

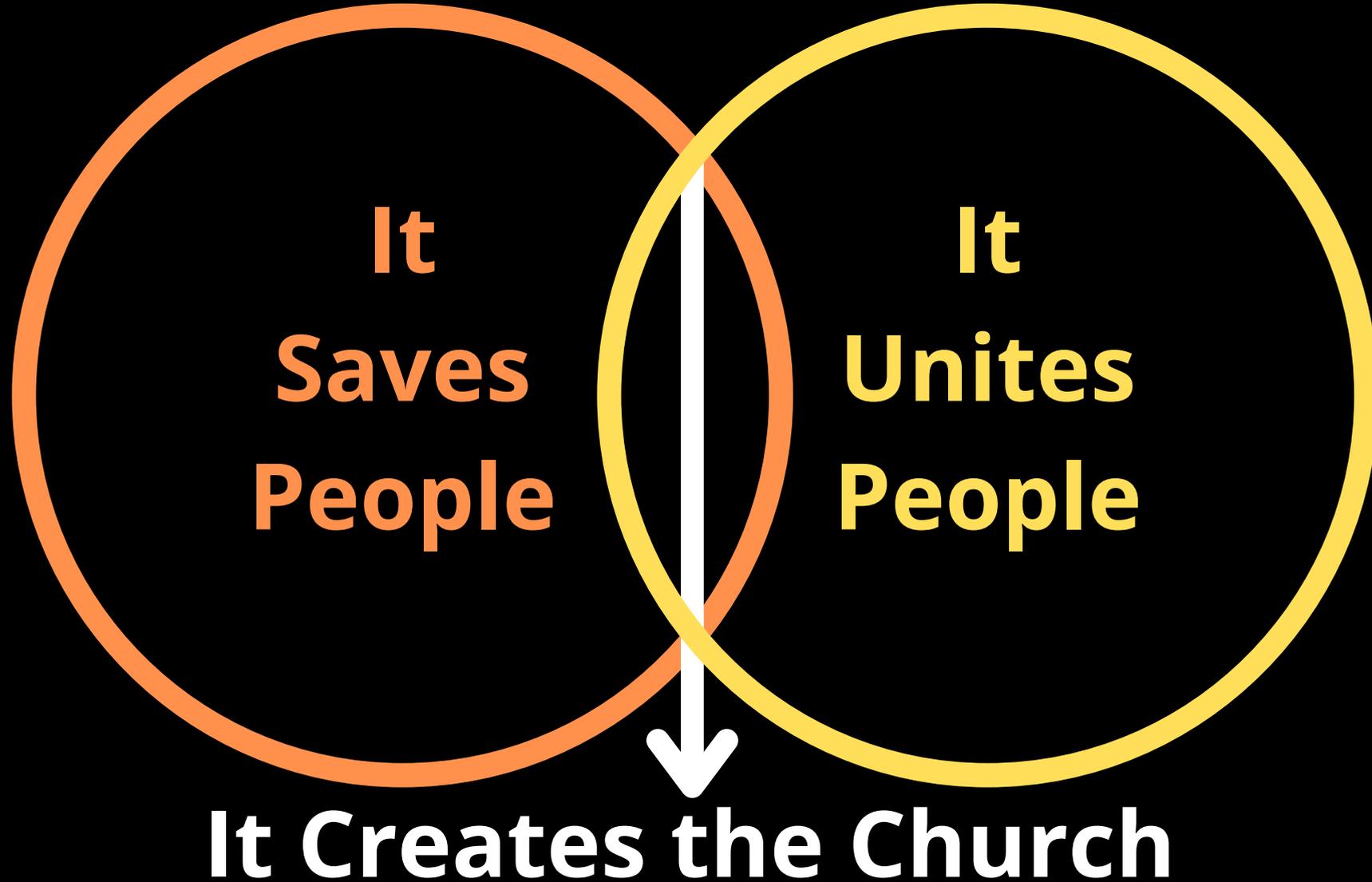
# Paul's Letter to the **EPHESIANS**

**THE FUSION OF GOSPEL & CHURCH**  
HOW GOD SAVES US FROM OURSELVES  
AND INTO COMMUNITY WITH OTHERS

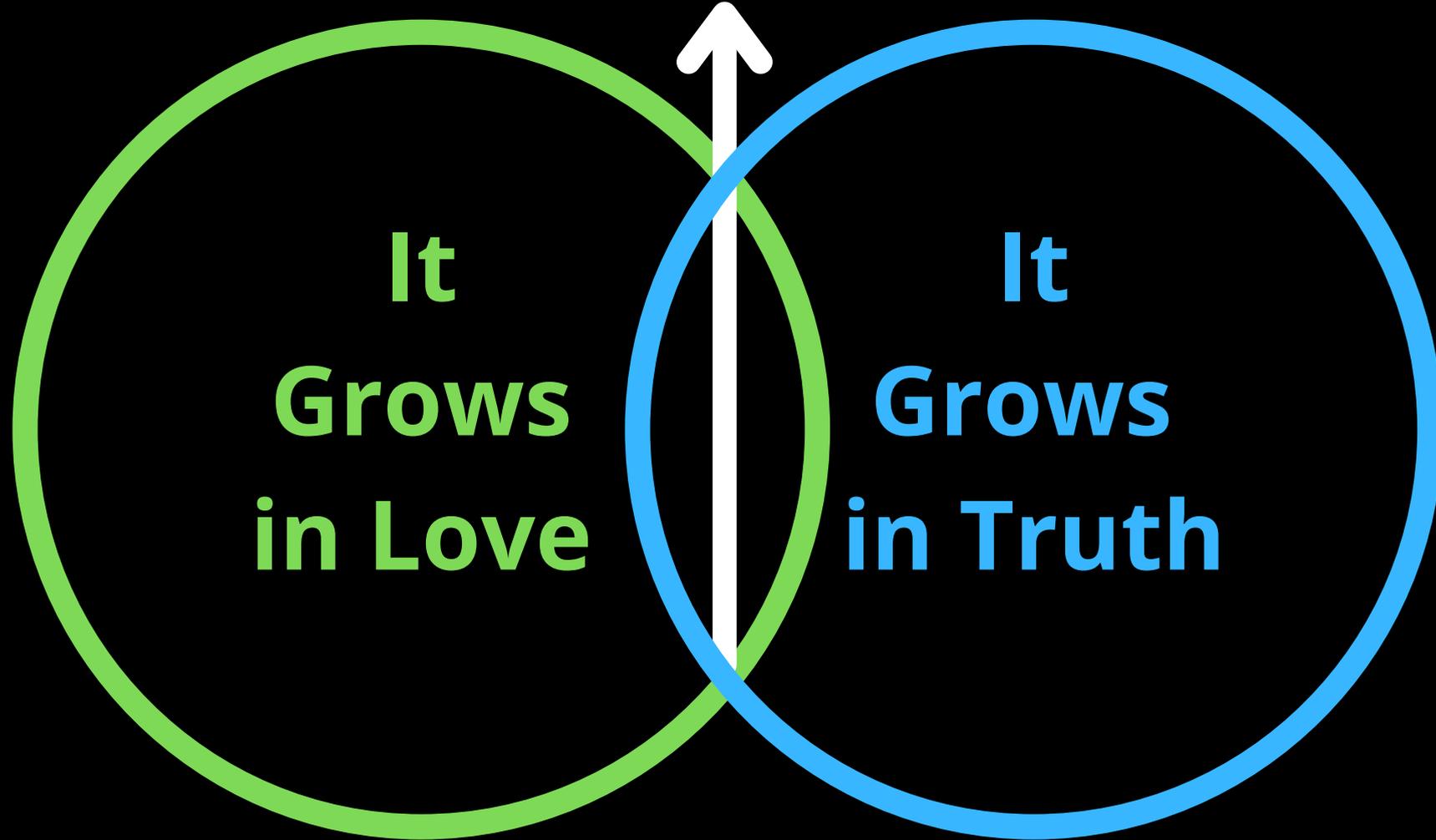
# What to Expect Today

- **SCRIPTURE READING** — I'll share the context of Ephesians 4:17-24, and then we'll read it together.
- **MAIN POINT** — I'll suggest what I think is the main point of the text.
- **EXPLANATION & APPLICATION** — I'll work through the passage in two simple sections, and then close with several questions for personal application.

# The Gospel Does Several Things



**It Glorifies God**



**The Church Does Several Things**

The church is a community of people who grow together in truth and love, and whose individual lives are changed to be more like Jesus as a result.

# The Main Point of Ephesians 4:17-24

*Christians must live changed lives that reflect the holiness of God.*

*"Our conduct should always be to us something which is inevitable in view of what we believe..."*

*-Martyn Lloyd-Jones*

# Christians must live changed lives that reflect the holiness of God because:

## 1. Christian, you are not who you used to be! (17-19)

Paul underscores just how morally bankrupt and corrupt life without God really is by explaining three things:

- Life without God is hopelessly confusing. (17-18)
- Life without God is hopelessly wicked. (18-19)
- Life without God is hopelessly unsatisfying. (19)

"There is an immediacy of expression in Paul's words, as though there is no intermediary in the truth about Jesus, but, rather, he communicates himself. **This Jesus that we worship is not merely a historical figure or a religious concept. He is real and living,** and by his truth his Spirit testifies of his reality in our lives. Not as a history lesson but as the truth of a living personality, **we can have a relationship with the One who created all things and loves us eternally.**"

—Dr. Bryan Chapell  
President Emeritus of Covenant Theological Seminary

# The Three Promises of Salvation

JUSTIFICATION

U  
S  
T

— Christians have been saved.

*JUSTIFIED = set free from the penalty of sin*



SANCTIFICATION

A  
Y

— Christians are being saved.

*SANCTIFIED = set free from the power of sin (but not yet its presence)*



GLORIFICATION

O  
D

— Christians will be saved.

*GLORIFIED = set free from the presence of sin—forever!*



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## 1. Christian, you are not who you used to be! (17-19)

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- Life without God is hopelessly confusing. (17-18)
- Life without God is hopelessly wicked. (18-19)
- Life without God is hopelessly unsatisfying. (19)

## 2. Christian, you are now a disciple of Jesus! (20-24)

You need to "learn Christ" and what he wants from you:

- You need to learn to put off your old self. (20-22)
- You need to learn to renew your mind. (23)
- You need to learn to **put on the new self**. (24)

# Questions for Reflection

1. Do you sense areas of your life the Holy Spirit is convicting you about but which you've been resisting?
2. Did you realize that God actually expects your life to change after you commit to Jesus?
3. Do you think that you've only focused on external change so that other people will think better of you?
- 4. Do you feel like you need to change so that God will accept you?**

# Conclusion

*Why do Christians pursue change?*

*Because of what God has done. We're not who we used to be anymore; now we're personal followers and disciples of Jesus Christ—we have a new identity—it's our new but permanent status, and now we pursue changed lives to match up with who we now are in Christ.*