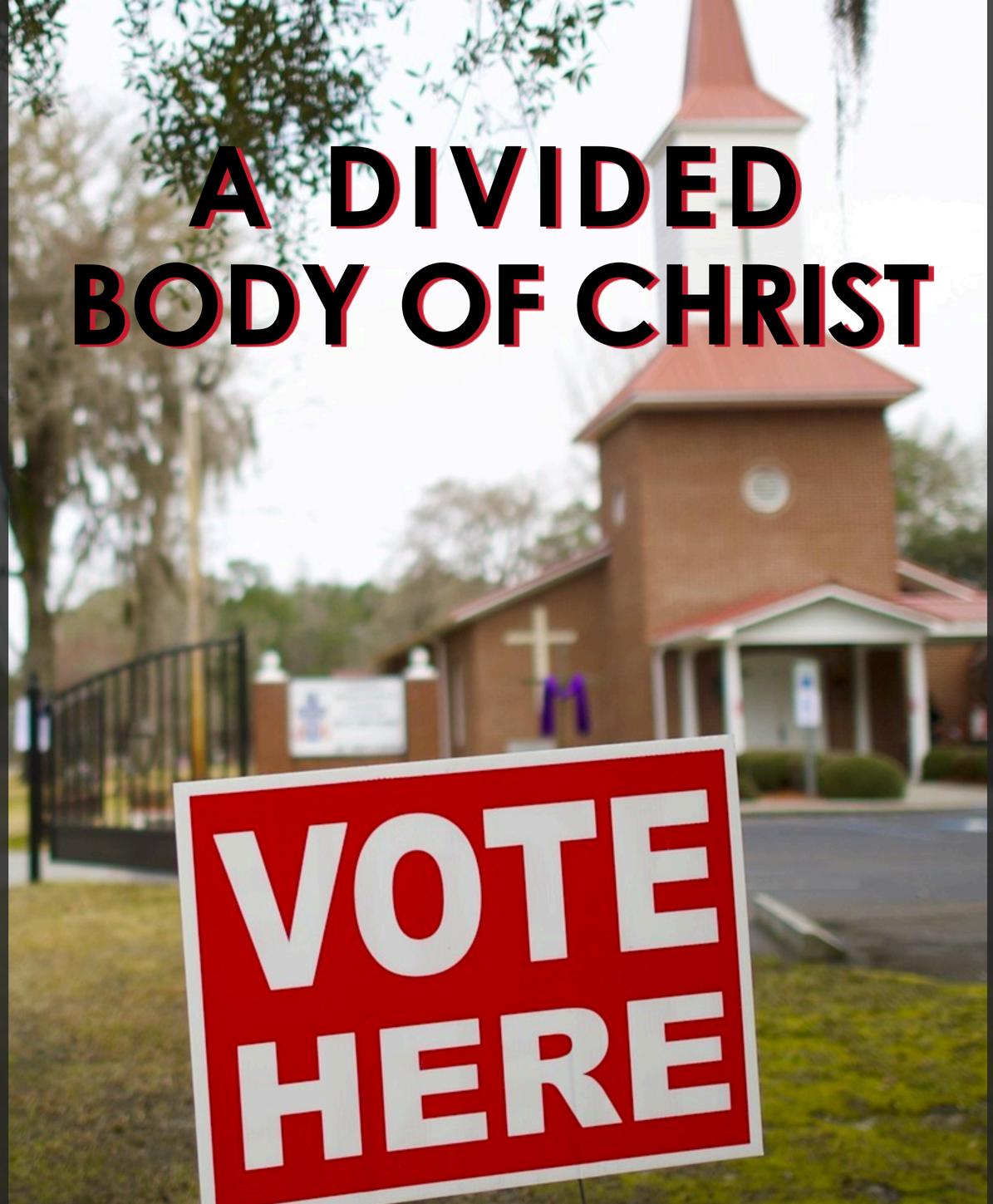
WE BELIEVE
WHAT REALLY MATTERS TO US AND WHY
Fall 2016 Sermon Series | EvergreenLA

THE DIVIDED STATE OF AMERICA

A DIVIDED BODY OF CHRIST



"We voted for Trump not because we are racist, sexist, homophobic, anti-Muslim haters but because we believed him when he declared that only he could guarantee a conservative Supreme Court and stop the government from requiring us to violate some of our deeply held Christian convictions and values."

"Regardless of your primary concerns for the Supreme Court and the separation of church and state, you still knowingly elected an unfit, unstable person who's already started surrounding himself with people who share his vision of how to make America great again. We're angry and nervous because America hasn't always been great for everyone in the past and it looks like the next four years won't be great for everyone either."

SAME IMAGE OF GOD?

WE BELIEVE

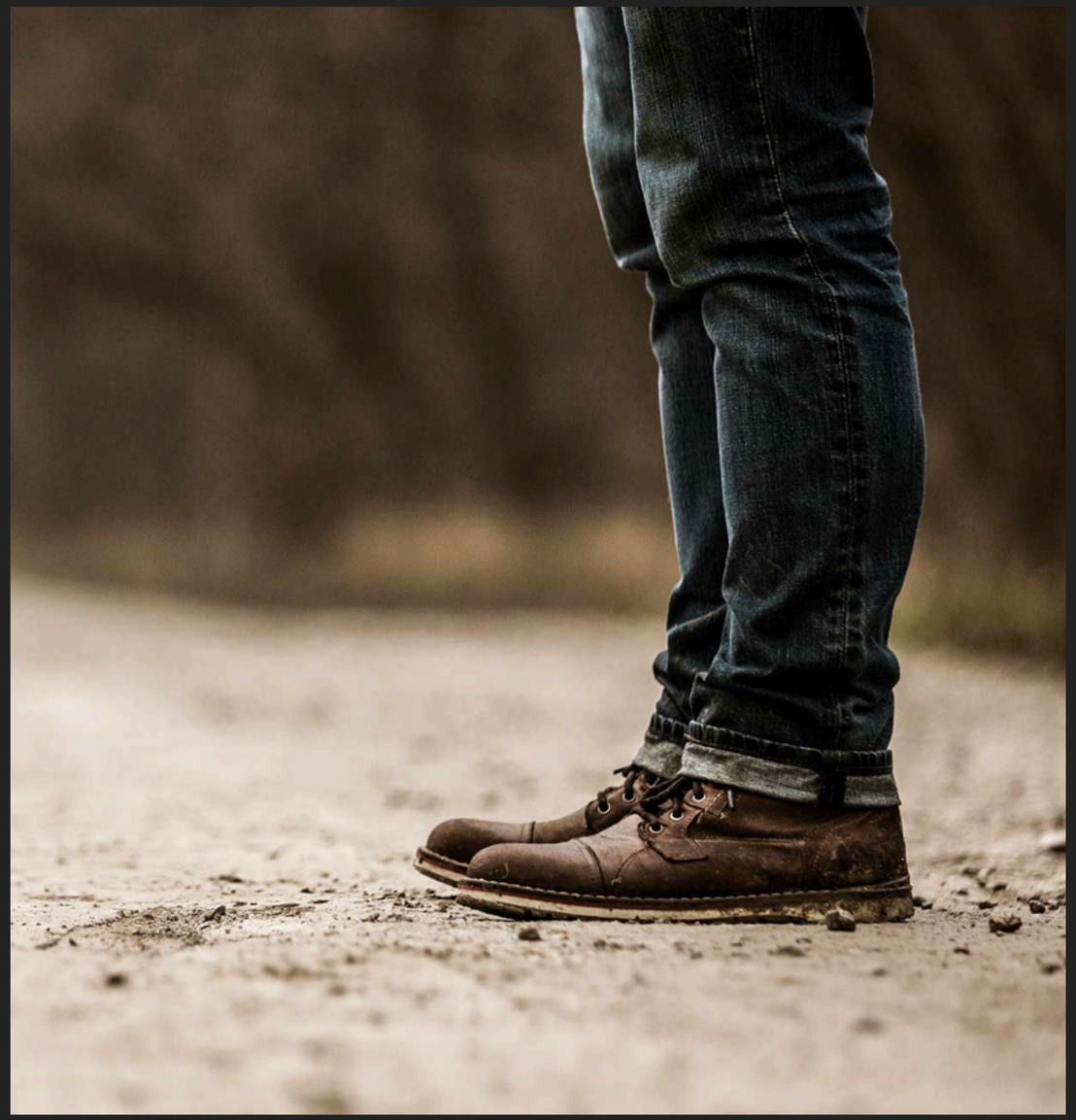
OUR IMAGE OF GOD TRANSFORMS US

KENOSIS

"the act of emptying the self"

WHAT FOLLOWING CHRIST LOOKS LIKE

Philippians 2:1 If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, 2 make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. 3 Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. 4 Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others.



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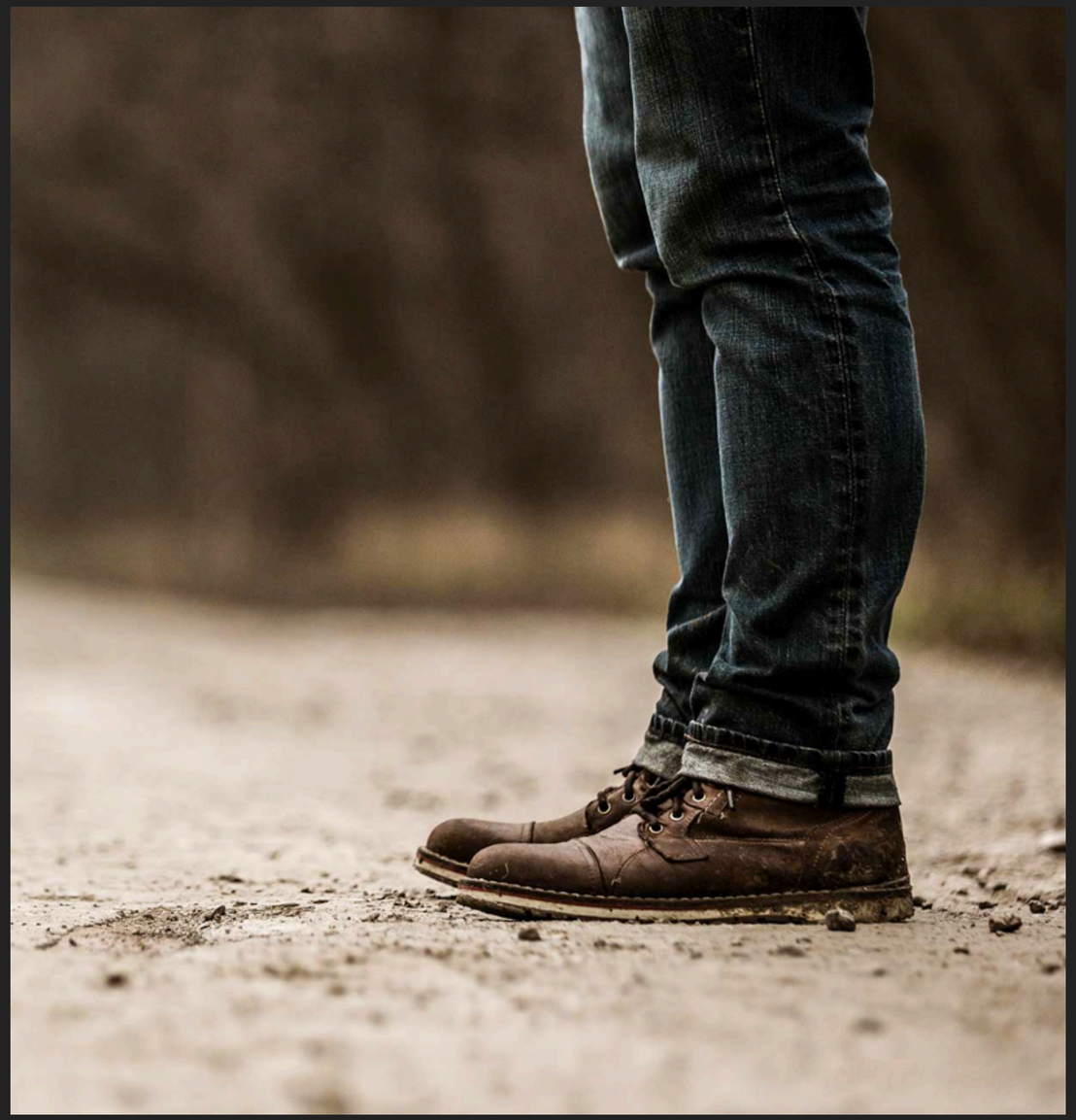

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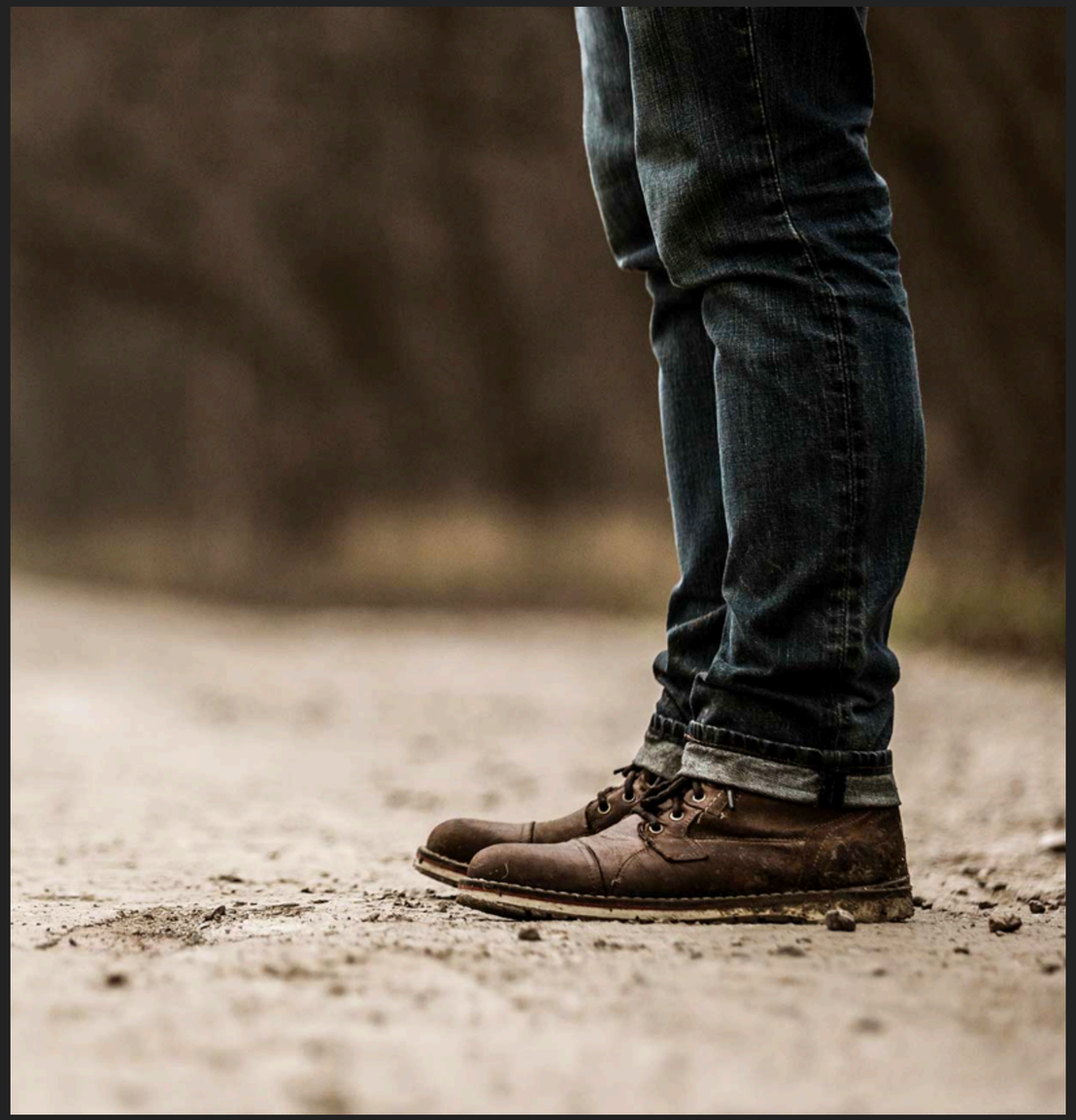


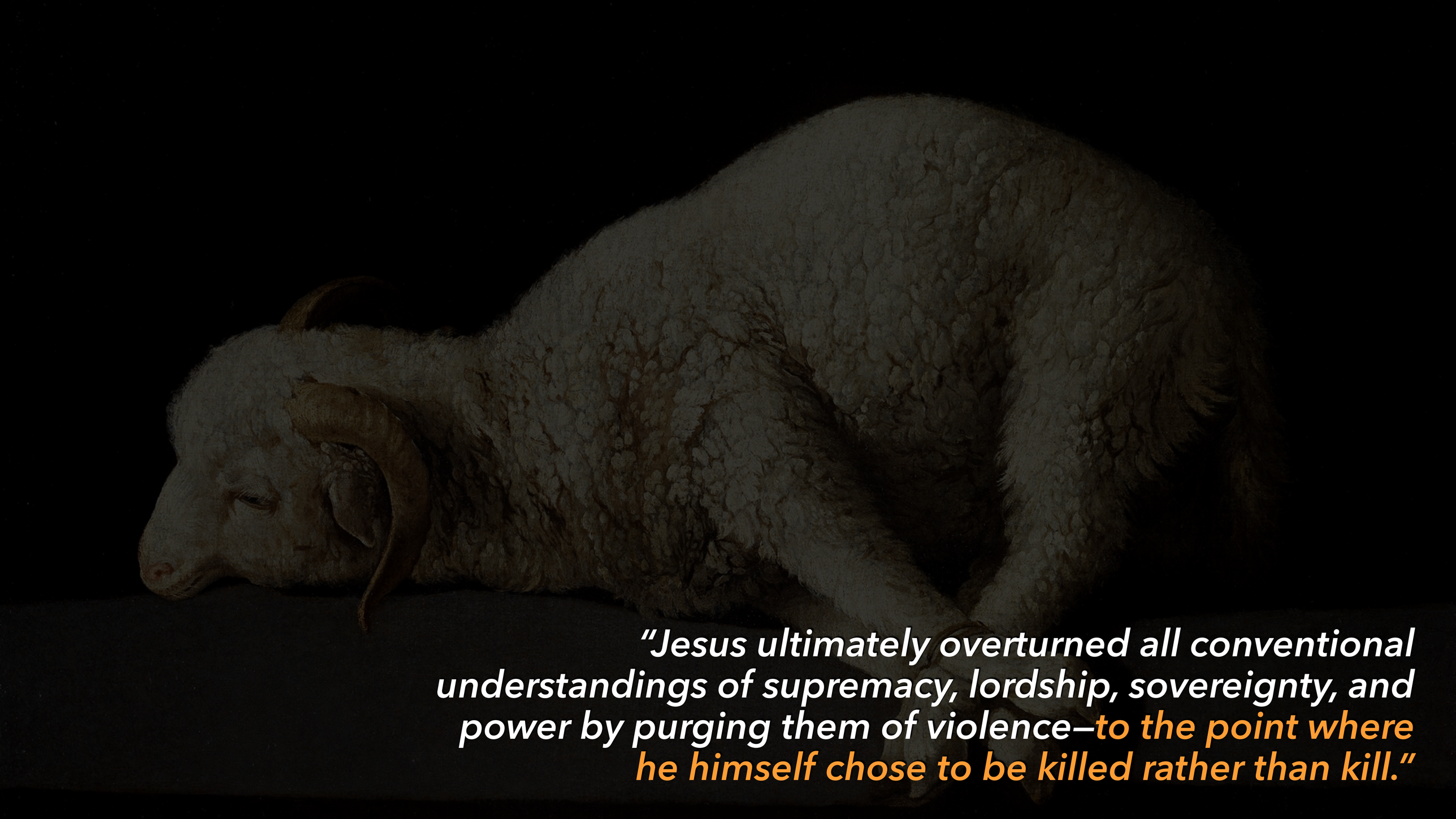
THINK LIKE JESUS!

5 Let the same mind be in you that was in
Christ Jesus, 6 who, though he was in the form
of God, did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,
7 but emptied himself, taking the form of a
slave, being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form, 8 he
humbled himself and became obedient to the
point of death—even death on a cross.

Emptied himself of

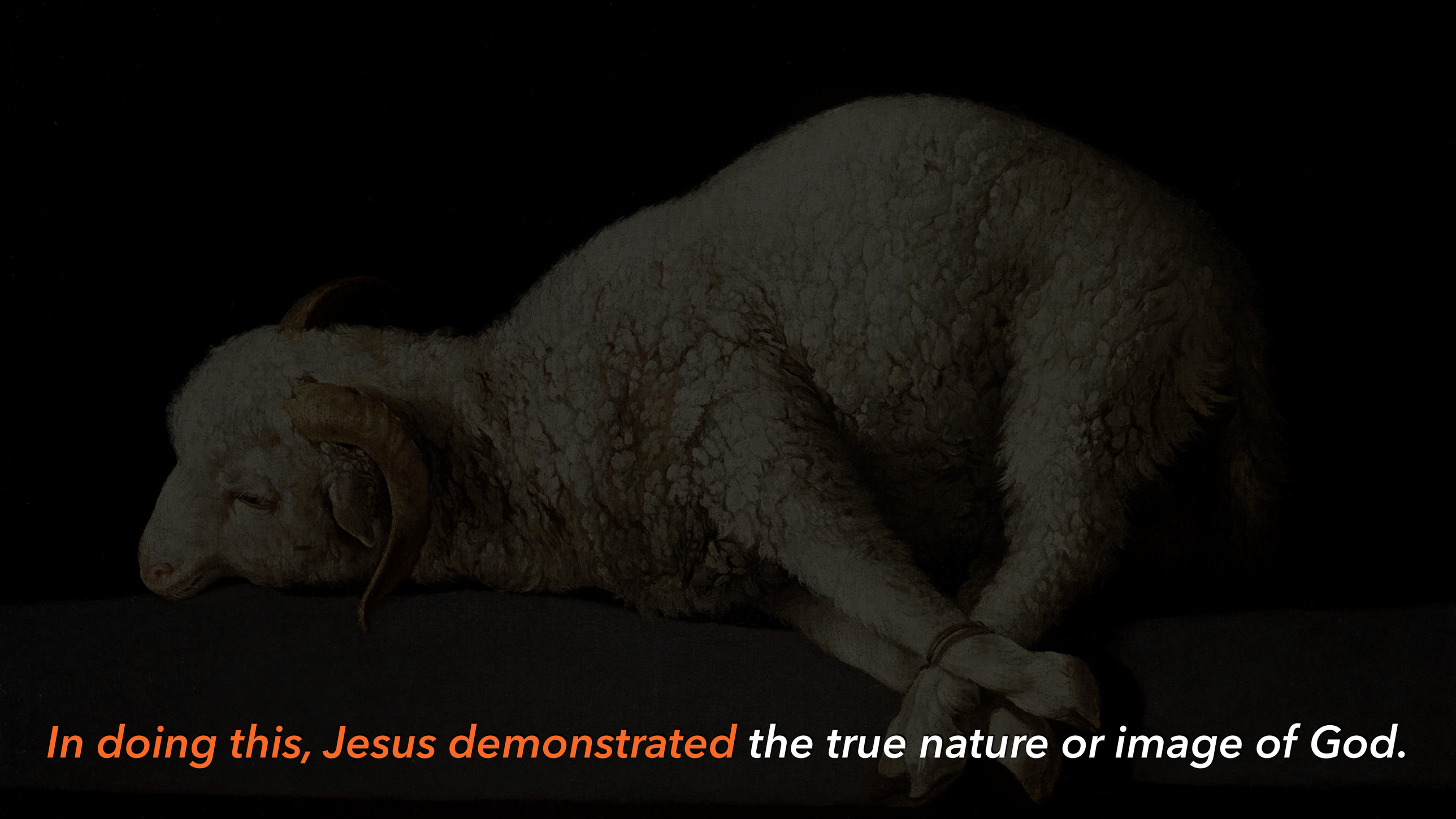
POWER
AMBITION
DOMINATION



"Jesus ultimately overturned all conventional understandings of supremacy, lordship, sovereignty, and power by purging them of violence—to the point where he himself chose to be killed rather than kill."

POWER PERFECTED IN WEAKNESS

And being found in human form, 8 he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.



In doing this, Jesus demonstrated the true nature or image of God.

TO FOLLOW JESUS IS TO
KEEP EVOLVING ONE'S
UNDERSTANDING OF
GOD

Like God, Like Believer

Our image of God transforms us

"Our image of God, our image of ourselves, and our processes of individual and cultural development

move together as in a

DANCE."

Dr. Brian D. Mclaren, The Great Spiritual Migration (2016)

A Journey of Learning New & Deeper Expressions of Love

GOD 1.0

"Selfish Baby"

Come when you call

Clean up your messes

Satisfy all your demands

Bandage your boo-boos

Always keep you happy

Take good care of you

Learn to Trust

A Journey of Learning New & Deeper Expressions of Love

GOD 2.0

"Learning to Share"

Still clean up your messes and satisfy your demands

Calls you beyond your selfishness to generosity and politeness

Teaches you to be nice, say thank you, and play well with others

A Journey of Learning New & Deeper Expressions of Love

GOD 3.0

"Rule-follower"

School, sports, arts

Rules, schedules, disciplined practice

Punished for breaking rules, being late

Rewards rule-keepers, punishes rule-breakers

A Journey of Learning New & Deeper Expressions of Love

GOD 4.0

"Trustworthy"

Commit to mature self-giving; 'me' to 'we'

Accountable, dependable, and reliable

Sacred vows and costly love

Models unchanging love and steadfast commitment

battle lines

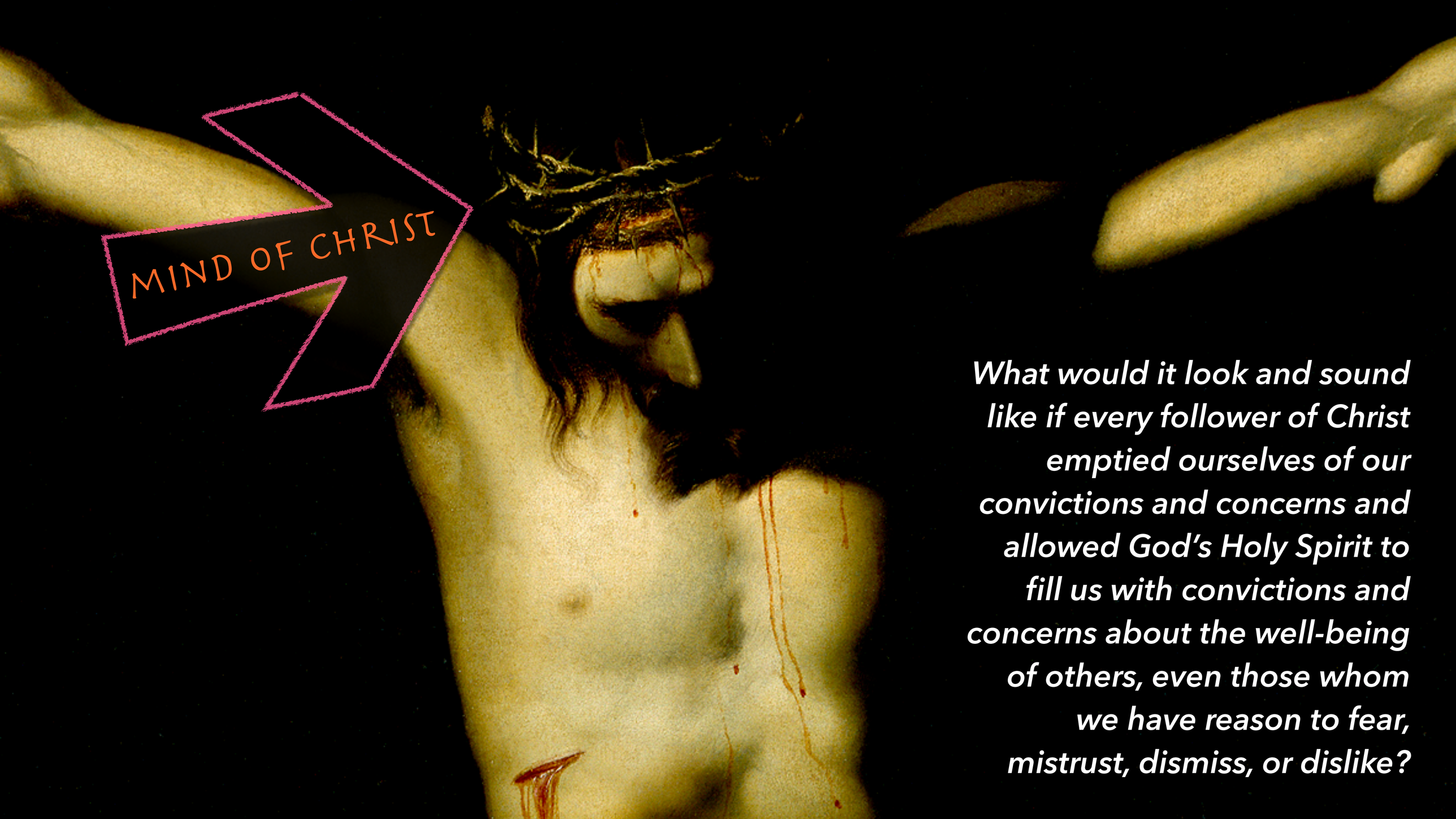
A Journey of Learning New & Deeper Expressions of Love

GOD 5.0

Move from the God who just loves "us" to the God who loves "all of us"

Larger, grander, inclusive God who loves <u>all</u>,not just some

Our Evolving Understanding of God



What would it look and sound like if every follower of Christ emptied ourselves of our convictions and concerns and allowed God's Holy Spirit to fill us with convictions and concerns about the well-being of others, even those whom we have reason to fear, mistrust, dismiss, or dislike?