



Tough seas are here for the taking.
 But the real question is:
Will you sink?
 Don't let your own ego sink you.

Step 1: Don't give up. Don't be afraid. God is with you.
 Step 2: Don't read the tea leaves.
 Step 3: Stay on course. The Gospel was built for separation.

Step 4: Work together through separation. Unity makes sense only if...

How?

Structural integrity is the unity of all the parts of the boat rightly bonded together.

A solid boat is a floating boat.

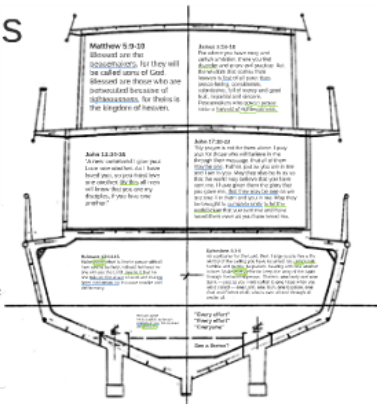
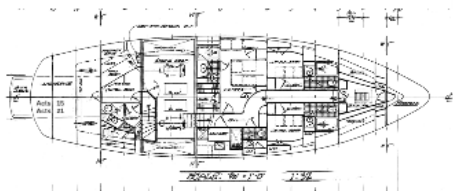


If our boats, whether built or naturally built, do not have a strong unity, they will sink. It is of course especially the case.
 But if I build for me or for my own personal comfort, I will be sunk by the sea.

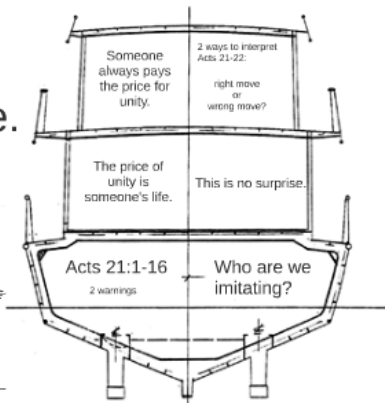
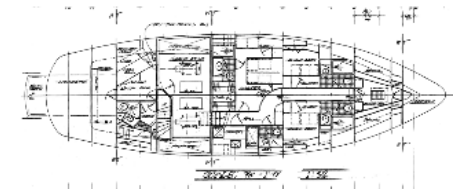


Work for unity through sacrifice. (and prudential wisdom)

1. Working for unity is *as important as* fighting for purity.



2. Working for unity requires brave sacrifice.





UNSINKABLE FAITH

8 weeks in Acts

You don't know what is going to happen out there.





Tough seas are never comfortable.

But the real question is:

Will you sink?

(And: **Can you rescue anyone that *is* sinking?**)

Step 1: Don't give up. Don't be afraid. God is with you.

Step 2: You need the Holy Spirit.

Step 3: Stay on course: the Gospel was built for opposition.

Step 4:

Work for peace through sacrifice. Unity makes buoyancy.

How?



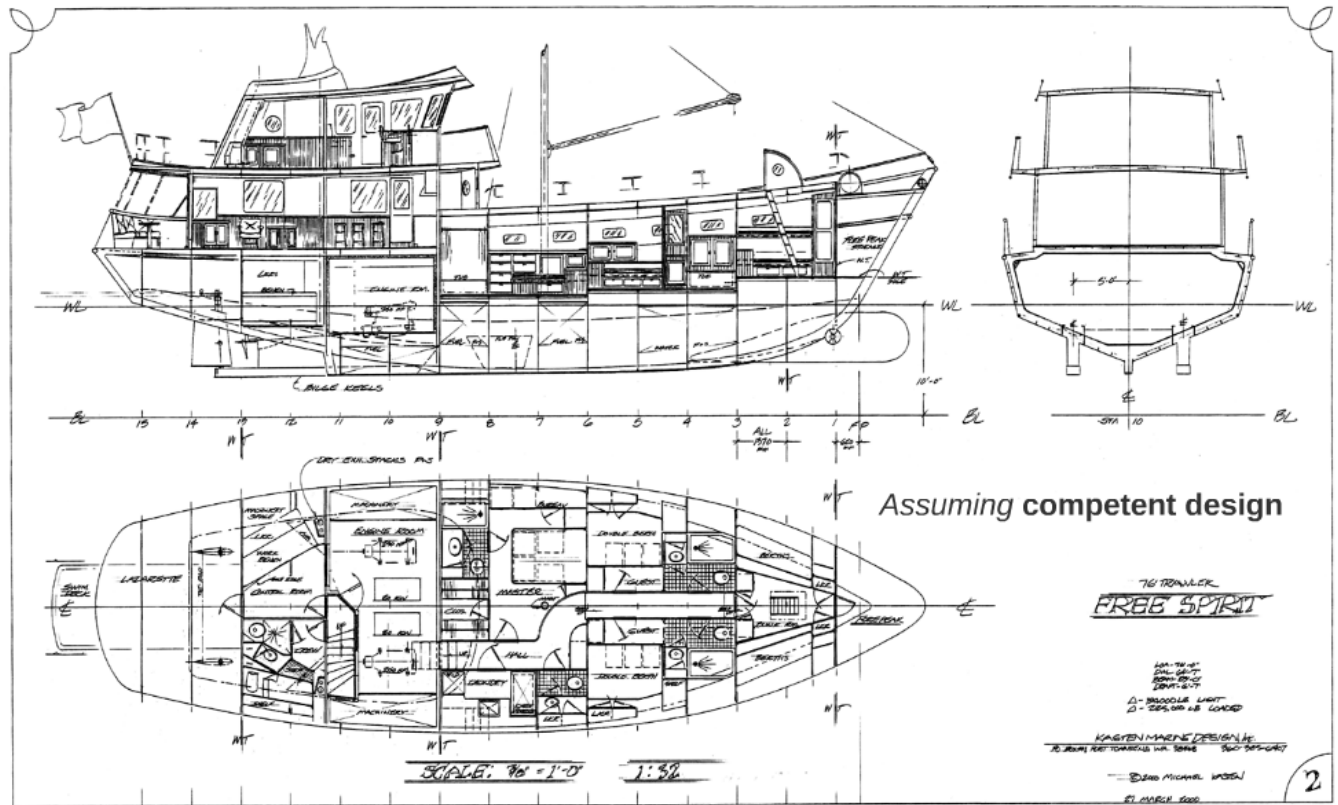
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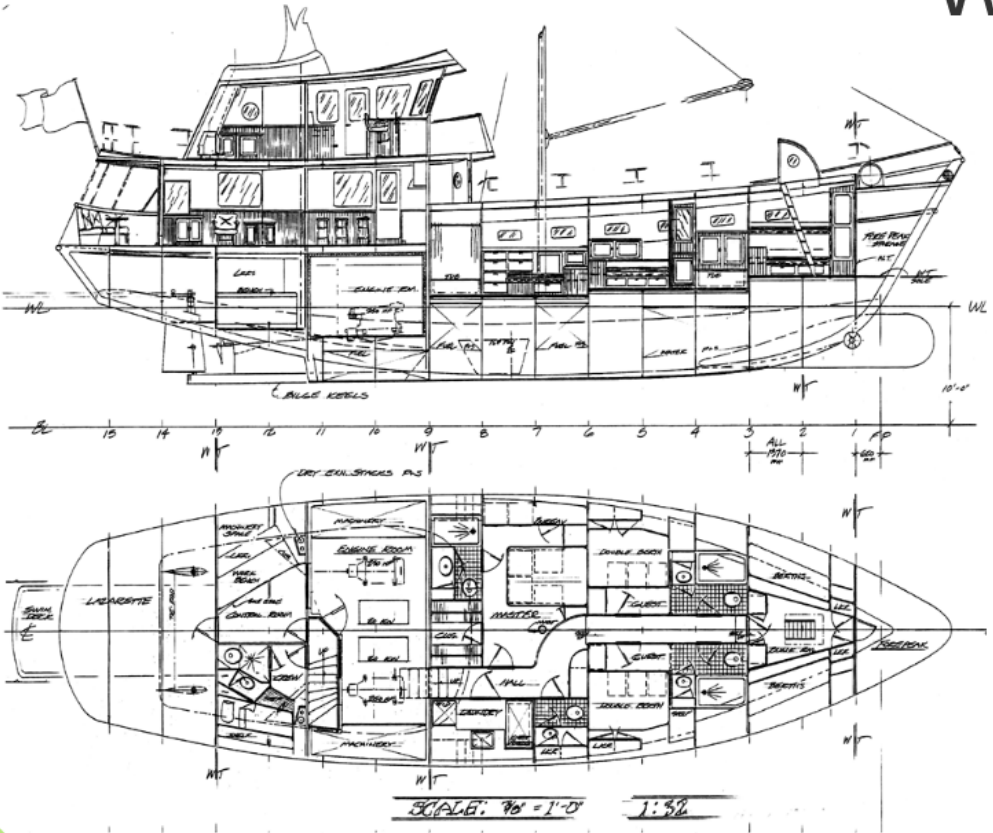
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We are all in

This is true of all human cultural vessels

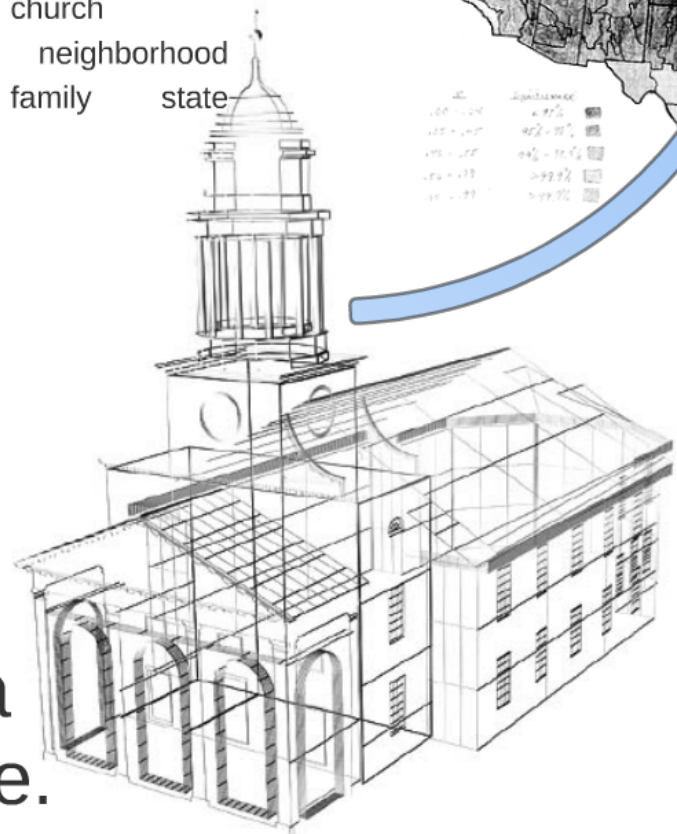


We are all in cultural "vessels"

church
neighborhood
family
state

This is true of [☆]all human cultural vessels

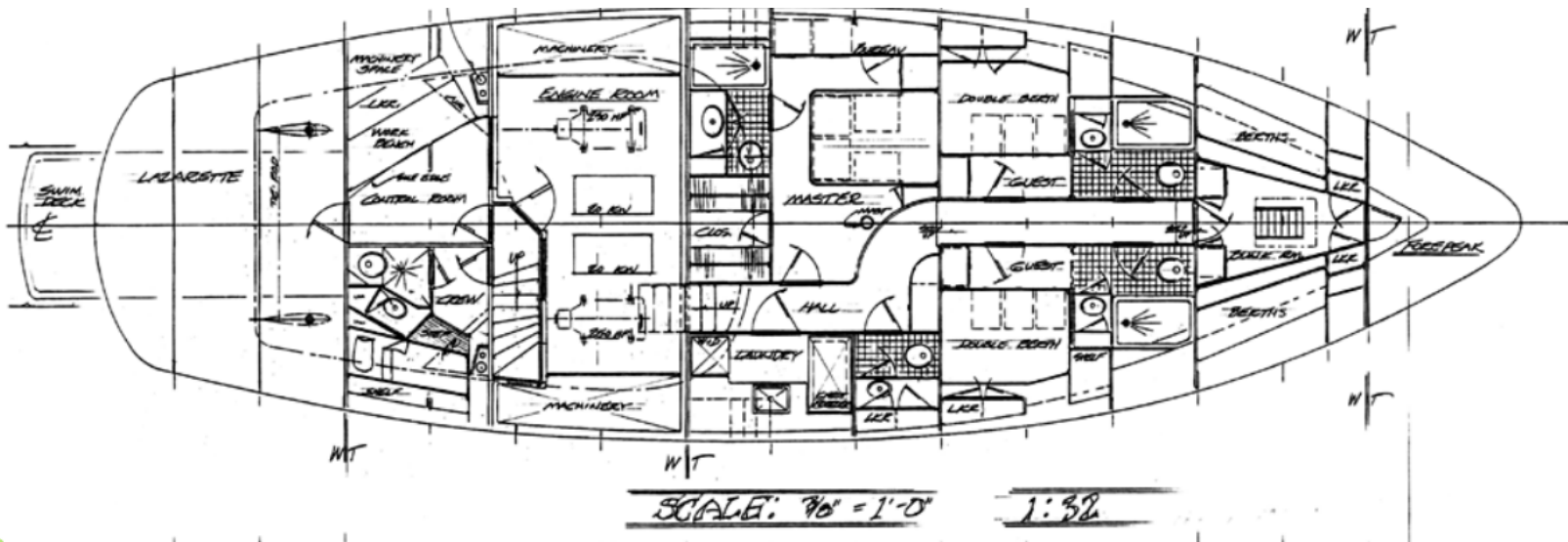
"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God."
Matthew 5:9-10



The church is the vessel of the faith and faithful.

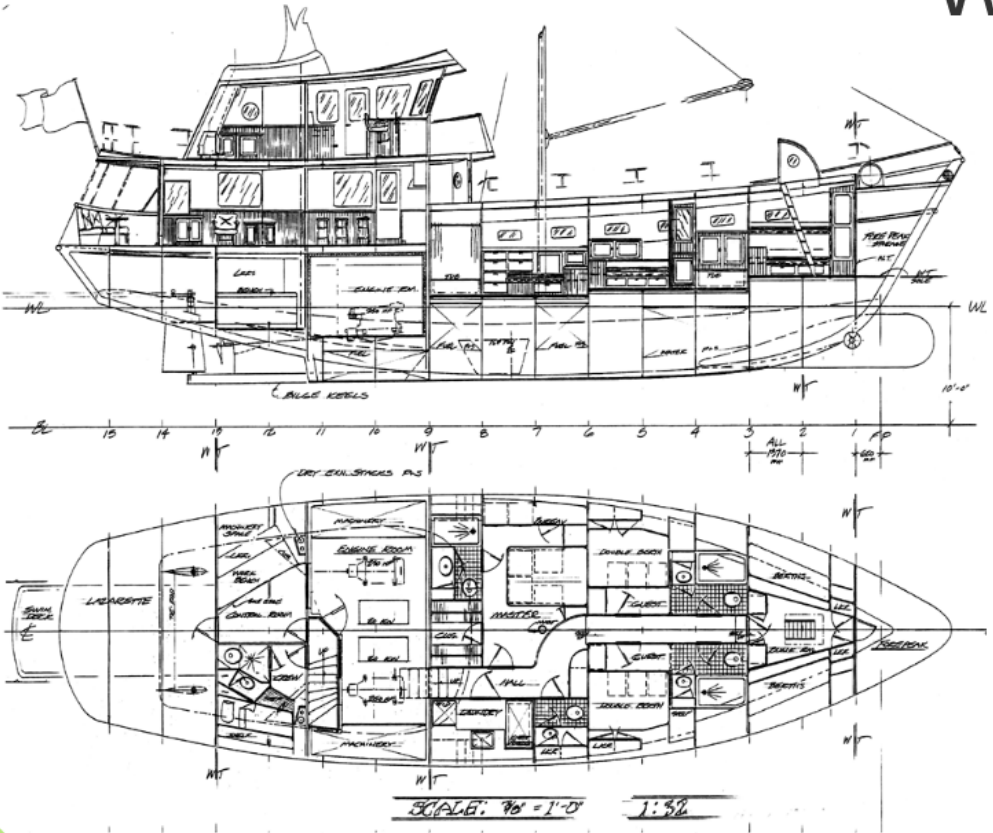
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Unity makes buoyancy



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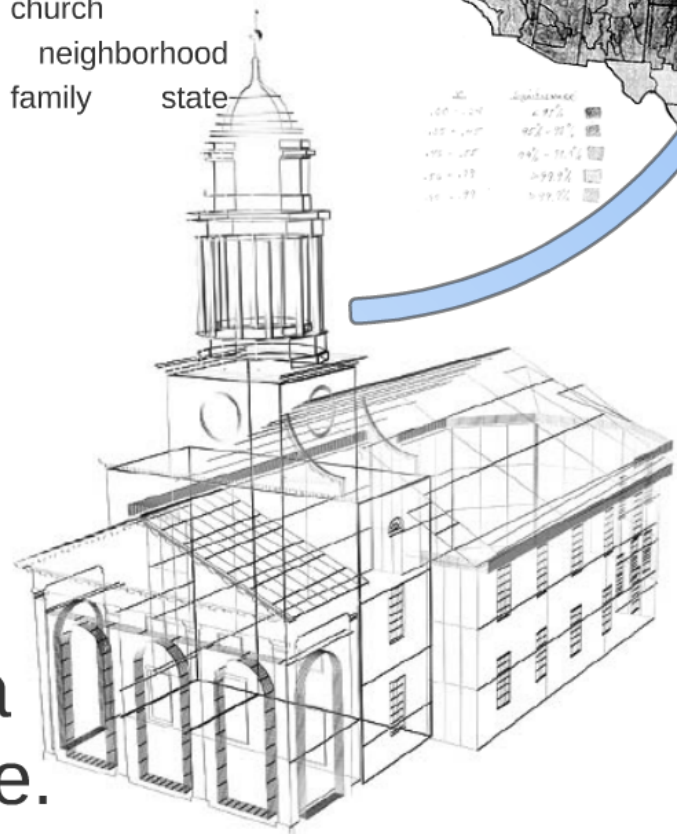


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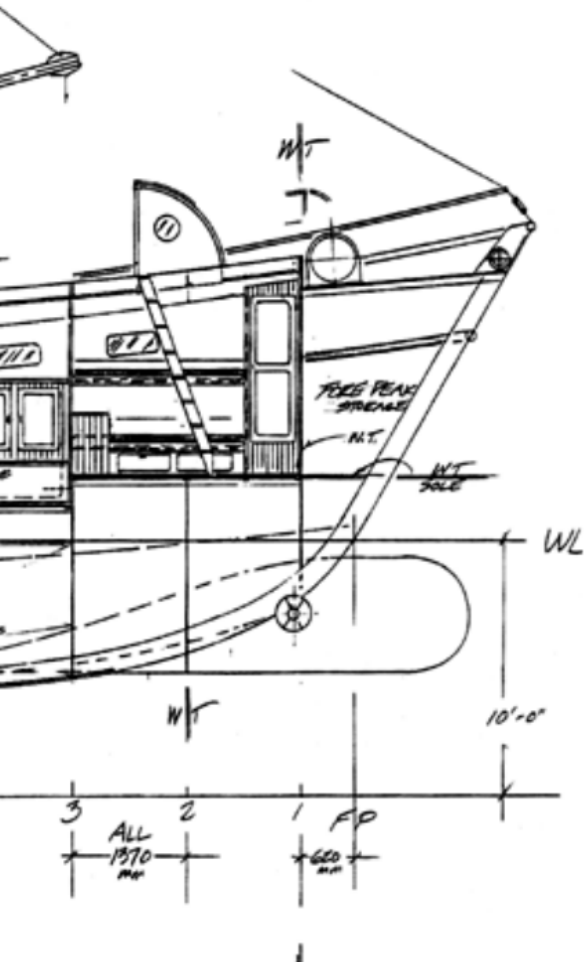
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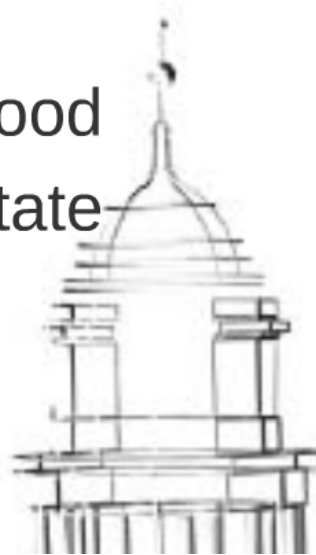


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"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God."
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If our family, neighborhood, or society holds its structural integrity (unity), then we can be at ease — especially the weak.

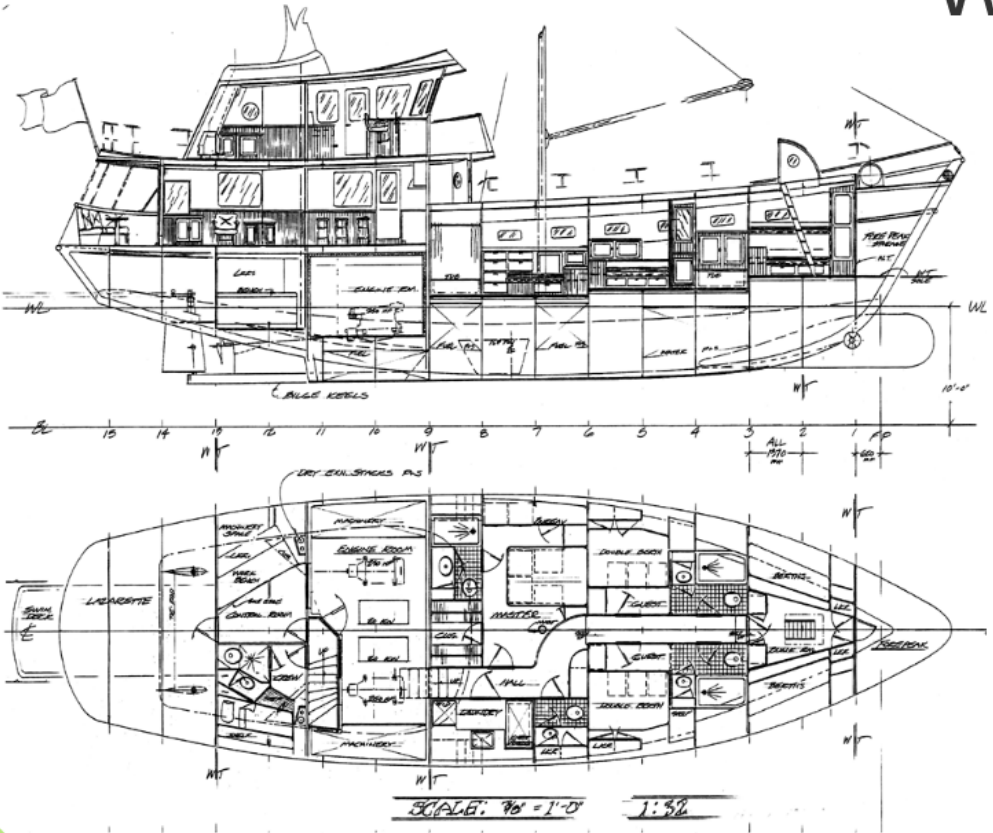
But if it fails then we are on our own in smaller and more pressured groups.



The church is the vessel



And the weak tend to drown.

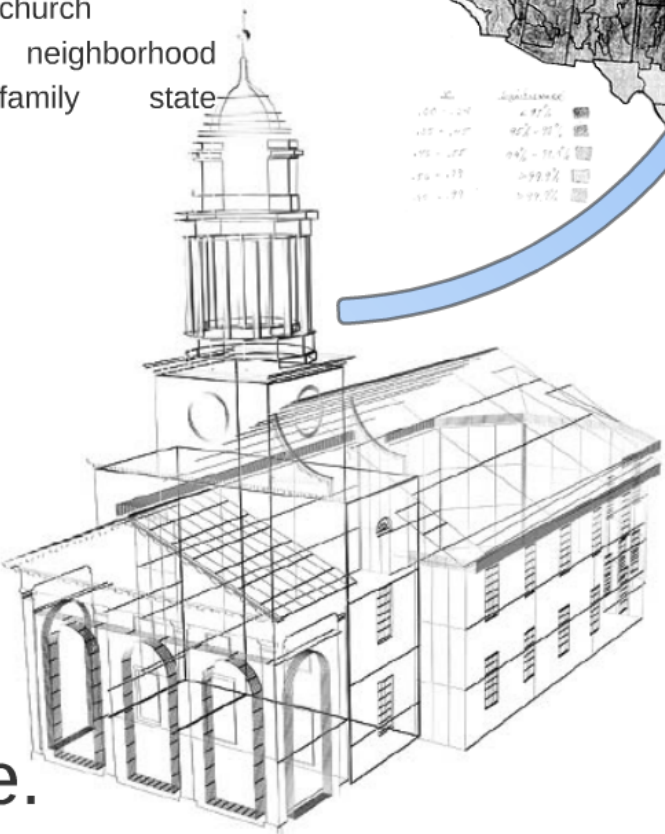


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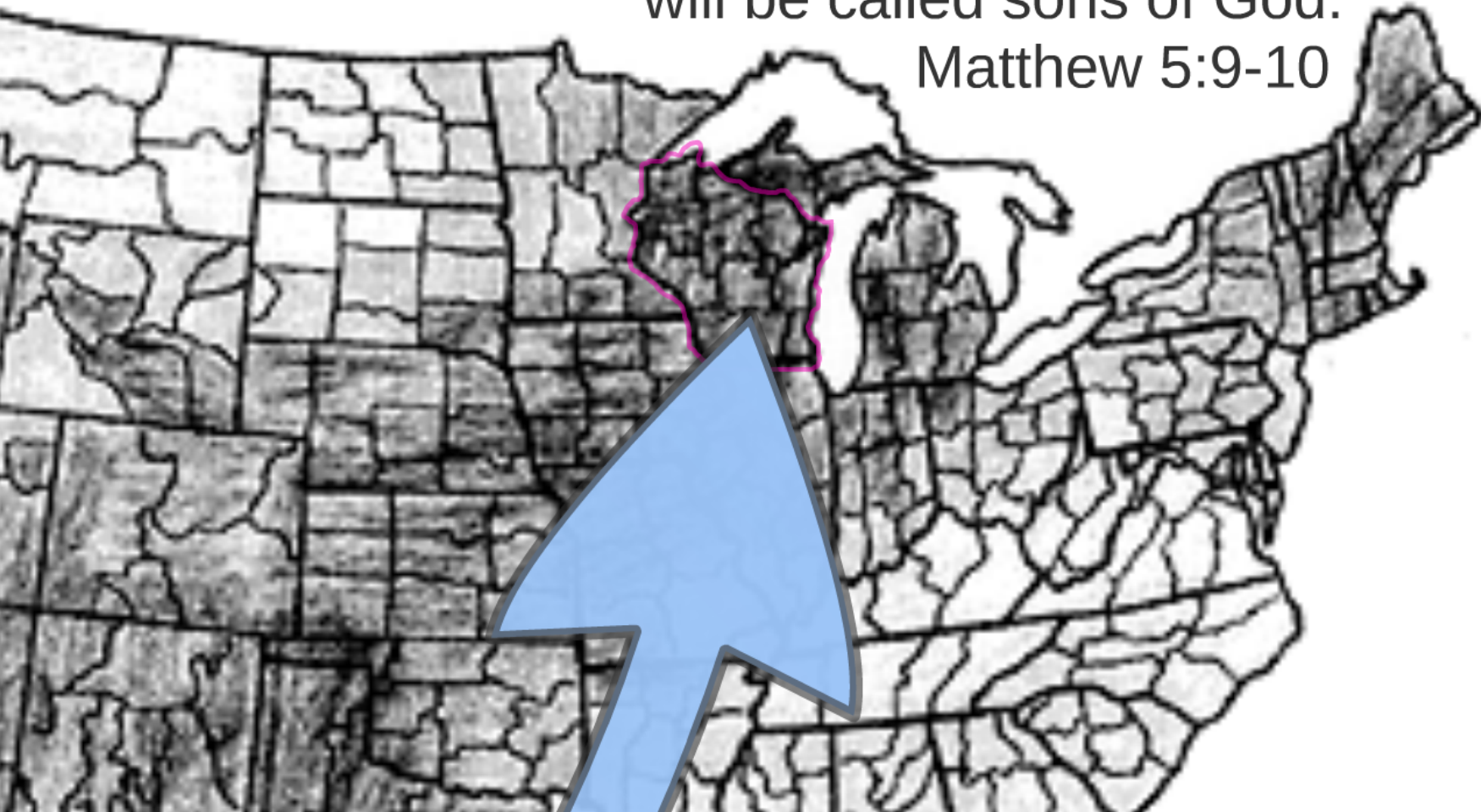
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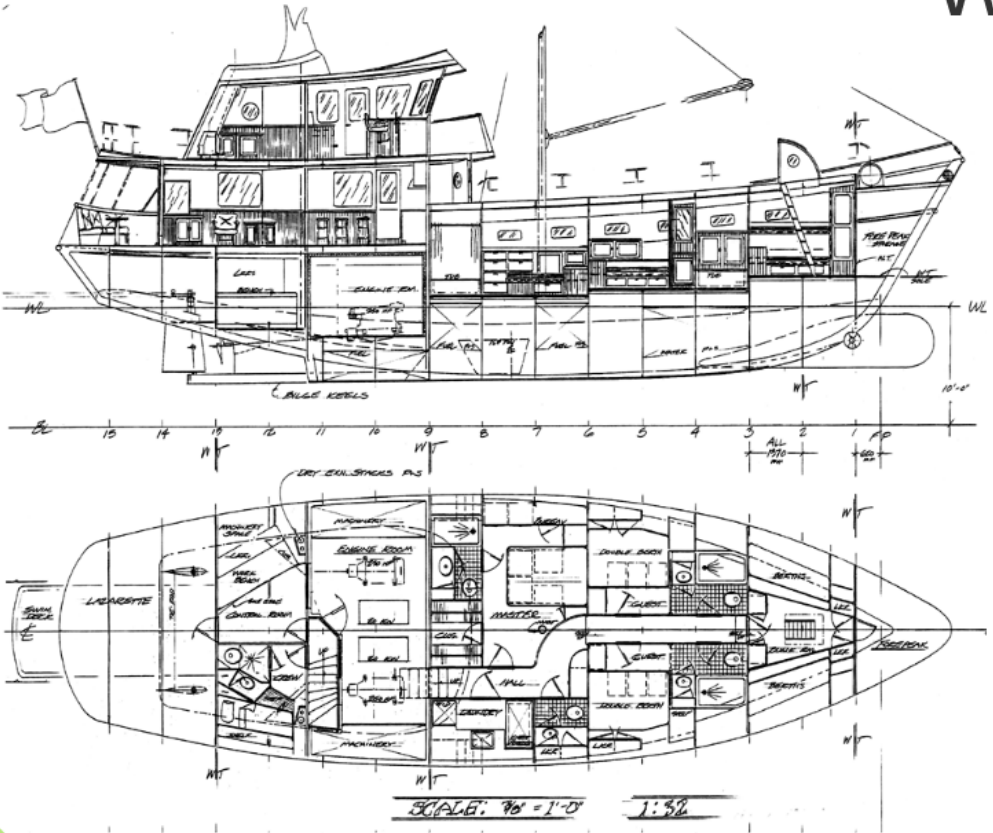
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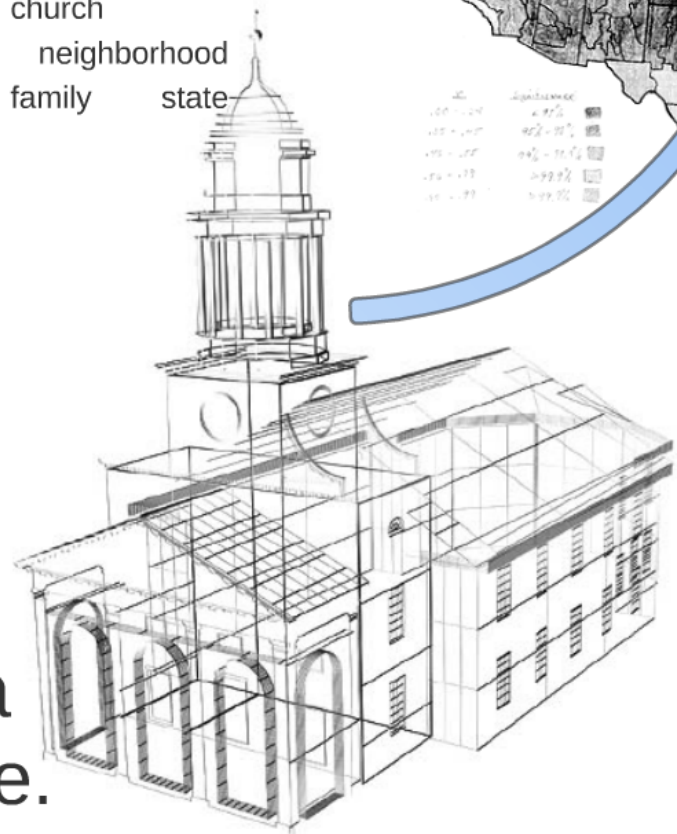


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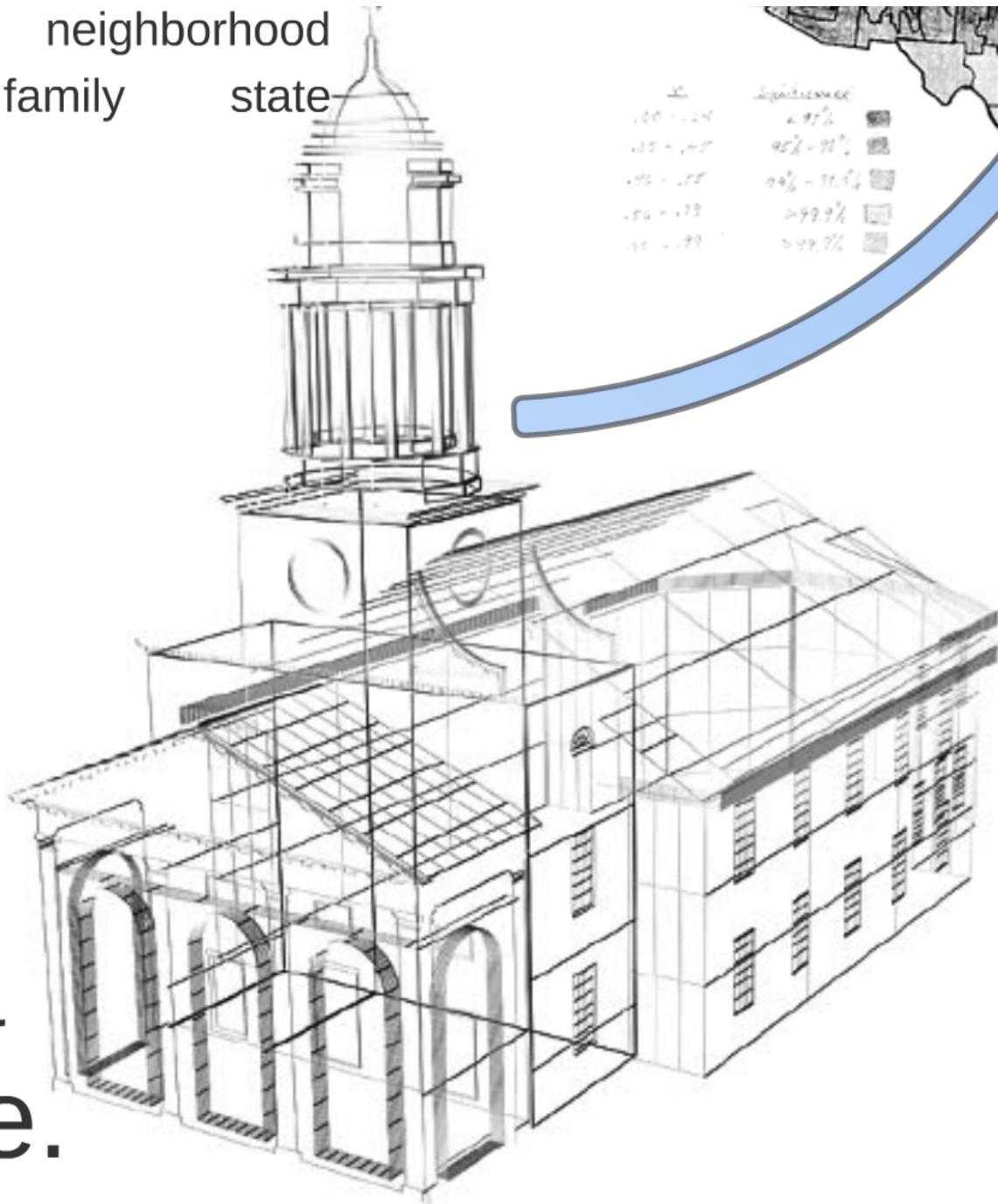
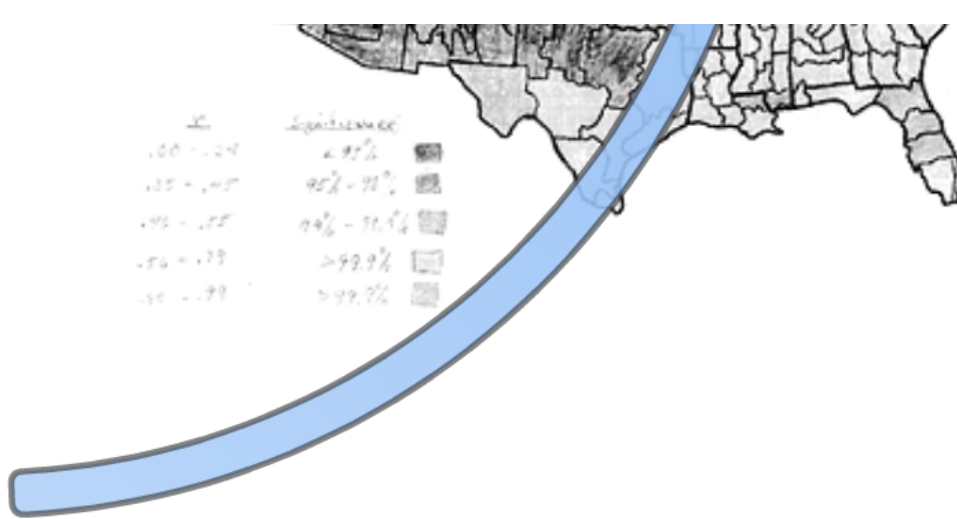


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Unity makes buoyancy

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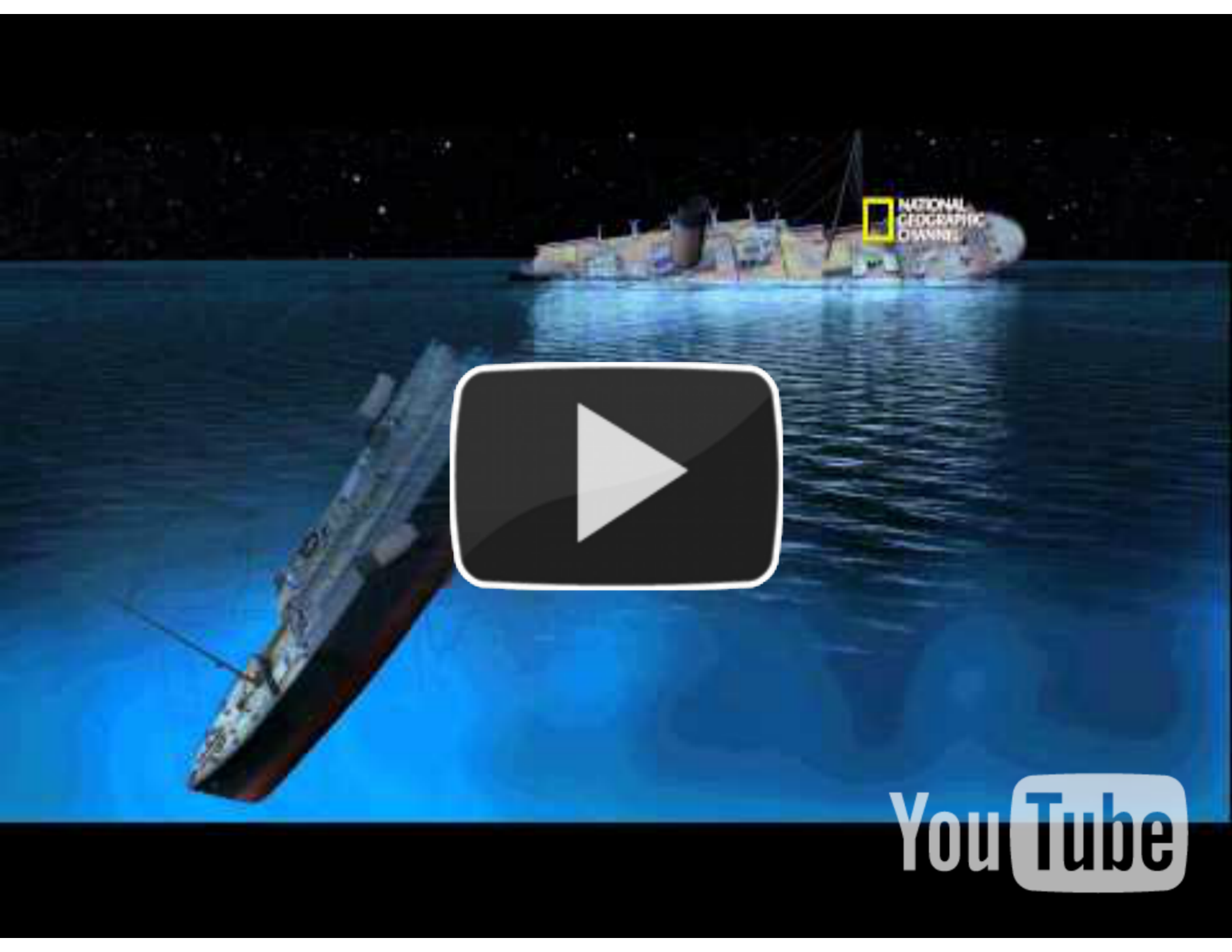
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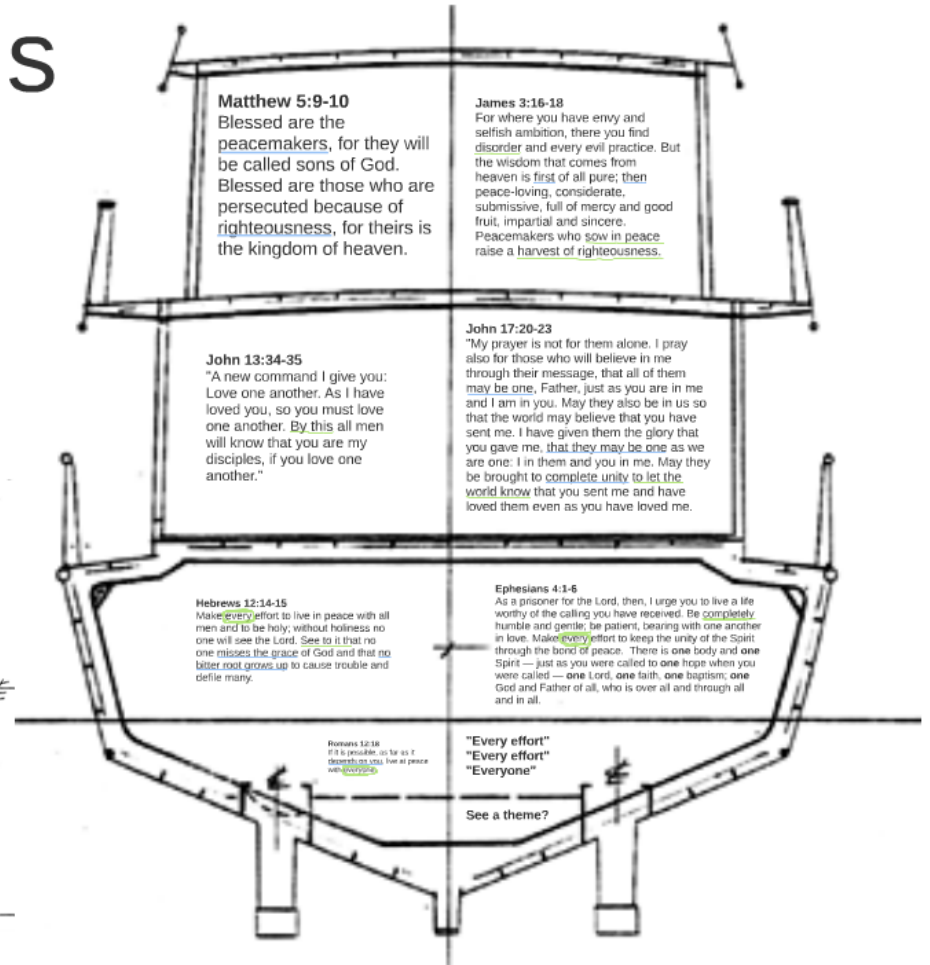
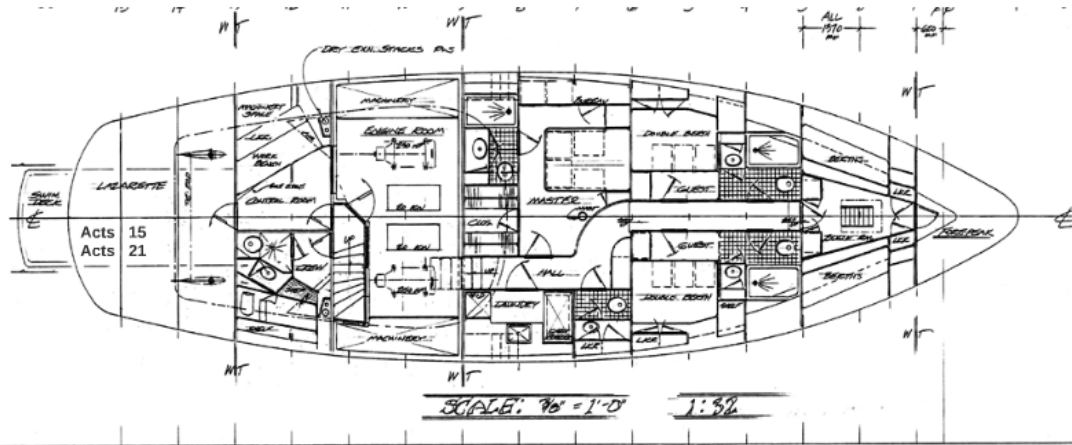
Work for unity through sacrifice. (and prudential wisdom)

Work for unity is not as purity.

<p>Matthew 5:9-10 Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.</p>	<p>James 2:16-18 For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice. But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; it is peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good faith, impartial and sincere. Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness.</p>
<p>John 13:34-35 <small>*A new commandment I give to you...</small></p>	<p>John 17:20-23 <small>*My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them...</small></p>

2. Working for unity requires brave sacrifice.

1. Working for unity is as important as fighting for purity.



Acts

15

Acts

21

Matthew 5:9-10

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James 3:16-18

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Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness.

John 13:34-35

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

John 17:20-23

"My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

Ephesians 4:1-6

As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is **one** body and **one** Spirit — just as you were called to **one** hope when you were called — **one** Lord, **one** faith, **one** baptism; **one** God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

'Every effort'

'Every effort'

Hebrews 12:14-15

Make every effort to live in peace with all men and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord. See to it that no one misses the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many.

Romans 12:18

If it is possible, as far as it
depends on you, live at peace
with everyone.

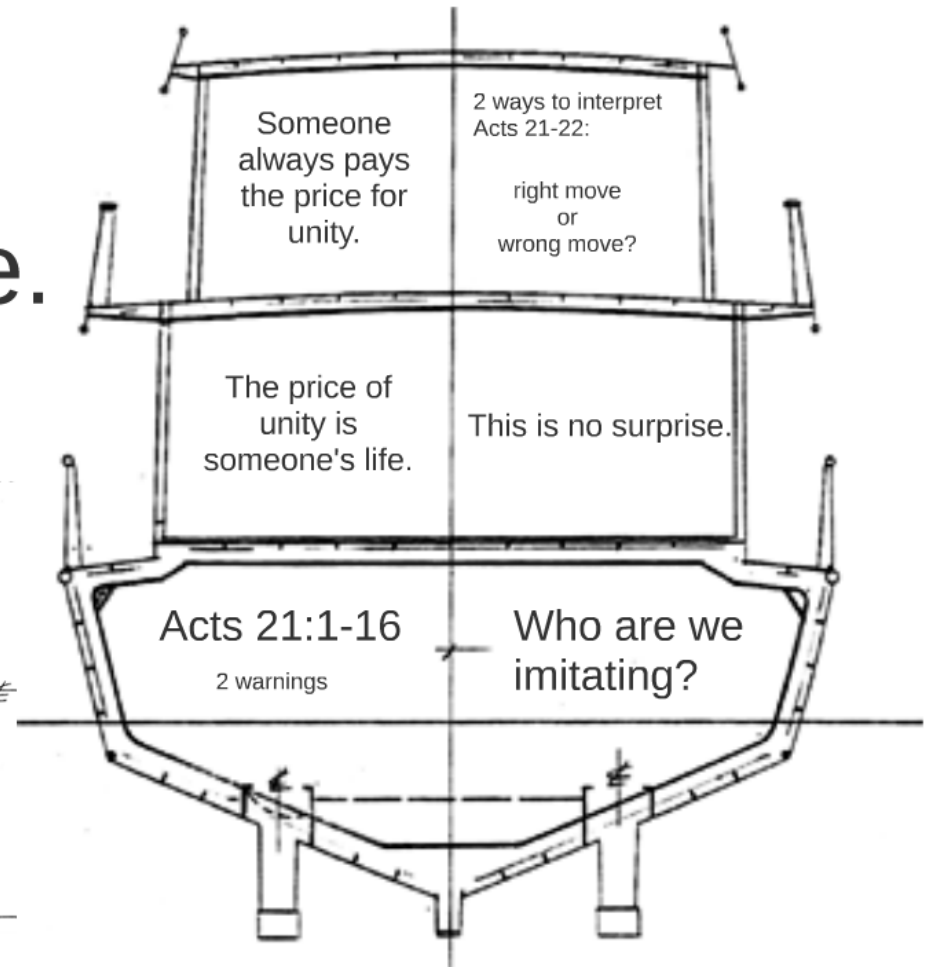
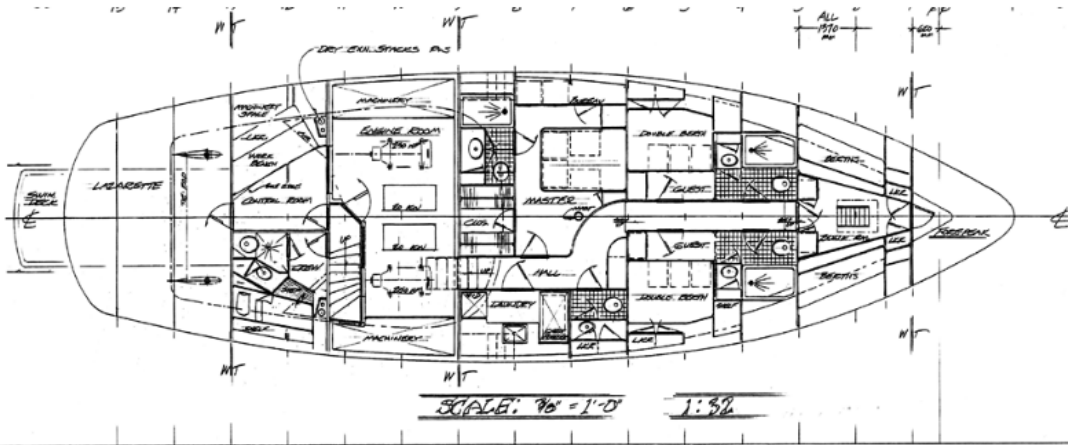
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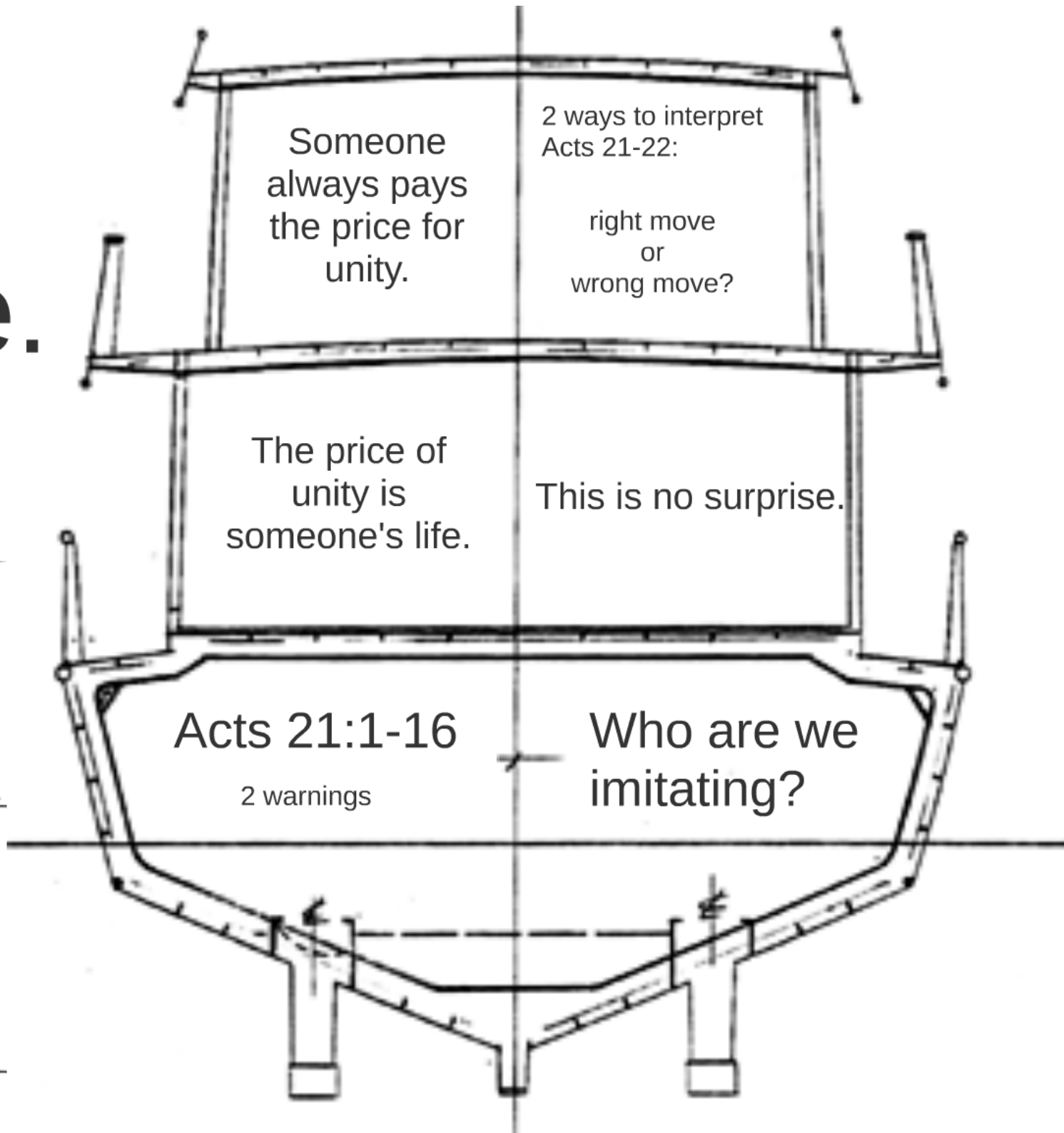
"Everyone"

See a theme?

2. Working for unity requires brave sacrifice.



...
sacrifice.



Someone
always pays
the price for
unity.

2 ways to interpret
Acts 21-22:

right move
or
wrong move?

The price of
unity is
someone's life.

This is no surprise.

Acts 21:1-16

2 warnings

Who are we
imitating?

James 3:16-18

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