

Part 3

The First Sermon

Acts 2:14 - 41

**ACTS:**

**A HISTORY BOOK**

*Living* **IN YOU.**

**VINTAGE IDEAS FOR LIVING TODAY**

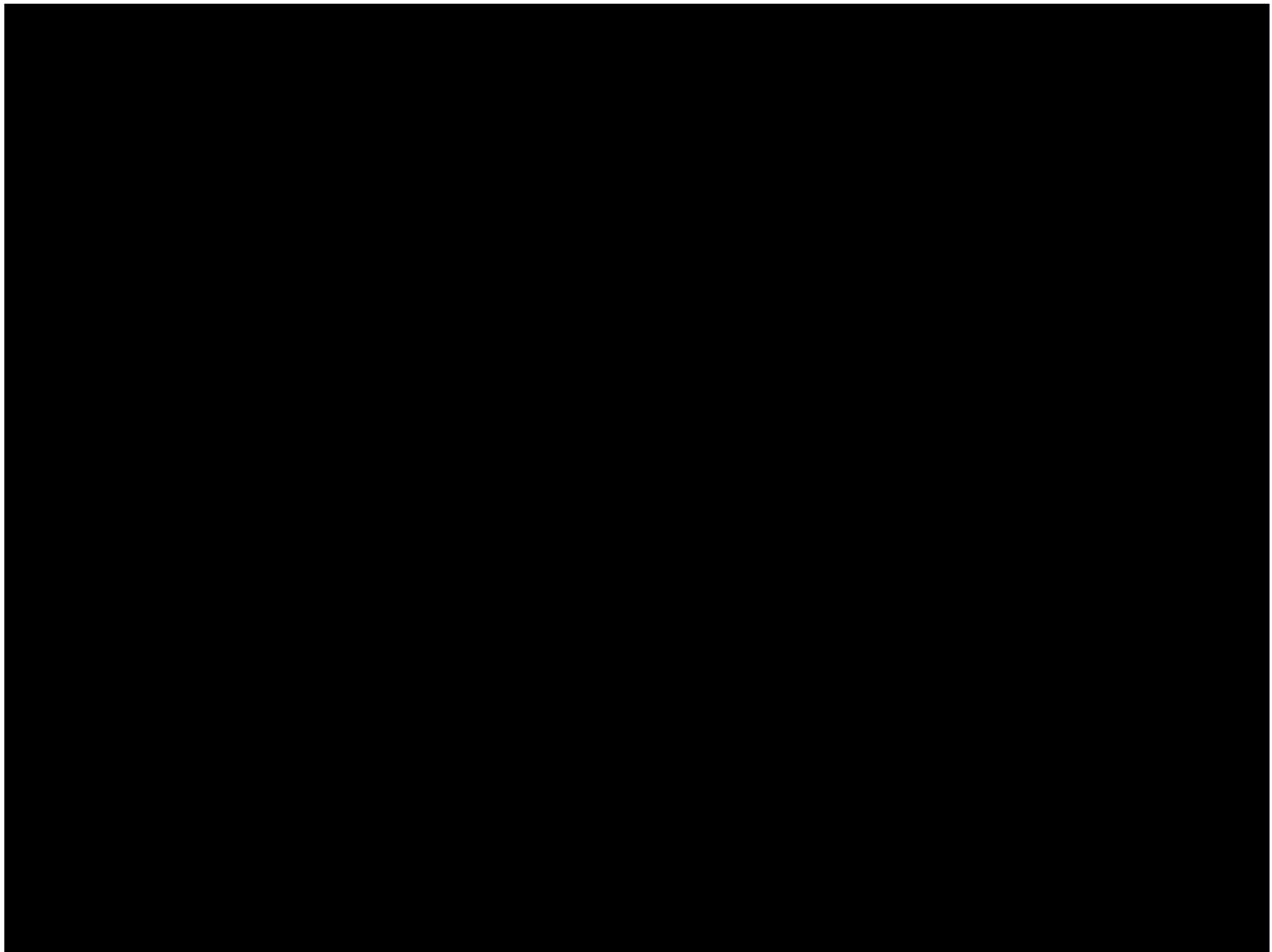
“What does this mean?”

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<sup>14</sup> . . . “Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, *let me explain this to you*; listen carefully to what I say. <sup>15</sup> These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It’s only nine in the morning!

Joel 2:28 - 32

\* the last days have begun





What distinguishes Christianity from other religions?

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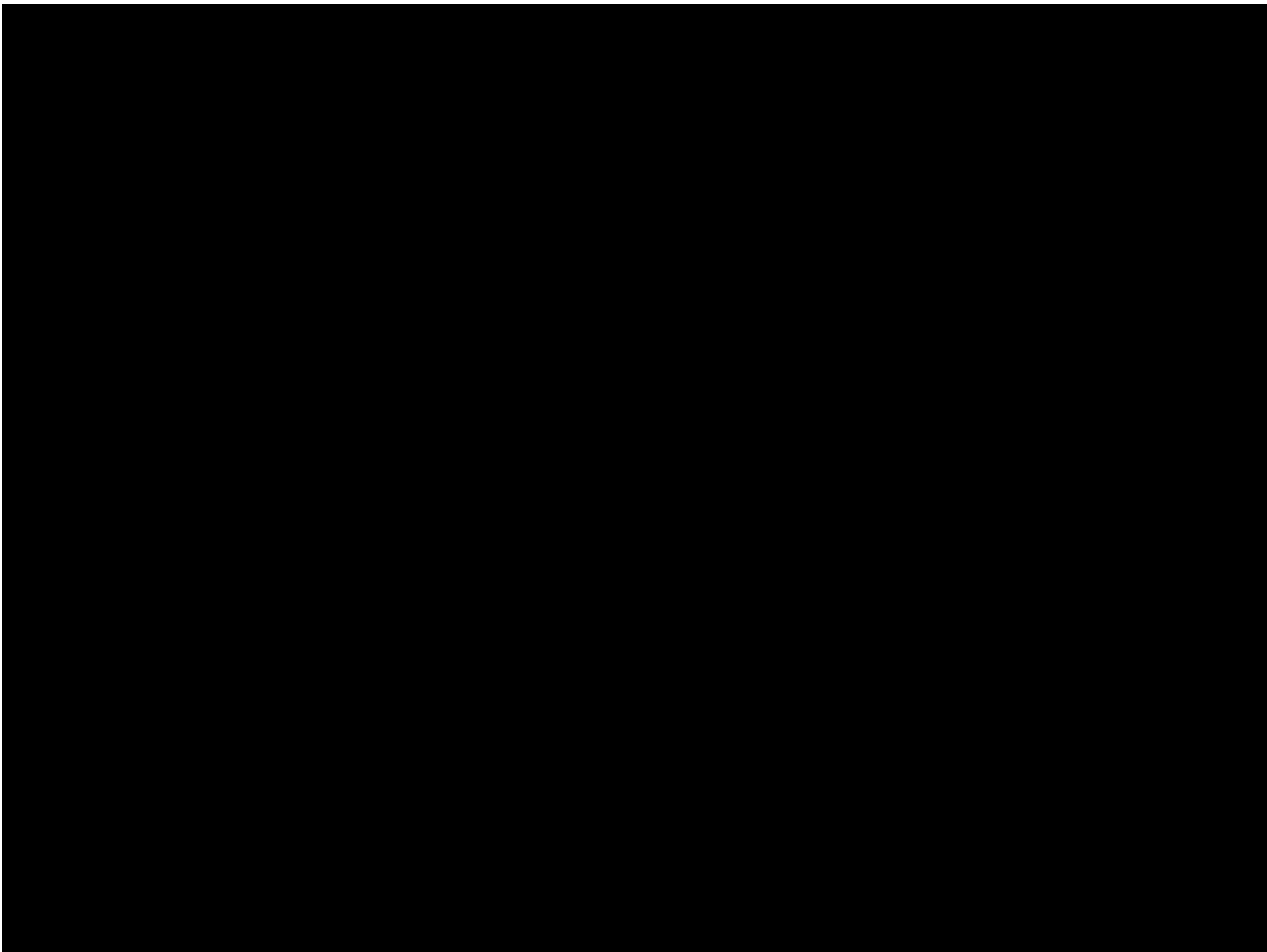
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The centrality of Jesus

Christianity *is* Christ.

## Hebrews 1:1 – 4

<sup>1</sup> In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, <sup>2</sup> but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. <sup>3</sup> The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. <sup>4</sup> So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs. (NIV)



What distinguishes Christianity from other religions?

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## Christianity appeals to our mind

Repentance is a change of perspective that transforms a person's thinking and their entire approach to life. (NET Bible Notes)

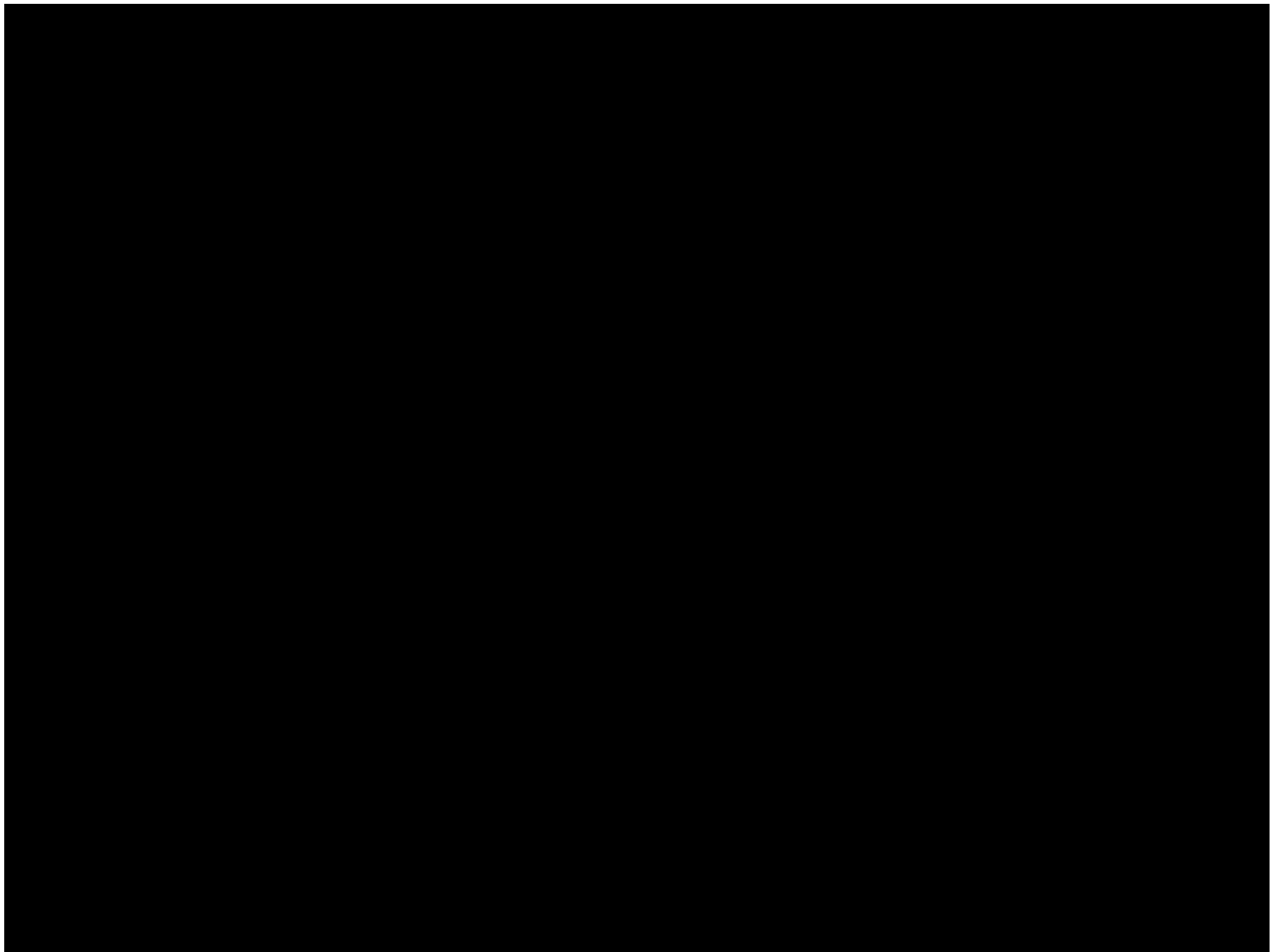


“It’s difficult for modern readers to grasp the magnitude of the change facing Peter’s Jewish hearers. They were part of a unique community, with a rich cultural and religious history. Despite long years of subjugation to Rome, they were fiercely nationalistic. The nation had rejected Jesus as a blasphemer and executed him. Now Peter calls on them to turn their back on all that and embrace Jesus as their Messiah.”

(John MacArthur’s Commentary on Acts, Vol. 1, p. 73)







What distinguishes Christianity from other religions?

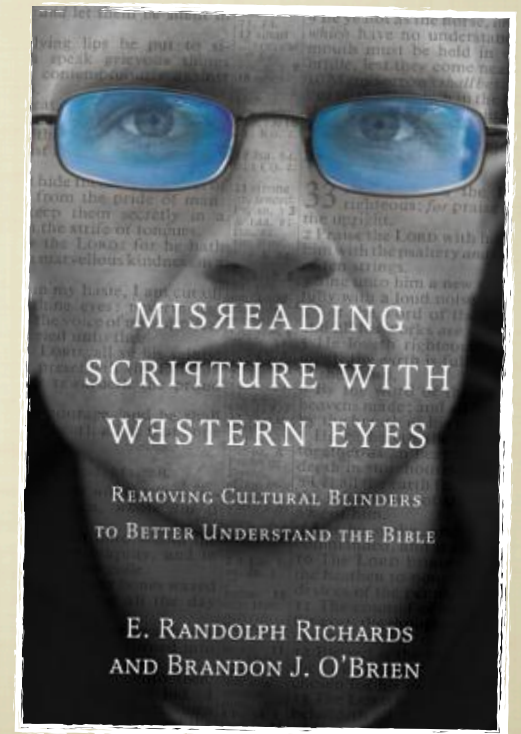
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Christianity is based  
on grace

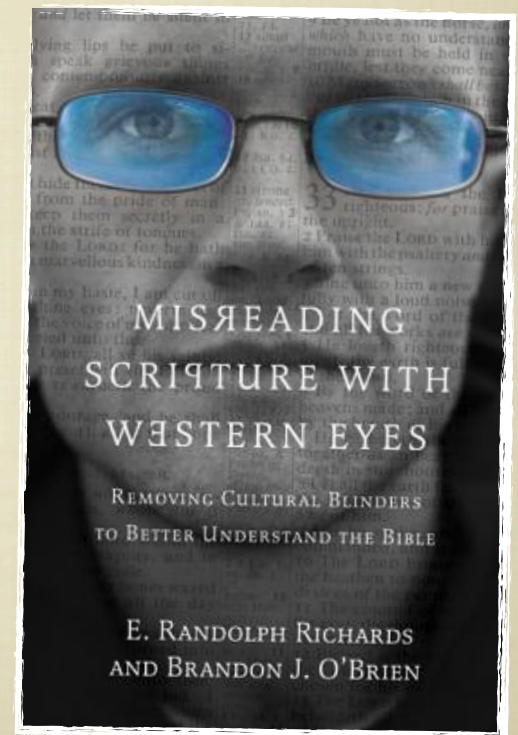
“Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins.” (v. 38)

# patron-client system

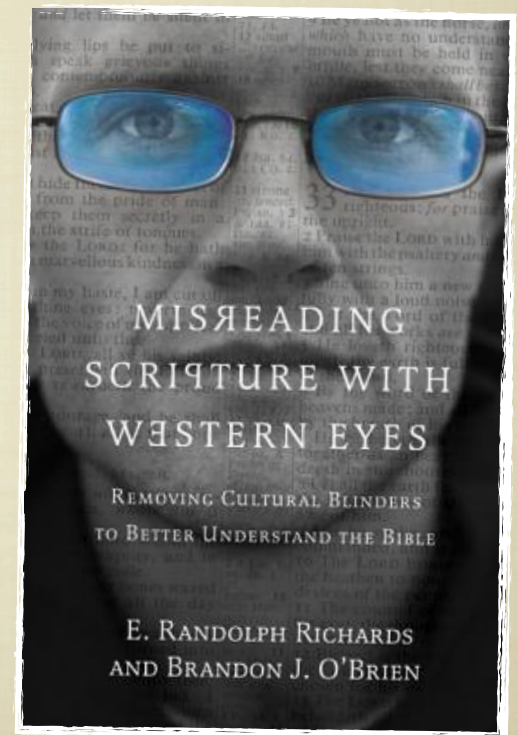


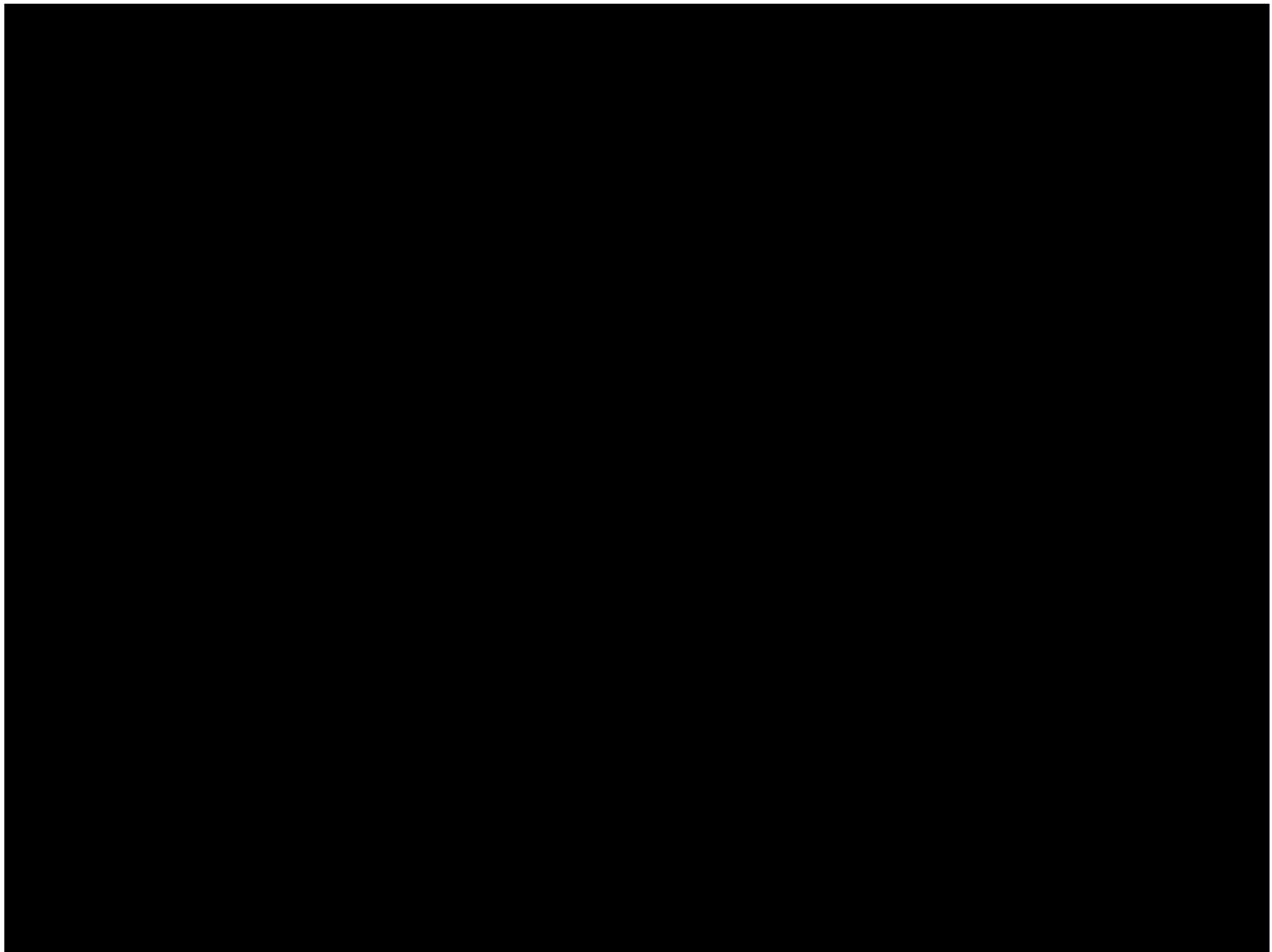


Patronage had its own vocabulary. Words we usually consider particularly Christian terms—grace and faith—were common parlance before Paul commandeered them. The undeserved gifts of assistance the patron offered were commonly called *charis* (“grace” and “gift”). The loyalty the client offered the patron in response was called *pistis* (“faith” and “faithfulness”). Roman philosophers noted that when one received a god’s favor (grace), one should respond with love, joy and hope.



When Paul sought to explain the Christian's new relationship with God, then, one of the ways he did so was in terms of the ancient system of patronage—something everyone understood.







## Romans 8:31 – 32

<sup>31</sup> What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? <sup>32</sup> He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? (NLT)

## 1 Corinthians 6:19 – 20

<sup>19</sup> . . . . You are not your own; <sup>20</sup> you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies. (NIV)

