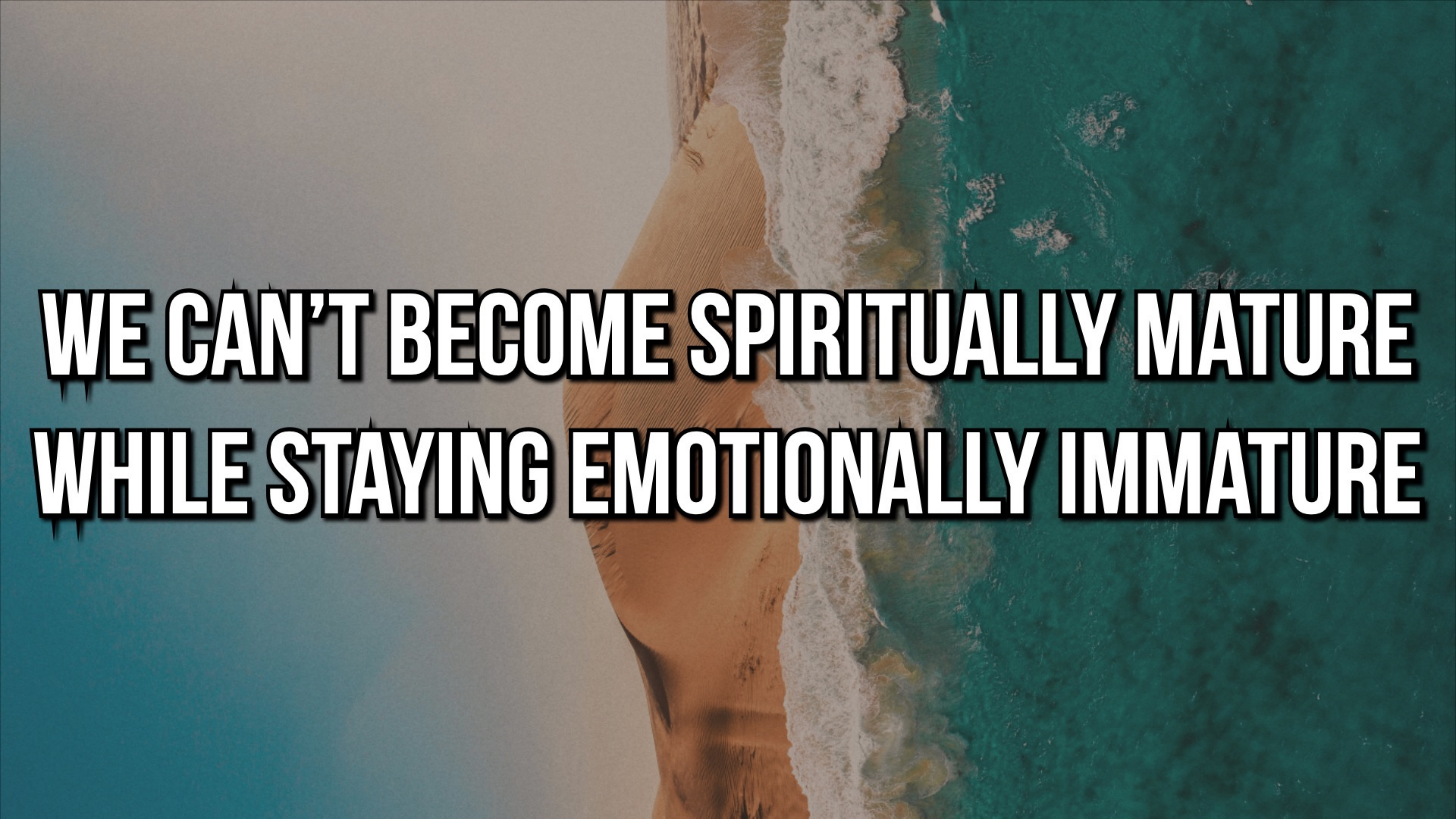


An aerial photograph of a coastline. On the left, a large, smooth sand dune slopes down towards the ocean. The ocean is a vibrant turquoise color with white foam from breaking waves visible along the shoreline. The sky is a clear, pale blue. The text 'BEYOND THE SURFACE' is overlaid on the image. 'BEYOND' is in a medium blue, italicized sans-serif font. 'THE' is in a dark brown, bold sans-serif font and is partially enclosed by a semi-transparent orange circle. 'SURFACE' is in a dark teal, italicized sans-serif font.

BEYOND

THE

SURFACE

An aerial photograph of a coastline. On the left, a wide, light-colored sandy beach stretches towards the horizon. To the right of the beach, the ocean is a deep turquoise color. White foam from breaking waves is visible along the shoreline, creating a jagged, irregular boundary between the sand and the water. The overall scene is serene and natural.

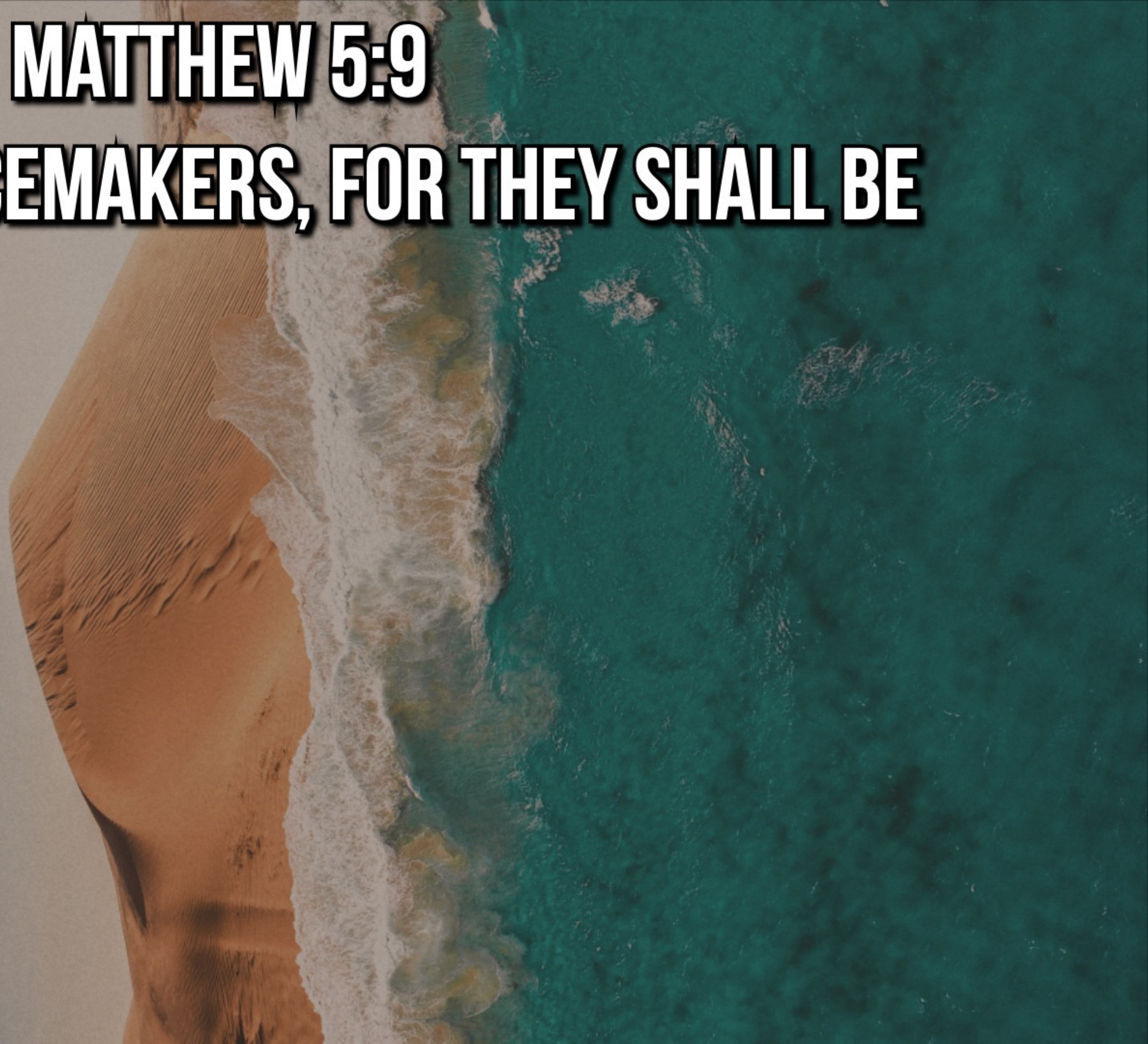
**WE CAN'T BECOME SPIRITUALLY MATURE
WHILE STAYING EMOTIONALLY IMMATURE**

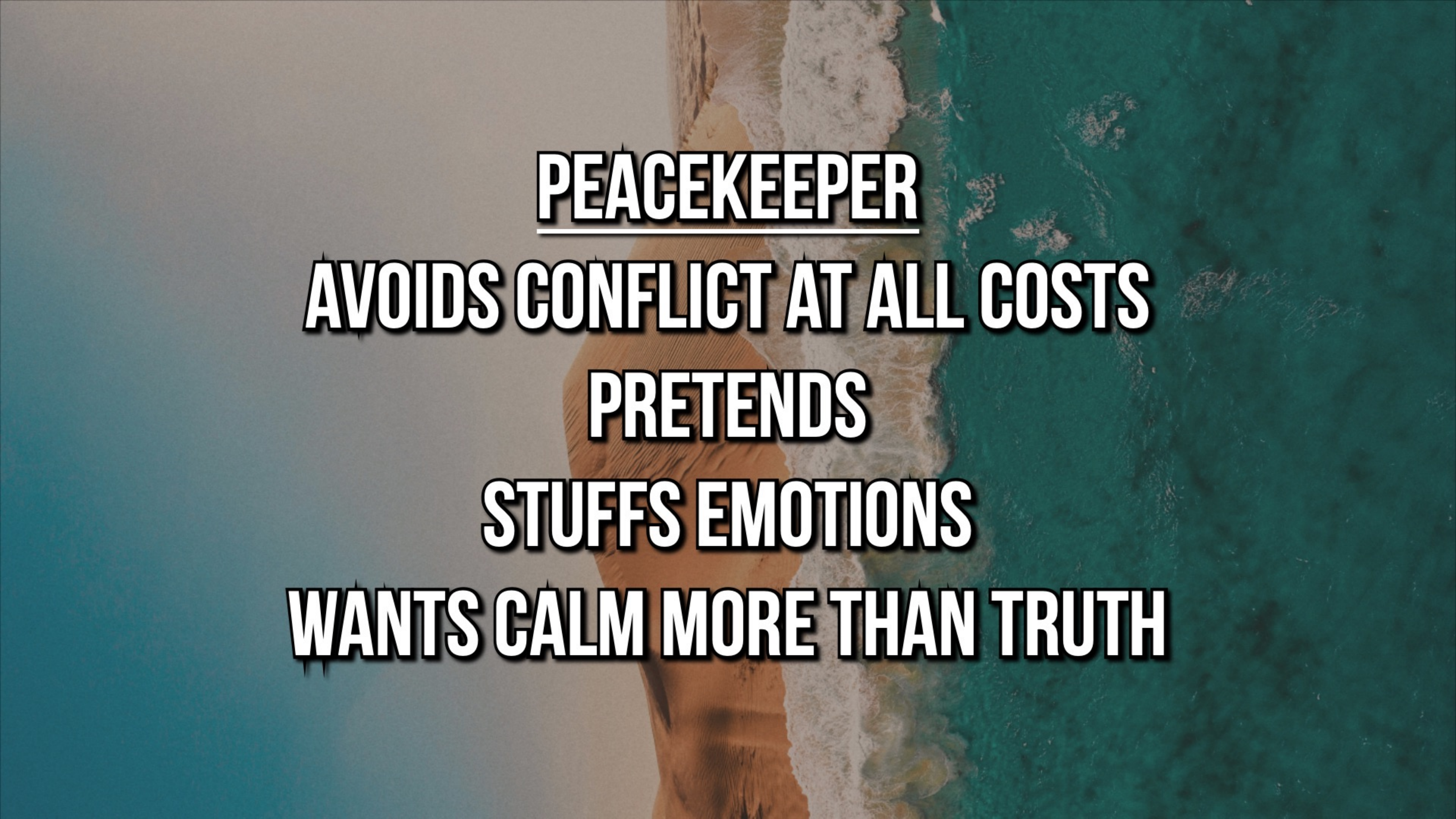
An aerial photograph of a coastline. A large, curved sand spit extends from the left towards the center. The water to the right of the spit is a vibrant turquoise color, while the water to the left is a lighter, pale blue. White surf is visible where the waves meet the shore.

PEACEMAKING VS PEACEKEEPING

MATTHEW 5:9

**BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS, FOR THEY SHALL BE
CALLED SONS OF GOD.**





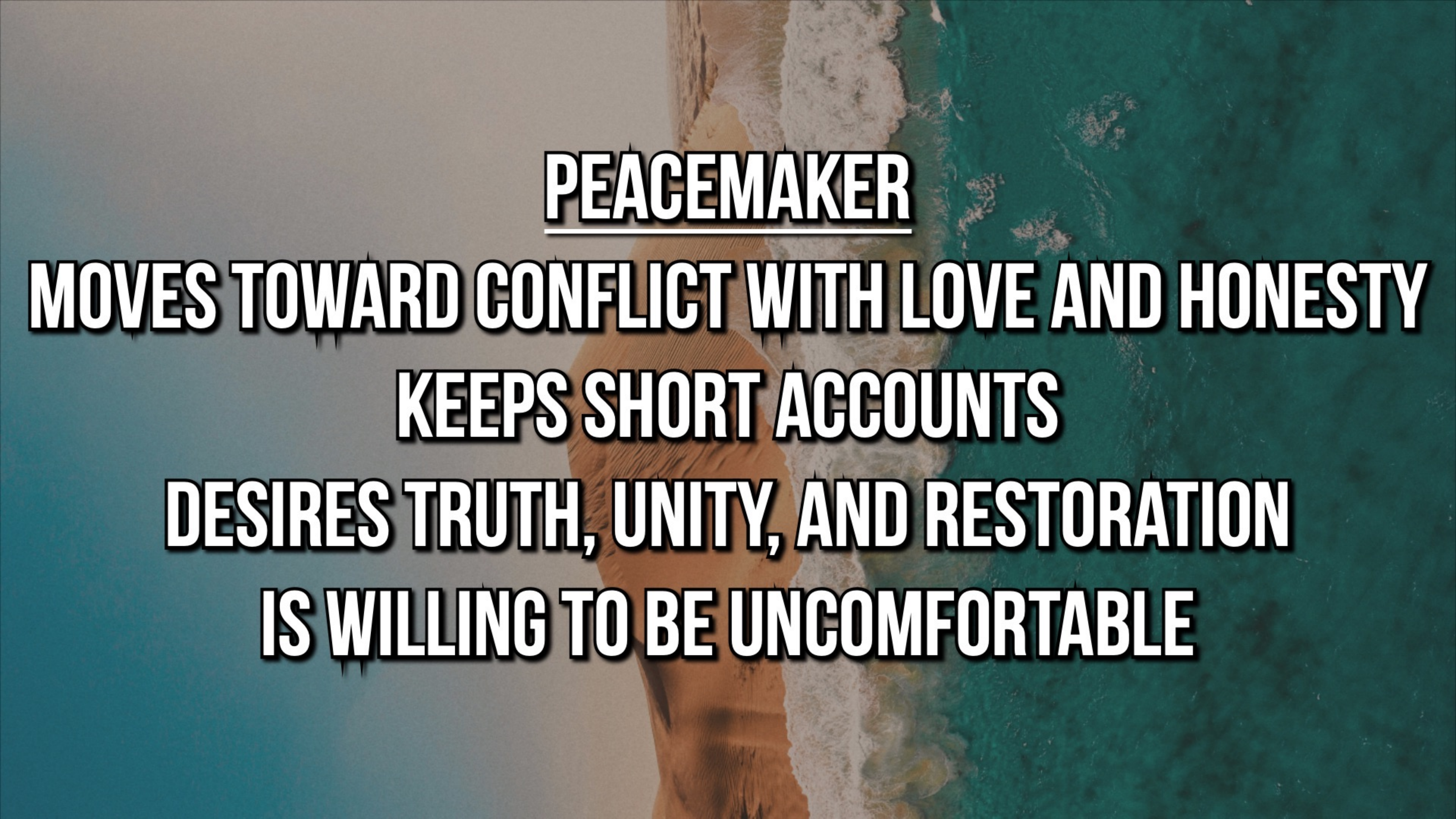
PEACEKEEPER

AVOIDS CONFLICT AT ALL COSTS

PRETENDS

STUFFS EMOTIONS

WANTS CALM MORE THAN TRUTH



PEACEMAKER

MOVES TOWARD CONFLICT WITH LOVE AND HONESTY

KEEPS SHORT ACCOUNTS

DESIRES TRUTH, UNITY, AND RESTORATION

IS WILLING TO BE UNCOMFORTABLE

An aerial photograph of a coastline. On the left, a vast, flat, light-colored landscape, possibly a salt flat or dry lake bed, meets a sandy beach. The beach curves along the edge of a vibrant turquoise ocean. White foam from breaking waves is visible where the water meets the shore. The overall scene is serene and natural.

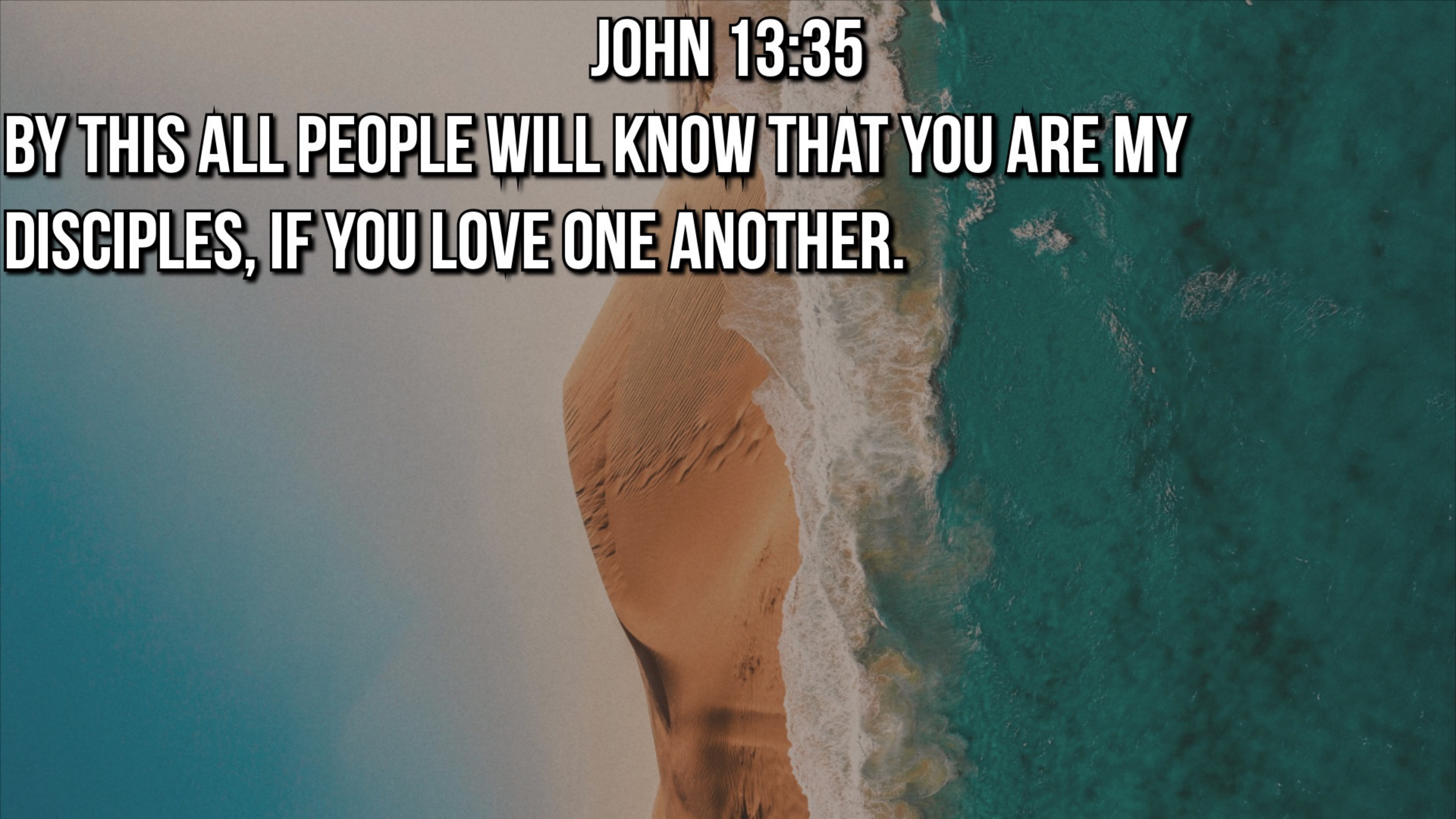
RECONCILIATION MATTERS

An aerial photograph of a coastline. On the left, a vast, light blue sky meets a pale, hazy sea. A narrow, golden-brown sandy beach curves along the shore. To the right of the beach, the ocean transitions into a deep, vibrant turquoise color, with white foam from breaking waves visible near the shore. The overall scene is serene and clean.

CHRISTIANS FIGHT CLEANLY

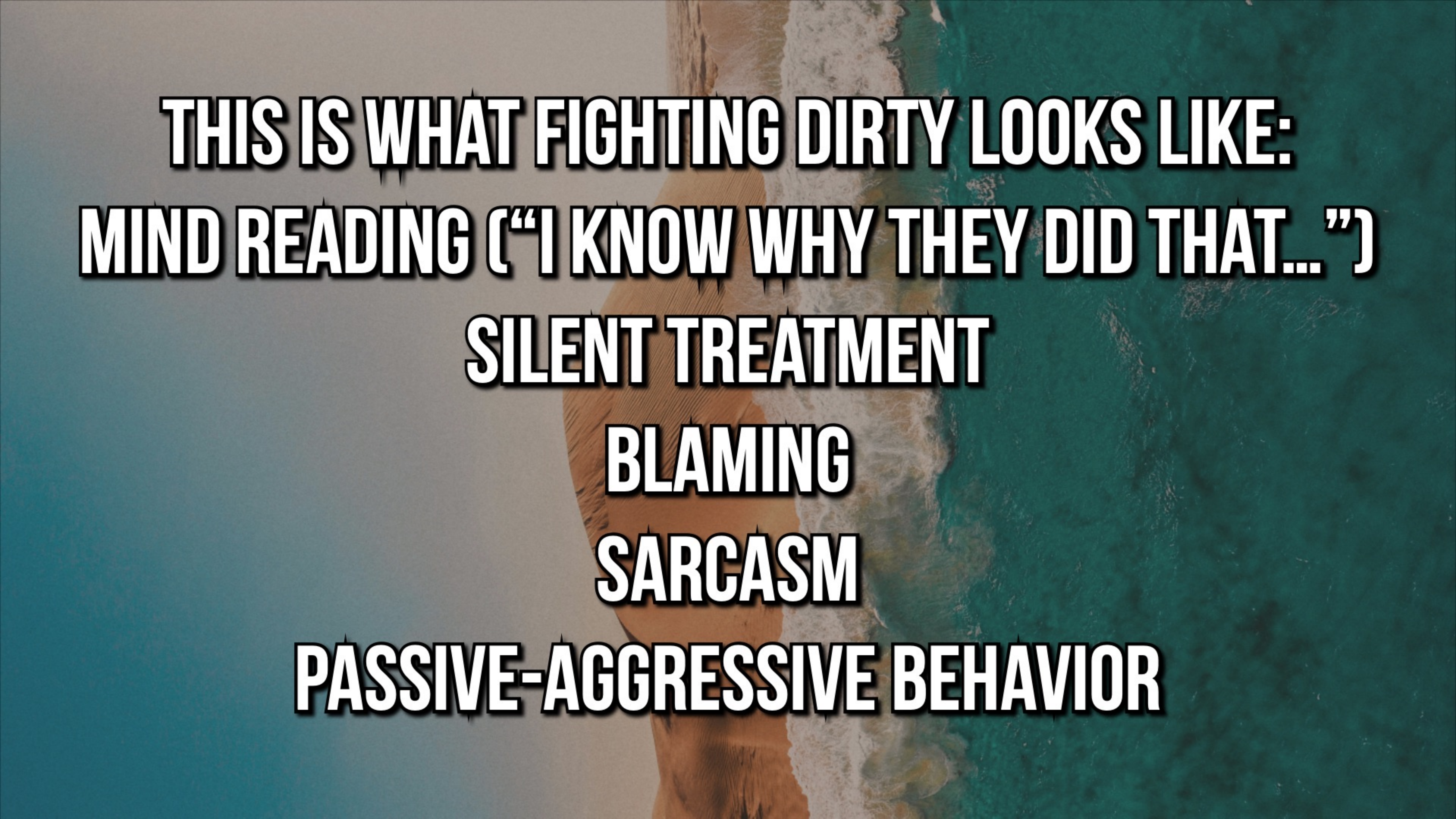
JOHN 13:35

**BY THIS ALL PEOPLE WILL KNOW THAT YOU ARE MY
DISCIPLES, IF YOU LOVE ONE ANOTHER.**



An aerial photograph of a coastal landscape. On the left, a vast, flat, light-colored sandy area stretches towards the horizon. In the center, a large, smooth, golden-brown sand dune curves diagonally from the top left towards the bottom right. To the right of the dune, the ocean's edge is visible, with white foam from breaking waves washing onto a narrow strip of beach. The water beyond the shore is a deep, vibrant turquoise color, showing some darker patches of seabed or rocks. The overall scene is serene and natural.

WHY WE AVOID CONFLICT



**THIS IS WHAT FIGHTING DIRTY LOOKS LIKE:
MIND READING (“I KNOW WHY THEY DID THAT...”)**

SILENT TREATMENT

BLAMING

SARCASM

PASSIVE-AGGRESSIVE BEHAVIOR

THIS IS WHAT FIGHTING DIRTY LOOKS LIKE:

CHARACTER ASSASSINATION

WITHDRAWING AFFECTION

STONEWALLING

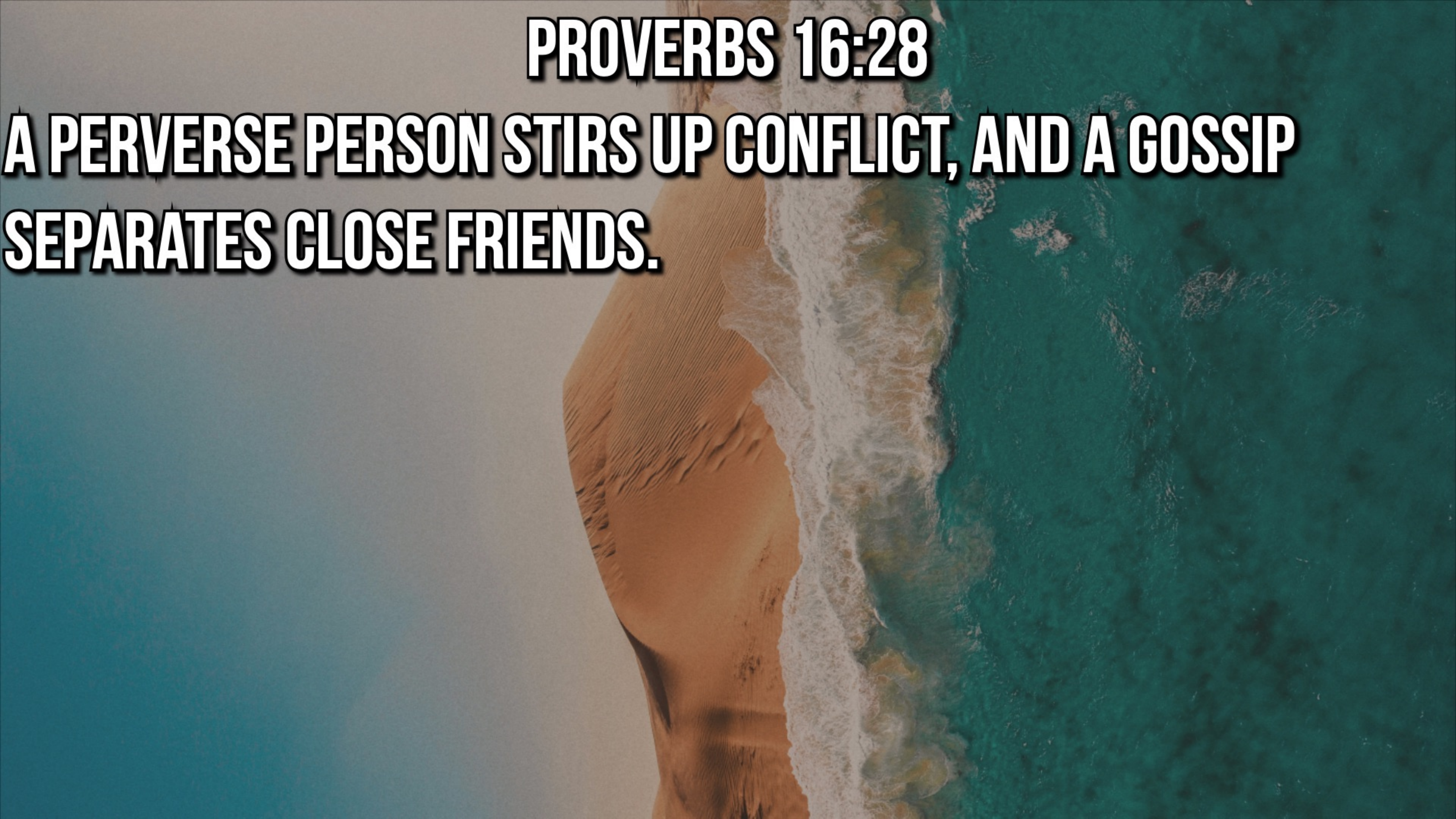
KEEPING SCORE

“PRAYER-REQUEST” GOSSIP

TELLING EVERYONE EXCEPT THE PERSON

PROVERBS 16:28

**A PERVERSE PERSON STIRS UP CONFLICT, AND A GOSSIP
SEPARATES CLOSE FRIENDS.**



MATTHEW 5:23-24

**THEREFORE, IF YOU BRING YOUR GIFT TO THE ALTAR, AND
THERE REMEMBER THAT YOUR BROTHER HAS SOMETHING
AGAINST YOU, LEAVE YOUR GIFT THERE BEFORE THE ALTAR,
AND GO YOUR WAY. FIRST BE RECONCILED TO YOUR BROTHER,
AND THEN COME AND OFFER YOUR GIFT.**

An aerial photograph of a coastline. On the left, a vast, flat, light-colored sandy beach stretches towards the horizon. To the right of the beach, the ocean is visible, with white foam from breaking waves creating a jagged line between the land and the water. The water itself is a deep, dark teal color. The overall scene is captured from a high angle, looking down at the landscape.

3 STEPS TO RESOLVING CONFLICT

MATTHEW 18:15–17

IF ANOTHER BELIEVER SINS AGAINST YOU, GO PRIVATELY AND POINT OUT THE OFFENSE. IF THE OTHER PERSON LISTENS AND CONFESSES IT, YOU HAVE WON THAT PERSON BACK.¹⁶ BUT IF YOU ARE UNSUCCESSFUL, TAKE ONE OR TWO OTHERS WITH YOU AND GO BACK AGAIN, SO THAT EVERYTHING YOU SAY MAY BE CONFIRMED BY TWO OR THREE WITNESSES.

MATTHEW 18:15—17

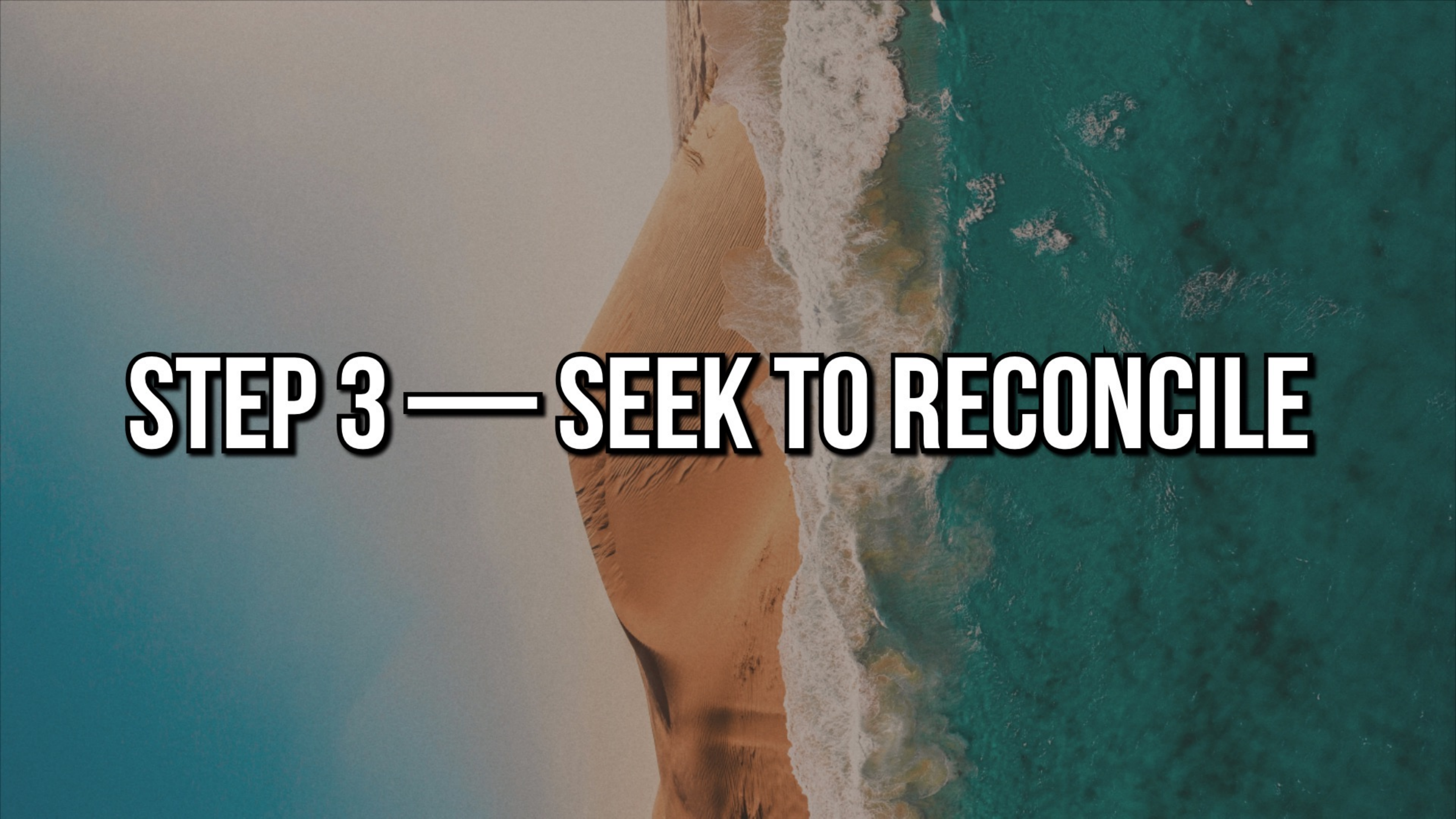
¹⁷ IF THE PERSON STILL REFUSES TO LISTEN, TAKE YOUR CASE TO THE CHURCH. THEN IF HE OR SHE WON'T ACCEPT THE CHURCH'S DECISION, TREAT THAT PERSON AS A PAGAN OR A CORRUPT TAX COLLECTOR.

An aerial photograph of a coastline. On the right, there is a deep turquoise ocean with some white foam from waves breaking. A narrow strip of white sand beach separates the ocean from a larger area of golden-brown sand on the left. The sky is a pale, hazy blue. The text 'STEP 1 — GO' is overlaid in the center of the image.

STEP 1 — GO

An aerial photograph of a coastline. On the left, a vast, flat, light-colored beach stretches towards the horizon. To the right, the ocean is a deep teal color with white foam from waves breaking along the shore. The text "STEP 2 — IN PRIVATE" is overlaid in the center, spanning across the beach and the water.

STEP 2 — IN PRIVATE

An aerial photograph of a coastline. On the right, there is a vibrant turquoise ocean with visible ripples and some white foam from waves breaking near the shore. A narrow strip of white sand beach separates the water from a larger area of golden-brown sand on the left. The sky is a pale, hazy blue. The text 'STEP 3 — SEEK TO RECONCILE' is overlaid in the center, spanning across the beach and water areas.

STEP 3 — SEEK TO RECONCILE



**YOUR KIDS LEARN:
HOW TO APOLOGIZE
HOW TO FORGIVE
HOW TO TALK THROUGH ANGER
HOW TO DISAGREE RESPECTFULLY
HOW TO RECONCILE
...BY WATCHING YOU**

“FIGHTING CLEANLY”: PRACTICAL STEPS

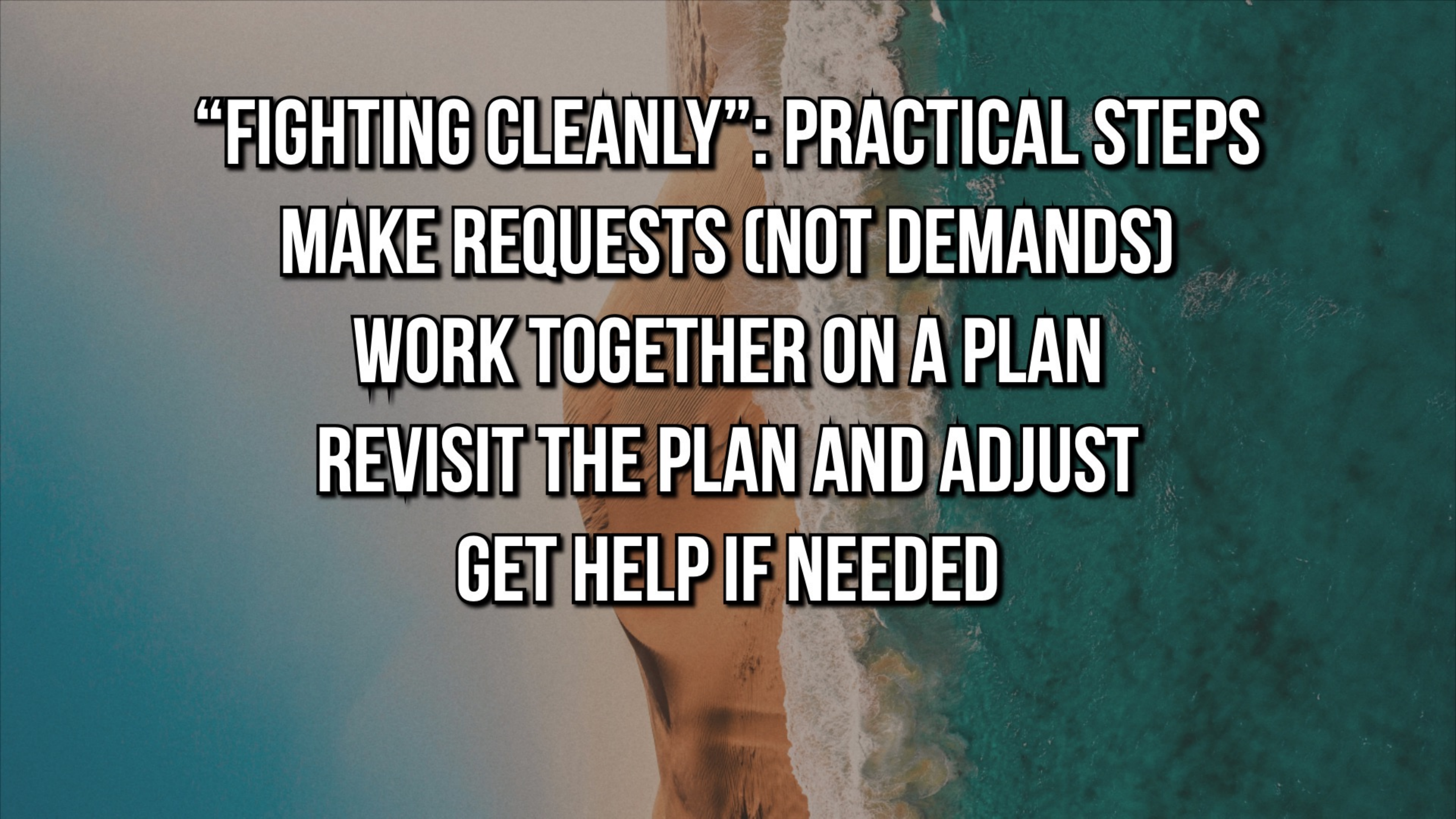
ASK PERMISSION TO TALK

USE “I” STATEMENTS (NOT “YOU ALWAYS...”)

EXPRESS VALUE FOR THE RELATIONSHIP

DESCRIBE HOW YOU FEEL

INVITE THEM TO SHARE THEIR PERSPECTIVE



“FIGHTING CLEANLY”: PRACTICAL STEPS

MAKE REQUESTS (NOT DEMANDS)

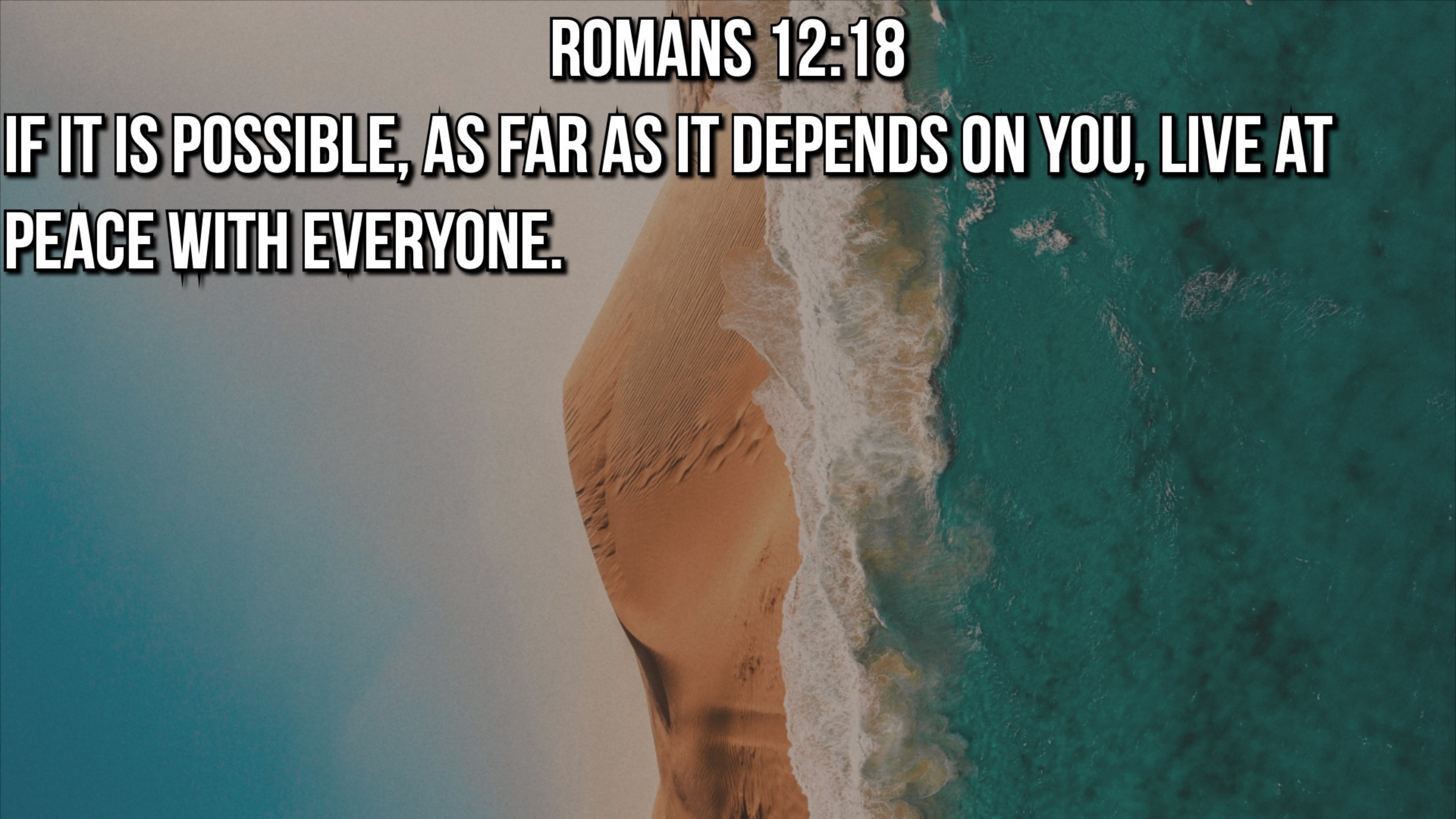
WORK TOGETHER ON A PLAN

REVISIT THE PLAN AND ADJUST

GET HELP IF NEEDED

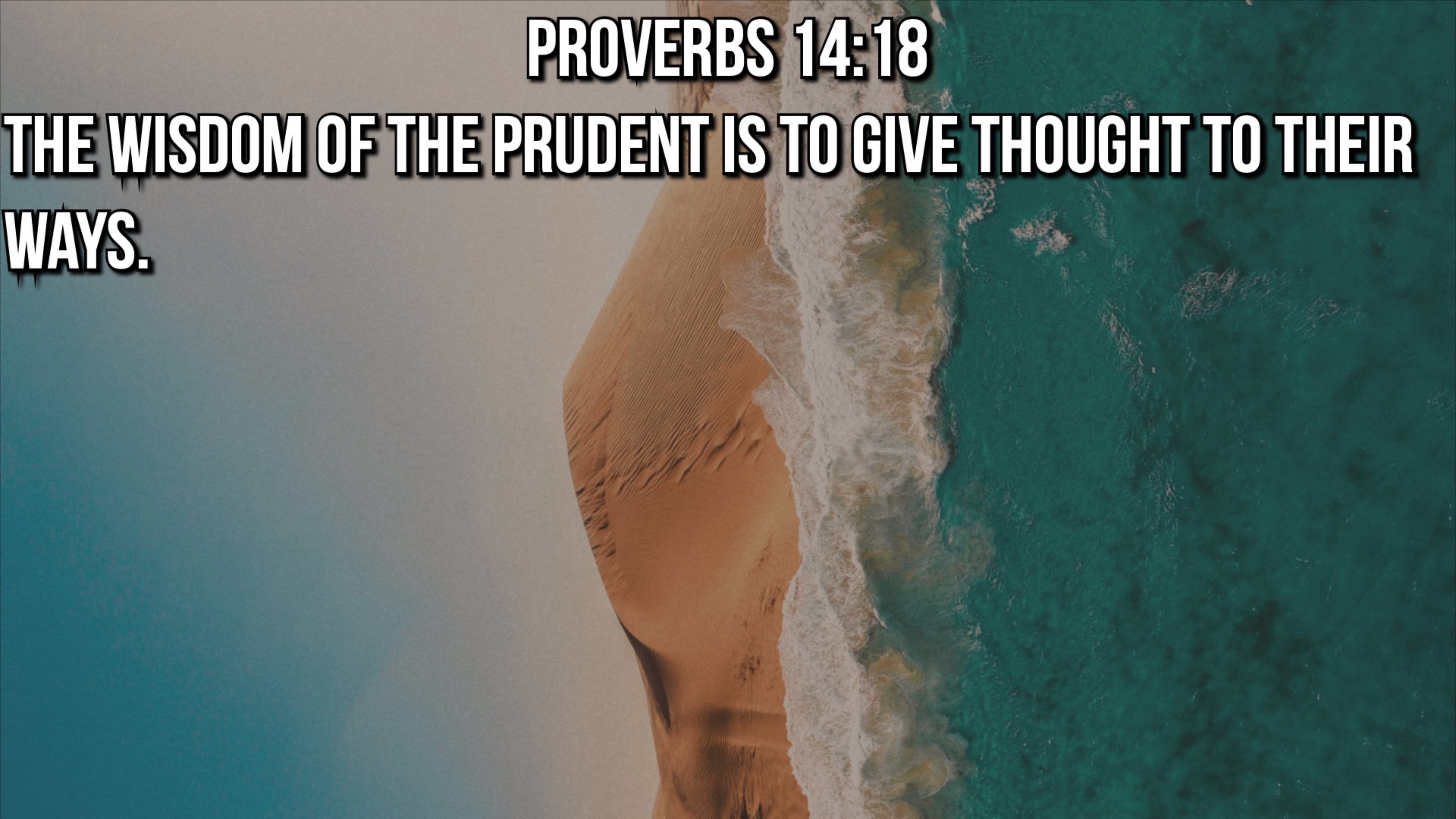
ROMANS 12:18

**IF IT IS POSSIBLE, AS FAR AS IT DEPENDS ON YOU, LIVE AT
PEACE WITH EVERYONE.**



PROVERBS 14:18

**THE WISDOM OF THE PRUDENT IS TO GIVE THOUGHT TO THEIR
WAYS.**

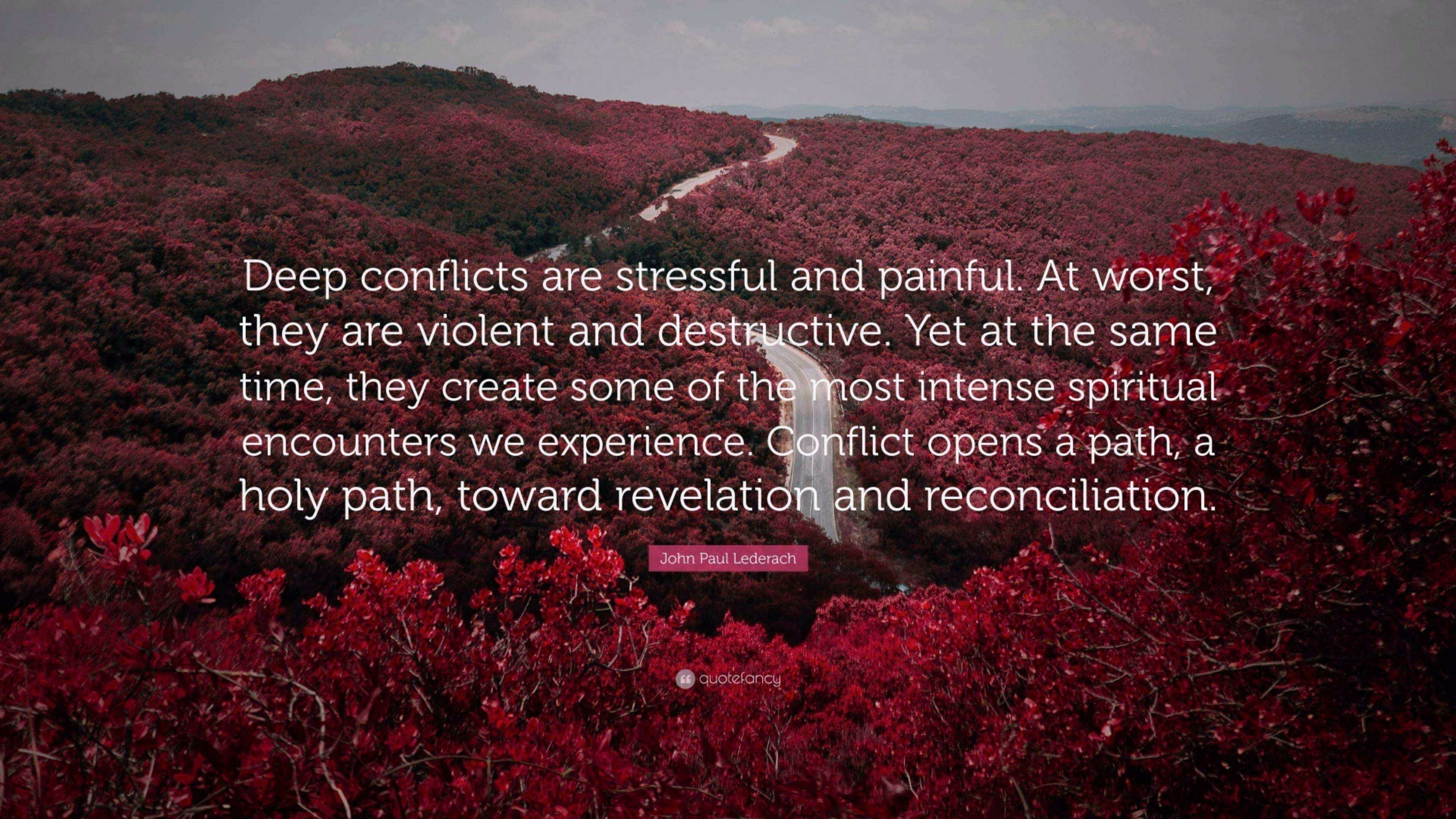


The signs of sin entering conflict appear when we want to be God, when we assume superiority, when we oppress, when we try to lord it over others, when we refuse to listen, when we discount and exclude others, when we hold back deep feelings, when we avoid, when we hate, and when we project blame with no self-reflection.

John Paul Lederach

“ quote fancy



A scenic landscape photograph featuring a winding asphalt road that curves through a dense forest. The trees are in full autumn foliage, displaying a rich palette of reds, oranges, and yellows. The road starts in the lower center and winds upwards and to the left, disappearing into the distance. The sky is overcast with soft, grey clouds. The overall mood is contemplative and serene.

Deep conflicts are stressful and painful. At worst, they are violent and destructive. Yet at the same time, they create some of the most intense spiritual encounters we experience. Conflict opens a path, a holy path, toward revelation and reconciliation.

John Paul Lederach

An aerial photograph of a coastline. On the left, a large, smooth sand dune slopes down towards the ocean. The ocean is a vibrant turquoise color with white foam from breaking waves visible along the shoreline. The sky is a clear, pale blue. The text 'BEYOND THE SURFACE' is overlaid on the image. 'BEYOND' is in a medium blue, italicized sans-serif font. 'THE' is in a dark brown, bold sans-serif font and is partially enclosed by a semi-transparent orange circle. 'SURFACE' is in a dark teal, italicized sans-serif font.

BEYOND

THE

SURFACE