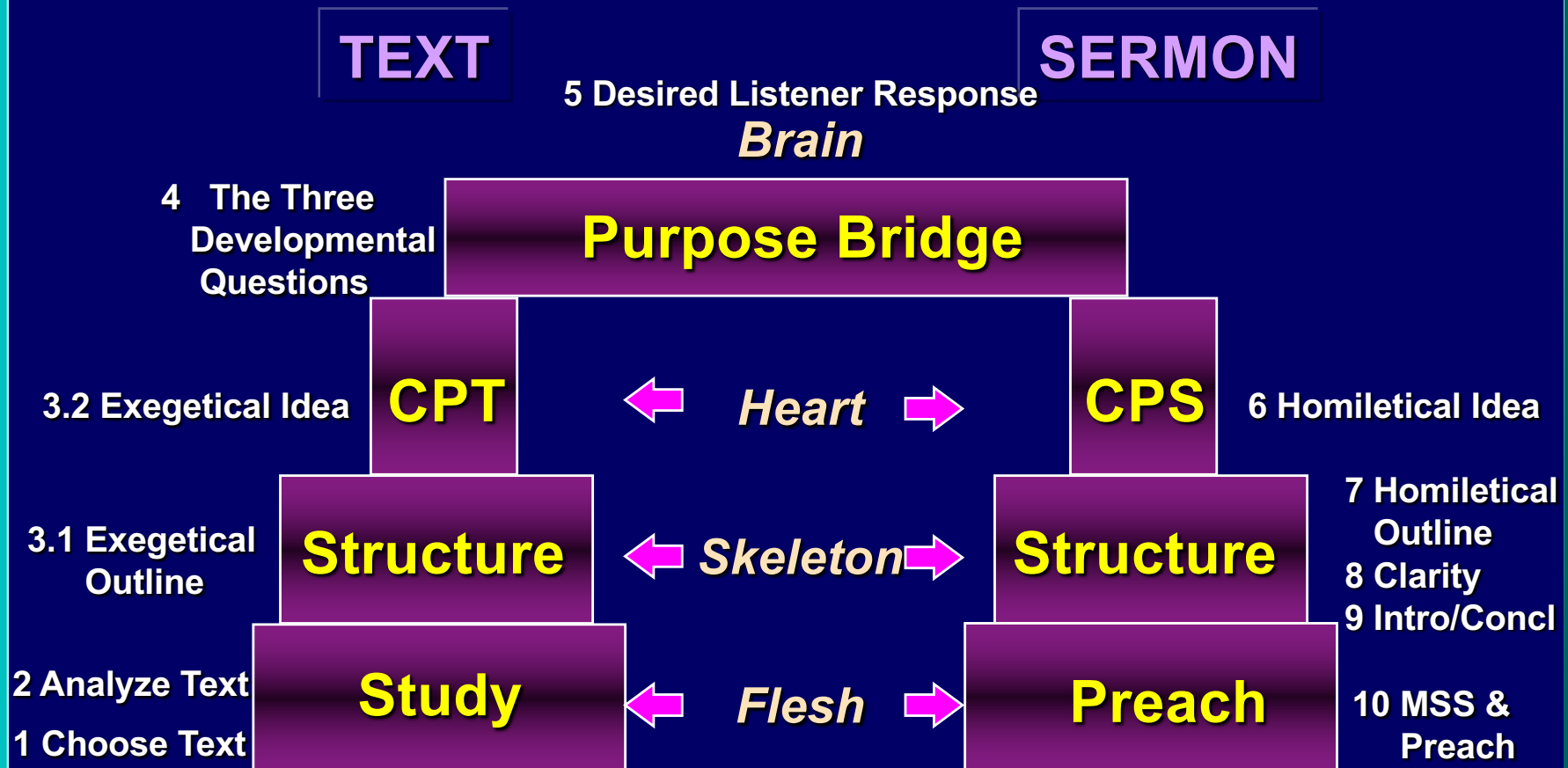




Topical Preaching

The *Preparing Expository Sermons* Process

Based on Ramesh Richard's text, *Preparing Expository Sermons*



White text shows 10 steps adapted from Haddon Robinson, *Biblical Preaching* (notes, 105)

What is the most impactful sermon you have heard in your life?

- How did it change your life?
- Was it topical or an exposition of one passage?

WHAT IS A TOPICAL SERMON?

**TOPICAL SERMONS
EXPOUND A CENTRAL
IDEA FROM MORE THAN
ONE MAIN TEXT OF
SCRIPTURE**

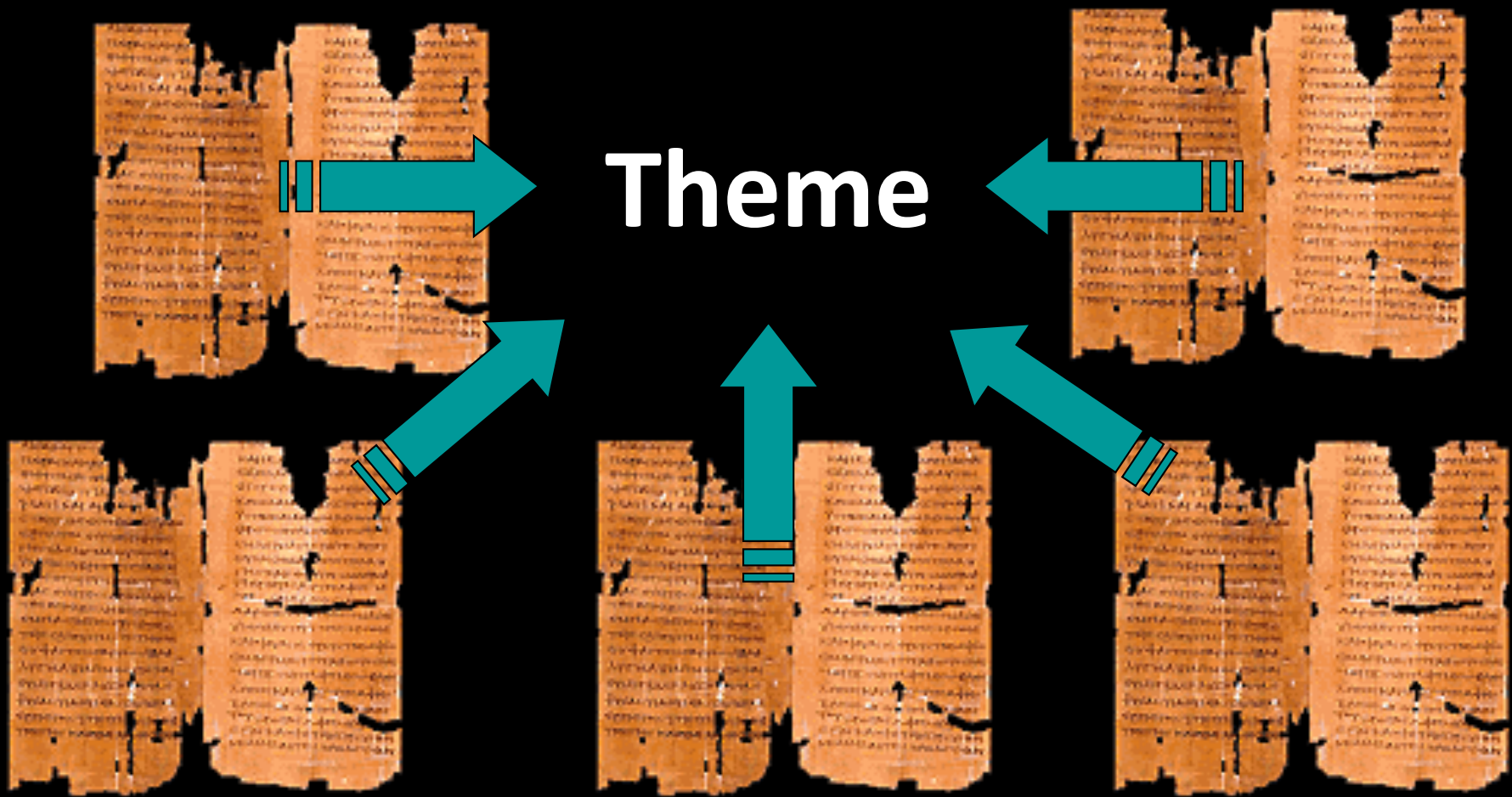
WHAT IS A TOPICAL EXPOSITION?

"THE COMMUNICATION OF A **BIBLICAL CONCEPT** DERIVED FROM SEVERAL DIFFERENT **PASSAGES** IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE **AUTHOR'S PURPOSE** AND THE **SUBJECT/COMPLEMENT** OF EACH **PASSAGE PRESENTED**"

TYPES OF SERMONS

Categories	Types of Sermons			
Biblical Content	Biblical Sermon		Non-Biblical Sermon	
Use of Text	Textual or Expository Sermon	Topical-Biblical Sermon	Topical Sermon	
Length of Text	Textual Unit (Paragraph or Chapter)	Verse or Clause	Many Texts	Non-Textual (No Text)

Topical sermons draw from several books

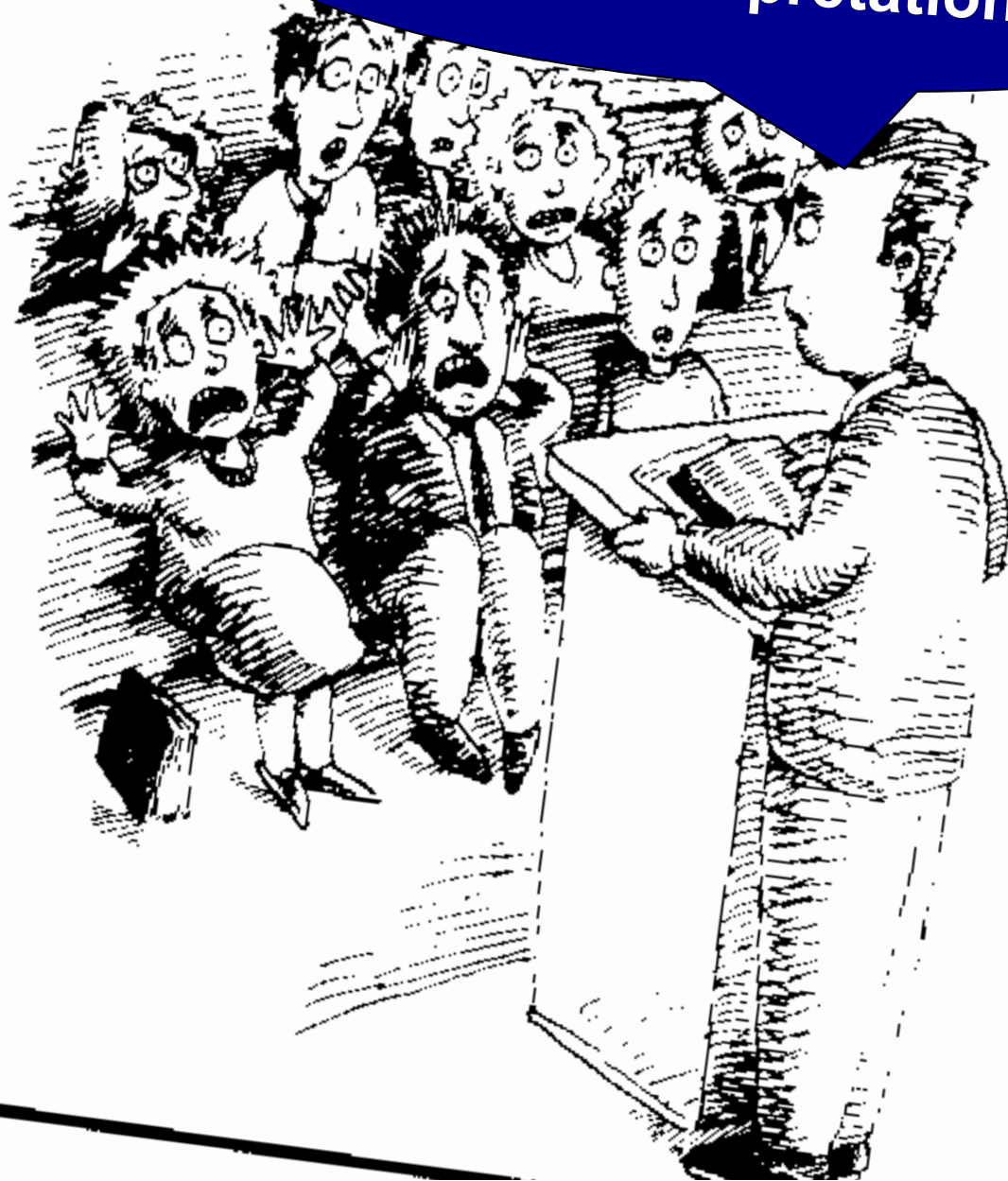


Some Dangers of Topic Preaching²

Topical Preaching	Expository Preaching
preaches 2 or more texts of Scripture	focuses on a single passage
more easily selects what the preacher wants to say from the text	discerning what <i>God</i> says through the author
the preacher designs his own outline	the preacher derives his outline from the text
time <i>may not</i> be available to put verses in their proper context	time <i>is</i> available to put verses in context
the preacher can be accused of speaking to certain individuals	the speaker is less easily accused of targeting certain subjects or people as he preaches systematically

Of course, there may be other interpretations.

Topical messages have the danger of inserting your own views.



Advantages of Topical Preaching

A. Allows fuller development than in one text

- 1. Theological**: Good to preach systematics
- 2. Biographical**: Character studies
- 3. Procedural**: method of doing something
- 4. Persuasive**: abortion, divorce
- 5. Evangelistic**: 4 spiritual laws
- 6. Proverbs**: can preach two-line proverbs

B. Works nicely between series

C. Gives variety with a change in style

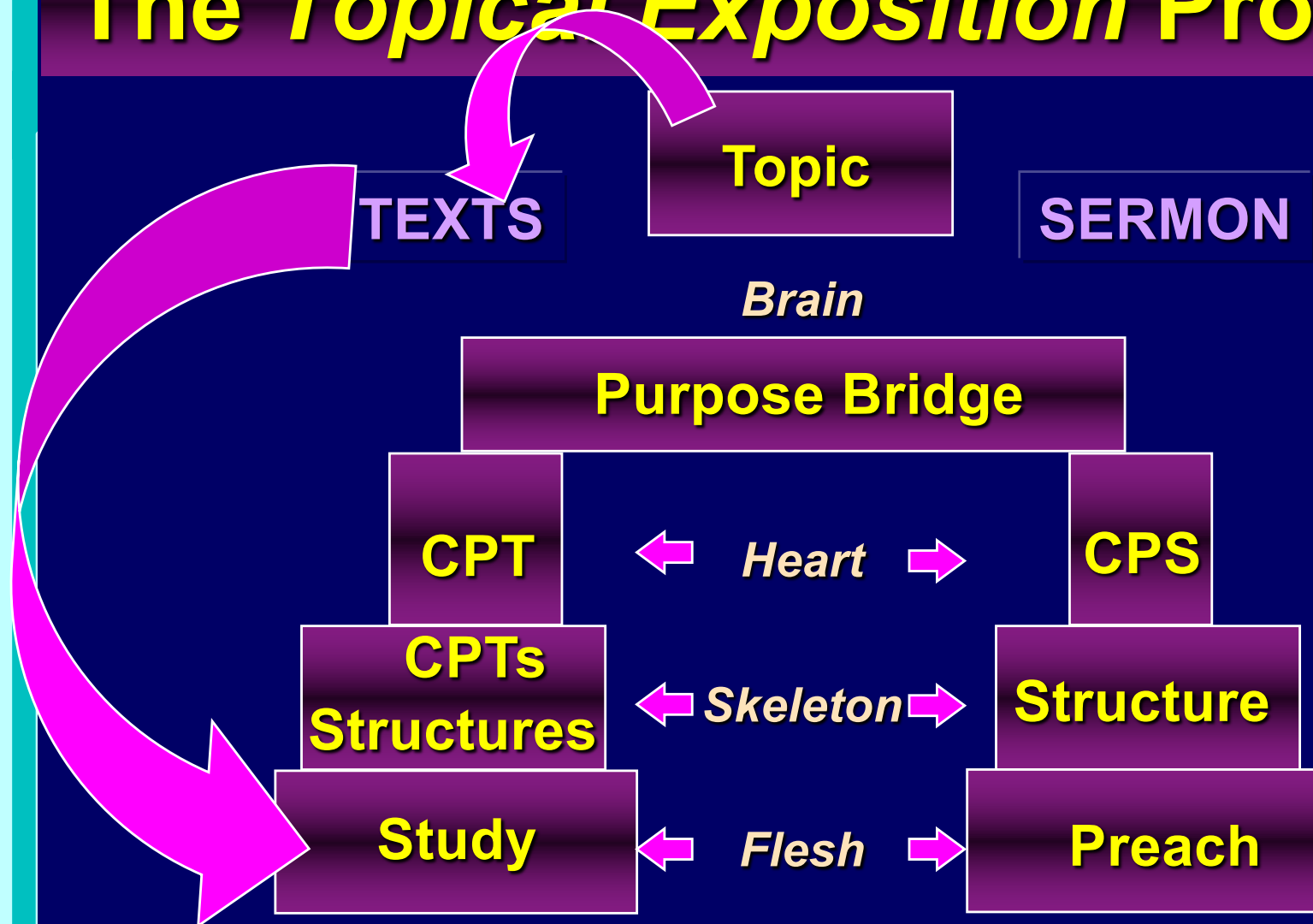
D. Enables speaking on topics not in Bible



Disadvantages of Topical Preaching

- A. Eisegesis**: It can read unintended meanings into texts
- B. Wrong Approach to the Bible**: It can see God's Word as answering all questions
- C. Imbalance**: It tends to emphasize only the preacher's strengths since few choose to speak on their weaknesses

The *Topical Exposition* Process



How to Preach Topically

1. Study topic & texts, exegeting each text
2. Structure: get EI of each text, order them
3. CPT: Combine text CPTs to write overall EI
4. Purpose from developmental questions
5. CPS: Convert overall EI to overall MI
6. Structure: Support with ILLs, APPs, etc.
7. Preach after manuscripting & practice

Topical Examples

- What in the World is God Doing (p. 156)?
- Who Moved the Stone (p. 157a)?
- Finding Your Mate (p. 157d)
- The Integrity Factor (p. 157h)





Answer: The Big Idea!

Question:
What should the
listeners bring home
from a topical
message?

Lutzer: "Thou Shalt Not Commit Adultery"

- 1. What do you think was the sermon's strongest point? Why?**
- 2. Is it deductive or inductive in structure?**
- 3. Is the application simple or cyclical?**

Biblical Sermons, 31-43

Lutzer: "Thou Shalt Not Commit Adultery"

Prove It: Why did God say, "Thou shalt not commit adultery"?

I. We should not commit adultery because God says we shouldn't.

- A. We are unable to have sex outside of marriage without guilt and emotional tension (answers "God is unfair" objection)
- B. Sex is bonding (1 Cor. 6:16).
- C. Even loving adulterous relationships break five of the ten commandments.

II. We should not commit adultery because of the consequences.

- A. Inner destruction, a feeling of guilt, results (Ps. 51:3).
- B. Outer destruction & hurt comes when the affair is discovered.

III. We should live in sexual purity because there is a compensation that comes from successfully resisting temptation.

- A. The sinful eye and hand must be controlled (Matt. 5:29-30).
- B. "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God" (5:8).
- C. Sexual temptation [enables us] to prove our love for God.

Lutzer: "Thou Shalt Not Commit Adultery"

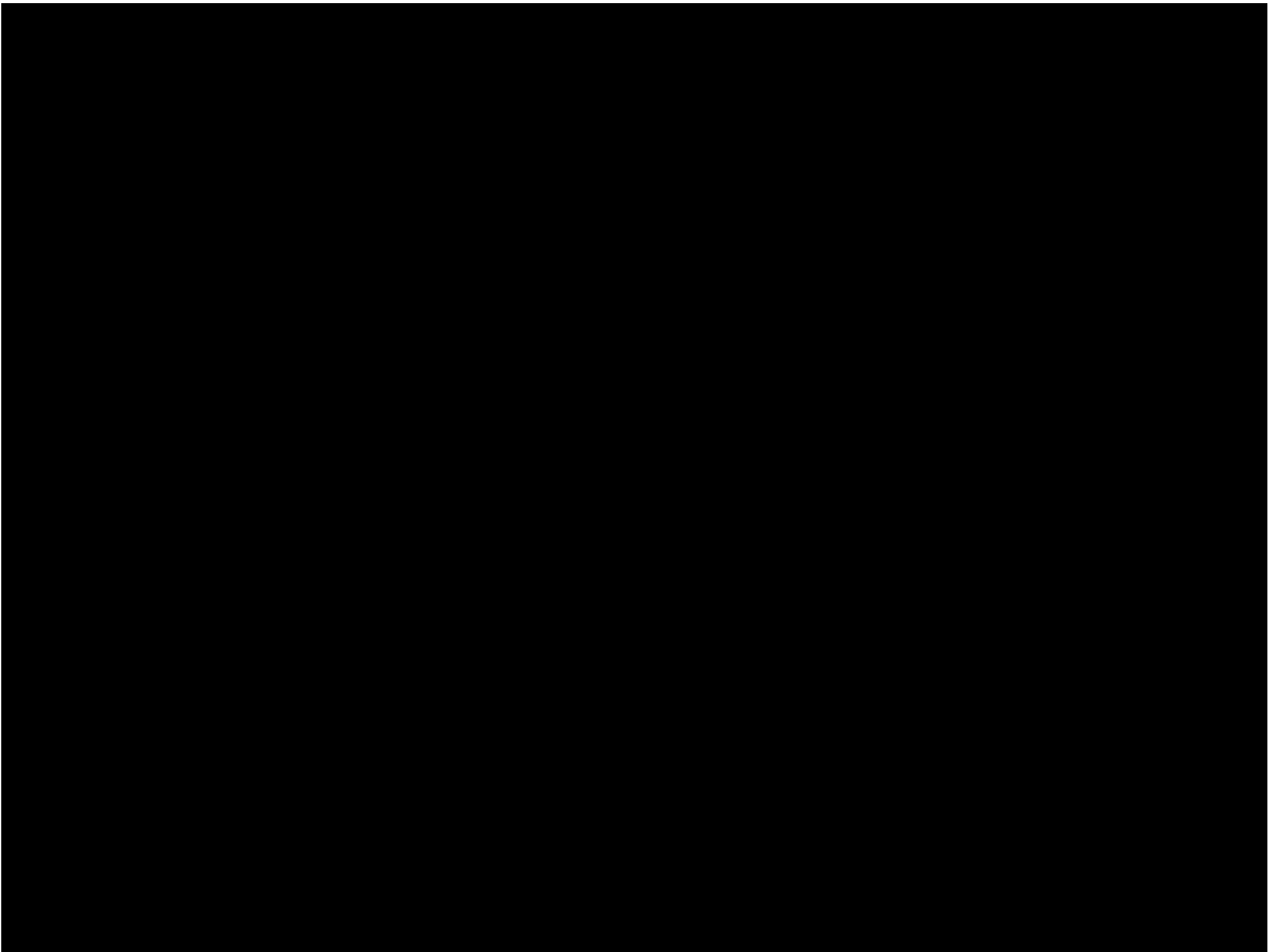
Conclusion

1. Repent (ILL: hardhearted adulterous man)
2. Tell your spouse (implied)
3. David got freedom once he stopped pretending (Ps. 32:1).
4. God commanded: "Thou shalt not commit adultery."
 - a. "We should never be **ashamed** of believing that he knows best" (MP I restated)*
 - b. "And with the command comes the divine enablement to live up to the standard" (MP III restated)
5. "Blessed are those who are not **ashamed** to obey his Word."

* Note that MP II on consequences is not mentioned so as to end on a positive note.

What topical message has God put on your heart to preach?

- Why?
- How will you do it?



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