

The background is a dark green color with a repeating pattern of white outlines of leaves and branches. The leaves are simple, elongated shapes with pointed tips, and the branches are thin lines connecting them.

# SCRIPTURE

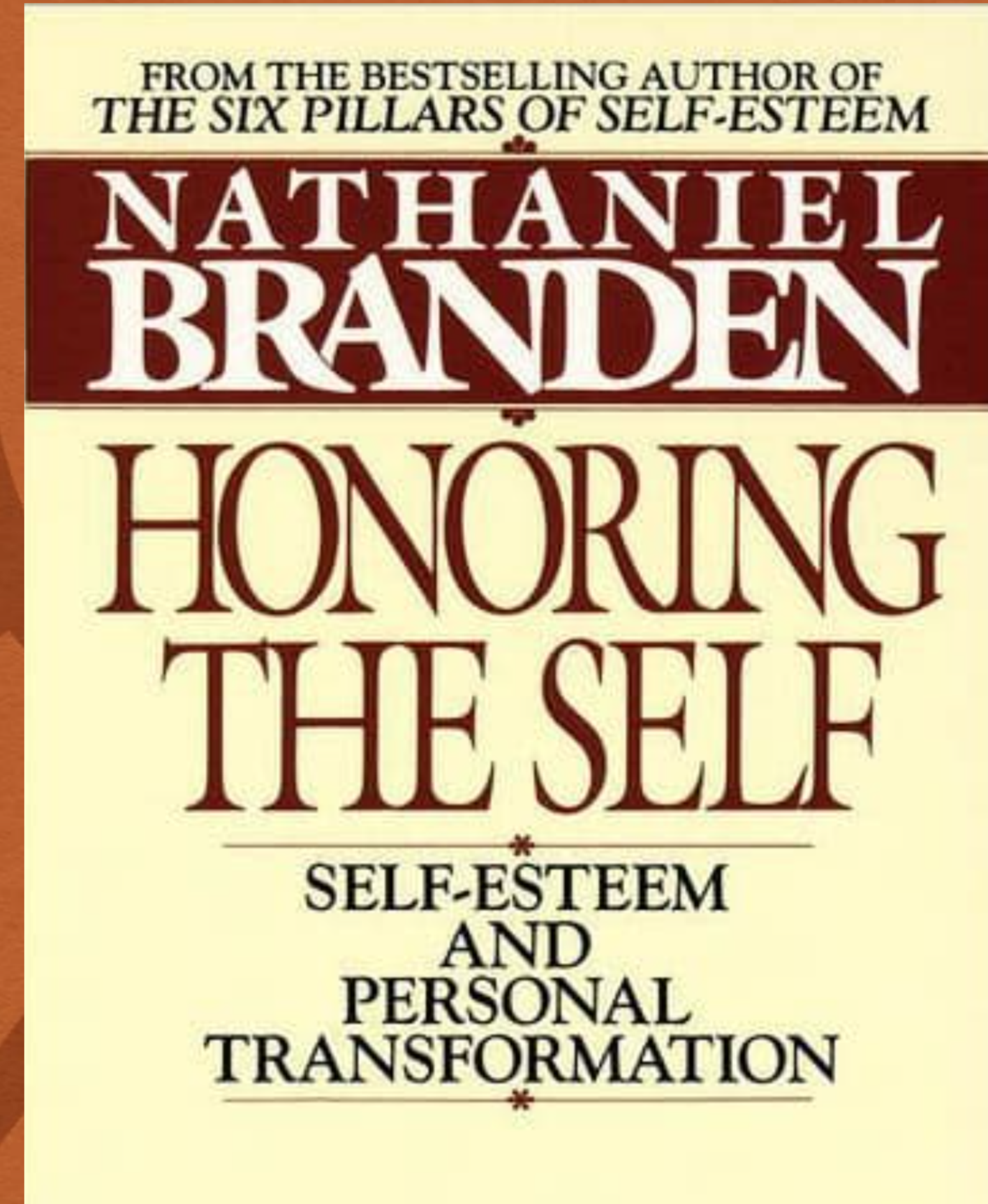
PHILIPPIANS 2:1 – 11



# PHILIPPIANS



**Does  
Christian  
faith save  
the human  
self or  
deny it?**



**"Were you told  
to 'be humble'?"**

## **2 Timothy 3:1 – 4**

**But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. For people will be lovers of self...lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God.**

# A Toxic Religious Guide to Sabotaging Your Life:

---

1. Begin with the premise that there is something hopelessly and incurably wrong with you.
2. Believe that your humanity is an offense needing forgiveness, an illness needing cured, a monster to be feared, and an evil to repress.
3. Mistrust your innermost thoughts and feelings.

# A Toxic Religious Guide to Sabotaging Your Life:

---

4. Give others the power and authority to determine what your beliefs, values, opinions, goals, desires, and views are.
5. Fear, reject, condemn, and close yourself off from anyone or anything that isn't approved by the above "others."



# Self-Religion



**Toxic Religion**

**True Religion**

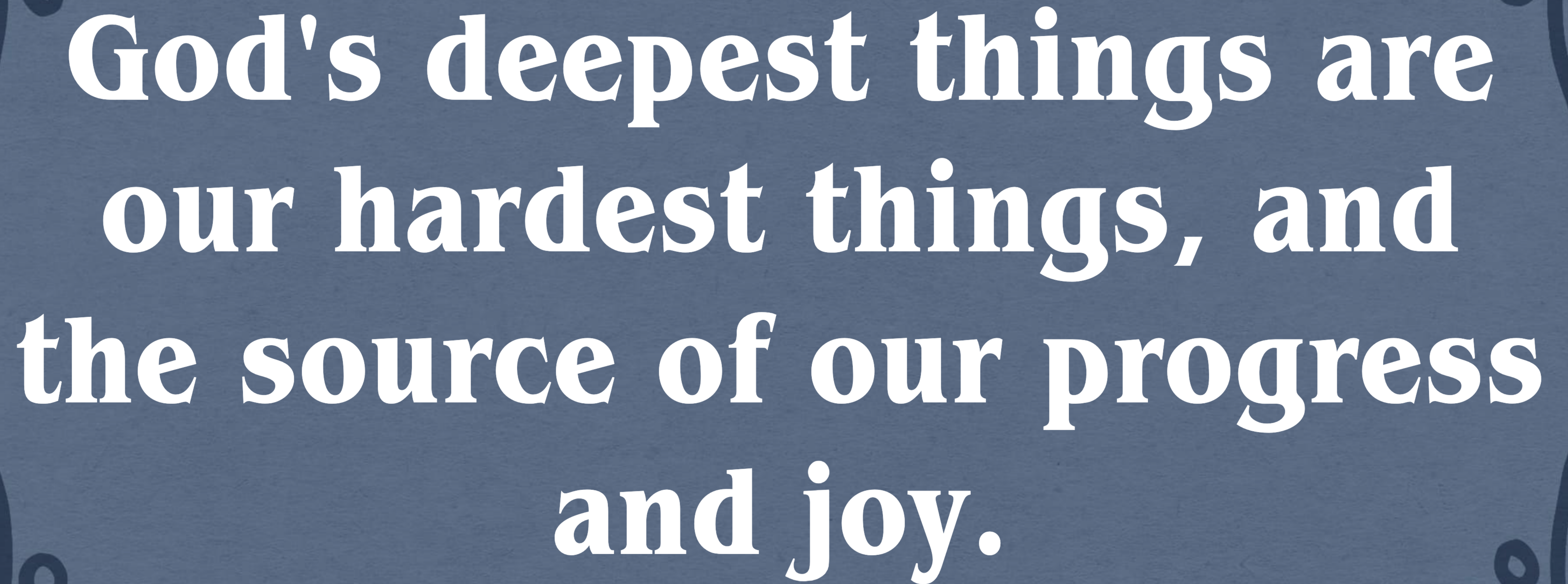
**What is the  
blast radius of  
your critique?**



## **Luke 9:24 – 25**

For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will save it. What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit his very self?



The image features a dark blue background with white text. The text is centered and reads: "God's deepest things are our hardest things, and the source of our progress and joy." The text is arranged in four lines. In each of the four corners, there are decorative floral or leaf-like patterns in a slightly darker shade of blue, framing the central text.

**God's deepest things are  
our hardest things, and  
the source of our progress  
and joy.**

# 3 Joy Transitions

- 1. 1:18** The Gospel and I are both going to be glorified.
- 2. 1:25 – 26** I'm ready serve your progress and joy,
- 3. 2:17 – 18** We are meant to take Christ's joy in each other.

# Last Week:

## Philippians 2:1 – 2

“If you have any **encouragement** from being united with Christ, if any **comfort** from his love, if any **fellowship** with the Spirit, if any **tenderness and compassion**, then make my **joy complete...**”

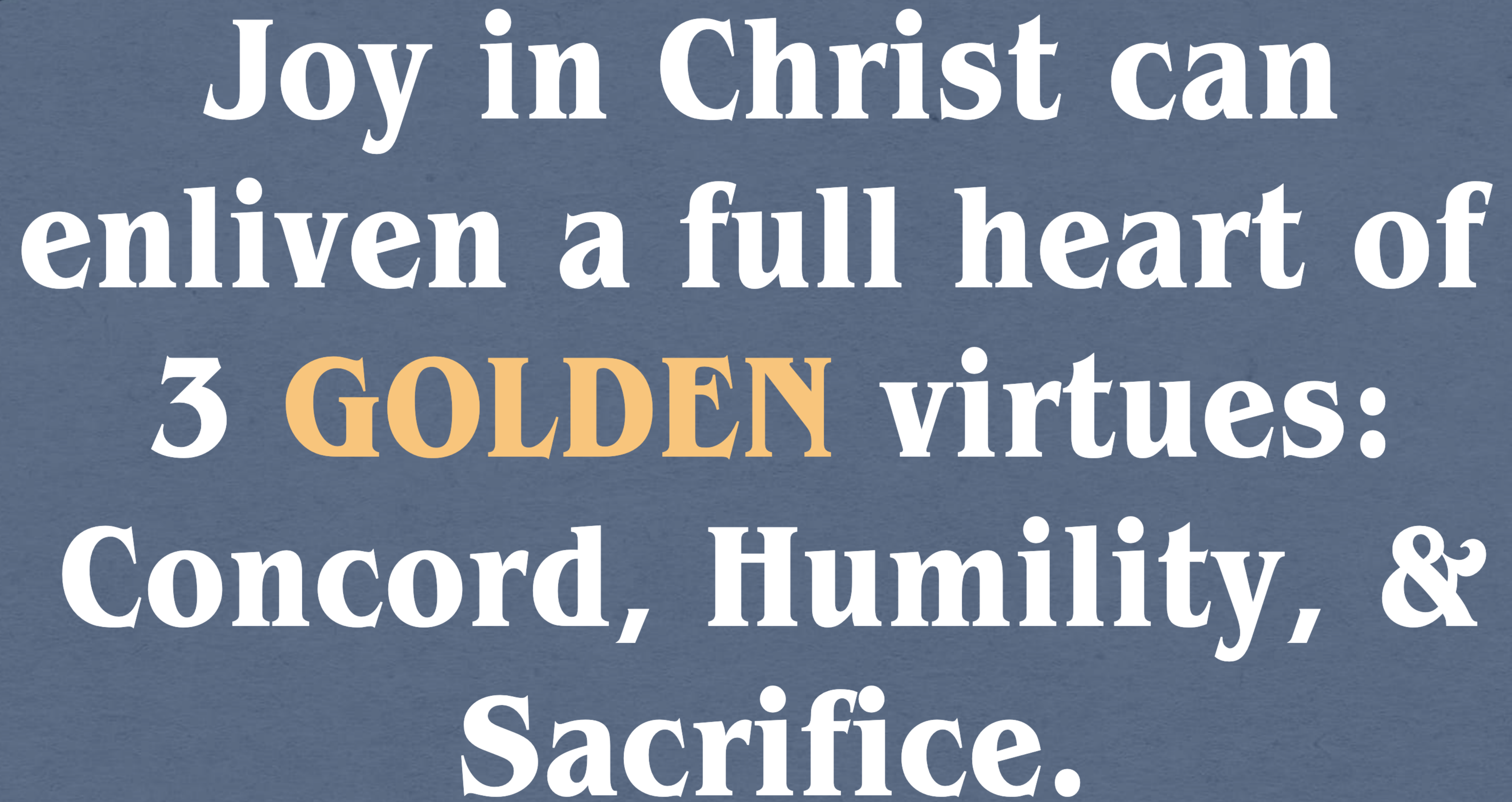
# The **Emotions** of Faith

- Encouragement from Union
- Comfort from Love
- Fellowship in Spirit
- Bowels of Emotion
- Mercies of Concern

**in Christ**

A diagram consisting of five straight arrows pointing from the list items to the text 'in Christ'. A curved arrow points from 'in Christ' down to the text 'Then enter into the life of JOY...'. The text 'in Christ' is in a bold, orange font, while the other text is in white.

**Then enter into the life of JOY...**



Joy in Christ can  
enliven a full heart of  
**3 GOLDEN** virtues:  
Concord, Humility, &  
Sacrifice.

# 1. Concord

Real likeness of heart and mind that makes for productive unity, shared course, and productive cooperation. It is the spiritual sharing of hearts.

# "Like-mindedness"

Philippians 2:2

"Then make my joy complete by being **like-minded**, having the **same** love, being **one** in spirit and **mind**."

# "Like-mindedness"

## Not:

- Mirror-mindedness
- Closed-mindedness
- Open-mindedness





# Literal Translation 2:2b

## Philippians 2:2

“So that **it** should be what you **mind**;  
**it** is the **love** you hold, **harmoniousness**,  
your one **minedness**...”

# "This-mindedness"

Philippians 2:1-2 So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.



This mindedness and love is achieved  
through

# The Romantic Piety

of life in Christ (verse 1).

## Philippians 1:9

That your **love** may abound more and more in **knowledge** and depth of **insight**.

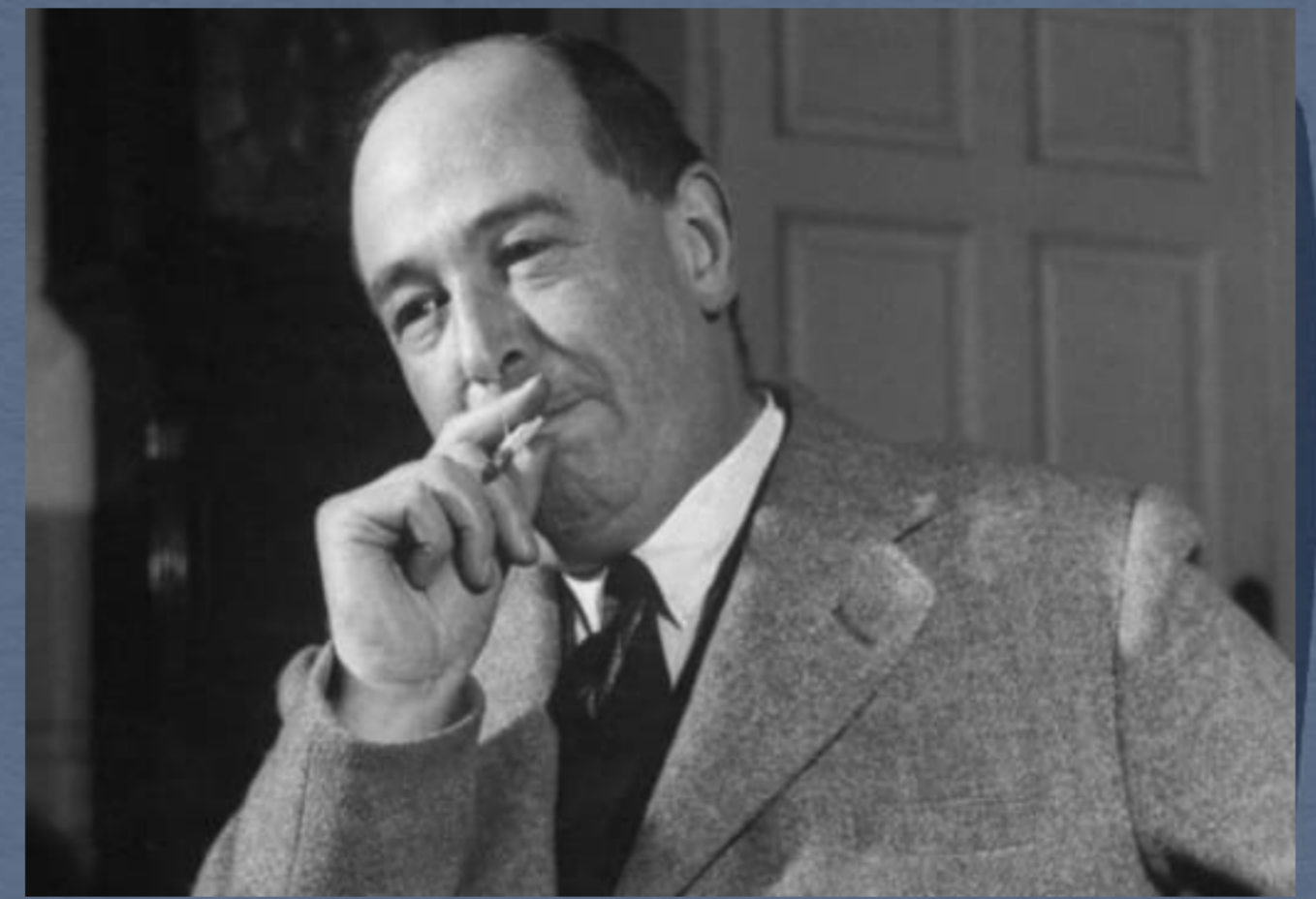
# 2. Humility

The self-forgetfulness that discovers, sees, and considers others.

## Philippians 2:3

“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility reckon others above yourselves...”

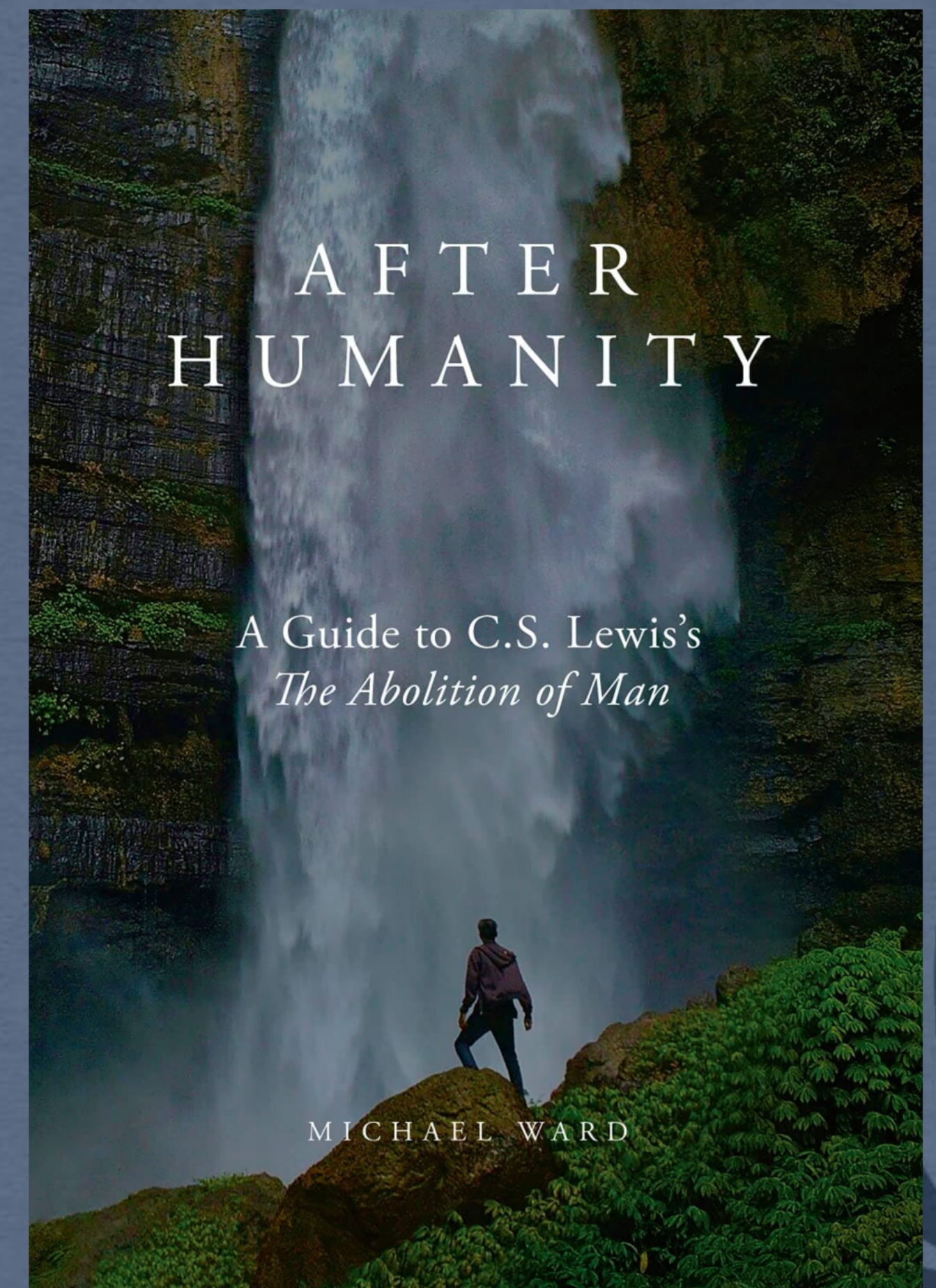
# False Humility



When humility means handsome people thinking they are ugly and clever people thinking they are dumb, the opposite of humility is achieved, since it focuses on the self more.

# Misguided Humility

Humility is not acquiescence to abuse. To accept tyranny with servility, remissness or rebellion are all rejections of humility and forms of selfishness.





# Selfish Ambition

Rivalry, emotional disputes of status and position, selfishness in the context of open discord. (Philippians 1:17)

See James 3:14 – 18

# Vain Conceit

Inflated self-regard, Empty attentiveness,  
inordinate, misappropriated devotion.

"keno-doxa"- "empty glory"

KJV: "Vain-glory"

# **The Question:**

**What are you ambitious for?**



**What is the glory you see and seek?**



# Glory

That which must have the limelight of attention. That which attracts **concentration**, animates **devotion**, quickens **admiration**, and induces **imitation**.



Glory is the object of worship  
(and the purpose).





# Vain-glory

Giving the limelight of our attention to empty and lesser glories. Allowing such things to focus our concentration, excite our affection, animate our devotion, quicken our admiration, and induce our imitation.



# Jesus: Emptied Unto Glory

...who being in his very nature God...

**emptied himself**...therefore God  
**exalted him** to the highest place...to the  
**glory** of God the father...

# Jesus: Emptied Unto Glory

Instead of leaving us to worship the empty, he emptied himself to show us the substance of what must be worshipped.

# 3. Sacrifice

## Philippians 2:4

Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.



# How much do I serve?

Service involves self denial,  
but is not the denial of the self.

# Negative context:

"should not look only to his own interests..."

We tend to naturally get wrapped up in our own interests.

**How much do I serve?**

In joy and concord, mindful  
of humility, what is seeking  
true glory?

# How much should I serve?

Cultivate joy and union with Christ, pursue concord of mind and harmoniousness in humility. See Christ and his good glory. And grow in love in depth of knowledge and insight...then do what love wants and joy demands.

# Augustine



"Love God, then do as you will; for the soul trained in love to God will do nothing to offend the one who is beloved"

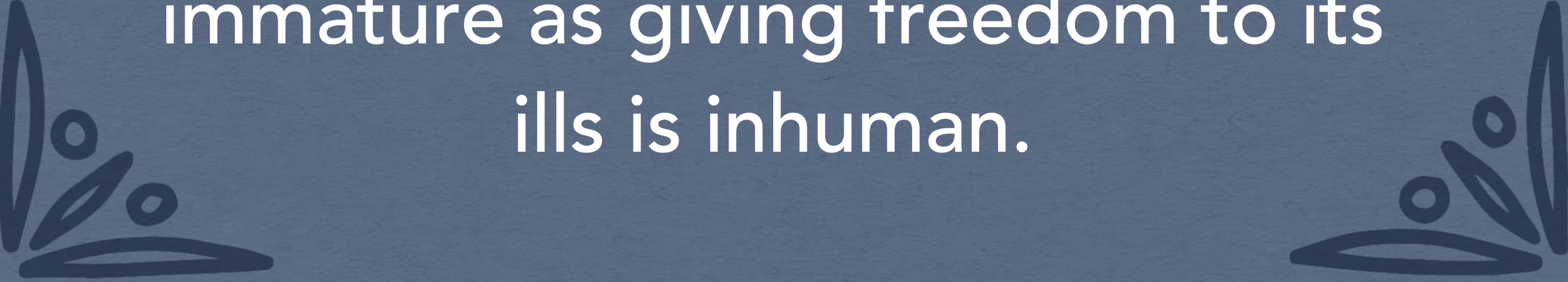
# Love and sacrifice

**Humility is the precondition** of love,  
but only the the **bowels of felt concern**  
can motivate sacrifice- the highest  
human glory.



# Jesus, savior of the heart's life

Denying your heart's humanity is as  
immature as giving freedom to its  
ills is inhuman.





# PHILIPPIANS