

**United Together Because We Are
United To Christ!**

John 17:20-23

¹I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you (plural, “you all”) to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ²with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³eager to maintain (guard/protect/defend) the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

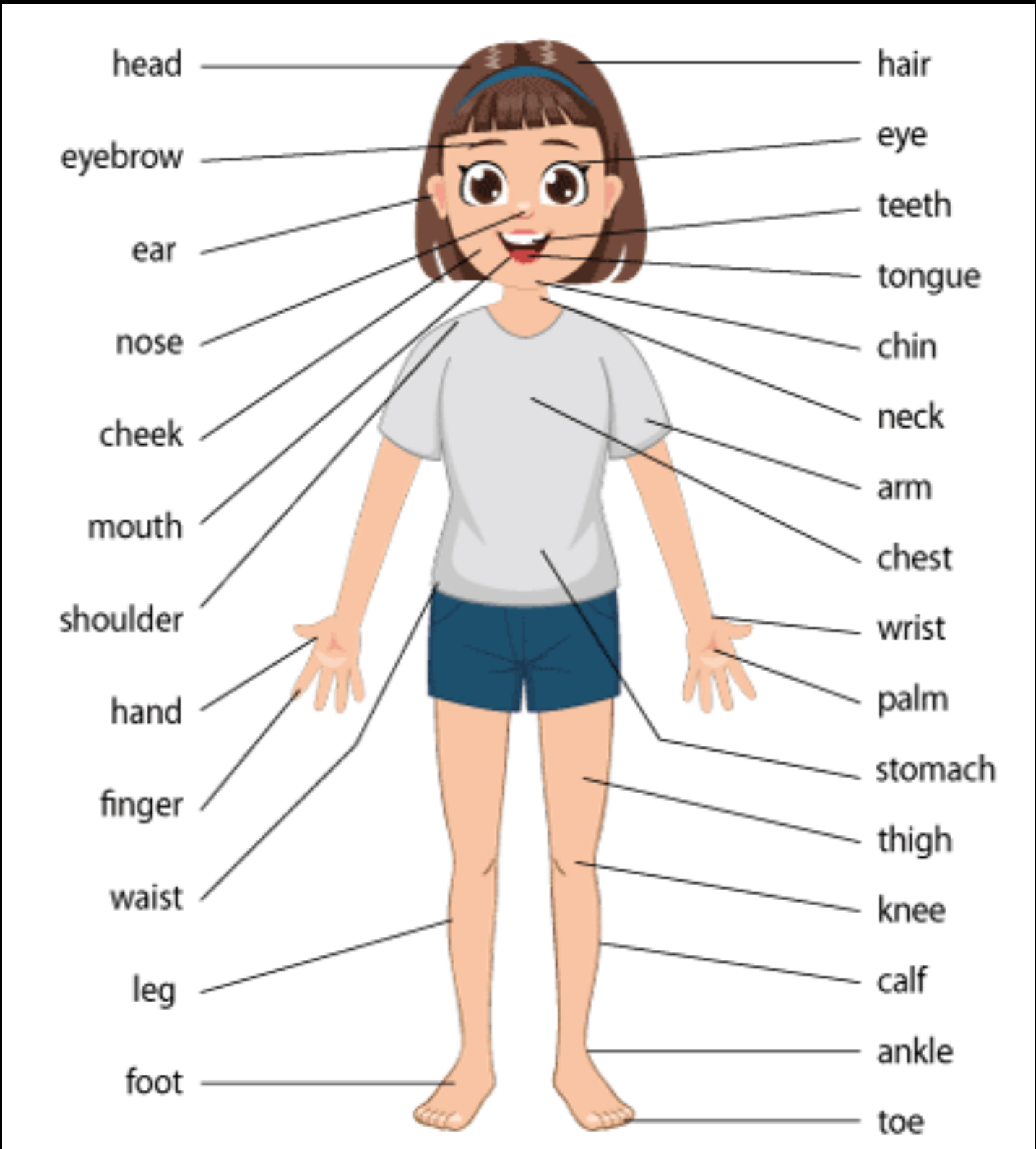
- *Ephesians 4:1-3*

²⁰I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, ²¹that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²²The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, ²³I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.

- *John 17:20-23*







Main Idea: We are in union with each other because we are in union with Christ.

John 17:20-23:

- vs 20: What is the basis of our unity?
- vs 21-22: What is the nature of our unity?
- vs 23: What is at stake in our unity?

What is the basis of our unity?

²⁰I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word,

- John 17:20

⁸For I have given them the words that you gave me, and they have received them and have come to know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me.

- *John 17:8*

¹⁴I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world...
¹⁷Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them.

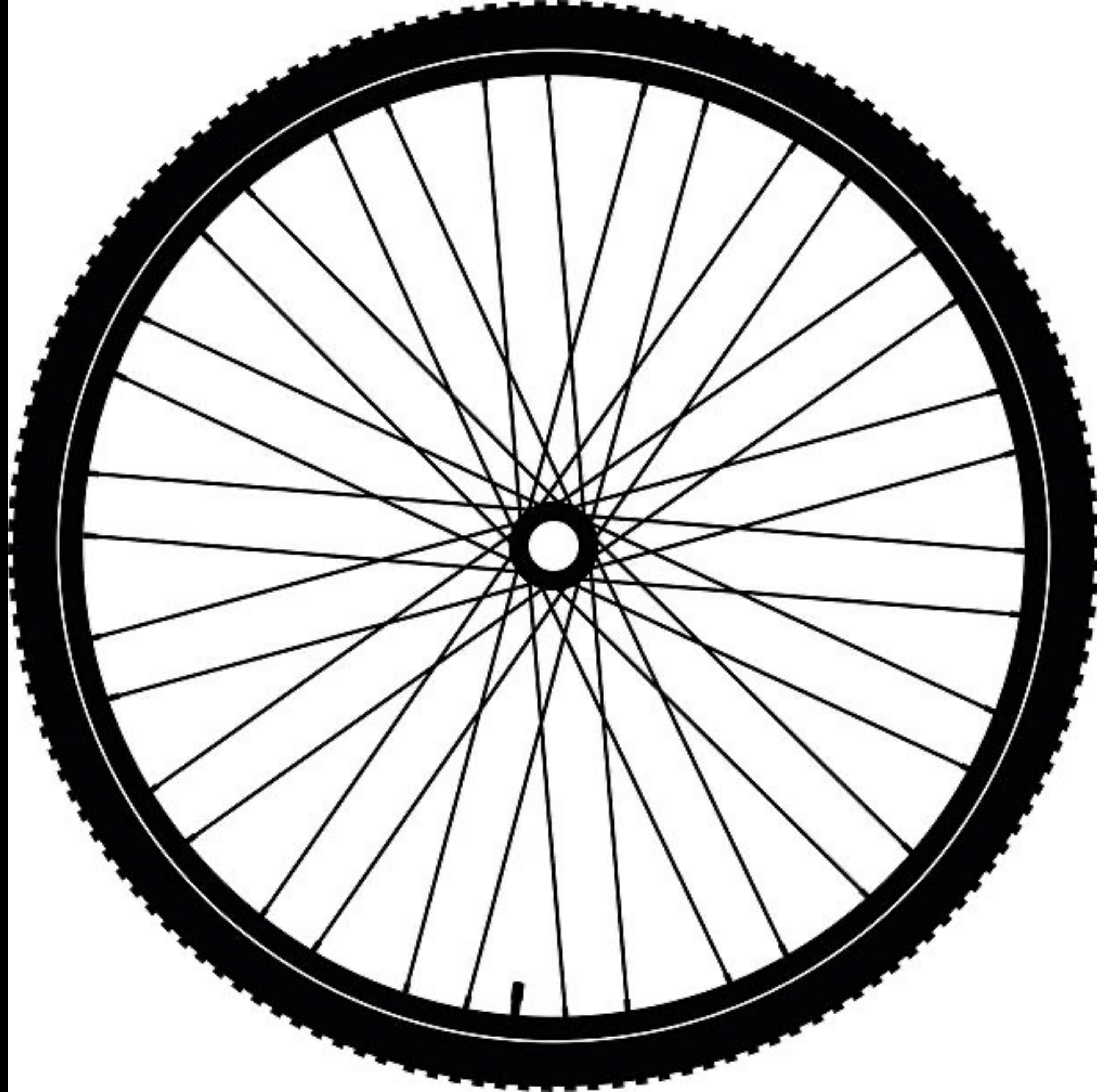
- John 17:14, 17-18

²⁰I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word,

- *John 17:20*

¹²remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. ¹³But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility.

- *Ephesians 2:12-14*



When we lose sight of what is central and start focusing on the peripheral, then, funnily enough, what is peripheral becomes central, and what is central starts to become peripheral.

- *Alistair Begg*

What is the basis of our unity? - The gospel.

What is the nature of our unity?

²¹that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²²The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one,

- John 17:21-22

²²The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one,

- John 17:22

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. . . ¹⁶For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

- John 1:14,16-17

¹⁹Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, ²⁰idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, ²¹envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

- *Galatians 5:19-21*

Main Idea: We are in union with each other because we are in union with Christ.

- The basis of our unity is our belief in the gospel.
- The nature of our unity is our communion with God.

What is at stake in our unity?

²³I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.

- John 17:23

Main Idea: We are in union with each other because we are in union with Christ.

- The basis of our unity is our belief in the gospel.
- The nature of our unity is our communion with God.
- The success or failure of the mission is at stake in our unity as we live out the gospel.

Guarding The Unity We Have In Christ

- Know the Gospel, love the Gospel and live the Gospel.

The Gospel has five main parts to it:

- God is our creator and He is holy and pure.
- Man has rebelled and our sin condemns us to eternal separation from God.
- In His abounding love and grace God sent Jesus his son to be an atoning sacrifice for our sins.
- Raised to life on the third Day, Jesus ascended to the Father and sent the Holy Spirit to dwell in the hearts of all who confess their sins and respond in faith.
- Jesus will come again to bring God's kingdom and judge the living and the dead.

“People have often asked me, ‘What is the secret of your success?’ I always answer that I have no other secret but this, that I have preached the gospel,—not about the gospel, but the gospel,—the full, free, glorious gospel of the living Christ who is the incarnation of the good news. . . do you not know that from every little town and village and tiny hamlet in England there is a road leading to London? Whenever I get hold of a text, I say to myself, ‘There is a road from here to Jesus Christ, and I mean to keep on His track till I get to Him.’ ‘Well,’ said the young man, ‘but suppose you are preaching from a text that says nothing about Christ?’ ‘Then I will go over hedge and ditch but what I will get at Him.’”

- *CH Spurgeon, The Soul Winner.*

Guarding The Unity We Have In Christ

- Know the Gospel, love the Gospel and live the Gospel.
- Knowing the Gospel will help us determine what primary, and secondary, and third-tier doctrines

In essentials unity, in non-essentials liberty, in all things charity.

- *Augustine*

Guarding The Unity We Have In Christ

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- What if I disagree with a decision made by the elders?

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- Shut Gossip Down

Guarding The Unity We Have In Christ

- Know the Gospel, love the Gospel and live the Gospel.
- Knowing the Gospel will help us determine what primary, and secondary, and third-tier doctrines
- What if I disagree with a decision made by the elders?
- Shut Gossip Down
- Reconcile arguments quickly

¹⁸If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

- *Romans 12:18*

⁸But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. ⁹Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! ¹⁰For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!

- *Romans 5:8-10*

¹⁸All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: ¹⁹that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation.

- 2 Corinthians 5:18-19