

KING & KINGDOM

THE VALUES WE BRING TO POLITICS

Acts 17:1-10

After Paul and Silas had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews. And Paul went in, as was his custom, and on three sabbath days argued with them from the scriptures, explaining and proving that it was necessary for the Messiah to suffer and to rise from the dead, and saying, “This is the Messiah, Jesus whom I am proclaiming to you.”

Acts 17:1-10

Some of them were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, as did a great many of the devout Greeks and not a few of the leading women. But the Jews became jealous, and with the help of some ruffians in the marketplaces they formed a mob and set the city in an uproar. While they were searching for Paul and Silas to bring them out to the assembly, they attacked Jason's house.



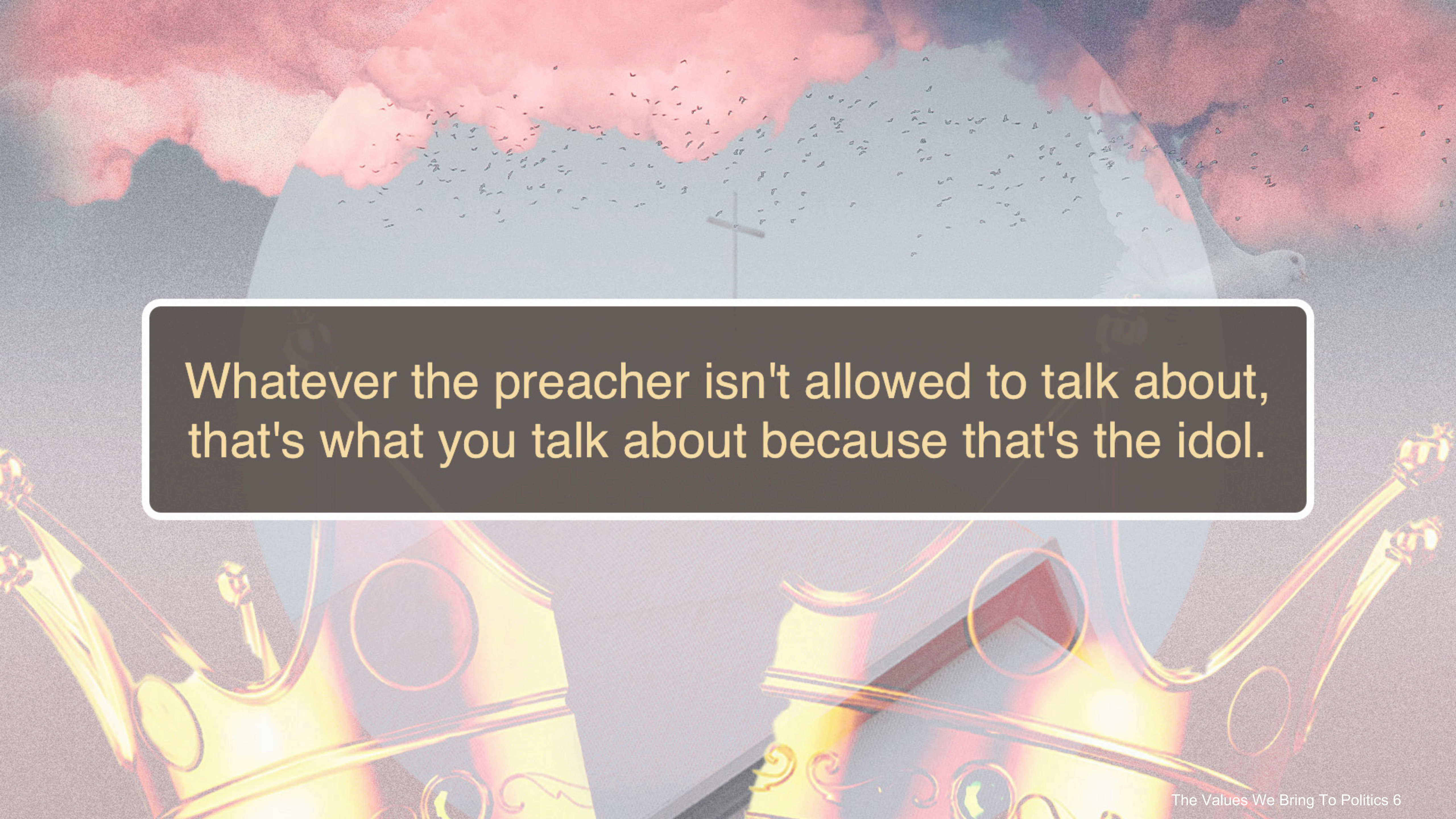
Acts 17:1-10

When they could not find them, they dragged Jason and some believers before the city authorities, shouting, “These people who have been turning the world upside down have come here also, and Jason has entertained them as guests. They are all acting contrary to the decrees of the emperor, saying that there is another king named Jesus.”

The background of the slide features a stylized illustration. The upper portion shows a large, dense crowd of small, dark figures, possibly representing a city or a gathering, set against a backdrop of soft, pinkish-red clouds. The lower portion of the image depicts a golden, ornate structure, likely a classical building facade with columns and decorative moldings, rendered in a warm, glowing light.

Acts 17:1-10

The people and the city officials were disturbed when they heard this, and after they had taken bail from Jason and the others, they let them go. That very night the believers sent Paul and Silas off to Berea; and when they arrived, they went to the Jewish synagogue.

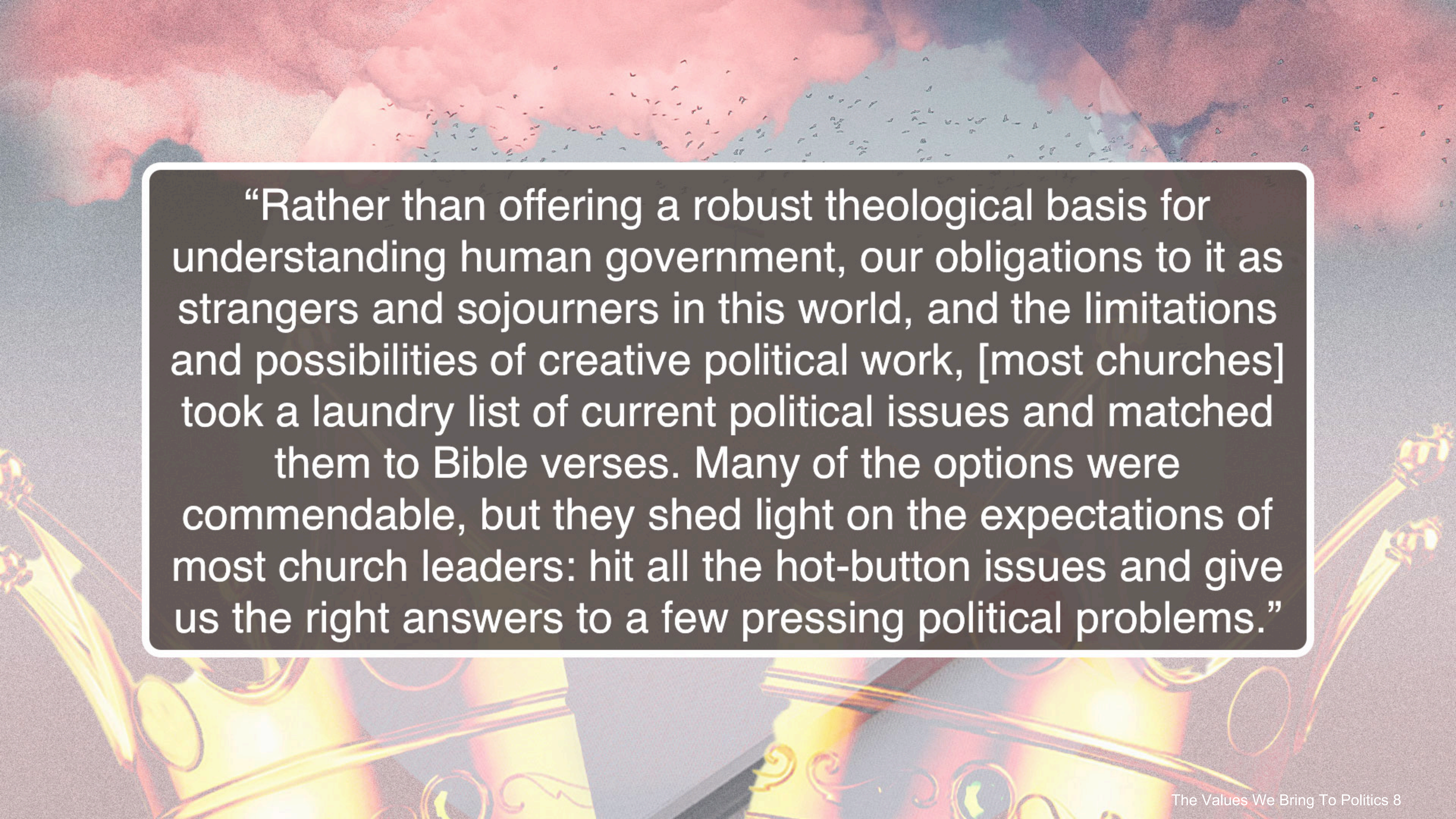


Whatever the preacher isn't allowed to talk about,
that's what you talk about because that's the idol.




We are Citizens of God's Kingdom.

- Who is the King?
- Where is the kingdom?
- What is the kingdom like?
- Who are the citizens?
- What's the law of the King?
- How ought His ambassadors live in foreign countries?



“Rather than offering a robust theological basis for understanding human government, our obligations to it as strangers and sojourners in this world, and the limitations and possibilities of creative political work, [most churches] took a laundry list of current political issues and matched them to Bible verses. Many of the options were commendable, but they shed light on the expectations of most church leaders: hit all the hot-button issues and give us the right answers to a few pressing political problems.”



“If this was all Christians had to guide them, they might know where they should stand on a few policies, but they would have no idea why government exists, what our relationship to it should be, or how to faithfully engage with the sticky political problems of the future.” - **Kaitlyn Schiess**





The Political Rep of the Early Church - Acts 17:6-7

“These people (1) who have been turning the world upside down have come here also, and Jason has entertained them as guests. (2) They are all acting contrary to the decrees of the emperor, saying that there is another king named Jesus.”



The Political Rep of the Early Church - Acts 17:6-7

1. They have another king, Jesus.
2. They turn the world upside-down because of it.



2 Corinthians 5:20

So we are **Christ's ambassadors**; God is making His appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, "Come back to God!"



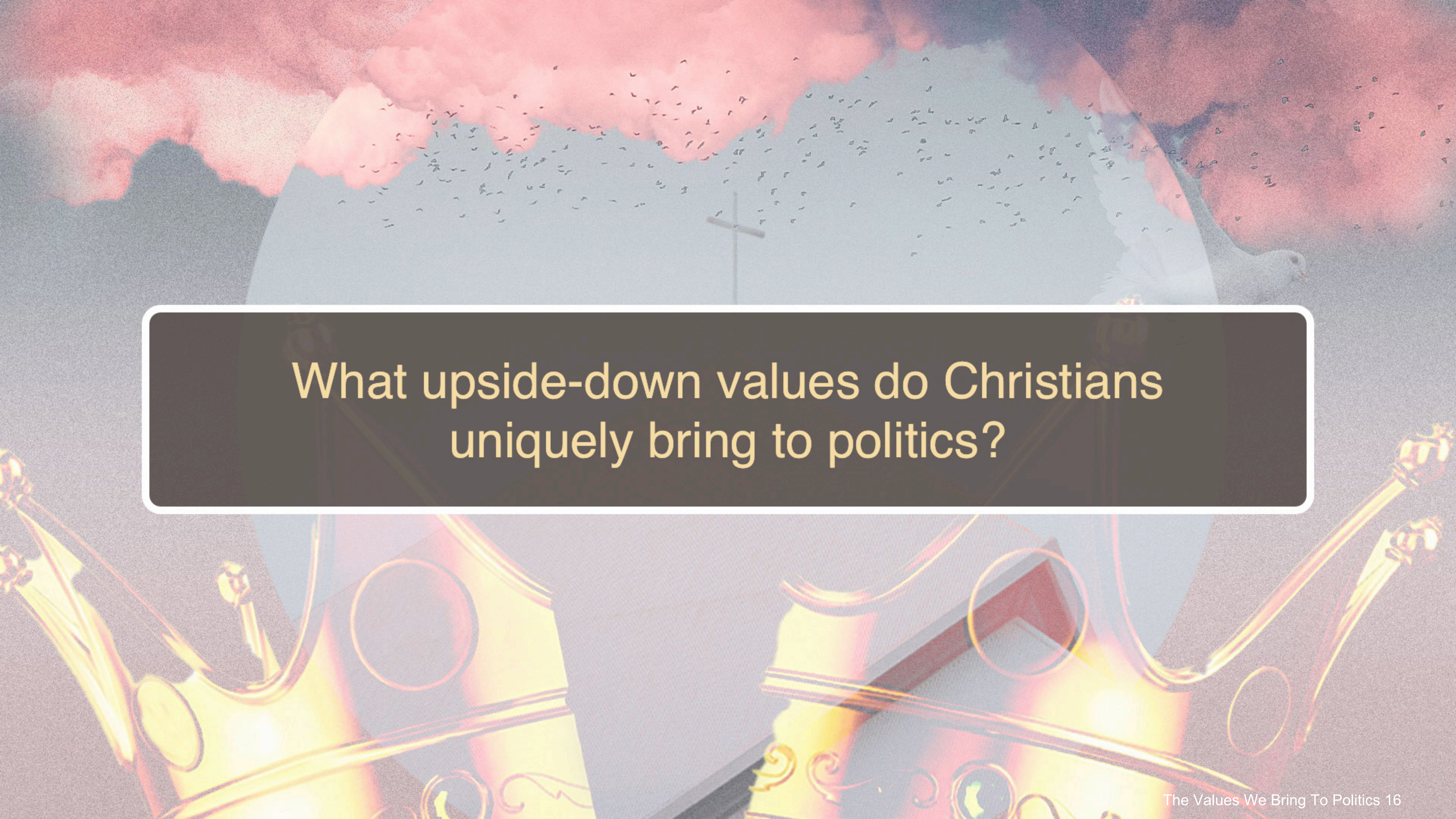
Philippians 3:20

But we are **citizens of Heaven**, where the Lord Jesus Christ lives. And we are eagerly waiting for Him to return as our Savior.



1 Peter 2:11-12

Dear friends, I warn you as “**temporary residents and foreigners**” to keep away from worldly desires that wage war against your very souls. Be careful to live properly among your unbelieving neighbors. Then even if they accuse you of doing wrong, they will see your honorable behavior, and they will give honor to God when He judges the world.

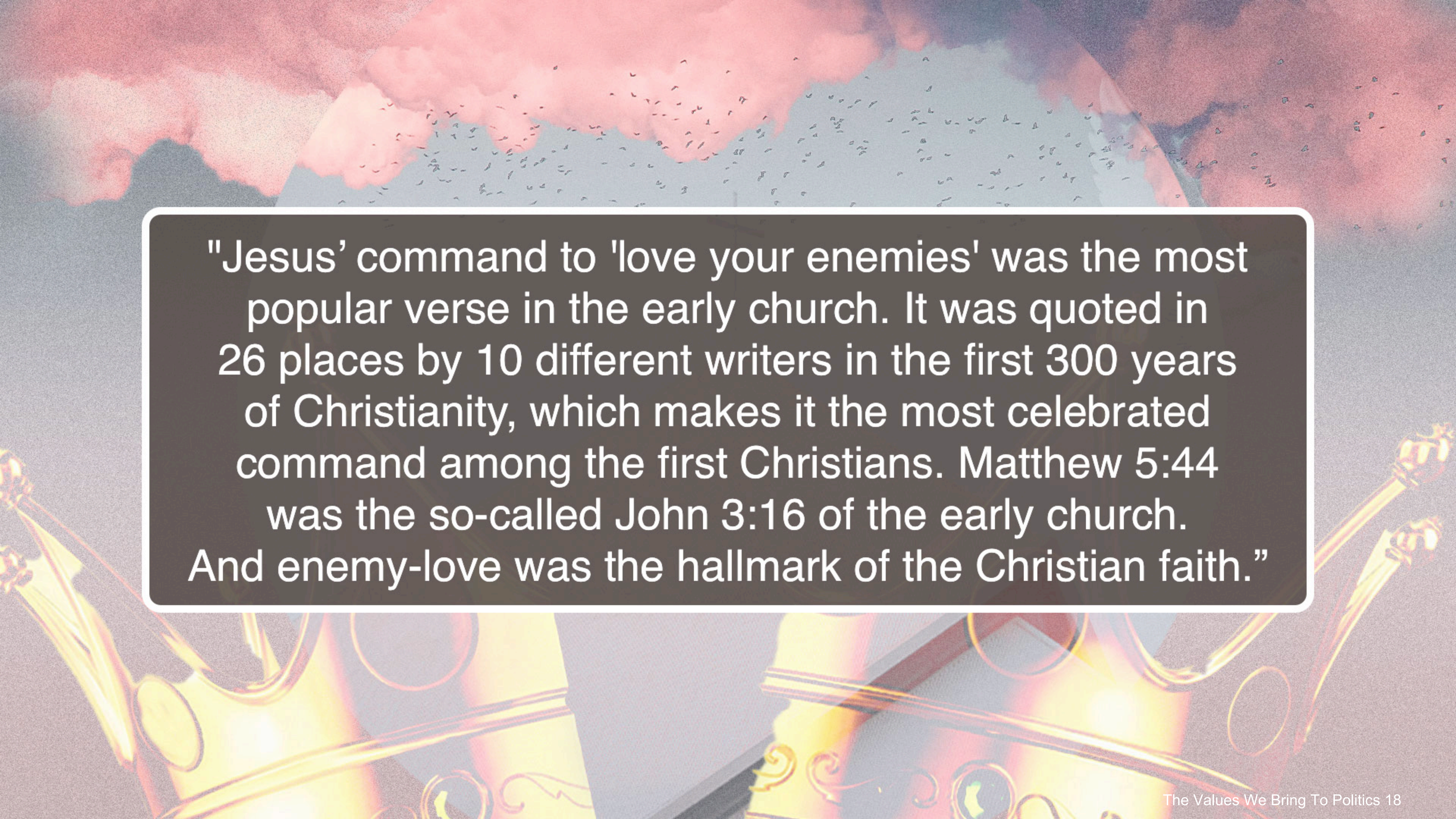


What upside-down values do Christians uniquely bring to politics?



A Belief in Human Dignity

Christians believe that every person is made in the image of God, and thus has intrinsic, eternal, undeniable value...
EVEN our enemies.



"Jesus' command to 'love your enemies' was the most popular verse in the early church. It was quoted in 26 places by 10 different writers in the first 300 years of Christianity, which makes it the most celebrated command among the first Christians. Matthew 5:44 was the so-called John 3:16 of the early church. And enemy-love was the hallmark of the Christian faith."



Dr. MLK's 6 Principles of Non-Violence

1. Nonviolence is only for courageous people.
2. Nonviolence chooses love over hate.
3. Nonviolence holds that suffering will educate and transform.
4. Nonviolence believes that the universe is on the side of justice.
5. Nonviolence is aggressive towards problems; not people.
6. Nonviolence seeks to turn enemies into friends.



“[Enemy hatred] is cultivated in our politics today by those who channel hatred for their purposes—because people can be organized based on common hatreds. They can raise money off of promises that others hate the same things and people....We’ve long rewarded those who are the most skilled at humiliating our political opponents with witty rhetoric or ostracizing them with vicious, often unfair, attacks.” - **Justin Gibboney**



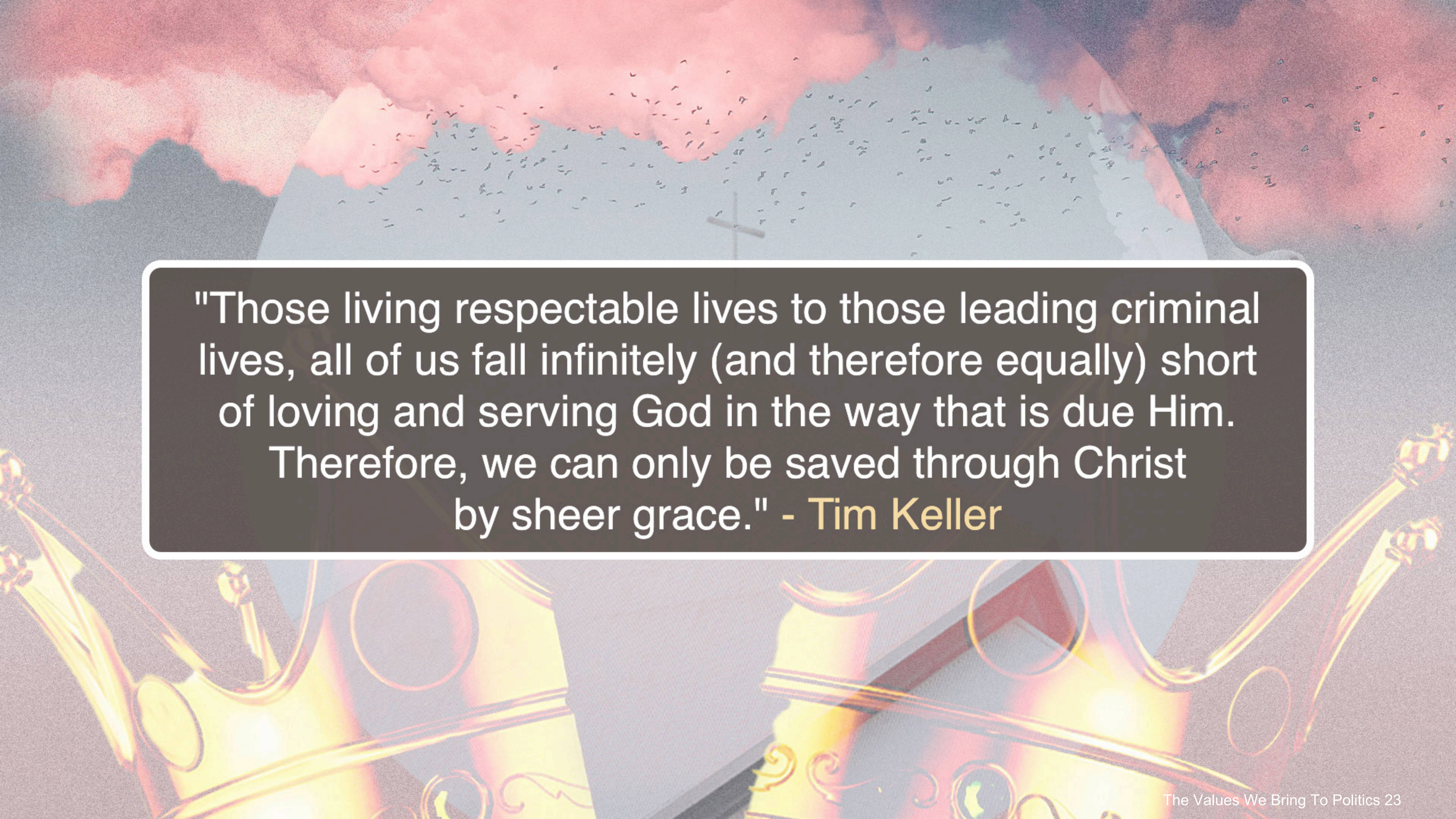
James 3:9-10

Sometimes [the tongue] praises our Lord and Father, and sometimes it curses those who have been made in the image of God. And so blessing and cursing come pouring out of the same mouth. Surely, my brothers and sisters, this is not right!



A Realistic Assessment of Human Depravity

Christians believe all humans are sinners, no leader is perfect, politicians are capable of great evil, and thus sin exists in every system and institution they create and lead.




"Those living respectable lives to those leading criminal lives, all of us fall infinitely (and therefore equally) short of loving and serving God in the way that is due Him. Therefore, we can only be saved through Christ by sheer grace." - **Tim Keller**




Jeremiah 17:9

The human heart is the most deceitful of all things,
and desperately wicked. Who really knows how bad it is?



A Responsibility to "Love Thy Neighbor"
Christians believe our neighbors have a legal right to our love not because of 'who' they are but '**whose**' we are...
Especially the poor and marginalized.



An Uncompromising Moral Compass
Christians believe what makes political action good
is faithfulness more than effectiveness.



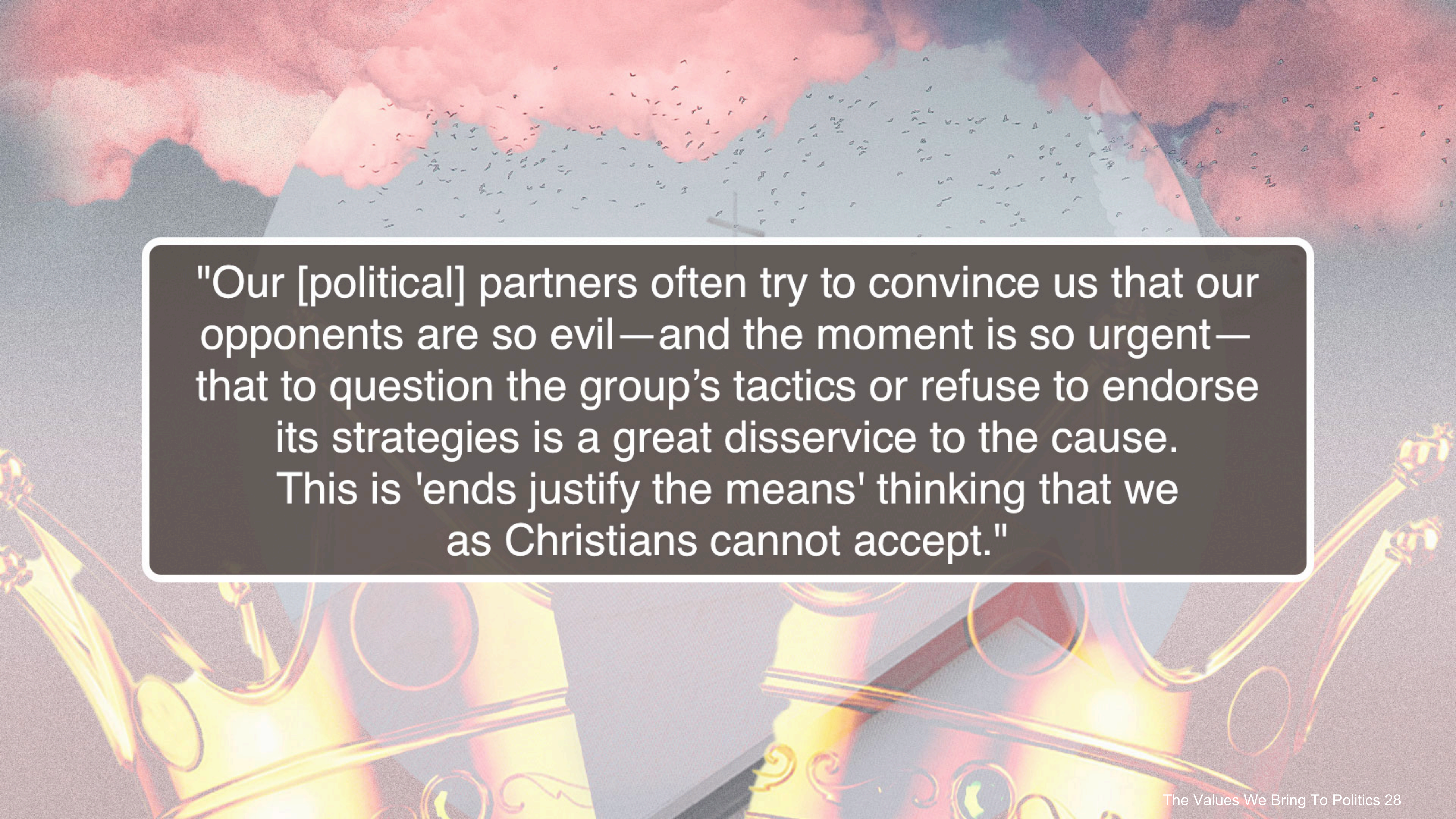
St. Augustine

Earthly City


Does it align with the Earthly City and her bent toward pride, domination, and results in the now?

City of God

Does it align with the City of God and her bent toward love of God and neighbor even if in the moment it fails?



"Our [political] partners often try to convince us that our opponents are so evil—and the moment is so urgent—that to question the group's tactics or refuse to endorse its strategies is a great disservice to the cause. This is 'ends justify the means' thinking that we as Christians cannot accept."

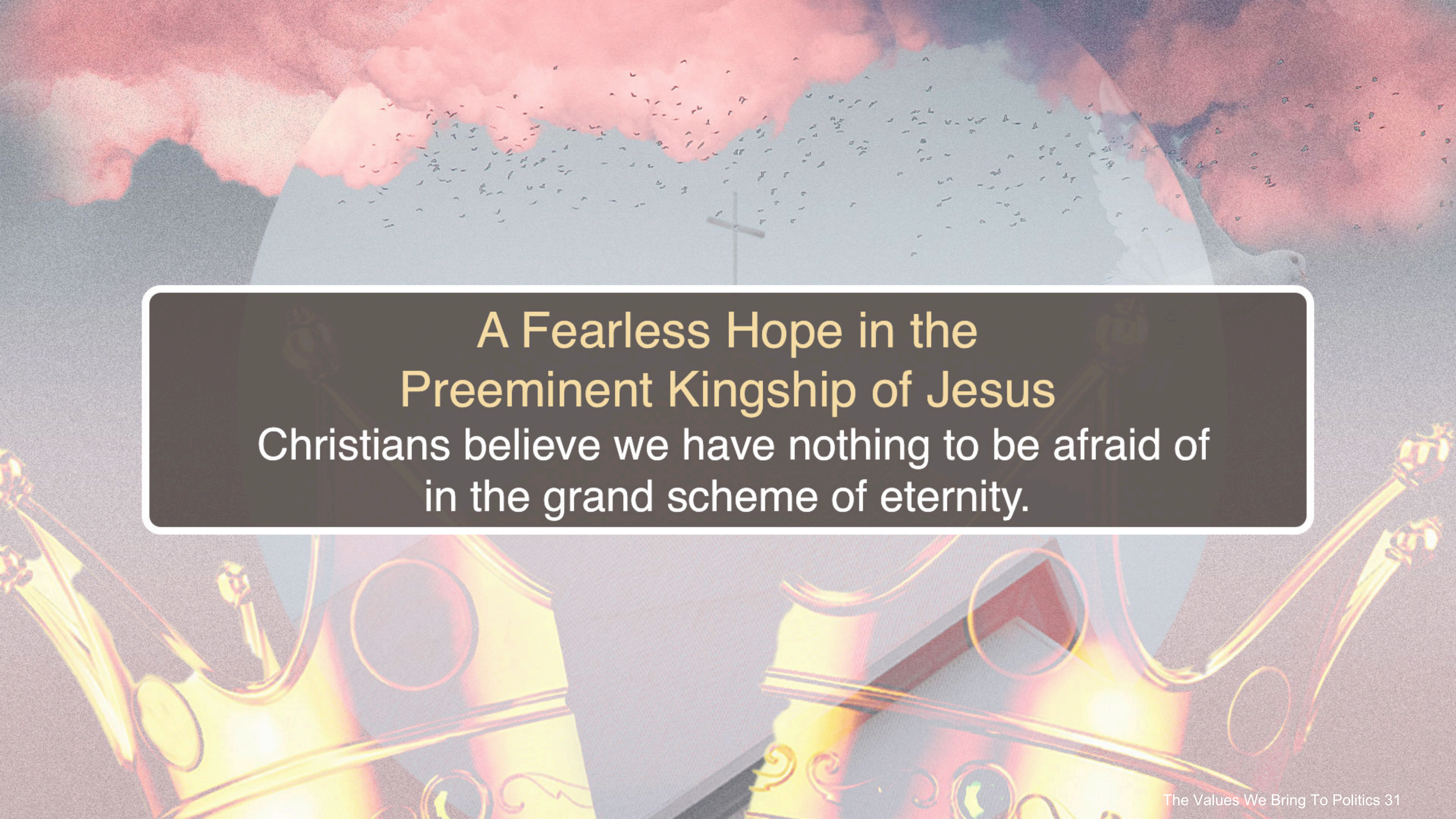


"Under no circumstances should Christians blindly follow our [political] partners or overlook immorality and bad tactics or strategies for the sake of the movement. We must never surrender our values or forgo critical thinking in our partnerships." - **Justin Gibboney**




Matthew 6:33

“Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and He will give you everything you need.”



**A Fearless Hope in the
Preeminent Kingship of Jesus**
Christians believe we have nothing to be afraid of
in the grand scheme of eternity.

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1. A Belief in Human Dignity
 2. A Realistic Assessment of Human Depravity
 3. A Responsibility to Love Thy Neighbor
 4. An Uncompromising Moral Compass
 5. A Fearless Hope in the Preeminent Kingship of Jesus



Acts 17:10-13

[Paul and Silas went from Thessalonica to Berea.]
When they arrived there, they went to the Jewish synagogue. And the people of Berea were more open-minded than those in Thessalonica, and they listened eagerly to Paul's message...But when some Jews in Thessalonica learned that Paul was preaching the word of God in Berea, they went there and stirred up trouble.



“There is another king named Jesus.”