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# Standing Firm in the Faith of the Gospel

## Philippians 1:27-29



**Only let your conversation be as it  
becometh the gospel of Christ: that  
whether I come and see you, or else  
be absent, I may hear of your affairs,  
that ye stand fast in one spirit, with  
one mind striving together for the  
faith of the gospel;**



**Last week we laid out 8  
values we clearly see in  
the narrative of the  
gospel.**





# Gospel Values

- Christ-like Love
- Generosity
- Unconditional Forgiveness
- Reconciliation
- Submissive Obedience
- Self-Denial to Serve
- Compassion
- Humility

**All to the glory of God.**



# Philippians 1:27

- Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit,

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**Standing firm in one  
spirit—is the unified  
collective refusal to  
compromise**



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**Compromising is  
often a good thing  
But NOT when it comes to  
the faith of the gospel.**





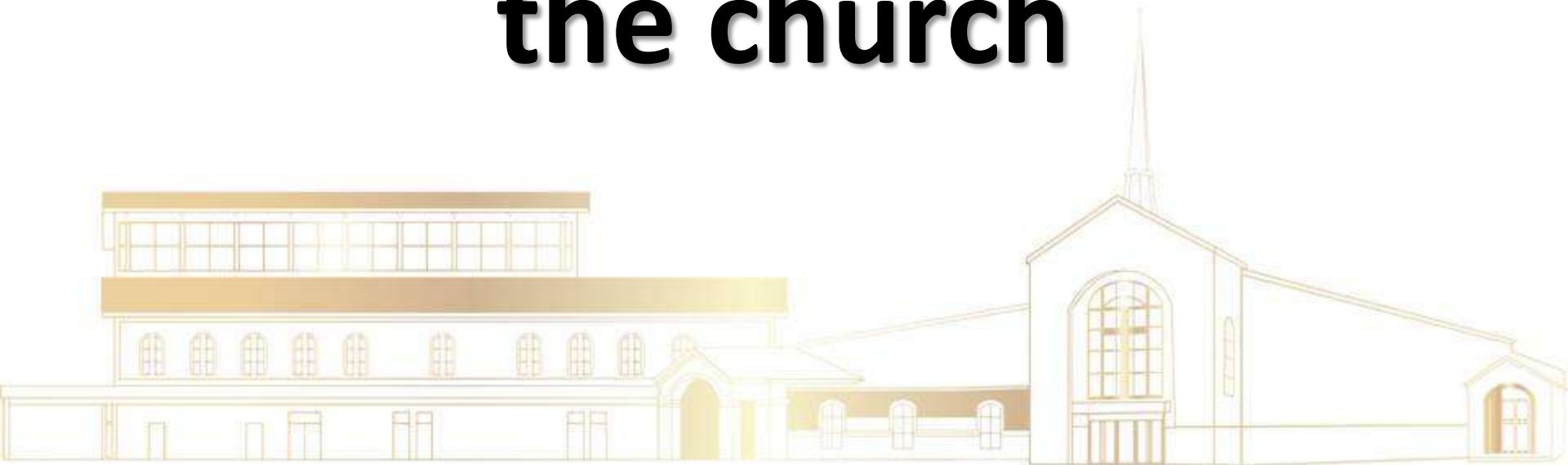
# Philippians 1:27

- Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, **with one mind** striving together for the faith of the gospel;



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**One mind emphasizes  
the complete unity of  
the church**





# Philippians 1:27

- Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind

**striving together for  
the faith of the  
gospel;**

or...



# Philippians 1:27 (NET)

- contending side by side for the faith of the gospel,

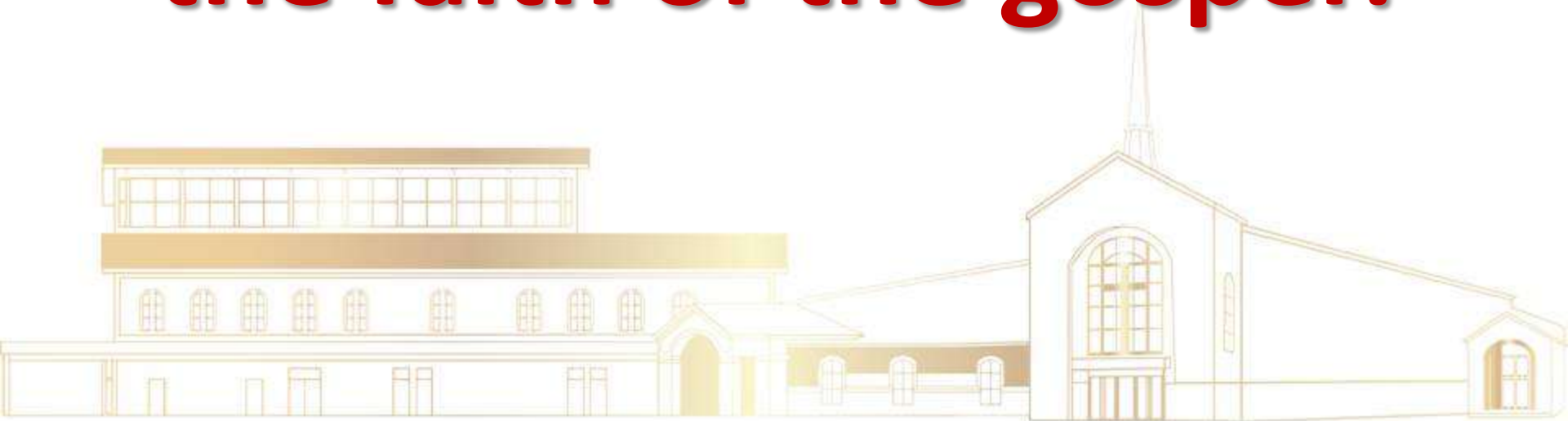
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**The faith of the gospel  
refers to the collective  
body of truth that  
comprises the gospel.**



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**What does it mean to  
strive or contend for  
the faith of the gospel?**



# Strive or Contend Includes:

- To devote serious effort or energy
- Maintain
- Assert for
- Strive in debate



# Commentary

God has entrusted local churches with the body of truth that make up the gospel and the true churches of the Lord Jesus Christ are those churches that contend for the faith of the gospel.



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At this point we must ask  
what are the truths that  
comprise **the faith of the  
gospel** for which we  
cannot compromise?





# The Faith

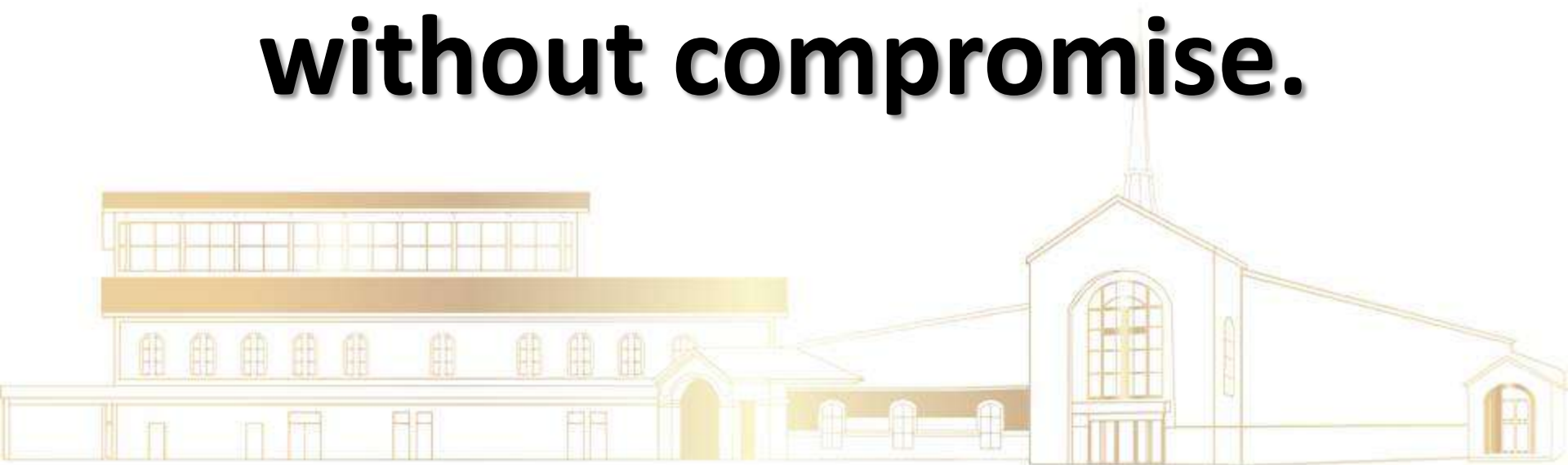
## Includes:

- A Creator God who has a Son
- One and only one Son whose name is Jesus
- The Holy Spirit distinct from God the Father and God the Son, yet just as much God.



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**When We Say Creator  
God—we must also affirm  
all of God's attributes  
without compromise.**



# God the Creator Is

- Sovereign
- Omnipotent, Omniscient, and Omnipresent Spirit Being
- Just, Holy, Righteous
- Kind, Compassionate, and Merciful
- Both Loving and Unloving
- Wise, Gracious, and Retributive



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**When the God of your church  
is always loving,  
compassionate, tender,  
merciful, forgiving, and  
gracious you have abandoned  
the God of the Gospel.**



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# The Same Chapter

That contains John 3:16  
contains John 3:36





# John 3:36

- He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life:
- and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

# Revelation 22:12 (ESV)

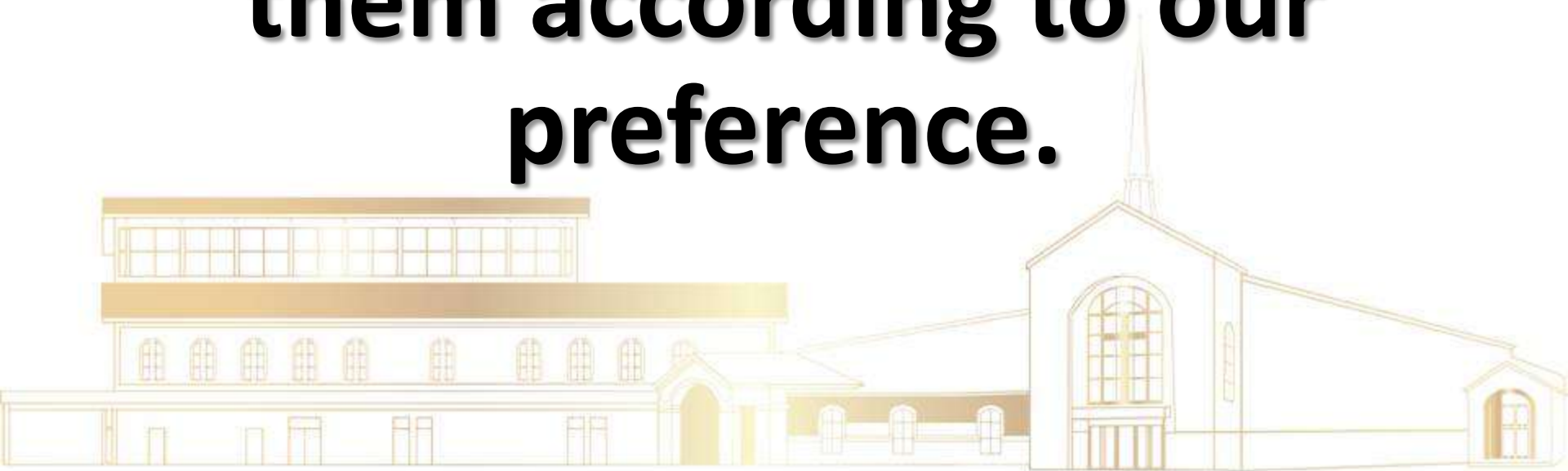


- “Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay each one for what he has done.



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**When God's attributes  
bother us—we can't  
change, modify, or ignore  
them according to our  
preference.**





# The Faith

## Includes Jesus'

- Virgin Birth
- Incarnation
- Sinless Life
- Death & Burial
- Vicarious Penal Substitutionary Atonement



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**Defining who Jesus is and  
what Jesus accomplished  
is critical to contending for  
the faith of the gospel.**



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# For Example

## We might ask:

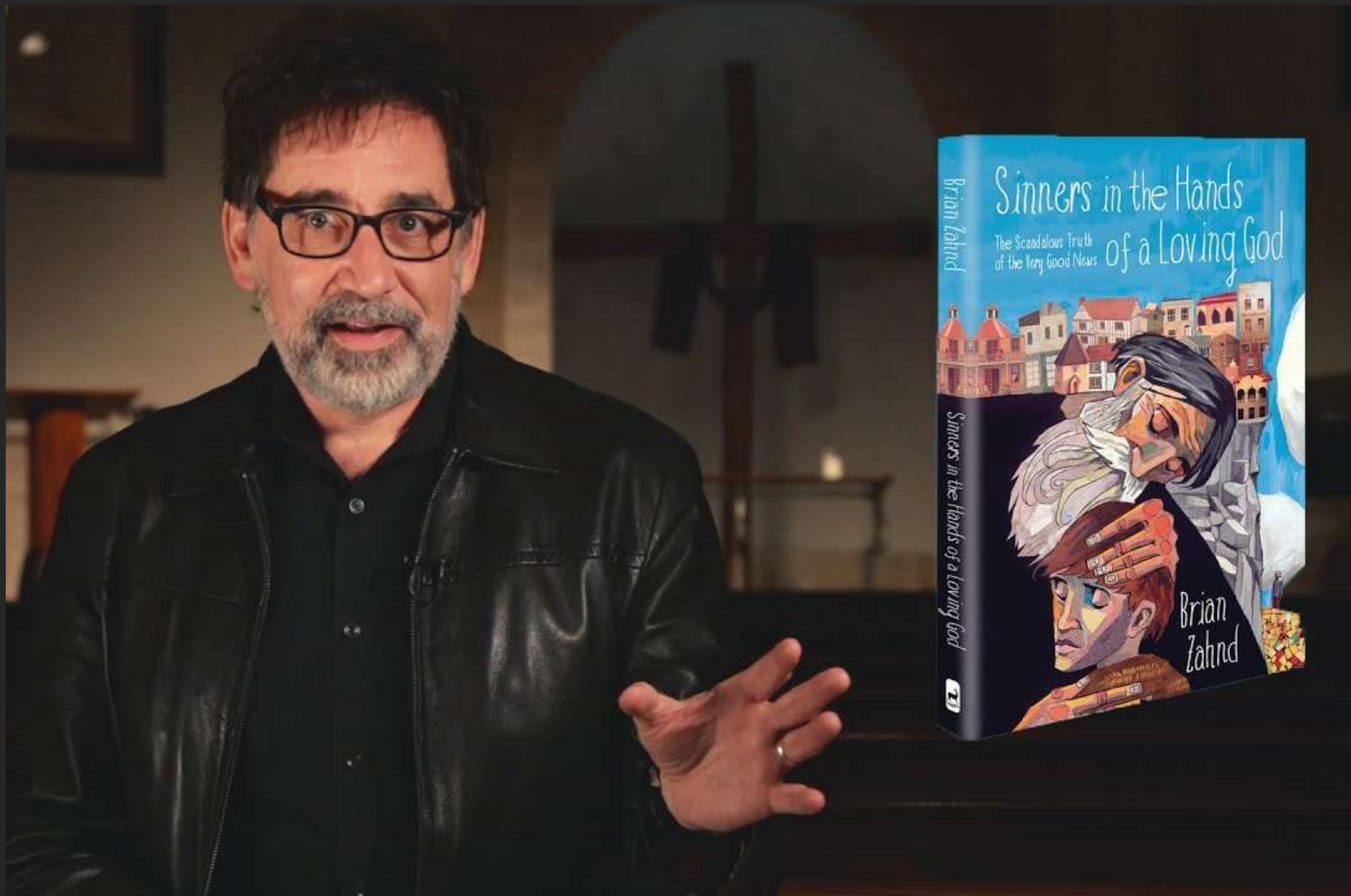
Why was Jesus put to  
death and what did he  
accomplish?



Was Jesus crucified because  
the Jews rejected his  
message of peace and love?

Or was Jesus crucified in  
order to satisfy the wrath  
holiness, and justice of God  
against sin?





**Brian Zahnd**





**Word of Life Church, St. Joseph, MO**

**The Bible is clear, God did not kill Jesus. Jesus was offered as a sacrifice in that the Father was willing to send his Son into our sinful system in order to expose it as utterly sinful and provide us with another way. The death of Jesus was a sacrifice in that sense. But it was not a sacrifice to appease a wrathful deity or to provide payment for a penultimate god subordinate to Justice.**

Brian Zahnd  
Author & Pastor  
Word of Life Church



# Mark 10:45

- For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.







# Acts 20:28

- Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.



## 1 Corinthians 6:20

- For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

## 1 Corinthians 7:23

- Ye are bought with a price; be not ye the servants of men.

Neither is the death of Jesus a kind of *quid pro quo* by which God gains the necessary capital to forgive sinners. **No! Jesus does not save us from God;** Jesus reveals God! Jesus does not provide God with the capacity to forgive; Jesus reveals God *as* forgiving love. An “economic model” of the cross just won’t work. It’s not as if God is saying, *“Look, I’d love to forgive you, but I’ve got to pay off Justice first, and, you know how she is, she’s a tough goddess, she requires due payment.”* This understanding of the cross begs the question of who exactly is in charge — the Father of Jesus or some abstract ideal called “Justice”?

Brian Zahnd  
Author & Pastor  
Word of Life Church



## Romans 5:9

- Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God.

Neither is the death of Jesus a kind of *quid pro quo* by which God gains the necessary capital to forgive sinners. **No!** Jesus does not save us from God; Jesus reveals God! **Jesus does not provide God with the capacity to forgive;** Jesus reveals God *as* forgiving love. An “economic model” of the cross just won’t work. It’s not as if God is saying, *“Look, I’d love to forgive you, but I’ve got to pay off Justice first, and, you know how she is, she’s a tough goddess, she requires due payment.”* This understanding of the cross begs the question of who exactly is in charge — the Father of Jesus or some abstract ideal called “Justice”?

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# Ephesians 4:32

- And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

Neither is the death of Jesus a kind of *quid pro quo* by which God gains the necessary capital to forgive sinners. *No!* Jesus does not save us from God; Jesus reveals God! Jesus does not provide God with the capacity to forgive; Jesus reveals God *as* forgiving love. **An “economic model” of the cross**

**just won't work.** It's not as if God is saying, *“Look, I'd love to forgive you, but I've got to pay off Justice first, and, you know how she is, she's a tough goddess, she requires due payment.”* This understanding of the cross begs the question of who exactly is in charge — the Father of Jesus or some abstract ideal called “Justice”?

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# Colossians 2:13-14

- And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.



**It's not as if God is saying, *"Look, I'd love to forgive you, but I've got to pay off Justice first, and, you know how she is, she's a tough goddess, she requires due payment."* This understanding of the cross begs the question of who exactly is in charge — the Father of Jesus or some abstract ideal called "Justice"?**



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Author & Pastor  
Word of Life Church

**If “Justice” can be an  
abstract ideal and a tough  
goddess why can’t love be  
a goddess as well that  
always gets her way?**





## Deuteronomy 4:24

- For the LORD your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God.

## Psalms 7:11

- God is a righteous judge, and a God who feels indignation every day.

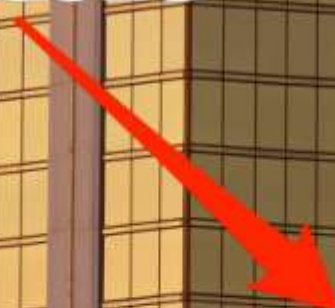
## Psalms 99:9

- Exalt the LORD our God, and worship at his holy hill; for the LORD our God *is* holy.



LAY BAY

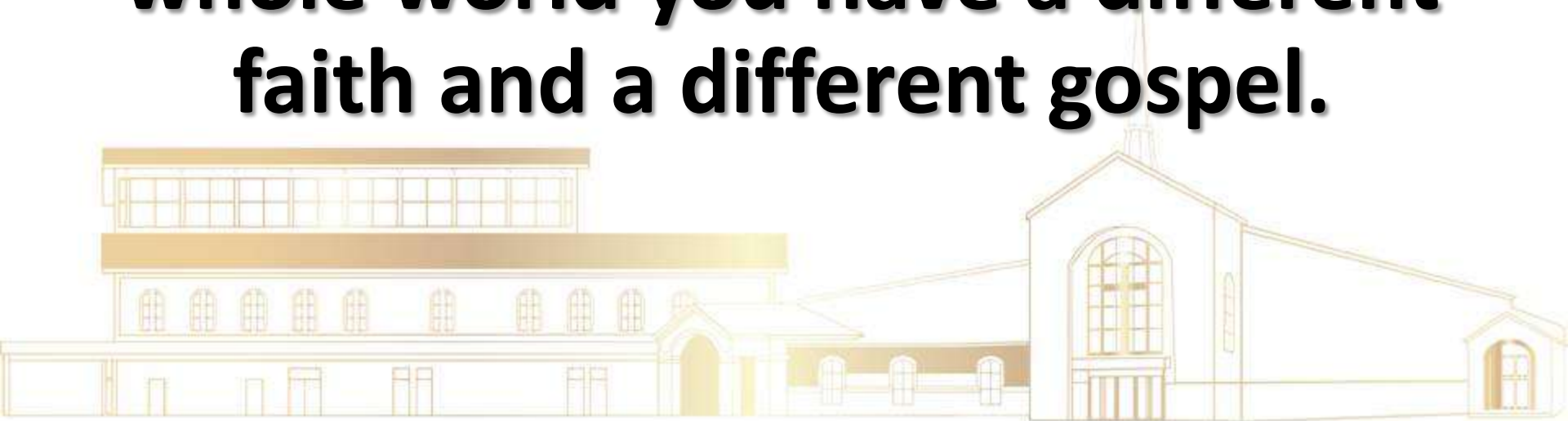
**Broken windows**





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**If the death of the eternal Son of God was for anything different than the sufficient satisfaction of the wrath of God for the sins of the whole world you have a different faith and a different gospel.**



For many in the liberal and progressive Church the necessity of satisfying the wrath of God is utterly repulsive to them. **God unconditionally loves everyone just the way they are without judgment or potential punishment.**



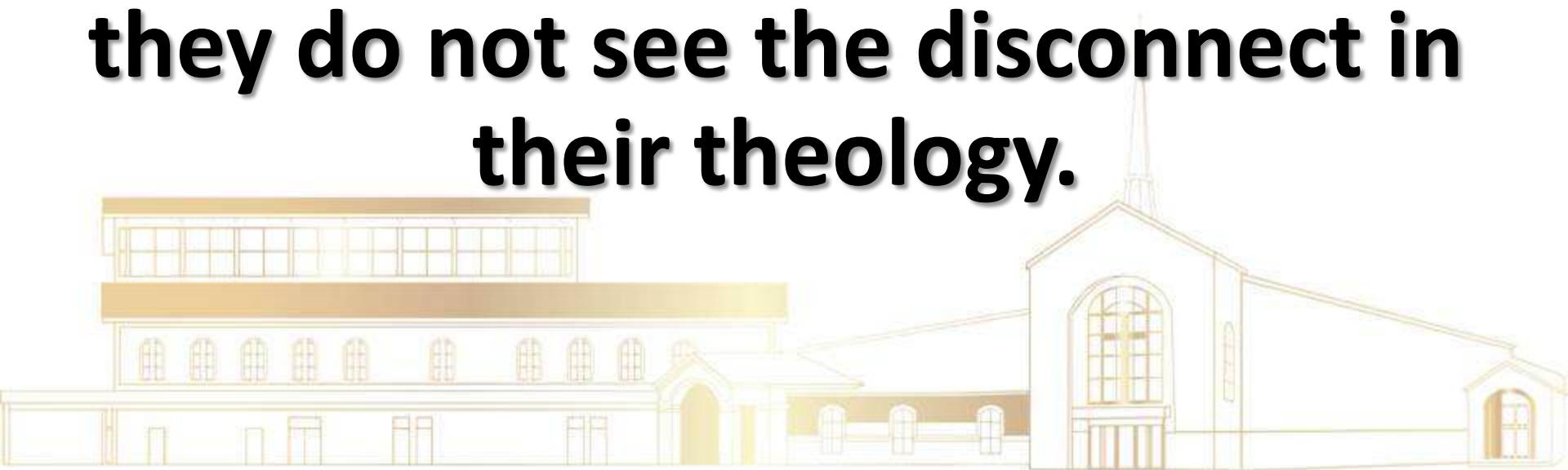


# Galatians 1:6-7

- I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another [gospel];
- but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ.

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**Yet even the most liberal and progressive Christian demands justice when a crime against an innocent child is perpetrated. Yet they do not see the disconnect in their theology.**





# The Faith

## Includes:

- Bodily resurrection
- Promise of a 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming
- The forgiveness of sin
- The gift of eternal life



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**Contending for  
the faith of the gospel  
also includes the means by  
which salvation is  
appropriated.**

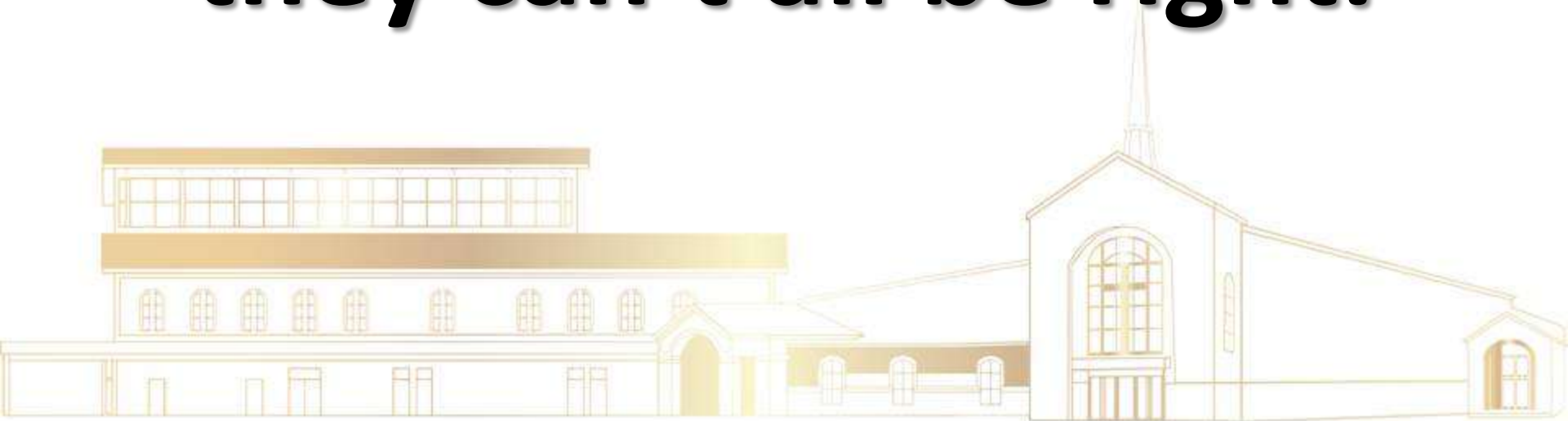


# How am I saved?

1. Keeping the Sacraments
2. Faith and faith alone in the Gospel
3. Repentance & Baptism
4. Striving to live out Jesus' teaching as authentically as possible



**These 4 answers are so  
radically different that  
they can't all be right.**



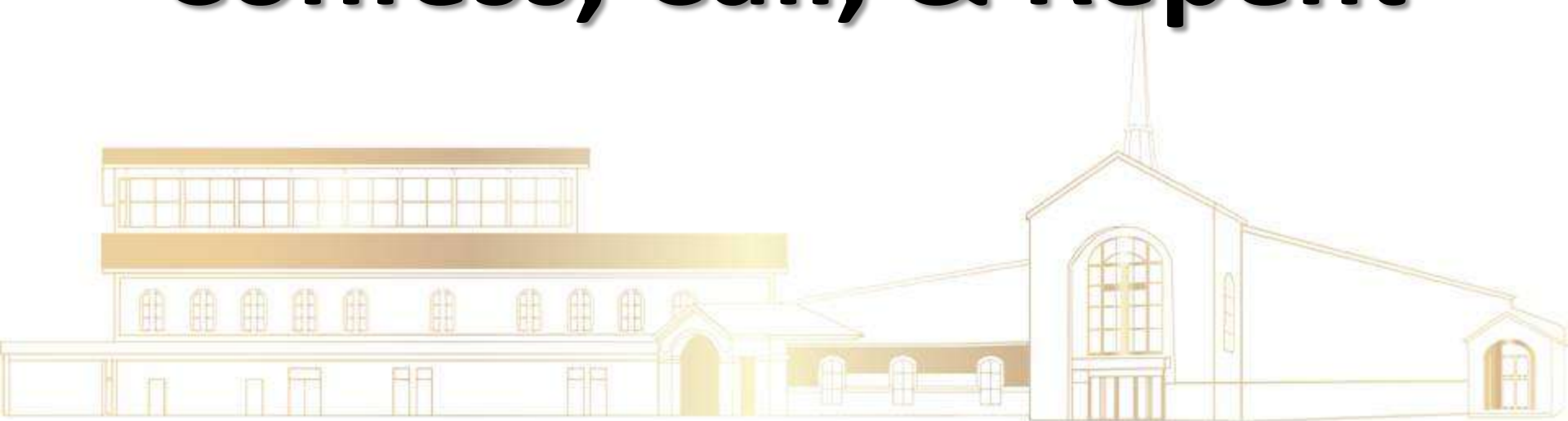
**The single litmus test I  
consistently use to  
determine if we are  
likeminded is:  
What must I do to be  
saved?**



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**Must I:**

**Ask, Believe, Accept,  
Confess, Call, & Repent**





# John 3:16

- “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.



# John 20:31

- But these are written, that ye might **believe** that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that **believing** ye might have life through his name.





# Acts 16:31

- And they said, **Believe** on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.



# 1 Corinthians 1:21

- For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching
- to save them that believe.



# 1 John 5:13

- These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life,

Repentance may be needed

**to believe**

And calling and confessing on  
the Lord Jesus are always  
evidences of

**belief in Jesus as Savior**



# What about Asking?

Asking is NEVER necessary because a promise of the forgiveness of sins and the gift eternal life has already been extended to anyone who believes the gospel.



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**Exclusivity and  
inclusivity are both  
found in the gospel.**

