

A hand holding a lit sparkler against a dark, cloudy night sky. The sparkler is bright and glowing, with many sparks flying out. The hand is visible at the bottom, holding the stick of the sparkler. The background is a dark, cloudy sky with some light reflecting off the clouds.

Standing Firm Together in the Lord

— Philippians 4:1-3 —

A hand holding a lit sparkler against a dark background. The sparkler is bright and glowing, with many sparks flying out. The hand is wearing a dark, textured glove. The background is dark and out of focus.

Finding Joy

PHILIPPIANS

Right Where You Are

Sticks and stones may break my bones....



A Poem by “Ruby Redfort” in a novel by Lauren Child



**Sticks and stones may break my bones
But words can also hurt me
Stones and sticks break only skin
While words are ghosts that haunt me**



**Slant and curved the word-sword falls
It pierces and sticks inside me
Bats and bricks may ache through bones
But words can mortify me**



**Pain from words has left its scar
On mind and heart that's tender
Cuts and bruises have not healed
It's words that I remember**



If you had never
heard just 3 things
said to you or
about you, how
might your life
be different



If you could take
back just 3 things
you have said over
the course of your
life, how would the
course of your life
be different



**Sadly, Sometimes The Wounds
That Hurt Most Deeply Have Been
Spoken By Those Who Should
Never Have Spoken Them —
Who Should Have Known Better
Who Should Have Done Better**





— PHILIPPIANS —



A close-up photograph of a hand holding a lit sparkler. The sparkler is bright and glowing, with many sparks flying out. The background is dark and blurry, suggesting a night sky with some clouds. The text is overlaid on the image.

Standing Firm Together in the Lord

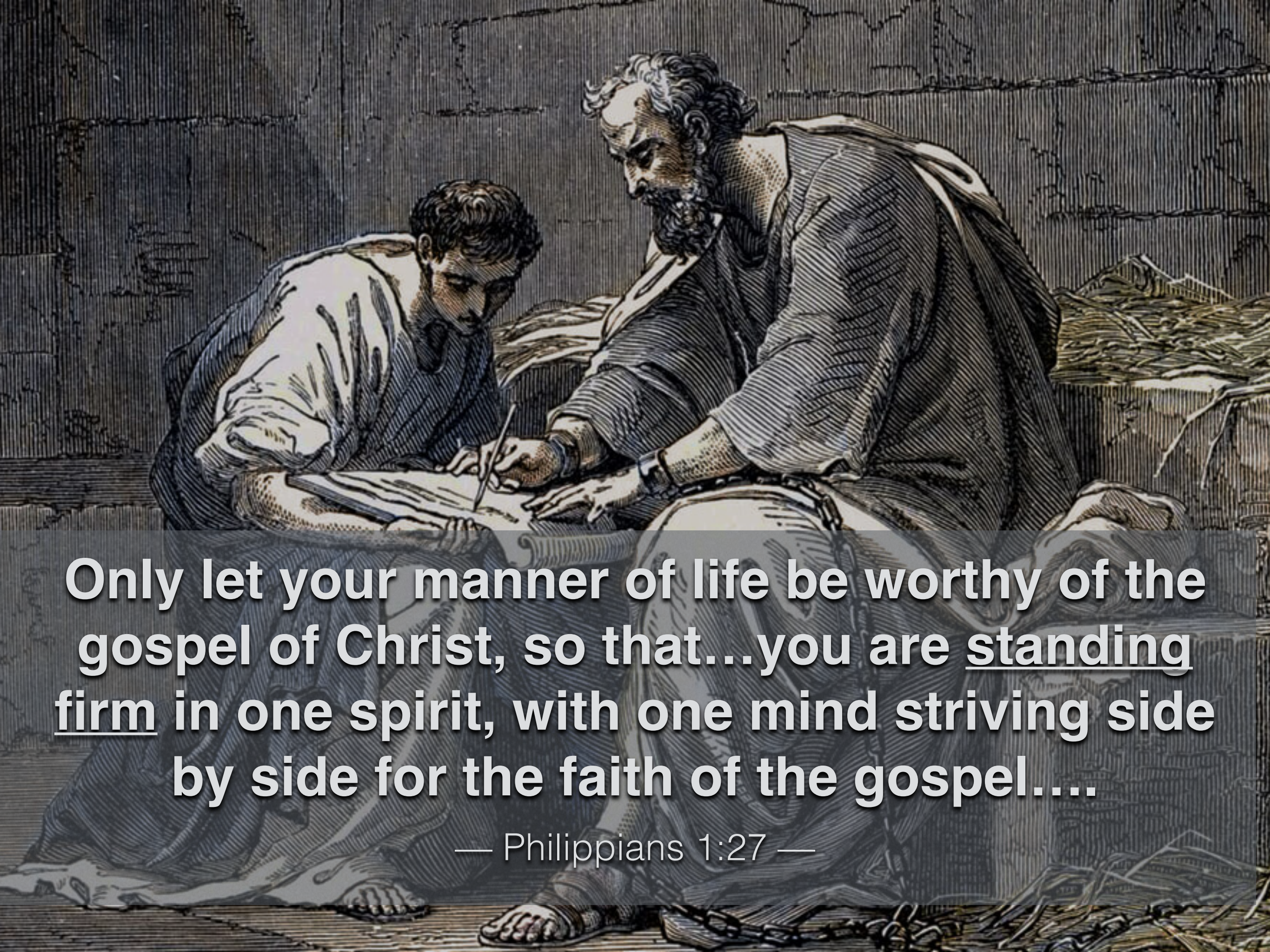
— Philippians 4:1-3 —

Philippians 4

1 Therefore, my brothers, whom I love and long for, my joy and my crown, stand firm thus in the Lord, my beloved.

Philippians 4

1 **Therefore,** my brothers, whom I love
and long for, my joy and my crown,
stand firm thus in the Lord, my beloved.



Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that...you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel....

— Philippians 1:27 —

Chapter 1: Stand firm

Chapter 2

Chapter 3

Chapter 4: Stand firm

Philippians 2

1 So if there is

any encouragement in Christ,

any comfort from love,

any participation in the Spirit,

any affection and sympathy,

2 [then] complete my joy....

by being of the same mind,

having the same love,

being in full accord and

of one mind.

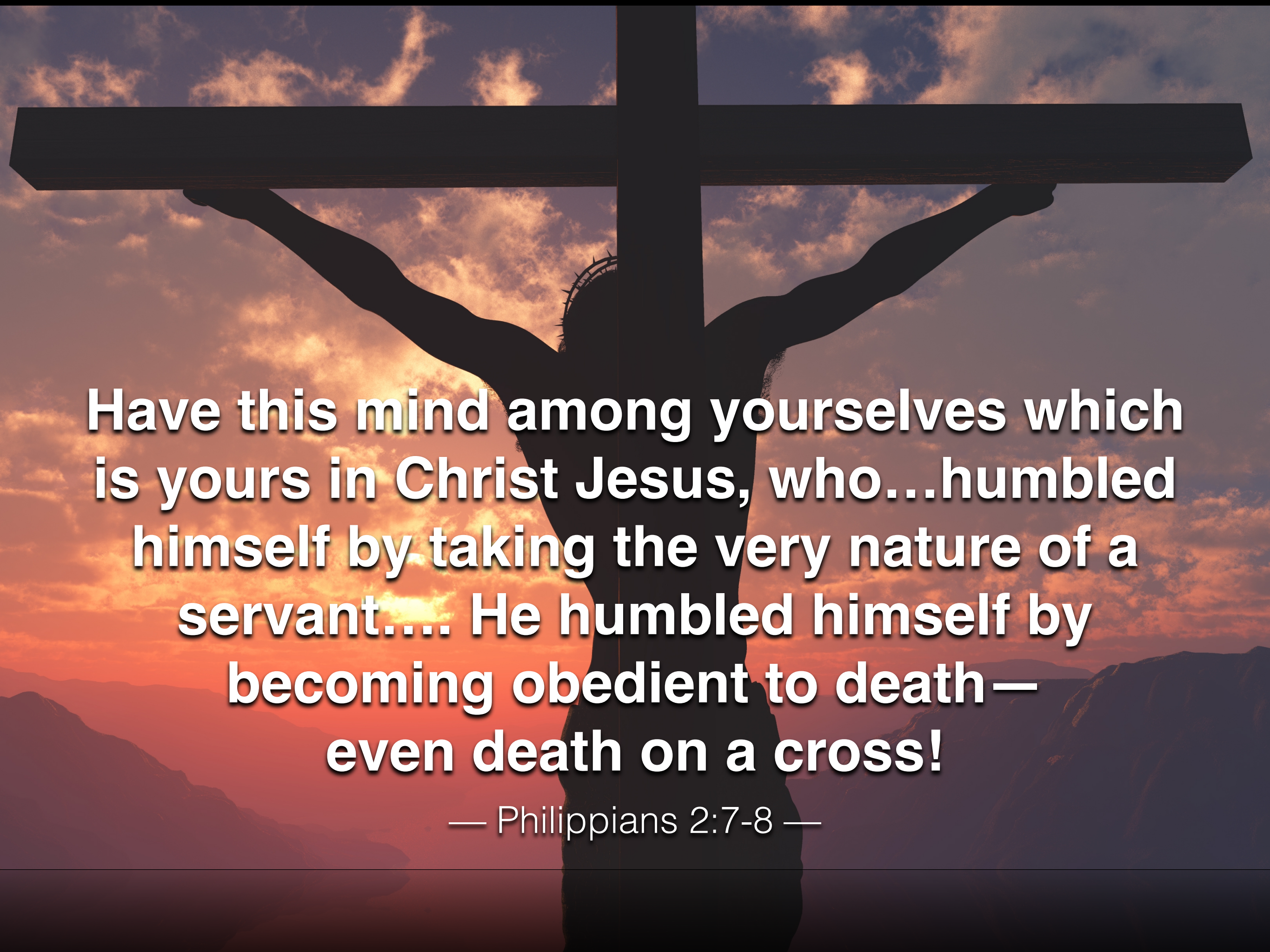


Paul's joy would be brought to completion not by being released from prison, but by the unity of mind and affection of heart among Jesus' people.

Philippians 2

3 Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.

4 Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

A large, dark silhouette of Jesus on the cross is centered in the image. The background is a dramatic sky at sunset or sunrise, with warm orange and yellow light breaking through dark, textured clouds. The horizon line is visible at the bottom, showing the silhouettes of distant mountains or hills. The overall mood is solemn and reverent.

**Have this mind among yourselves which
is yours in Christ Jesus, who...humbled
himself by taking the very nature of a
servant.... He humbled himself by
becoming obedient to death—
even death on a cross!**

— Philippians 2:7-8 —

**I count everything
as loss because of
the surpassing worth
of knowing Christ
Jesus my Lord.**



The Apostle Paul
— Philippians 3:8 & 10 —

**I want to know Christ
—yes, to know the
power of his
resurrection and
participation in his
sufferings, becoming
like him in his
death....**



The Apostle Paul
— Philippians 3:8 & 10 —

Philippians 4

1 **Therefore,** my brothers, whom I love
and long for, my joy and my crown,
stand firm thus in the Lord, my beloved.

...standing firm in one spirit,
with one mind striving side by side
for the faith of the gospel....

— Philippians 1:27 —

Philippians 4


1 Therefore, **my brothers, whom I love and long for, my joy and my crown,**
stand firm thus in the Lord, **my beloved.**

Philippians 4

1 Therefore, **my brothers, whom I love and long for, my joy and my crown,** stand firm thus in the Lord, **my beloved.**

1:7, "...I have you in my heart...."

1:8, "God can testify how I long for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus."



**my brothers and sisters
whom I love and long for
my joy and my crown
my beloved**

SPEAKING THE TRUTH IN LOVE

— Ephesians 4:15 —

**It is always wise to frame difficult
conversations with words of
affirmation and confirmation.**

Philippians 4

2 I entreat Euodia and I entreat Syntyche to agree in the Lord.

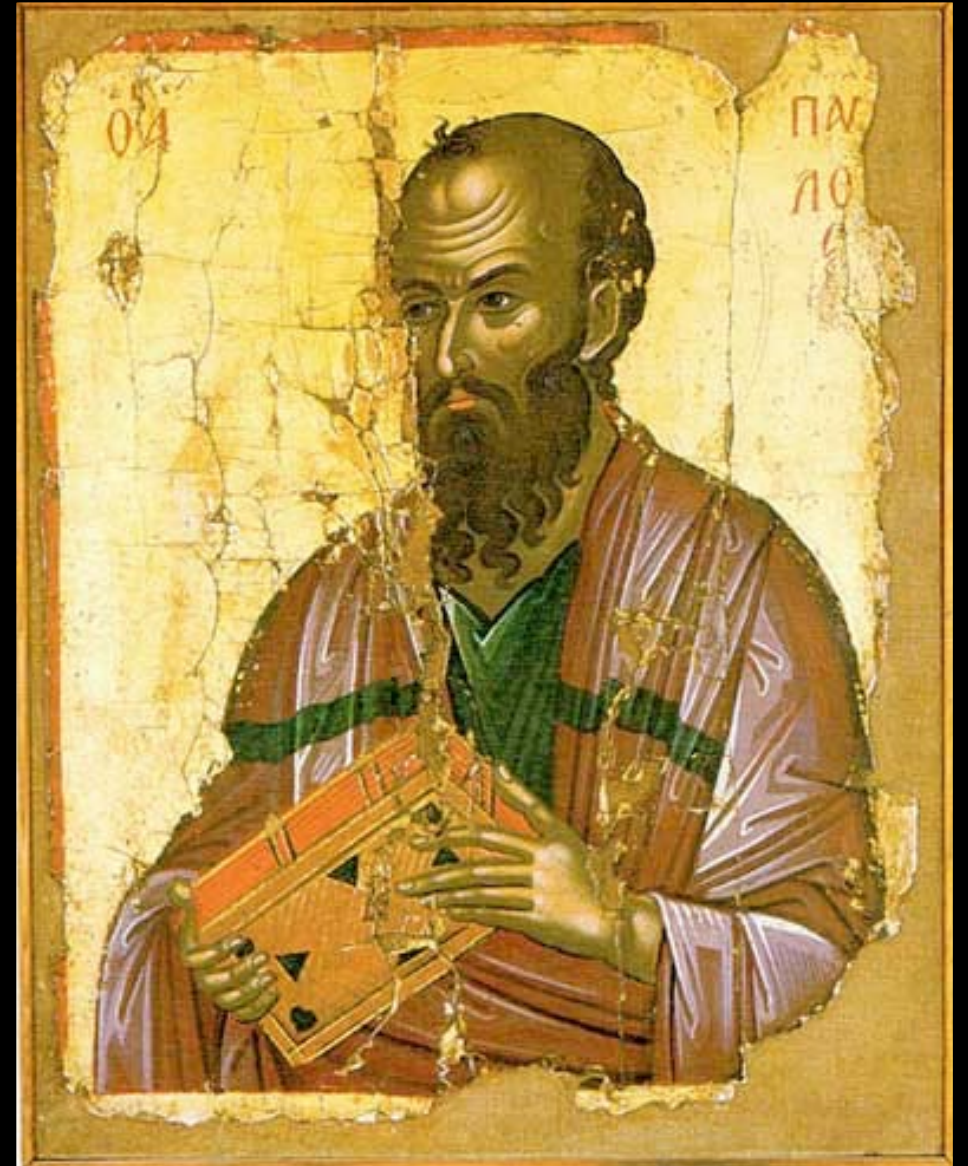
Philippians 4

2 I entreat Euodia and I entreat Syntyche
to agree in the Lord.



“to beg, to urge, to appeal to”

**...though I am bold
enough in Christ to
command you to do
what is required, yet
for love's sake I prefer
to appeal to you—I,
Paul, an old man and
now a prisoner also for
the sake of Christ....**



The Apostle Paul

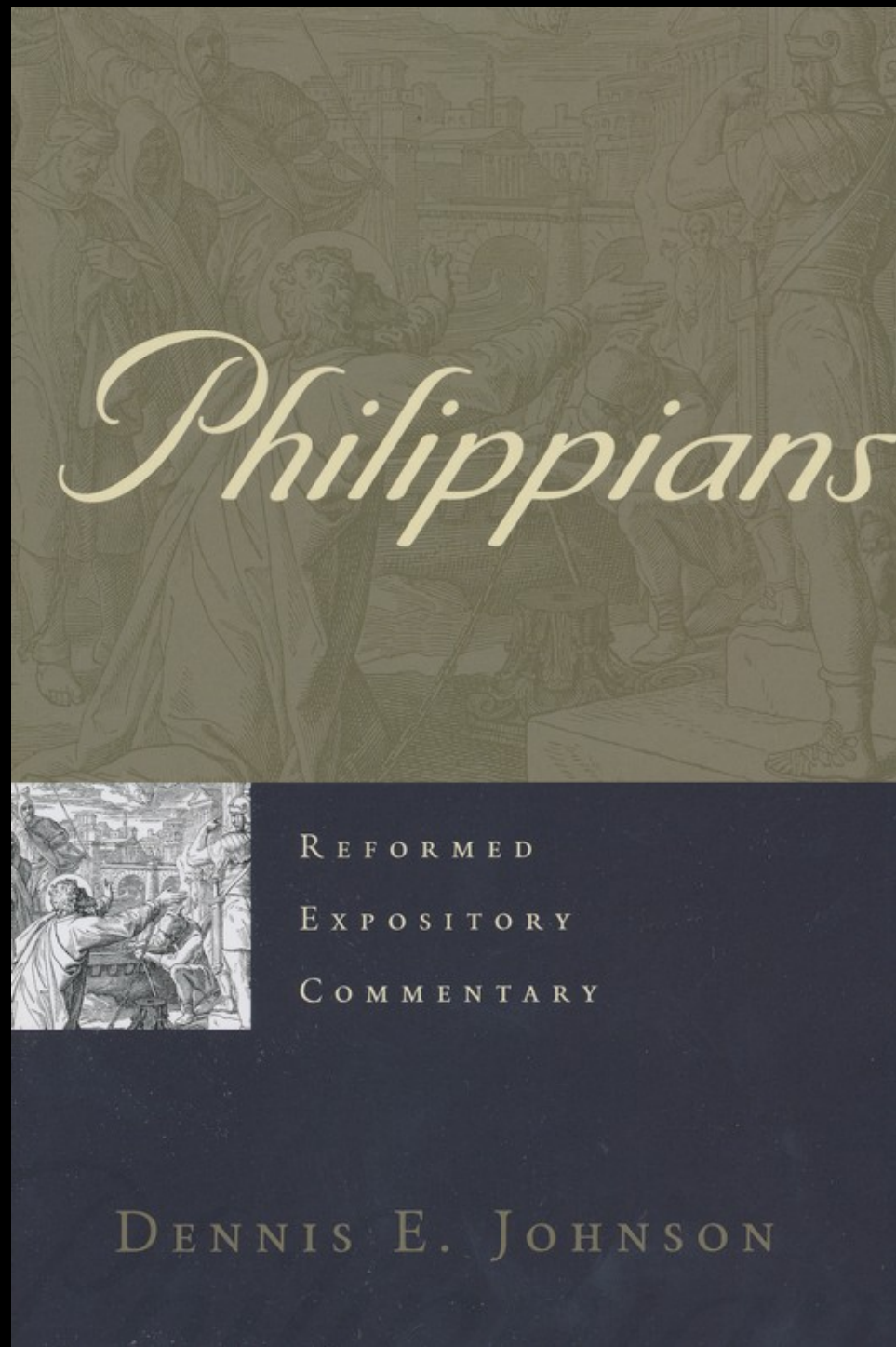
— Philemon 1:8-10 —

Philippians 4

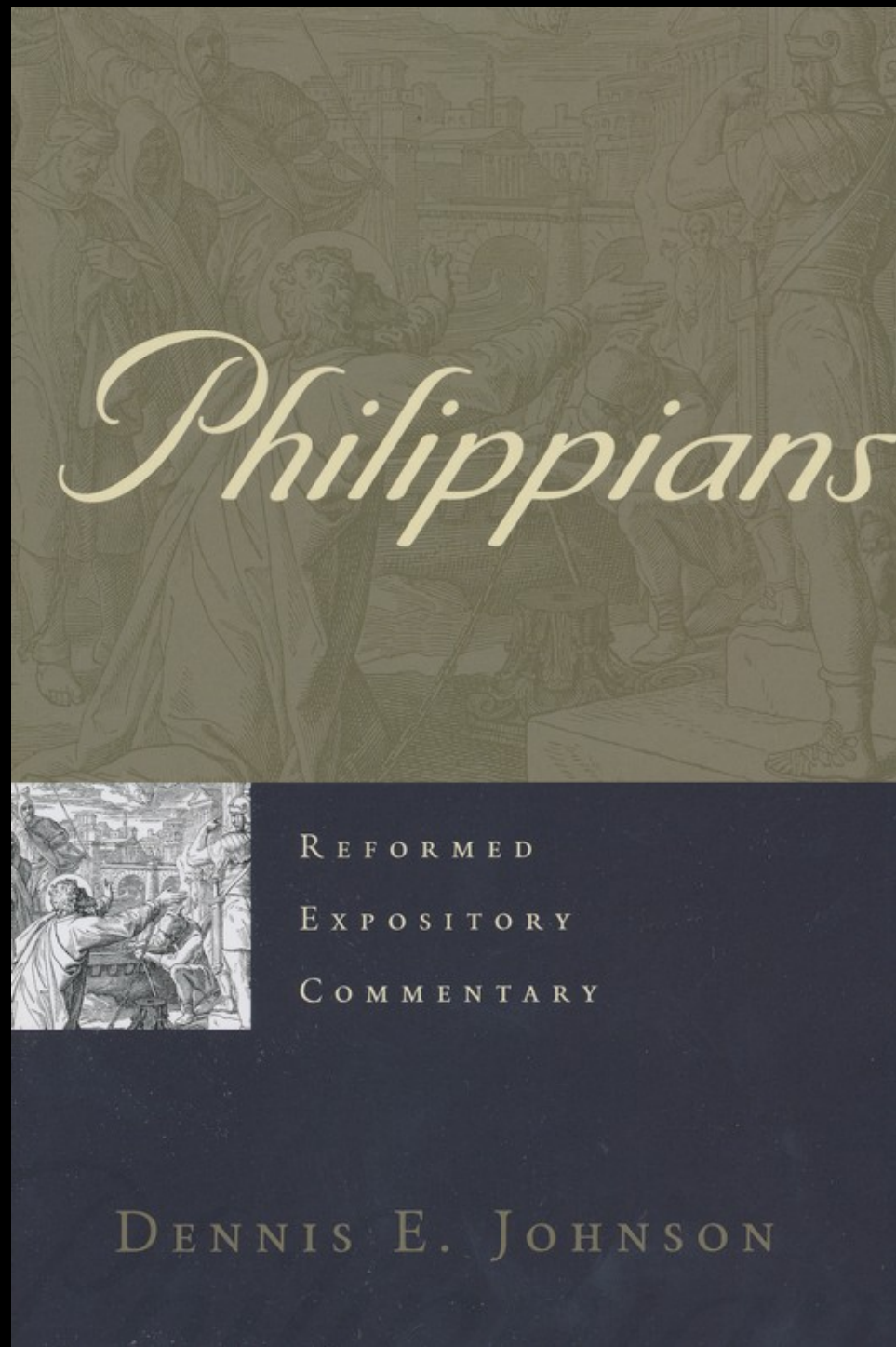
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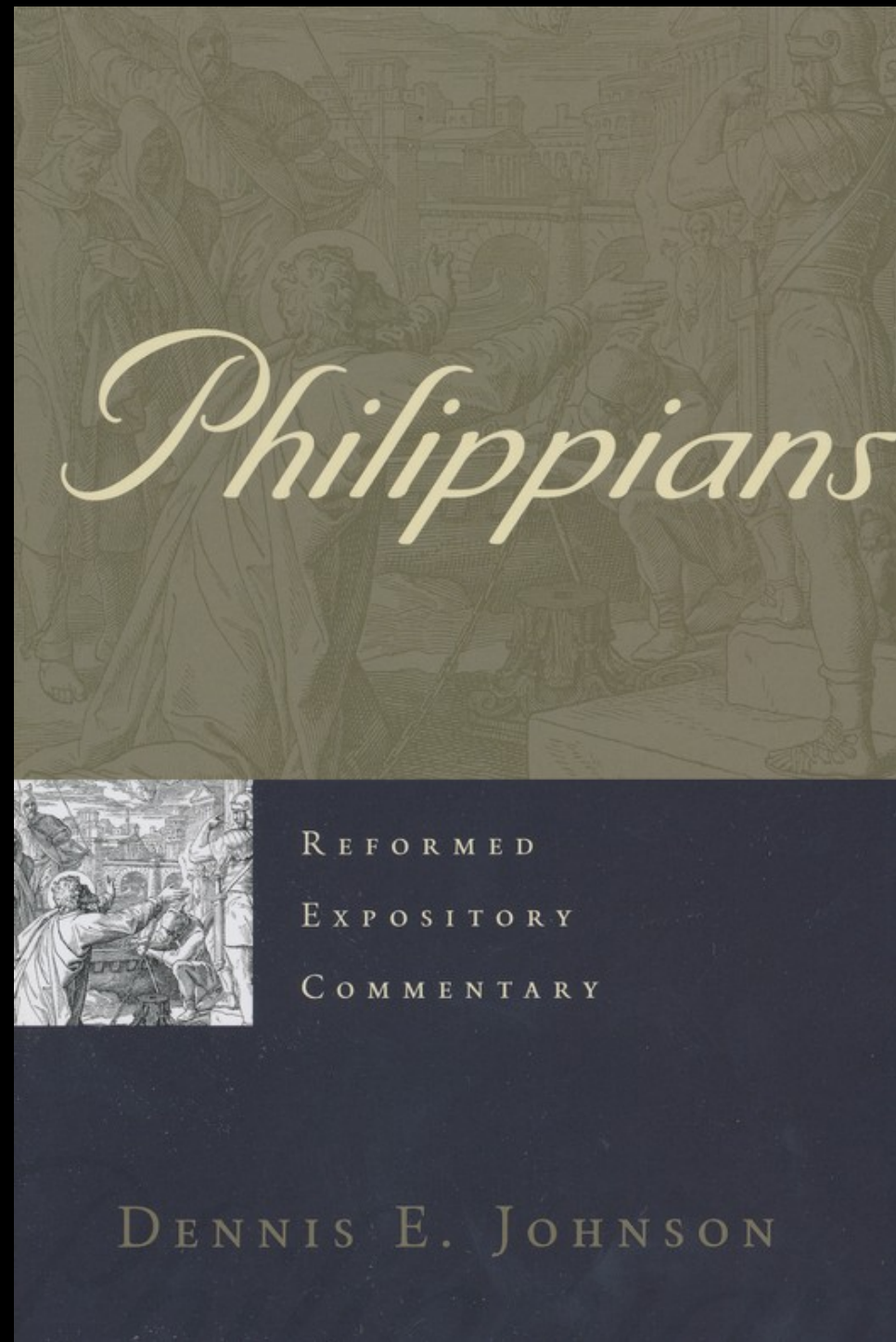
“to live in harmony of mind”
“to be in a certain frame of mind”



Here Paul invites and urges Euodia and Syntyche not merely to decide who is 'right' or even to come up with a compromise acceptable to both.



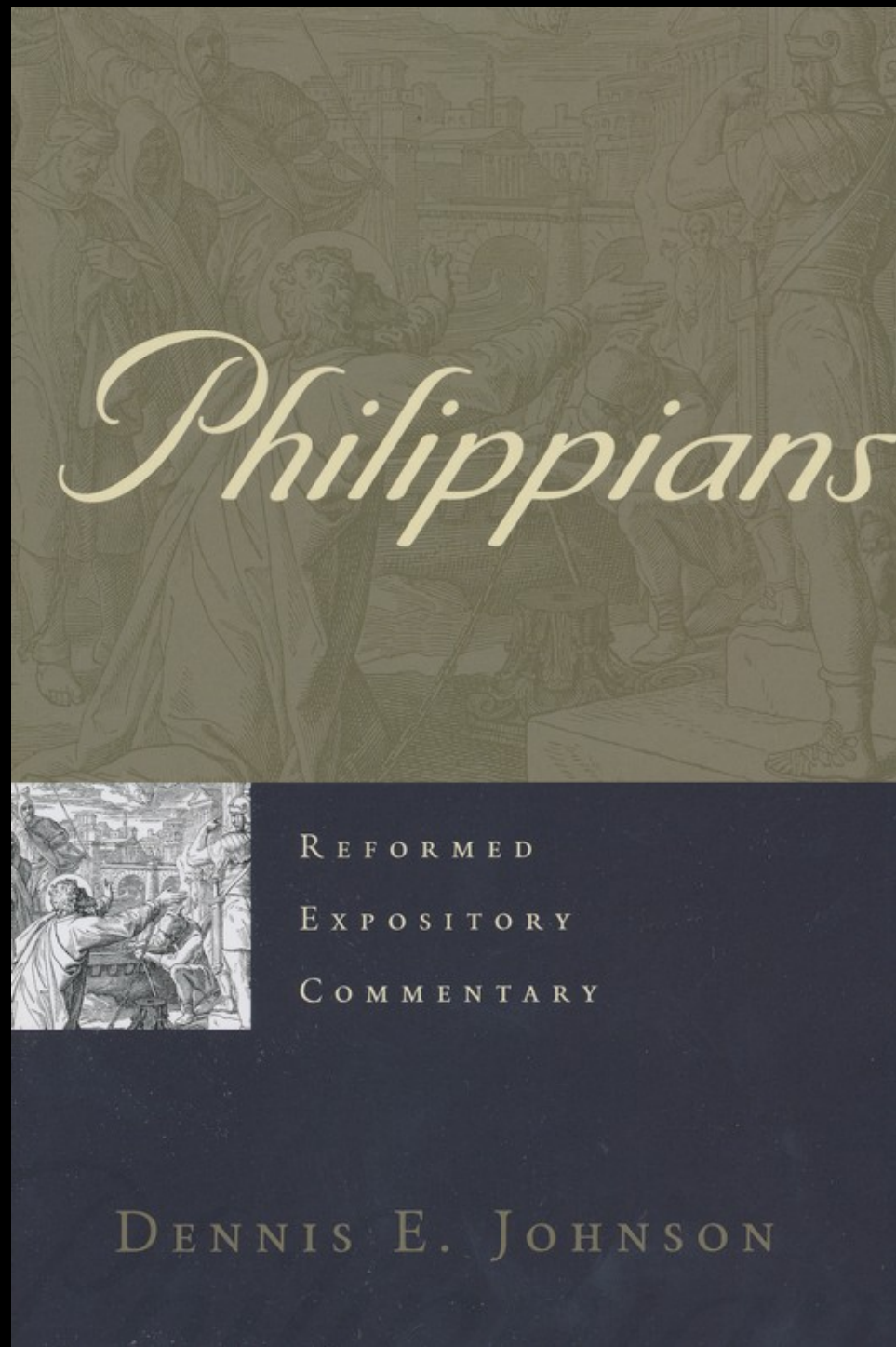
**His concern is
that their dis-
agreement, over
whatever issue
and for however
long it has
persisted,**



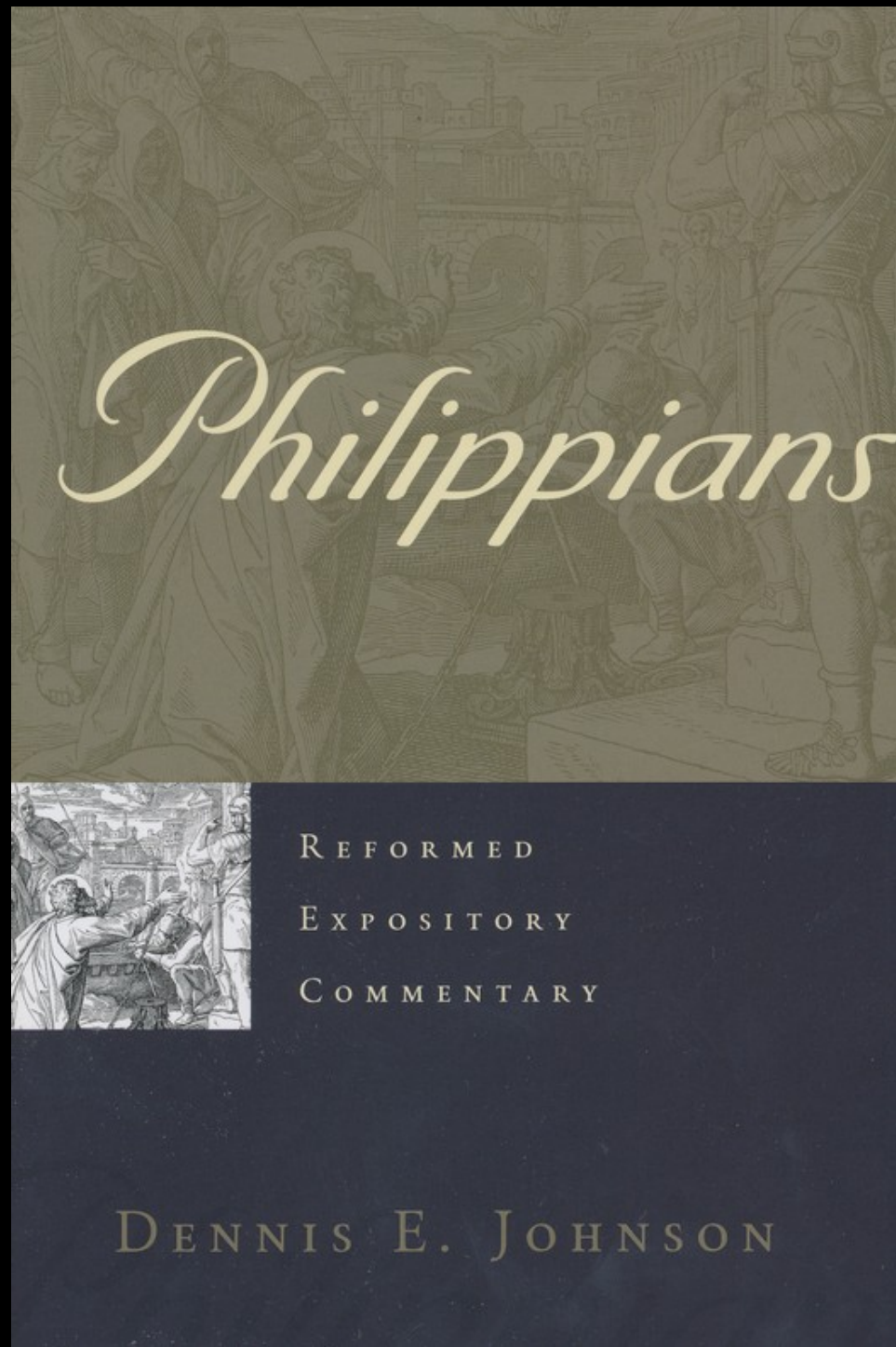
**has disrupted
their ability to
exhibit in their
their relationship
to each other the
unity that is theirs
“in the Lord.”**

Philippians 4

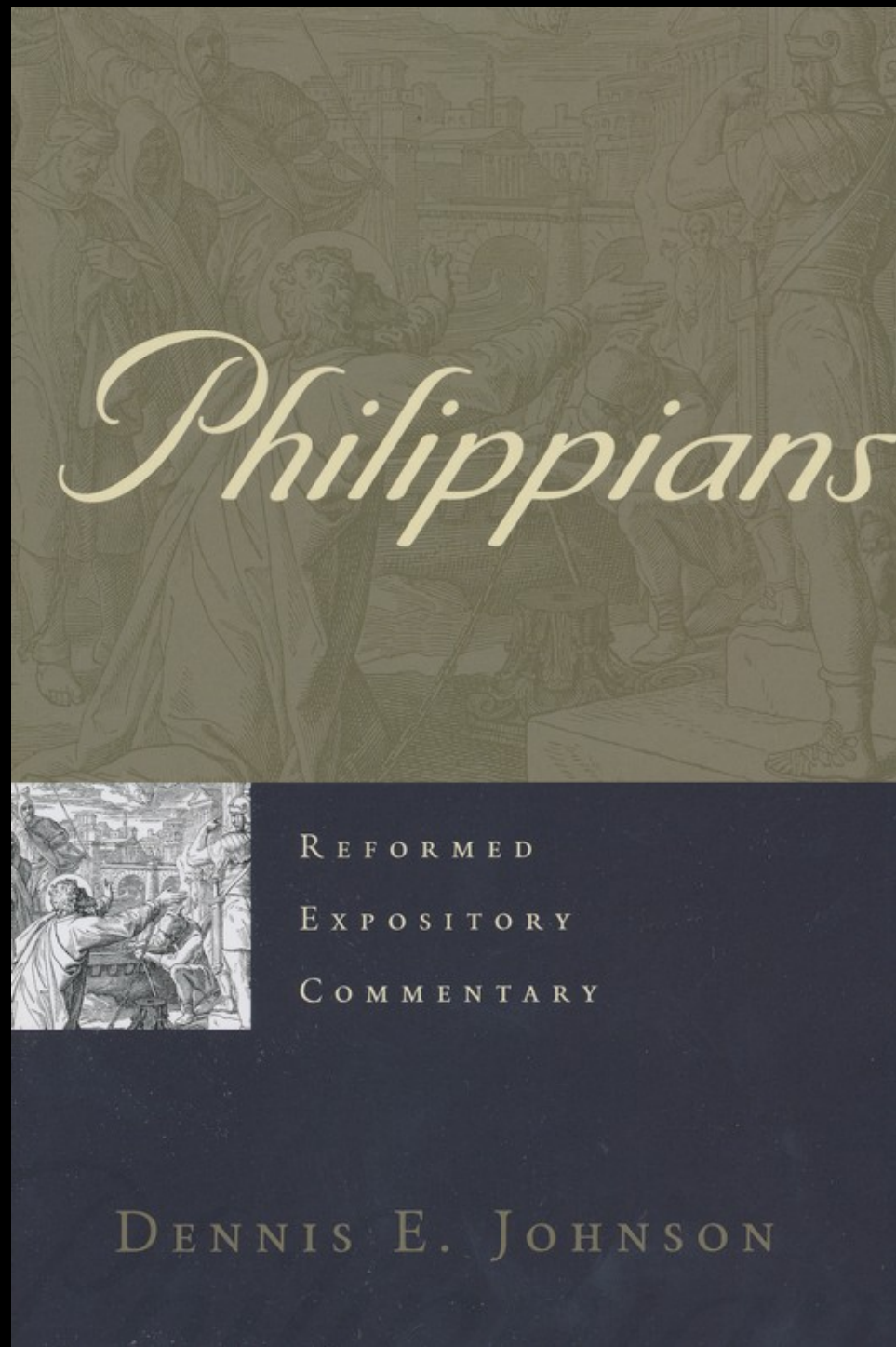
**2 I entreat Euodia and I entreat Syntyche
to agree in the Lord.**



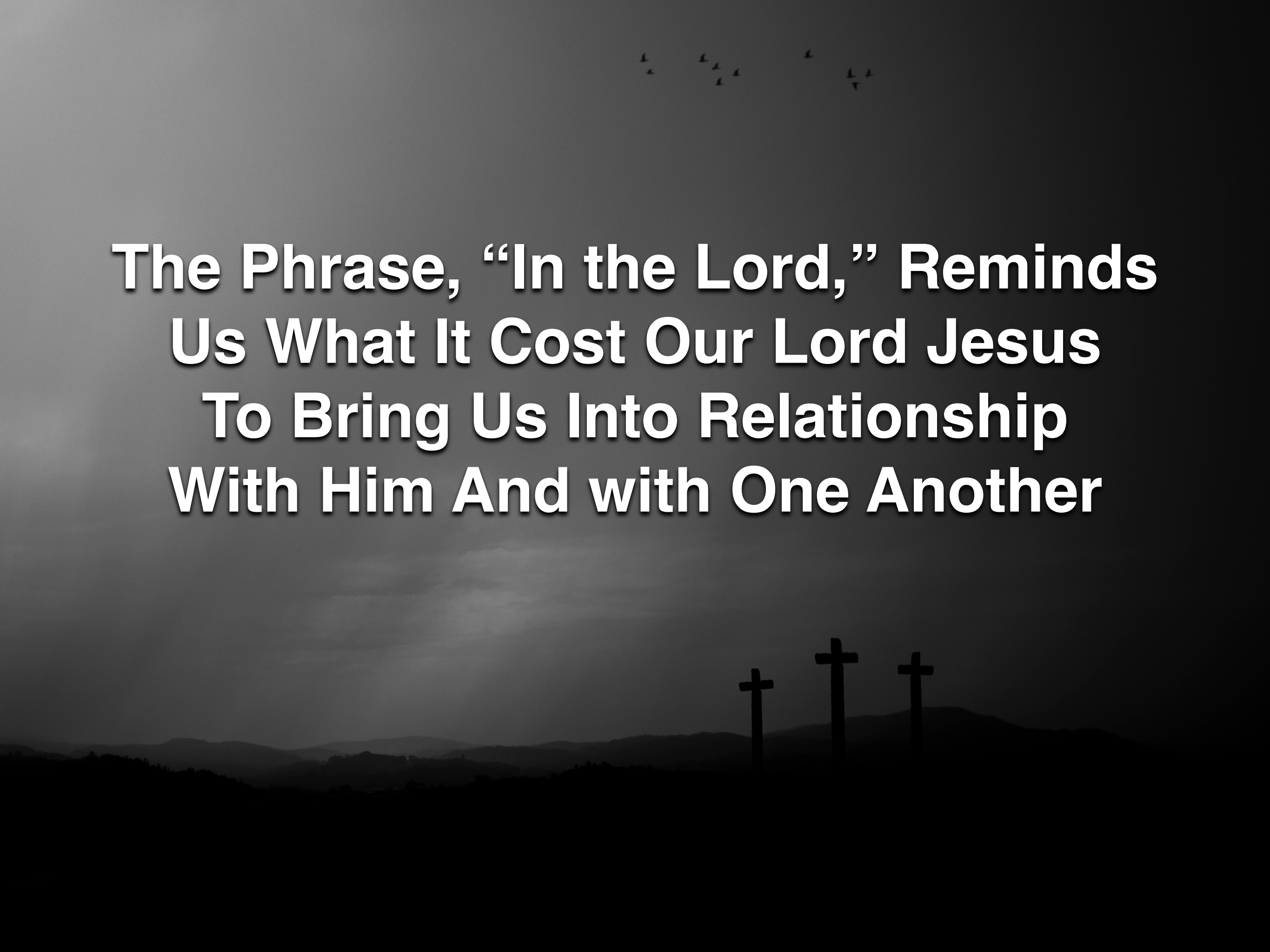
When your relationship with a Christian brother or sister hits an impasse, when you cannot resolve a disagreement, when it is a strain even to be in the same room with him or her,



**at that moment you
both need to pause
and take to heart
Paul's gentle
reminder to Euodia
and Syntyche that
there is a third
person involved.**



The tense situation includes not only believers who disagree with each other and hurt each other, but also the Lord, in whom you both now live as citizens of heaven.



**The Phrase, “In the Lord,” Reminds
Us What It Cost Our Lord Jesus
To Bring Us Into Relationship
With Him And with One Another**



Euodia and Syntyche, I urge each of you to come to a unity of mind since you are both in Christ and have the mind of Christ.

Philippians 4

**3 Yes, I ask you also, true companion,
help these women....,**

Important Point

**Sometimes conflict escalates
to the point that it is necessary
and wise to get help.
So get help!**

Philippians 4

**3 Yes, I ask you also, true companion,
help these women, who have labored
side by side with me in the gospel...,**

Philippians 4

**3 Yes, I ask you also, true companion,
help these women, who have labored
side by side with me in the gospel...,**

...you are standing firm in one spirit,
with one mind **striving side by side**
for the faith of the gospel....”

— Philippians 1:27 —

— Acts 16 —



Philippians 4

**3 Yes, I ask you also, true companion,
help these women, who have labored
side by side with me in the gospel,
together with Clement and the rest of
my fellow workers,**

Philippians 4

**3 Yes, I ask you also, true companion,
help these women, who have labored
side by side with me in the gospel,
together with Clement and the rest of
my fellow workers, whose names are
in the book of life.**

**“...those who are written
in the Lamb's book of life.”**

— Revelations 21:27 —

“...our citizenship is in heaven....”

— Philippians 3:20 —



**As Followers of the Lord Jesus
and Citizens of His Kingdom,
It is our Duty and our Privilege
to Stand Firm Together in the Lord
Striving for Peace with One Another
Even as We Strive Side by Side
for the Faith of the Gospel**

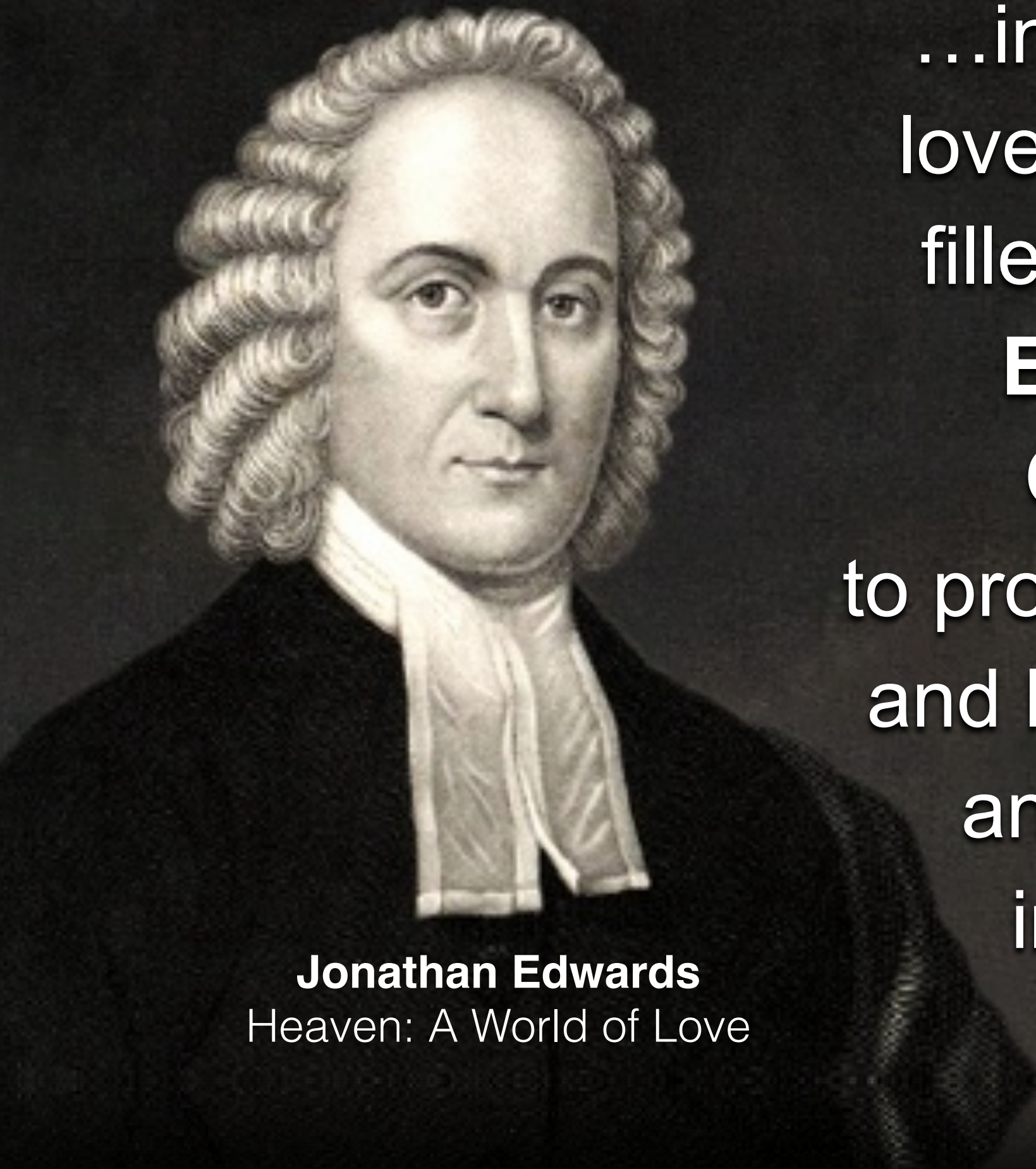


**Let's Remember
We Are In This Together!**



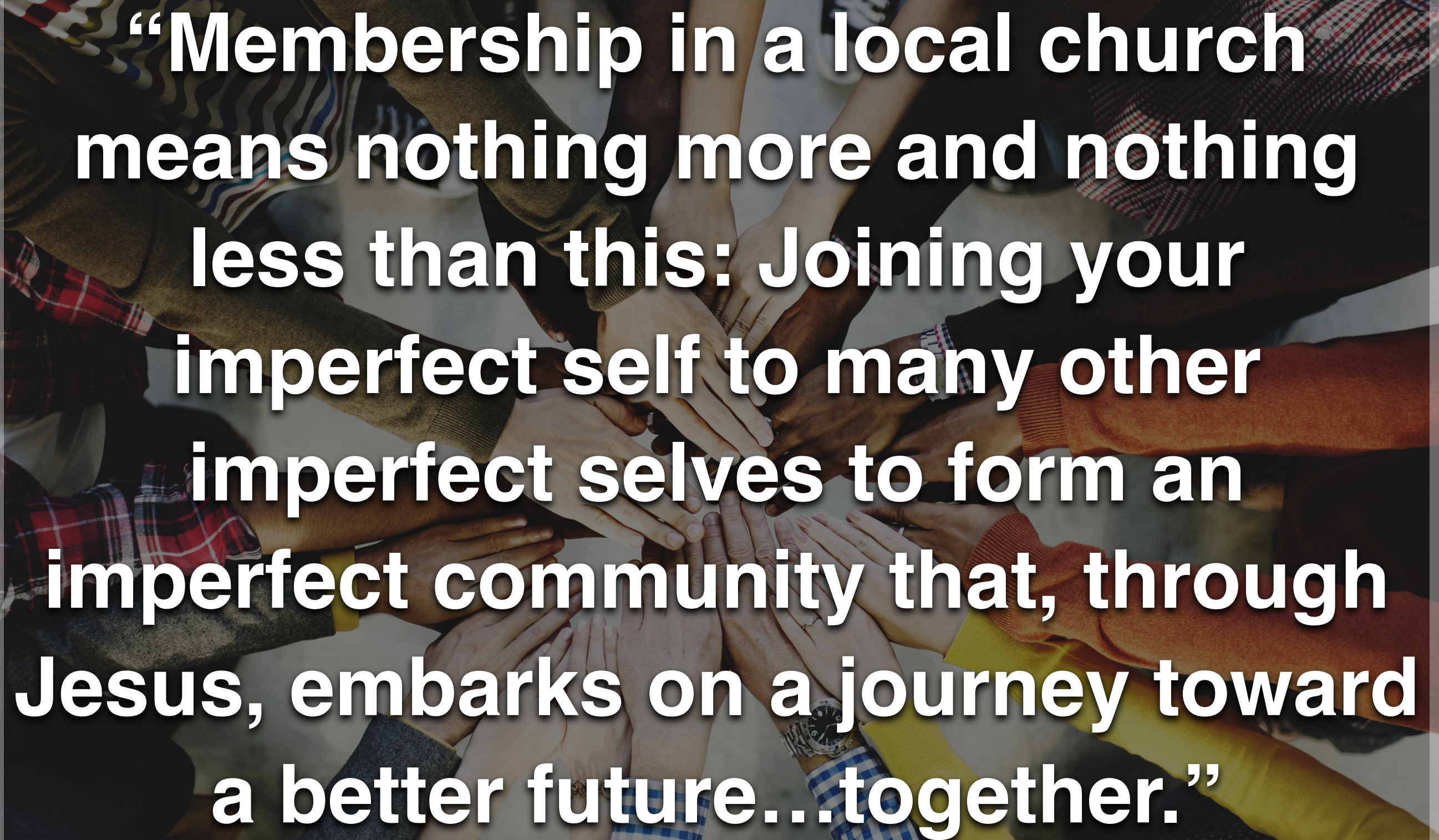
**The Church is an Alternative Society,
an Example of a New Humanity
that Jesus Creates, and a Preview
of Coming Attractions**





Jonathan Edwards
Heaven: A World of Love

...in the paradise of
love..., everything is
filled with love, and
EVERYTHING
CONSPIRES
to promote and kindle it,
and keep up its flame,
and nothing ever
interrupts it....



“Membership in a local church means nothing more and nothing less than this: Joining your imperfect self to many other imperfect selves to form an imperfect community that, through Jesus, embarks on a journey toward a better future...together.”

— Scott Sauls —



**Let's Strive for Peace
and Unity for the
Sake of the Gospel**

“...be at peace with one another.”

— The Words of our Lord Jesus in Mark 9:50 —



— The Passing of Peace —



**And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts,
to which indeed you were called in one body.**

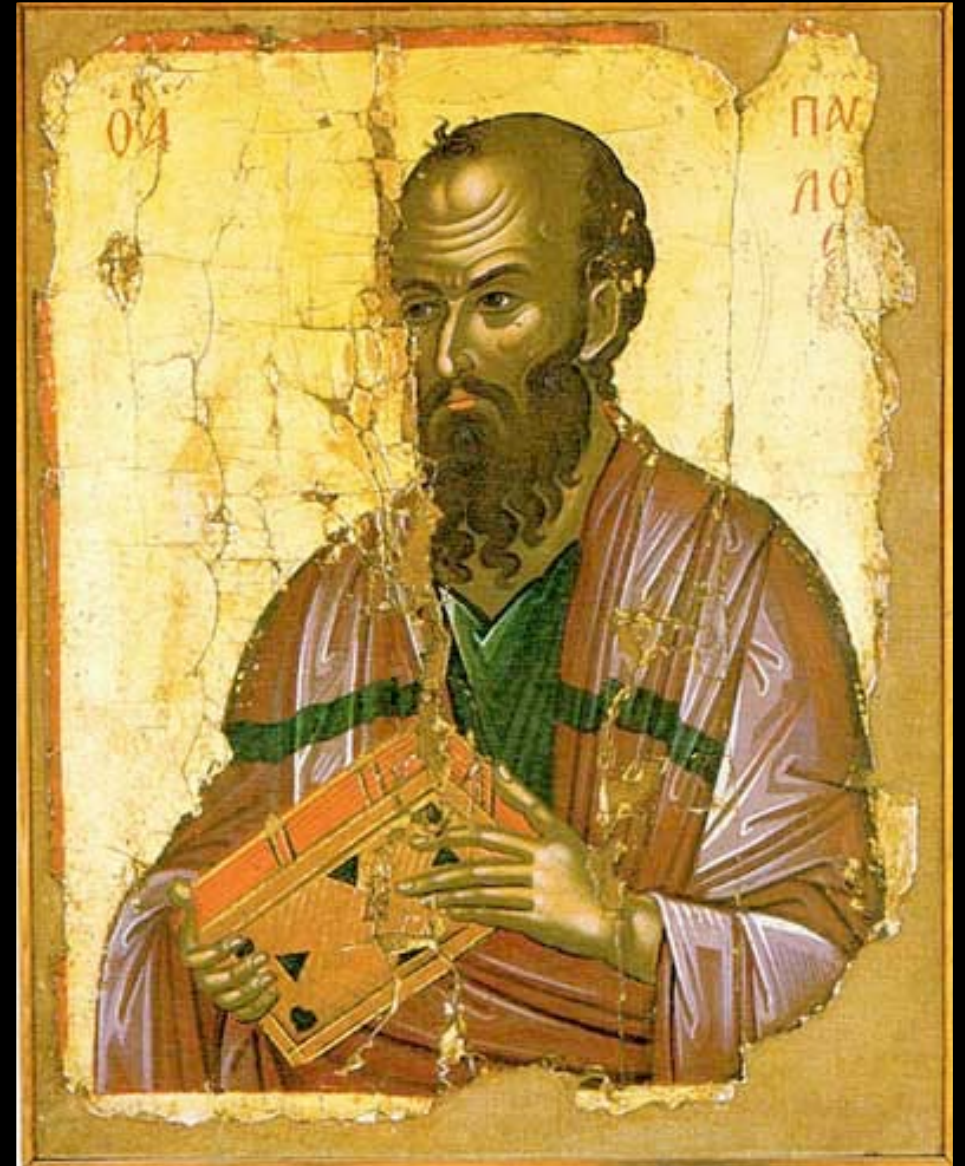
— The Apostle Paul in Colossians 3:15 —

**When one of you has
a grievance against
another, does he dare
go to law before the
unrighteous instead
of the saints? Or do
you not know that the
saints will judge the
world?**



The Apostle Paul
— 1 Corinthians 6:1-7 —

**And if the world is to
be judged by you, are
you incompetent to
try trivial cases? Do
you not know that we
are to judge angels?
How much more,
then, matters per-
taining to this life!**



The Apostle Paul
— 1 Corinthians 6:1-7 —

So if you have such cases, why do you lay them before those who have no standing in the church? I say this to your shame.



The Apostle Paul
— 1 Corinthians 6:1-7 —

**Can it be that there is
no one among you
wise enough to settle
a dispute between the
brothers, but brother
goes to law against
brother, and that
before unbelievers?**

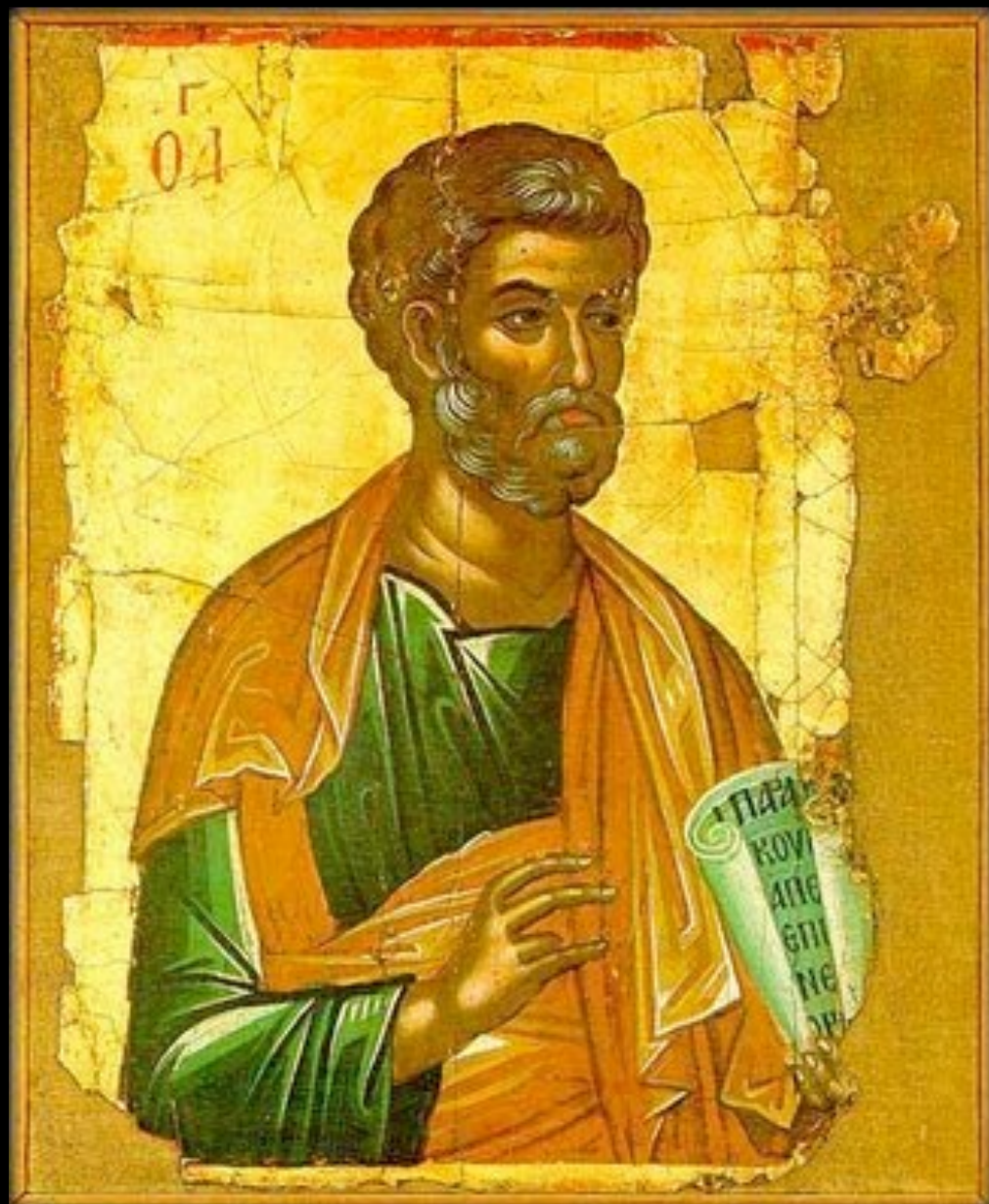


The Apostle Paul
— 1 Corinthians 6:1-7 —

**To have lawsuits at
all with one another
is already a defeat for
you. Why not rather
suffer wrong? Why
not rather be
defrauded?**



The Apostle Paul
— 1 Corinthians 6:1-7 —



**When they hurled
their insults at him,
he did not retaliate;
when he suffered,
he made no threats.
Instead, he entrusted
himself to him who
judges justly.**

**The Apostle Peter
— 1 Peter 2:23 —**



**Let's Remember
We Are In This Together!**



**Let's Strive for Peace
and Unity for the
Sake of the Gospel**



**Let's Clothe Ourselves
with Beauty of Jesus**

**Put on then, as
God's chosen ones,
holy and beloved,
compassionate
hearts, kindness,
humility, meekness,
and patience,**



The Apostle Paul
— Colossians 3:12ff. —

**bearing with one
another and, if one
has a complaint
against another,
forgiving each other;
as the Lord has
forgiven you, so you
also must forgive.**

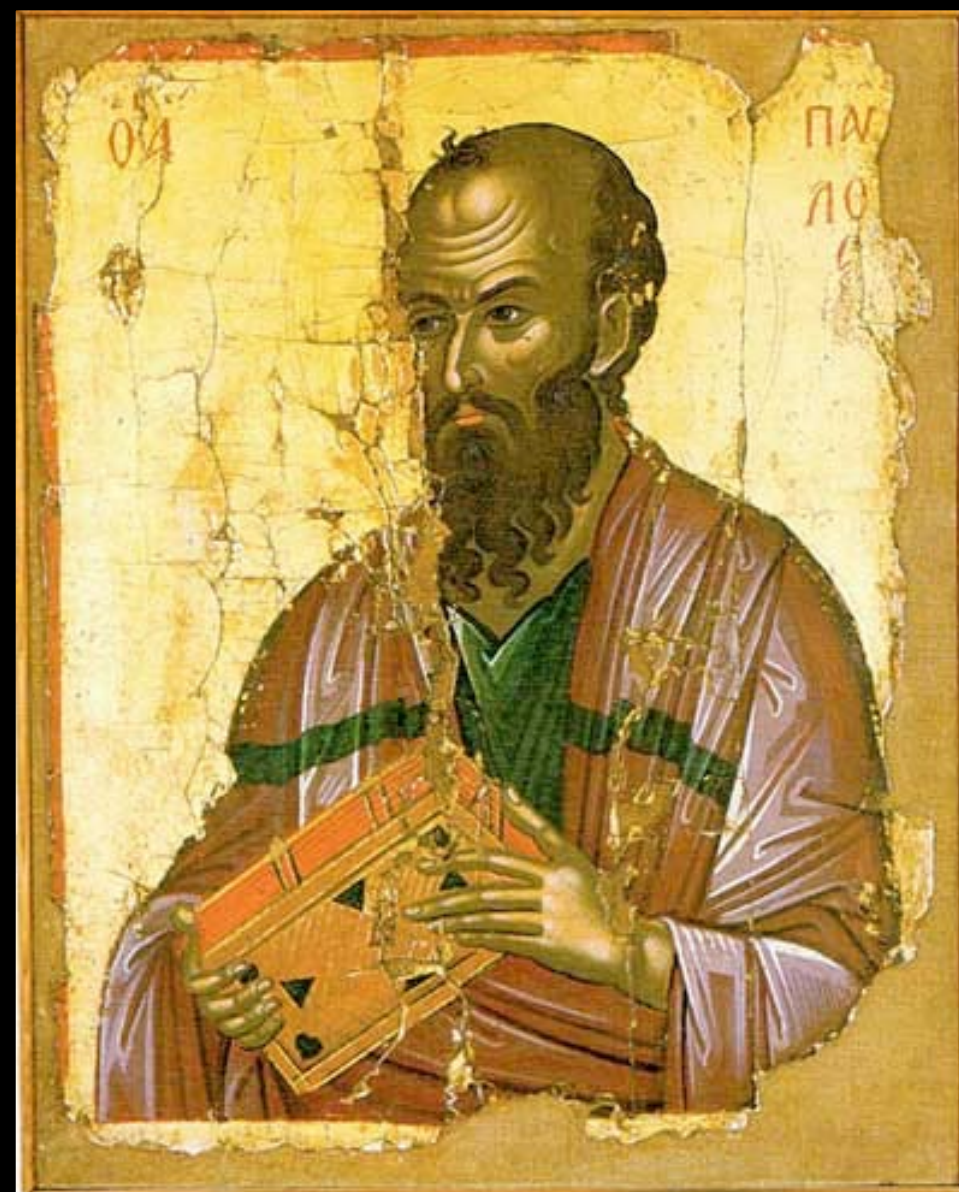
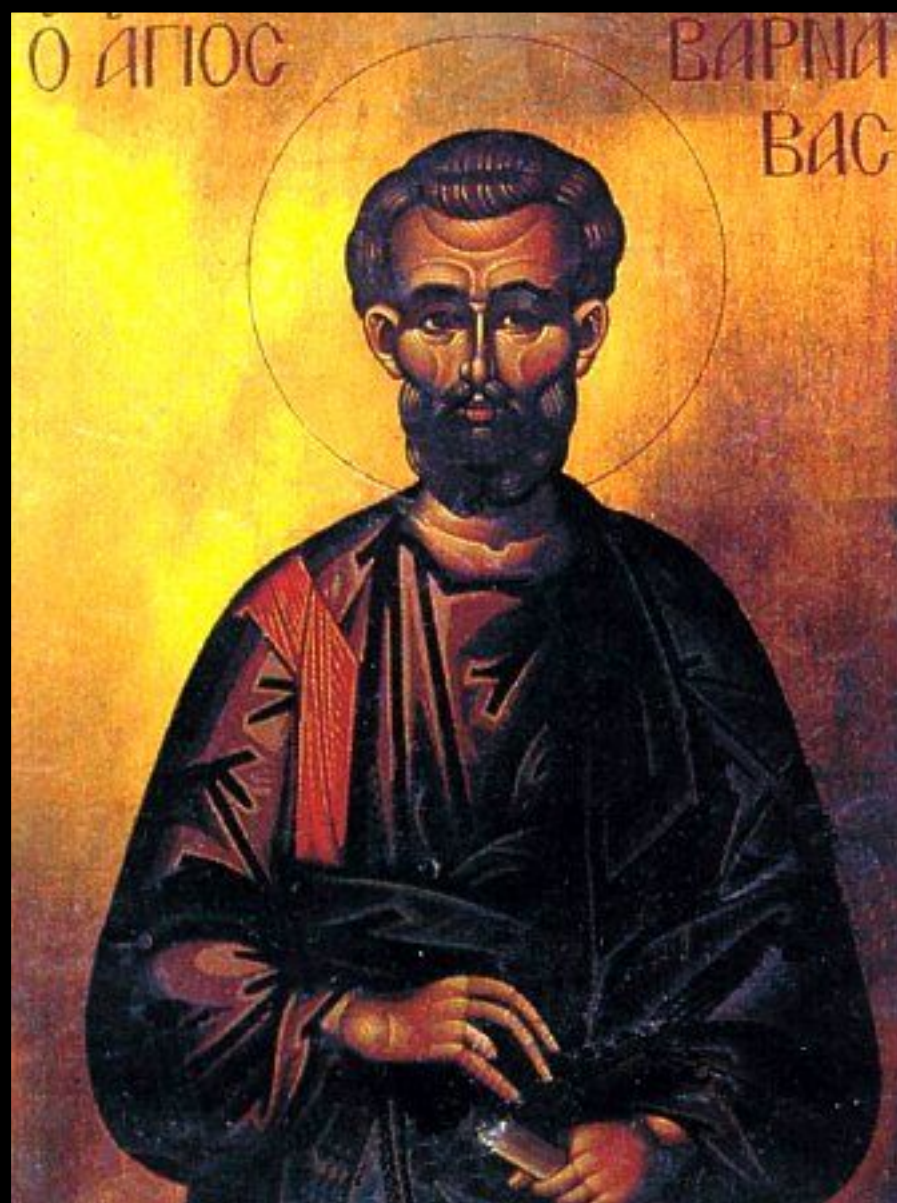


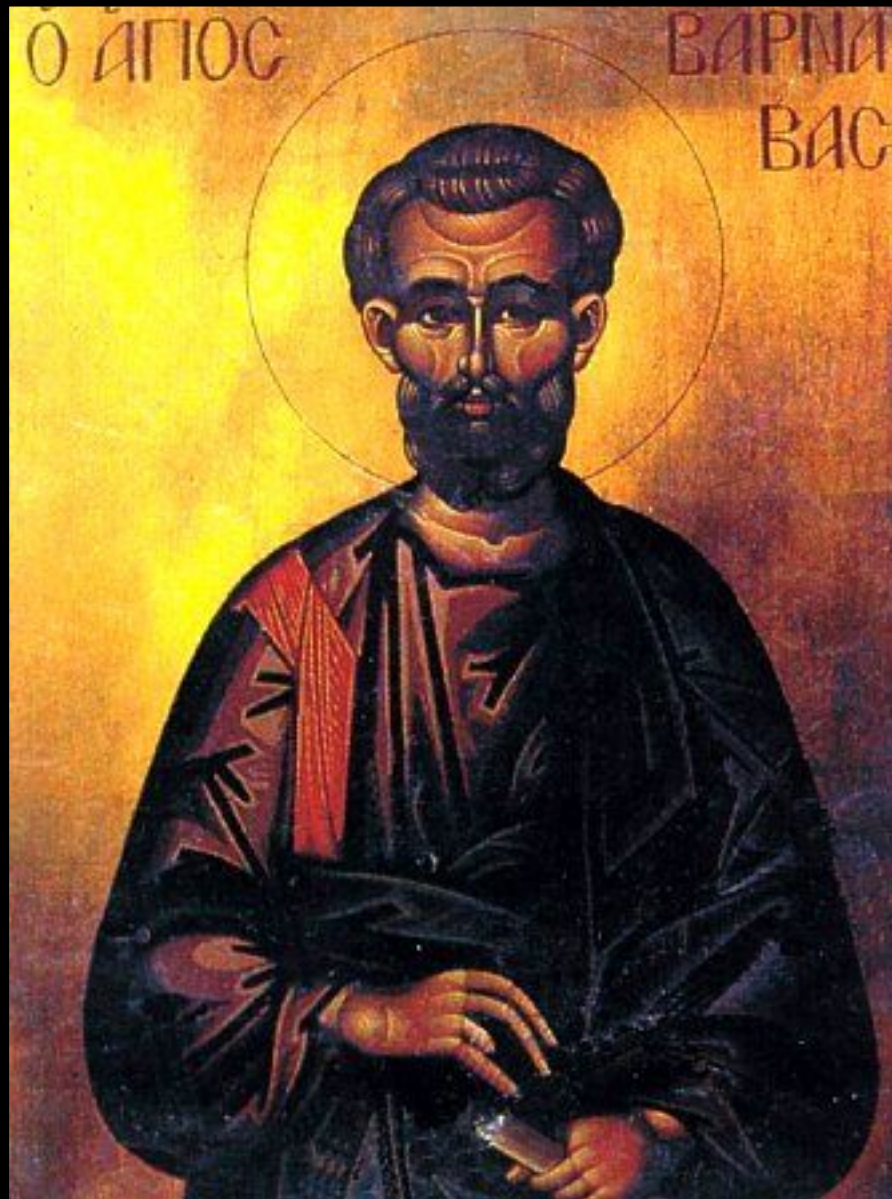
The Apostle Paul
— Colossians 3:12ff. —

**And above all these
put on love, which
binds everything
together in perfect
harmony.**

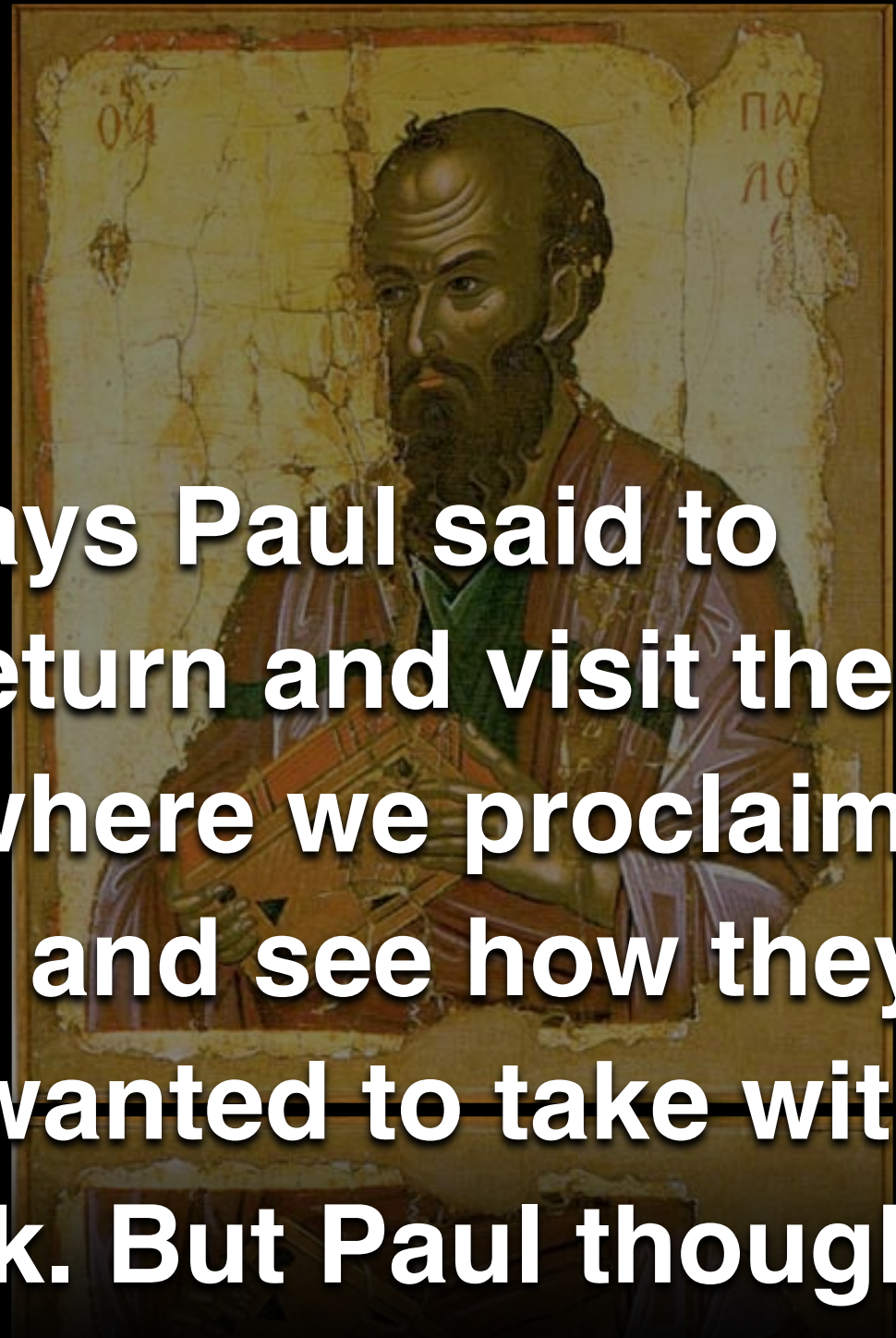
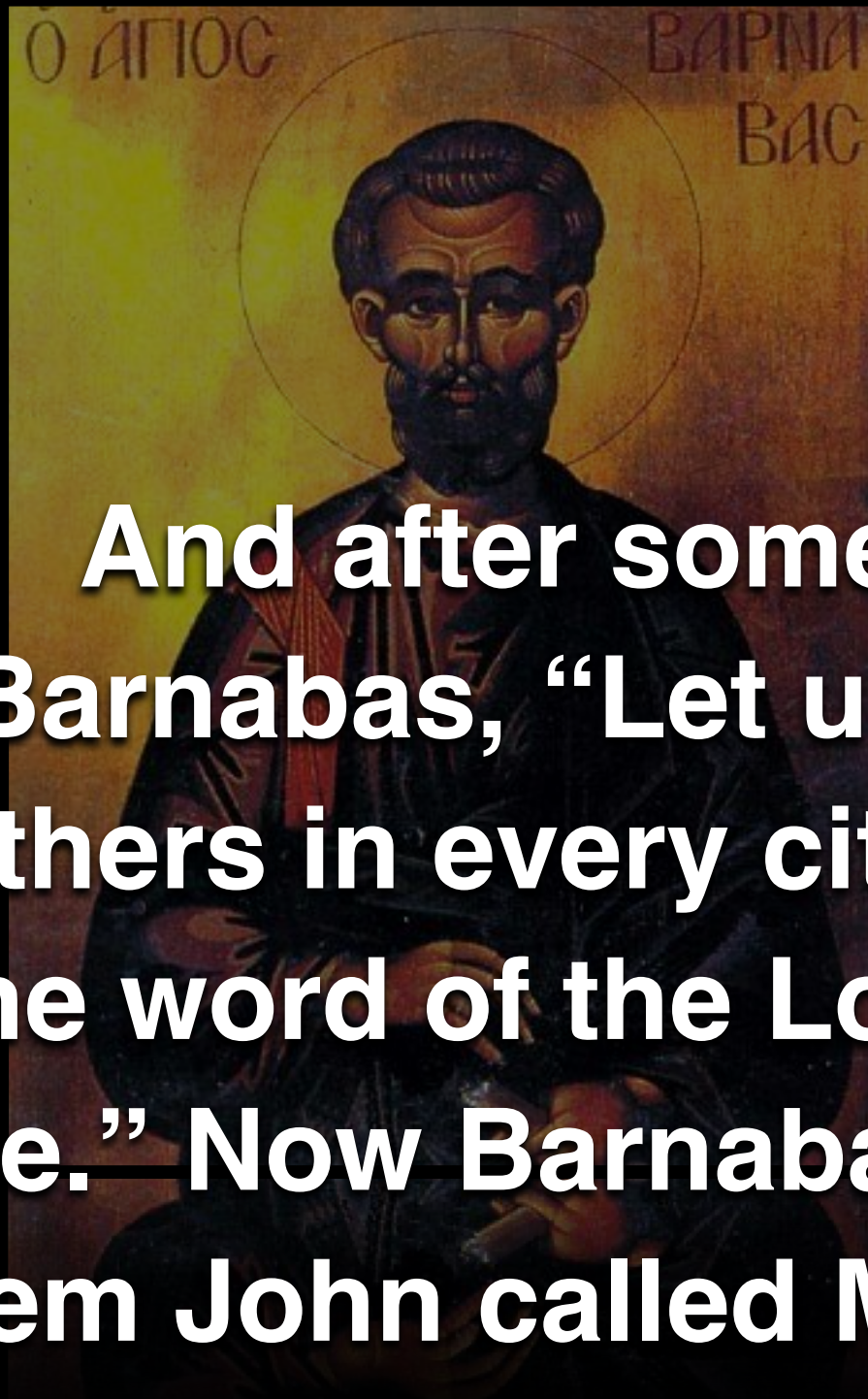


The Apostle Paul
— Colossians 3:12ff. —

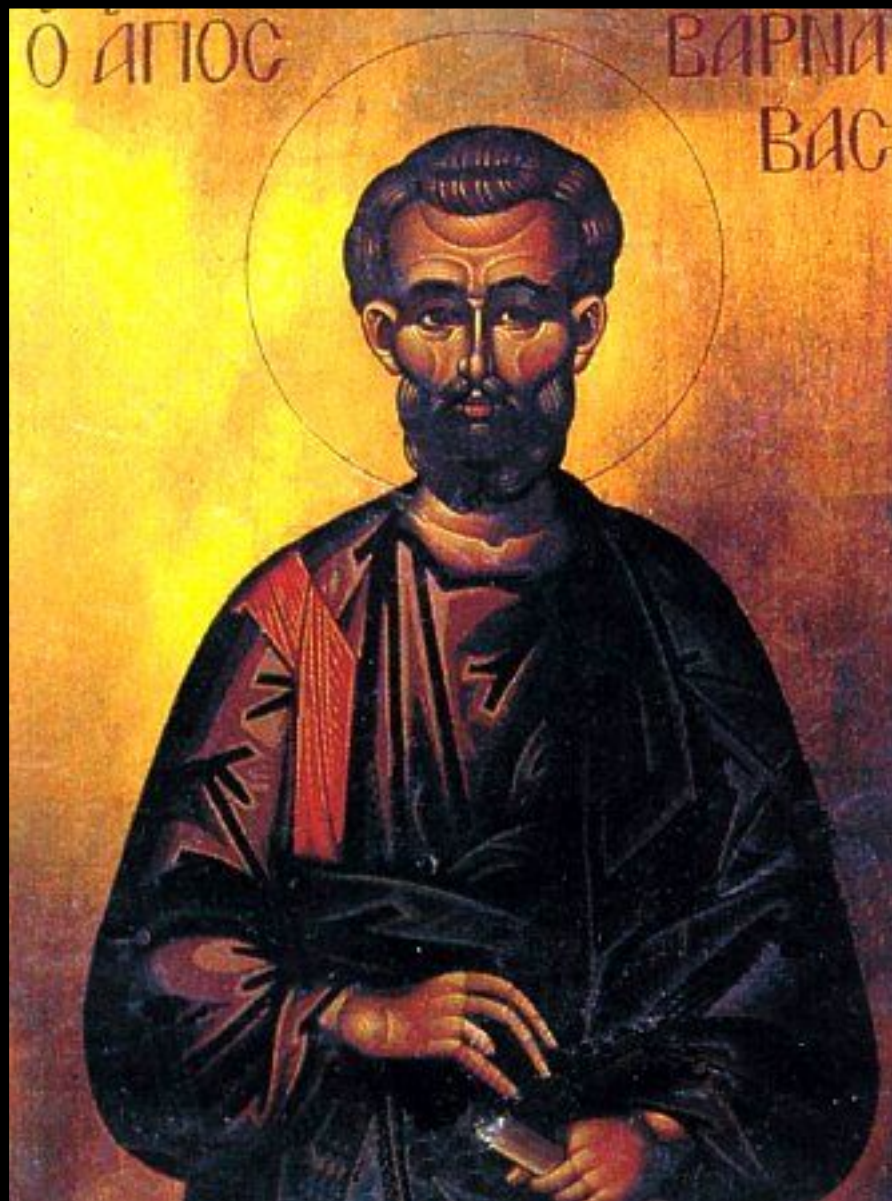




Barnabas and Paul had stood firm side by side striving for the faith of the gospel, until a sharp disagreement parted these two leaders of the church.



And after some days Paul said to Barnabas, “Let us return and visit the brothers in every city where we proclaimed the word of the Lord, and see how they are.” Now Barnabas wanted to take with them John called Mark. But Paul thought best not to take with them one who had withdrawn from them in Pamphylia and had not gone with them to the work.



**And there arose a sharp disagreement,
so that they separated from each other.
Barnabas took Mark with him...but Paul
chose Silas and departed...**

— Acts 15:36-41 —

**Aristarchus my fellow
prisoner greets you,
and Mark the cousin
of Barnabas (con-
cerning whom you
have received
instructions—if he
comes to you,
welcome him)....**

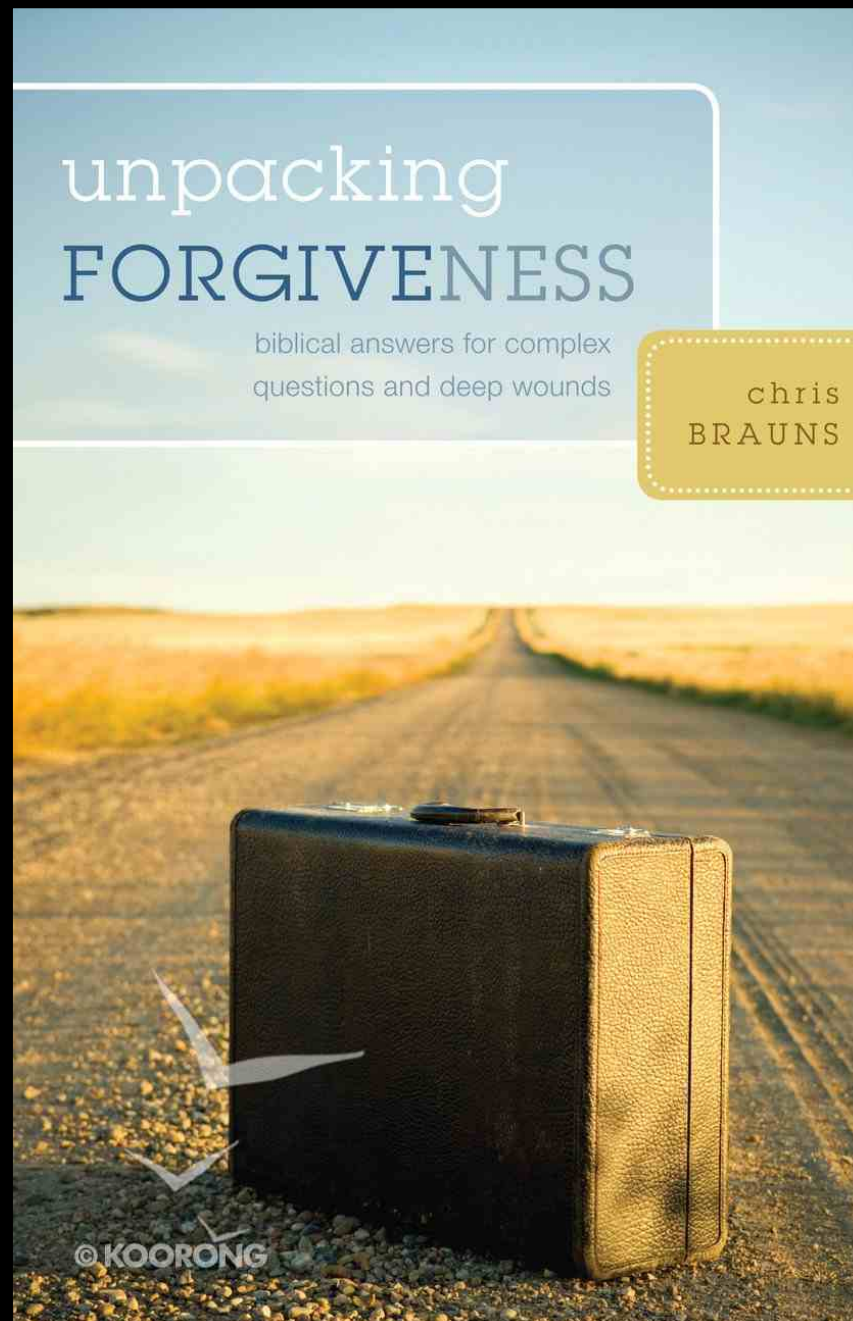


The Apostle Paul
— Colossians 4:10 —

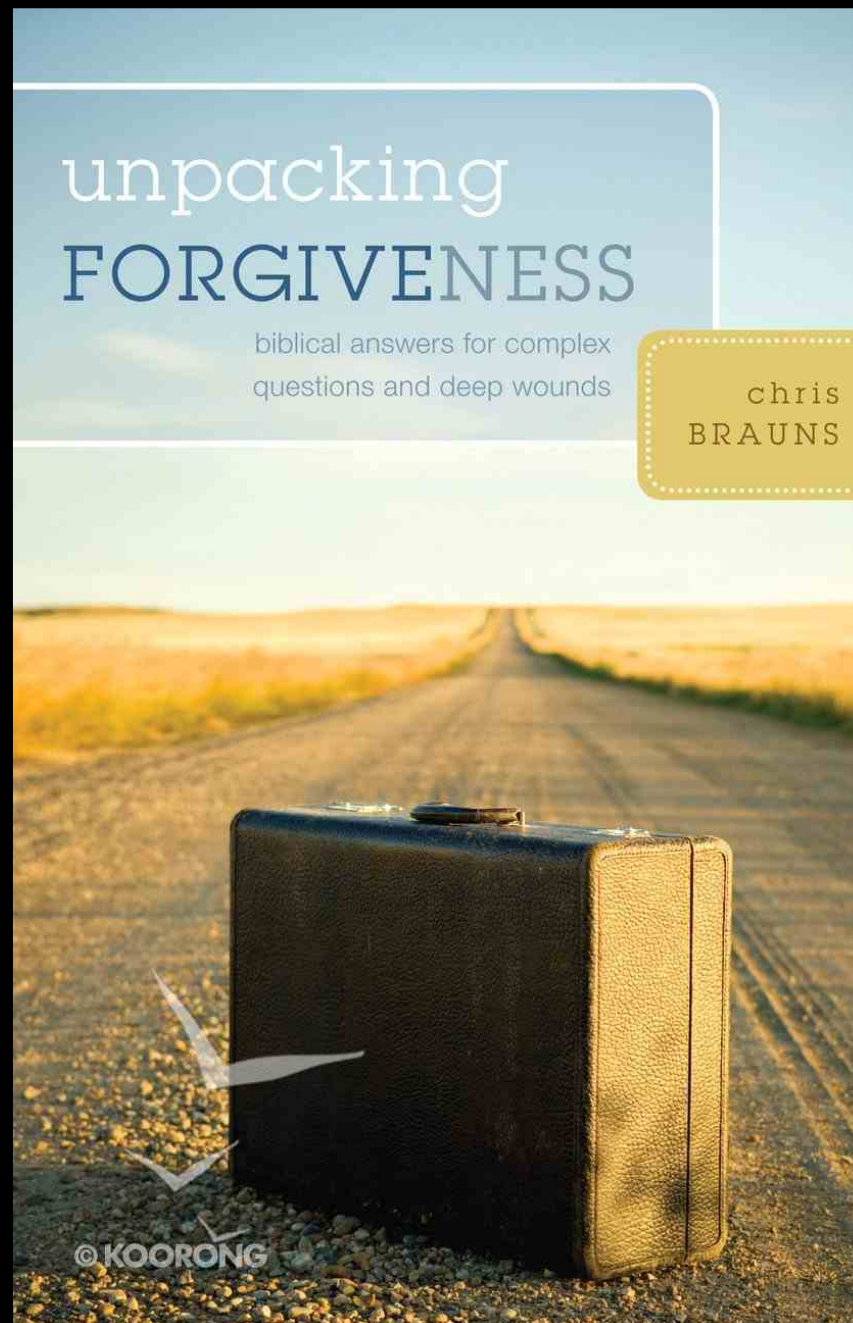
**Get Mark and bring
him with you, for he
is very useful to me
for ministry.**



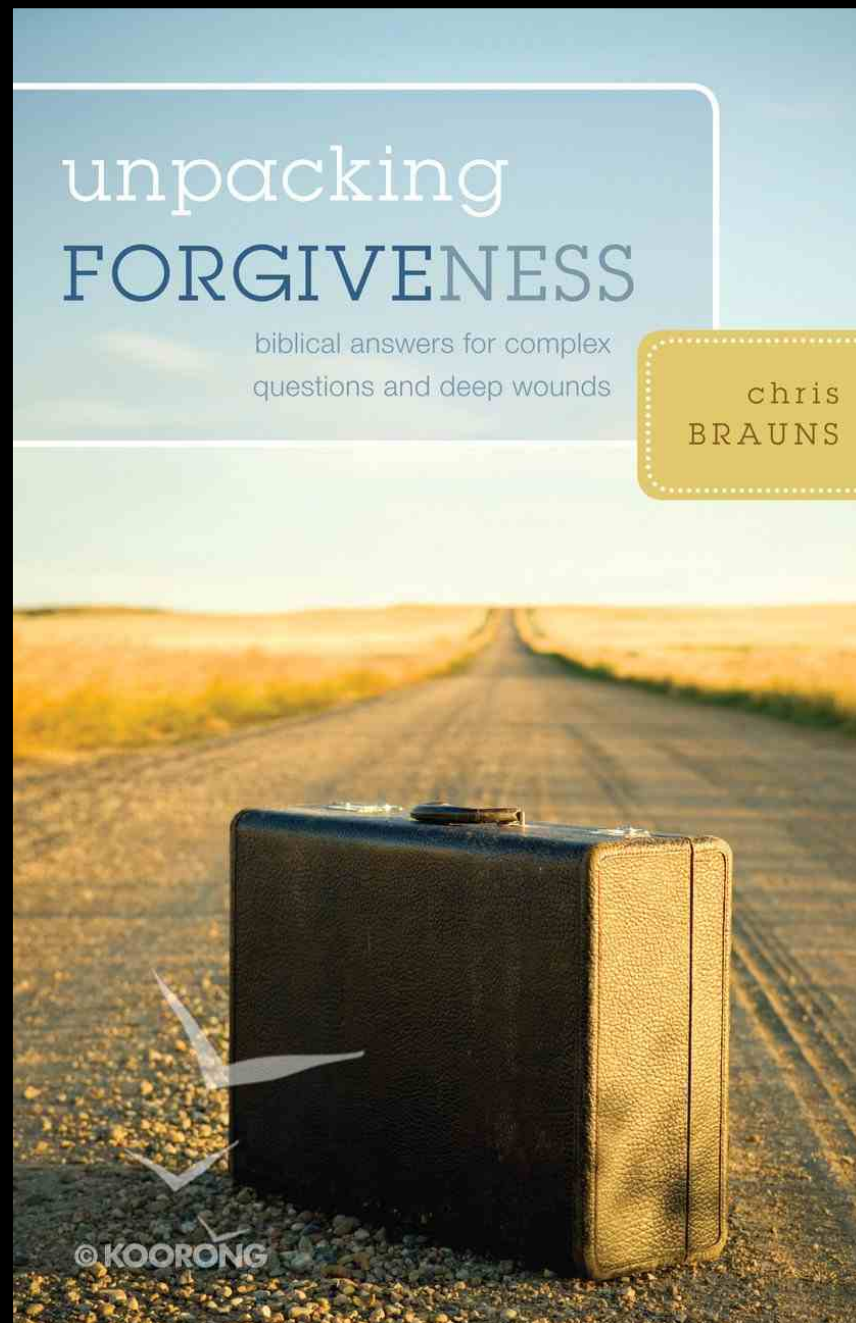
The Apostle Paul
— 2 Timothy 4:11 —



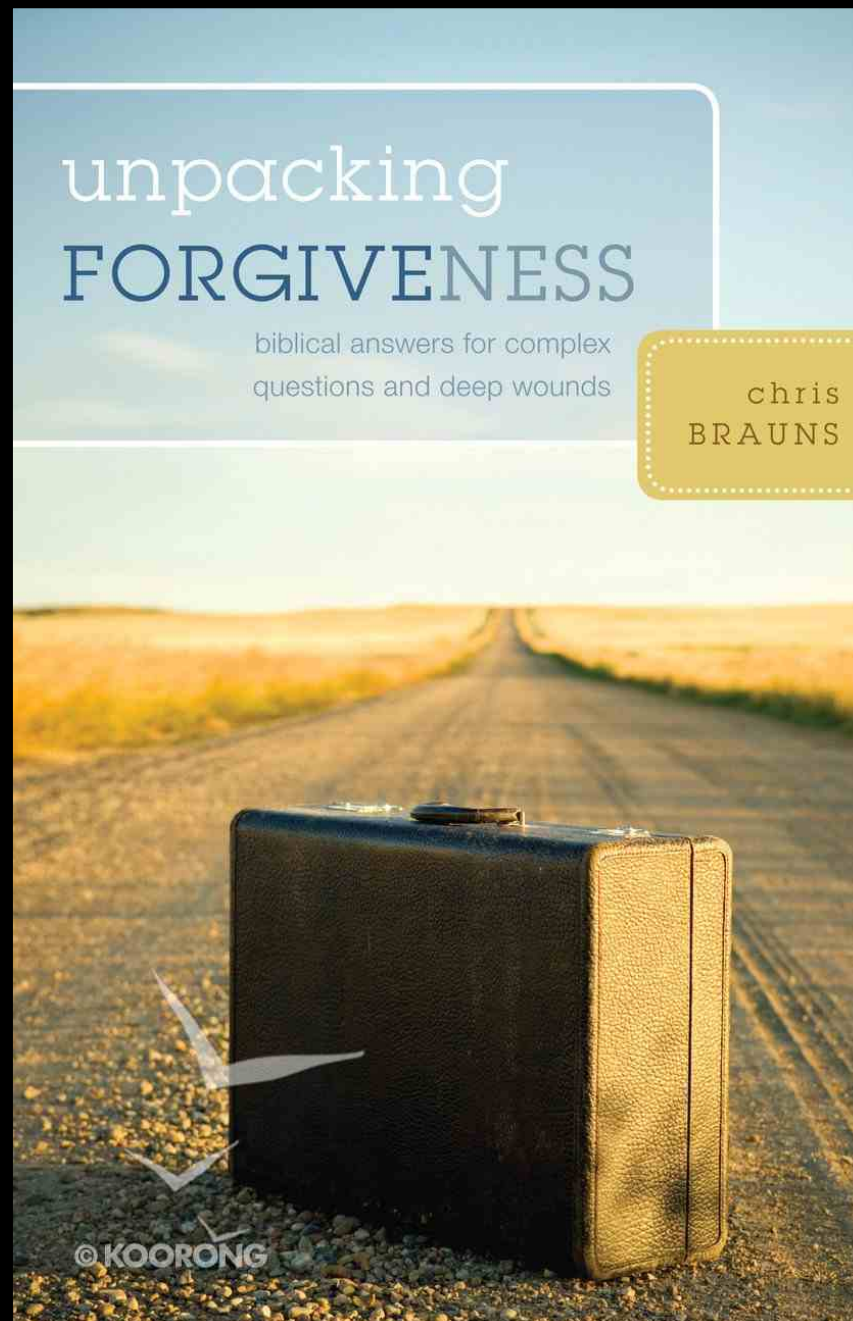
We should always strive to settle our differences before the sun sets. But when we are unable to achieve resolution, we should be hopeful for the future.



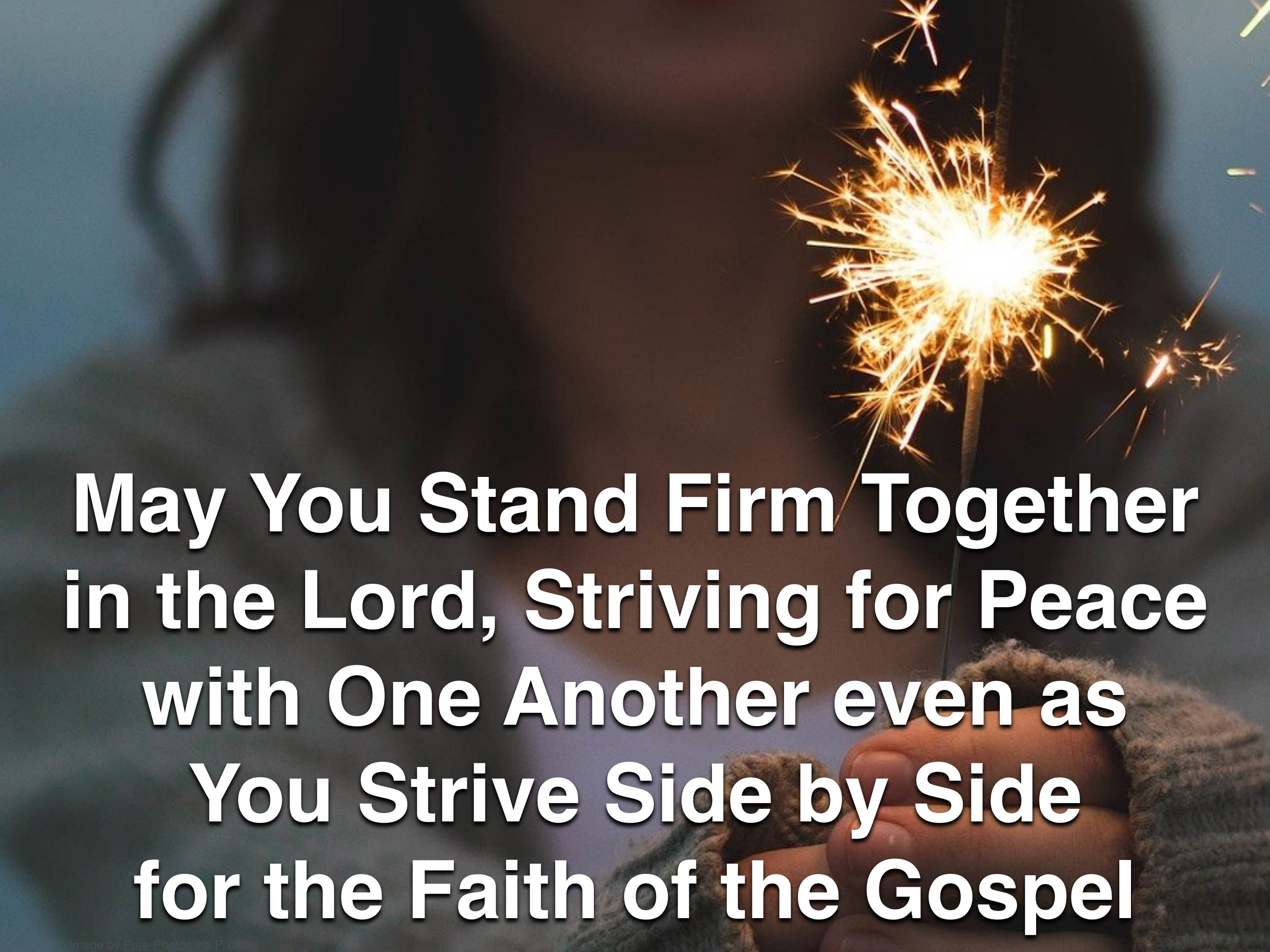
**This side of heaven,
Christians should
always dream that
time and distance
may provide ample
enough space for
eventual healing and
a clearer under-
standing of the
situation.**



**So often it is true
that when we cannot
find a resolution by
reasoning with one
another, time and
distance will allow us
to heal and mature to
a point where
resolution does
become possible.**



If you come to an impasse and simply cannot resolve it, continue to pray and hope. Time heals wounds that emotions and reason cannot. You may be amazed the healing you may find as both parties continue to grow in Christ.

A hand is visible at the bottom right, holding a lit sparkler. The sparkler is bright and glowing, with many sparks flying out. The background is dark and blurry, with a faint circular light source visible in the upper left. The text is overlaid on the image in a large, white, bold font.

**May You Stand Firm Together
in the Lord, Striving for Peace
with One Another even as
You Strive Side by Side
for the Faith of the Gospel**