

IF IT ALL BELONGS TO GOD

Part 3

CREDIBILITY

How Should We Live?

Exodus 19

eirev rav – a “mixed
multitude”

new identity - *holy
nation*

new purpose - *represent
God to the nations*



Sinai

Acts 2

Jews & Gentiles *together*
are united

as a *new people* - the
Church

with a *new purpose* -
together, help people from
every nation, tribe, and
tongue find God



Pentecost

1 Peter 2:9 & 10

⁹ But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Acts 16



Paul goes to Europe

1 Peter 2:11 & 12

¹¹ Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul.

¹² Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us. (NIV)

Acts 16



Paul goes to Europe

1 Peter 2:11 & 12

Friends, this world is not your home, so don't make yourselves cozy in it.

Don't indulge your ego at the expense of your soul.

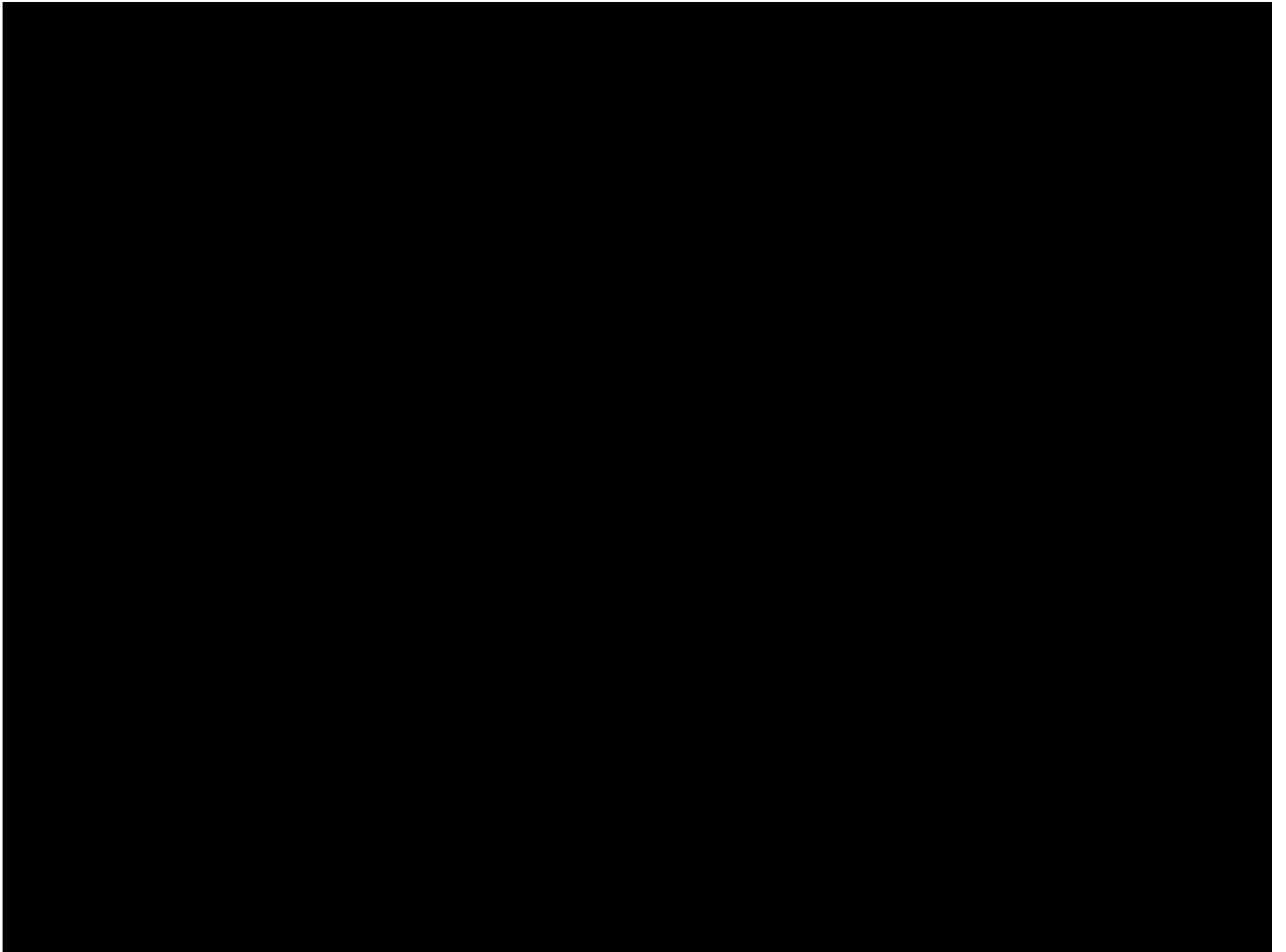
Live an exemplary life among the natives so that your actions will refute their prejudices. Then they'll be won over to God's side and be there to join in the celebration when he arrives.

Acts 16



Paul goes to Europe





three questions about credibility

What is it?

How do you get it?

Why is it important to us?

What is it?

credibility (n)

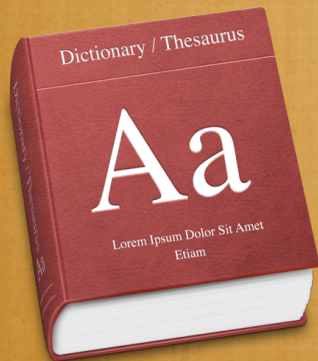
The
belief
trust



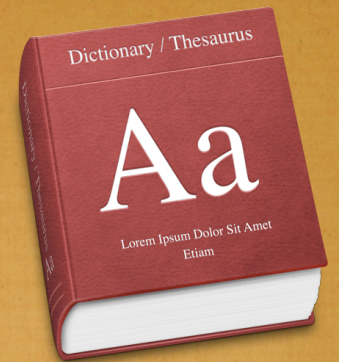
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ness,

believability



How do you get it?

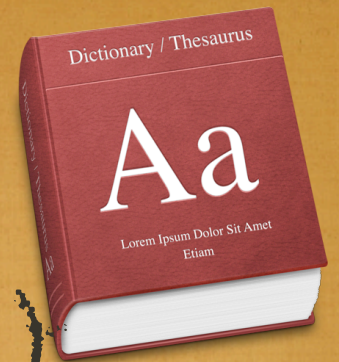


re·la·tion·ship (n)

The connection between two or more people or groups and their involvement with each other, especially as regards how they behave and feel toward each other and communicate or cooperate with one another.

Relationship + Reliability + Time = CREDIBILITY

How do you get it?



re·li·a·bil·i·ty (n)

The quality of being
dependable or reliable.

Being able to be trusted to
do what is expected or has
been promised.

Relationship + Reliability + Time = CREDIBILITY

How do you get it?



Proverbs 3: 3 & 4

³ Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart.

⁴ Then you will win favor and a good name in the sight of God and man.

Relationship + Reliability + Time = CREDIBILITY

How do you get it?



1 Timothy 3:1 - 10

¹ This is a trustworthy saying: “If someone aspires to be an elder, he desires an honorable position.” ² So an elder must be a man whose life is above reproach. He must be faithful to his wife. He must exercise self-control, live wisely, and have a good reputation. He must be hospitable, and he must be able to teach.

*Relationship + Reliability + **Time** = CREDIBILITY*

How do you get it?



1 Timothy 3:1 - 10

³ He must not be a heavy drinker or be violent. He must be gentle, not quarrelsome, and not love money. ⁴ He must manage his own family well, having children who respect and obey him. ⁵ For if a man cannot manage his own household, how can he take care of God's church?

*Relationship + Reliability + **Time** = CREDIBILITY*

How do you get it?

1 Timothy 3:1 - 10

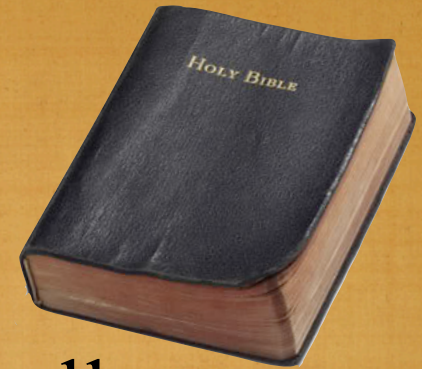


⁶ An elder must not be a new believer . . . ⁷ Also, people outside the church must speak well of him so that he will not be disgraced and fall into the devil's trap.

*Relationship + Reliability + **Time** = CREDIBILITY*

How do you get it?

1 Timothy 3:1 - 10



⁸ In the same way, deacons must be well respected and have integrity. They must not be heavy drinkers or dishonest with money.

⁹ They must be committed to the mystery of the faith now revealed and must live with a clear conscience. ¹⁰ Before they are appointed as deacons, let them be tested. If they pass the test, then let them serve . . .

*Relationship + Reliability + **Time** = CREDIBILITY*

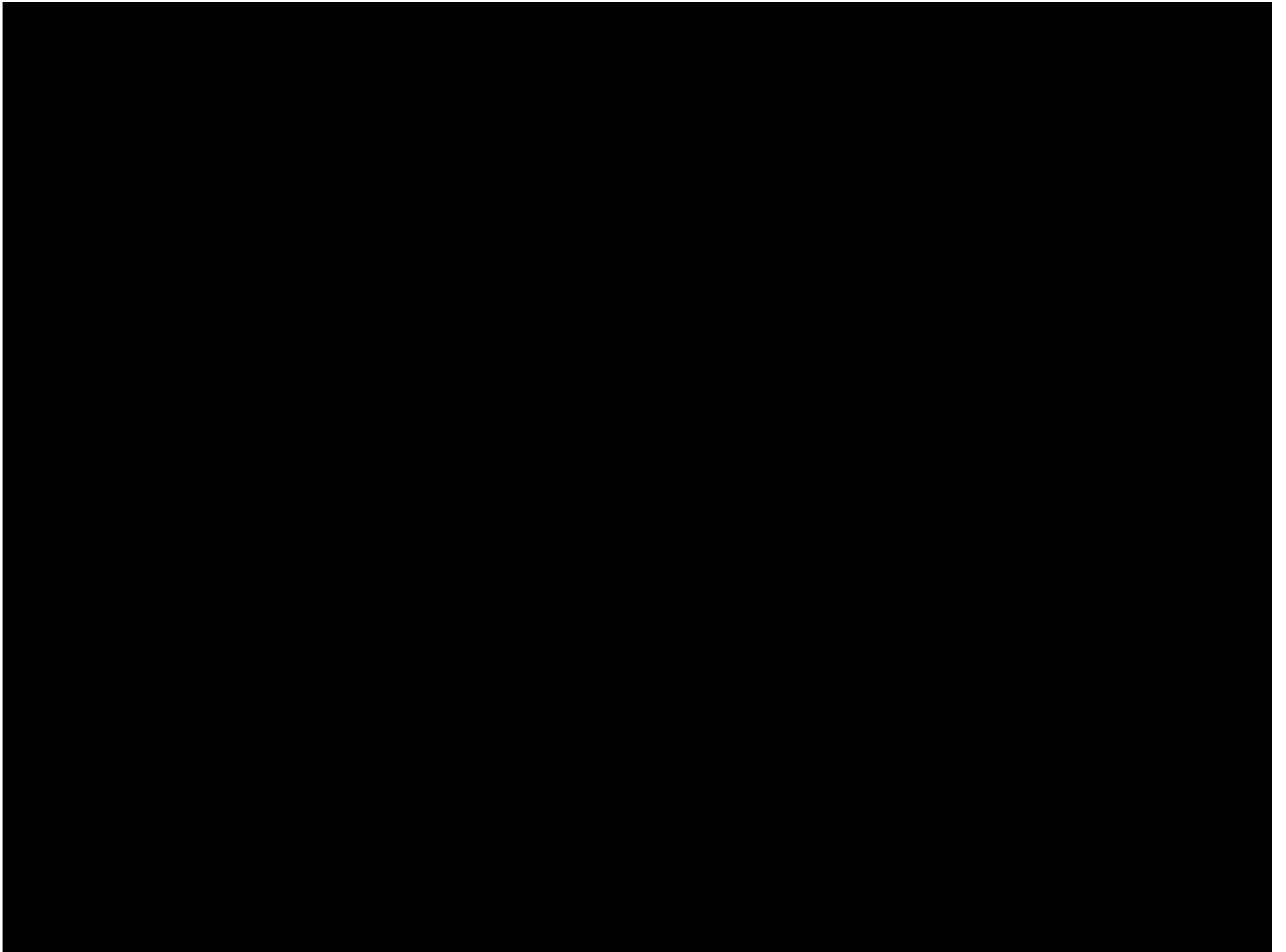
How do you get it?



Revelation 2:2

I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked men, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false.

*Relationship + Reliability + **Time** = CREDIBILITY*



Why is it important to me?

It is *impossible* to build a meaningful relationship if we lack credibility.

“May the LORD keep watch between you and me when we are away from each other.”

Genesis 31:49



Why is it important to me?

It is impossible to build a meaningful relationship if we lack credibility.

²² “Do not be angry, my lord,” Aaron answered. “You know how prone these people are to evil. ²³ They said to me, ‘Make us gods who will go before us. As for this fellow Moses who brought us up out of Egypt, we don't know what has happened to him.’ ²⁴ So I told them, ‘Whoever has any gold jewelry, take it off.’ Then they gave me the gold, and I threw it into the fire, and out came this calf!”

Exodus 32:22 - 24



Aaron

Why is it important to me?

It is impossible to build a meaningful relationship if we lack credibility.

Credibility is the thing that, in the words of the Message, that will “*refute the prejudices*” of a critical, unbelieving world.

“refute the prejudices” of a
critical, unbelieving world



TIMESONLINE

As an atheist, I truly believe Africa needs God

Missionaries, not aid money, are the solution to Africa's biggest problem - the crushing passivity of the people's mindset

Matthew Parris

December 27, 2008

http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/comment/columnists/matthew_parris/article5400568.ece

³ Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart.

⁴ Then you will win favor and a good name in the sight of God and man. (NIV)

Proverbs 3:3 & 4

Live an exemplary life among the natives so that your actions will refute their prejudices. Then they'll be won over to God's side and be there to join in the celebration when he arrives. (The Message)

1 Peter 2:12

