

Next Week Sermon

For God So Loved - Part 2

John 3:16

PREACHER

Arnold Lim

24 March, 2024

The Gospel and True Wisdom

1 Corinthians 1:18-2:16

PREACHER

Dr. Peter Ng

29 March, 2024

Good Friday: Reflection on the Cross

PREACHER

Alex Tan

FBC Parking Ethics

A Community Service Reminder

THE DON'TS

Please be wise and exemplary to our neighbours. Parking at corners can caused blind spots for others drivers and hold up the traffic flow.



1 CORINTHIANS

WHEN FAITH & LIFE COLLIDE

The Gospel
in Community

THE GOSPEL AND THE DIVIDED CHURCH

I Corinthians 1:1-18



Corinth

Acts 15:1-18:22



Corinthian gulf

Greece Mainland

Strategic Commerce

Isthmus

Peloponnese

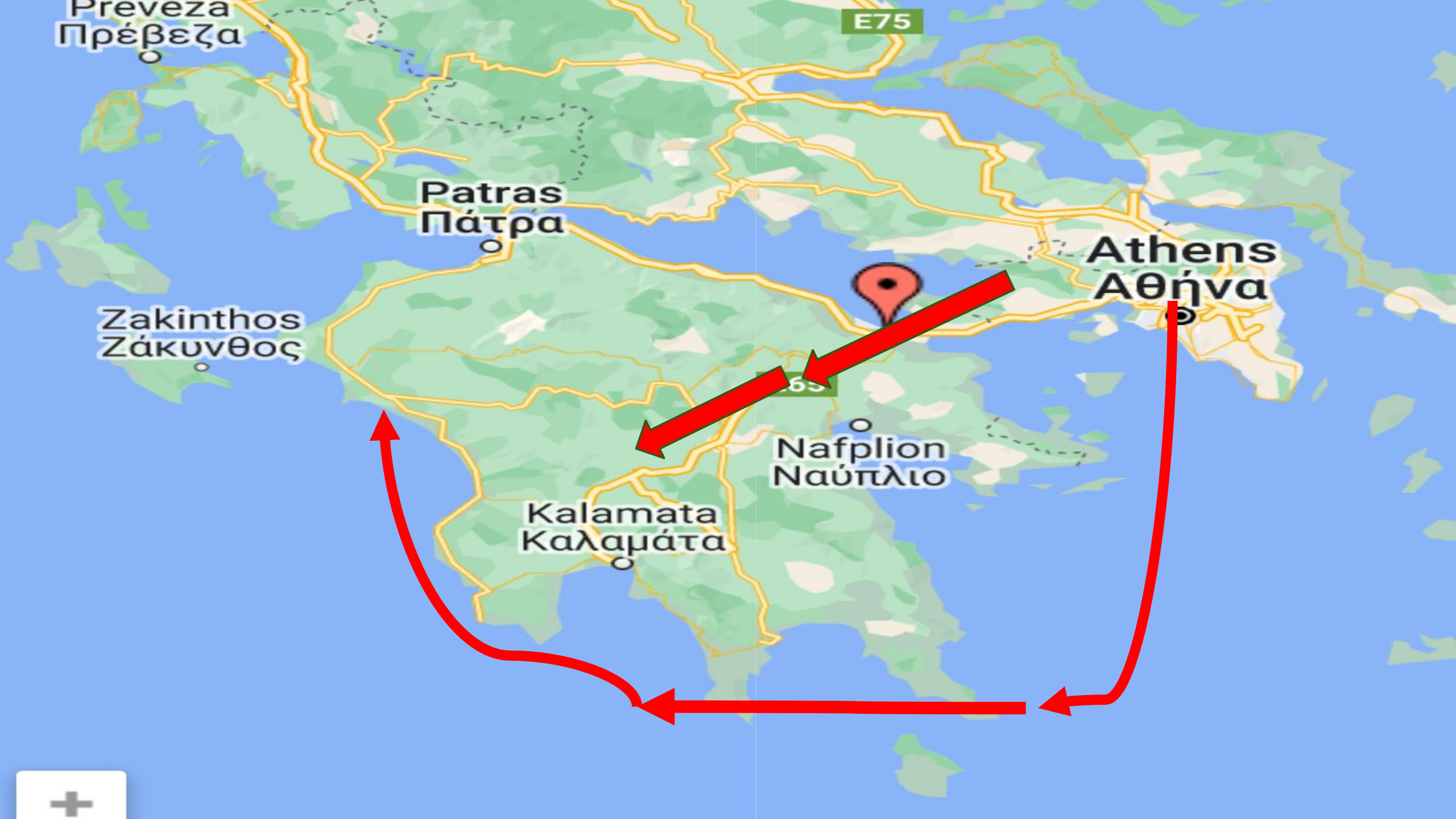
Saronic gulf

A photograph showing a dry, hilly landscape with a dirt path leading towards a body of water. The text "System to drag boats across" is overlaid on the image. The path is light-colored and winds through brown, scrubby vegetation. In the background, a blue body of water is visible, with a small structure and some distant hills under a clear sky.

System to drag boats across

A wide, deep canal with a metal truss bridge crossing it, surrounded by excavated earth banks. The canal is filled with blue water and runs straight through the center of the frame. The banks are steep and show signs of excavation, with some vegetation on the right side. In the background, there are power lines and a cloudy sky.

1893---6 km canal



Preveza
Πρέβεζα

E75

Patras
Πάτρα

Athens
Αθήνα

Zakynthos
Ζάκυνθος

65

Nafplion
Ναύπλιο

Kalamata
Καλαμάτα



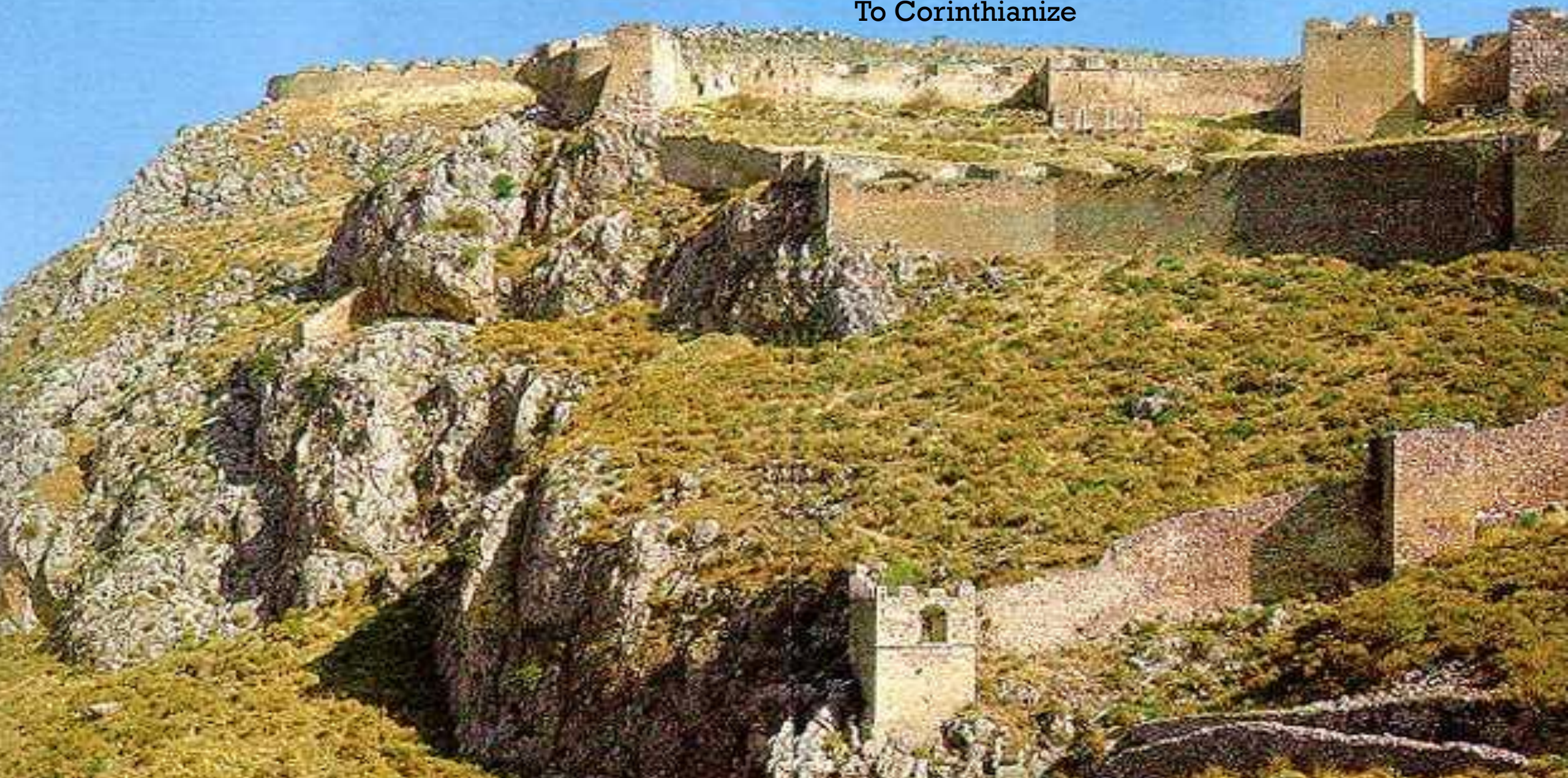


Vice and Religion flourished

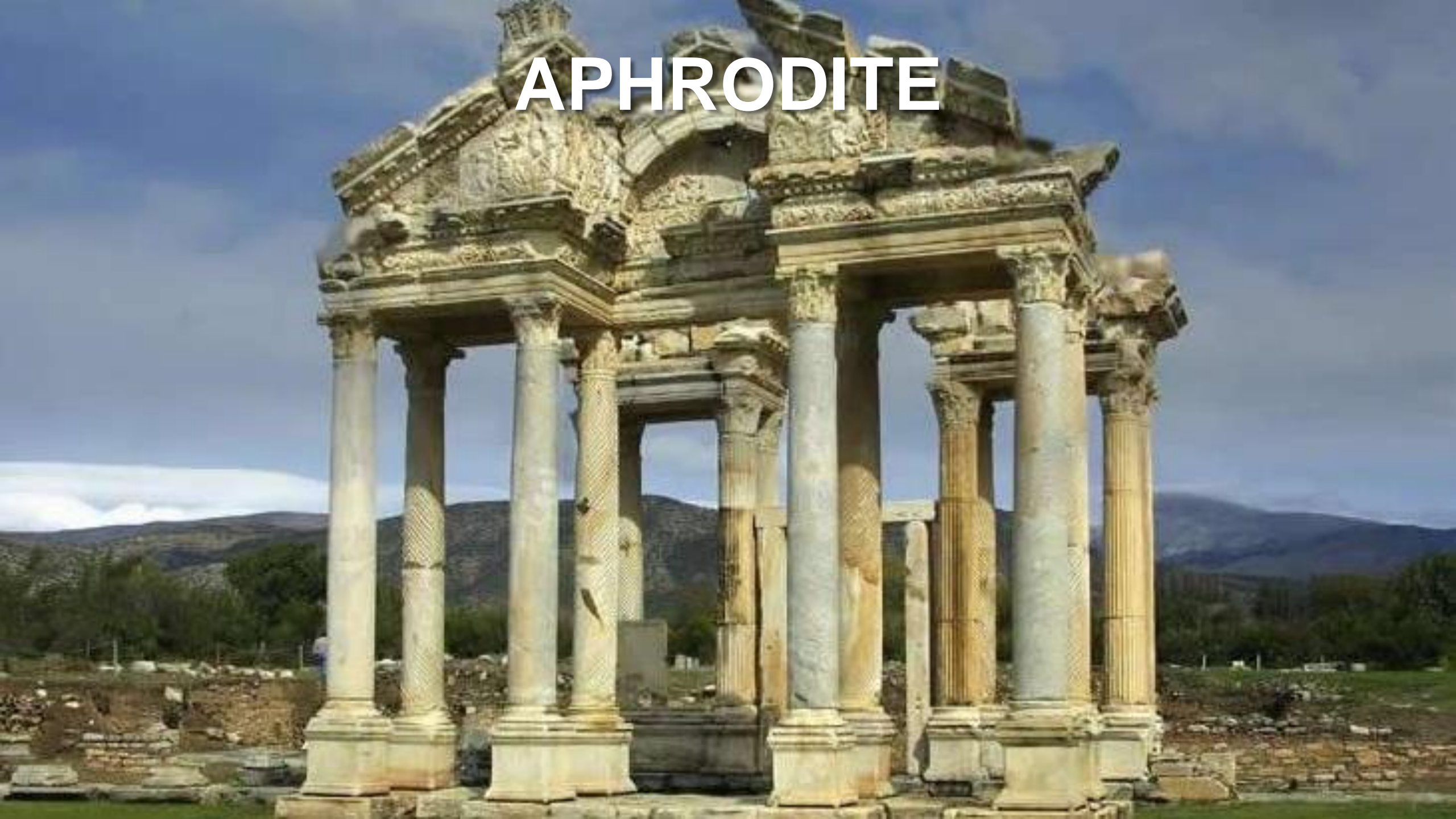


Roma

To Corinthianize



APHRODITE



APOLLO



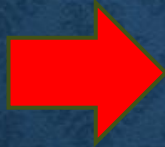


1 Corinthians 6:9-11 (ESV) Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, 10 nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. 11 **And such were some of you.**

THE CORINTHIANS

1 Corinthians 1:26 (ESV) For consider your calling, brothers:

not many of you



were wise according to worldly standards,

not many



were powerful,

not many



were of noble birth.



IMMATURE

1 Corinthians 3:1
(ESV) But I,
brothers, could not
address you as
spiritual people,
but as people of the
flesh, as infants in
Christ.



THIS IS SECOND LETTER

1 Corinthians 5:9-11 (ESV) I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people— 10 not at all meaning the sexually immoral of this world, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the world.

11 But now I am writing to you not to associate with anyone

CHURCH ISSUES



Disunity



Splits



Pride--Sophistication



Immorality



Law suits



Compromise



Ascetism



Reject apostolic authority



Question resurrection



THE LAYOUT OF LETTER

Chapter 1-4

Gospel negates human pride the cause of divisions

Chapters 5-16

Deals with Issues

UNITY IN THE DIVIDED CHURCH

1. One Call that We all Respond to
2. One Grace that empowers and sustains us
3. One Gospel that propels us all

Ek = out. Kaleo = call

1 Corinthians 1:1-3 (ESV) Paul, called by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus, and our brother Sosthenes,

Kaleo---call

2 To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:

3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.



APOSTLESHIP

The Twelve

Acts 1:21-22

Been with Jesus
Witnesses
resurrection

Paul

1 Cor 15:8-9

1 Corinthians 15:8-9 (ESV) Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. 9 For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God

Gift of apostleship

Barnabas, James the Lord's brother, Apollos, Silvanus, Titus, Epaproditus, Andronicus, Junias
Sent ones by Christ to plant new churches in different territories

NOTICE THE SUBTLE DIFFERENCE?

To the church of God that is in Corinth

(ESV) To the church of the Thessalonians in God (1 and 2 Thess)

(ESV) To the churches of Galatia:

(ESV) To the saints who are in Ephesus

(ESV) To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are at Philippi,

(ESV) To the saints and faithful brothers in Christ at Colossae



THE CONTEXT

1 Corinthians 1:11-12 (ESV) For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there is quarreling among you, my brothers. 12 What I mean is that each one of you says, "I follow Paul," or "I follow Apollos," or "I follow Cephas," or "I follow Christ."



THE CHURCH

“You are a called out people that belong to God not to factions”

NATURE OF THE CALL

1 Corinthians 1:1-2 (ESV) Paul, called by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus, and our brother Sosthenes,

Hagious –Holy ...made holy

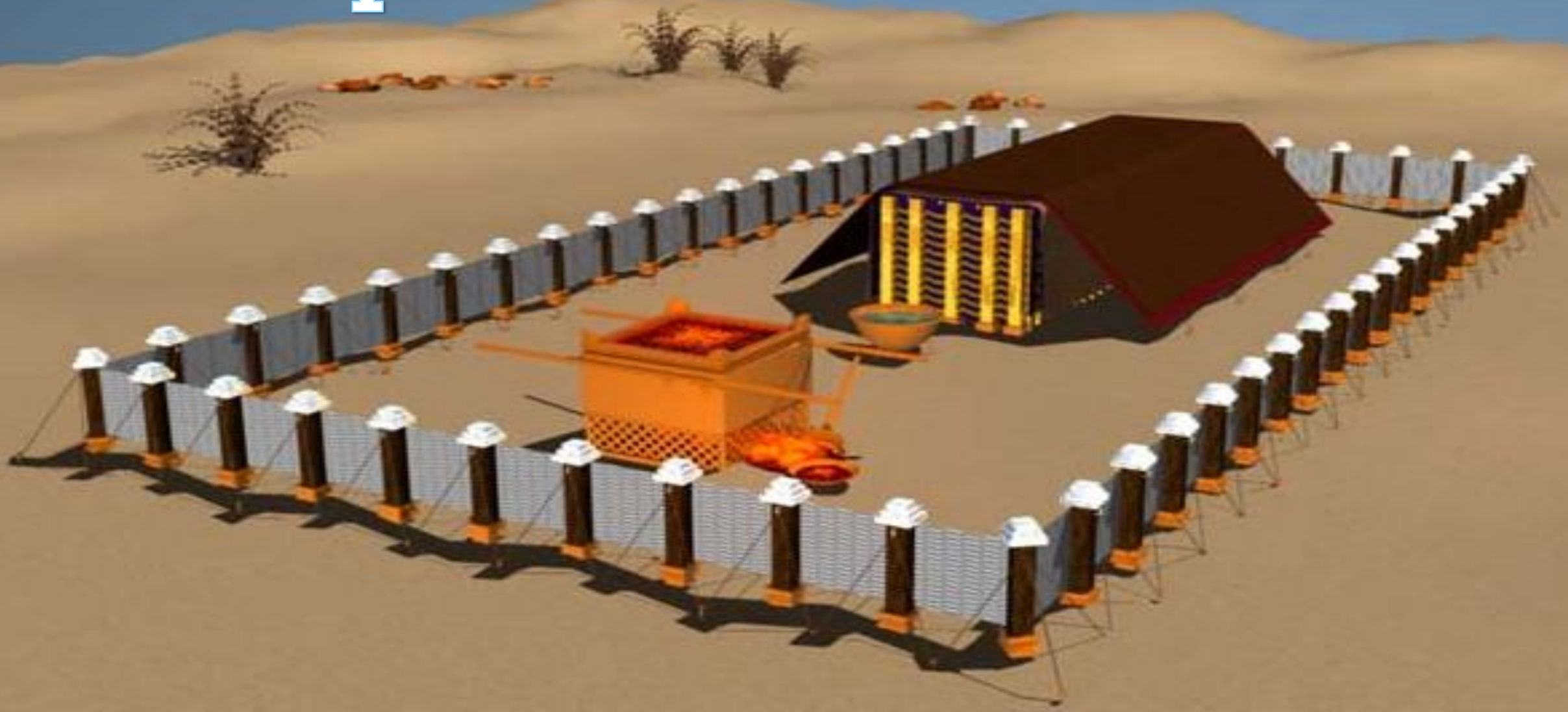
Hagious –noun –holy ones

2 to the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus called to be saints together with all those who in every place

call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:

Separation

Dedication





HOLINESS

God's holiness means that he is separated from sin and devoted to seeking his own honor.

(Grudem's Systematic Theology)

HOLY AND CALLED TO BE HOLY

Christ Accomplished

**Holy Ones
Saints**
(Legal Status)

**“sanctified in
Christ Jesus”**

1 Cor 1:2a

Our calling Holy living



...”called to be saints”

1 Cor 1:2a

**..who will sustain you to
the end**

1 Cor 1:8

Our ultimate glory

**Holy
Perfectly**

**..” guiltless in
the day of our
Lord Jesus
Christ”**

1 Cor 1:8.







Henry VIII Granting a Charter to the Barbers and Surgeons Guilds 1541



Royal

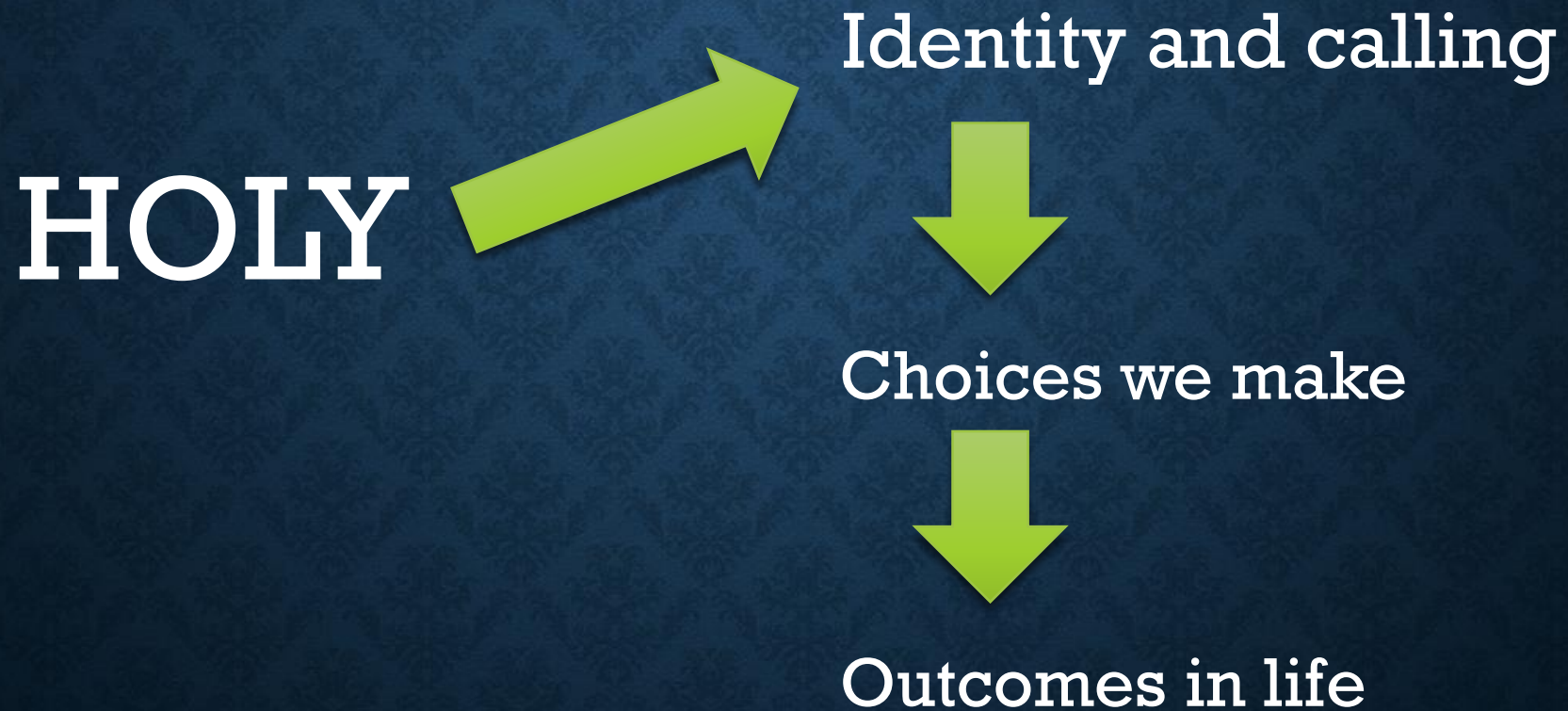
Royal College of Surgeons Edinburgh



1541



PRIME DIRECTIVE IN LIFE



The book cover features a dark green background with a pattern of lighter green leaves. A gold-colored banner at the top contains the author's name. The title is written in large, white, serif capital letters. Below the title, the subtitle is in smaller, white, sans-serif capital letters. A thin gold line is at the bottom.

OS GUINNESS

THE CALL

FINDING AND FULFILLING
THE CENTRAL PURPOSE
OF YOUR LIFE





The Catholic Distortion



Spiritual at the
expense of secular

Elevates one over the other

The Protestant Distortion



Secular at the expense
of Spiritual

severs the secular from the spiritual

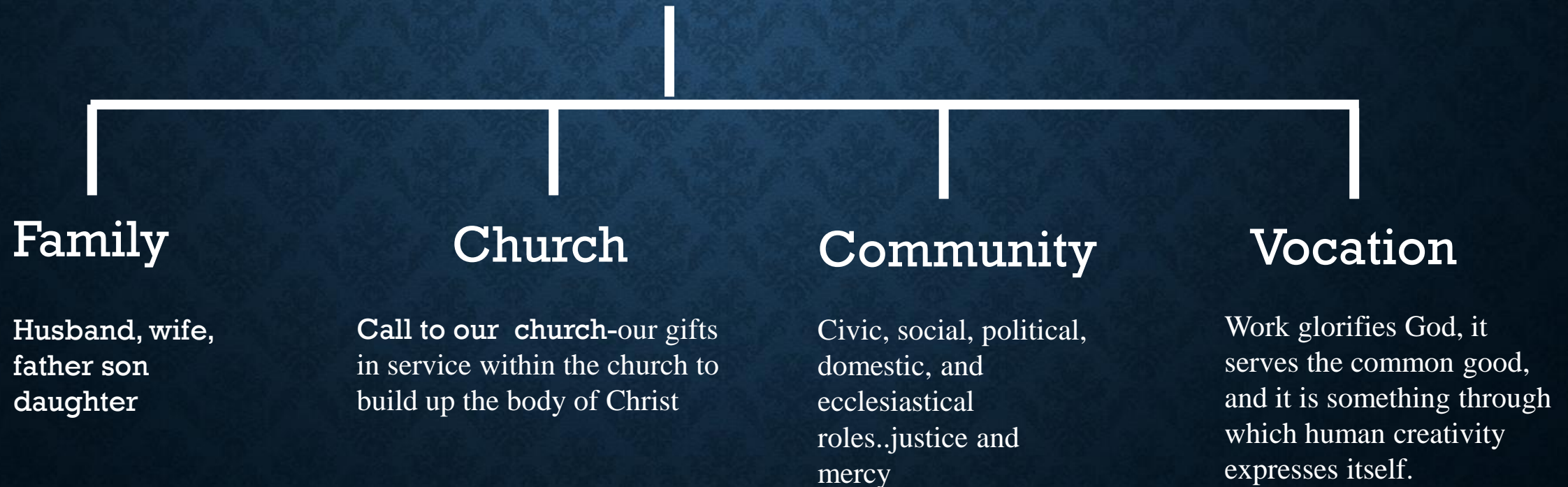
PRIMARY CALLING

How then should we work
Hugh Welchel
Institute of Faith , Work and Economics

Call to follow Jesus in faith, to the kingdom of God and holy living



SECONDARY CALLING



LUTHERS IDEAS ON WORK

Psalms 147:12-14 (ESV) Praise the LORD, O Jerusalem!
Praise your God, O Zion!

13 For he strengthens the bars of your gates; he
blesses your children within you.

14 He makes peace in your borders he fills you with
the finest of the wheat.

strengthens the bars of
your gates



peace in your borders



he fills you with the
finest of the wheat.



WORK

Job

Financial or
material gain

Career

Social
Advancement

Calling

produce goods or services
while growing as an
individual and
to the common good
the glory of God

Habits of the heart,” written by Robert Bellah et al 1985.



WORK AS A CALLING

“The New Testament treats work in the context of a larger framework: the call of God to live totally for him and his kingdom.”

R. Paul Stevens describes in *Doing God's Business*:



BIBLICAL DEFINITION OF WORK

“the expenditure of energy (manual or mental or both) in the service of others, which brings fulfillment to the worker, benefit to the community and glory to God.”

John Stott



EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT

Based on Gallup Q¹² items; see "Appendix 3: Support Information" for item wording

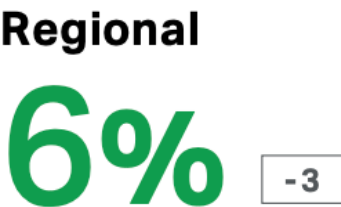
THRIVING AT WORK
% Engaged



QUIET QUITTING
% Not engaged



LOUD QUITTING
% Actively disengaged





Misconceptions of holiness

Personal merit

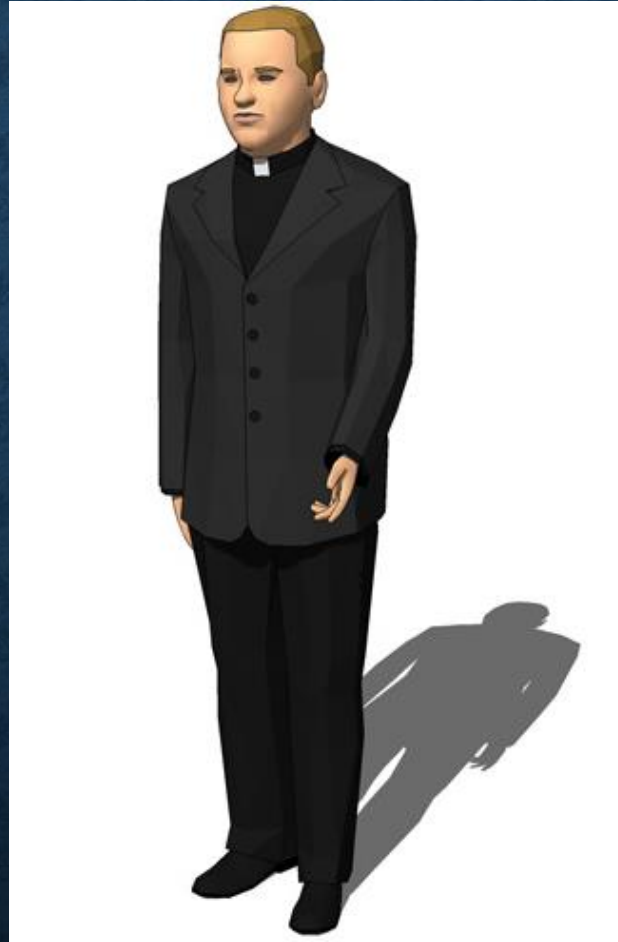
His Eminence

SURROGATES FOR HOLINESS

Christian Service

Gifts -Miraculous

Achievement



Theology

Position

Reputation



God only as a God who provides
mercy, not judgment

Holiness is optional



Austere, joyless, sterile

MISCONCEPTIONS OF HOLINESS

COMMANDMENTS



HOLY CLUB 1729 OXFORD



JOHN WESLEY



, “You are made to be happy in God.

“God made you to be happy in him;
and nothing else can make you happy.
Many indeed think of being happy
with God in heaven; but being happy
in God on earth never entered into
their thoughts.”

Psalms 19:7-8 (ESV) The law of the LORD is perfect,
reviving the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure,
making wise the simple;8 the precepts of the LORD
are right, rejoicing the heart;

Psalms 33:1 (ESV) Shout for joy in the LORD, O you
righteous! Praise befits the upright.

**Guard our joy in him
Satan wants to replace this joy**



A detailed portrait of John Calvin, a French theologian and reformer. He is depicted from the chest up, wearing a dark, textured cap and a dark, fur-trimmed robe. He has a long, flowing white beard and mustache, and his eyes are looking slightly to the right. The background is a textured, brownish-grey.

The happier you are in God, the holier you are

A bright yellow five-pointed star is located in the top right corner of the slide.

CALVIN

*"unless they establish their
Unless we are holy, we will
complete happiness in him
never be happy. But unless
they will never give
we find our happiness fully
themselves truly and
in the Lord, we will never
sincerely to him."
be holy.*



CHANGE IN ATTITUDE—INNER DNA

Psalms 1:1-2 (ESV) Blessed is the man
who walks not in the counsel of the wicked,
nor stands in the way of sinners,
nor sits in the seat of scoffers;
2 but his delight is in the law of the LORD,
and on his law he meditates day and night.

UNITY IN THE DIVIDED CHURCH

1. One Call that We all Respond to

2. One Grace that empowers and sustains us

3. One Gospel that propels us all



1 Corinthians 1:3 (ESV) Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God

Where do we see God's Glory ?

always for you because of the grace of God that was given

you in Christ Jesus 5 that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge— 6 even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you— 7 so that you are not lacking in any gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, 8 who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.



GOD'S GLORY

Exodus 33:19 (ESV) And he said, “I will make all my goodness pass before you and will proclaim before you my name ‘The LORD.’ And I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy.

GRACE OF GOD IN JESUS

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graph LR; A[GRACE OF GOD IN JESUS] --> B[V5. were enriched in him in all speech and all  
All their spiritual gifts not lacking in any  
gift,]; A --> C[Their transformed lives in response  
to the gospel]; A --> D[Their new Hope for the future -  
Christ Return..life in anticipation]; A --> E[Their guarantee of God's power to  
sustain them to the end]; A --> F[The full commitment of a faithful  
covenant keeping God];
```

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to the gospel

Their new Hope for the future -
Christ Return..life in anticipation

Their guarantee of God's power to
sustain them to the end

The full commitment of a faithful
covenant keeping God



WORLDLY WISDOM

Superspiritual, sophisticated, taking
worlds standards



Lowly, unimpressive, unsophisticated
embarrassing message of cross
True power of God

SARCASM IN COR 4

Corinthians	Apostles
You have all you want (v. 8)	We go hungry and thirsty (v. 11)
You have become rich (v. 8)	We are in rags (v. 11)
You have become kings (v. 8)	We are brutally treated and homeless and work hard (v. 11)
You are so wise in Christ (v. 10)	We have become fools for Christ (v. 10)
You are strong (v. 10)	We are weak (v. 10)
You are honored (v. 10)	We are dishonored (v. 10)

WINDOWS OR MIRRORS

God's glory

- Inspire
- Love them



Own glory
inferiority
superiority



WINDOWS -ROLE OF COMPARISONS

Hebrews 6:11-12 (ESV) And we desire each one of you to show the same earnestness to have the full assurance of hope until the end, 12 so that you may not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

Mirrors- Face book



HYPOCRISY




GOD'S GRACE FOR OUR OWN GLORY



1 Corinthians 4:6-7 (ESV) I have applied all these things to myself and Apollos for your benefit, brothers, that you may learn by us not to go beyond what is written, that none of you may be puffed up in favor of one against another. 7 For who sees anything different in you? What do you have that you did not receive? If then you received it, why do you boast as if you did not receive it?

WHAT IS THE FUNCTION OF GRACE OF GOD IN JESUS



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graph LR; A[WHAT IS THE FUNCTION OF GRACE OF GOD IN JESUS] --> B[V5. were enriched in him in all speech and all All their spiritual gifts not lacking in any gift,]; A --> C[Their transformed lives in response to the gospel]; A --> D[Their new Hope for the future - Christ Return..life in anticipation]; A --> E[Their guarantee of God's power to sustain them to the end]; A --> F[The full commitment of a faithful covenant keeping God]
```

V5. were enriched in him in all speech and all
All their spiritual gifts not lacking in any
gift,

Their transformed lives in response
to the gospel

Their new Hope for the future -
Christ Return..life in anticipation

Their guarantee of God's power to
sustain them to the end

The full commitment of a faithful
covenant keeping God

THE FUNCTION OF GRACE IS TO MOVE US TOWARDS OUR CALLING



Titus 2:11-13 (ESV) For the **grace of God** has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, 12 training us to **renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, 13 waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,**

THE RESPONSE TO GRACE -COMPARISON



1 Corinthians 15:10 (ESV) But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me.

JAILED MALAYSIAN EX-PM NAJIB CONSIDERING NEW REQUEST FOR FULL PARDON

A photograph of Najib Razak, the former Prime Minister of Malaysia, wearing a blue suit and glasses. He is gesturing with his right hand, palm facing forward. He is surrounded by security personnel wearing red berets. A red text box is overlaid on the image.

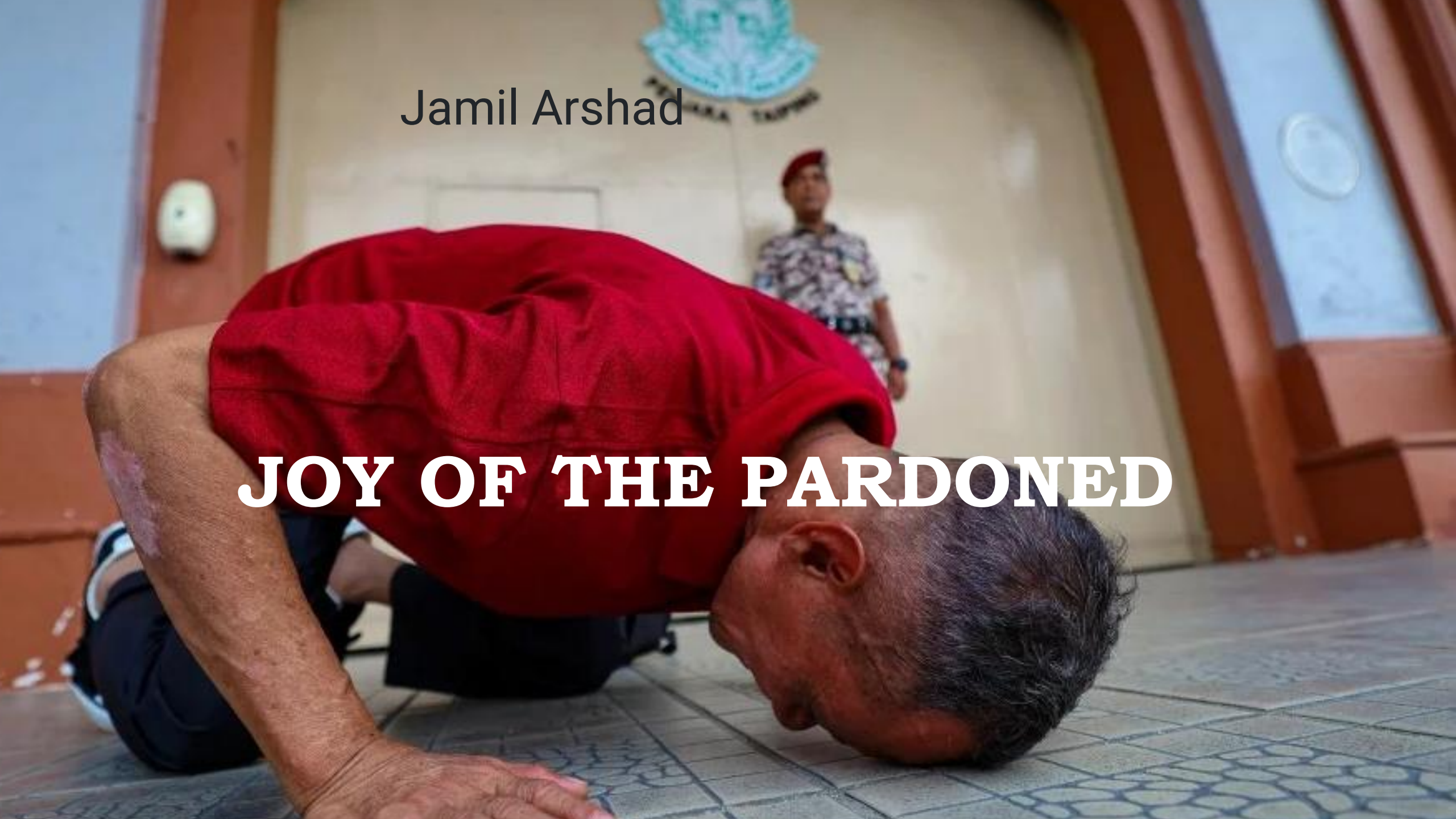
client had not received a fair trial. Najib
has consistently denied wrongdoing



remorse, repented, and apologised, and displayed good behaviour while in prison and promised not to repeat their offences and shown determination to start a new life.

Jamil Arshad

JOY OF THE PARDONED





PEJUNTA KAM
KEMERANGAN
KEMERANGAN
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PEJUNTA KAM
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KEMERANGAN

WHO WAS HAPPIER?





WHO WAS HAPPIER?

Luke 7:47 (ESV) Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven—for she loved much. But he who is forgiven little, loves little.”

UNITY IN THE DIVIDED CHURCH

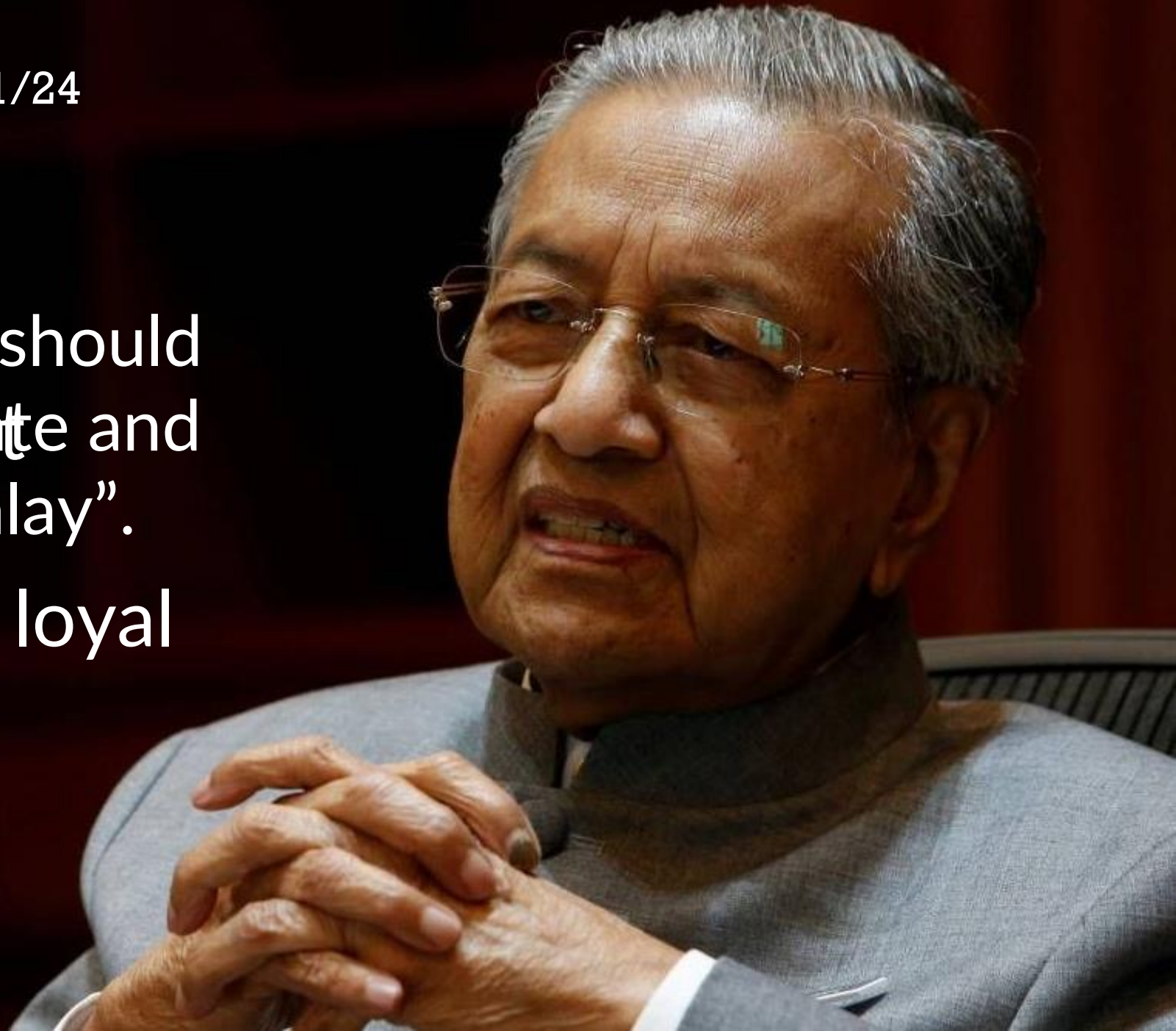
1. One Call that We all Respond to
2. One Grace that empowers and sustains us
3. One Gospel that propels us all



1 Corinthians 1:10-11 I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment.

The Star 15 /1/24

Malay Malays should
fully assimilate and
“become Malay”.
being
completely loyal



UNITY

UNIFORMITY





1 Corinthians 1:10-11 I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment.

DIFFERENCES VS DIVISION



1 Corinthians 1:11-12 (ESV) For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there is quarreling among you, my brothers. 12 What I mean is that each one of you says, "I follow Paul," or "I follow Apollos," or "I follow Cephas," or "I follow Christ."

Differences



Division

A dramatic scene featuring two men in 18th-century clothing. On the left, an older man in a dark blue military-style coat with buff-colored lapels and cuffs, and a black bicorne hat, holds a flintlock pistol. On the right, a younger man in a buff-colored frock coat with a high lace collar and cuffs also holds a flintlock pistol. They stand back-to-back, facing opposite directions. The background is a misty, wooded area with tall, thin trees. In the bottom right corner, a small, out-of-focus figure of a woman is visible.

Sinful personal alienation
Emotional conflict,
Sinful attitudes
Envy,
Pride,
Selfish
Resentment,
Malice,
Bitterness

CAUSE OF DIVISIONS IN CHURCH

**Personal
loyalties**

Prestige of each leader

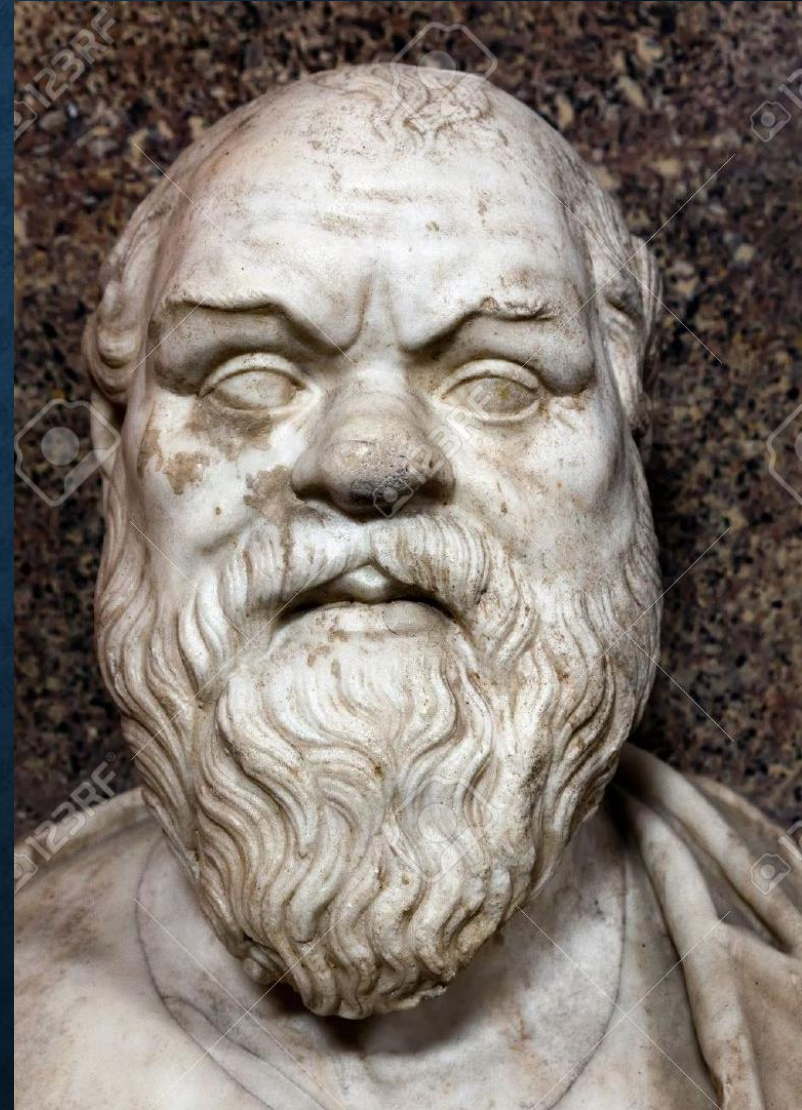
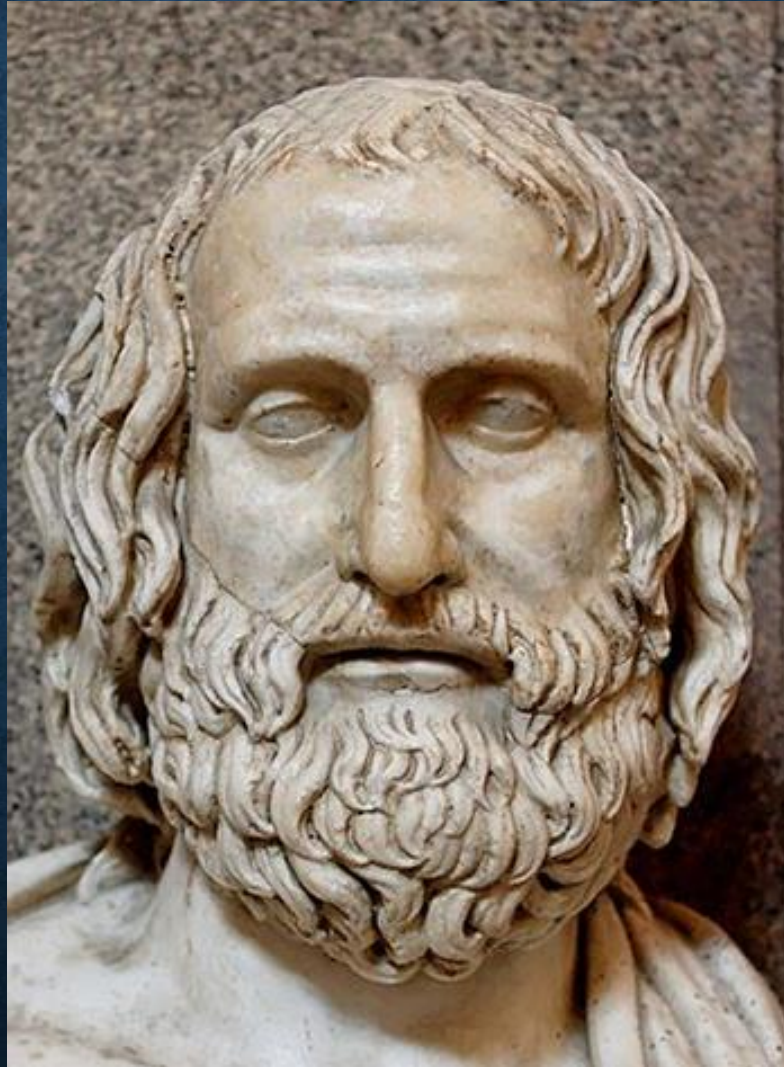
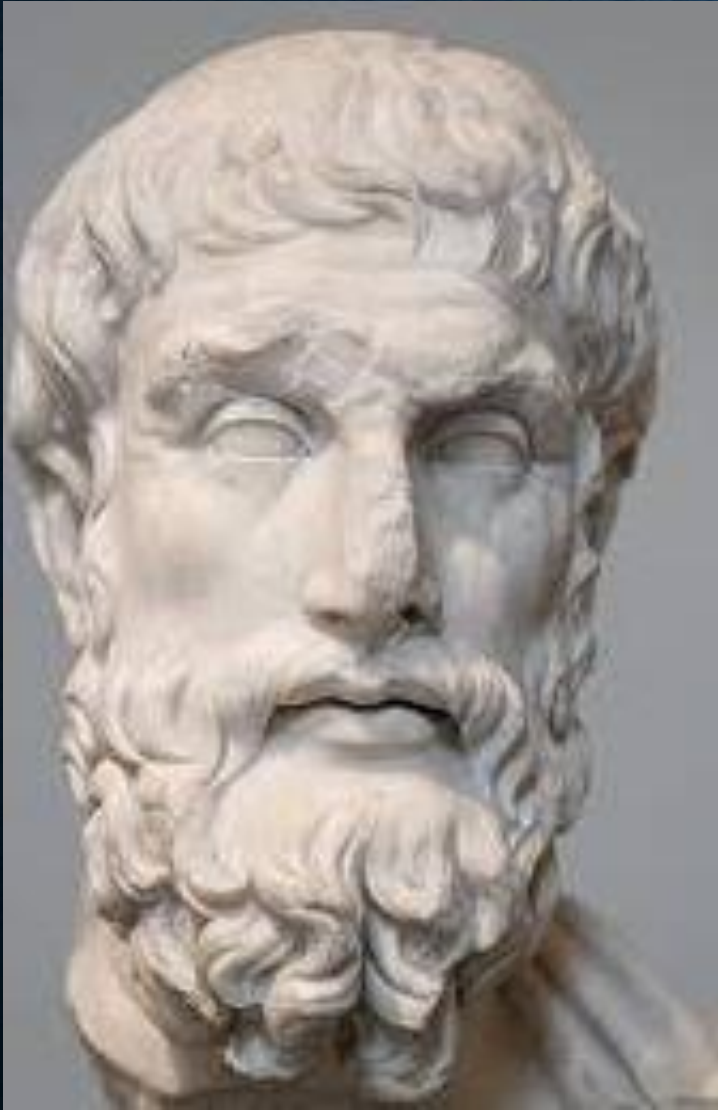
**Spiritual
Immaturity**

1 Corinthians 3:1 (ESV)
But I, brothers, could
not address you as
spiritual people, but as
people of the flesh, as
infants in Christ.

Weeds

Romans 16:17-18 (ESV) 17 I
appeal to you, brothers, to watch
out for those who cause divisions
and create obstacles contrary to
the doctrine that you have been
taught; avoid them.

THE GREEK PHILOSOPHERS





ESTIMATION OF WORTH AND STATUS

1 Corinthians 1:17 (ESV) For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with words of eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.

CORINTHIANS LACKED THEIR OWN GLORY



1 Corinthians 6:9-11 (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, 10 nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And such were some of you.



Fame-Status-Money



THE REASON FOR UNBELIEF

John 5:44 (ESV) How can you believe, when you receive glory from one another and do not seek the glory that comes from the only God?

Power, control, and praise





Though notable and good, its charitable work is not its legacy. “We Are the World” is known for being a wonderful, delightful, ever-entertaining hot mess of celebrities jockeying for attention and the ability to say their voice did the most for Africa

Jesse David Fox and Laurretto Charlton

Ranking the 37 Contributors to ‘We Are the World’

Vulture 4/2/24

<https://www.vulture.com/article/37-we-are-the-world-performers-ranked.html>

..when you receive glory from one another
and do not seek the glory that comes from the
only God?







THERE IS NO REFLECTED GLORY

1 Corinthians 1:13-17 (ESV) Is Christ divided?
Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you
baptized in the name of Paul

We have one Lord Jesus Christ ..unifying factor in our DNA



1 Corinthians 1:13-17 Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? 14 I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, 15 so that no one may say that you were baptized in my name. 16 (I did baptize also the household of Stephanas. Beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) 17 For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with words of eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.

ONE GOSPEL THAT PROPELS US ALL



1 Corinthians 1:17 (ESV) For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with words of eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.

ONE GOSPEL THAT PROPELS US ALL



Galatians 1:8 (ESV) 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.



Philippians 1:15-18 (ESV) Some indeed preach Christ from envy and rivalry, but others from good will. 16 The latter do it out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel. 17 The former proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely but thinking to afflict me in my imprisonment. 18 What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed, and in that I rejoice.

EQUAL

