



Mind the Mystery

Wayne Braudrick

Life Change: We Actively Mind the Mystery of Christ

Ephesians 5:22-33

February 25, 2024

When You Make Everybody Angry...

Mind the Gap

Biblical Context – men and women are different

Genesis 1:27

Pauline Context –
Men & women are equally clothed

Galatians 3:26-29

Ephesians Context –
All equally called to submission

Ephesians 5:18,21

Mind the Marriage

There are Responsibilities (and Roles) in Marriage

Mind the Marriage

The Responsibilities Run Counter to Basic Sin Nature

Practically, How Are Those Responsibilities Lived Out?

By serious submission to the Holy Spirit

By serious commitment to the Lord

By serious commitment to self

I can remember a time when I was very much in the mode of “let me help you be perfect honey, so that I can love you better.” Of course, what I really meant was “so that you can serve me better.” Several years ago, on reading this passage (Eph 5:22-33) and being convicted by it, I began to pray regularly for myself to love my wife as Jesus loves the church and to care for her as I care for my own body. Over time, I’ve found that her “faults” have receded in my vision and my “faults” have come to the fore...how much my attitude has changed as a result of asking God to help me live up to my side of the text rather than focusing on her living up to her side. – from a letter to Wayne

By serious rejection of cultural norms

Mind the Mystery

Headship Context – we are in Christ

Body Context – made into one whole

Timely Context – make the most of the time

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how faith is...

→ forgive one another...

LIVED

...one body, one Spirit, one God

walk in love...

EPHESIANS

PLEASE SILENCE YOUR PHONE



courtesy shutterstock

I had always enjoyed your teaching very much, but that stuff today was so bad that I am embarrassed for you. How can you possibly suggest to women like me that we should live that way? I am a proud feminist and I think your teaching of that passage was...was... evil! I will not be back.



What was that nonsense? Do you realize that you broke with every tradition of the Church in that sermon? I really respect you, Wayne, but you better get your head together on this



and quit sounding like a feminist or I won't be back. I am a proud biblical conservative, and I can't believe you would suggest that a woman like me should live that way.

²² Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord, ²³ because the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church. He is the Savior of the body. ²⁴ Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives are to submit to their husbands in everything. ²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself for her ²⁶ to make her holy, cleansing her with the washing of water by the word. ²⁷ He did this to present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or anything like that, but holy and blameless.

Ephesians 5 CSB

ROM

1 COR

2 COR

GAL

EPHESIANS

PHIL

COL

1 THESS

2 THESS

28 In the same way, husbands are to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. **29** For no one ever hates his own flesh but provides and cares for it, just as Christ does for the church, **30** since we are members of his body. **31** *For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one flesh. [Genesis 2]* **32** This mystery is profound, but I am talking about Christ and the church. **33** To sum up, each one of you is to love his wife as himself, and the wife is to respect her husband.

Ephesians 5 CSB

ROM

1 COR

2 COR

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EPHESIANS

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1 THESS

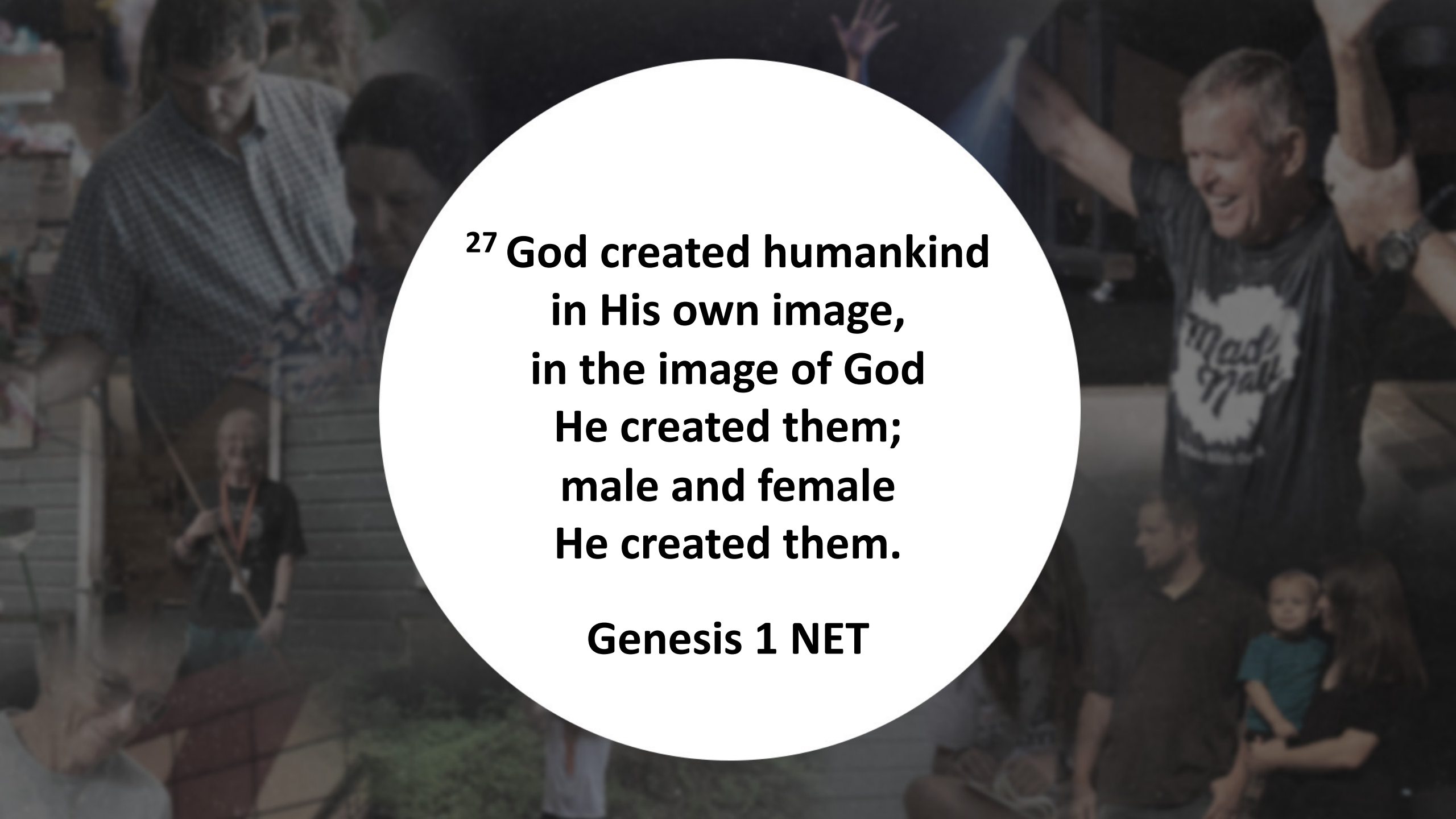
2 THESS



Mars

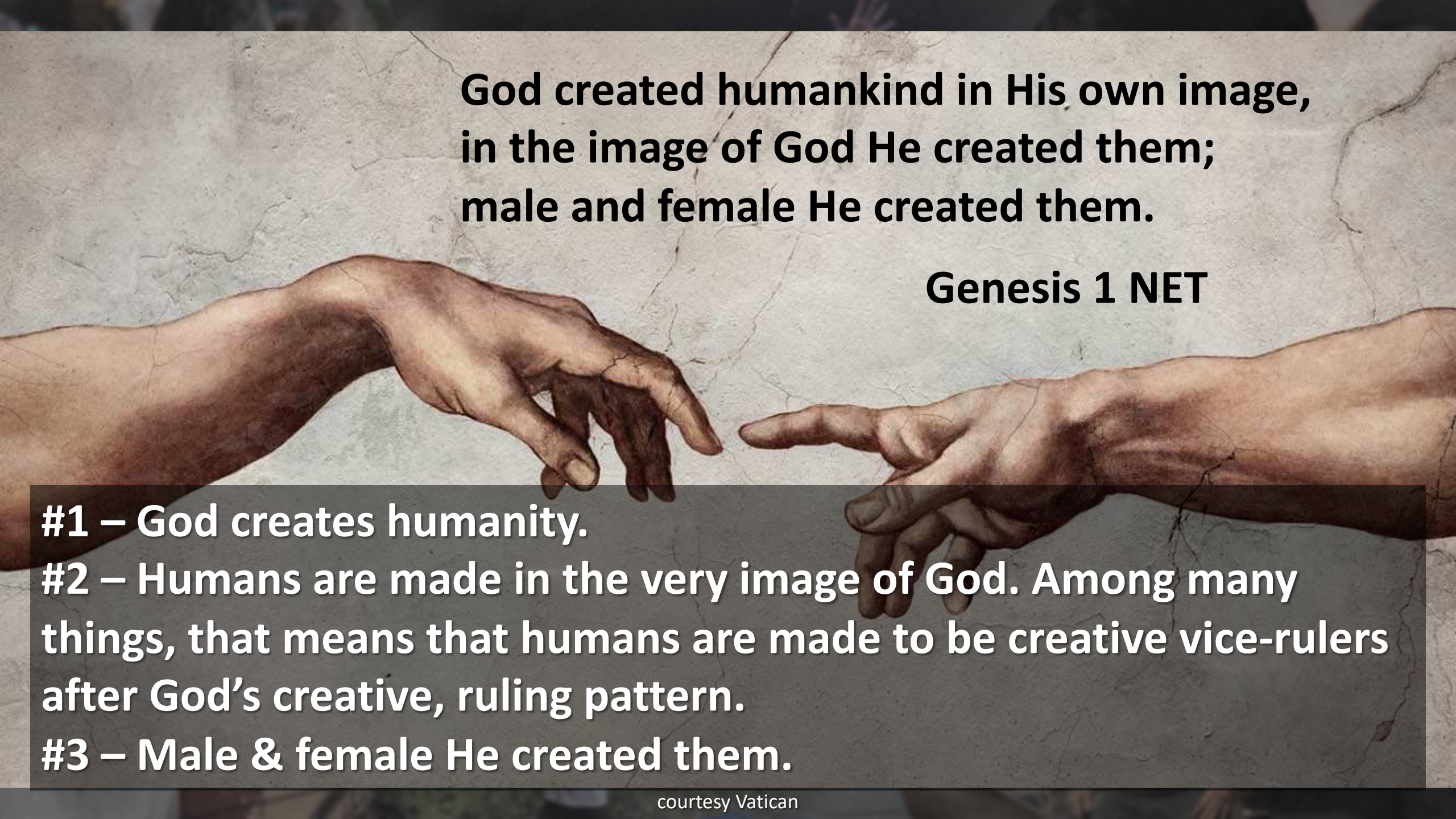


Venus



**²⁷ God created humankind
in His own image,
in the image of God
He created them;
male and female
He created them.**

Genesis 1 NET

The background of the entire image is a reproduction of Michelangelo's famous fresco, 'The Creation of Adam'. It depicts the hand of God on the right, reaching towards the hand of Adam on the left, with a small gap between their fingers. The background is a light, cracked stone texture.

**God created humankind in His own image,
in the image of God He created them;
male and female He created them.**

Genesis 1 NET

#1 – God creates humanity.

#2 – Humans are made in the very image of God. Among many things, that means that humans are made to be creative vice-rulers after God's creative, ruling pattern.

#3 – Male & female He created them.



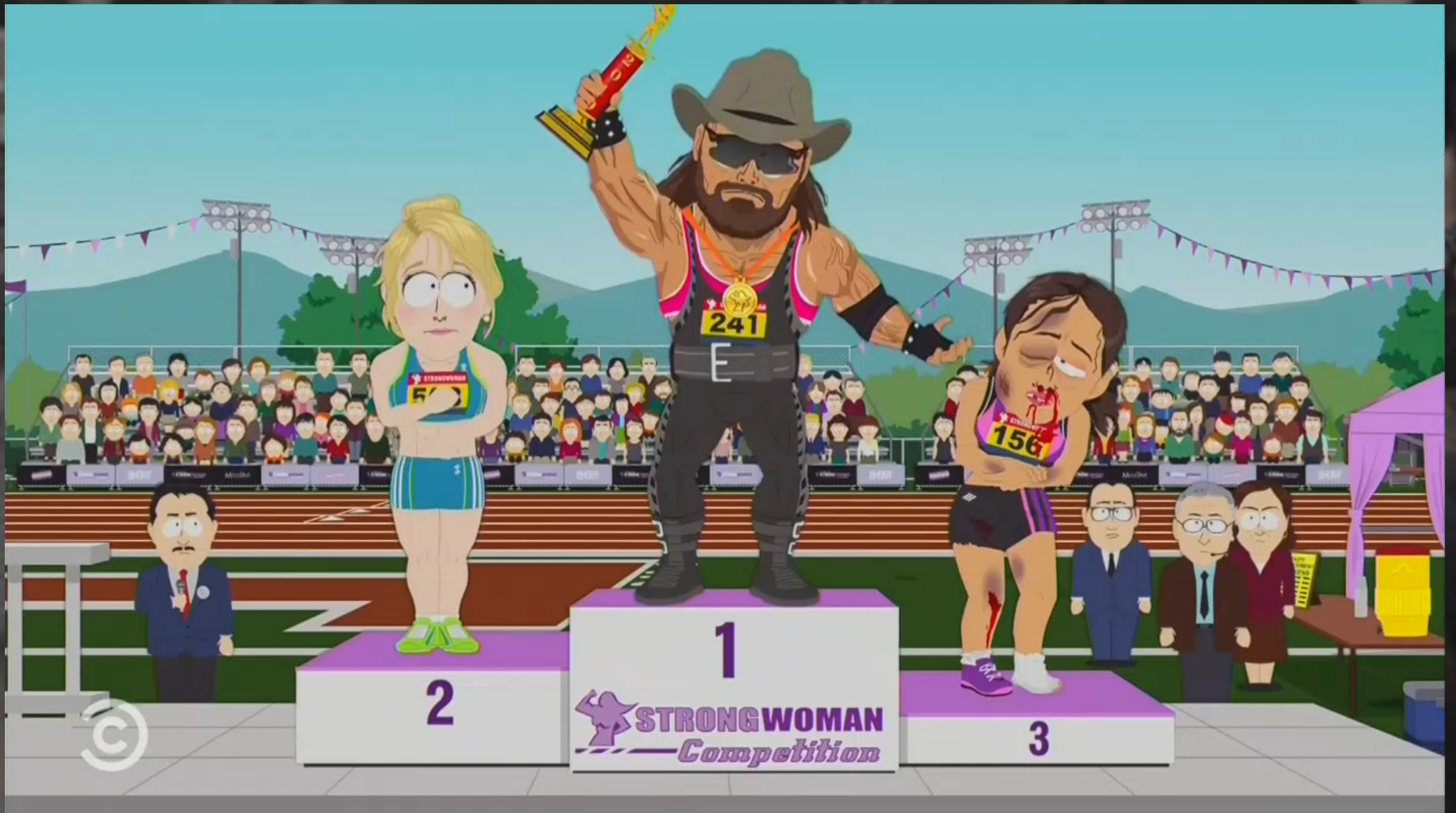
courtesy organum



courtesy The London Underground



courtesy The London Underground



courtesy Comedy Central (Note: not an endorsement)

**Context of Pauline theology:
Though men & women are different, they
are equal spiritually. Each is created in the
image of God, and when they become
Christians, each is equally recreated in the
image of Jesus Christ and clothed in His
righteousness.**





²⁶ for through faith you are all sons of God in Christ Jesus.

²⁷ For those of you who were baptized into Christ have been clothed with Christ. ²⁸ There is no Jew or Greek, slave or free, male and female; since you are all one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹ And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, heirs according to the promise.

Galatians 3 CSB



courtesy US Army Marshall Plan Archives



courtesy US Army Marshall Plan Archives; pinterest



**My rags
were nicer!**



**No way!
Mine were.**

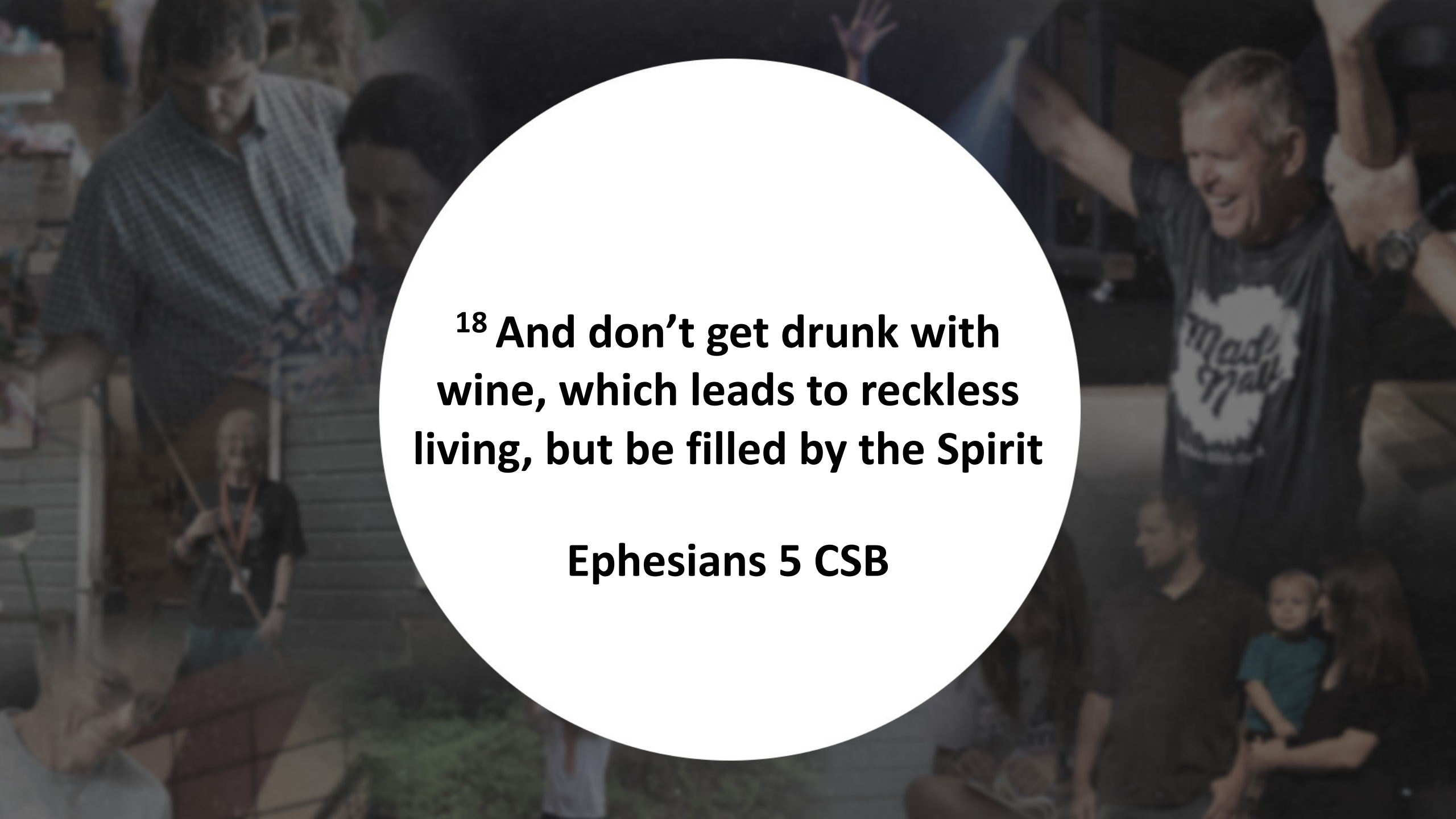
26 for through faith you are all sons of God in Christ Jesus. 27 For those of you who were baptized into Christ have been clothed with Christ. 28 There is no Jew or Greek, slave or free, male and female; since you are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, heirs according to the promise.

Galatians 3 CSB

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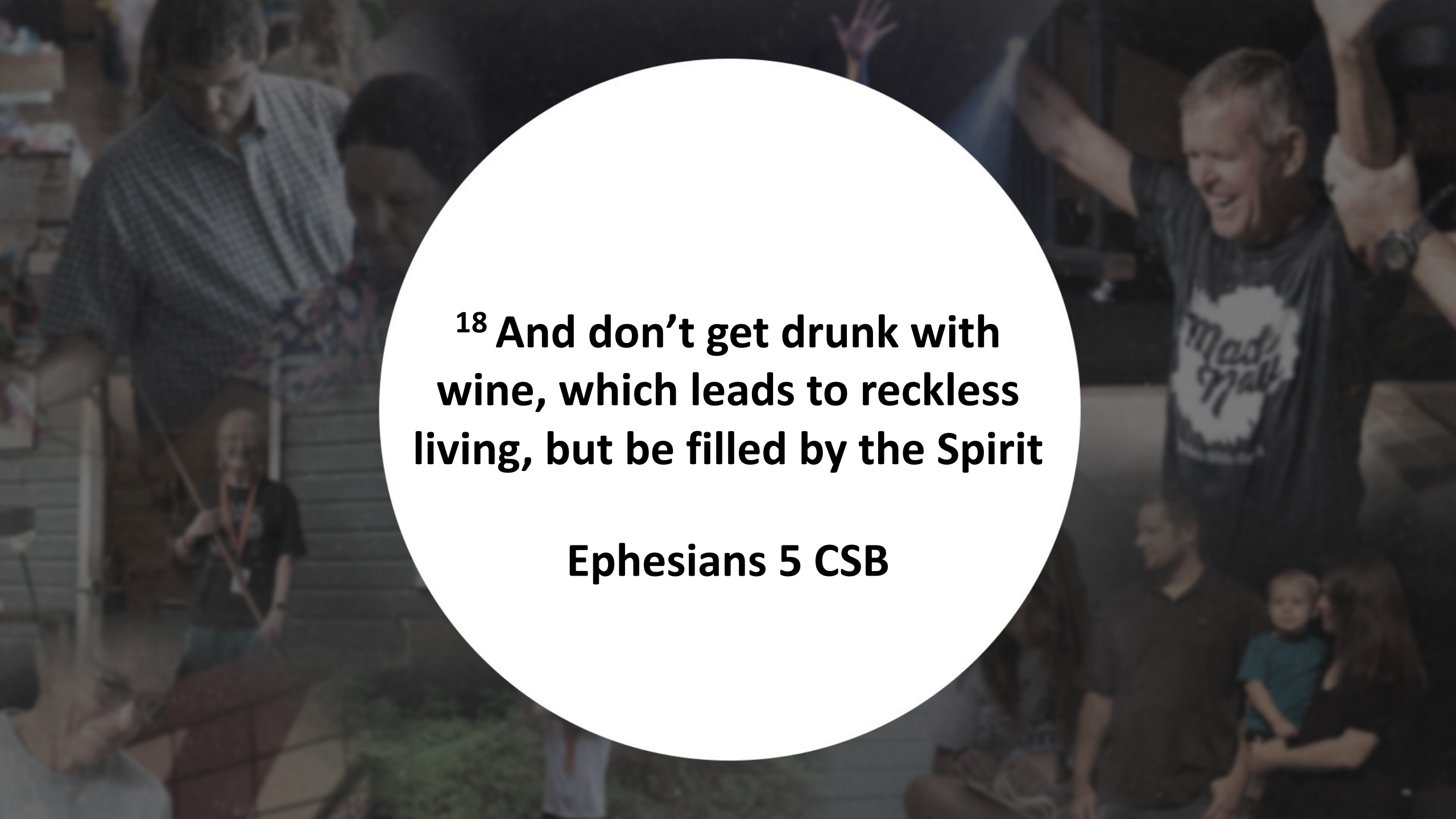
A group of people is shown in a social setting, possibly a party or gathering. In the foreground, a man in a dark t-shirt with "Mad" written on it has his arms raised in a celebratory gesture. To his left, a man in a checkered shirt is looking down. In the background, other people are visible, including a woman in a black top and a child in a blue shirt. The entire scene is dimly lit, and a large white circle is superimposed over the center, containing the text.

¹⁸ And don't get drunk with wine, which leads to reckless living, but be filled by the Spirit

Ephesians 5 CSB



courtesy US Air Force

A group of people is shown in a social setting, possibly a church or community event. In the foreground, a man in a dark t-shirt with "Mad" and "77" on it has his arms raised in a celebratory gesture. To his left, a man in a checkered shirt is looking down. In the background, a woman is playing a guitar. The scene is dimly lit, suggesting an evening or indoor setting with low light. A large white circle is superimposed over the center of the image, containing text.

¹⁸ And don't get drunk with wine, which leads to reckless living, but be filled by the Spirit

Ephesians 5 CSB

A group of people, including men, women, and children, are gathered outdoors at what appears to be a church event. Some individuals have their arms raised in the air. A large white circle is overlaid in the center of the image, containing text.

**²¹ submitting to one another
in the fear of Christ.**

Ephesians 5 CSB

**Men & women are different, but equal in Christ.
All Christians are to live in an attitude of submission to God
and to one another.**

woman & man united

*submitting to God's
power to move
ahead*

minding the gap





²² Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord, ²³ because the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church. He is the Savior of the body. ²⁴ Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives are to submit to their husbands in everything.

²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself for her

Ephesians 5 CSB

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Ephesians 5 CSB

ROLE

≠

responsibility

ROLE

≠

S U B M I T

18 Then the LORD God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper corresponding to him.”

Genesis 2 CSB

Hebrew: עֵזֶר ' ezer = an indispensable companion; partner

Creation of Eve
Donatello
c. 1410



ROLE

indispensable companion; partner

responsibility

submit

Creation of Eve
Donatello
c. 1410



ROLE

pioneer-uniter

Creation of Adam
Lorenzo Ghiberti
c. 1425



responsibility

love

²⁴ This is why a man leaves his father and mother and bonds with his wife, and they become one flesh.

Genesis 2 CSB

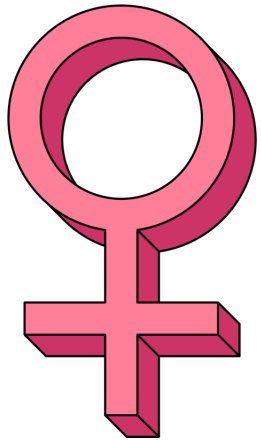
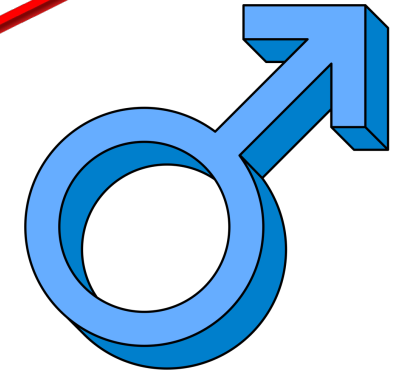
Hebrew: עָזַב azab = setting out on a pioneer journey

ROLE

indispensable companion

responsibility

submit

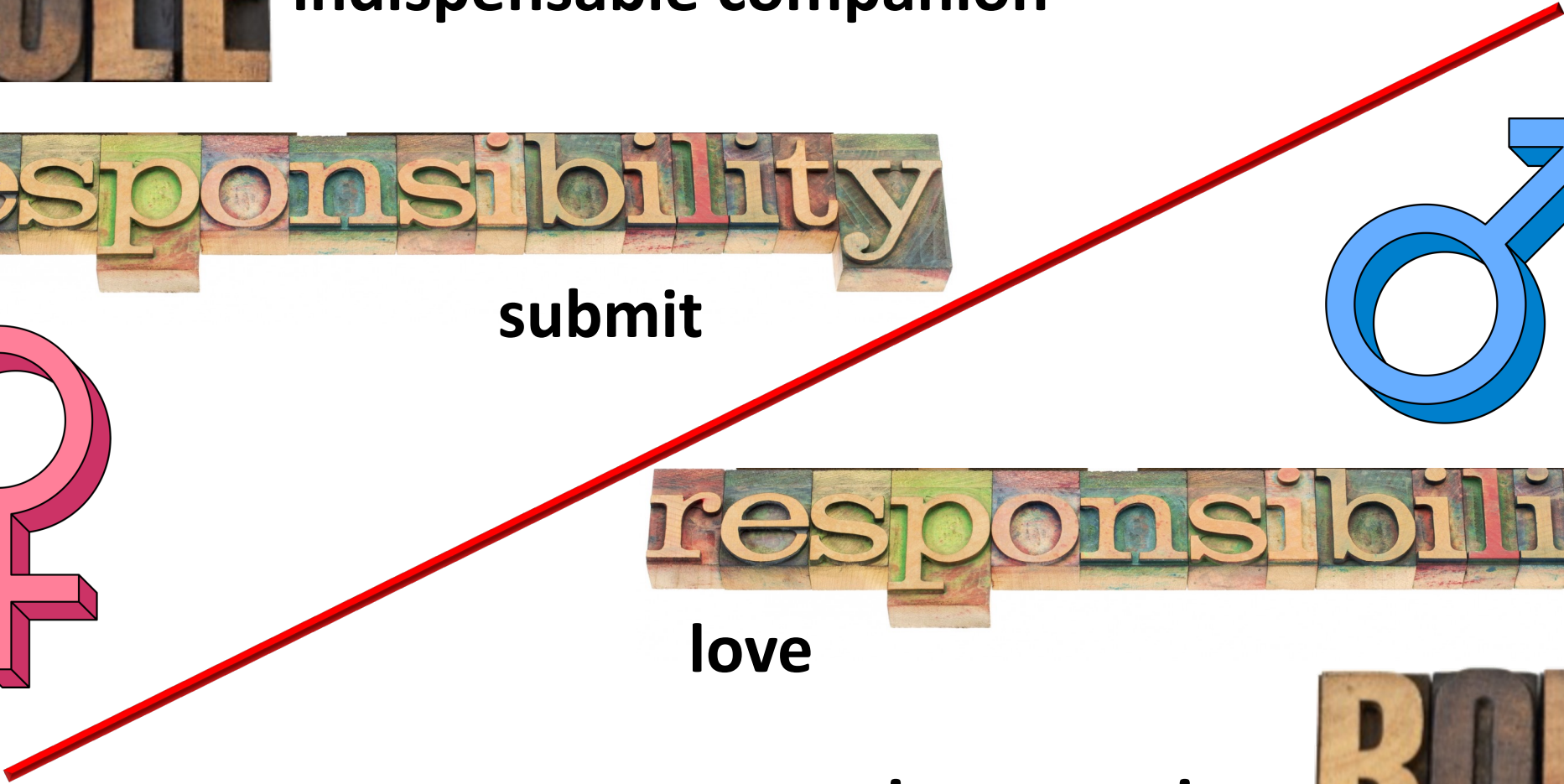


responsibility

love

pioneer-uniter

ROLE



22 Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord, 23 because the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church. He is the Savior of the body. 24 Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives are to submit to their husbands in everything. 25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself for her



Ephesians 5 CSB



**Go with your question,
Callsign "Fluffy."**

**Why is it so important to grasp
the differences between roles
& responsibilities?**

courtesy US Air Force; No genuine callsigns were harmed in making this fake picture.



The person who confuses roles and responsibilities ends up fulfilling neither.

Submit to the Elders.

responsibility

**Be the visionary leader & teacher, set aside
for the role of being the leader/unifier.**

ROLE

**wrongly acting as if
submission = role**



**wrongly forgetting
submission = responsibility**





courtesy Huffington Post

It's not very long before wife starts getting grumpy with Gerald. Deep down, she is looking for a partner to unify with her. She wants someone to lead, not to treat her like a pampered pet or paramour.



25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself for her

Ephesians 5 CSB

In the end, Gerald actually fails at both his role and responsibility. He isn't loving as Jesus loved the Church because Jesus is our head, our leader – and Gerald won't take on his role of leading!

**Me? Just sitting here
waiting for your orders.**



courtesy bausitt

Gerald begins to resent Geraldine. Deep down, he feels that she is supposed to be more than merely responding to him. He wants a partner, not a puppy.



²⁴ Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives are to submit to their husbands in everything.

Ephesians 5 CSB

In the end, Geraldine actually fails at both her responsibility and her role. Because she isn't really partnering with her husband, her seeming submission comes across as detachment. In fact, she often ends up living a greatly separate life from Gerald.

²² Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord, ²³ because the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church. He is the Savior of the body. ²⁴ Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives are to submit to their husbands in everything. ²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself for her

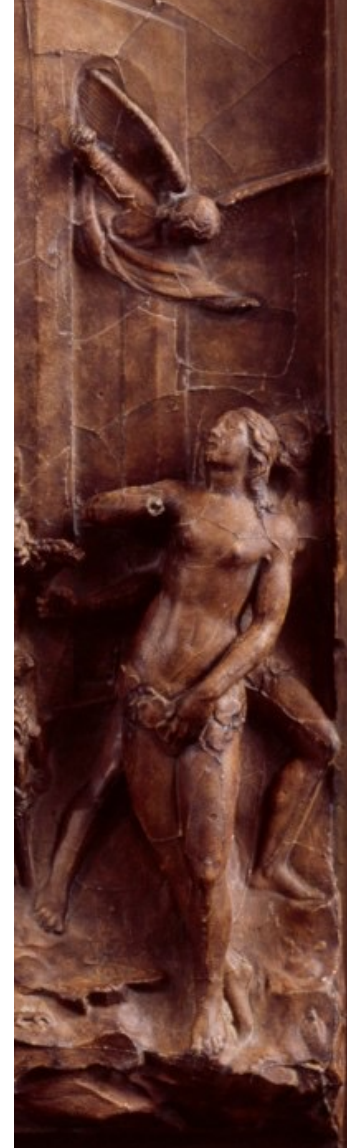


Ephesians 5 CSB

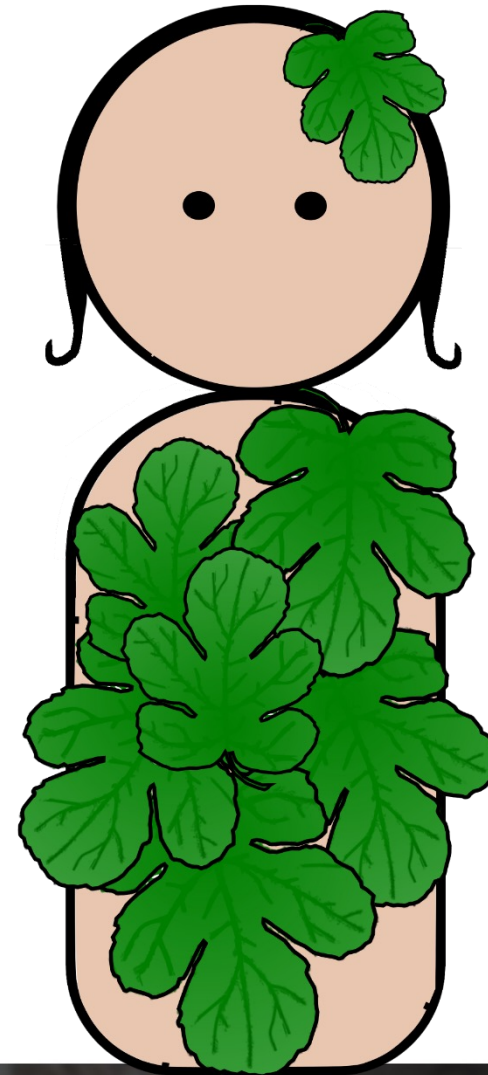
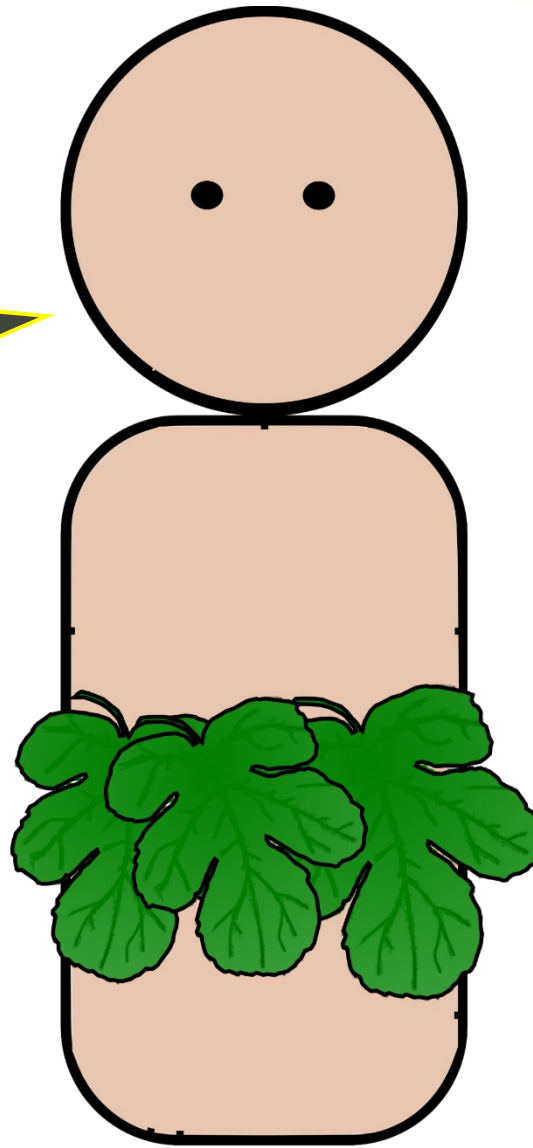
**¹⁶ He said to the woman:
I will intensify your labor pains;
you will bear children with painful effort.
Your desire will be for your husband,
yet he will rule over you.**

Genesis 3 CSB

Expelled from Eden
Lorenzo Ghiberti
c. 1425



I'll have you know
that I wear the
plants in this family.



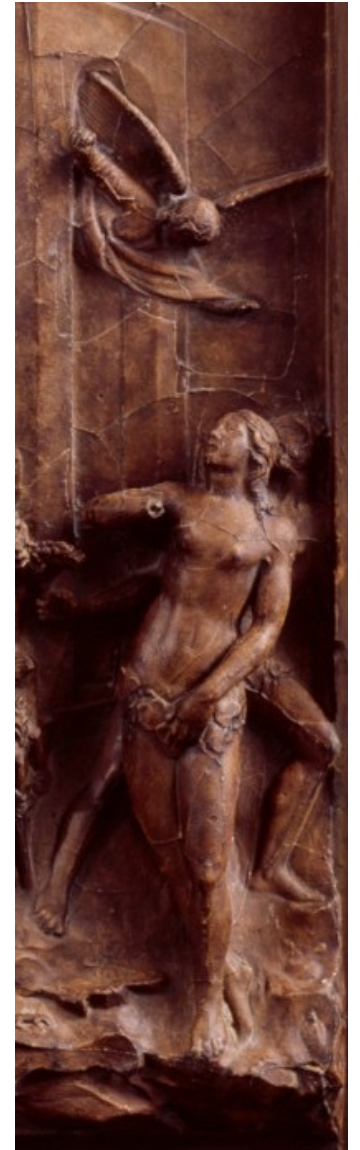
**16 He said to the woman:
I will intensify your labor pains;
you will bear children with painful effort.
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yet he will rule over you.**

Genesis 3 CSB



**Hebrew: משל mashal = rule; in this kind of
construction, implies a desire to
force others to be like you.**

Expelled from Eden
Lorenzo Ghiberti
c. 1425

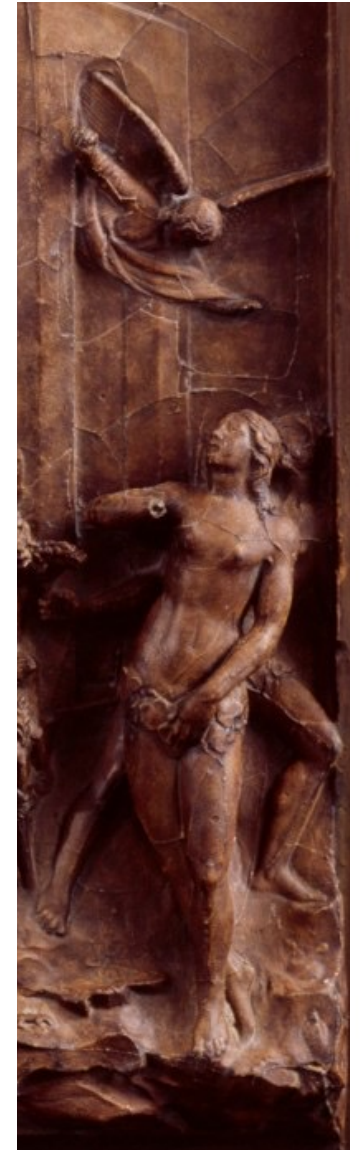


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Genesis 3 CSB

Hebrew: תְּשׁוּקָה tesuquot = manipulatively control

Expelled from Eden
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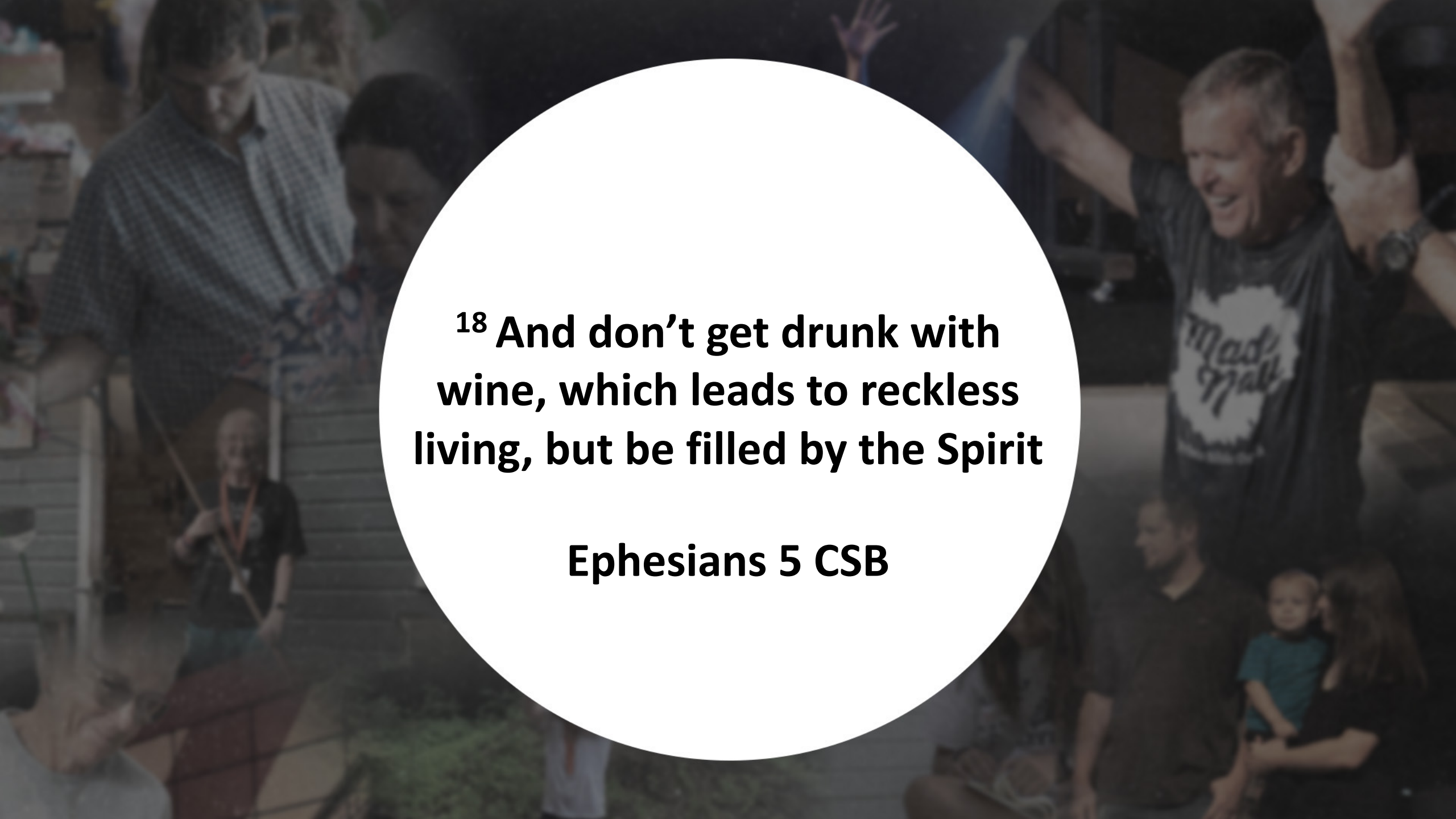


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Genesis 3 CSB

**Hebrew: תְּשׁוּקָה tesuquot =
manipulatively control [used
of sin controlling Cain]**

**Hebrew: מָשַׁל mashal =
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to be like you.**

A group of people is shown in a social setting, possibly a church or community event. In the foreground, a man in a dark t-shirt with "Mad" written on it has his arms raised in a gesture of praise or joy. Other people are visible in the background, some looking towards the camera and others engaged in conversation. The scene is dimly lit, suggesting an evening or indoor setting with low light. A large white circle is superimposed over the center of the image, containing the text.

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Ephesians 5 CSB

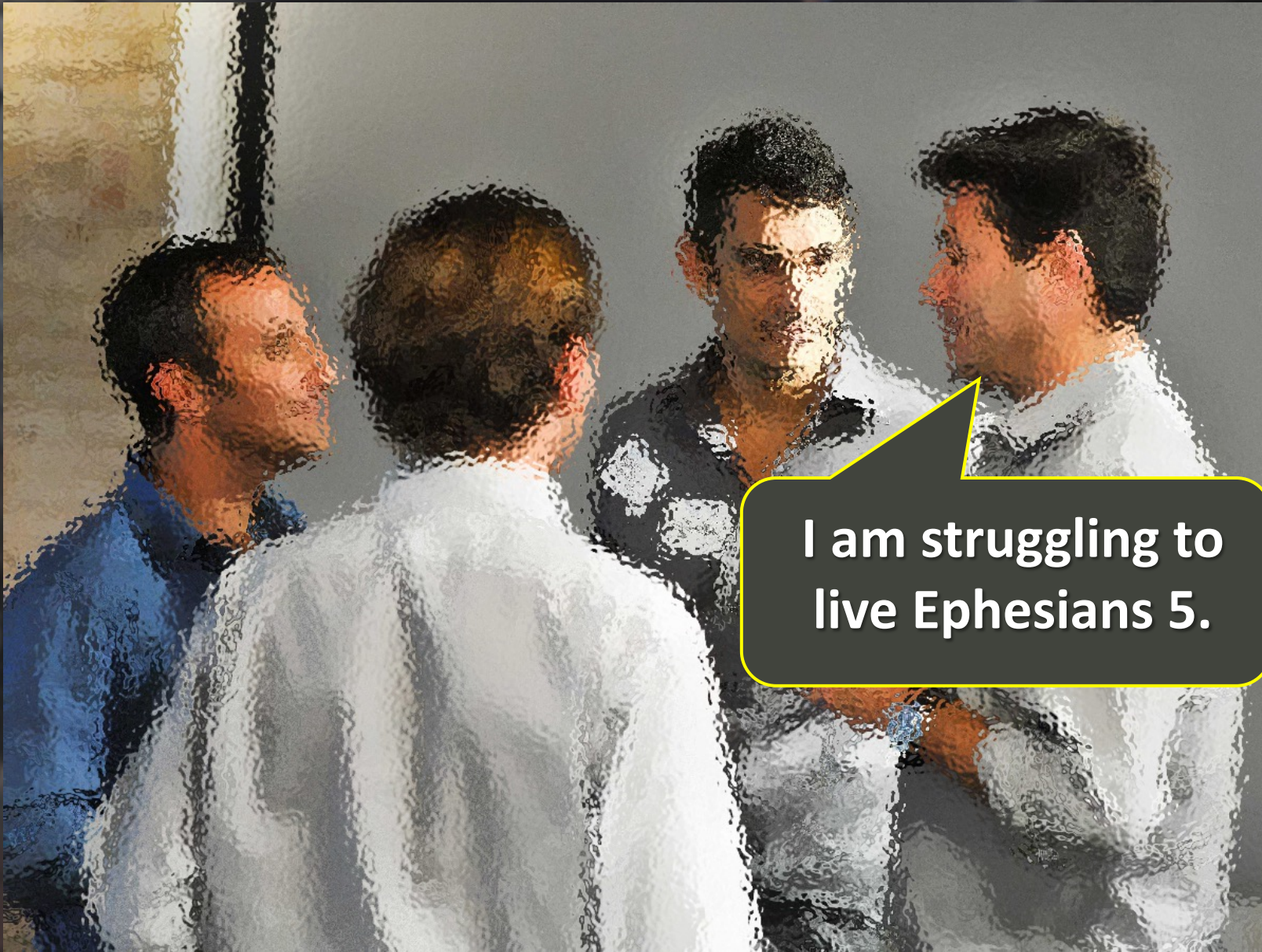
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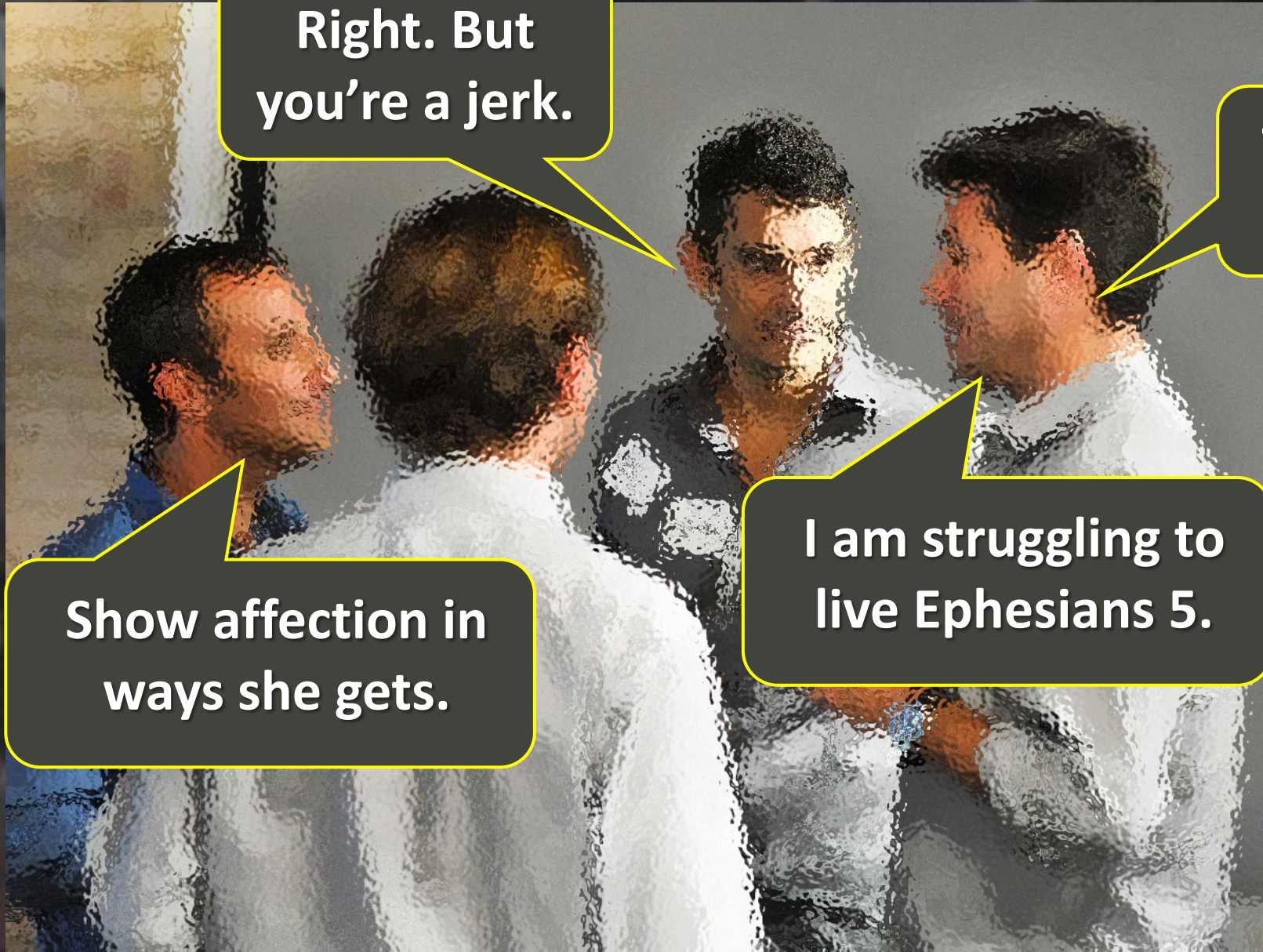
**I am struggling to
live Ephesians 5.**



Show affection in ways she gets.

I am struggling to live Ephesians 5.

That's not like me.



**Right. But
you're a jerk.**

**That's not
like me.**

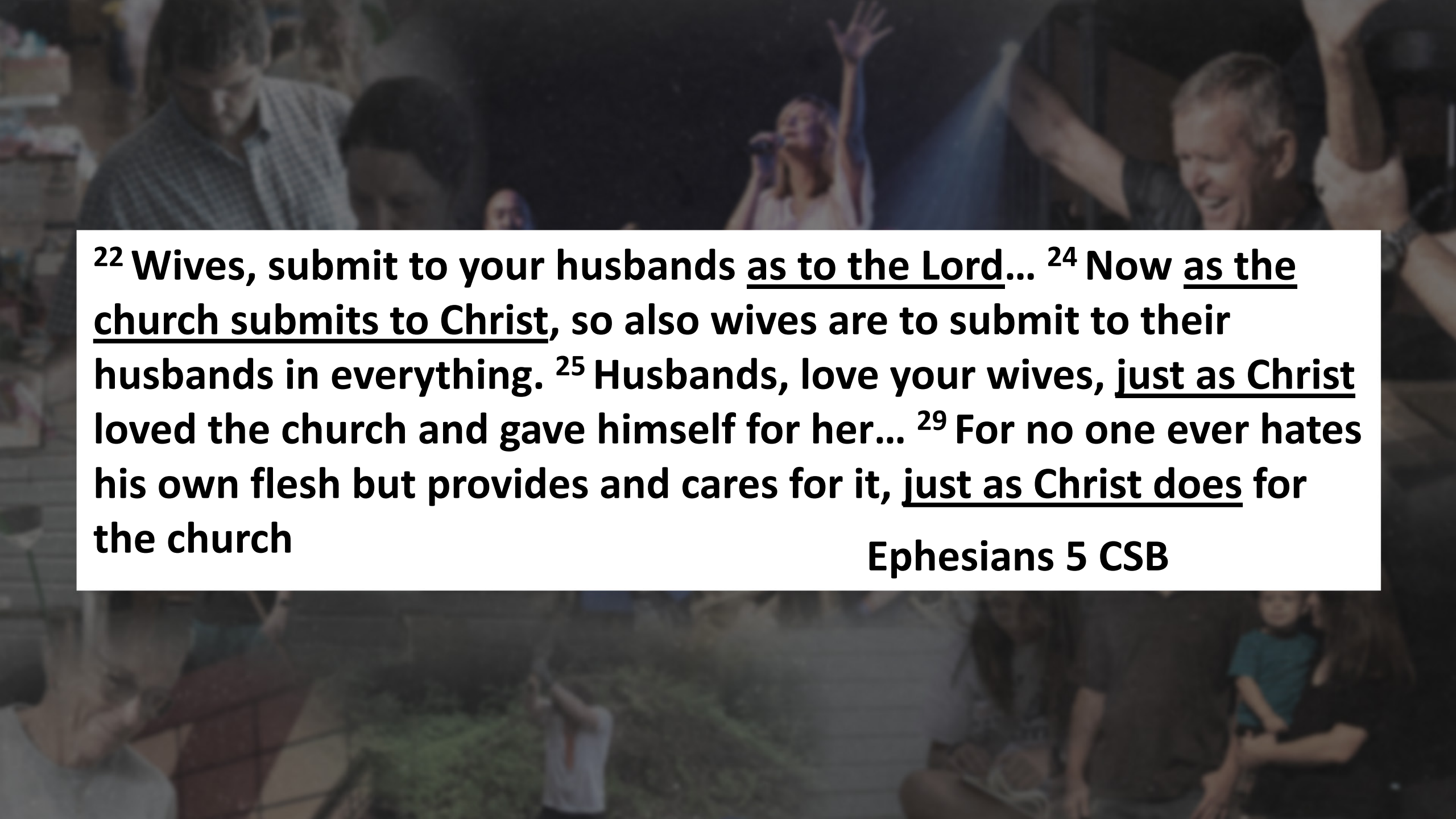
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Ephesians 5 CSB



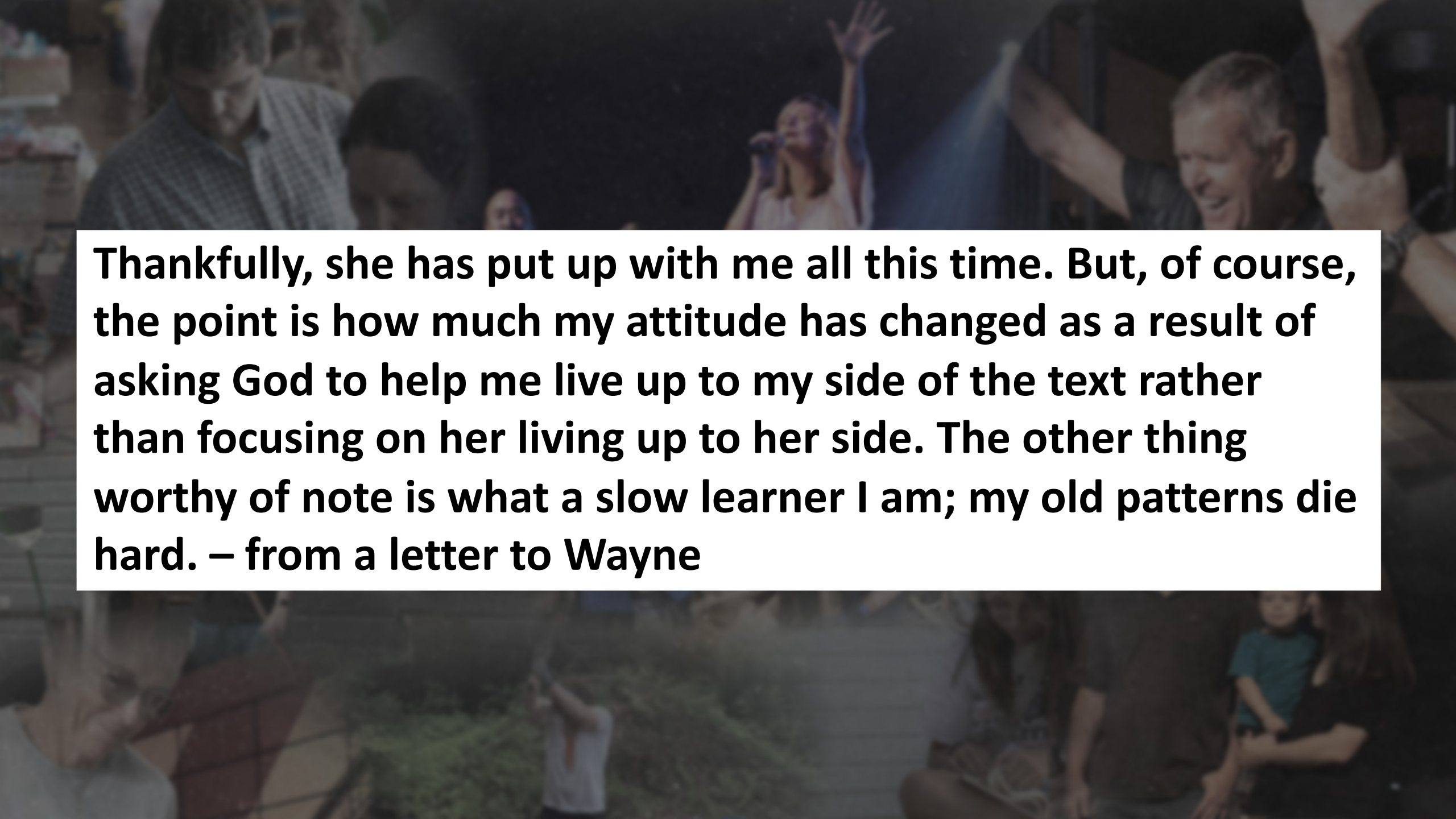
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Ephesians 5 CSB

28 In the same way, husbands are to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. **29** For no one ever hates his own flesh but provides and cares for it, just as Christ does for the church, **30** since we are members of his body. **31** *For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.*
[Genesis 2]

Ephesians 5 CSB

I can remember a time when I was very much in the mode of “let me help you be perfect honey, so that I can love you better.” Of course, what I really meant was “so that you can serve me better.” Several years ago, on reading this passage (Eph 5:22-33) and being convicted by it, I began to pray regularly for myself to love my wife as Jesus loves the church and to care for her as I care for my own body. Over time, I’ve found that her “faults” have receded in my vision and my “faults” have come to the fore. I still pray this for myself frequently and plan to do so for the rest of our lives, because I’m a long way from meeting the standard of the text.



Thankfully, she has put up with me all this time. But, of course, the point is how much my attitude has changed as a result of asking God to help me live up to my side of the text rather than focusing on her living up to her side. The other thing worthy of note is what a slow learner I am; my old patterns die hard. – from a letter to Wayne



courtesy Paramount



courtesy pinterest



courtesy Dewey Marketing

DO-IT-YOURSELF LEGAL FORMS

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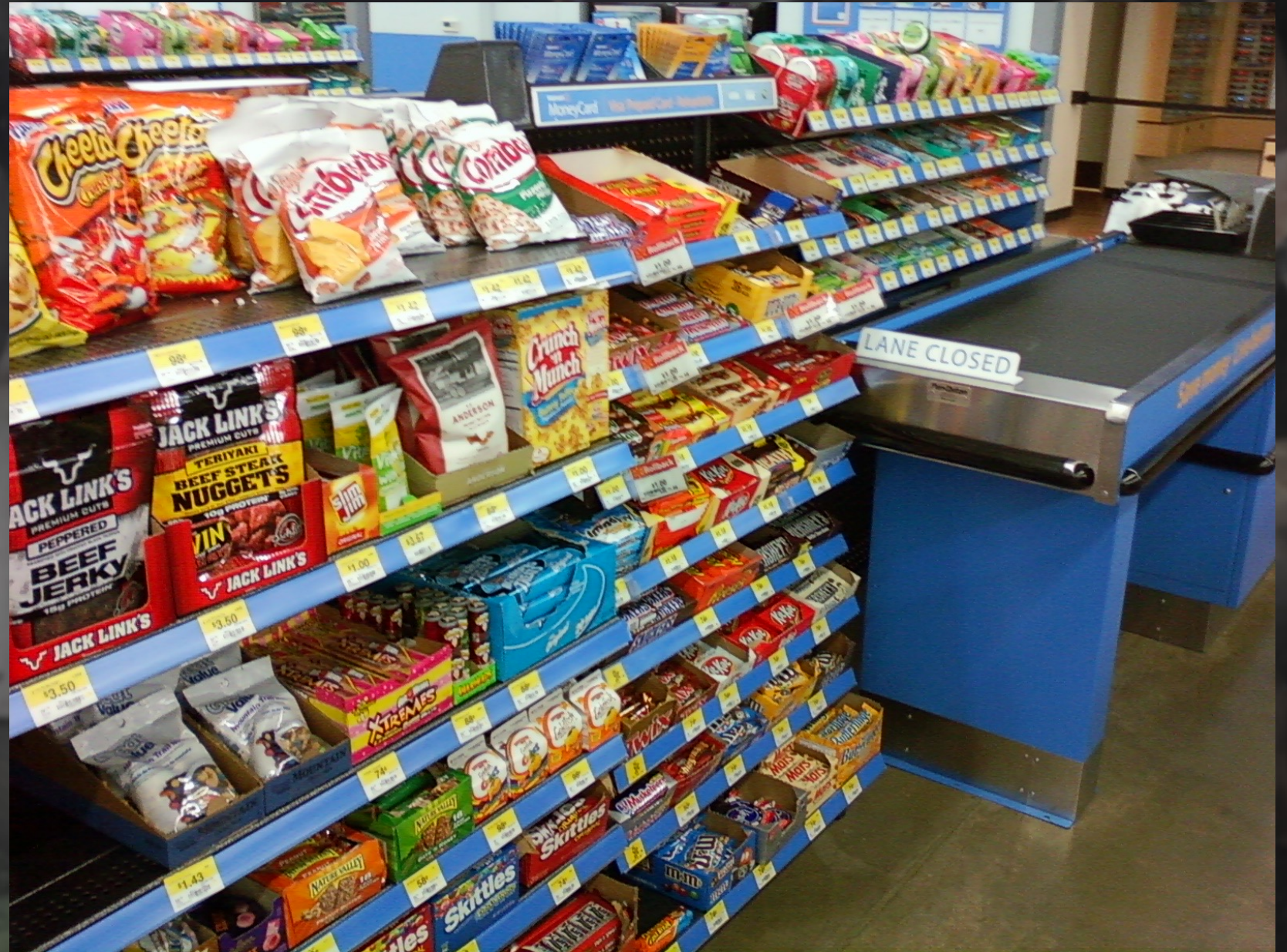
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- Create a plan to divide debts & assets

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Marital Settlement



courtesy Dewey Marketing; amazon



courtesy Today



²⁷ He did this to present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or anything like that, but holy and blameless.

³² This mystery is profound, but I am talking about Christ and the church.

Ephesians 5 CSB

Headship context 4:15 But speaking the truth in love, let us grow in every way into him who is the head—Christ.

Body context 16 From him the whole body, fitted and knit together by every supporting ligament, promotes the growth of the body for building itself up in love by the proper working of each individual part.

Timeliness context 5:15 Pay careful attention, then, to how you walk—not as unwise people but as wise—¹⁶ making the most of the time, because the days are evil.

Ephesians CSB

5:27 He did this to present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or anything like that, but holy and blameless.

5:32 This mystery is profound, but I am talking about Christ and the church.

Headship context 4:15 But speaking the truth in love, let us grow in every way into him who is the head—Christ.

Ephesians CSB



All in it's proper time, Beloved. For not everything is thine to know...there [exists] a fine line between drawing near to a mystery in yearning and desiring to conquer it.

– Sarah Arthur, *Once a Queen*

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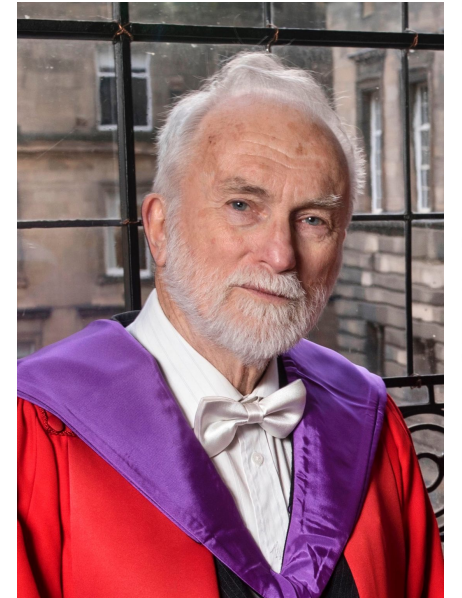
Ephesians CSB

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Ephesians CSB



Christ's completion comes from all humanity, from the translation of the life of Jesus into the lifeways of all the world's cultures and subcultures through history. – Andrew Walls, "The Ephesian Moment"



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Ephesians CSB

**⁹ They [the living creatures and elders] sang a new song:
You are worthy to take the scroll
and to open its seals,
because you were slaughtered,
and you purchased people
for God by your blood
from every tribe and language
and people and nation.**

Revelation 5 CSB

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You are worthy to take the scroll
and to open its seals,
because you were slaughtered,
and you purchased people
for God by your blood
from every tribe and language
and people and nation.**

**¹⁰ You made them a kingdom
and priests to our God,
and they will reign on the earth.**

Revelation 5 CSB



They are not only a people purchased (which is in itself a totally passive reality); they are also called and assigned to be a “kingdom and priests”...actors in the divine drama of redeeming a unified people from every culture in the world. – Stephen Pardue, *Why Evangelical Theology Needs the Global Church*



²⁷ He did this to present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or anything like that, but holy and blameless.

³² This mystery is profound, but I am talking about Christ and the church.

Ephesians 5 CSB



loving all through differences



fulfilling our responsibilities



using our time to grow up in Christ

**Come set Your rule and reign
In our hearts again
Increase in us we pray
Unveil why we're made
Come set our hearts ablaze with hope
Like wildfire in our very souls
Holy Spirit, come invade us now
We are Your church
We need Your power in us
We seek Your kingdom first
We hunger and we thirst
Refuse to waste our lives
For You're our joy and prize**



**– Chris Llewellyn,
Build your Kingdom Here
(with his band, Rend Collective)**

how faith is...

→ forgive one another...

LIVED

...one body, one Spirit, one God

walk in love...

EPHESIANS