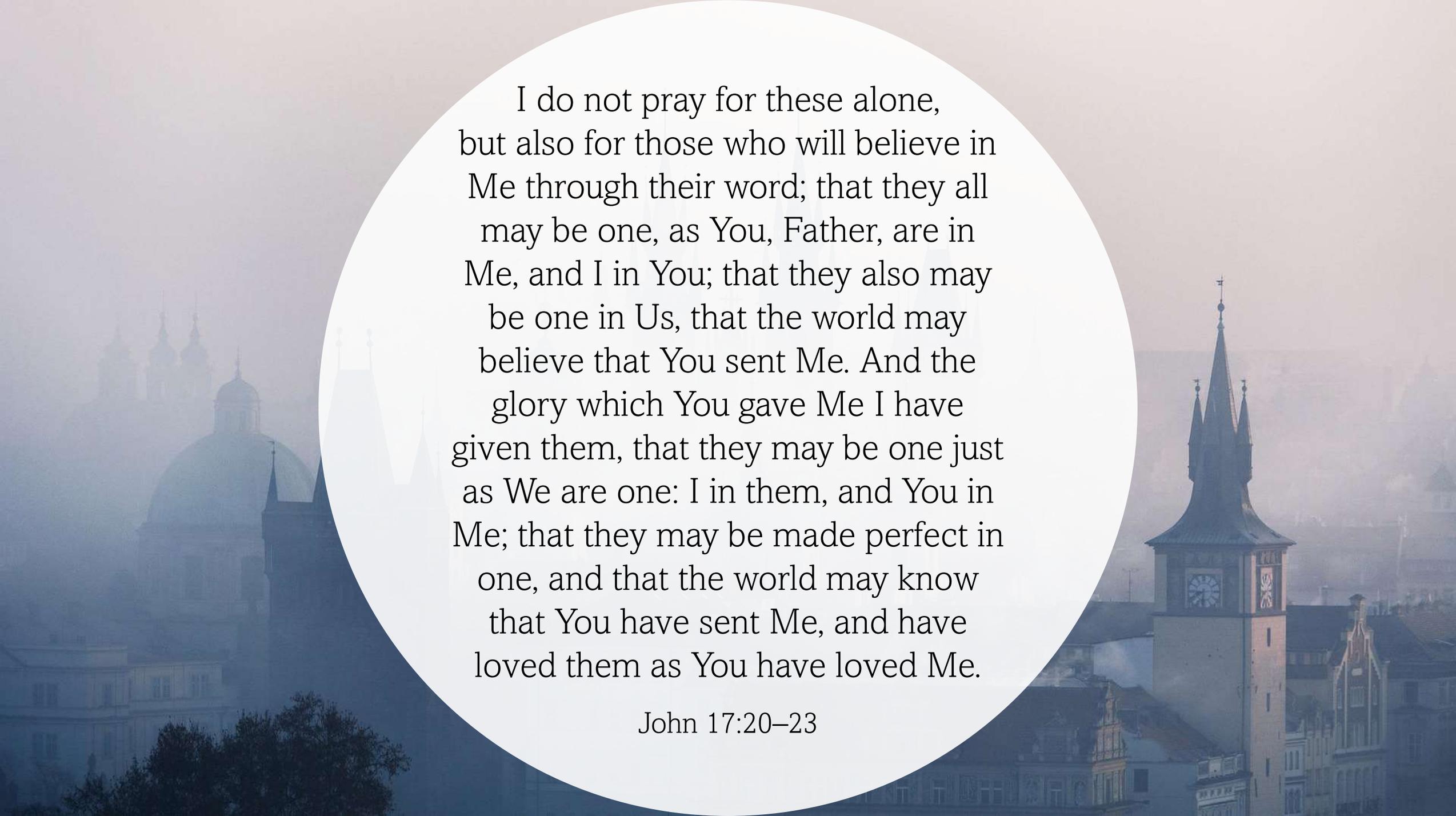




# Why So Many Churches?

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John 17:20–23

The image features a large white circle in the center, containing text. The background is a soft-focus photograph of a cityscape, likely Prague, with a prominent clock tower on the right side. The text is centered within the circle and reads:

I do not pray for these alone,  
but also for those who will believe in  
Me through their word; that they all  
may be one, as You, Father, are in  
Me, and I in You; that they also may  
be one in Us, that the world may  
believe that You sent Me. And the  
glory which You gave Me I have  
given them, that they may be one just  
as We are one: I in them, and You in  
Me; that they may be made perfect in  
one, and that the world may know  
that You have sent Me, and have  
loved them as You have loved Me.

John 17:20–23

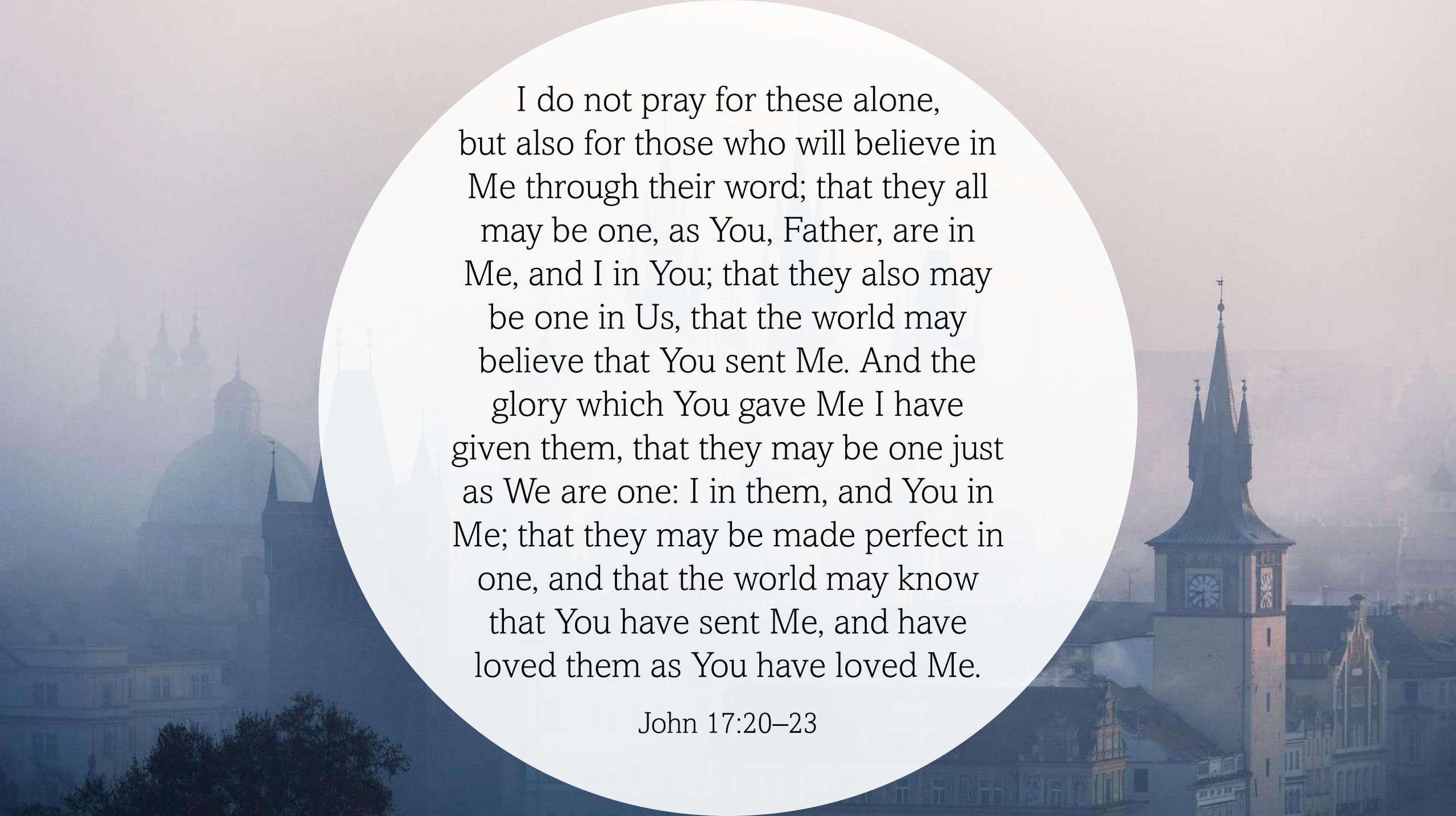


# Jesus Came to Unite All People into One Church

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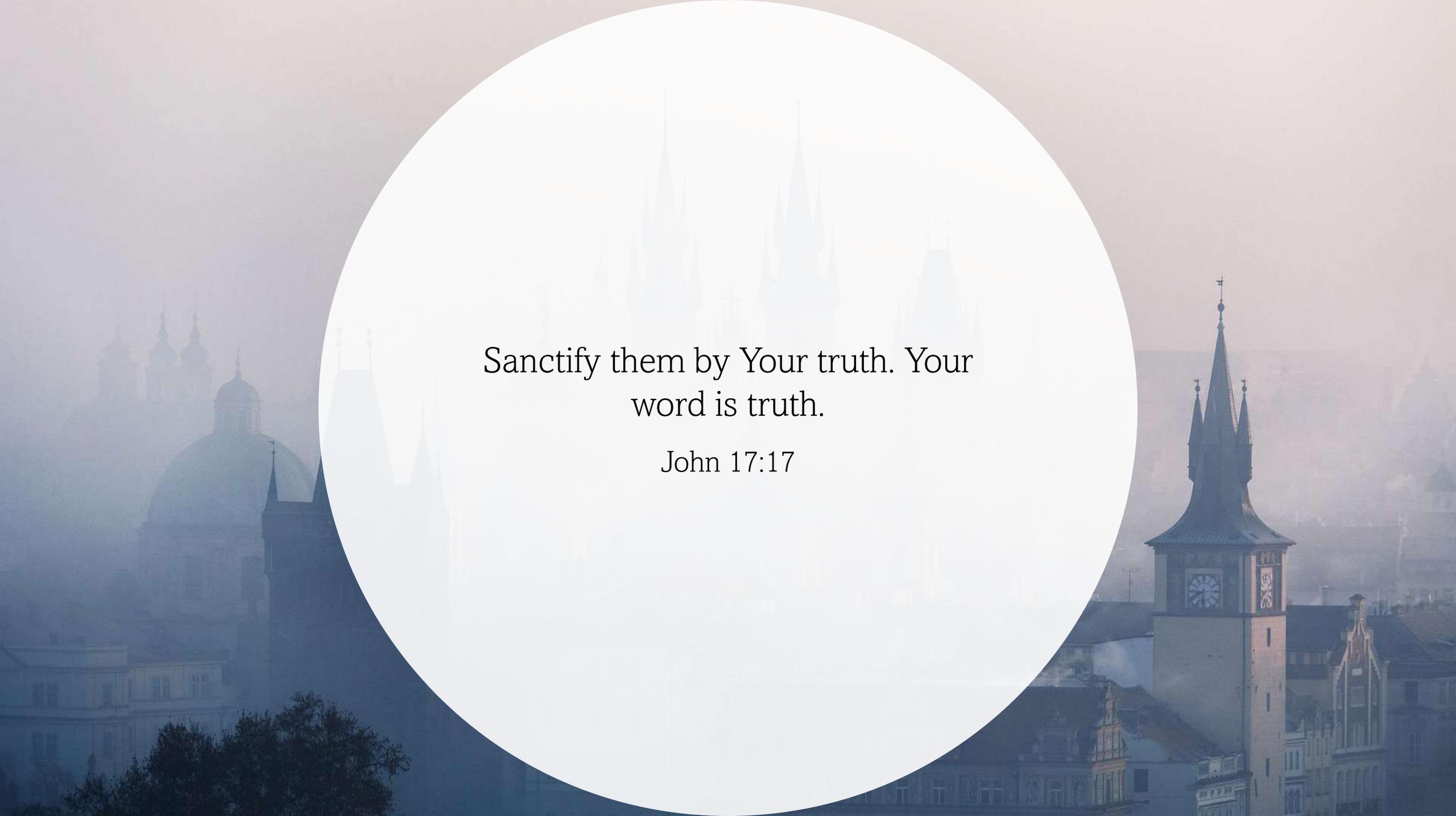
Jesus came into a world full of ...

1. Religious division,
  2. Racial division,
  3. Socio-economic and political division,
- ... and sought to unite all in himself through the gospel (John 17:20–23; cf. 17:17; Eph 2:11–22; Gal 3:26–29)!



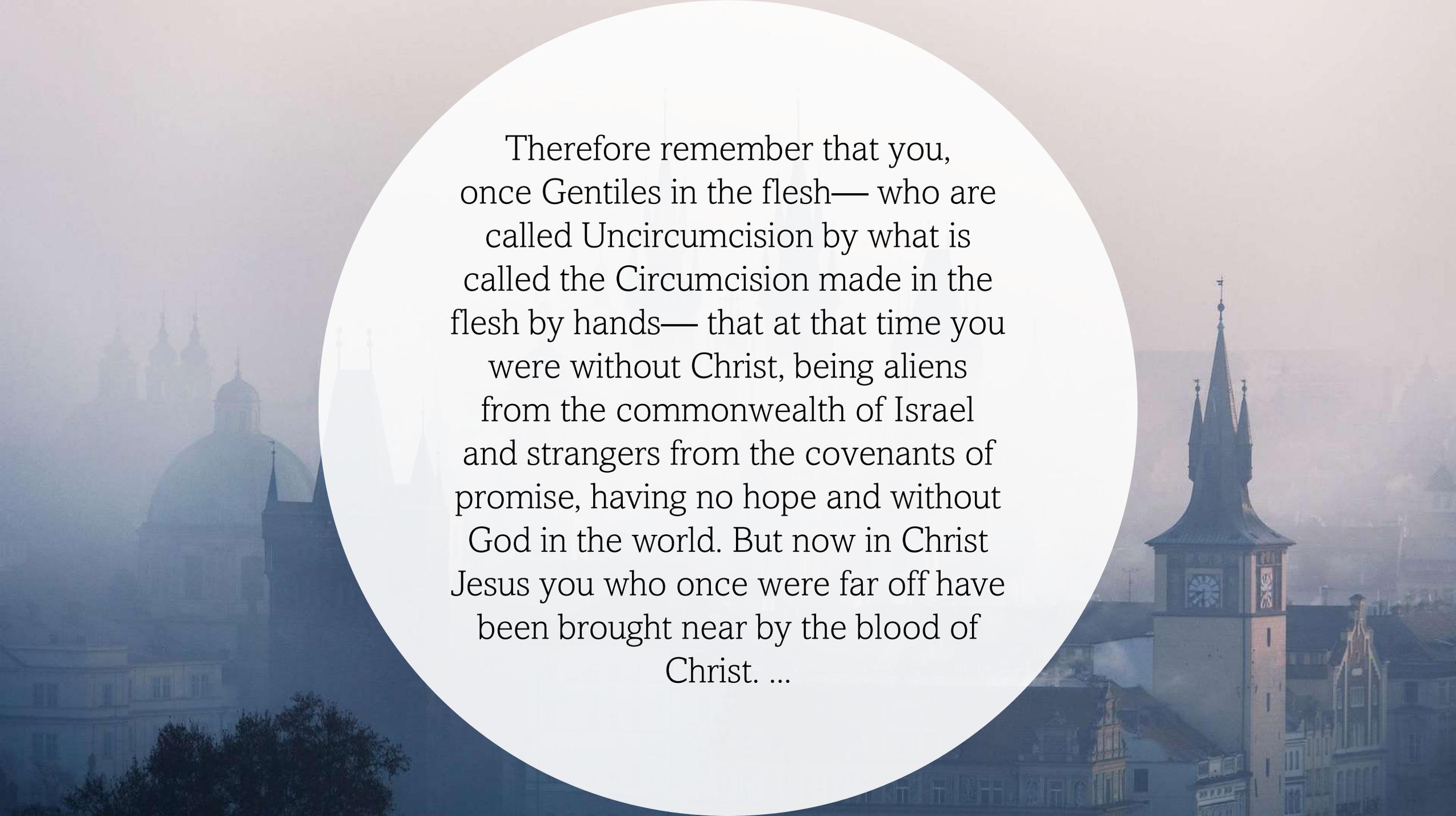
I do not pray for these alone,  
but also for those who will believe in  
Me through their word; that they all  
may be one, as You, Father, are in  
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John 17:20–23

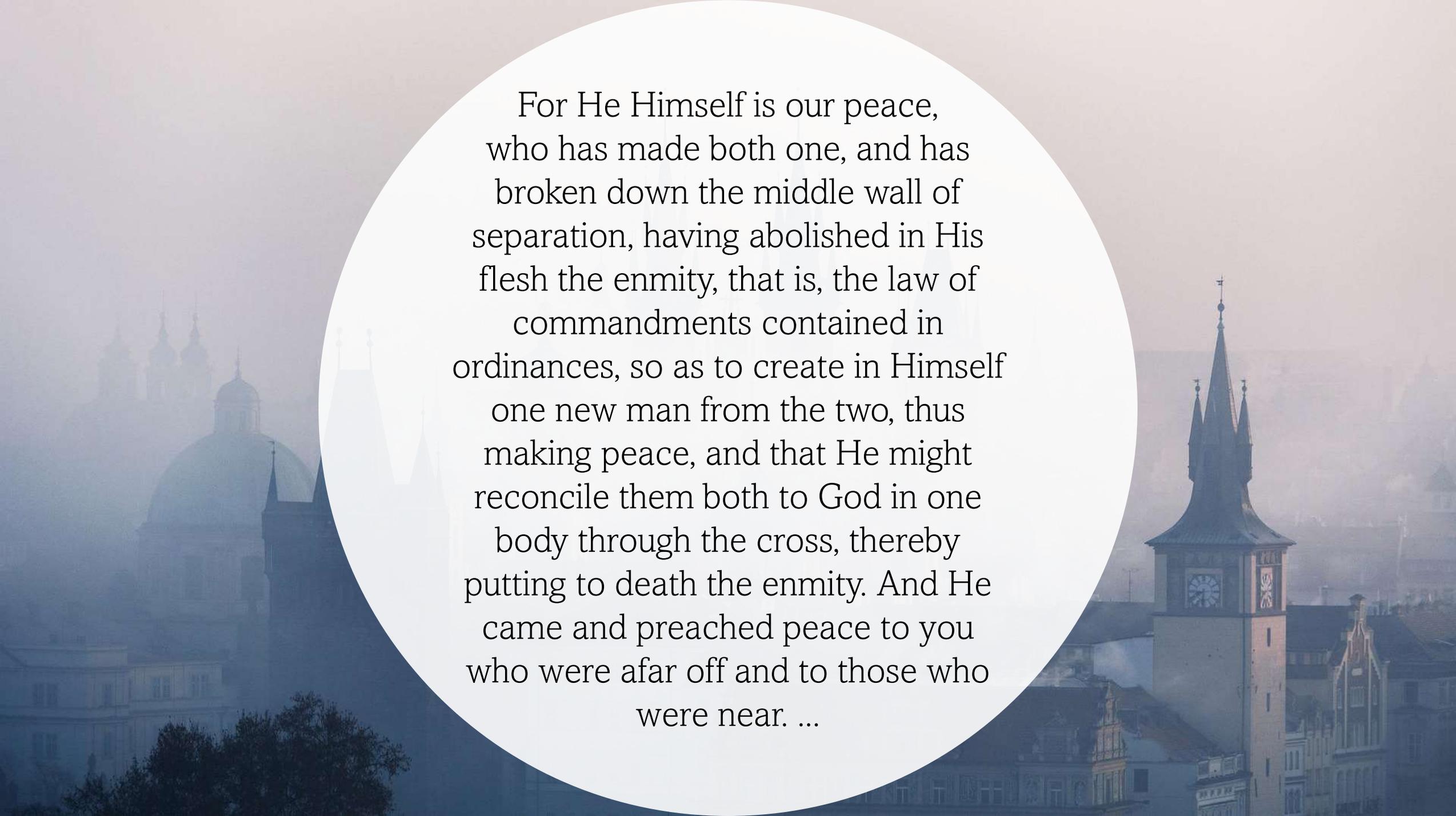
A large white circle is centered on the page, containing text. The background is a faded, blue-tinted image of a city skyline, featuring a prominent clock tower with a spire on the right side and a large dome on the left. The overall atmosphere is serene and historical.

Sanctify them by Your truth. Your  
word is truth.

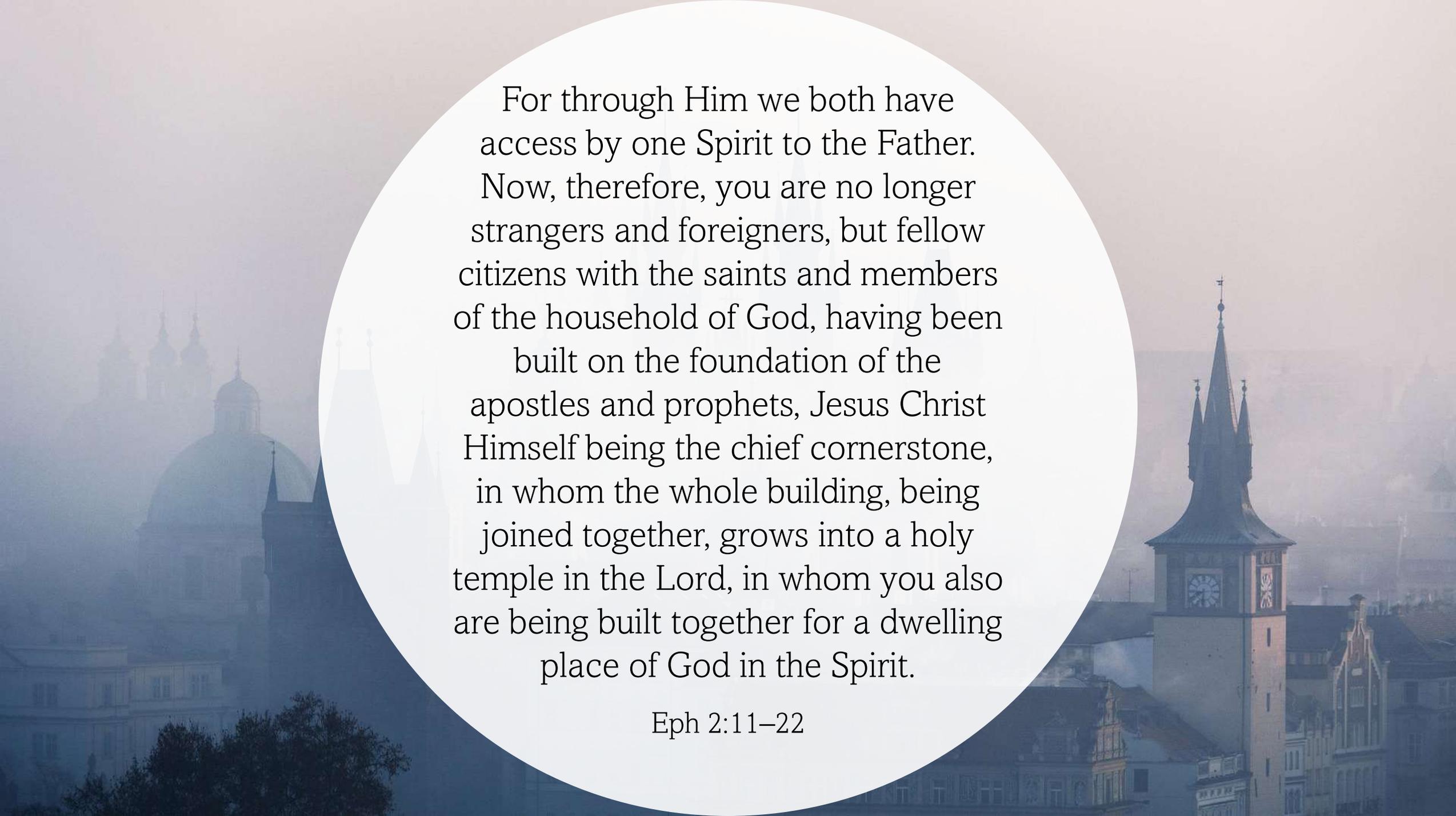
John 17:17

The image features a large, semi-transparent white circle in the center, which serves as a container for text. The background is a soft-focus photograph of a cityscape, likely Prague, with a prominent clock tower on the right side. The overall color palette is muted, with blues, greys, and soft pinks.

Therefore remember that you,  
once Gentiles in the flesh— who are  
called Uncircumcision by what is  
called the Circumcision made in the  
flesh by hands— that at that time you  
were without Christ, being aliens  
from the commonwealth of Israel  
and strangers from the covenants of  
promise, having no hope and without  
God in the world. But now in Christ  
Jesus you who once were far off have  
been brought near by the blood of  
Christ. ...

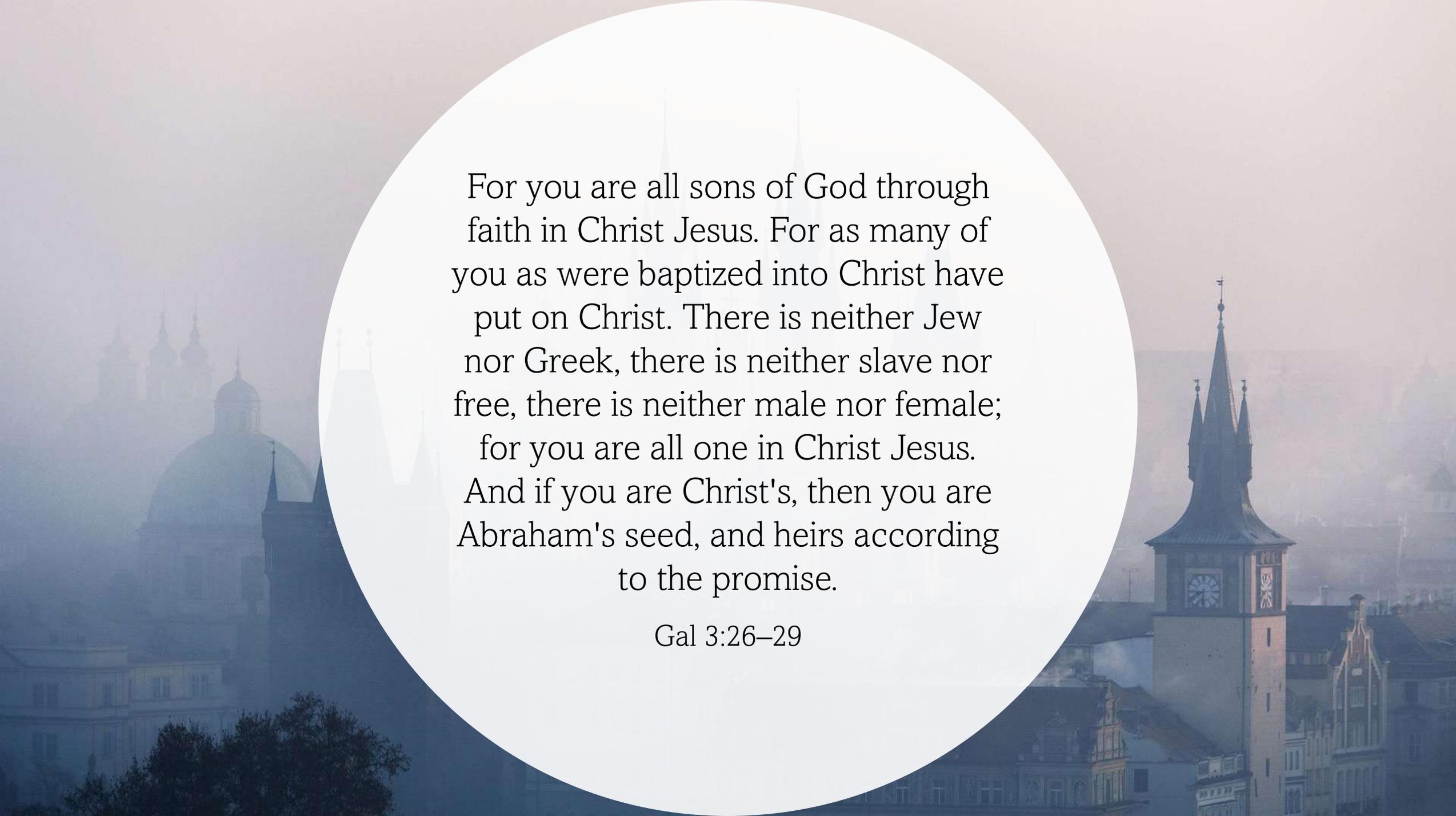
The image features a large white circle in the center, containing text. The background is a faded, blue-tinted photograph of a cityscape. On the right side, a tall, dark clock tower with a pointed roof and a clock face is prominent. To the left, there are several domed structures, possibly churches or cathedrals. The overall atmosphere is serene and historical.

For He Himself is our peace,  
who has made both one, and has  
broken down the middle wall of  
separation, having abolished in His  
flesh the enmity, that is, the law of  
commandments contained in  
ordinances, so as to create in Himself  
one new man from the two, thus  
making peace, and that He might  
reconcile them both to God in one  
body through the cross, thereby  
putting to death the enmity. And He  
came and preached peace to you  
who were afar off and to those who  
were near. ...

The image features a large white circle in the center, containing text. The background is a soft-focus photograph of a cityscape, likely Prague, with a prominent church tower on the right side. The text is centered within the circle and reads:

For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father. Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

Eph 2:11–22

The image features a large, semi-transparent white circle in the center, which serves as a container for text. The background is a soft-focus photograph of a cityscape, likely European, with various buildings and a prominent clock tower on the right side. The overall color palette is muted, with blues, greys, and soft whites.

For you are all sons of God through  
faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of  
you as were baptized into Christ have  
put on Christ. There is neither Jew  
nor Greek, there is neither slave nor  
free, there is neither male nor female;  
for you are all one in Christ Jesus.  
And if you are Christ's, then you are  
Abraham's seed, and heirs according  
to the promise.

Gal 3:26–29



# Jesus Came to Unite All People into One Church

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Jesus came into a world full of ...

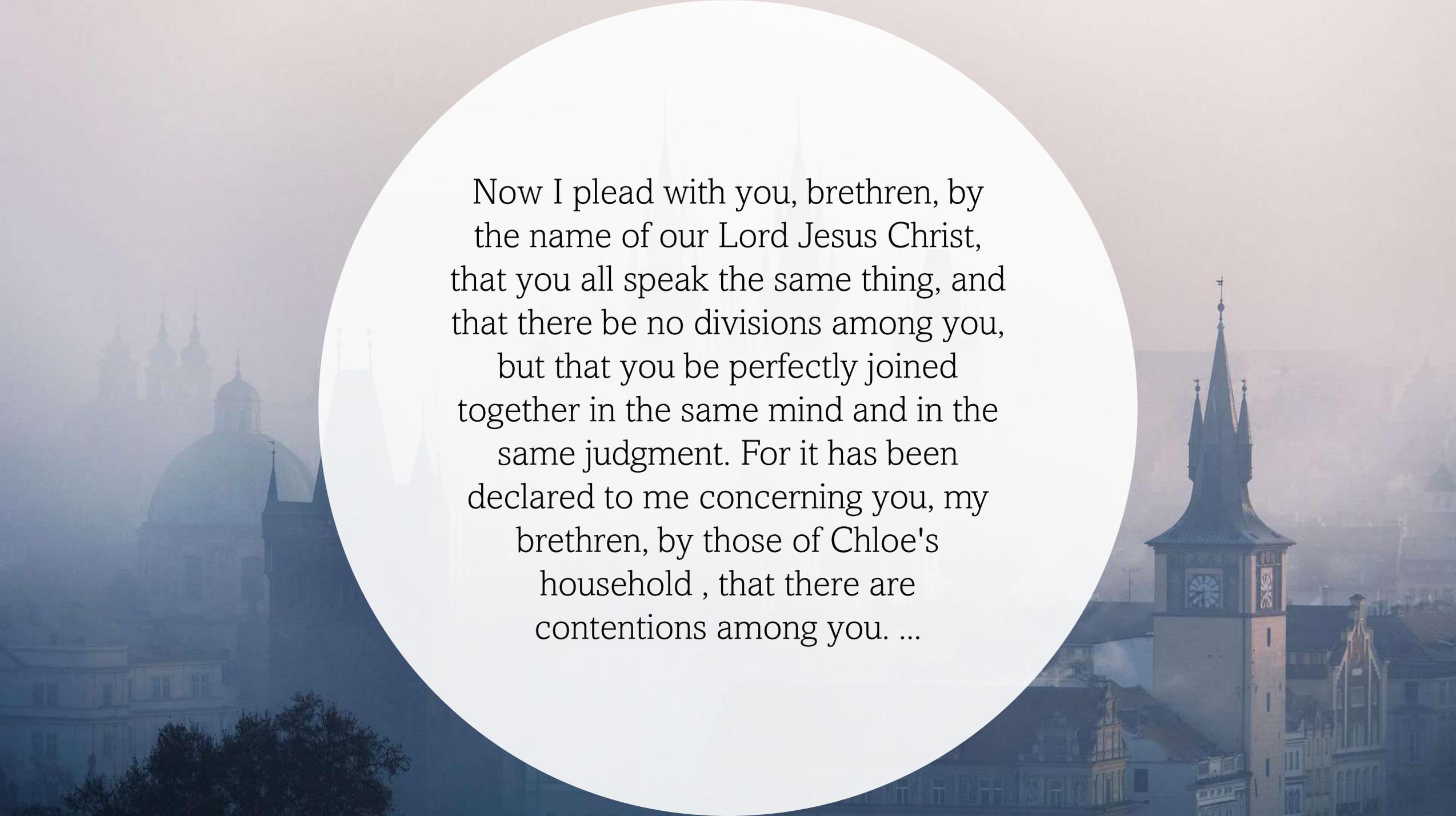
1. Religious division,
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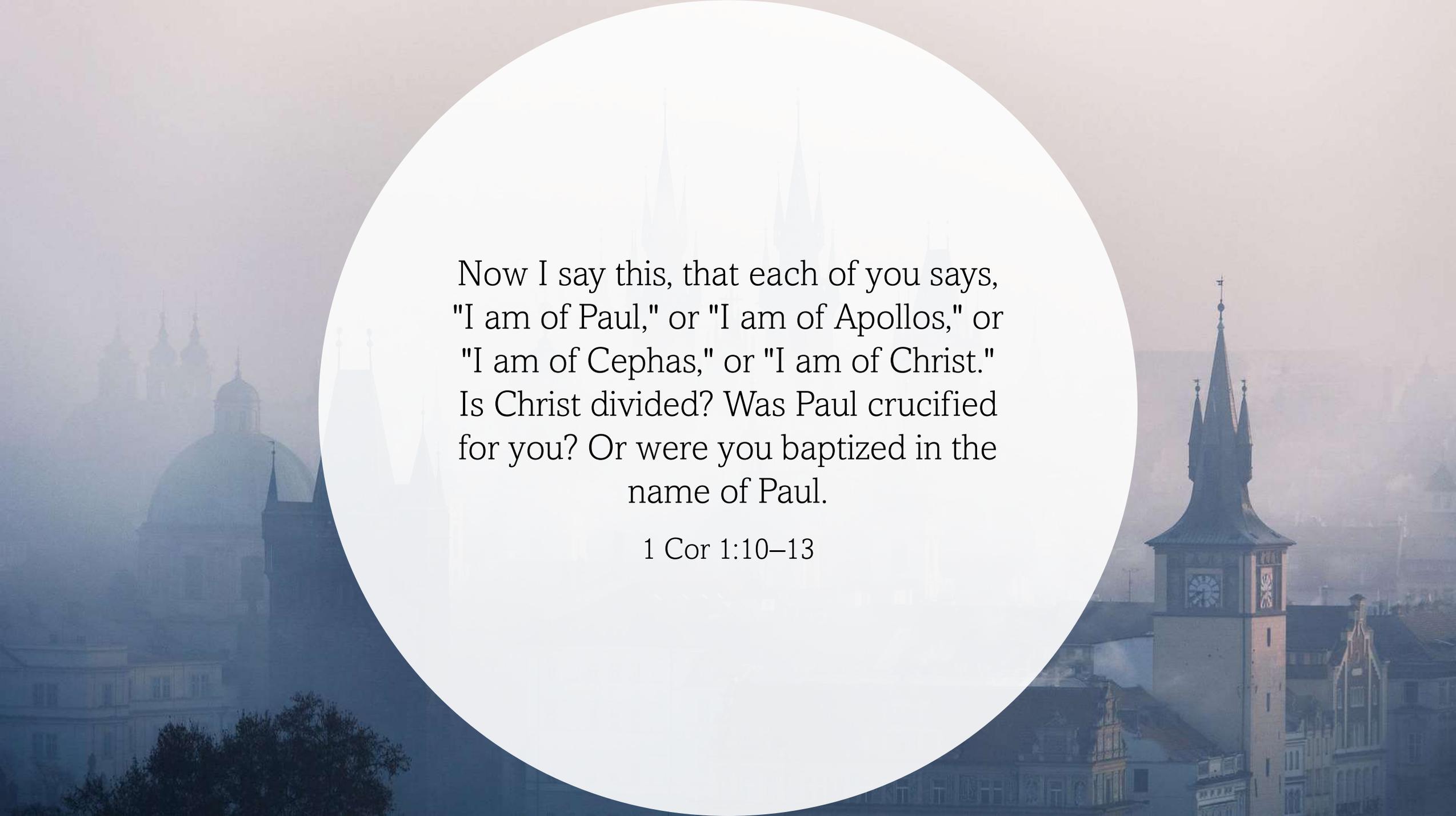
# People Have Corrupted the Unity of the “Church”

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1. The early Christians struggled with division too (1 Cor 1:10–13).



Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment. For it has been declared to me concerning you, my brethren, by those of Chloe's household, that there are contentions among you. ...



Now I say this, that each of you says,  
"I am of Paul," or "I am of Apollos," or  
"I am of Cephas," or "I am of Christ."  
Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified  
for you? Or were you baptized in the  
name of Paul.

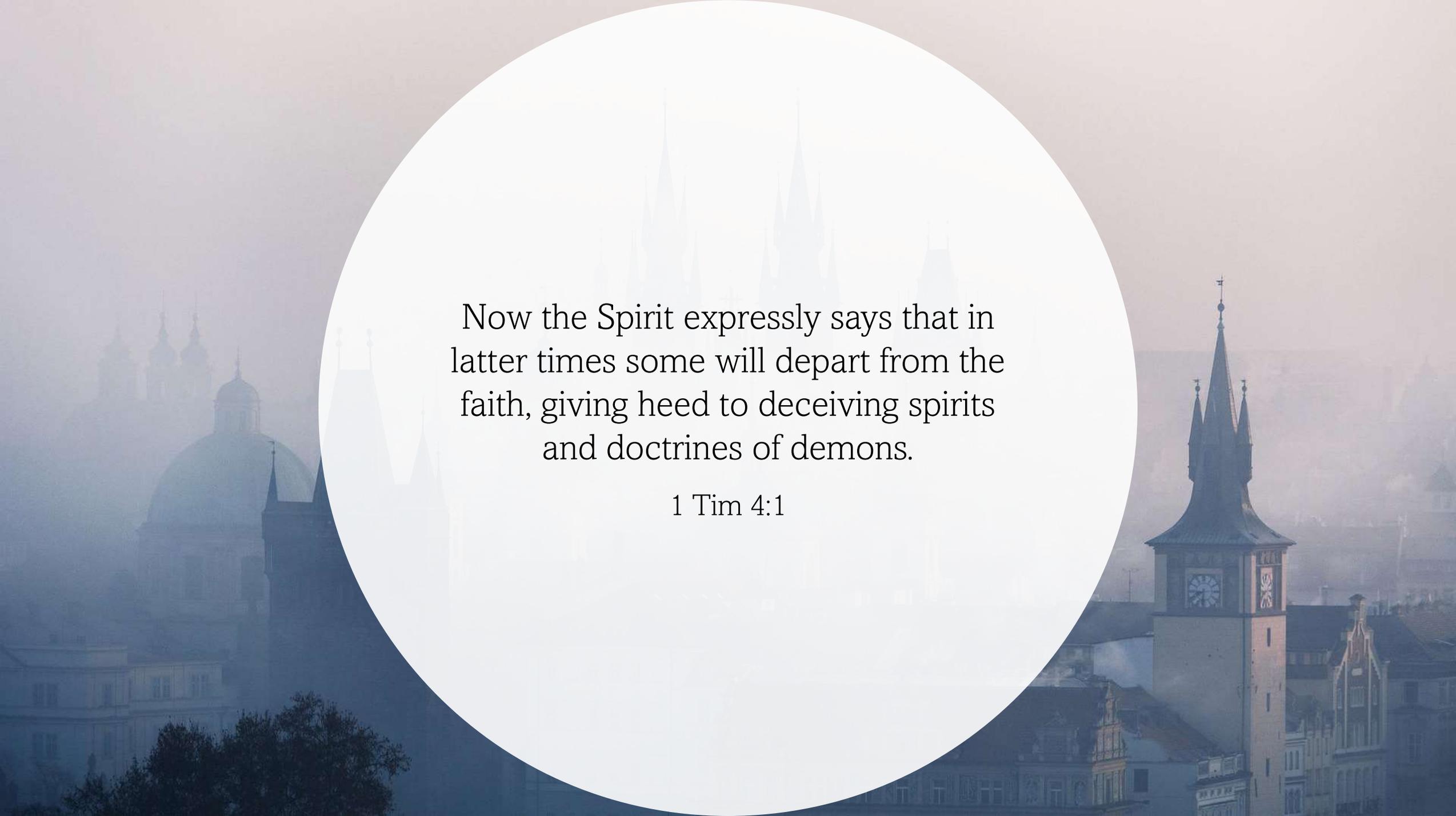
1 Cor 1:10–13



# People Have Corrupted the Unity of the “Church”

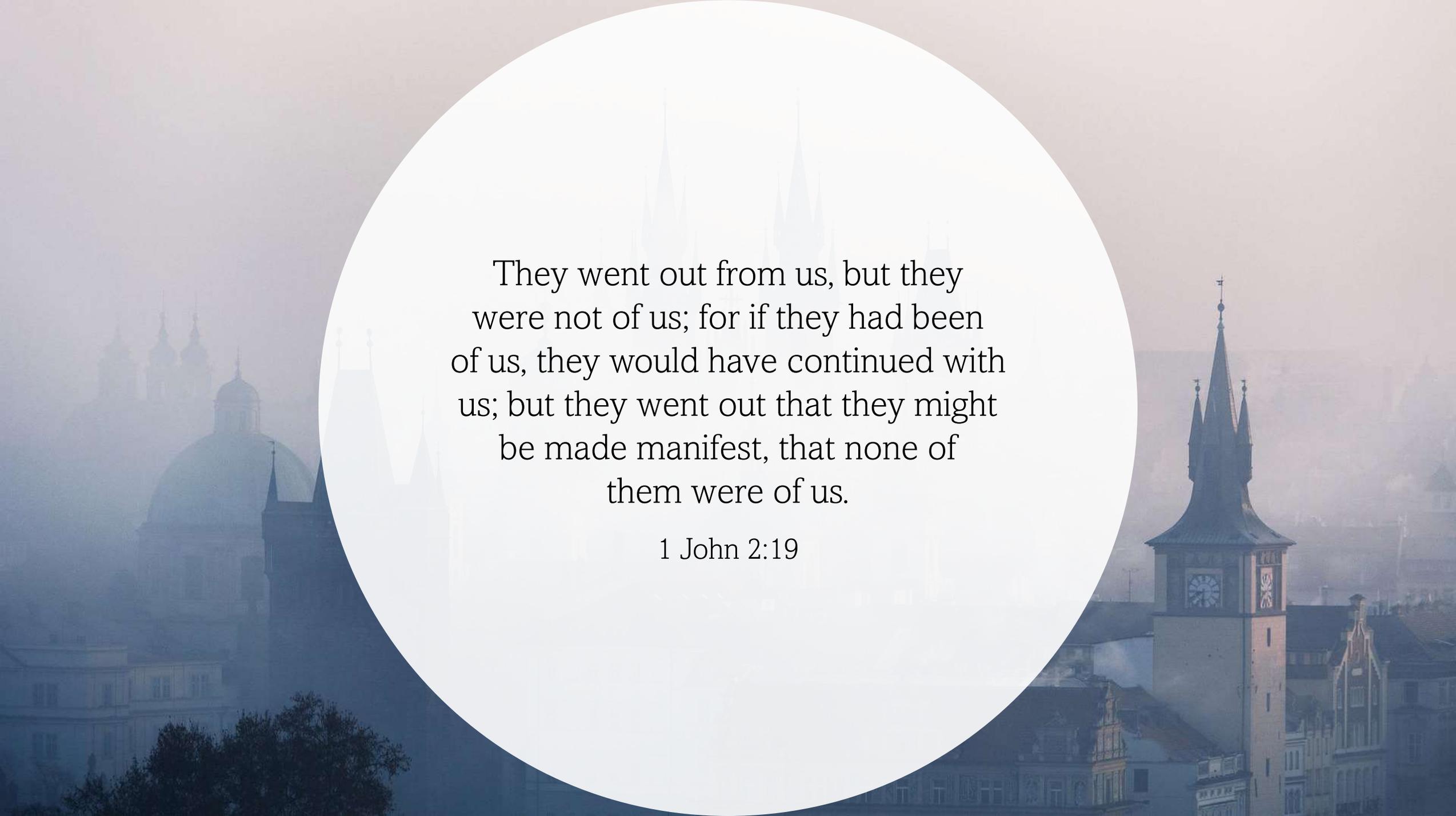
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1. The early Christians struggled with division too (1 Cor 1:10–13).
2. Division has not ceased among “Christians” (1 Tim 4:1; 1 John 2:19).

A large white circle is centered on the page, containing text. The background is a faded, blue-tinted image of a cityscape, featuring a prominent church tower with a clock face on the right side and a large dome on the left. The overall atmosphere is misty and serene.

Now the Spirit expressly says that in  
latter times some will depart from the  
faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits  
and doctrines of demons.

1 Tim 4:1

The image features a large, semi-transparent white circle in the center, which serves as a container for text. The background is a soft-focus photograph of a cityscape, likely Prague, with a prominent church tower on the right side. The overall color palette is muted, with blues, greys, and soft pinks.

They went out from us, but they  
were not of us; for if they had been  
of us, they would have continued with  
us; but they went out that they might  
be made manifest, that none of  
them were of us.

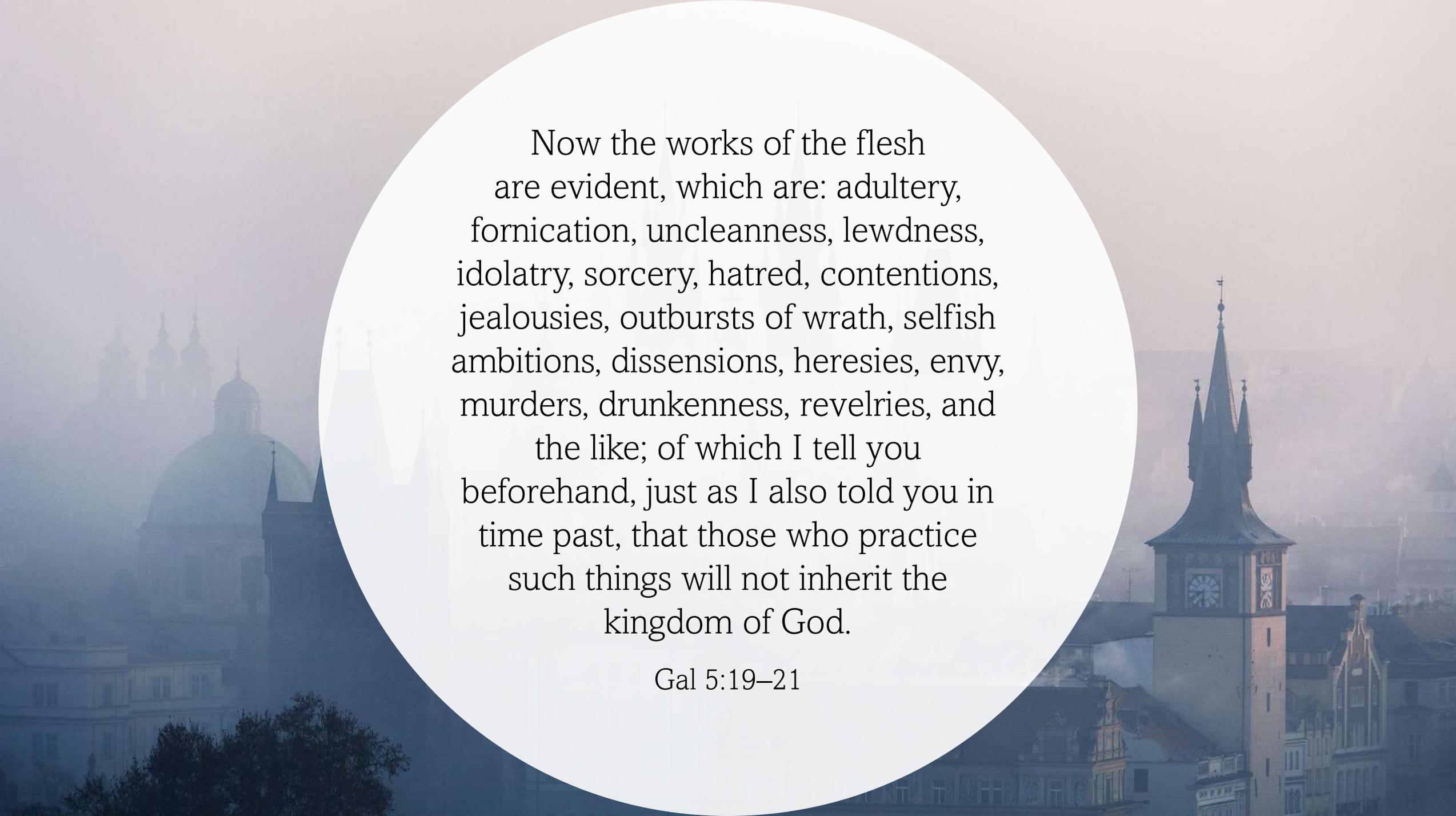
1 John 2:19



# People Have Corrupted the Unity of the “Church”

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1. The early Christians struggled with division too (1 Cor 1:10–13).
2. Division has not ceased among “Christians” (1 Tim 4:1; 1 John 2:19).
3. We cannot ignore the problem of division (or divisive spirits); it is a matter of salvation (Gal 5:19–21)!



Now the works of the flesh  
are evident, which are: adultery,  
fornication, uncleanness, lewdness,  
idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions,  
jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish  
ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy,  
murders, drunkenness, revelries, and  
the like; of which I tell you  
beforehand, just as I also told you in  
time past, that those who practice  
such things will not inherit the  
kingdom of God.

Gal 5:19–21



# People Have Corrupted the Unity of the “Church”

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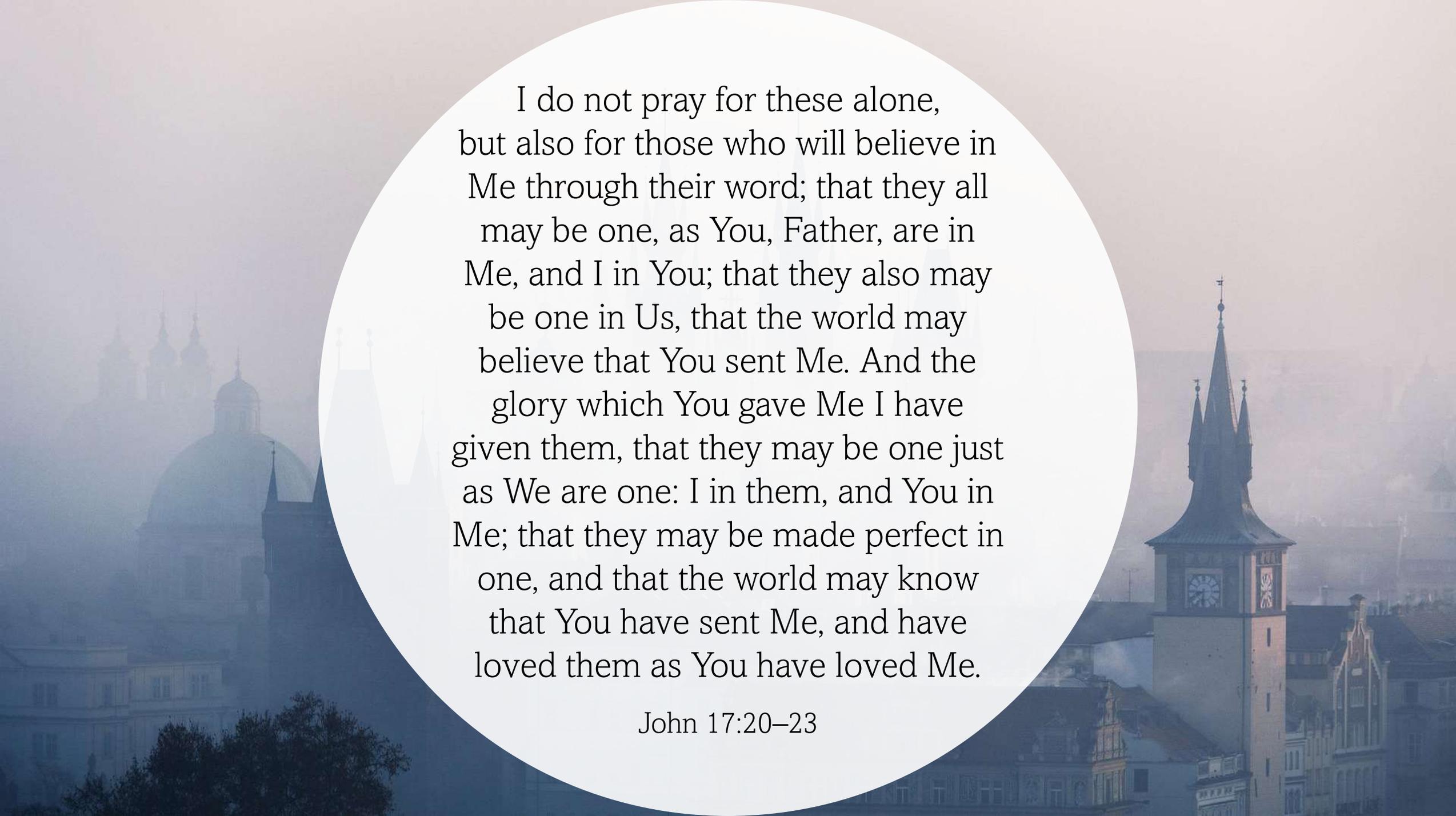
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# Scripture Can Restore and Unite Christians

---

1. The unity that Jesus desires is not “ecumenical” (John 17:20–23).



I do not pray for these alone,  
but also for those who will believe in  
Me through their word; that they all  
may be one, as You, Father, are in  
Me, and I in You; that they also may  
be one in Us, that the world may  
believe that You sent Me. And the  
glory which You gave Me I have  
given them, that they may be one just  
as We are one: I in them, and You in  
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that You have sent Me, and have  
loved them as You have loved Me.

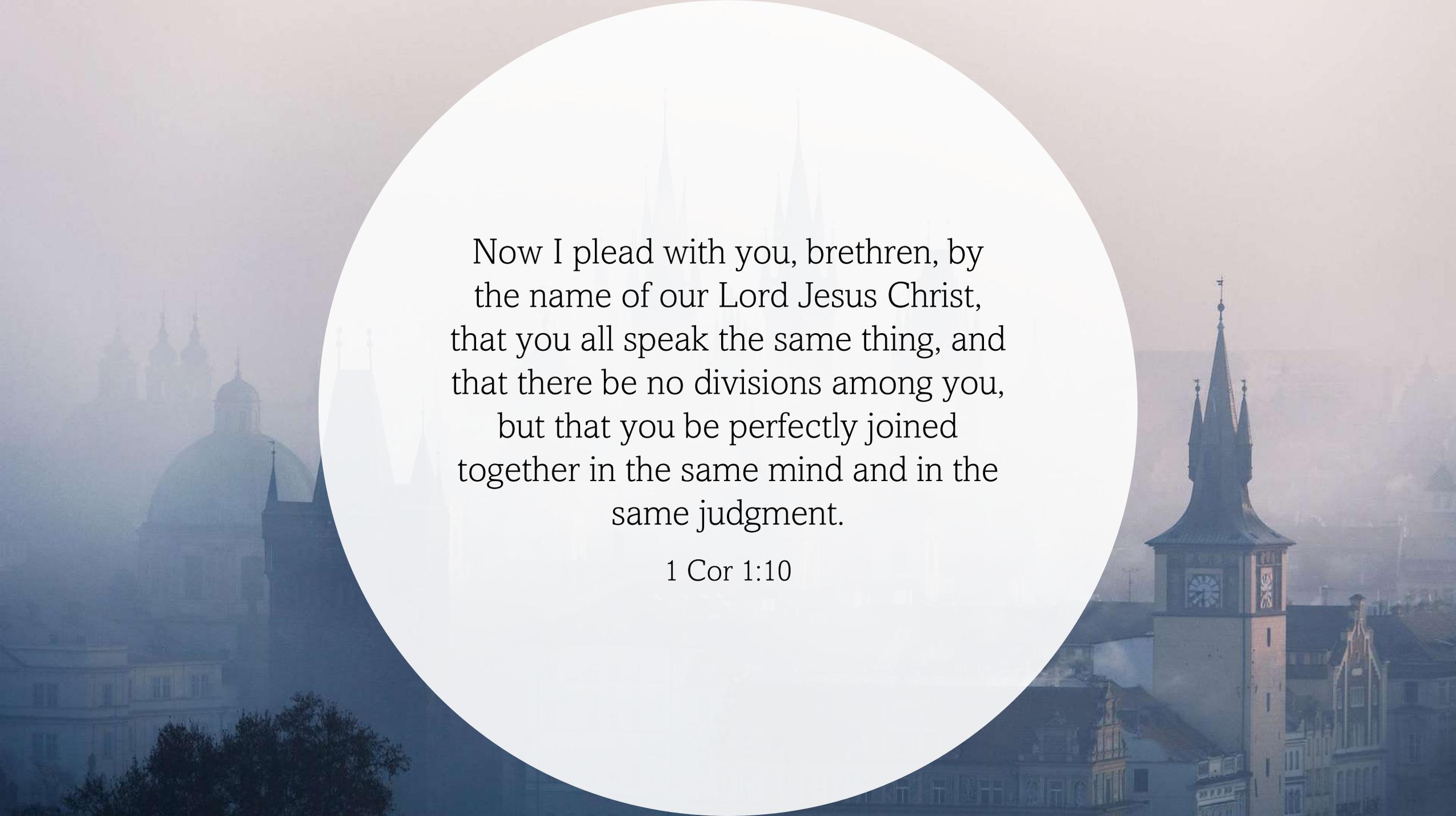
John 17:20–23



# Scripture Can Restore and Unite Christians

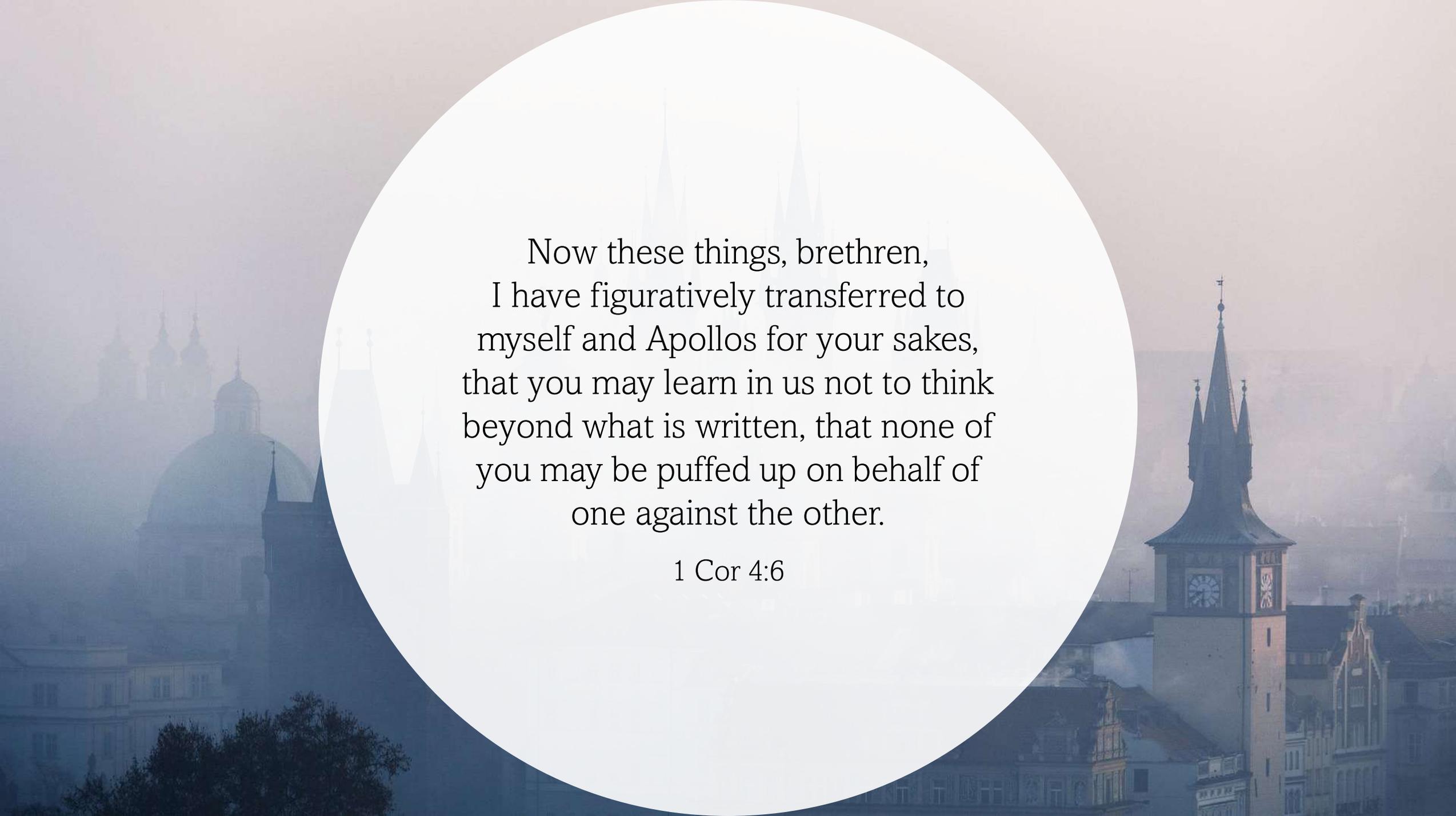
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1. The unity that Jesus desires is not “ecumenical” (John 17:20–23).
2. Love for God, truth, and each other will bring us together (1 Cor 1:10; 4:6; Phil 2:1–4; Eph 4:1–6; cf. Rom 16:17).



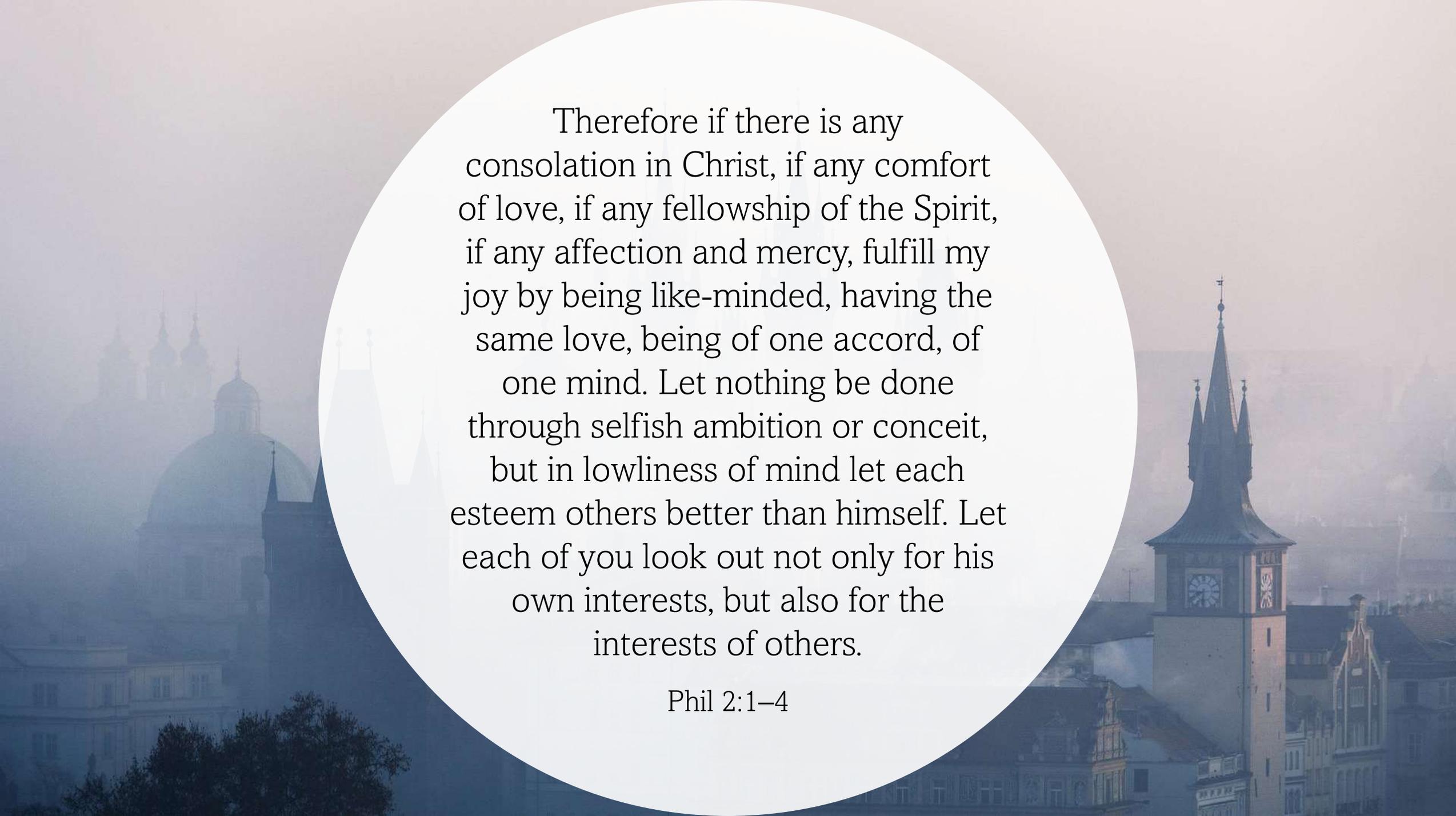
Now I plead with you, brethren, by  
the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
that you all speak the same thing, and  
that there be no divisions among you,  
but that you be perfectly joined  
together in the same mind and in the  
same judgment.

1 Cor 1:10



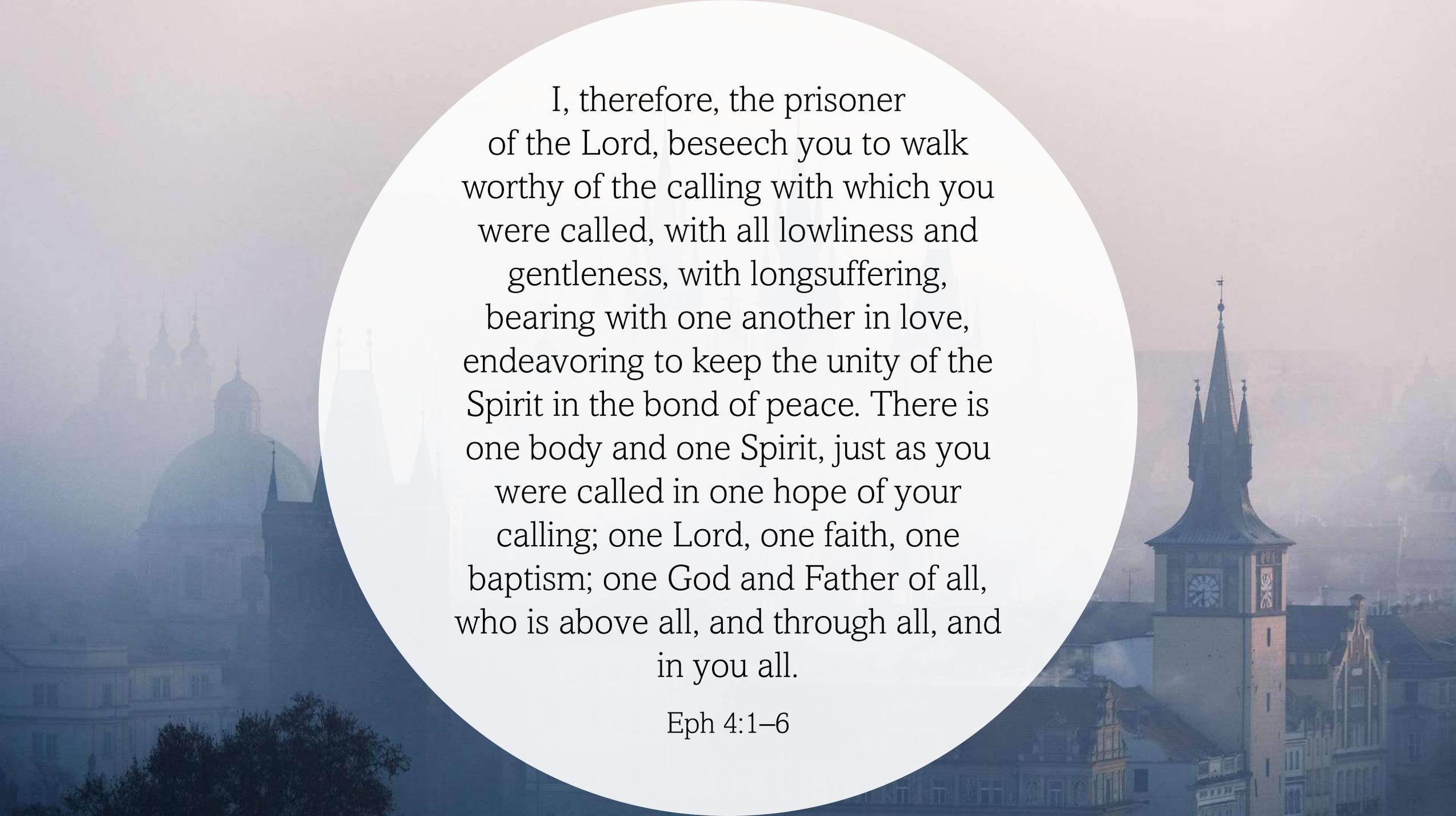
Now these things, brethren,  
I have figuratively transferred to  
myself and Apollos for your sakes,  
that you may learn in us not to think  
beyond what is written, that none of  
you may be puffed up on behalf of  
one against the other.

1 Cor 4:6

The image features a large white circle in the center, containing text. The background is a soft-focus photograph of a cityscape, likely Prague, with a prominent clock tower on the right side. The text is centered within the circle and reads:

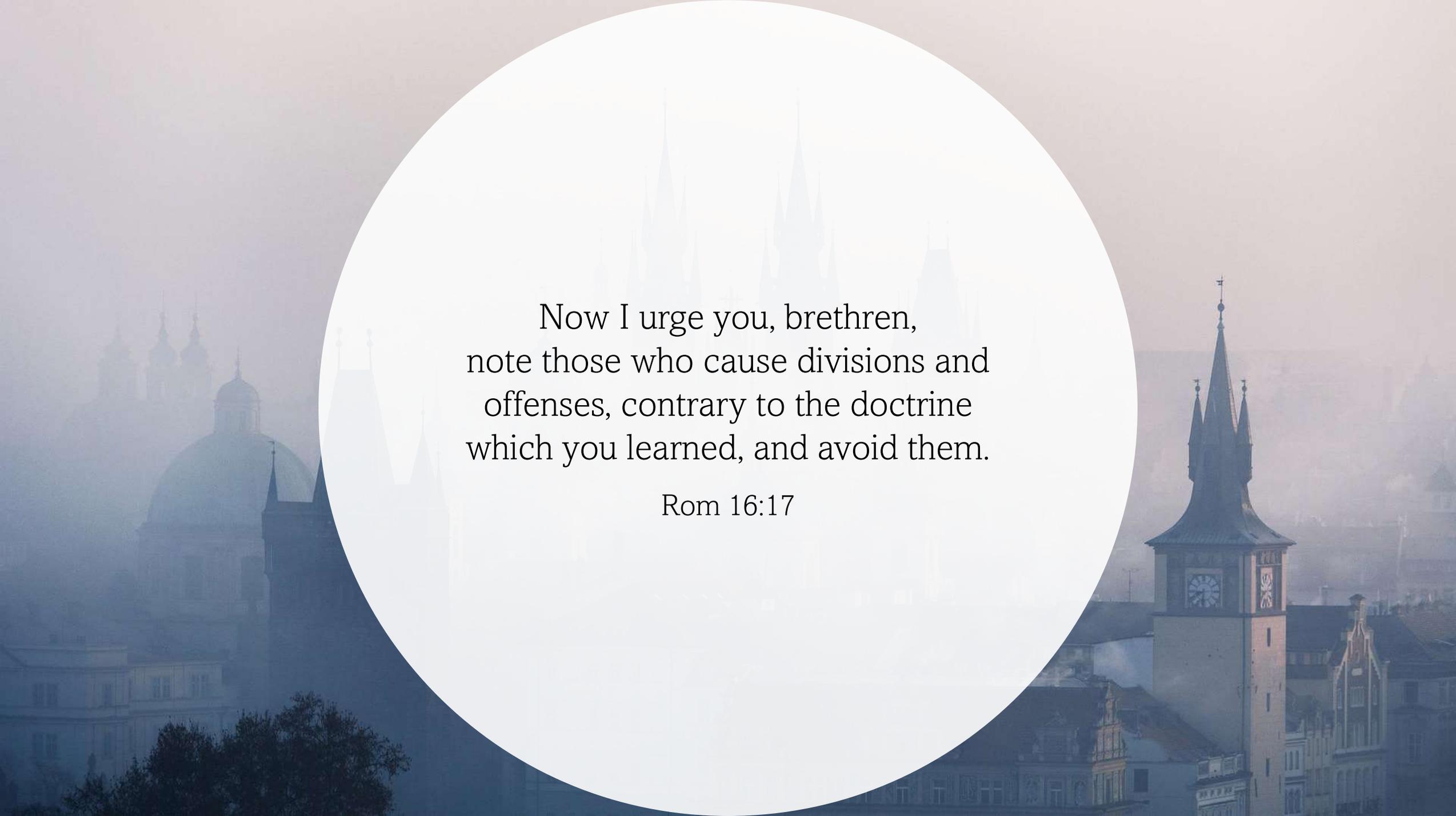
Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.

Phil 2:1-4

The image features a large, semi-transparent white circle in the center, which serves as a container for text. The background is a soft-focus photograph of a cityscape, likely Prague, with a prominent clock tower on the right side. The overall color palette is muted, with blues, greys, and soft pinks, creating a serene and contemplative atmosphere.

I, therefore, the prisoner  
of the Lord, beseech you to walk  
worthy of the calling with which you  
were called, with all lowliness and  
gentleness, with longsuffering,  
bearing with one another in love,  
endeavoring to keep the unity of the  
Spirit in the bond of peace. There is  
one body and one Spirit, just as you  
were called in one hope of your  
calling; one Lord, one faith, one  
baptism; one God and Father of all,  
who is above all, and through all, and  
in you all.

Eph 4:1–6



Now I urge you, brethren,  
note those who cause divisions and  
offenses, contrary to the doctrine  
which you learned, and avoid them.

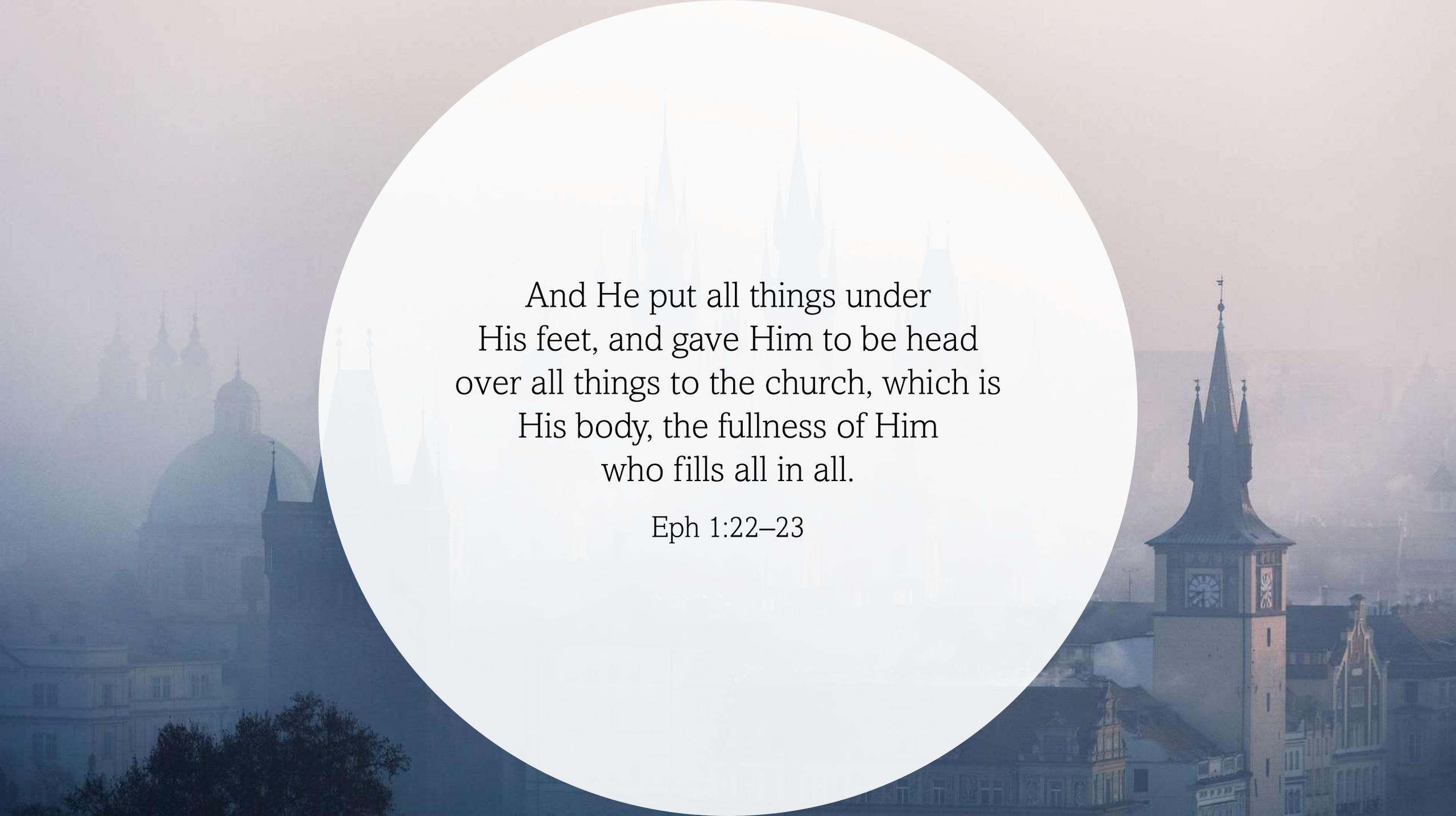
Rom 16:17



# Scripture Can Restore and Unite Christians

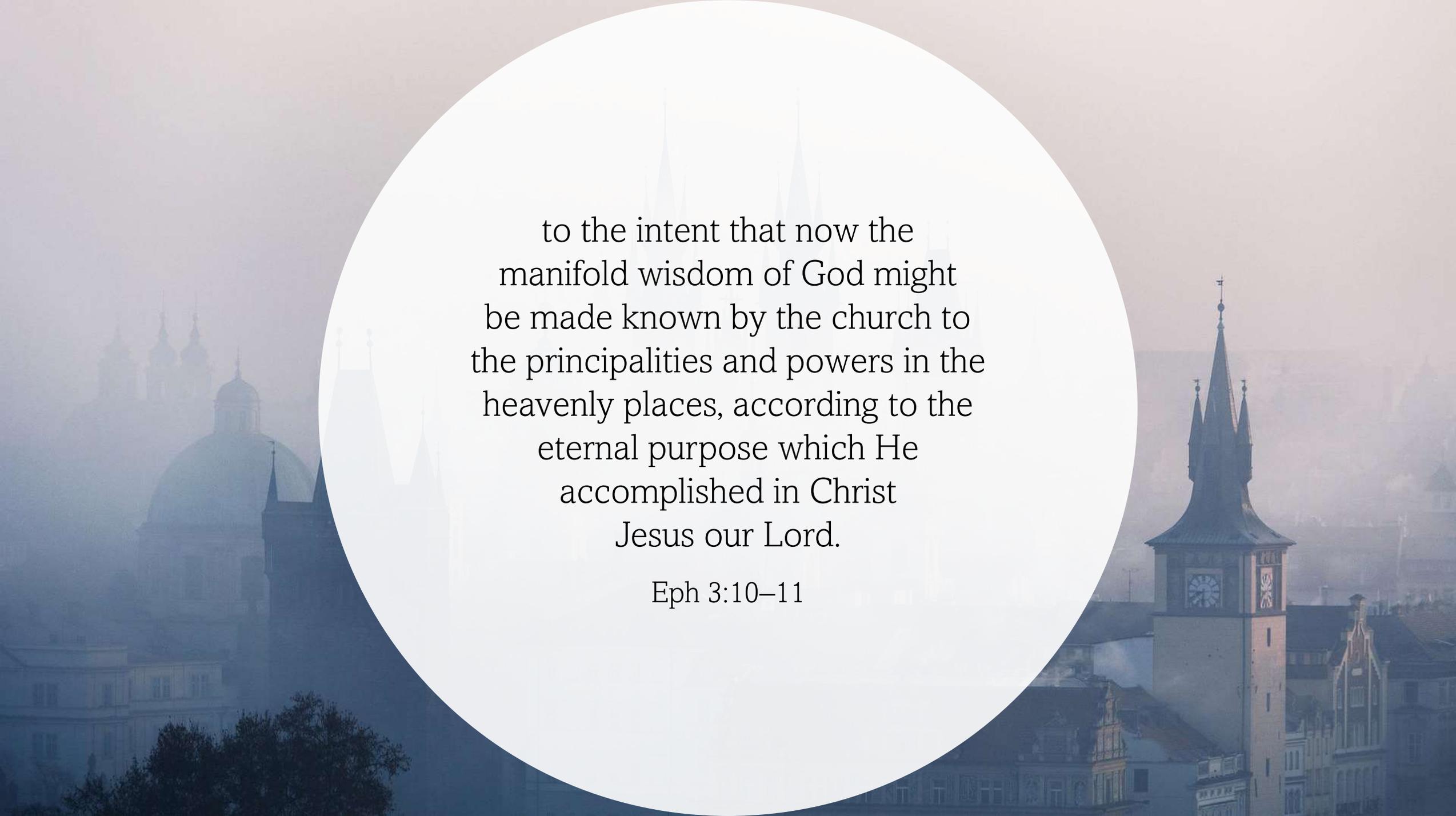
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1. The unity that Jesus desires is not “ecumenical” (John 17:20–23).
2. Love for God, truth, and each other will bring us together (1 Cor 1:10; 4:6; Phil 2:1–4; Eph 4:1–6; cf. Rom 16:17).
3. Jesus established one church; we should represent that unity (Eph 1:22–23; 3:10–11; 4:4; 5:23).



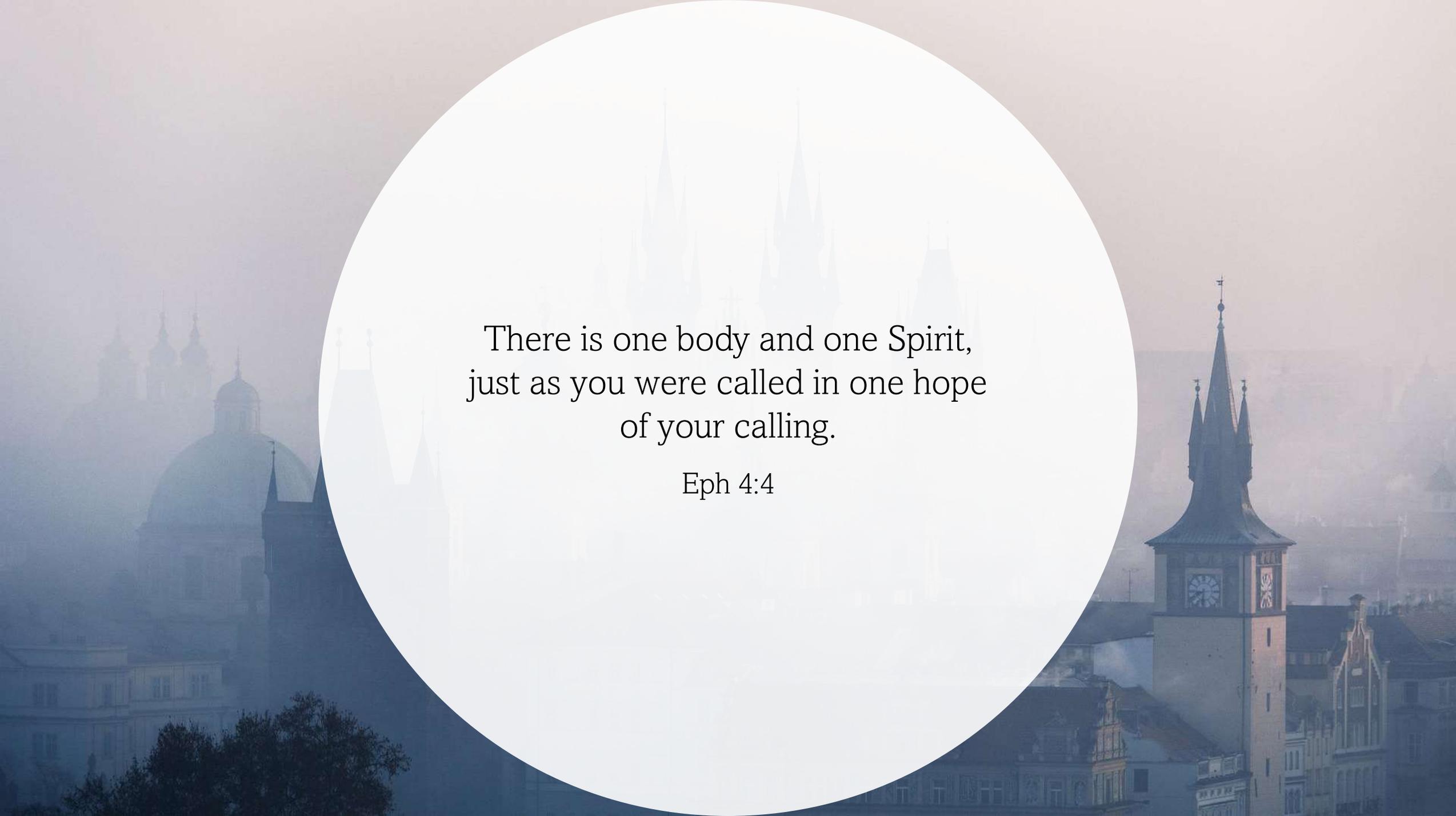
And He put all things under  
His feet, and gave Him to be head  
over all things to the church, which is  
His body, the fullness of Him  
who fills all in all.

Eph 1:22–23



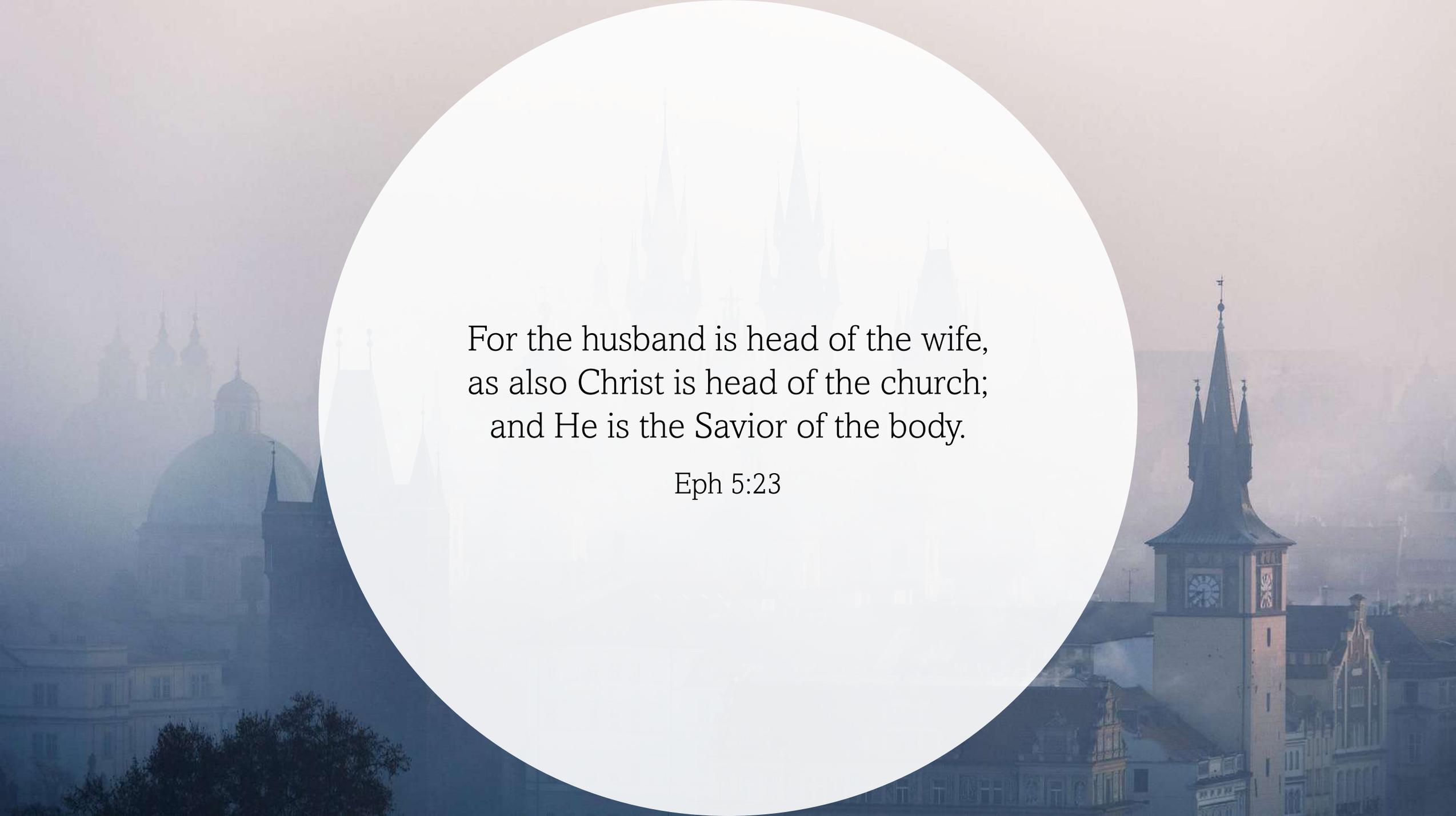
to the intent that now the  
manifold wisdom of God might  
be made known by the church to  
the principalities and powers in the  
heavenly places, according to the  
eternal purpose which He  
accomplished in Christ  
Jesus our Lord.

Eph 3:10–11



There is one body and one Spirit,  
just as you were called in one hope  
of your calling.

Eph 4:4



For the husband is head of the wife,  
as also Christ is head of the church;  
and He is the Savior of the body.

Eph 5:23



# Scripture Can Restore and Unite Christians

---

1. The unity that Jesus desires is not “ecumenical” (John 17:20–23).
2. Love for God, truth, and each other will bring us together (1 Cor 1:10; 4:6; Phil 2:1–4; Eph 4:1–6; cf. Rom 16:17).
3. Jesus established one church; we should represent that unity (Eph 1:22–23; 3:10–11; 4:4; 5:23).



# Why So Many Churches?

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There do not have to be.  
We can be one in Christ.

*Are you part of Christ's  
one church?*