





WHY ARE THERE SO MANY DENOMINATIONS?
WHY CAN'T THE CHURCH BE UNITED?

CHURCH FIGHTS



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Argument over the appropriate length of the worship pastor's beard.

CHURCH FIGHTS

Argument to vote and decide if a clock in the worship center should be removed.

CHURCH FIGHTS

A dispute in the church because the Lord's Supper had cran-grape juice instead of grape juice.

CHURCH FIGHTS

An argument on whether the church should all “deviled” eggs at the church meal.



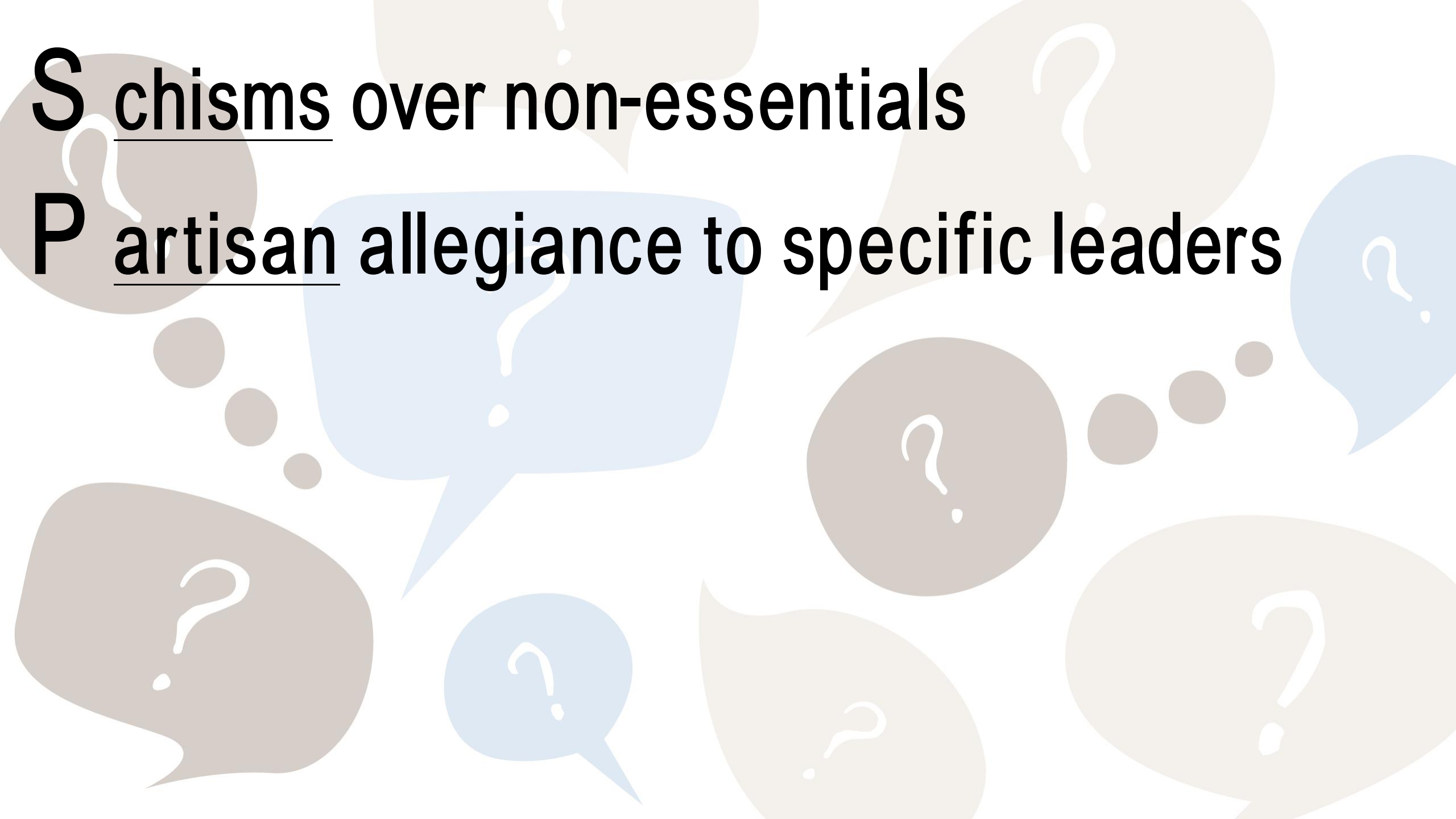
WHY ARE THERE SO MANY DENOMINATIONS?
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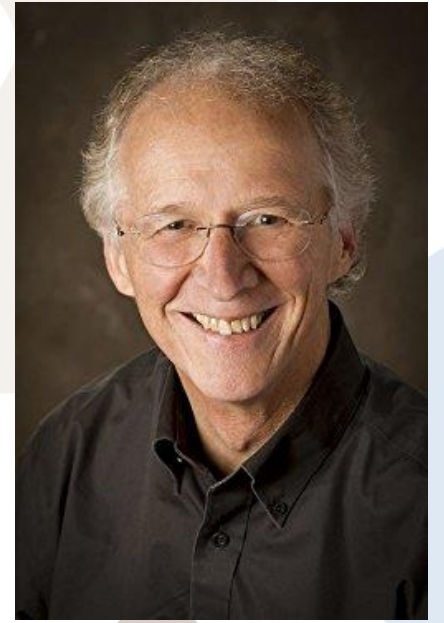
Schisms over non-essentials



Schisms over non-essentials

Partisan allegiance to specific leaders

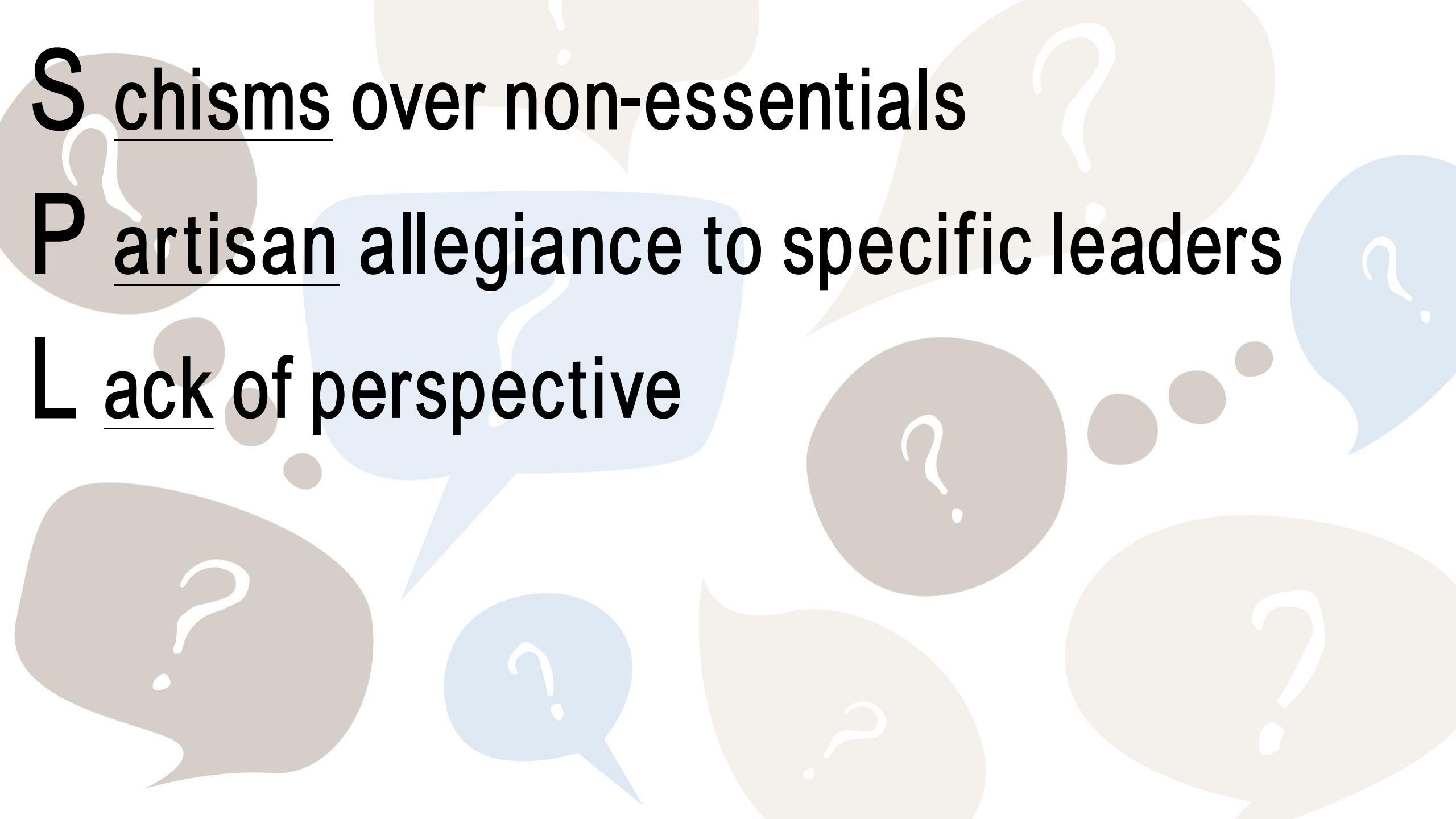




S chisms over non-essentials

P artisan allegiance to specific leaders

L ack of perspective



Schisms over non-essentials

Partisan allegiance to specific leaders

Lack of perspective

Immaturity

Schisms over non-essentials

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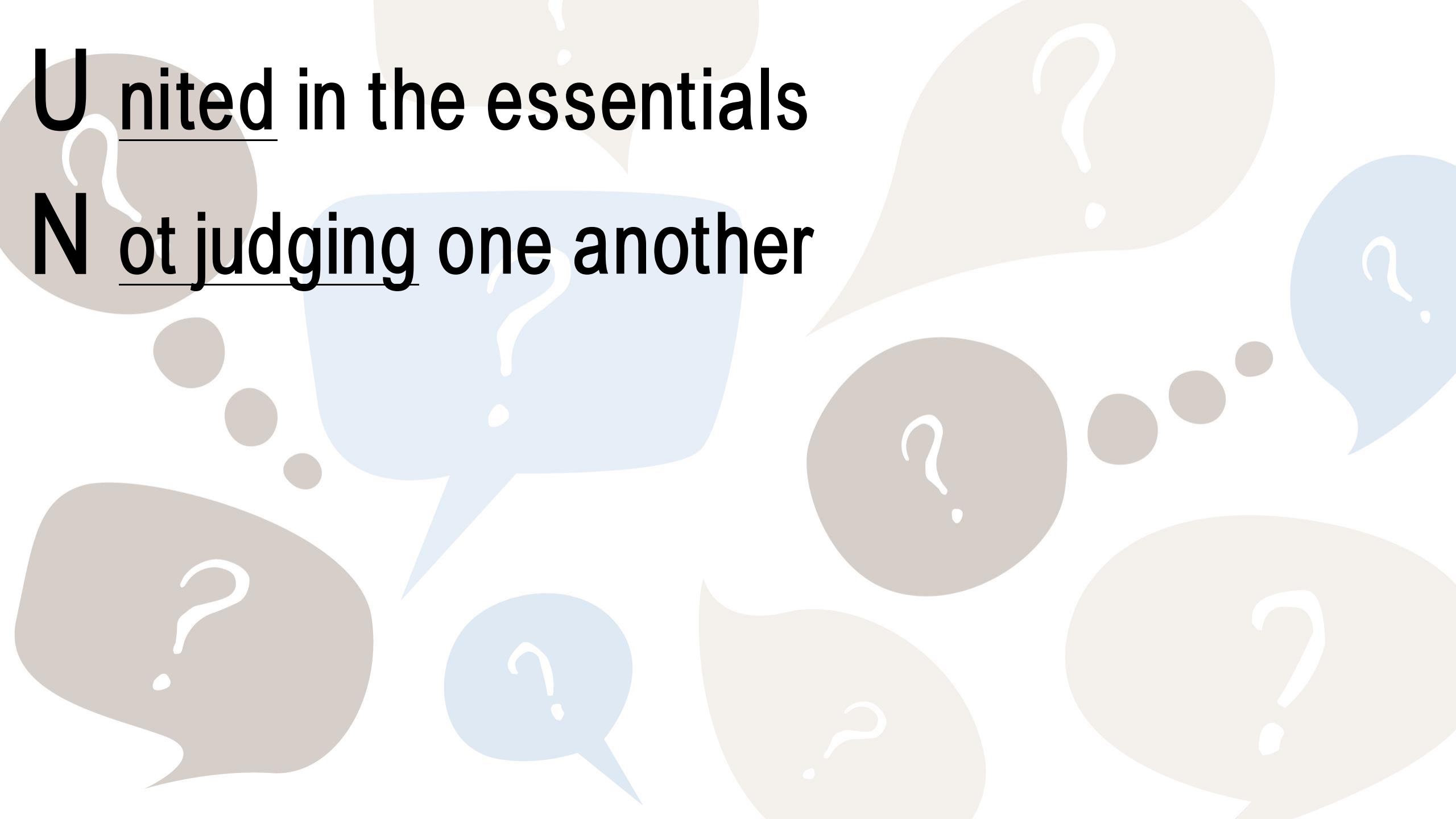
Tangents

United in the essentials

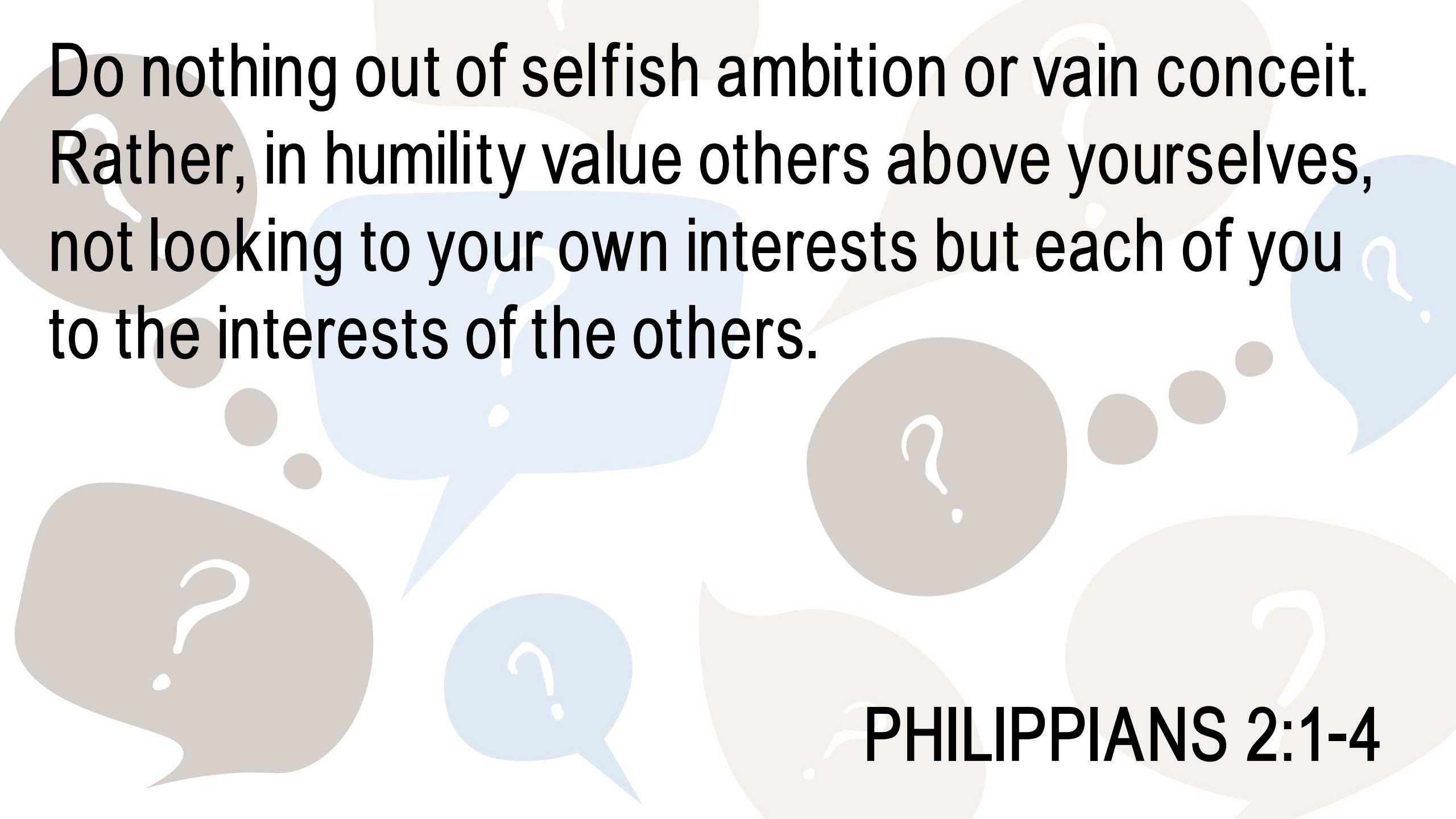


United in the essentials

Not judging one another

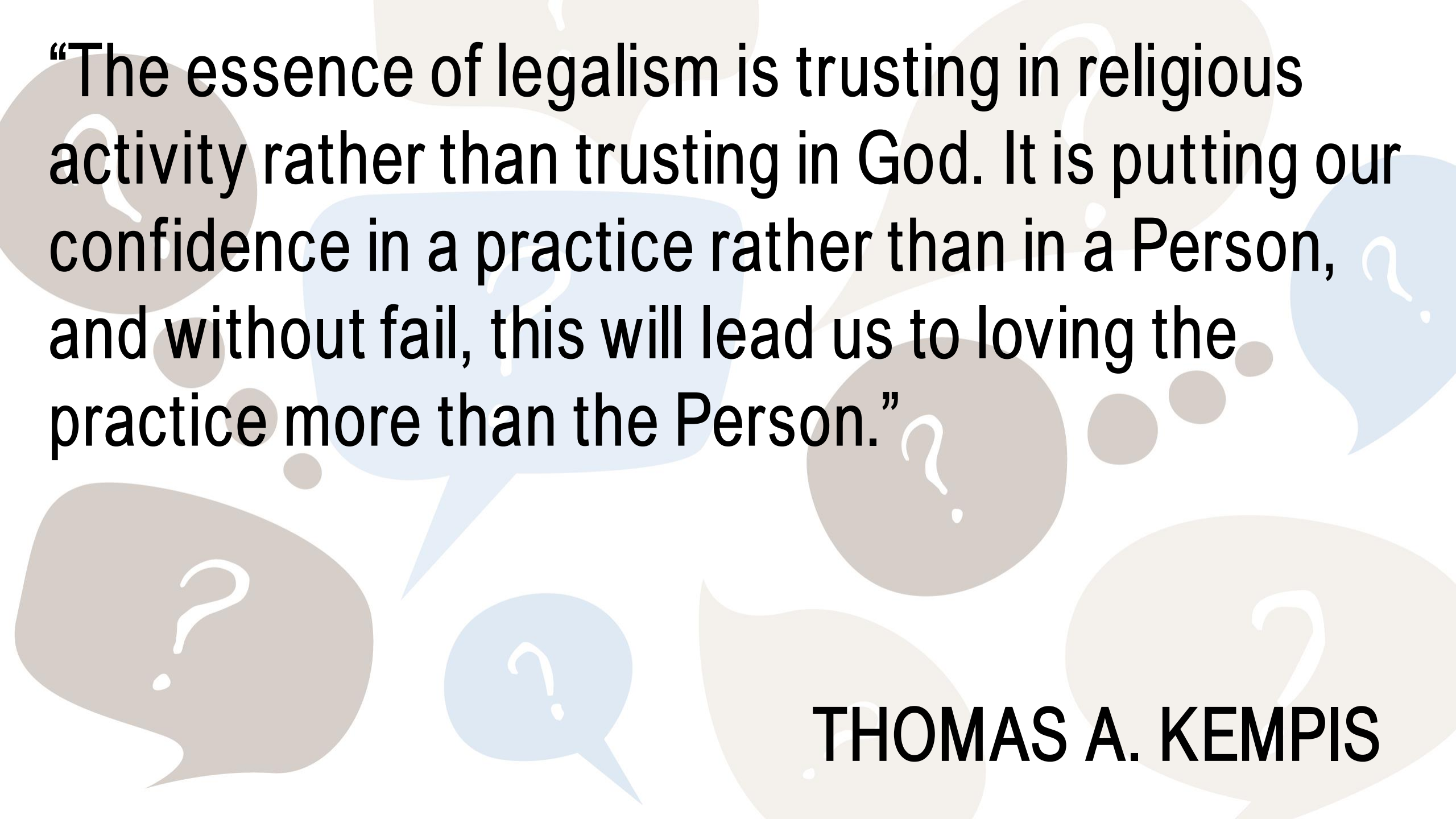


Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind.

The background features several speech bubbles in shades of brown, blue, and beige, each containing a white question mark. The text is centered in the upper half of the image.

**Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit.
Rather, in humility value others above yourselves,
not looking to your own interests but each of you
to the interests of the others.**

PHILIPPIANS 2:1-4

The background features several speech bubbles in shades of brown, blue, and beige, each containing a white question mark. The text is centered in the upper half of the image.

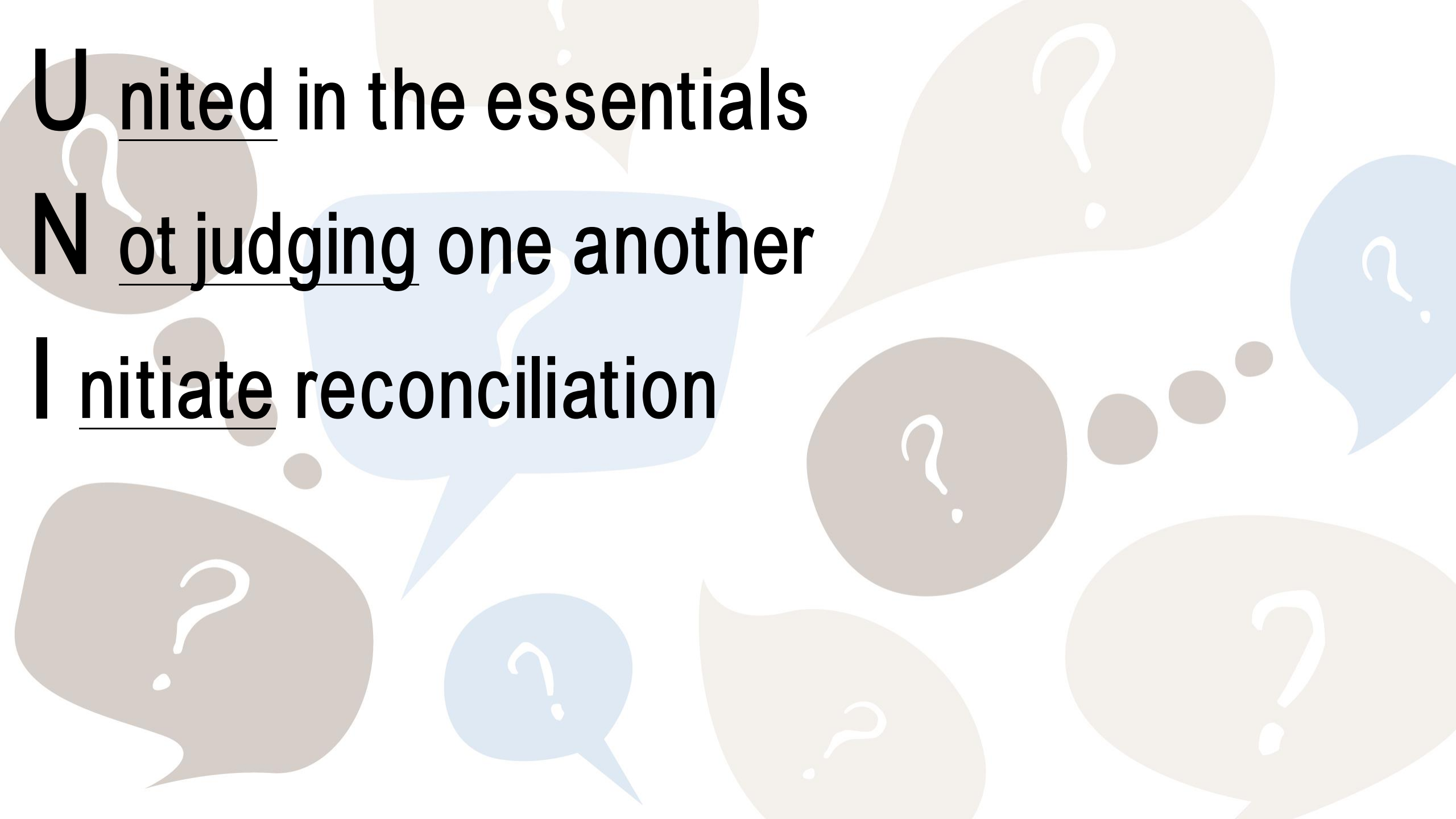
“The essence of legalism is trusting in religious activity rather than trusting in God. It is putting our confidence in a practice rather than in a Person, and without fail, this will lead us to loving the practice more than the Person.”

THOMAS A. KEMPIS

United in the essentials

Not judging one another

Initiate reconciliation



“Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift.”

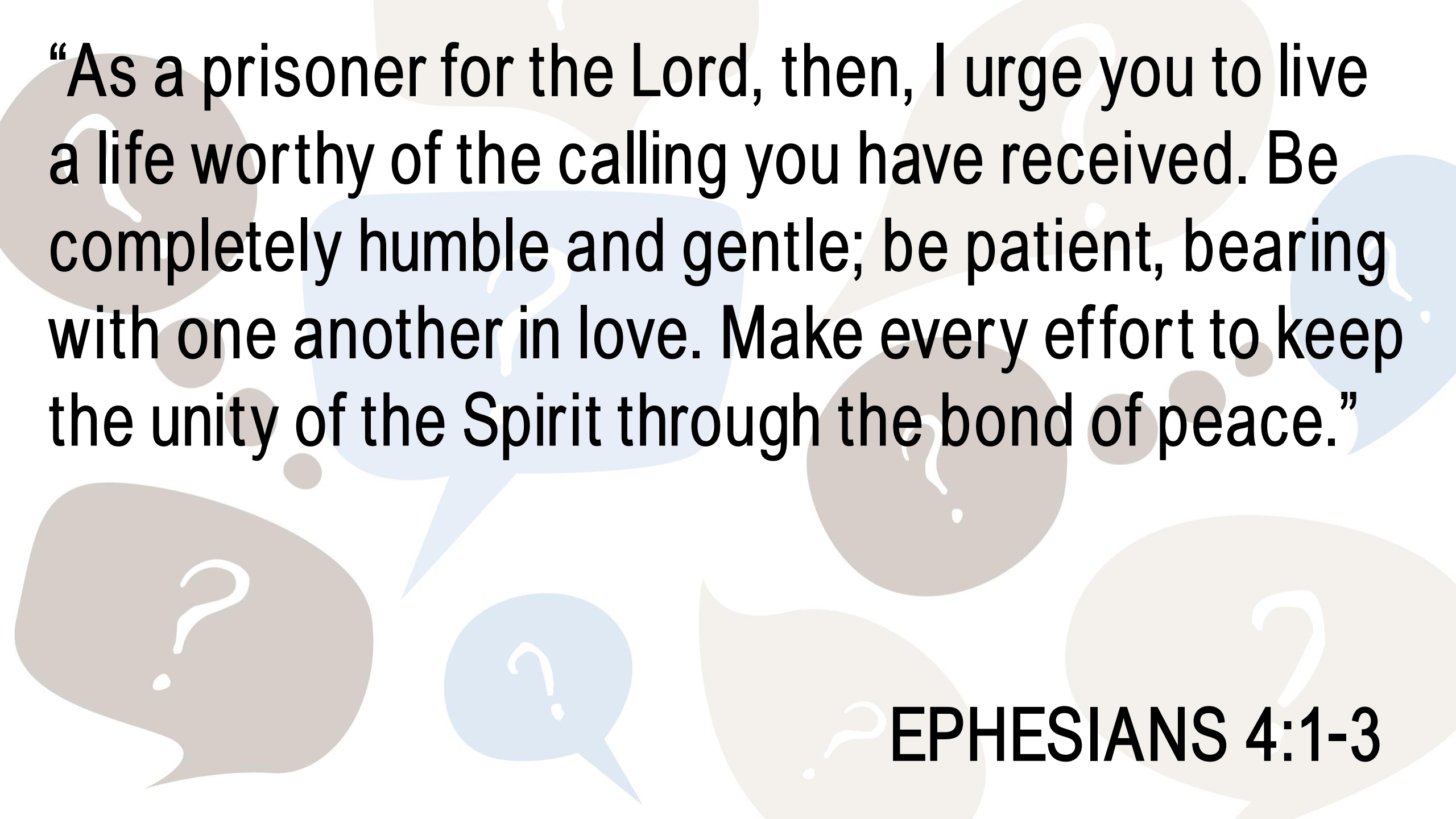
MATTHEW 5:23-24

U nited in the essentials

N ot judging one another

I nitiate reconciliation

T he way of love

The background features several overlapping speech bubbles in shades of brown, blue, and beige. Each bubble contains a white question mark. The text is centered over these bubbles.

“As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.”

EPHESIANS 4:1-3

“In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; in all things, love.”

AUGUSTINE

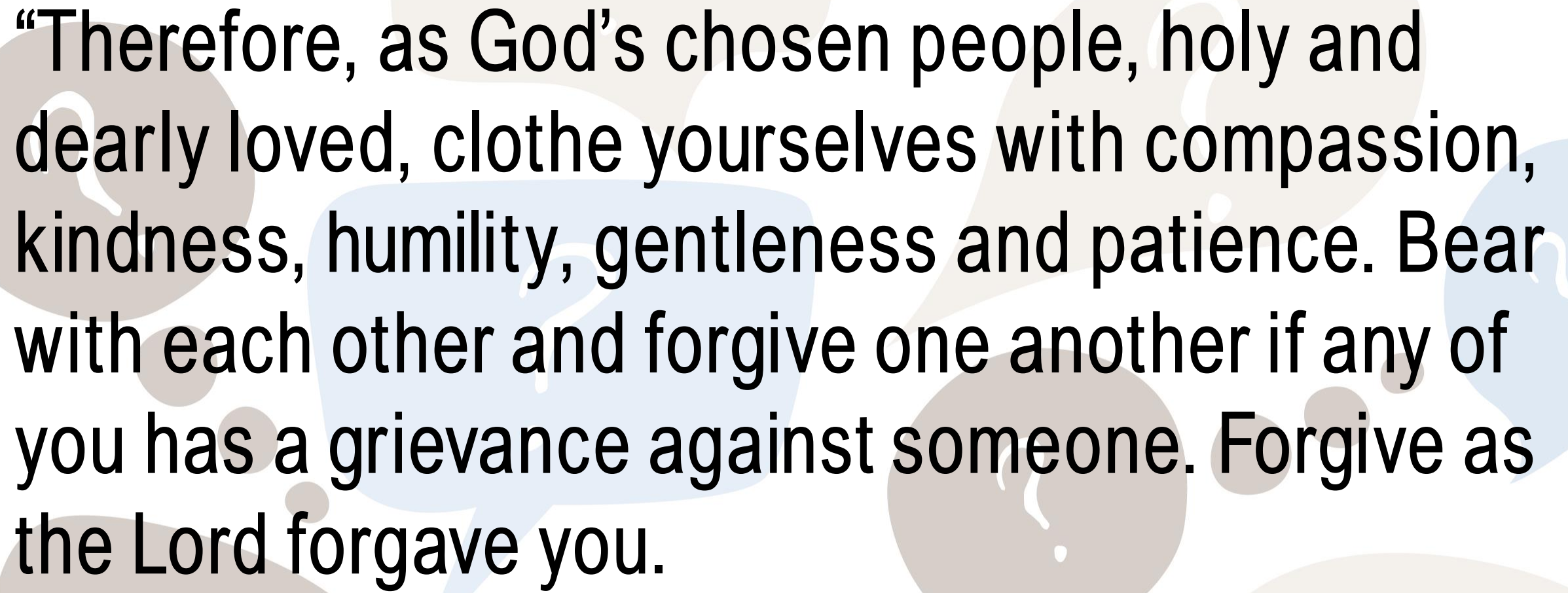
United in the essentials

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Yielding to the Spirit

The background features several speech bubbles in shades of brown, blue, and beige, each containing a white question mark. The text is centered and reads:

“Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.”

COLOSSIANS 3:12-15

The background features several speech bubbles in shades of brown, blue, and beige, each containing a white question mark. The bubbles vary in size and shape, creating a sense of ongoing dialogue or inquiry.

“In God’s economy, loving relationships seem to take precedence over worthy causes.”

BOB LUPTON

The background features a collection of speech bubbles in various colors (brown, blue, beige) and shapes, each containing a white question mark. The bubbles are scattered across the frame, creating a sense of inquiry and discussion.

UNITY begins with “U”