



FOUNDATIONS
of
ADVENTIST
LEADERSHIP

A LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP

*Based on the Collected Papers
from the Leadership Symposium
General Conference Session*

July 3-7, 2005

LECTION
one

Character *and* Personality *of* Adventist Leadership

Based on the Keynote
Presentation by General
Conference President

Jan Paulsen



ADVENTIST LEADERSHIP

A SACRED TRUST

These workshop sessions on leadership will explore

1

Why the subject of Adventist leadership is especially important now.

2

What makes *Adventist* leadership so special.

3

Where we go and what we look for when we seek to profile the leadership character of our church.

4

Where the leadership models are. What we are to look at.

5

What is expected globally of leadership in the Adventist Church.

6

How leadership functions.

7

The best climate or mode for Adventist leadership to express itself.

8

What is acceptable in leadership. What is not acceptable.

9

What the boundaries of leadership are

Session 1 will address the following questions:

1

Why is it important that we focus on Adventist leadership at this time?

2

What are the major qualities that Adventist leaders should demonstrate?

3

How can leaders develop these characteristics?

4

What characteristics should leaders avoid?

Leadership in
the Adventist Church
is different

from leadership
in business
or leadership in
politics.



TRUST

is critical in church leadership.

A leader cannot command or demand *trust*; he/she must earn *trust* by being *trustworthy*.

It is vitally important that *trust* **NOT** be swallowed up by *obsession for control*.

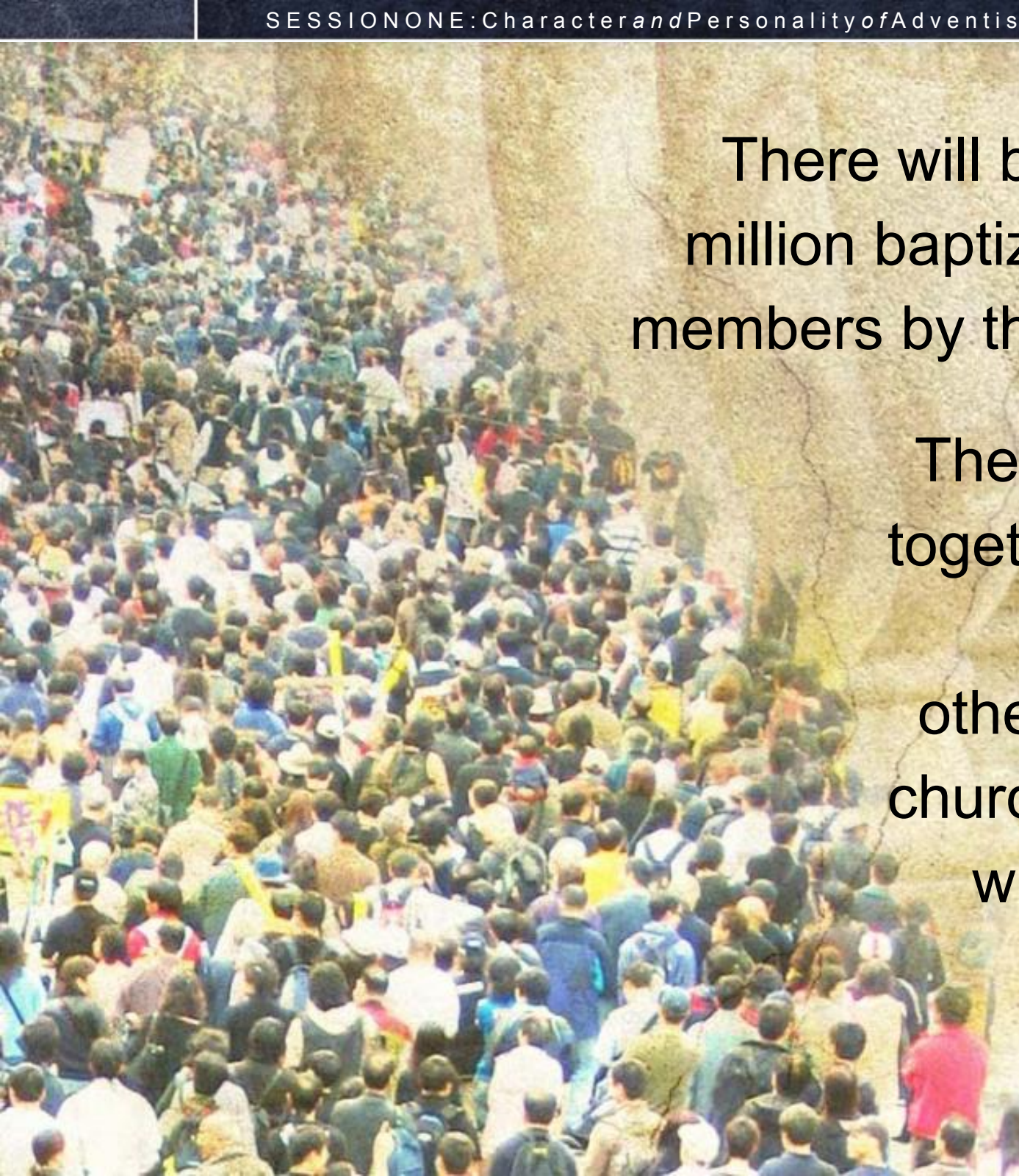


Trust

Obsession for control

Realities *that* Compel Us to Consider *the* Matter *of* Leadership

I. The Expanding Church

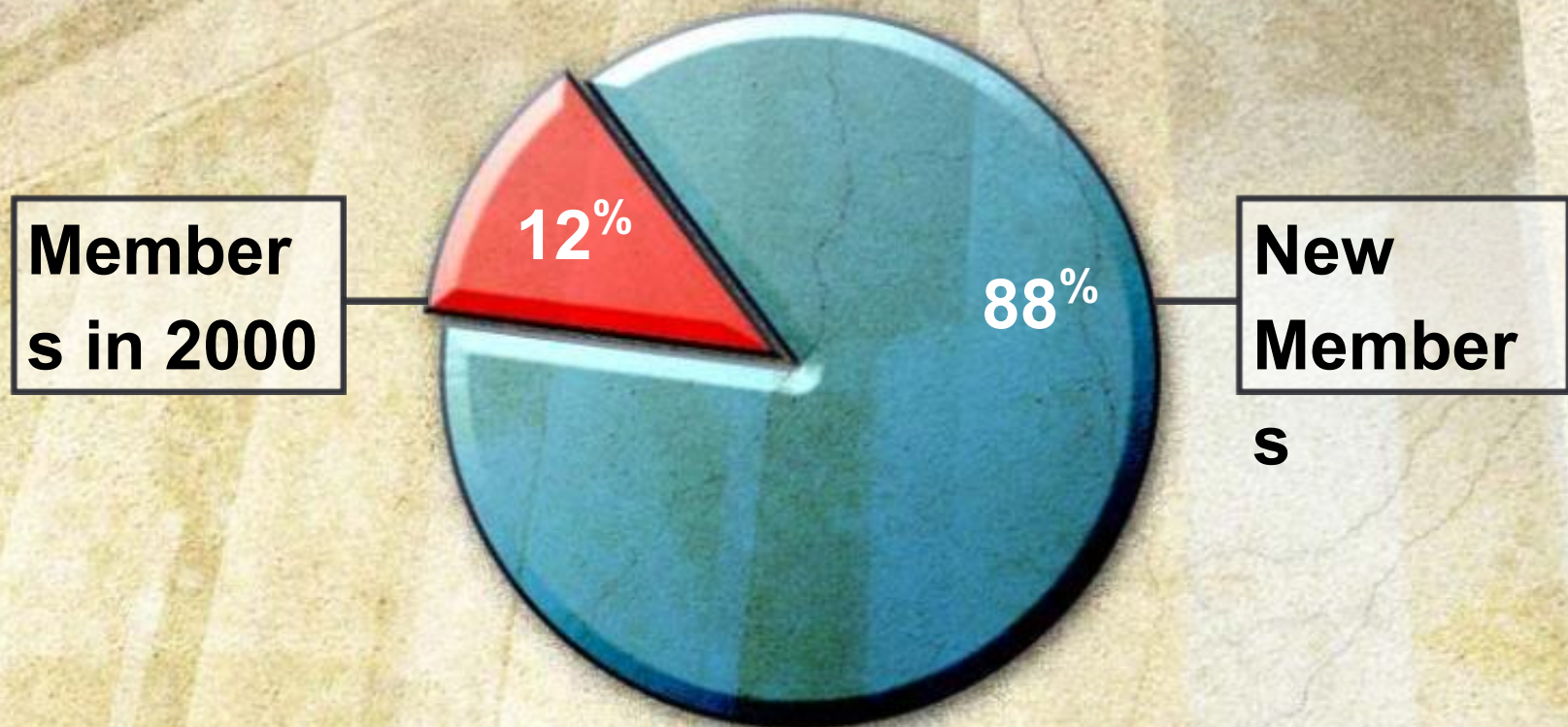


There will be about 31.5 million baptized Adventist members by the year 2020.

These members, together with their children and other unbaptized church attendees, will total nearly 50 million by that time.

By 2020, the Adventist Church will be a “young church;” most will have been members for 20 years or less.

FIGURE 2. Projected Distribution of Adventist Church Members in 2020



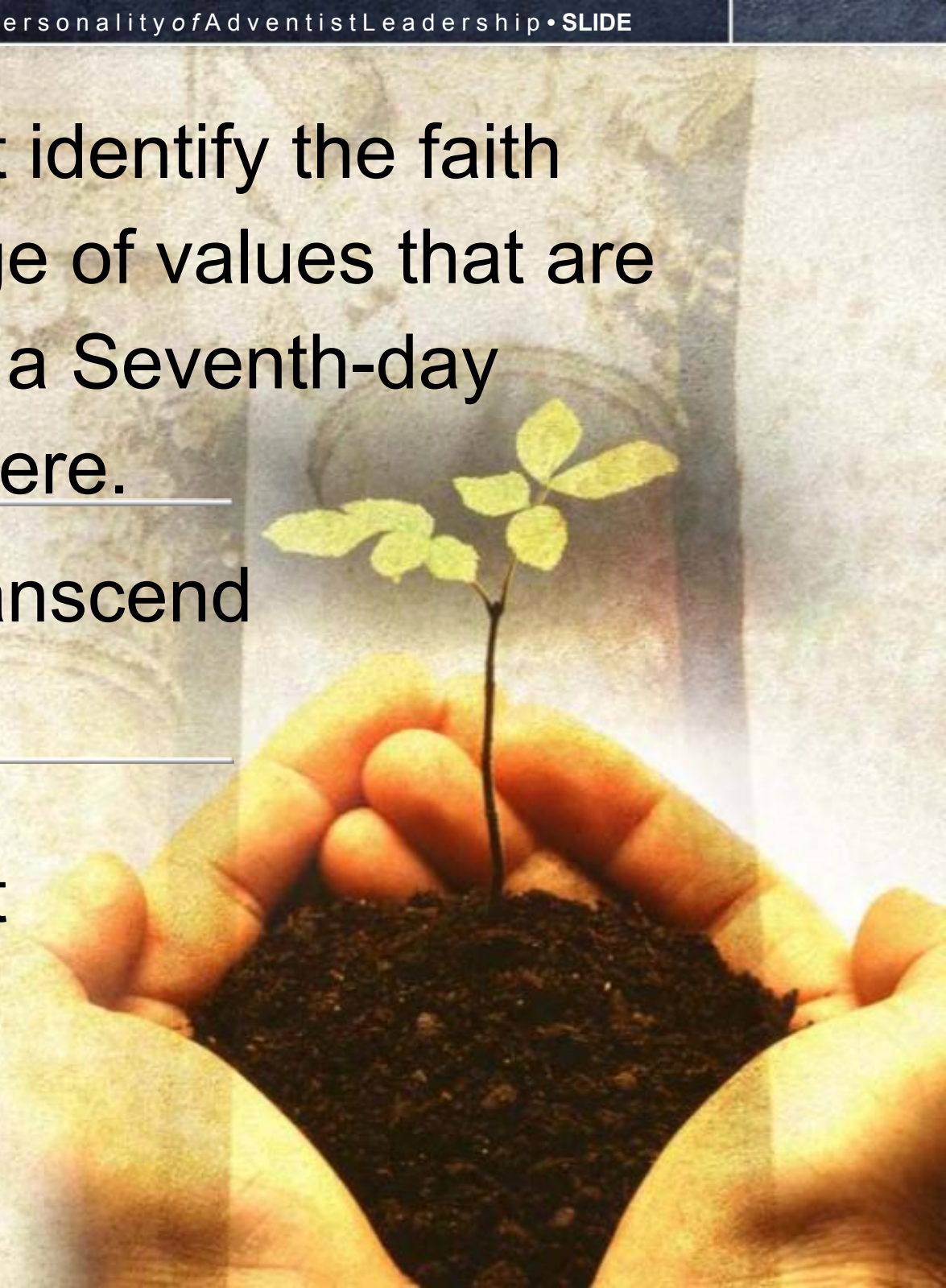
Since the expanding church will be a “young” church, we must consider how we pass on identity and values from one generation of believers to the next.



Leadership must identify the faith identity and range of values that are integral to being a Seventh-day Adventist anywhere.

These values transcend time and culture.

Leadership must give priority to asserting and nurturing these values.



II. The Inevitability *of* Change

Change cannot be resisted and should not be feared.

It is critical that leadership clearly identify the spiritual DNA of Seventh-day Adventism.

This spiritual DNA transcends cultures and traditions.

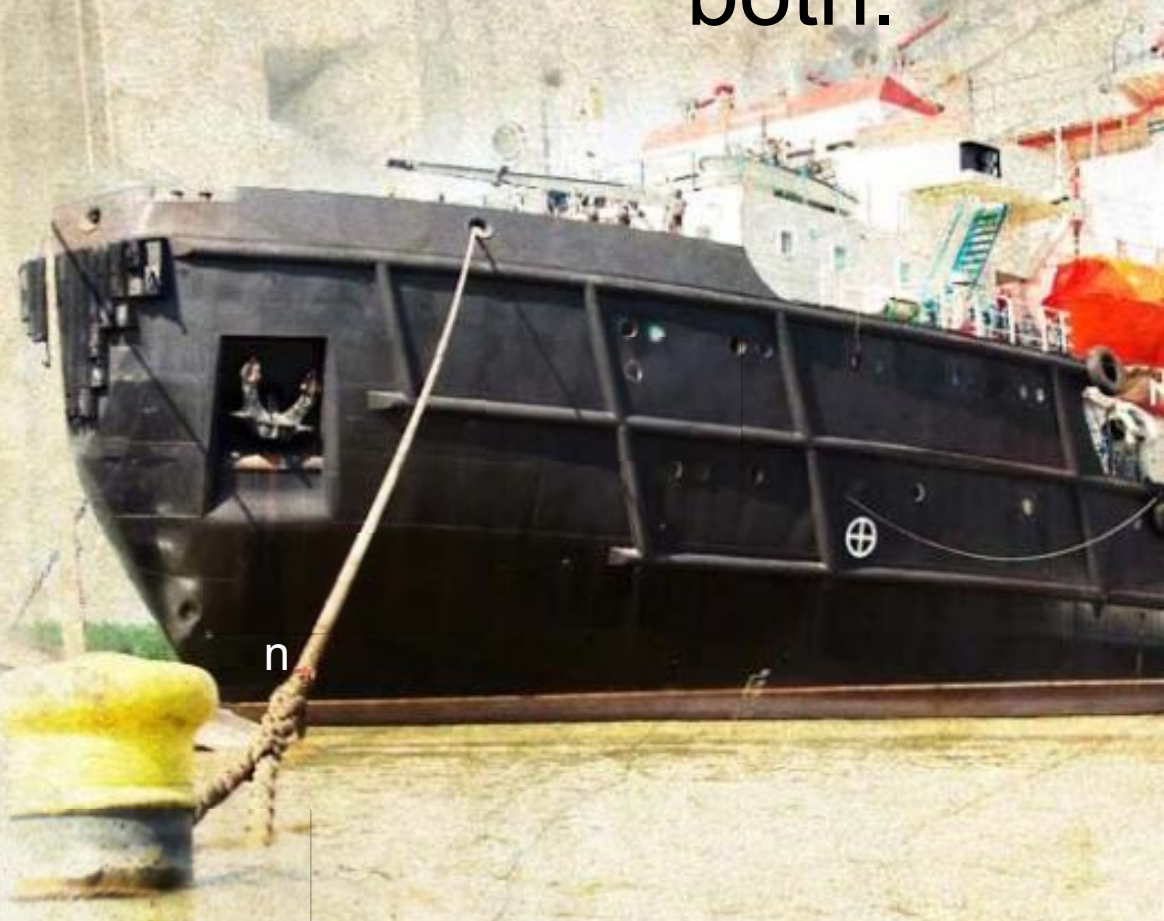
Leadership must retain, treasure, nurture, and pass it on to our children and to the next generation of church members.



III. The Strength of Permanence

Leadership must guide the church in living creatively with both.

Change will be anchored to the church's specific landmarks.



IV. Living Creatively *with* Diversity

The Adventist Church is a global community with constant interaction among cultures.

Leadership must clearly identify those values that

- *we will continue to hold*
- *transcend time and culture*



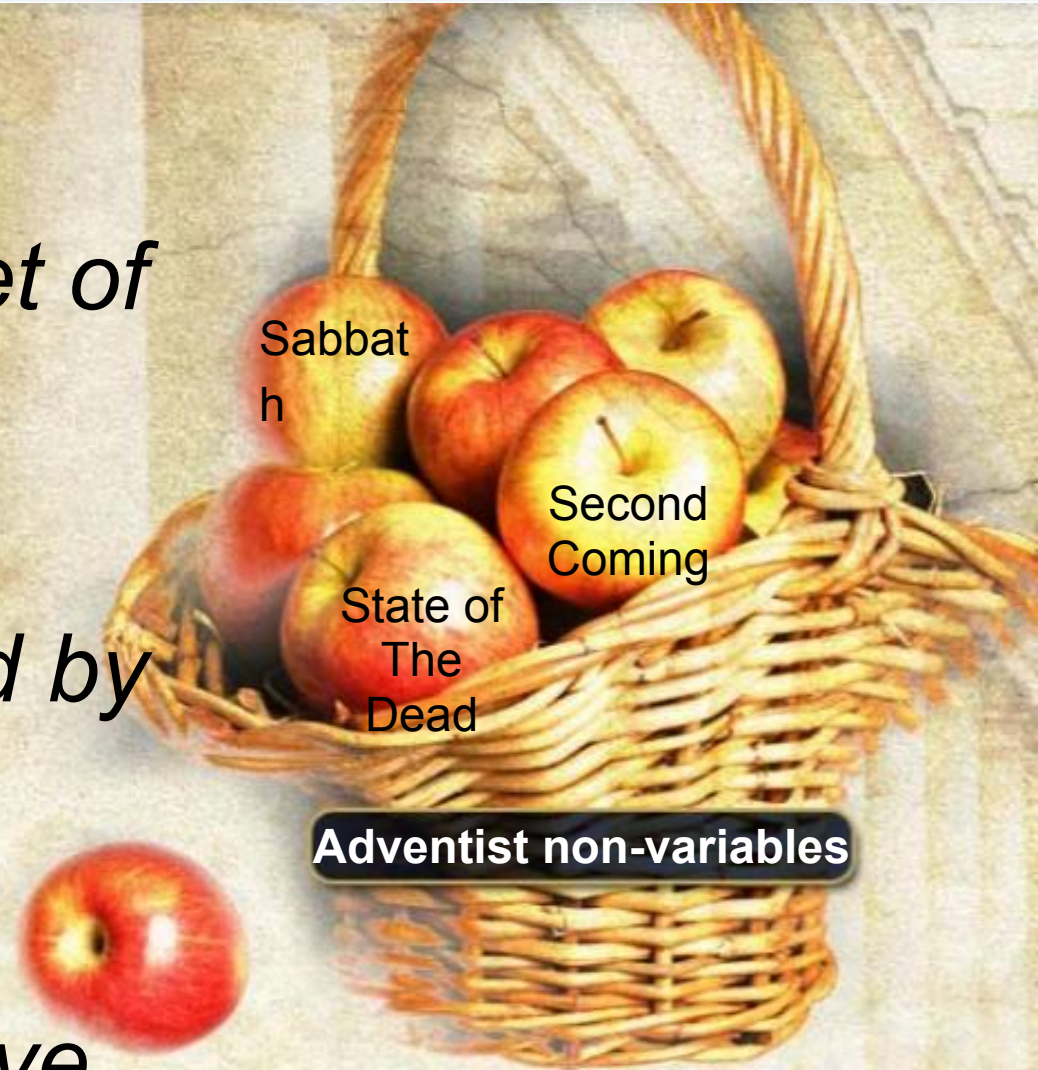
V. Celebrating Diversity While Maintaining Our Values



Leadership must

- *identify the basket of Adventist non-variables*
- *not be threatened by local cultural expression*
- *place values above*

Local ~~culture~~ conditions can only do us harm if we are uncertain about our faith and moral values.



Leadership must react proactively to bring out the appropriate richness in our global family.



The Church *as a* Global Community



EPHESIAN
S

³Make every effort to keep the **unity** of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

⁴There is **one body** and one Spirit—just as you were called to one hope when you were called—

EPHESIAN
S

⁵one Lord, **one faith, one baptism;**

⁶one God and Father of all, who is over all, and through all and in all.

Eph 4:3-6 (NIV)

As a global community,
we have in common

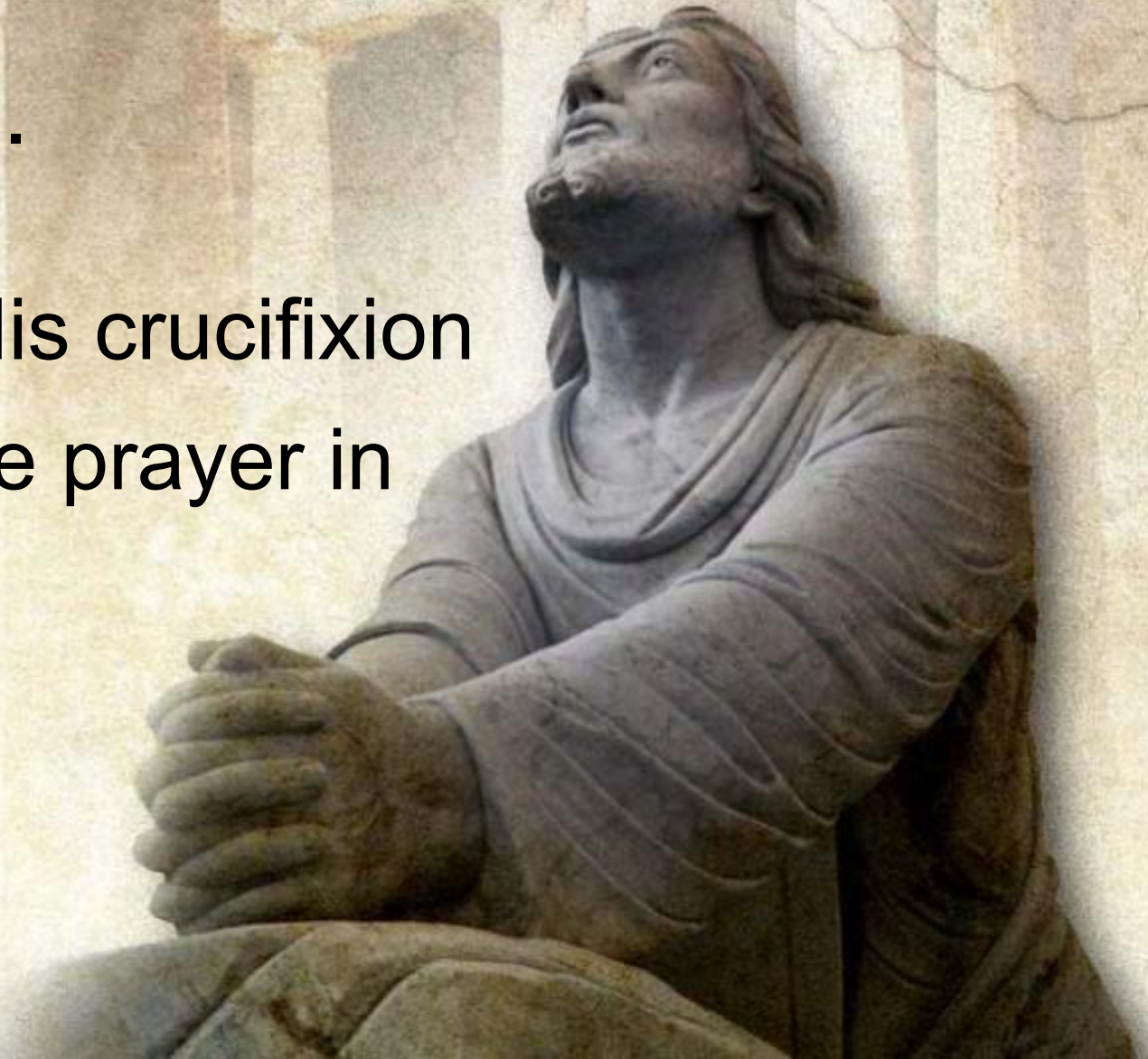
- *a model constitution*
- *a set of policies*
- *a church manual*
- *28 fundamental beliefs*
- *an integrated financial*

~~The need for a support~~ commitment to unity.

system
The unity we share is primarily spiritual.

Jesus wants His church
to be united.

Just before His crucifixion
He prayed the prayer in
John 17.



11“ . . . I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name—the name you gave me—so that they may be one as we are one. .

21“that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world

may believe that you have sent me

22“I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one:

23“I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.”

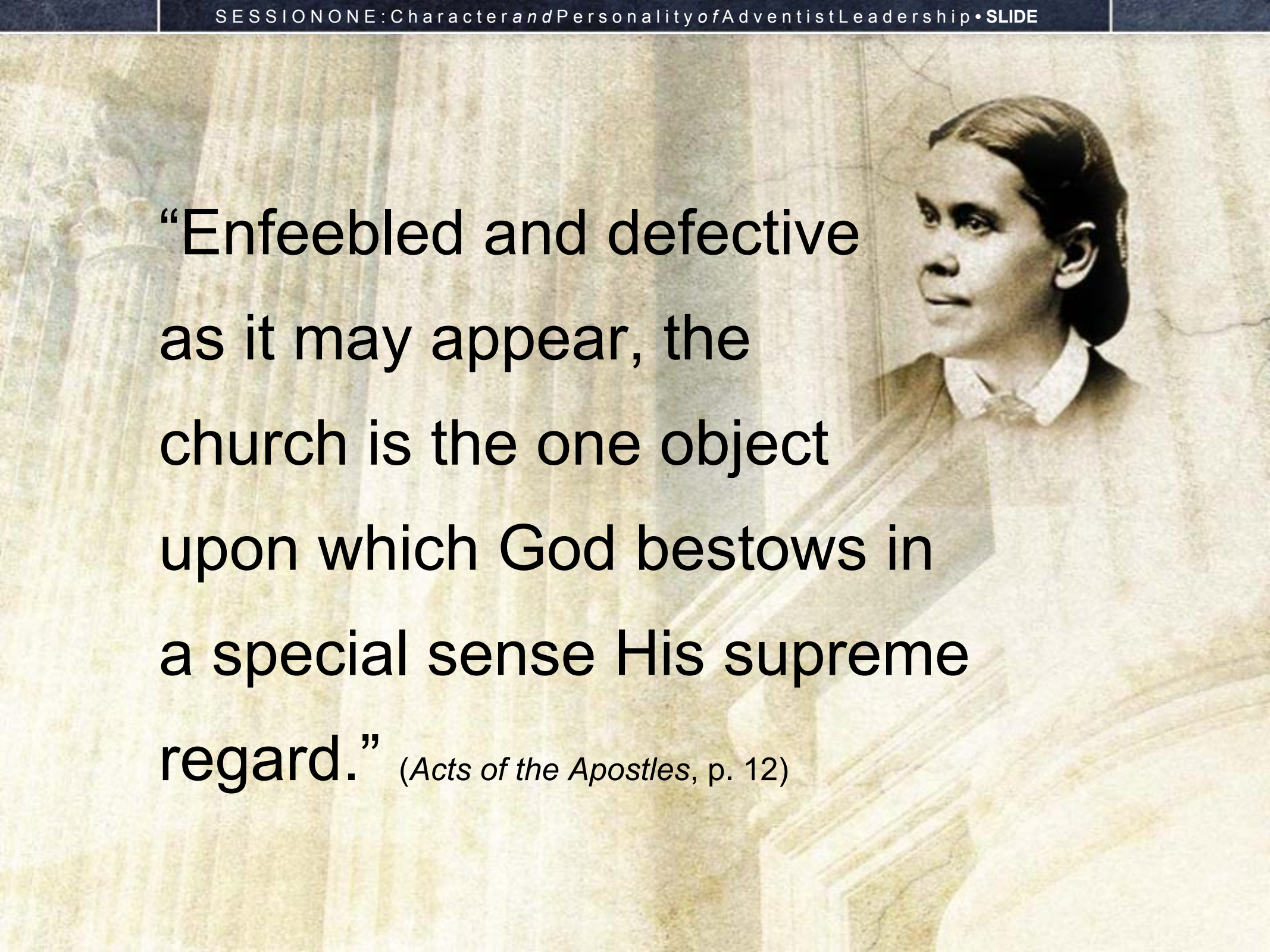
John 17:11, 21-23 (NIV)

The church is Christ's mystical body in the world today.

A fractured church is a church in denial.

The church is God's preferred instrument of mission.





“Enfeebled and defective as it may appear, the church is the one object upon which God bestows in a special sense His supreme regard.” *(Acts of the Apostles, p. 12)*

Imperatives *for* Adventist Church Leadership

Leadership must

- *give undivided allegiance to the Lord and to His Body*
- *tenderly care for the needs of the church*

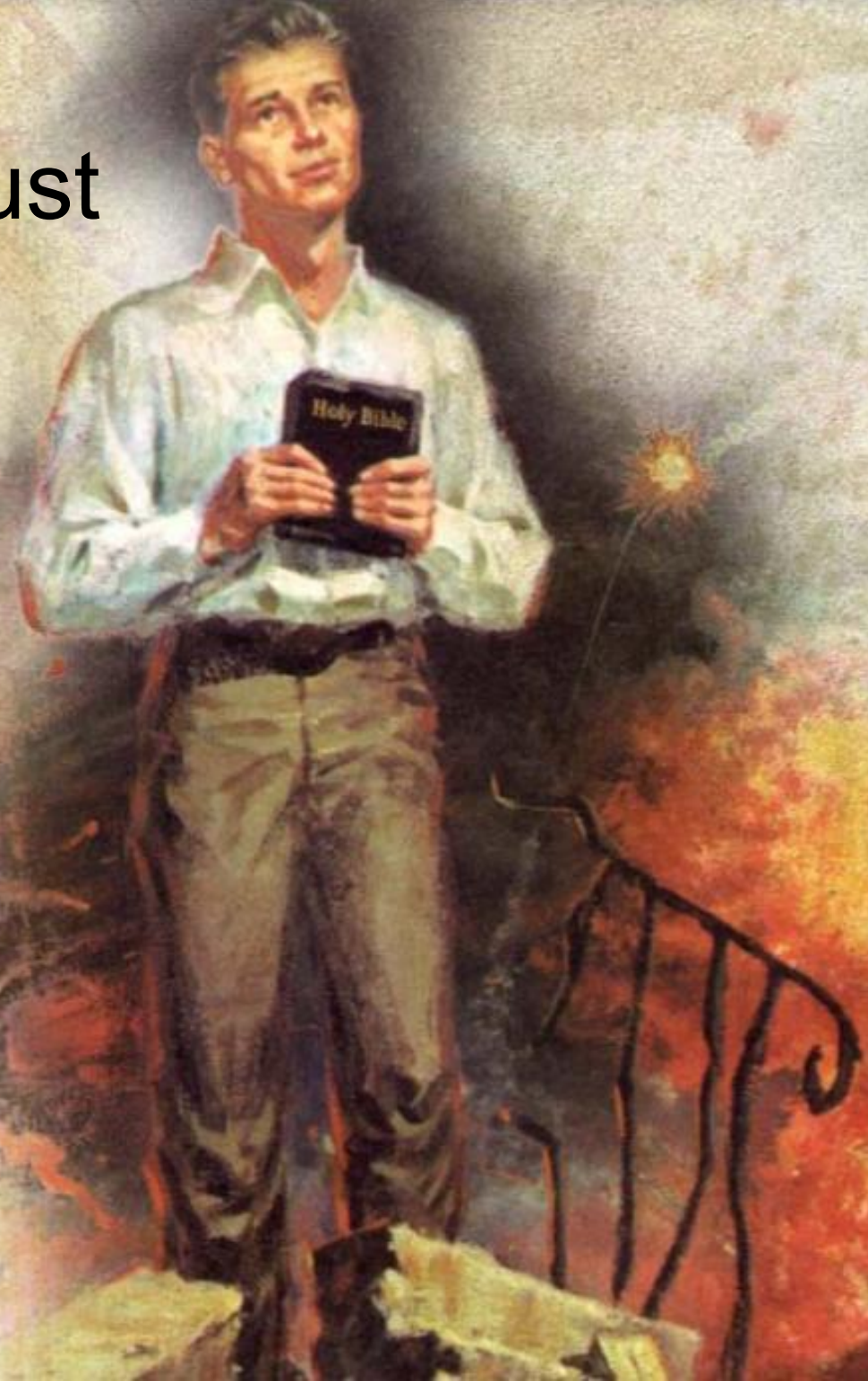


“Love” is
Christ’s
favored word
to describe
the bonding
relationship
between
members of
the family
of faith.



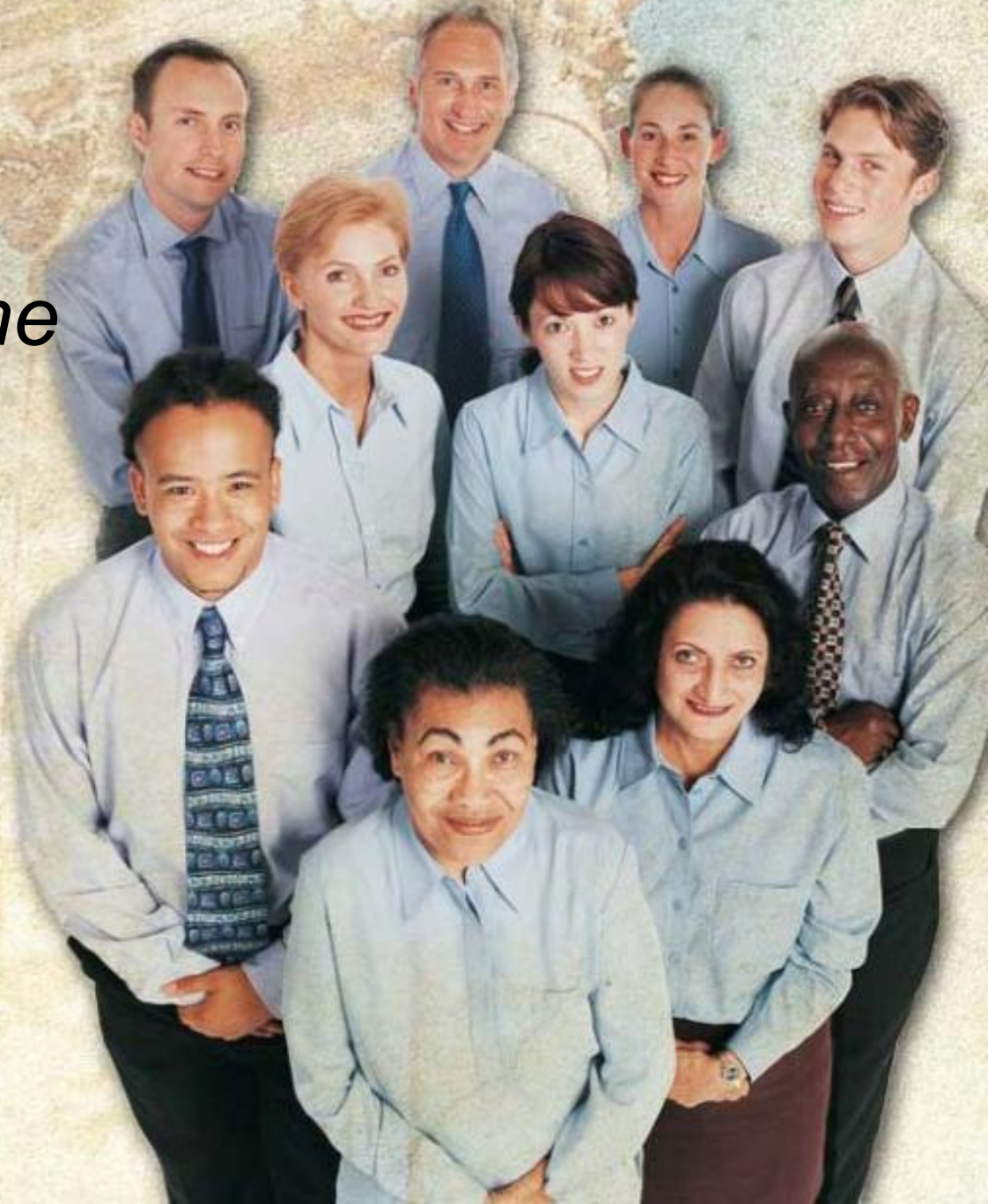
Church leaders must
love the church
enough

- *to suffer for it*
- *to give
themselves for
it*



Leaders will not

- *be self-serving*
- *be casual or frivolous with the life and well-being of the church*
- *impose their own independent “wisdom” on*



Christ is the model for
Adventist leaders.

The church has only
one Lord, Jesus
Christ, not the elected
church leader.



Leaders will

- *remember that they are servants*
- *love and respect members of the church family*
- *reflect this in their style of leadership*



Adventist leadership

- *always defers to what is understood and agreed upon by the larger church body*
- *agrees as a global family on how we shall act and what we shall do*
- *works on the basis of consultation and consensus*



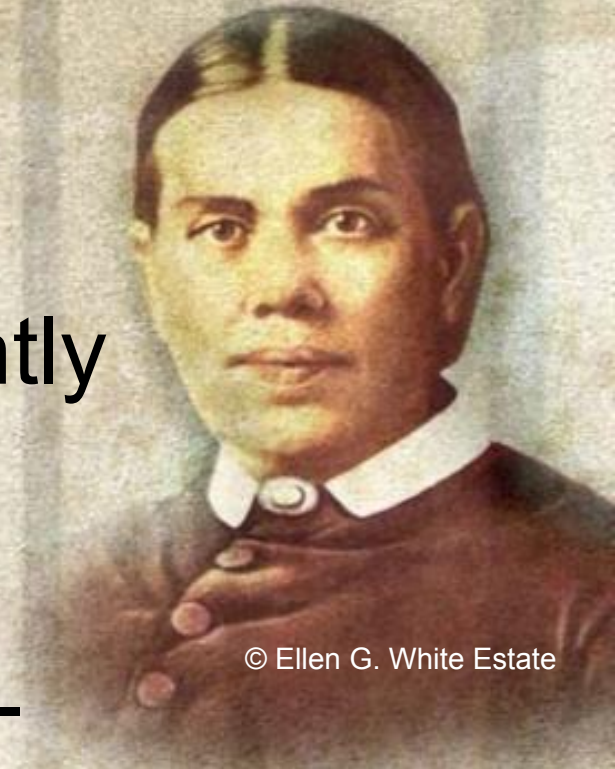
Adventist leadership

- *will be sensitive to what the church can accept at any given time*
- *will not outpace the community it serves*
- *will not show a spirit of independence*



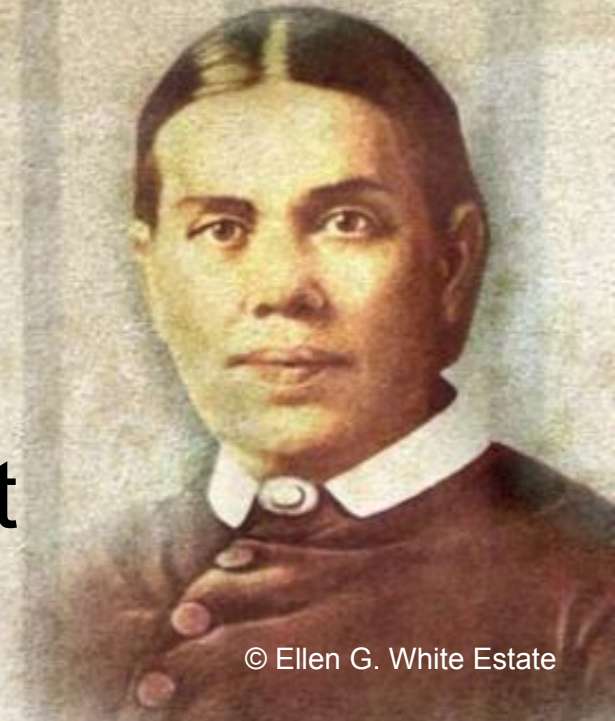
“There have ever been in the church those who are constantly inclined toward individual independence. They seem unable to realize that independence of spirit is liable to lead the human agent to have too much confidence in himself and to trust in his own judgment rather than to respect the counsel and highly esteem the judgment of his brethren.”

(Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 2, p. 421)



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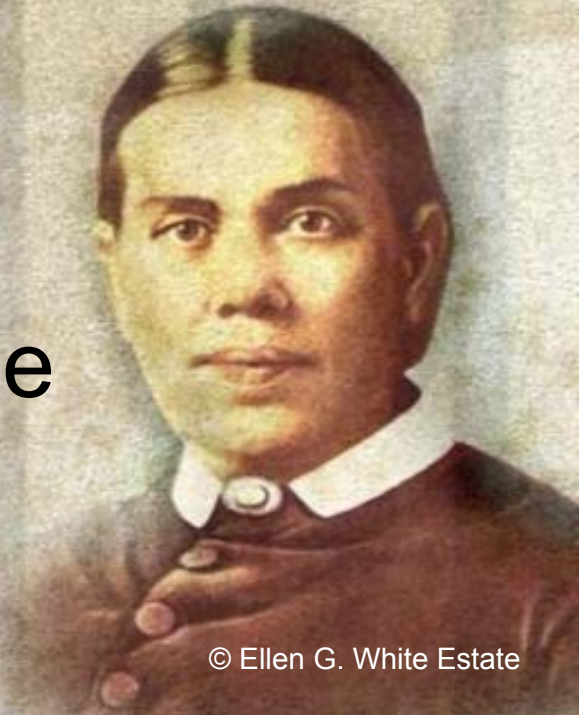
“Sometimes a man who has been placed in responsibility as a leader gains the idea that he is in a position of supreme authority, and that all his brethren, before making advance moves, must first come to him for permission to do that which they feel should be done.



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Such a man is in a dangerous position. He has lost sight of the work of a true leader among God's people. Instead of acting as a wise counselor, he assumes the prerogatives of an exacting ruler. God is dishonored by every such display of authority and self-exaltation."

(Testimonies for the Church, Vol 3, p. 493)



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Leaders in the church

- *will seek that which is good for the whole body*
- *function in the interest of the whole*

church
If this is compromised, the unity of the whole church is undermined.

One who cannot see this or will not abide by it should not accept a leadership appointment in the church.

A conference organization is as bonded to the whole body of the church as it is to the local congregation under its supervision.



Election *to* Church Office

Church leaders

- *serve at the pleasure of the community*
- *should not take service for granted*
- *should not become bitter if not reelected*



“If you cannot accept
being elected out,
you should not
accept being
elected in!”



Qualities Needed *for* Election *to* Church Leadership

Spirituality

A church leader

- *must be driven by spiritual qualities and concerns*
- *must demonstrate spiritual leadership*



After spirituality, **humility** and **integrity** are the highest qualities needed in Adventist leadership.

Transparency is the filter through which humility and integrity are seen.



Humility

Not being proud, haughty, or arrogant

OLD TESTAMENT

⁸He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk **humbly** with your God.

Mic 6:8 (NIV)

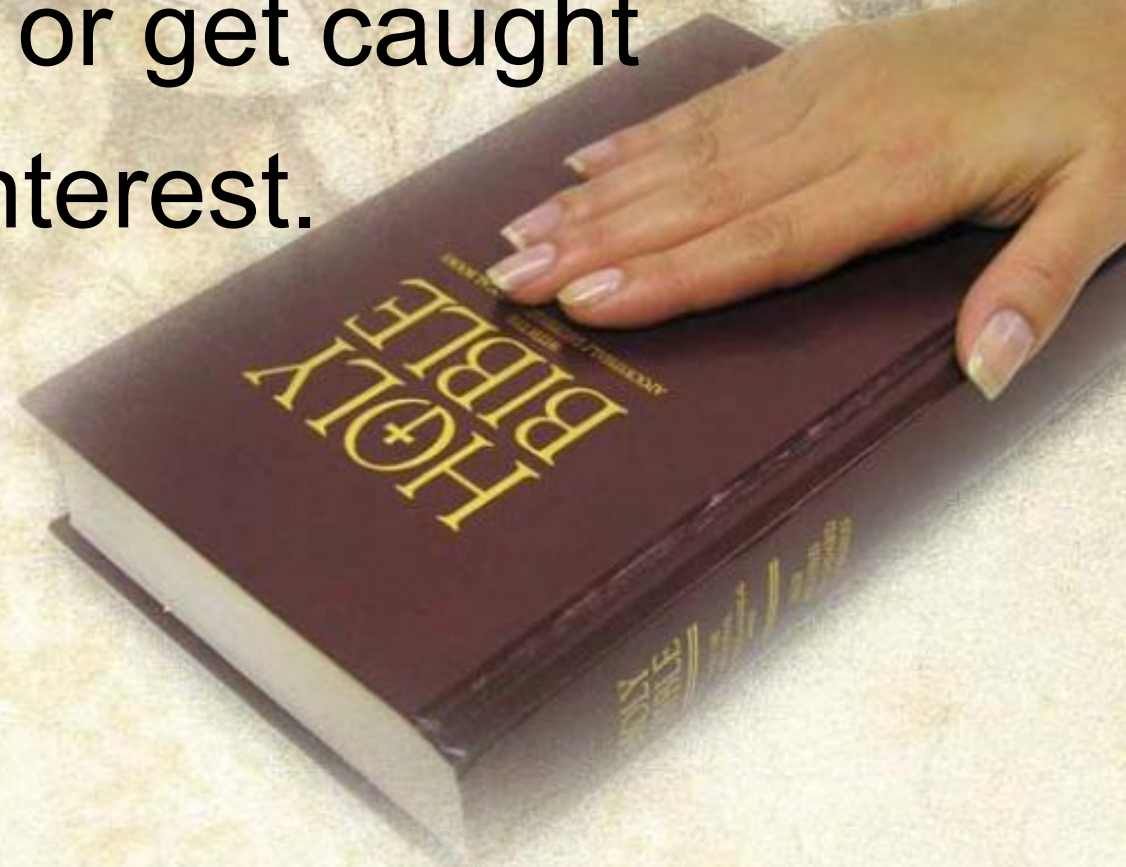
NEW TESTAMENT

⁴"Therefore, whoever **humbles** himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven."

Matt 18:4 (NIV)

Integrity

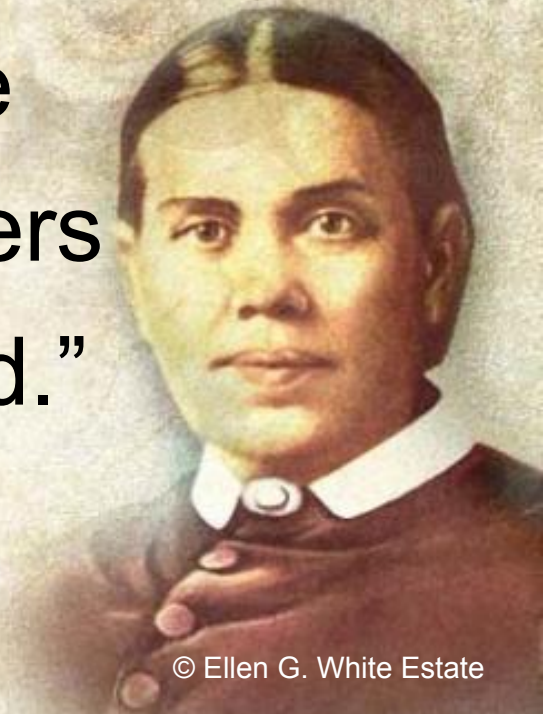
When one stands at the helm of leadership, it is critical that one not sell his soul or get caught in a conflict of interest.



Greed and self-seeking do not belong in any leadership assignment in our church.

“If self is woven into the work, it is as the offering of strange fire in the place of the sacred. Such workers incur the displeasure of the Lord.”

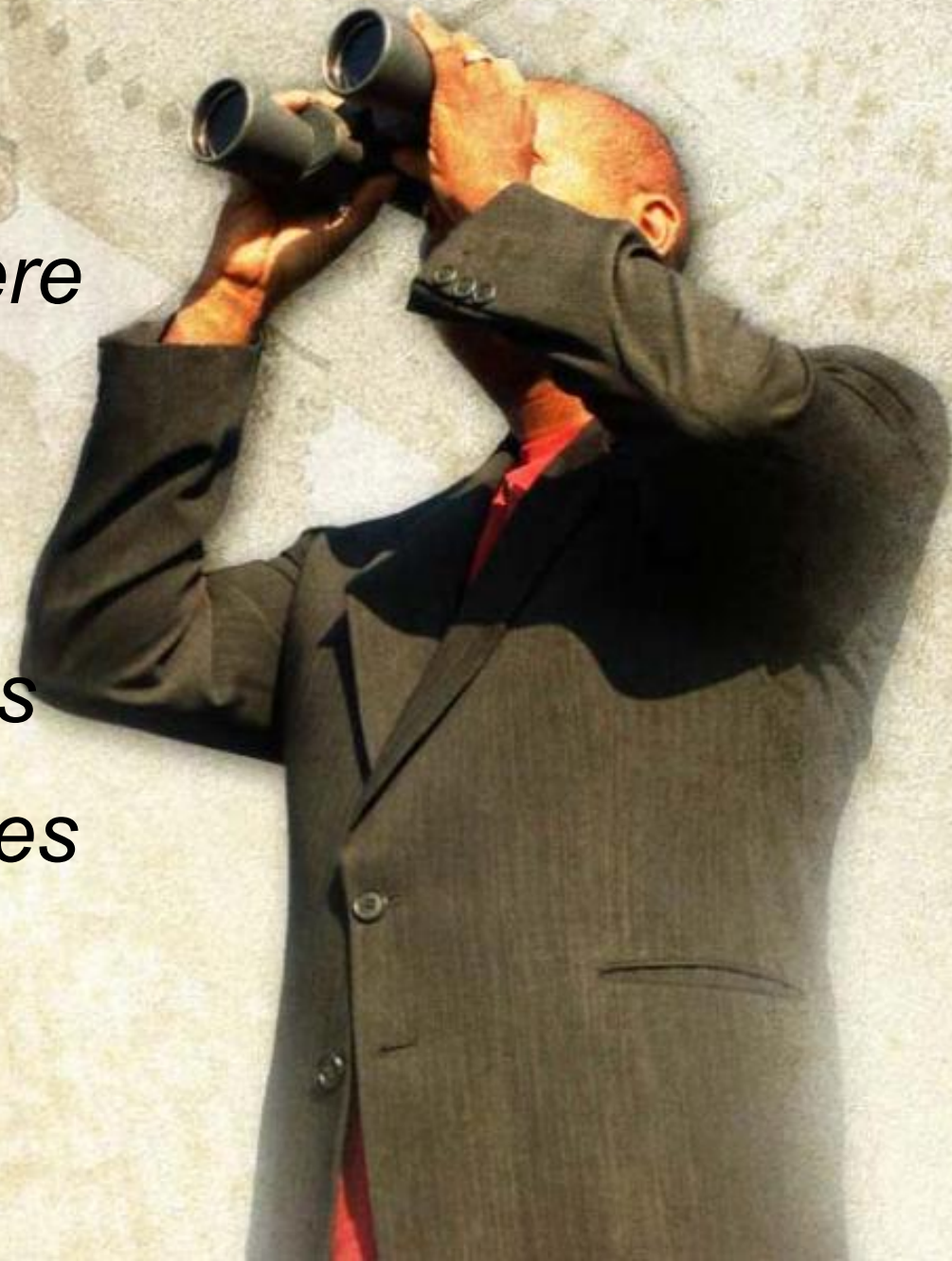
(Testimonies to Ministers, p. 260.1)

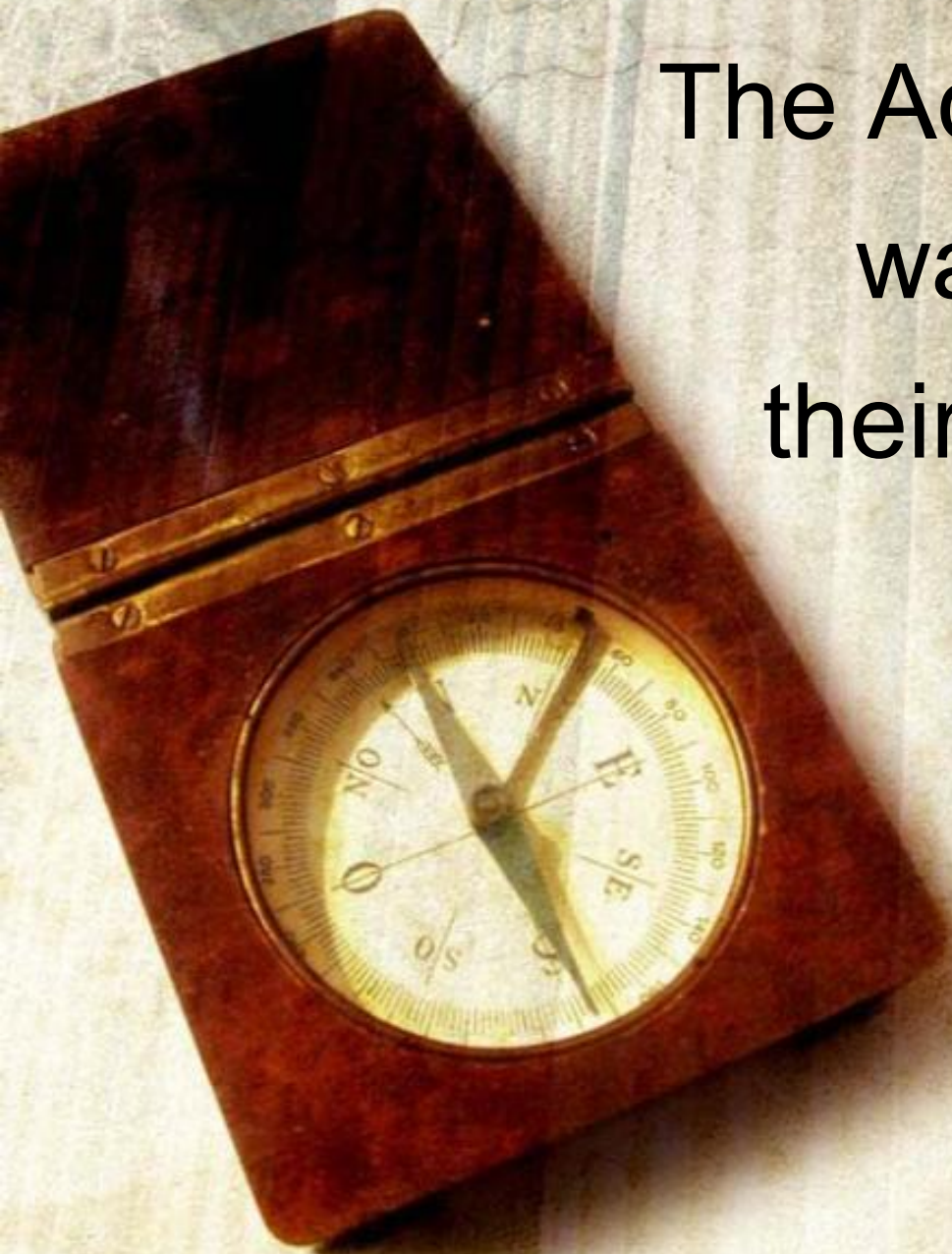


Vision

The capacity

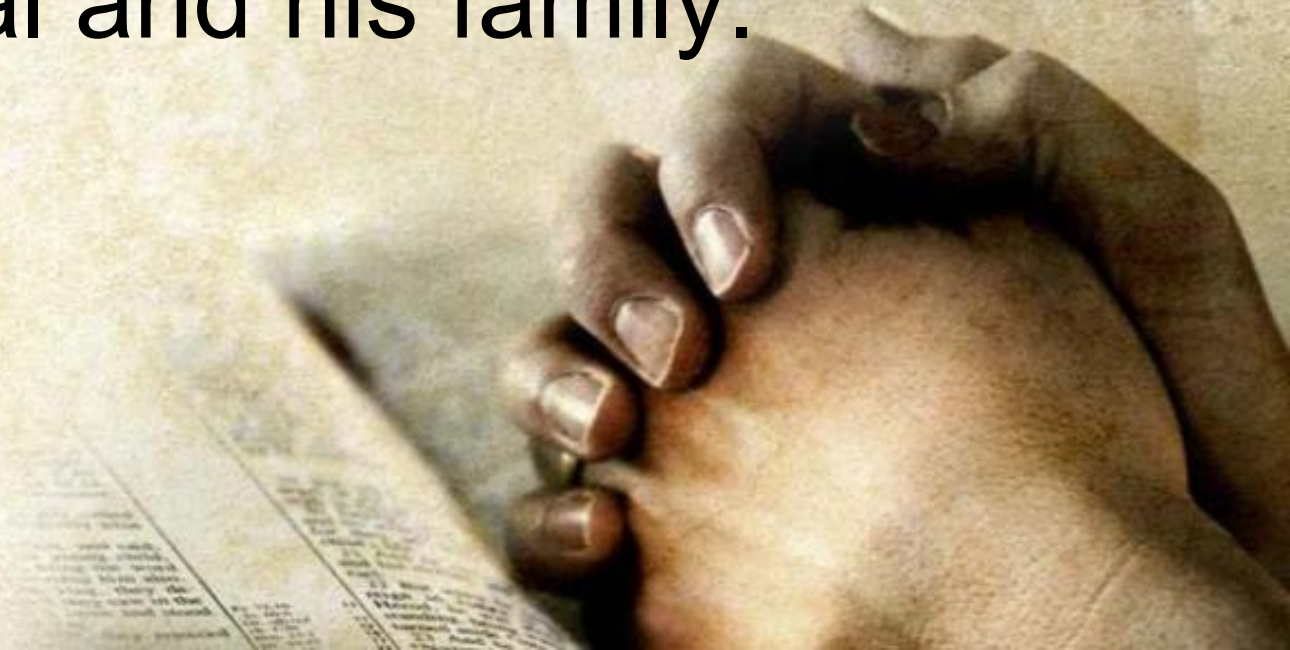
- *to see beyond where you are presently standing*
- *to see opportunities*
- *to define their values*





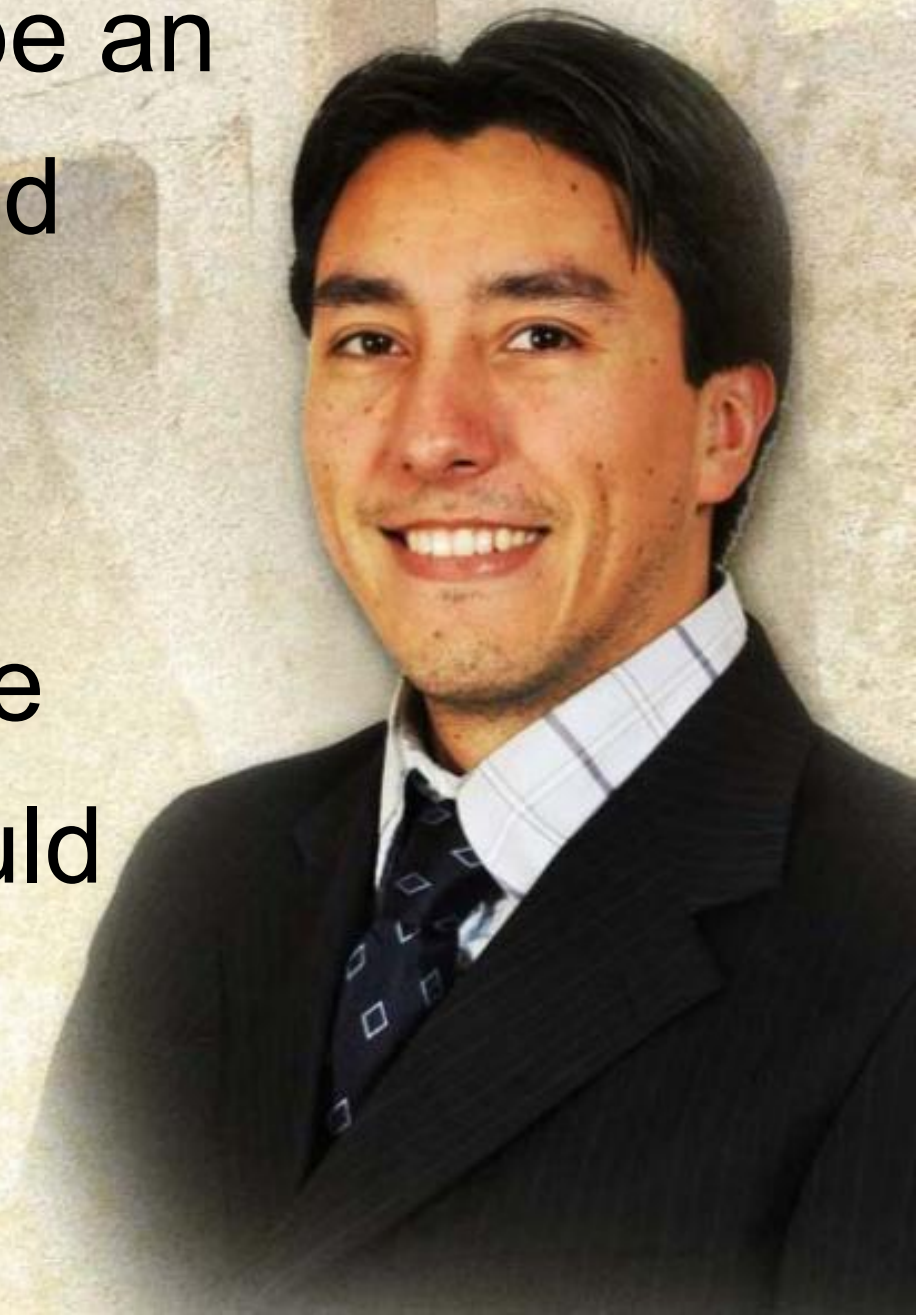
The Adventist community
wants to know where
their leaders are going,
not just what they
hold in their hands.

The honor to serve the church and the Lord in a leadership capacity should be accepted only after prayerful consideration by the individual and his family.



Leadership should be an experience of joy and fulfillment.

When it ceases to be that, the leader should step aside.



Adventist Church leaders always operate with an awareness of certain fundamental truths

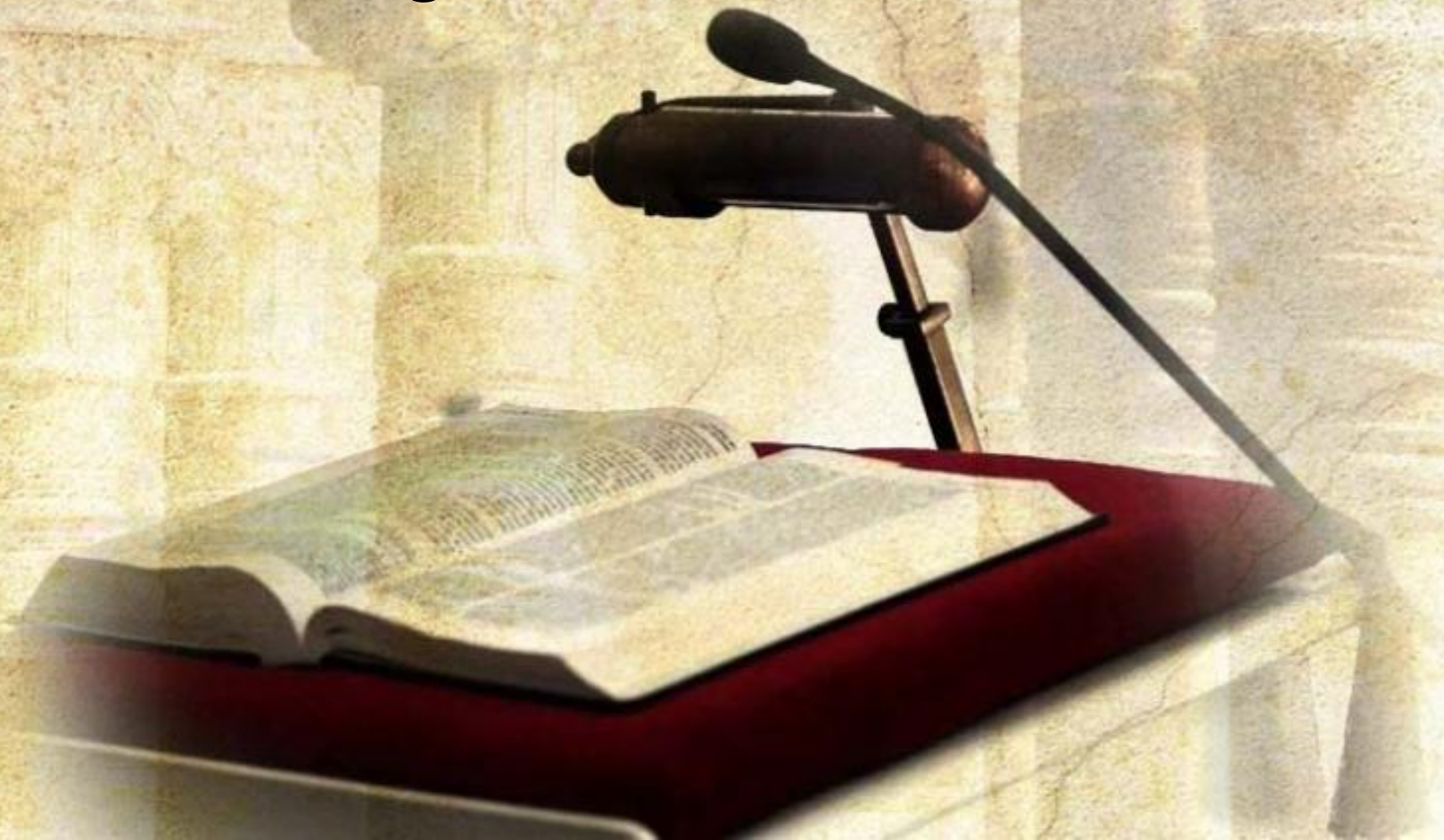
1

They always live in anticipation
of our Lord's return.



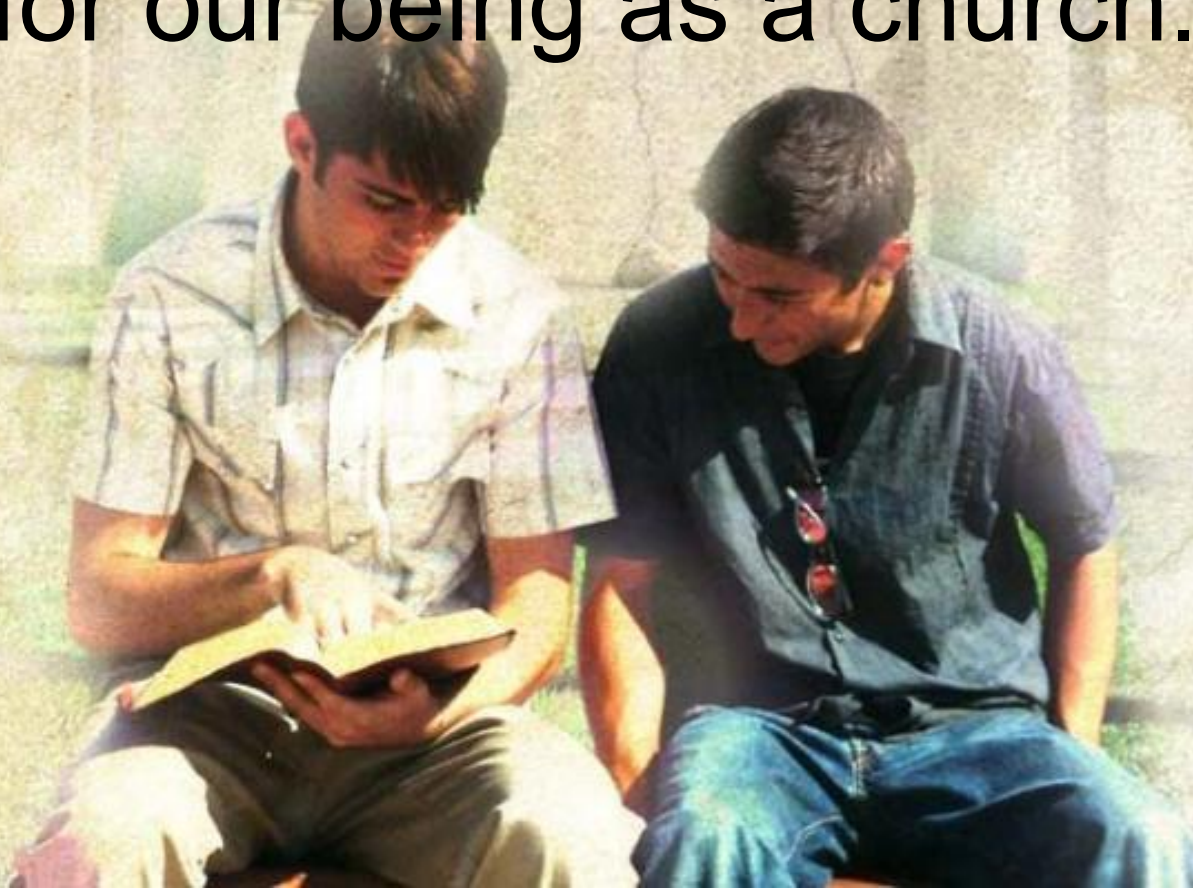
2

They are conscious that we live with the unfinished assignment of being Christ's witnesses.



3

They are ever deliberate in focusing the church on mission. Mission is **THE** primary reason for our being as a church.



This is our Mission:

¹⁹“Therefore go
and make disciples
of all nations,
baptizing them in
the name of the
Father and of the
Son and of the
Holy Spirit,

²⁰and teaching
them to obey
everything I have
commanded
you. . . .”

Matt 28:19,20 (NIV)

IN SUMMARY

Leadership in the Adventist
Church is an assignment of
love,
loyalty,
and devotion
to the Lord and to His church.