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# Discipleship: The Call of Christ

Matthew 28:18-20

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# “New Research on the State of Discipleship”

## A Research by the Barna Group in December 2015

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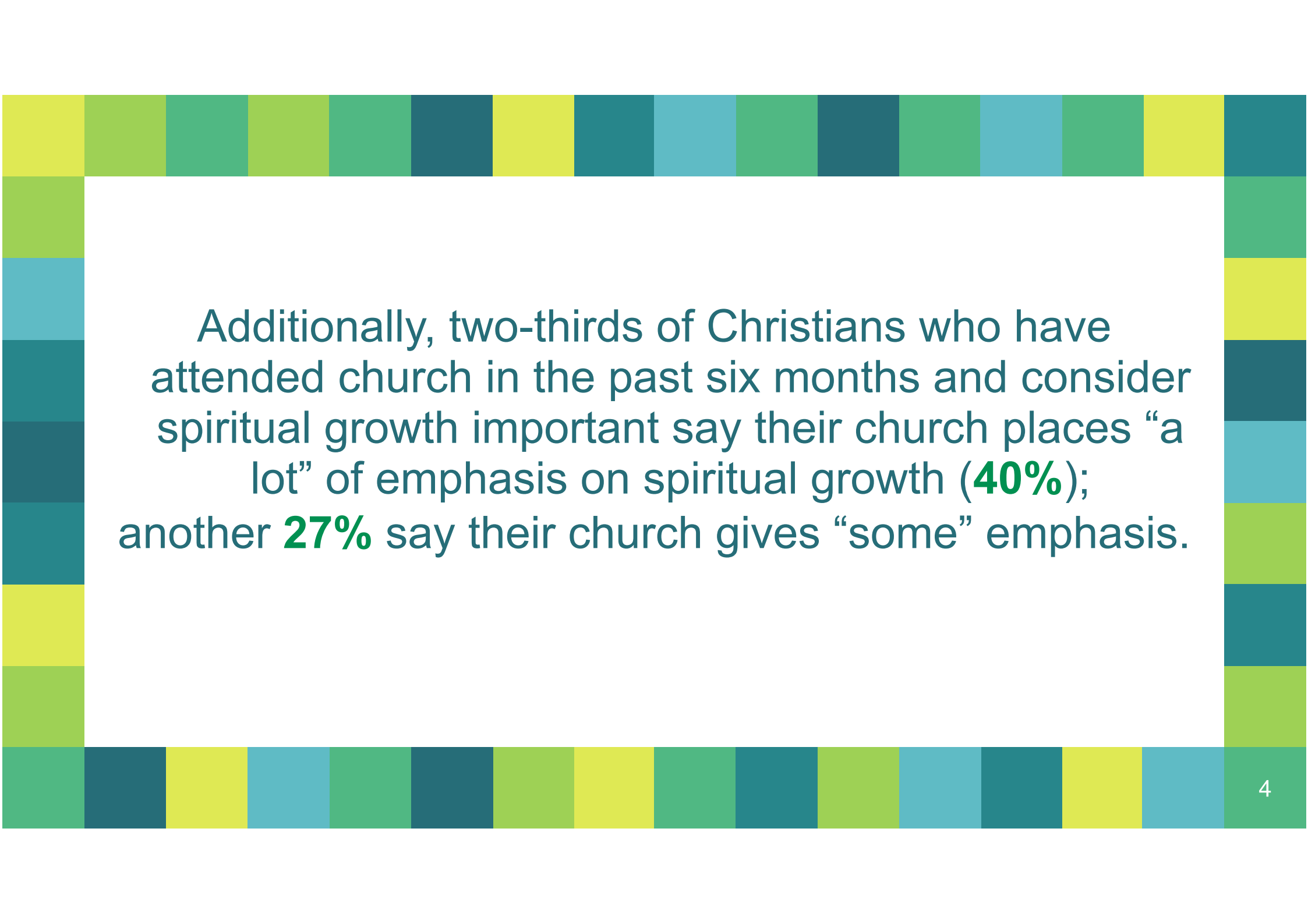
Christian adults believe their churches are doing well  
when it comes to discipleship:

52%

“Their church definitely does a good job helping  
people grow spiritually”

40%

“Their church probably does so”

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Additionally, two-thirds of Christians who have attended church in the past six months and consider spiritual growth important say their church places “a lot” of emphasis on spiritual growth (**40%**); another **27%** say their church gives “some” emphasis.

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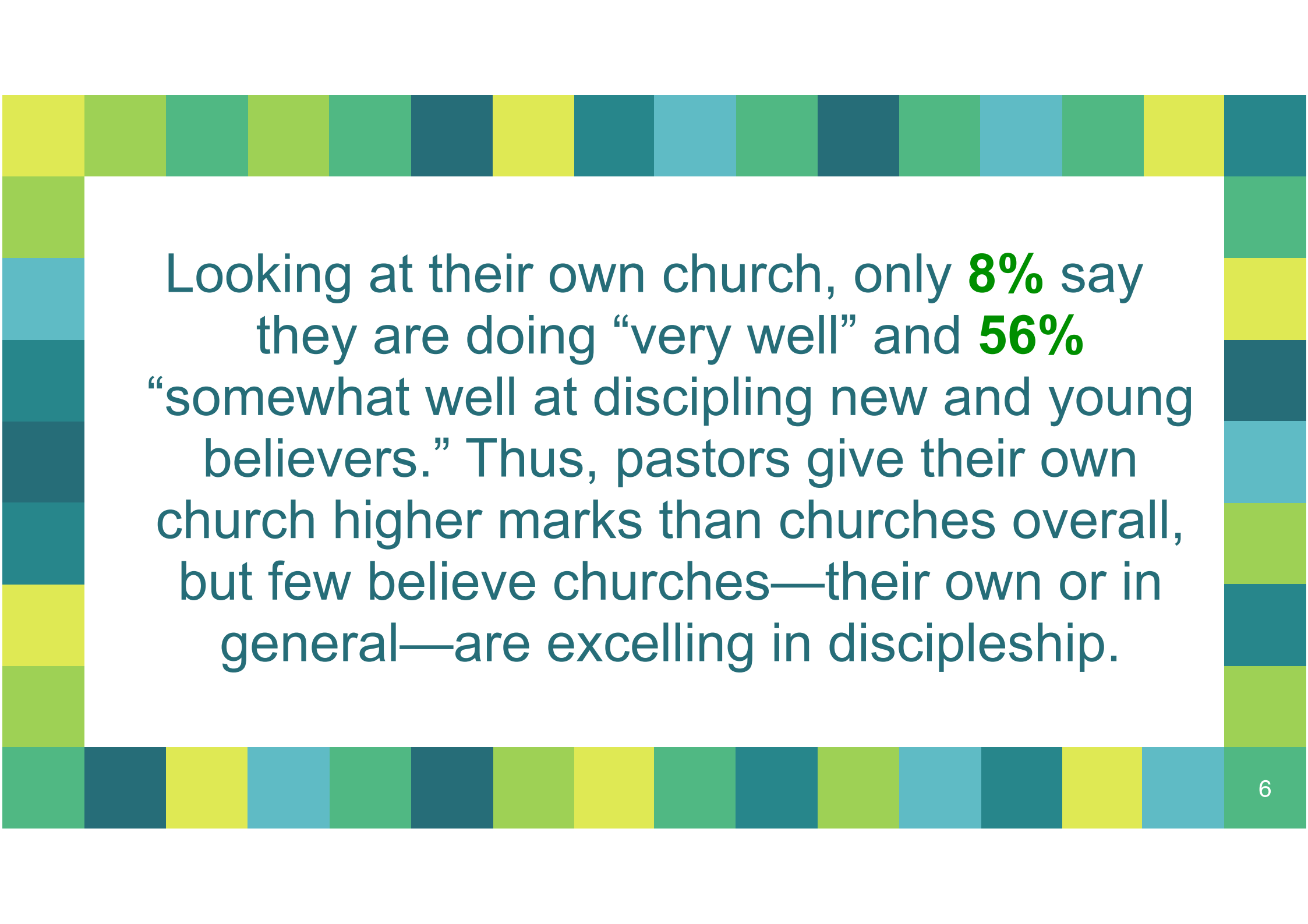
Church leaders, conversely, tend to believe the opposite is true:

1%

“Churches are doing very well at disciplining new and young believers”

60%

“Churches are not disciplining ‘not too well’”

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Looking at their own church, only **8%** say they are doing “very well” and **56%** “somewhat well at discipling new and young believers.” Thus, pastors give their own church higher marks than churches overall, but few believe churches—their own or in general—are excelling in discipleship.

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**20%**  
of Christian adults are involved in  
some sort of discipleship activity

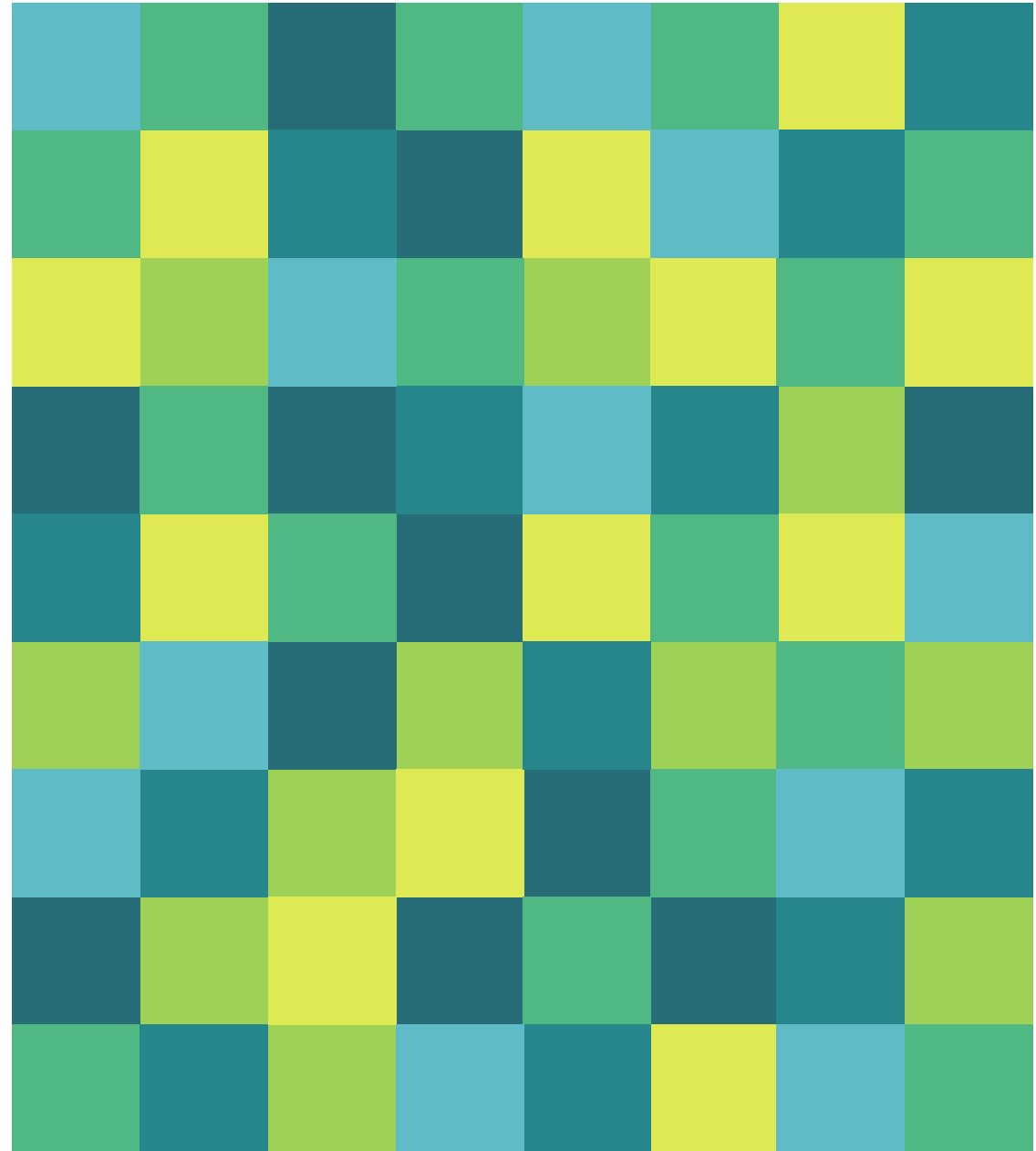
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# Discipleship: The Call of Christ

Matthew 28:18-20

1.

It's a Plain Call  
(v 19)



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*It is a call to disciple*

*“disciple”  
pupil, student or learners of a teacher*

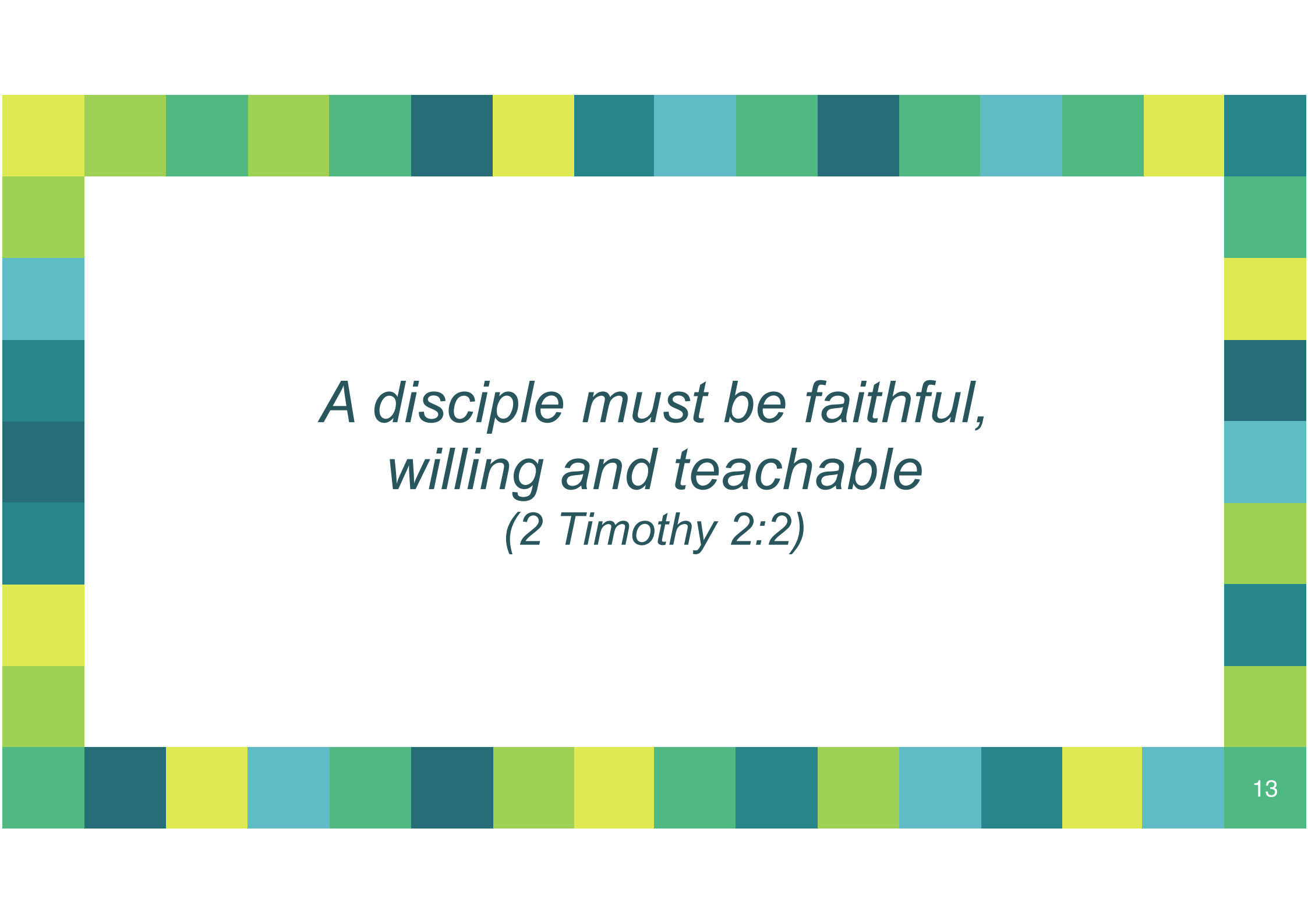
*It implies the acceptance in mind and life  
of the views and practices of the teacher*



*Discipleship is  
making learners  
of Christ out from  
the nations of the  
world (v 19)*



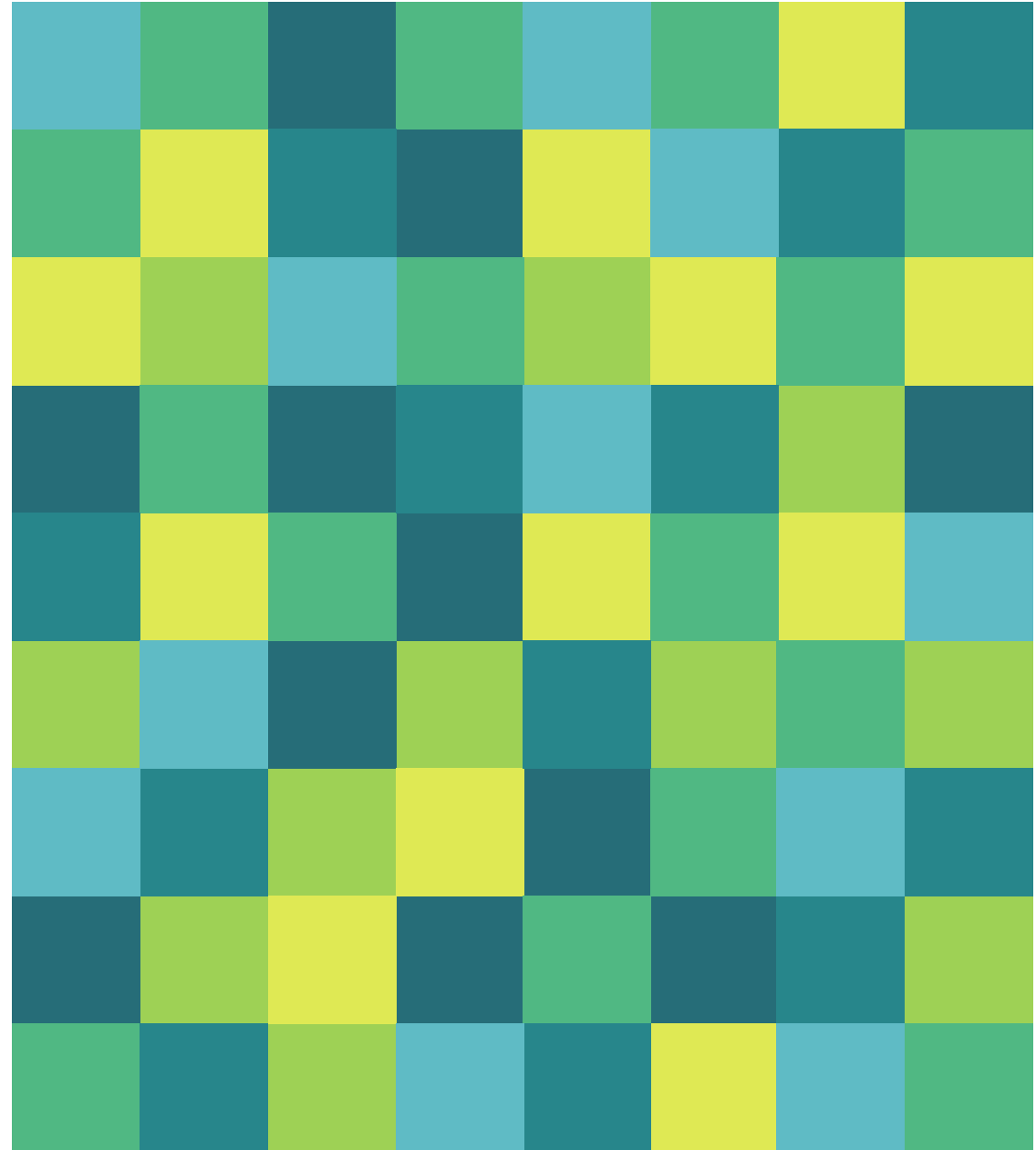
*A Christian is a disciple of Christ as long as he lives since he is ever learning the ways of Christ. The disciple will never arrive. Discipleship then is a lifelong process of pursuing Christ and His teachings.*

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*A disciple must be faithful,  
willing and teachable  
(2 Timothy 2:2)*

2.

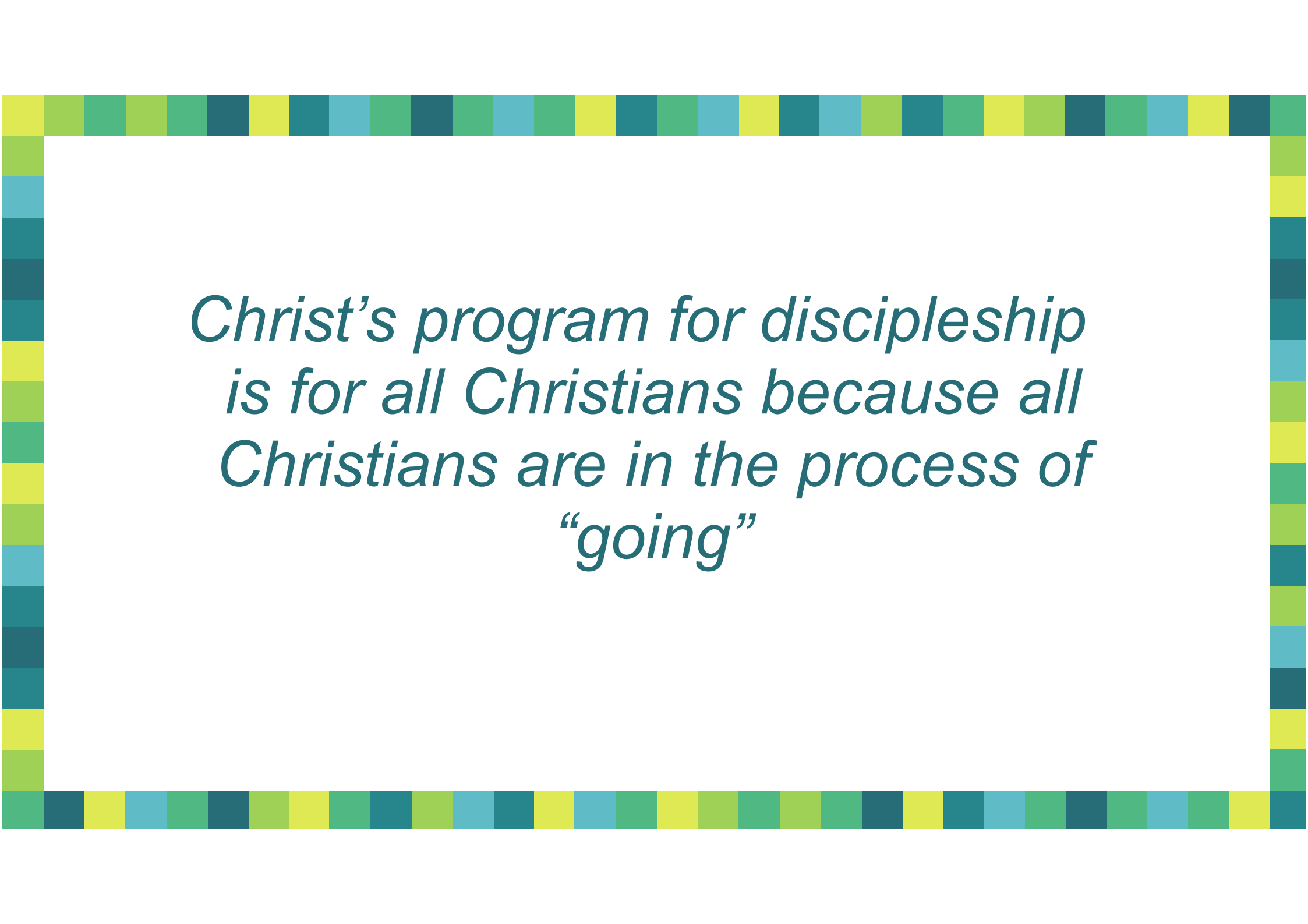
It's a Personal Call  
(v 19)



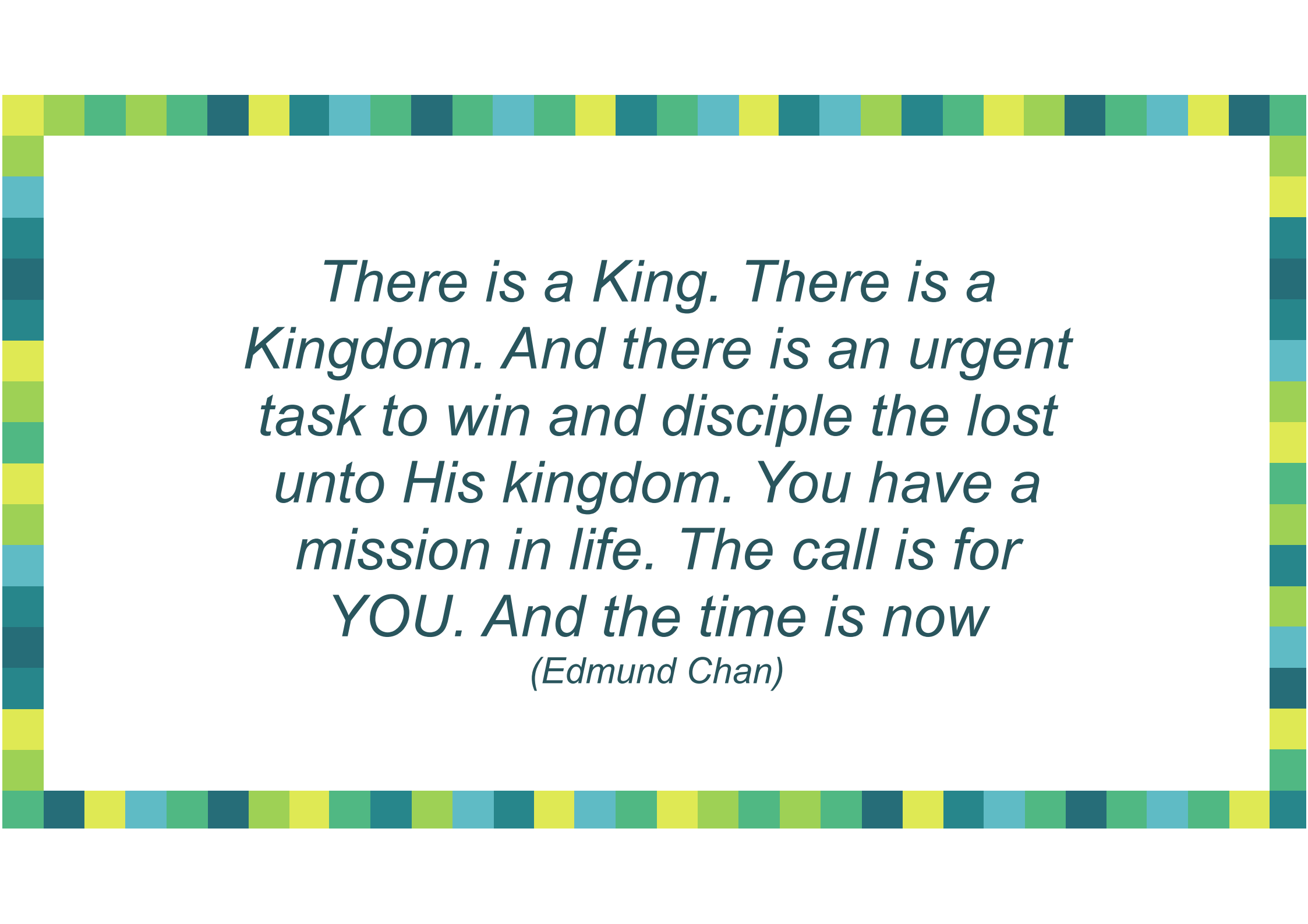
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“Go”

A passive participle,  
not an imperative verb.  
So it is more correct to say  
“as you are going”

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*Christ's program for discipleship  
is for all Christians because all  
Christians are in the process of  
“going”*

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*There is a King. There is a  
Kingdom. And there is an urgent  
task to win and disciple the lost  
unto His kingdom. You have a  
mission in life. The call is for  
YOU. And the time is now*  
(Edmund Chan)

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***What is your response?***

*Moses - who, me?*

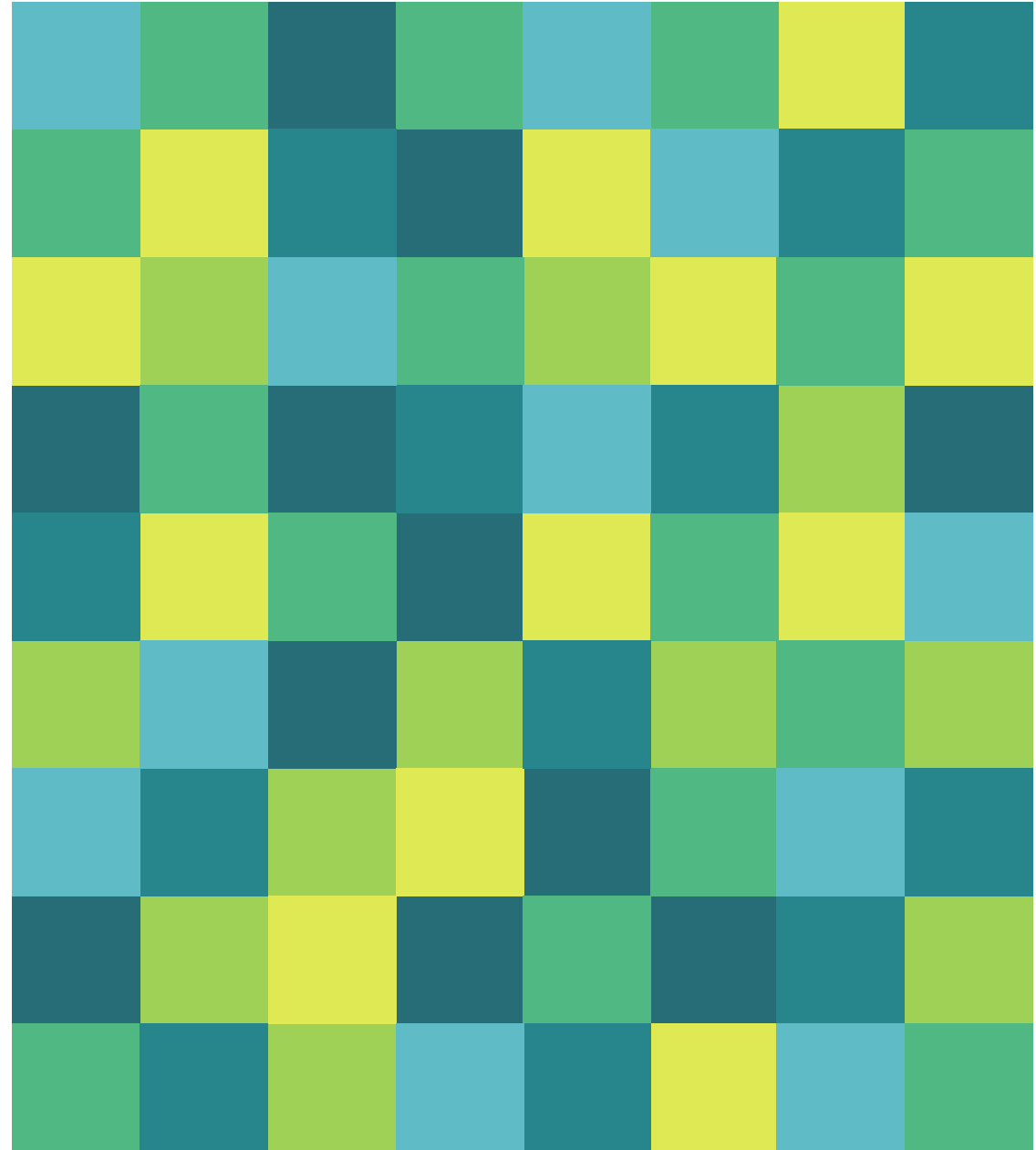
*Jonah – not me*

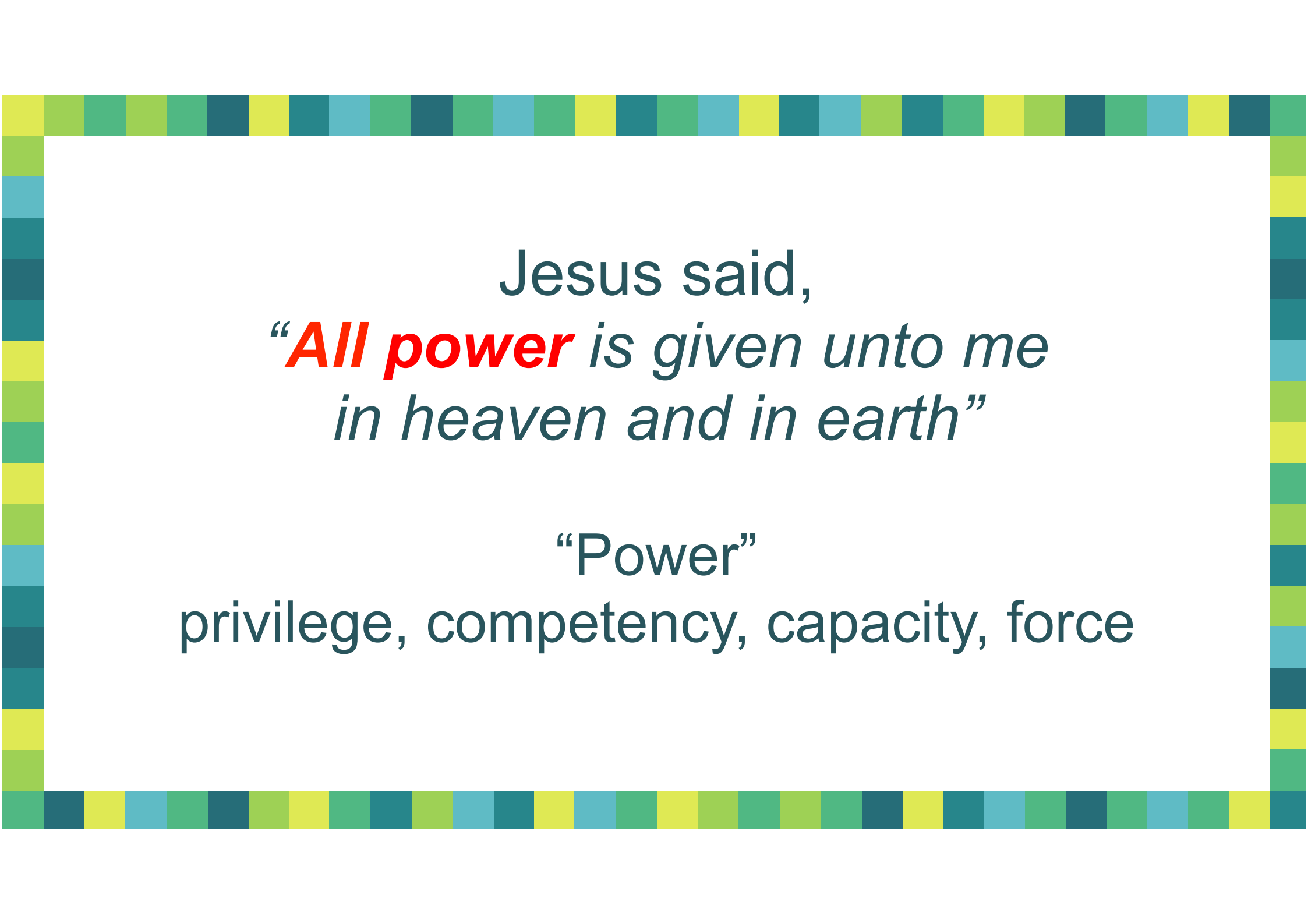
*Jeremiah – why me?*

*Isaiah – send me*

3.

It's a Powerful Call  
(v 18)



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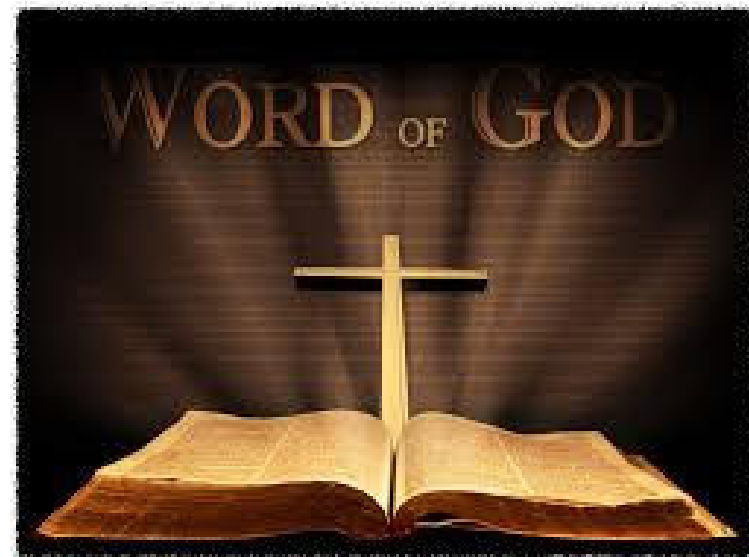
Jesus said,  
“**All power** is given unto me  
in heaven and in earth”

“Power”  
privilege, competency, capacity, force

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When Christ commands us,  
He also empowers us.

*1 Corinthians 4:20  
For the kingdom of  
God is not in word, but  
in power.*



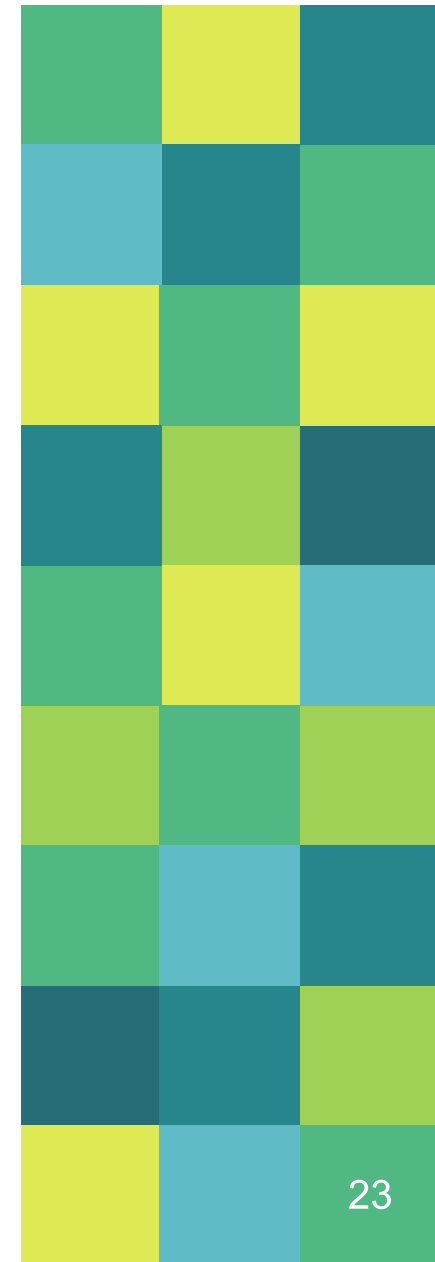
# We have Christ's power...

- **Holy Spirit**

Act 1:8 But ye shall receive **power**, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

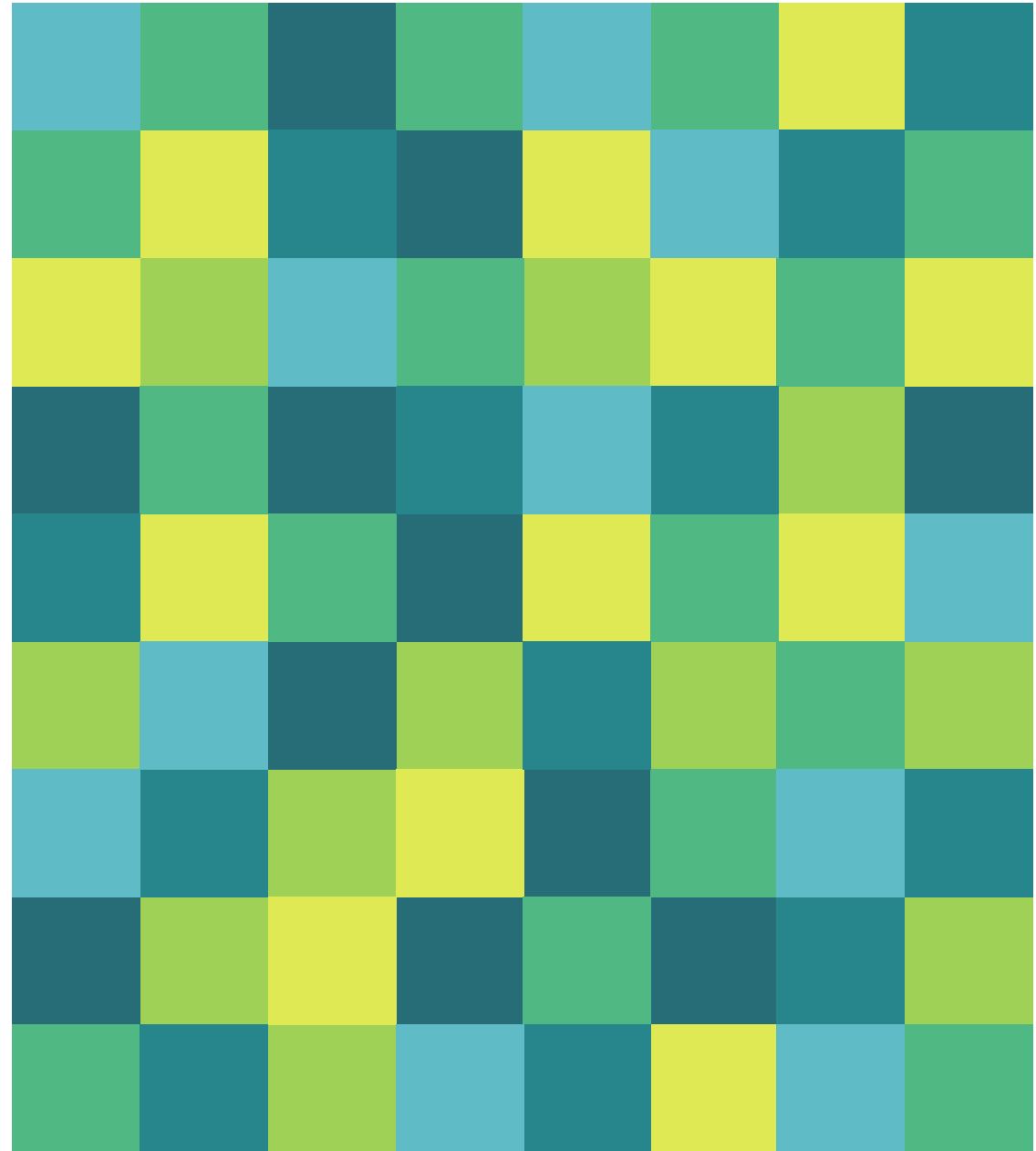
- **Gospel of Christ**

Romans 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the **power** of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.



4.


It's a Pivotal Call



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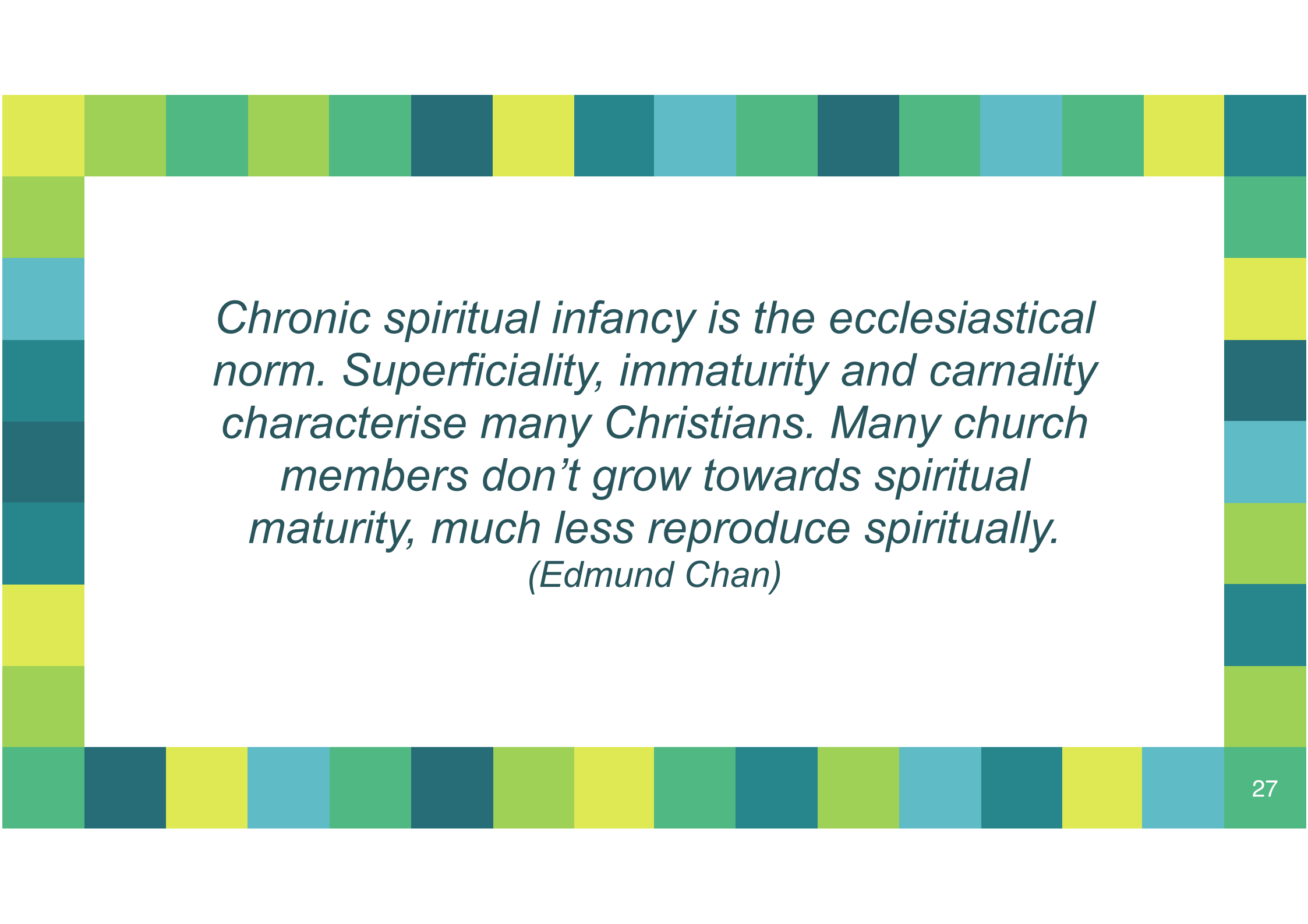
*Jonathan Dodson “There’s a Discipleship Crisis in the Church Today”*

*In the US, this year **3,500** churches will close,  
this month **1,500** pastors will leave the ministry and today  
approximately **7,575** people will move on from church.  
Of those who move on, some never affiliate with a religion again  
saying they just “gradually drifted away from the religion”*

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*In the UK, Steve Doughty published an update on December 11, 2012:*

*Christianity has declined sharply over the past decade. Numbers who choose to call themselves Christians fell by more than **4 million**. Fewer than **6 out of 10** or **59%** now describe themselves as Christian. A decade ago nearly **three quarters, 72%** did so.*

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*Chronic spiritual infancy is the ecclesiastical norm. Superficiality, immaturity and carnality characterise many Christians. Many church members don't grow towards spiritual maturity, much less reproduce spiritually.*  
(Edmund Chan)

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## Ken Ham & Britt Beemer conducted a survey on those who had left the church

Only **11%** did so during the college years

Almost **90%** of them were lost in middle school and high school

About **40%** left during the elementary and middle school years

By the time they got to college they were already gone

About **60%** of the children and teens sitting in our chairs and pews  
each Sunday will disappear in the coming years

*Judges 2:10*

*And also all that generation were  
gathered unto their fathers:*

***and there arose another generation  
after them, which knew not the LORD,  
nor yet the works which he had  
done for Israel.***

*What will happen to  
the CMBC's next  
generation when we  
are all long gone?*



# CONCLUSION: PRAY!

## Wisdom

For the church leadership as we steer CMBC into an intentional disciple-making church

## Revival

For families to make disciple-making intentional in the home

## Obedience

For everyone to intentionally get involved in Christ's "glocal" disciple-making program