Healthy Relationships

Personality Differences



God HAS called us to love people as Christ has loved us!

TRUTH #1 – God Designed His People To Be Different!



I Cor. 12:14-18 **Yes, the body has many different parts, not just one part. 15 If the foot says, "I am not a part of the body because I am not a hand," that does not make it any less a part of the body.**



16 And if the ear says, “I am not part
of the body because I am not an eye,”
would that make it any less a part of
the body? 17 If the whole body were
an eye, how would you hear? Or if
your whole body were an ear, how
would you smell anything?

18 But our bodies have many parts, and God has put each part just where He wants it. (NLT)

A body functions well BECAUSE its parts are different!



Unity doesn't require uniformity!

Will our differences become opportunities to serve one another, or condemn one another?



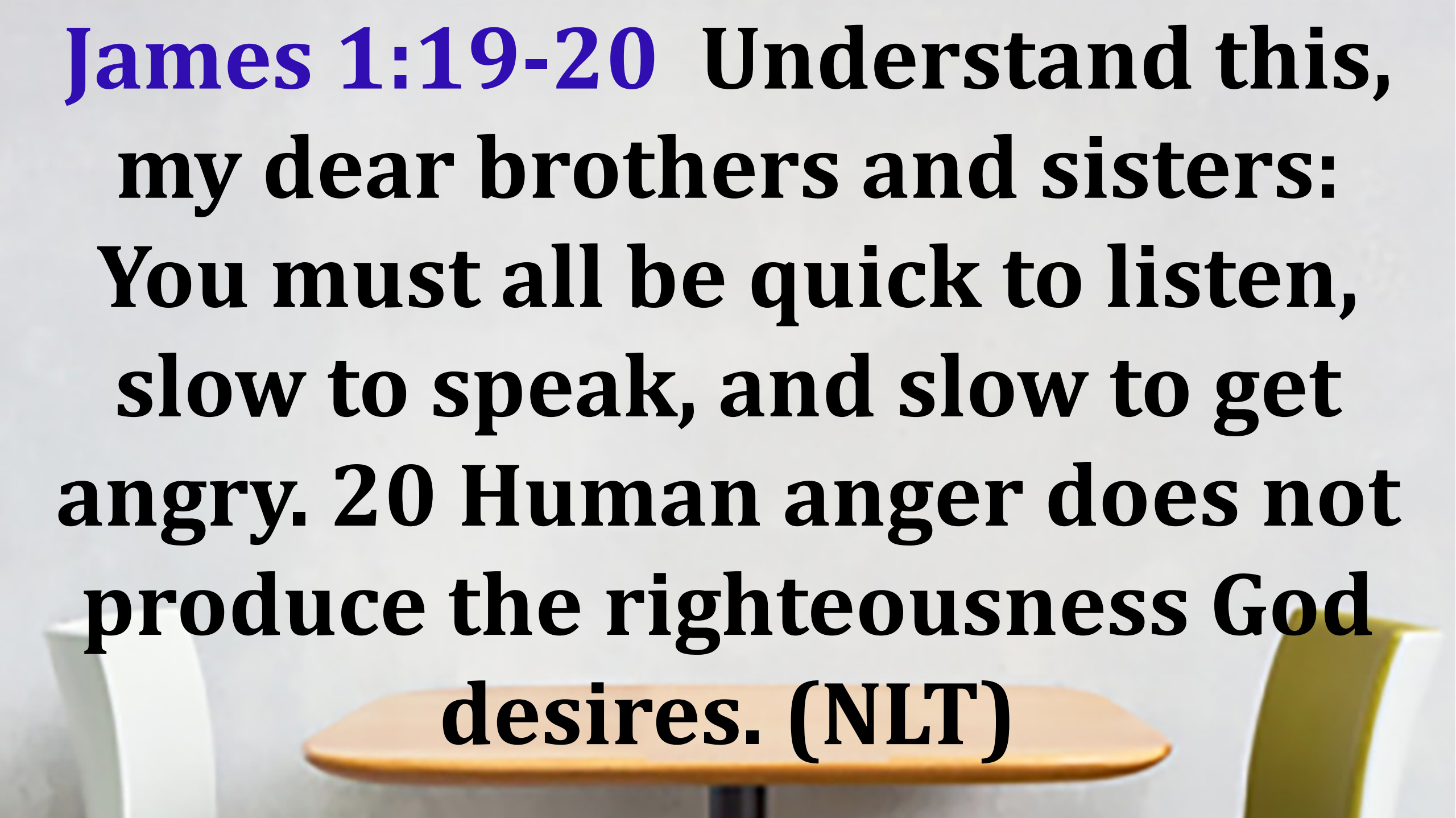
Romans 12:10 **Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor;**

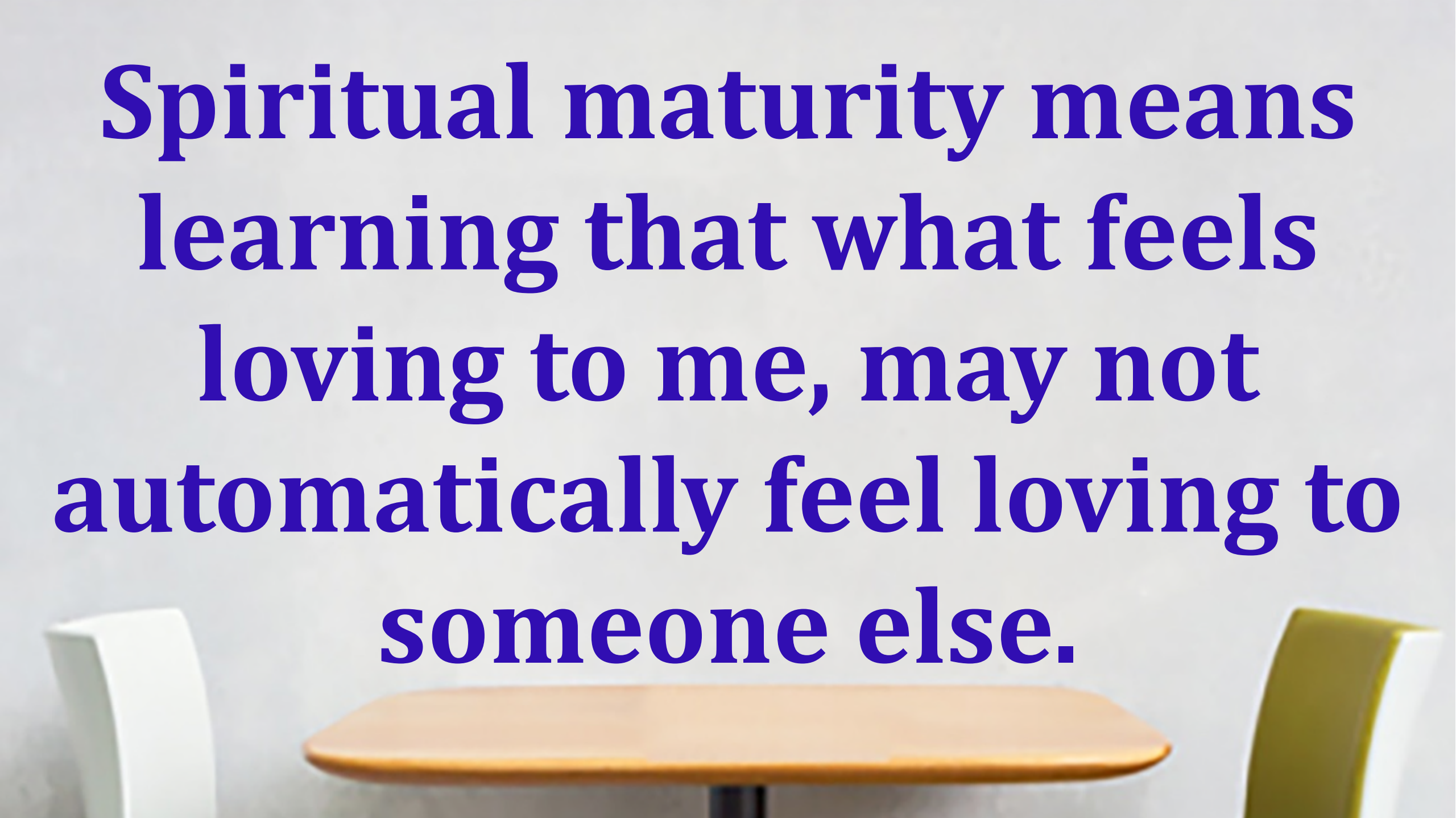
Paul says to love people as they are right now!



TRUTH #2 – Stress reveals our differences, and our assumptions about them!




James 1:19-20 Understand this, my dear brothers and sisters: You must all be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry. 20 Human anger does not produce the righteousness God desires. (NLT)


Spiritual maturity means learning that what feels loving to me, may not automatically feel loving to someone else.

TRUTH #3 – Love Doesn't Demand That Everyone Handle Stress Our Way!

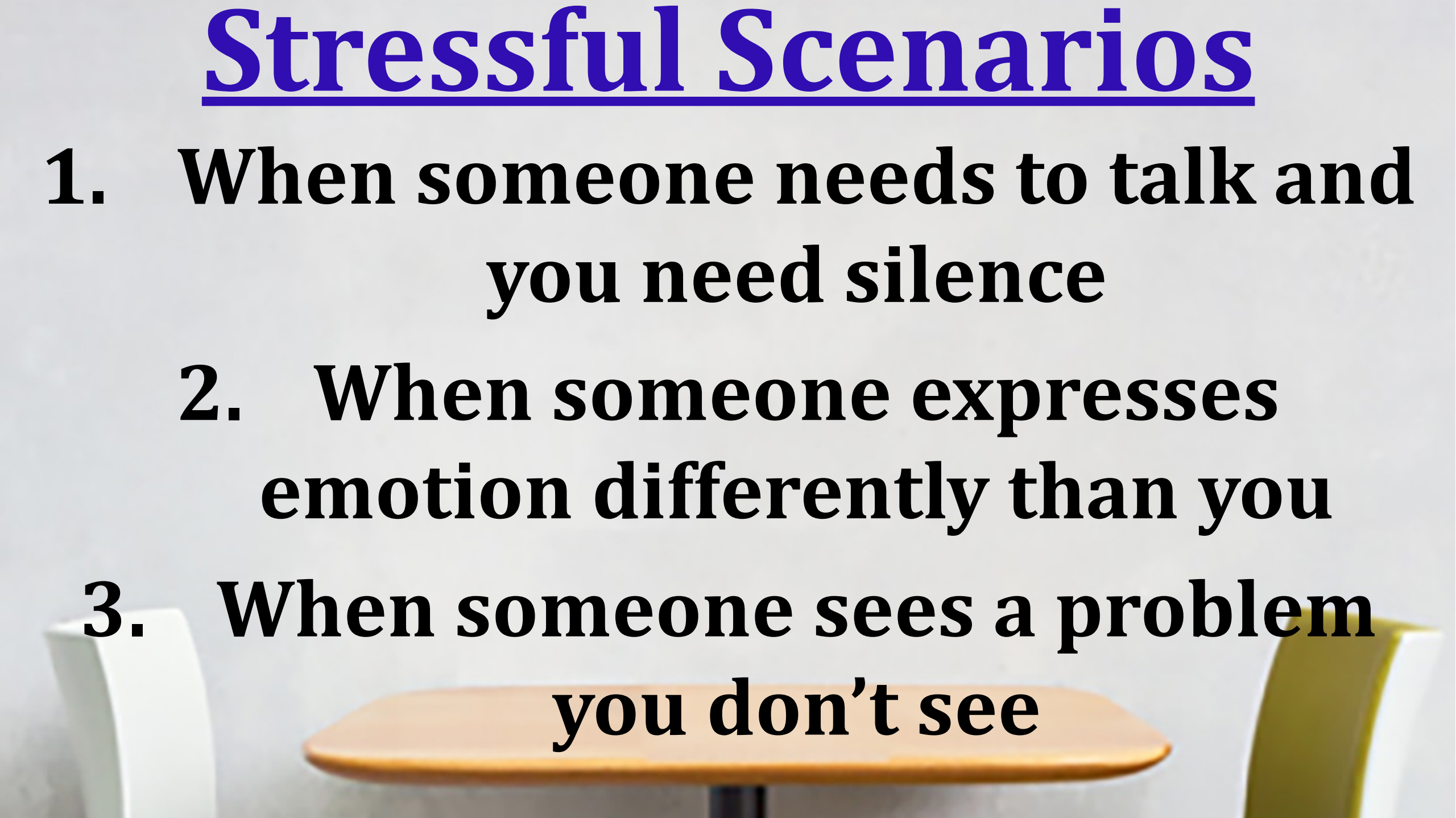


Eph. 4:2-3 Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love. 3 Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace.



Stressful Scenarios

1. When someone needs to talk and you need silence
2. When someone expresses emotion differently than you
3. When someone sees a problem you don't see



TRUTH #4 – Jesus Christ Is The Model And The Source Of Our Love!

We want to be at the center, but the gospel offers us a different center!



Once we understand God's GRACE, and that we have been fully accepted by Him, we no longer NEED the acceptance of others, and we can begin to GIVE grace!



How Can We Give Grace?

1. Replace Judgment With Curiosity
2. Learn To Communicate Your Needs Clearly
3. Agree On What You Will Do When Stress Rises



Christian maturity is the willingness to bring our mistakes and weaknesses into the light of God's grace and allow Him to change us!



When conflict arises, the temptation is to believe the other person is the problem. But what if God is inviting us to learn how to carry the burden together?



Eph. 4:2-3 Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love. 3 Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace.



We have a Savior who knows us completely, loves us faithfully, corrects us patiently, and gives us grace to BECOME people who can love others well!

