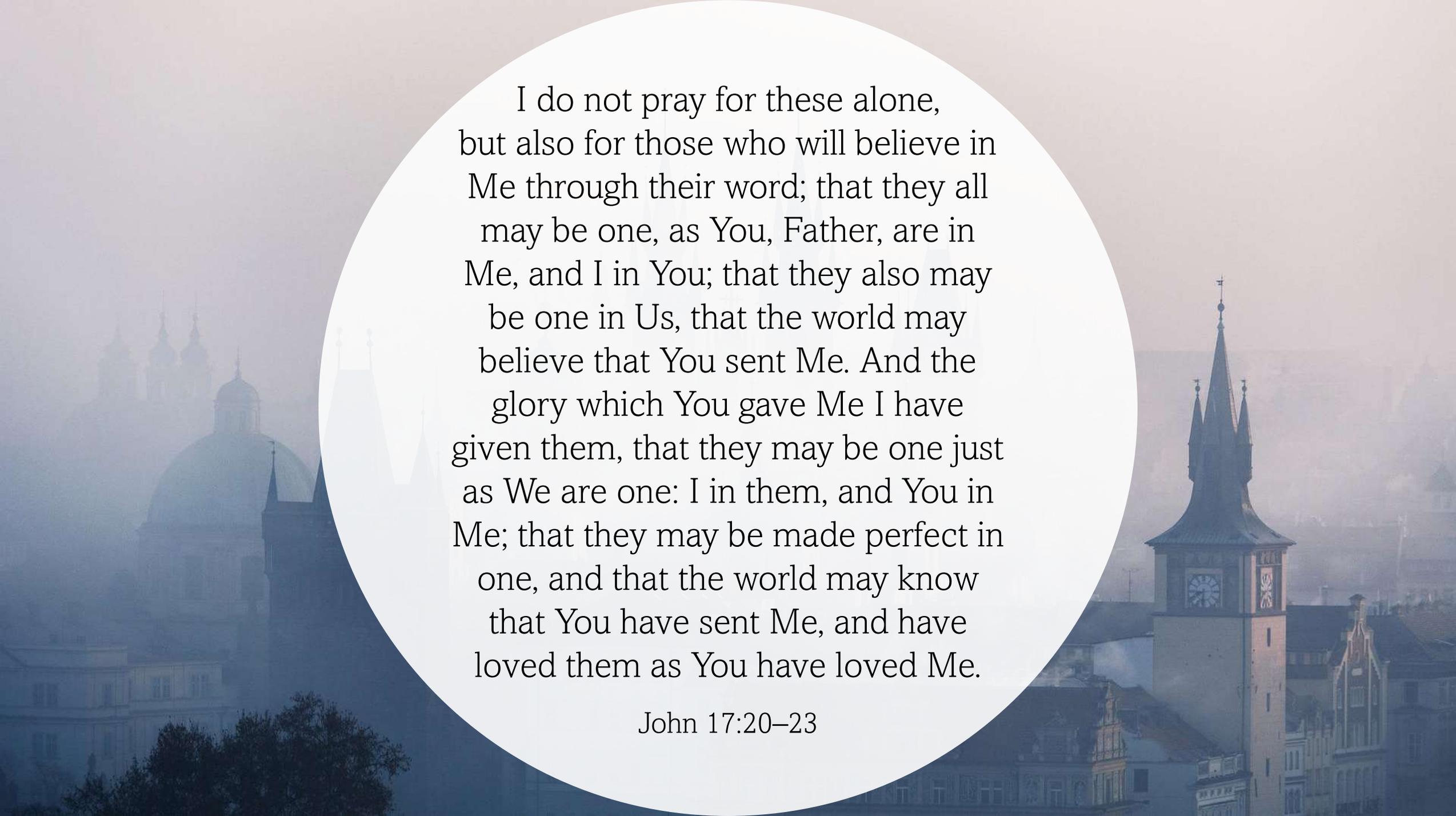




Why So Many Churches?

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.

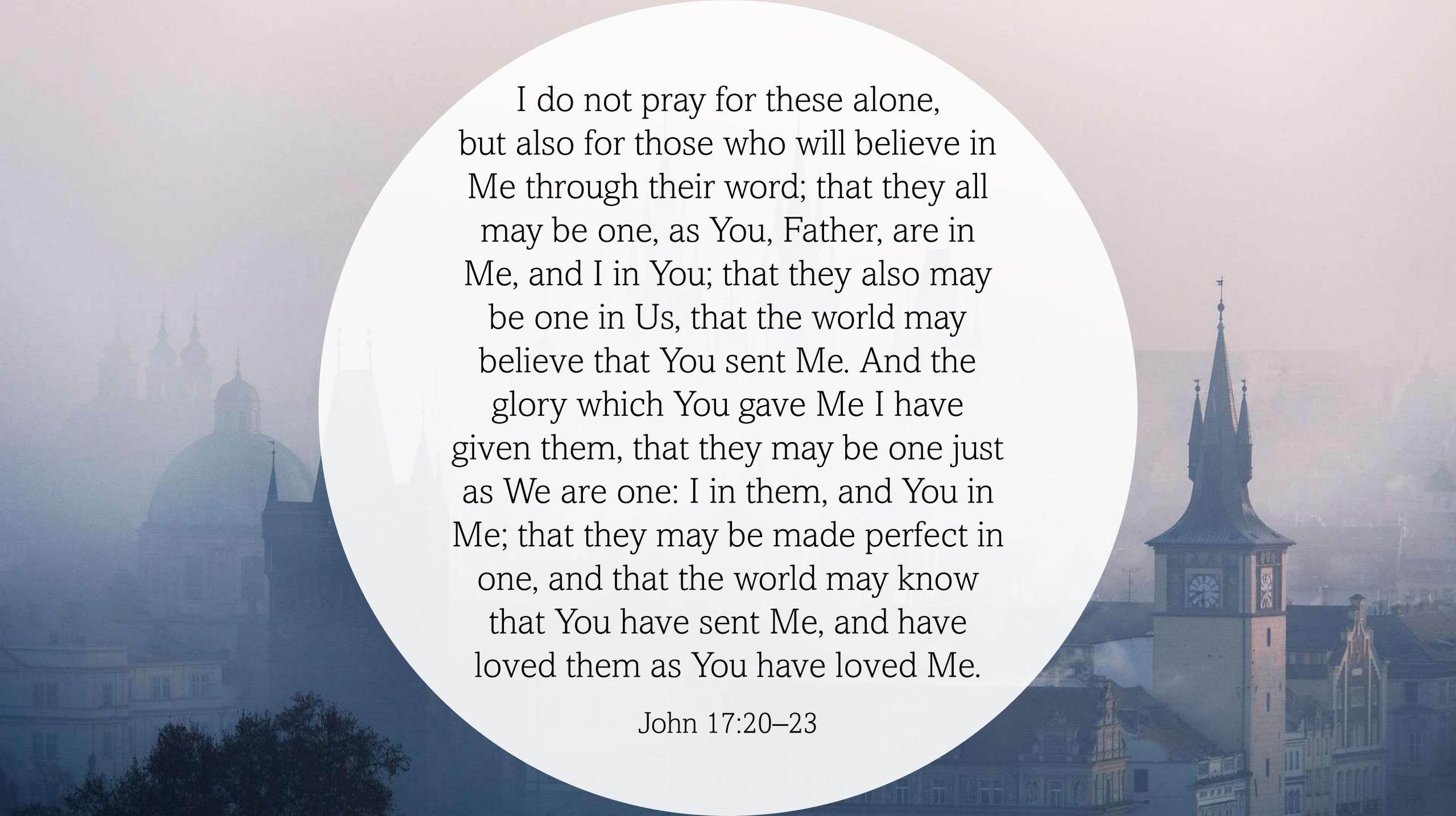
John 17:20–23



Jesus Came to Unite All People into One Church

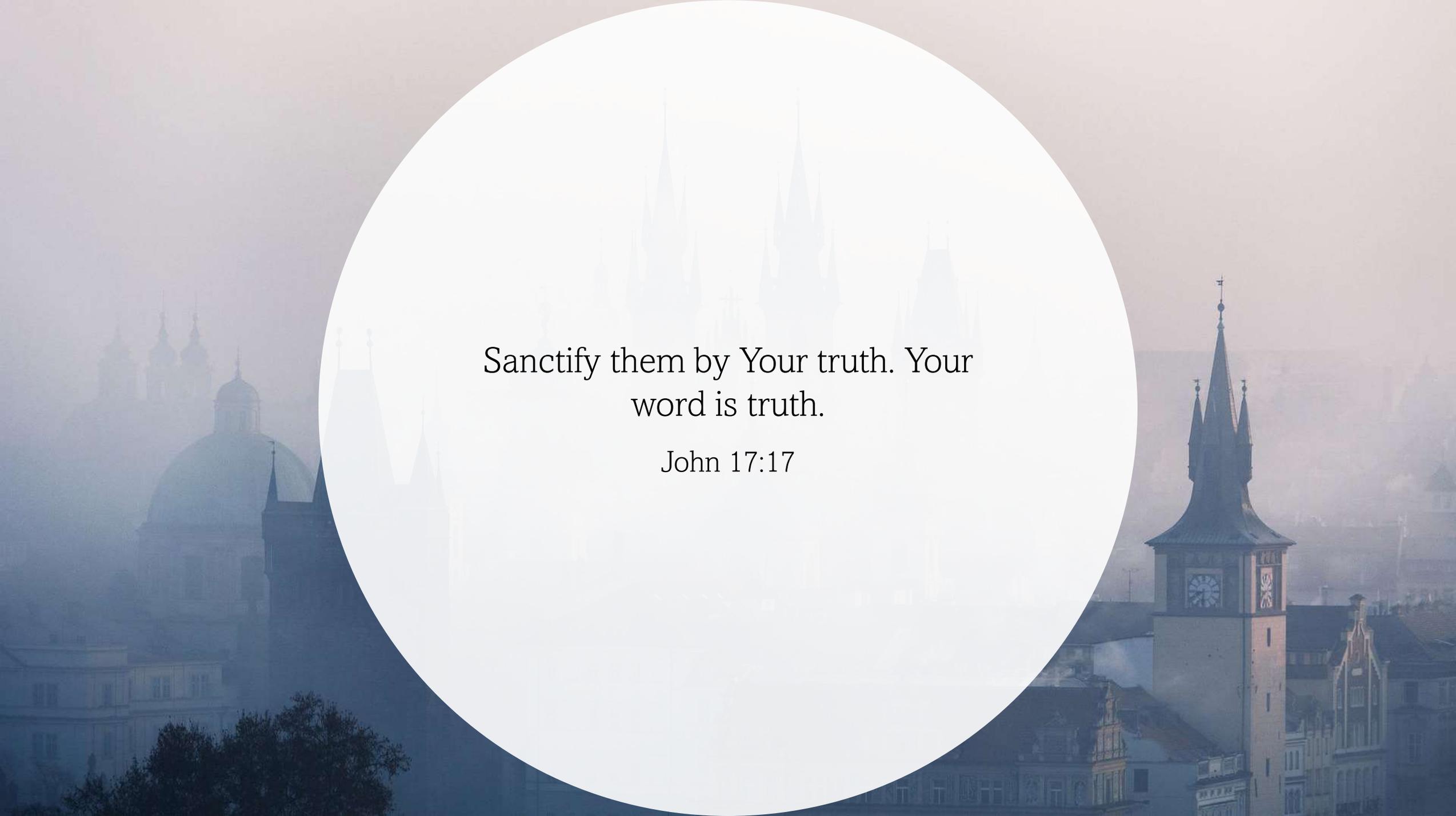
Jesus came into a world full of ...

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)!

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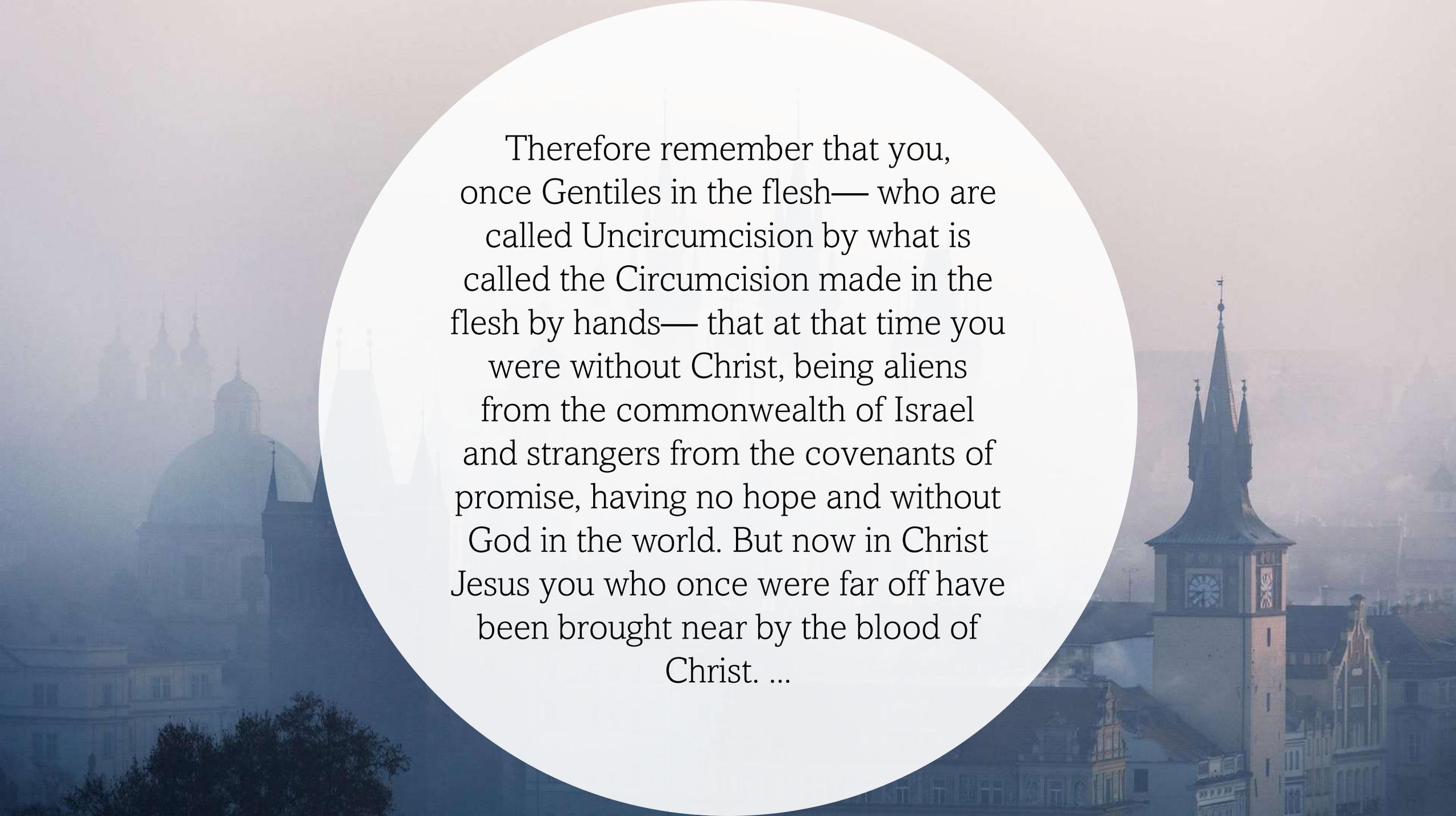
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may be one, as You, Father, are in
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John 17:20–23

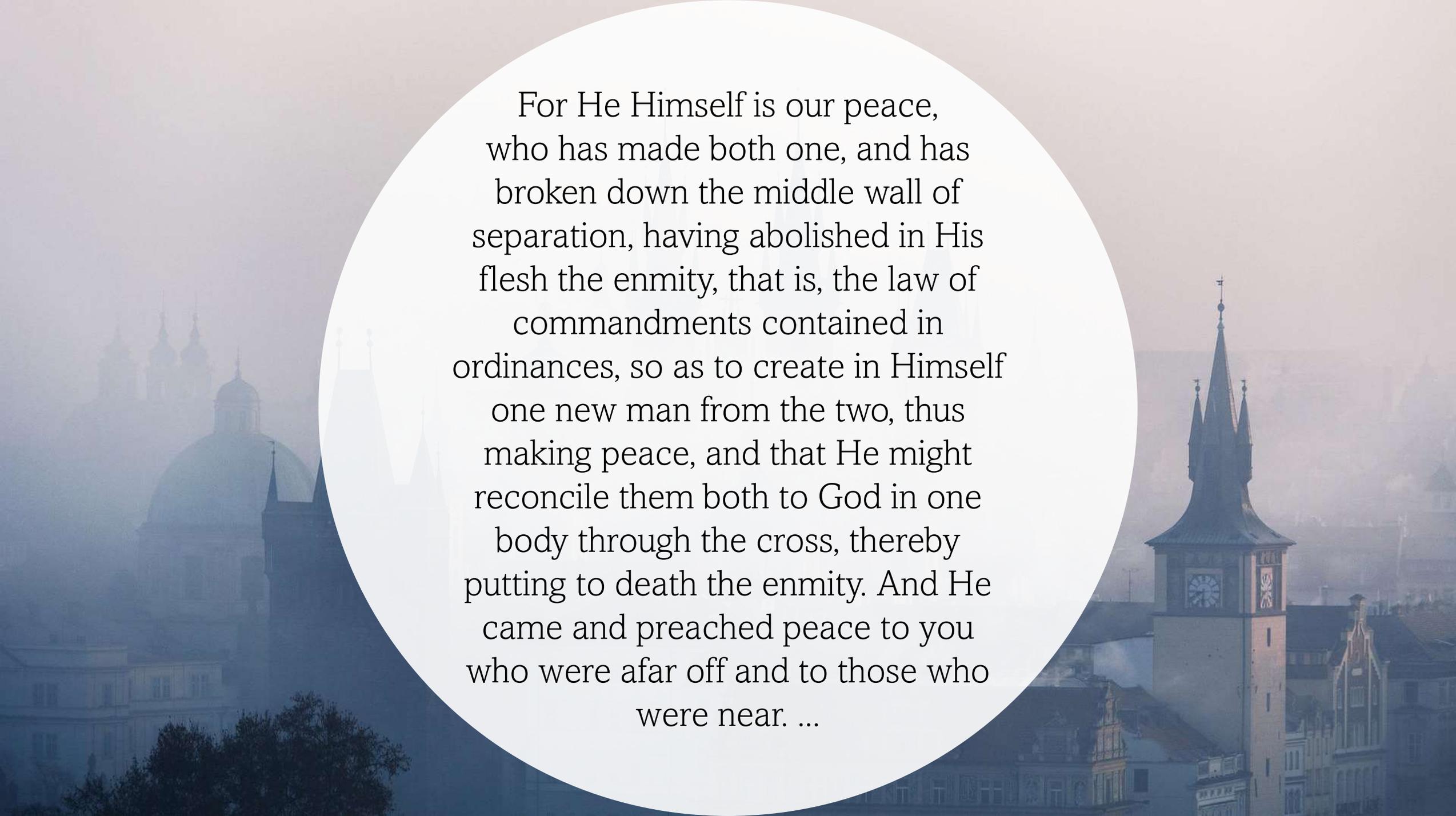


Sanctify them by Your truth. Your
word is truth.

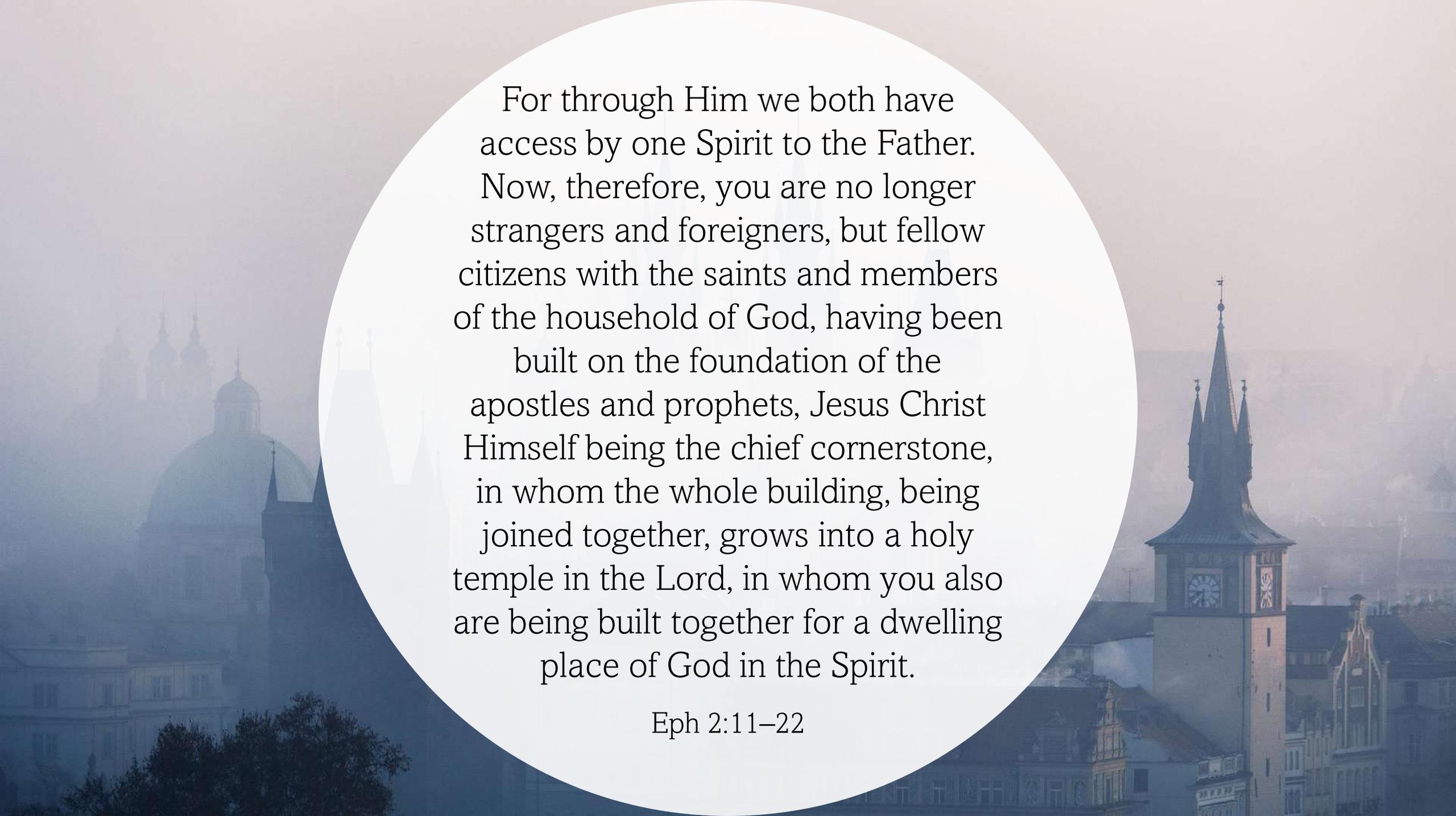
John 17:17

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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. ...

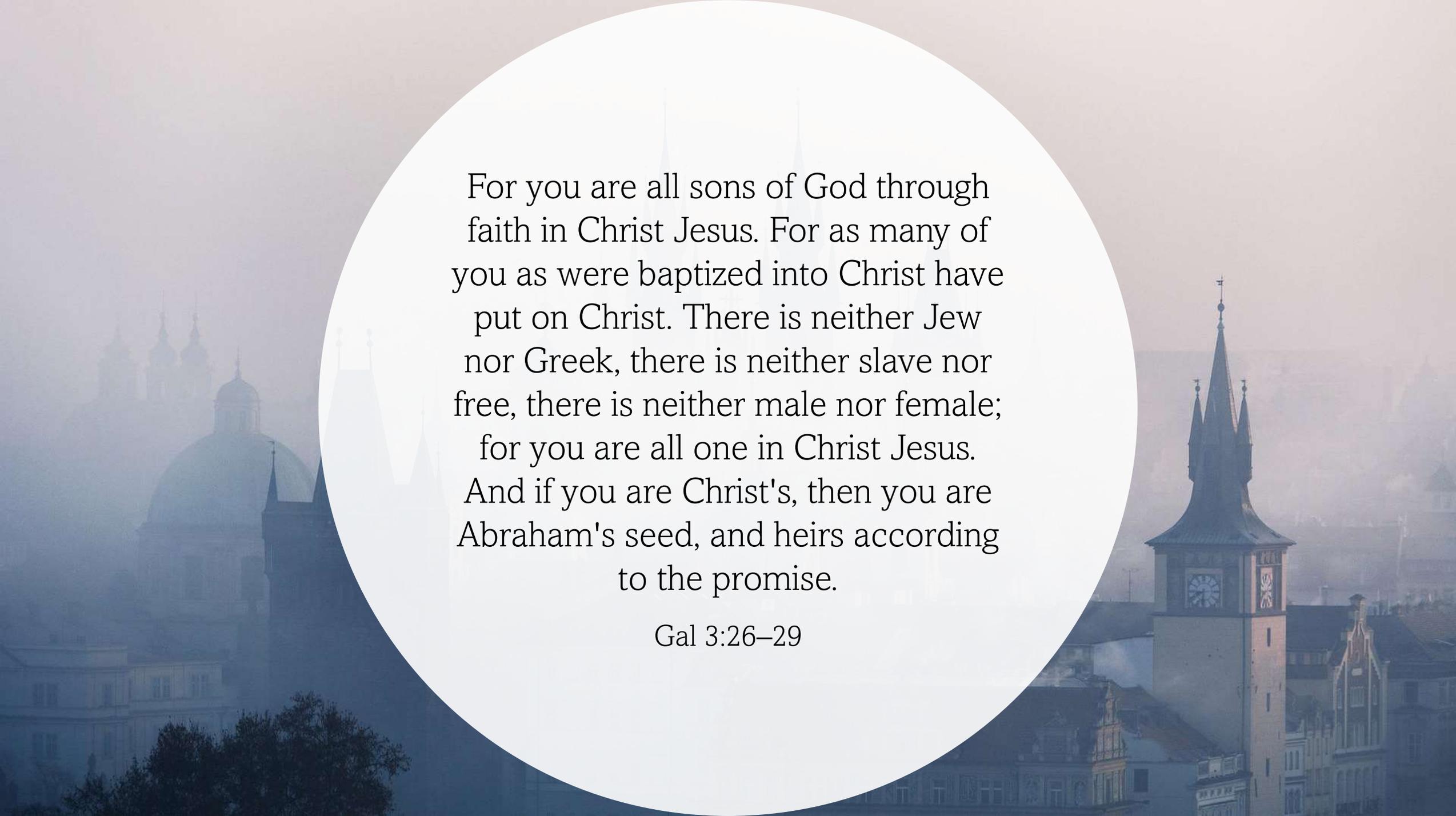
The image features a large white circle in the center, containing a block of text. The background is a faded, blue-tinted photograph of a cityscape, with a prominent clock tower on the right side. The text is centered within the circle and reads:

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 white circle in the center, containing text. The background is a faded, blue-tinted photograph of a cityscape, likely Prague, with a prominent clock tower on the right side. The text is centered within the circle and reads:

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

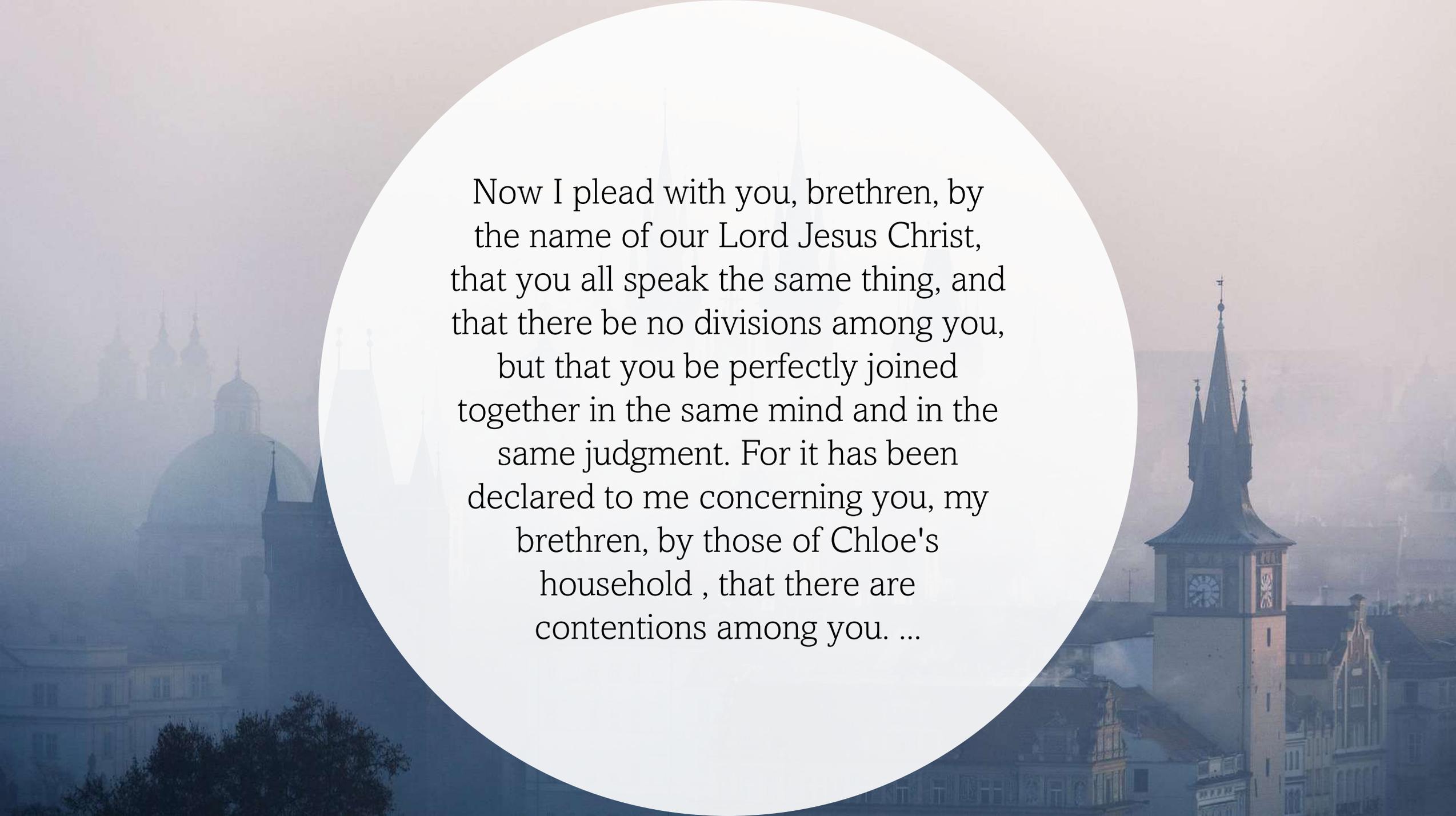
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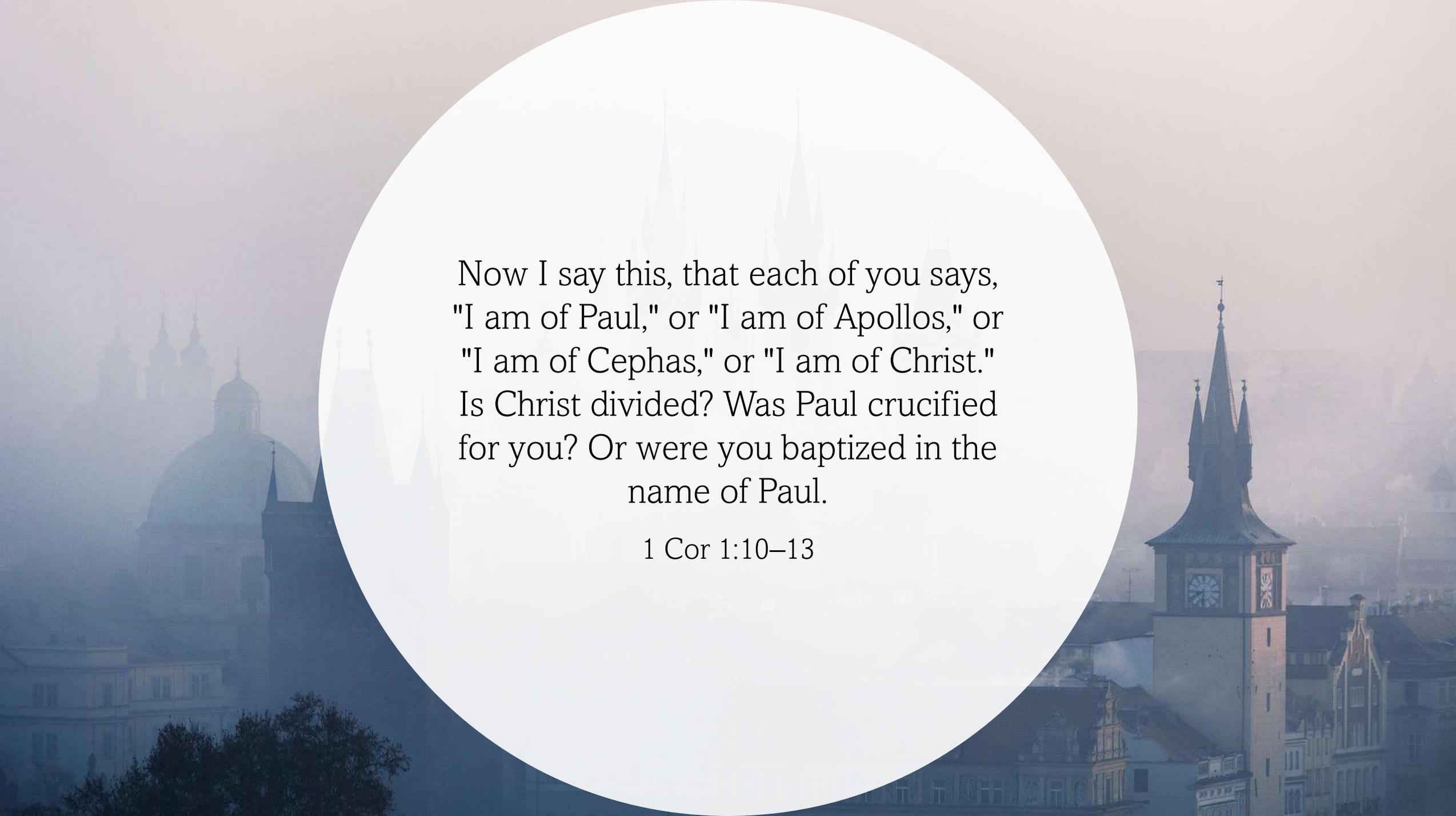


People Have Corrupted the Unity of the “Church”

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. ...



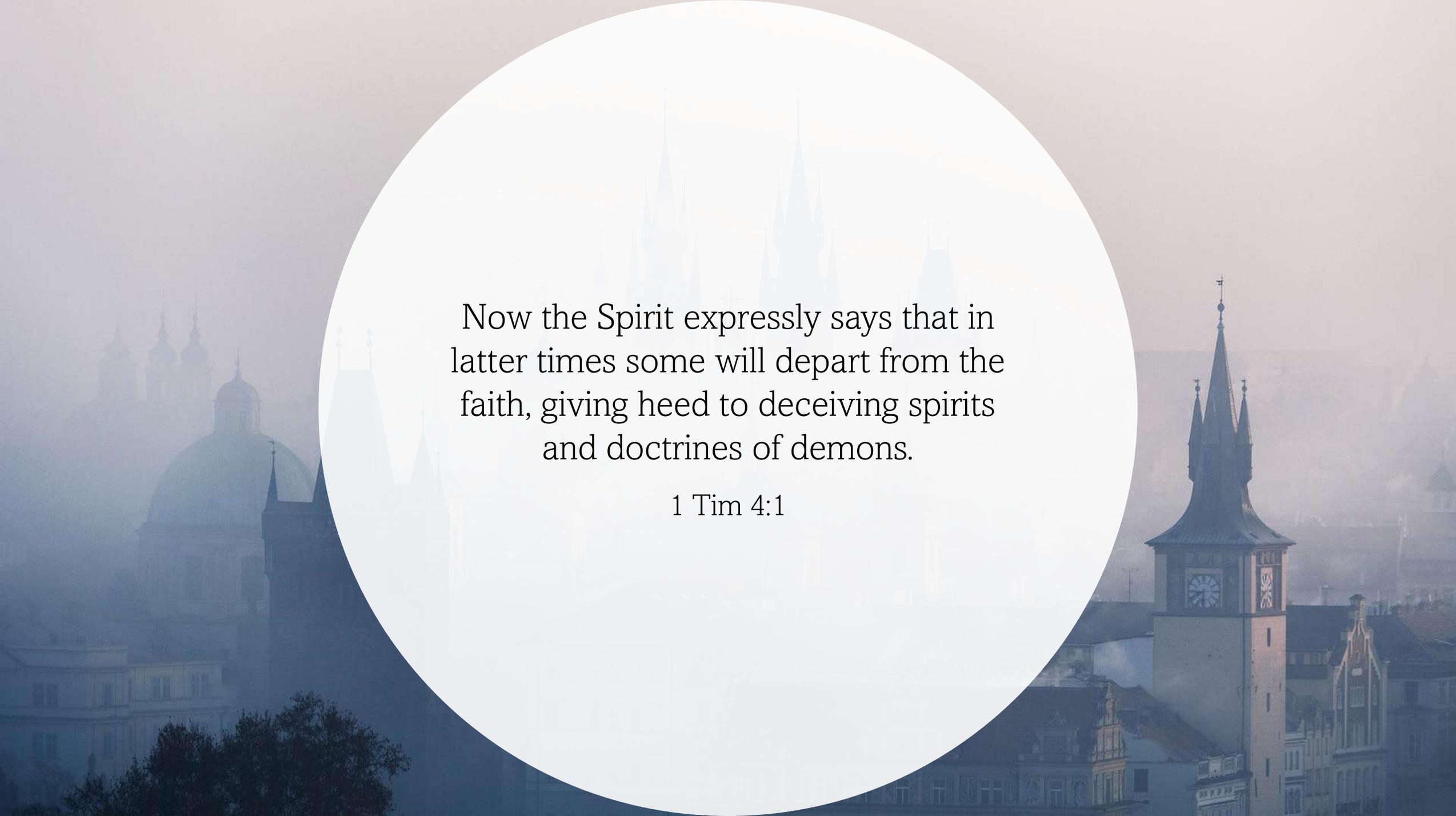
Now I say this, that each of you says,
"I am of Paul," or "I am of Apollos," or
"I am of Cephas," or "I am of Christ."
Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified
for you? Or were you baptized in the
name of Paul.

1 Cor 1:10–13



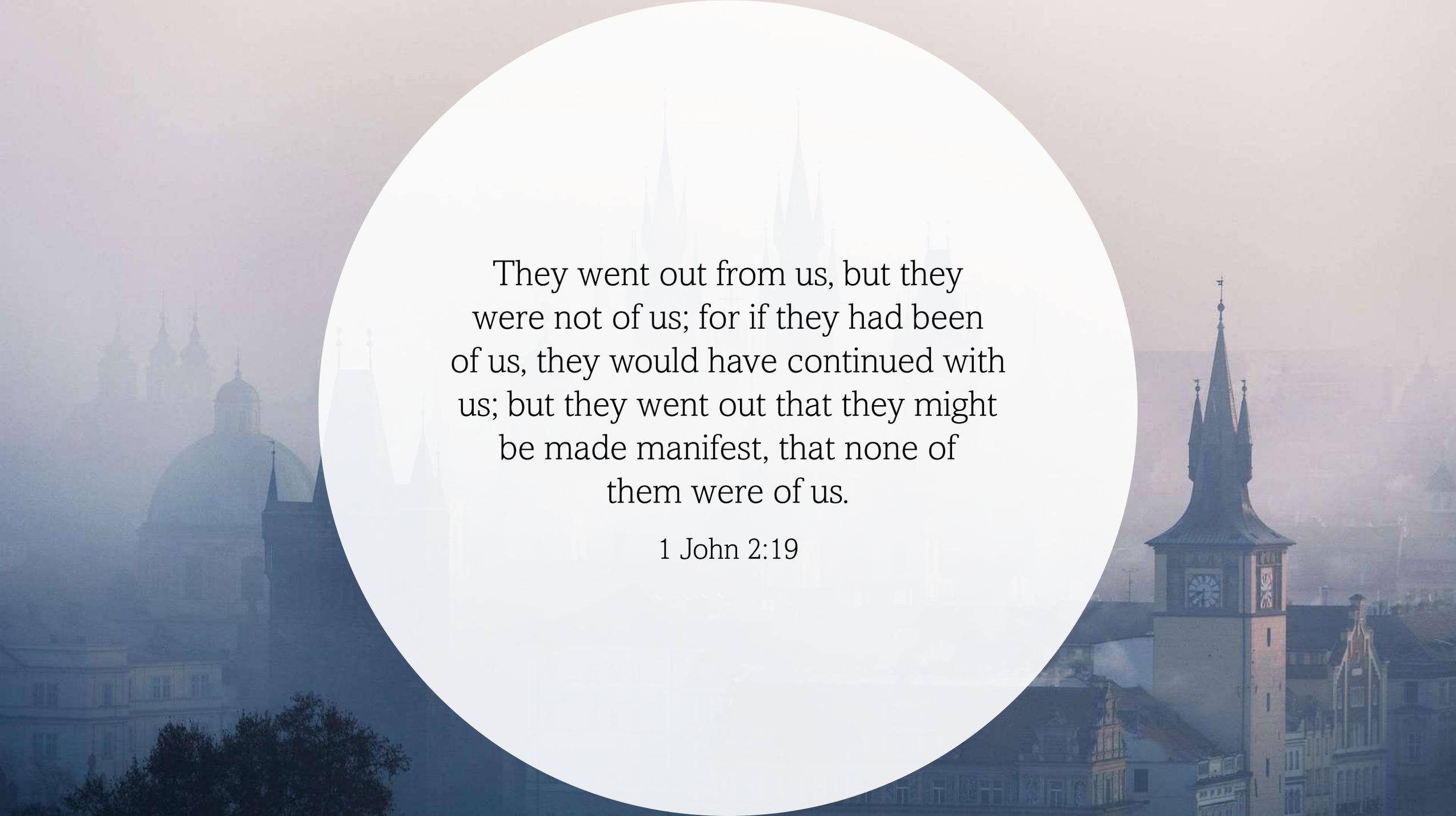
People Have Corrupted the Unity of the “Church”

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).



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



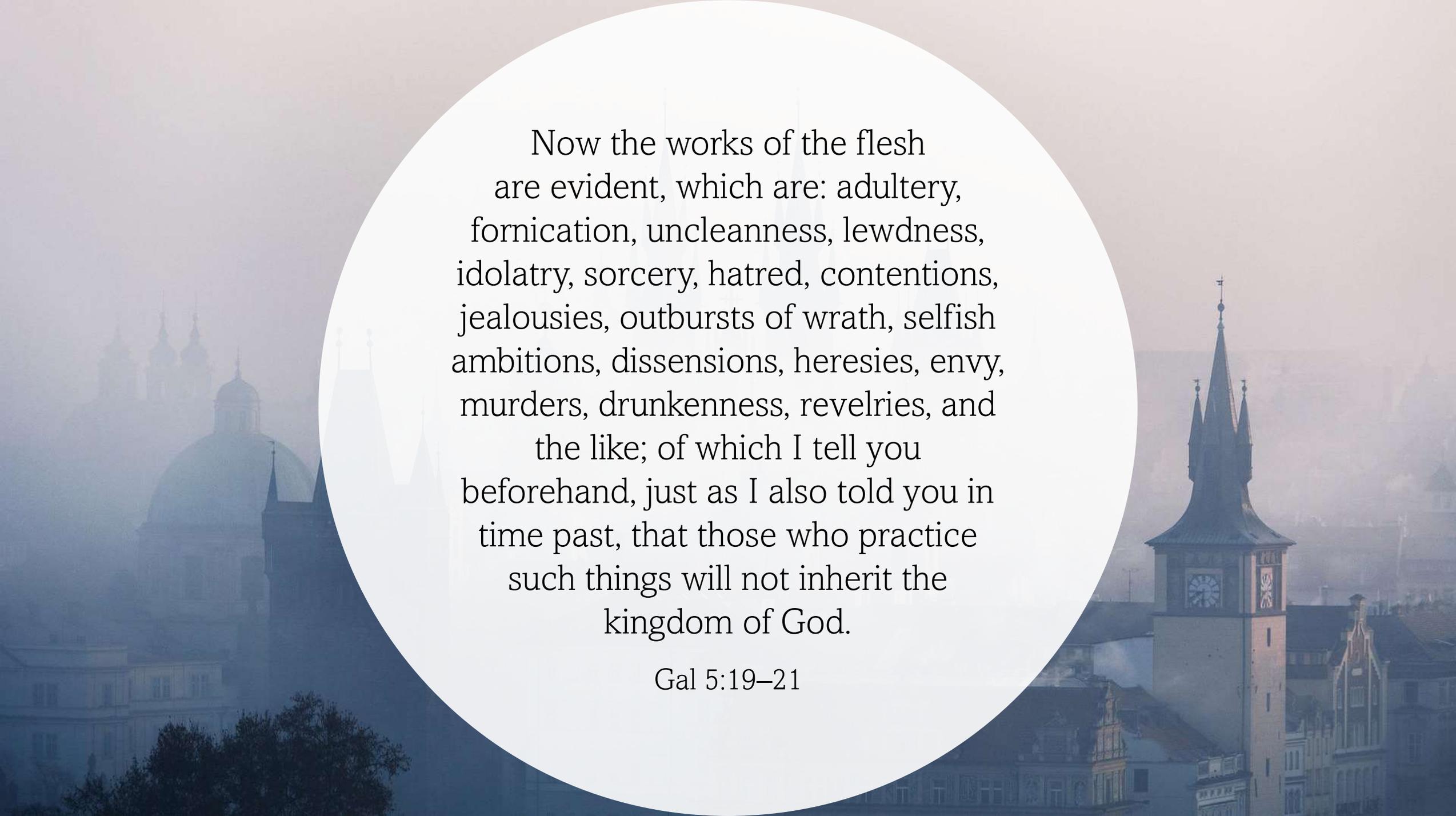
They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us; but they went out that they might be made manifest, that none of them were of us.

1 John 2:19



People Have Corrupted the Unity of the “Church”

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



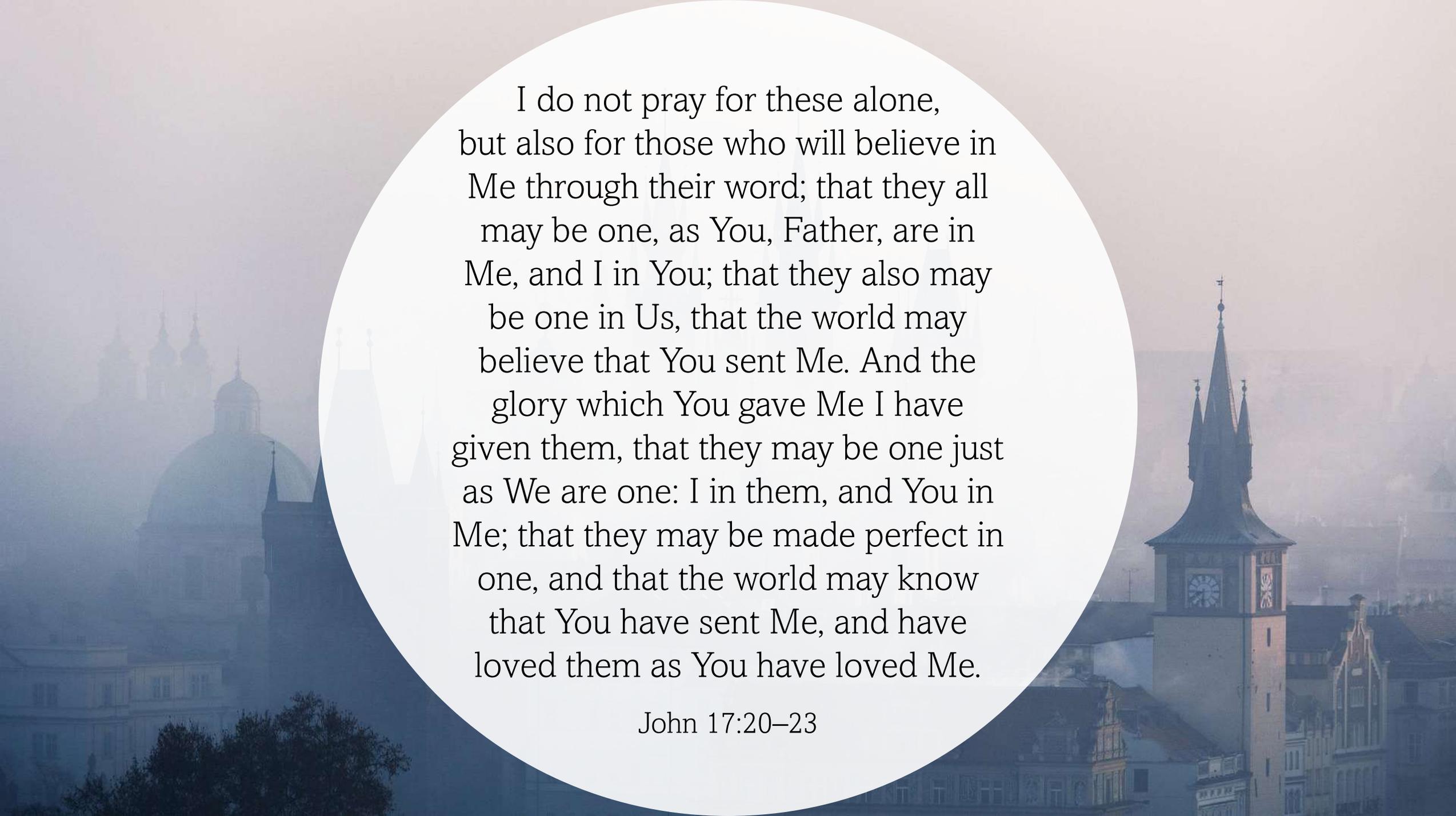
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Scripture Can Restore and Unite Christians

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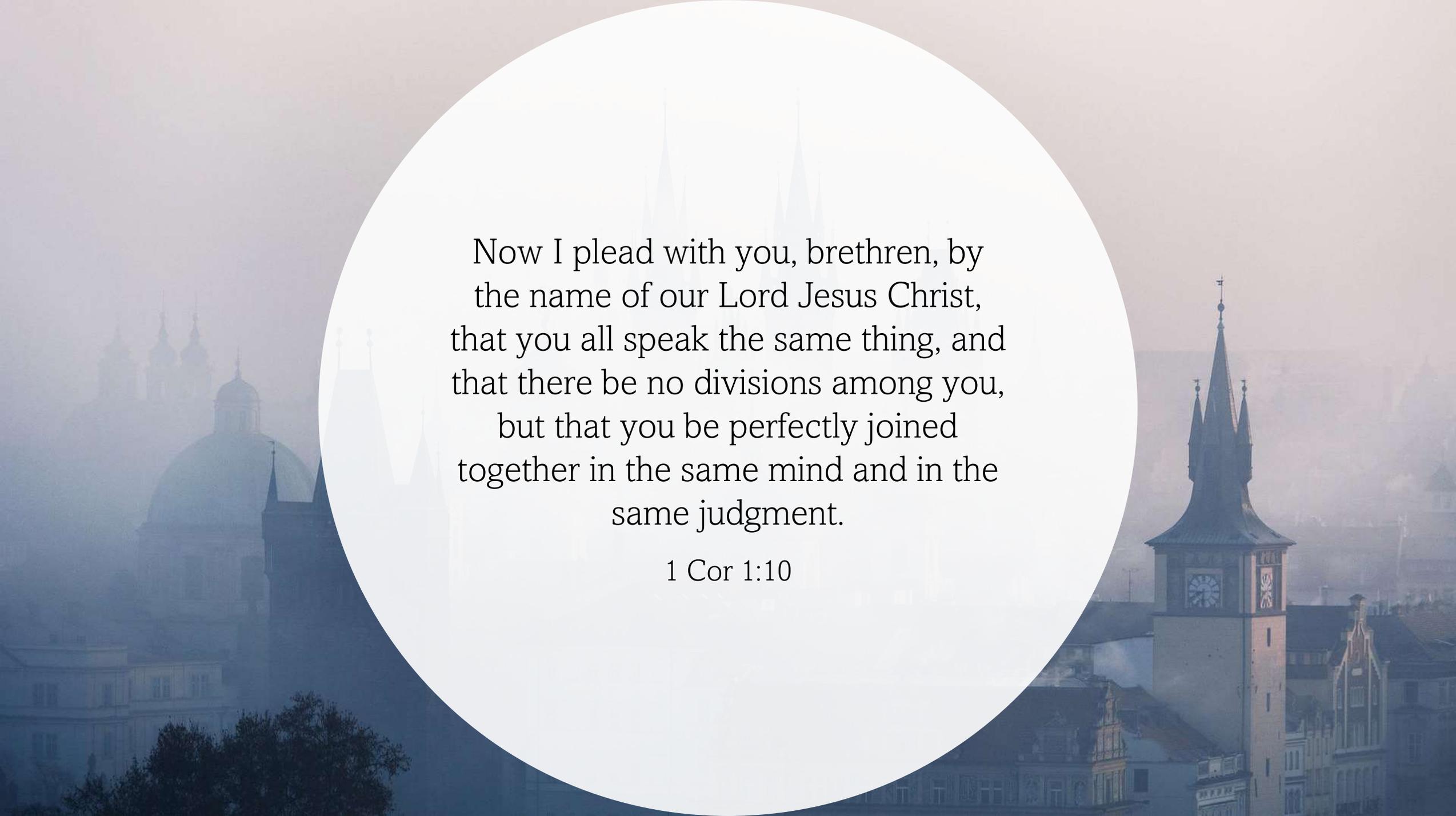
I do not pray for these alone,
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John 17:20–23



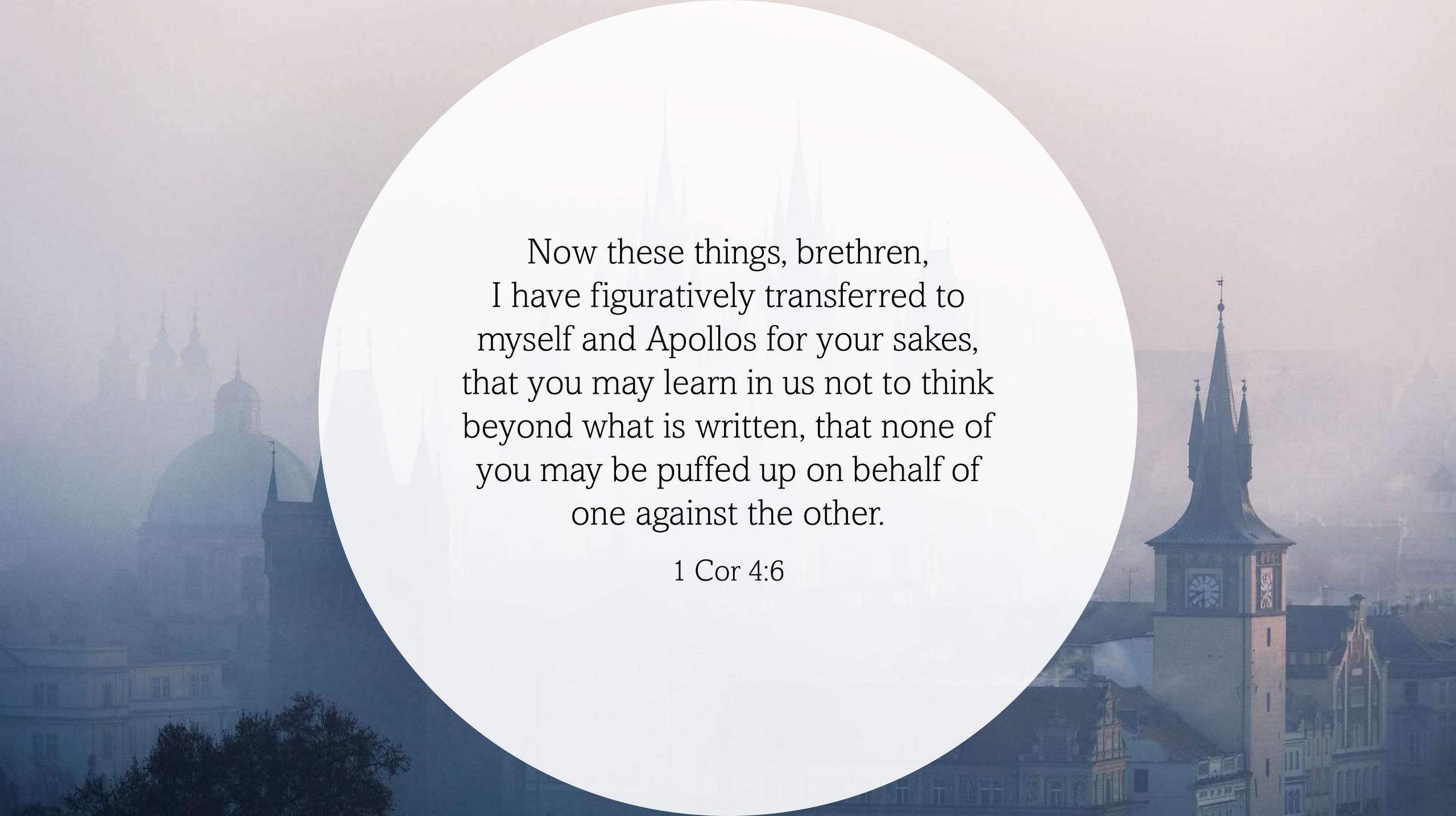
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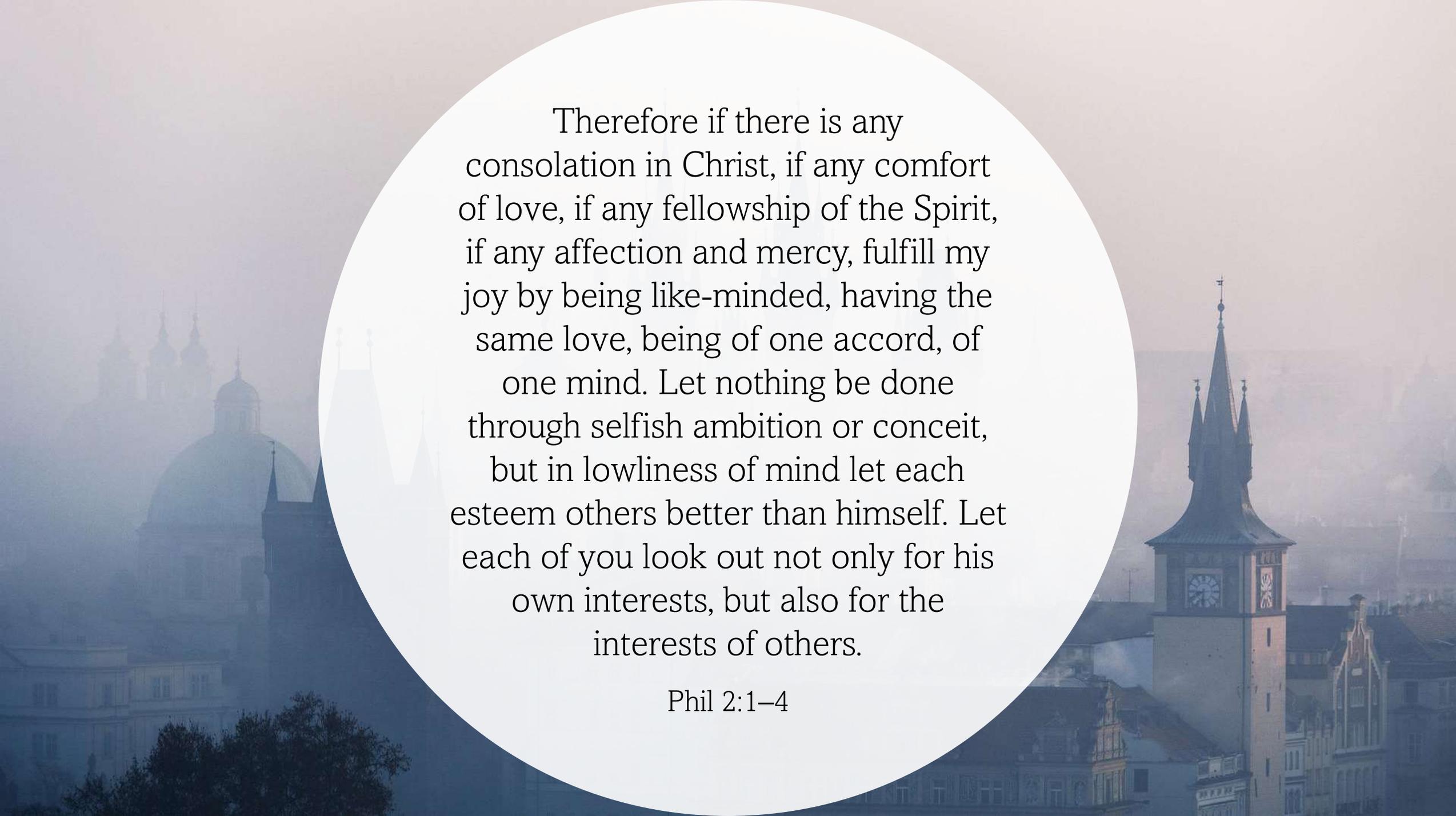
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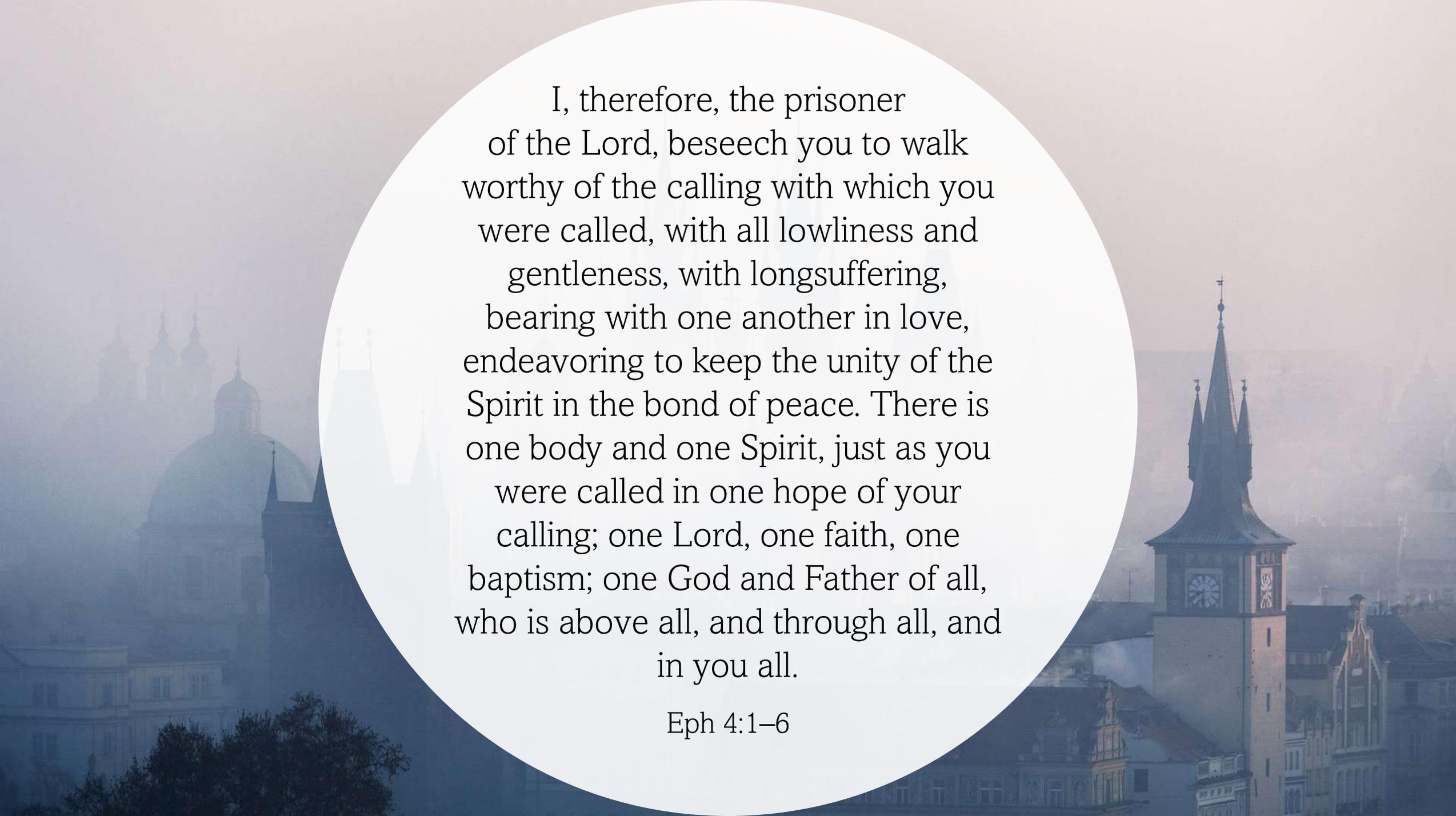
Now these things, brethren,
I have figuratively transferred to
myself and Apollos for your sakes,
that you may learn in us not to think
beyond what is written, that none of
you may be puffed up on behalf of
one against the other.

1 Cor 4:6

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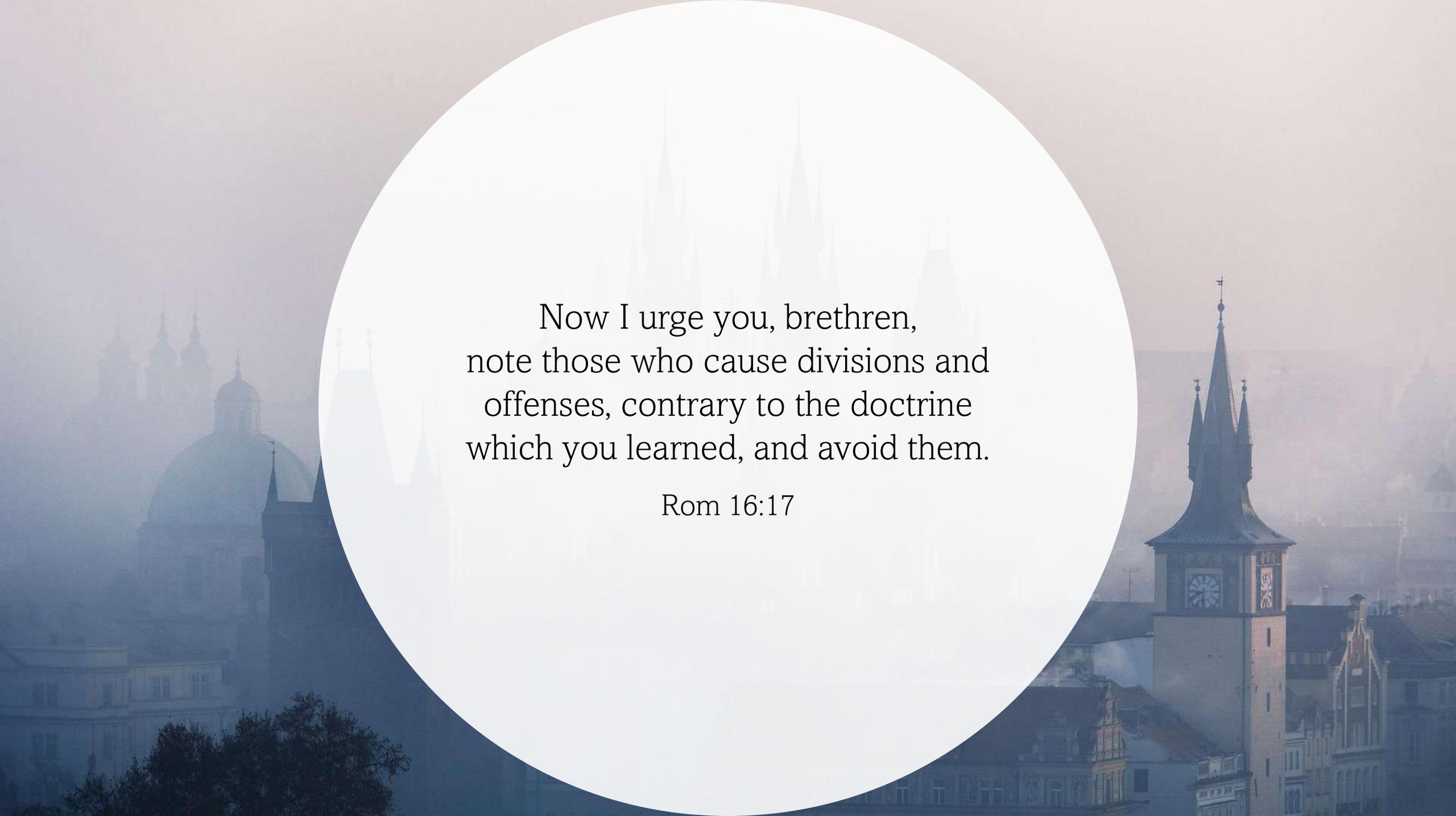
Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness 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



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

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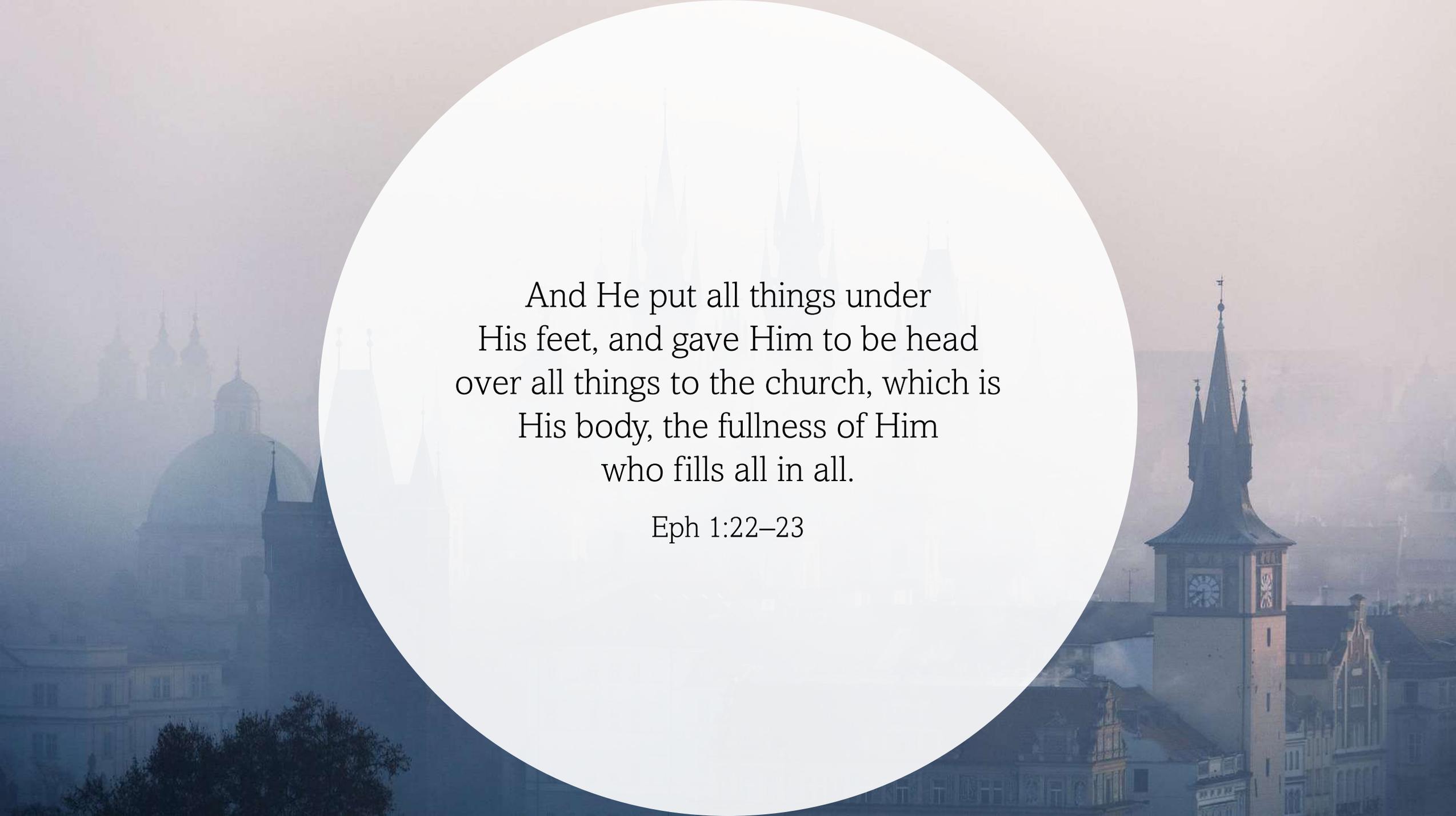
Now I urge you, brethren,
note those who cause divisions and
offenses, contrary to the doctrine
which you learned, and avoid them.

Rom 16:17



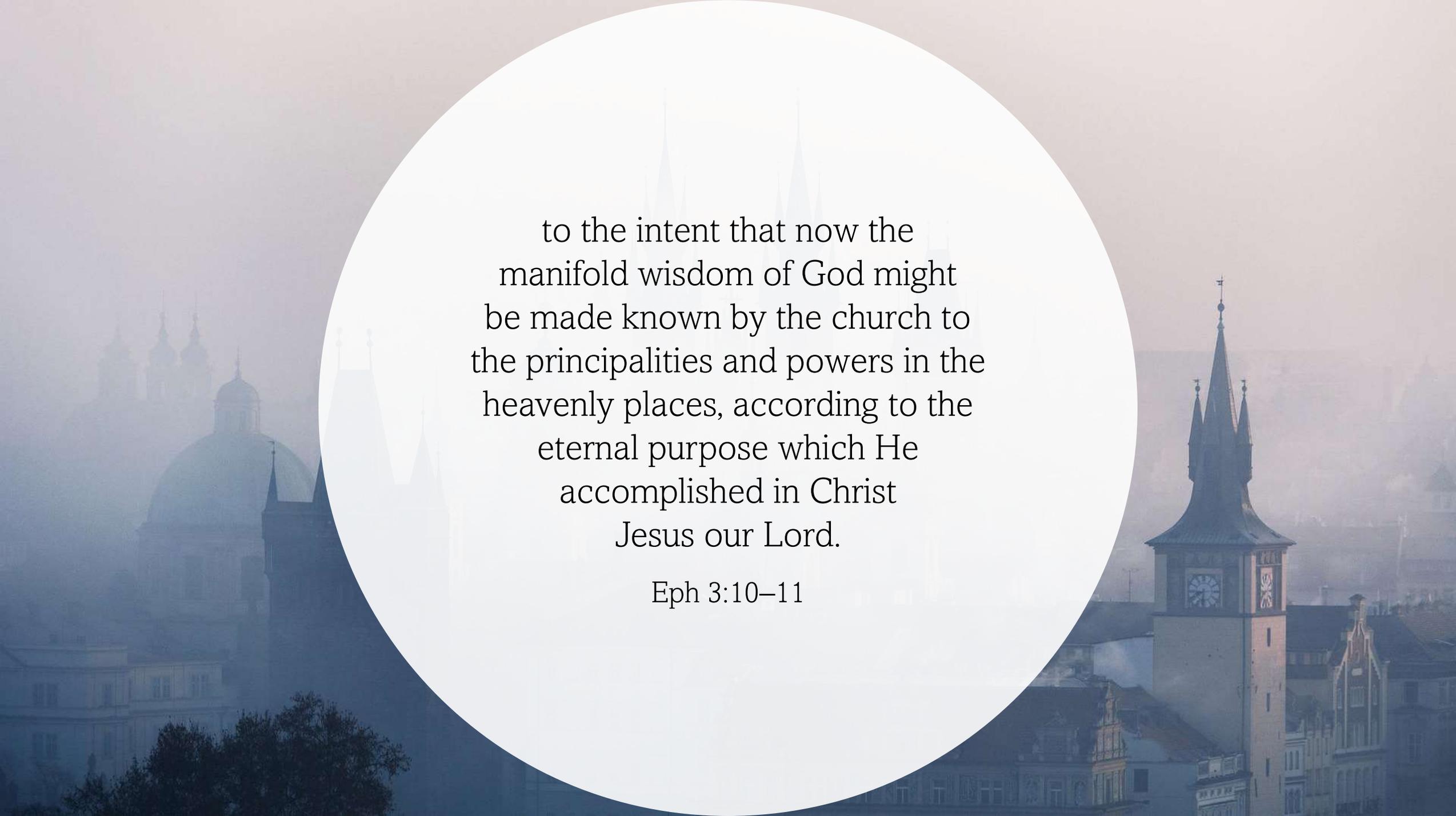
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3. Jesus established one church; we should represent that unity (Eph 1:22–23; 3:10–11; 4:4; 5:23).



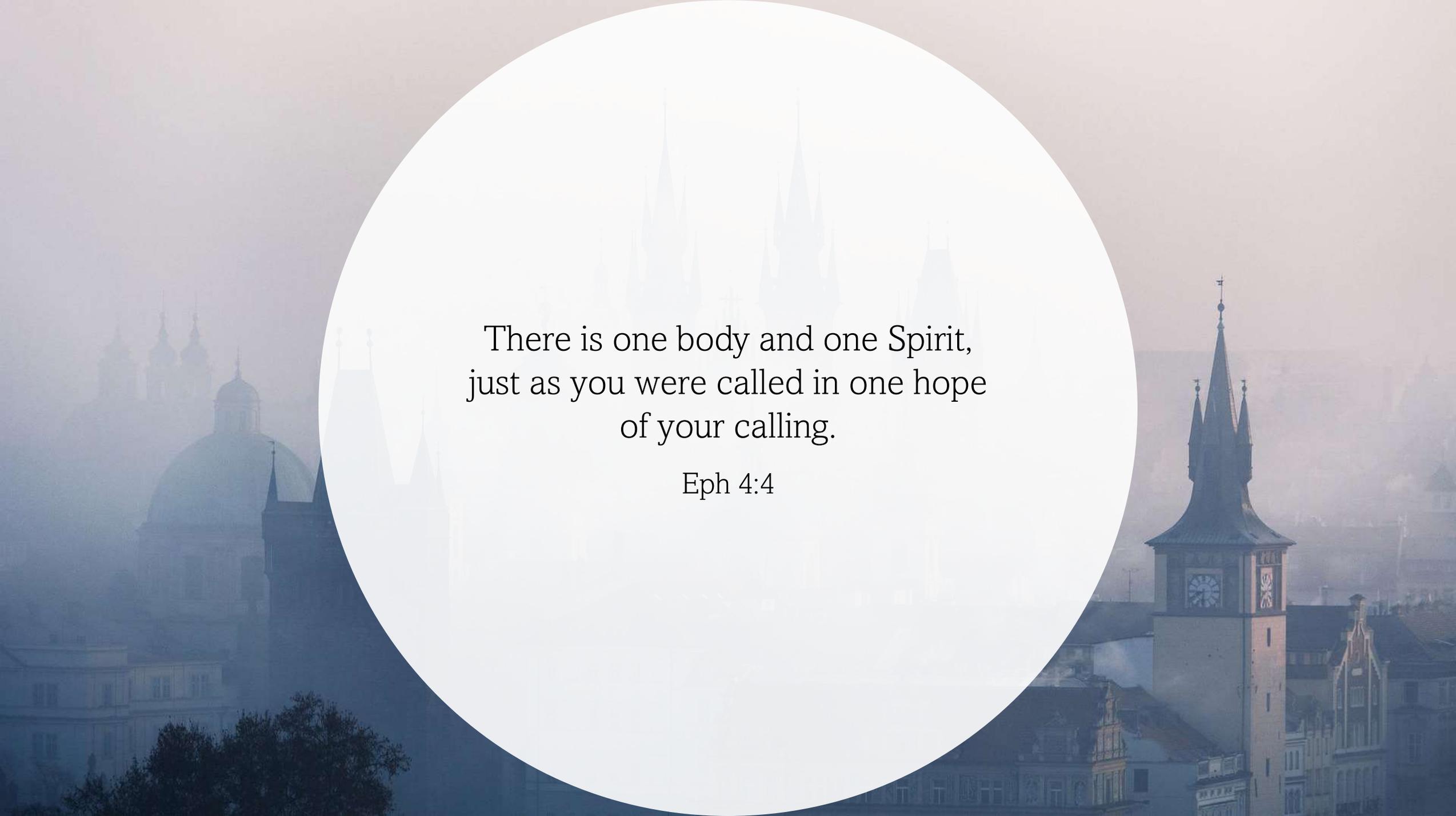
And He put all things under
His feet, and gave Him to be head
over all things to the church, which is
His body, the fullness of Him
who fills all in all.

Eph 1:22–23



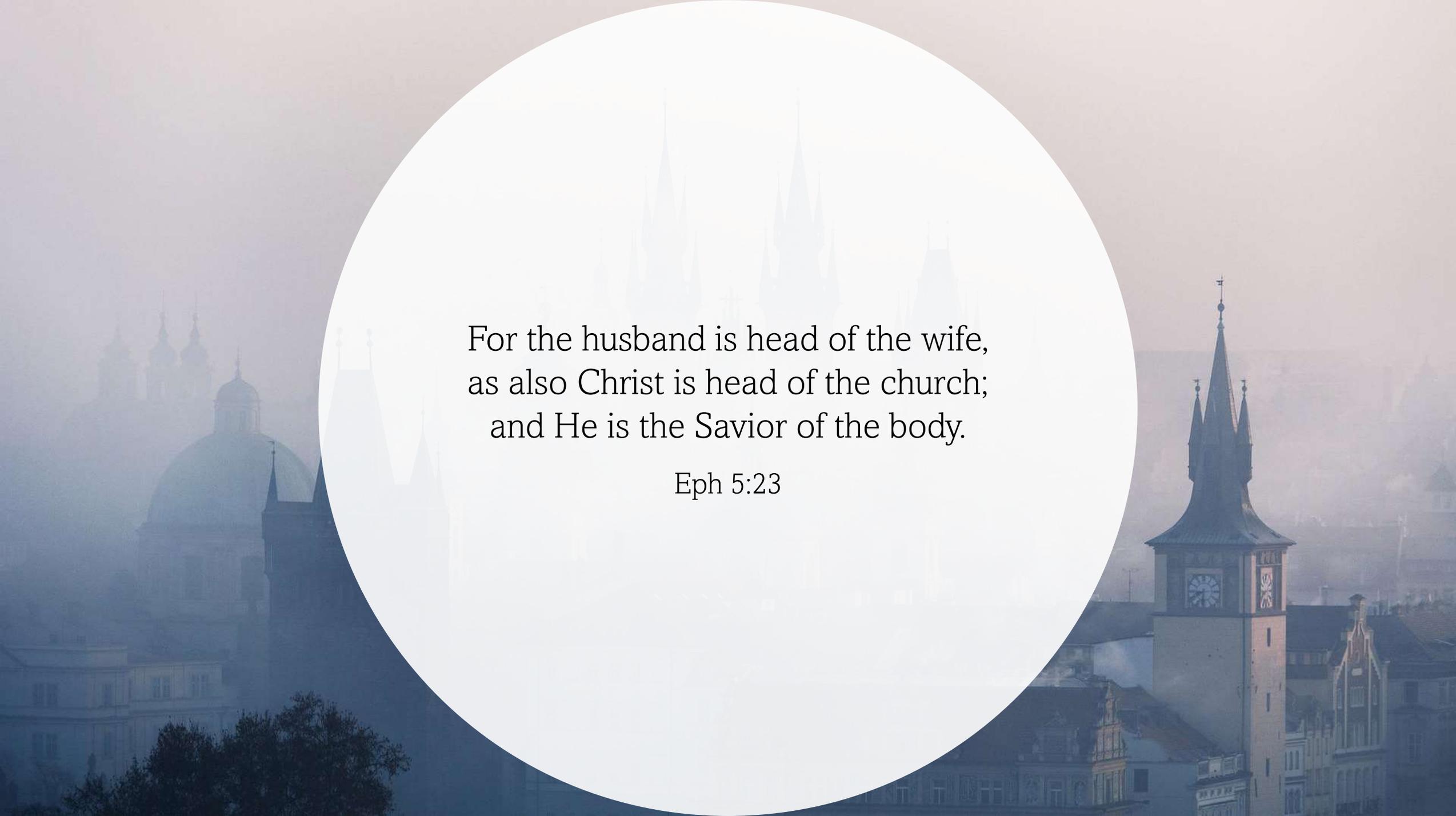
to the intent that now the
manifold wisdom of God might
be made known by the church to
the principalities and powers in the
heavenly places, according to the
eternal purpose which He
accomplished in Christ
Jesus our Lord.

Eph 3:10–11

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 serene and historical.

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

Eph 4:4

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 church tower with a clock face on the right side. The text inside the circle is in a black, serif font.

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



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Why So Many Churches?

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

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