

# BELONG + SERVE + GIVE



WHAT IT MEANS TO BE PART OF THE CHURCH



# EPHESIANS 4

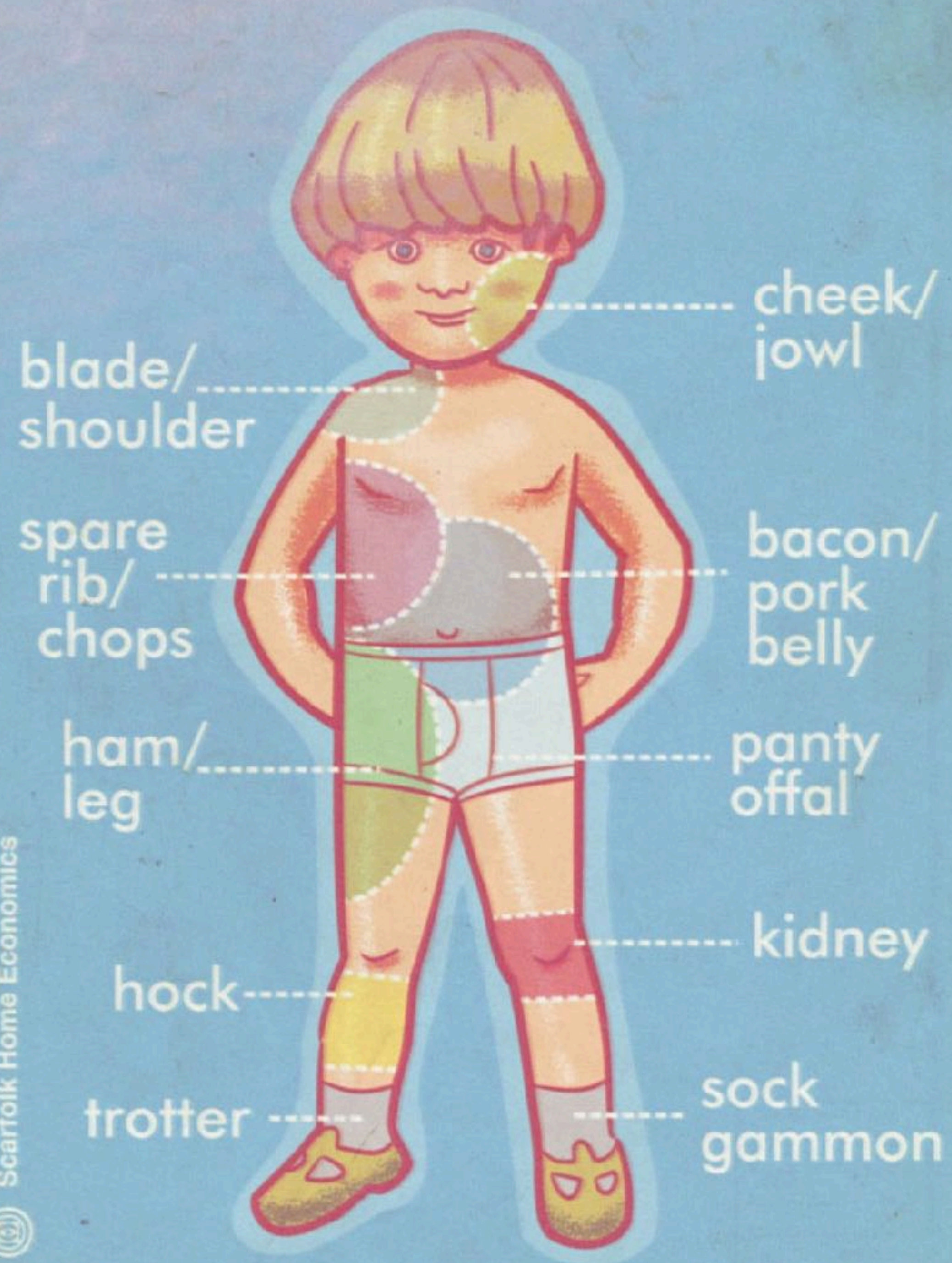
*25 What this adds up to, then, is this: no more lies, no more pretense. Tell your neighbor the truth. In Christ's body we're all connected to each other, after all. When you lie to others, you end up lying to yourself.*



*26-27 Go ahead and be angry. You do well to be angry—but don't use your anger as fuel for revenge. And don't stay angry. Don't go to bed angry. Don't give the Devil that kind of foothold in your life.*

*28 Did you use to make ends meet by stealing? Well, no more! Get an honest job so that you can help others who can't work. (The Message)*





**WE ARE ALL  
MEMBERS OF  
ONE BODY.**







1 COR. 12:27

*“All of you together  
are Christ’s body,  
and each of you is a  
part of it.”*

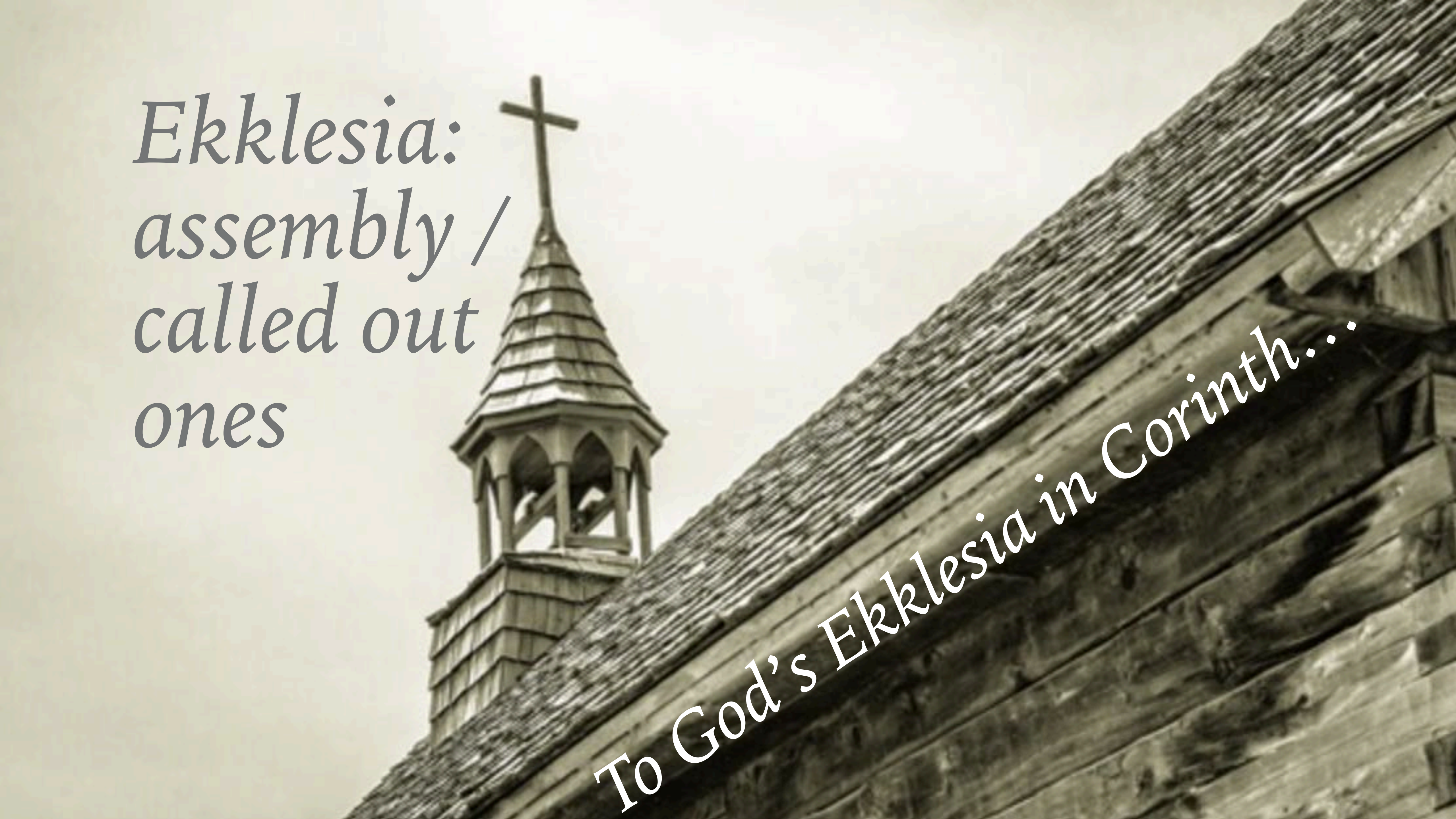




THE UNIVERSAL  
BODY OF  
CHRIST  
*on location*







*Ekklesia:  
assembly /  
called out  
ones*

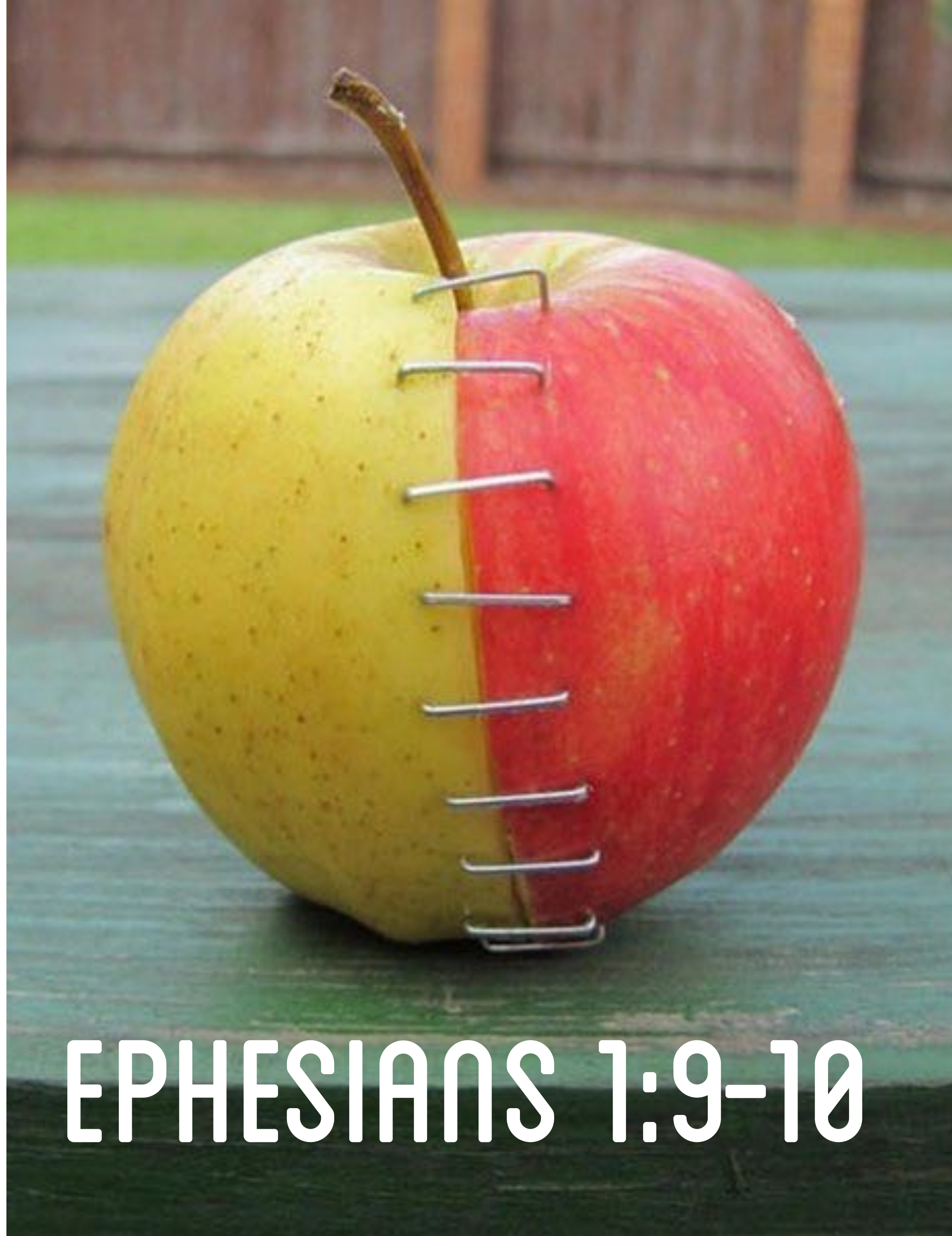
*To God's Ekklesia in Corinth...*





**WHAT DOES IT MEAN  
TO BE PART OF THE CHURCH?**

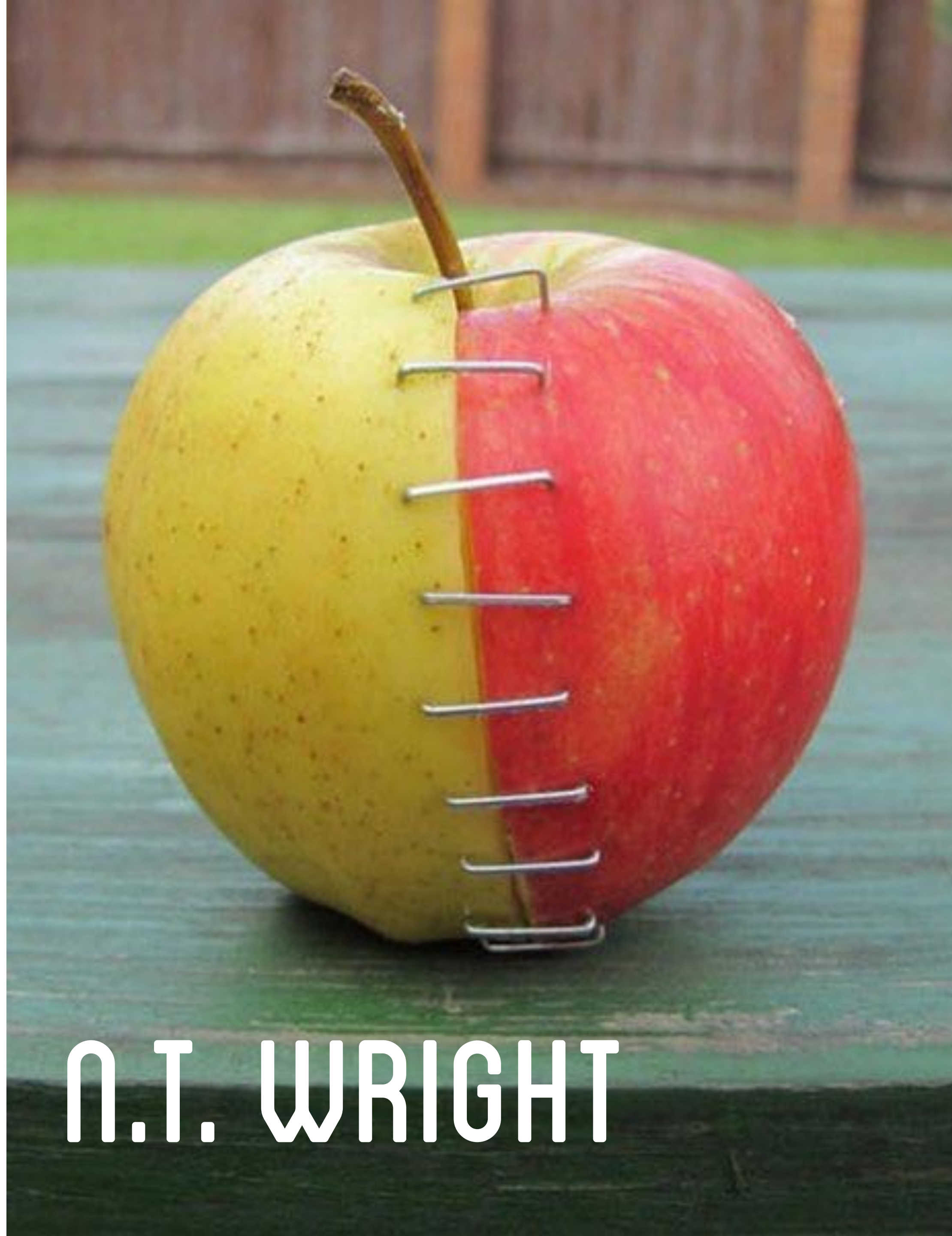




## EPHESIANS 1:9-10

*God has now revealed to us his mysterious will regarding Christ—which is to fulfill his own good plan. And this is the plan: At the right time he will bring everything together under the authority of Christ—everything in heaven and on earth.*





*“Jesus is risen, therefore God’s new world has begun. Jesus is risen, therefore Israel and the world have been redeemed. Jesus is risen, therefore his followers have a new job to do. And what is that new job? To bring the life of heaven to birth in actual, physical, earthly reality... Jesus’s resurrection is the beginning of God’s new project not to snatch people away from earth to heaven but to colonize earth with the life of heaven.”*

**N.T. WRIGHT**



*According to the early Christians, the church doesn't exist in order to provide a place where people can pursue their private spiritual agendas and develop their own spiritual potential. Nor does it exist in order to provide a safe haven in which people can hide from the wicked world and ensure that they themselves arrive safely at an otherworldly destination. Private spiritual growth and ultimate salvation come rather as the by-products of the main, central, overarching purpose for which God has called and is calling us.*



*This purpose is clearly stated in various places in the New Testament: that through the church God will announce to the wider world that he is indeed its wise, loving, and just creator; that through Jesus he has defeated the powers that corrupt and enslave it; and that by his Spirit he is at work to heal and renew it.*

*~ N.T. Wright*



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