

Theology
THURSDAY



What is Theology Thursday?

- **open seminar, workshop;**
- **safe space to entertain real questions;**
(not necessarily to come to conclusions);
- **respectful, honest discussion**
(we are all learners with our own experiences).



What is the goal?

(RE)THINK & RESPECT

love God & love one another



IT'S NOT WHAT YOU THINK...

1. The Bible...

2. Evil...

3. Sin...

4. Salvation...

5. Church...

“... IS MORE.”



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WHAT LINKS THESE?



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WHAT LINKS THESE?

Theology
**RELATIONSHIP w/GOD
& HOLINESS**

The BIBLE...

...is not what you think.



Christianity

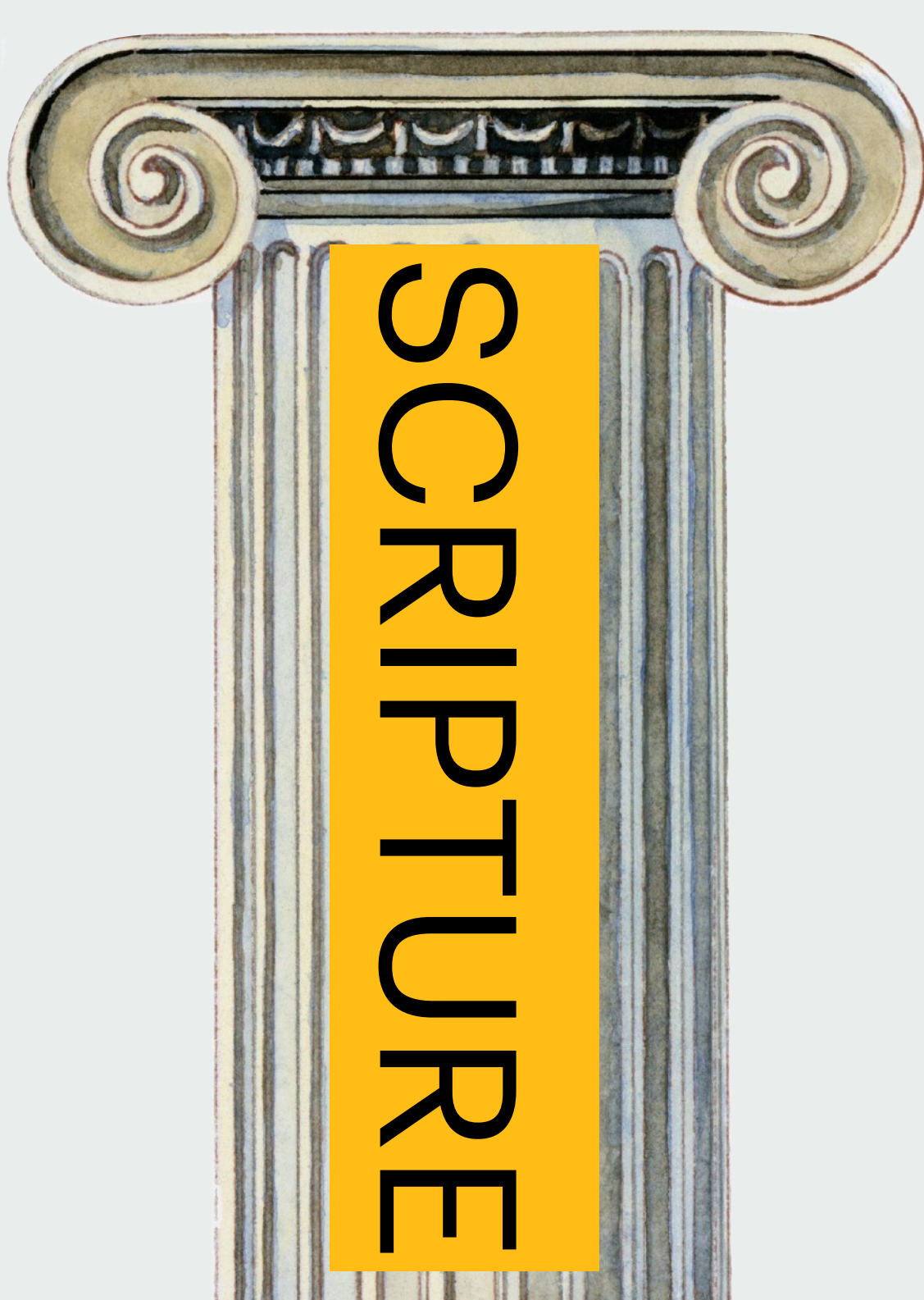


BIBLE

INSPIRATION

INERRANCY

TRUTH



SCRIPTURE



EXPERIENCE



REASON



TRADITION

John 14:26 But the Advocate, **the Holy Spirit**, whom the Father will send in my name, **will teach you** all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

1 Corinthians 15:5–6 He [Jesus] appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. After that He **appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters** at one time, most of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep...



TRUTH

**RELATIONSHIP w/GOD
& HOLINESS**

SCRIPTURE

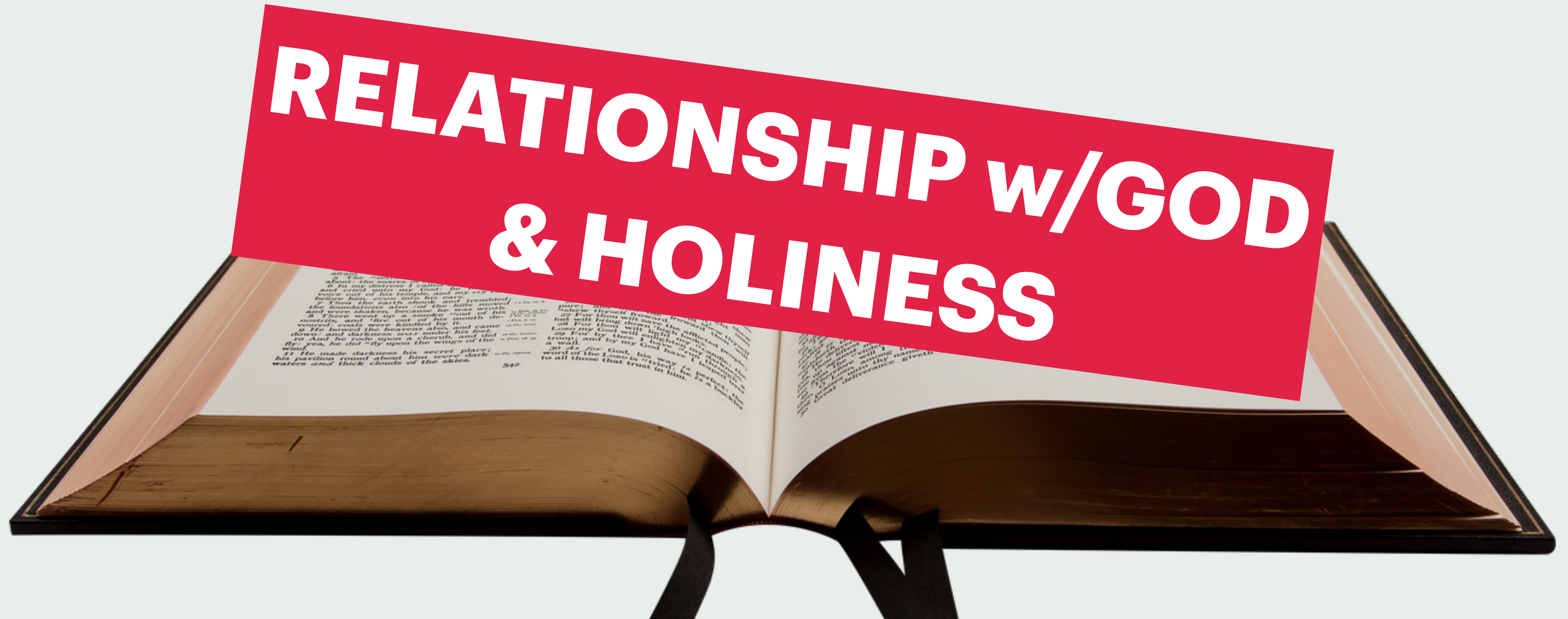
EXPERIENCE

REASON

TRADITION

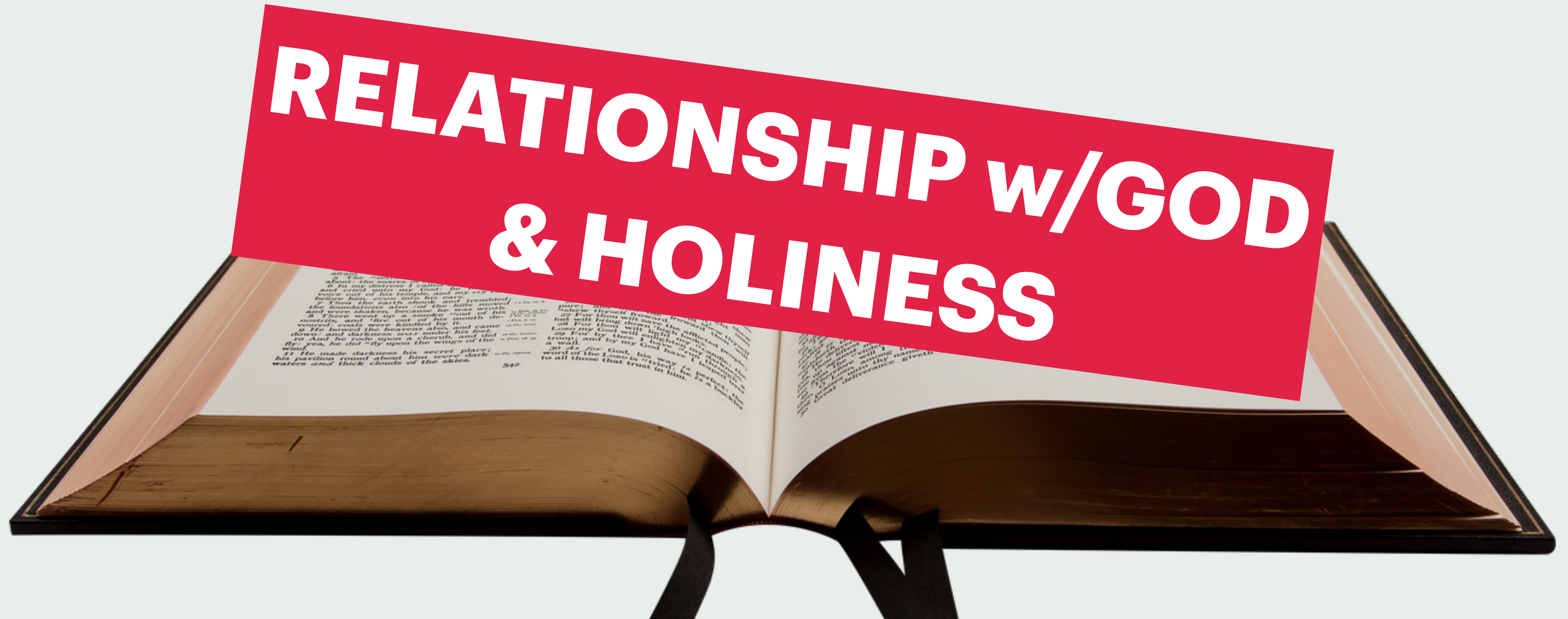
Where do you see relationship and/or holiness when it comes to “the Bible is more”?

**RELATIONSHIP w/GOD
& HOLINESS**



The Bible is an important means to an end;
a means to hear from and follow Jesus.

**RELATIONSHIP w/GOD
& HOLINESS**



EVIL...

...is not what you think.



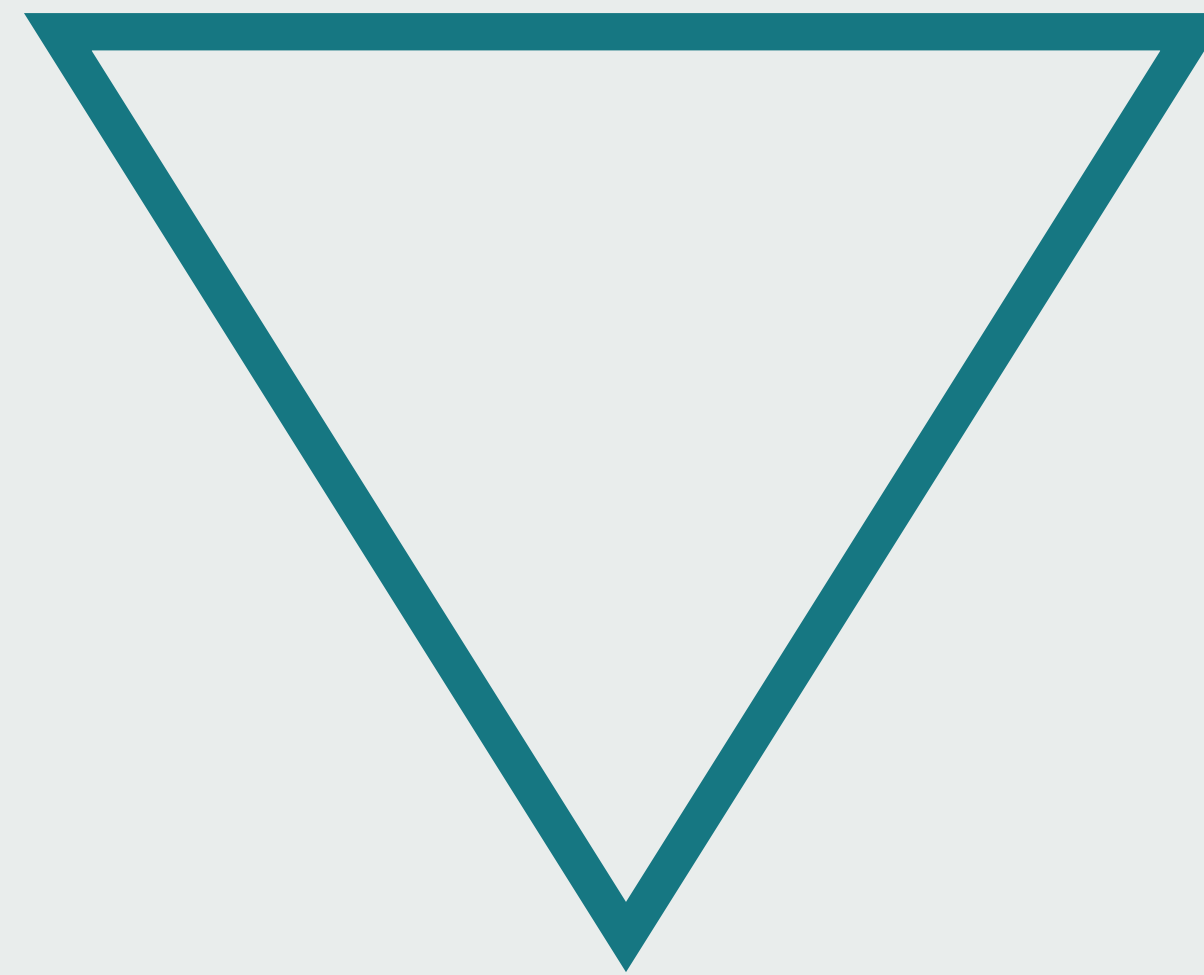
GENERAL CAUSES FOR EVIL IN THIS WORLD

Actions of humans

“flesh” | sin in me

Absence of God

“world” | sin in the world



Activity of Adversary (Enemy)

“devil”

EVIL...

- ... in the Bible's Worldview includes a number of non-human, supernatural entities in conflict with God's kingdom (**evil is more what you think**);
- ... is **personified** (and not just abstract), so some of the things happening in our (personal) world might be more complex;
- ... and its presence makes more sense of our experience of the world (reckon that there is a Spiritual War).



DELIVERANCE

A Guide to Deliverance

EVERY DAY VERSION

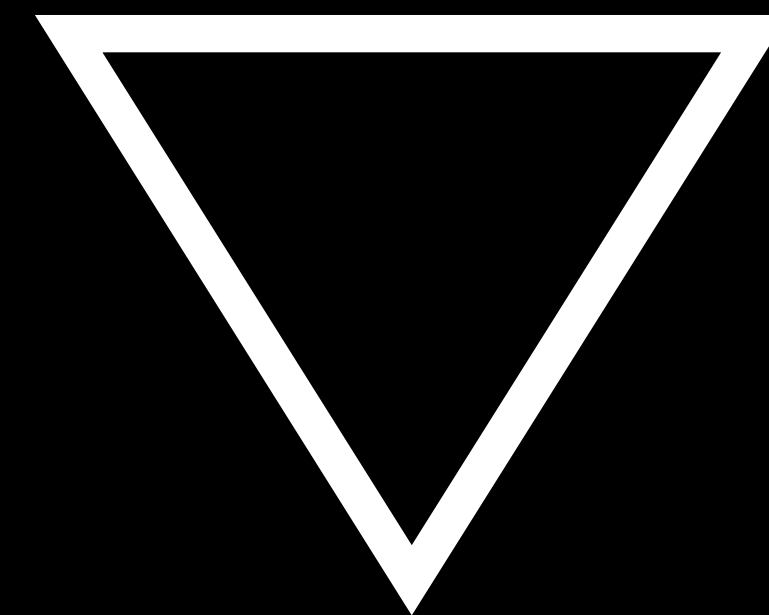
1. Ask: What is the source of this issue?

Determine if an issue in your or other people's personal lives come from external, personified evil.

Pray for insight.

Actions of humans
“flesh” | sin in me

Absence of God
“world” | sin in the world



Activity of Adversary (Enemy)
“devil”

Matthew 4:1 Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be **tempted by the devil.**

Matthew 16:23 But He turned and said to Peter, “**Get behind Me, Satan!** You are a stumbling block to Me; for you are not setting your mind on God’s interests, but man’s.”

Acts 5:3 But Peter said, “Ananias, why has **Satan filled your heart** to lie to the Holy Spirit, and to keep back some of the price of the land?

Ephesians 4:27 and **do not give the devil an opportunity**
[literally: place].

Ephesians 6:11 Put on the full armor of God, that you may be
able to **stand firm against the schemes of the devil.**

1Timothy 3:6 and not a new convert, lest he become conceited
and fall into the **condemnation incurred by the devil.**

2 Timothy 2:26 ...and they may come to their senses and escape from the **snare of the devil**, having been held captive by him to do his will.

Hebrews 12:1 ... let us also lay aside every encumbrance, and the sin which so easily **entangles** us,...

James 4:7 Submit therefore to God. **Resist the devil** and he will flee from you.

1Peter 5:8 Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. **Your adversary, the devil, prowls about** like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

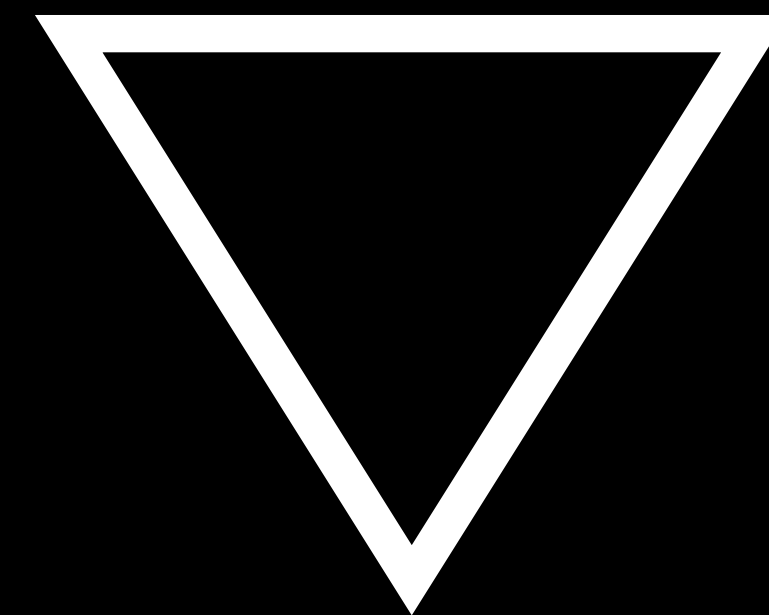
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Activity of Adversary (Enemy)
“devil”

2. Determine appropriate response.

Is this a lie to be countered; an attitude (e.g., fear) to be prayed against; a word, thought, or habit to be renounced; or a spirit to be bound and/or cast out? Respond accordingly:

- a) **confess**, and/or
- b) **forgive**, and/or
- c) **repent**, and/or
- d) **renounce (or reject)**, and/or
- e) **bind and cast out spirit**.

DELIVERANCE

A Dangerous Guide to Deliverance

CRISIS VERSION

1. Ask: Is this your business?

If you are not spiritually responsible in this situation, then no, it is not your business.

Don't pick fights, don't assert authority that is not yours.

If somebody comes to you with this problem, or this problem manifests in your area of responsibility (church, ministry, family, home) — then yes, this is your business.

SIDE NOTE: SPIRITUAL AUTHORITY

One can only be a *channel* of God's power when one submits to God's authority. *Only if you are fully under God's authority can His power safely be released.* There is an absolute demand for constant dependence and submission.

“[God's power] ... is a power that heals, convicts, reconciles, restores, transforms, and can be set loose only under one's submission to the *exousia* [authority] of Jesus, the one who reigns. It cannot be controlled, only authorised.”

David E. Fitch, *Reckoning with Power*, p.65f

2. Bind the spirit “in the name of Jesus” (Lk 10:17, Mt 28:18)

No need to shout. Calm the situation and help the demonised person to get back in control. Note: binding is not casting out.

If the demon does not listen, you probably should not be leading this, somebody else should take charge. You can only assert the authority of Christ when you have a firm conviction of your own identity & authority in Christ (Eph 6:10–18; spiritual armour).

3. If possible, move the demonised person into a private ministry setting.

Deal with the person in private and do not do this alone.

The goal is to minister to the person, to love the person and set them free, not to minister to the demon or have a big show.

4. Find out why the spirit is able to oppress the person:
What is the 'foothold'/space given [see Eph 4:27]?

Un-confessed sin? Un-forgiveness? Un-renounced allegiances [oaths, rituals, occult involvement, etc.]? Un-cut bondages/ties or generational issues? Lead the person to a **deeper level of repentance**, confession, forgiveness, cutting, and loosening [see Matt 18:18f]. Deal with all issues. Ask the Spirit for discernment.

If the demon interferes, keep binding the spirit and command silence in the name of Jesus.

5. When (and only when/if) the personal ministry is finished, command the spirit to leave “in Jesus name” and not come back.

When the footholds are removed, then the unclean spirits can safely be commanded to leave: Insist, don't bargain, don't shout, don't torture.

This is ‘**take the garbage out, the rats will leave**’ principle. (If it does not work, go back to #4, or seek help from more experienced brother/sisters).

Note: If the person is not a follower of Jesus or unwilling to deal with the issues (“the footholds”) then do not command any spirit to leave; pray and release the person.

6. Pray for healing and a fresh filling with the Holy Spirit.

Don't leave the house empty (see Matt 12:44), care for the person, follow up.

Pray for protection for the person, yourself, your family, your church. Tend to your amour (Eph 6:10–18).

An Even More Dangerous Guide to Deliverance

1. Ask: Is this my business?
2. If yes, bind demon “in Jesus name.”
3. If possible, minister with someone else to that person in private.
4. What is the ‘foothold’ [Eph 4:27]?
Deal with all issues.
5. Then, tell demon “in Jesus name”
to leave & not come back.
6. Pray for healing and a fresh
filling with the Holy Spirit.

A Dangerous Guide to Deliverance

Warning: If I gave you a step-to-step list on how to drive a car, imagine you had never driven a car, how good is a step-to-step list?

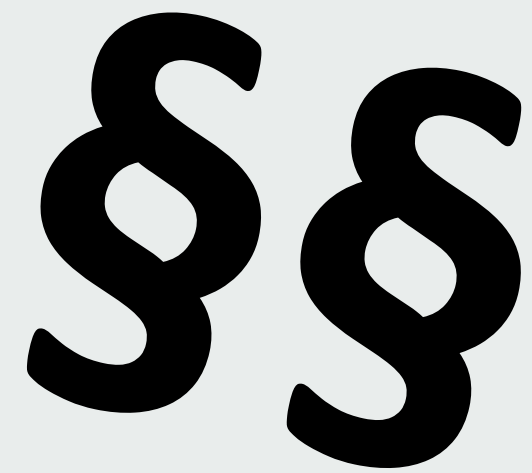
SIN...

...is not what you think.



SIN as...

LEGAL ISSUE



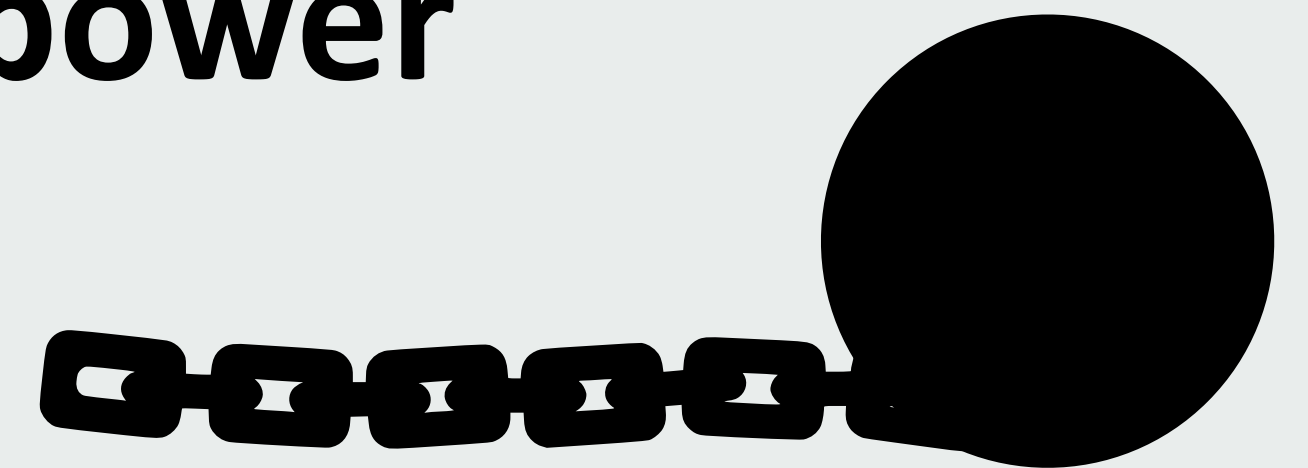
- doing wrong (= crime)
- missing mark (= perfection)
- breaking the Law
- leading to condemnation
- deserving of death

SIN as...

REVIEW

DOMINEERING ENTITY

- doing wrong (= habit)
- missing the mark (= freedom)
- entanglement
- enslaving power
- bondage



SIN...

- ... in the Bible is more than just a legal transgression that separates you from God and more than failing to meet God's standard (sin is more);
- ... in the Bible is often also understood as an **enslaving entity, as a bondage**, from which Jesus has come to set us free;
- ... can to be dealt with by confession, forgiveness, applying truth, and praying into our bondages.



SIN...

- Where do I see entanglements or bondages in my life?
- With what do I need to get real?
- Do you actually *want* to deal with this, are you willing?



HOW TO DEAL WITH THE “MORE OF SIN”

HOW TO DEAL WITH THE “MORE OF SIN”

BE REAL WITH SIN

A. CONFESS

B. FORGIVE

HOW TO CONFESS

**Pray: “Father, I confess as sin that I have _____ .
I repent of this.”**

(be specific; God forgives specific sins).

Then: “Father, thank you, I receive your forgiveness.

(we really don't need to ask or beg for forgiveness, nor do we need to *feel* sorry, God promises to forgive those who confess & repent from the heart **because** of who He is and what Jesus has done!)

1 John 1:9–10

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

HOW TO DEAL WITH THE “MORE OF SIN”

BE REAL WITH SIN

A. CONFESS

B. FORGIVE

HOW TO FORGIVE

Pray: “Father, I choose to forgive _____ .

(a specific person for a real sin, for something wrong *they did* against you; it is not excusing the sin; forgiveness is not a feeling, it is a choice; forgiveness also does not mean you allow the person to keep hurting you; you might have to ask God to help you with praying this prayer first).

If you can: “Father, I pray that you would bless _____ .

(a specific person, Luke 6:27 “love your enemies, do good to those who hate you...”; give the person over to God)

Matthew 6:14–15

For if you forgive men for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.

But if you do not forgive men, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions.

HOW TO DEAL WITH THE “MORE OF SIN”

BE REAL WITH SIN

A. CONFESS

B. FORGIVE

SALVATION...

...is not what you think.



SALVATION =
participating
in the life of God
through Christ
by the power of the Spirit



WHAT IS UNION WITH CHRIST?

DIFFERENT TERMS, ONE CONCEPT

1. Christ as **METHOD** of Salvation: with & in Christ
2. Christ as **MODEL** of Salvation: God in Christ
3. Christ as **MEANS** of Salvation: Christ in you

WHAT IS UNION WITH CHRIST?

CHRIST AS METHOD OF SALVATION: WITH & IN CHRIST

**Salvation is achieved by Jesus Christ
uniting himself to humanity in order to save humanity
(not just substitution but participation)**

WHAT IS UNION WITH CHRIST?

CHRIST AS MODEL OF SALVATION: GOD IN CHRIST

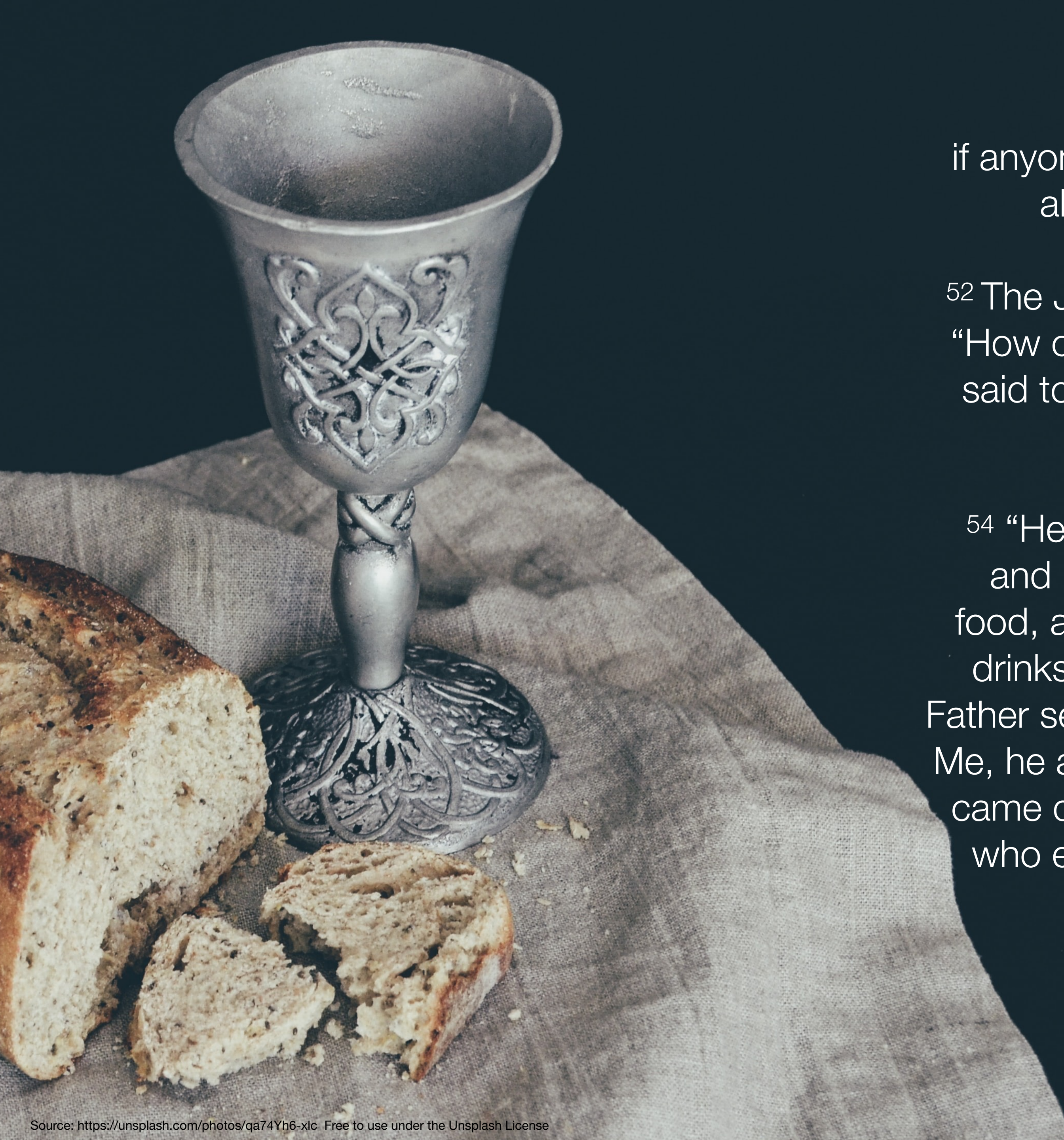
**Salvation life is modelled by Jesus as *human*:
in full dependence on the Father by the Spirit active in Him
(Jesus does not *use* his own divine power)**

WHAT IS UNION WITH CHRIST?

CHRIST AS MEANS OF SALVATION: CHRIST IN YOU

**Salvation life is experienced by us in following Jesus' model:
in full dependence on Christ by the Spirit active in us
(we do not have our own, independent divine power)**





⁵¹ “I am the living bread that came down out of heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he shall live forever; and the bread also which I shall give for the life of the world is My flesh.”

⁵² The Jews therefore *began* to argue with one another, saying, “How can this man give us *His* flesh to eat?” ⁵³ Jesus therefore said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, **you have no life in yourselves.**

⁵⁴ “He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. ⁵⁵ “For My flesh is true food, and My blood is true drink. ⁵⁶ “He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood **abides in Me, and I in him.** ⁵⁷ “As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who eats Me, he also shall live because of Me. ⁵⁸ “This is the bread which came down out of heaven; not as the fathers ate, and died, he who eats this bread shall live forever.” ⁵⁹ These things He said ^ain the synagogue, as He taught in Capernaum.

John 6:51–59

**Jesus (in you) saves,
not doctrine.**

WHO

WHAT

DISCUSS: How should the
above statement change
things for us/you?

CHURCH...

...is not what you think.



1. Building or people?
2. Sinner or saints?
3. Fans or family?
4. Many or one?
5. Gifted: Few or all?

RELATIONSHIP & HOLINESS

What is the church?

Greek word *ekklesia* = “assembly” or “called-out ones.”

Church = not a building, but people!

Romans 16:5 “Greet the church that is in their house.”



What is the identity of this people?

God's people are NOT defined by sin....

“SAINTS” (60x)

VS.

“SINNERS” (3x?)

What is the identity of this people?

**MOST COMMON way of referring
to church members is:**

“brethren” [brothers & sisters] (230+)

“children (of God)” (25+)

Galatians 3:28

**There is neither Jew nor Greek,
there is neither slave nor free man,
there is neither male nor female;
for you are all one in Christ Jesus.**

All Church Members are Equal

**In the church
there should be no place for
Discrimination,
Racism,
High-Low Status / Pride,
Sexism.**

1 Corinthians 12

Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be unaware. (...) Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord. And there are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things **in all persons**.

But **to each one** is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. For to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, and to another the word of knowledge according to the same Spirit; to another faith by the same Spirit, and to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, and to another miracles, and to another prophecy, and to another the distinguishing of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, and to another the interpretation of tongues. But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing **to each** one individually just as He wills.

1 Corinthians 14:26–33

When you assemble, **each one has a psalm, has a teaching, has a revelation, has a tongue, has an interpretation.**

Let all things be done for edification. If anyone speaks in a tongue, it should be by two or at the most three, and each in turn, and let one interpret; but if there is no interpreter, let him keep silent in the church; and let him speak to himself and to God. And let two or three prophets speak, and let the others pass judgment. But if a revelation is made to another who is seated, let the first keep silent. For you can all prophesy one by one, so that all may learn and all may be exhorted; and the spirits of prophets are subject to prophets; for God is not a God of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints.

The Church is the People who are in Union with Him

**all people who participate in the holy life of God
(past, present, future) =**

**the people who abide/dwell in Jesus,
the people in whom Jesus abides/dwells;
the people who are made holy by Jesus;
the people who call on and know God as Father,
people who are related to God and each other as family.**

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the people who are in relationship with the Father,
people who are related to God and each other as a family.

RELATIONSHIP & HOLINESS

What do you need to do in any of these 5 areas to draw near to God?

1. The Bible...

2. Evil...

3. Sin...

4. Salvation...

5. Church...

“... IS MORE.”



Theology Thursday feedback

