

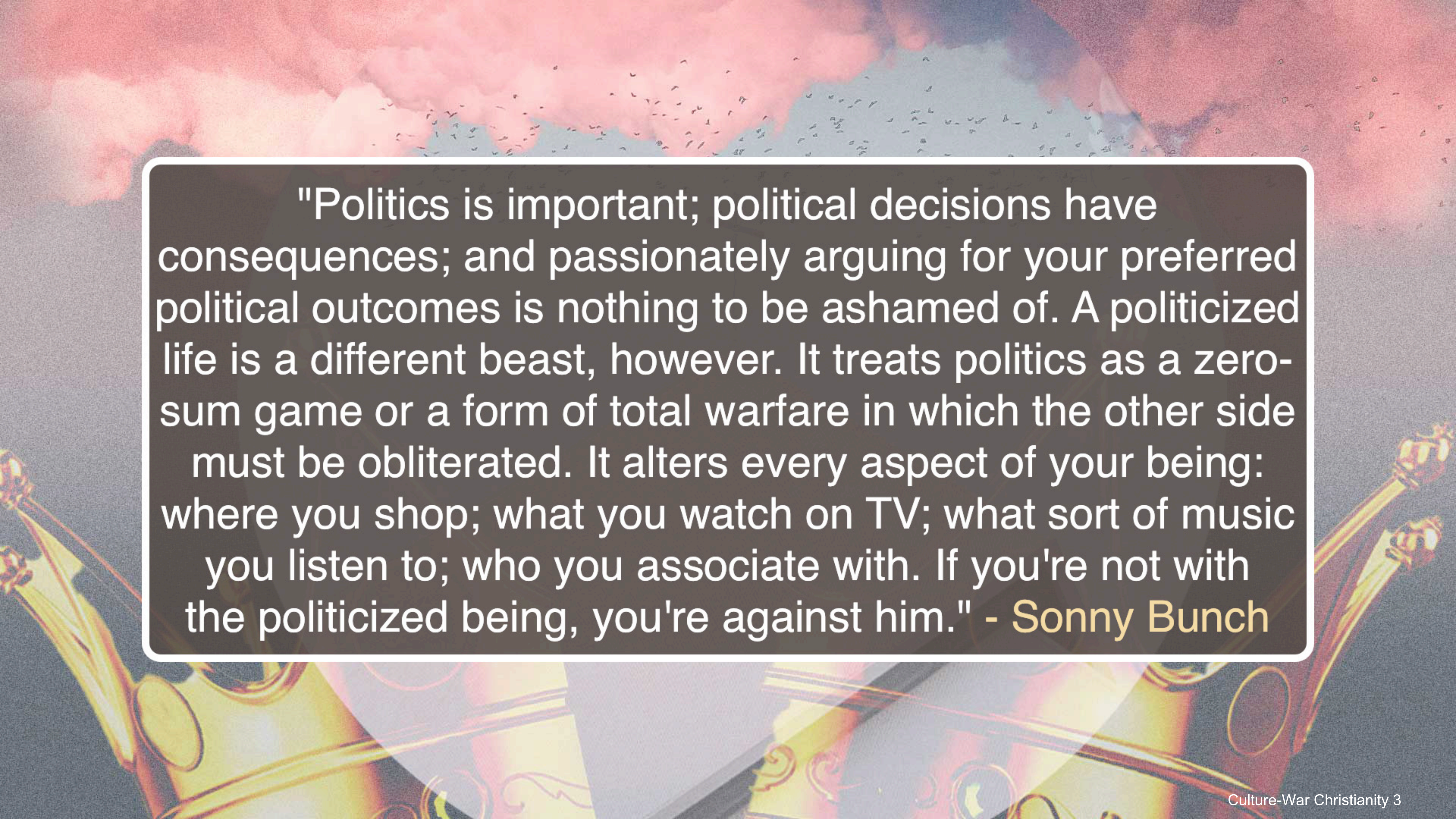


KING & KINGDOM

CULTURE-WAR CHRISTIANITY



1. The Politicization of Everything.



"Politics is important; political decisions have consequences; and passionately arguing for your preferred political outcomes is nothing to be ashamed of. A politicized life is a different beast, however. It treats politics as a zero-sum game or a form of total warfare in which the other side must be obliterated. It alters every aspect of your being: where you shop; what you watch on TV; what sort of music you listen to; who you associate with. If you're not with the politicized being, you're against him." - **Sonny Bunch**



2. The Weaponization of Cancel Culture.

If you say one thing I don't like or disagree with then I discount everything you've ever said, everything you've ever done, and everything you've ever done for me.

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1. The Politicization of Everything.
 2. The Weaponization of Cancel Culture.
 3. The Escalation of Culture-War Christianity.

Culture-War Christianity

- We are at war.
- Win at all costs.
- Losing will do irreparable damage to Christianity in the USA.
- Procure as much political power as possible.
- Leverage it to protect the “Christian way of life.”
- Suffers from the illusion of a persecution-complex.
- Requires an enemy and fear for sustainability.
- Defines itself based on what we’re against more than what we’re for.

Culture-War Christianity

- Believes the worst, hears political dog whistles, and dabbles in conspiracies.
- Rejects nuance and can't imagine how others believe different.
- Allows "the end" (winning) to justify means that lack goodness or integrity.
- Created and sustained by manipulative politicians, pundits, and pastors.
- Unassailable because it refuses to consider any criticism.



Culture-War Christianity

- Christians on the left & right are guilty of this.
- Culture War Christianity is an un-Christ-like un-cross-shaped corruption of our faith because it prioritizes winning over witness, safety over sacrifice, protecting the “99” over reaching the “1”, and self-aggrandizing power over selfless love.



Mark 10:32-34

[Jesus and the disciples] were now on the way up to **Jerusalem**, and Jesus was walking ahead of them. The disciples were filled with awe, and the people following behind were overwhelmed with fear. Taking the twelve disciples aside, Jesus **once more** began to describe everything that was about to happen to Him.

The background of the slide features a stylized illustration. The top half shows a cityscape with a prominent red sky and a large number of small black birds flying across it. The bottom half shows a close-up of ornate, golden architectural details, possibly from a temple or palace, with intricate carvings and a warm, golden glow.

Mark 10:32-34

“Listen,” He said, “we’re going up to Jerusalem, where the Son of Man will be betrayed to the leading priests and the teachers of religious law. They will sentence Him to die and hand Him over to the Romans. They will mock Him, spit on Him, flog Him with a whip, and kill Him, but after three days He will rise again.”

Mark 10:35-41

Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came over and spoke to Him. “Teacher,” they said, “we want You to do us a favor.” “What is your request?” He asked. They replied, “When You sit on Your glorious throne, we want to sit in places of honor next to You, one on Your right and the other on Your left.” But Jesus said to them, “You don’t know what you are asking! Are you able to drink from the bitter cup of suffering I am about to drink? Are you able to be baptized with the baptism of suffering I must be baptized with?”



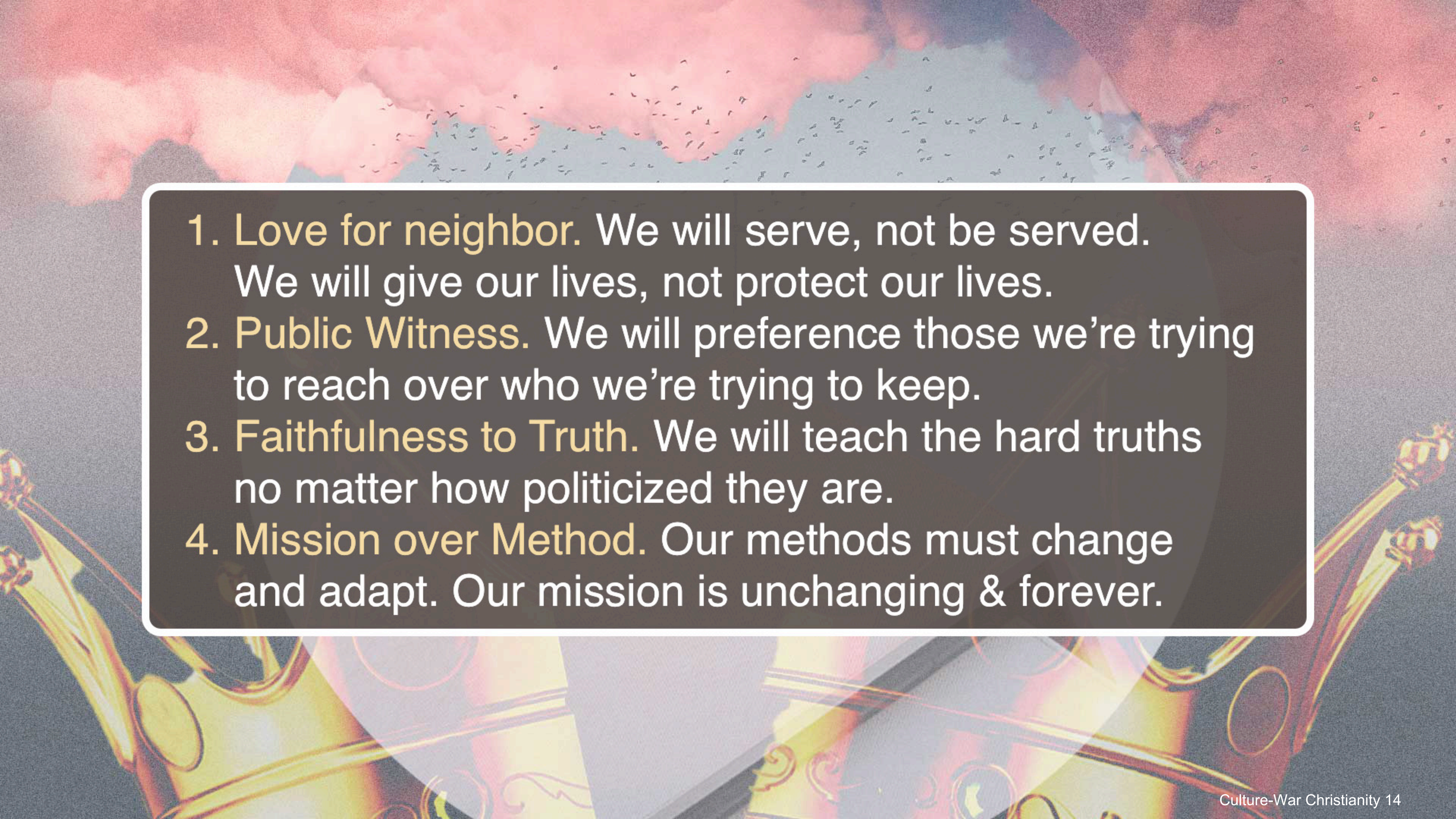
Mark 10:35-41

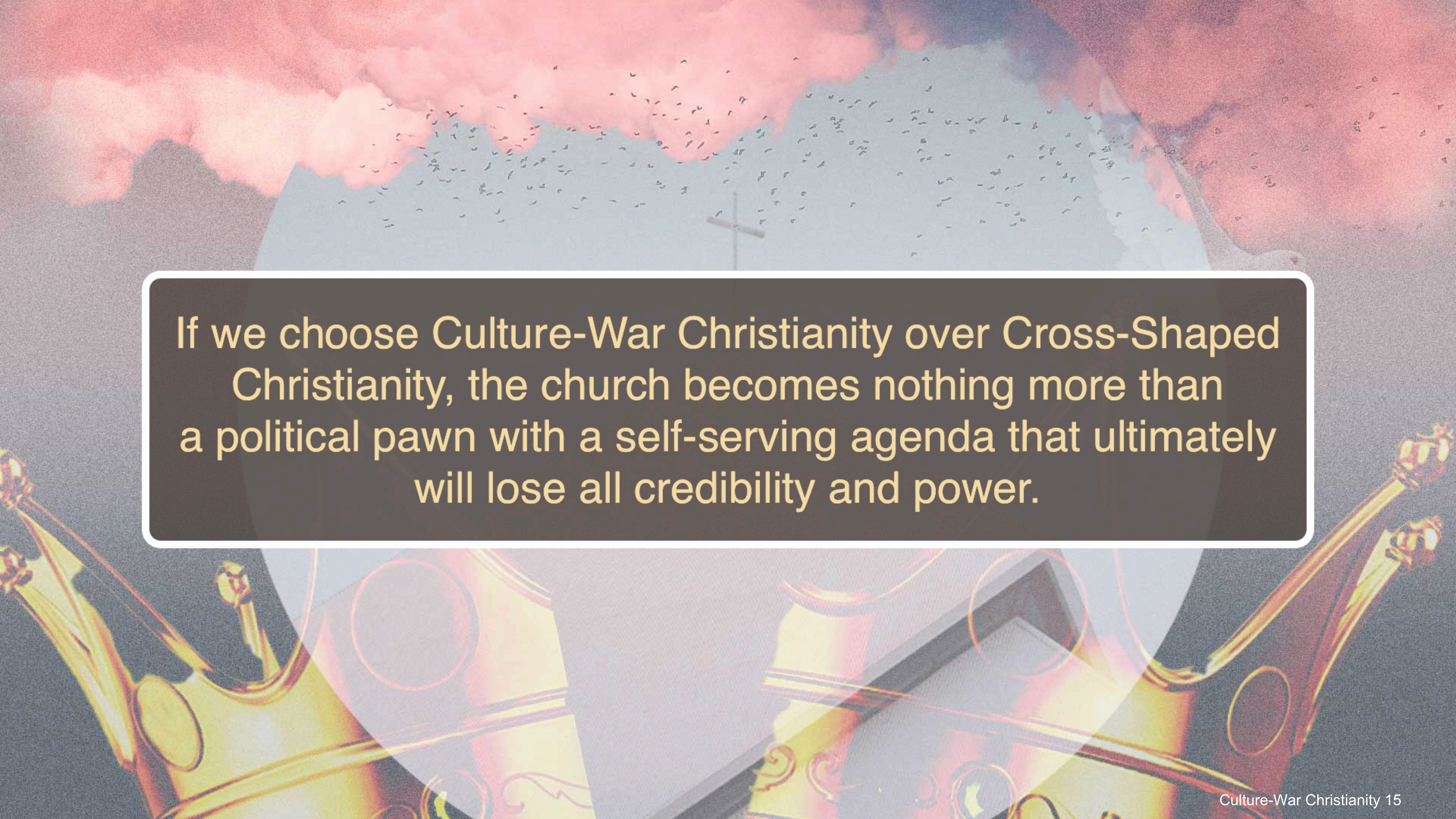
“Oh yes,” they replied, “we are able!” Then Jesus told them, “You will indeed drink from My bitter cup and be baptized with My baptism of suffering. But I have no right to say who will sit on My right or my left. God has prepared those places for the ones He has chosen.” When the ten other disciples heard what James and John had asked, they were indignant.




Mark 10:42-45

So Jesus called them together and said, “You know that the rulers in this world lord it over their people, and officials flaunt their authority over those under them. But among you it will be different. Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first among you must be the slave of everyone else. For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give His life as a ransom for many.”

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1. **Love for neighbor.** We will serve, not be served.
We will give our lives, not protect our lives.
 2. **Public Witness.** We will preference those we're trying to reach over who we're trying to keep.
 3. **Faithfulness to Truth.** We will teach the hard truths no matter how politicized they are.
 4. **Mission over Method.** Our methods must change and adapt. Our mission is unchanging & forever.



If we choose Culture-War Christianity over Cross-Shaped Christianity, the church becomes nothing more than a political pawn with a self-serving agenda that ultimately will lose all credibility and power.




Today, write and send to us
a prayer for our church.



Safely Reengage in Community.

- Come back to church.
- Make an online plan.
- Join a group. necchurch.org/groups
- Make it a non-negotiable for your kids.



Give Generously.

- Regularly to our general fund.
- Above and beyond to Outreach 2021.

Local

- **Up for Women and Children** – serving homeless women
- **Hand in Hand Ministries** – home ownership repair and beautification of West Louisville
- **Portland Promise Center** – meeting the educational, physical and spiritual needs of children
- **Scarlet Hope** – serving women in the adult entertainment industry
- **Kentucky Refugee Ministry** – resettling refugees and welcoming immigrants
- **Led By His Love** – serving at homeless camps
- **Prisoners Hope** – serving the incarcerated & post-incarceration
- **Supplies Overseas** – serving the sick
- **BsideU for Life** – serving women in crisis pregnancies

Global

- **Jasper House Haiti** – a transitional home for women who have escaped prostitution and exploitation
- **Neverthirst** – providing communities with access to clean water
- **Compassion/Stadia** – planting churches for children
- **Earth Mission Asia** – providing healthcare to those without it

Internal

- **Foster Care Ministry** – foster care parents, respite parents, supporting foster care families
- **PB&J** – feeding the homeless
- **Comfort Covers** – supporting homeless, the sick, and refugees
- **Heart Hats** – supporting those with cancer



The Manifesto of the King and Kingdom

Who is our King?

Colossians 1:15 - Christ is the visible image of the invisible God. He is supreme over all creation.

Who is the King of Kings?

Revelation 19:16 – On His robe and on His thigh Jesus has a name inscribed, “King of kings and Lord of lords.”



The Manifesto of the King and Kingdom

Where does our King reign?

Isaiah 9:7 – His government and its peace will never end.

Who are His people?

Ephesians 2:19 – [We] are citizens along with all of God's holy people. [We] are members of God's family.



The Manifesto of the King and Kingdom

Do we have a law?

James 2:8 - The royal law according to the scripture,
“You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

Do we have power?

2 Timothy 1:7 – For God has not given us a spirit of fear
and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline.



The Manifesto of the King and Kingdom

I said, Do we have power?

Matthew 16:18 – The gates of Hades will not prevail against the church.

I said, Do we have power?

Romans 8:11 - The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you.

The Manifesto of the King and Kingdom

What is our message?

2 Corinthians 5:20 – We are Christ’s ambassadors; God is making His appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, “Come back to God!”

Where have we been sent?

Matthew 28:19 - Go therefore and make disciples of all nations.

The Manifesto of the King and Kingdom

Is this our home?

Philippians 3:20 – We are citizens of heaven,
where the Lord Jesus Christ lives.

How did this begin?

John 1:1-3 – In the beginning the Word was with God,
and the Word was God. God created everything through
Him, and nothing was created except through Him.

The Manifesto of the King and Kingdom

How does this end?

Revelation 22:3-5 – No longer will there be a curse upon anything. For the throne of God and of the Lamb will be there, and His servants will worship Him. And they will see His face, and His name will be written on their foreheads. And there will be no night there—no need for lamps or sun—for the Lord God will shine on them. And they will reign forever and ever.



The Manifesto of the King and Kingdom

Who gets the glory?

Ephesians 3:20-21 – Now all glory to God, who is able, through His mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think. Glory to Him in the church and in Christ Jesus through all generations forever and ever! Amen.