



Part 3

7 HABITS OF HIGHLY EFFECTIVE CHURCHES

Revelation 2:12-17

modern day **TURKEY**

Pergamos

Smyrna

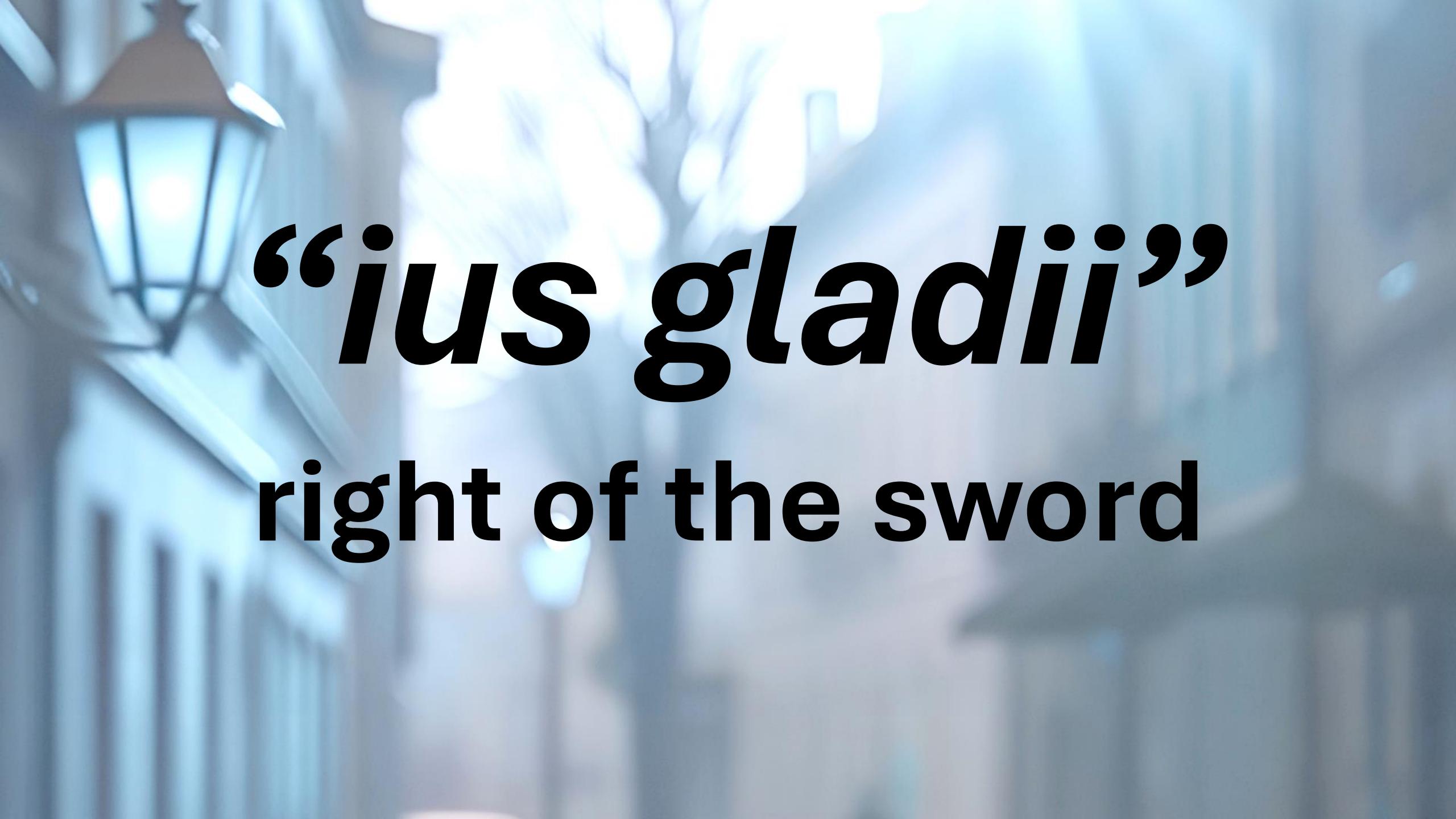
Ephesus

Thyatira

Sardis

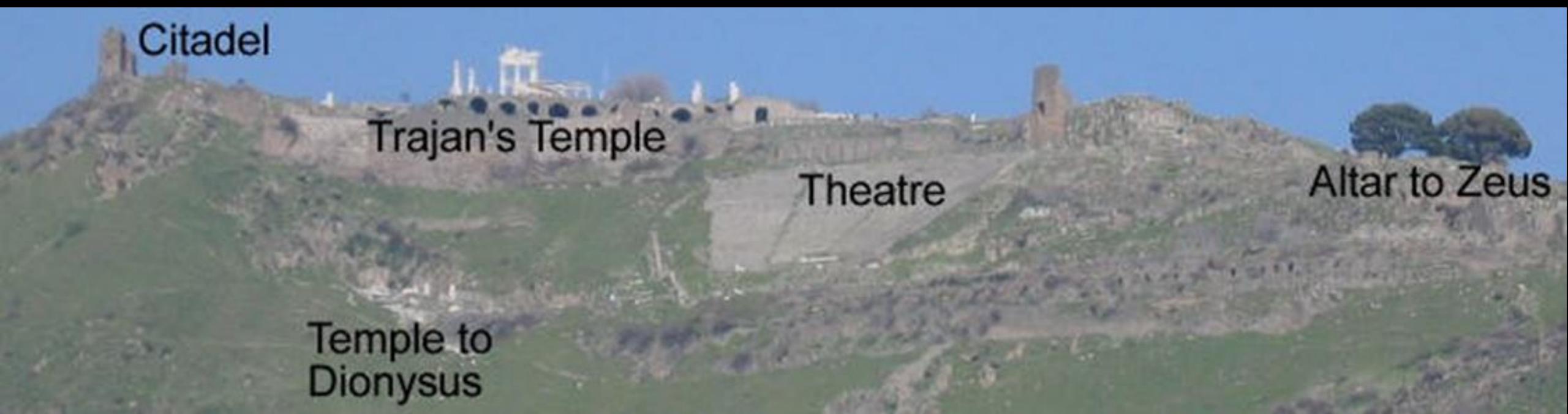
Philadelphia

Laodicea



“*ius gladii*”

right of the sword



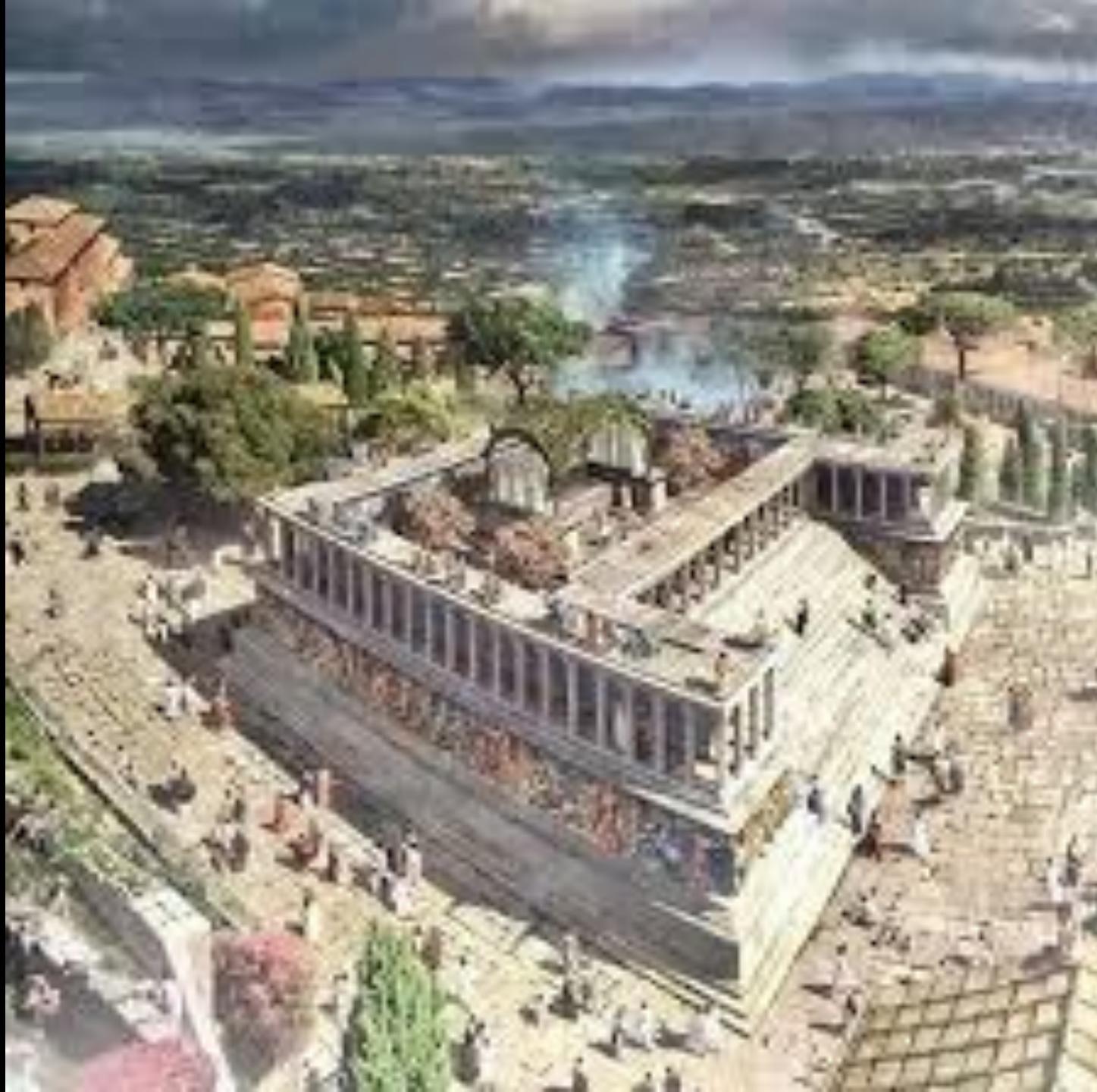
Citadel

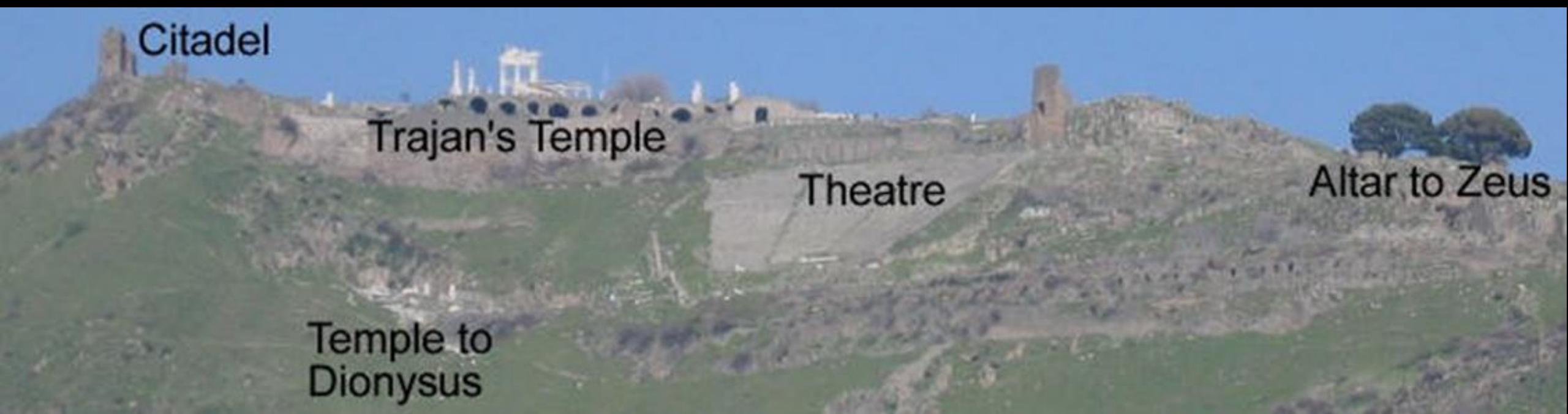
Trajan's Temple

Theatre

Altar to Zeus

Temple to
Dionysus





Citadel

Trajan's Temple

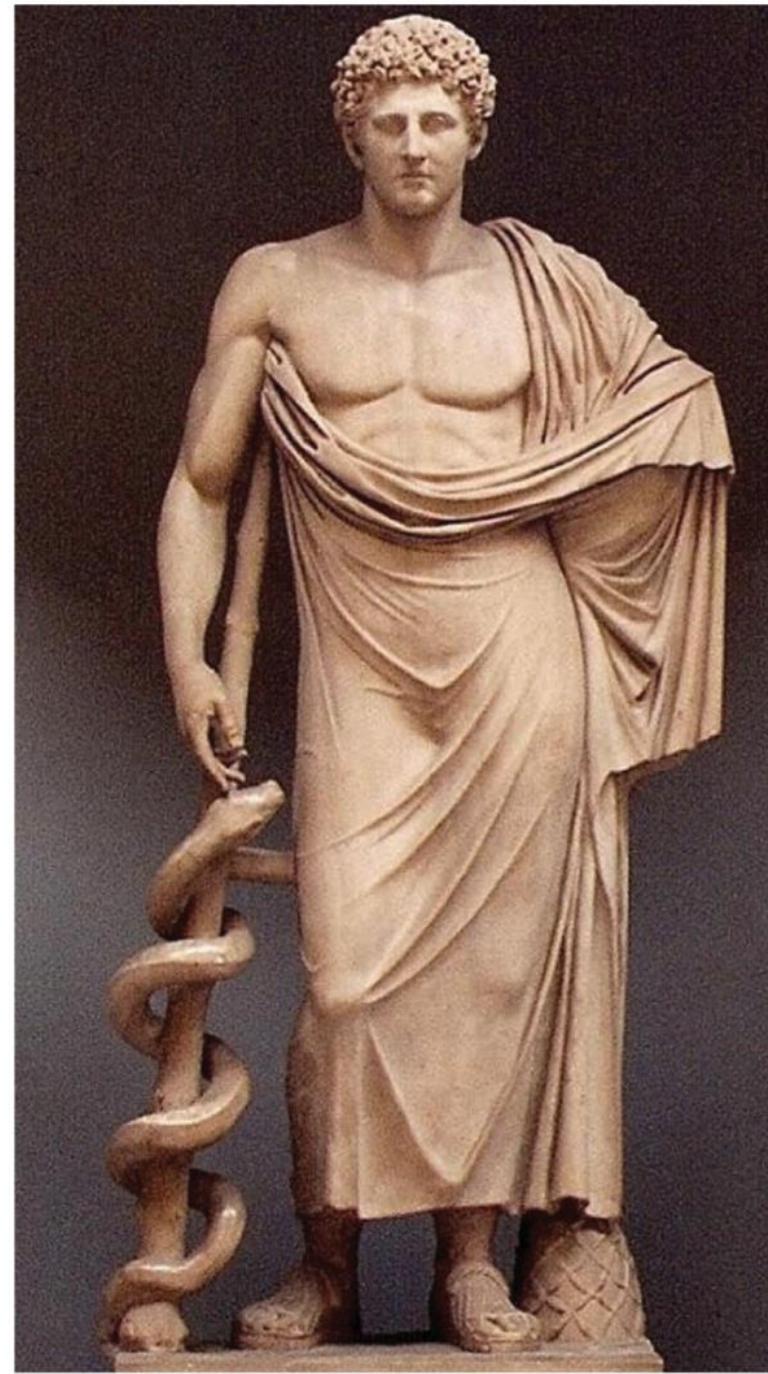
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Altar to Zeus

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Dionysus









Keywords

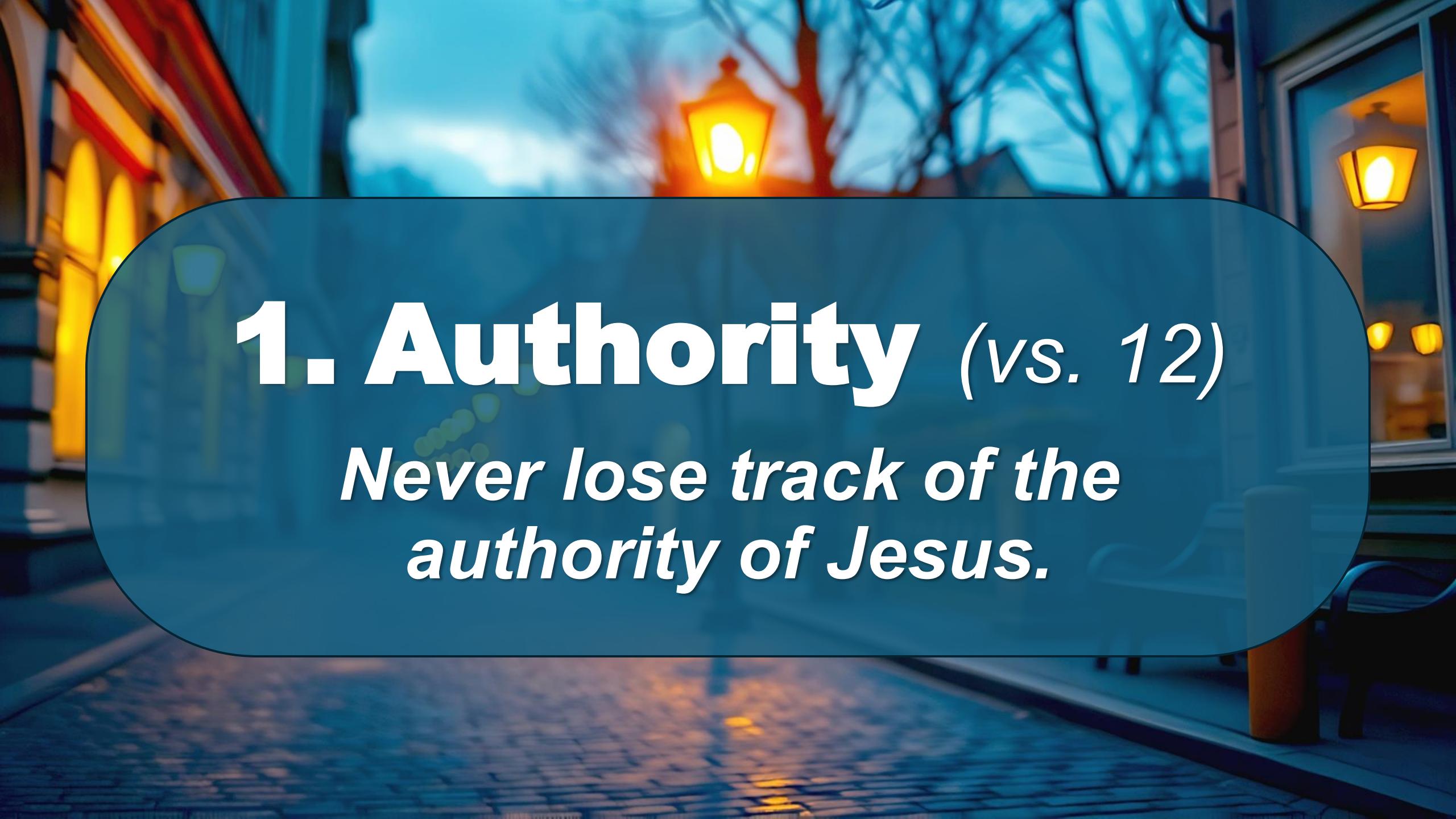
Authority (vs. 12)

Faithfulness (vs. 13)

Danger (vv. 14-15)

Repentance (vs. 16)

Promise (vs. 17)



1. Authority (vs. 12)

Never lose track of the authority of Jesus.

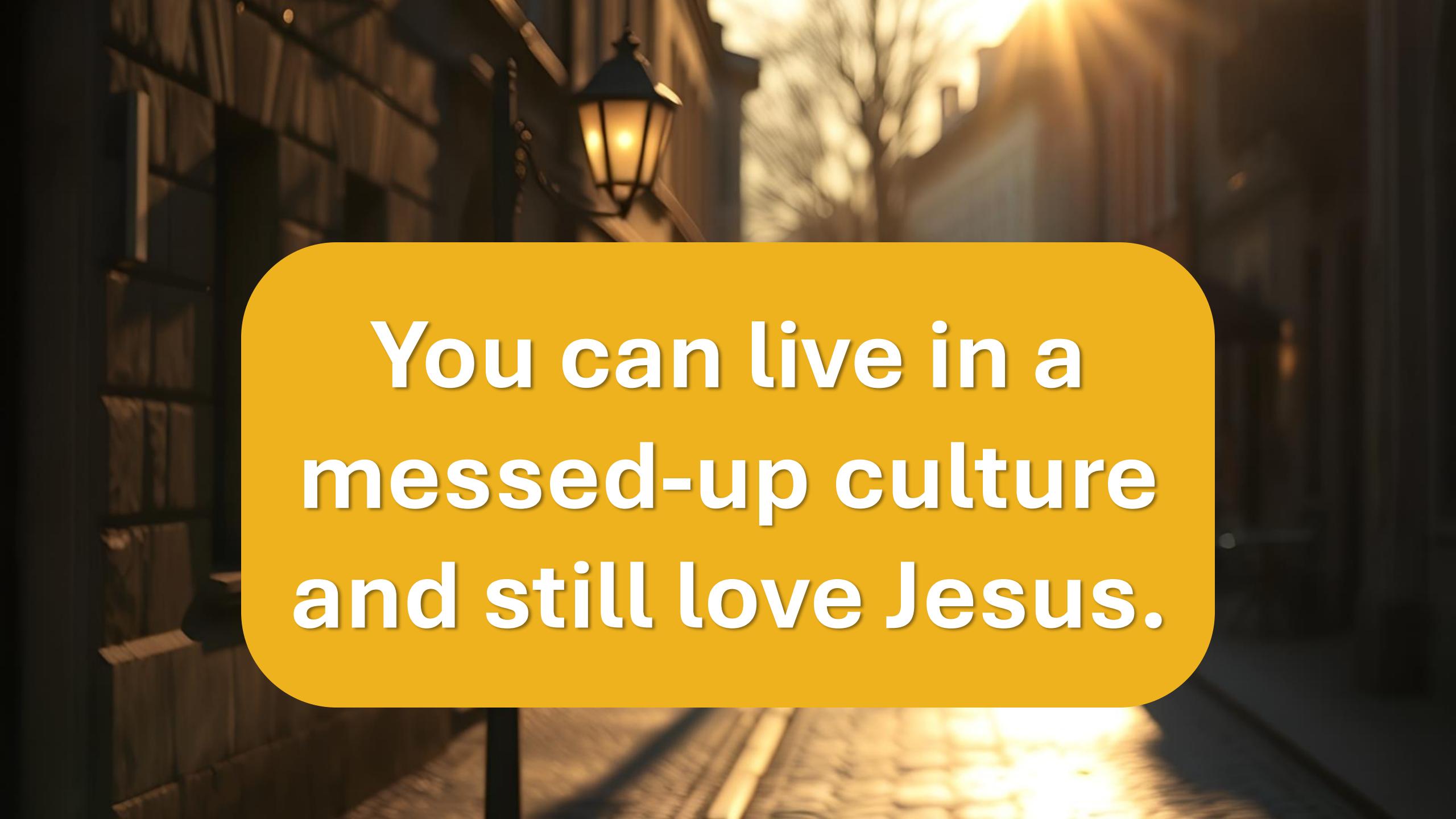
A photograph of a street at night. A single street lamp on a post illuminates a section of a cobblestone street. The background is dark, with some blurred lights and the faint outline of buildings.

When Jesus speaks,
He doesn't negotiate;
He rules.



2. Faithfulness (vs. 13)

Faithfulness in a hostile culture is possible, but it must be guarded.



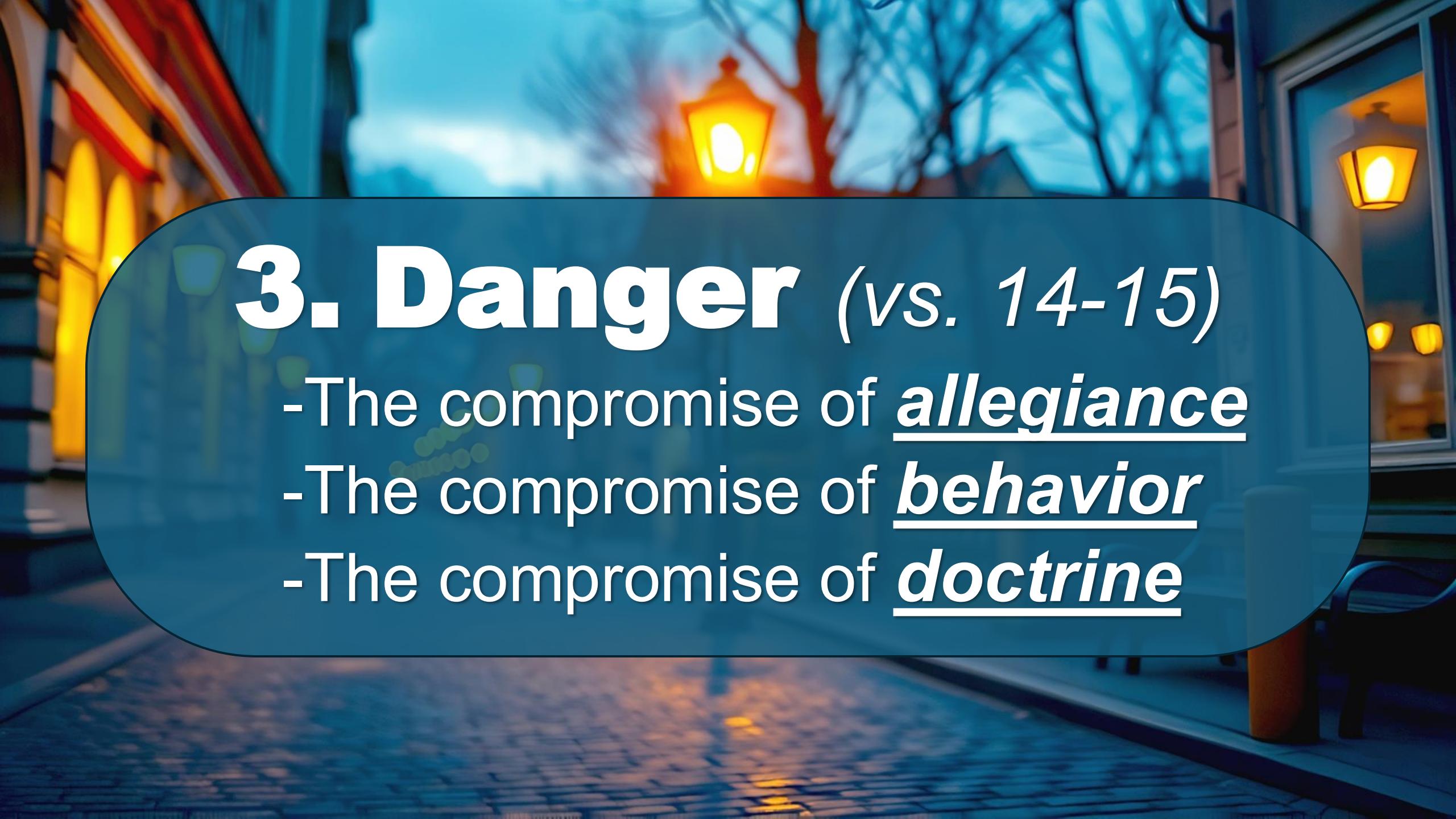
You can live in a
messed-up culture
and still love Jesus.



3. Danger (vs. 14-15)

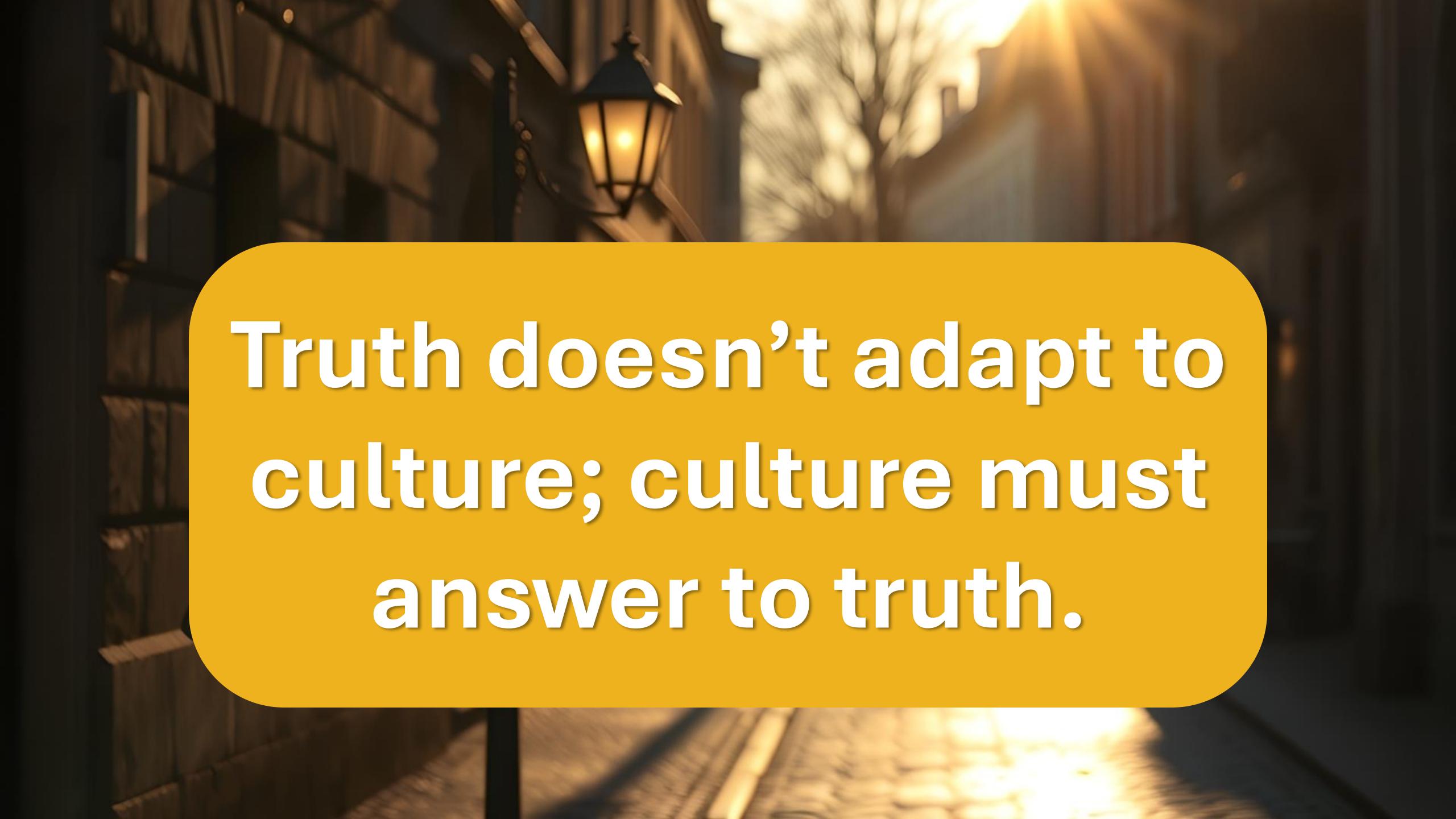
*Small compromises create
big spiritual blind spots.*



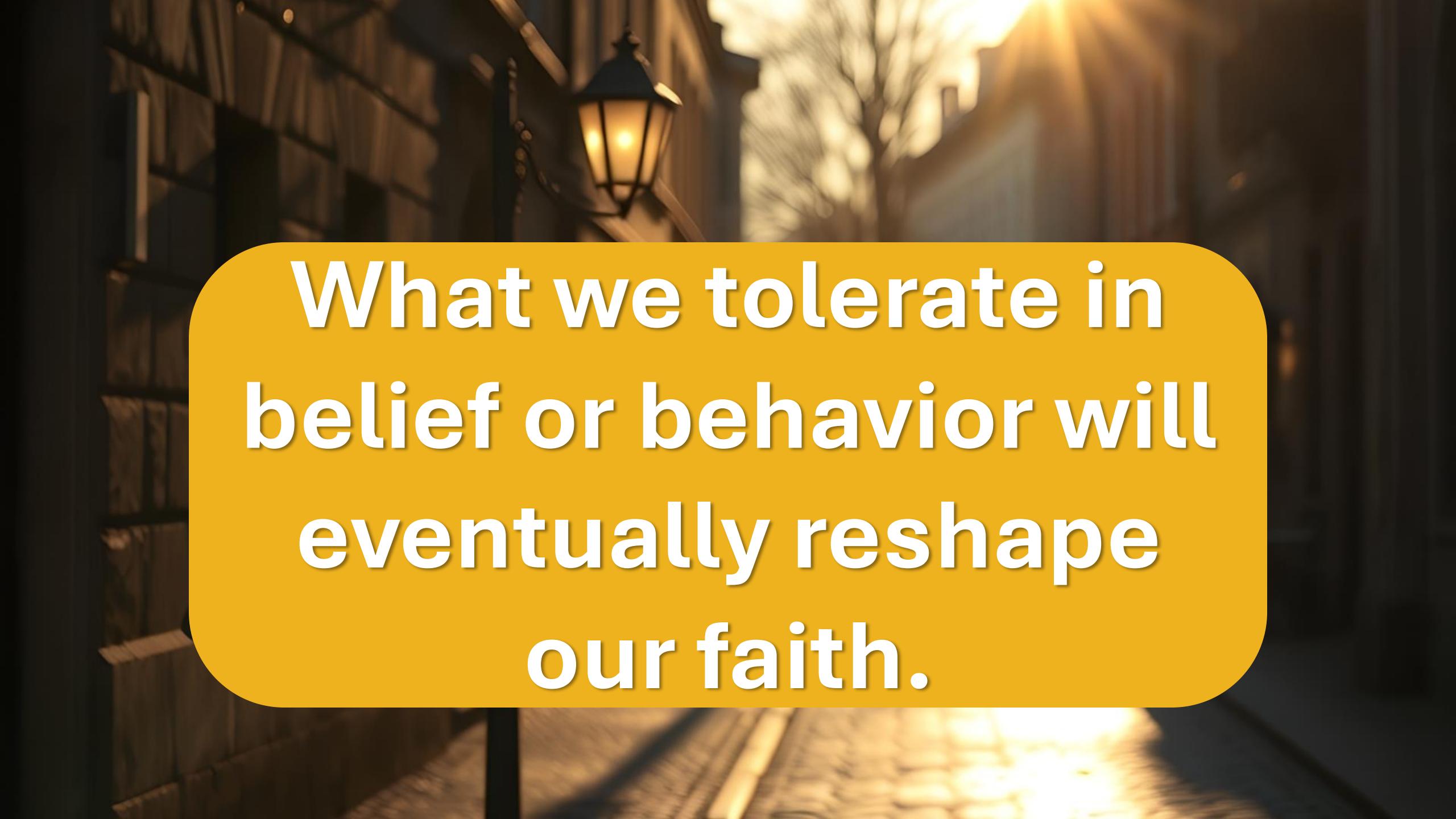


3. Danger (vs. 14-15)

- The compromise of allegiance
- The compromise of behavior
- The compromise of doctrine



Truth doesn't adapt to
culture; culture must
answer to truth.



What we tolerate in
belief or behavior will
eventually reshape
our faith.



4. Repentance (vs. 16)

Repentance is how God lovingly corrects drift before it becomes ruin.

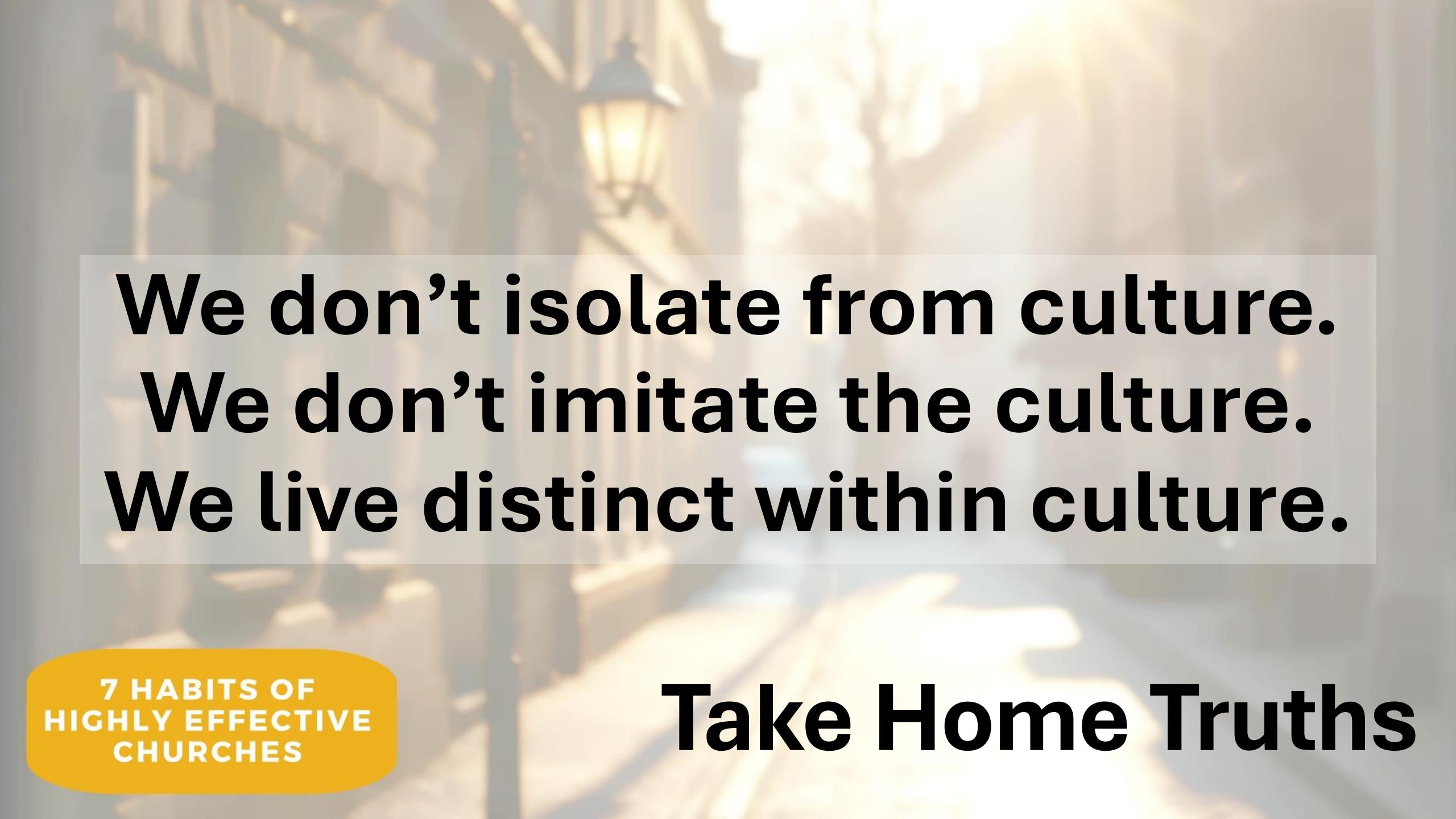


5. Promise (vs. 17)

*Anything surrendered for Christ
is replaced with something better.*

Lessons:

1. A church can be brave and still be comprised.
2. Compromise (doctrine or moral) is often subtle and progressive.
3. Tolerance is not the same as love.
4. We can never look the other way in areas of purity (moral or doctrinal).
5. The greatest threat to the church isn't persecution, its assimilation.



**We don't isolate from culture.
We don't imitate the culture.
We live distinct within culture.**

**7 HABITS OF
HIGHLY EFFECTIVE
CHURCHES**

Take Home Truths

- 1. Where have I softened truth to avoid tension?**
- 2. What behaviors have I justified instead of surrendered?**
- 3. What have I been explaining instead of surrendering?**
- 4. What's become “normal” that shouldn’t be?**
- 5. What voices have I allowed to shape my convictions?**

7 HABITS OF
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CHURCHES

Take Home Truths

Week

Ephesus (2:1-7)

Smyrna (2:8-11)

Pergamos (2:12-17) ...

Thyatira (2:18-29)

Sardis (3:1-6)

Philadelphia (3:7-13) ...

Laodicea (3:14-22)

Diagnostic Question

Do I love Jesus as deeply as when I first followed Him?

Am I faithful to God when obedience is costly?

Where am I tolerating compromise in truth or practice?

Is my love matched by personal holiness?

Am I spiritually alive—or just busy and respectable?

Am I obeying God even when I feel weak?

What am I relying on more than Christ?