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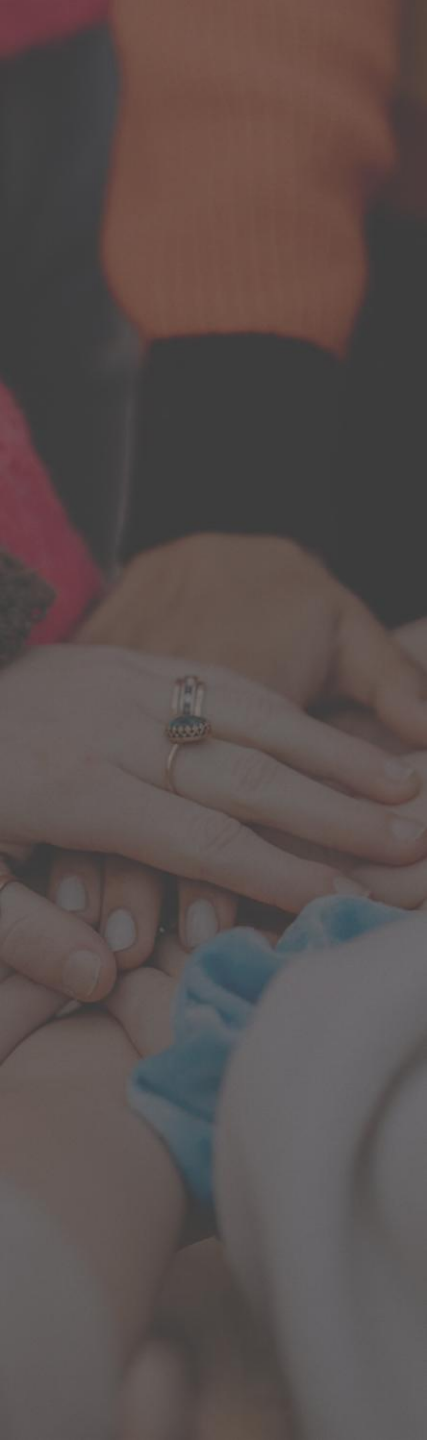
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What do we mean when we use the word “church”?

- *I am created with an inner longing for purpose and meaning*



New Testament Christians had absolutely no concept of 'lone rangers' who see themselves as part of the great 'universal church', but who cannot, for some reason or other, settle down into a local expression of it. You can't have one without the other.

Why do I need to be part of a local church?

- *What do we mean when we use the word “church”?*



**You were
not created
to be alone.**

The concept of a “local church” is all over the New Testament!

- *What do we mean when we use the word “church”?*
- *Why do I need to be part of a local church?*

Greet Priscilla and Aquila, my co-workers in Christ Jesus. They risked their lives for me.

Not only I but all the churches of the Gentiles are grateful to them.

Greet also the church that meets at their house...



Have confidence in your leaders and submit to their authority, because they keep watch over you as those who must give an account.

Do this so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no benefit to you.



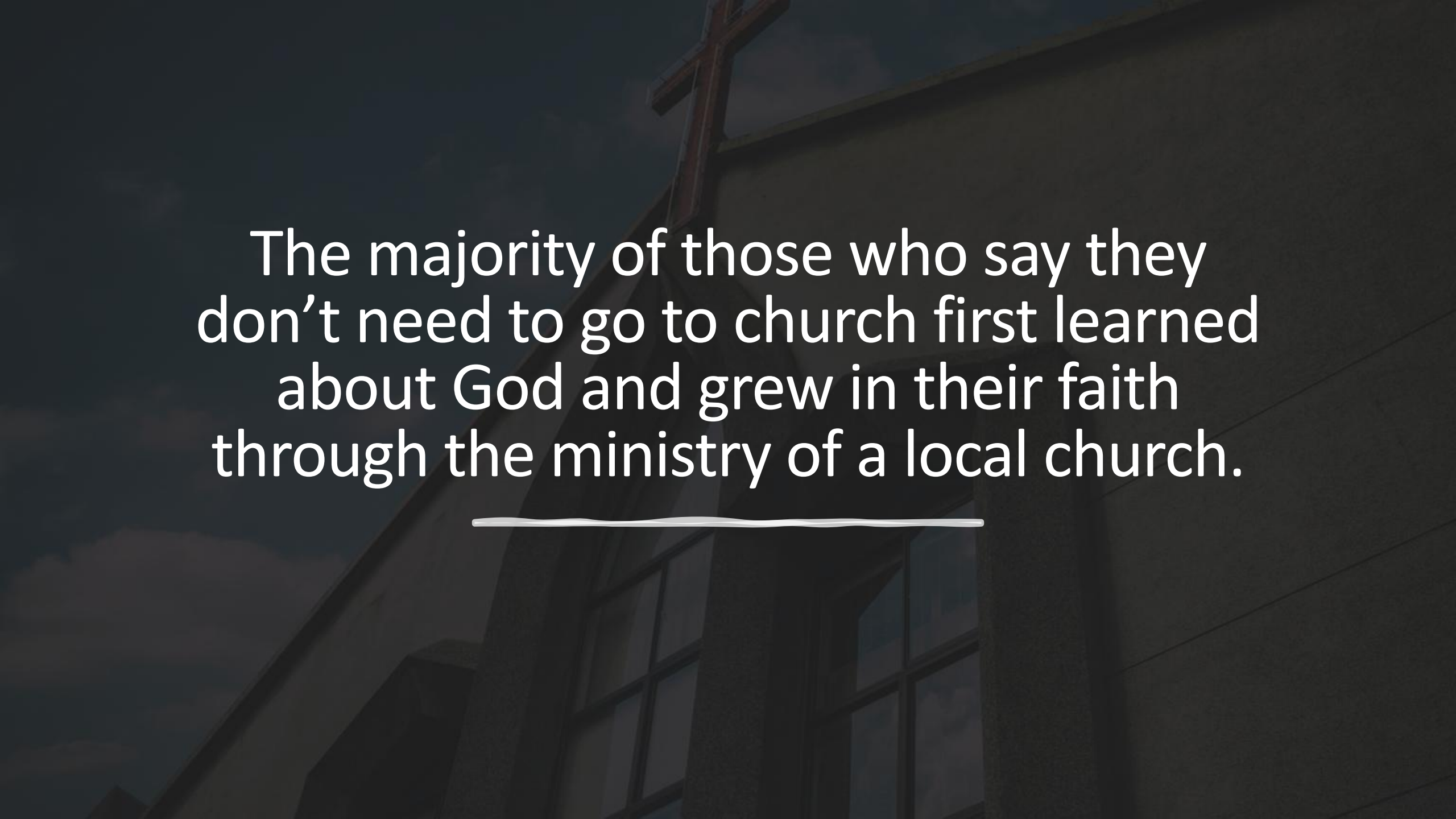
As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him— you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 2:4–5 (NIV)

WE THE
CHURCH



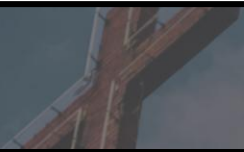




The majority of those who say they
don't need to go to church first learned
about God and grew in their faith
through the ministry of a local church.

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

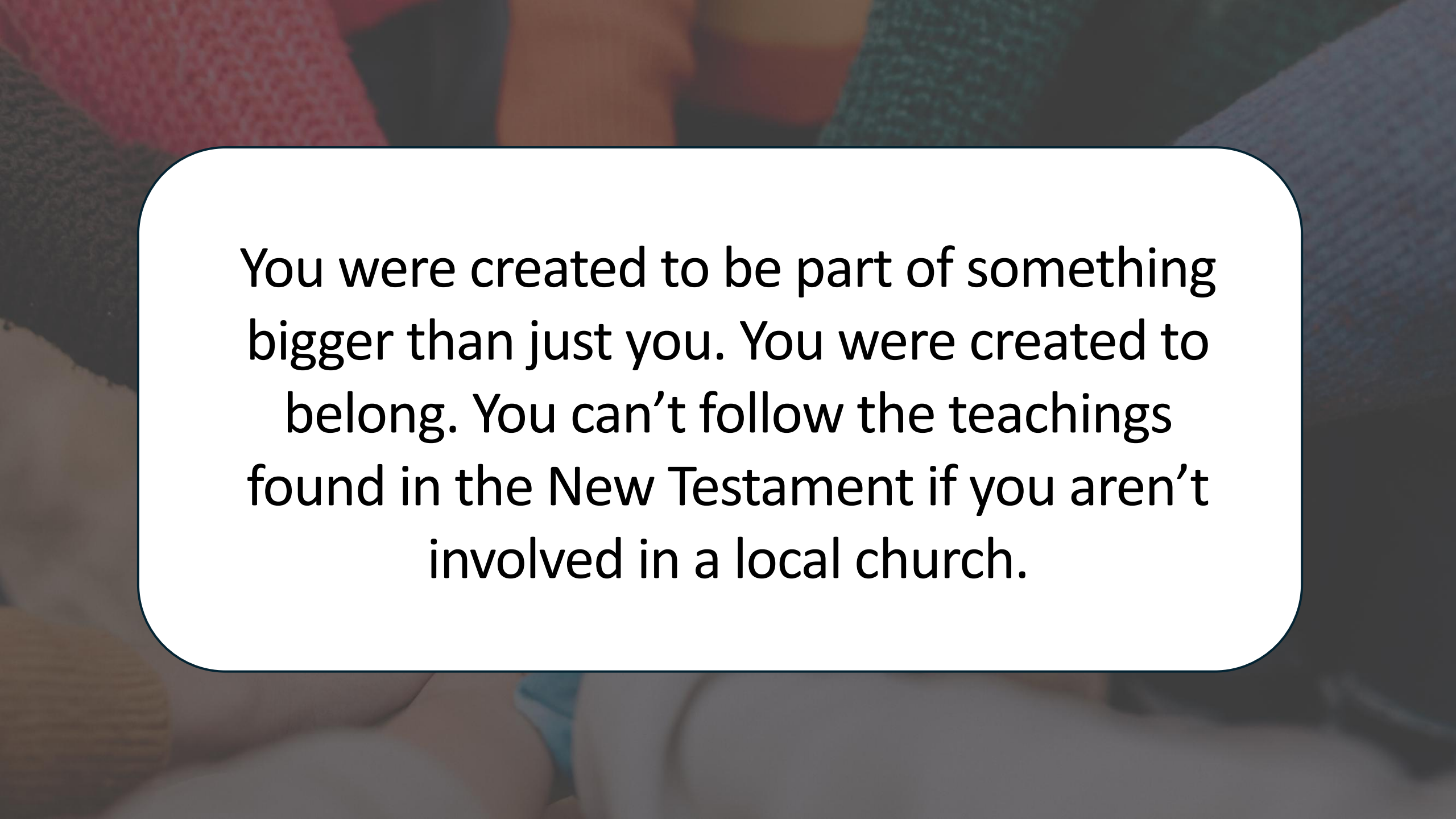
Hebrews 10:24–25 (NIV)

WE THE
CHURCH



A low-angle photograph of a church building with a large cross on its roof, set against a blue sky with clouds. The church has a modern, minimalist design with large, multi-paned windows and a light-colored facade. The text is overlaid in white, sans-serif font.

Church is not just for
communication; it is for
community.

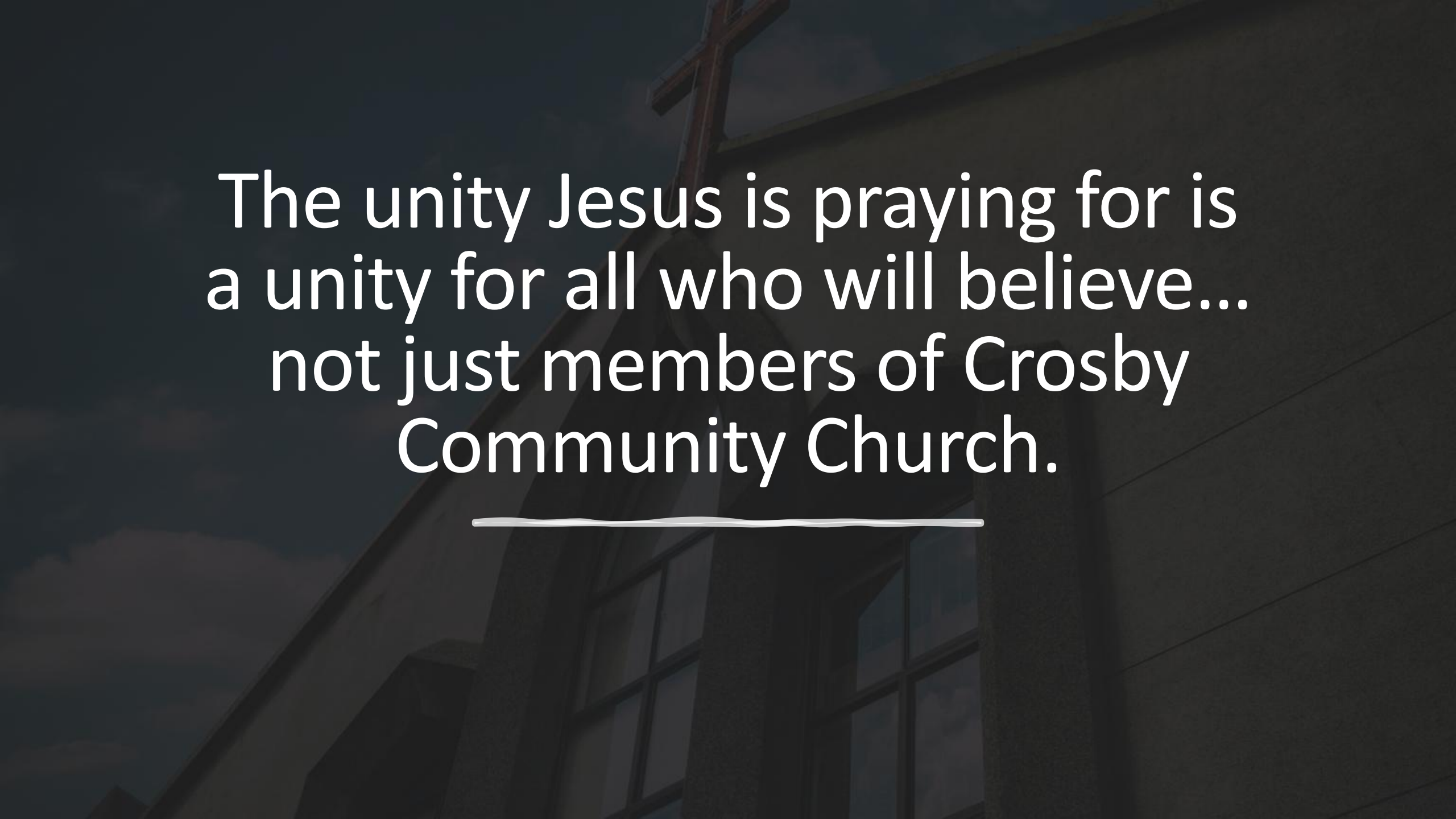
A blurred background image showing a group of people, likely in a church setting, with their hands raised in prayer or worship. The image is dark and out of focus, with a white text box overlaid in the center.

You were created to be part of something bigger than just you. You were created to belong. You can't follow the teachings found in the New Testament if you aren't involved in a local church.

Believers are also part of the Universal Church.

- *What do we mean when we use the word “church”?*
- *Why do I need to be part of a local church?*
- *The concept of a “local church” is all over the New Testament!*

“My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, 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.

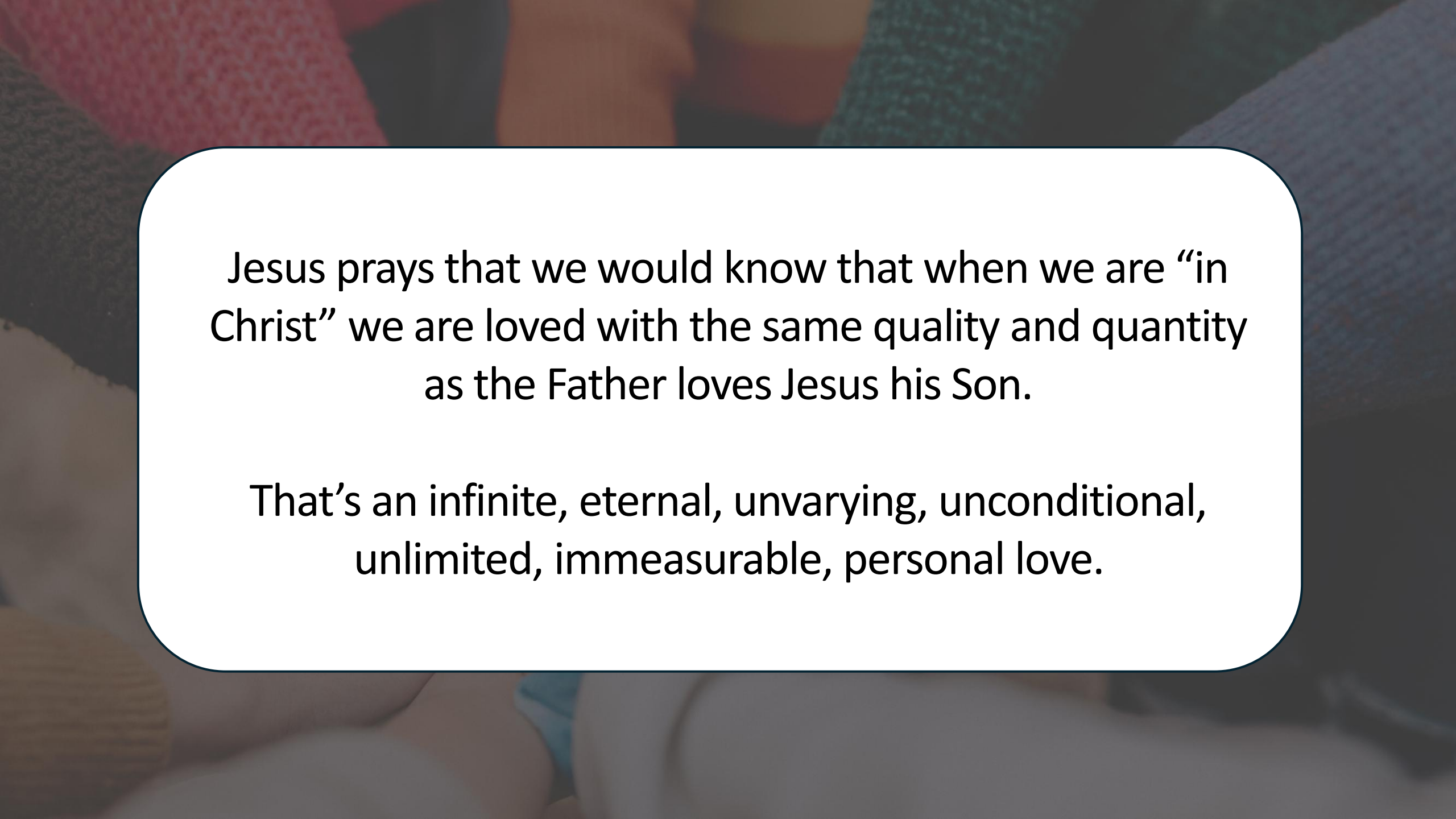


The unity Jesus is praying for is
a unity for all who will believe...
not just members of Crosby
Community Church.

I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one—I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

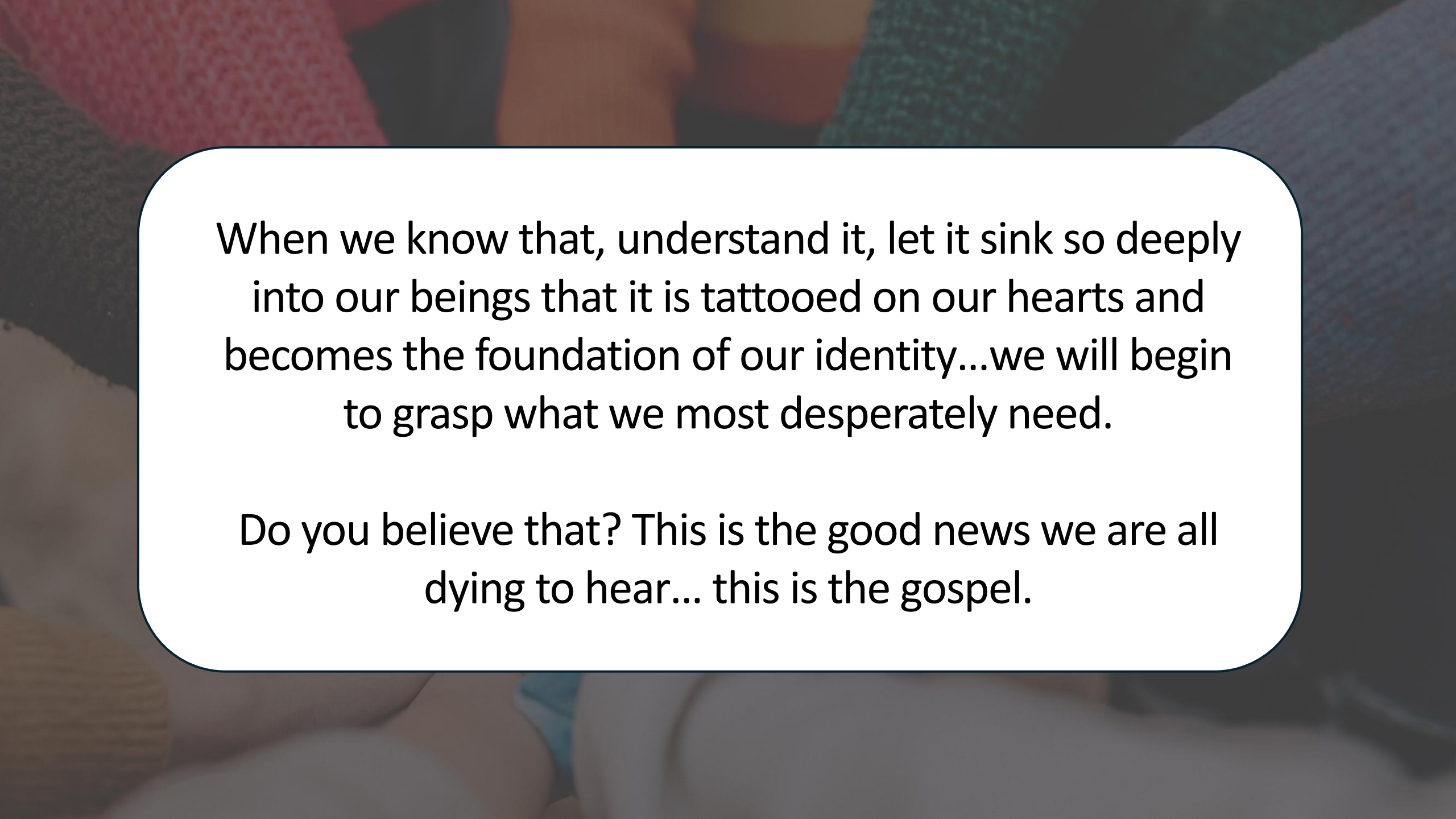
Jesus came to live
the life we should
have lived and die the
death we should
have died so that we
could have new life
here and eternal life
beyond.





Jesus prays that we would know that when we are “in Christ” we are loved with the same quality and quantity as the Father loves Jesus his Son.

That’s an infinite, eternal, unvarying, unconditional, unlimited, immeasurable, personal love.

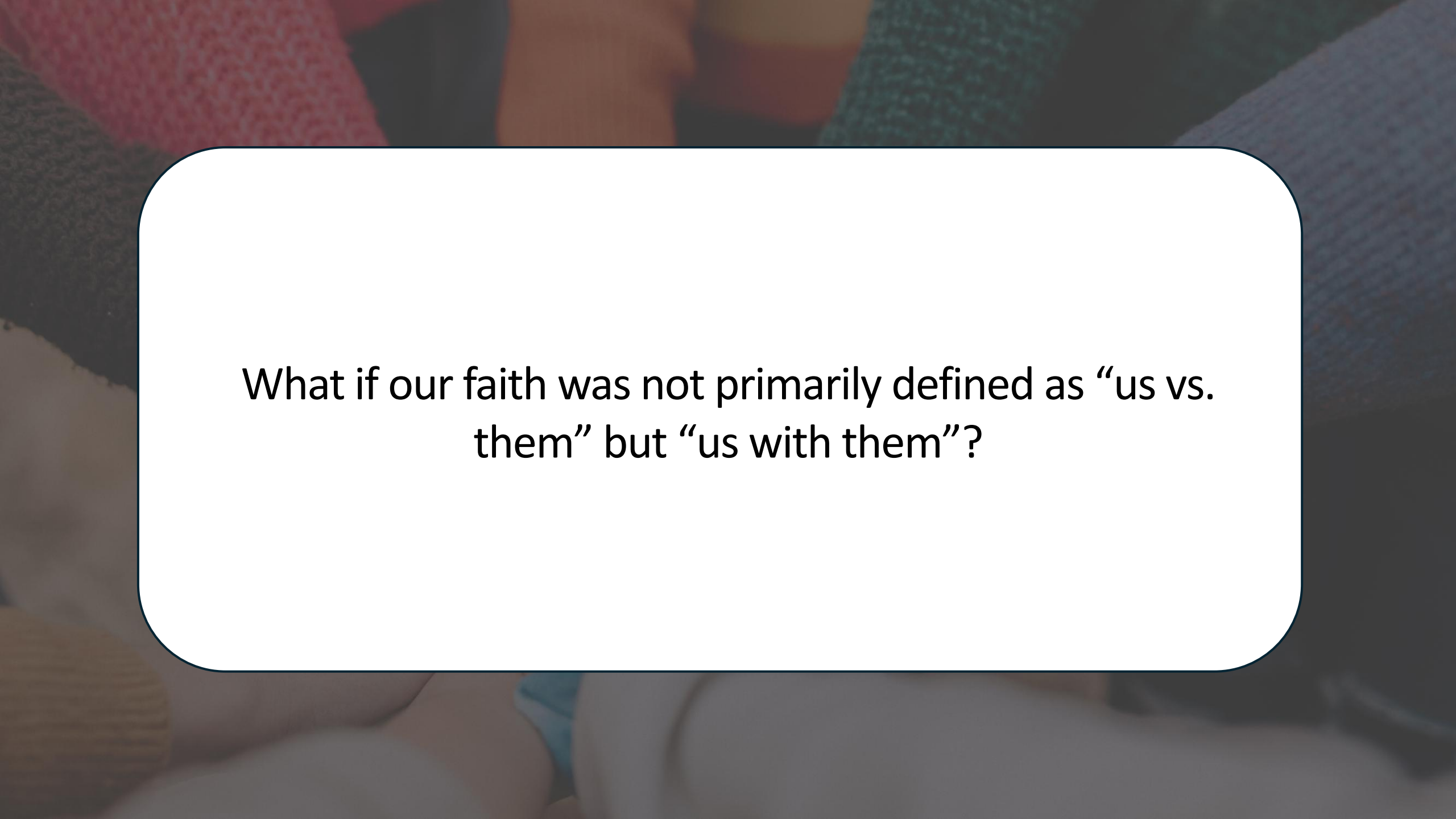
A blurred background image showing a crowd of people. In the upper left, a person is wearing a red shirt. In the center, a person's arm is visible. To the right, a person is wearing a blue shirt. The overall scene suggests a public gathering or event.

When we know that, understand it, let it sink so deeply into our beings that it is tattooed on our hearts and becomes the foundation of our identity...we will begin to grasp what we most desperately need.

Do you believe that? This is the good news we are all dying to hear... this is the gospel.

A background image showing a group of people from the chest up, holding hands in a circle. They are wearing various colored sweaters (red, blue, grey, white). In the center of the image is a large white rounded rectangle with a thin dark border, containing the text.

What would happen if the churches in our community
became one church with one mission to reach people
with one great gospel?

A blurred background image showing a group of people, likely a diverse group, holding hands in a circle. The focus is on the hands and forearms, creating a sense of unity and community. The colors are muted, with shades of red, blue, and grey visible.

What if our faith was not primarily defined as “us vs. them” but “us with them”?

WE THE CHURCH

- *What do we mean when we use the word “church”?*
- *Why do I need to be part of a local church?*
- *The concept of a “local church” is all over the New Testament!*
- *Believers are also part of the Universal Church*



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