



FELLOWSHIP

IN THE GOSPEL



Philippians 1:5

FELLOWSHIP IN THE GOSPEL

Philippians 1:3–8 (NKJV)

³ I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, ⁴ always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy, ⁵ for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now, ⁶ being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete *it* until the day of Jesus Christ; ⁷ just as it is right for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart, inasmuch as both in my chains and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel, you all are partakers with me of grace. ⁸ For God is my witness, how greatly I long for you all with the affection of Jesus Christ.

FELLOWSHIP IN THE GOSPEL

I John 1:1-8

JESUS > THE GOSPEL > US

Our love, commitment & loyalty to Christ!

Our love, commitment and loyalty to the gospel!

Our love, commitment and loyalty to one another!

UNITY > PEACE > FELLOWSHIP

FELLOWSHIP IN THE GOSPEL

The term is used in the Bible to denote the **SPIRITUAL UNION** we have as God's children in Christ & the subsequent **SPIRITUAL FRUIT** born of this union. - 1 Cor. 1:9; Phile 6; 2 Cor 13:14; Phili 2:1



A Fellowship of Believers

FELLOWSHIP IN THE GOSPEL

THE LOCAL CHURCH IS IMPORTANT



- Local churches were established throughout the Roman Empire (cf. Acts 2:42ff; 13-20; Col. 1:5,23).
- Christians banded together for the purpose of corporate worship and fellowship in serving JESUS (Acts 2:42-47; 11:19ff; 1 Cor. 11:17-34; etc.).
- This was not some optional plan or un-meaningful happenstance; it was a divinely orchestrated pattern of organizing local churches for God's work (cf. Acts 14:23; Eph 4:11-16; Titus 1:5).

FELLOWSHIP IN THE GOSPEL

THE LOCAL CHURCH IS IMPORTANT



- In the early chapters of Acts, following the establishment of the church we have numerous references acknowledging the “togetherness” of the early saints (2:42,44,46; 4:23-24,31-32; 9:26–31; etc.; cf. Heb. 10:24,25).
- God never intended for a Christian to function as an isolated “island” in a sea of worldly-oriented people. (Heb 10:24,25)

FELLOWSHIP IN THE GOSPEL

THE LOCAL CHURCH IS IMPORTANT



- One of the negative effects of our “individualistic” society has been the development of a negative attitude in the minds of many professed Christians towards any form of organized religion.
- The world engenders distrust, evil suspicions, negativity, strife & division, (James 3:13-17).
- LOVE produces the opposite (1 Cor. 13:1-8)

FELLOWSHIP IN THE GOSPEL

1 JOHN 1:1-8

DEITY

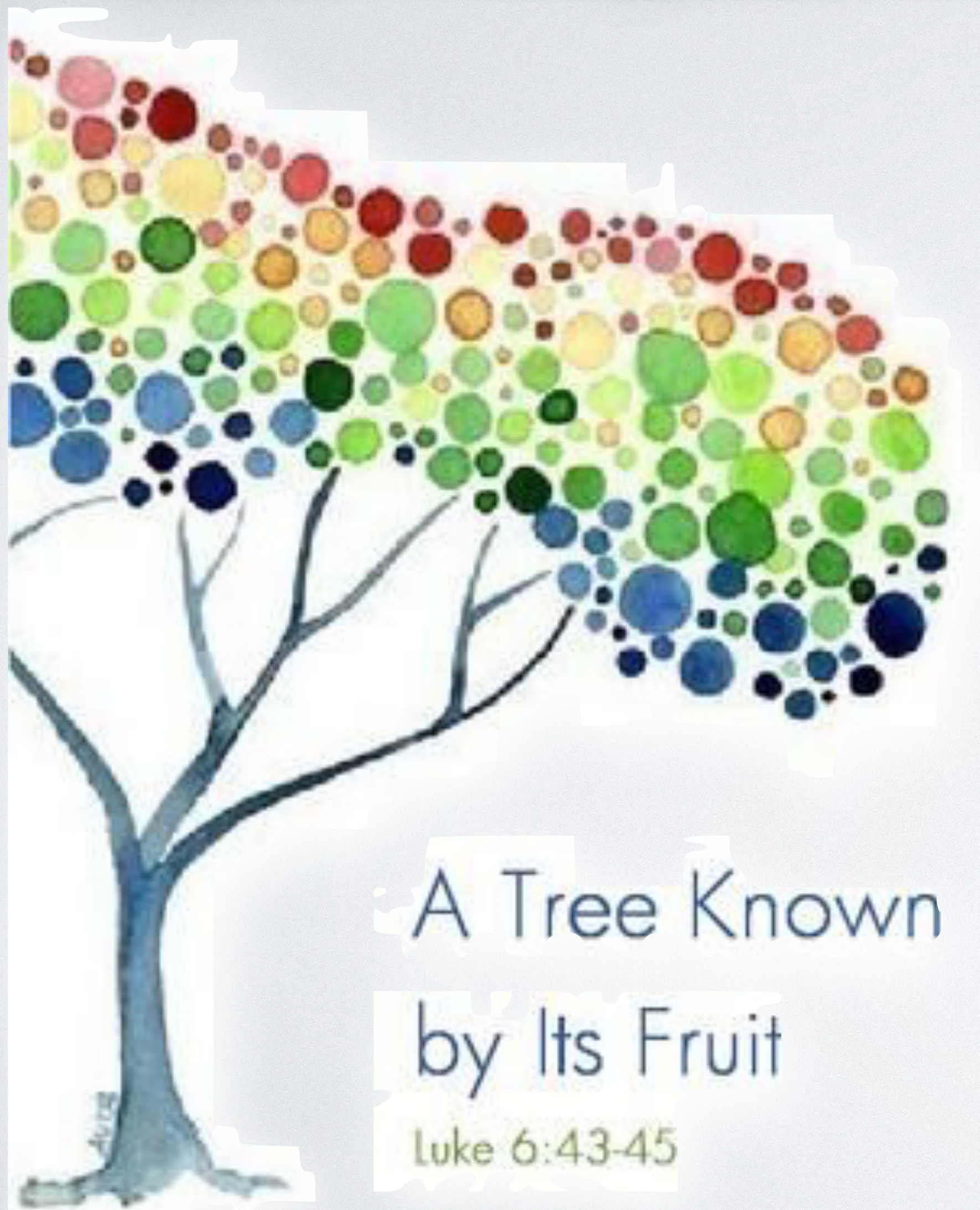
TRUTH

YOU

ME

- ▶ The Father, the Son, & the Holy Spirit (Mat. 28:19; 1 John 1:3-6; 1 Cor. 1:9; 2 Cor. 13:14)
- ▶ One another “IN THE GOSPEL” (Acts 2:42; 1 John 1:7)

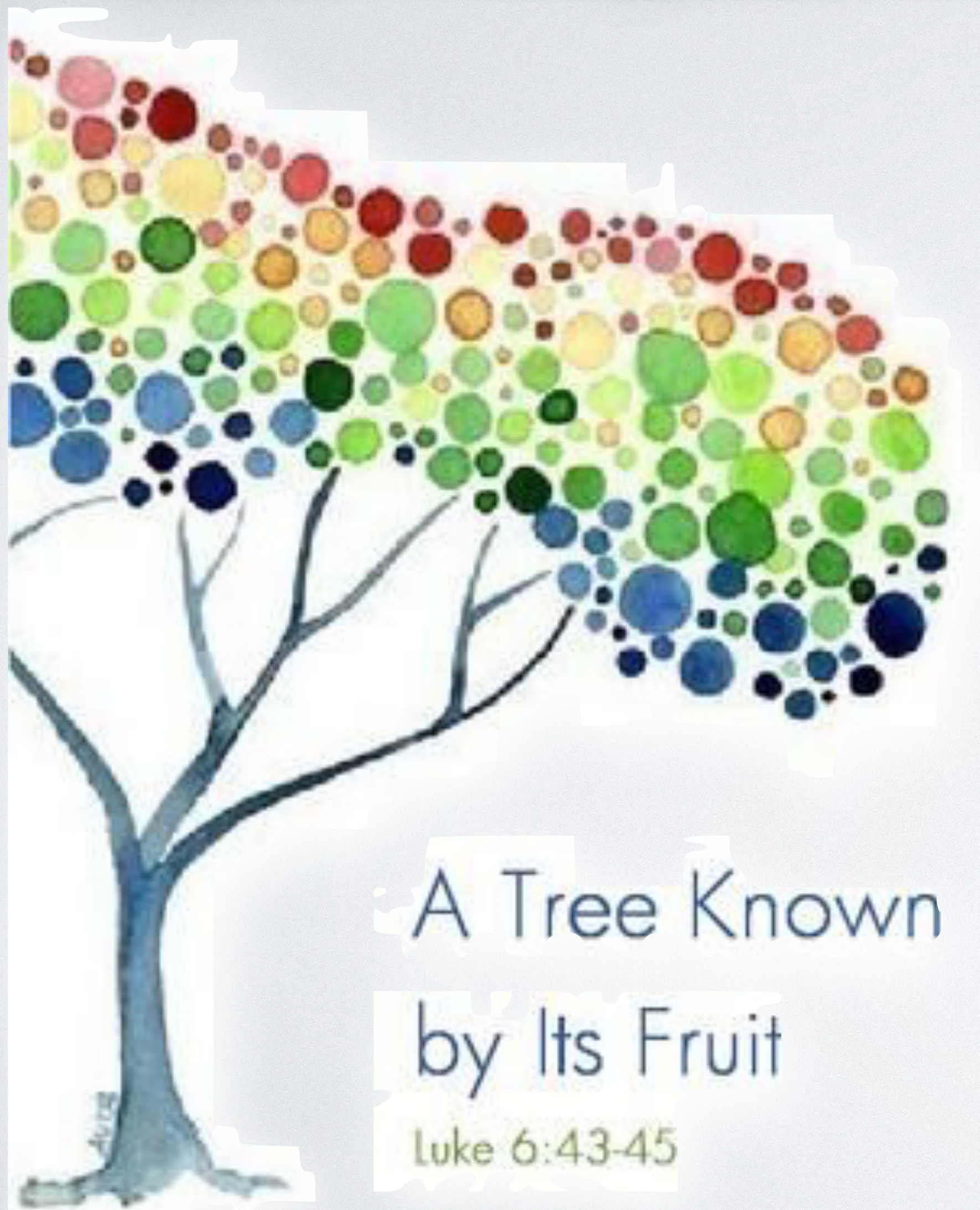
FELLOWSHIP IN THE GOSPEL



▶ The BODY (church) of CHRIST:

- We are all **different**, with different **backgrounds** / different **needs** / different **abilities** / with the **SAME LORD** — Romans 12:3-8; 1 Cor. 12:12-28; Gal. 3:26-29; 1 Cor. 1:10
- A community of people — some **young**, some **old**, some **weak**, some **strong**, some **struggling**, some **prospering** — dependent on, & supportive of ONE ANOTHER ...

FELLOWSHIP IN THE GOSPEL

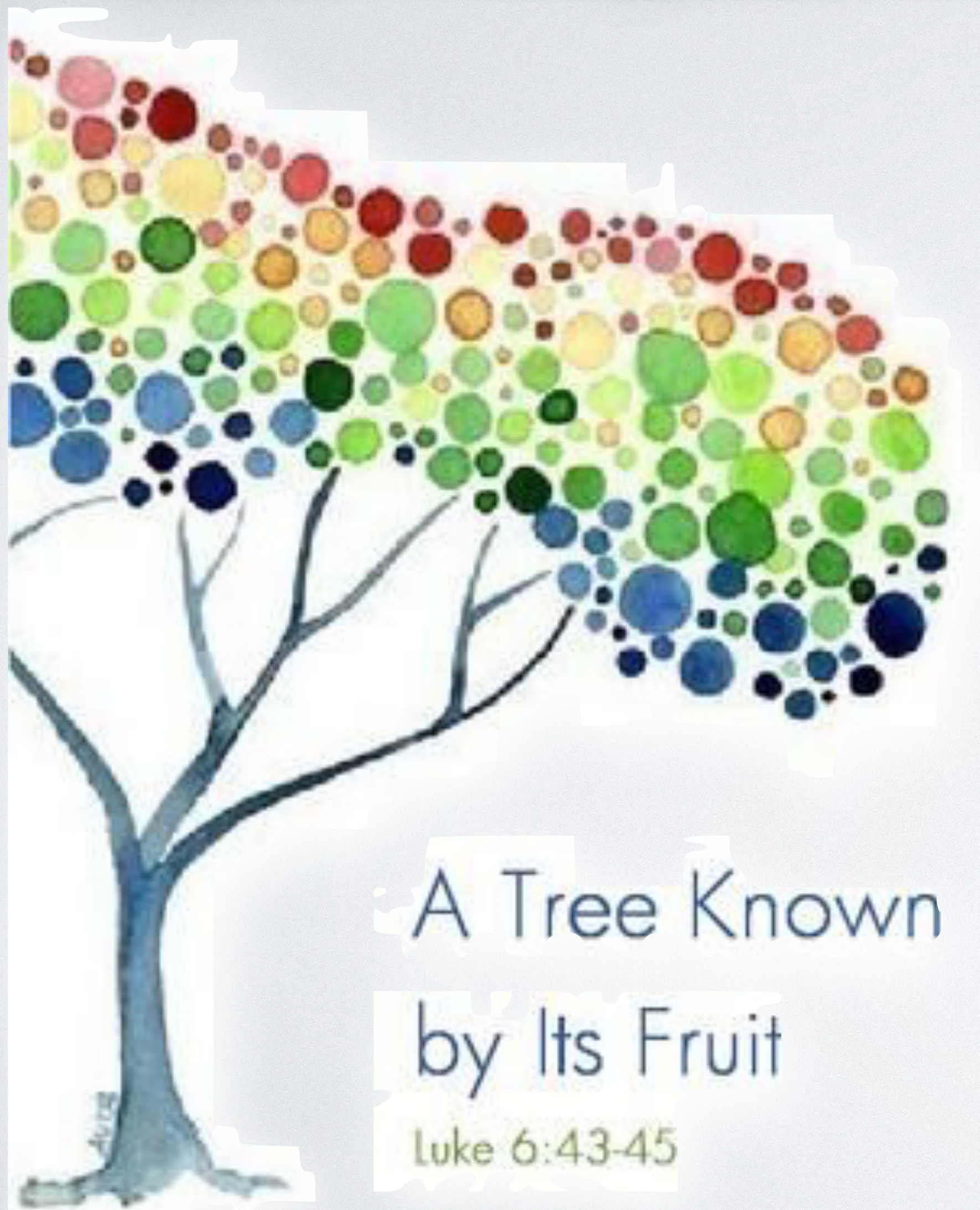


A Tree Known
by Its Fruit

Luke 6:43-45

- ▶ We are a diverse group united by our mutual relationship with God as His children.
- ▶ We are a united group by virtue of our mutual adherence and allegiance to God's word!
- ▶ We are a harmonious group only as long as we remain in harmony with the truth!

FELLOWSHIP IN THE GOSPEL



Can two walk
together, unless
they are agreed?
Amos 3:3

FELLOWSHIP IN THE GOSPEL



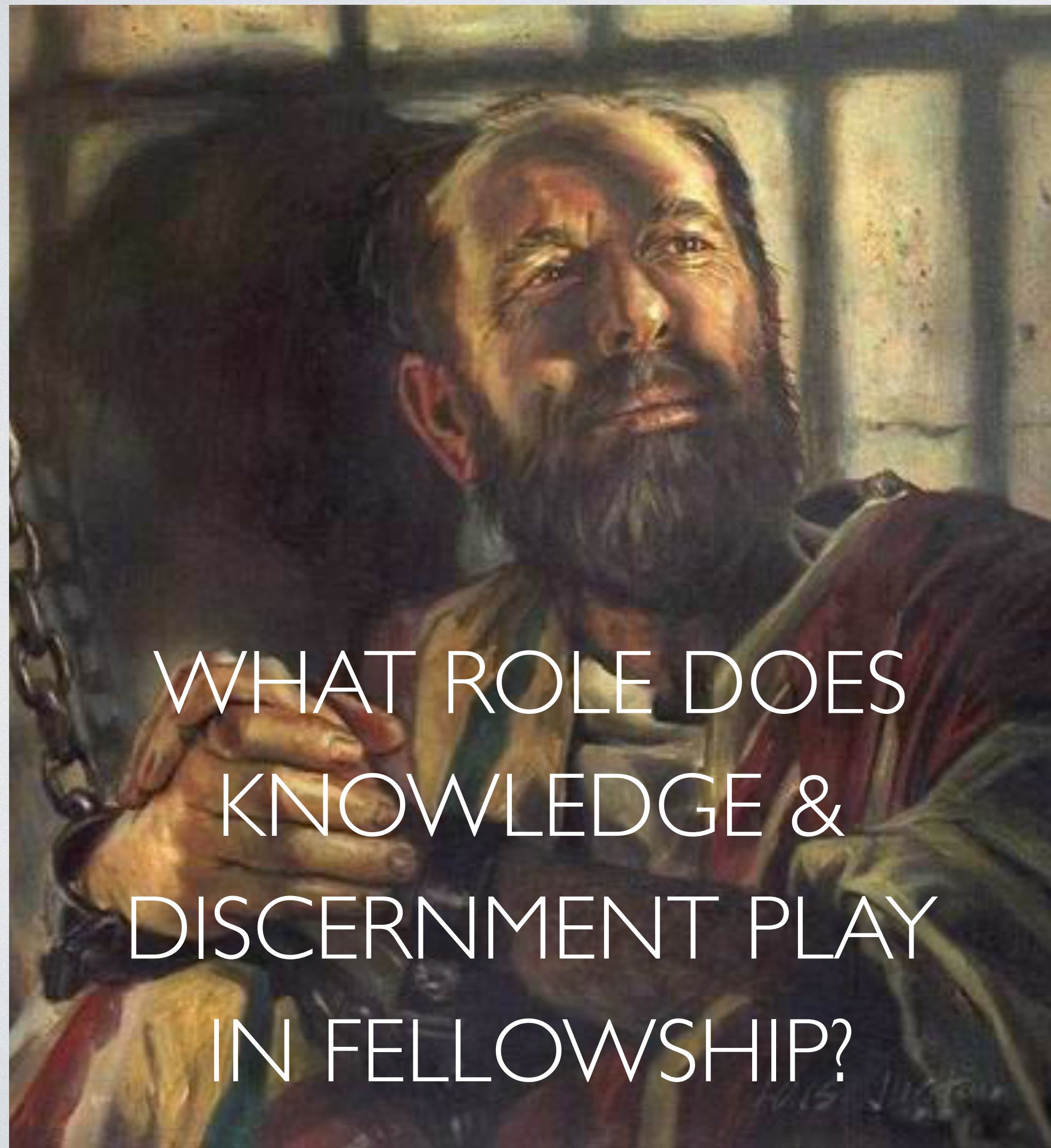
A Local church is made up of members of the Lord's body – who have committed their abilities, possessions, and efforts, in organizing, worshipping and serving the Lord together. (Eph 4:11-16; 1 Cor 12:12-27; Rom 12:3-8)

FELLOWSHIP IN THE GOSPEL

The state or condition of our “fellowship” with Christ will govern and determine how we treat, associate with & serve one another (Rom 12:9-16; Gal 5:22,23)

⁵ But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. ⁶ He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked. — 1 John 2:5–6 (NKJV)

FELLOWSHIP IN THE GOSPEL

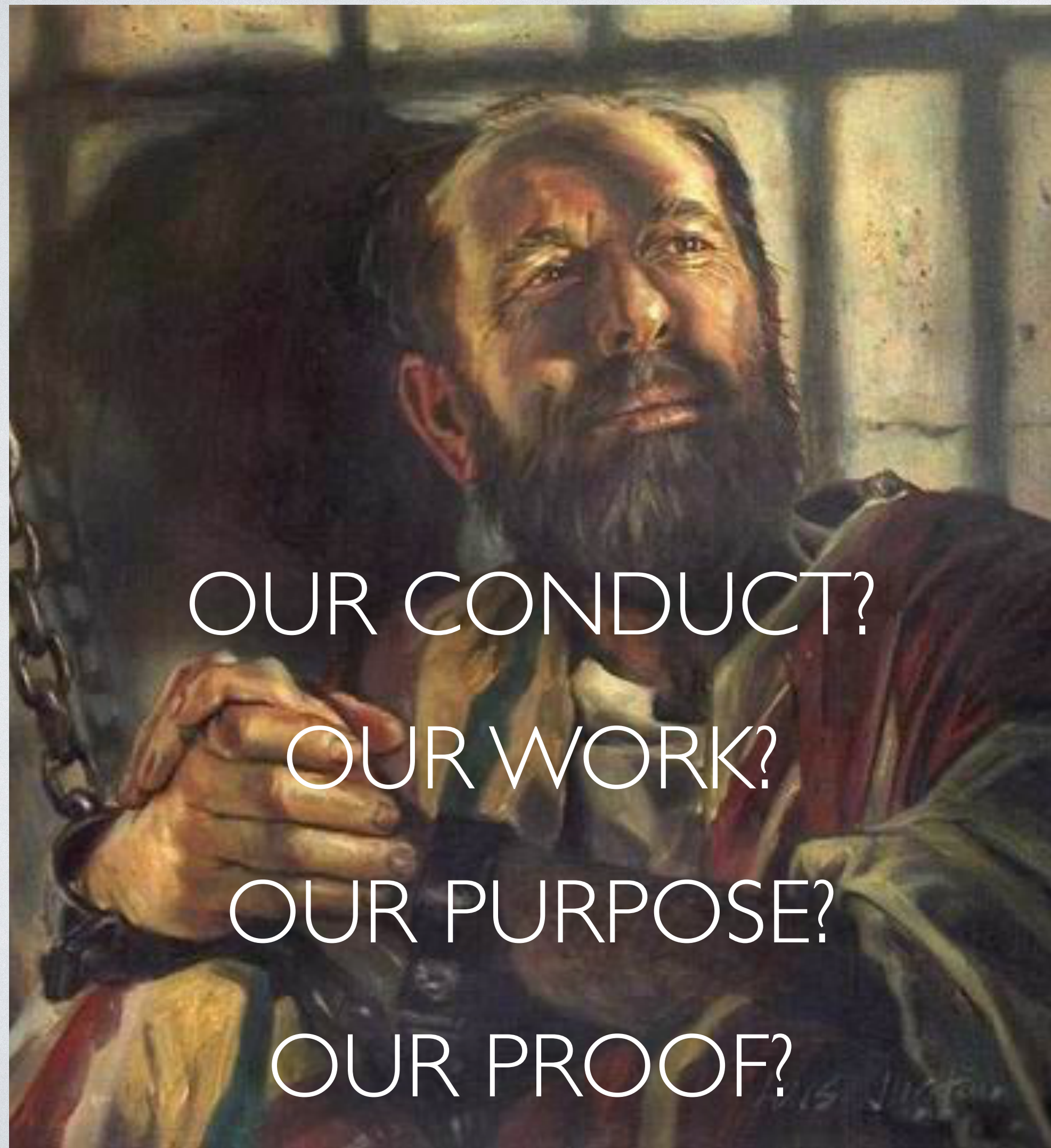


WHAT ROLE DOES
KNOWLEDGE &
DISCERNMENT PLAY
IN FELLOWSHIP?

Philippians 1:9–11 (NKJV)

⁹ And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in **knowledge and all discernment**, ¹⁰ that you may **approve** the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and **without** offense till the day of Christ, ¹¹ being **filled** with the fruits of righteousness which *are* by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

FELLOWSHIP IN THE GOSPEL



OUR CONDUCT?

OUR WORK?

OUR PURPOSE?

OUR PROOF?

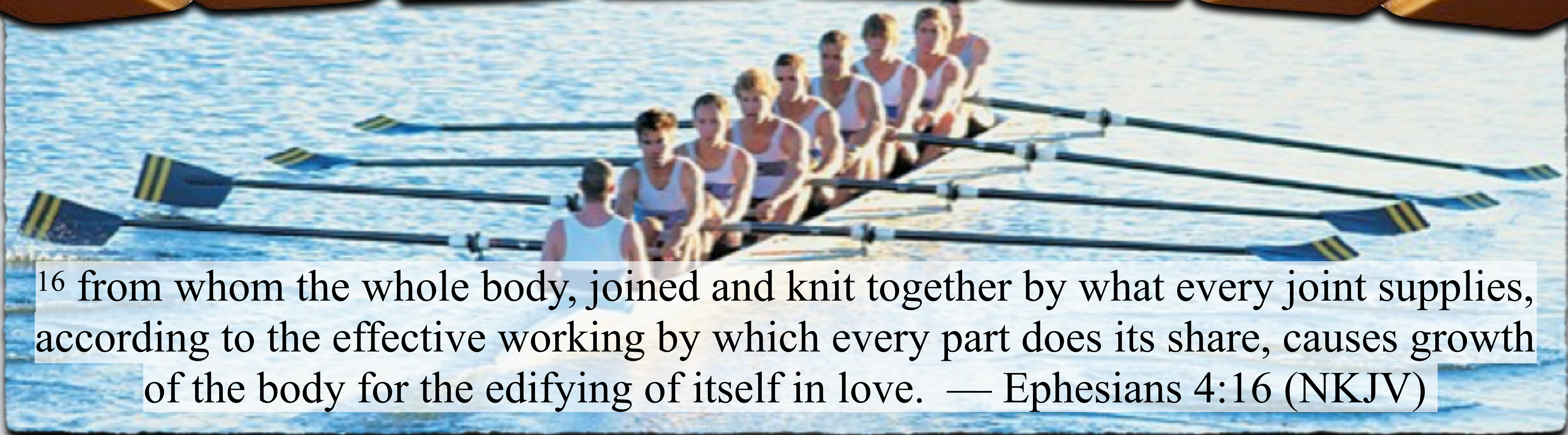
Philippians 1:27–28 (NKJV)

²⁷ Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸ and not in any way terrified by your adversaries, which is to them a proof of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that from God.

FELLOWSHIP IN THE GOSPEL

... with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel

TEAMWORK

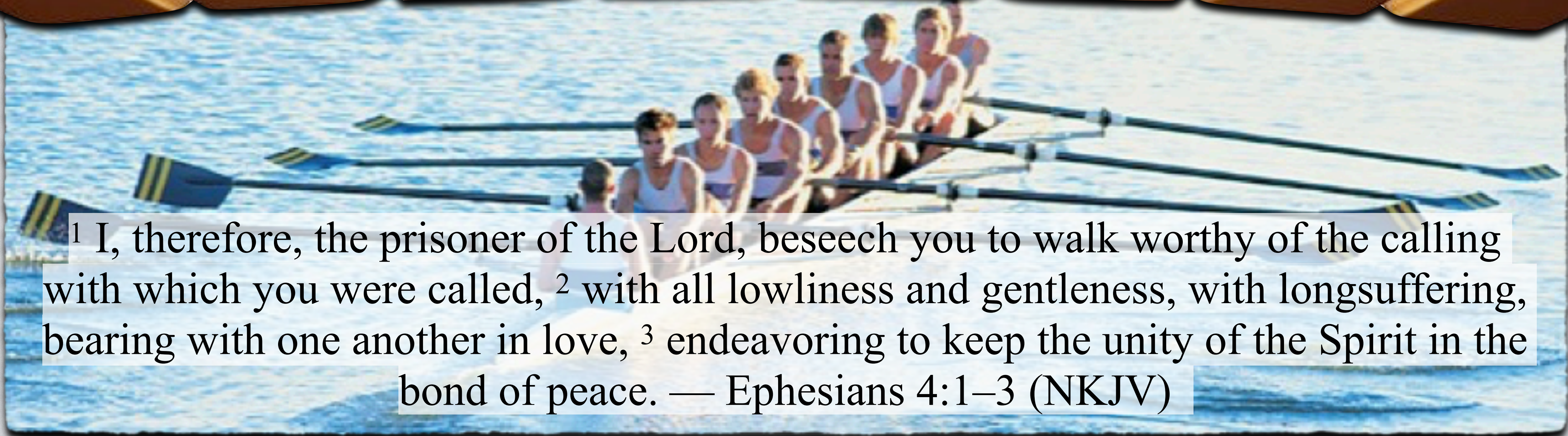
A photograph of a rowing team in a boat on blue water. The team consists of several people, mostly women, wearing white tank tops and dark shorts. They are all looking forward, and their oars are visible, dipping into the water. The boat is a long, narrow racing shell.

¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love. — Ephesians 4:16 (NKJV)

FELLOWSHIP IN THE GOSPEL

... with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel

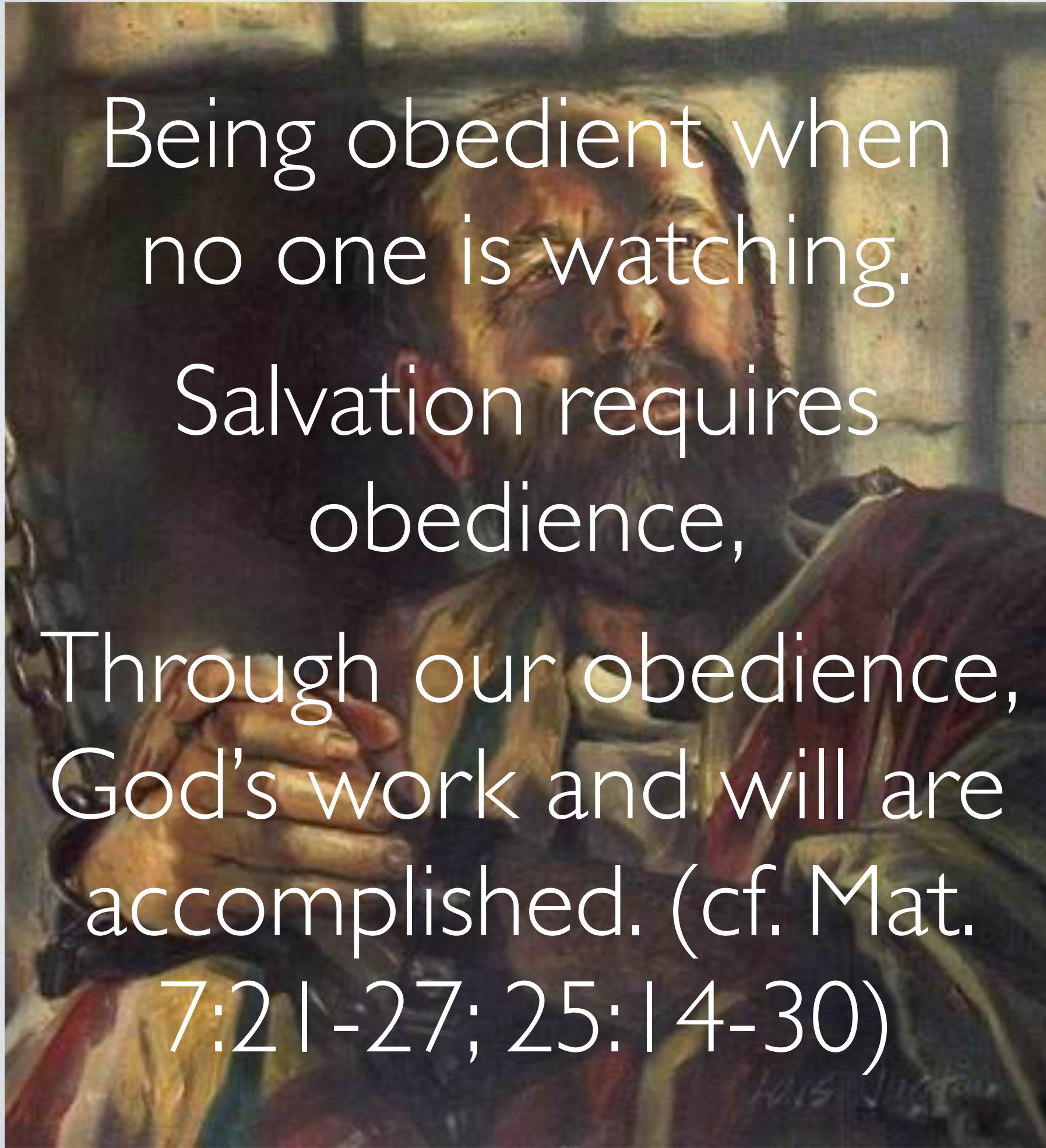
TEAMWORK

A photograph of a rowing team in a boat on blue water. The team consists of several people, mostly young men, wearing white tank tops and dark shorts. They are all looking forward, and their oars are visible, dipping into the water. The boat is white and has a blue stripe along its side. The water is a deep blue with some whitecaps.

¹ I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, ² with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, ³ endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. — Ephesians 4:1–3 (NKJV)

FELLOWSHIP IN THE GOSPEL

... with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel



Being obedient when
no one is watching.

Salvation requires
obedience,

Through our obedience,
God's work and will are
accomplished. (cf. Mat.

7:21-27; 25:14-30)

Philippians 2:12–13 (NKJV)

¹² Therefore, my beloved, as you have
always obeyed, not as in my presence
only, but now much more in my
absence, work out your own salvation
with fear and trembling; ¹³ for it is
God who works in you both to will
and to do for *His* good pleasure.

FELLOWSHIP IN THE GOSPEL

... with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel



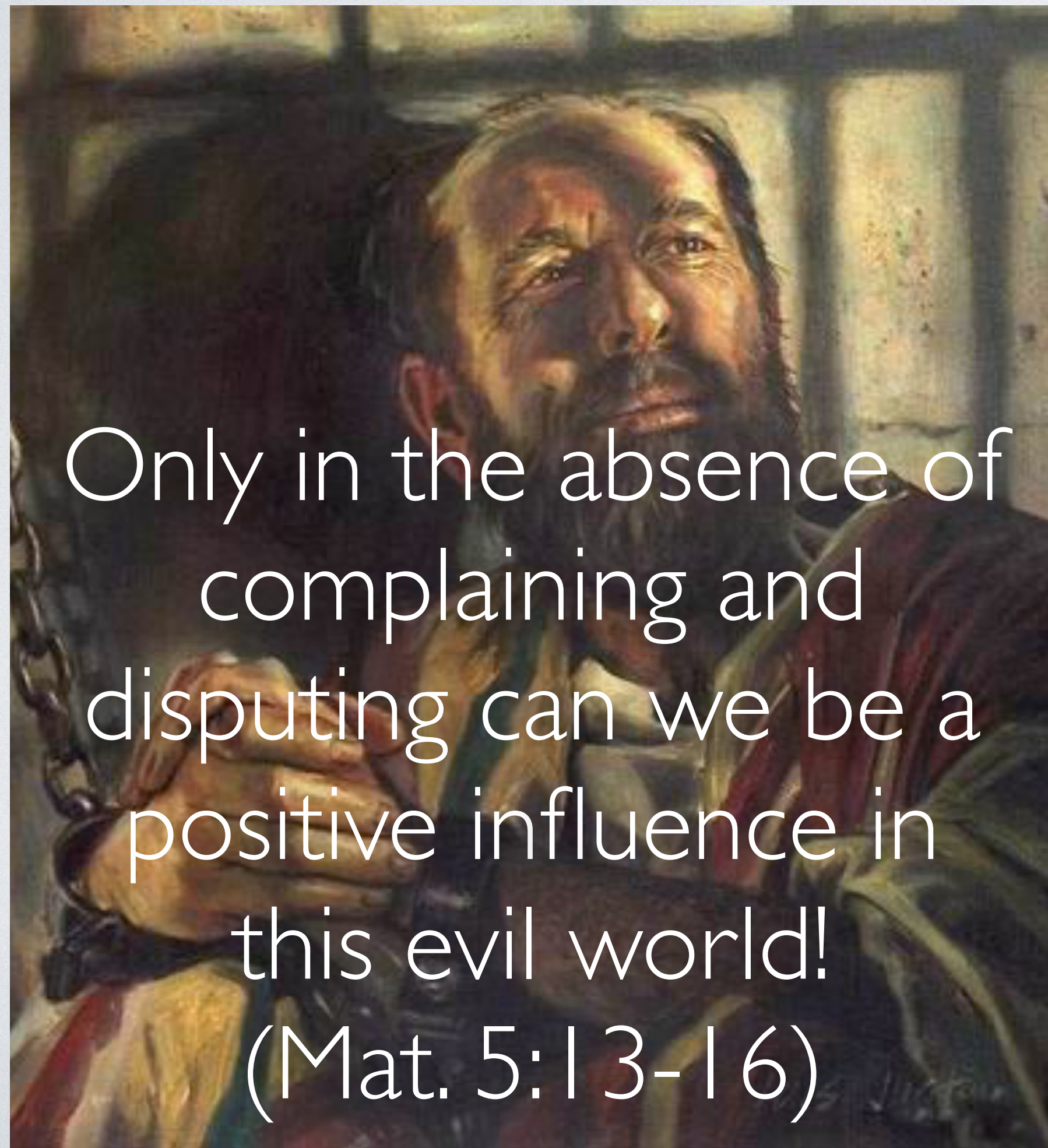
Complaining and disputing was a sin committed by Israel which brought about their condemnation (Ex. 16:2; Num. 11:1-33; 1 Cor. 10:10)

Philippians 2:14–16 (NKJV)

¹⁴ Do all things without complaining and disputing, ¹⁵ that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, ¹⁶ holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain.

FELLOWSHIP IN THE GOSPEL

... with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel



Only in the absence of complaining and disputing can we be a positive influence in this evil world!
(Mat. 5:13-16)

Philippians 2:14–16 (NKJV)

¹⁴ Do all things without complaining and disputing, ¹⁵ that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, ¹⁶ holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain.

FELLOWSHIP IN THE GOSPEL

... with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel



Philippians 3:12–15 (NKJV)

¹² Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. ¹³ Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing *I do*, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead,

FELLOWSHIP IN THE GOSPEL

... with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel



Philippians 3:12–15 (NKJV)

¹⁴ I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵ Therefore let us, as many as are mature, have this mind; and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal even this to you.

FELLOWSHIP IN THE GOSPEL

REACHING FORWARD

TO THOSE THINGS WHICH ARE AHEAD

- **OBEY THE GOSPEL** — hear it, and obey it by believing it, repenting, confessing Jesus as God's Son, be baptized in His name for the remission of our sins (Rom. 10:17; John 8:24; Rom. 10:9,10; Acts 2:38)

- **CONTINUE** in fellowship with the Lord and one another (1 John 1:3-9)

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I John 1:1-8

JESUS > THE GOSPEL > US

Our love, commitment & loyalty to Christ!

Our love, commitment and loyalty to the gospel!

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UNITY > PEACE > FELLOWSHIP



FELLOWSHIP

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Philippians 1:5

Romans 12:9–19 (NKJV)

⁹ *Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good.* ¹⁰ *Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another;* ¹¹ *not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord;* ¹² *rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer;* ¹³ *distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality.* ¹⁴ *Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.* ¹⁵ *Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.*

Romans 12:9–19 (NKJV)

¹⁶ Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion. ¹⁷ Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. ¹⁸ If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. ¹⁹ Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but *rather* give place to wrath; for it is written, “*Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,*” says the Lord.