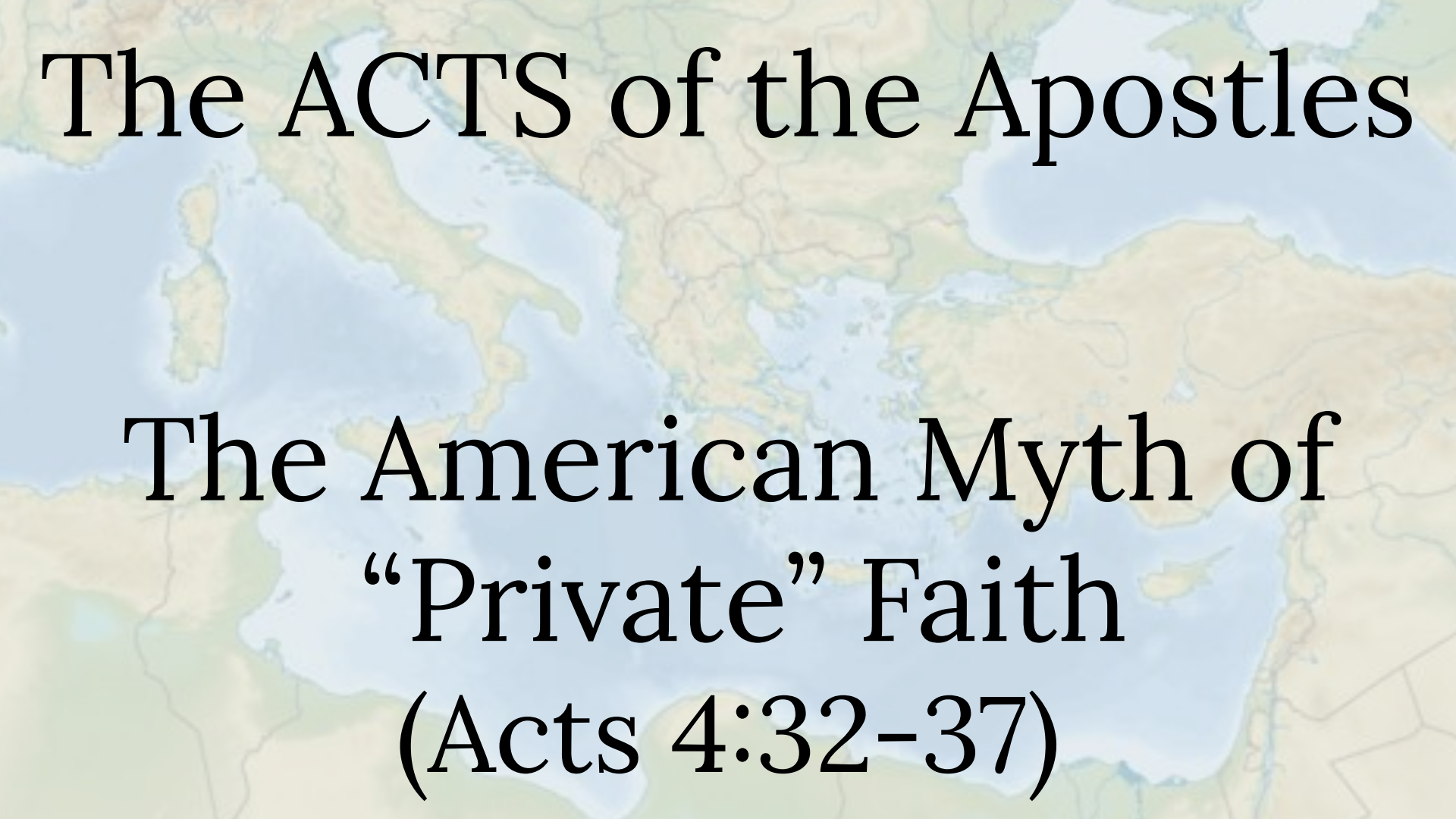


We are challenged with a choice between the American system of rugged individualism and a European philosophy of diametrically opposed doctrines—doctrines of paternalism and state socialism. The acceptance of these ideas would have meant the destruction of self-government through centralization of government. It would have meant the undermining of the individual initiative and enterprise through which our people have grown to unparalleled greatness.

It is sufficient to remind you of the restoration of employment to the millions who walked your streets in idleness; the reduction of billions of national debt which gave the powerful impulse of that vast sum returned to industry and commerce; the subsequent reductions of taxes and thereby the lift to the living of every family; the enactment of adequate protective tariff and immigration laws which have safeguarded our workers and farmers from floods of goods and labor from foreign countries; the care of veterans; the development of transportation and technology, of our highways; the expansion of scientific research, of welfare activities, the making of safer highways, better homes; the improvement in public health and the care of children; and a score of other actions.

By adherence to the principles of decentralized self-government, ordered liberty, equal opportunity and freedom to the individual, our American experiment in human welfare has yielded a degree of well-being unparalleled in all the world. It has come nearer to the abolition of poverty, to the abolition of fear of want, than humanity has ever reached before. This alone furnishes the answer to our opponents who ask us to introduce destructive elements into the system by which this has been accomplished.



The ACTS of the Apostles

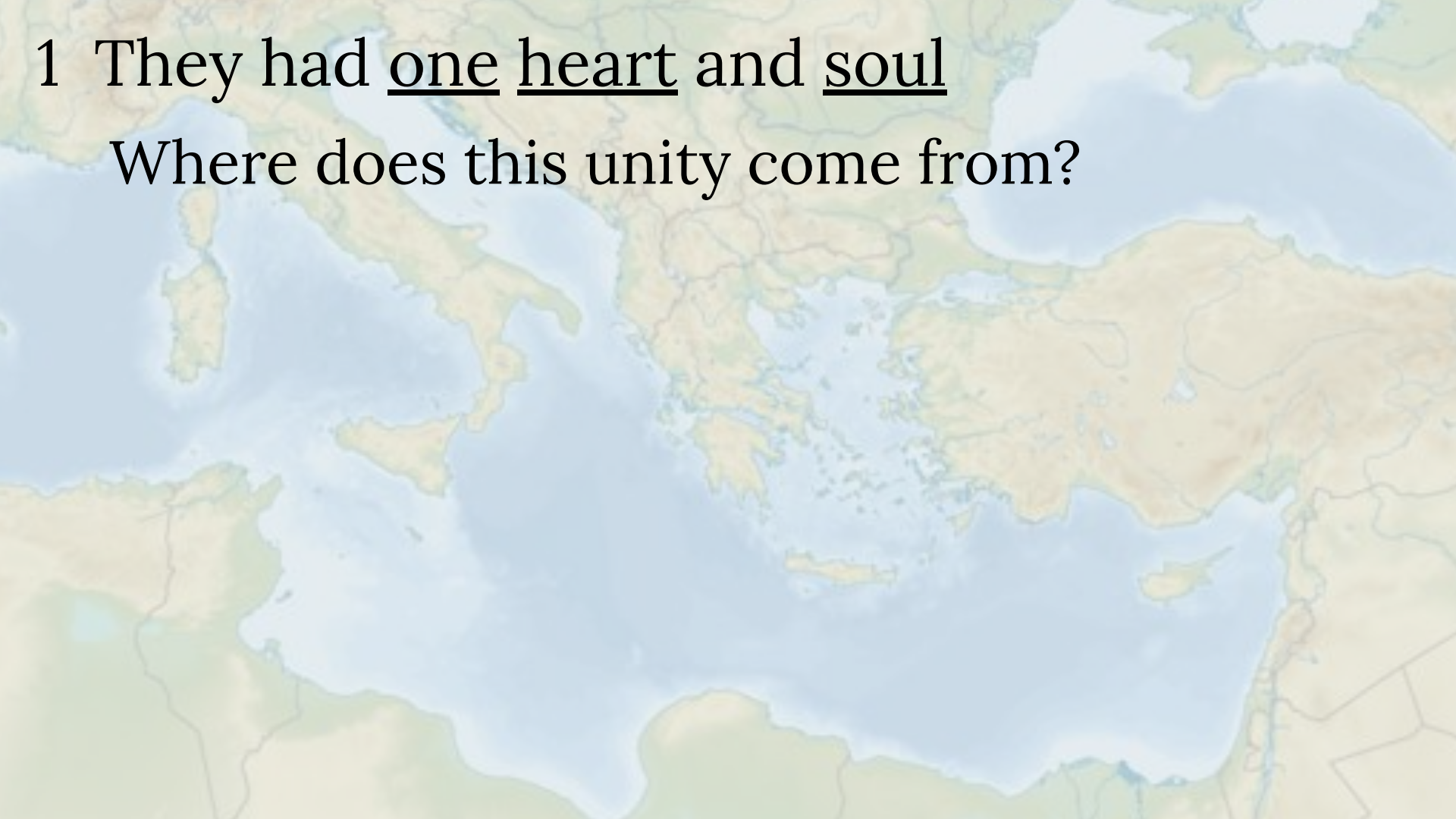
The American Myth of
“Private” Faith
(Acts 4:32-37)

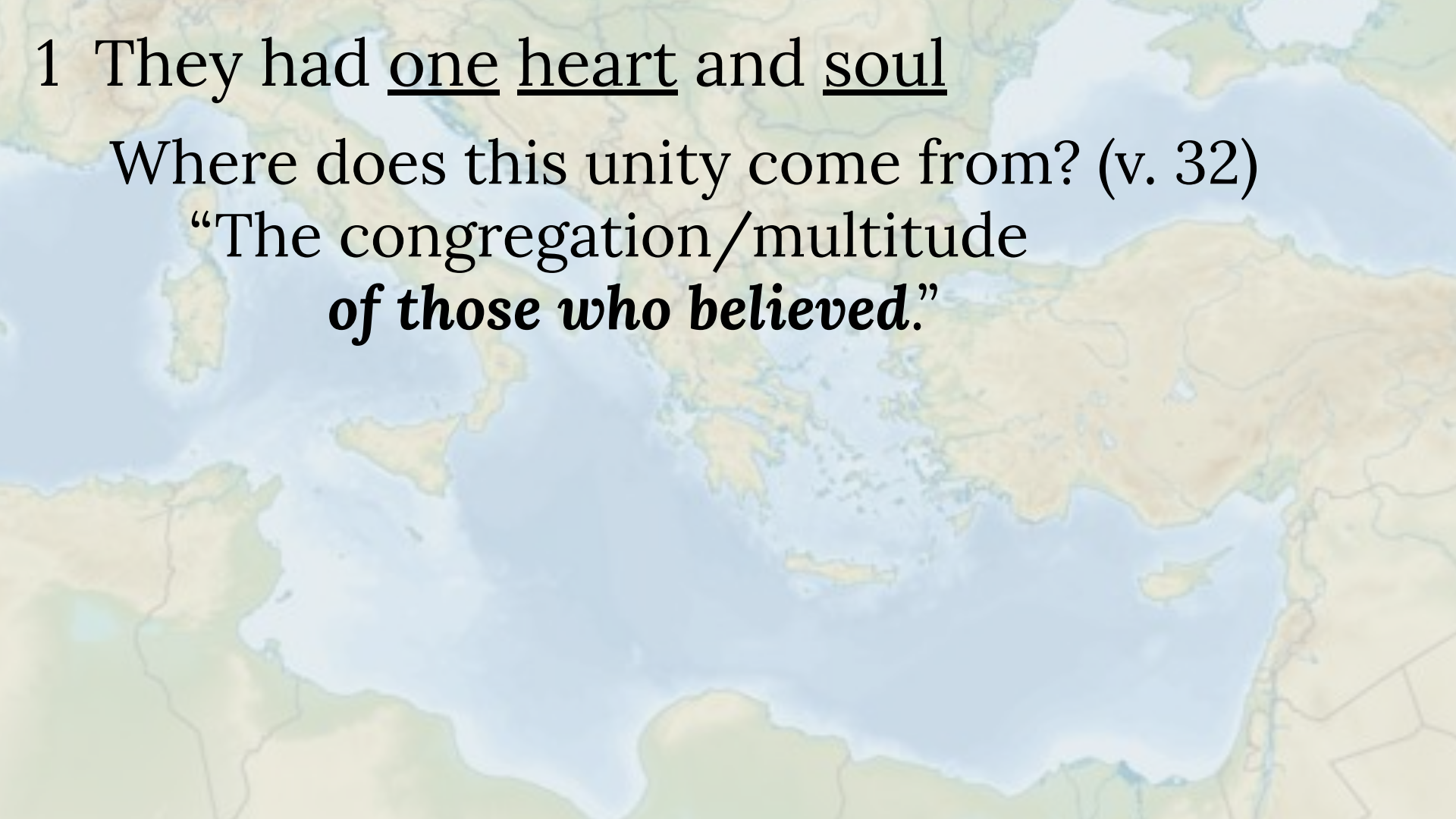
1 They had one heart and soul



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Where does this unity come from?





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Where does this unity come from? (v. 32)

“The congregation/multitude
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John 17:11-12, 20-23

Jesus' prayer for Unity in the Church

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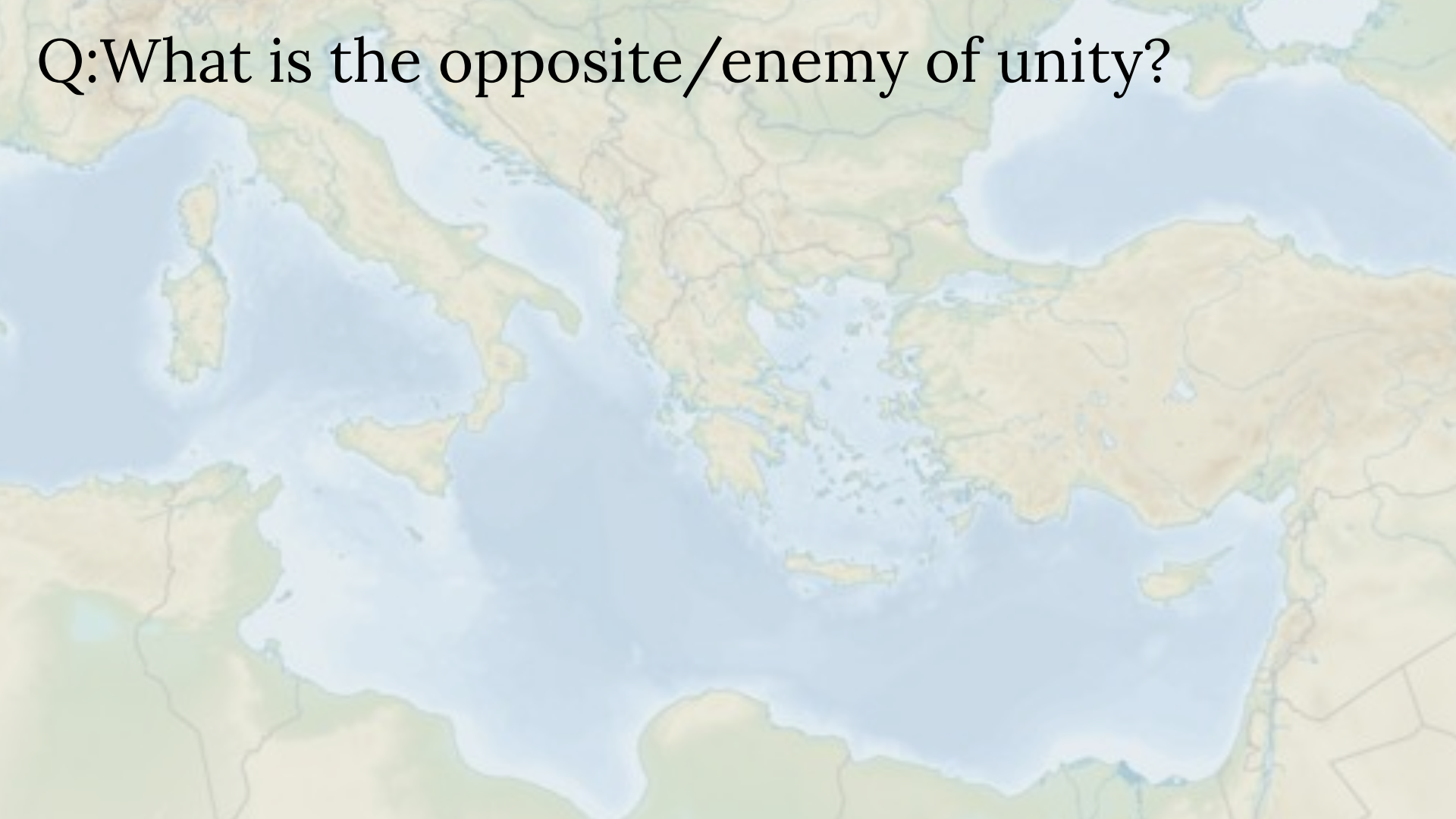
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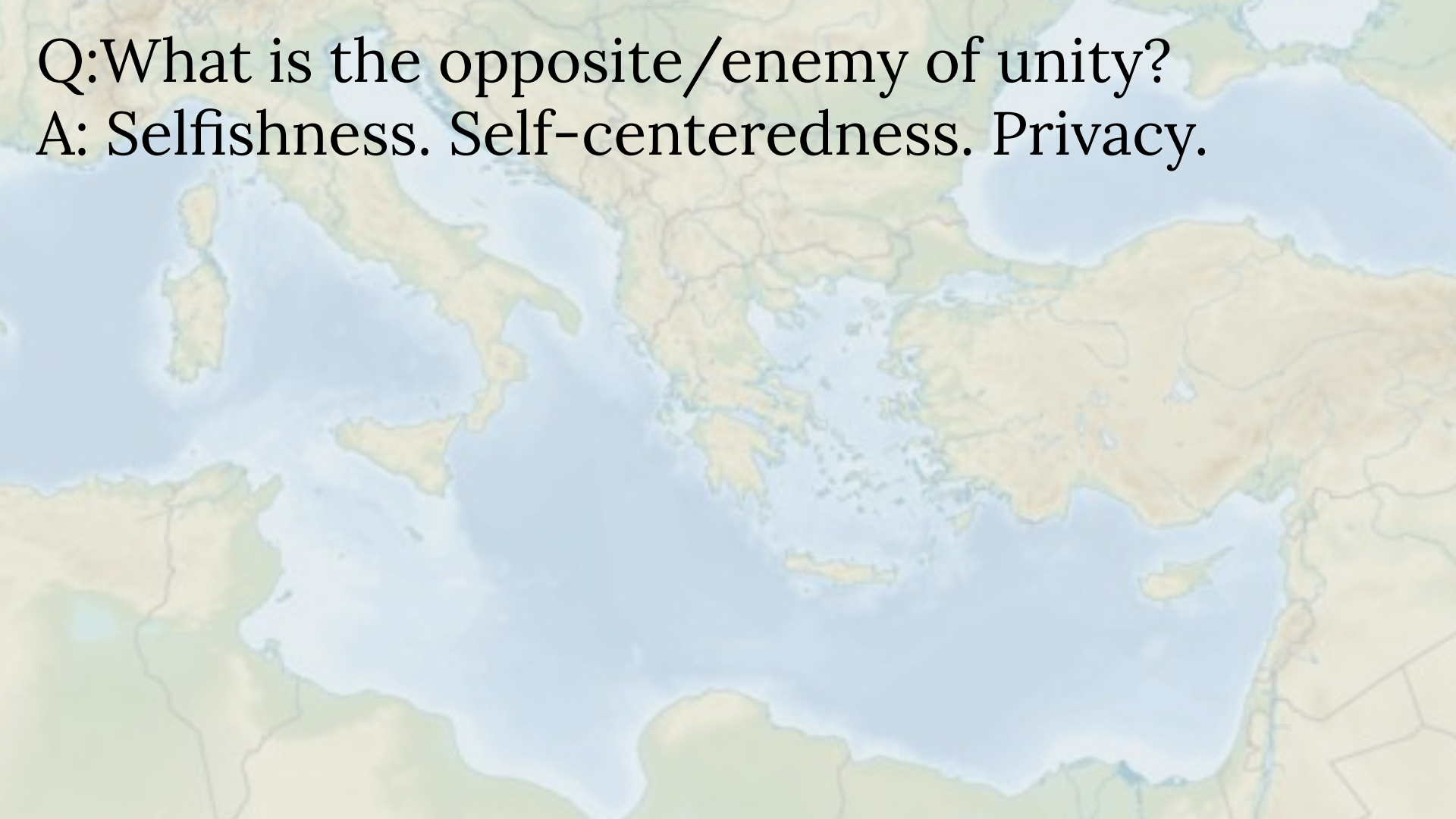
Philippians 2:1-4

Like-minded, living as one

1 Timothy 6:6-10, 17-19

Q:What is the opposite/enemy of unity?





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“I’m a private person” can equate to:

“I am withdrawn from the corporate body.”



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Americans have developed a righteous/pious self-centeredness.



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“We’ll make do. We’re good....”

We might sound self-sufficient...
but that’s the whole issue!

“Self-sufficiency” = “Independence,
self-reliant, self-supporting, self-sustaining.





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Antonym: “dependent”



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A faint, light-colored map of the world serves as the background for the text. The map shows continents in shades of green and yellow, and oceans in light blue. The text is overlaid on this map.

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Self-sufficiency *of spirit* is *not* a Biblical model!

Q: What is the Biblical Model?



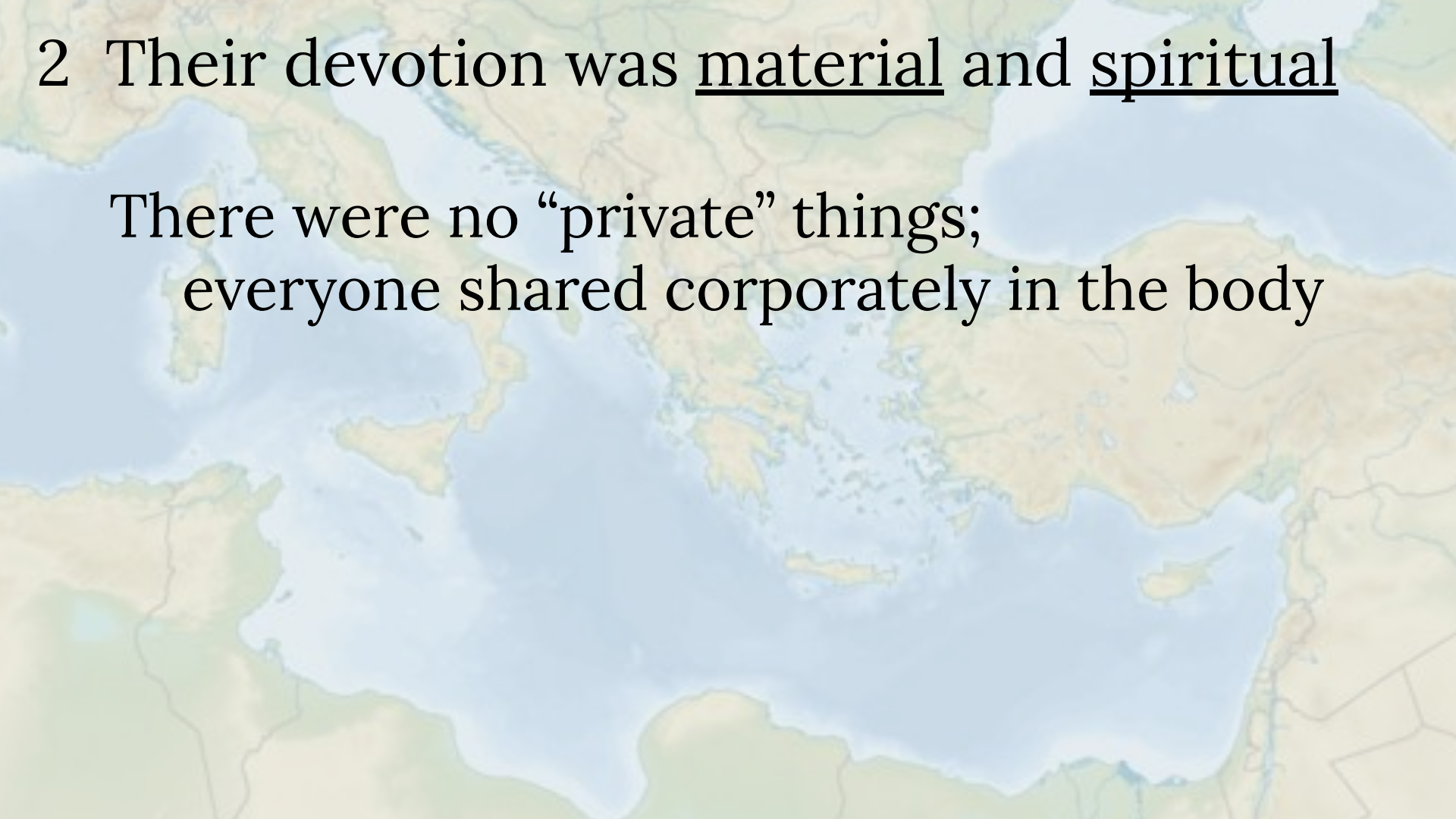


Q: What is the Biblical Model?

A: Acts 4:32 – “They had one heart and soul.”

2 Their devotion was material and spiritual





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There were no “private” things;
everyone shared corporately in the body

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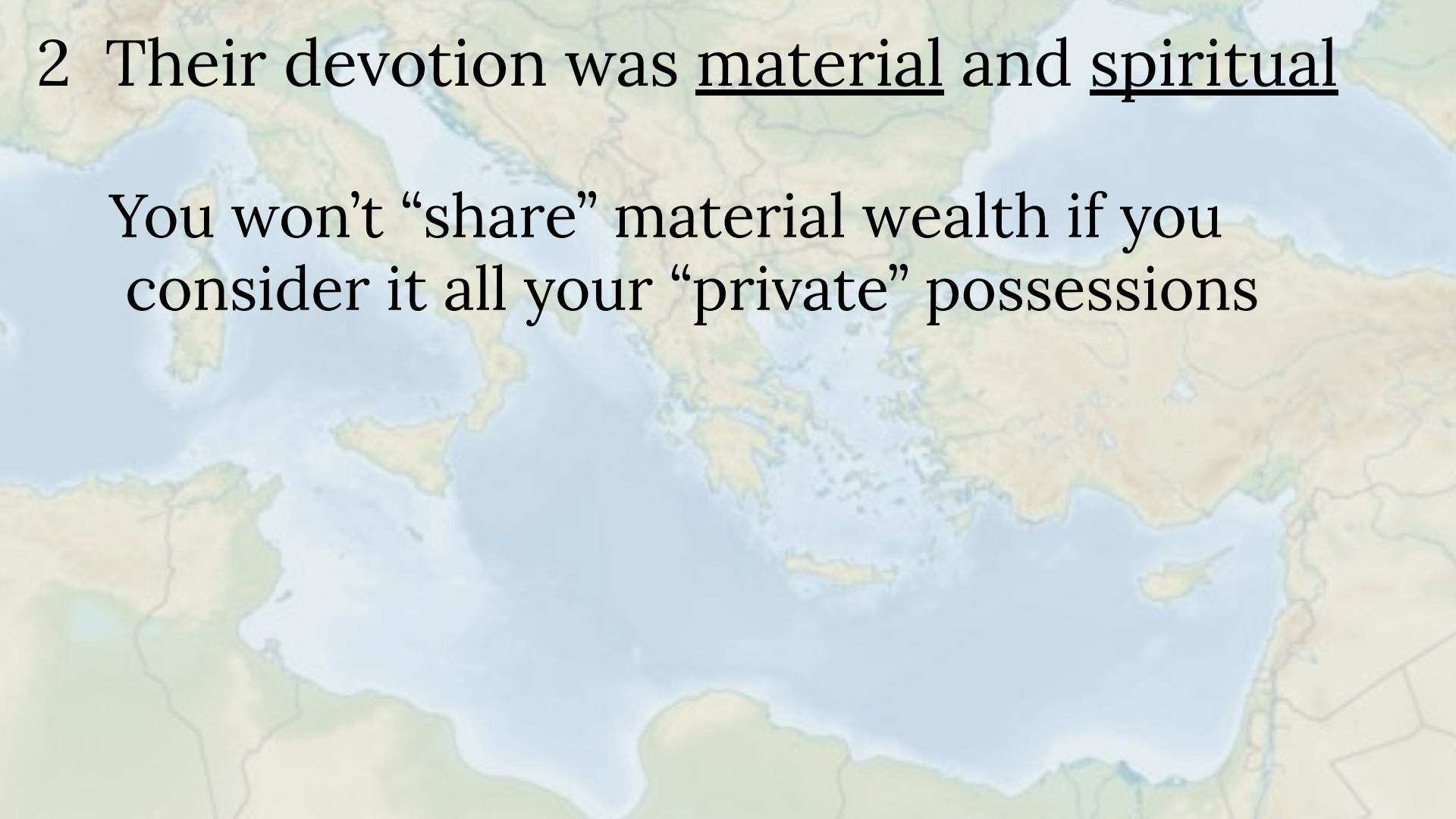
In the body of Believers; not “all Jerusalem”.
God’s family FIRST and foremost

2 Their devotion was material and spiritual

There were no “private” things;
everyone shared corporately in the body

In the body of Believers; not “all Jerusalem”.
God’s family FIRST and foremost

Thousands of new converts, many from
throughout the Roman Empire



2 Their devotion was material and spiritual

You won't "share" material wealth if you consider it all your "private" possessions

2 Their devotion was material and spiritual

You won't "share" material wealth if you consider it all your "private" possessions

You won't "share" spiritual wealth if you consider it all "private"

2 Their devotion was material and spiritual


What if we keep our lives private?

What if we keep our struggles private?

What if we keep our needs private?

2 Their devotion was material and spiritual

We won't have "comfort" to
share with others

A background map of the Mediterranean region, showing the sea in light blue and surrounding landmasses in shades of green and tan. The map is centered on the Mediterranean Sea, with the Iberian Peninsula to the west, the Balkans to the north, and the Middle East to the east.

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We won't have "comfort" to
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We won't share our wisdom and
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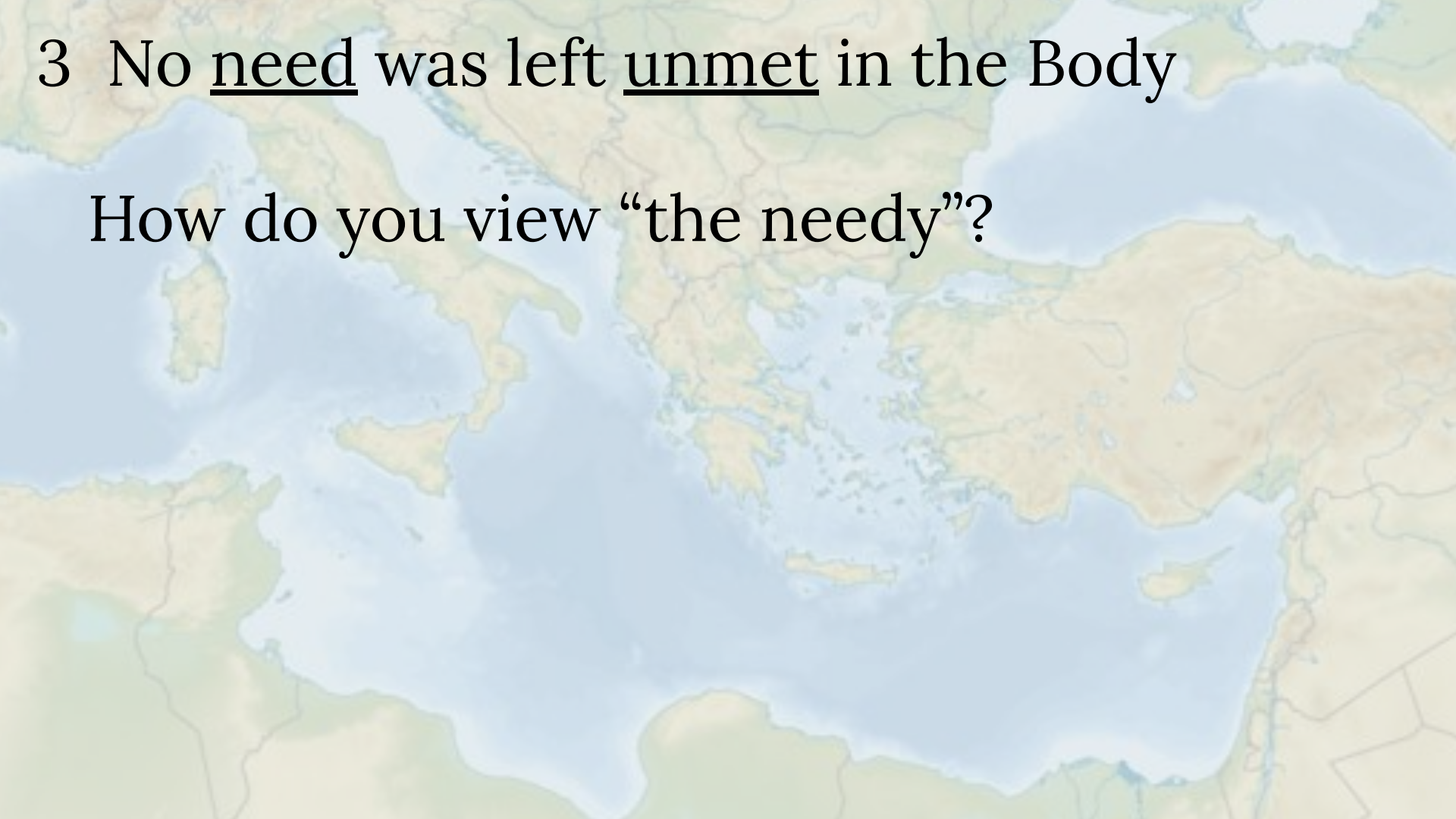
We don't give others the opportunity
to be the Body of Christ

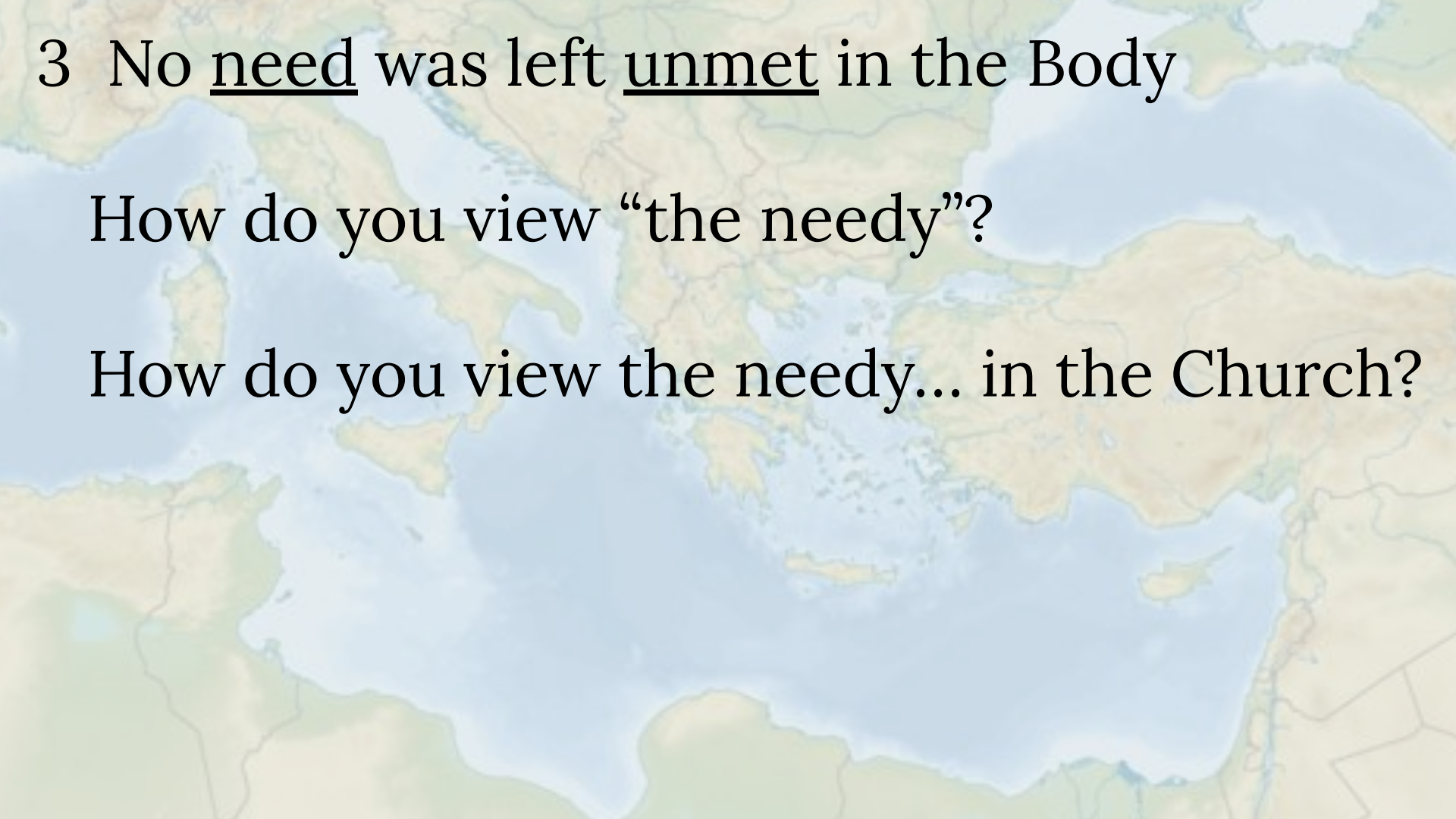
3 No need was left unmet in the Body



3 No need was left unmet in the Body

How do you view “the needy”?





3 No need was left unmet in the Body

How do you view “the needy”?

How do you view the needy... in the Church?

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How do you view “the needy”?

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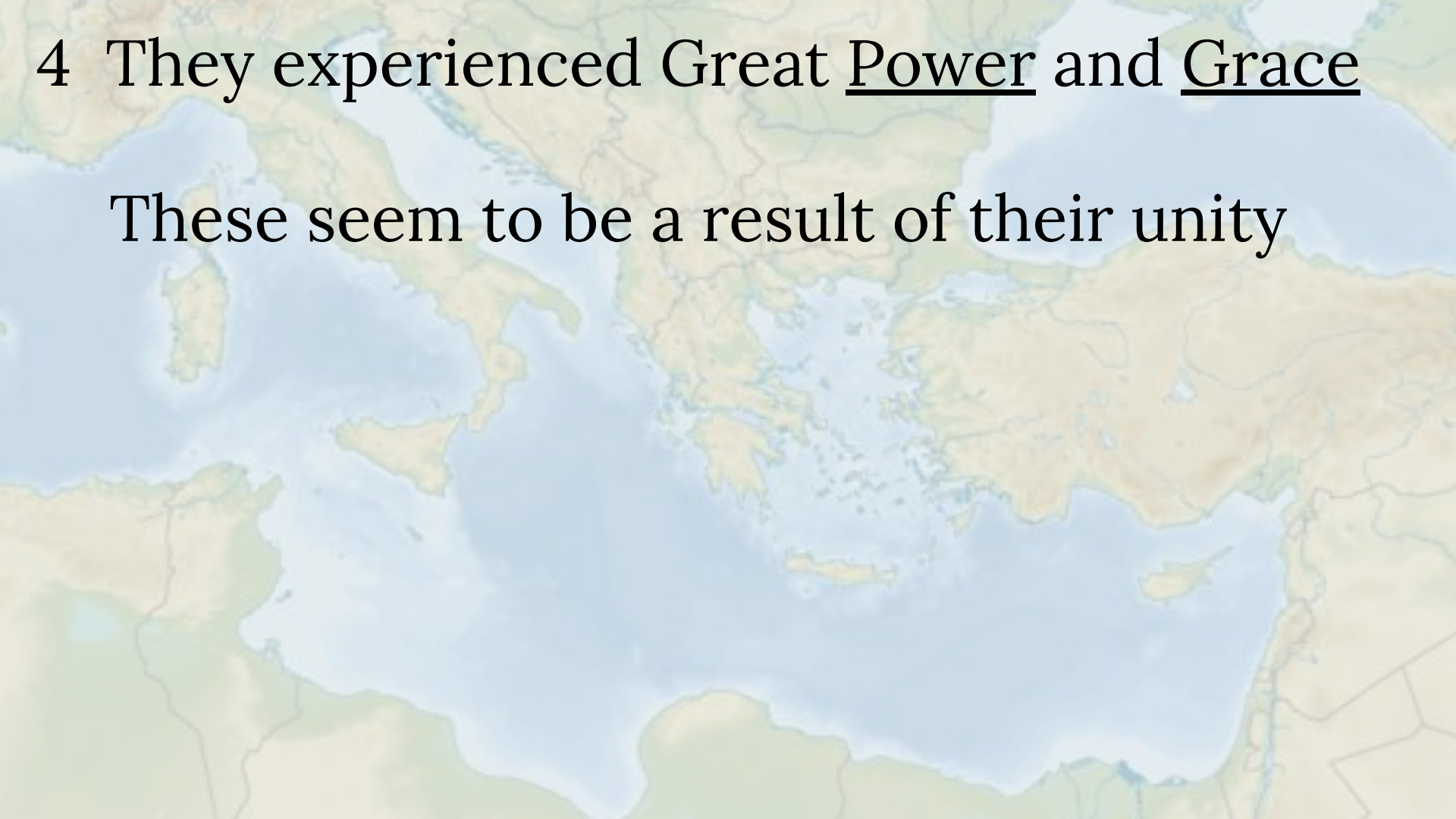
James 1:27; 2:1-7, 14-17; 5:1-3

4 They experienced Great Power and Grace



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These seem to be a result of their unity





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1 John 3:16-19



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1 John 3:16-19

Was John remembering those first days?

4 They experienced Great Power and Grace

Their unity, their benevolence, their liberality in supplying the needs of the needy, was a means of opening the hearts of the people, and of winning them to the Saviour. Men could not but think well of their doctrine and ways, whom they saw so innocent and holy, meek and good; God's grace was especially manifest in their words and actions. If we wish to incline others to the Faith, nothing is better adapted to it than to show them kindness, and even to minister to their temporal needs.

Benevolence toward them softens the heart, and inclines them to listen to us. It disarms their prejudices, and disposes them to the exercise of the mild and amiable feelings of our faith.

APPLICATION:



APPLICATION:

How do we apply Good Theology?





APPLICATION:

How do we apply Good Theology?

No Man Is An Island... Except in the Church?

No Man Is an Island

John Donne

No man is an island,
Entire of itself;
Every man is a piece of the continent,
A part of the main.

If a clod be washed away by the sea,
Europe is the less,
As well as if a promontory were:
As well as if a manor of thy friend's
Or of thine own were.

Any man's death diminishes me,
Because I am involved in mankind.
And therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls;
It tolls for thee.

APPLICATION:

Sharing/openness is costly





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Sharing/openness is costly
Self-sacrifice is hard



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We will have to trust each other



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What inhibits trust?



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What inhibits trust?

Judgment. Criticism. Our opinions.



APPLICATION:

If we are going to be trustworthy, caring and compassionate for the hurting:



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We cannot look down on “neediness”

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Romans 14:1-13



APPLICATION:

Are you fully invested in the corporate body
of Christ?



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Are you fully invested in the corporate body
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Or are you a “private” person?

A faint, light-colored map of the world serves as the background for the text. The map shows continents in shades of green and yellow, and oceans in light blue. The text is overlaid on the map, primarily in the upper and middle sections.

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Judgmental-ism will destroy the body!

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Romans 15:1-7



APPLICATION:

Start letting people in. Be real. Be authentic.
Share Yourself.
Give Yourself.