

## Dangers of Fusion

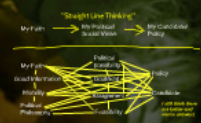
Straight Line Thinking

Mental Shortcuts

Something simple, but not simplistic...  
Church in Society

Ambassador Exiles  
Fully invested foreigners with a message

Witnessing and Embodying  
Clear message with real examples



Ambassador exiles witnessing to and embodying the redemptive message of Christ applied to the creation mandate for the sake of goodness and peace through pursuing justice and righteousness.

Redemption applied to Creation  
Applying Redemption to the Creation Mandate

Seeking Goodness and Peace  
Lack of success doesn't determine this goal

Through Justice and Righteousness  
Giving humans their due for both reasons

## Fighting Biology



### The Church in Culture: 6 key objectives

- more Christians living long-term in cities no physical separatism
- With a clear understanding of the gospel clear message
- creating dynamic counter cultures within the city real examples
- Integrating the relationship between faith and work publicly Christian lives
- Pouring themselves out sacrificially for the whole city Sacrificial service the price of influence
- Contextualization Answering the questions people actually have

### 4 Legitimate Ways to Relate to Government:

- Forming christian Character- and let it work Actually make real disciples
- Forming christian Conscience- and let them apply it Teaching the social and moral core
- Direct Public Persuasion Saying "no" and confessing why
- Direct Public Coercion disobedience, protest, boycotting, disinvestment, etc





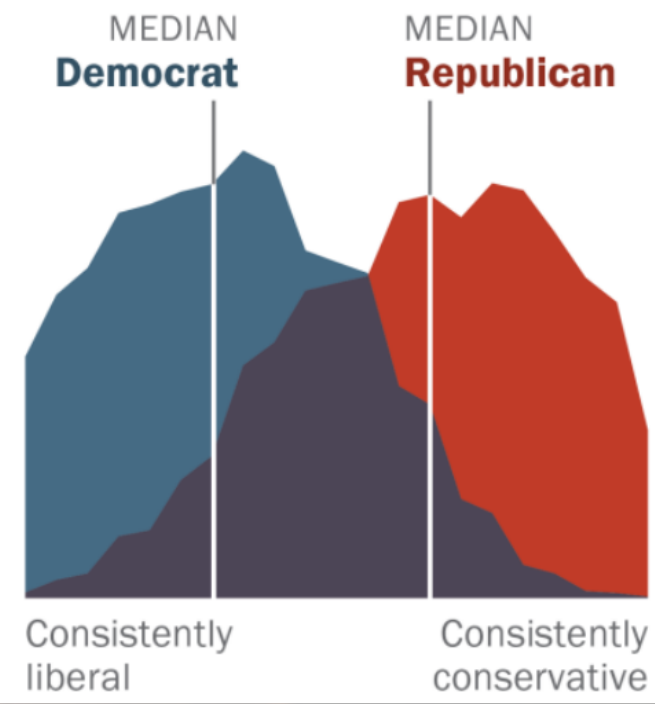
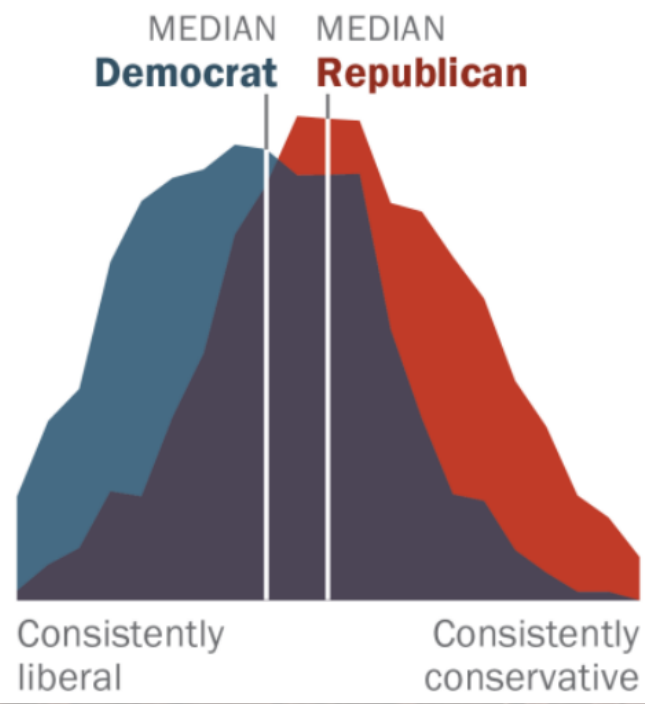
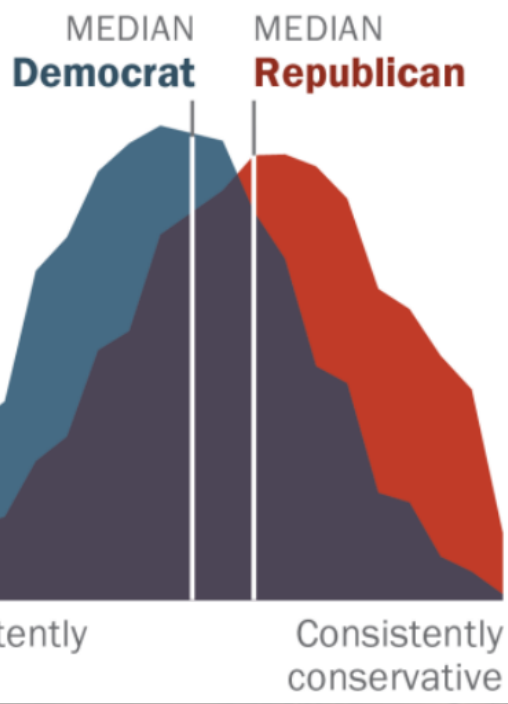




**1994**

**2004**

**2014**



**Democratic attitudes about the Republican Party**

**Republican attitudes about the Democratic Party**

43% Very unfavorable



38% Very

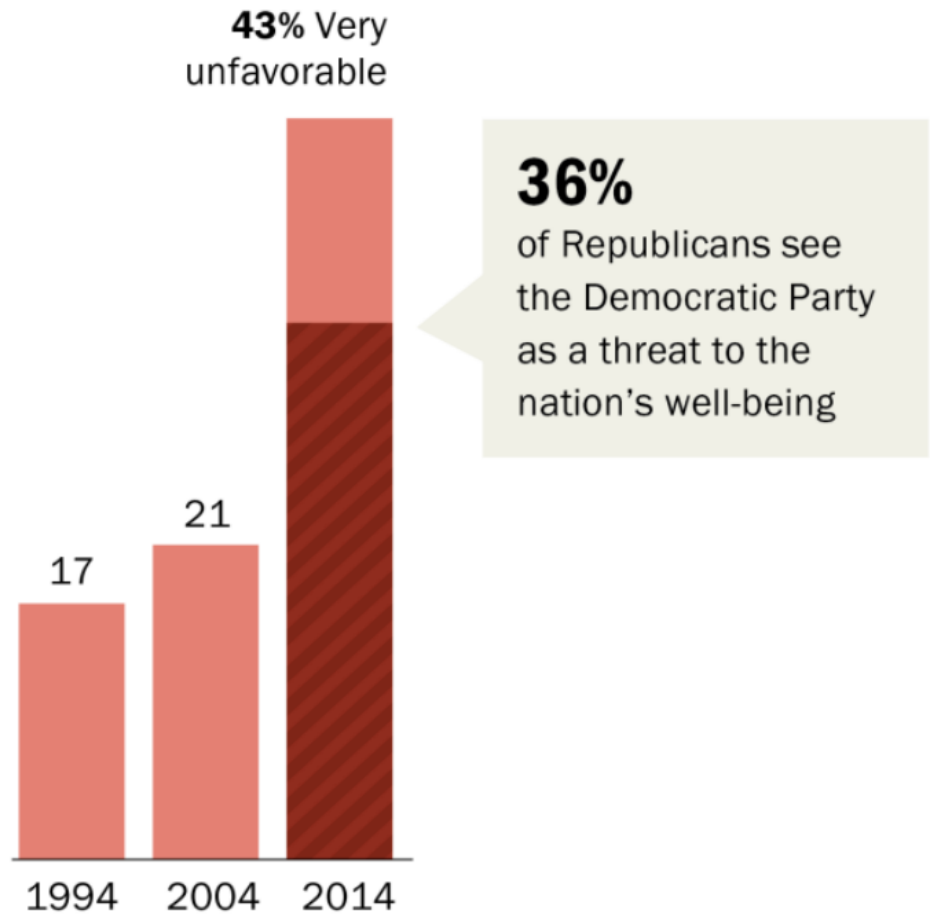
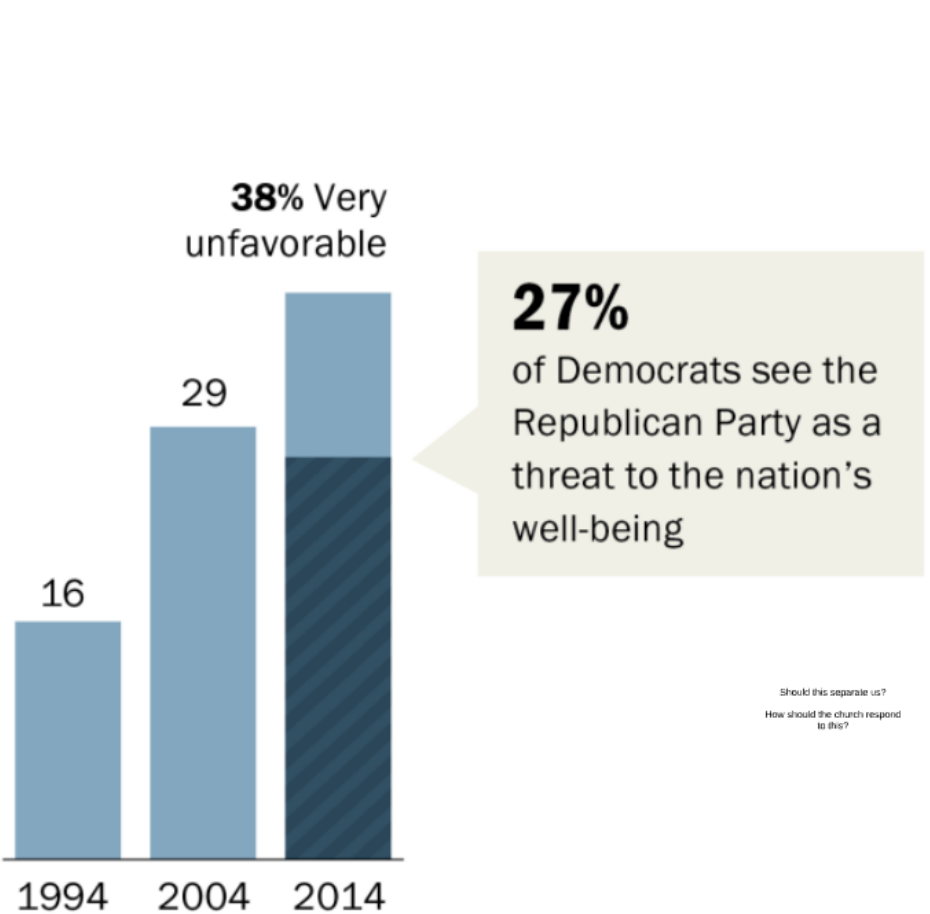
36%





**Democratic attitudes about the Republican Party**

**Republican attitudes about the Democratic Party**





Should this separate us?

How should the church respond  
to this?



# Separation

*total separation*

NIV Matthew 22:21

"Caesar," they replied,  
"Then he said to them,  
"Give to Caesar what is Caesar's,  
and to God what is God's."

#### Separationism

Religion must be kept totally out of  
politics and society

#### Selective Separationists

People that don't agree with me should keep their  
religion out of public life

(...ist)

# Fusion

*fused together*

#### Fusionism

"The belief that there is so much affinity between the central claims of the  
faith they hold and their favored political policies that the two are scarcely  
distinguishable." - Robert Benne

*For those who believe that Christianity is inherently  
public and moral- this is the constant danger*





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***For those who believe that Christianity is inherently public and moral- this is the constant danger***



**Example:**

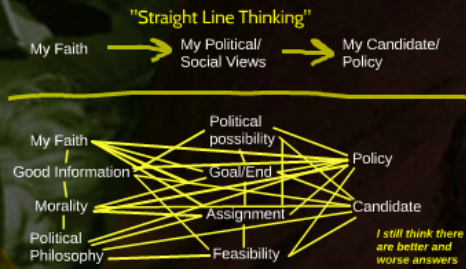
"Socialism is the only possible economic system from the Christian point of view."

*Socialist Decision*, Paul Tillich

(you could replace 'Socialism' with 'Capitalism')

# Dangers of Fusion

## Straight Line Thinking      Mental Shortcuts



Progressives      Oppressors ↔ Oppressed

Conservatives      Civilization ↔ Barbarism

Libertarians      Freedom ↔ Coercion

### Religious Shortcuts

**Progressives**

Just because you're morally bankrupt for the past 2000 years doesn't mean you're morally bankrupt now.

"You're worth less to him as a Jew" - John 8:12

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**Conservatives**

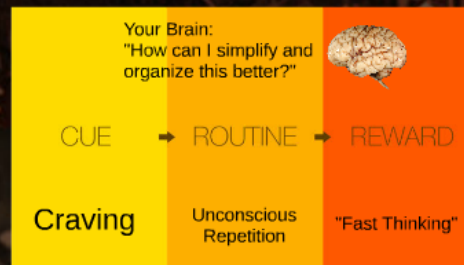
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## Fighting Biology







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# Straight Line Thinking

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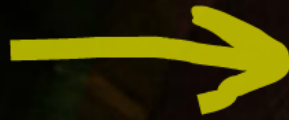
*I still think there are better and worse answers*

# Fighting B



# "Straight Line Thinking"

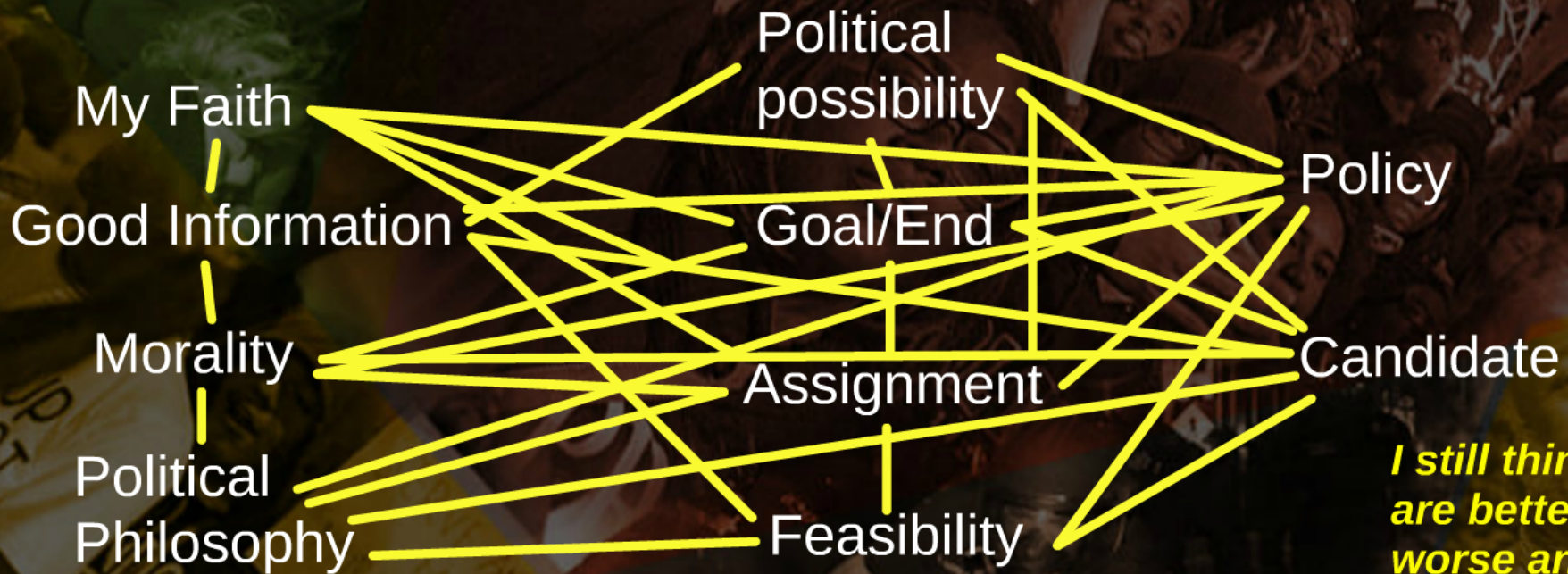
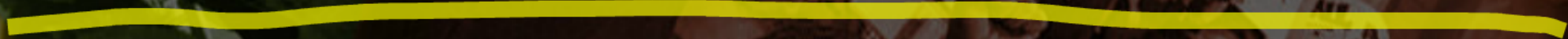
My Faith



My Political/  
Social Views



My Candidate/  
Policy



*I still think there are better and worse answers*



# f Fusion

# Mental Shortcuts

Progressives  
**Oppressors** ⇄ **Oppressed**

Conservatives  
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Libertarians  
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## Religious Shortcuts

### Progressives

God believes in preferential treatment for the poor Deut 15:7  
"God wants us to love all people" Jn 13:34  
"God sets the captives free" Isaiah 42:9  
"God wants it 'on earth as it is in heaven.'" Matthew 6:10

### Conservatives

Legal partiality to the poor is forbidden Ex 23:3  
The Bible affirms the independence and inviolability of personal property everywhere.  
Constant affirmation of personal, individual responsibility, regardless of situation (Ezekiel 18:18, Jeremiah 31:30, Deuteronomy 24:16)  
The primacy of religious freedom: governments are held legitimate when they contradict free expression (Acts 5:29)



Progressives

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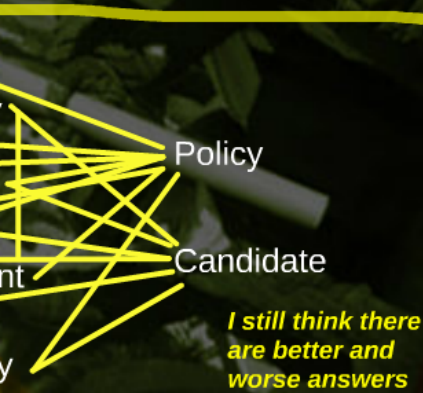
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# Fighting Biology

Your Brain:  
"How can I simplify and  
organize this better?"



CUE → ROUTINE → REWARD

Craving

Unconscious  
Repetition

"Fast Thinking"





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"How can I simplify and  
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CUE



ROUTINE



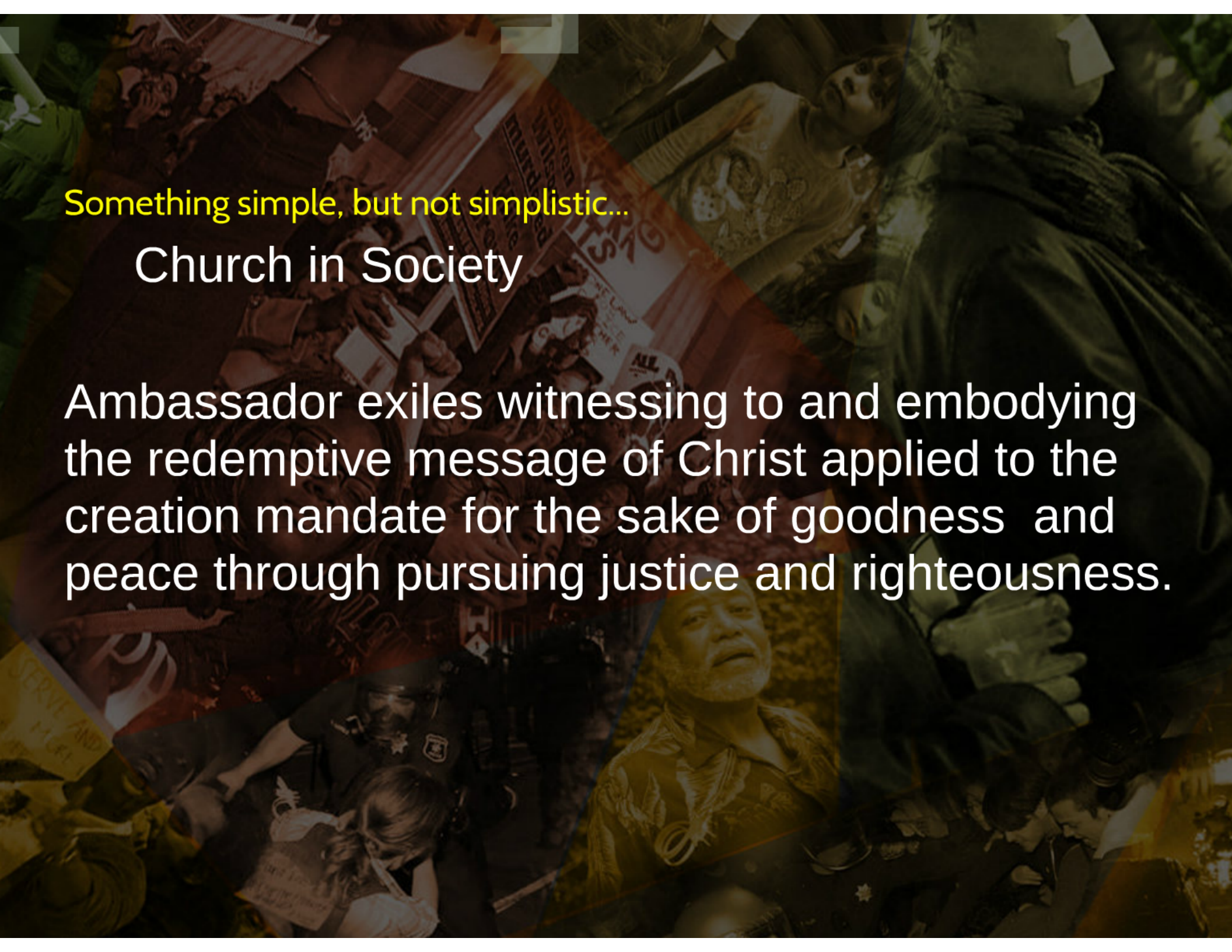
REWARD

Craving

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"Fast Thinking"



A collage of social and political images. It includes a woman in a yellow shirt with a graphic, a man in a black shirt, a woman in a blue shirt, and various protest signs. One sign clearly says "GAYS" and another says "ALL". The background is a dark, textured overlay.

Something simple, but not simplistic...

## Church in Society

Ambassador exiles witnessing to and embodying the redemptive message of Christ applied to the creation mandate for the sake of goodness and peace through pursuing justice and righteousness.





## Ambassador Exiles

*Fully invested foreigners with a message*

## Witnessing and Embodying

*Clear message with real examples*

## Redemption applied to Creation

*Applying Redemption to the Creation Mandate*

## Seeking Goodness and Peace

*Likelihood of success doesn't determine this goal*

## Through Justice and Righteousness

*Giving humans their due for both reasons*





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## Applied to Creation

*Application to the Creation Mandate*





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***n to the Creation Mandate***

# Through Justice and Righteousness

***Giving humans their due for both reasons***



# The Church in Culture: 6 key objectives

1. more Christians living long-term in cities *no physical separationism*
2. With a clear understanding of the gospel *clear message*
3. creating dynamic counter cultures within the city *real examples*
4. Integrating the relationship between faith and work *publicly christian lives*
5. Pouring themselves out sacrificially for the whole city *Sacrificial service the price of influence*
6. Contextualization *Answering the questions people actually have*



*determine this goal*

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*Sacr*



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**Legitimate Ways to Relate to Government:**





3. creating dynamic counter cultures within the city

4. Integrating the relationship between faith and work

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6. Contextualization

***Answering the questions people actually have***

**Legitimate Ways to Relate to Government**



# 4 Legitimate Ways to Relate to Government:

1. Forming christian Character- and let it work  
**Actually make real disciples**

2. Forming christian Conscience- and let them apply it  
**Teaching the social and moral core**

3. Direct Public Persuasion  
**Saying 'no' and confessing why**

4. Direct Public Coercion  
**disobedience, protest, boycotting, disinvestment, etc**

Fruit of #1 & #2

Lay lead,  
cooperative  
organizations  
that are not the  
church



They give  
examples  
to the  
society



The church isn't  
derailed from it's  
mission

## Public Statements:

Few, careful, limited, and advised

"Too many interventions suggest that the church has special competency in these worldly matters, which to most is patently does not. The upshot of too many such interventions is that the church is reduced to just another interest group in the eyes of citizens. That is why the majority of Americans – church people and non-church people – disapprove of ecclesial bodies and their leaders giving public advice to their political representatives." – Robert Beane, Good and Bad Ways, page 55





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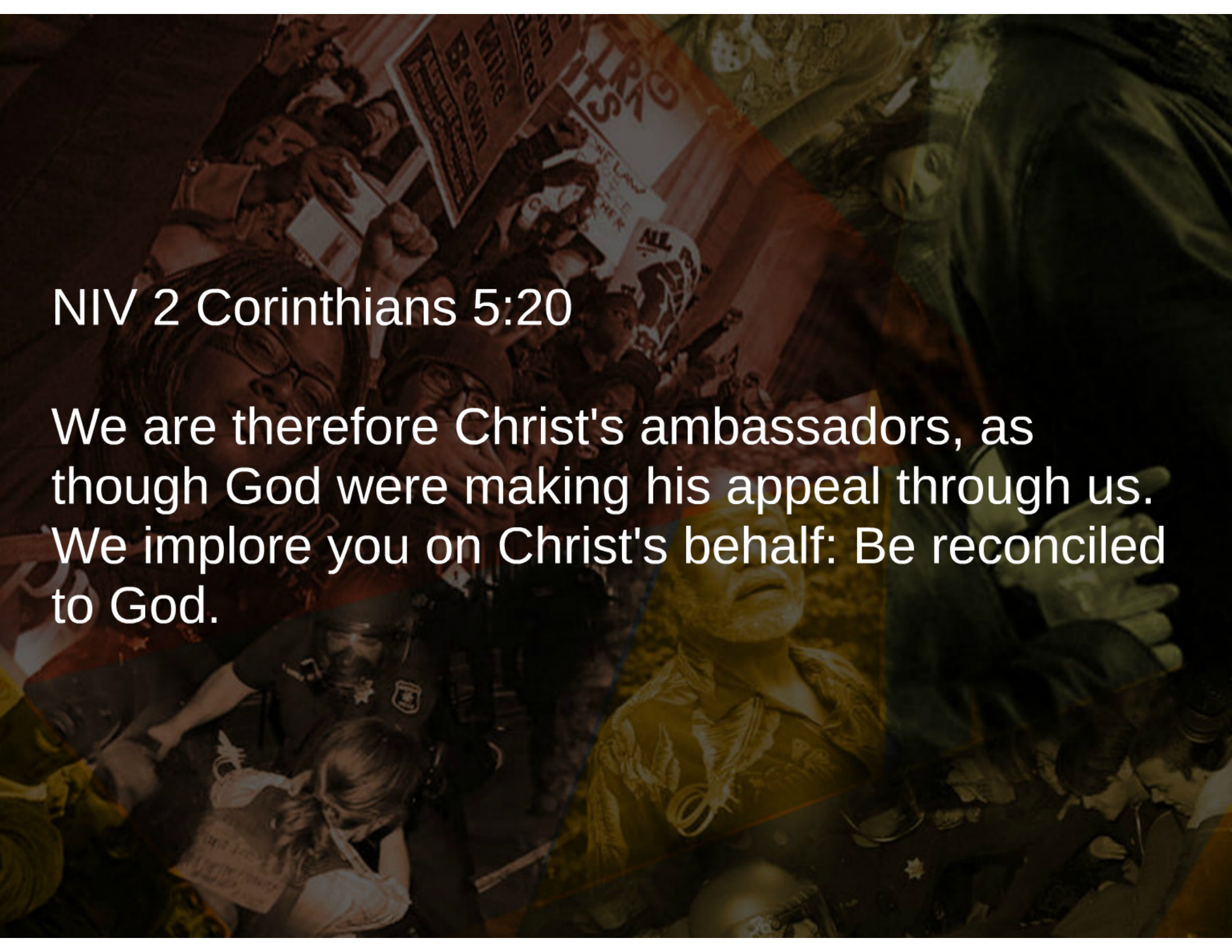
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## NIV 2 Corinthians 5:20

We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.