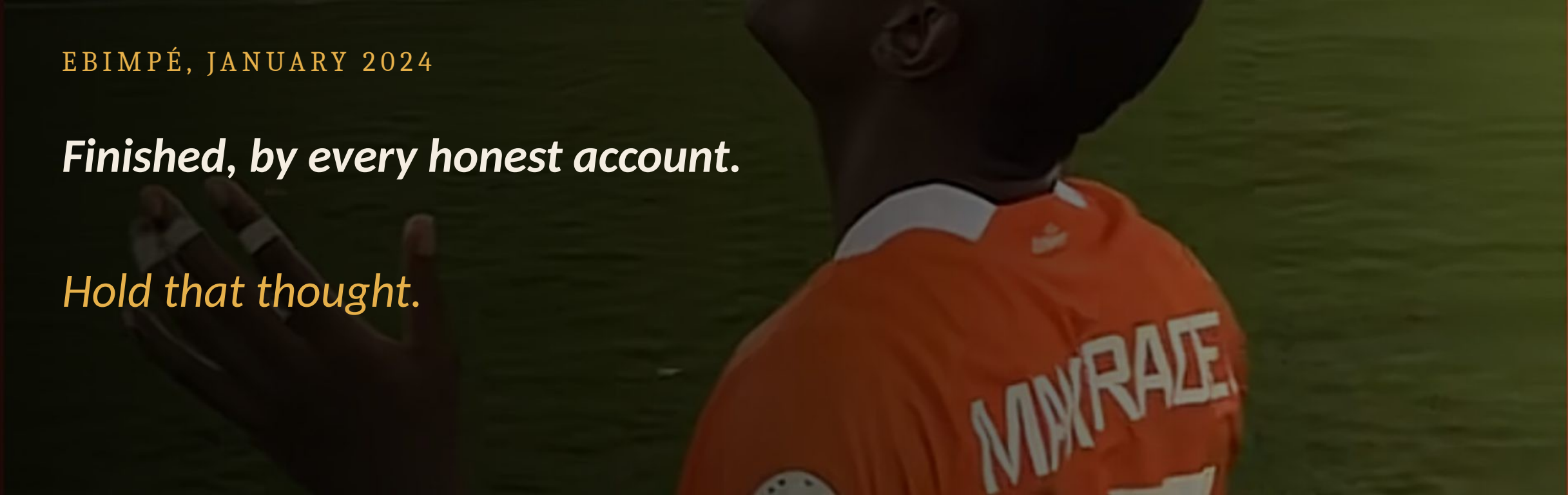


SUNDAY, 11 OCTOBER 2026

Not Meant to Walk Alone

The fellowship that makes us grow

Acts 2:42-47 · 1 Corinthians 12:12-27 · Hebrews 10:19-25



EBIMPÉ, JANUARY 2024

Finished, by every honest account.

Hold that thought.



A QUESTION TO ANSWER HONESTLY

If you did not come to church next Sunday, who in this room would notice?

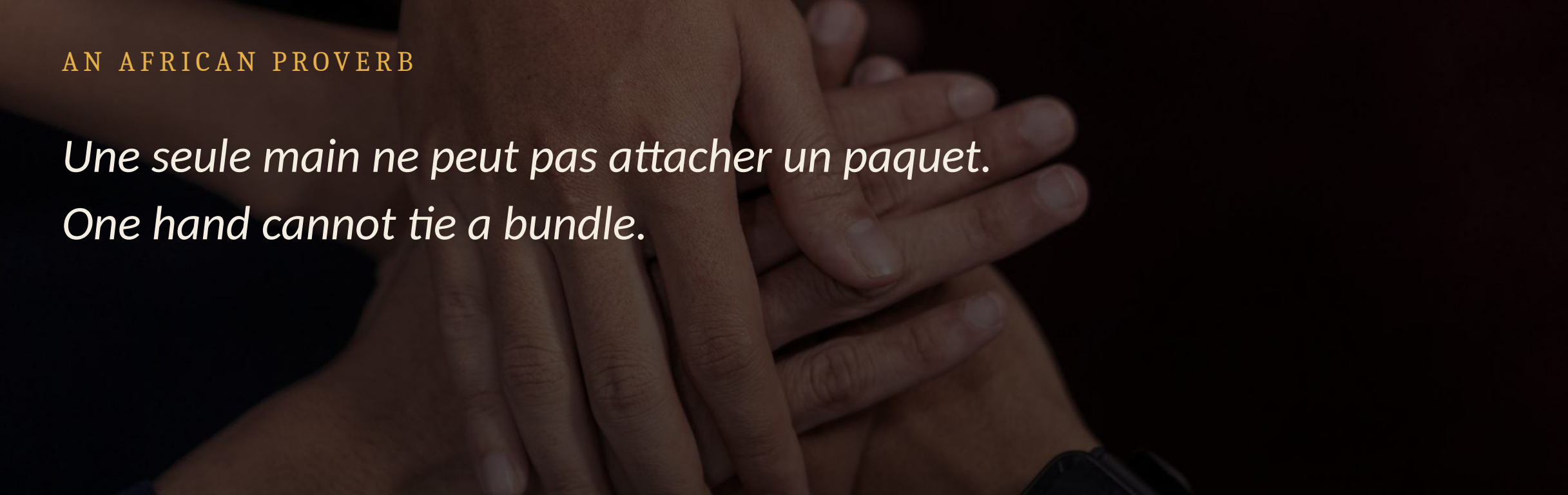
Full churches, thin relationships

Crowds
without community

Services
without sharing

Worship
without the relationships in which God grows a person

God never designed you to grow alone.



AN AFRICAN PROVERB

Une seule main ne peut pas attacher un paquet.

One hand cannot tie a bundle.

Where we are going

1 The Pattern

Fellowship was the first church's way of life

Acts 2:42-47

2 The Principle

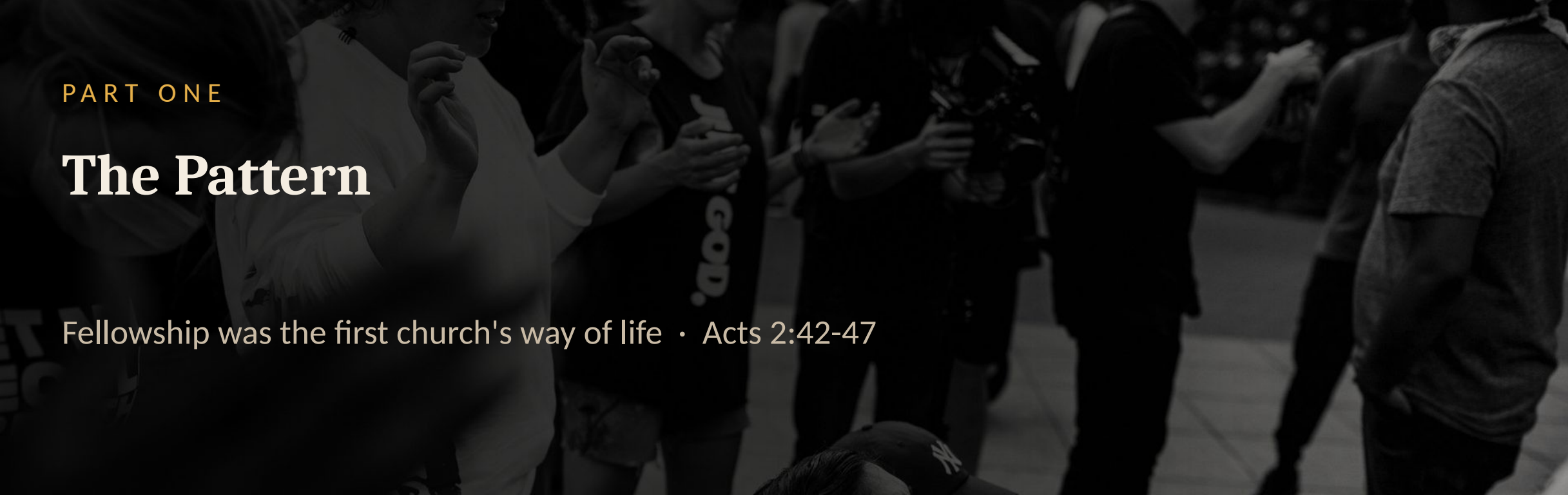
You are a part of a body, not a spectator at an event

1 Corinthians 12:12-27

3 The Perseverance

Draw near, hold on, don't give up on each other

Hebrews 10:19-25



PART ONE

The Pattern

Fellowship was the first church's way of life · Acts 2:42-47



ACTS 2:42-43 · NIV

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles.

ACTS 2:42-43 · NIV

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles.



ACTS 2:44-45 · NIV

All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need.

ACTS 2:44-45 · NIV

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ACTS 2:46 · NIV

Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts,

ACTS 2:46 · NIV

Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts,

ACTS 2:47 · NIV

praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.



ACTS 2:47 · NIV

praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Devoted, not dabbling

The apostles' teaching

The fellowship

The breaking of bread

Prayer

Shared life and shared meals: the two the modern church has quietly let slip.

Koinonia: a shared possession

koinos = common, shared

koinonia	What you have when two people hold something in common and therefore belong to each other because of it
1 John 1:3	Our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son

Fellowship is what happens when people who share Christ begin to share their lives.

Anything less is not fellowship. It is proximity.



1 JOHN 1:3 · NIV

We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ.

1 JOHN 1:3 · NIV

We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ.

JOHN 17:21 · NIV

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.

JOHN 17:21 · NIV

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.

The courtyard and the house

The temple courts

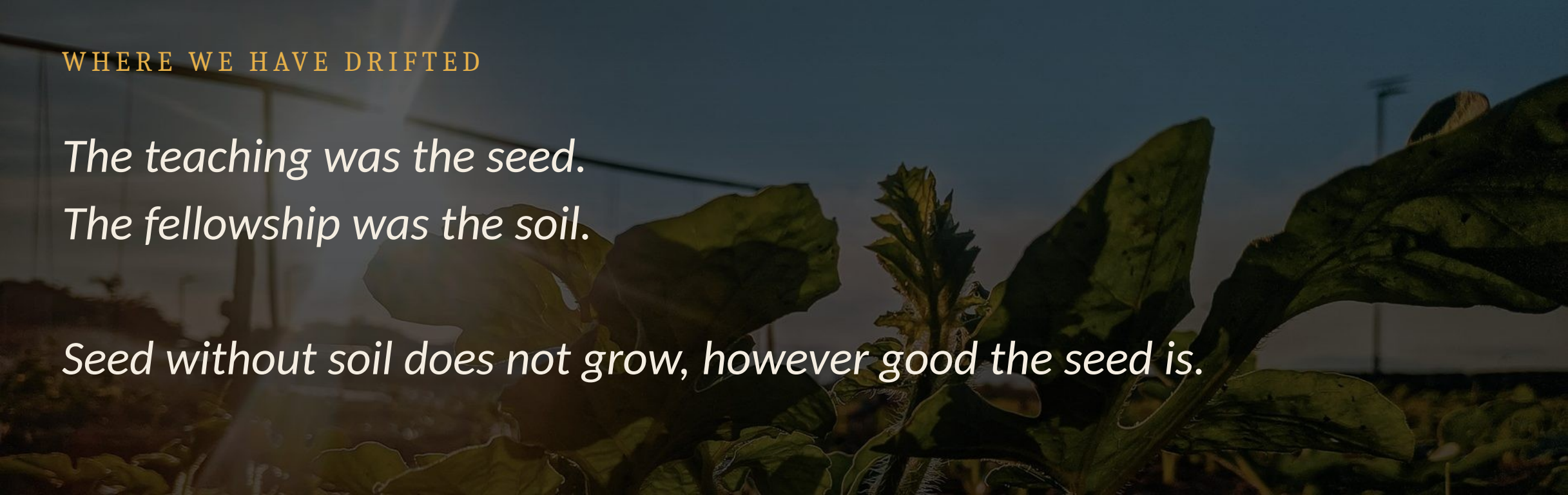
The big gathering. Teaching, worship with thousands, the wonders of God.

A crowd

The homes

The small gathering. A table, a handful of people who know your name, your story, your need.

A community



WHERE WE HAVE DRIFTED

The teaching was the seed.
The fellowship was the soil.

Seed without soil does not grow, however good the seed is.



PART TWO

The Principle

You are a part of a body, not a spectator at an event · 1 Corinthians 12:12-27



1 CORINTHIANS 12:12 · NIV

Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ.

1 CORINTHIANS 12:12 · NIV

Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ.



1 CORINTHIANS 12:13-14 · NIV

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.

1 CORINTHIANS 12:13-14 · NIV

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.


BELONGING IS A FACT BEFORE IT IS A FEELING
Church is not an event you go to.
It is a body you belong to.



EPHESIANS 2:14 · NIV

For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility,

EPHESIANS 2:14 · NIV

For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility,



1 CORINTHIANS 12:15 · NIV

Now if the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason stop being part of the body.

1 CORINTHIANS 12:15 · NIV

Now if the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason stop being part of the body.

1 CORINTHIANS 12:16 · NIV

And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason stop being part of the body.



1 CORINTHIANS 12:16 · NIV

And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason stop being part of the body.

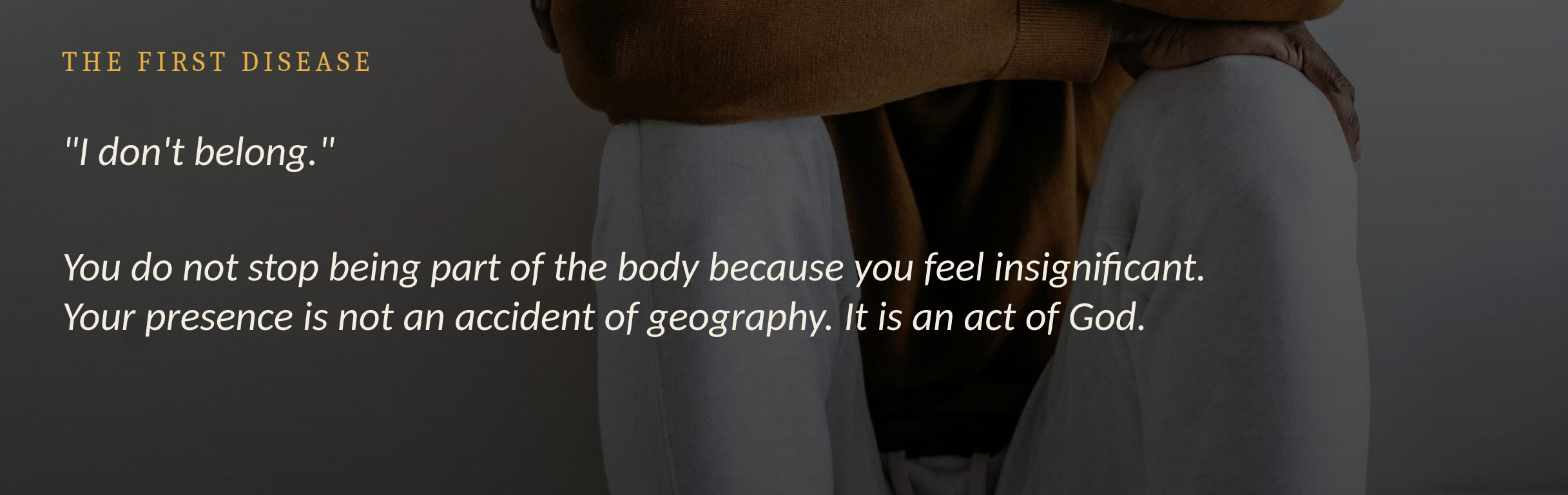


1 CORINTHIANS 12:18 · NIV

But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be.

1 CORINTHIANS 12:18 · NIV

But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be.



THE FIRST DISEASE

"I don't belong."

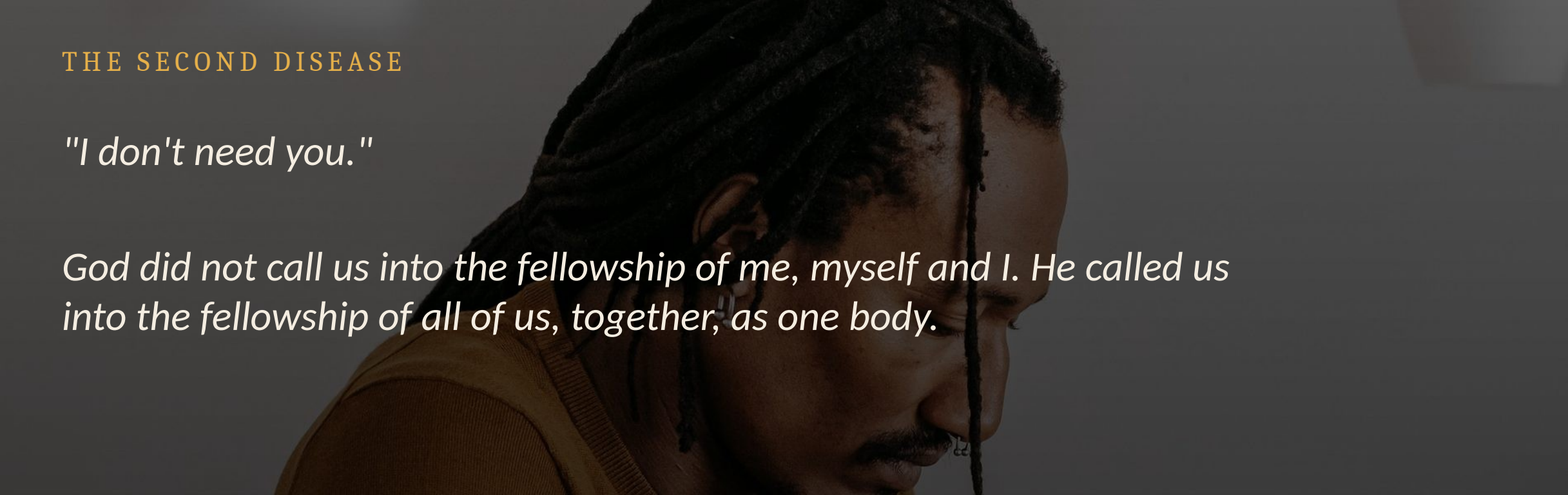
You do not stop being part of the body because you feel insignificant.
Your presence is not an accident of geography. It is an act of God.

1 CORINTHIANS 12:21-22 · NIV

The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" And the head cannot say to the feet, "I don't need you!" On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable,

1 CORINTHIANS 12:21-22 · NIV

The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" And the head cannot say to the feet, "I don't need you!" On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable,



THE SECOND DISEASE

"I don't need you."

God did not call us into the fellowship of me, myself and I. He called us into the fellowship of all of us, together, as one body.



EPHESIANS 4:15 · NIV

Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ.

EPHESIANS 4:15 · NIV

Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ.



EPHESIANS 4:16 · NIV

From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

EPHESIANS 4:16 · NIV

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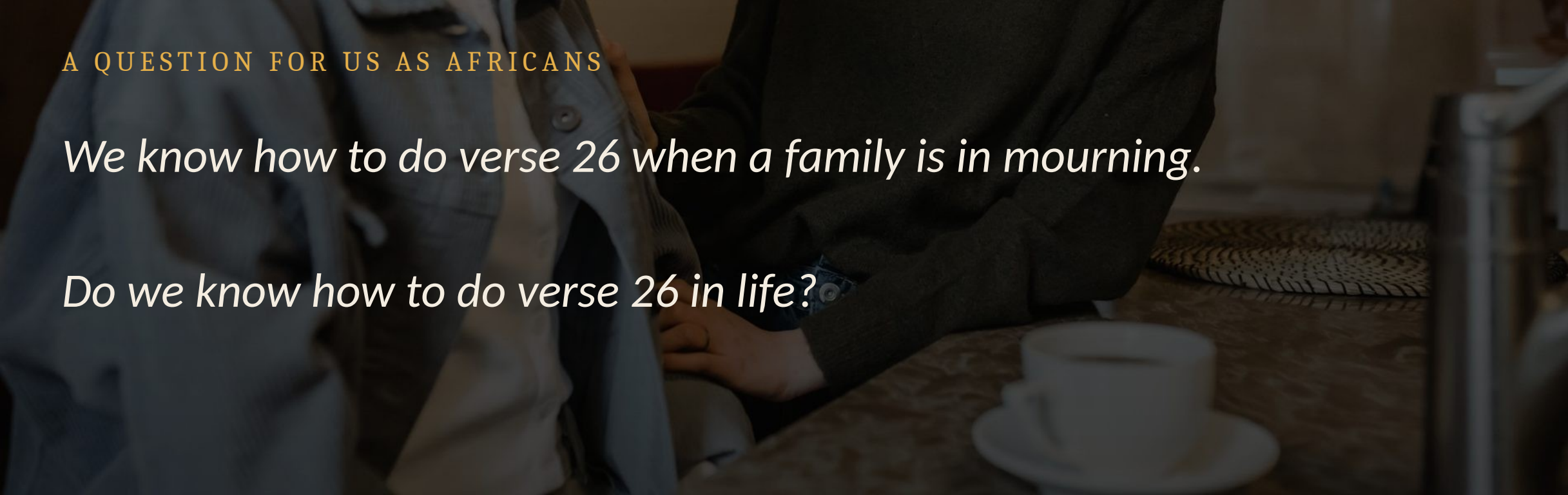


1 CORINTHIANS 12:26-27 · NIV

If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it. Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.

1 CORINTHIANS 12:26-27 · NIV

If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it. Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.



A QUESTION FOR US AS AFRICANS

We know how to do verse 26 when a family is in mourning.

Do we know how to do verse 26 in life?



1 CORINTHIANS 12:27 · NLT

All of you together are Christ's body, and each of you is a part of it.

A team that nearly went home



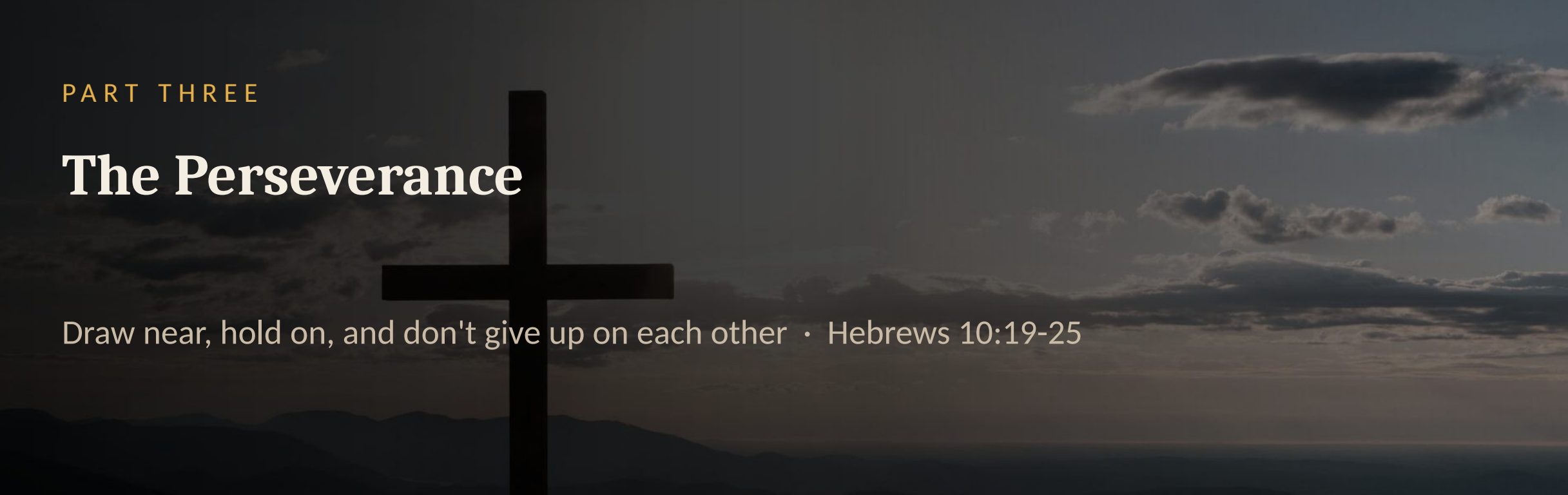


EBIMPÉ, FEBRUARY 2024

Remember Ebimpé. Nobody wins alone.

Eleven individuals became one body: each part doing its work, suffering together, rejoicing together.

The Christian life is not a solo sport. Stop trying to play it like one.



PART THREE

The Perseverance

Draw near, hold on, and don't give up on each other · Hebrews 10:19-25

HEBREWS 10:19 · NIV

Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus,

HEBREWS 10:19 · NIV

Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus,

HEBREWS 10:20-21 · NIV

by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, and since we have a great priest over the house of God,



HEBREWS 10:20-21 · NIV

by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, and since we have a great priest over the house of God,



HEBREWS 10:22 · NIV

let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.

HEBREWS 10:22 · NIV

let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.



HEBREWS 10:23 · NIV

Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.

HEBREWS 10:23 · NIV

Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.



HEBREWS 10:24 · NIV

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

HEBREWS 10:24 · NIV

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

HEBREWS 10:25 · NIV

not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.



HEBREWS 10:25 · NIV

not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Three times: "Let us"

v. 22

Let us draw near

Access to God is the foundation of fellowship with each other

v. 23

Let us hold unswervingly

He who promised is faithful

v. 24-25

Let us consider one another

The road is too long to walk alone

Two hammer blows

Consider one another

Study one another, not glance. You cannot consider someone from across a room once a week. And spur one another on: iron sharpens iron by contact, not by proximity.

Not giving up meeting together

Nobody decides to abandon the fellowship. It becomes a habit. One Sunday becomes two, two becomes a month, and the month becomes a way of life.



PROVERBS 27:17 · NIV

As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.

PROVERBS 27:17 · NIV

As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.

A SERMON ON YOUR PHONE CANNOT CONSIDER YOU

Online teaching can feed your mind.
Only the gathered body can form your life.

A customer never grows, because a customer never gives.



ECCLESIASTES 4:9-10 · NIV

Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: 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 4:9-10 · NIV

Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: 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.

WHAT DO WE DO NOW?

From the Courtyard to the House

Three things to do, one picture: invite one person to your table this week.

Three things to do

1

Come to the house

Join an Area Fellowship. Open your table. Expect the Spirit in the room. Make your presence a commitment, not a mood.

2

Know and be known

Three names, three stories. Let someone in (James 5:16). Forgive as the Lord forgave you (Colossians 3:13).

3

Carry and be carried

Carry a burden that is not yours (Galatians 6:2). Wash feet (John 13:14-15). Do your part (Ephesians 4:16).

This week: invite one person you do not know well to your table, and ask them what they are carrying.

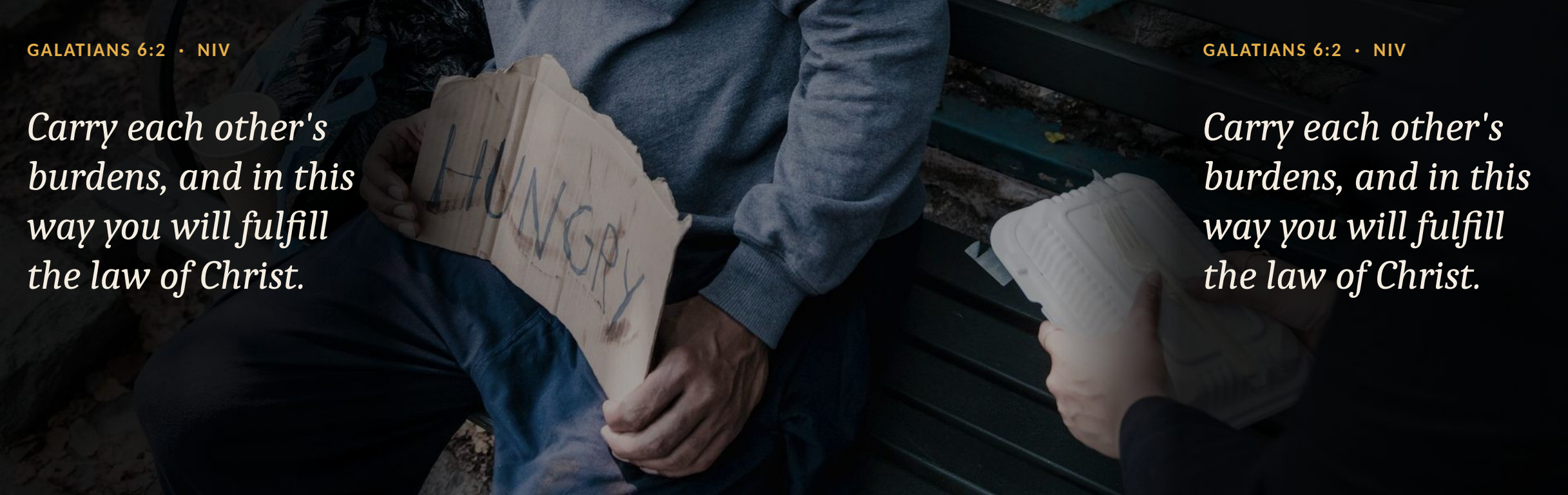


JAMES 5:16 · NIV

Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.

JAMES 5:16 · NIV

Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.



GALATIANS 6:2 · NIV

Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

GALATIANS 6:2 · NIV

Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.



JOHN 13:14-15 · NIV

Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.

JOHN 13:14-15 · NIV

Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.



GALATIANS 6:2 AND 6:5 · NIV

Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. ... for each one should carry their own load.

Nobody is a project, nobody is a bank

To the brother with means

What this body needs from you first is not your account: your presence, your time, your table, your name beside a younger man's name.

To the brother with little

You are not coming to the table empty: your prayer, your hands, your story, your faith. The Macedonians gave out of extreme poverty (2 Corinthians 8:2).

Koinonia shares burdens. It does not transfer loads. Real need goes to your Area Fellowship leaders, so friendship can stay friendship.



JOHN 13:34-35 • NIV

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

JOHN 13:34-35 • NIV

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."



BEFORE WE CLOSE

The Fellowship Behind the Fellowship

The horizontal comes from the vertical



JOHN 14:6 · NIV

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

JOHN 14:6 · NIV

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

One invitation, two kinds of people

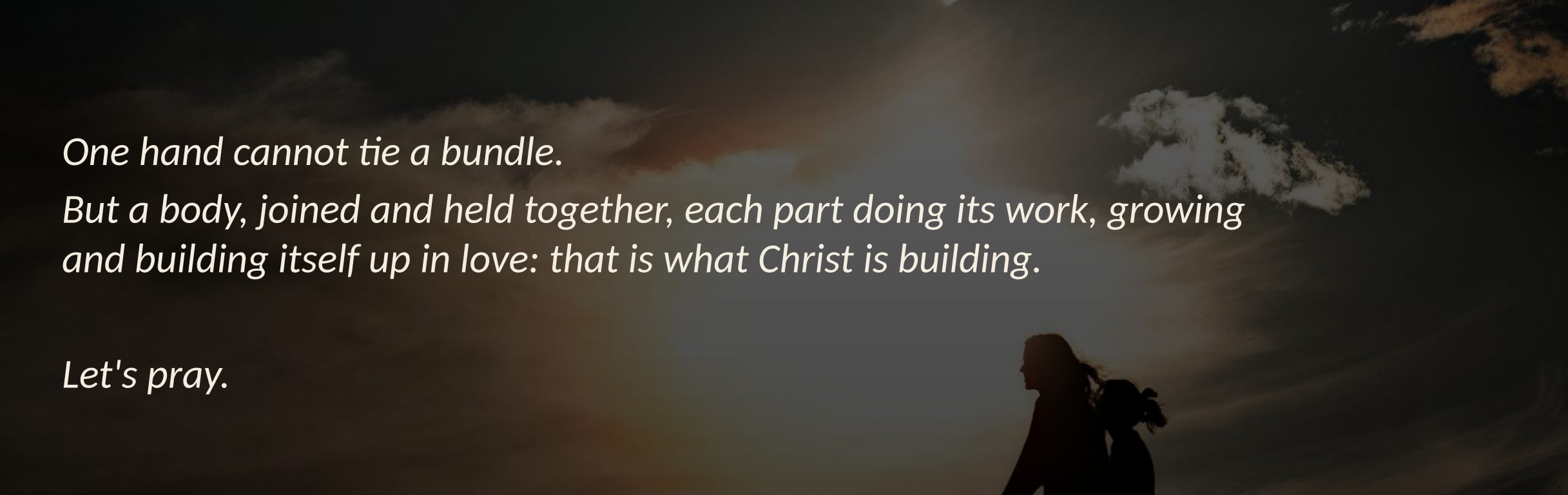
Coming to Christ

Turn from your sin and trust Him. Raise your hand, then come to the front. Online: write "near" in the comments.

Coming back to the fire

Not just to the building. To the people. Stand where you are and name the person you are inviting to your table this week.

The body you are joining and the body you are rejoining is the same body.


One hand cannot tie a bundle.
But a body, joined and held together, each part doing its work, growing and building itself up in love: that is what Christ is building.
Let's pray.

THE DOXOLOGY · C. 1695

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise Him, all creatures here below;
praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen.



THE DOXOLOGY · C. 1695

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
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