

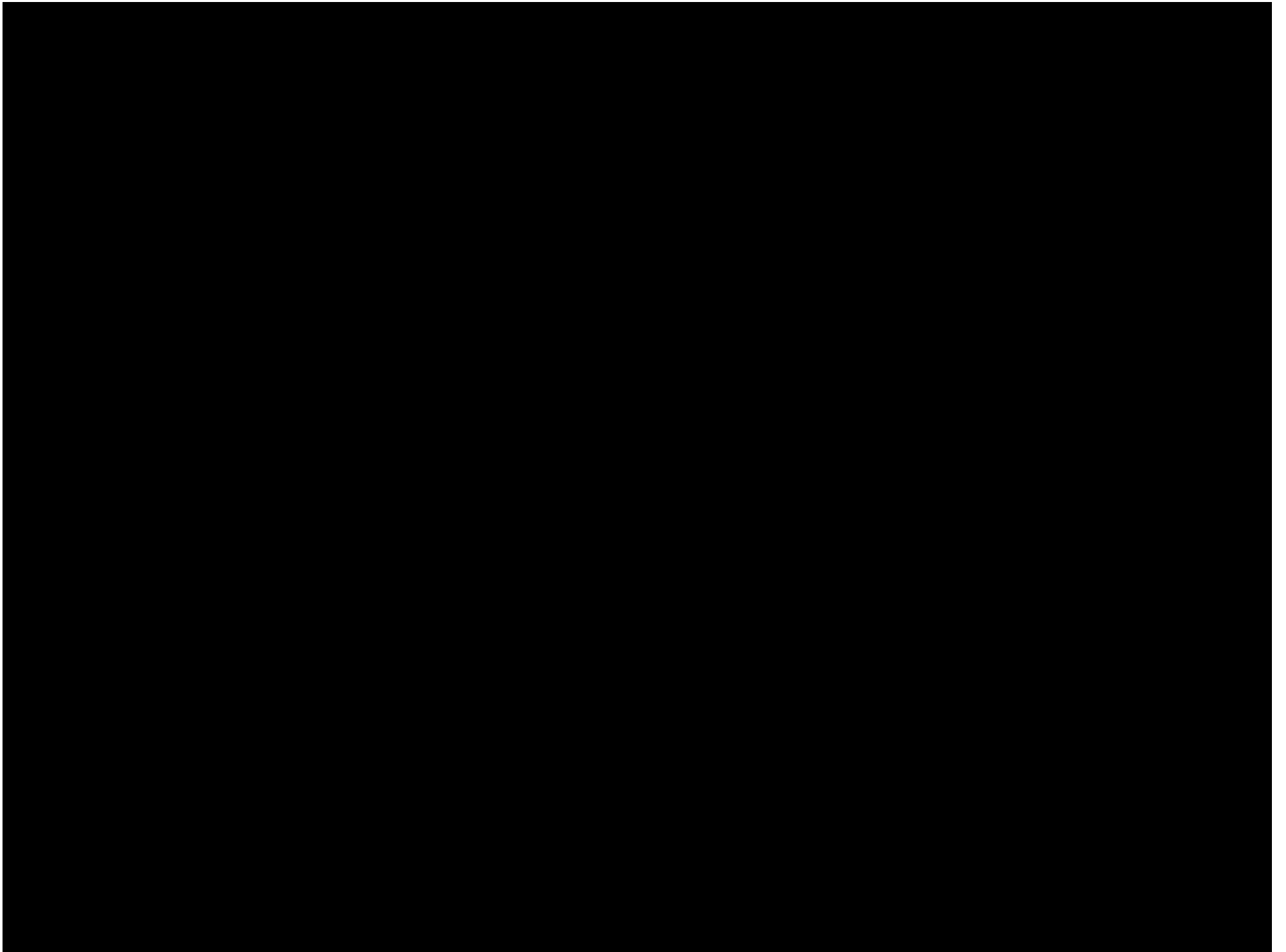
Tacos & Tambourines

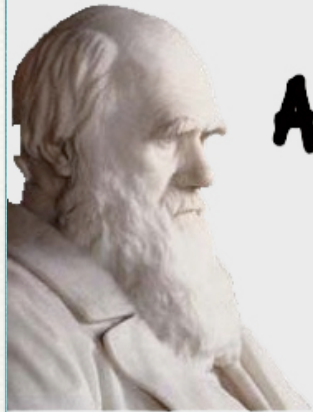


March 25th



Buy your tickets today and help the high schoolers with their mission trip to the Navajo Nation



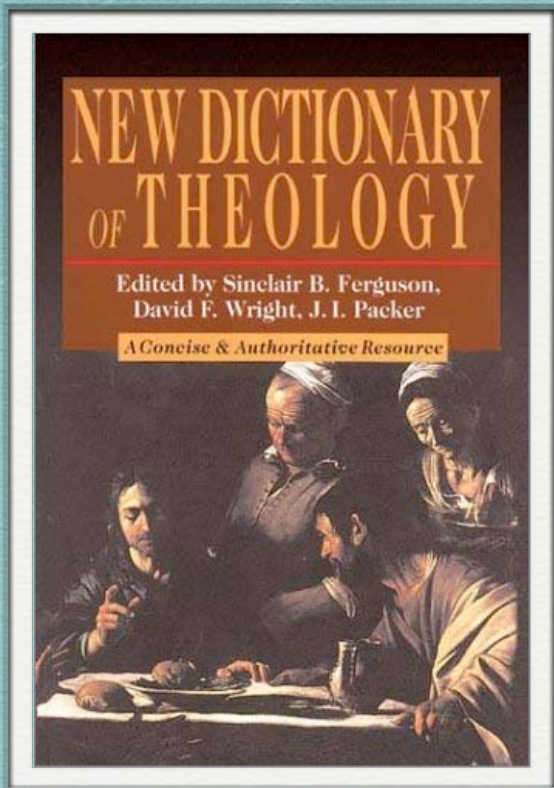


A REASONABLE FAITH?

Why we believe in an age of skepticism

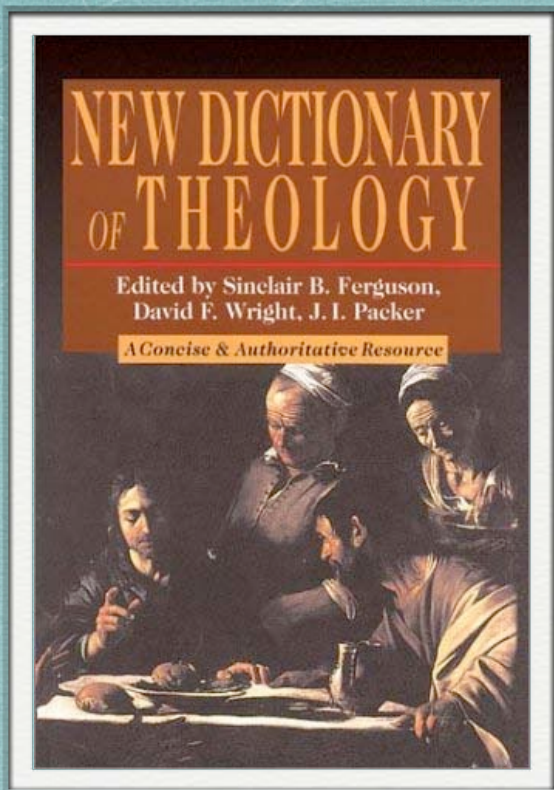
Part 9

THE DOCTRINE OF THE CROSS:
“IMMORAL, RIDICULOUS, STUPID”



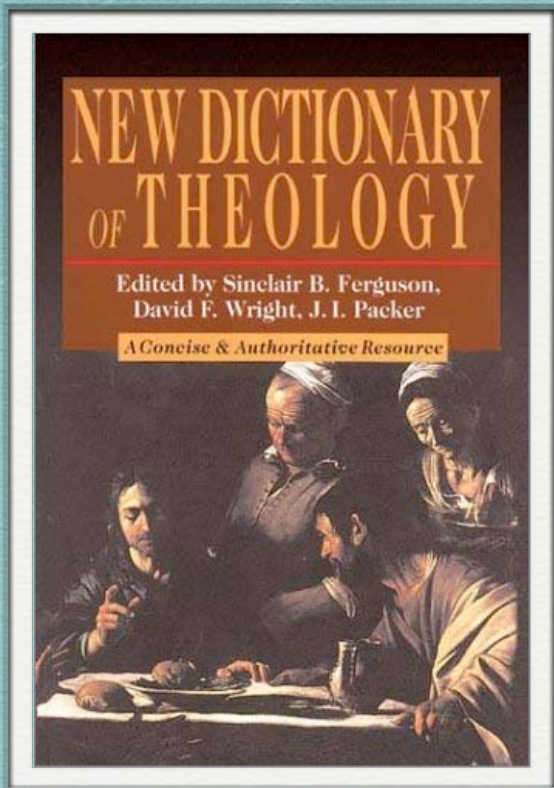
“ . . . the focal point of God’s revelation of himself and . . . the foundation and center of all truly Christian theology.”

New Dictionary of Theology, p. 181



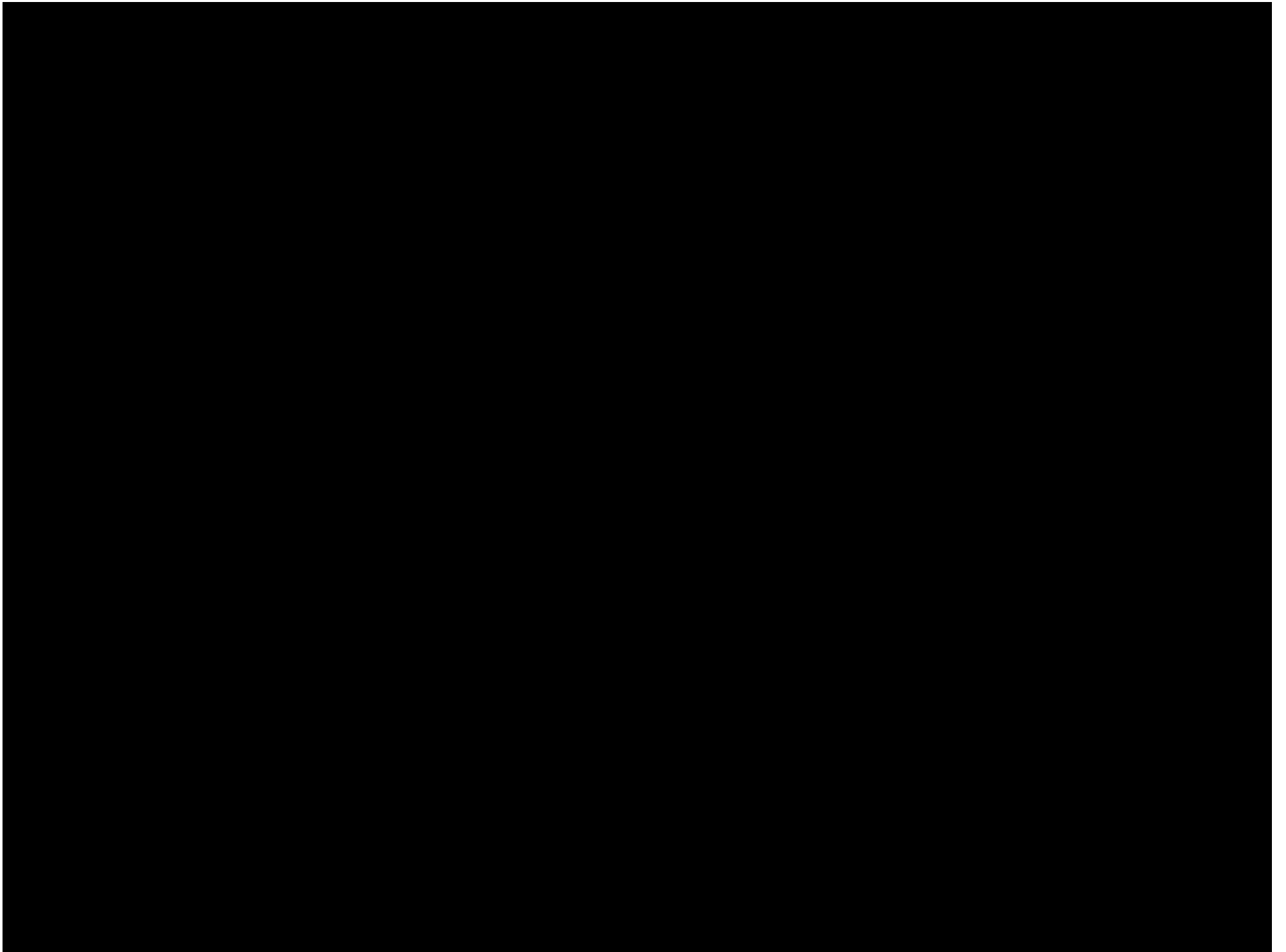
“The centrality of the atonement to Christianity has influenced our language, giving us the word ‘crucial’ which means literally ‘pertaining to a cross’. When we say that anything is crucial we are saying that it is as central to that to which we apply it as the cross is to Christianity.”

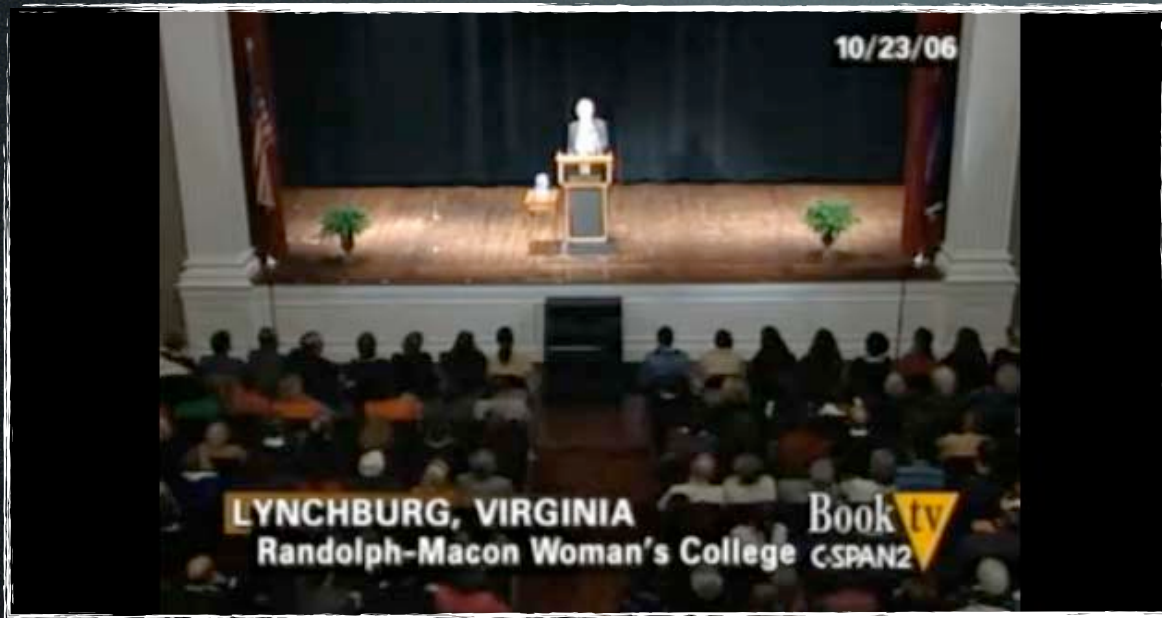
New Dictionary of Theology, p. 54



“What Christ did on the cross is the heart of the Christian faith. The atonement is critical; it is the central doctrine of Christianity.”

New Dictionary of Theology, p. 54





Richard
Dawkins

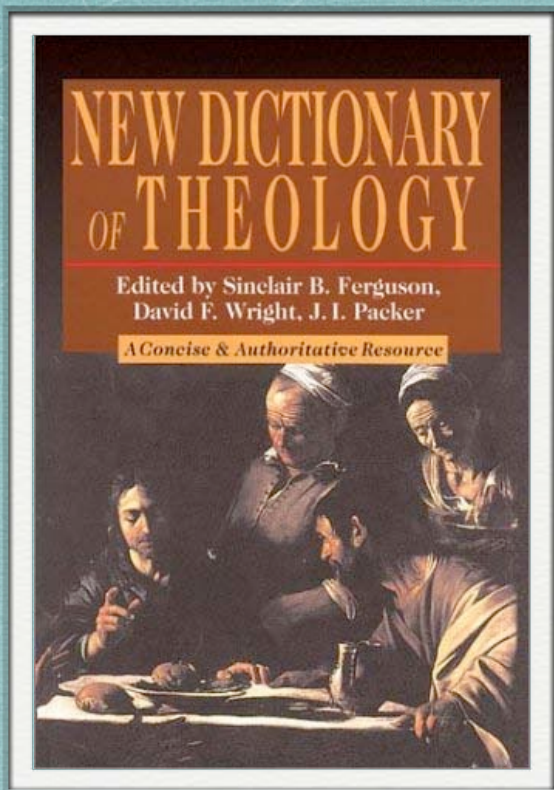
Christopher
Hitchens





Two converts
to Islam





“In God’s revelation of himself in the cross, God shatters human preconceptions of divinity and the human illusions about how God may be known. In the cross God is not revealed in the power and glory which natural reason can recognize as divine, but in the very opposite of divinity, in human disgrace, poverty, suffering and death, in what seem to us weakness and foolishness.”

New Dictionary of Theology, p. 182

1 Corinthians 1:18

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.



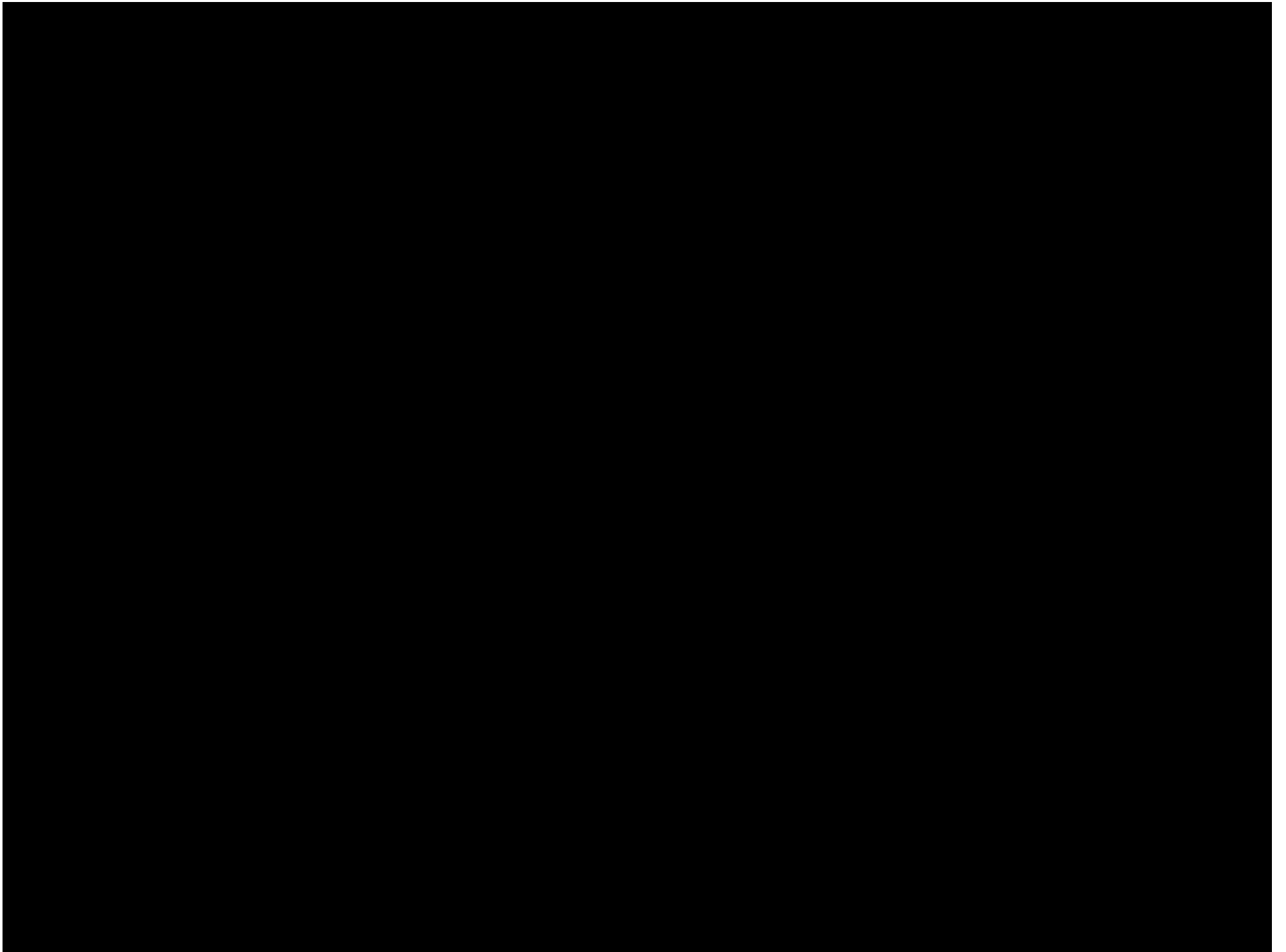


“God is hidden in this revelation because he is not here immediately recognizable as God, but can be perceived only by faith.



To recognize God in the crucified Christ is to realize that God is not truly knowable by those who pride themselves on their progress towards divine wisdom and goodness, but can only be known at the point where human wisdom is silenced and human ethical achievements are worthless.”

New Dictionary of Theology, p. 181

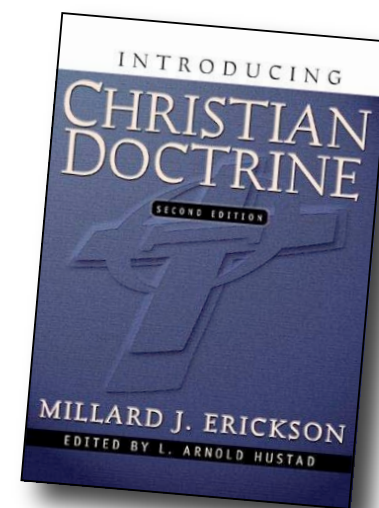


THE NATURE OF GOD

absolute, complete, holiness

THE NATURE OF THE LAW

expression of God's character



“... disobeying the law is serious, not because the law has some inherent value or dignity which must be preserved, but because disobeying it is actually an attack upon the very nature of God himself.”

Introducing Christian Doctrine, p. 257



Genesis 2:16 & 17

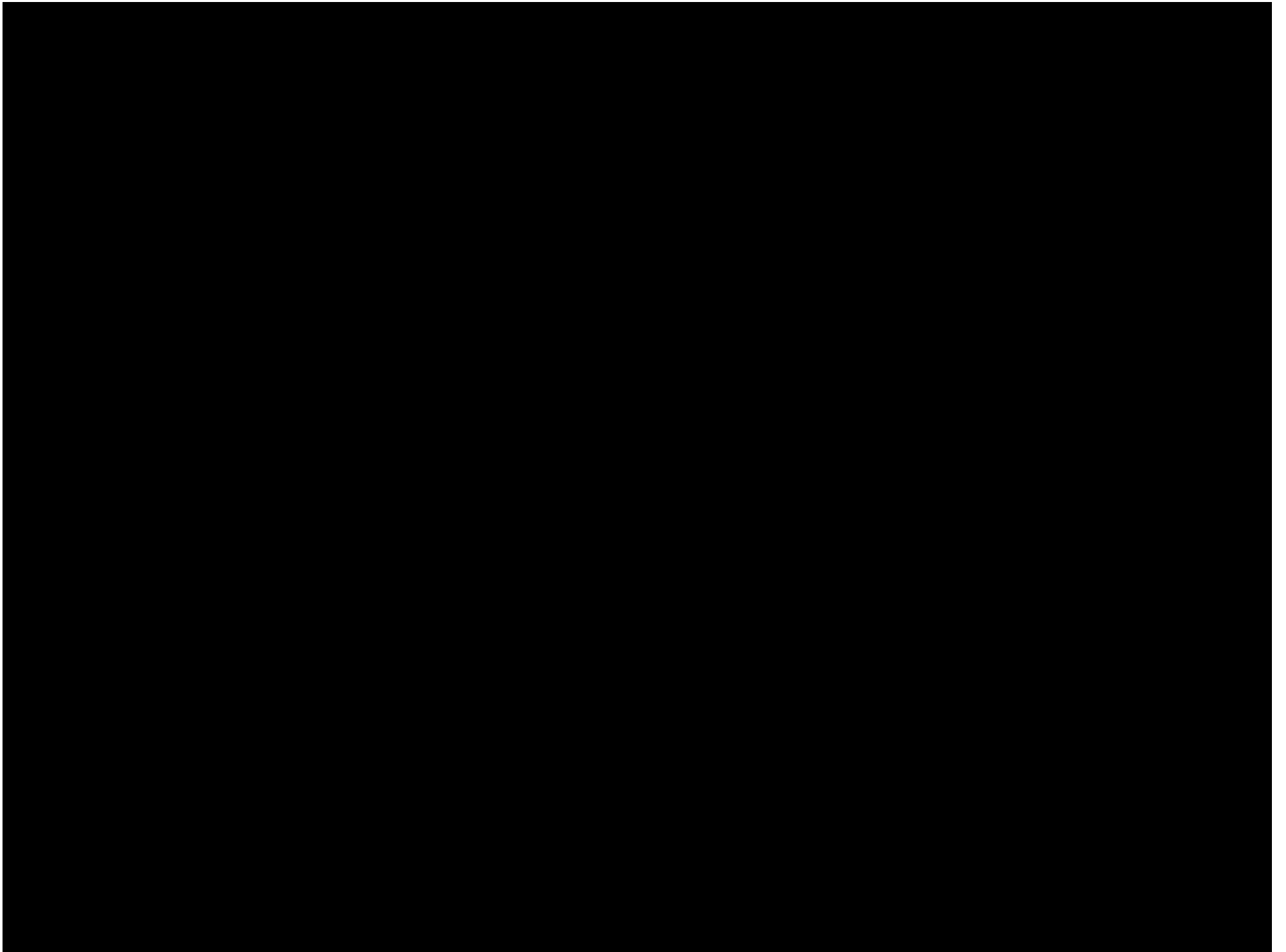
¹⁶ And the Lord God commanded the man, “You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.”



Romans 6:23

“ . . . the wages of sin is death . . . ”





THE NATURE OF GOD

absolute, complete, holiness

THE NATURE OF THE LAW

expression of God's character

THE NATURE OF HUMANITY

fallen and in need of redemption

Genesis 3:6 - 9

⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. ⁷ Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.



Genesis 3:6 - 9

⁸ They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ But the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, “Where are you?”



Romans 3:23

“ . . . we’ve compiled this long and sorry record as sinners and proved that we are utterly incapable of living the glorious lives God wills for us . . . ” *The Message*



THE NATURE OF GOD

absolute, complete, holiness

THE NATURE OF THE LAW

expression of God's character

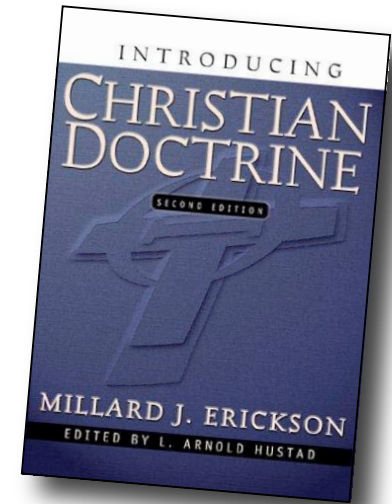
THE NATURE OF HUMANITY

fallen and in need of redemption

THE NATURE OF CHRIST

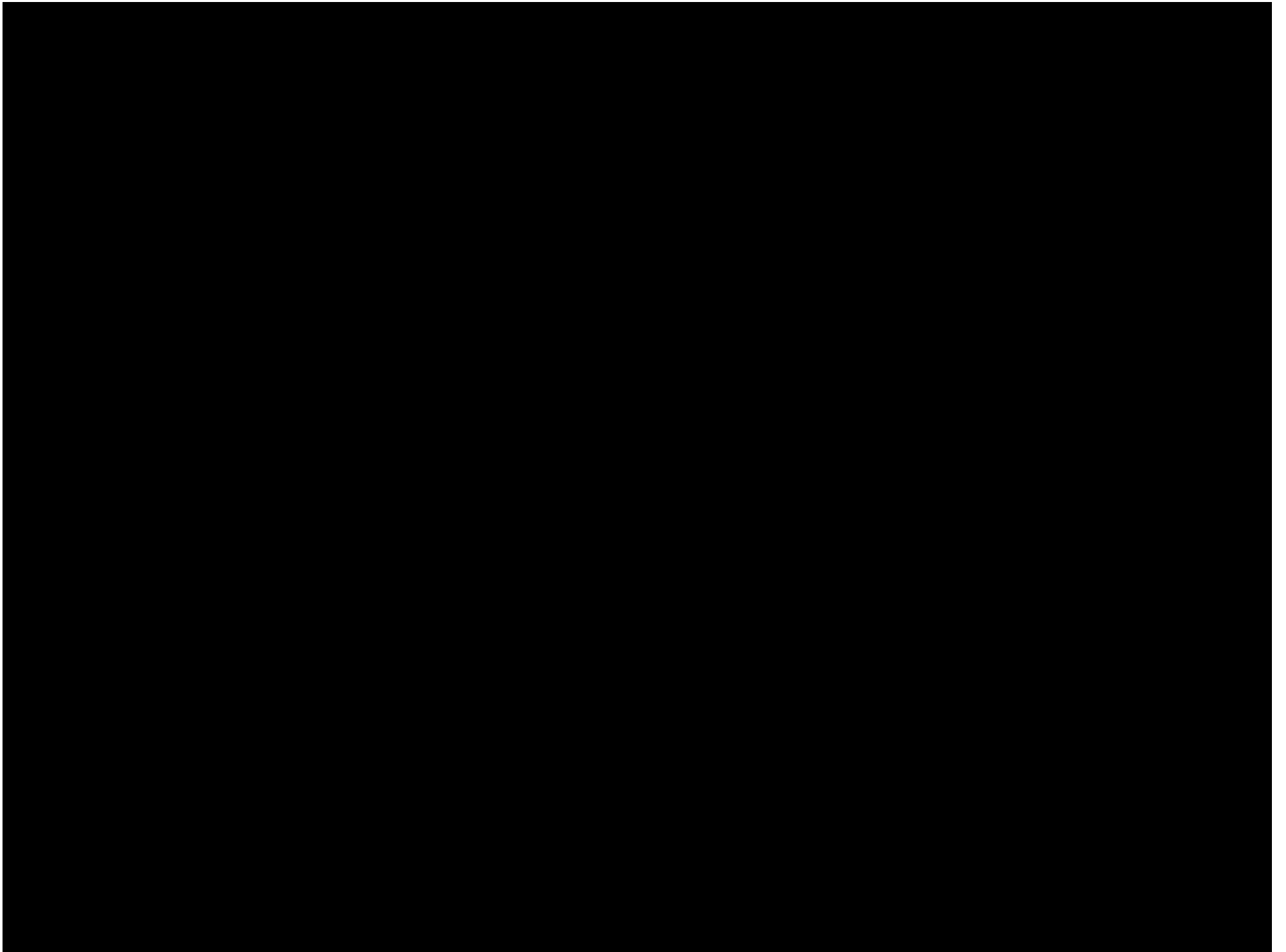
fully God and fully human

“Jesus’ humanity means that his atoning death is applicable to human beings. He was not an outsider attempting to do something for us. He was a genuine human being representing the rest of us . . . As God, Jesus did not have to die. Because he was sinless, he did not have to die in payment for his own sins. Inasmuch as he is an infinite being who did not have to die, his death can serve to atone for the sins of all humankind”



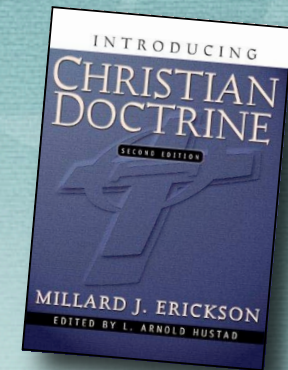
THE NATURE OF CHRIST
fully God and fully human

Introducing Christian Doctrine, p 258



OBJECTION #1

“Why is atonement necessary?”



“God is not merely a private person who has been wronged, but also the official administrator of the judicial system. For God to remove or ignore the guilt of sin without requiring a payment would, in effect, destroy the very moral fiber of the universe, the distinction between right and wrong.”



Introducing Christian Doctrine, p 263

OBJECTION #1

“Why is atonement necessary?”

“ . . . reconcile the world to himself . . . ”

2 Corinthians 5:19



OBJECTION #2

That Father would substitute his Son to bear our punishment smacks of unfairness, injustice, and cosmic child-abuse.

Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Hebrews 12:2



2 Corinthians 5:15 - 21

¹⁵ He died for everyone so that those who receive his new life will no longer live to please themselves. Instead, they will live to please Christ, who died and was raised for them . . . ¹⁷ What this means is that those who become Christians become new persons.



2 Corinthians 5:15 - 21

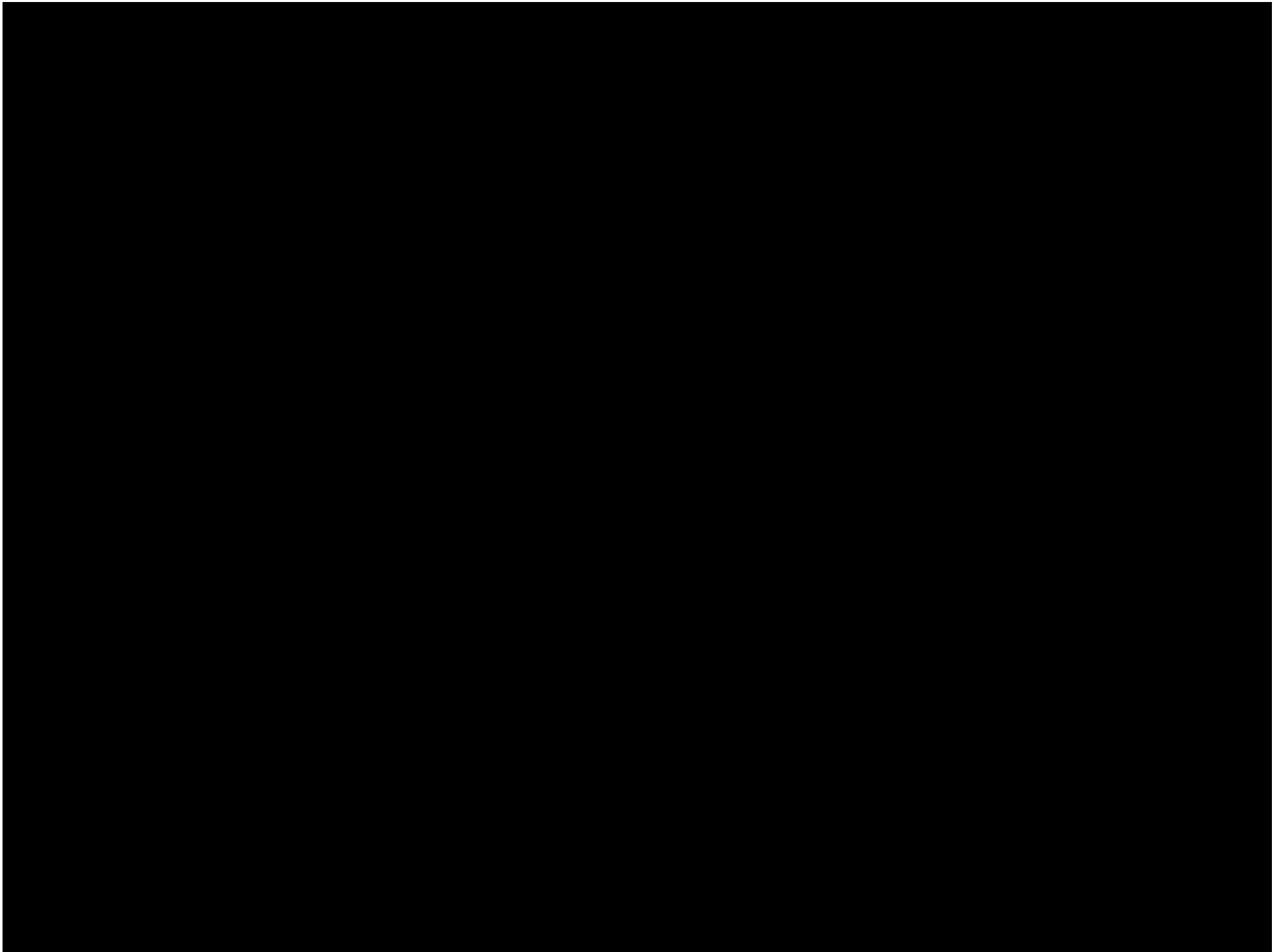
They are not the same anymore, for the old life is gone. A new life has begun! ¹⁸ All this newness of life is from God, who brought us back to himself through what Christ did. And God has given us the task of reconciling people to him. ¹⁹ For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people's sins against them.



2 Corinthians 5:15 - 21

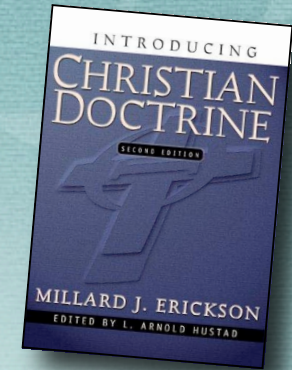
This is the wonderful message he has given us to tell others. ²⁰ We are Christ's ambassadors, and God is using us to speak to you. We urge you, as though Christ himself were here pleading with you, "Be reconciled to God!" ²¹ For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ. (NLT)





OBJECTION #3

“One person’s goodness cannot just be injected into another person.”



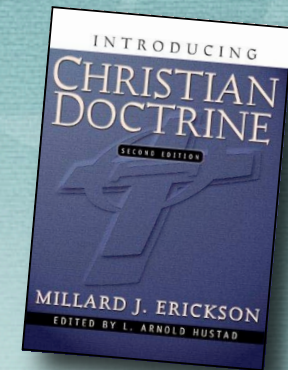
“ . . . our relationship with Christ is not detached. The individual believer is actually united with him. With regard to my spiritual status, a new entity, so to speak, has come into being. It is as if Christ and I have been married or merge to form a new corporation.



Introducing Christian Doctrine, p 264

OBJECTION #3

“One person’s goodness cannot just be injected into another person.”



The imputation of Christ’s righteousness is not, then, so much a matter of transferring something from him to me, as it is of bringing the two of us together so that we hold all things in common. In Christ I died

on the cross, and in him I was resurrected. Thus, his death is not only in my place, but with me.”



Introducing Christian Doctrine, p 264

Romans 7:1 - 6

¹ Now, dear brothers and sisters — you who are familiar with the law — don't you know that the law applies only to a person who is still living? ² Let me illustrate. When a woman marries, the law binds her to her husband as long as he is alive. But if he dies, the laws of marriage no longer apply to her. ³ So while her husband is alive, she would be committing adultery if she married another man.



Romans 7:1 - 6

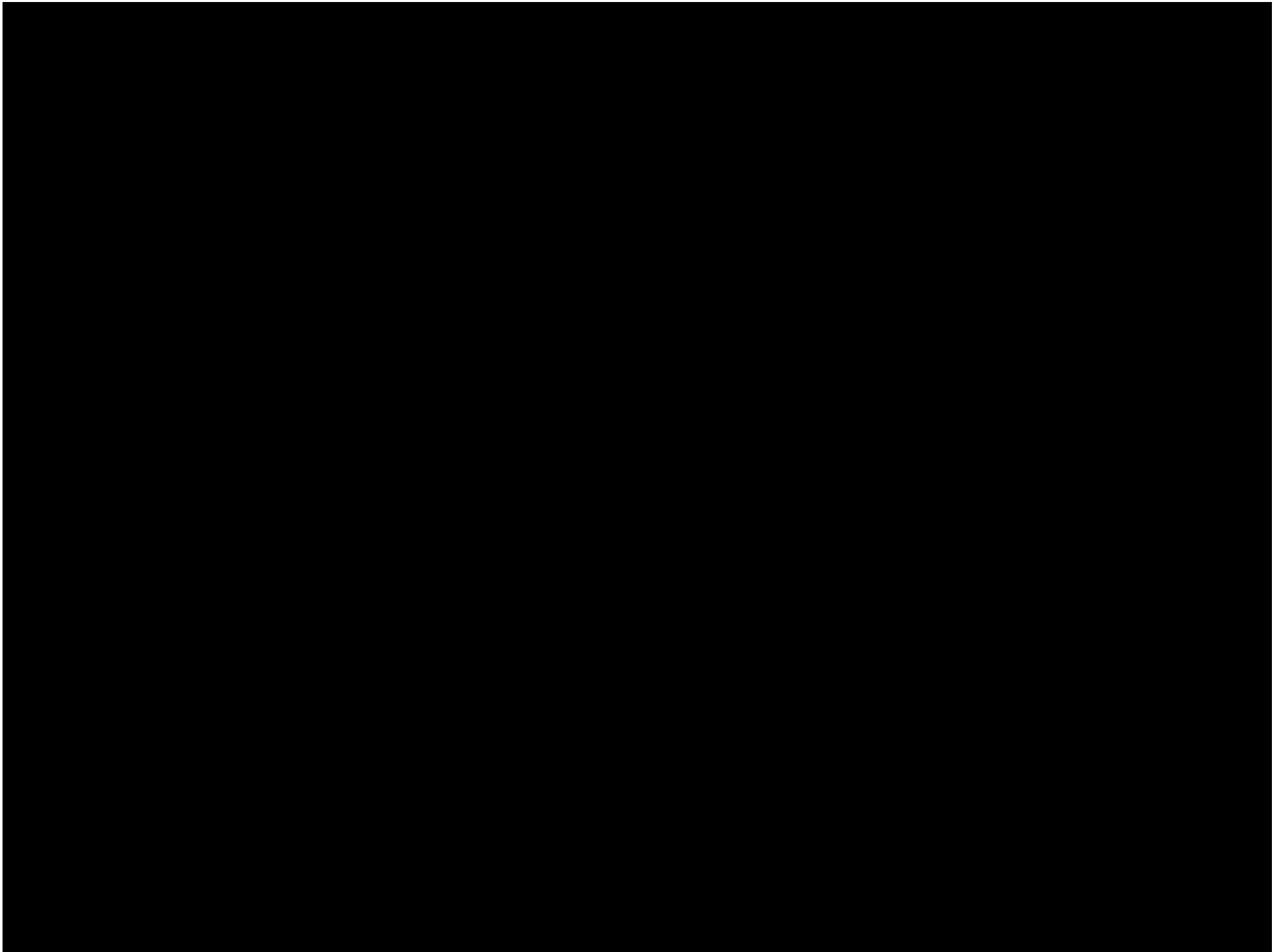
But if her husband dies, she is free from that law and does not commit adultery when she remarries. ⁴ So this is the point: The law no longer holds you in its power, because you died to its power when you died with Christ on the cross. And now you are united with the one who was raised from the dead. As a result, you can produce good fruit, that is, good deeds for God.



Romans 7:1 - 6

⁵ When we were controlled by our flesh, sinful desires were at work within us, and the law aroused these evil desires that produced sinful deeds, resulting in death. ⁶ But now we have been released from the law, for we died with Christ, and we are no longer captives to its power. Now we can really serve God, not in the old way by obeying the letter of the law, but in the new way, by the Spirit.





A still life photograph featuring a dark, rustic chalice and a round, braided loaf of bread. Both items are placed on a textured, brown surface. The background is a soft, warm glow of a sunset or sunrise, with light clouds in shades of orange and yellow. The lighting is directional, coming from the right, which casts a soft shadow of the bread and the base of the chalice onto the surface.

Isaiah 53

John 19:17 - 34

