

A close-up photograph of two vibrant green leaves. The leaf in the foreground is slightly out of focus, while the one behind it is sharper. A single, clear water droplet is perched on the surface of the front leaf, reflecting light. The background is a dark, blurred brown.

*First*  
*Corinthians*

growing pains

“Healthy Church Culture” | Elder Mike Tam | September 21, 2025

## 1 Corinthians 12:12-31 (NIV)

<sup>12</sup> Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ.

<sup>13</sup> For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body— whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free— and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.

<sup>14</sup> Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many.

## 1 Corinthians 12:12-31 (NIV)

<sup>15</sup> Now if the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason stop being a part of the body. <sup>16</sup> And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason stop being part of the body.

## 1 Corinthians 12:12-31 (NIV)

<sup>17</sup> If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? <sup>18</sup> But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. <sup>19</sup> If they were all one part, where would the body be? <sup>20</sup> As it is, there are many parts, but one body.

## 1 Corinthians 12:12-31 (NIV)

<sup>21</sup> The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" And the head cannot say to the feet, "I don't need you!"

## 1 Corinthians 12:12-31 (NIV)

<sup>22</sup> On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, <sup>23</sup> and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, <sup>24</sup> while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the parts that lacked it, <sup>25</sup> so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other.

## 1 Corinthians 12:12-31 (NIV)

<sup>26</sup> If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.

<sup>27</sup> Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. <sup>28</sup> And God has placed in the church first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, of helping, of guidance, and of different kinds of tongues.

## 1 Corinthians 12:12-31 (NIV)

<sup>29</sup> Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? <sup>30</sup> Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? <sup>31</sup> Now eagerly desire the greater gifts.

And yet I will show you the most excellent way.

**Speaker: The Word of the LORD.**

**Congregation: Amen! Praise be to God.**

# Roadmap of Today's Passage

1. What God says about us
2. What we say about us
3. What others say about us
4. What God hopes for us: Healthy Church Culture

# 1. WHAT GOD SAYS ABOUT US

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### 3. WHAT OTHERS SAY ABOUT US

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1 Corinthians 12:12-31 (NIV)

## 4. GOD WANTS HEALTHY CHURCH CULTURE

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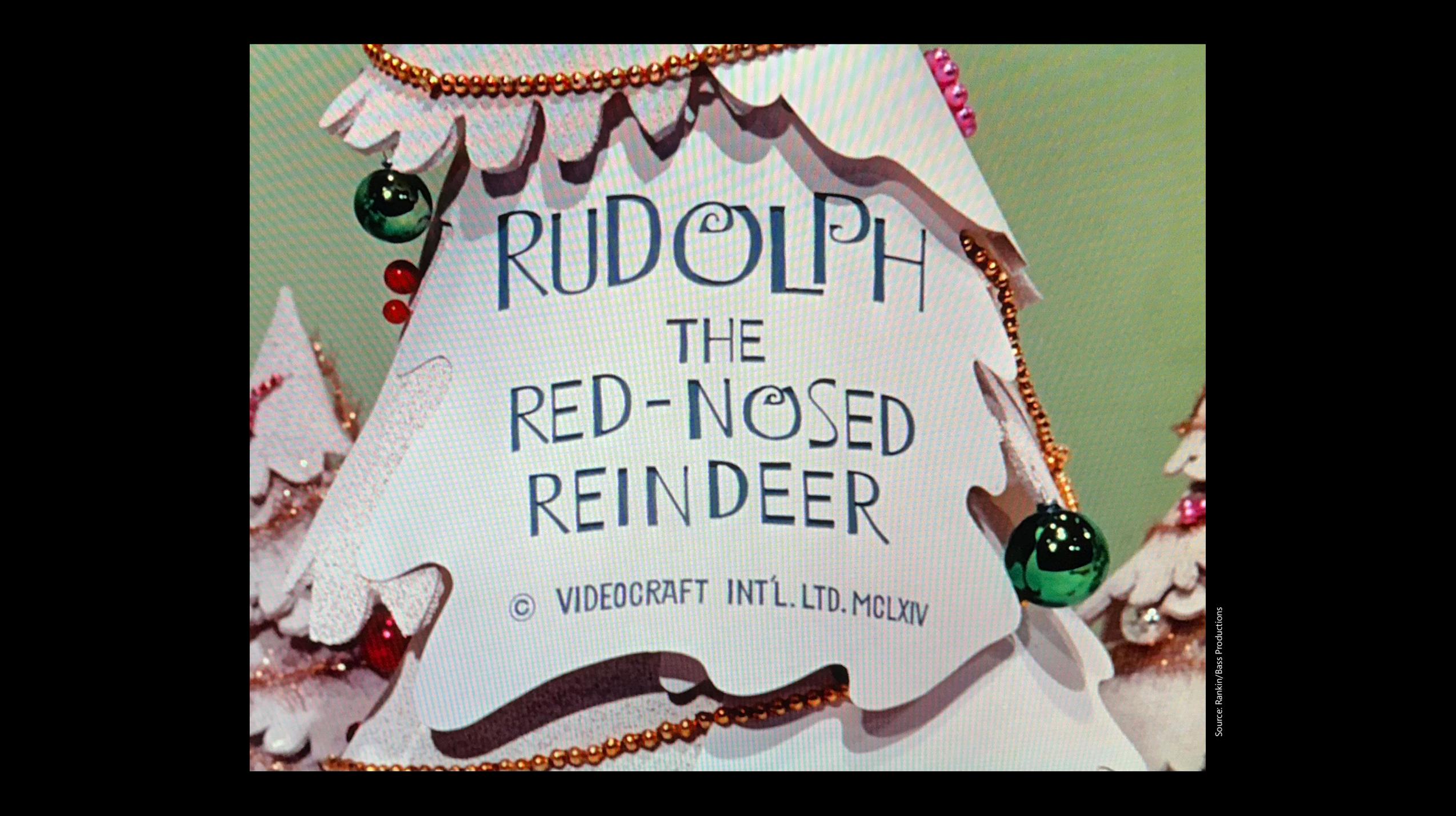
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And yet I will show you the most excellent way.

1 Corinthians 12:12-31 (NIV)



RUDOLPH  
THE  
RED-NOSED  
REINDEER

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Source: Rankin/Bass Productions

# Roadmap of Today's Passage

1. What God says about us
2. What we say about us
3. What others say about us
4. What God hopes for us: Healthy Church Culture

# Roadmap of Today's Passage

1. What God says about us (truth)
2. What we say about us (opinion)
3. What others say about us (opinion)
4. What God hopes for us: Healthy Church Culture

## Psalm 14:1 (ESV)

<sup>1</sup> The fool says in his heart, "There is no God."

They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds;  
there is none who does good.

## Psalm 14:1 (ESV)

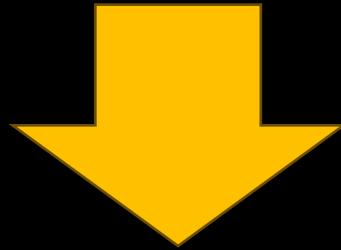
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OPINION

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OPINION

They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds;  
there is none who does good.

ACTION

## Proverbs 3:5-8 (ESV)

- <sup>5</sup> Trust in the LORD with all your heart,  
and do not lean on your own understanding.
- <sup>6</sup> In all your ways acknowledge him,  
and he will make straight your paths.
- <sup>7</sup> Be not wise in your own eyes;  
fear the LORD, and turn away from evil.
- <sup>8</sup> It will be healing to your flesh  
and refreshment to your bones.

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ACTION

## Romans 12:2 (NLT)

<sup>2</sup> Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

GOD  
WANTS  
US TO  
HAVE A  
HEALTHY  
CHURCH  
CULTURE



# Reflection & Repentance

1. How much have you internalized the truth that you are a loved & needed part of Jesus's body?
2. In which area has the world's opinion influenced you more than God?
3. How can you grow to be more of a builder & less of a destroyer?

# Action Steps

1. Get to know God's opinions through His own words
2. Let God be God by yielding to God's thoughts
3. Ask Holy Spirit to help you internalize God's truth
4. Actualize "otherness" & "humility" with Holy Spirit

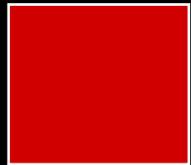
# DO YOU WANT TO ASK JESUS INTO YOUR HEART AS SAVIOR & LORD?



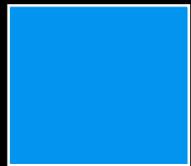
HEAVEN = GOD loves you & wants to be with you



SIN = the hurtful & wrong things you have done



BLOOD = JESUS died to pay the price for your sin



WATER = God cleanses you & baptizes you with His Spirit



GROW = you will experience more & more new life!

## Proverbs 2:1-10 (ESV)

<sup>1</sup> My son, if you receive my words  
and treasure up my commandments with you, <sup>1</sup>  
<sup>2</sup> making your ear attentive to wisdom  
and inclining your heart to understanding;  
<sup>3</sup> yes, if you call out for insight  
and raise your voice for understanding,  
<sup>4</sup> if you seek it like silver  
and search for it as for hidden treasures,  
<sup>5</sup> then you will understand the fear of the LORD and  
find the knowledge of God.

## Proverbs 2:1-10 (ESV)

- <sup>6</sup> For the LORD gives wisdom;  
from his mouth comes knowledge and  
understanding;
- <sup>7</sup> he stores up sound wisdom for the upright;  
he is a shield to those who walk in integrity,
- <sup>8</sup> guarding the paths of justice  
and watching over the way of his saints.
- <sup>9</sup> Then you will understand righteousness and justice  
and equity, every good path;
- <sup>10</sup> for wisdom will come into your heart,  
and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul;

# Reflection & Repentance

1. In which areas has the world's opinion influenced your opinion more than God's opinion has?
2. How much have you internalized the truth that you are a loved and needed part of Jesus's body?
3. How might Holy Spirit want you to take action so we can fulfill the call God has given us?
4. In what ways does Holy Spirit want you to grow so you are more of a builder and less of a destroyer?

# Action Steps

1. Get to know God's opinions through His own words
2. Let God be God by yielding to God's thoughts
3. Ask Holy Spirit to help you internalize God's truth
4. Actualize growth with Holy Spirit by taking a risk