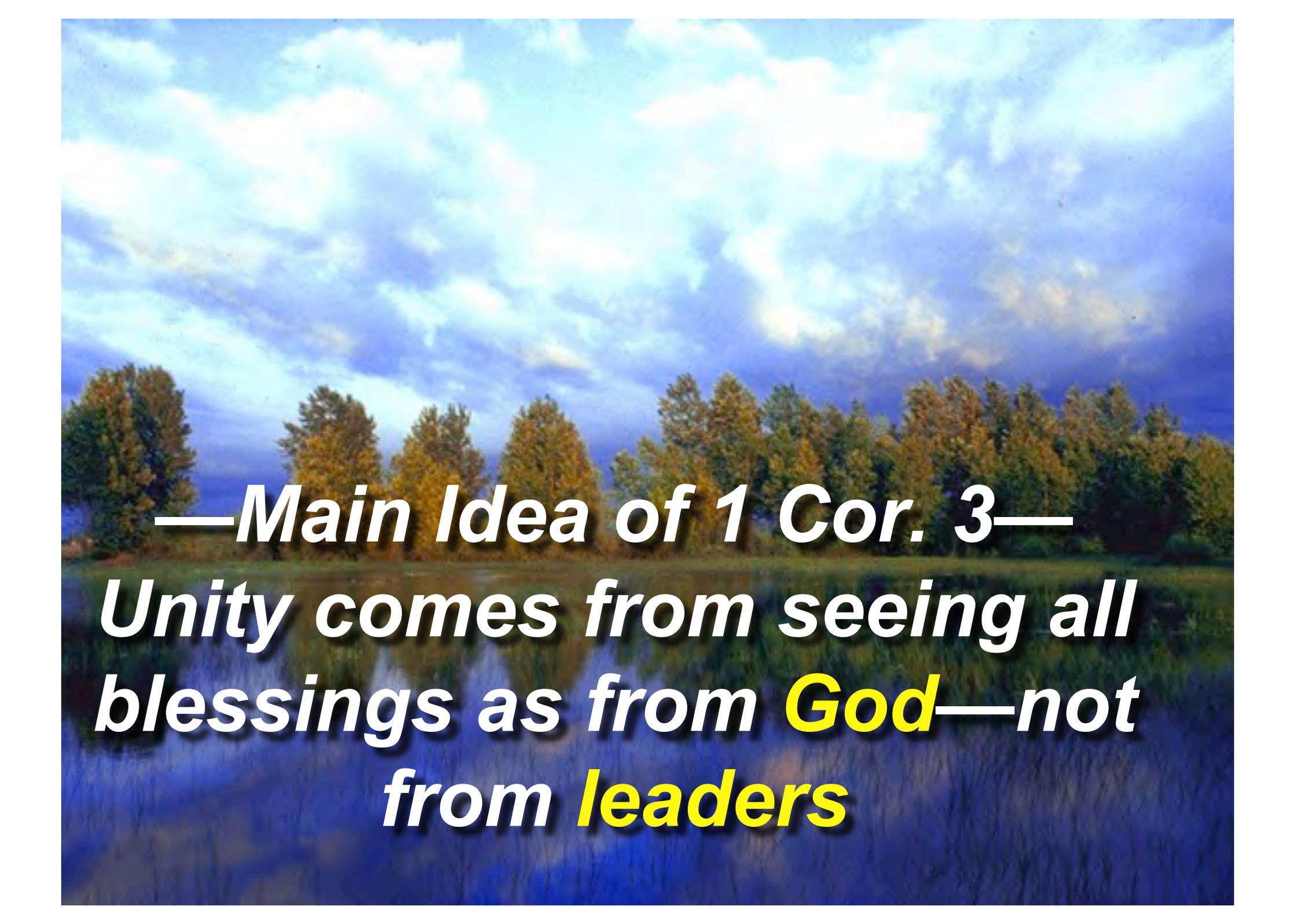
## **B. God deserves credit for our blessings, not any man (3:16-23).**

- 1. God **indwells** the church and will judge (3:16-17)**
- 2. God **gives true wisdom**, not human wisdom (3:18-20)**
- 3. God **will give us everything** in the world (3:21-23)**

## 1 Corinthians 3:16-17 (NIV)

An aerial photograph of a large, ancient stone temple complex, likely the Temple of Solomon in Jerusalem. The complex features a central building with a prominent entrance, surrounded by multiple courtyards and colonnades. The architecture is classical, with many columns and arches. The scene is set against a dark, twilight sky.

**“Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him; for God's temple is sacred, and you are that temple.”**



**—Main Idea of 1 Cor. 3—**  
**Unity comes from seeing all**  
 **blessings as from **God**—not**  
 **from **leaders****

*Surprisingly, Paul affirmed the Corinthians repeatedly that they have eternal security:*

1. Their salvation will be maintained until the Lord's return (1 Cor. 1:8-9)
2. Even carnal believers will still enter heaven because of their saving faith but without rewards (1 Cor. 3:12-15; cf. 2 Cor. 5:10)
3. They should expel the incestuous man so Satan could even kill him, but he would still be saved (1 Cor. 5:4-5)
4. Even resurrection doubters should serve God fully since their service would be rewarded (1 Cor. 15:58)
5. God alone secured their redemption, for He sealed them with the Spirit to assure their salvation (2 Cor. 1:21-22)

# 1 Corinthians 4

# ***1 Corinthians 4 Subject***

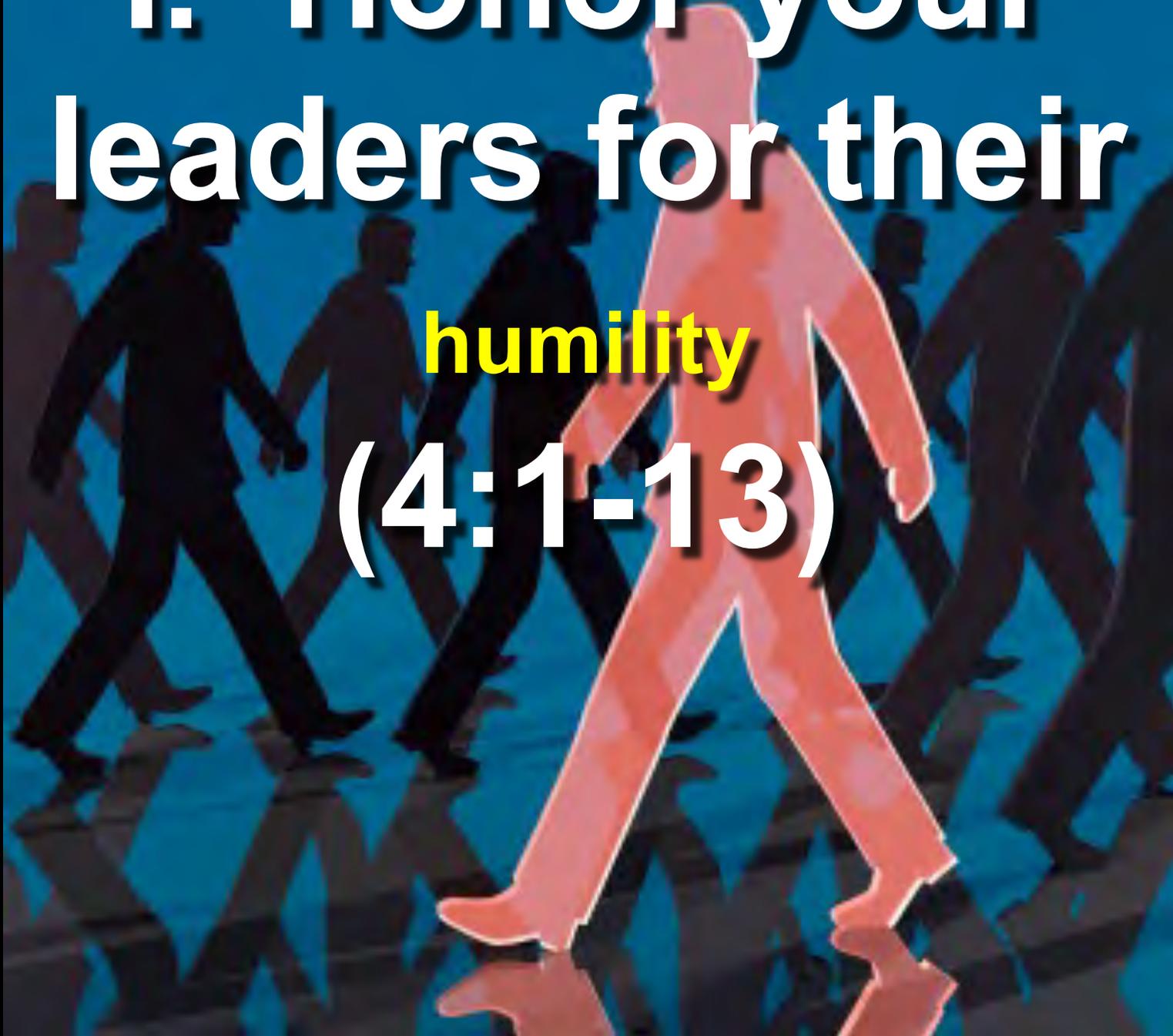
A photograph of three men sitting around a wooden table in a meeting. The man on the left is wearing a blue and white checkered shirt and is looking towards the center. The man in the middle is wearing a white t-shirt and glasses, looking down at a laptop. The man on the right is wearing a black polo shirt and glasses, looking towards the camera. On the table, there is a silver laptop, a blue water bottle, a red bag, and various papers and pens. The background is a plain wall with a window and a vase of yellow flowers.

**How should we view  
our spiritual **leaders**?**

# I. Honor your leaders for their

**humility**

**(4:1-13)**



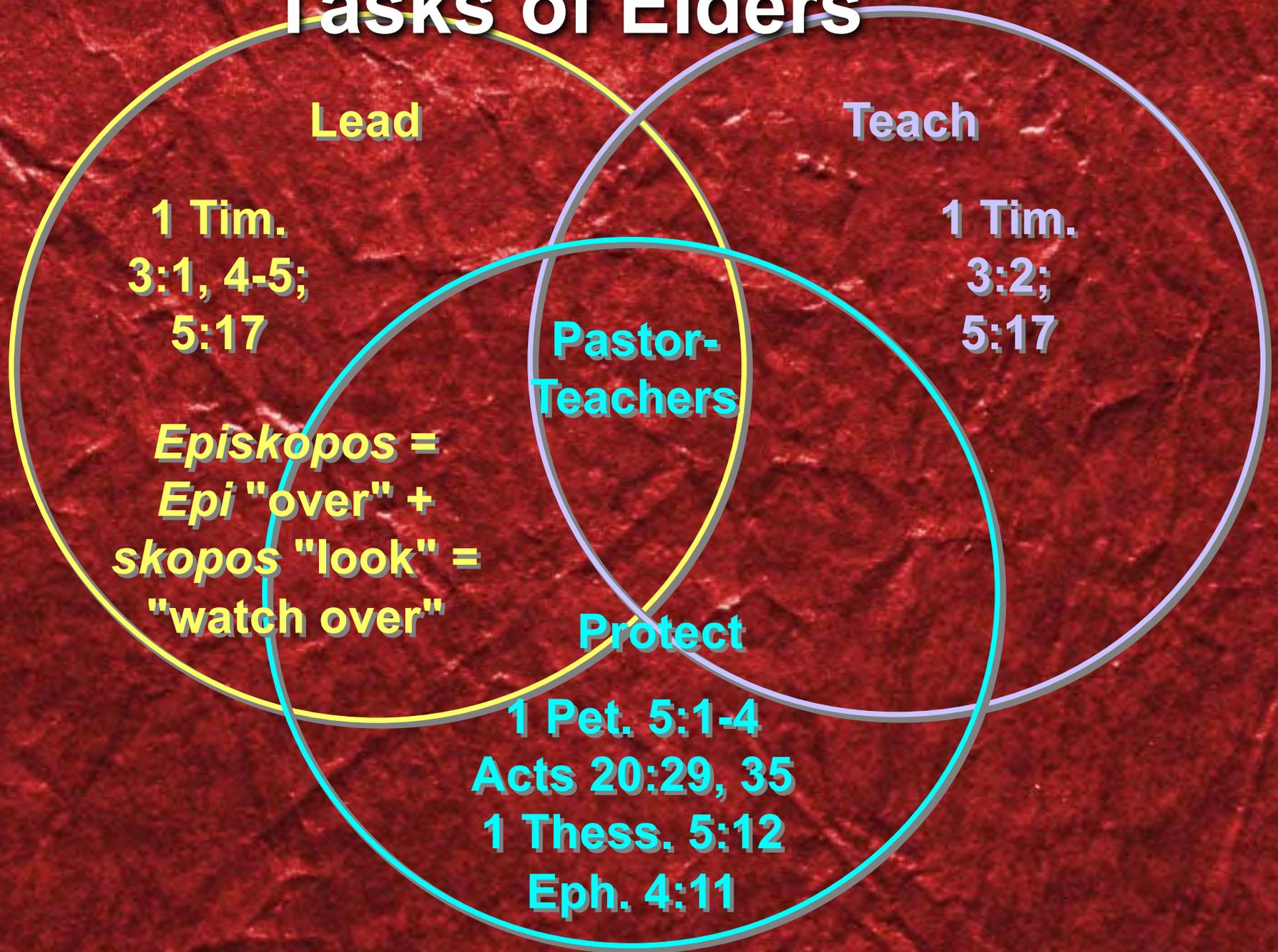
# Humility (4:1-13):

- A. Treat spiritual shepherds as faithful **stewards** accountable to God (4:1-5).

**CEO**

**Christ Executive Officer**

# Three Major Pastoral Leadership Tasks of Elders



# Humility (4:1-13):

- A. Treat spiritual shepherds as faithful **stewards** accountable to God (4:1-5).
- B. Evaluate elders by **scriptural** standards—not worldly ones (4:6-7).
- C. Recognize your leaders' humble **sacrifices** to lead you (4:8-13).

**II. Respond to your  
elders' spiritual**

**authority**

**(4:14-21)**



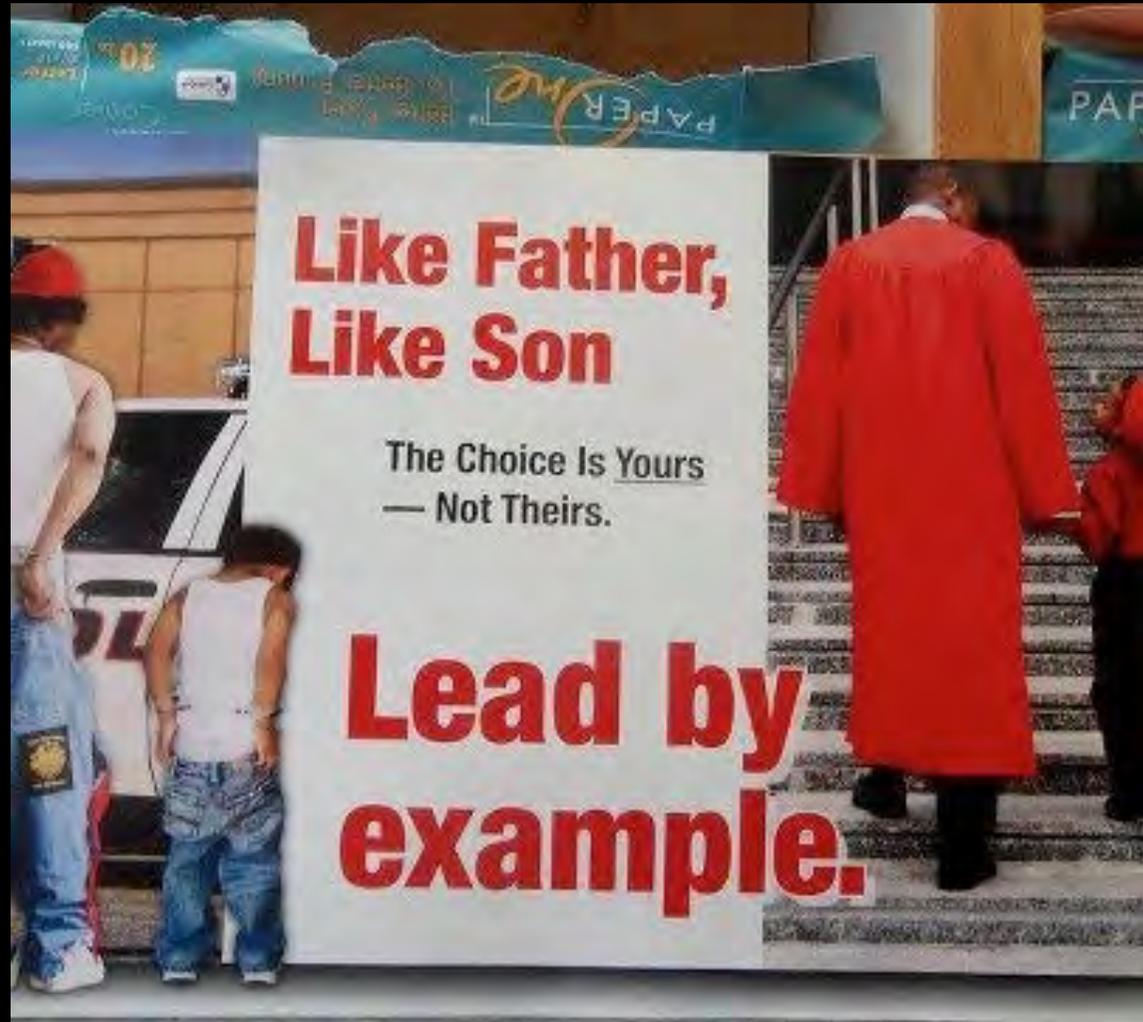
# Fatherly Authority (4:14-21):

## A. Fathers **admonish** (4:14-15).



# Fatherly Authority (4:14-21):

**B. Fathers  
set an  
example  
of  
godliness  
(4:16-17).**

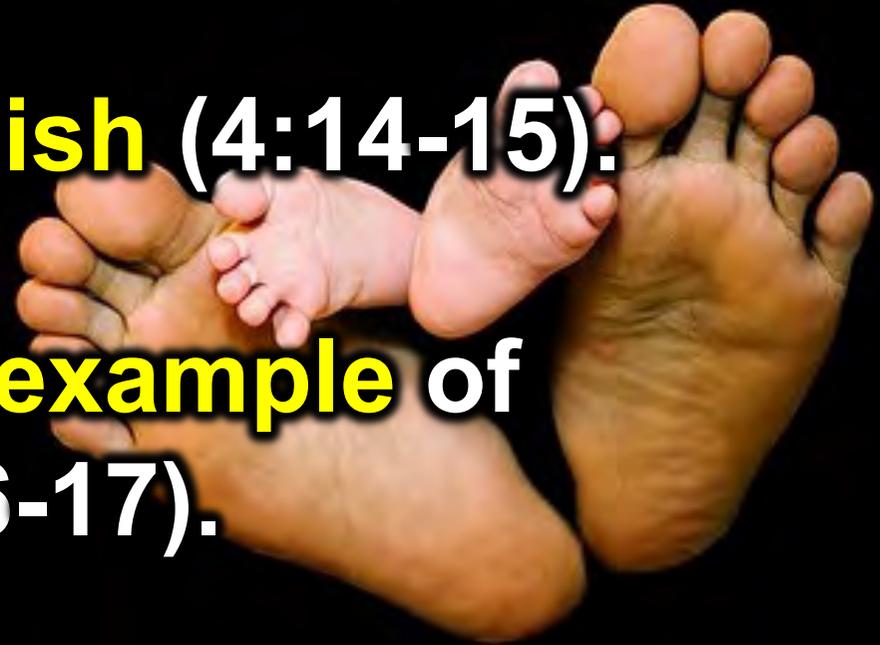


# Fatherly Authority (4:14-21):

A. Fathers **admonish** (4:14-15):

B. Fathers **set an example** of  
godliness (4:16-17).

C. Fathers **discipline** stubborn kids  
(4:18-21).



**– Paul's Key Point in 1 Cor. 4 –**

**Treat elders with a biblical  
balance—**

**as faithful  
and  
humble  
servants,**

**yet also as  
spiritual  
fathers with  
authority**

# Respect Leaders

## 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13

"Now we ask you, brothers, to **respect** those who work hard among you, who are over you in the Lord and who admonish you. Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other."

# Obey Leaders

Hebrews 13:17

**"Obey** your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. **Obey** them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you."

*How should we...*

**BE  
UNITED**  
(1-4)

**BE  
MORAL**  
(5-6)

**BE  
DIFFERENT**

**1 Corinthians**

*...from unbelievers?*

# 1 Corinthians 5

A white dove is shown in flight, its wings spread wide, against a bright blue sky with soft, white clouds. The dove is positioned on the left side of the frame, flying towards the right. The overall scene is peaceful and symbolic.

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

# Corinth: Crossroad of Immorality



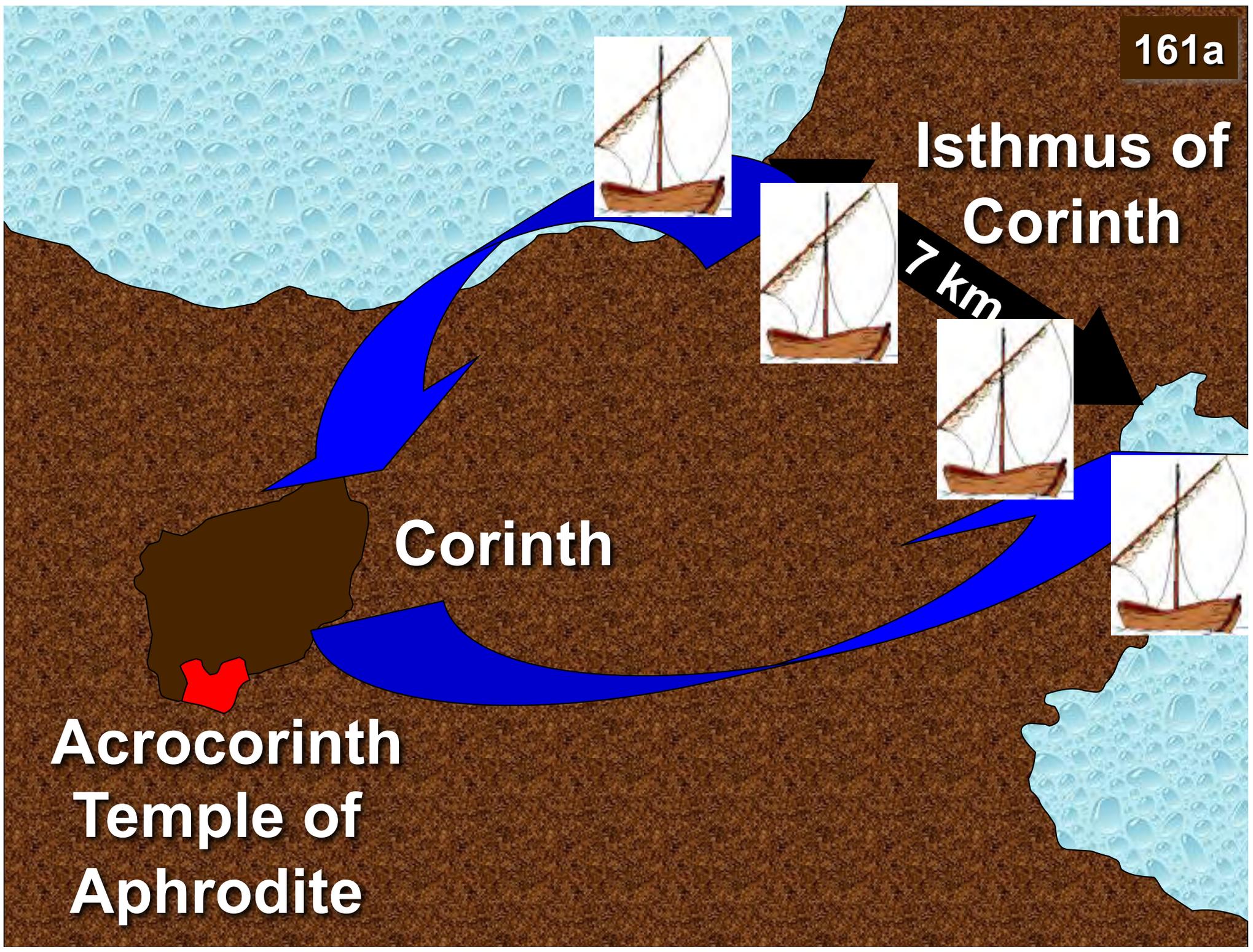
161a

Isthmus of Corinth

7 km

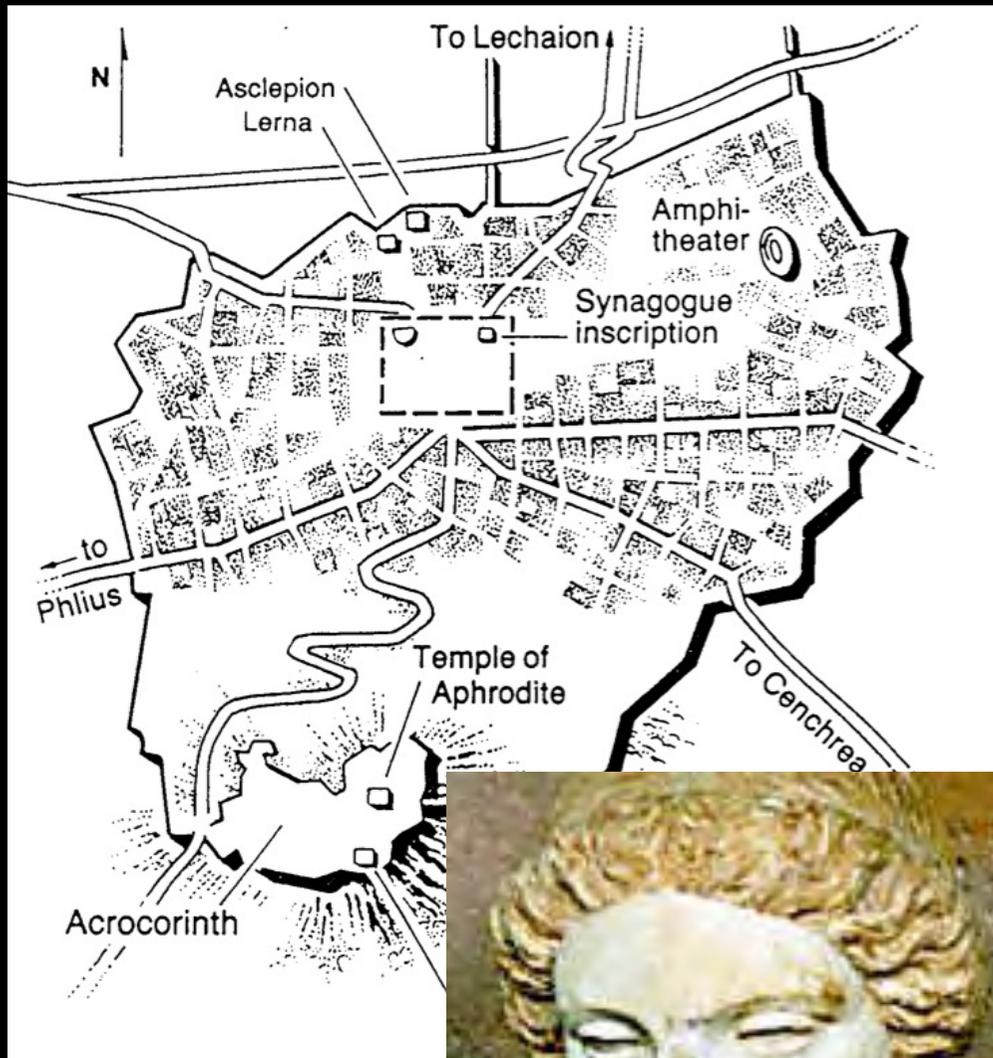
Corinth

Acrocorinth  
Temple of  
Aphrodite

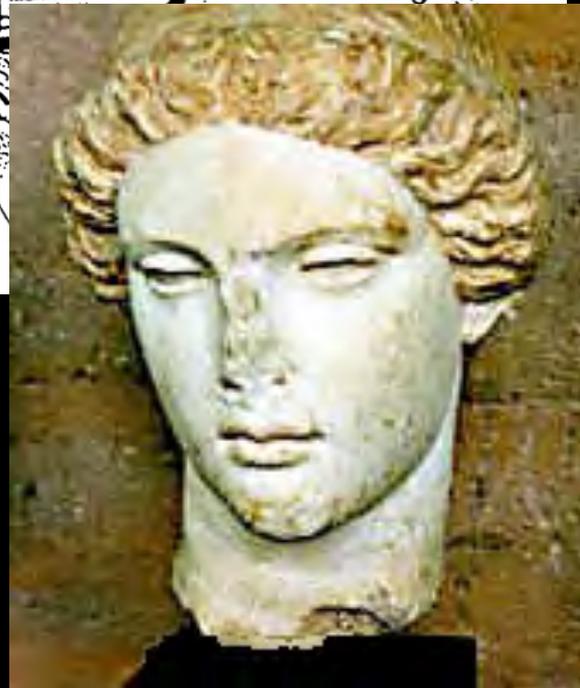




**View of Acrocorinth from the City**



# Temple of Aphrodite



*Greek  
Goddess  
of Love*

# Temple of Aphrodite





Immortality in  
All Seasons



# The Wayward Local Church

**Reports**

**Questions**

**Division**

**Disorder**

**Difficulties**

**Concern  
1-4**

**Discipline  
5-6**

**Instruction  
7-16**

**Factions 1-2**

**Carnality  
3-4**

**Incest 5**

**Lawsuits 6**

**Immorality**

**Marriage 7**

**Idols 8-10**

**Worship  
11-14**

**Resurrection  
15**

**Collection 16**

**Solving church problems theologically**

# I. Humbly **remove** members living in sin (5:1-2).

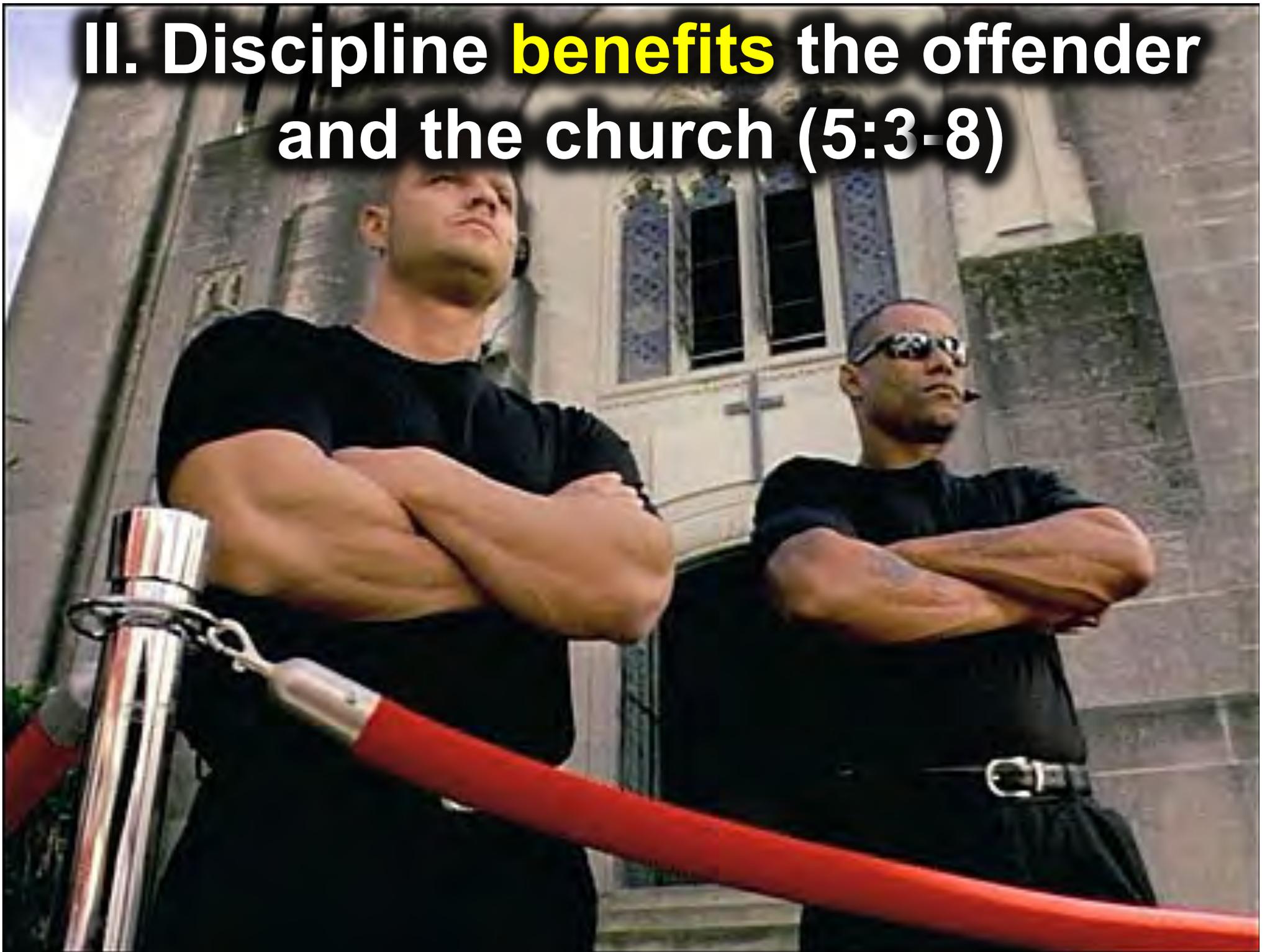
---

Care enough to confront!



*Spanking  
the Saints*

## II. Discipline **benefits** the offender and the church (5:3-8)





**"...deliver  
over to  
Satan"**

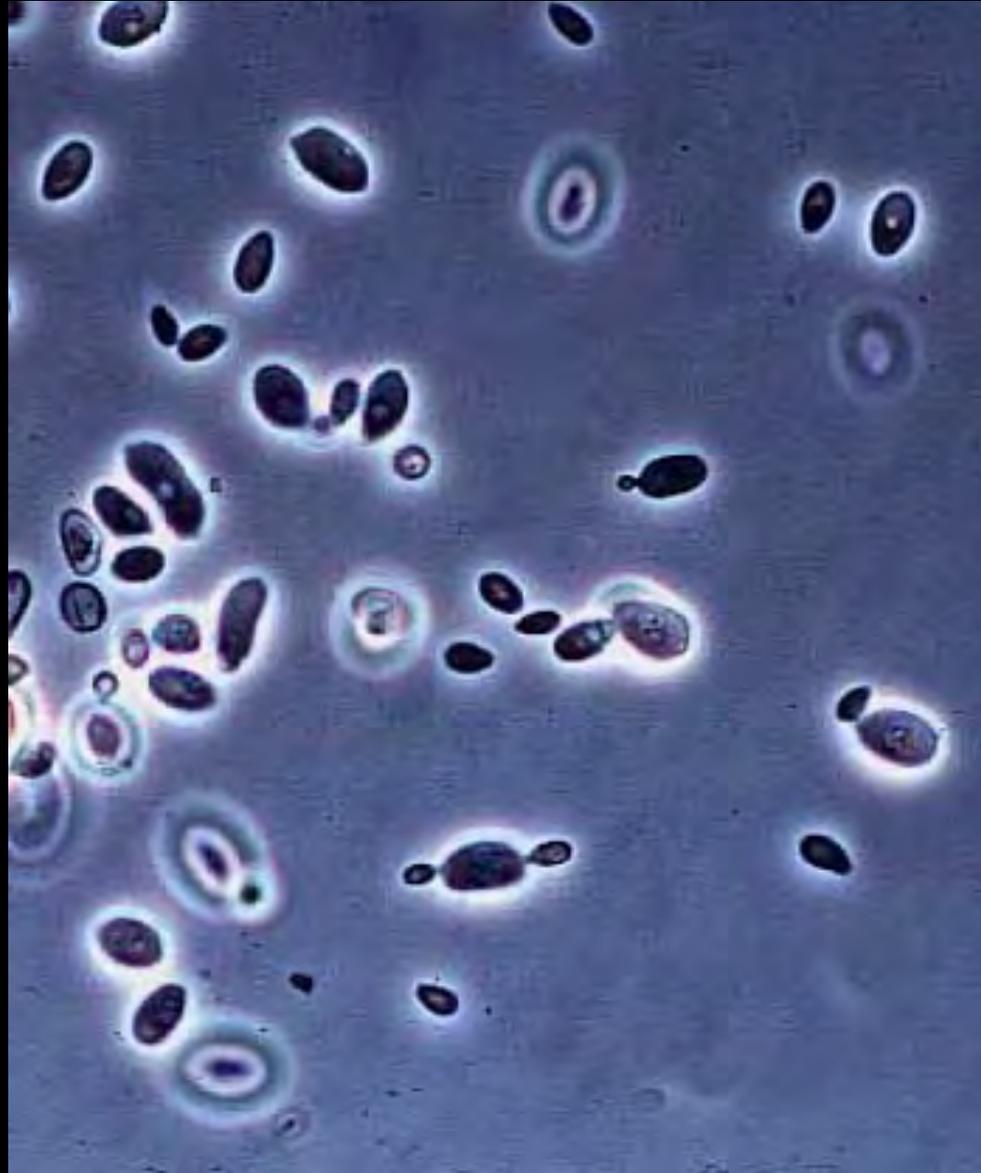
**A. Discipline  
hands a *believer*  
over to **Satan's**  
dominion to end  
his hypocrisy  
(5:3-5)**



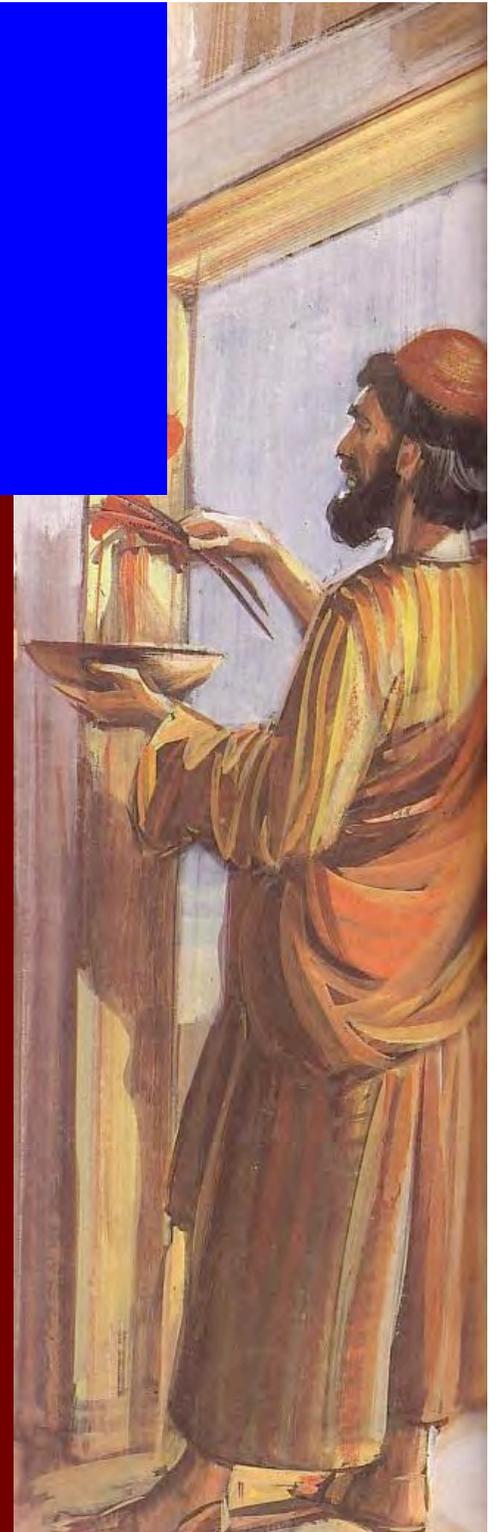


**B. Discipline  
maintains the  
purity of  
the *body*  
(5:6-8)**

# Yeast



# Passover's Past Significance (Exodus 12)



# The Passover Lamb

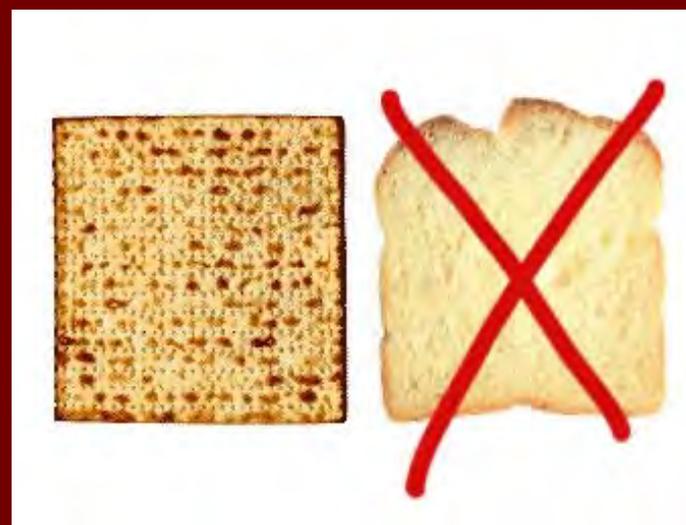


**"Burn All the Yeast!"**

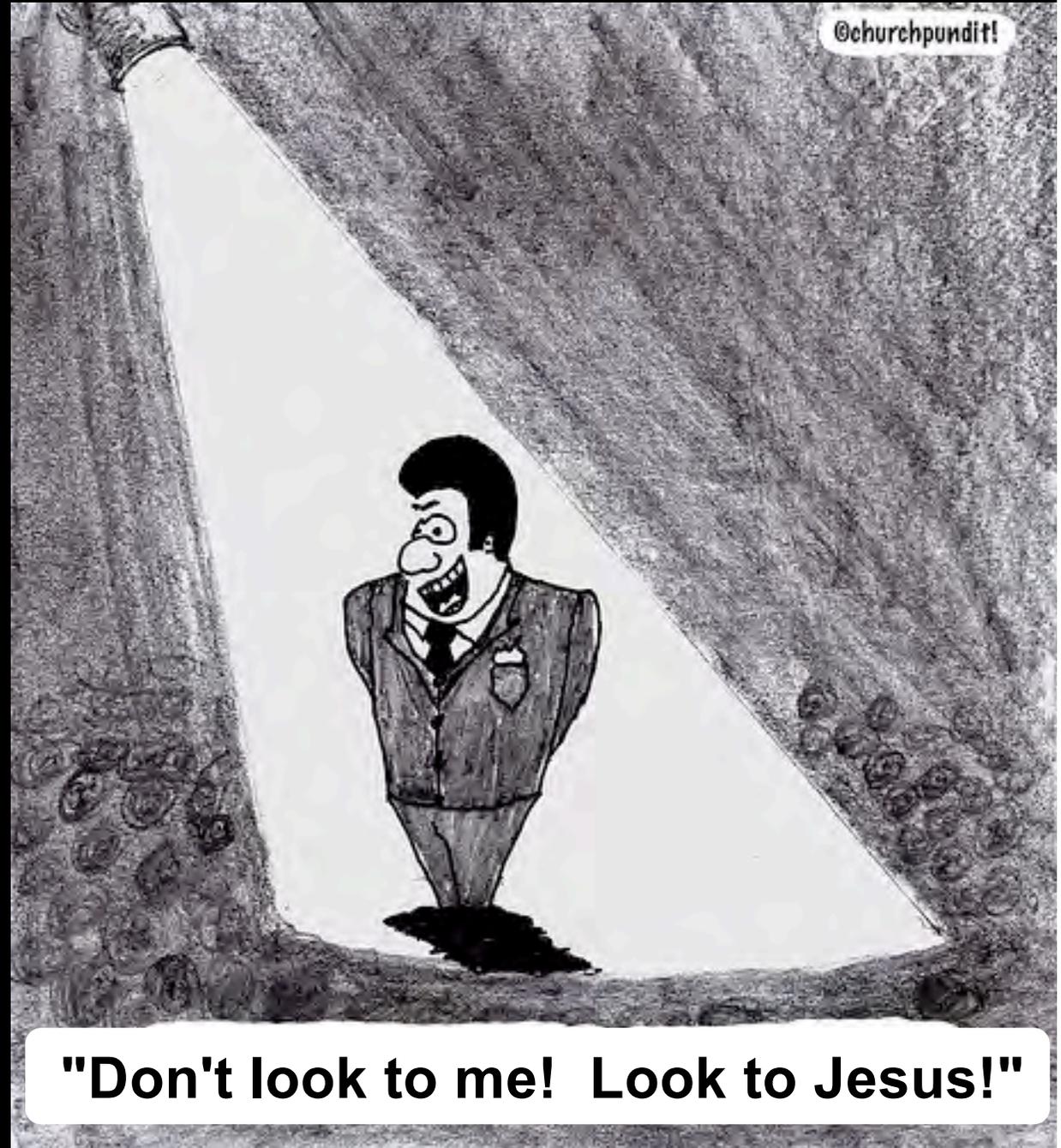


128,  
137

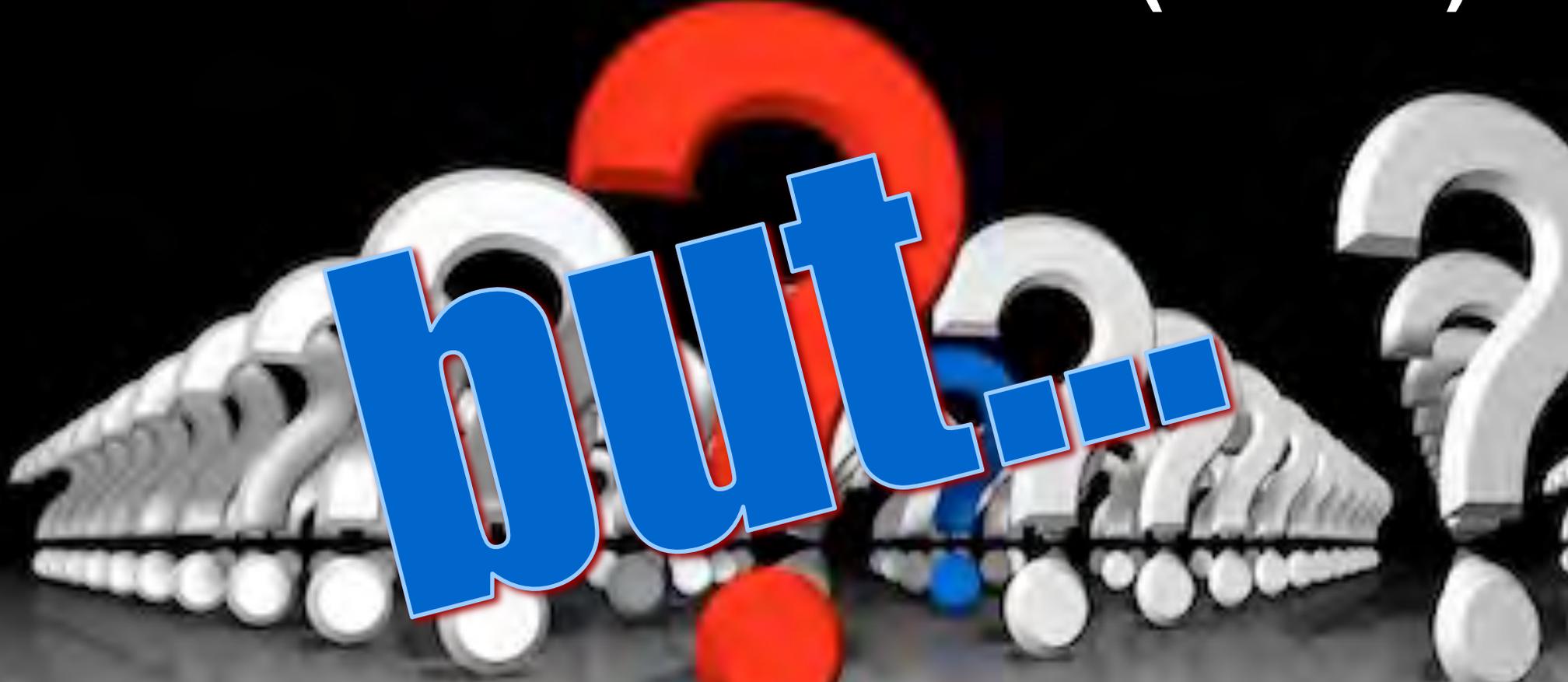
# Feast of Unleavened Bread



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



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



**but...**

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

# 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)**

# **C. The church must remove immoral Christians (5:12-13)**



# How to Treat One Under Discipline

- 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**

# The Focus of 1 Cor. 5



Guard church purity by  
**expelling**  
unrepentant believers

# *How can we keep this church pure?*

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



# 1 Corinthians 6

Conflicts among Christians  
are **family** matters—not  
for unbelievers to solve  
(6:1)

**Why?**



**Competency**

**Witness**



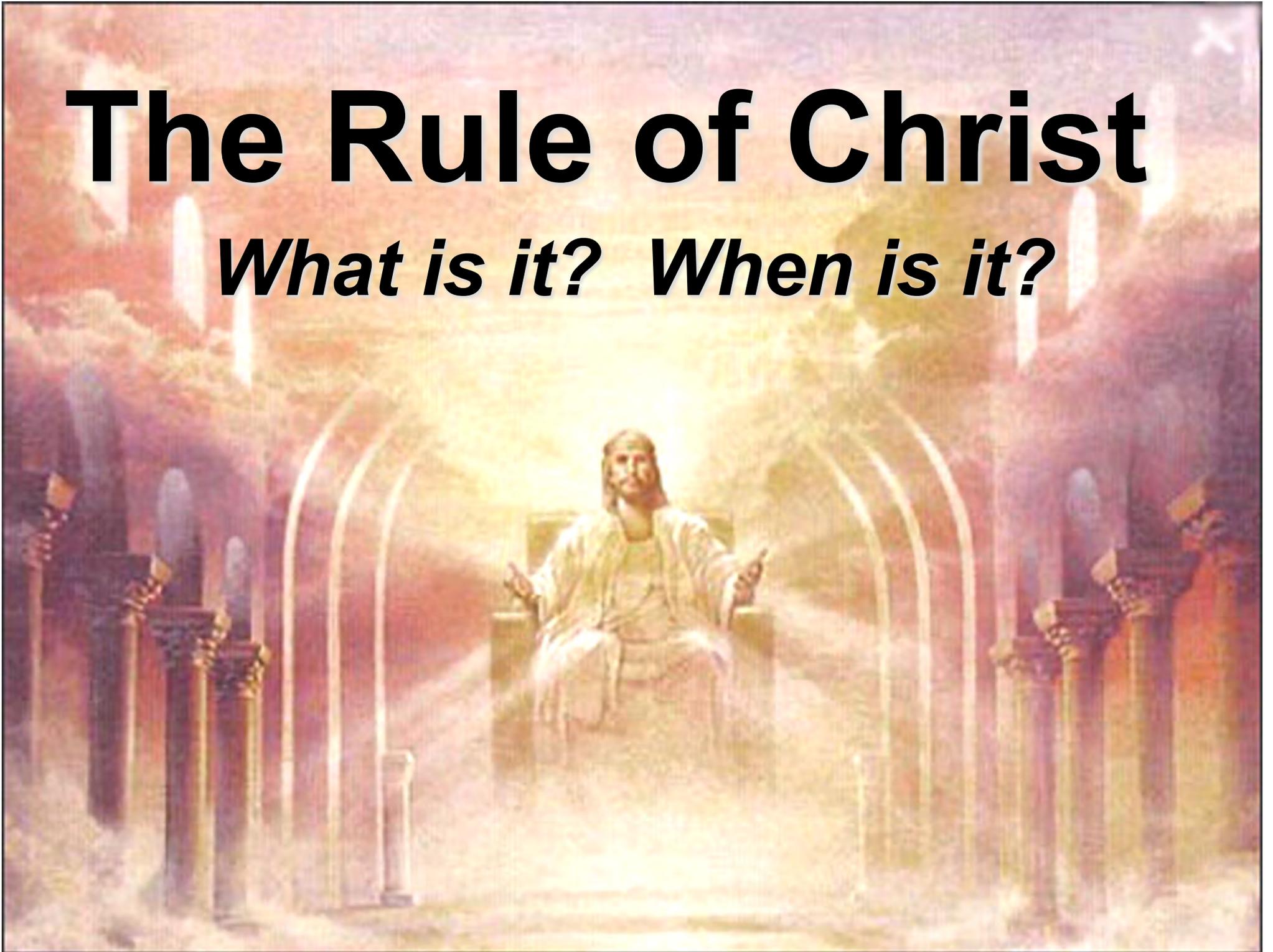
**I. We are more **competent**  
than unbelievers to solve  
Christian disputes  
(6:2-6, 9-11)**



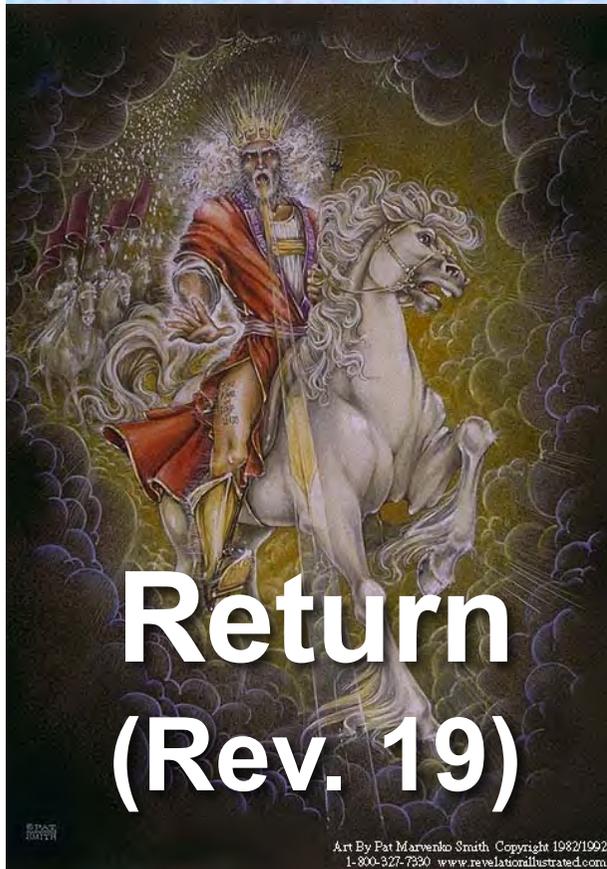
***"Do you not  
know that  
saints will  
judge the  
world?"  
(6:2a)***

# **The Rule of Christ**

***What is it? When is it?***



# Our Future (Rev. 19–20)



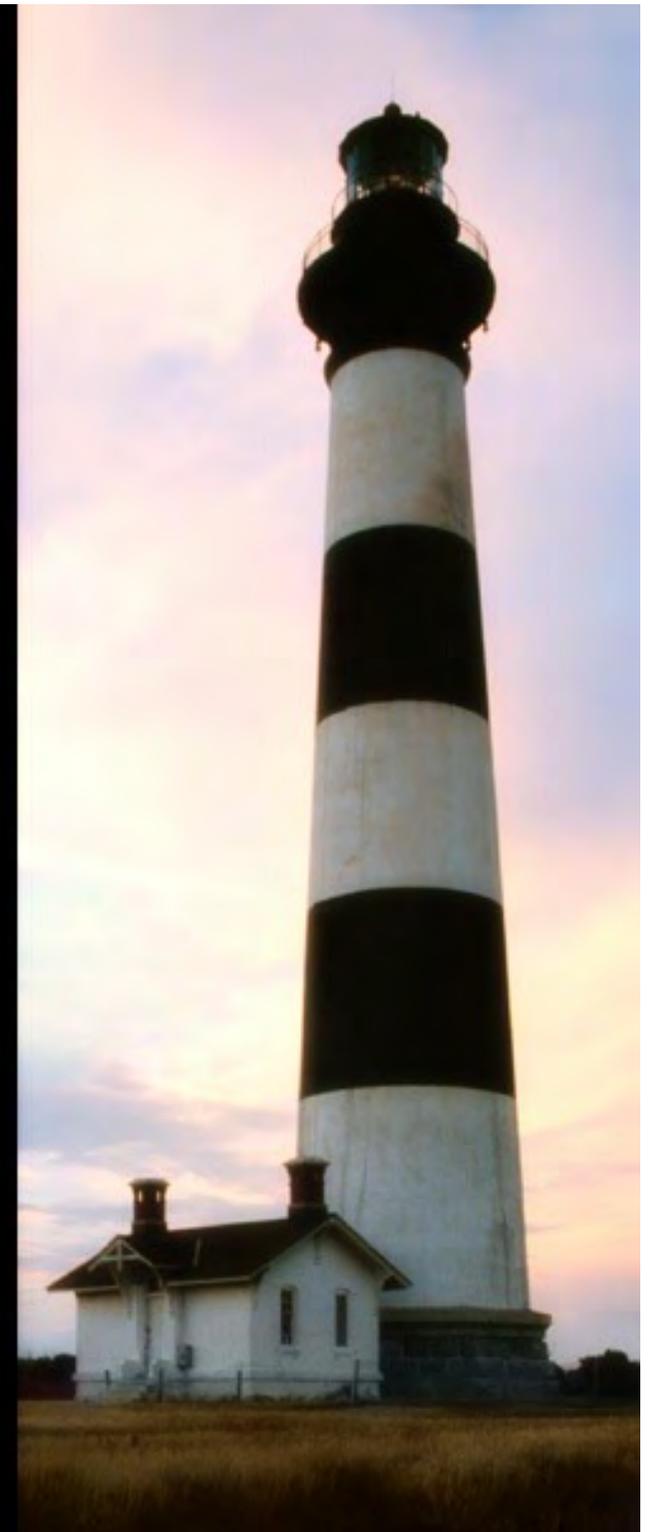
## Revelation 20:4 (NAU)

**<sup>4</sup>Then I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was given to them. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark on their forehead and on their hand; and they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.**



**II. It is better to suffer personal  
loss than for the whole church  
lose its **witness**  
(6:7-8)**

***"You are the light  
of the world..."***



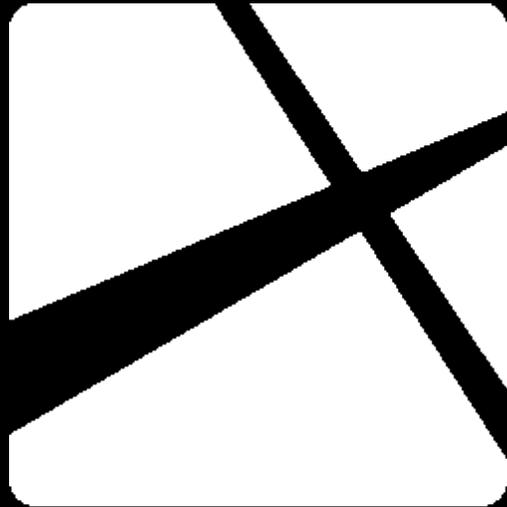
# How to win by losing

- A. Better that one Christian *be wronged* than the church be wronged from litigating saints (6:7)
  
- B. Better to lose money than to lose ministry opportunities by cheating other Christians (6:8)





**Disputes between **believers** must  
be solved by believers  
(Main Idea of 1 Cor. 6)**



**CROSSROADS**  
international church

# Church Covenant

**As members of one body, we pledge to:**

**(xiv) resolve all conflicts with  
arbitration only among believers  
without recourse to the secular courts**

**"Do you not know that  
your body is a temple of  
the Holy Spirit, who is in  
you, whom you have  
received from God? You  
are not your own; <sup>20</sup> you  
were bought at a price.  
Therefore honor God  
with your body"  
(1 Cor 6:19-20 NIV).**



**The Spirit indwelling is  
God's new work!**



*How should we...*

**BE  
UNITED**  
(1-4)

**BE  
MORAL**  
(5-6)

**BE  
DIFFERENT**

**BE  
SELFLESS**  
(7-16)

**1 Corinthians**

*...from unbelievers?*

# 1 Corinthians 7



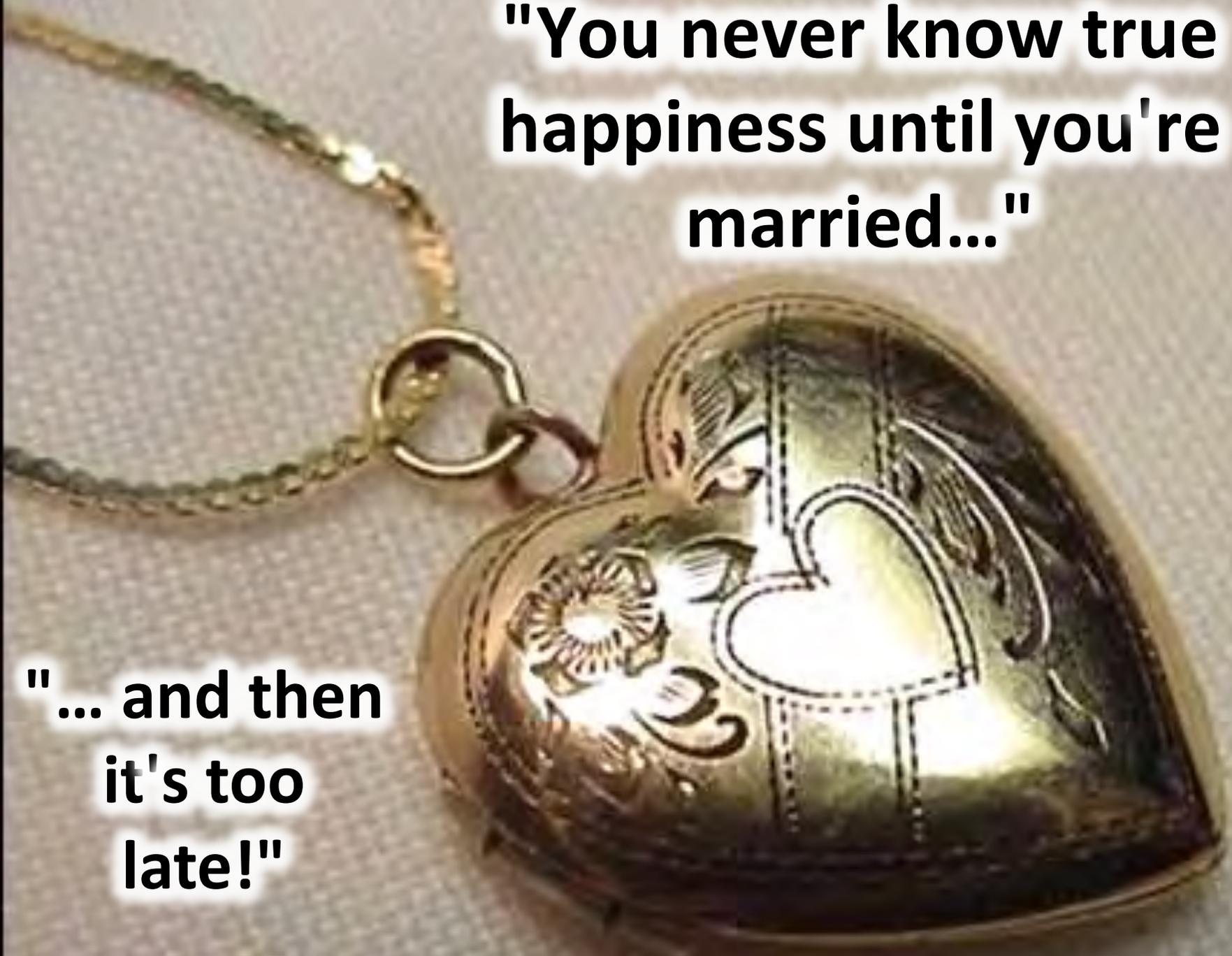
# STRAIGHT TALK ON CONTENTMENT

*1 Corinthians 7:1-24*



**"You never know true  
happiness until you're  
married..."**

**"... and then  
it's too  
late!"**





**Are you  
content?**

A photograph of a sunset over the ocean. The sun is low on the horizon, partially obscured by clouds, with bright rays of light shining through. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and dark blue. The ocean is dark and textured with small waves.

# Why should you be **content** with your...?

- marital state?
- body (physical appearance)?
- job (social standing)?

# The Wayward Local Church

Reports

Questions

Division

Disorder

Difficulties

Concern  
1-4

Discipline  
5-6

Instruction  
7-16

Factions 1-2

Carnality  
3-4

Incest 5

Lawsuits 6

Immorality

Marriage 7

Idols 8-10

Worship  
11-14

Resurrection  
15

Collection 16

Solving church problems theologically

# 1 Corinthians 7 Overview



**"Remain"**

**17, 20, 24**

**Marriage**

**7:1-24**

**Singleness**

**7:25-40**

I. Those **married** can have their sexual needs legitimately met (7:1-7)



## II. **Widowers** and **widows** can remarry if they have unmet sexual needs (7:8-9)





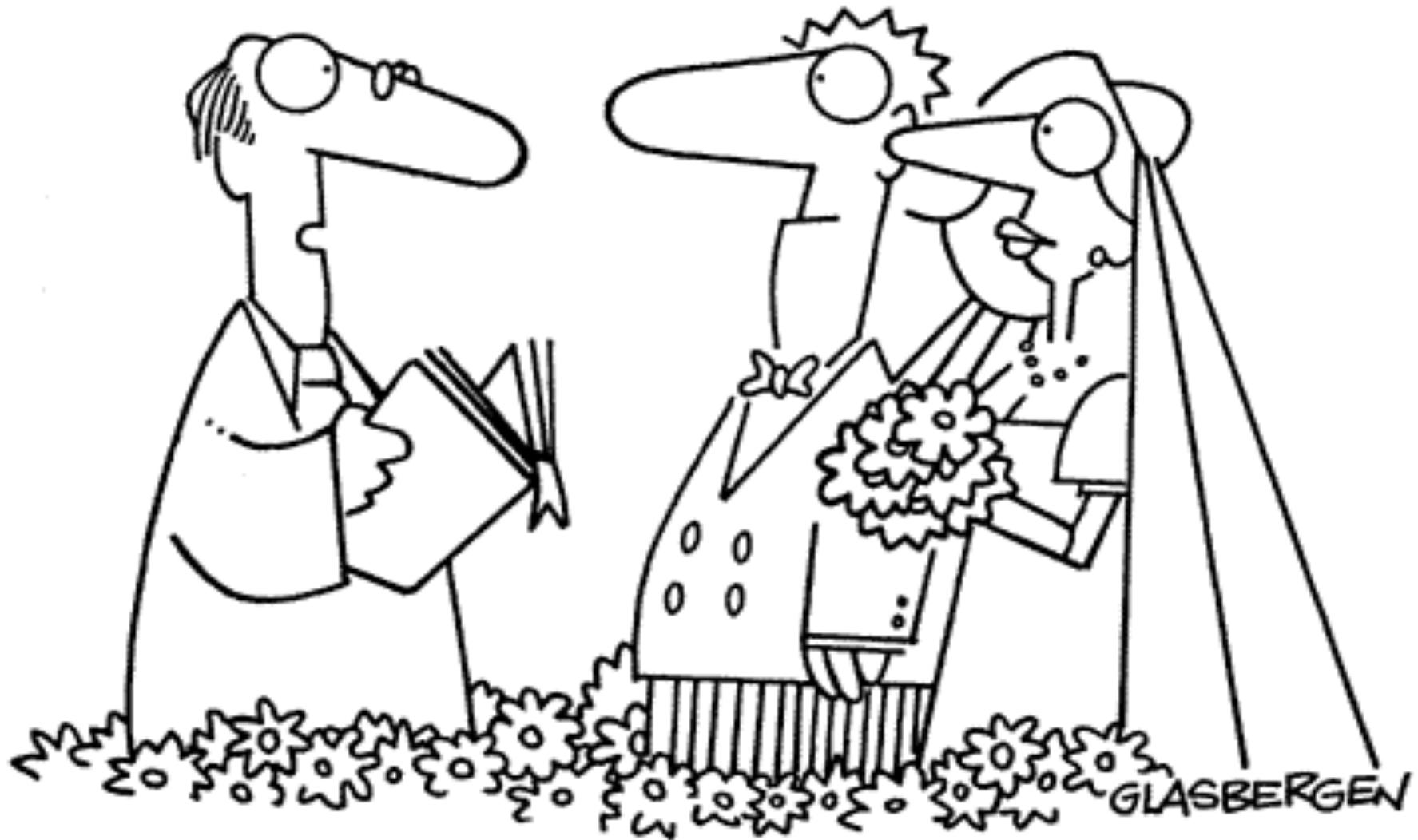
**Dr. Walter  
McConnell**

# Walter & Claire McConnell



Walter, Claire, Deborah (15), Louise (18), Daniel (17), Joshua (14), Matthew (19)

**"Do you, Walt, take Claire, to have and to hold, to email and facebook, to Tweet, Skype & text, until death do you part?"**



**III. Divorcees** should remain  
unmarried to enable  
reconciliation with their  
spouse (7:10-11)



# DIVORCE

A N D

# REMARRIAGE

FOUR CHRISTIAN VIEWS

H. WAYNE HOUSE, *EDITOR*

*with contributions from*

J. Carl Laney

William Heth

Thomas Edgar &

Larry Richards



## Four Views...

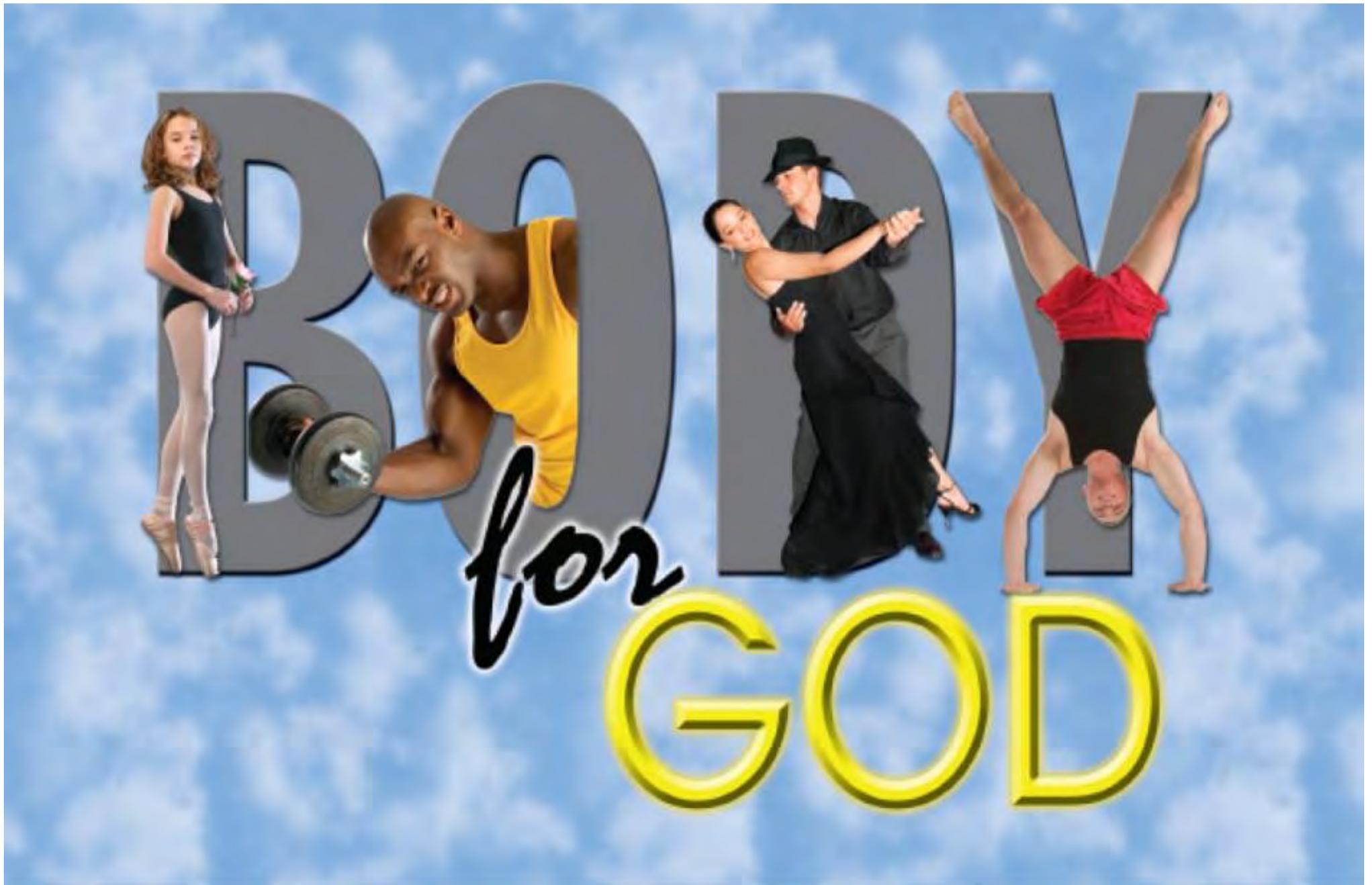
1. No divorce, no remarriage
2. Divorce, no remarriage
3. Both divorce & remarriage after adultery or desertion
4. Both divorce & remarriage after various circumstances

IV. Those in **mixed marriages**  
should stay married to be a  
godly influence in the family  
(7:12-16)



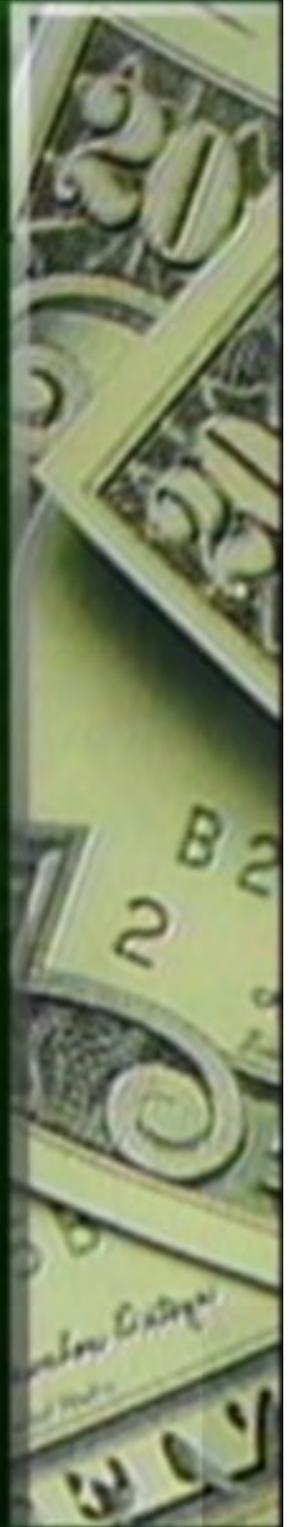
**V. All of Us:** Be content  
with your body and job  
(7:17-24)





Body Contentment (7:17-19)

Be content with your low  
socio-economic position  
(7:20-23)



# Four Roman Social Classes

## ■ Equestrians (Patricians)



## ■ Plebians



## ■ Freedman



## ■ Slaves



Emperor Augustus  
(27B.C.–A.D. 14)



Emperor Valerian  
(A.D. 253–60)



Emperor Domitian  
(A.D. 81–96)



Emperor Nero  
(A.D. 54–68)



Emperor Aurelian  
(A.D. 270–75)



Emperor Trajan  
(A.D. 98–117)

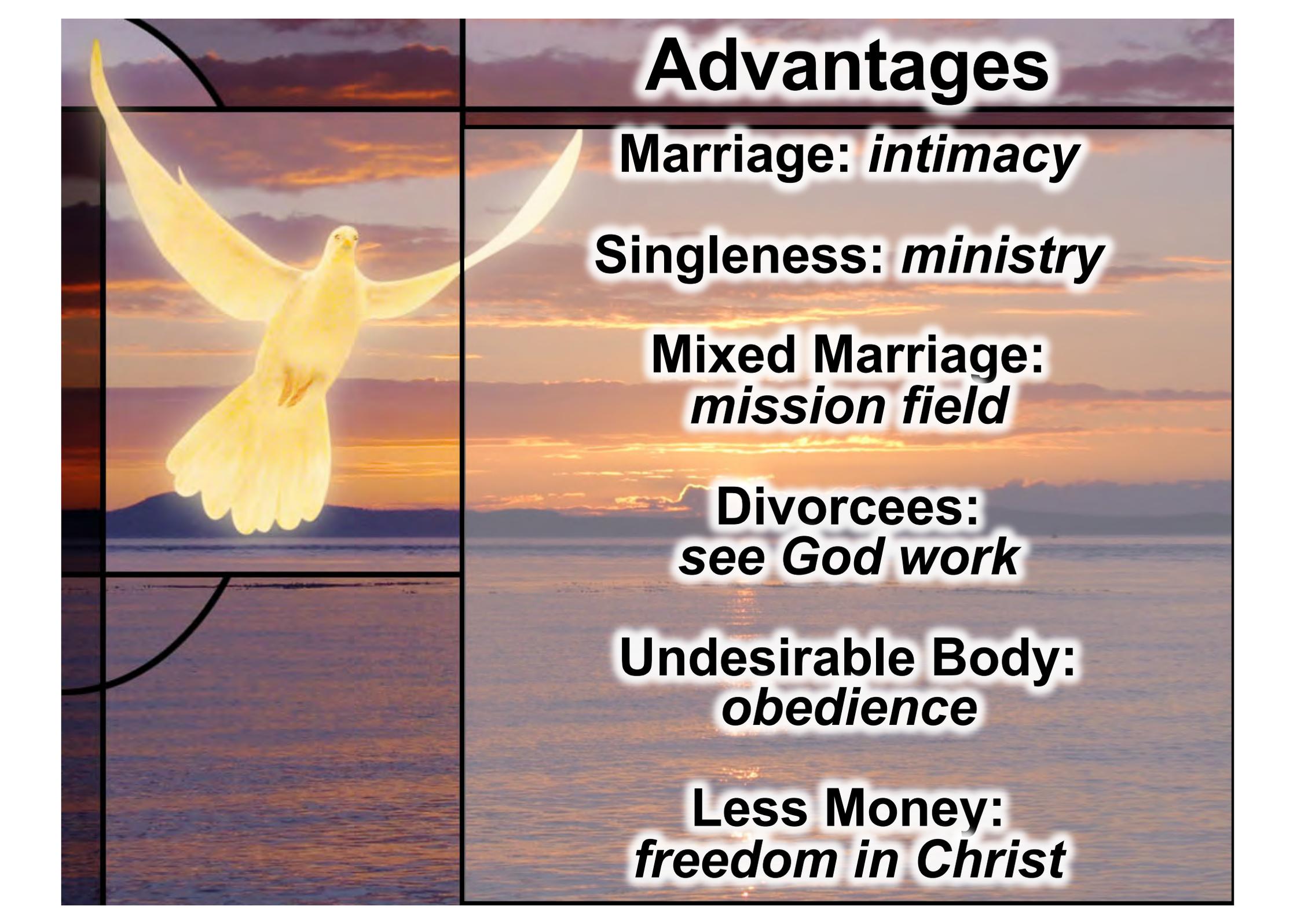


Emperor Hadrian  
(A.D. 117–38)

# Main Idea of 1 Cor. 7:1-24

A person is sitting on a beach, looking out at the ocean. In the distance, three crosses are visible on the beach, set against a sunset sky. The scene is peaceful and contemplative.

**Be content with your marital state, body, and job because each situation has its advantages**



# Advantages

**Marriage: *intimacy***

**Singleness: *ministry***

**Mixed Marriage:  
*mission field***

**Divorcees:  
*see God work***

**Undesirable Body:  
*obedience***

**Less Money:  
*freedom in Christ***

# Contentment

"...is not the **fulfillment** of  
what you **want**,  
but the **realization** of  
what you already **have**"





**1 Corinthians 7:25-40**

**Why Stay...**

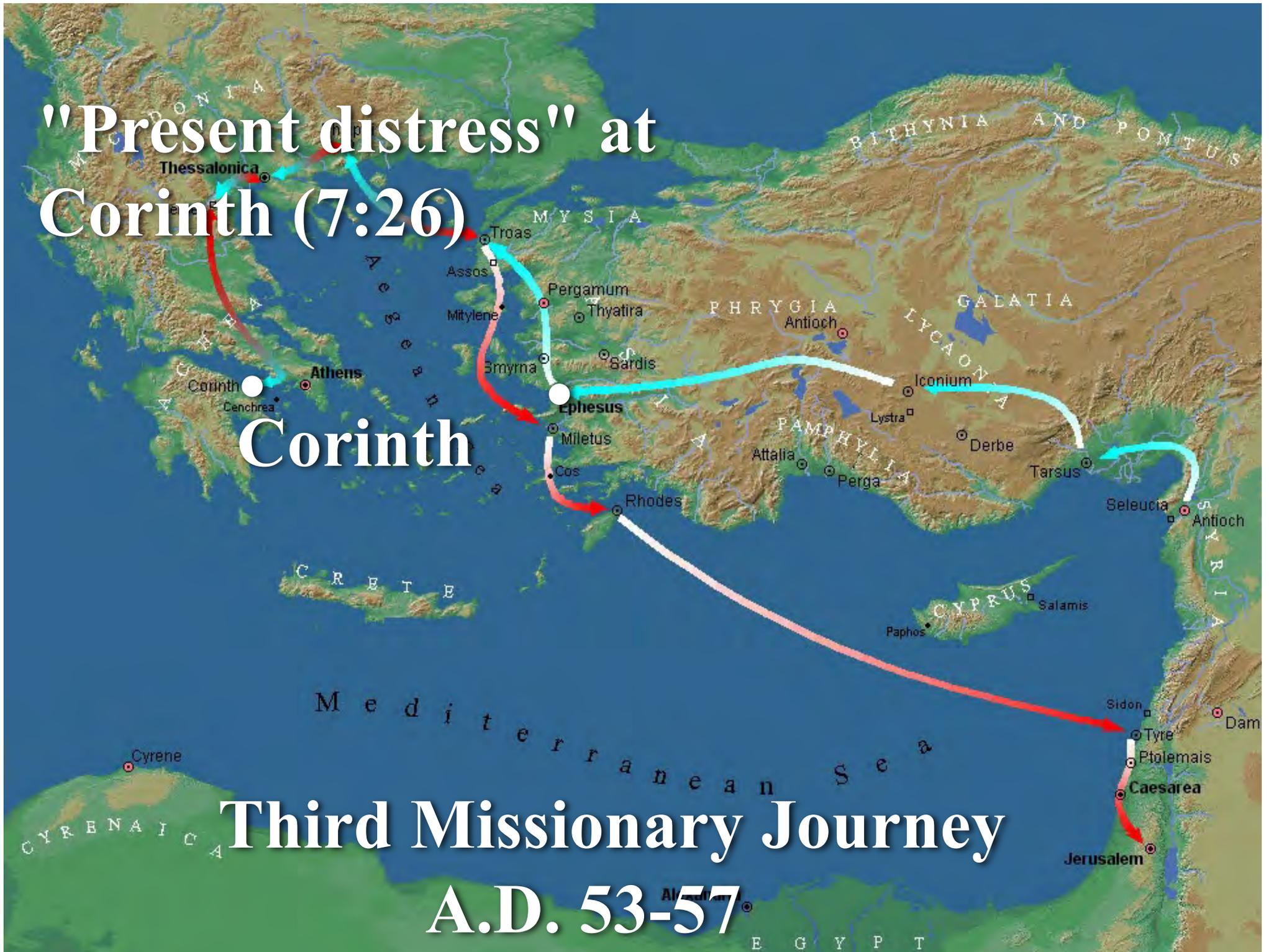
**Single?**

"Present distress" at  
Corinth (7:26)

Corinth

Third Missionary Journey

A.D. 53-57



# 1 Corinthians 7 Overview



**Marriage**

**7:1-24**

**Singleness**

**7:25-40**

# I. Singleness has its **advantages** (7:28b-35).



# *Why stay single?*

## **A. Trials:**

**Singles  
have fewer  
troubles  
than  
married  
folks  
(7:28b).**





**Cattleman's Stress Test...**

# The Stress Scale

Social Readjustment Rating Scale (SRRS) of Thomas Holmes and Richard Rahe, 1967

- 100** **Death of Spouse**
- 73** **Divorce**
- 65** **Marital Separation**
- 63 Death of Close Family Member
- 63 Imprisonment
- 53 Personal Injury or Illness
- 50** **Getting Married**
- 47 Dismissal from Work
- 45** **Marital Reconciliation**

# Stress Ball



# *Why stay single?*

**B. Time:**  
Singles  
have more  
time to  
invest in  
eternal  
matters  
(7:29-31).

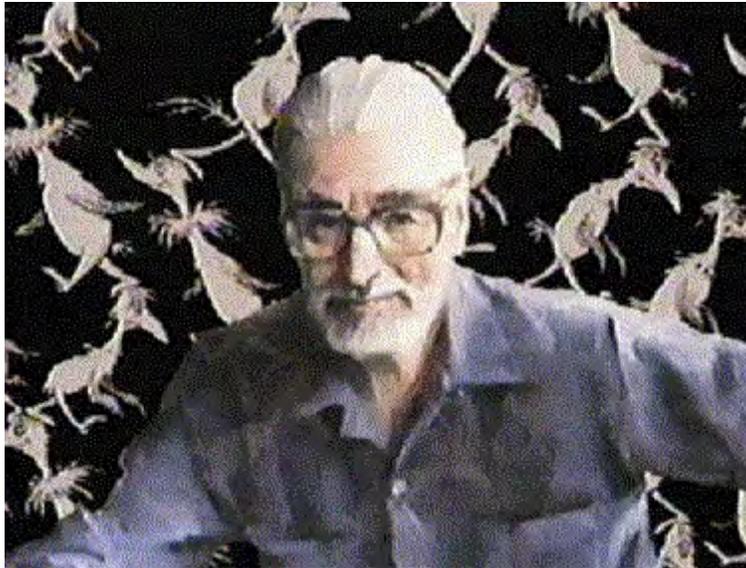


# Women on SBC Faculty

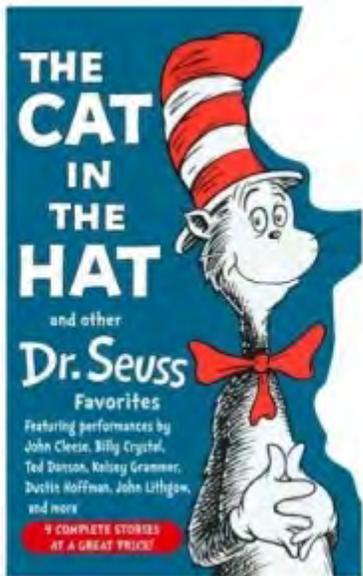


# Children's Authors

*Lewis  
Carroll*



*Dr.  
Seuss*



*Beatrix  
Potter*

# Other Singles

J. D. Douglas

Voltaire

Beethoven

Hans Christian  
Anderson

Michelangelo



John Stott

# Why stay single?

## C. **Distractions:**

Singles can  
serve God  
in ways that  
those  
married  
can't  
(7:32-35).





# The Crossroads (1981-83)



**Korea**

**China**

**Japan**

**Hong Kong**

**Taiwan**

**Macau**

**Thailand**

**Philippines**

**Malaysia**

**Singapore**

**Indonesia**

**Crossroads Ministry**

# *China, 1981*



# *Susan & Me, 1982*





**II. Marriage still isn't  
prohibited (7:36-40).**

30 December 1983

A. **Singles** should get married if sexual temptation is too strong (7:36-38).



B. **Widows** can remarry too  
(7:39-40).



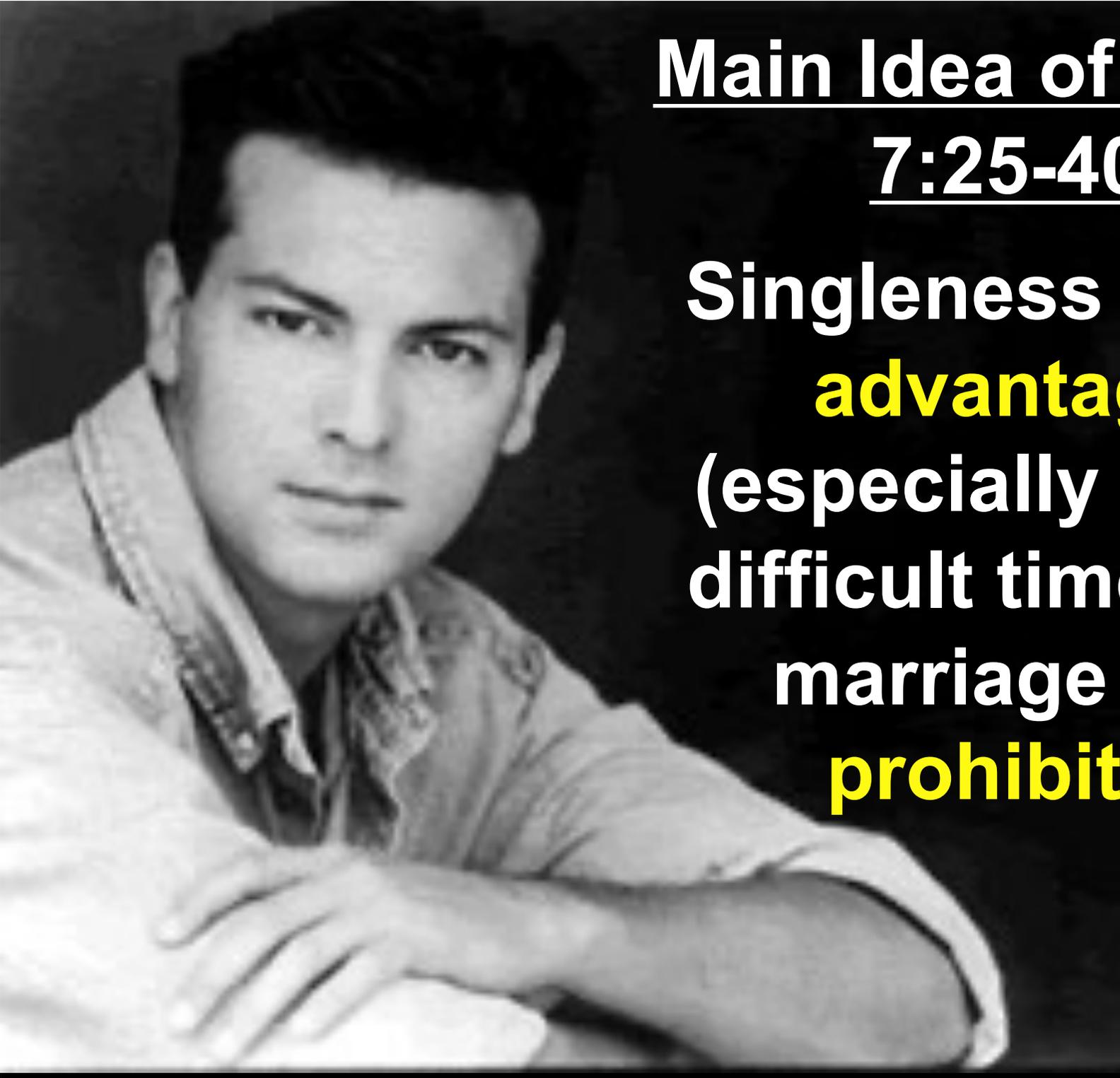


STEVE CARELL

# DAN IN REAL LIFE

IN THEATERS OCTOBER 26

**Single parenting ain't for sissies**

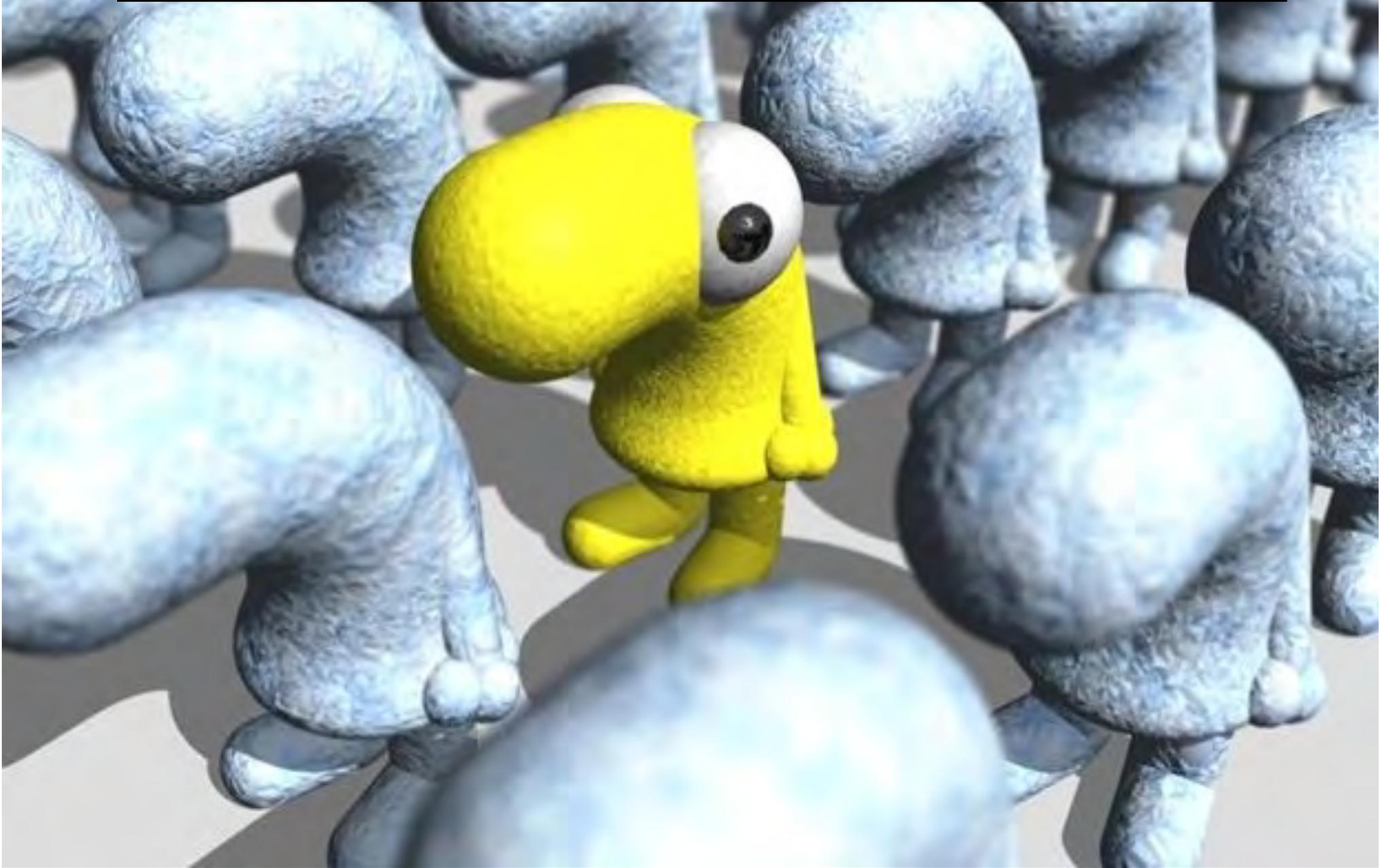


Main Idea of 1 Cor.

7:25-40

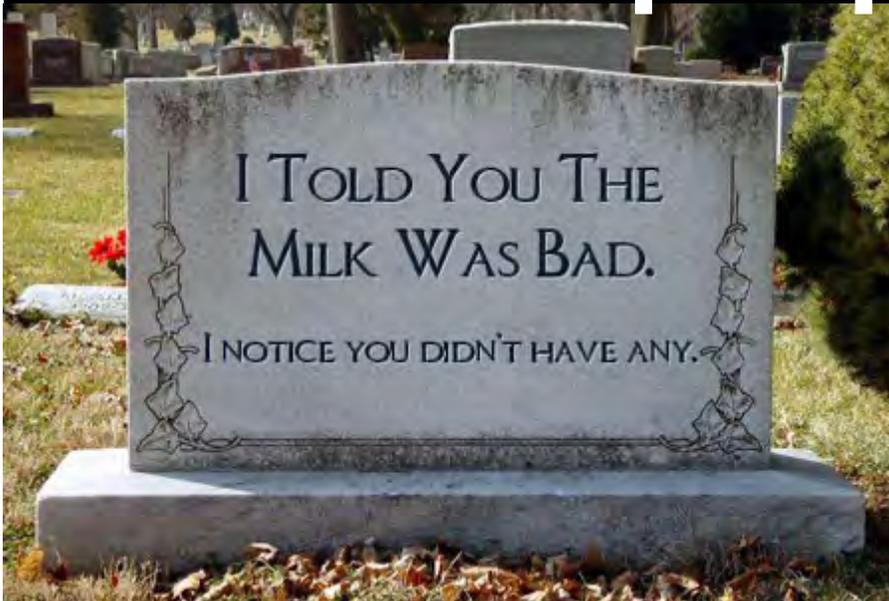
Singleness has its  
**advantages**  
(especially during  
difficult times) but  
marriage isn't  
**prohibited.**

# What about Singles?



# Harriet Hartbyrne

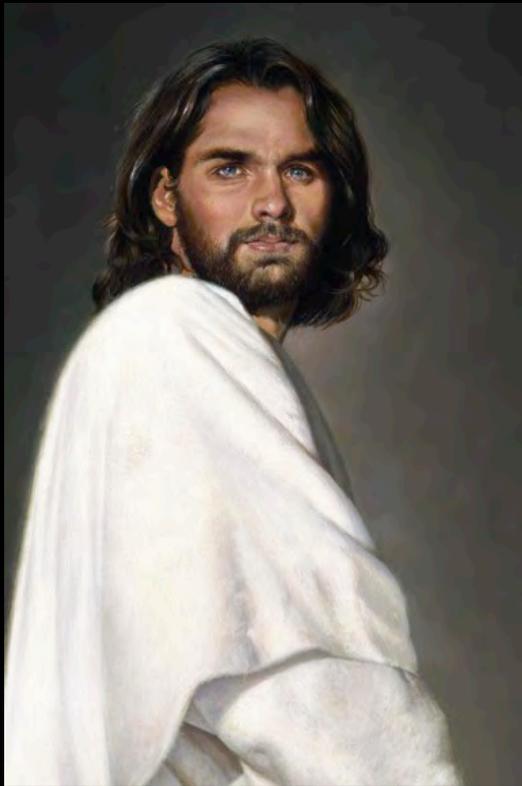
**"I don't want anyone to put 'Miss' on my tombstone—I haven't missed as much as people think!"**

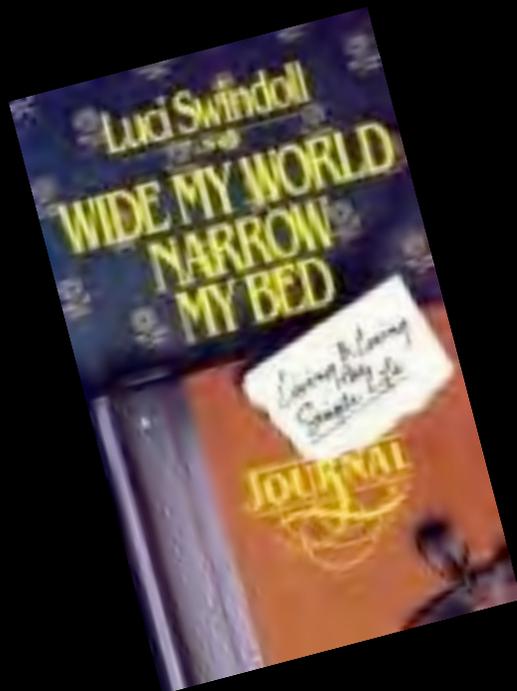


# What about Couples?



# Key NT Singles





# Luci Swindoll



"As a little girl, I always liked the idea of a single lifestyle. I never consciously wanted to marry. I had high goals. I wanted to sing professionally. I wanted to travel. I realized that if I married, I wouldn't have time to accomplish these goals. Also, I thought my temperament needed solitude and was not suited to the responsibilities that marriage and a family required. I didn't think I could blend into my husband with my whole heart. Quite early, God revealed to me that I would be better off not to marry."

# 1 Corinthians 8



## Where Convictions Come From...



**Scripture**

**View of Acrocorinth from the City**

*Divisions (1-4)*

# Things wrong at *Corinth*

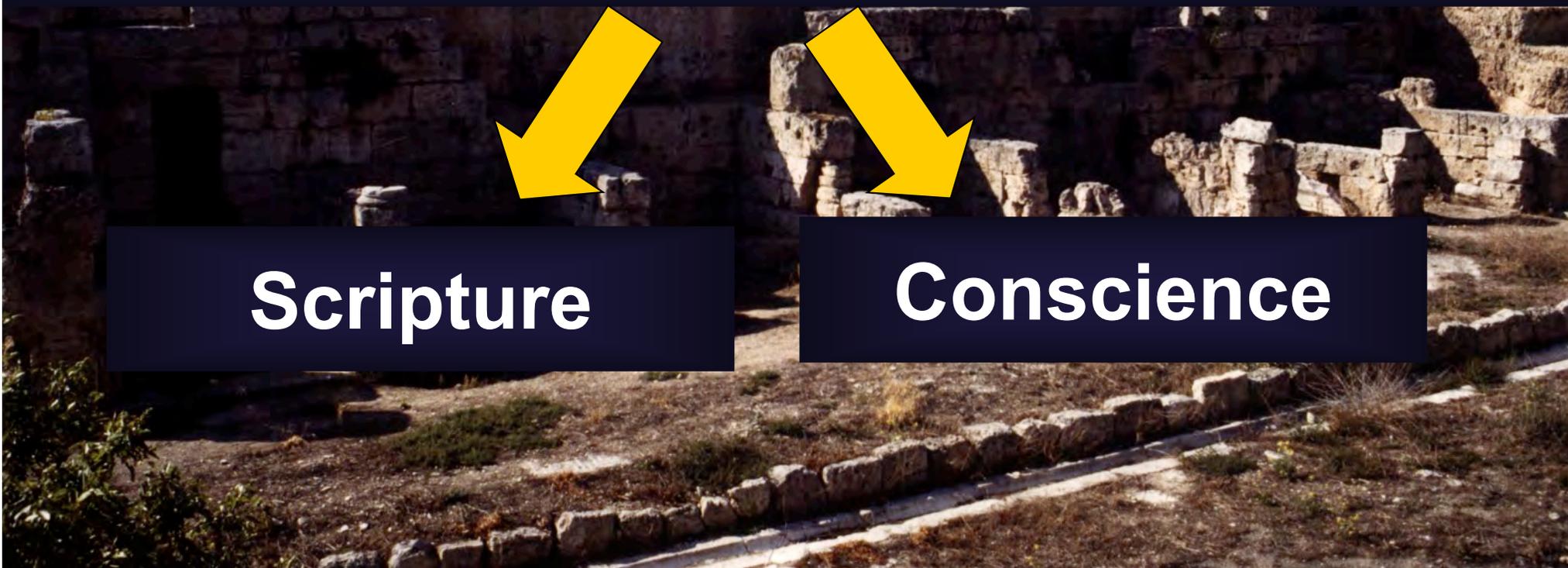
**1 Corinthians**

*Immorality (5-6)*

*Discontentment (7)*



## Where Convictions Come From...



**View of Acrocorinth from the City**

# Black & White

*Practices the Bible  
says are always  
wrong*

*Idolatry  
Adultery  
Murder  
Coveting*

*Practices the Bible  
says are always  
right*

*Contentment  
Obedience  
Prayer  
Purity*

# Gray Areas

*Practices not  
forbidden in the Bible  
over which Christians  
disagree*

# Gray Area Examples

- Accepting gifts with the left hand
- Being a Democrat (or Republican!)
- Buying a Mac (or Windows) computer
- Celebrating Christmas or Easter
- Celebrating Good Friday
- Celebrating Lent
- Celebrating Palm Sunday
- Changing to a "Christian" name
- Chinese New Year giving of *hong baos*

# Gray Area Examples

Christmas trees in the church sanctuary

Clapping in church services

Dancing

Drinking beer

Drinking hard liquor

Drinking wine

Driving a motorcycle

Eating bloody foods

Eating food sacrificed to idols

# Gray Area Examples

Eating junk food

Eating meat

Eating only "Christian food"

Giving only "Christian" greetings (New Year)

Giving to non-religious causes

Having an abortionist gynecologist

Killing in war

Laughing with men and women together

Listening to rock music

# Christians in Corinth

Those who felt it was  
wrong to eat

They did  
not eat, but  
were  
troubled by  
those who  
did

They ate in  
spite of  
thinking it  
was wrong  
and their  
conscience  
was troubled

Those who felt it was  
okay to eat

They ate  
without  
regard to the  
feelings of  
others

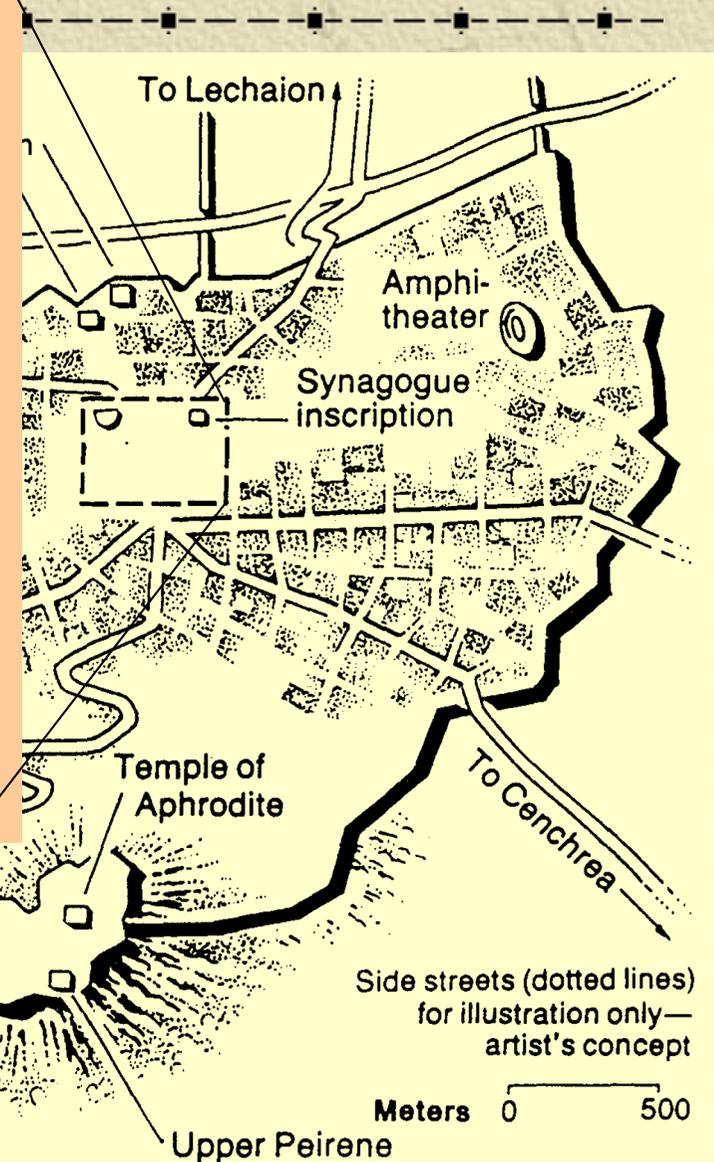
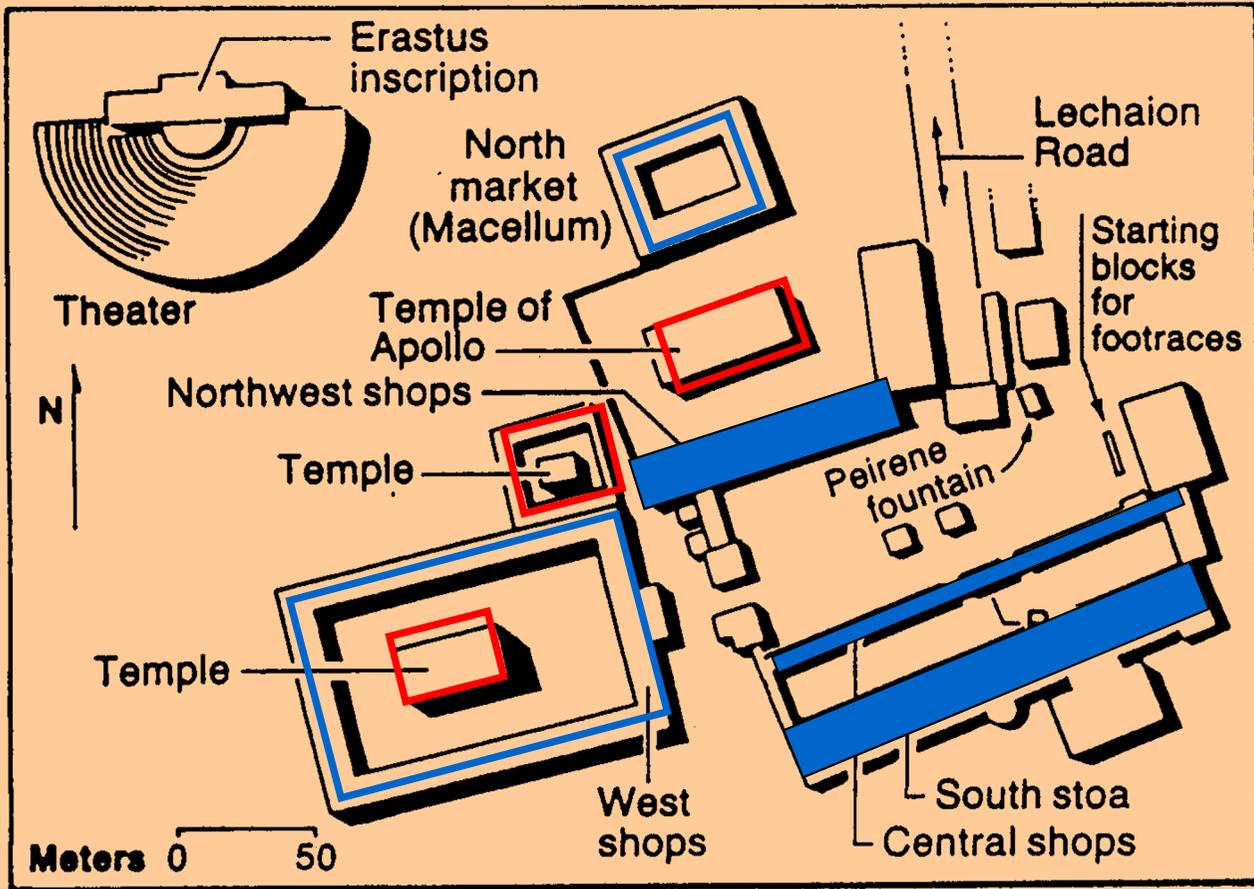
They limited  
their liberty  
from concern  
for other  
brothers

Should we change  
our behavior based  
on *someone else's*  
conscience?

Why  
should we  
give up  
our **rights**  
in gray  
matters?

I. Show **love** more than  
knowledge (1 Cor 8:1-3).

# Meat & the Marketplace (1 Cor 8)





Music



Drinking



II. Protect the **conscience**  
of weak believers  
(1 Cor 8:4-8).

III. Give up your rights  
**permanently** if they hurt a  
weaker brother  
(1 Cor. 8:9-13).

**Bad things happen** if you insist on  
your rights in gray matters  
(8:10-12).

You encourage your weaker  
**brother to sin** (8:10)

The weak brother could even  
**give up his faith** (8:11)

**You sin** (8:12)

## *Chapter 8 Big Idea*

Show **love** more than  
knowledge when  
dealing with gray  
matters

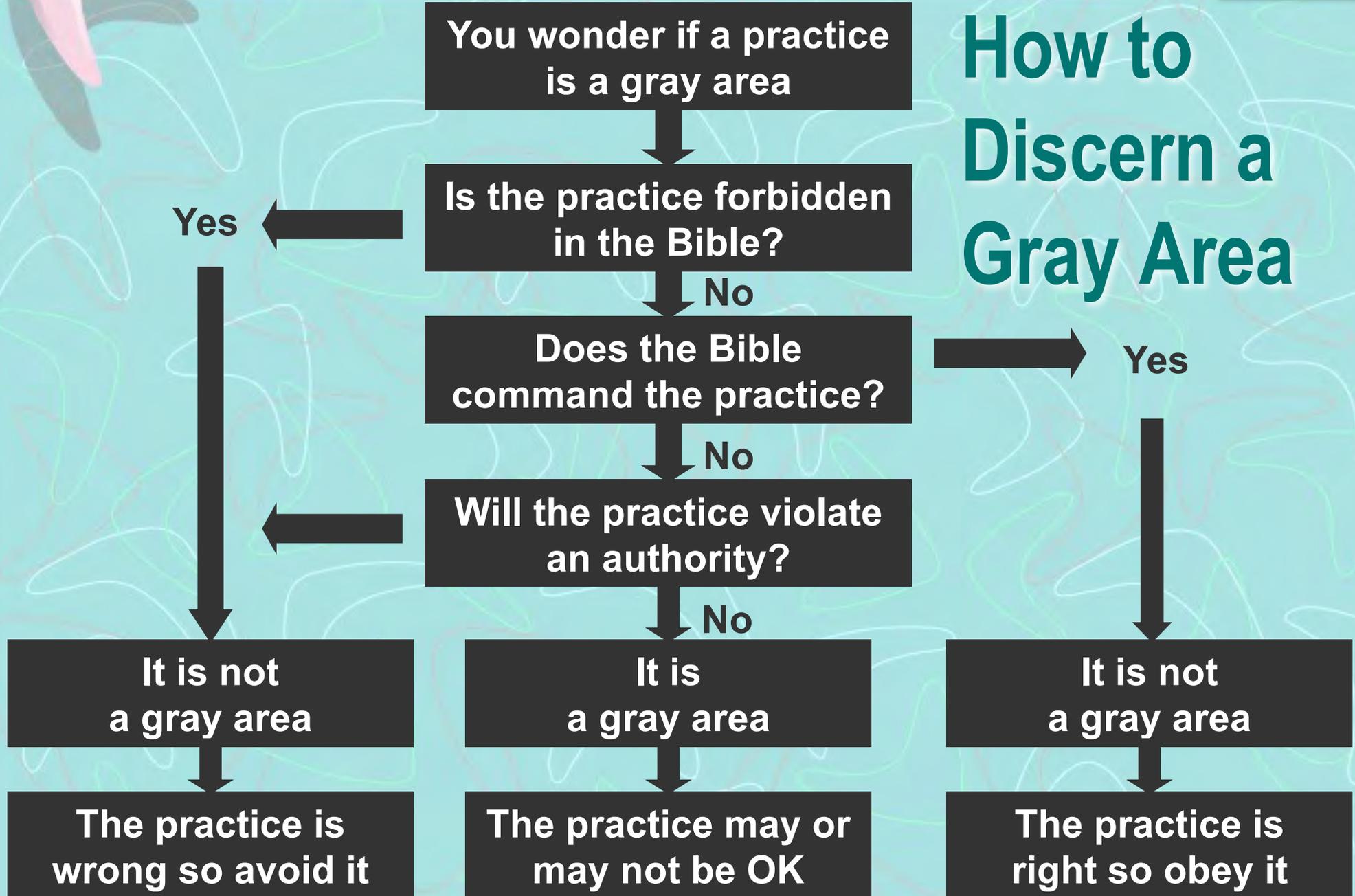
Use your gray matter concerning  
gray matters.



Use your brain

# 1 Corinthians 9

# How to Discern a Gray Area





**Is it forbidden  
in Scripture?**

**Yes** →

**155bb**

**No** ↓

**Is it forbidden by  
authorities over you?**

**Yes** →

**No** ↓

**Will it lead you  
to sin?**

**Yes** →

**No** ↓

**Will it divert your mind  
from good things?**

**Yes** →

**No** ↓

**Will it lead others  
to sin?**

**Yes** →

**No** ↓

**Will it hinder your  
ministry of the gospel?**

**Yes** →

**No** ↓

**The practice need not  
be avoided**

**Avoid  
this practice**

# How to Handle Gray Areas in Yourself



# How to Handle Gray Areas in the Church

A member is accused of being a stumbling block by having a certain practice

Is this practice forbidden in the Scriptures?

Yes

Follow  
Matt 18  
to  
restore

No

Did the member agree to abstain from the practice when joining the church?

Yes

Plead with  
member to  
submit

No

Does the practice hinder the growth of the offended party?

Yes

Ask  
member to  
stop of out  
love

No

Does the practice hinder the spread of the gospel?

Yes

Ask  
offended  
party to  
tolerate  
it

No

# Gray Area Case Study

Two members at your church complained to you as the pastor that they don't like the newly adopted style of music. What would you do about this?

1. Kick them out
2. Call a meeting to vote
3. Go back to the old music
4. Something else, which is...



# 1 Corinthians 8–10

8

Meat

9

Apostles

10

Temples

8

Gray  
Areas

Should we follow  
*someone else's*  
conscience?

Why  
should we  
give up  
our **rights**  
in gray  
matters?



Vegeta-bull

# 1 Corinthians 8–10

8

Meat

9

Apostles

10

Temples

8

Gray  
Areas

9

Rights



Do those serving  
Christ have **rights**?

I. Servants of Christ have  
**rights** (1 Cor 9:1-14).

# How Greek and Roman Philosophers and Religious Teachers Were Paid in Paul's Day

- Charged fees
- Stayed with rich people
- Begged
- Worked at a trade

# Macedonia



# Corinth

# How did Paul support himself?



"Was it a sin for me to lower myself  
in order to elevate you by  
preaching the gospel of God to you  
free of charge? I robbed other  
churches by receiving support from  
them so as to serve you!"

2 Corinthians 11:7-8 NLT





# Food for Priests



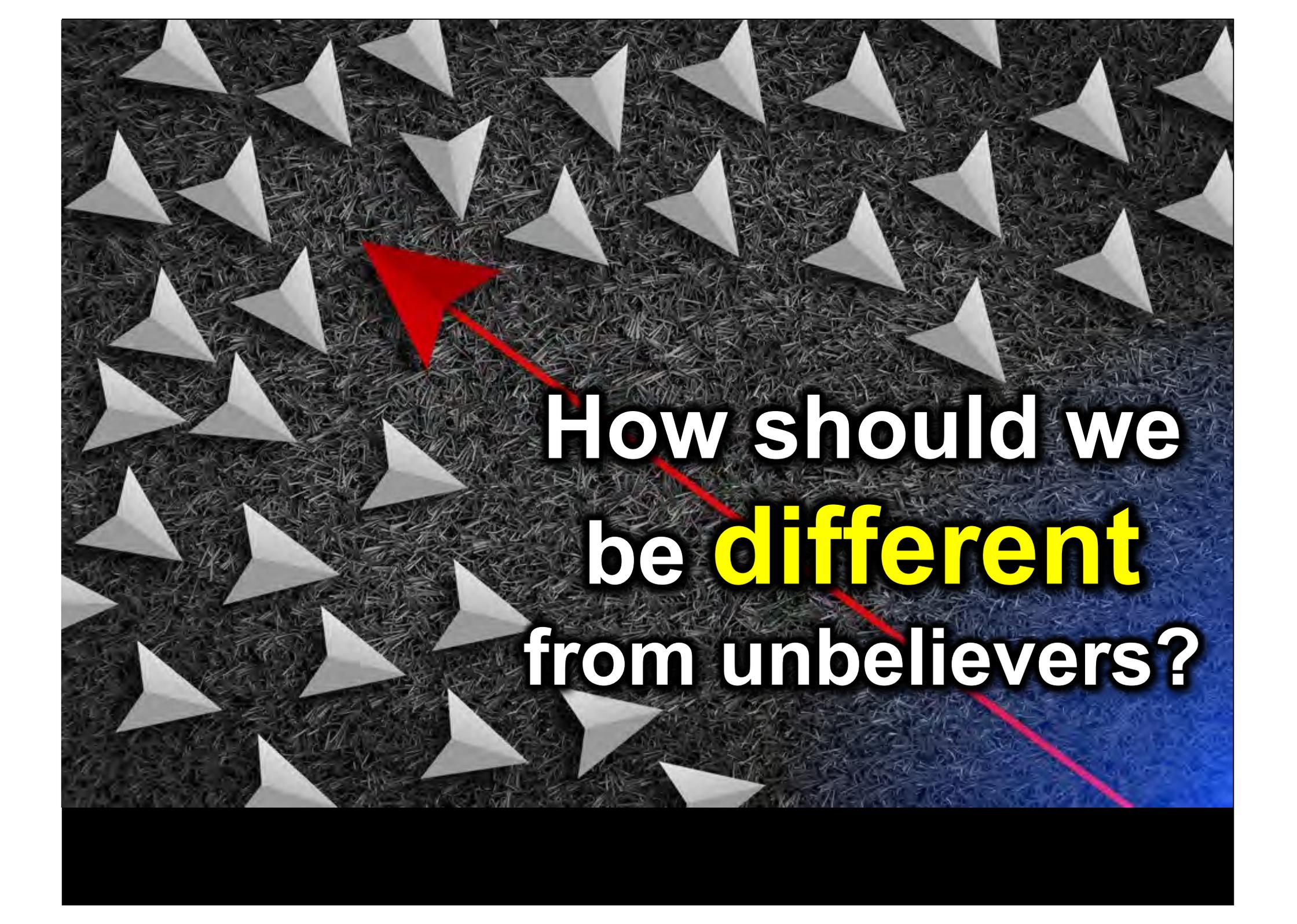
II. Give up any right  
that **hinders** the gospel  
(1 Cor 9:15-27).

**Give up** your rights  
to help others  
mature in Christ

(Main Idea of  
1 Corinthians 9)

# Herd Mentality



A field of white paper airplanes scattered across a grassy area. One red paper airplane is positioned in the upper left, pointing towards the text. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

How should we  
be **different**  
from unbelievers?

*How should we...*

**BE  
UNITED**  
(1-4)

**BE  
MORAL**  
(5-6)

**BE  
DIFFERENT**

**BE  
SELFLESS**  
(7-16)

**1 Corinthians**

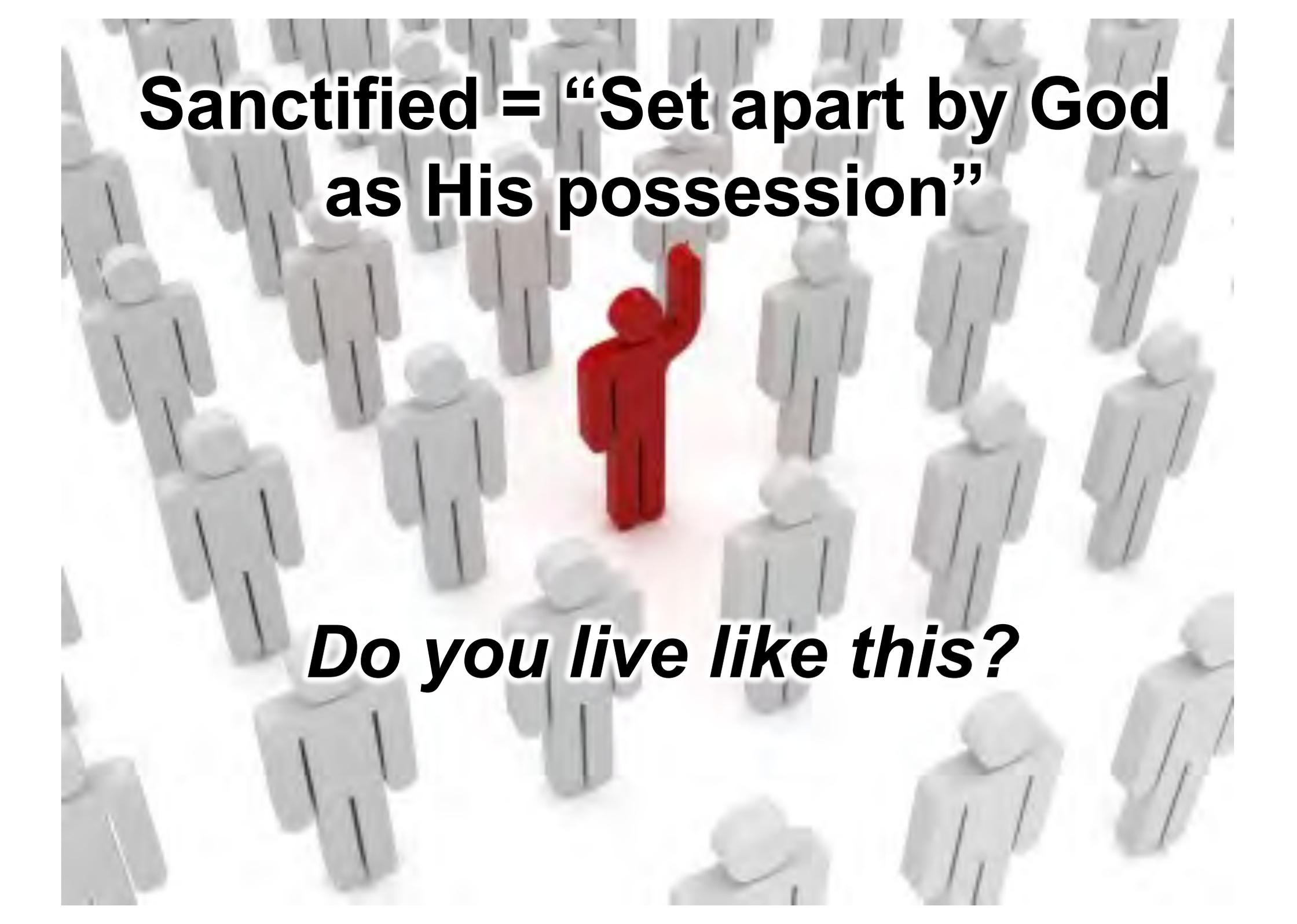
*...from unbelievers?*

# Main Idea

A collection of light bulbs, with one glowing yellow in the center, symbolizing an idea or inspiration.

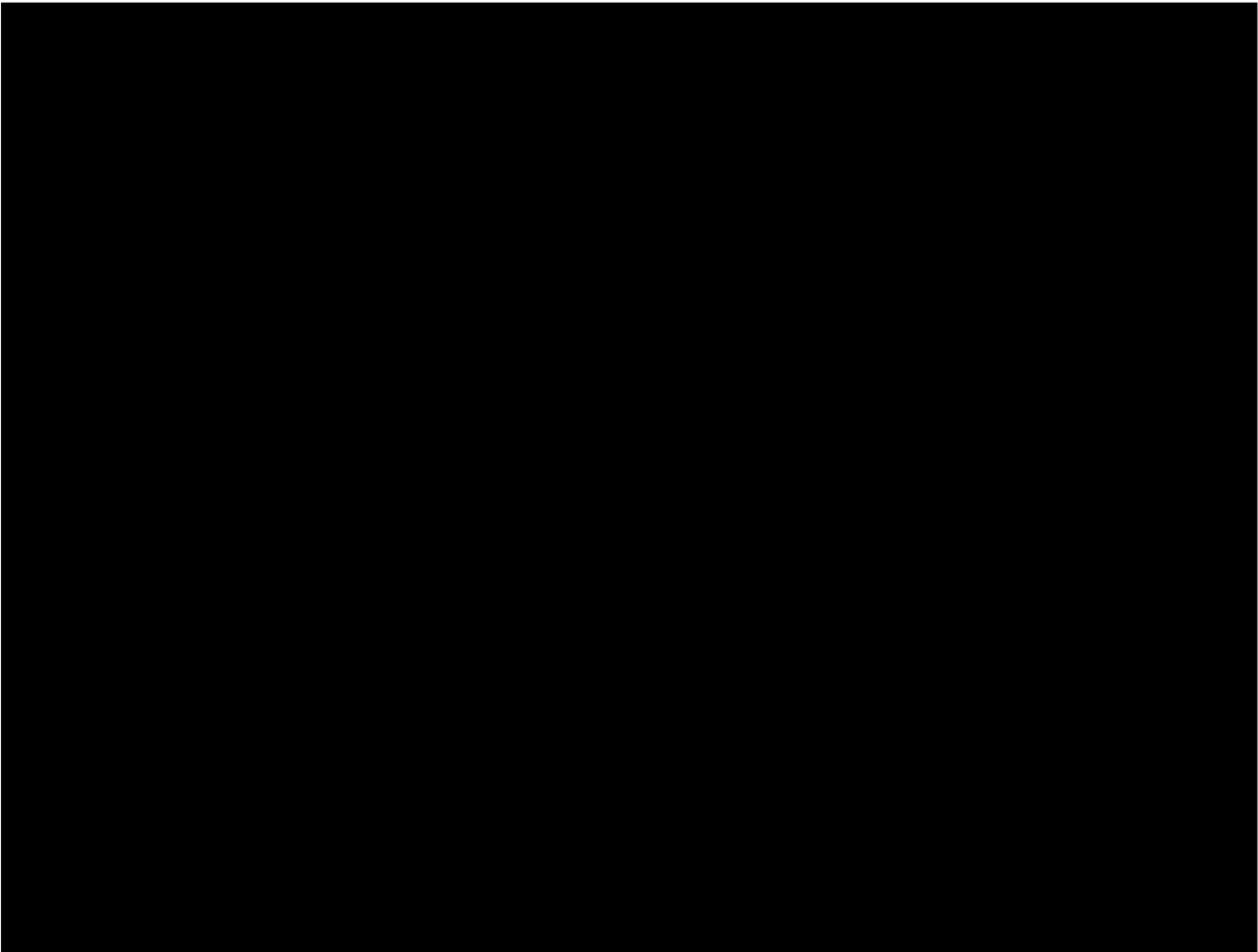
Be **different** by being  
united, moral and selfless

1 Corinthians

A 3D rendering of a crowd of grey human figures. In the center, one figure is colored red and has its right arm raised. The figures are arranged in a circular pattern, with the red figure standing on a small, glowing red circular base. The background is white.

**Sanctified = “Set apart by God  
as His possession”**

***Do you live like this?***



# Get this presentation and script for free!



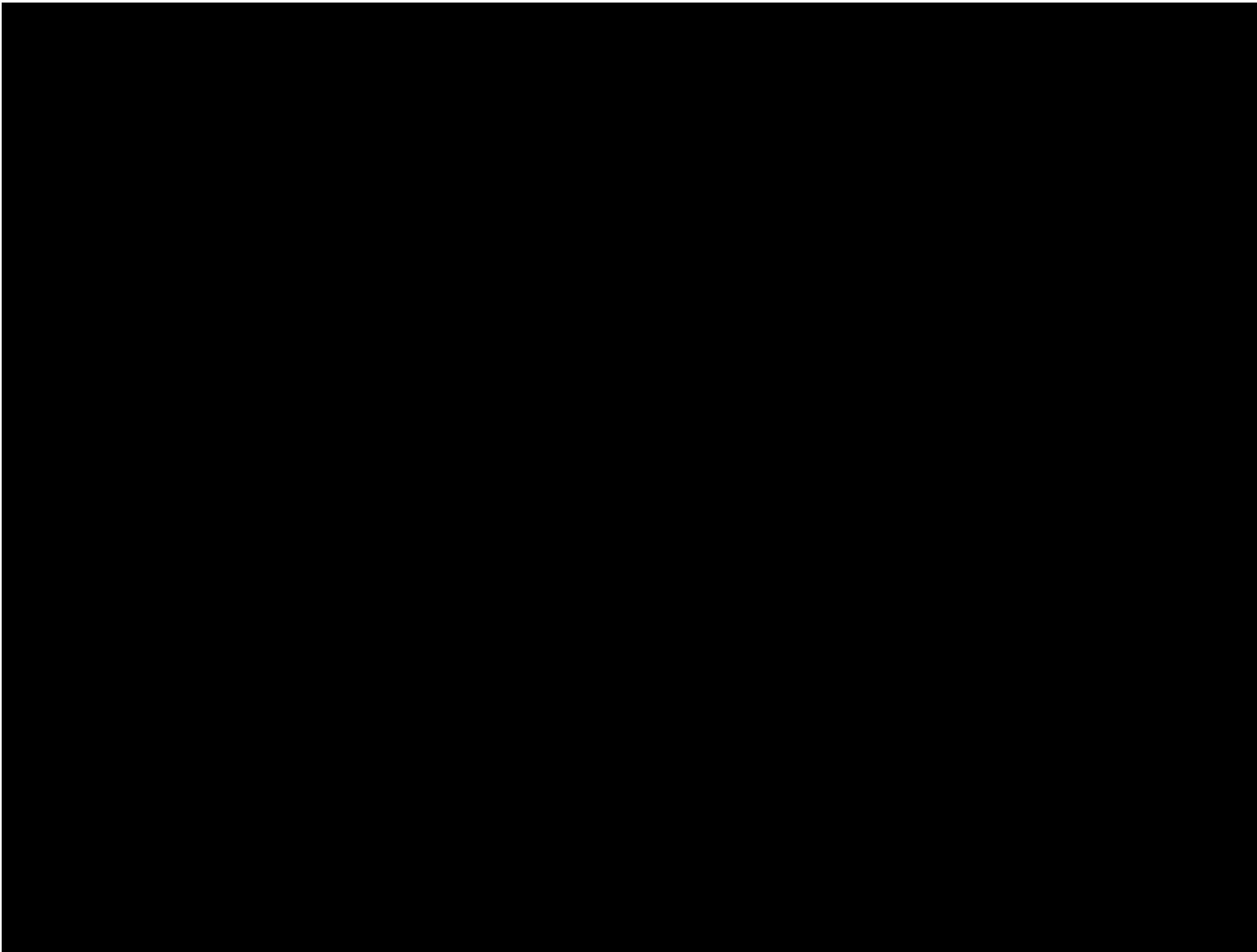
[Home](#) [Downloads](#) [FAQ](#) [Links](#) [Contribute](#) [Contact](#)

Search...



Bible Study Downloads has thousands of PowerPoint® and Word files in 42 languages for free download [here](#).

## NT Preaching • BibleStudyDownloads.org



# Get this presentation for free!



[Home](#) [Downloads](#) [FAQ](#) [Links](#) [Contribute](#) [Contact](#)

Search...



Bible Study Downloads has thousands of PowerPoint® and Word files in 42 languages for free download [here](#).

## NT Survey link at [BibleStudyDownloads.org](http://BibleStudyDownloads.org)