

EPHESIANS

TRANSFORMED BY GRACE, EMPOWERED BY PEACE

STUDY 9 THE GOSPEL AND THE NEW COMMUNITY PART 2

Ephesians 2:17-22



THE NEW COMMUNITY

Christ and the New Community vv 11-16

The Foundation and Nature of the New
Community vv 17-22

THE GOSPEL AND THE NEW COMMUNITY PART 2

Ephesians 2:17–22 (ESV) And he came and preached
peace to you who were far off
and peace to those who were near.

18 For through him we both have access in one
Spirit to the Father.

19 So then you are no longer strangers and
aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the
saints and members of the household of God,



Court of Israel
Those who were near

NEW COMMUNITY

The dividing wall of hostility

Court of Gentiles
Those who were far off

CONTRAST WHAT WE WERE VS WHAT WE ARE

Ephesians 2:17-22 (ESV) And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near.

18 For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father.

19 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,

WHAT WE WERE



ZENOI..ALIENS


- Stranger in foreign land
- Very few rights
- Not accepted
- Language barriers
- Isolation
- Culture shock
- Prey to both police and thugs
- Mosaic law categorises them with widows, orphans, poor and levites

SHOCK BULLY CULTURE STILL RAMPANT DESPITE NEW HARAPAN GOVT: MALAYSIAN IMMIGRATION OFFICER CAUGHT ON CAMERA SLAPPING FOREIGNER OVER THE COUNTER – TRIGGERING CALLS FOR HARSHEST PUNISHMENT

Politics | May 30, 2018 by | 0 Comments



Star
ONLINE

Kannusamy Kannan 

WHAT WE WERE

PAROIKOS..STRANGERS

Kamaladevi
Resident alien
"As a result, she has not been able to work, to get married, to open a bank account or even to apply for a motorbike license. She is completely housebound,"

Former Sungai
Siput MP D
Jeyakumar

Dr Jeyakumar PSM

WHAT WE ARE NOW DIFFERENT IMAGES INCREASING UNITY

Citizens



Family



Temple

Ephesians 2:19–21
(ESV) 19 So then
you are no longer
strangers and
aliens, but you
are fellow
citizens with
the saints

members of
the
household of
God,

grows into a
holy temple in
the Lord

HOW WE GOT THERE

Ephesians 2:17-22 (ESV) And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near.

18 For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father.

19 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,

THE STRUCTURE

Glory and Grace of God

The Peace of God in the church

Theological

Practical

Ephesians 1

Ephesians 2

Ephesians 3

Ephesians 4

Ephesians 5

Ephesians 6

Who God is and what He has
done for us in Christ

How we should live because
of what He has done for us

ACT UPON SPIRITUAL REALITY

Ephesians 4:1-3 (ESV) I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, 2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, 3 eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

THE NEW ISRAEL

1 Peter 2:9–10 (ESV) But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. 10 Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Is the church the new Israel?





Romans 11:17–18 But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, although a wild olive shoot, were grafted in among the others and now share in the nourishing root of the olive tree,

THE NATURE OF THE NEW COMMUNITY

Ephesians 2:18–22 (ESV) For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. 19 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, 20 built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, 21 in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. 22 In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit



Absolutely consistent and unchanging
stable

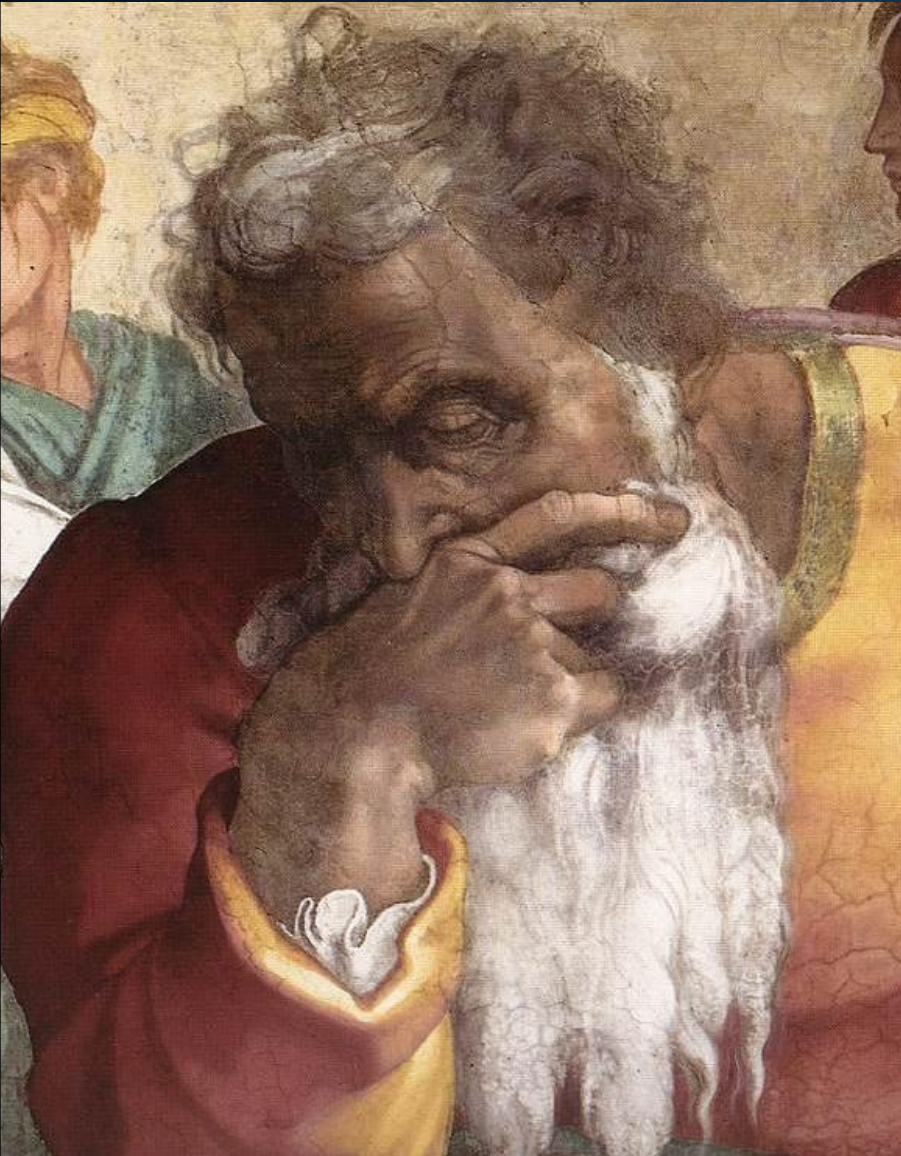


Apostles= 11 and Paul
Foundational role

PROPHETS

NT Prophets

Cannot be OT prophets because
The Mosaic law caused the division between Jew and Gentile



JESUS CHRIST



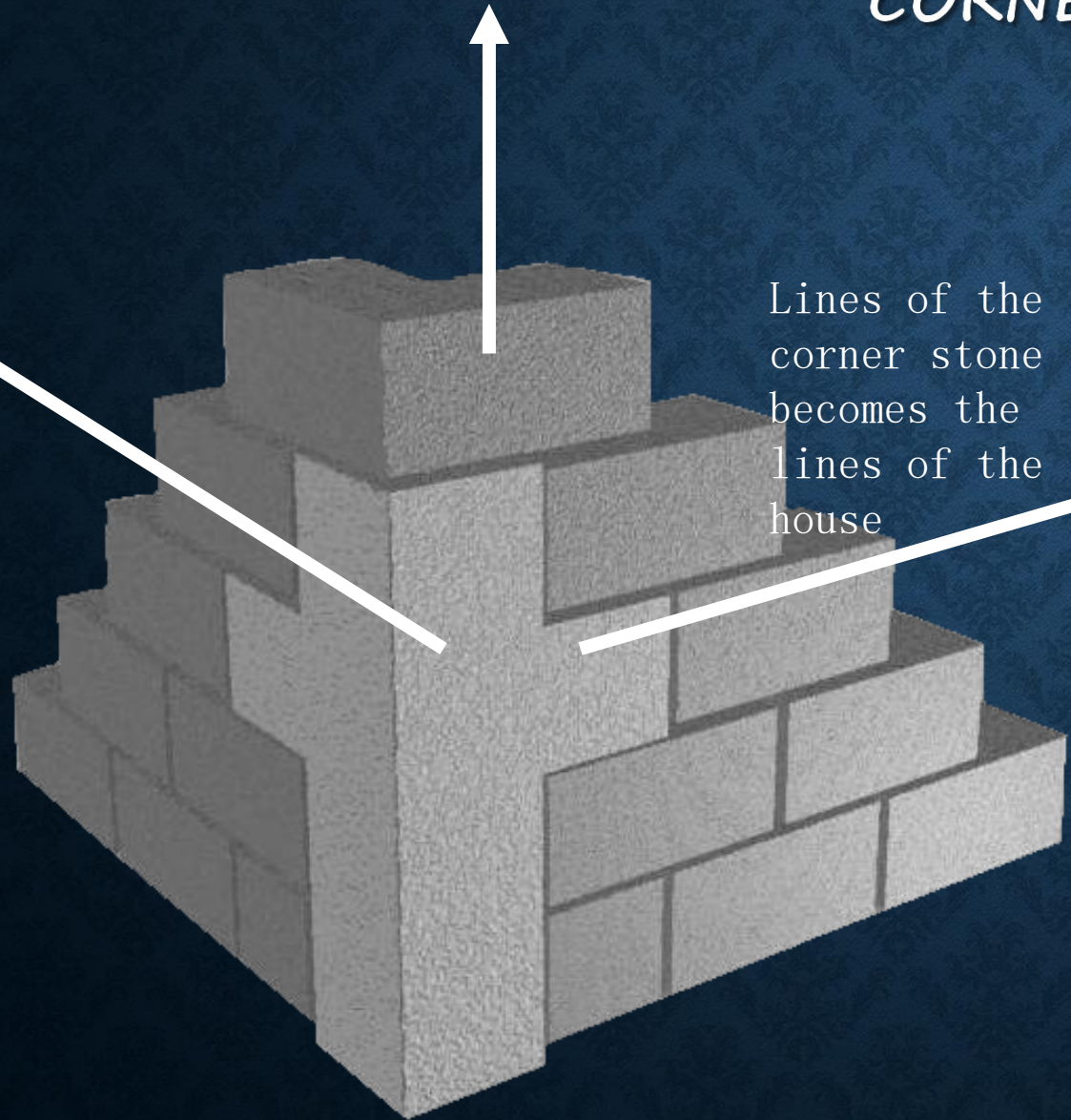
THE CHIEF
CORNERSTONE

1915

1941

1959

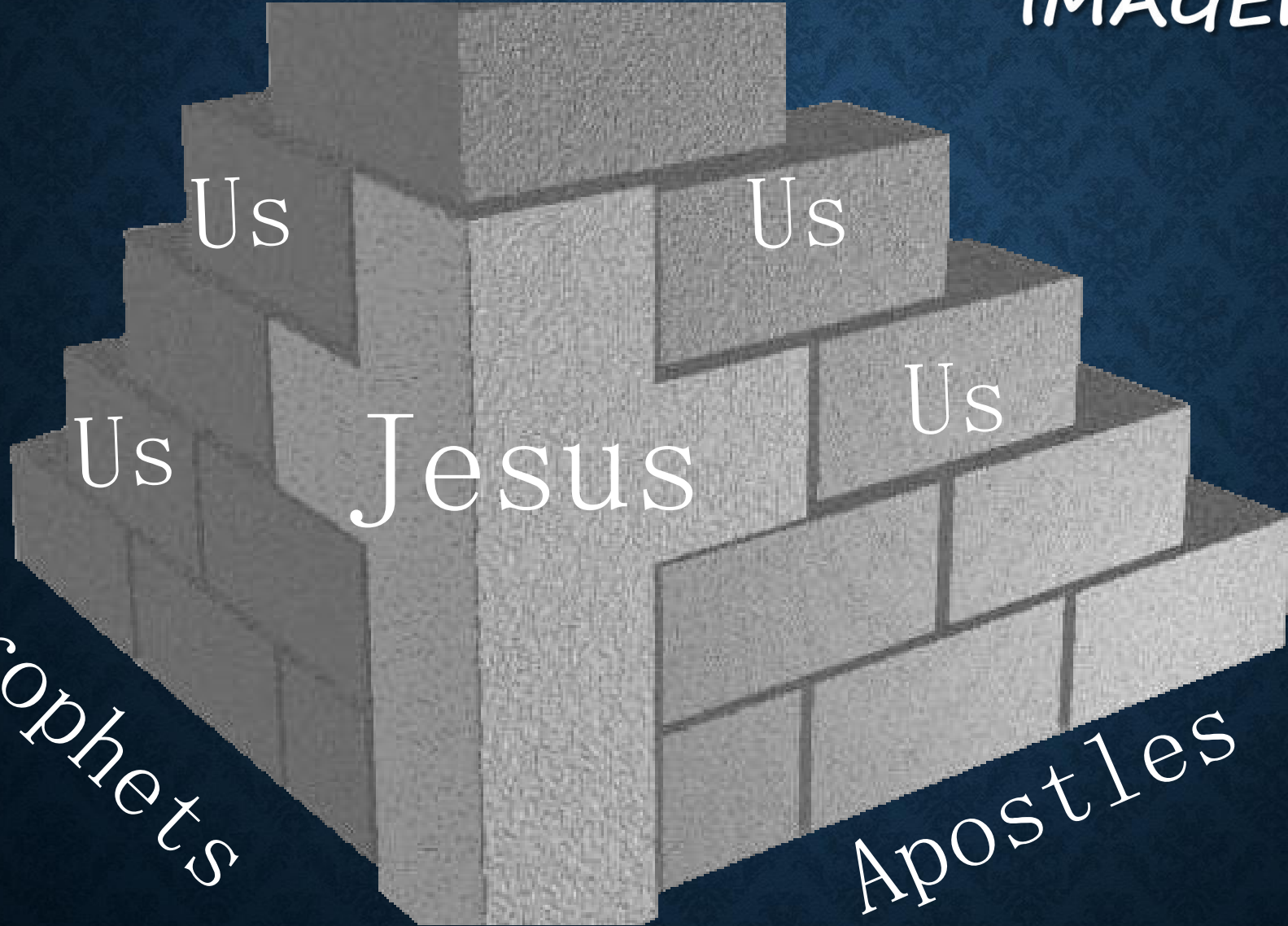
EVERY PART OF BUILD DRAWS REFERENCE FROM THE
CORNER STONE



Lines of the
corner stone
becomes the
lines of the
house



IMAGERY



Us

Us

Us

Jesus

Us

Prophets

Apostles

BUILDING ON FOUNDATION

1 Corinthians 3:9–11 (ESV) 9 For we are God's fellow workers. You are God's field, God's building.

10 According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building upon it. Let each one take care how he builds upon it. 11 For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is
Jesus Christ

Paul
Lays

We
build

Wood
Hay
Straw

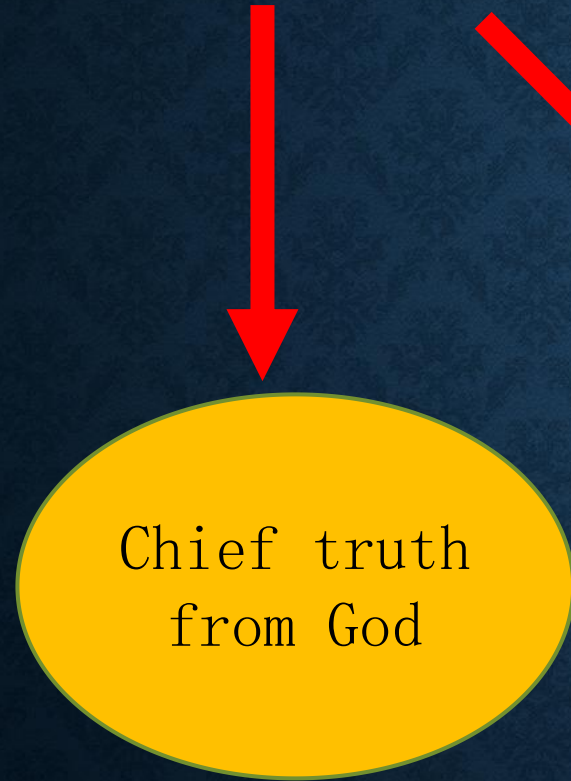
We build
Gold
Silver
Precious
stones

Jesus is foundation

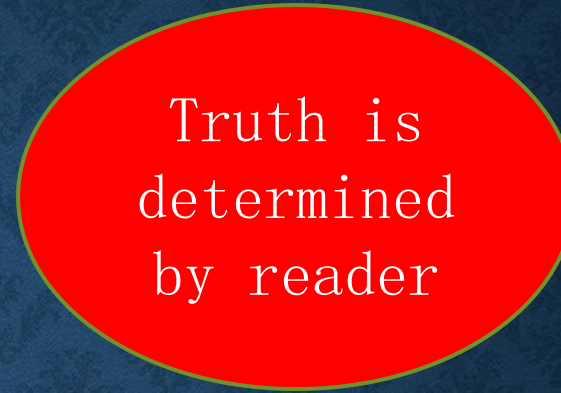
THERE IS ORIGINAL GOSPEL

Galatians 1:6–8 (ESV) I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— 7 not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. 8 But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed

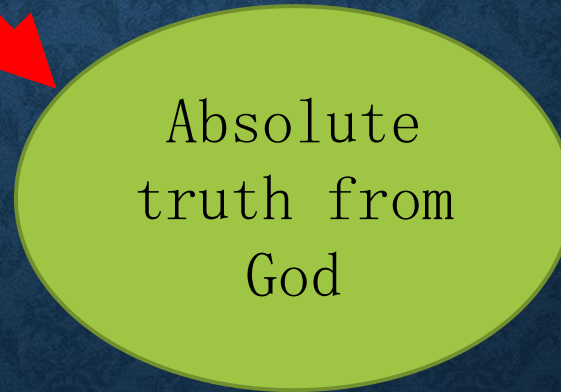
FOUNDATION



Relative to experience of people with time
Discard some truth as out of date
Science has made parts obsolete



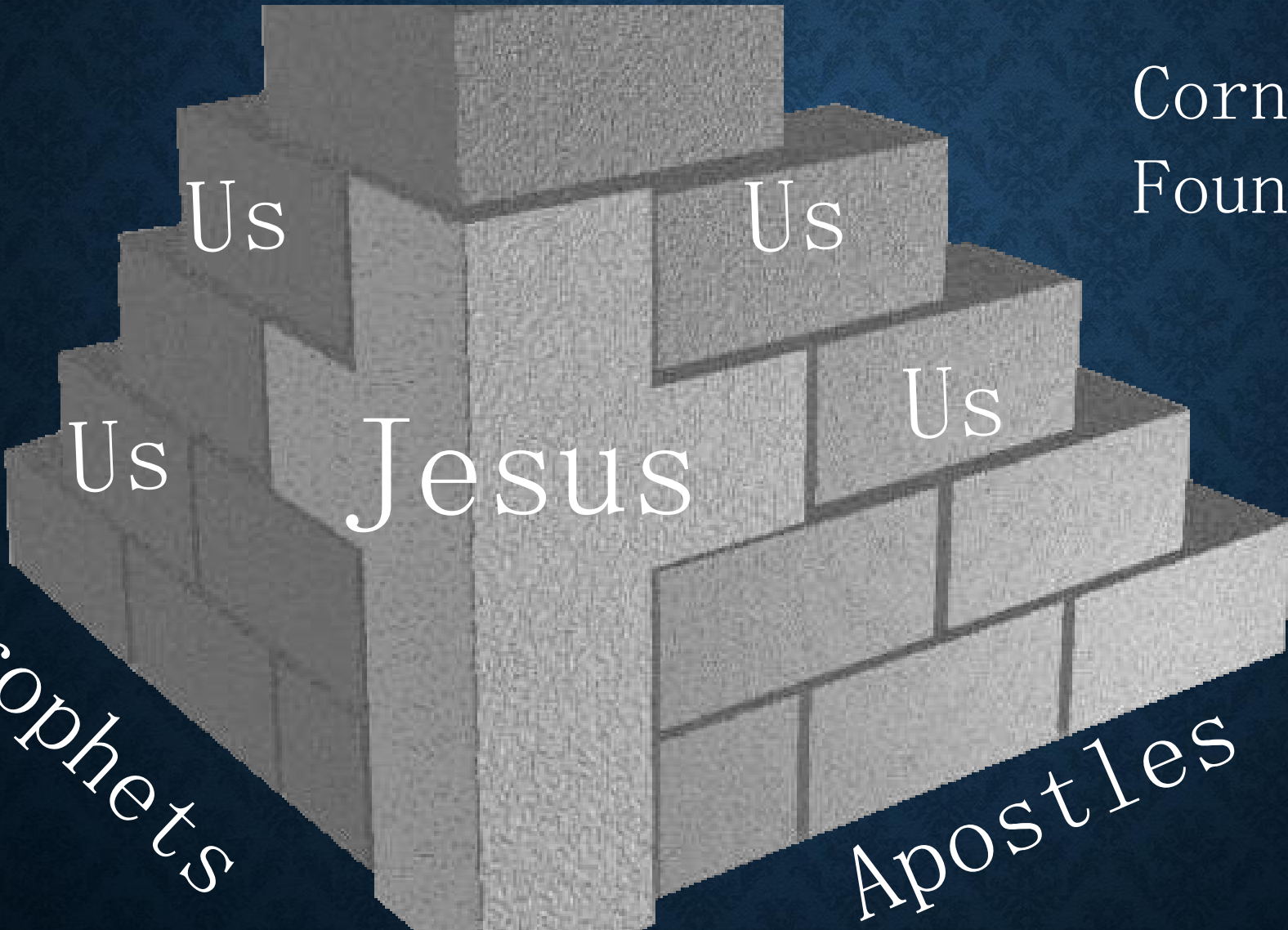
Truth is relative
Determined by
readers preference
Truth is not more
than perception and
not bound to authors
intent as we cannot
know



Unchanging
Original author intent
Eternally applicable
You cannot add to the foundation

1 Corinthians 15:1-4 (ESV) Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, 2 and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, 4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures,



Cornerstone
Foundation

Us

Us

Us

Jesus

Us

Prophets

Apostles

A close-up photograph of a priest wearing a red cassock and a gold chain with a cross. He is holding an open book, likely a Bible, with both hands. The pages are filled with text, and the lighting is dramatic, highlighting the red of the vestments and the gold of the chain.

Worshiping Government as God: China Tries to Rewrite Bible

Distorting
Absolute
truth from
God



Truth is
determined
by reader

EMPHASIS ON LOVE AND INCLUSION

Giving people the opportunity to explore spirituality without worrying about telling them the “right” answers has been key to growth at St Bride’s, Liverpool, where I am Rector. This is what Jesus did: tell a story, give an example, have a conversation — and leave others to make of it what they will. Sermons, for example, have been replaced with

MATTHEW VINE (HOMOSEXUAL PASTOR)

Romans 1:26–27 (ESV) For this reason God **Unconventionable** to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; 27 and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another,

The issue is sexual behavior out of self-seeking lustfulness

Chief truth from God

Obviously changing the author intent on plain reading

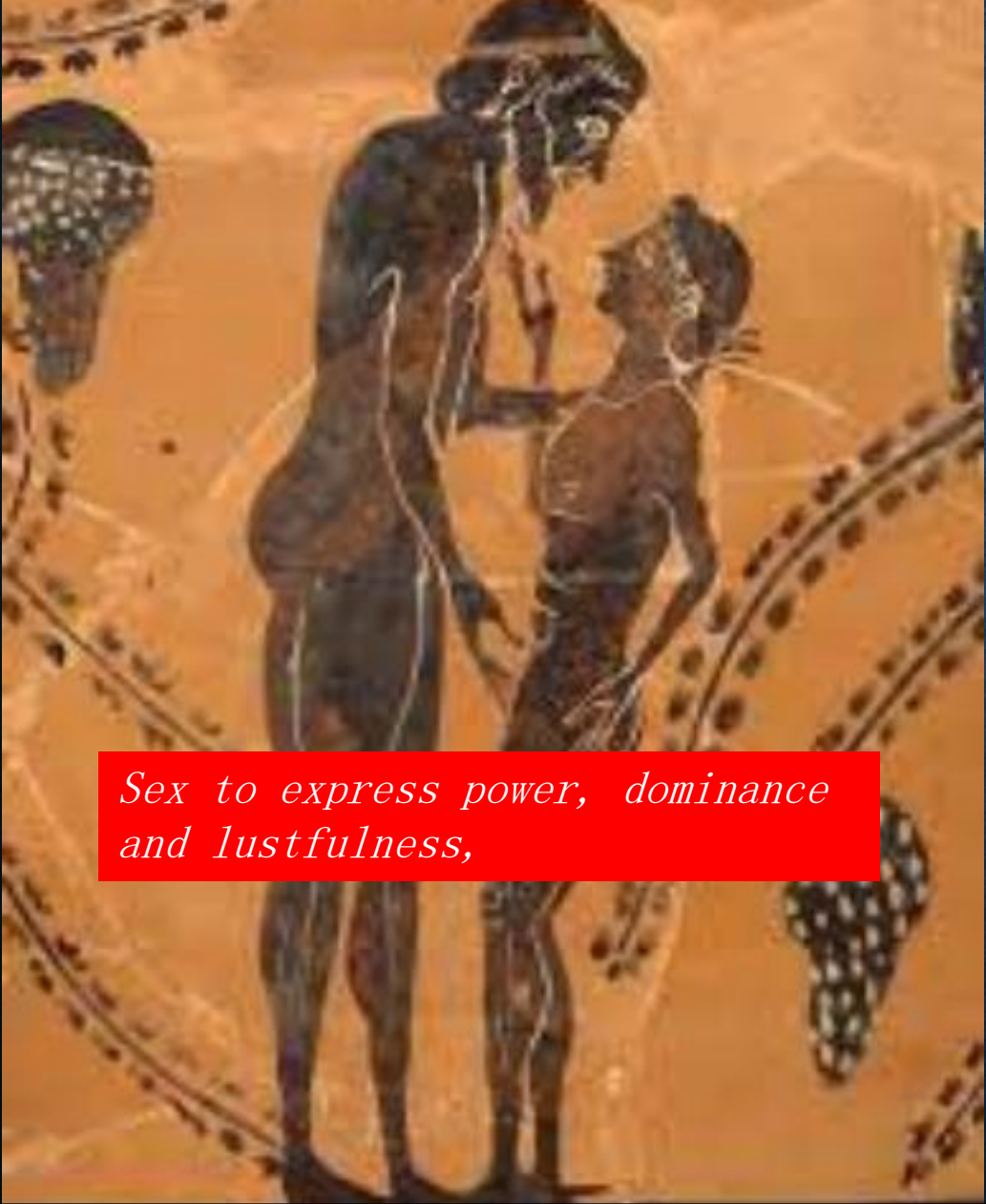
MATTHEW VINE (HOMOSEXUAL PASTOR)



Obviously changing the author
intent on plain reading

1 Corinthians 6:9–10 (ESV) Or
do you not know that the
unrighteous will not inherit
the kingdom of God? Do not be
deceived: neither the sexually
immoral, nor idolaters, nor
adulterers, nor men who
practice homosexuality,

*Adult men and adolescent boys,
and prostitution.*



*Sex to express power, dominance
and lustfulness,*



Chief truth
from God

Ephesians 2:18–22 (ESV) For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. 19 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, 20 built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, 21 in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. 22 In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit

WE ARE MEANT TO BE PART OF A GREATER WHOLE

Not meant to be a free standing stone
Spiritual incomplete





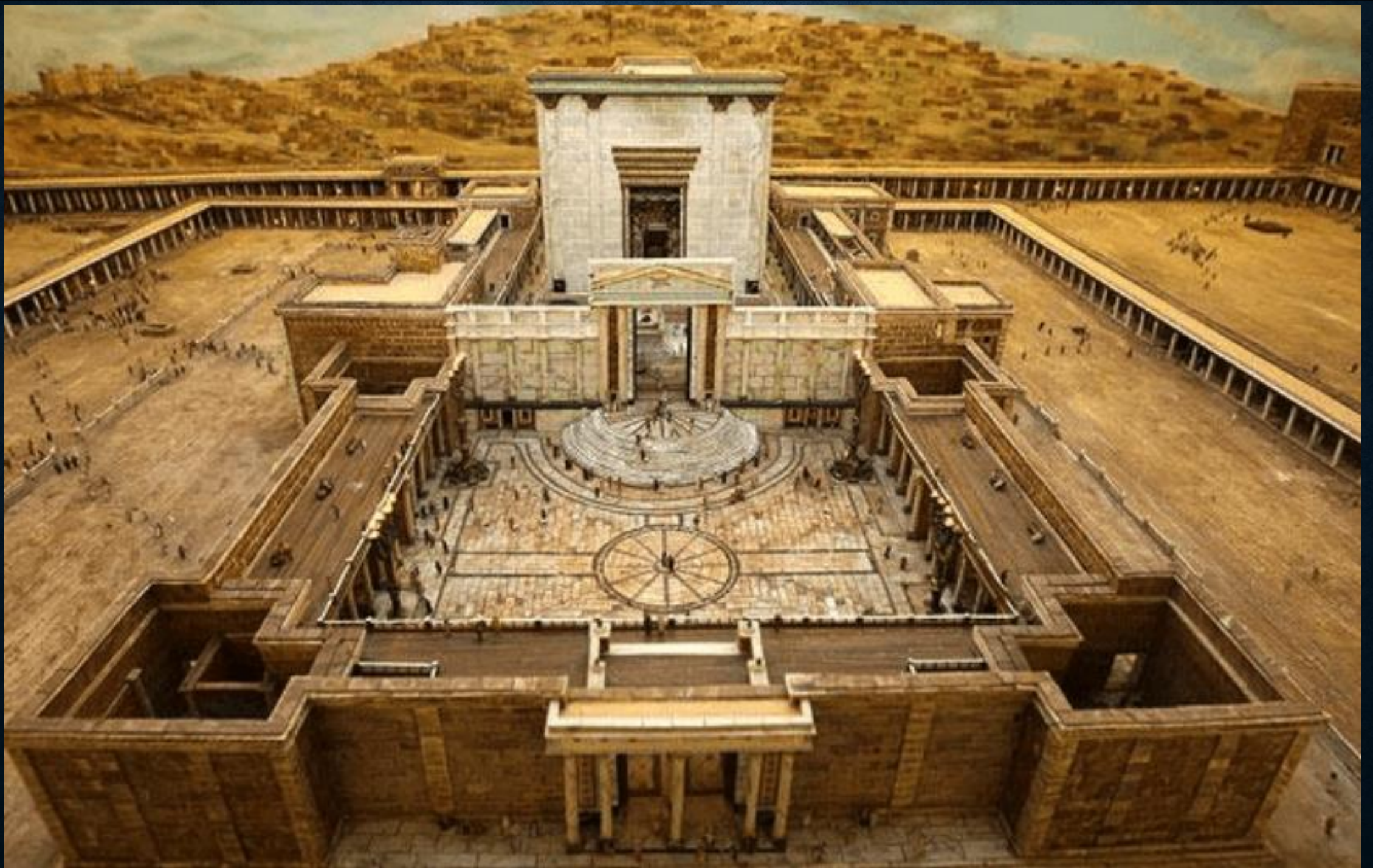
WE ARE TO GROW INTO THE TEMPLE OF GOD

Ephesians 2:19–22 (ESV) So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, 20 built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, 21 in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. 22 In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.



Spirit led growing and fitting

Stones are cut to fit - pruning
God does the cutting



Its painful and inconvenient







Adoption

Rebirth

Predestination

Blessings

Focus is personal
fulfilment

THE CHALLENGE OF OUR CULTURE

Look inwards -Discover our inner essence and express that to the world.

Live out my Truth



Values and convictions of this new community that they must now understand themselves... each taking his or her place in the spiritual house.



THE CHALLENGE OF OUR CULTURE



- Reject –universal or binding ethic, morals that are absolute, truths that are transcendent
- Attendance but not membership
- Help me find and express myself
- Self-exaltation and self-fulfillment.
- Church cannot challenge my life choices

GALLUP KOREA POLL LOSS OF 31% OF YOUNG PEOPLE FROM CHURCHES IN A DECADE 2015 STUDY



authoritarian structures

feeling like churches, and religion generally, don't provide answers to their most pressing needs

less trusting of hierarchical institutions

mismatch of language of faith between generations

"Brilliant analysis." —*Newsweek*

HABITS of the HEART

INDIVIDUALISM AND COMMITMENT
IN AMERICAN LIFE

Robert N. Bellah Richard Madsen William M. Sullivan

Ann Swidler Steven M. Tipton

WITH A NEW PREFACE

A person should reach his or her own religious beliefs apart from any church, or any synagogue or any religious institutions

FEELINGS CONTRADICT

I want love

I want to be thin

I want spiritual growth

I want total independance

I want to eat cakes

I don' t want to read bible



Known to Self

Unknown to Self

Known to Others

OPEN SELF

Information about you that both you & others know.

BLIND SELF

Information about you that you don't know but others do know.

Unknown to Others

HIDDEN SELF

Information about you that you know but others don't know.

UNKNOWN SELF

Information about you that neither you nor others know.

BLINDED BY BIAS



Bandwagon effect

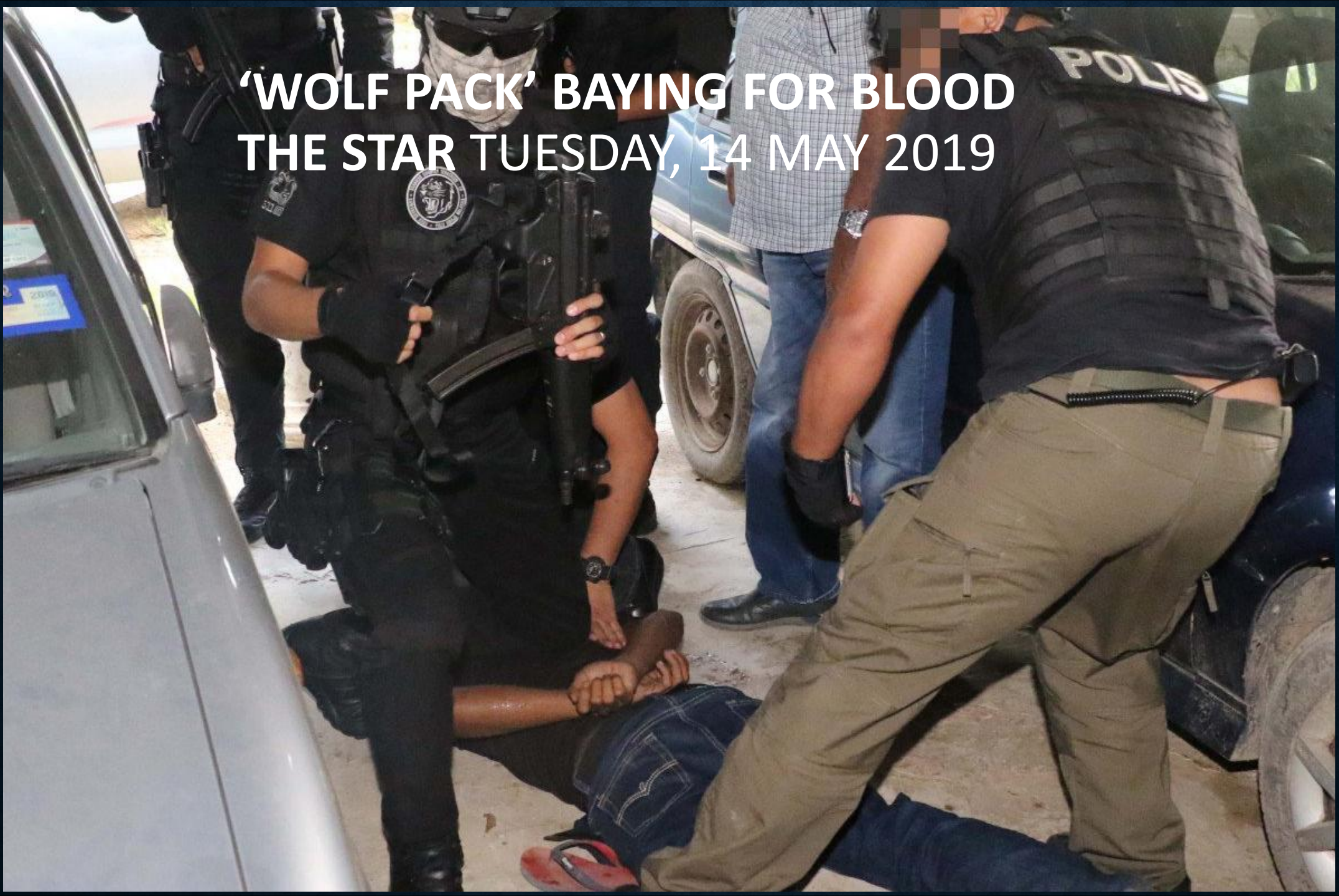
Ostrich effect

Outcome bias

Selective perception



**'WOLF PACK' BAYING FOR BLOOD
THE STAR TUESDAY, 14 MAY 2019**





BUKIT AMAR

BOM PAIP

BOM PAIP

SENJATAPI JENIS CZ 75
BCAL9 LOGAR &
15 BUTIR PELURU 9MM

BERANG SAMURAI

WE ARE TO GROW INTO THE TEMPLE OF GOD

Ephesians 2:19–22 (ESV) So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, 20 built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, 21 in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. 22 In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

SOLOMON'S TEMPLE - ILLUSTRATED

1 KINGS 6

Three level structure built around the temple.
Lower level is 7.5 ft. wide.
Middle level is 9 ft. wide.
Upper level is 10.5 ft. wide

Wooden Doors overlaid with gold

The nave with clerstory windows

Vestibule - 30 ft. wide and 15 ft. deep.

Hollow bronze pillar on north called "Boaz" and one on the south called "Jachin".

Bronze alter 30 ft. by 15 ft., for burnt offerings.

Wooden Doors overlaid with gold

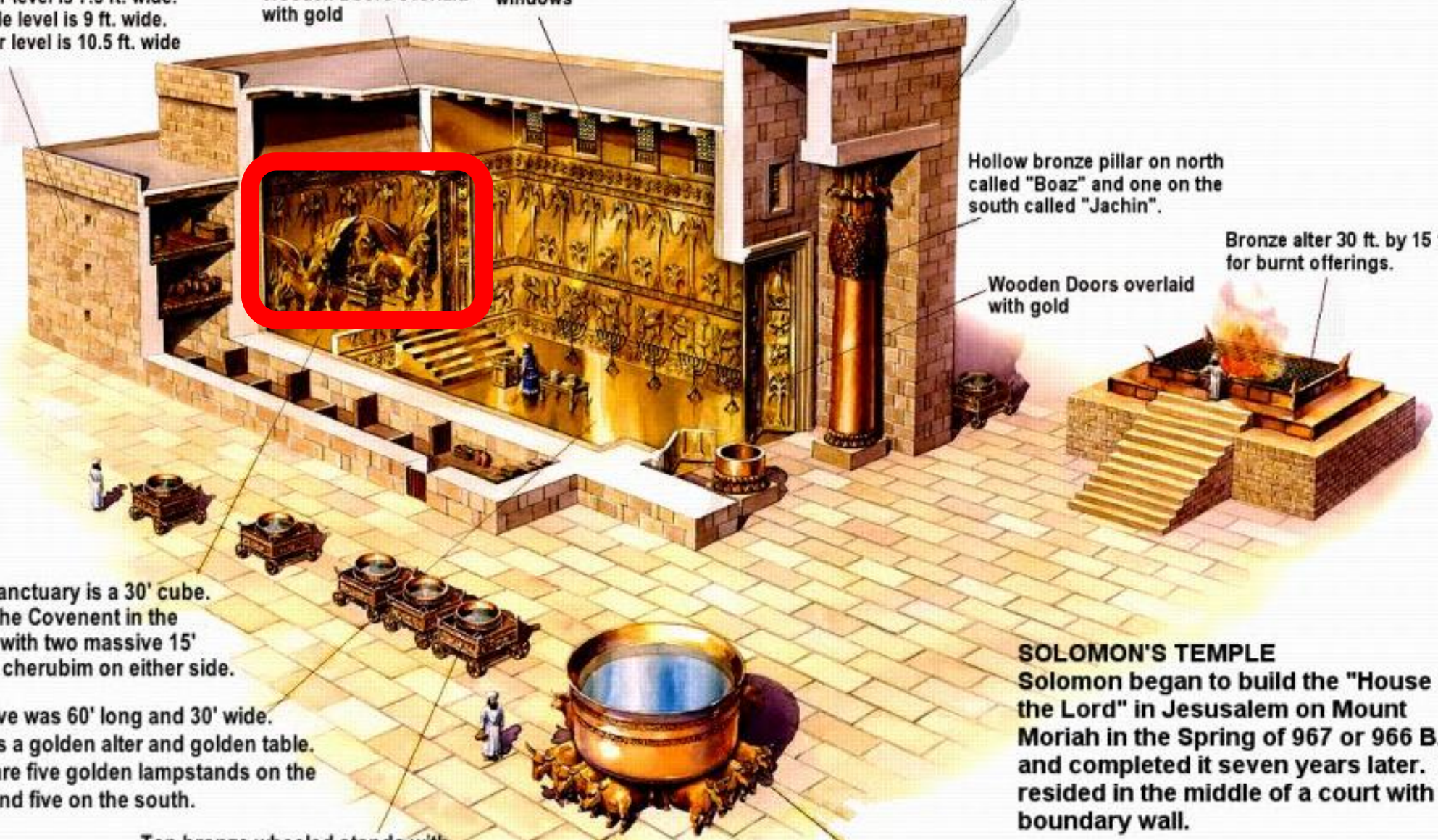
Inner sanctuary is a 30' cube.
Ark of the Covenant in the middle with two massive 15' golden cherubim on either side.

The nave was 60' long and 30' wide.
There is a golden alter and golden table.
There are five golden lampstands on the north and five on the south.

Ten bronze wheeled stands with basins of water to rinse off ashes from burnt offerings.

Metal basin 15 ft. in diameter and 7.5 ft. high holding 12,000 gallons of water, supported by twelve bronze

SOLOMON'S TEMPLE
Solomon began to build the "House of the Lord" in Jerusalem on Mount Moriah in the Spring of 967 or 966 B.C. and completed it seven years later. It resided in the middle of a court with boundary wall.




MOSES BURNING BUSH



ISAIAH'S VISION



A photograph of an ancient Egyptian temple corridor. The walls are covered in hieroglyphs and carvings. The floor is made of sand. A person in a dark robe stands in a doorway at the end of the corridor. The lighting is warm and focused on the person and the walls.

If you are in the Holy of Holies

Ephesians 2:22 (ESV) In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

IF YOU ARE THE TEMPLE –YOU ALWAYS HAVE ACCESS



- When you see your flaws and your sins...
- Moralist or Non believer will want to get away from the presence of God
- HS showing sin or Devil accusing
- How can I have anything to do with God why would God have anything to do with you... Spirit says you are the

HEBREWS 10:22-23 (ESV)

Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. 23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.

PSALMS 51:17 (ESV)

The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

HOLINESS

Our wrong view is that
we are morally perfect





OUR HOLINESS
MEANS OUR
CHIEF FOCUS

Numbers 13:30 (ESV) But Caleb quieted the people before Moses and said, “Let us go up at once and occupy it, for we are well able to overcome it.



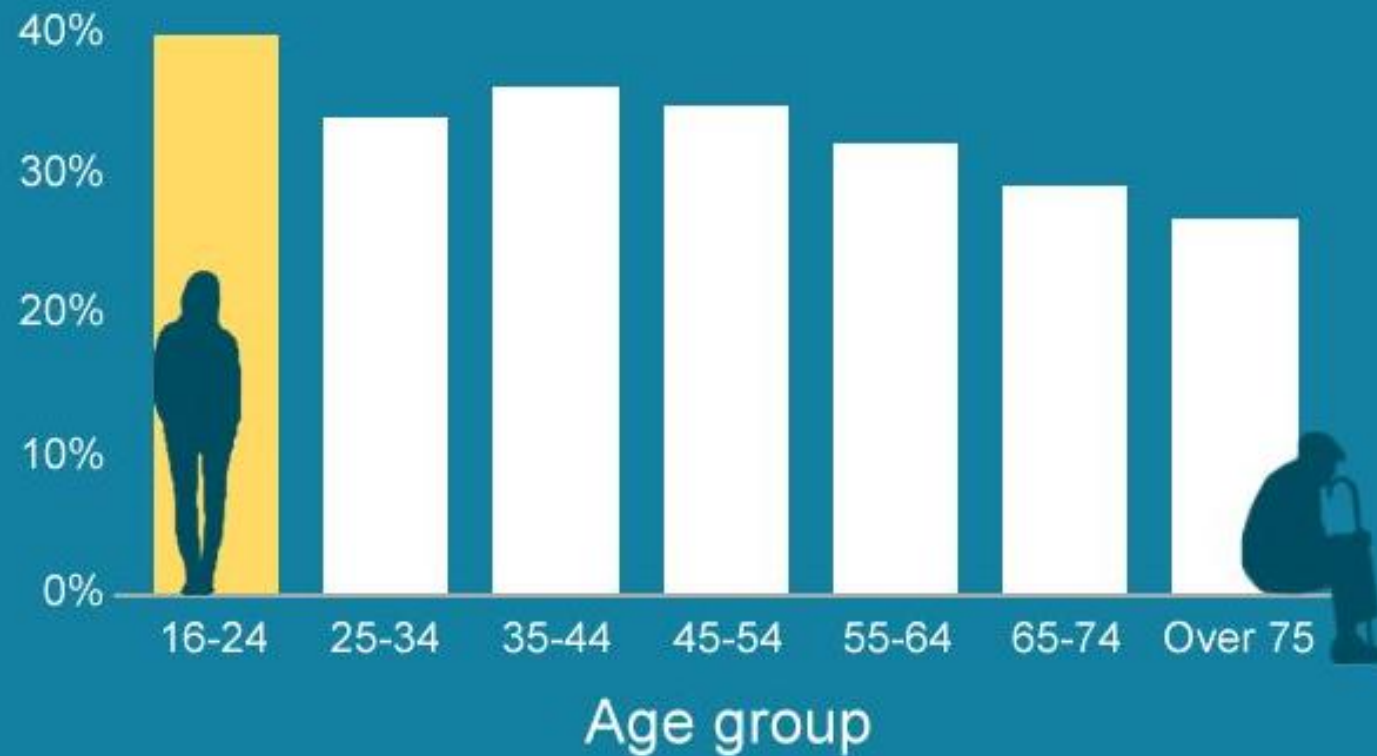
NUMBERS 14

- Numbers 14:24 (ESV) But my servant Caleb, because he has a different spirit and has followed me fully, I will bring into the land into which he went, and his descendants shall possess it.

APPLICATIONS

INDIVIDUALISM IMPAIRS PERSONAL HEALTH

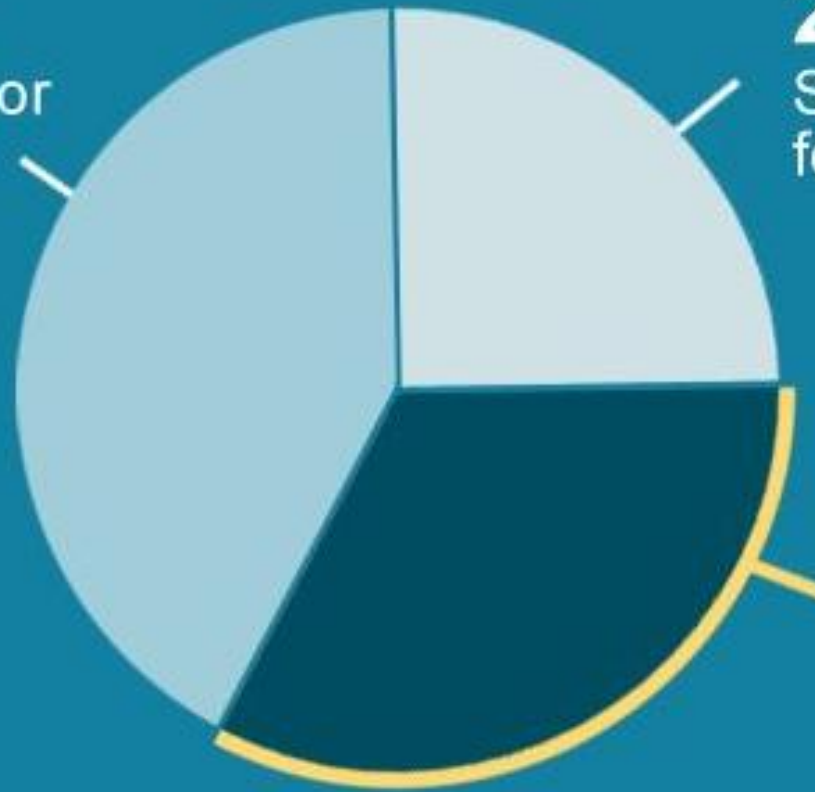
People in the survey who said they feel lonely 'often' or 'very often'



How common is loneliness with people of all ages?

42%

Rarely or never feel lonely



25%

Sometimes feel lonely

33%

of people say they feel lonely often or very often



America Is in the Midst
of a Loneliness Epidemic
(and Work Is Partly to
Blame)

Former Surgeon general
Vivek H. Murthy
In Harvard Business
Review

**“During my years caring for
patients, the most common
pathology I saw was not
heart disease or diabetes; it
was loneliness.”**

– Dr. Vivek Murthy

Surgeon General of the United States, 2014-2017

hbr.org/loneliness

WE ARE MEANT TO LIVE IN COMMUNITY

Reduced life span equivalent to smoking 15 cig/day Premature death equivalent to obesity



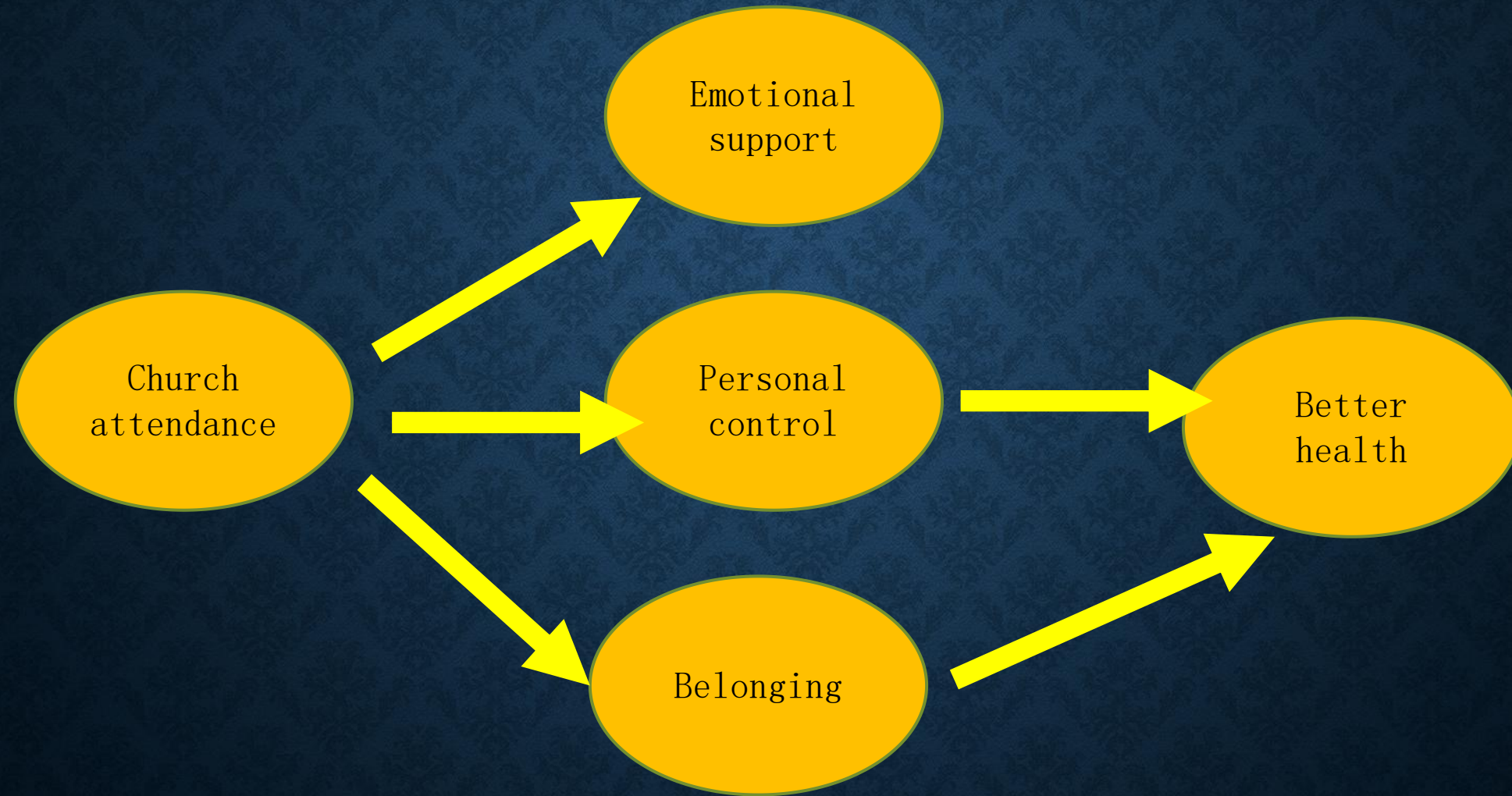
CHURCH-BASED SOCIAL RELATIONSHIPS, BELONGING, AND HEALTH AMONG OLDER MEXICAN AMERICANS

NEAL KRAUSE AND ELENA BASTIDA

J Sci Study Relig. 2011 Jun; 50(2): 397 - 409.

- Mexican Americans age 66 and over who were retired
- 1005 interviews successfully completed and response rate was 52%
- Texas, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, and California.

HIGHLY SIGNIFICANT CORRELATIONS



INDIVIDUALISM STUNTS PERSONAL GROWTH



- “You do not need to be a part of the church to have a thriving relationship with God; your relationship with Jesus is just that...your relationship with Jesus.”

PERSONAL GROWTH IS IN THE CONTEXT OF CORPORATE IDENTITY



James 5:19–20 (ESV) My brothers, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and someone brings him back, 20 let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from his wandering will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

Hebrews 10:23–25 (ESV) Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. 24 And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, 25 not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

INDIVIDUALISM STUNTS PERSONAL GROWTH

- Ephesians 3:17–19 (ESV) that you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, 19 and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Different talents, personalities, and insights that all represent a unique part of who God is



Individualism destroys personal meaning

Referents is myself

Considering the needs
of others helps us find
meaning in life.

My doctor
My Hair dresser
My restaurant
My family



GREATEST COMMANDMENT

Matthew 22:39–40 (ESV) And a second is like it:
You shall love your neighbor as yourself. 40 On
these two commandments depend all the Law and the
Prophets. ”



A MAN CALLED OTTO

INDIVIDUALISM WORKS AGAINST THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH

Vision of a reconciled humanity



ADDRESSED TO CHURCH

Matthew 28:18–20 (ESV) And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Christ and the New Community

BETTER

together