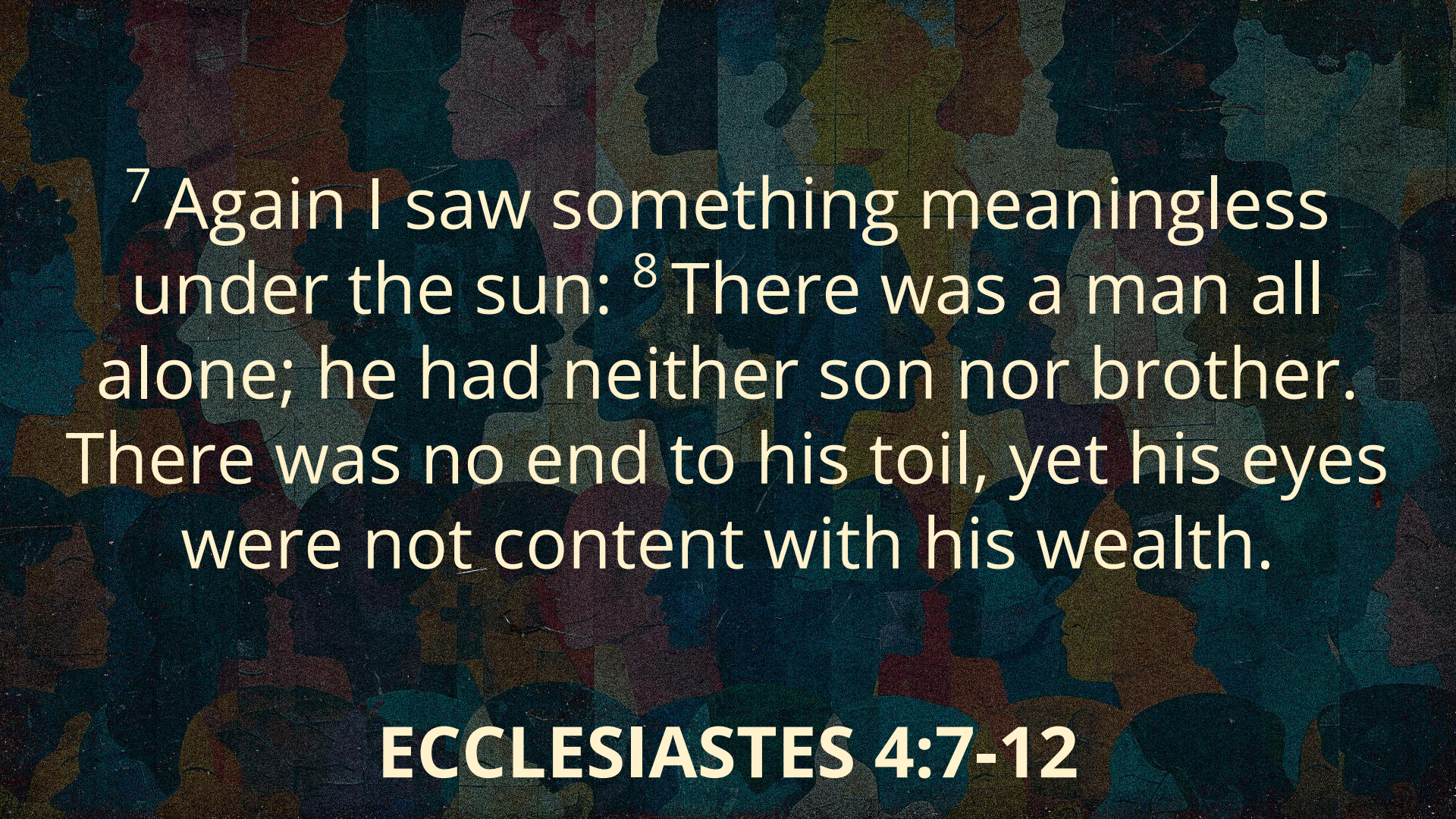




BELOVED

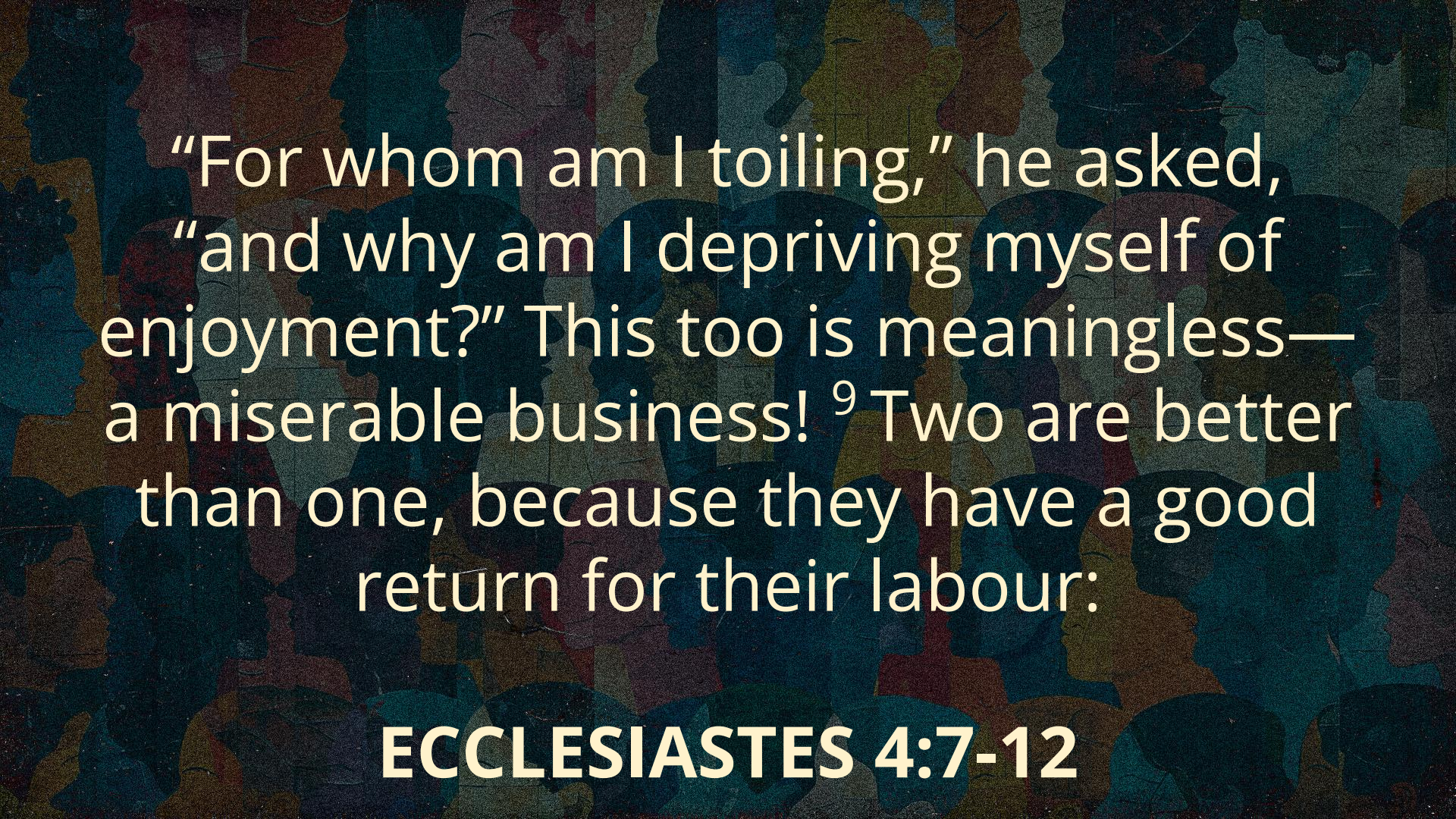


ISOLATION



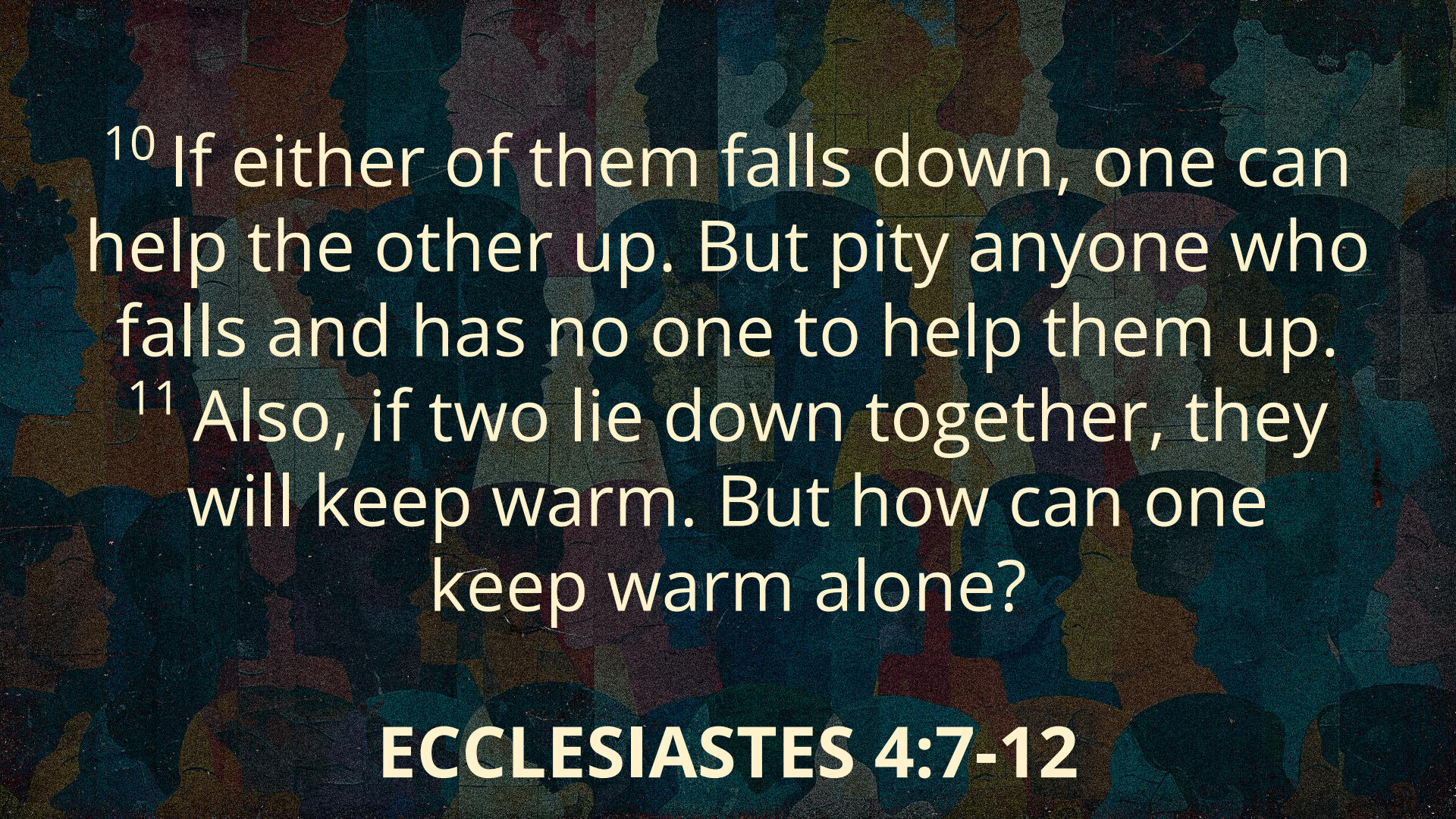
⁷ Again I saw something meaningless
under the sun: ⁸ There was a man all
alone; he had neither son nor brother.
There was no end to his toil, yet his eyes
were not content with his wealth.

ECCLESIASTES 4:7-12



“For whom am I toiling,” he asked,
“and why am I depriving myself of
enjoyment?” This too is meaningless—
a miserable business! ⁹ Two are better
than one, because they have a good
return for their labour:

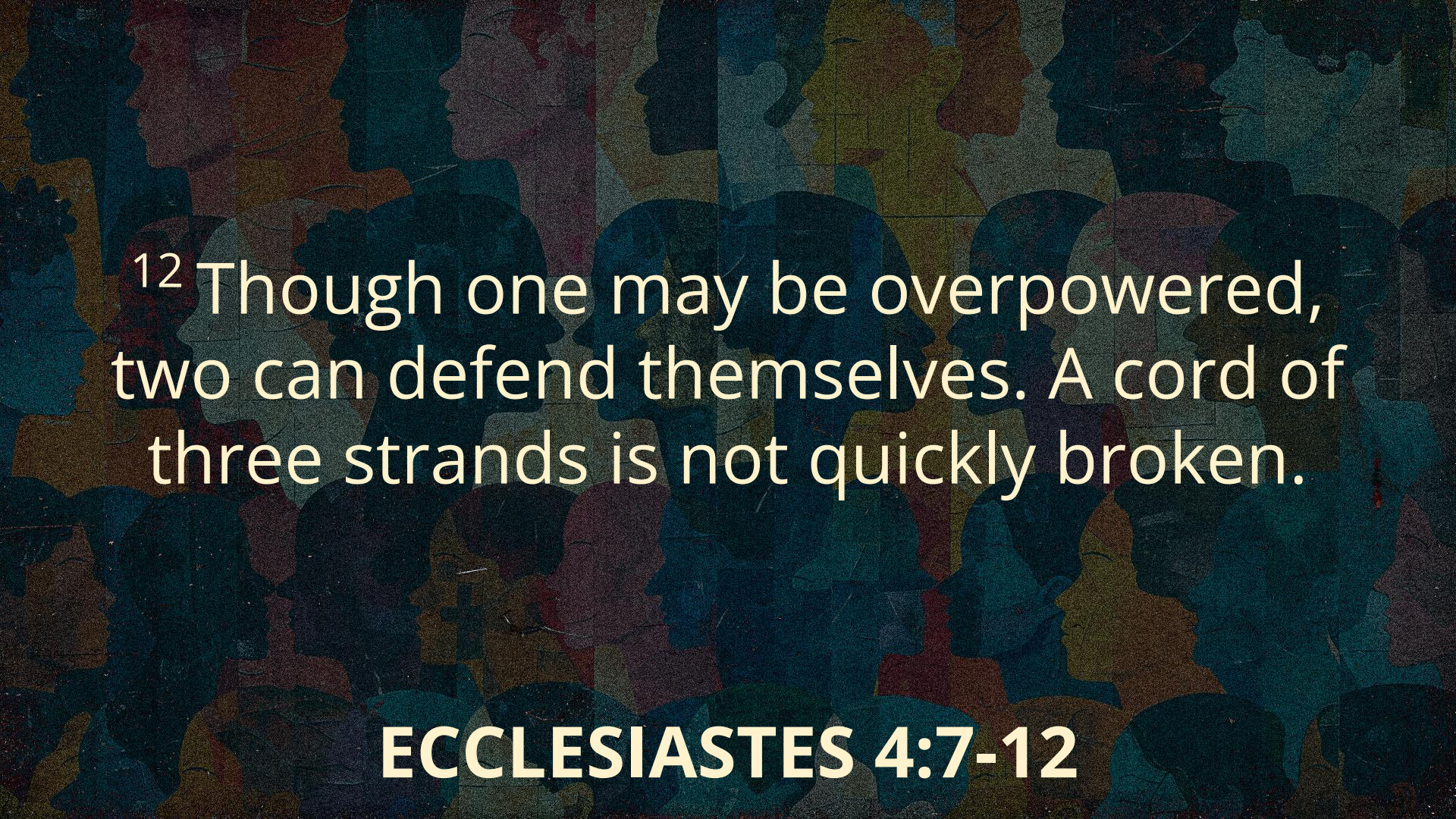
ECCLESIASTES 4:7-12



¹⁰ If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up.

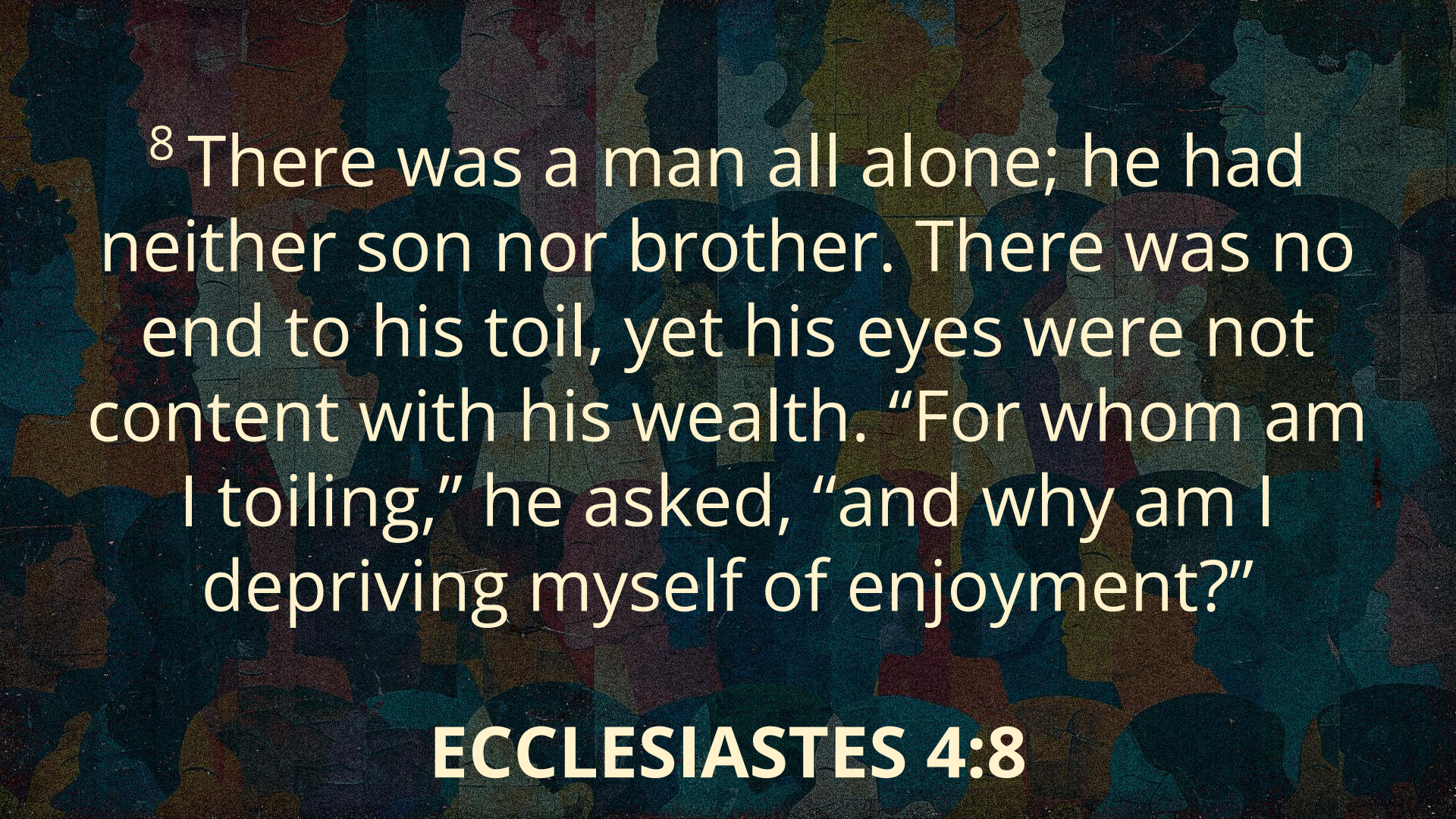
¹¹ Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone?

ECCLESIASTES 4:7-12



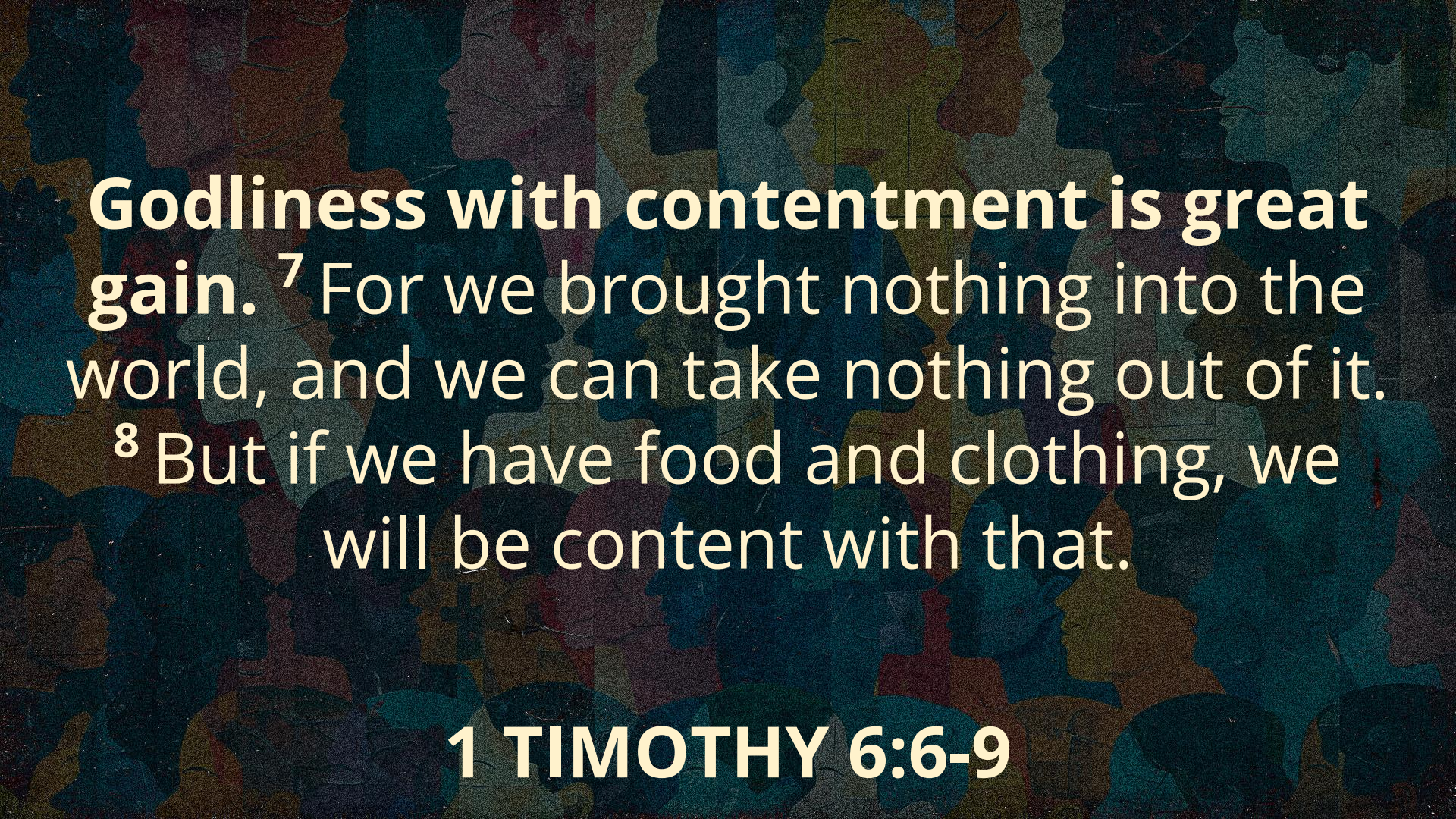
¹² Though one may be overpowered,
two can defend themselves. A cord of
three strands is not quickly broken.

ECCLESIASTES 4:7-12



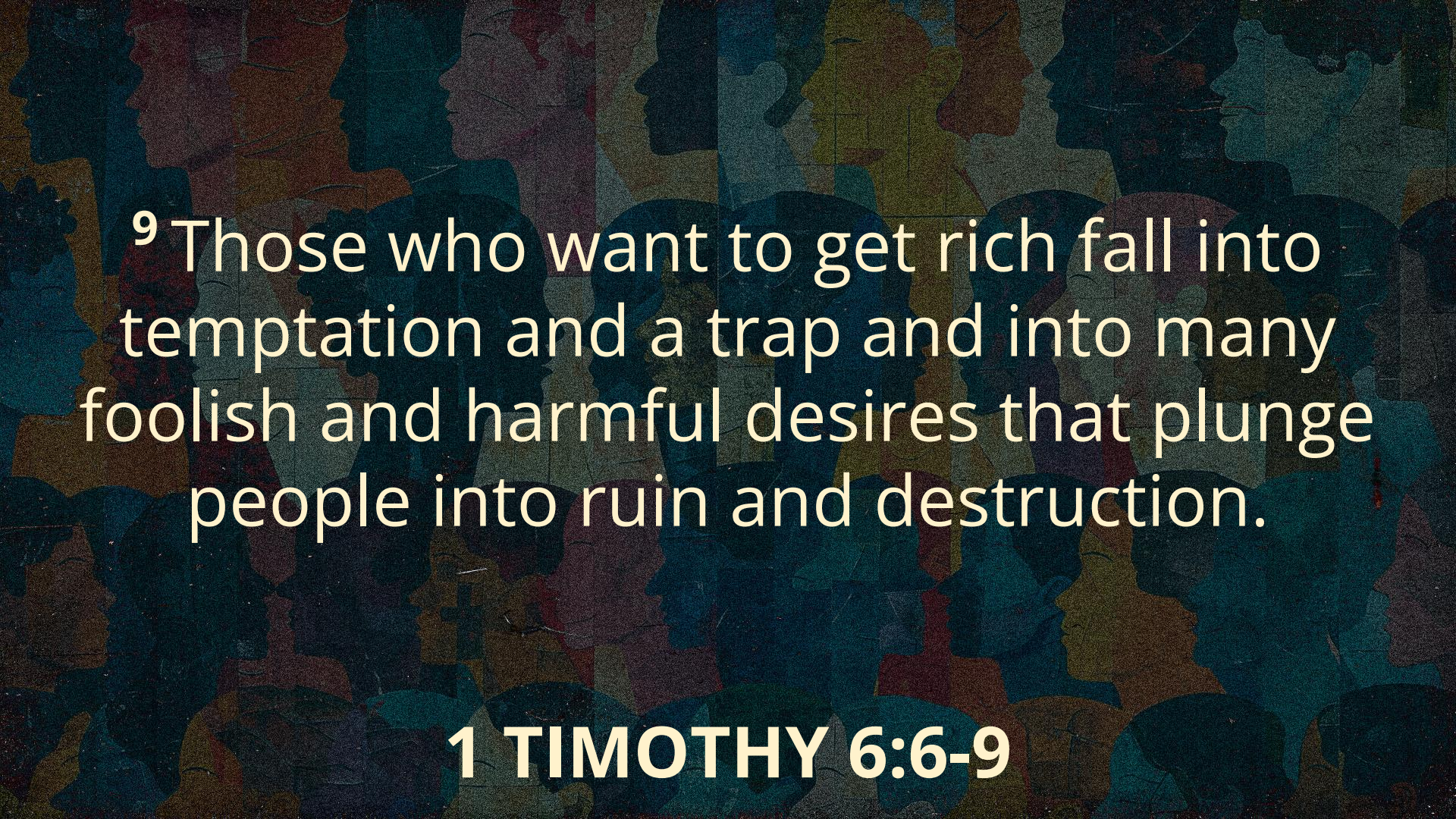
⁸ There was a man all alone; he had neither son nor brother. There was no end to his toil, yet his eyes were not content with his wealth. "For whom am I toiling," he asked, "and why am I depriving myself of enjoyment?"

ECCLESIASTES 4:8



Godliness with contentment is great gain. ⁷ For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it.
⁸ But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that.

1 TIMOTHY 6:6-9

The background of the image is a complex, abstract composition of overlapping human silhouettes. These silhouettes are rendered in a variety of colors, including deep blues, purples, reds, and browns, creating a textured, layered effect. The silhouettes are positioned in various orientations, some facing left and some facing right, giving the impression of a diverse crowd or a collage of people. The overall tone is somewhat somber and contemplative, with the colors being muted and the shapes being solid and dark.

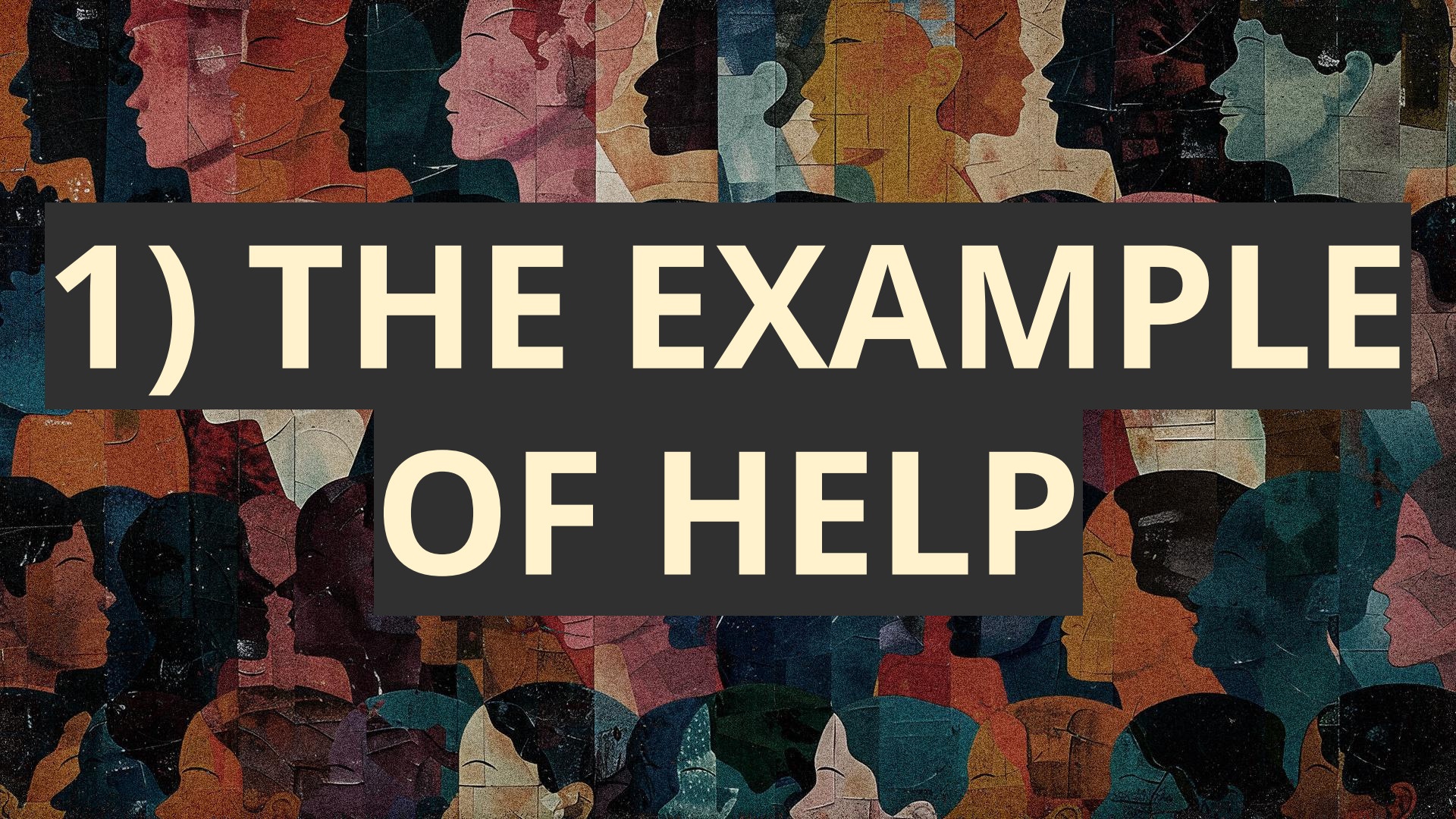
⁹ Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction.

1 TIMOTHY 6:6-9

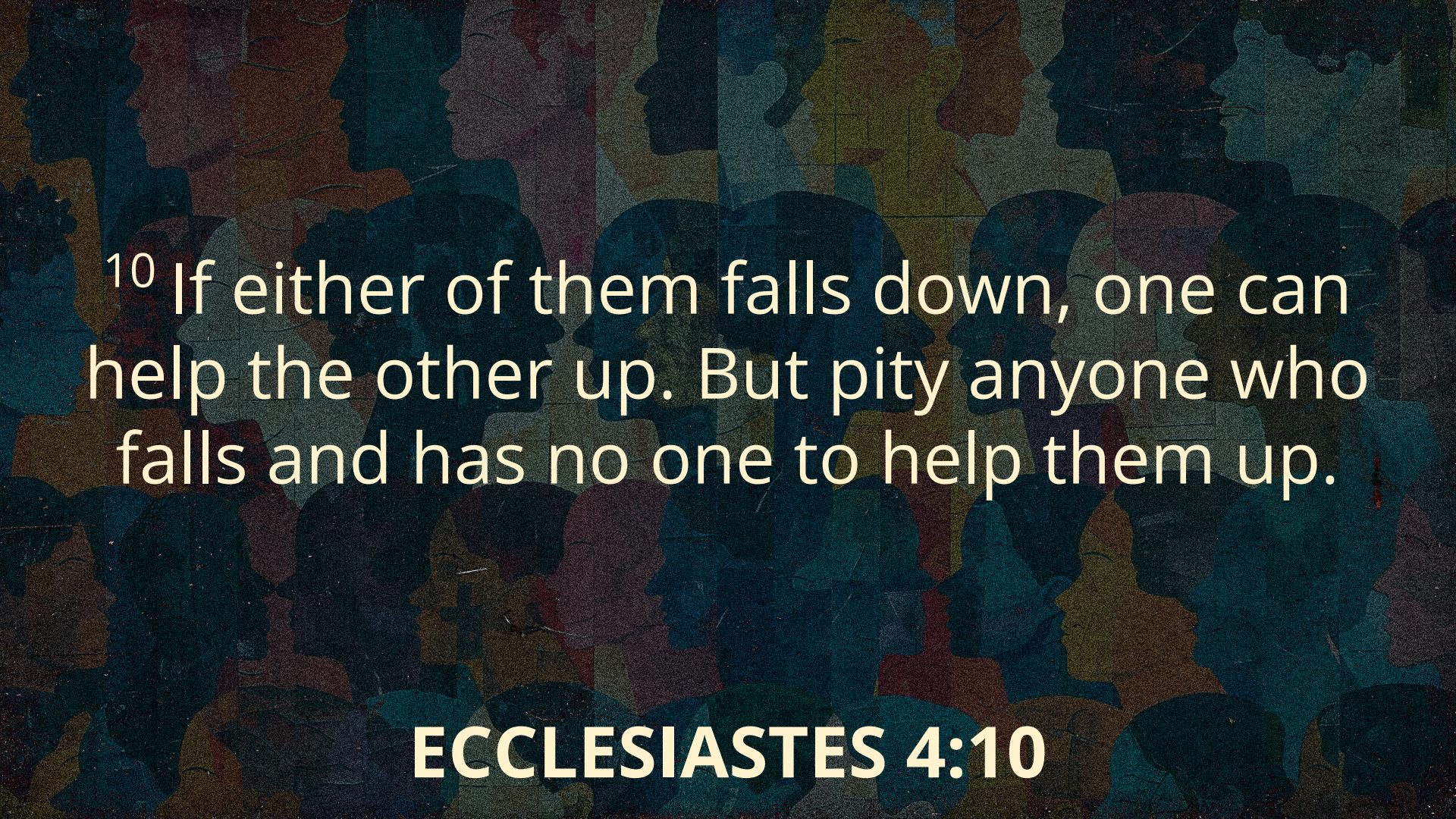


⁹Two are better than one, because they
have a good return for their labour.

ECCLESIASTES 4:9

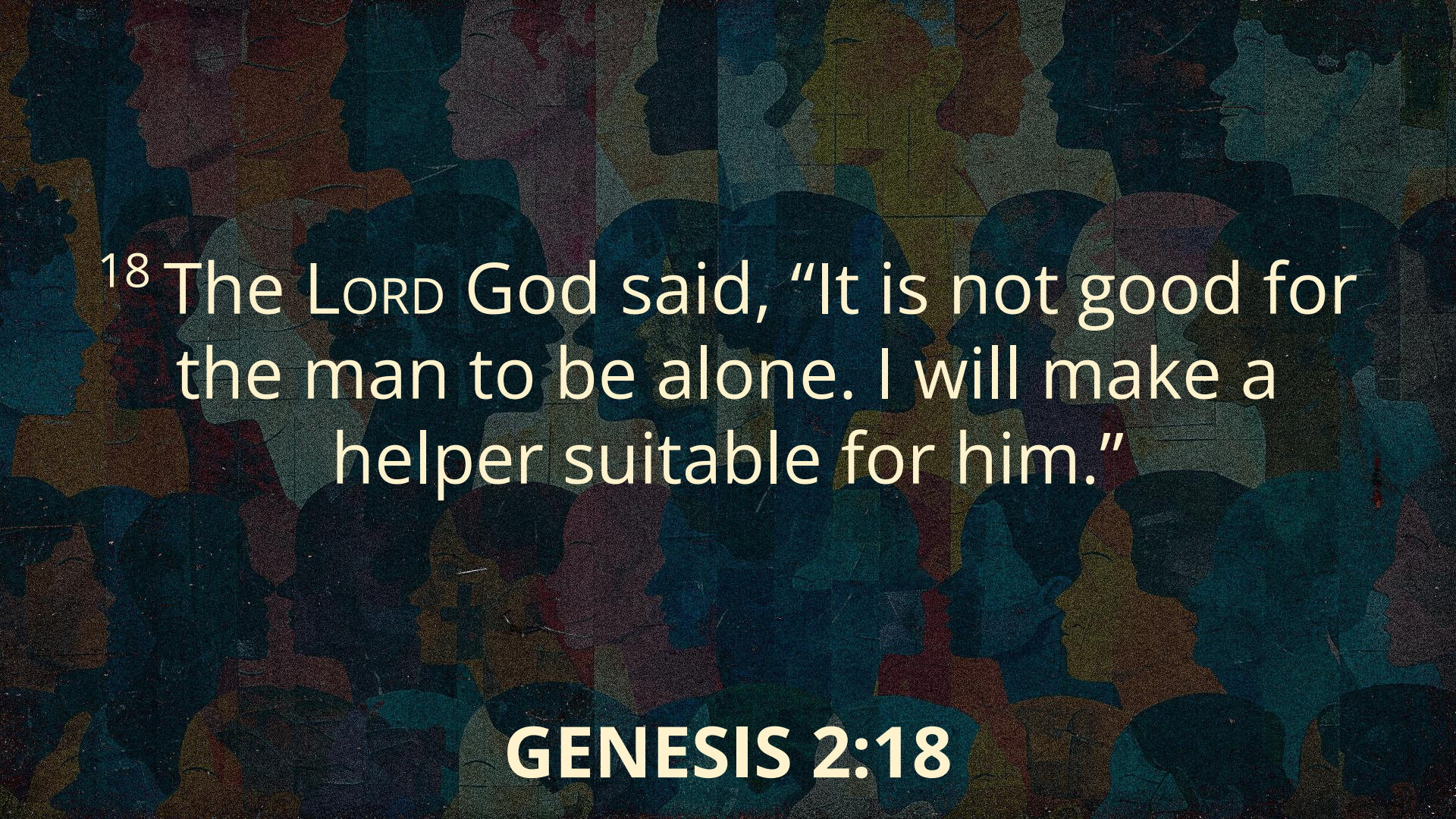


1) THE EXAMPLE OF HELP



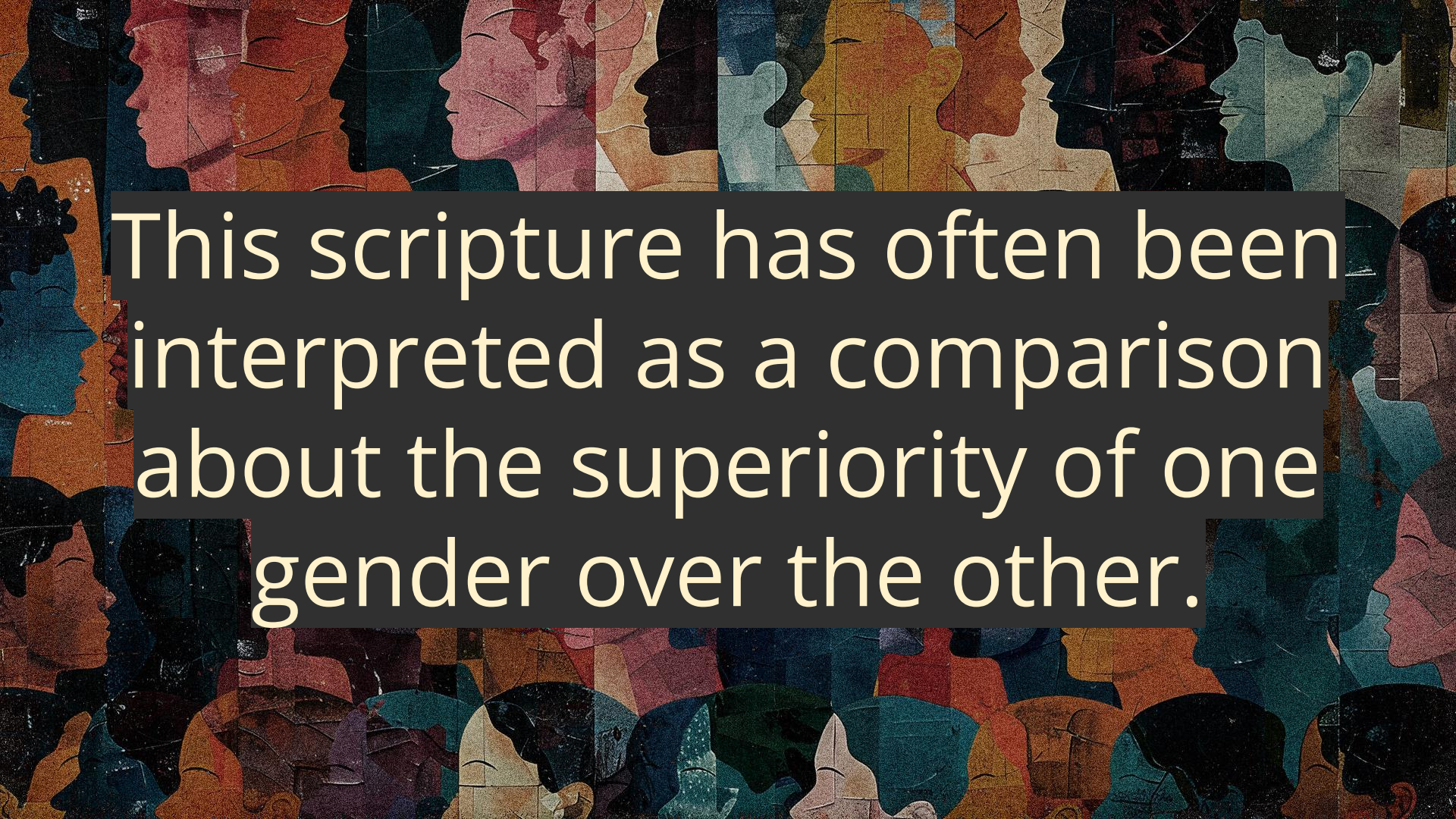
¹⁰ If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up.

ECCLESIASTES 4:10



¹⁸ The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him."

GENESIS 2:18



This scripture has often been interpreted as a comparison about the superiority of one gender over the other.

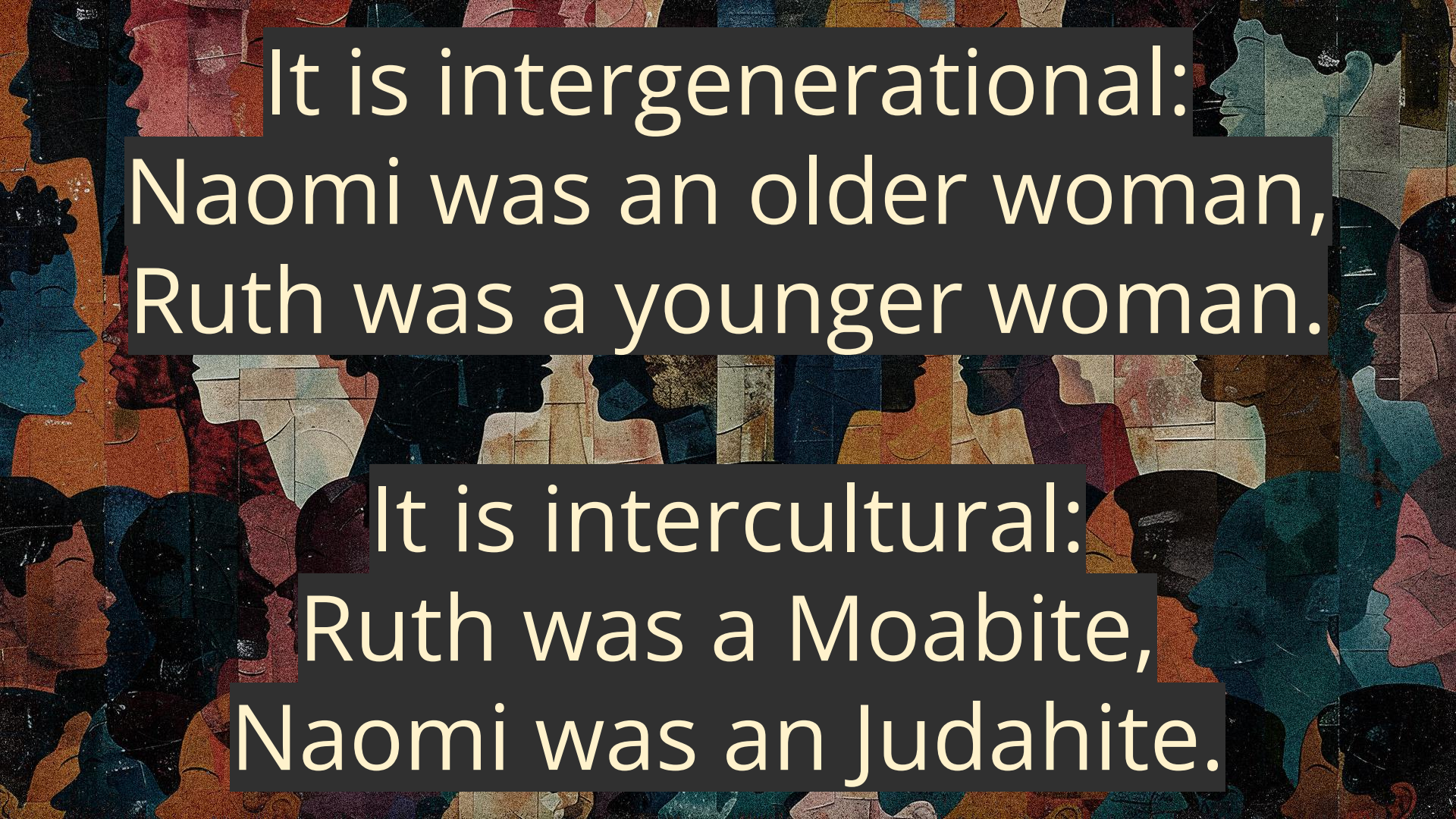


This is less of a statement
on gender and more of a
statement on goodness.



“Don’t urge me to leave you or to turn
back from you. Where you go I will go,
and where you stay I will stay. Your
people will be my people and your
God my God.”

RUTH 1:16

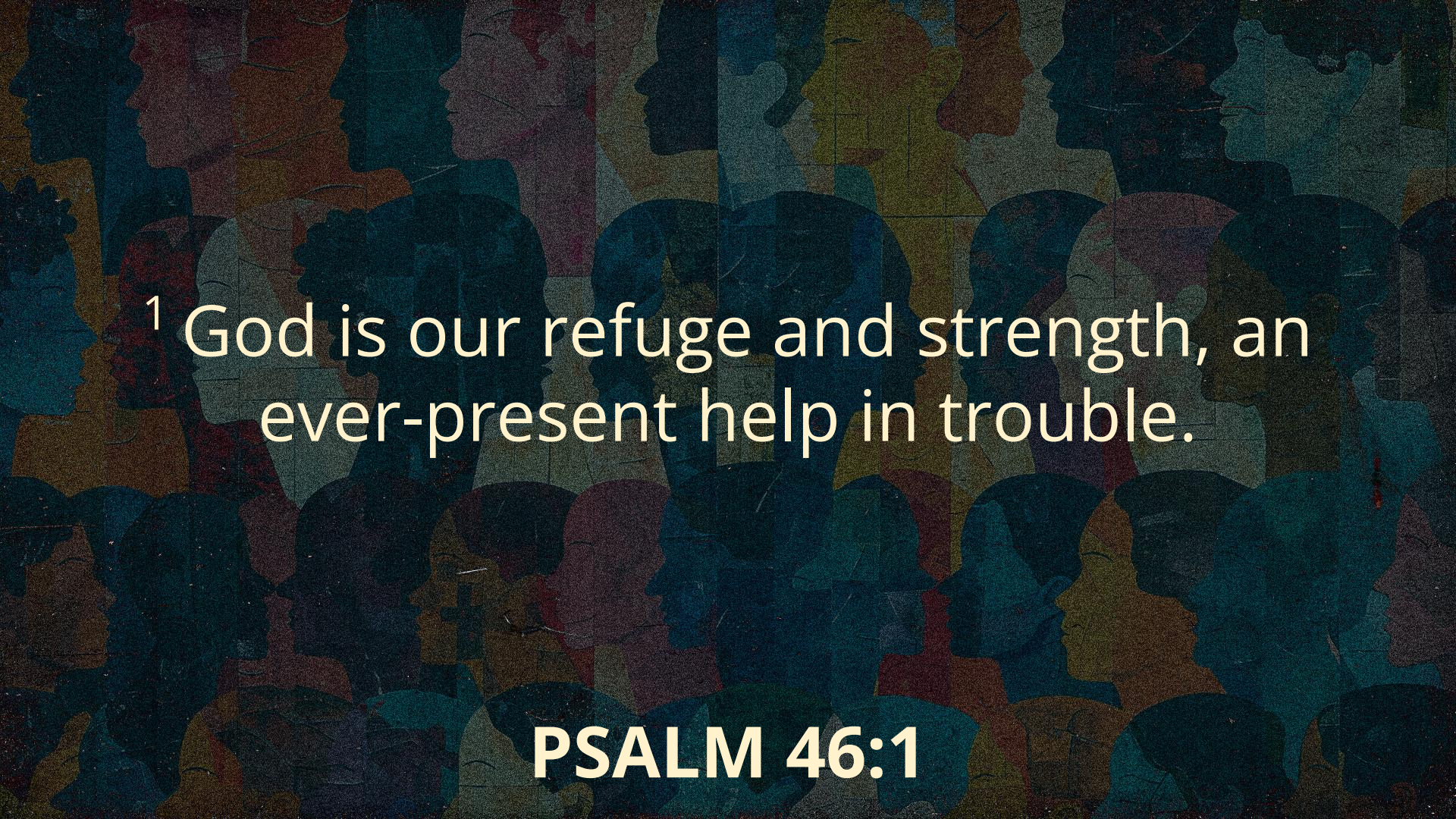


It is intergenerational:
Naomi was an older woman,
Ruth was a younger woman.

It is intercultural:
Ruth was a Moabite,
Naomi was an Judahite.

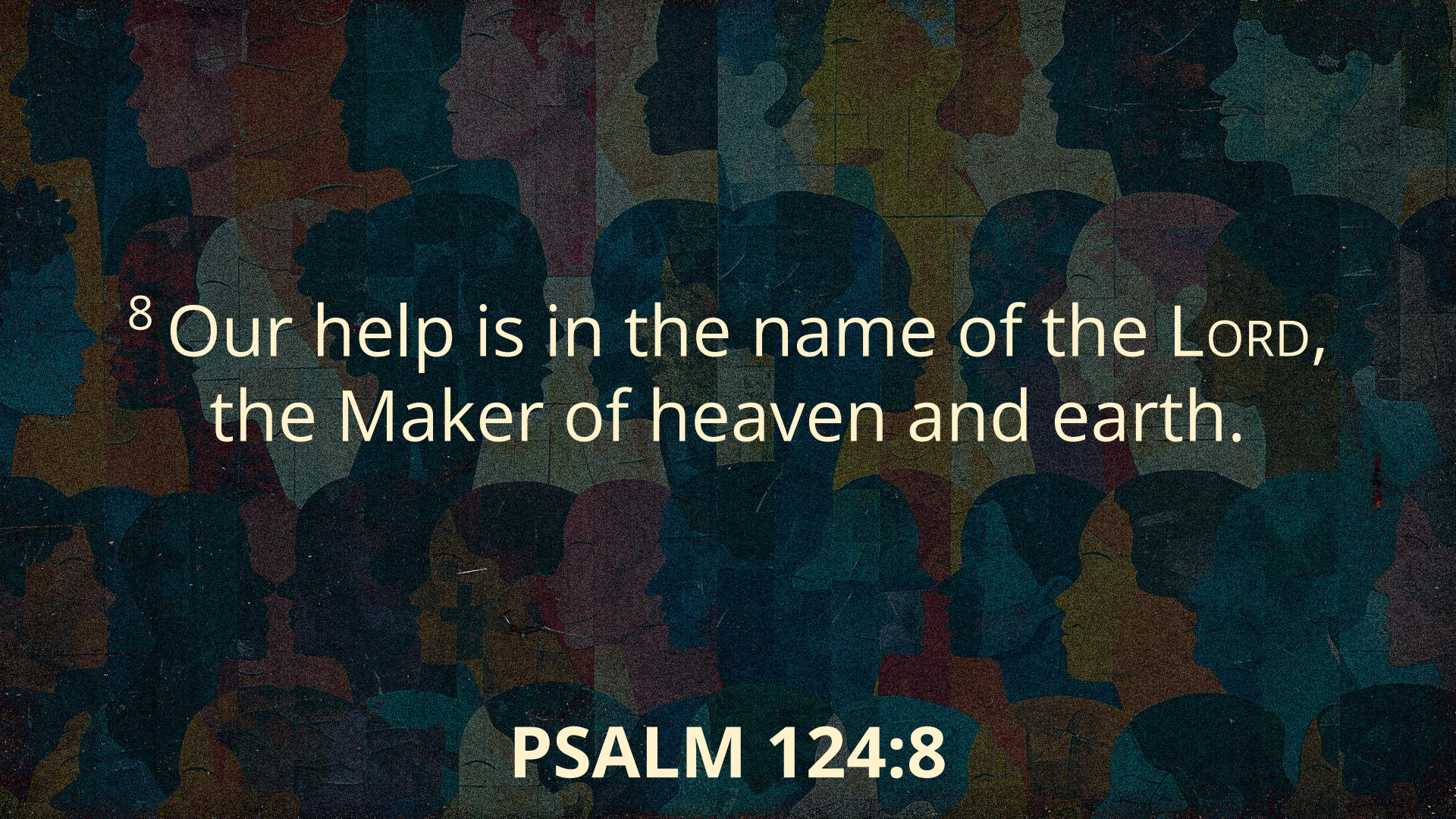


We cannot find community
with people while remaining
apart from God.



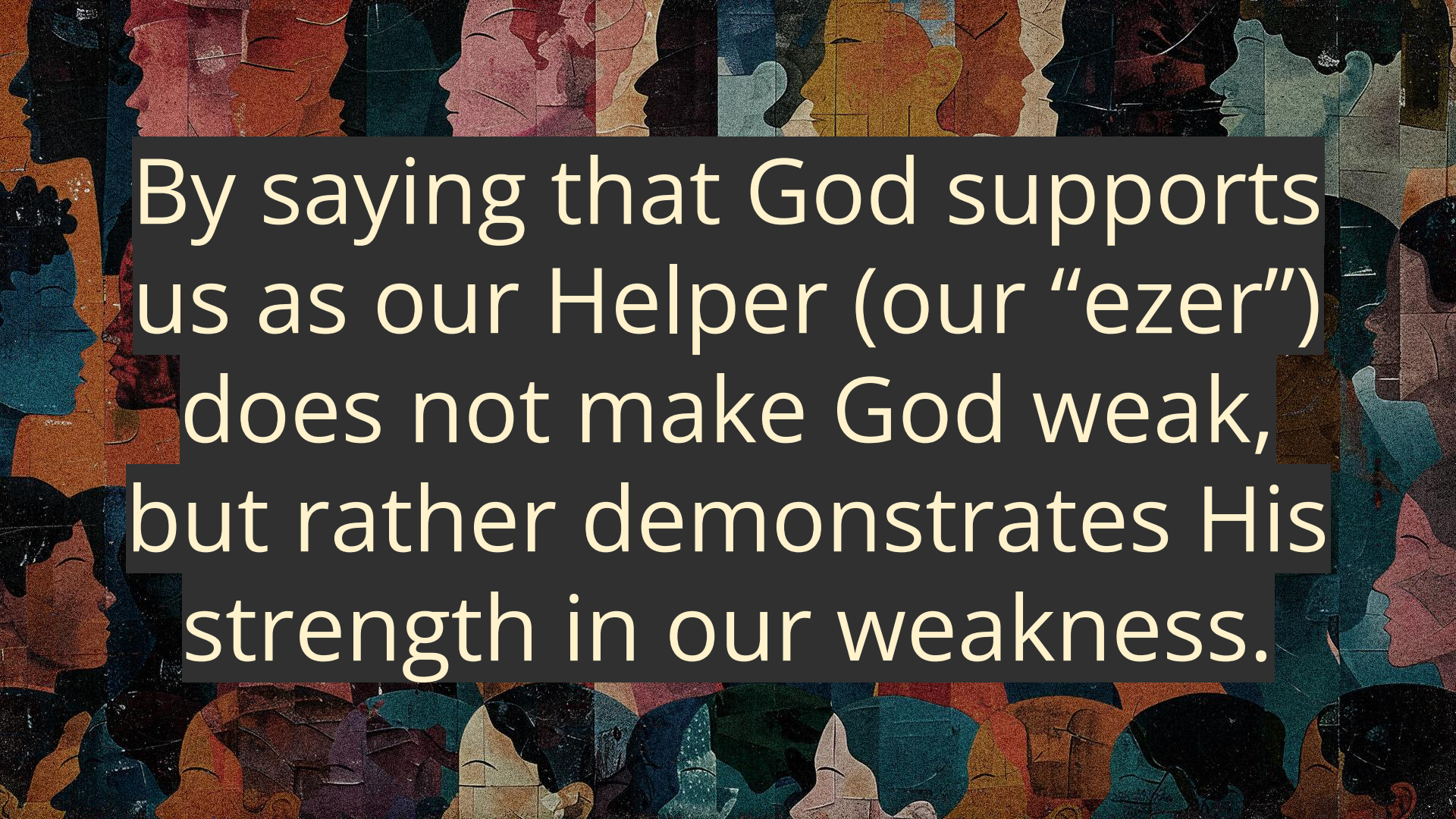
¹ God is our refuge and strength, an
ever-present help in trouble.

PSALM 46:1

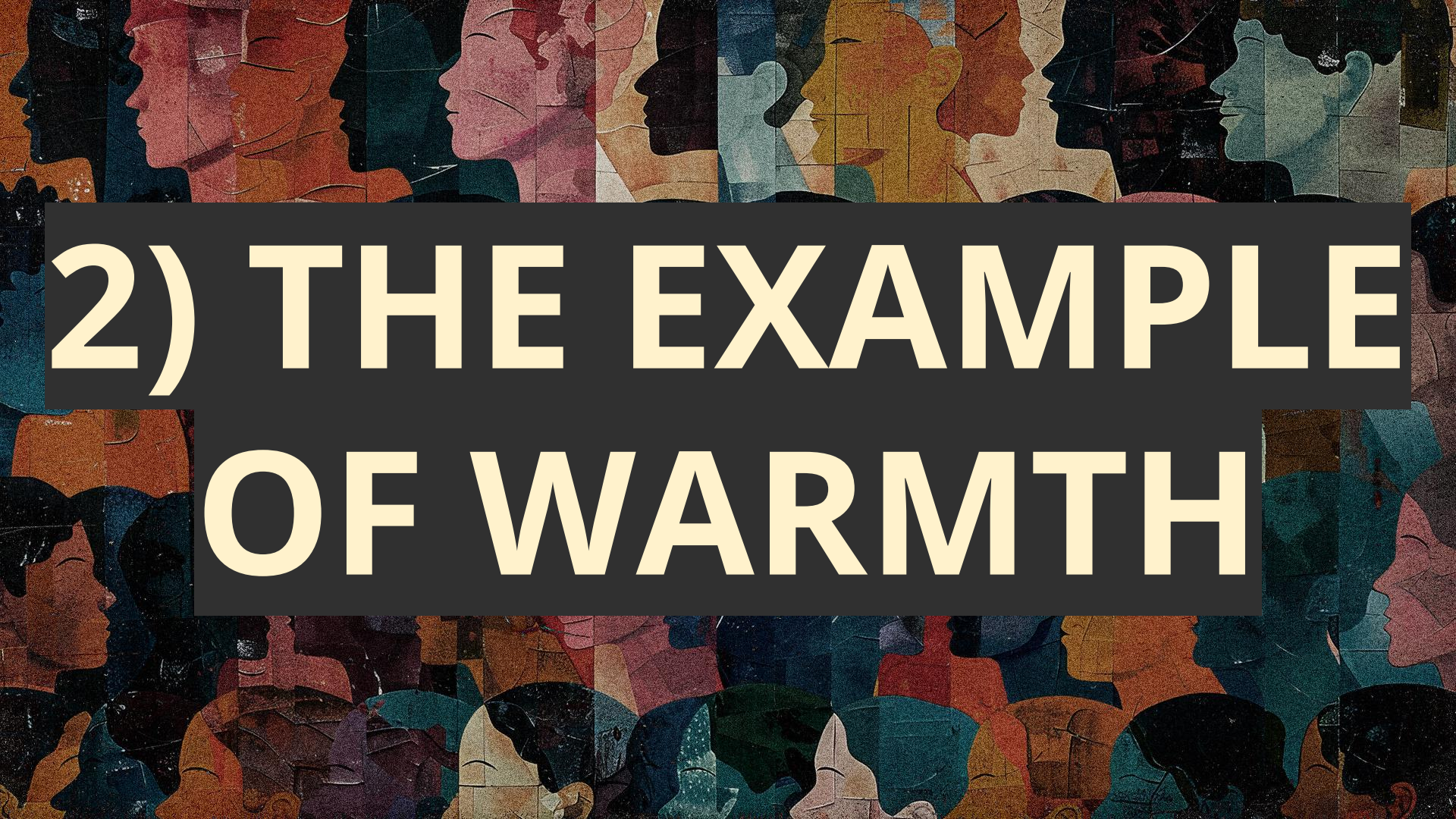


⁸ Our help is in the name of the LORD,
the Maker of heaven and earth.

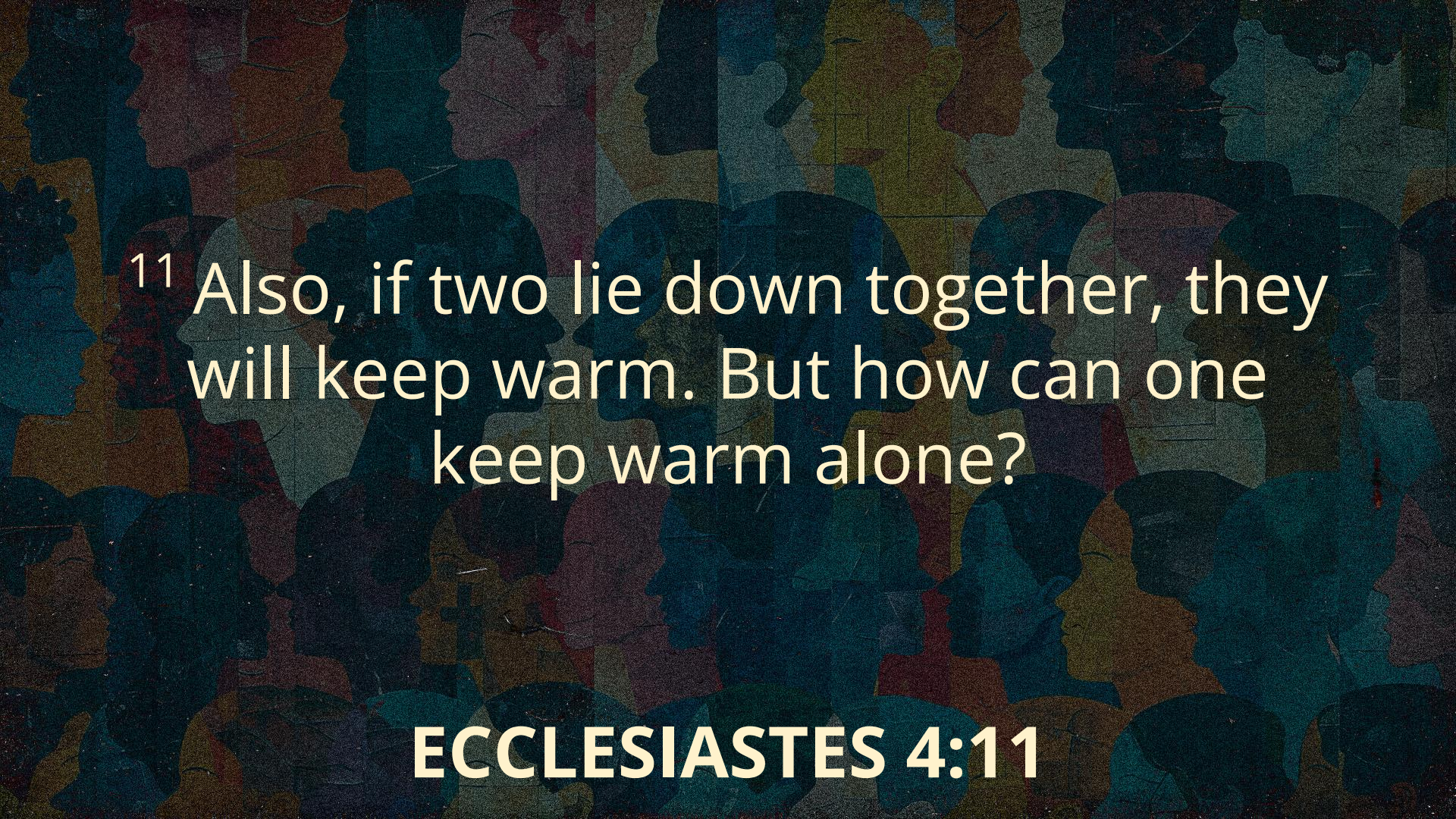
PSALM 124:8



By saying that God supports us as our Helper (our “ezer”) does not make God weak, but rather demonstrates His strength in our weakness.



2) THE EXAMPLE OF WARMTH



¹¹ Also, if two lie down together, they
will keep warm. But how can one
keep warm alone?

ECCLESIASTES 4:11

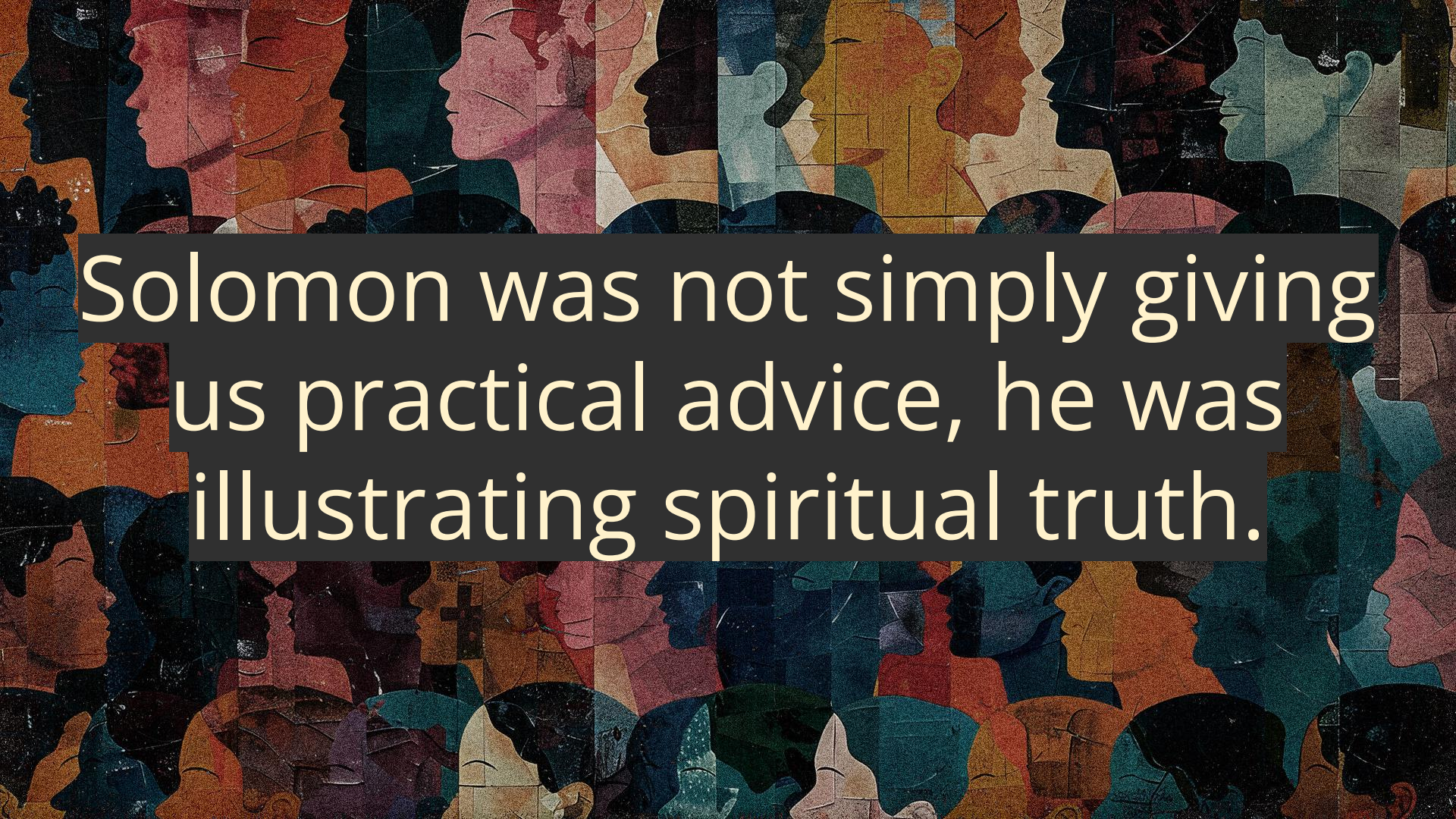
¹ When King David was very old, he could not keep warm even when they put covers over him. ² So his attendants said to him, "Let us look for a young virgin to serve the king and take care of him. She can lie beside him so that our lord the king may keep warm."

1 KINGS 1:1-2

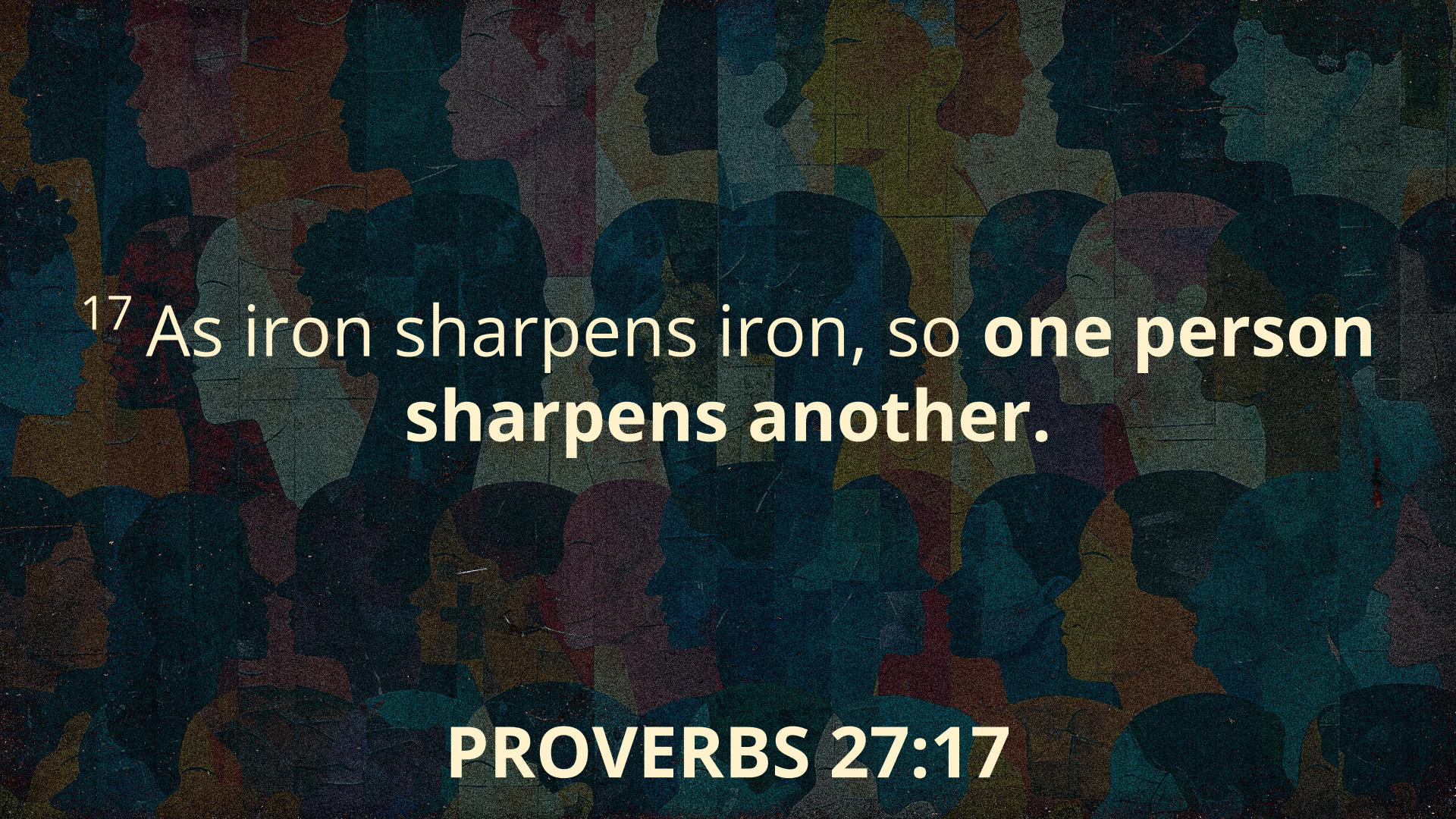


³ He had seven hundred wives of royal birth and three hundred concubines.

1 KINGS 1:3

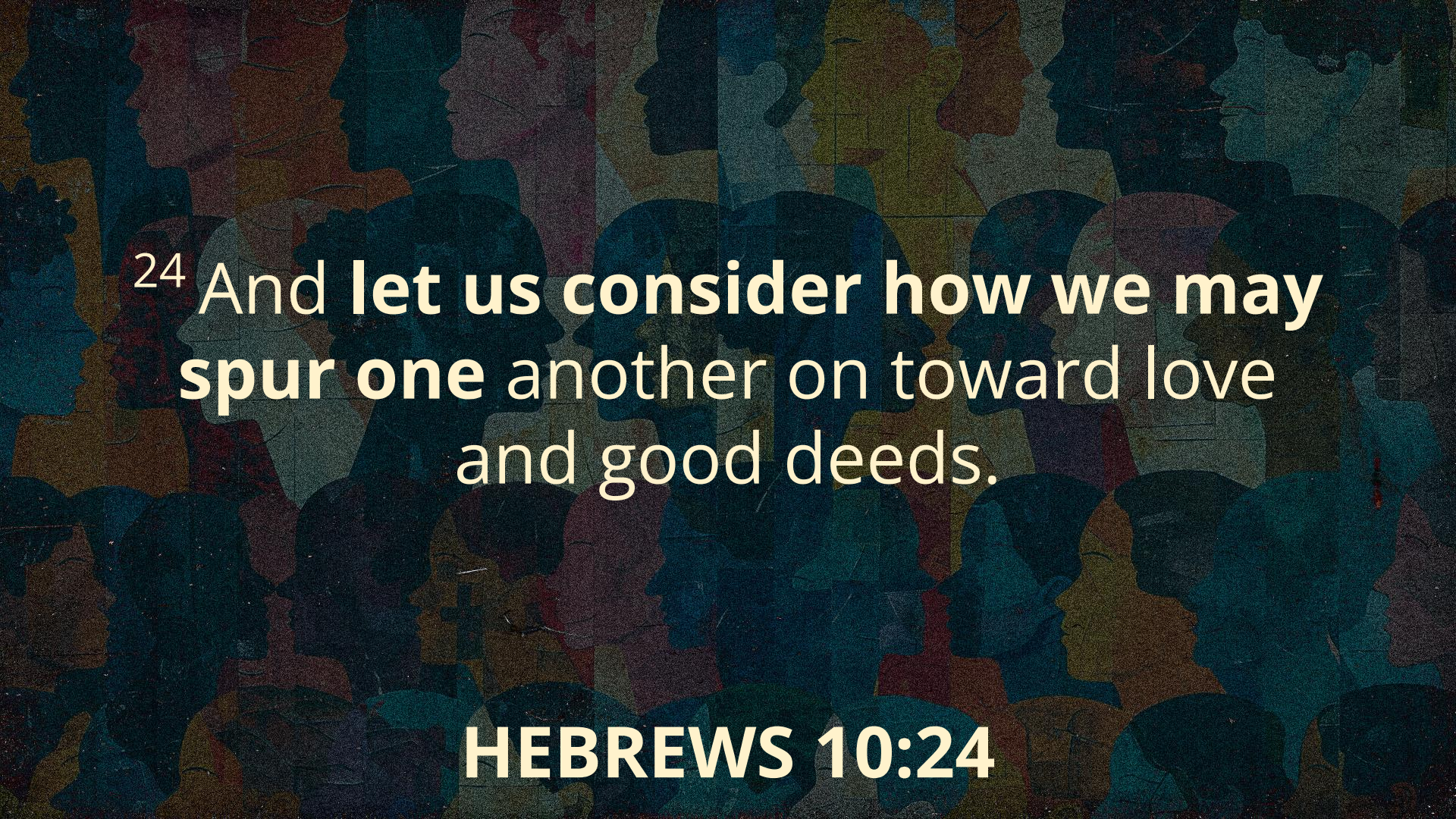


Solomon was not simply giving
us practical advice, he was
illustrating spiritual truth.



¹⁷ As iron sharpens iron, so **one person sharpens another.**

PROVERBS 27:17



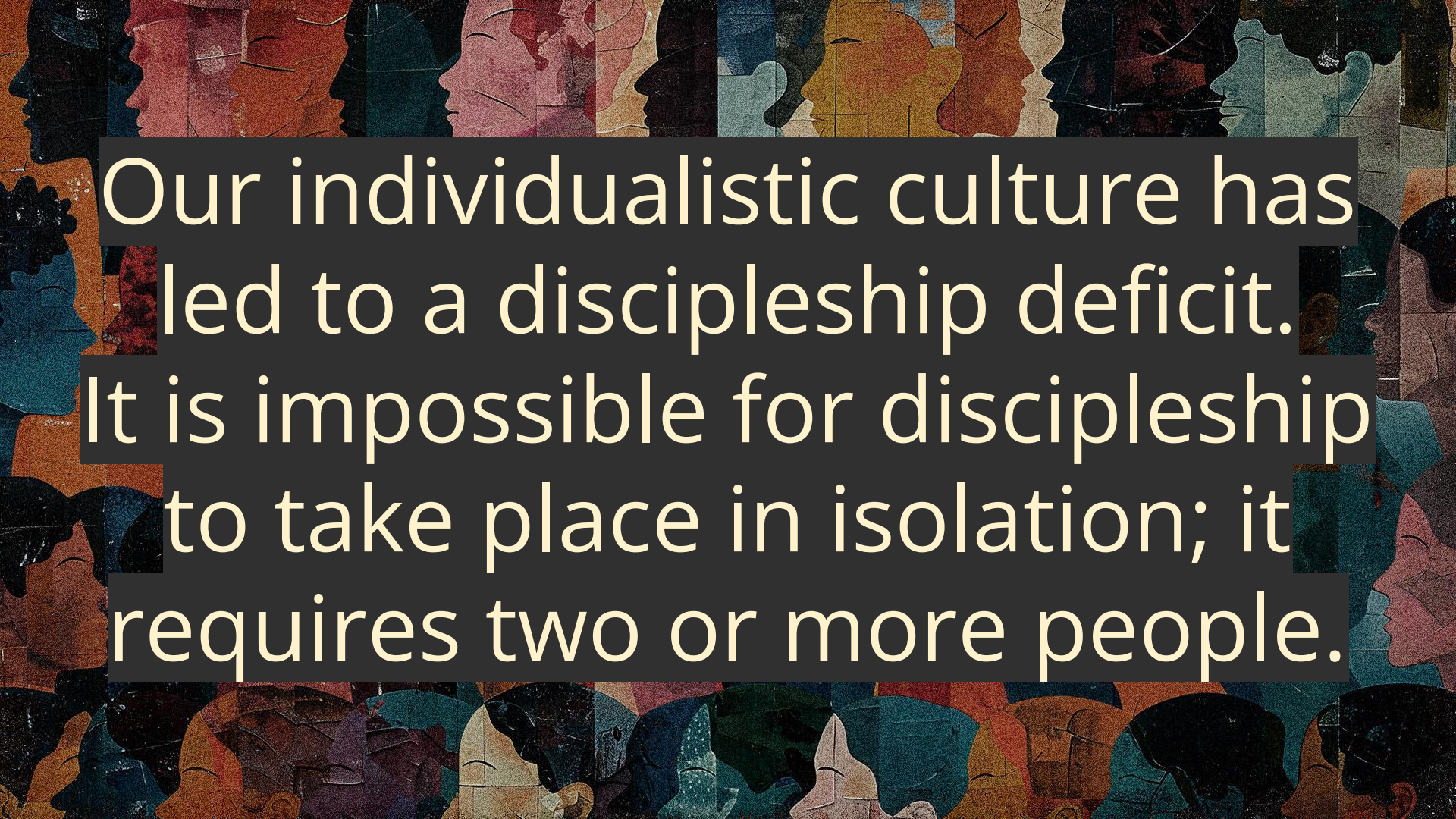
²⁴ And **let us consider how we may spur one** another on toward love and good deeds.

HEBREWS 10:24

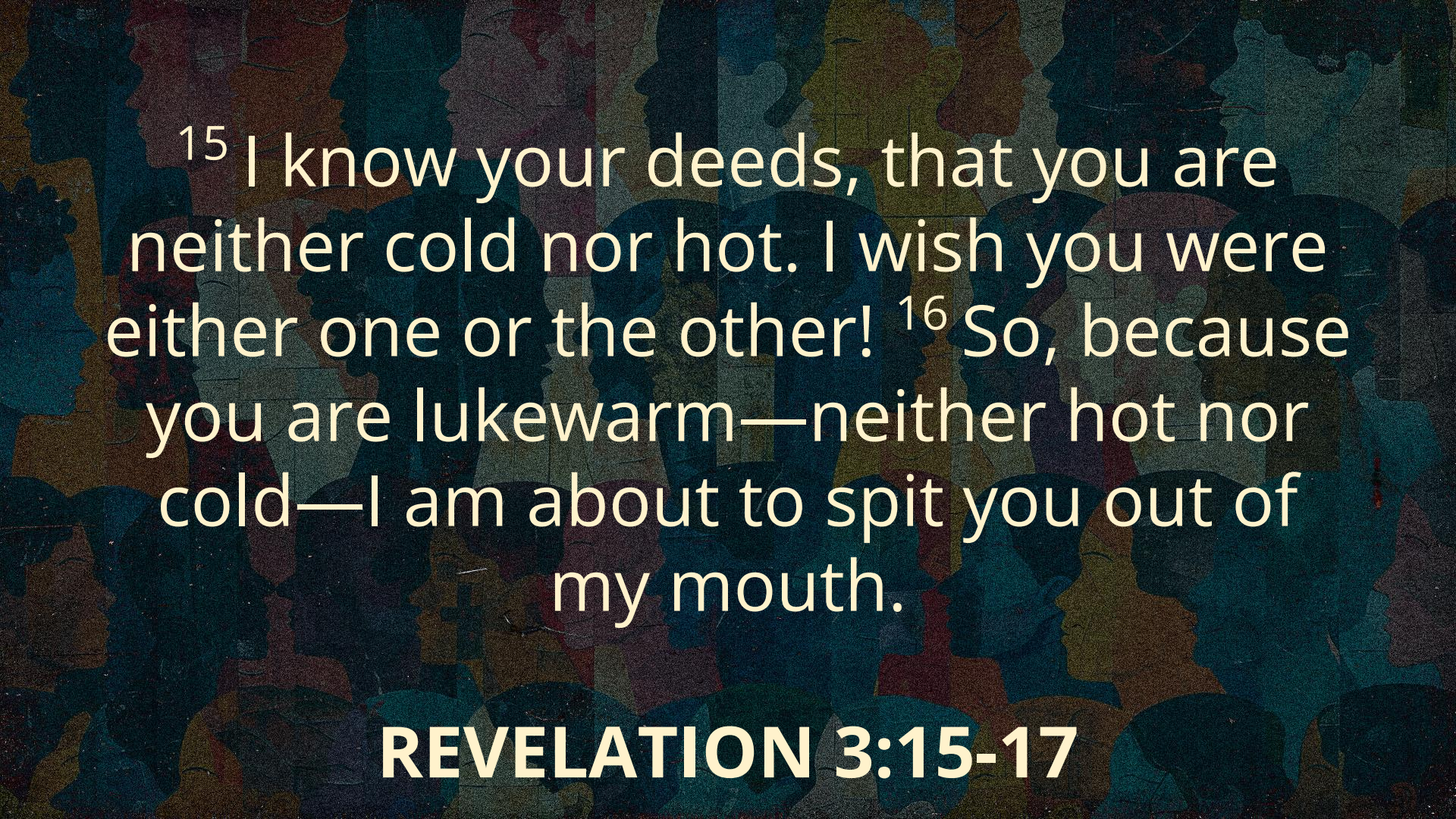


¹⁰ Be devoted to **one another** in love.
Honour **one another** above yourselves.
¹¹ Never be lacking in zeal, but keep
your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.

ROMANS 12:10-11

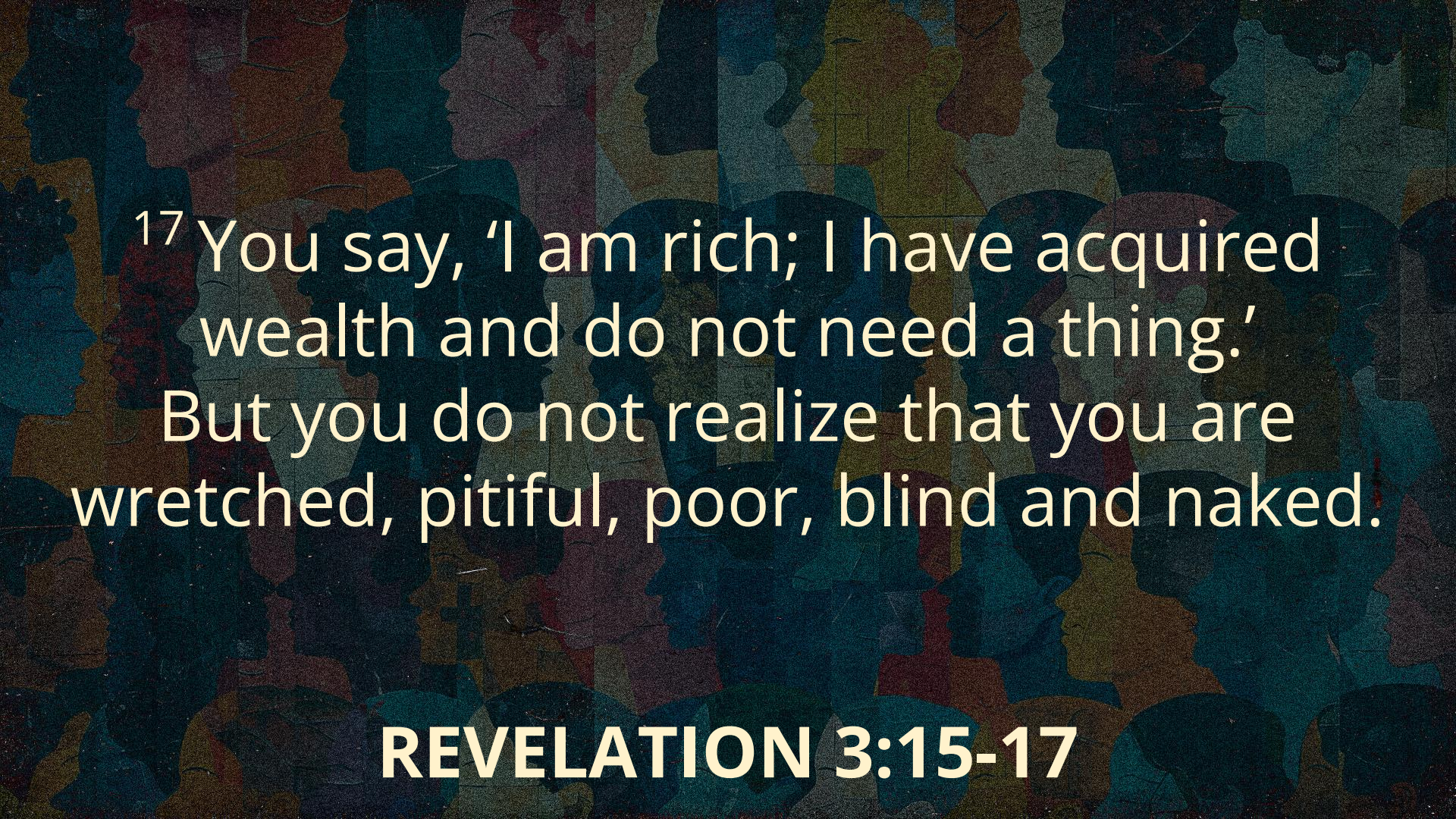


Our individualistic culture has led to a discipleship deficit. It is impossible for discipleship to take place in isolation; it requires two or more people.



¹⁵ I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! ¹⁶ So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth.

REVELATION 3:15-17

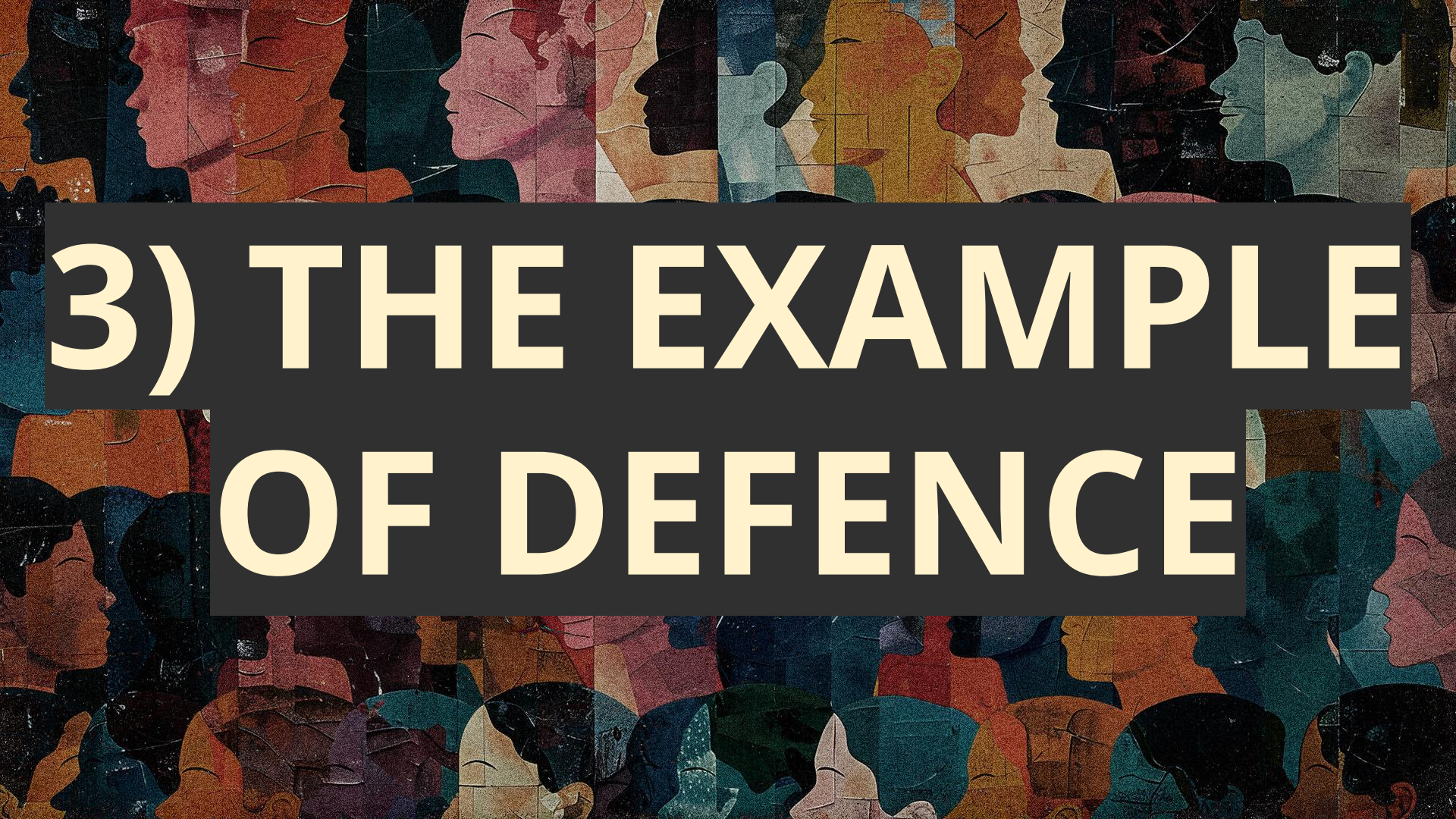


¹⁷ You say, 'I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.' But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked.

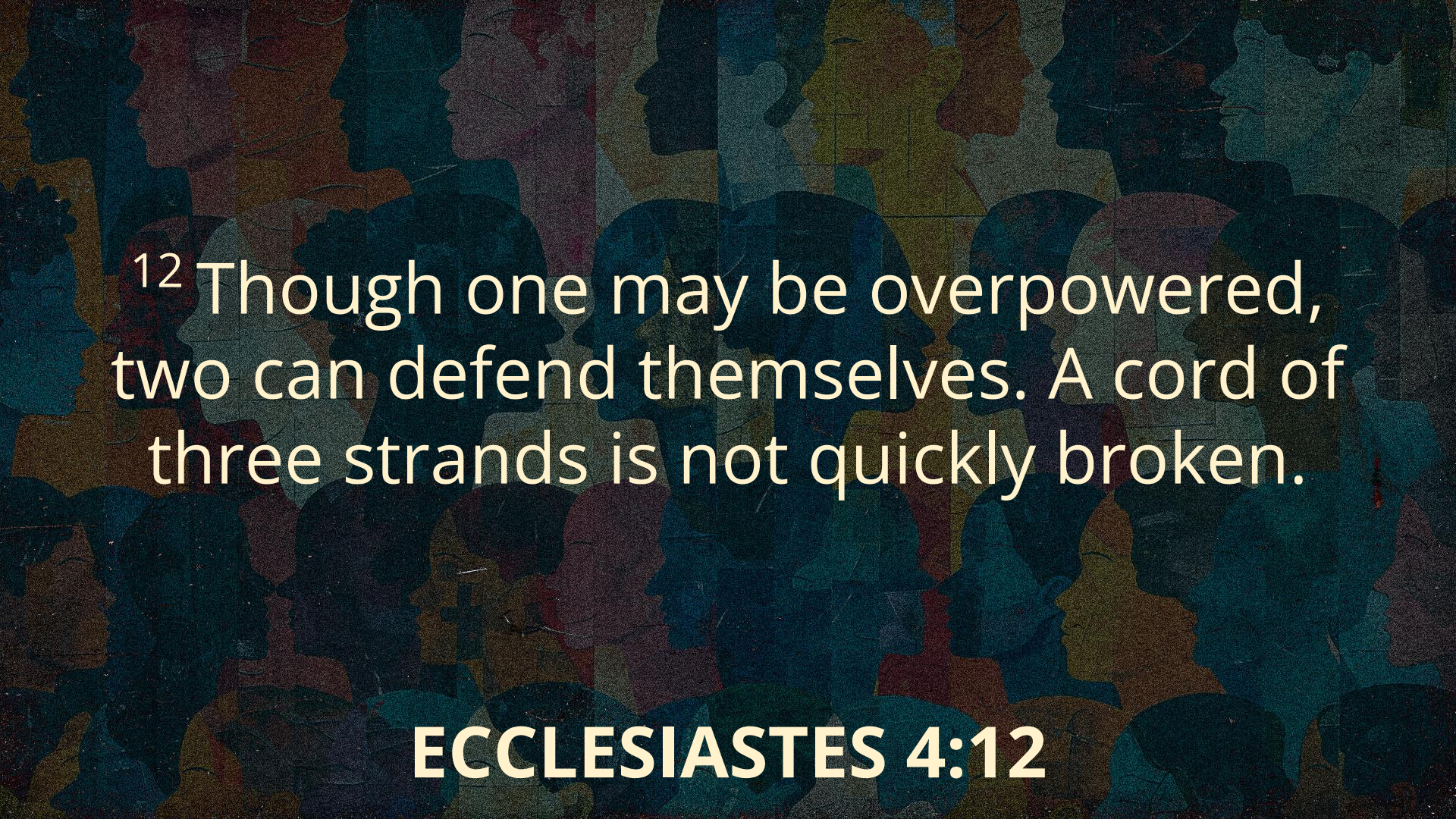
REVELATION 3:15-17



Are you spiritually cold,
lukewarm or hot?



3) THE EXAMPLE OF DEFENCE



¹² Though one may be overpowered,
two can defend themselves. A cord of
three strands is not quickly broken.

ECCLESIASTES 4:12

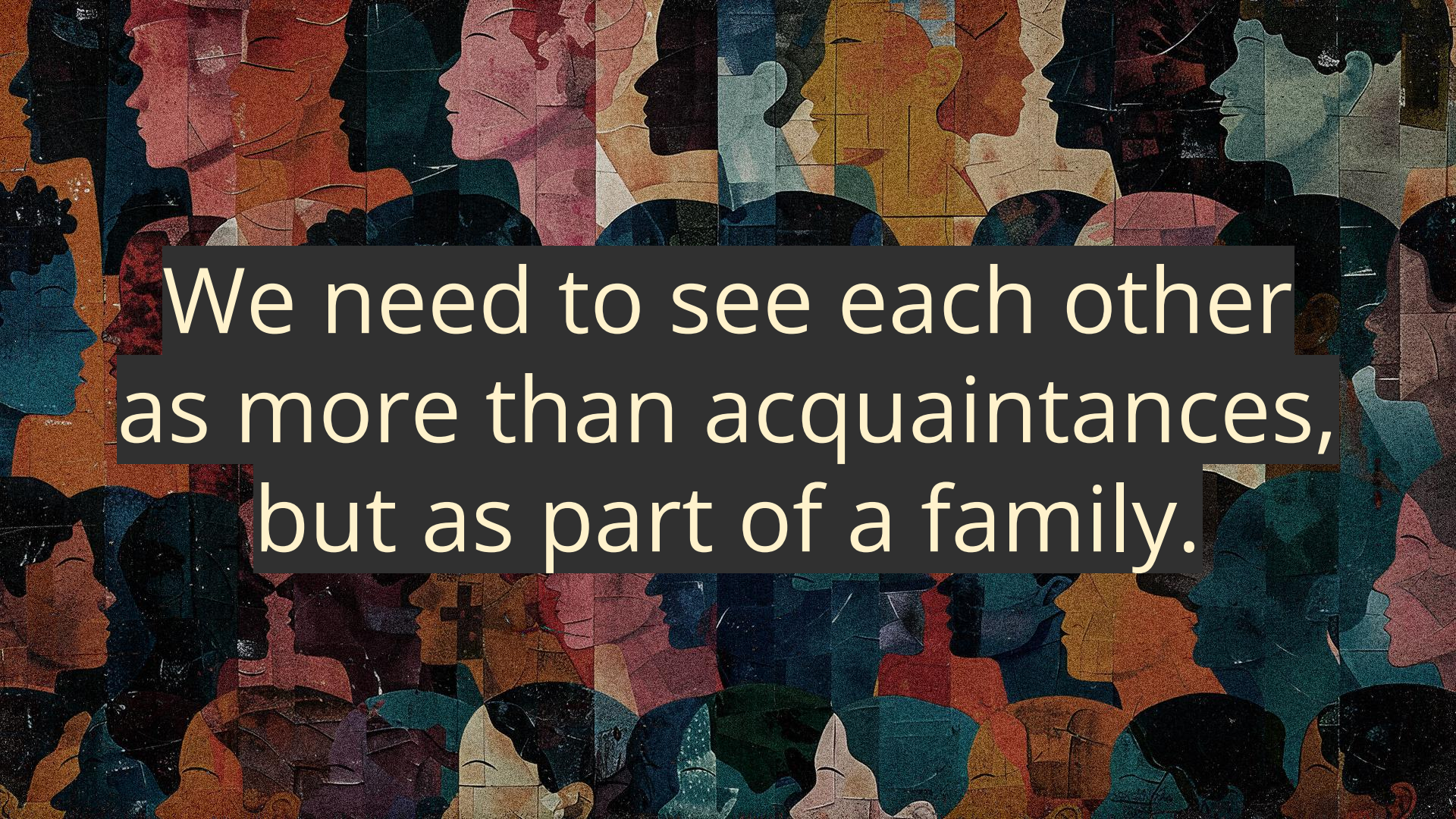


We should not limit the size
of our community.

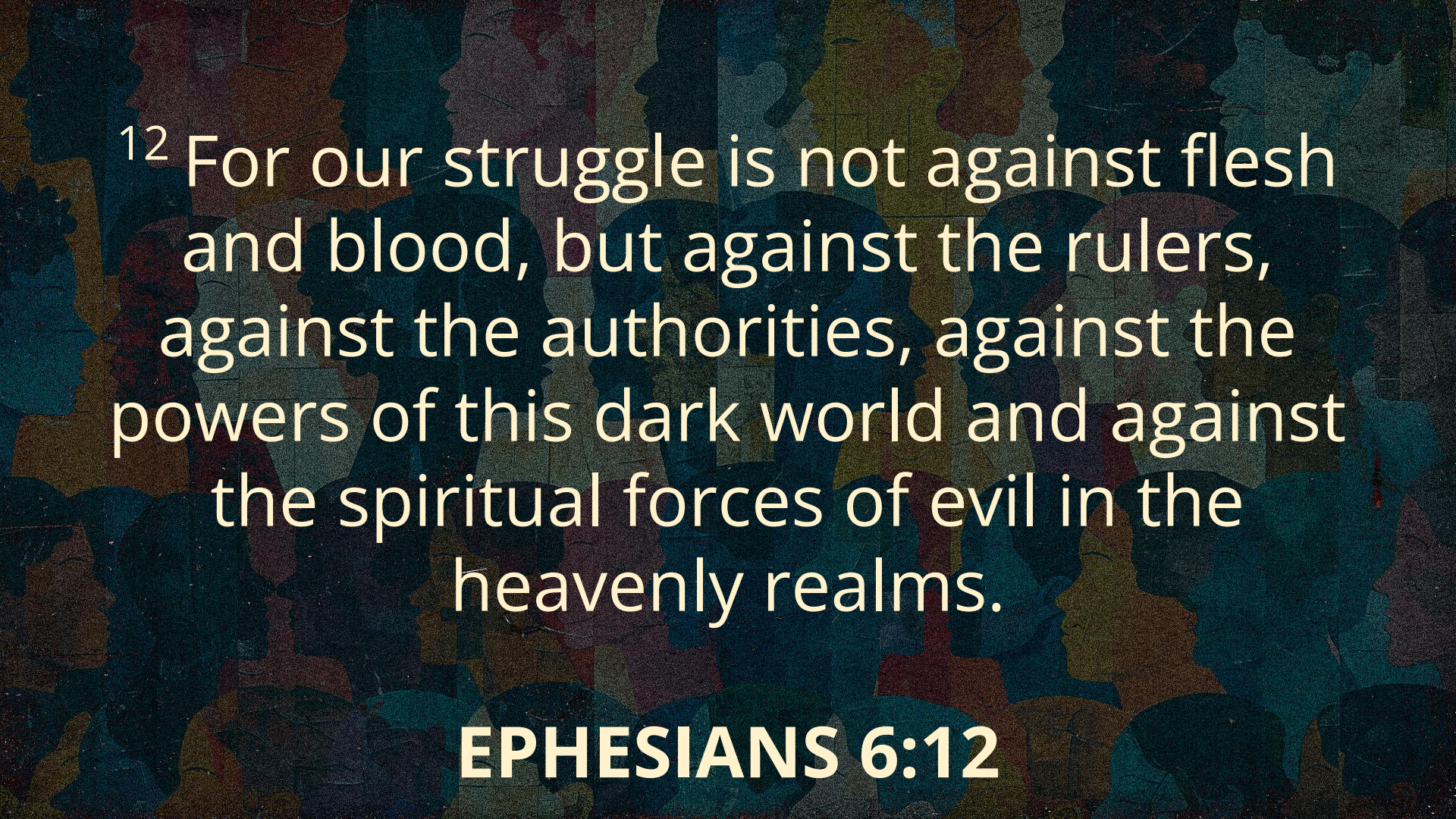


¹⁷ A friend loves at all times and a
brother is born for a time of adversity.

PROVERBS 17:17

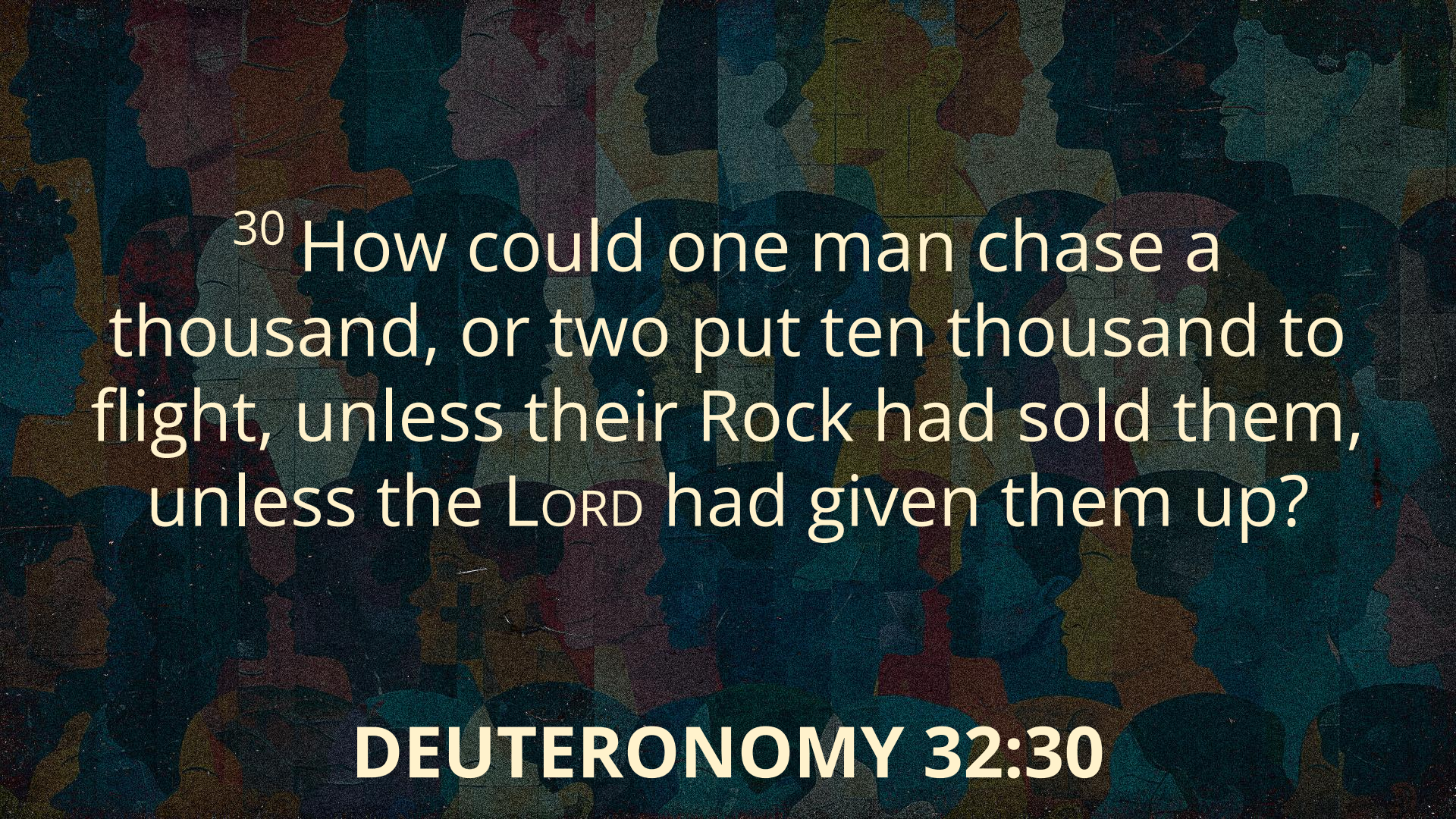


We need to see each other
as more than acquaintances,
but as part of a family.



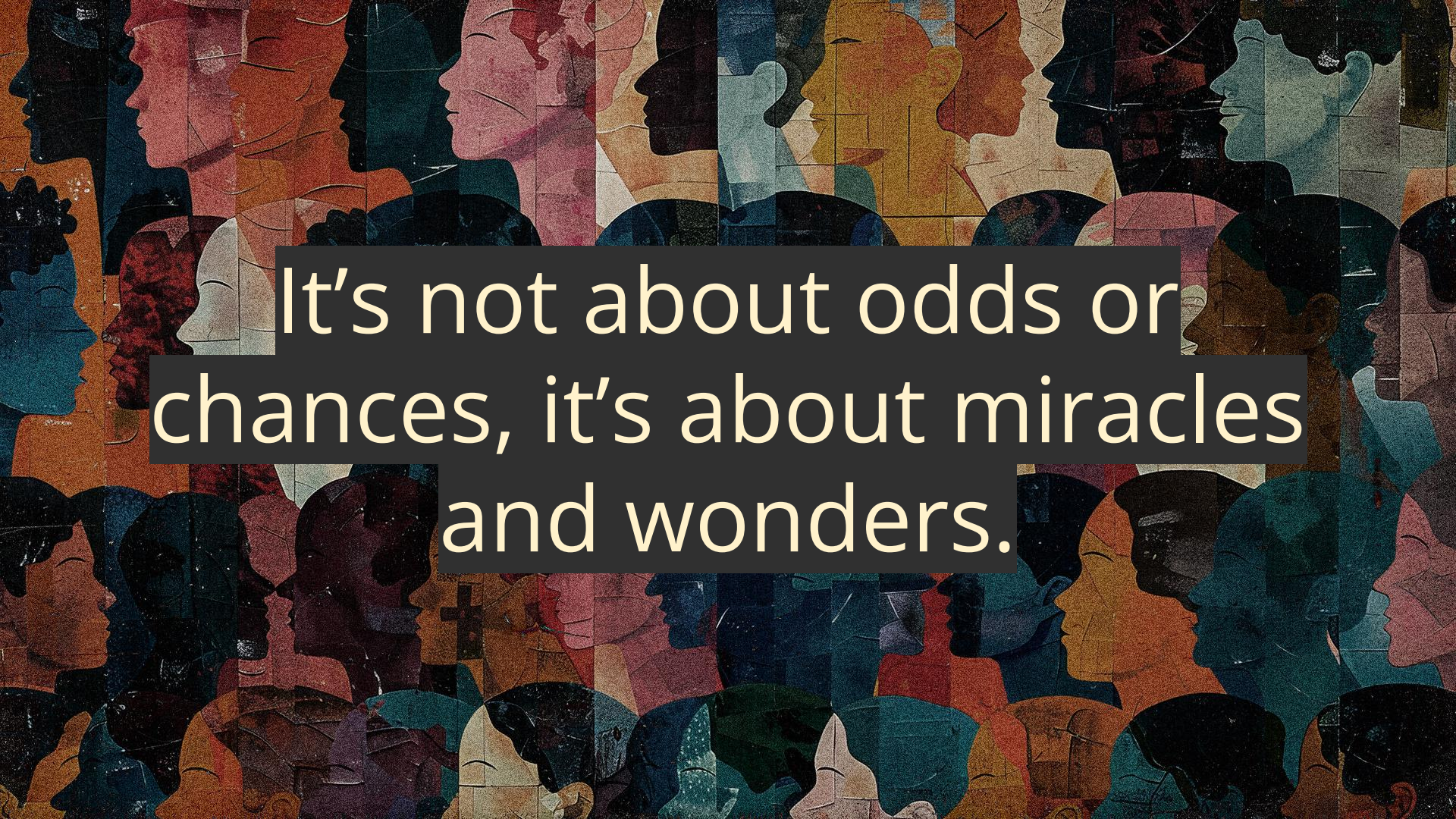
¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

EPHESIANS 6:12



³⁰ How could one man chase a thousand, or two put ten thousand to flight, unless their Rock had sold them, unless the LORD had given them up?

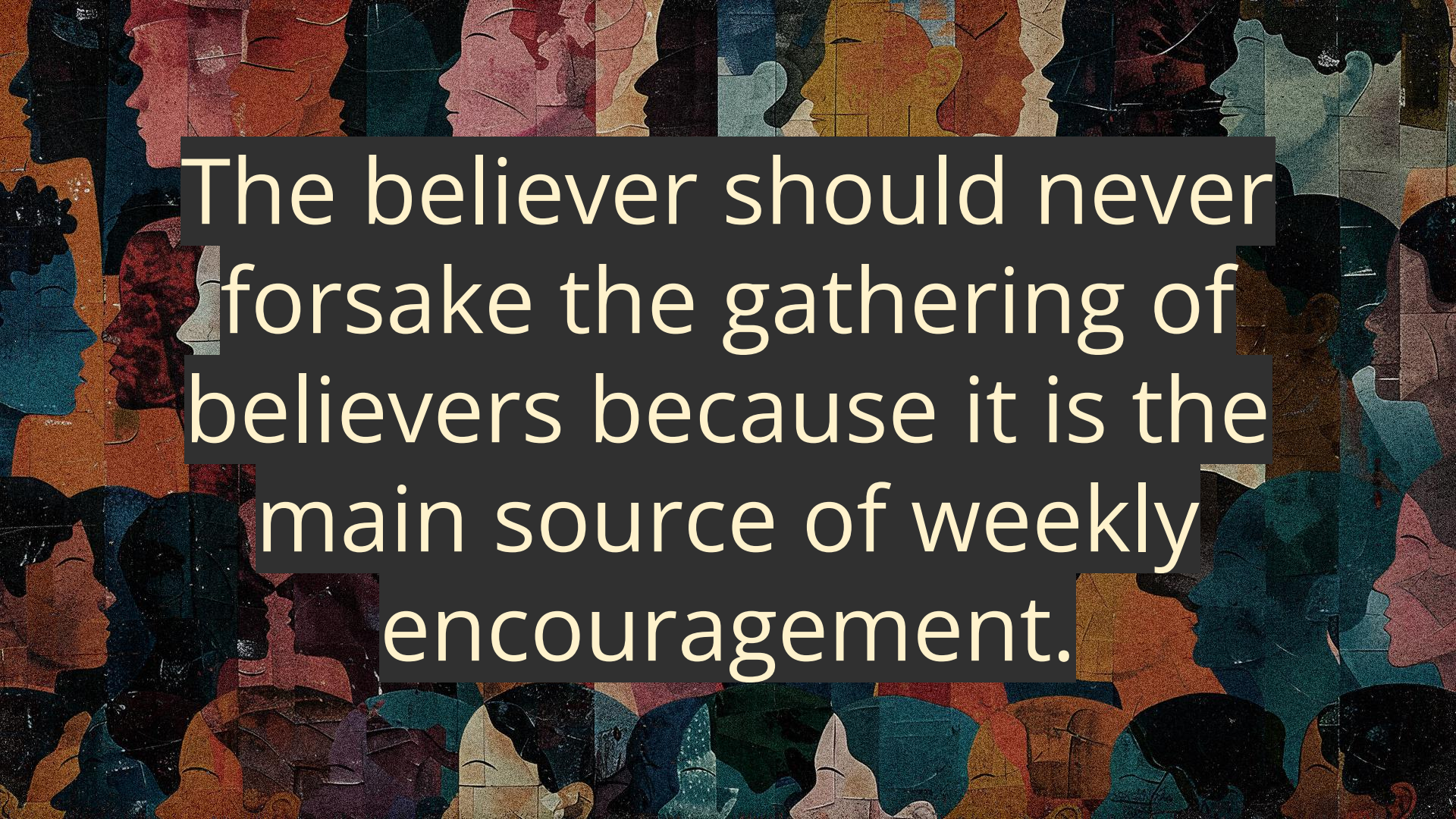
DEUTERONOMY 32:30



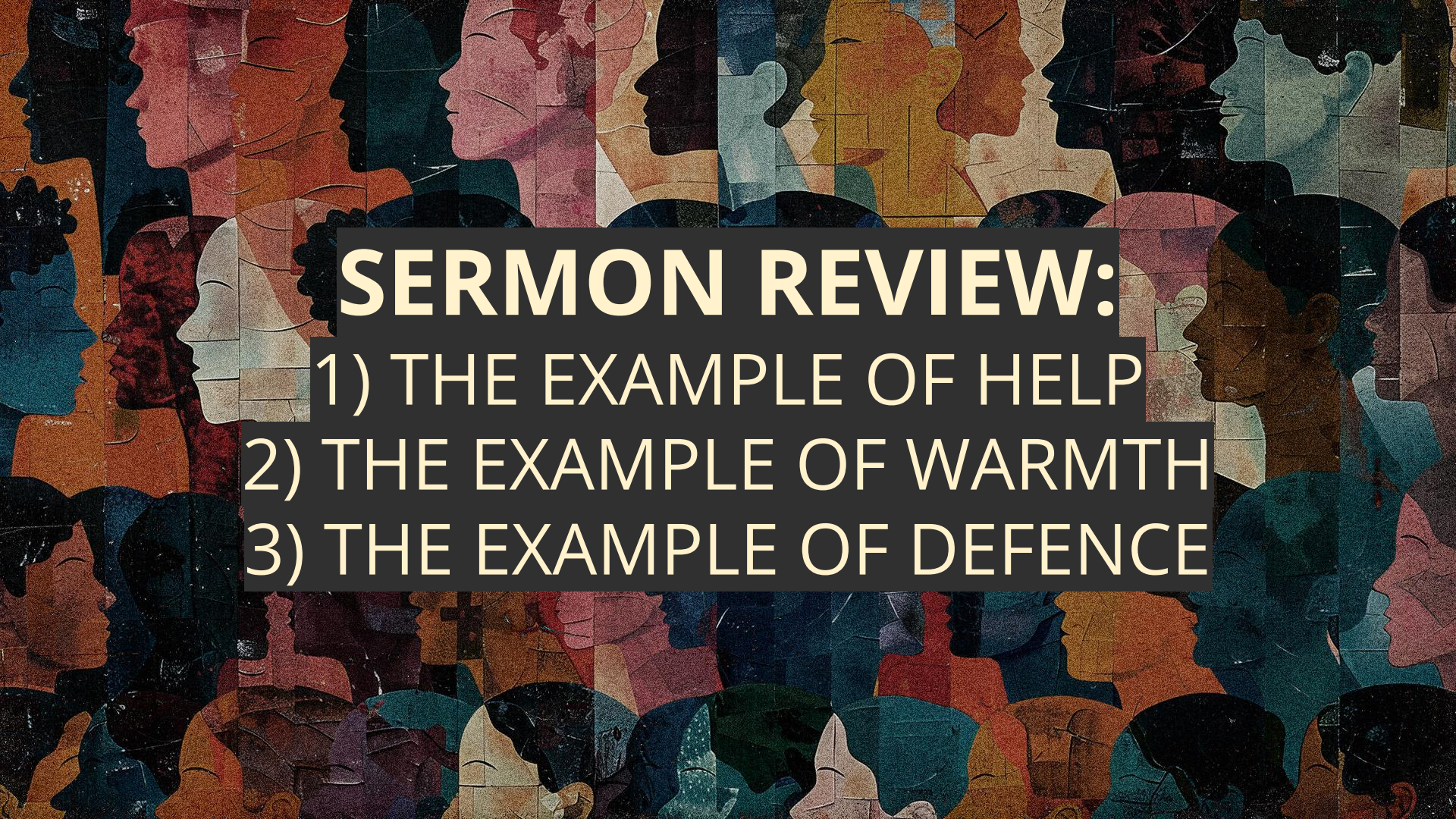
It's not about odds or
chances, it's about miracles
and wonders.



Who among you feel lonely?



The believer should never
forsake the gathering of
believers because it is the
main source of weekly
encouragement.



SERMON REVIEW:

- 1) THE EXAMPLE OF HELP
- 2) THE EXAMPLE OF WARMTH
- 3) THE EXAMPLE OF DEFENCE



BELOVED