
Church Is

Church Is

Christianity isn't just about believing – it is also about belonging.

God never intended you to do this alone.

Church Is

I will be a source of unity in my church

I am a church member:

I understand that Jesus said the world needs to see that we are one so they will believe the message of the cross of Christ. I may have different preferences, but I am willing to focus on what we have in common instead of our differences.

Community

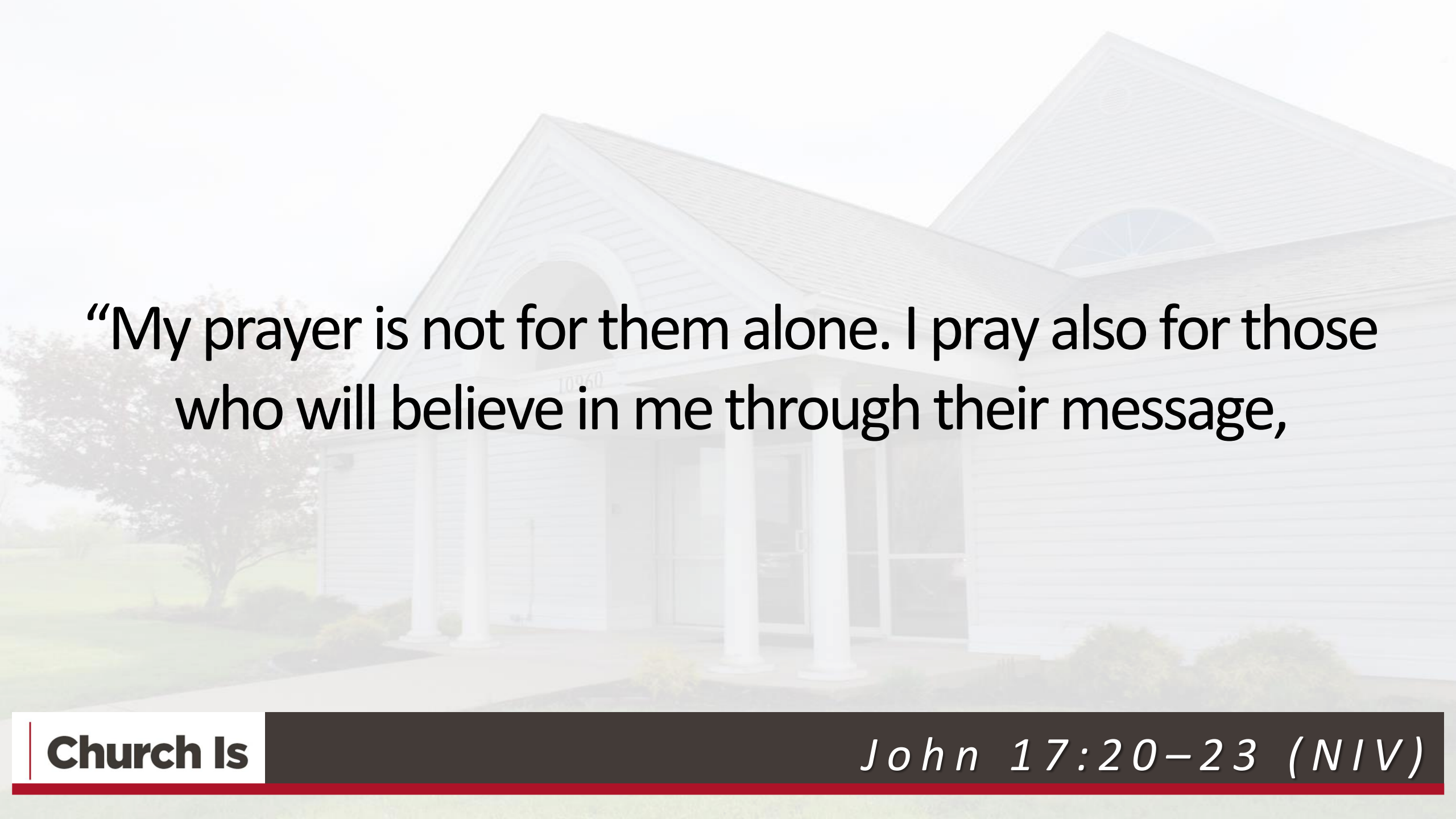
CROSBY COMMUNITY CHURCH



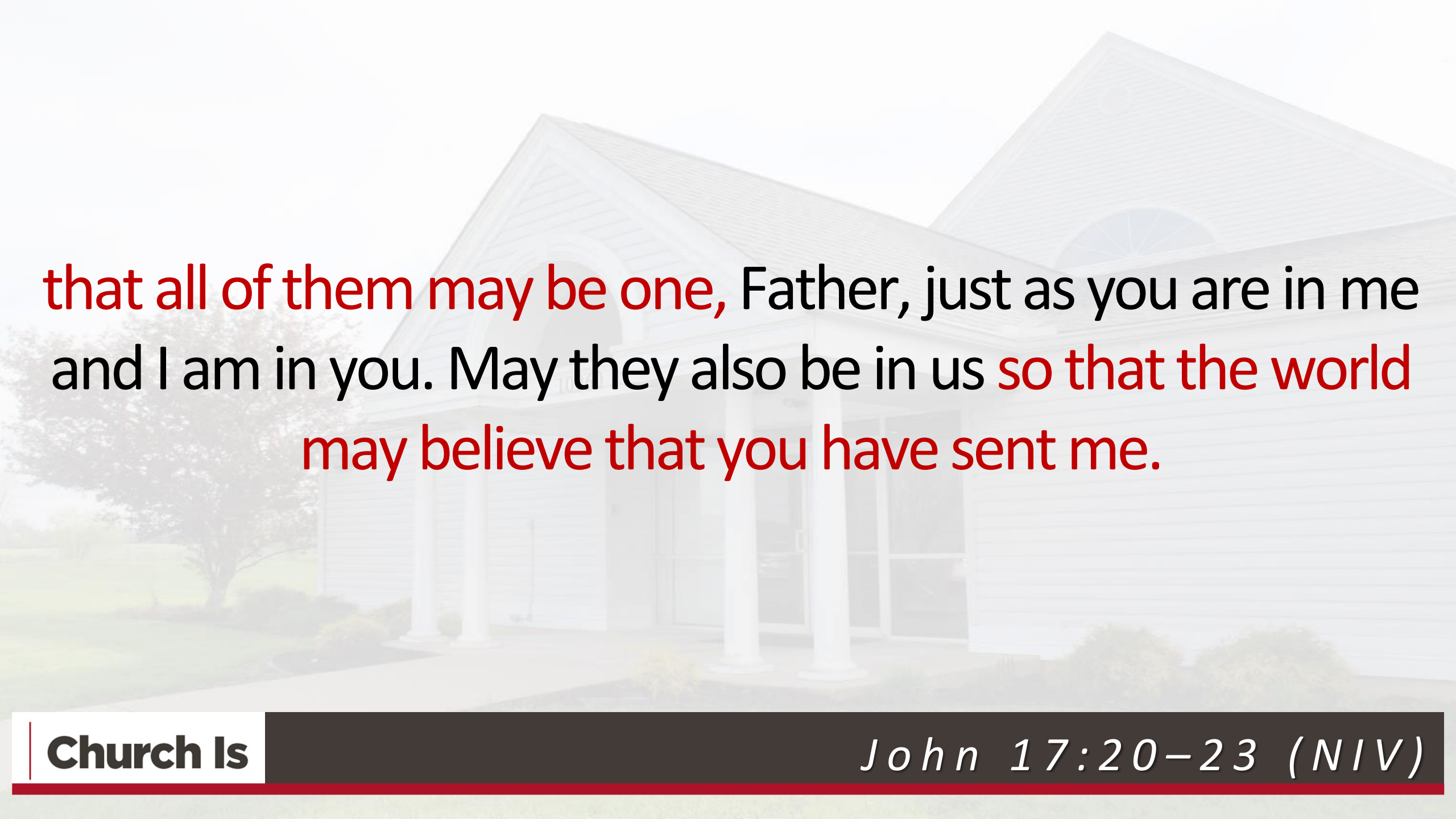


Church Is

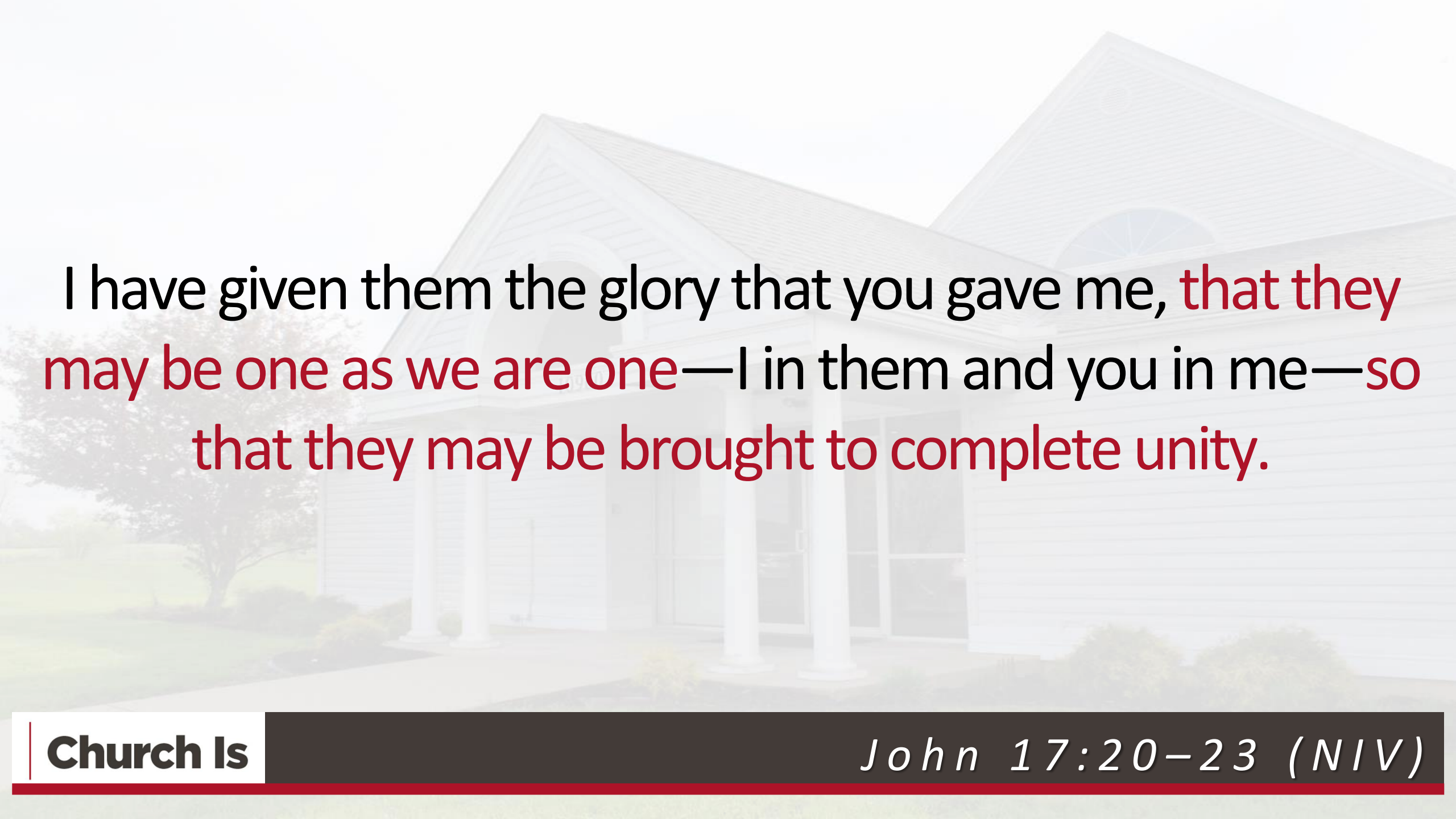
❖ We are to be one



“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.



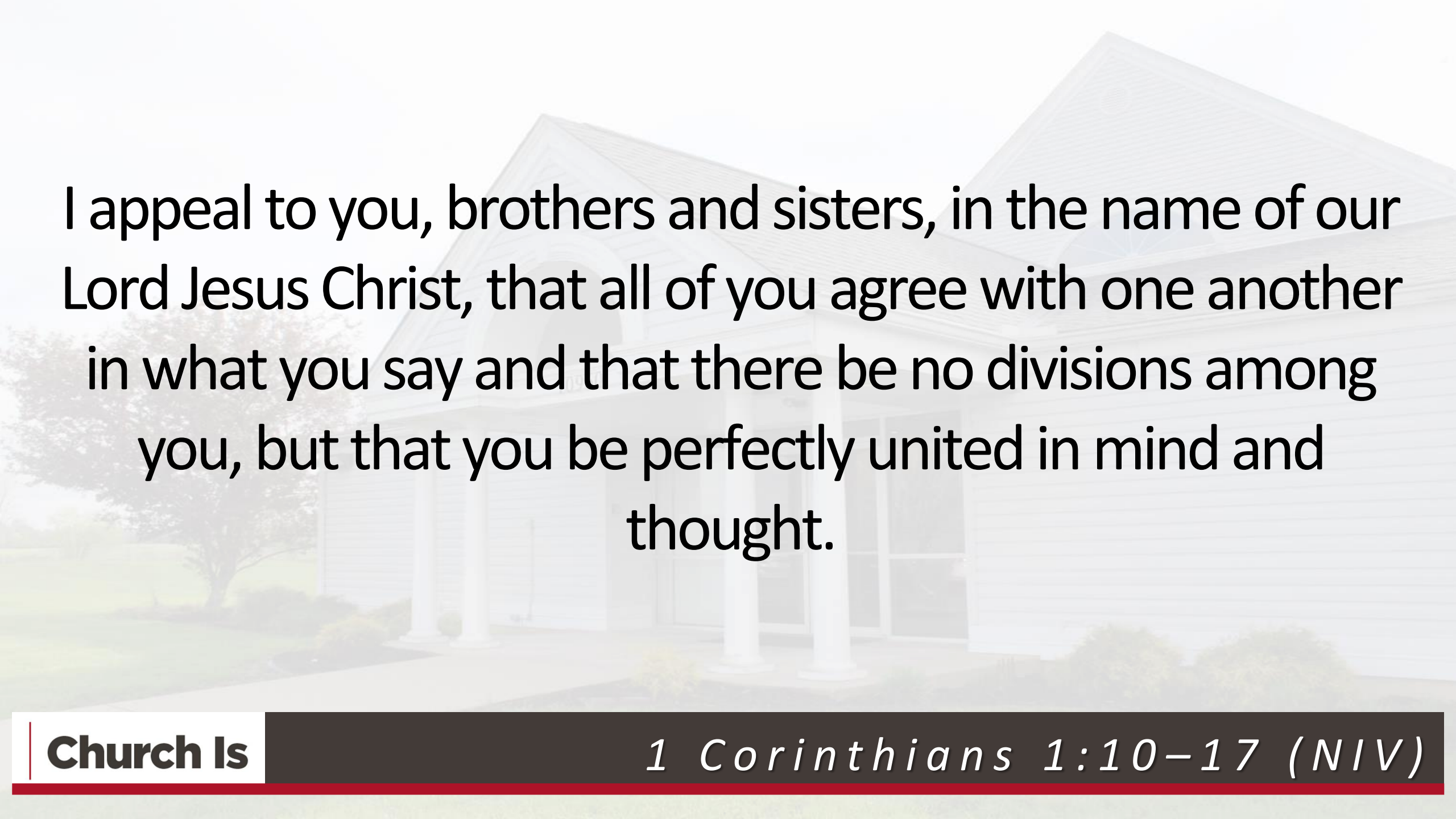
I have given them the glory that you gave me, **that they may be one as we are one**—I in them and you in me—**so that they may be brought to complete unity.**



Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

Church Is

Our job as a church is to share the gospel, but we lose all credibility if we can't get along with each other.

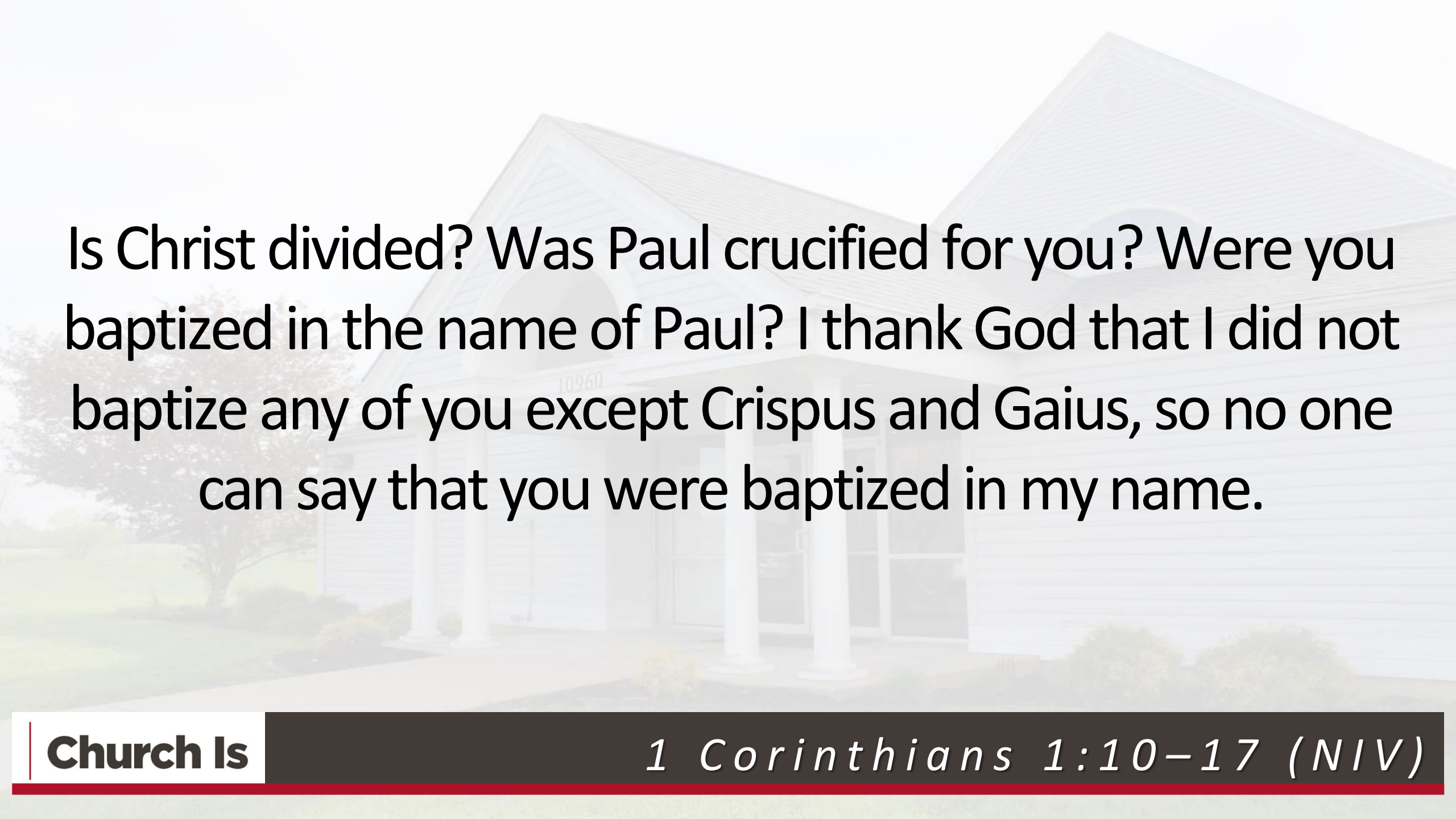


I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another in what you say and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly united in mind and thought.

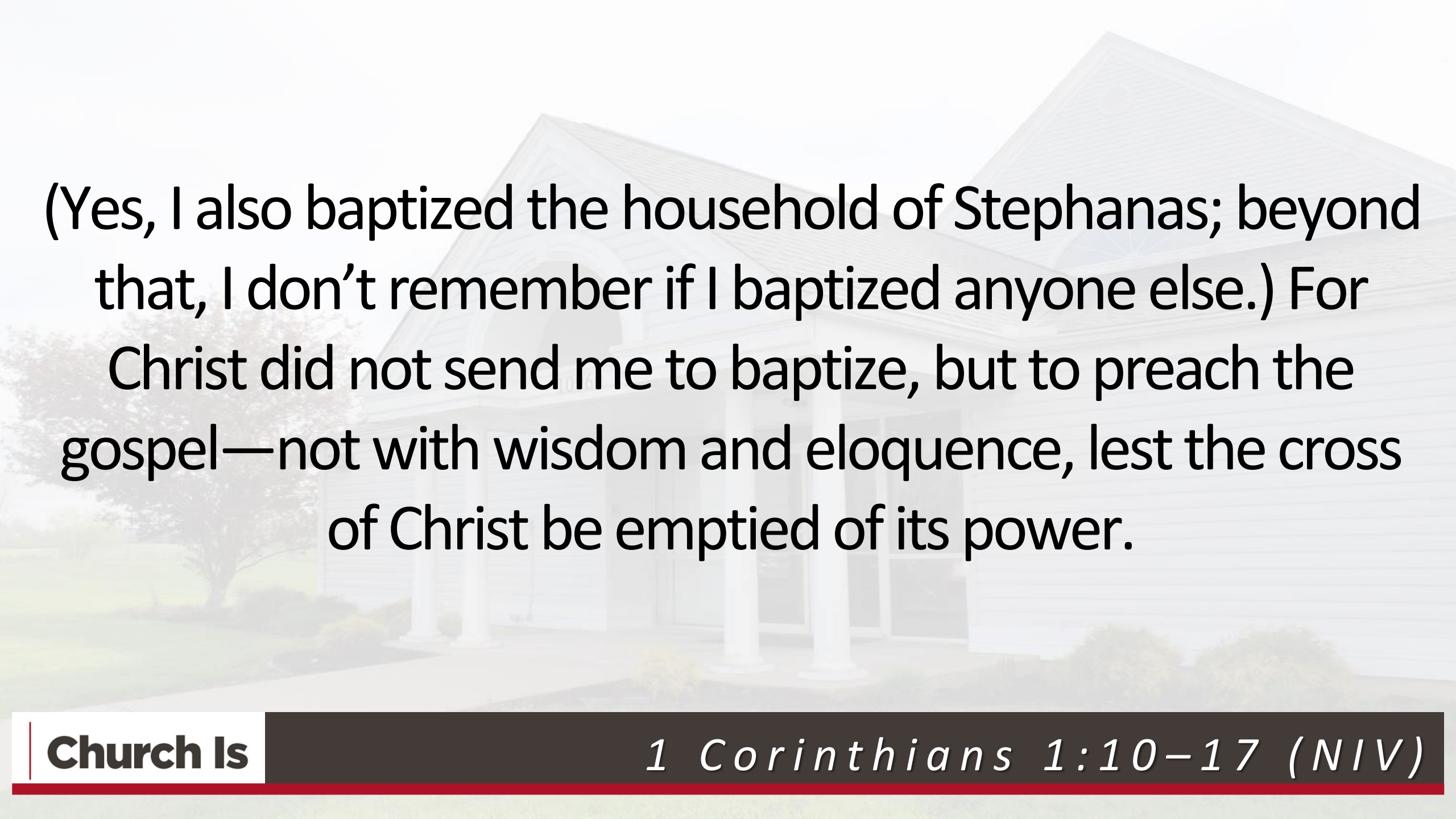


My brothers and sisters, some from Chloe's household have informed me that there are quarrels among you.

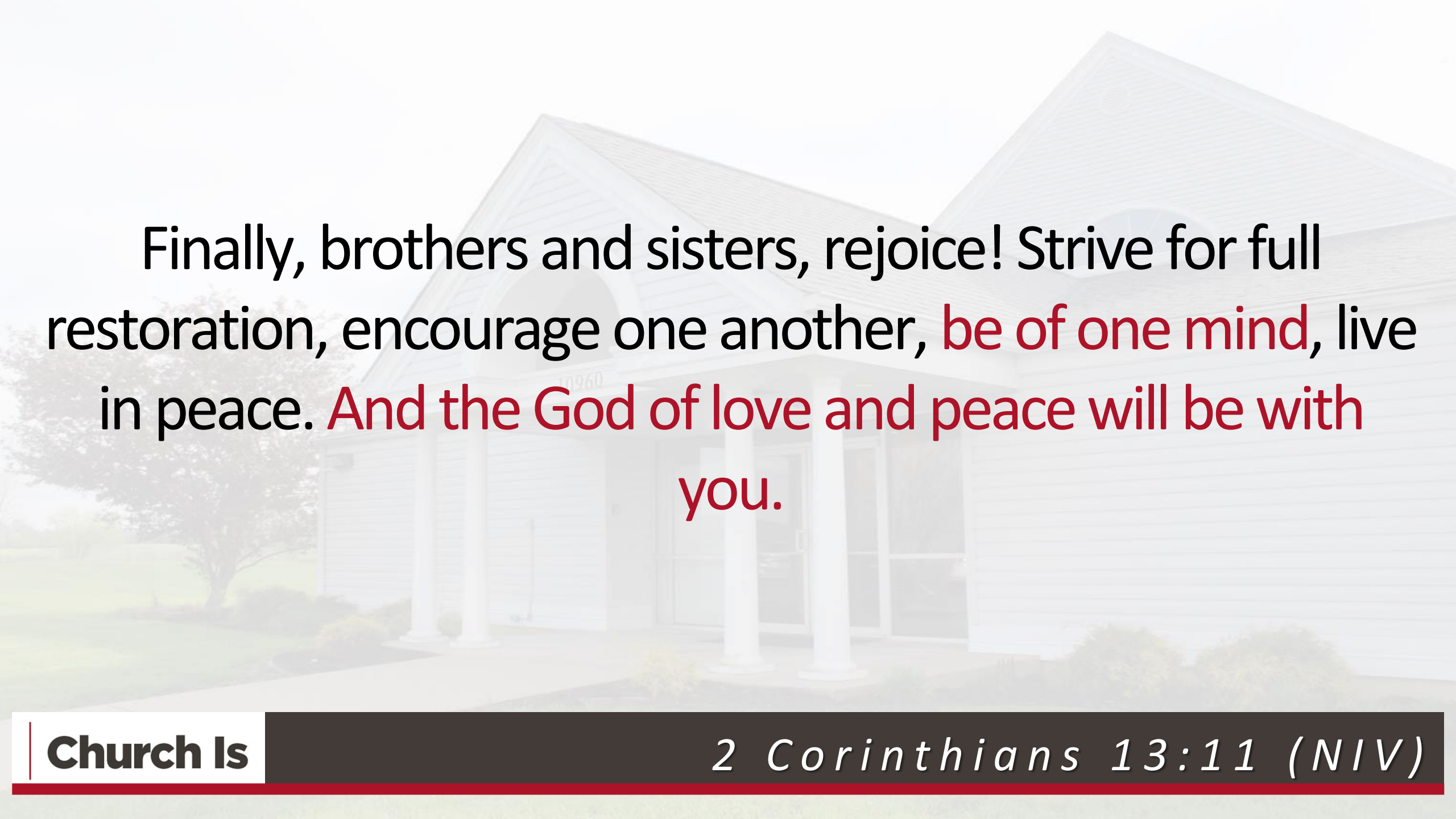
What I mean is this: One of you says, "I follow Paul"; another, "I follow Apollos"; another, "I follow Cephas"; still another, "I follow Christ."



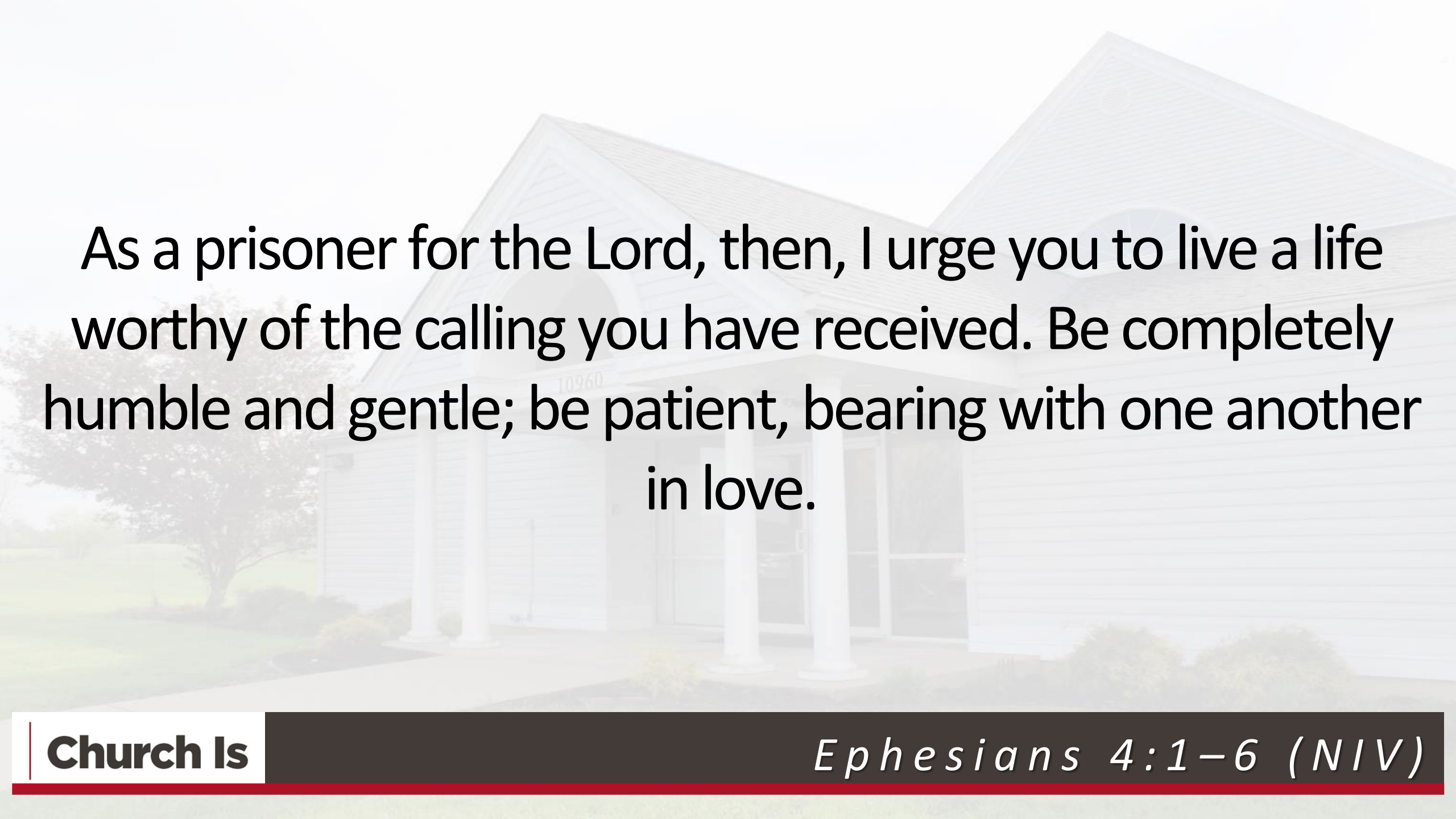
Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Were you baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I did not baptize any of you except Crispus and Gaius, so no one can say that you were baptized in my name.



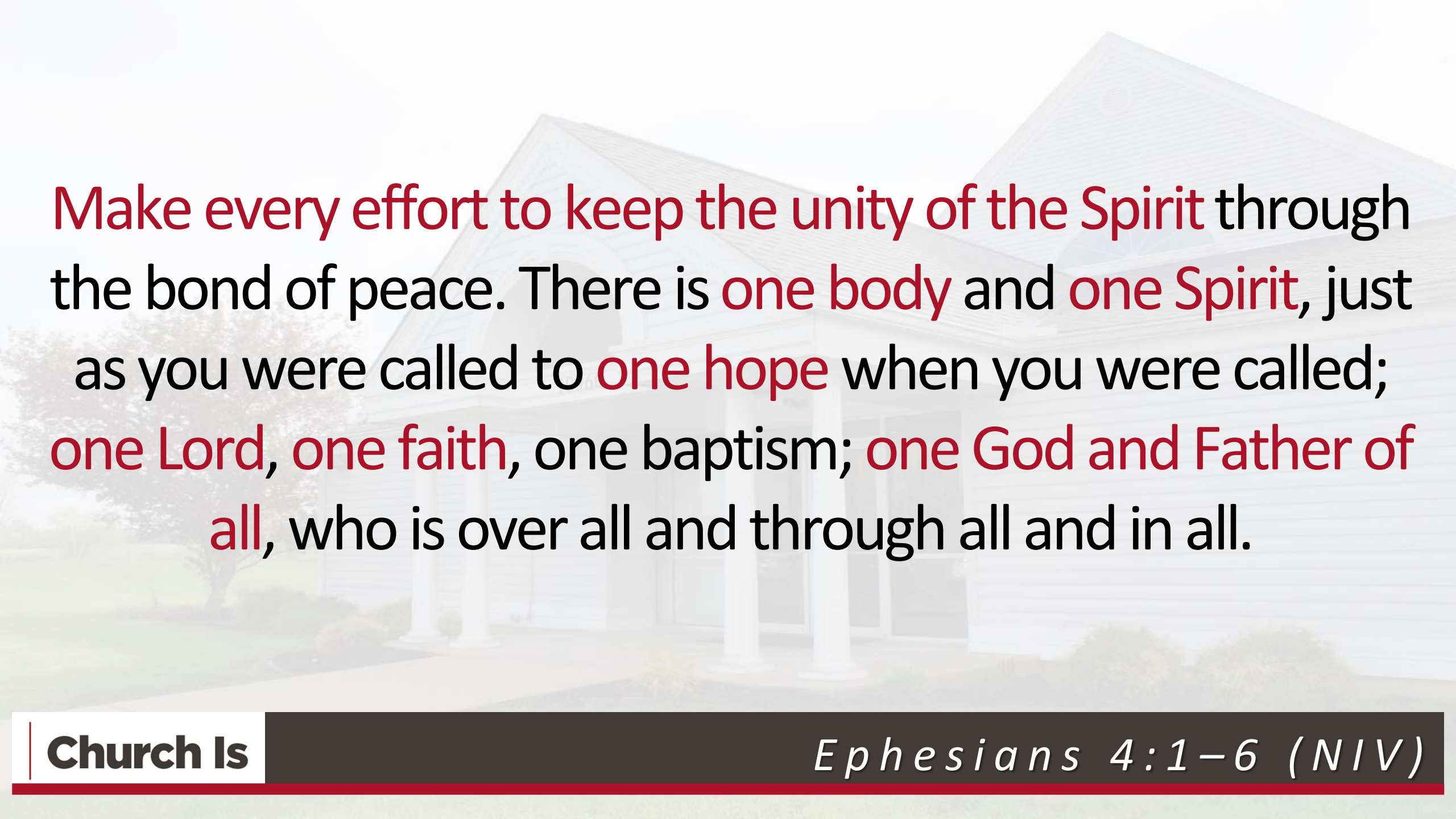
(Yes, I also baptized the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I don't remember if I baptized anyone else.) For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel—not with wisdom and eloquence, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.



Finally, brothers and sisters, rejoice! Strive for full restoration, encourage one another, **be of one mind**, live in peace. **And the God of love and peace will be with you.**



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.

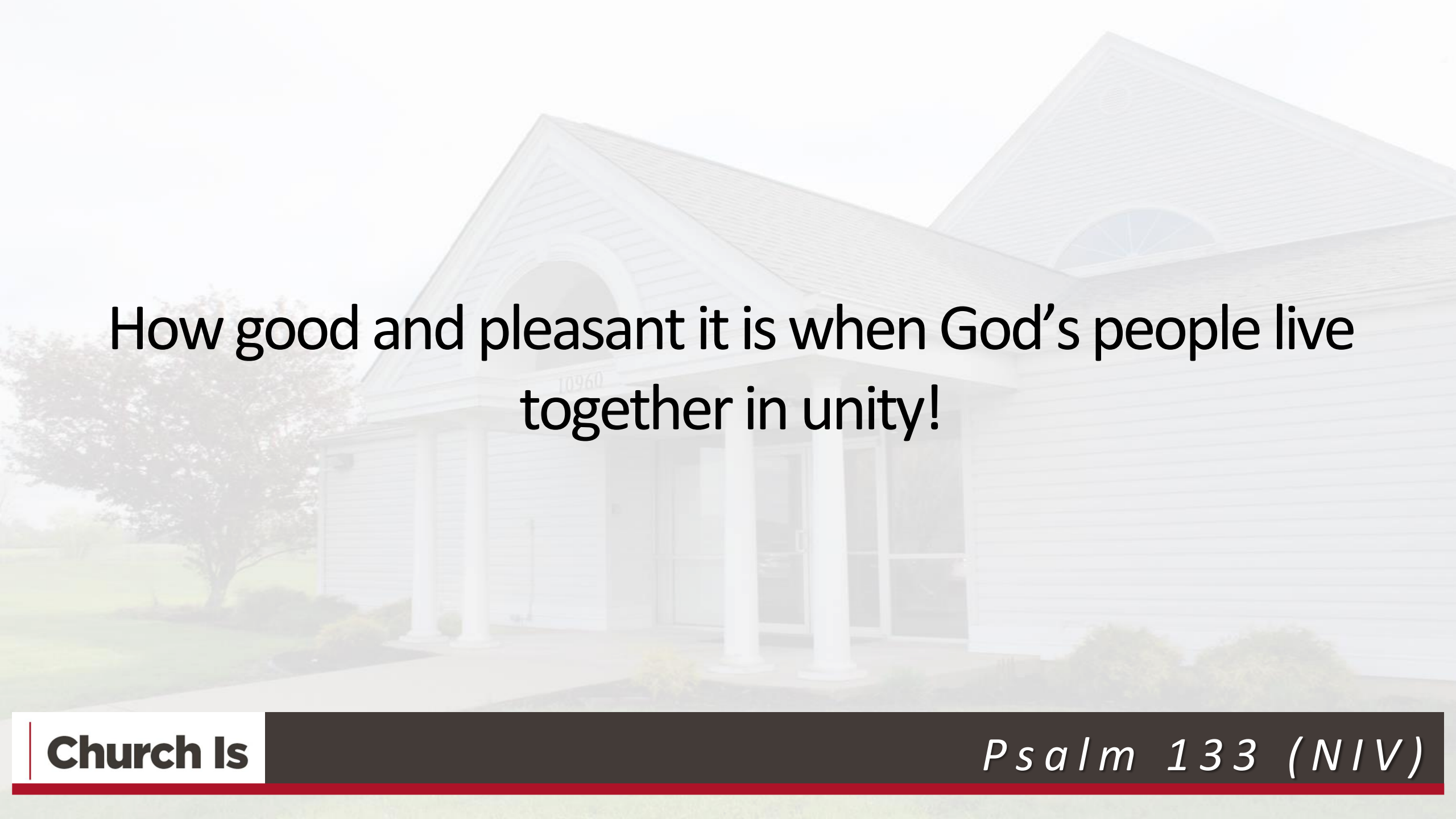


Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is **one body** and **one Spirit**, just as you were called to **one hope** when you were called; **one Lord, one faith**, one baptism; **one God and Father of all**, who is over all and through all and in all.

Church Is

- We are to be one

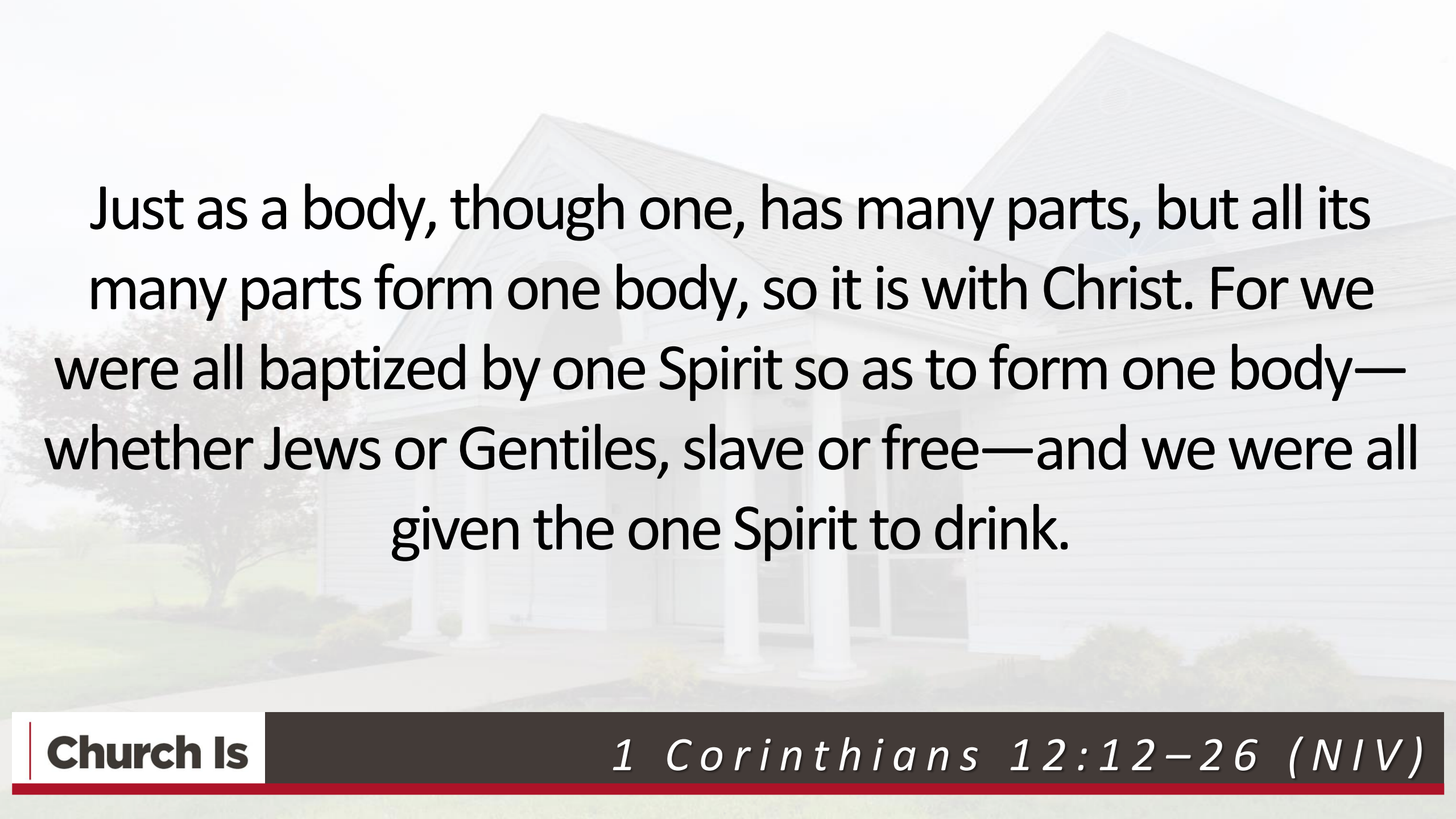
❖ I will love my church family



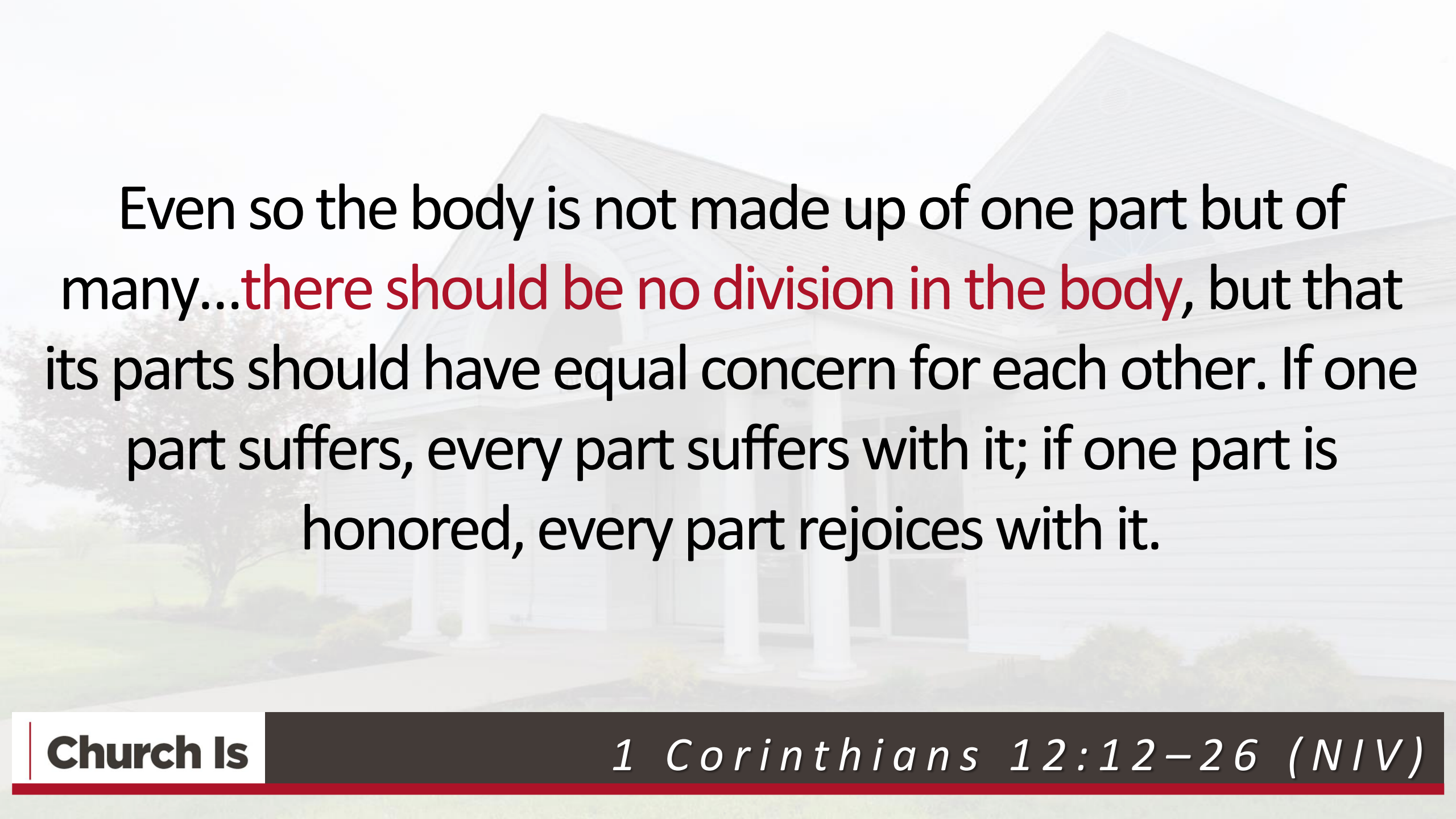
How good and pleasant it is when God's people live
together in unity!

Church Is

Psalm 133 (NIV)



Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.



Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many...**there should be no division in the body**, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.



By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, **if**
you love one another.”

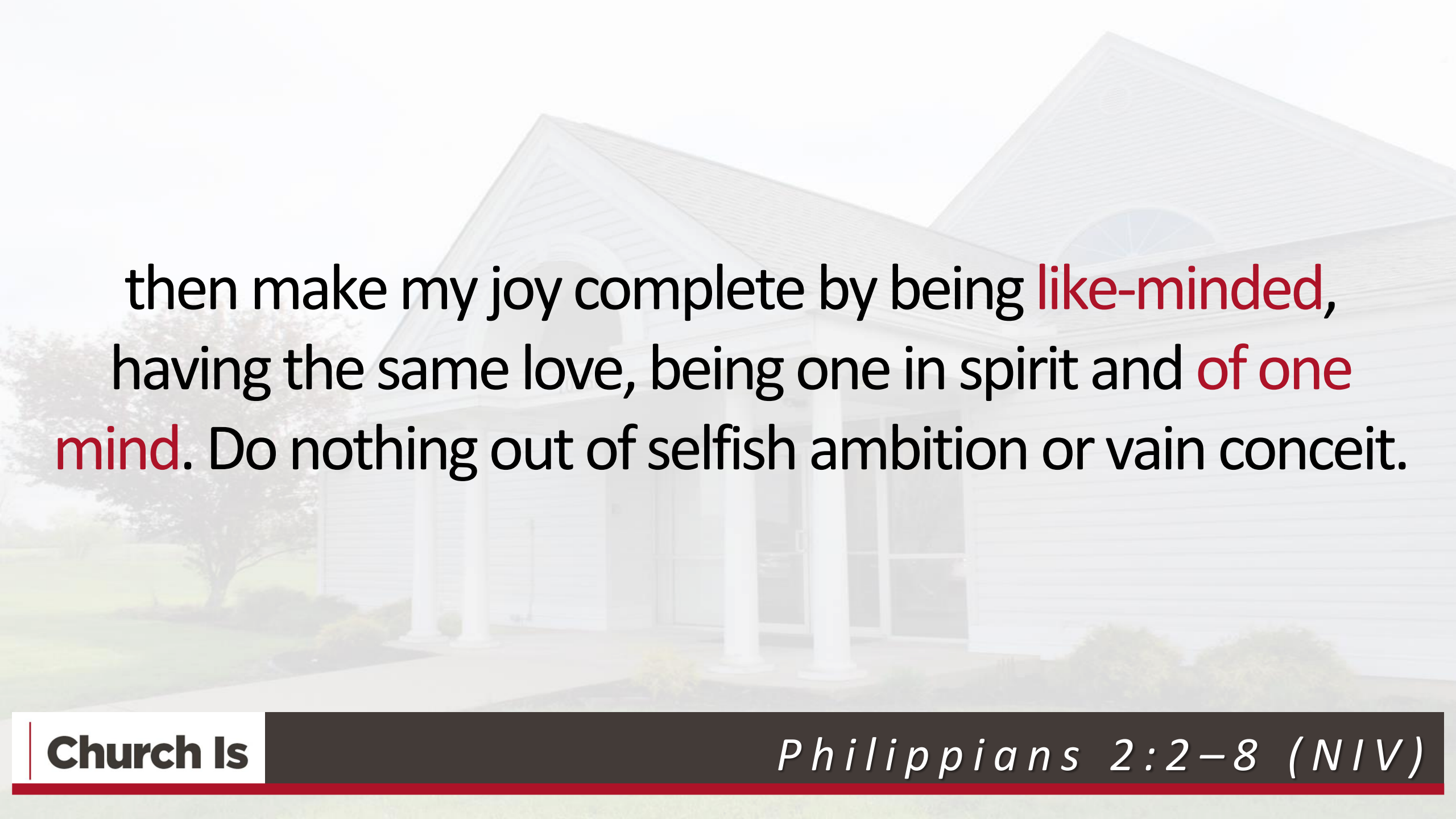
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John 13:35 (NIV)

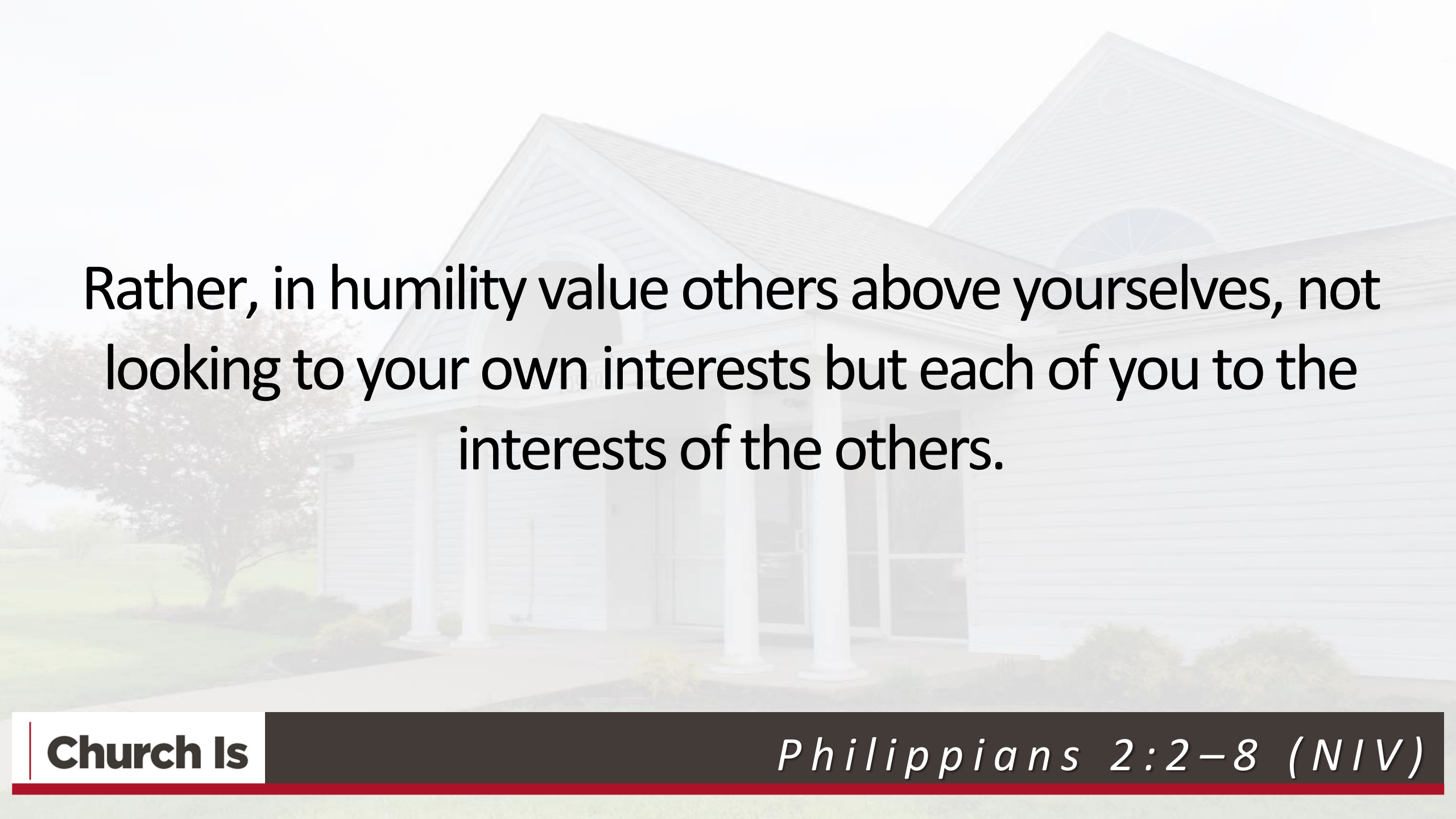
Church Is

- We are to be one
- I will love my church family


❖ I will put others before myself



then make my joy complete by being **like-minded**,
having the same love, being one in spirit and **of one**
mind. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit.



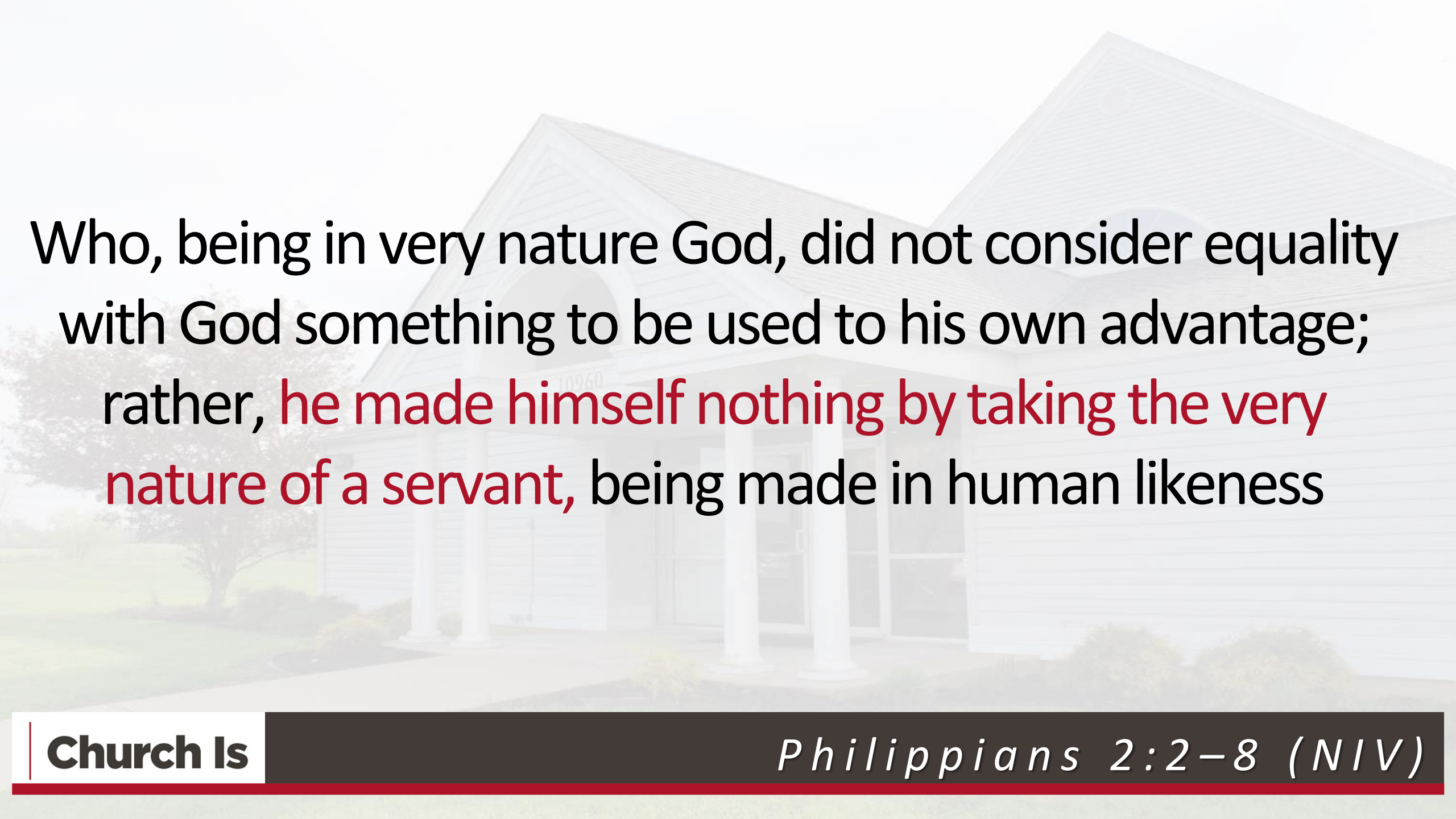
Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.



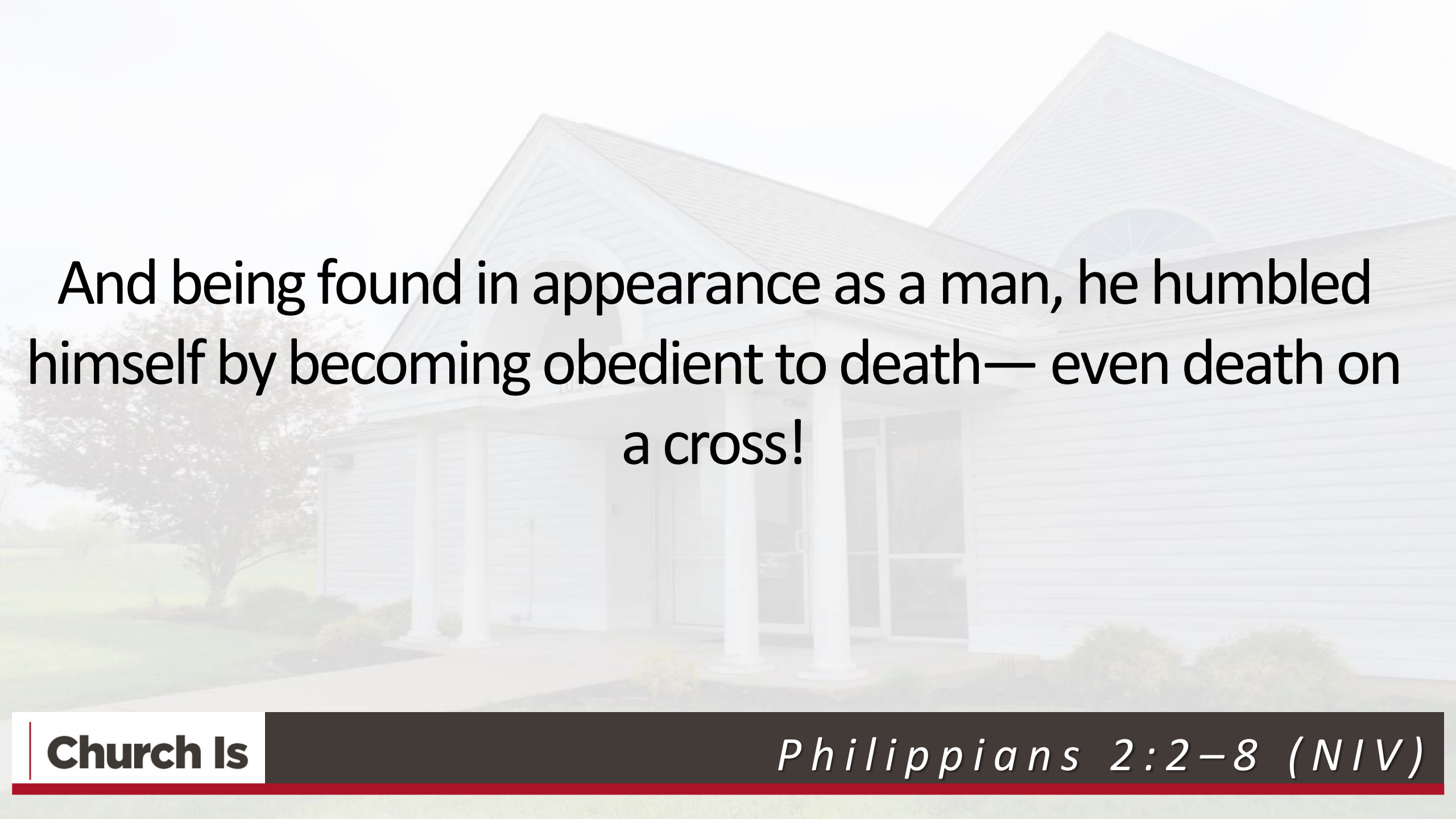
In your relationships with one another, have the same
mindset as Christ Jesus:

Church Is

Philippians 2:2–8 (NIV)



Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, **he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant,** being made in human likeness



And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!

Church Is

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- I will love my church family
- I will put others before myself


❖ I will be willing to set aside my rights

Church Is

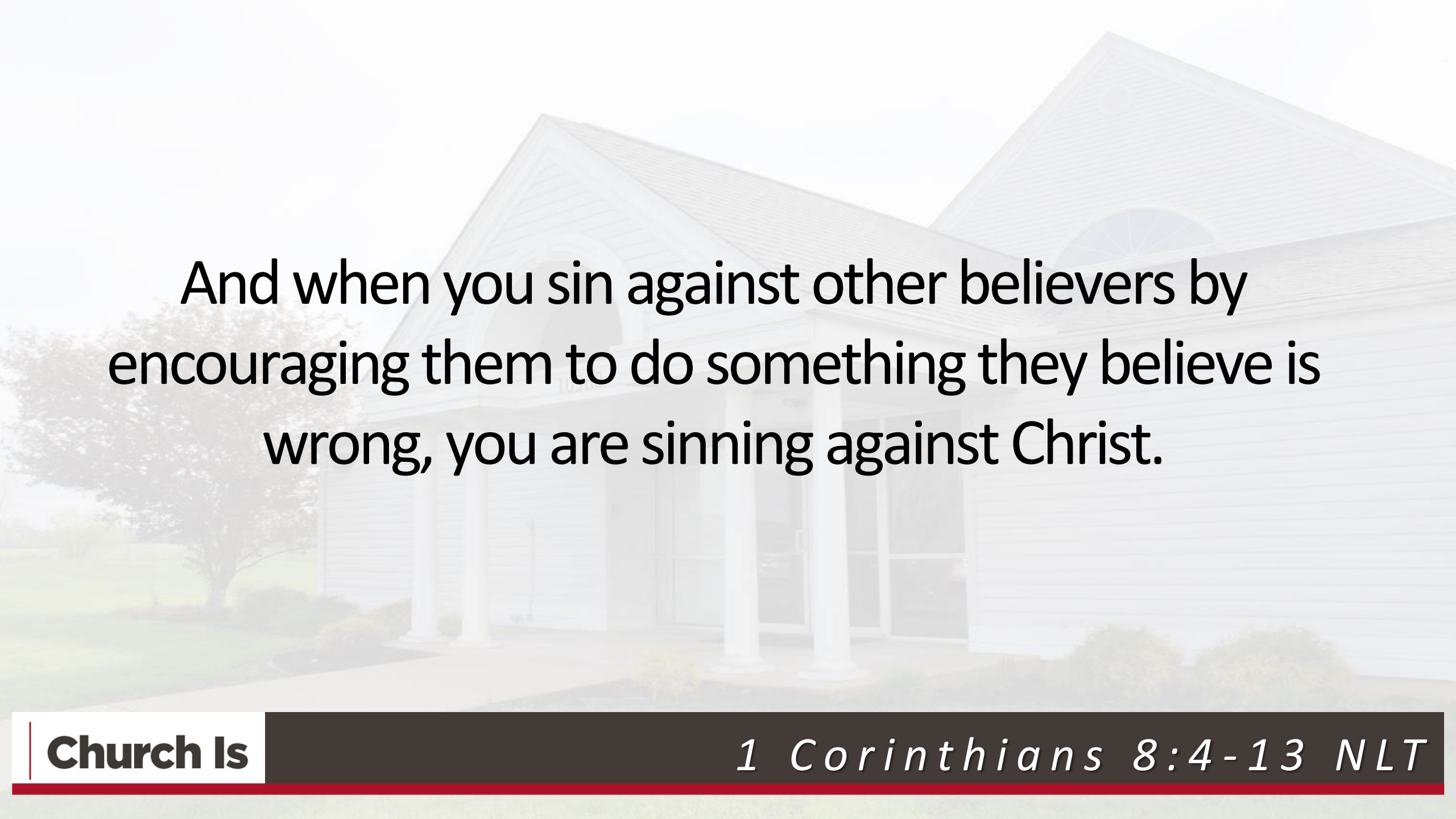
I will be willing to set aside my rights, if necessary, to protect the unity of the church.

So, what about eating meat that has been offered to idols? Well, we all know that an idol is not really a god and that there is only one God...

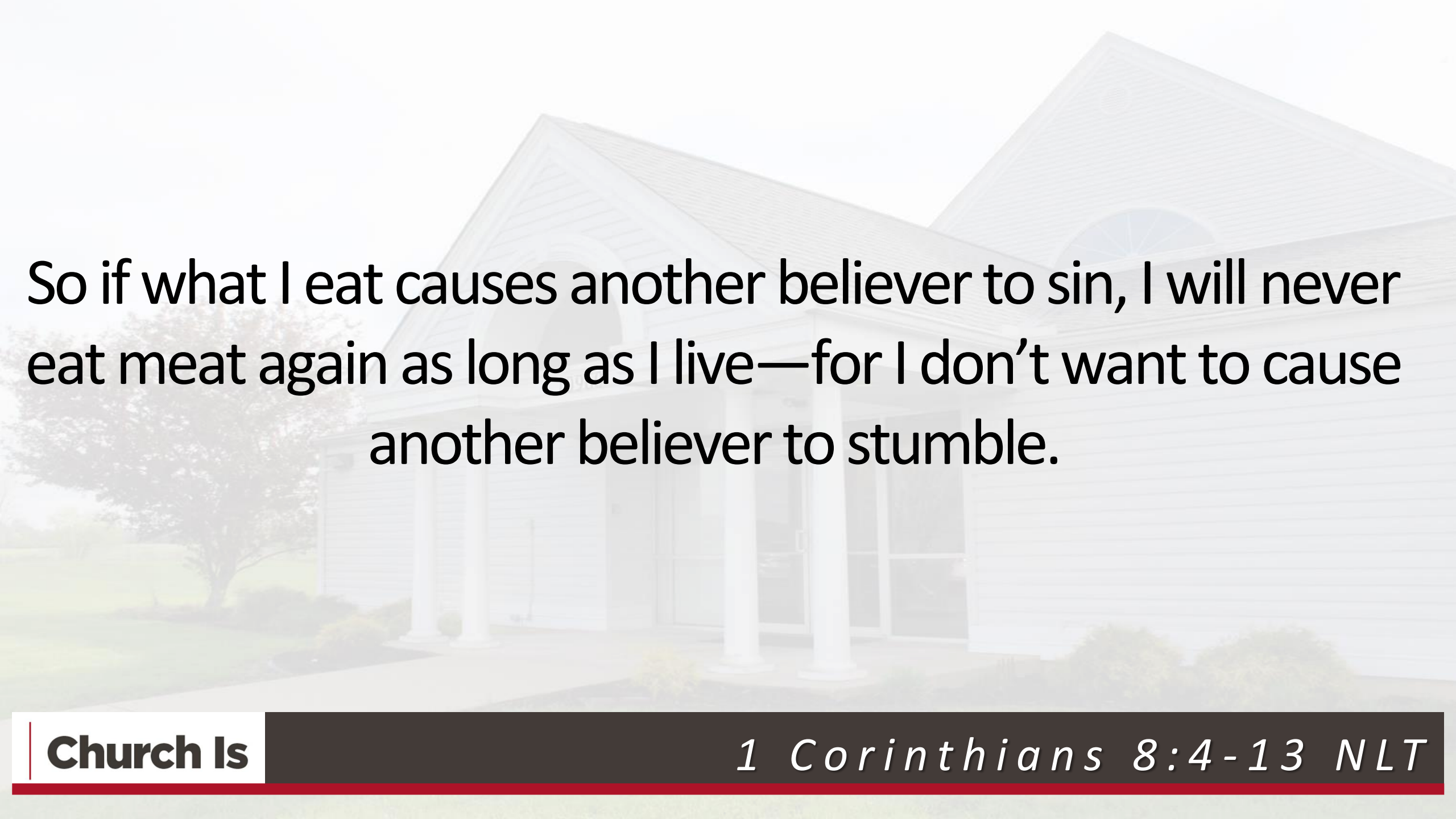
It's true that we can't win God's approval by what we eat. We don't lose anything if we don't eat it, and we don't gain anything if we do.



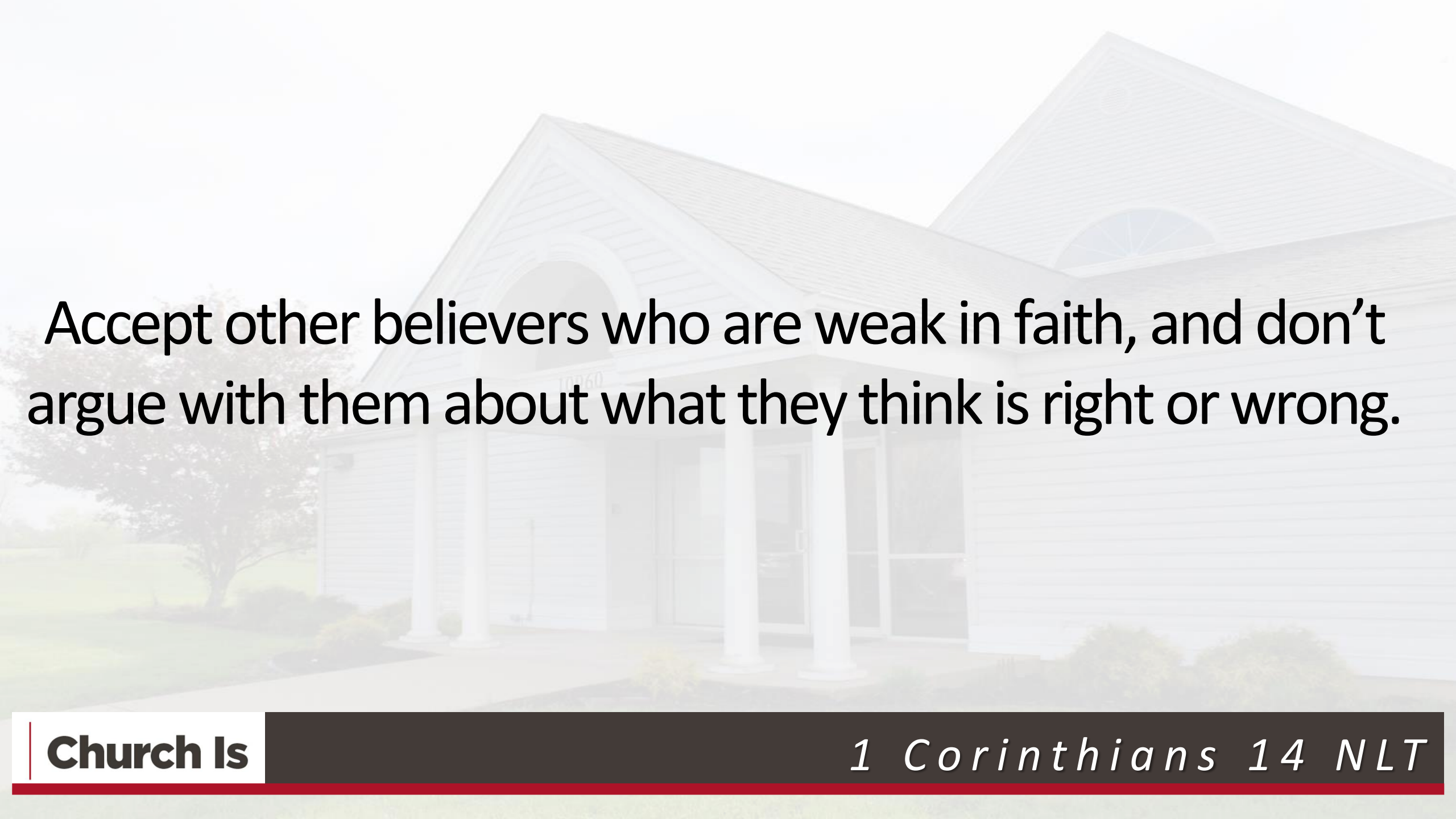
But you must be careful so that your freedom does not cause others with a weaker conscience to stumble.



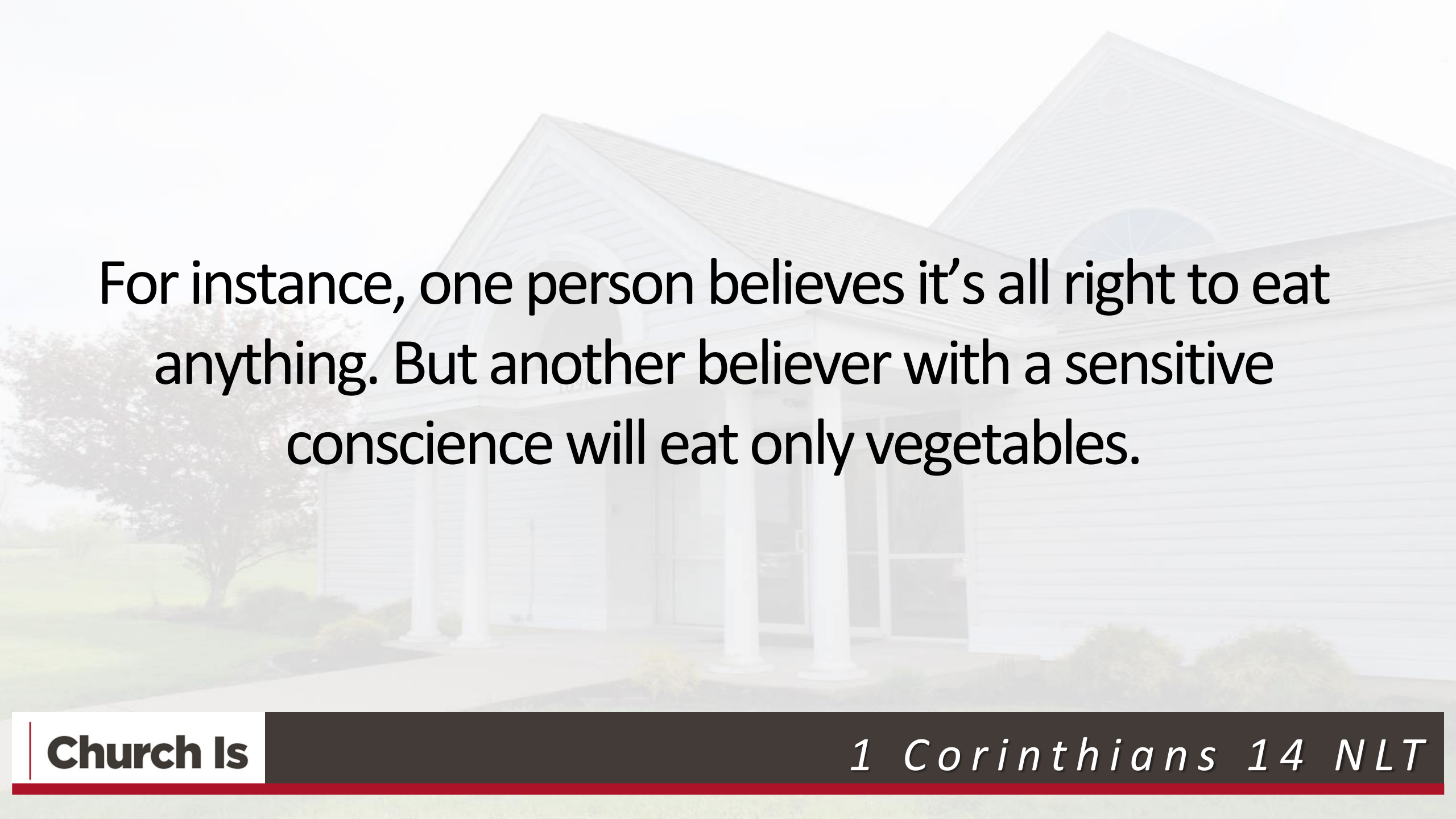
And when you sin against other believers by encouraging them to do something they believe is wrong, you are sinning against Christ.




So if what I eat causes another believer to sin, I will never eat meat again as long as I live—for I don't want to cause another believer to stumble.



Accept other believers who are weak in faith, and don't argue with them about what they think is right or wrong.



For instance, one person believes it's all right to eat anything. But another believer with a sensitive conscience will eat only vegetables.

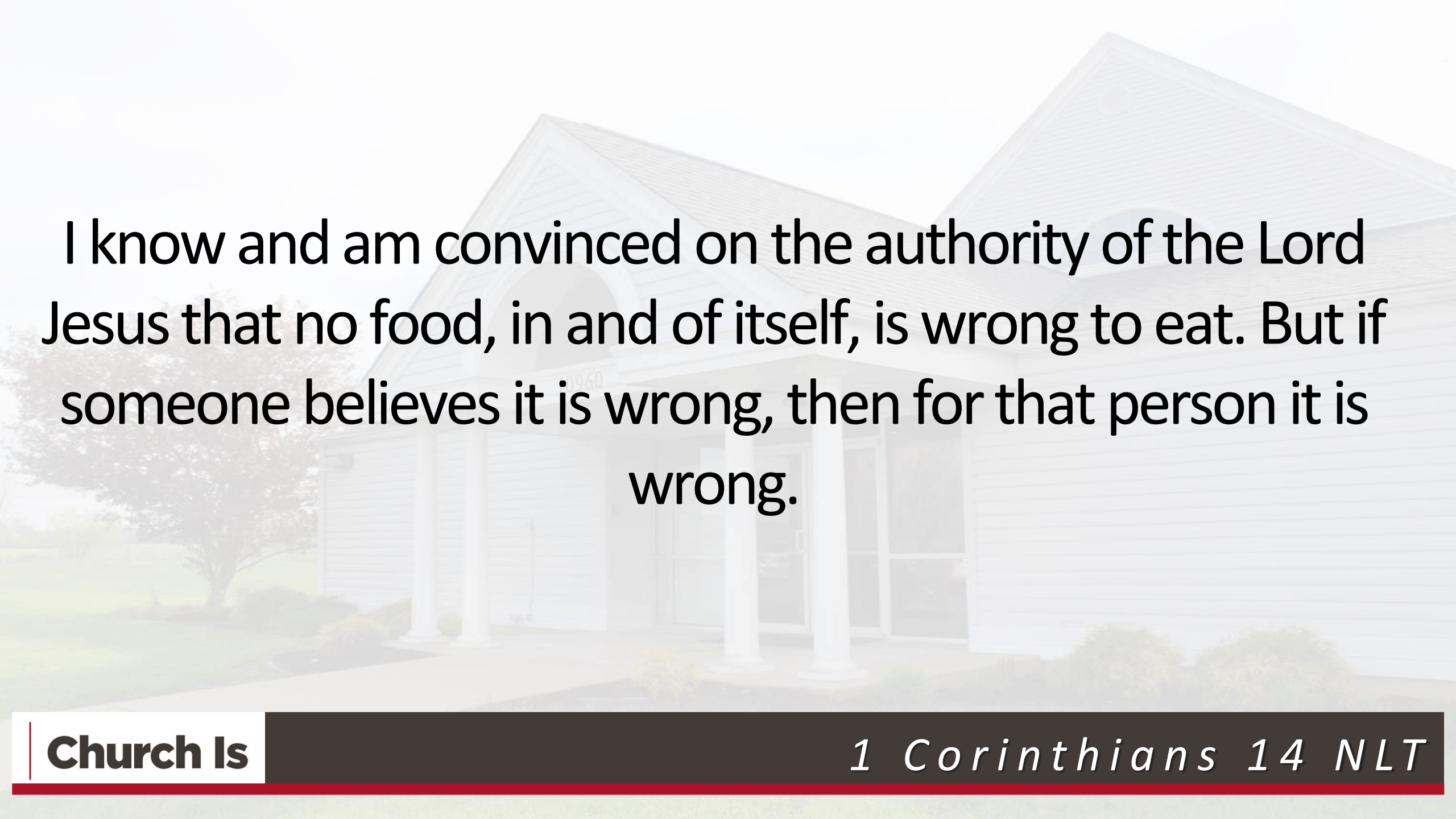


Those who feel free to eat anything must not look down on those who don't. And those who don't eat certain foods must not condemn those who do, for God has accepted them.

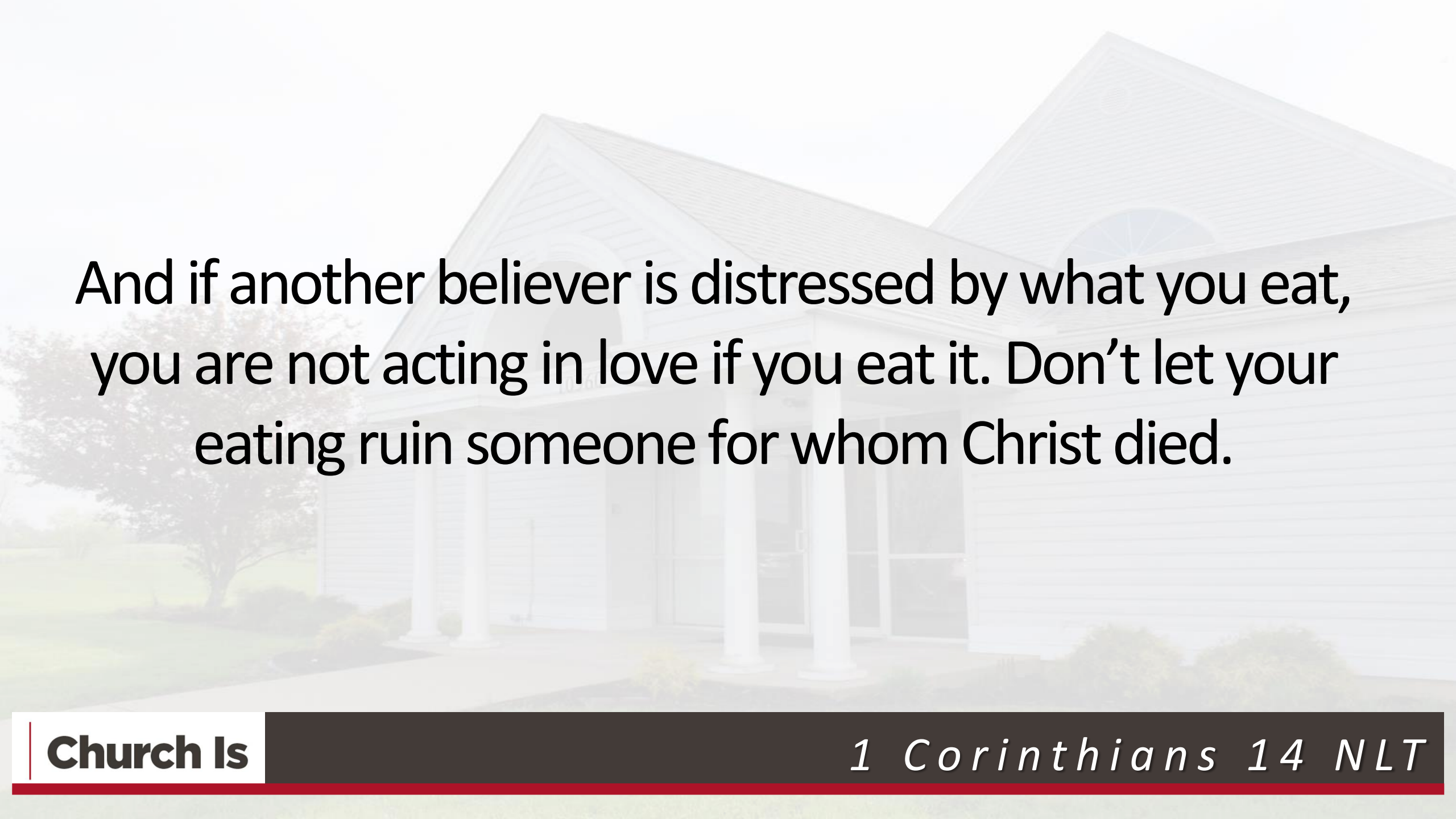


Yes, each of us will give a personal account to God. So
let's stop condemning each other.

Decide instead to live in such a way that you will not
cause another believer to stumble and fall.



I know and am convinced on the authority of the Lord Jesus that no food, in and of itself, is wrong to eat. But if someone believes it is wrong, then for that person it is wrong.

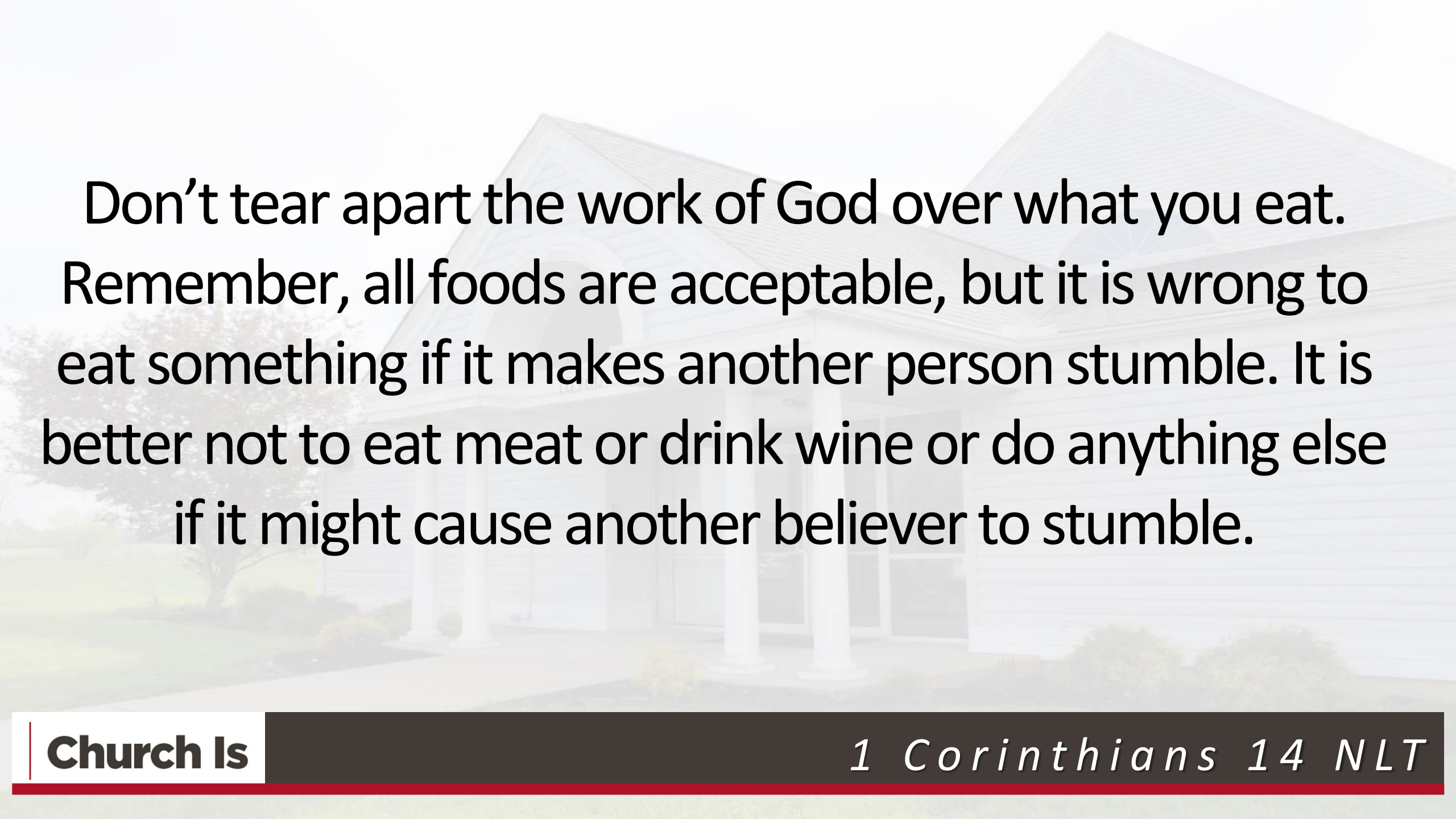


And if another believer is distressed by what you eat, you are not acting in love if you eat it. Don't let your eating ruin someone for whom Christ died.



If you serve Christ with this attitude, you will please God,
and others will approve of you, too.

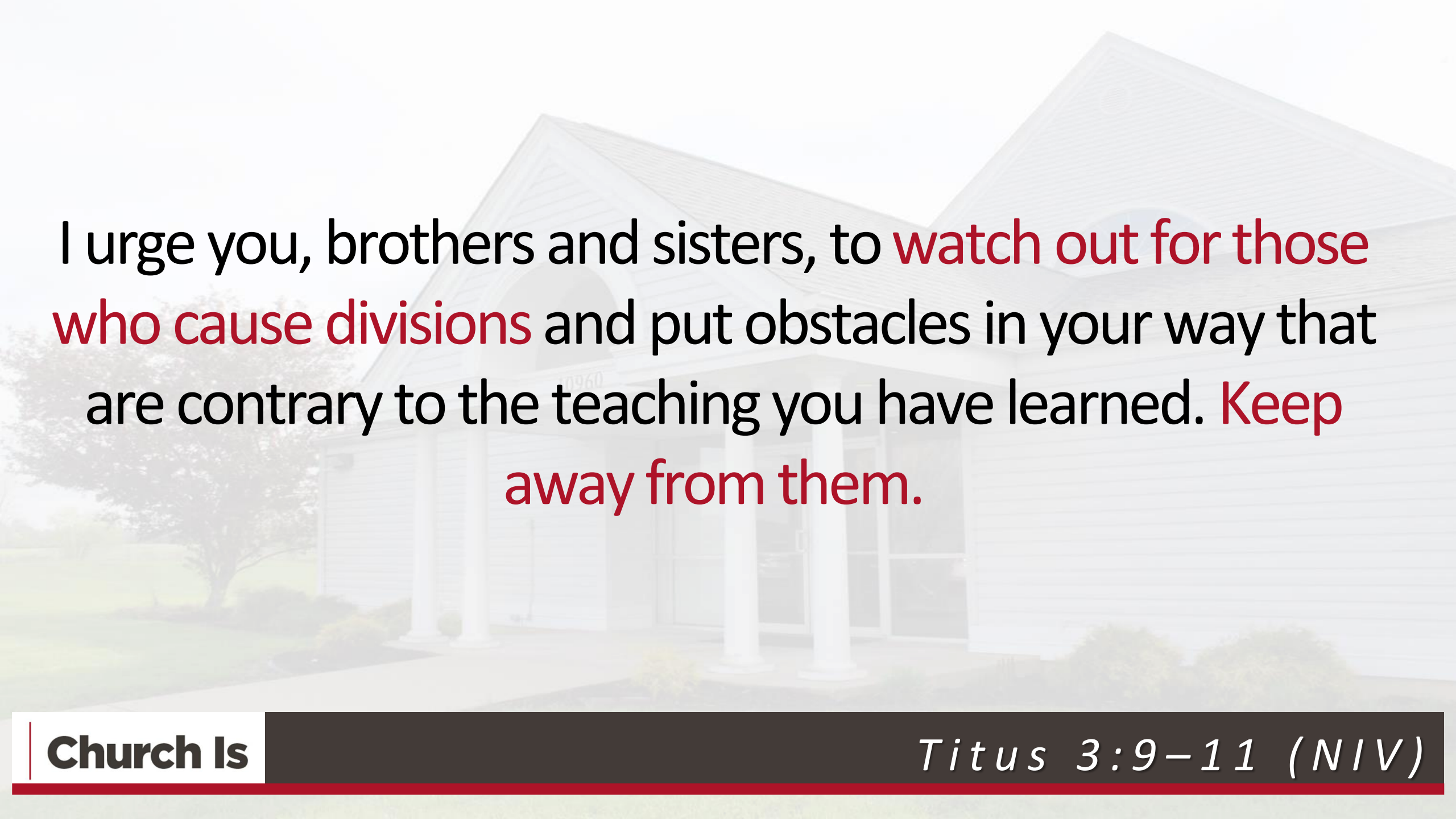
So then, let us aim for harmony in the church and try to
build each other up.



Don't tear apart the work of God over what you eat. Remember, all foods are acceptable, but it is wrong to eat something if it makes another person stumble. It is better not to eat meat or drink wine or do anything else if it might cause another believer to stumble.



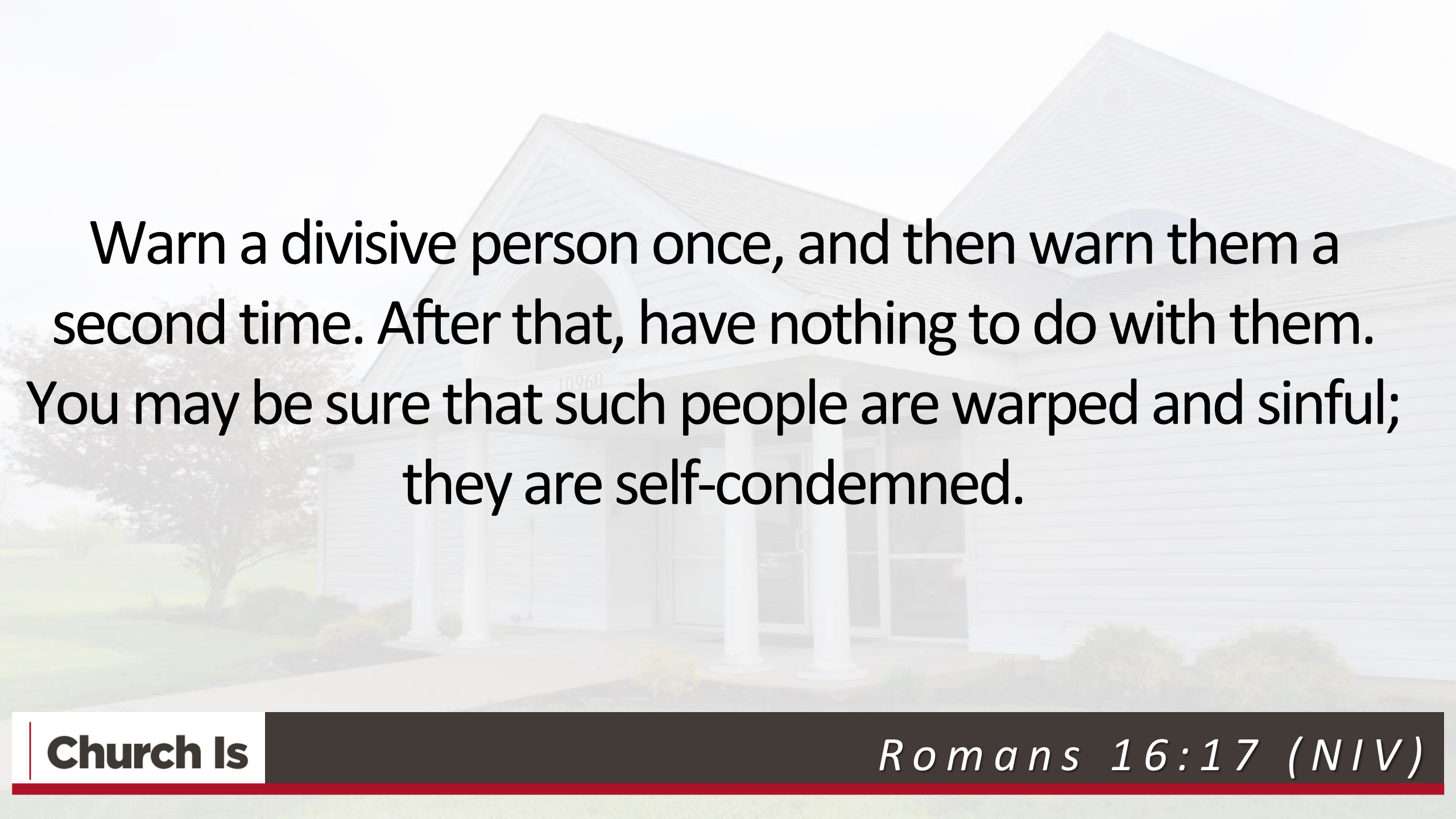
You may believe there's nothing wrong with what you are doing, but keep it between yourself and God...



I urge you, brothers and sisters, to **watch out for those who cause divisions** and put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned. **Keep away from them.**



But **avoid foolish controversies** and genealogies and arguments and quarrels about the law, because these are unprofitable and useless.



Warn a divisive person once, and then warn them a second time. After that, have nothing to do with them. You may be sure that such people are warped and sinful; they are self-condemned.

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- I will put others before myself
- I will be willing to set aside my rights for the sake of unity

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