



Loving self as an adopted child

Wayne Braudrick

Life Change: We live in and live out God's love

Selected scriptures

April 14, 2024

Themes of JOY:

Abide in Jesus

Love One Another

Bear Fruit, Y'all!

Who am I?

As Christians, our identity is to be found in relationship with Christ, not in our vocation, lifestyle, choices, or subjective life experiences...This position [in Jesus] involves both privileges and responsibilities. It involves some tremendously astounding truths about us, but also faces us with some sobering facts. – Jerry Bridges, *Who Am I?*

I Am a Creature

Gen. 1:27

Materially limited

Deut. 8:17-18

I Am a Creature

Immaterially vulnerable

Eph. 2:1-3

Morally accountable

Rom. 14:12

I Am a new Creature in Christ

2 Cor. 5:17

United to Jesus

Gal. 2:20

An heir in God's family

Rom. 8:16-18

With complete access

1 Peter 2:5

Therefore, I Should:

- Humbly recognize my need
- Accept God's love of me
- Work to live out who I am
- Take advantage of access to my Father



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Upcoming Events



Give



Connect Card & Prayer Request



FINDING JOY IN LOVING PEOPLE

PLEASE SILENCE YOUR PHONE

Key verse:

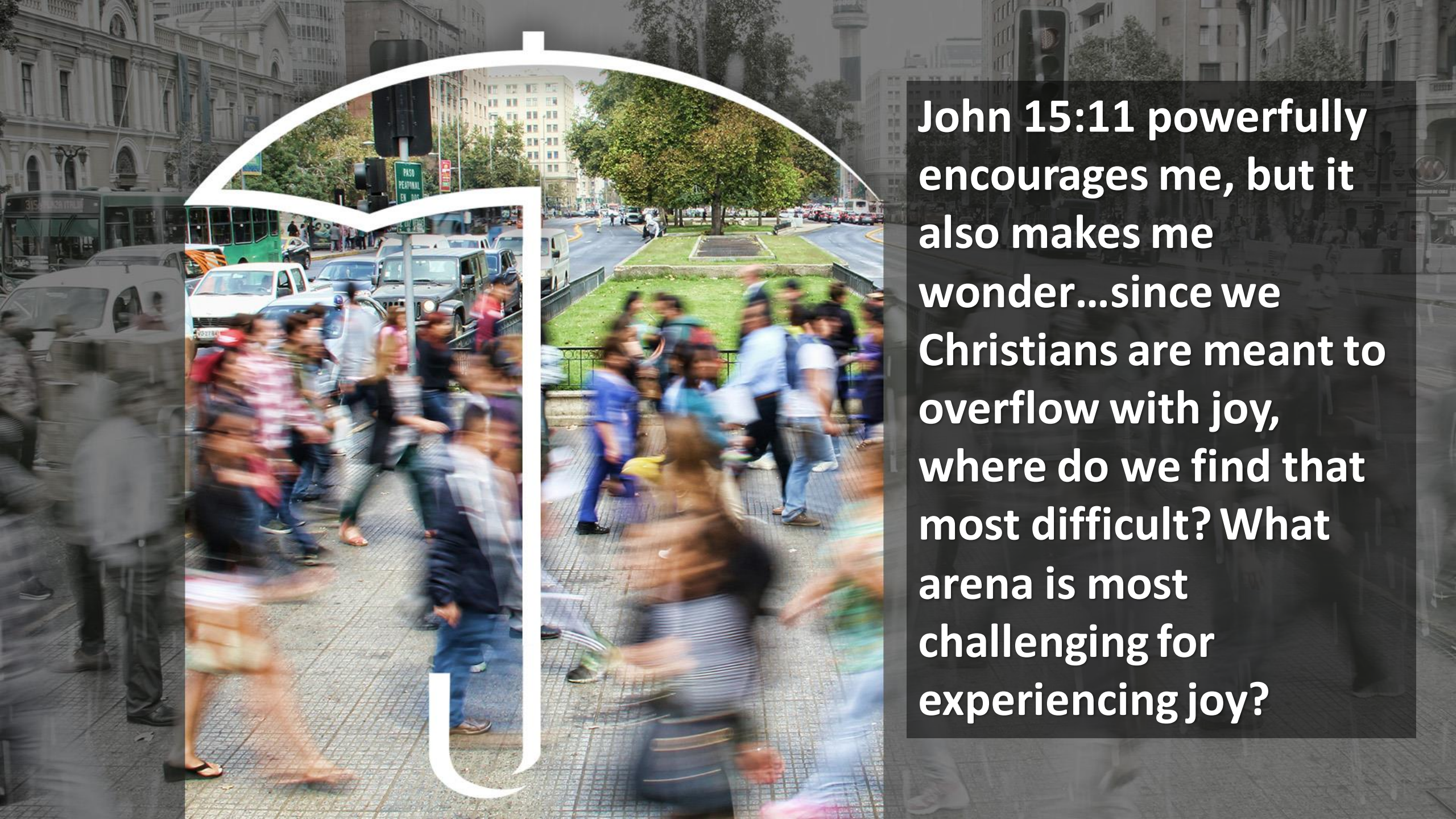
**I have told you these things
so that you will be filled
with my joy.**

Yes, your joy will overflow!

John 15:11 NLT

Themes of JOY:

**abide in Jesus
love One another
bear fruit, Y'all!**



John 15:11 powerfully encourages me, but it also makes me wonder...since we Christians are meant to overflow with joy, where do we find that most difficult? What arena is most challenging for experiencing joy?

Oh dear. As I look back to the text, it seems Jesus anticipated my question. Yikes! The very next two verses command:

¹² This is my commandment: Love each other in the same way I have loved you. ¹³ There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends.

The logic is unescapable as a Middle School cousin's body odor:

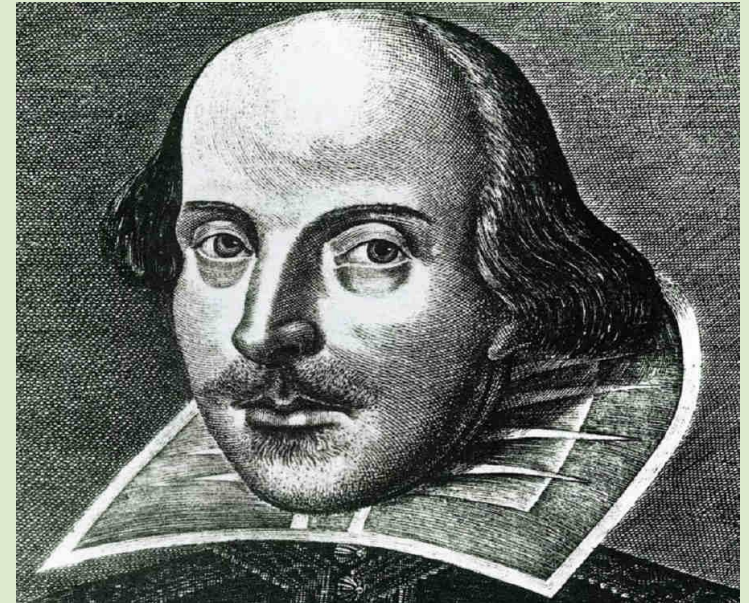
- Joy comes from Jesus and His word.**
- It overflows from His disciples.**
- We are commanded to express joy in self-sacrificial love.**
- Implication – the only reason to make that express command is because loving other people can be a joy killer.**

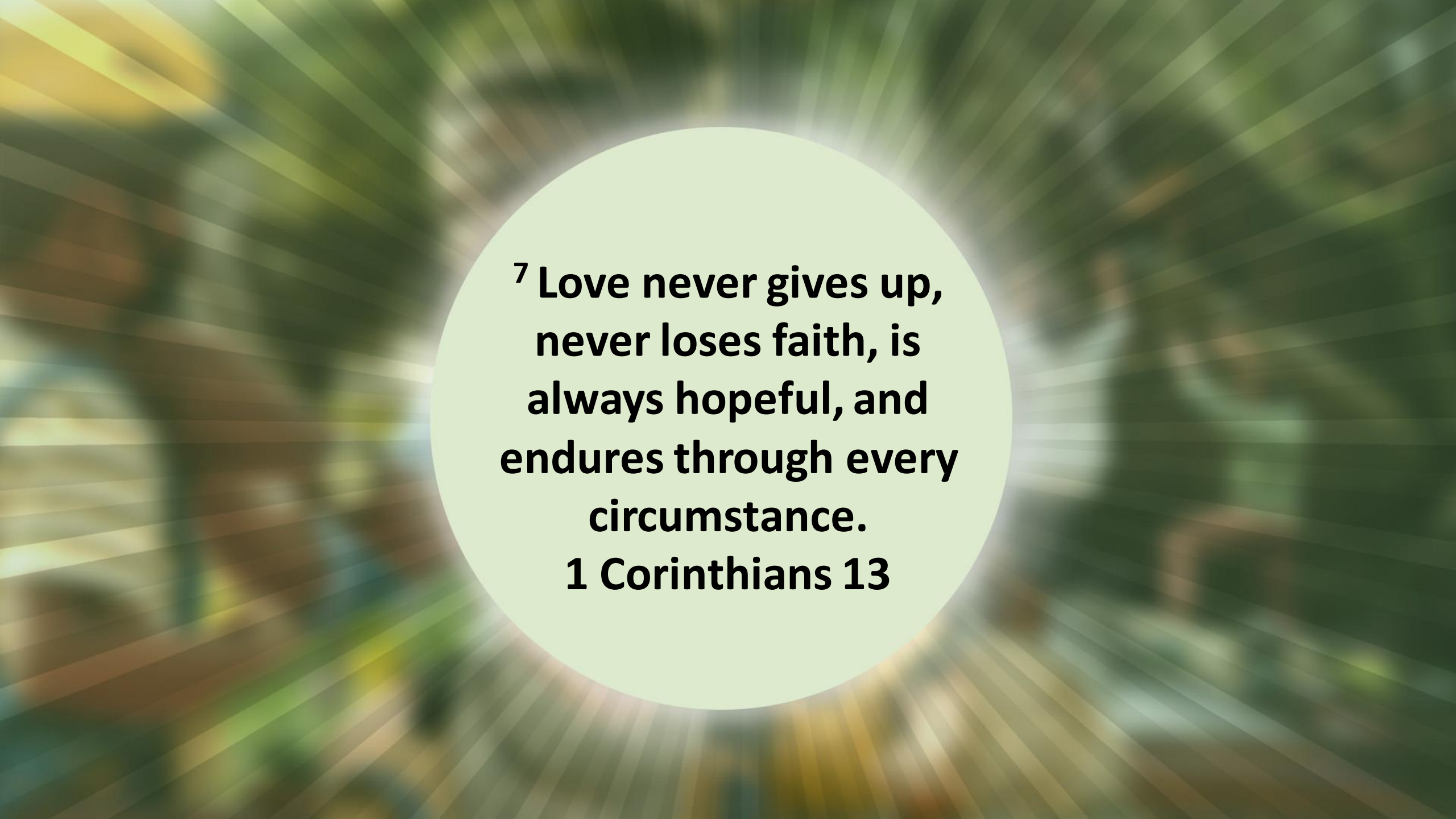
The hardest aspect of joyful living may be found in the struggle to love human beings. We must labor to effectively love antagonists in the world at large, difficult people – which is nearly every person – in the congregation of Christ, the members of our families, and even ourselves. Only by engaging with God’s agape can we overcome these scuffles. As [a wise friend] said to me, “I love humanity. It’s individual people I can’t stand!” – from Wayne’s book of private ruminations



FINDING JOY IN LOVING PEOPLE

- I desire that we be better strangers.
As You Like It
- I am sick when I do look on thee.
A Midsummer Night's Dream
- More of your conversation would infect my brain. *Coriolanus*
- Thy sin's not accidental, but a trade.
Measure for Measure
- Heaven truly knows thou art false as hell. *Othello*





**⁷ Love never gives up,
never loses faith, is
always hopeful, and
endures through every
circumstance.**

1 Corinthians 13



God loves the world so deeply that even the most wretched evils cannot halt His commitment to agape: self-sacrificial, other-centered, expressions of genuine care. Through scripture, Spirit, and discipline, we can follow that lead.

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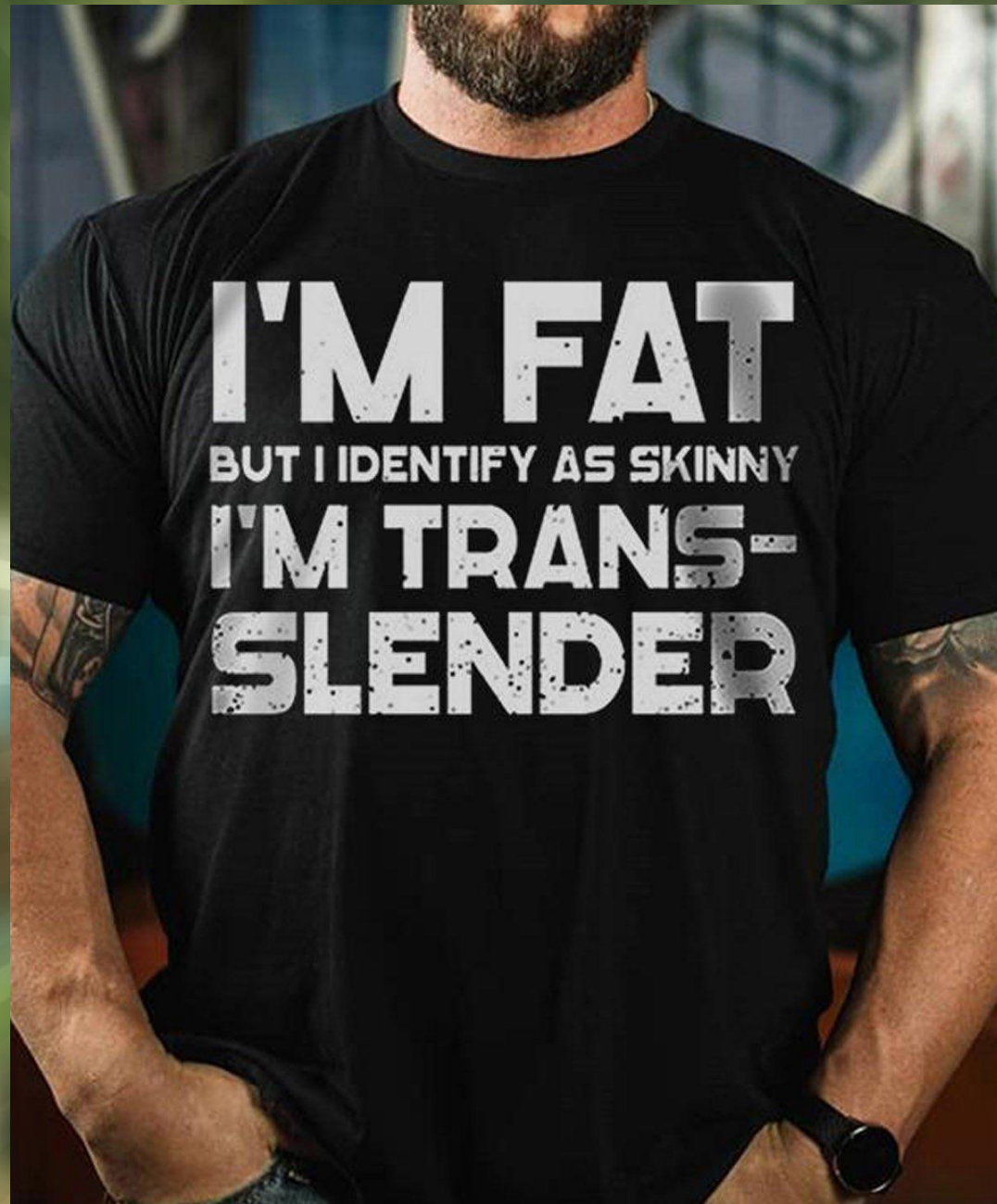
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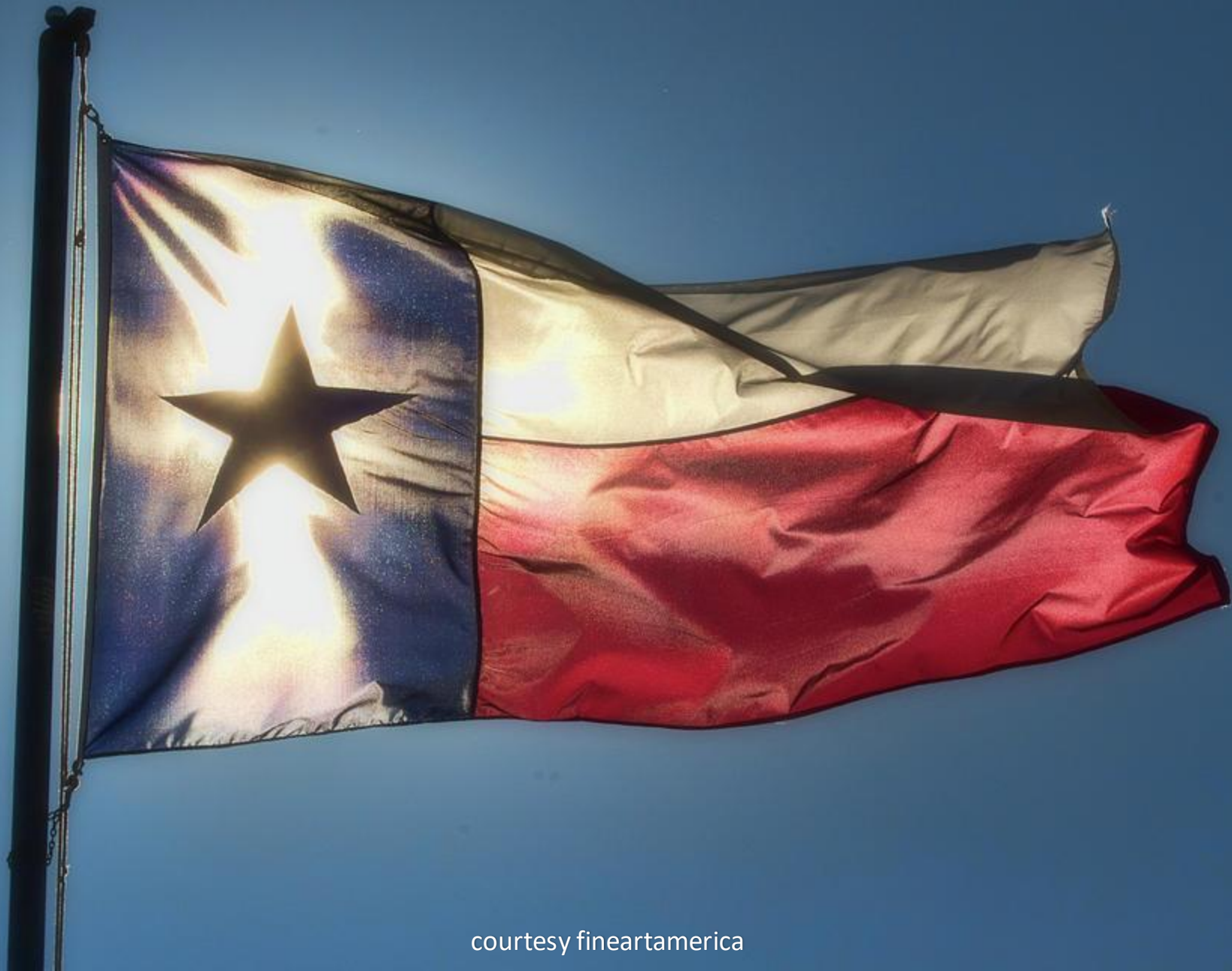
Kat. B. Photography



courtesy odysseyonline



courtesy pallasstudio



courtesy fineartamerica



courtesy huldailymail

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and responsibilities. It involves some tremendously astounding truths about us, but also faces us with some sobering facts.

– Jerry Bridges, *Who Am I?*

**27 So God created man in his own image;
he created him in the image of God;
he created them male and female.**

Genesis 1 CSB

**Out of the night that covers me,
Black as the pit from pole to pole,
I thank whatever gods may be
For my unconquerable soul.
It matters not how strait the gate,
How charged with punishments the scroll,
I am the master of my fate,
I am the captain of my soul.
*Invictus, William Ernest Henly***

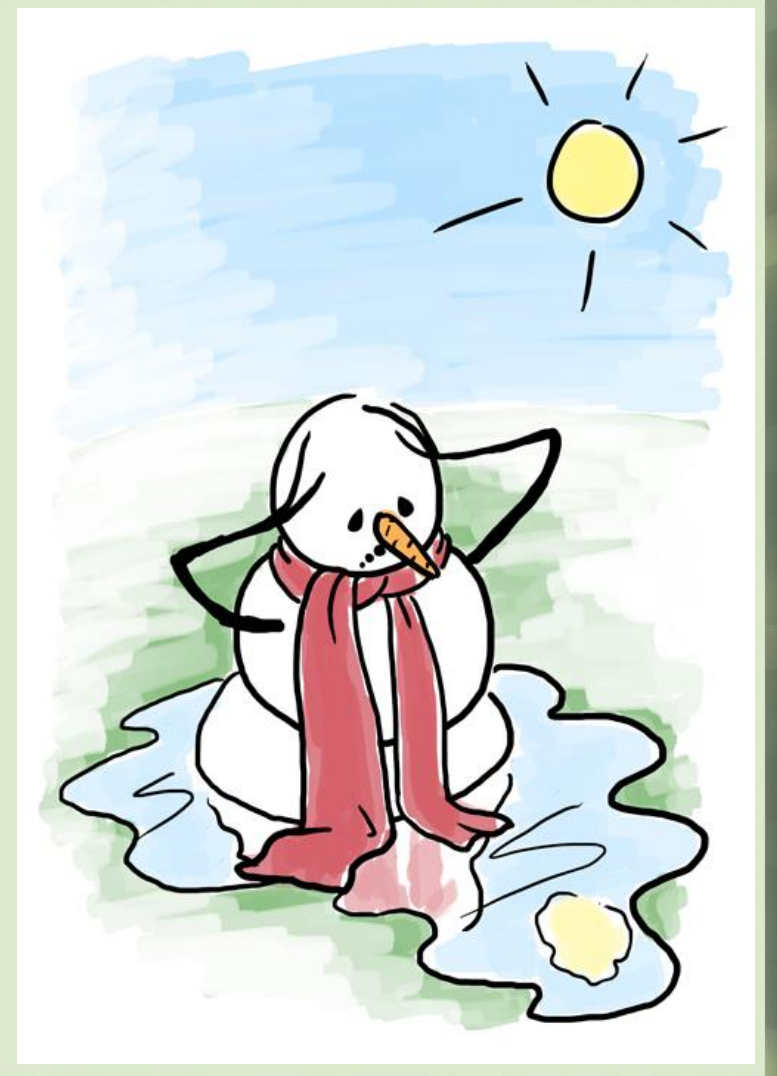
**²⁷ So God created
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Genesis 1 CSB

**27 So God created man in his own image;
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Genesis 1 CSB

1. We are materially limited.

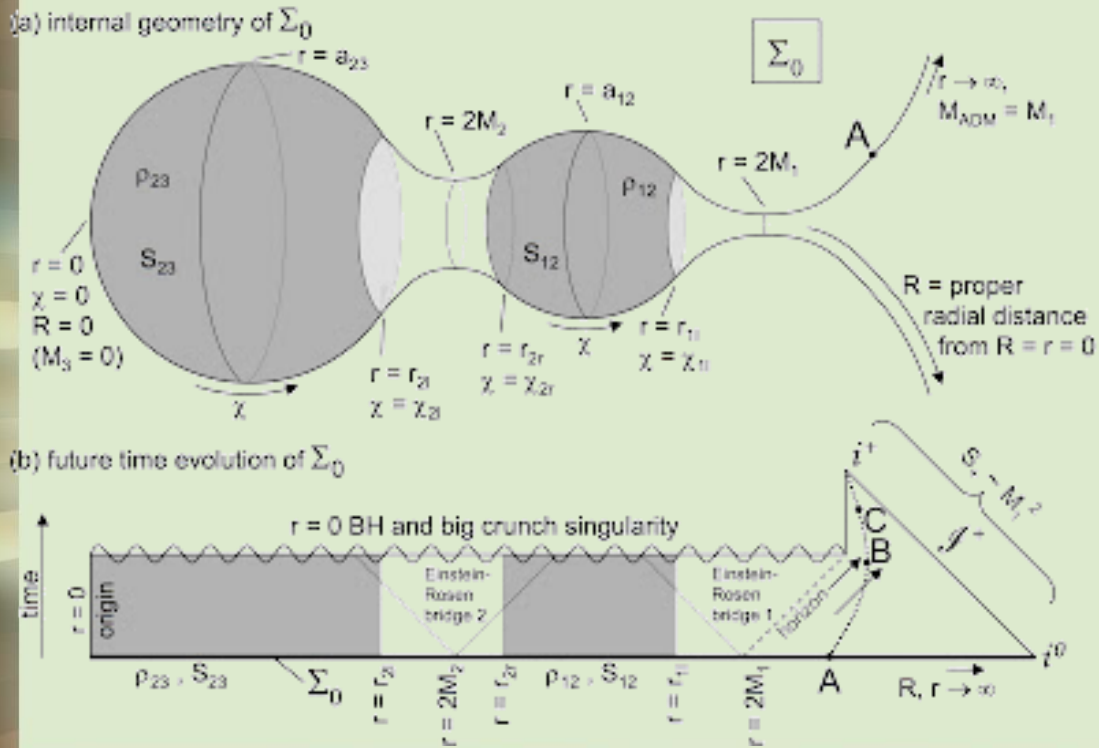


27 So God created man in his own image;
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 he created them male and female.

Genesis 1 CSB

1. We are materially limited.

Random chance is impossible
 because once a path is begun the
 infinite possibilities become finite.

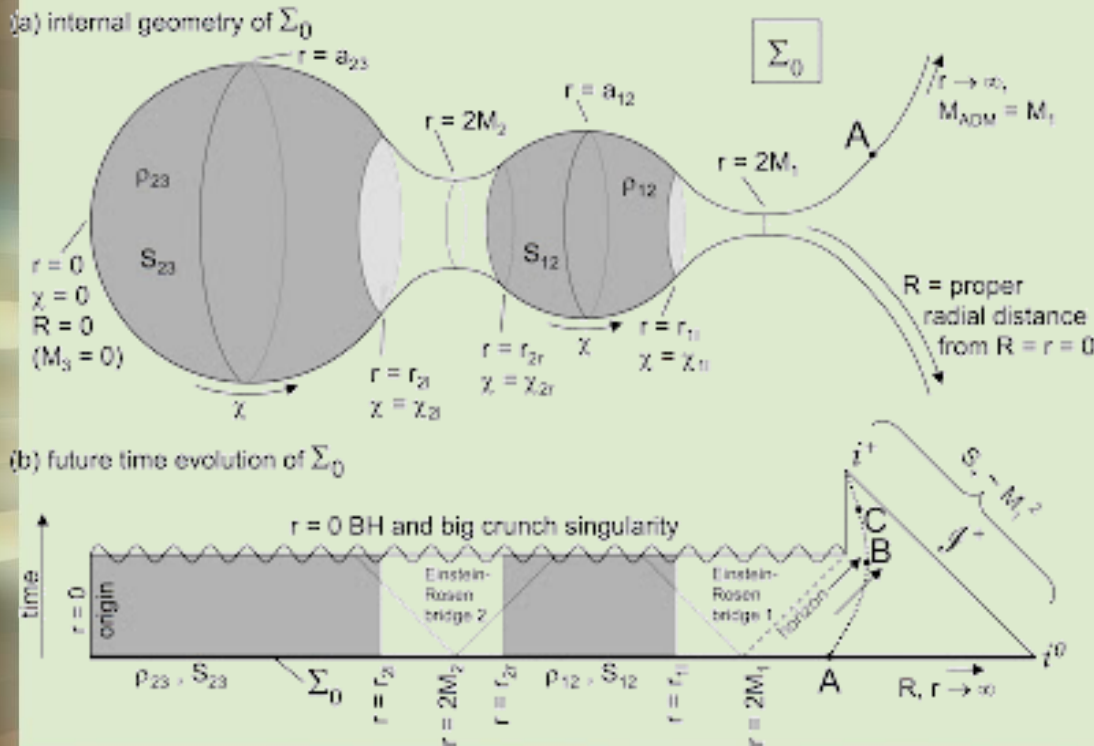


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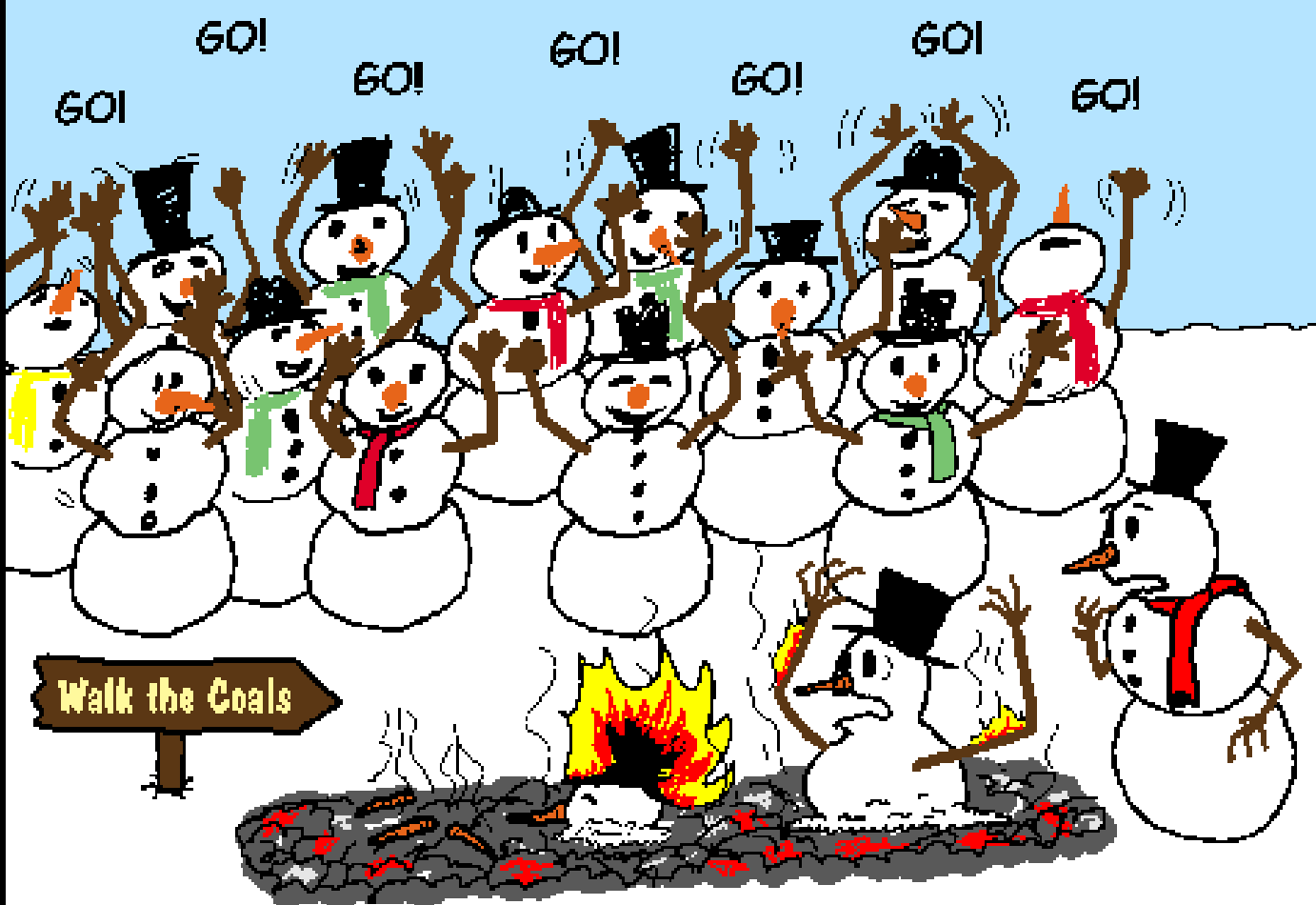
Genesis 1 CSB

1. We are materially limited.

Existing both in and beyond time-space, God is not bound by limitations. All created things lose infinite creativity once something is begun. Being uncreated, God does not.



3rd Annual Snowman Motivational Seminar



The Snowman's Motivational Congress was a good idea, but the founders realized this year they should never have included firewalking!

- We need food – see Psalm 145:15-16.
- We cannot will our lives to extend or end – see Psalm 31:15.
- We must hold our plans loosely as events are never completely under our control – see James 4:13-15.

To a Mouse

Upon Turning up her Nest, with the Plow, November 1785

But Mousie, thou art no thy-lane,
In proving foresight may be vain:
The best laid schemes o' Mice an' Men
Gang aft agley,
An' lea'e us nought but grief an' pain,
For promis'd joy!
Still, thou art blest, compar'd wi' me!
The present only toucheth thee:
But Och! I backward cast my e'e,
On prospects drear!
An' forward tho' I canna see,
I guess an' fear!



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¹ You were dead in your trespasses and sins ² in which you previously walked according to the ways of this world, according to the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit now working in the disobedient. ³ We too all previously lived among them in our fleshly desires, carrying out the inclinations of our flesh and thoughts, and we were by nature children under wrath as the others were also.

Ephesians 2 CSB

- 1. We are materially limited.**
- 2. We are immaterially vulnerable.**

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Ephesians 2 CSB

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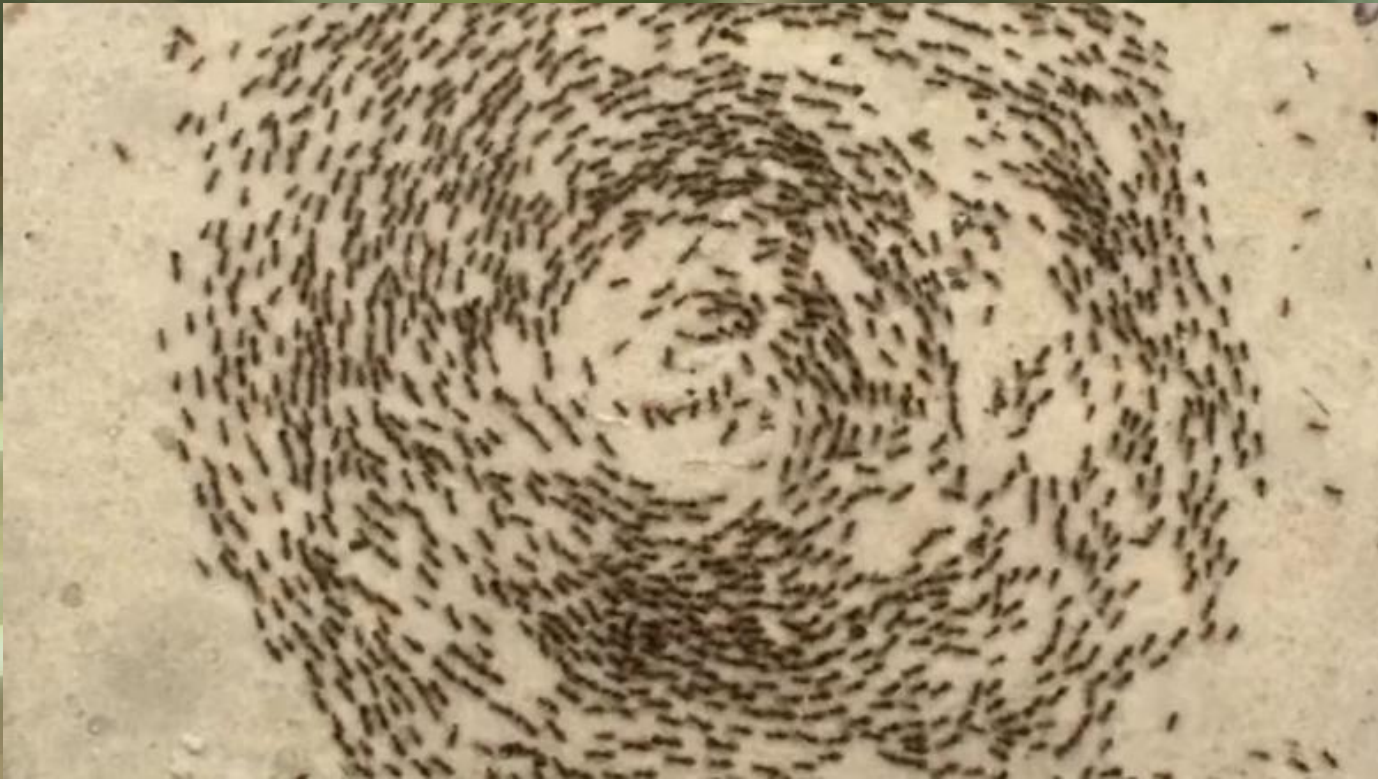


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Ephesians 2 CSB



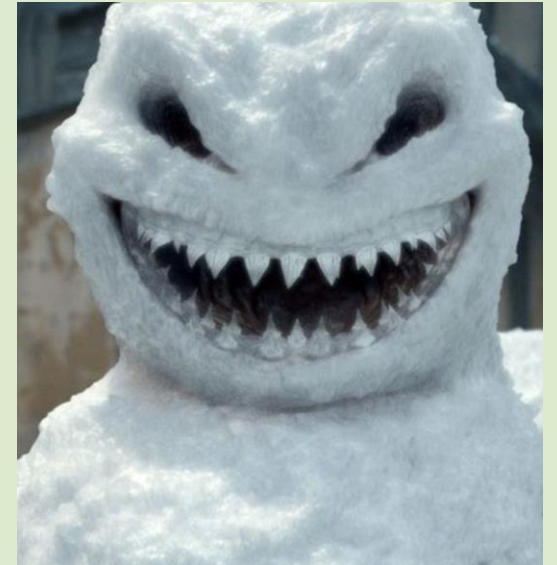
Lemmings
Joachim Lilie
2022



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Ephesians 2 CSB

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Please insert video here

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9amAdag1J9I>

Stop at :49.

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1. We are materially limited.

Ephesians 2 CSB

2. We are immaterially vulnerable.

All are included. It is not possible to say that anyone is exempted from the presence of sin and the enemies: world, the flesh, and the Devil.

– John Chrysostom

**27 So God created man in his own image;
he created him in the image of God;
he created them male and female.**

Genesis 1 CSB

12 Each of us will give an account of himself to God.

Romans 14 CSB

- 1. We are materially limited.**
- 2. We are immaterially vulnerable.**
- 3. We are morally accountable.**

Moral accountability shown via 4 trees



Tree of Life in the Garden
Daniel Colvin
2012



Tree of Knowledge of Good & Evil
Krzysztof Grudzinski
2018

*Crucifixion carved
into a cedar tree
in Lebanon*



14 Blessed are those who wash their robes [context: receive salvation by faith in Christ]. They will be permitted to enter through the gates of the [eternal] city and eat the fruit from the tree of life.

Revelation 22 NLT

Rev. 22 tree of life
Rebecca James
1987

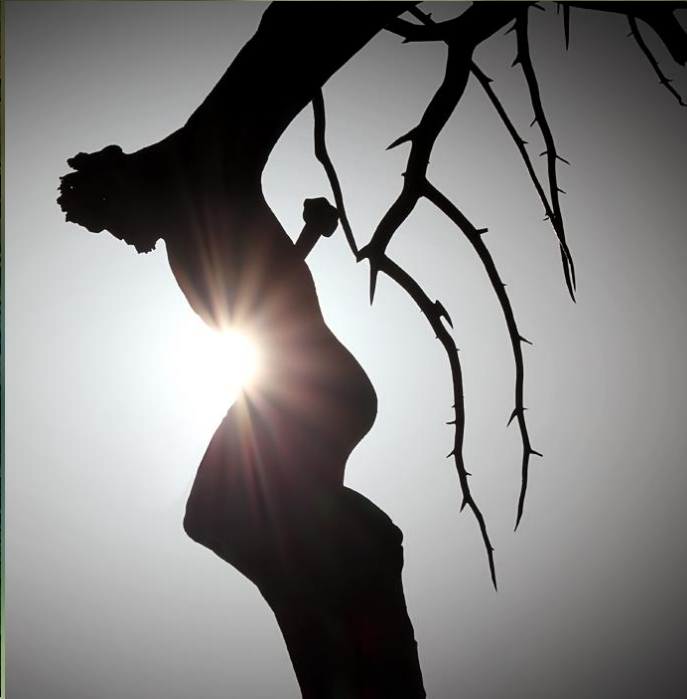




*Tree of Life in
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Crucifixion in cedar
Lebanon, Carl Sharbel



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Romans 14 CSB

- 1. We are materially limited.**
- 2. We are immaterially vulnerable.**
- 3. We are morally accountable.**

17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, and see, the new has come!

2 Corinthians 5 CSB

20 I have been crucified with Christ, and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Galatians 2 CSB

1. We are united to Jesus.

²⁰ I have been crucified with Christ, and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Galatians 3 CSB

“Who am I?” by Mark Hall

Who am I, that the Lord of all the earth

Would care to know my name

Would care to feel my hurt?

Who am I, that the Bright and Morning Star

Would choose to light the way

For my ever-wandering heart?



20 I have been crucified with Christ, and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Galatians 3 CSB

“Who am I?” by Mark Hall

**Not because of who I am
But because of what You’ve done
Not because of what I’ve done
But because of who You are**



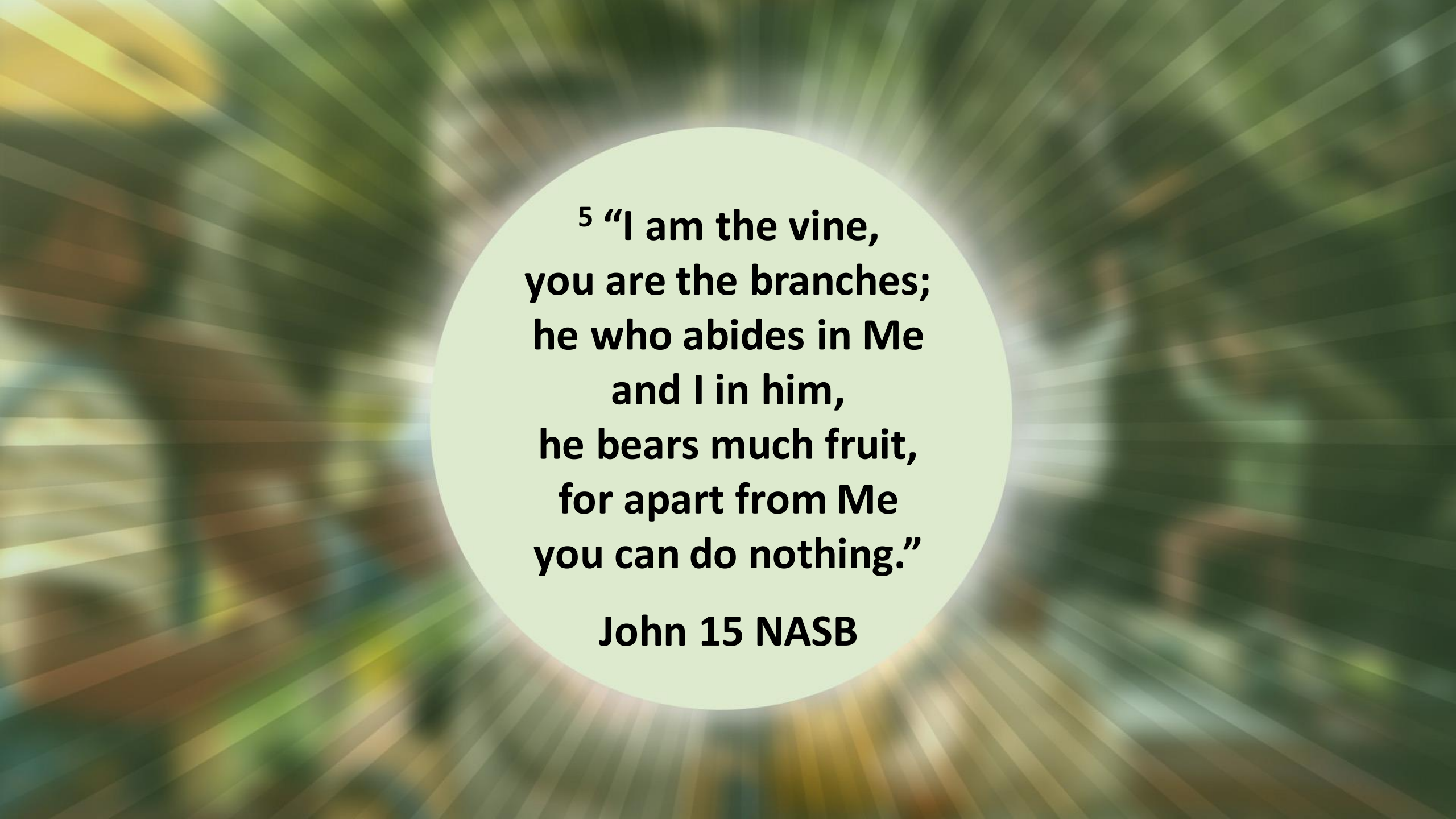
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Galatians 3 CSB

“Who am I?” by Mark Hall

**I am a flower quickly fading
Here today and gone tomorrow
A wave tossed in the ocean
A vapor in the wind**

**Still, You hear me when I'm calling
Lord, You catch me when I'm falling
And You've told me who I am
I am Yours, I am Yours**



**⁵ “I am the vine,
you are the branches;
he who abides in Me
and I in him,
he bears much fruit,
for apart from Me
you can do nothing.”**

John 15 NASB

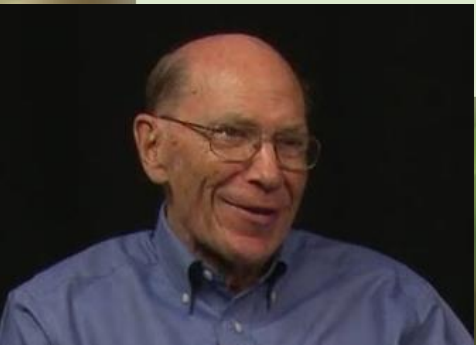
Whit diz it mean tae
bide in Jesus?





courtesy pinterest

I remember thinking my relationship with Christ was long distance. He was in heaven, and I was stuck here. Discouraged, I wondered what difference it made being in Christ. I took a morning off and sat beside a lake like this one. I read John 15, and something clicked. Then I devoured 1 Corinthians 1 and Romans 6 – all these “in Jesus” passages. I realized I didn’t get into a relationship with Jesus by my own doing – it was God’s work. He placed me there, and I can do nothing to get out anymore than I did to get in. I have a vital relationship with Jesus as a fellow partaker of His life. It’s not long-distance at all. It’s an ever-renewed life. – Jerry Bridges



³ Are you unaware that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ Therefore we were buried with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too may walk in newness of life.

Romans 6 CSB

¹⁶ The Spirit himself testifies together with our spirit that we are God's children, ¹⁷ and if children, also heirs—heirs of God and coheirs with Christ—if indeed we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him. ¹⁸ For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is going to be revealed to us.

Romans 8 CSB

- 1. We are united to Jesus.**
- 2. We are heirs in God's family.**



Trajan adopting Hadrian
A.D. 117 denarius

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Romans 8 CSB

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courtesy junkforgood



courtesy mls

18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is going to be revealed to us.

- We have an inheritance purchased for us.**
- There are hard days getting through all the junk of life and death.**
- The payoff is massively greater than the difficulties.**

Romans 8 CSB



**Access to God by high priest only, once/year only, with sacrificial blood only.
(See Hebrews 9:7-8.)**



**Access immediate and eternal in Christ.
(See Hebrews 4:15-16.)**





⁵ And you are living stones that God is building into his spiritual temple.

1 Peter 2 CSB

- 1. We are united to Jesus.**
- 2. We are heirs in God's family.**
- 3. We have complete access.**

17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, and see, the new has come!

2 Corinthians 5 CSB

Greek: κτίσις ktisis = creation from nothing, determined creation not by chance; what the Romans referred to as ex nihilo creation.

I am the master of my fate,
I am the captain of my soul.
Invictus, William Ernest Henly



Gen 1:27 So God created man in
his own image



Accept love
Debbi Adams
2013



**Hello, my name is regret
I'm pretty sure we have met
Every single day of your life
I'm the whisper inside
Won't let you forget**

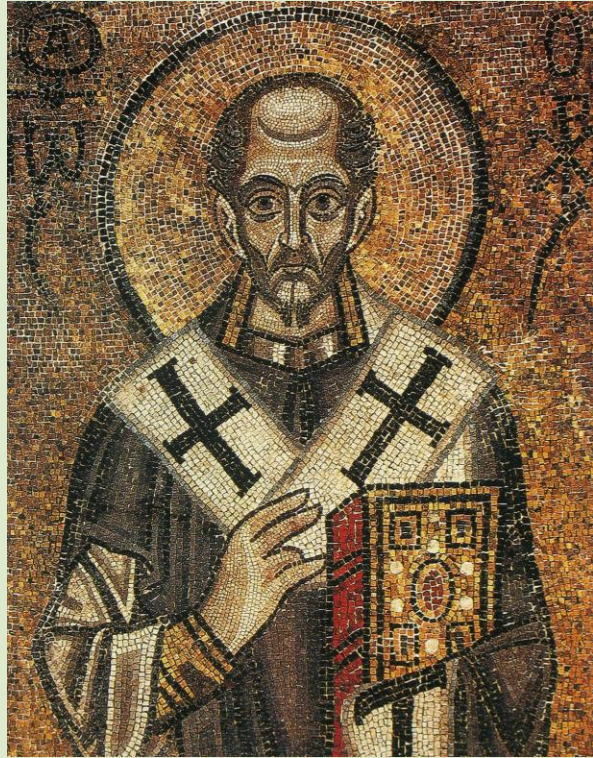


**Hello, my name is defeat
I know you recognize me
Just when you think you can win
I'll drag you right back down again
'Til you've lost all belief
These are the voices
These are the lies
And I have believed them
For the very last time**

**Hello, my name is child of the one true King
I've been saved, I've been changed, and I have been set free
Amazing grace is the song I sing
Hello, my name is child of the one true King
I am no longer defined
By all the wreckage behind
The One who makes all things new
Has proven it's true
Just take a look at my life
What a love the Father has lavished upon us
That we should be called His children
I am a child of the one true King**



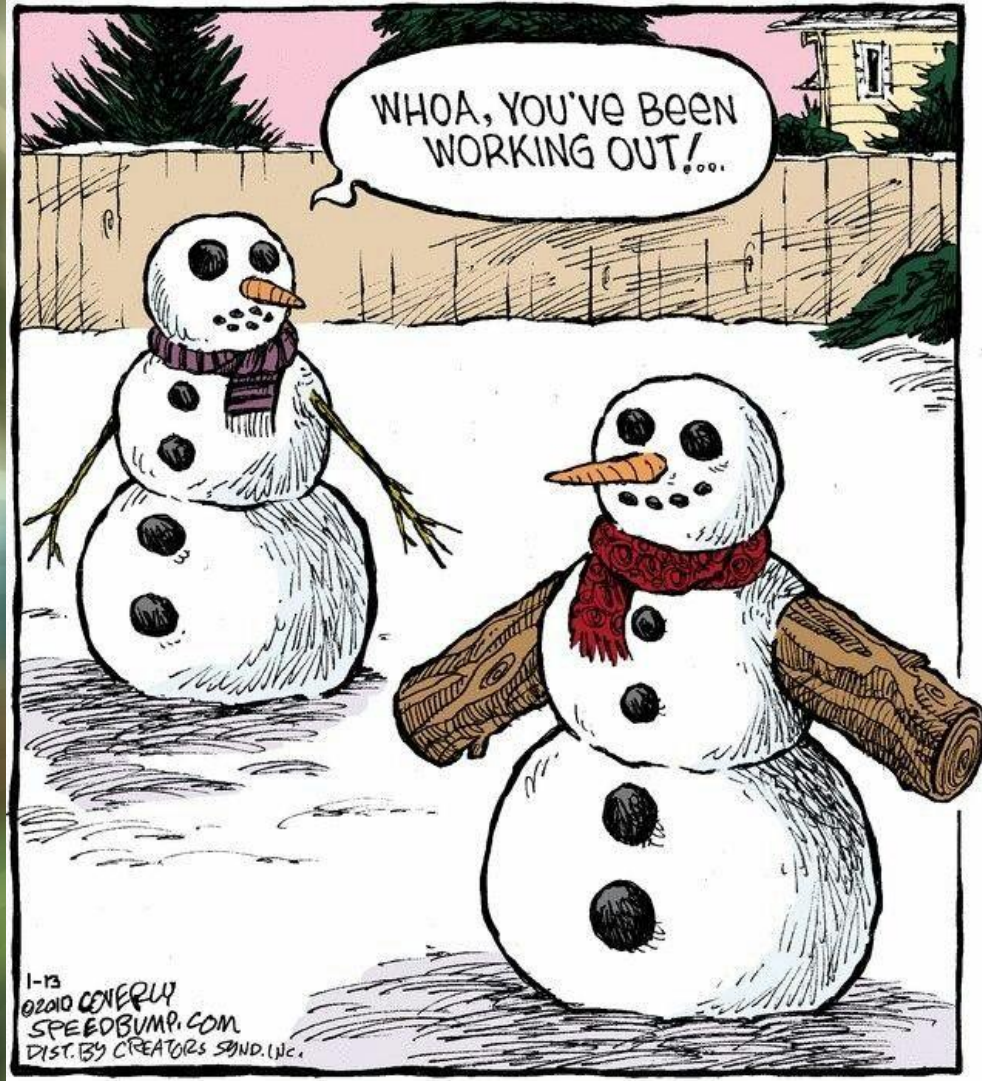
The idea that our being in Christ is all of God, and further, because we are in Christ, his very life flows into us, could lead to the impression that we have no responsibility or part to play in this relationship...Having been granted faith to believe in Christ (Ephesians 2:8-9 and Acts 16:14), we exercised it to trust him. [In the] same way, we must also exercise faith to draw upon the life and nourishment to comes us from Christ through our living union with him...He has, among other things, given us minds and wills through which he works so that we might think and exercise as Christians. – Jerry Bridges, *Who Am I?*



Esto quod apares.

Show outwardly who you really are.

– John Chrysostom, *Imperfect Homilies on Matthew*





**To find joy in loving self,
I should:**

- **recognize my need**
- **accept God's love**
- **work out who I am in Christ**
- **take advantage of access to my Father**



**FINDING JOY
IN LOVING
PEOPLE**