

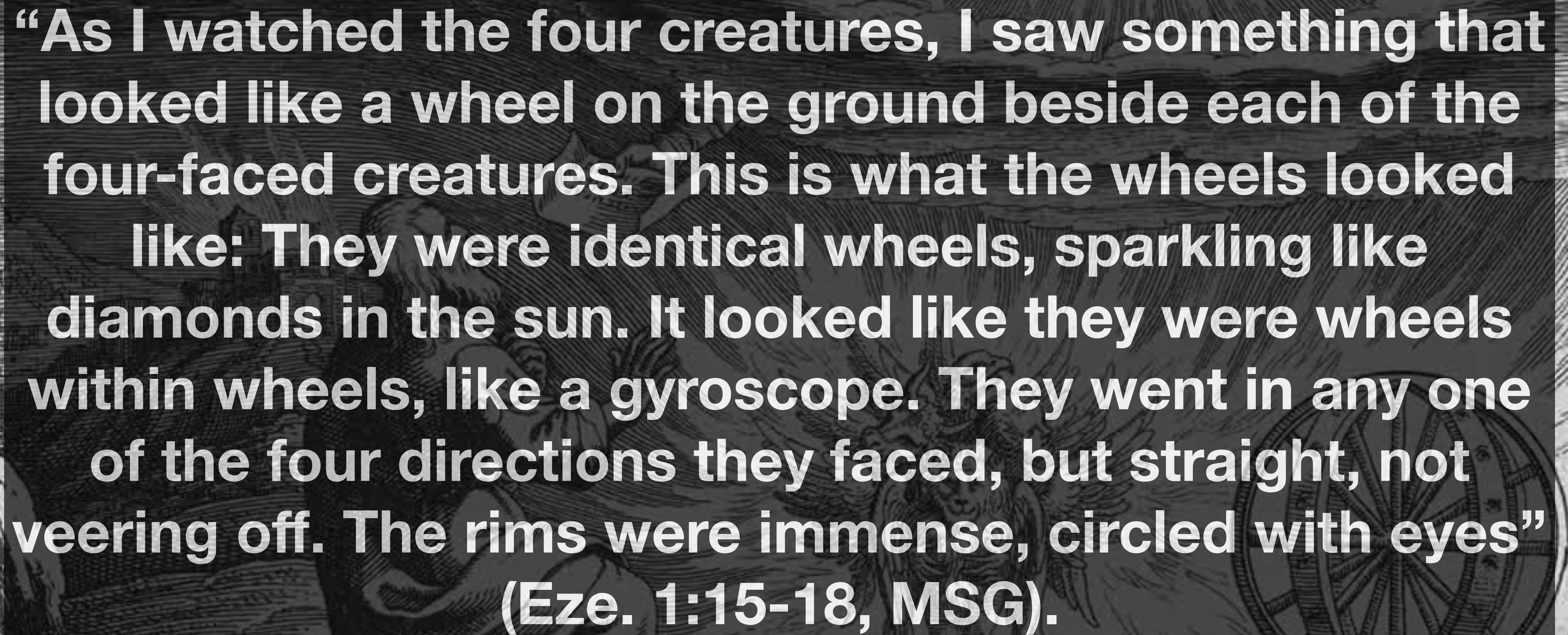
EYES ALL AROUND

05 - Restoring the Soul

Glen Gerhauser | Church on the Park | Sunday, 5 MARCH 2023

Today, we will focus on love from a heavenly perspective. By zooming in on the wheels in Ezekiel's opening vision, we'll discover how they relate to love and Christ's body (Ezekiel 1:15-18).





**“As I watched the four creatures, I saw something that looked like a wheel on the ground beside each of the four-faced creatures. This is what the wheels looked like: They were identical wheels, sparkling like diamonds in the sun. It looked like they were wheels within wheels, like a gyroscope. They went in any one of the four directions they faced, but straight, not veering off. The rims were immense, circled with eyes”
(Eze. 1:15-18, MSG).**

At the beginning of 2023 the Lord spoke to me saying, “This is a year of recovery and restoration for my people all around the world – a Psalm 23 year.”



Psalm 23

translated by Glen Gerhauser

יהוה רעי



Yahweh is my Shepherd;
I won't be without.



In pastures green
He settles me,
Beside waters gentle
He guides me.



My soul he restores.

He leads me
In paths
Trusted and right -
Yes, that's who He is.



Even if I walk
In a valley fogged,
thick and dark,
I fear no evil.



For you are with me,
Your rod and Your support
They comfort me.



You set before me a table,
Across from those
Attacking me.



You anoint
Robustly
My head,
My cup
Abundantly flows.



Yes!
Goodness and love kind
Pursue me
All the days of my life -

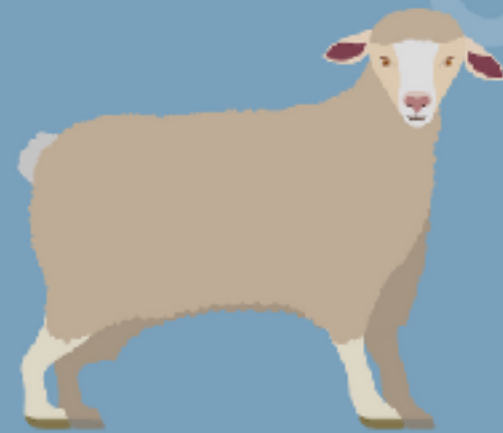


And I will be refreshed
In Yahweh's house
Continually,
Days without end.

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A large flock of sheep is moving through a narrow mountain pass in the Himalayas, India. The sheep are packed closely together, filling the path. The surrounding landscape is rugged and mountainous, with steep, rocky slopes and a clear sky. The lighting suggests a bright day, possibly late afternoon or early morning, with some shadows cast on the rocks.

I heard the Lord saying, my people will be

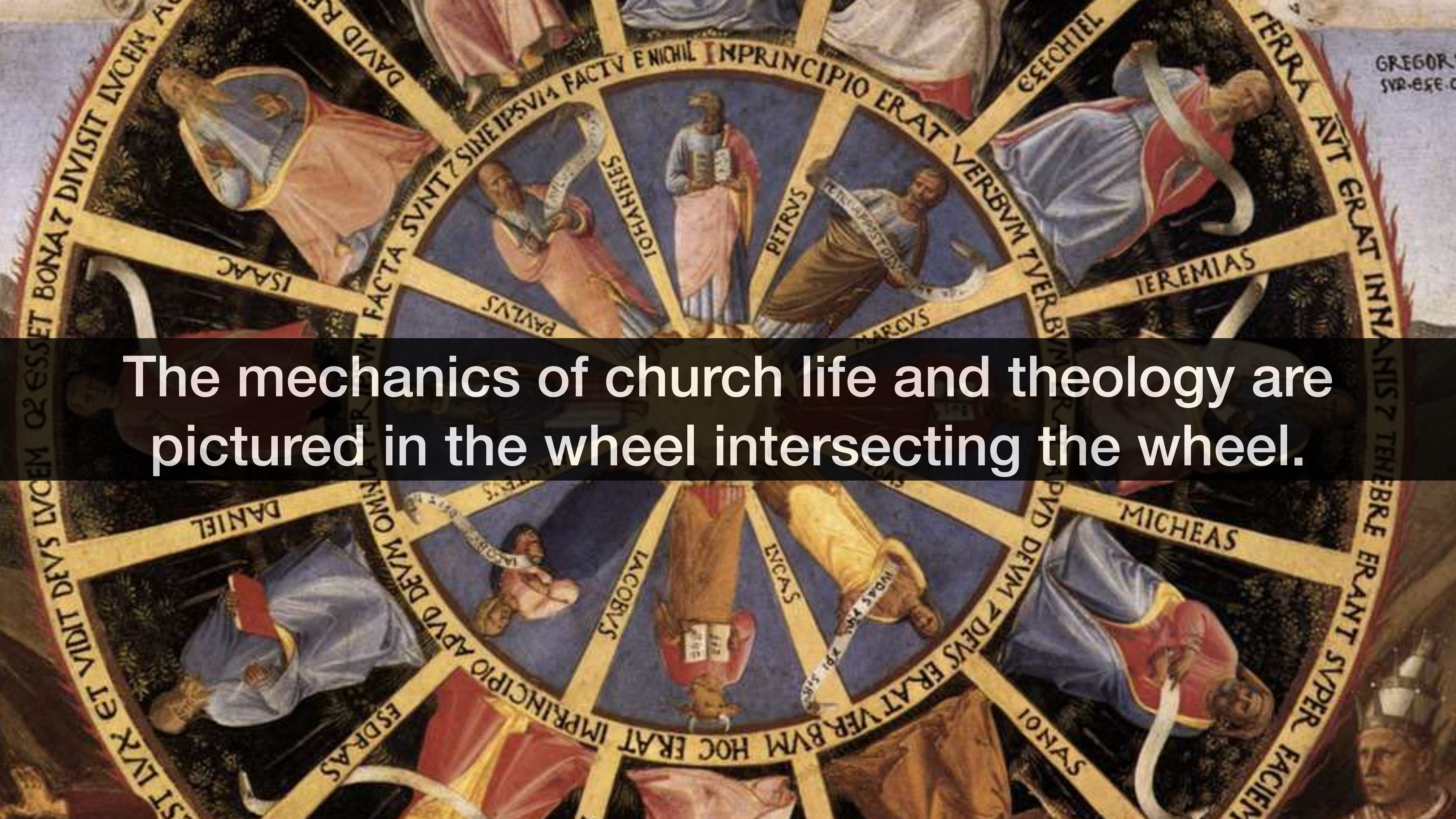
Soaked in my love,

Obedient to my Word,

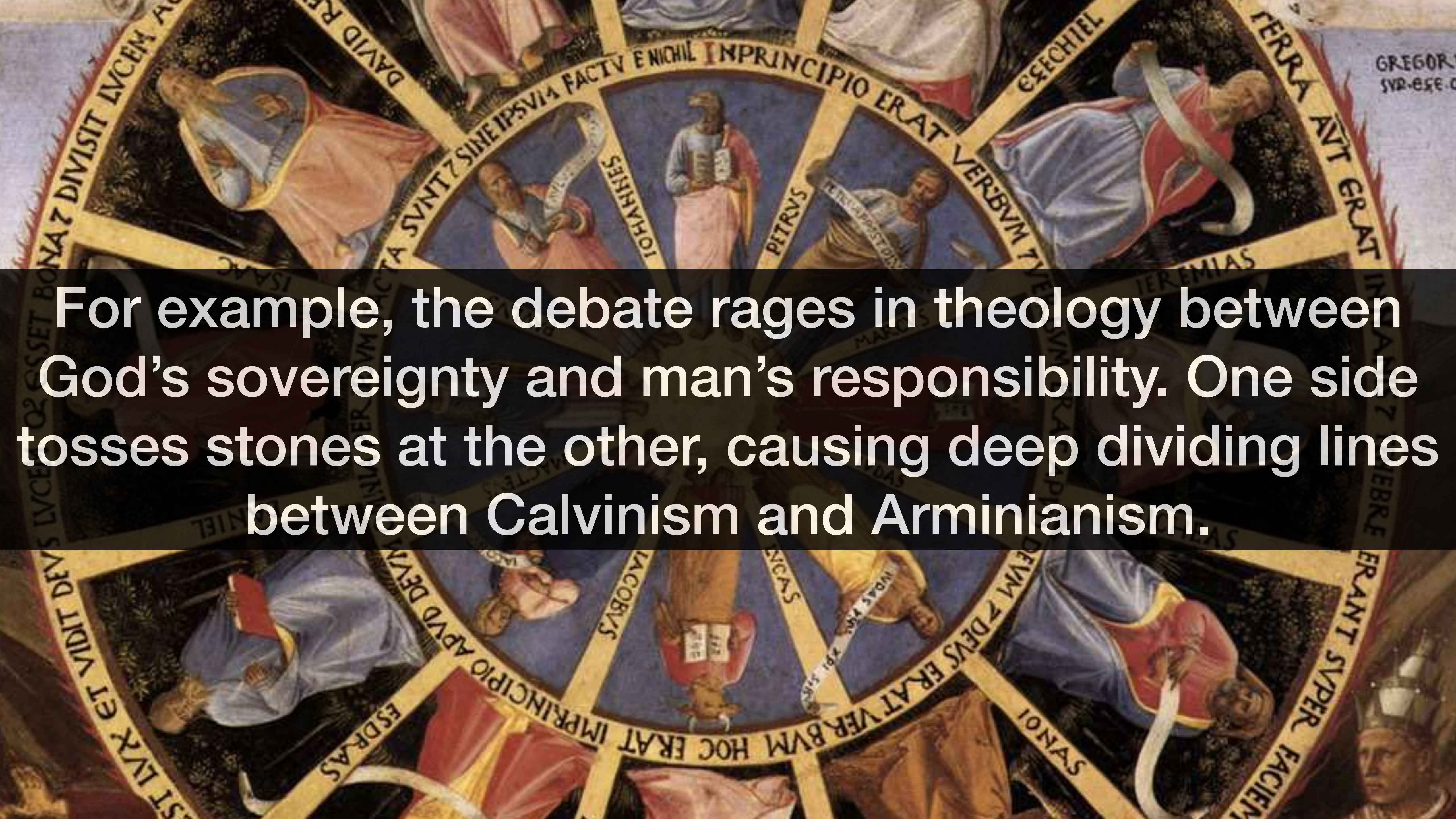
Understanding my ways, and

Loving me, my people and the lost.”

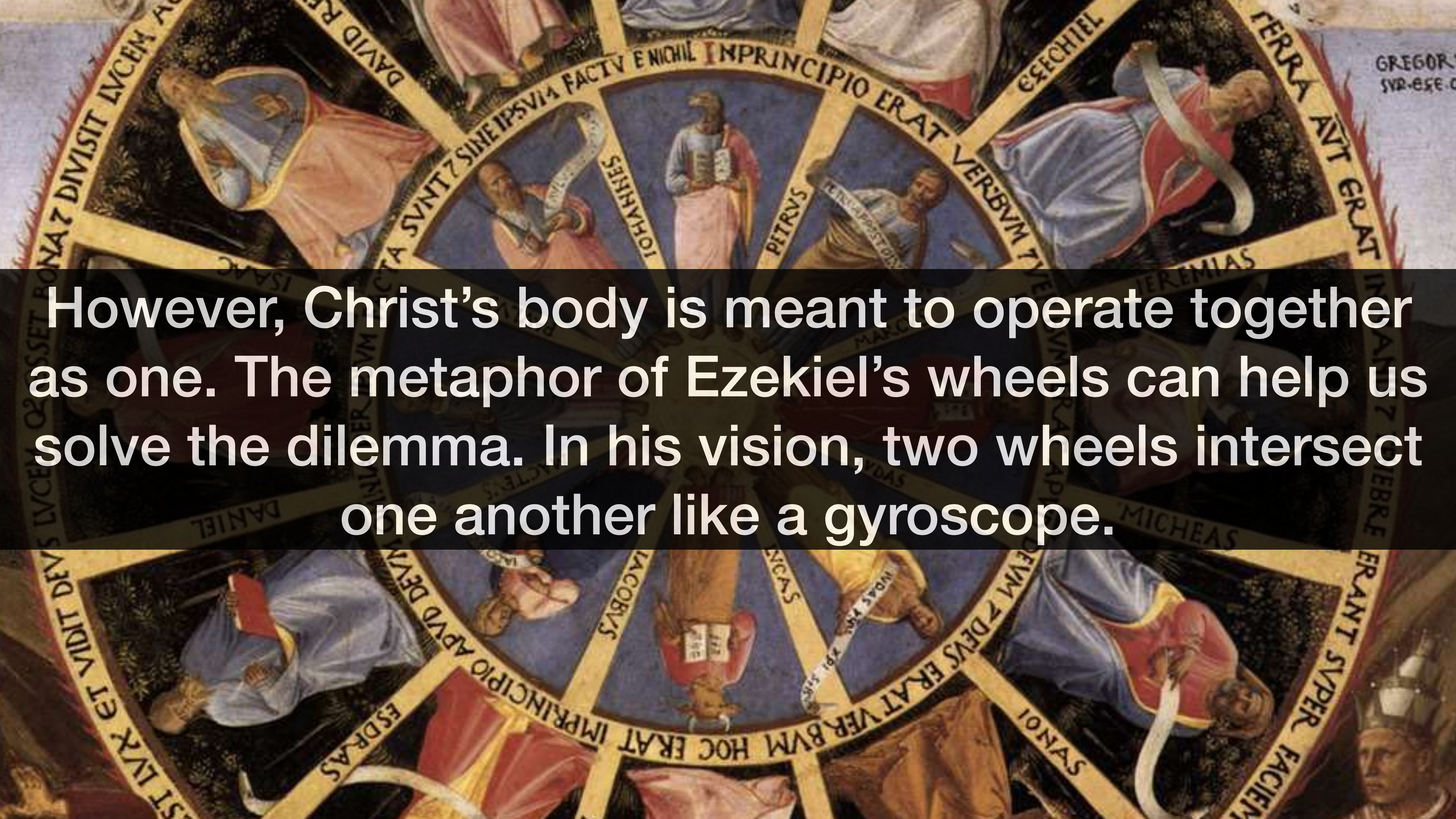
Himalayas, India



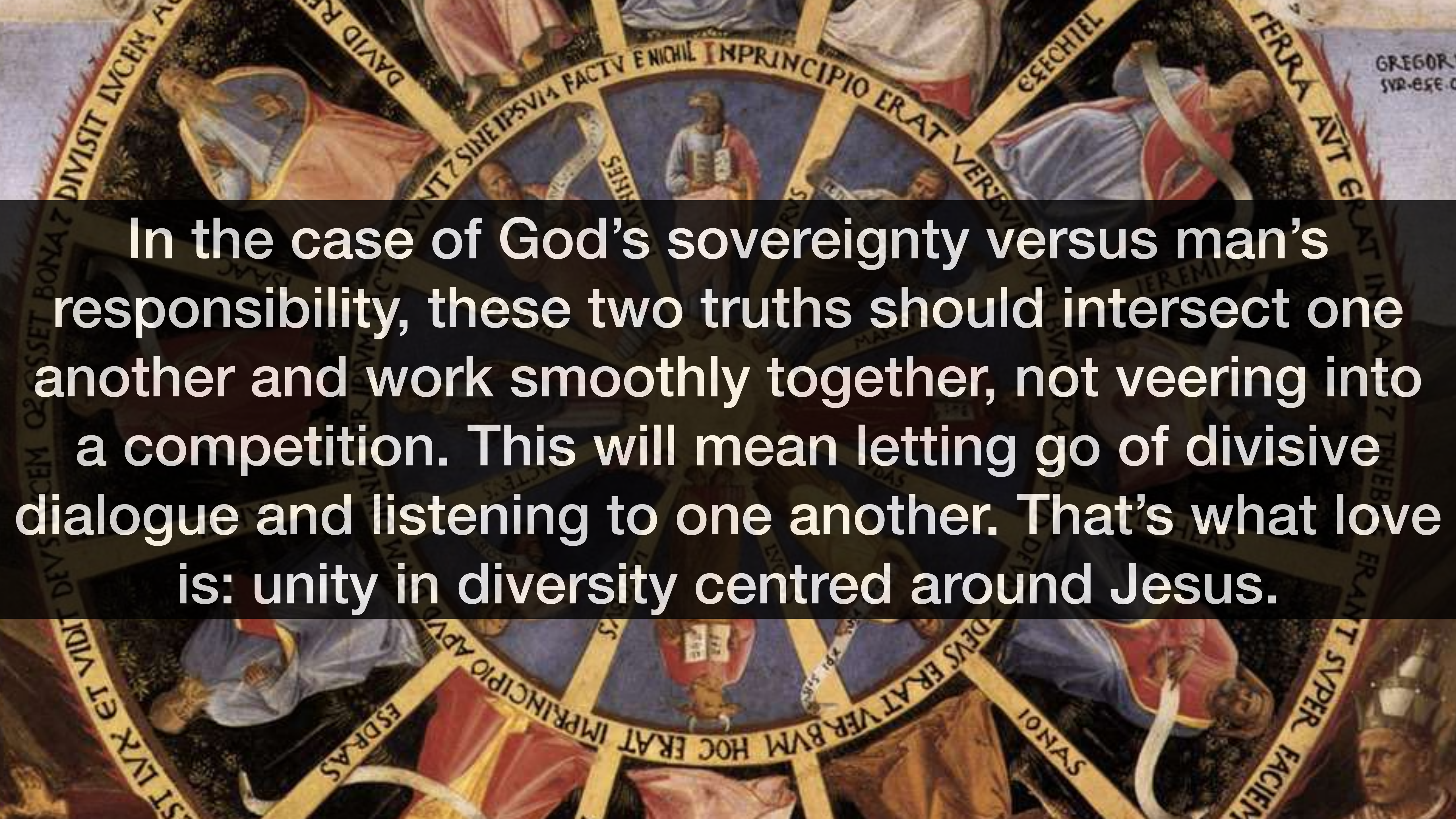
The mechanics of church life and theology are pictured in the wheel intersecting the wheel.



For example, the debate rages in theology between God's sovereignty and man's responsibility. One side tosses stones at the other, causing deep dividing lines between Calvinism and Arminianism.



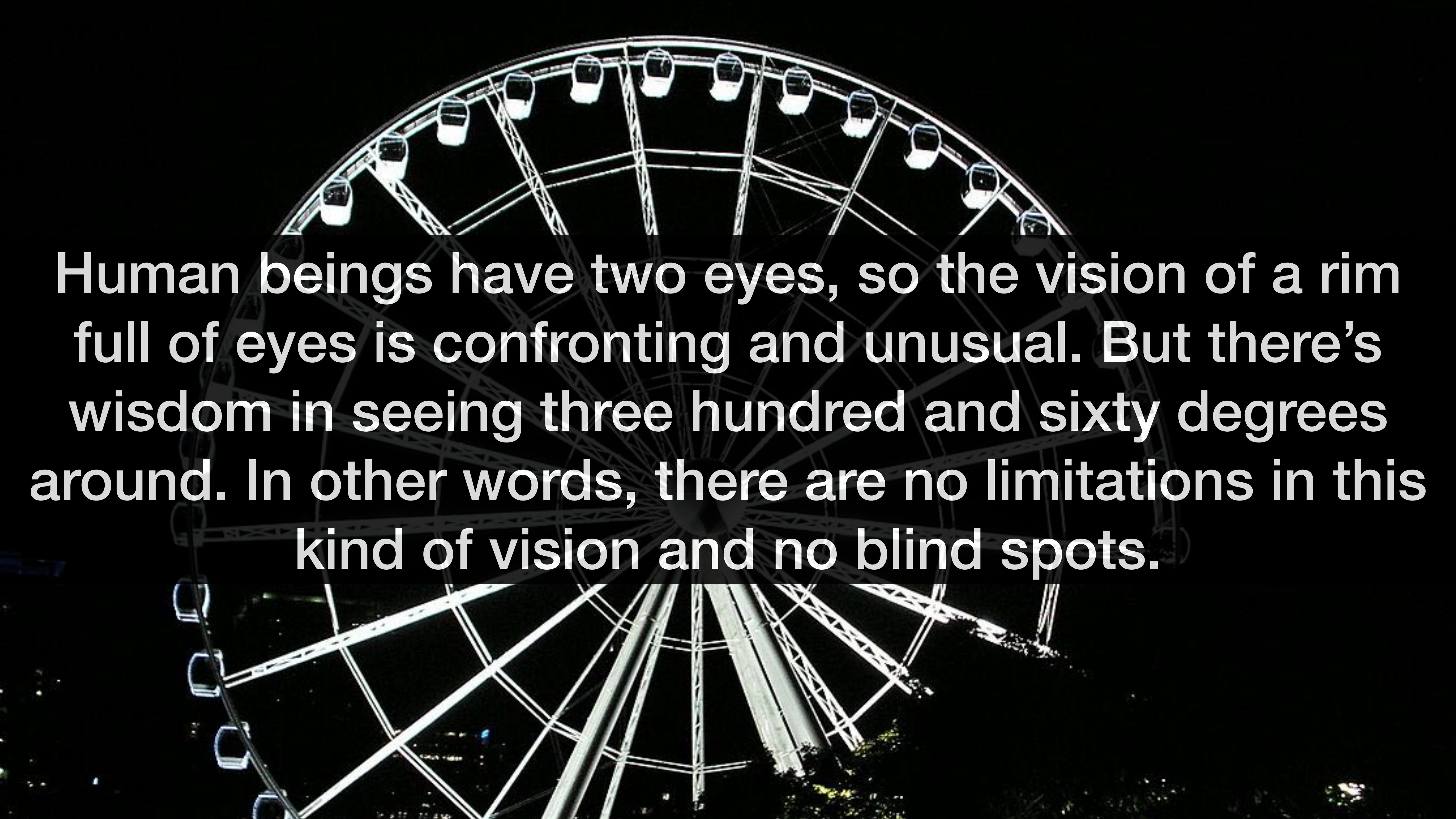
However, Christ's body is meant to operate together as one. The metaphor of Ezekiel's wheels can help us solve the dilemma. In his vision, two wheels intersect one another like a gyroscope.

A circular mosaic depicting the twelve apostles, each in a separate panel. The panels are arranged in a circle around a central point. Each panel contains a figure of an apostle, often holding a book or a staff. The figures are surrounded by Latin inscriptions in gold lettering. The background of the mosaic is a deep blue. The text is written in a circular path around the figures. The overall style is characteristic of medieval or early modern religious art.

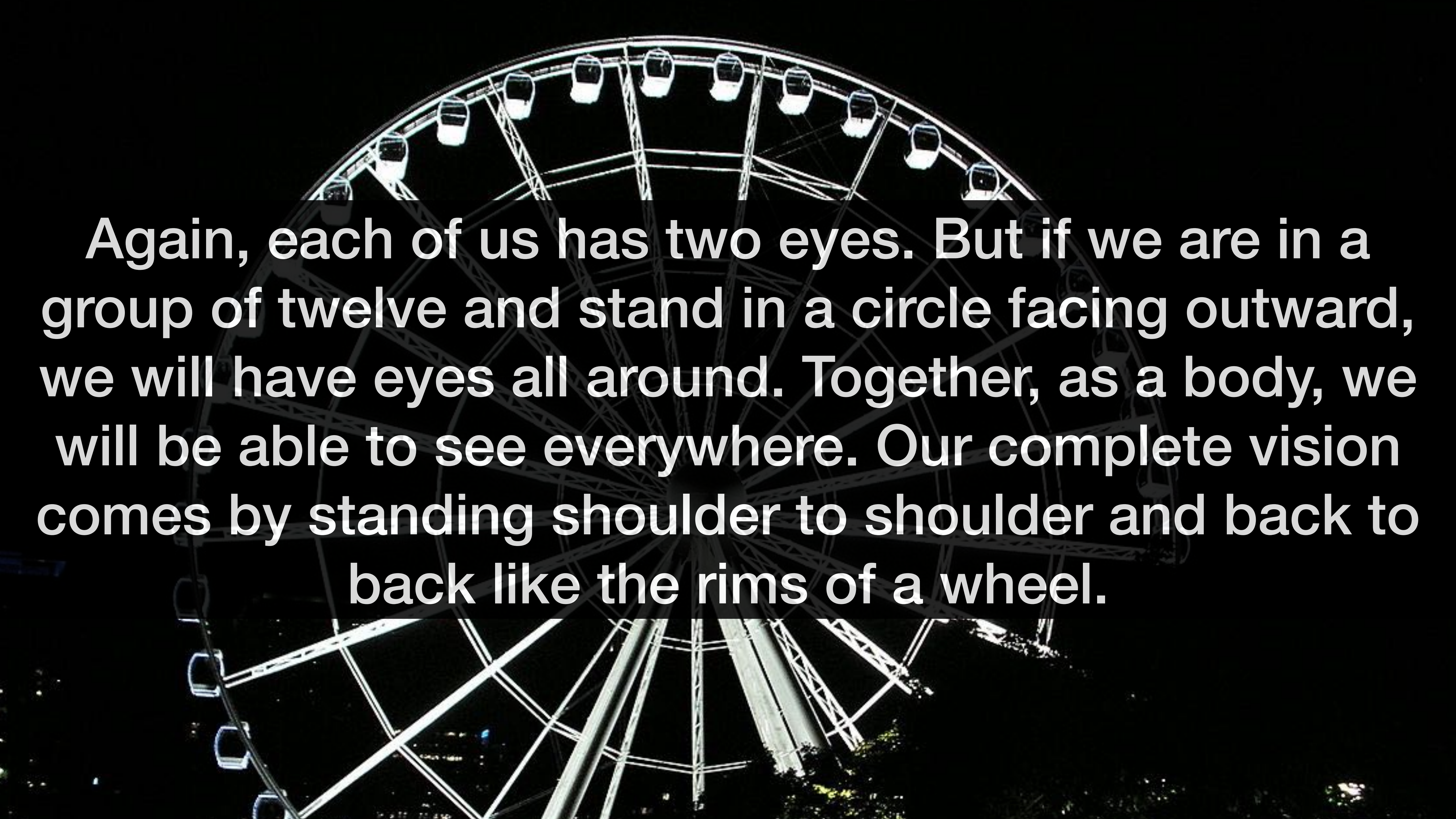
In the case of God's sovereignty versus man's responsibility, these two truths should intersect one another and work smoothly together, not veering into a competition. This will mean letting go of divisive dialogue and listening to one another. That's what love is: unity in diversity centred around Jesus.



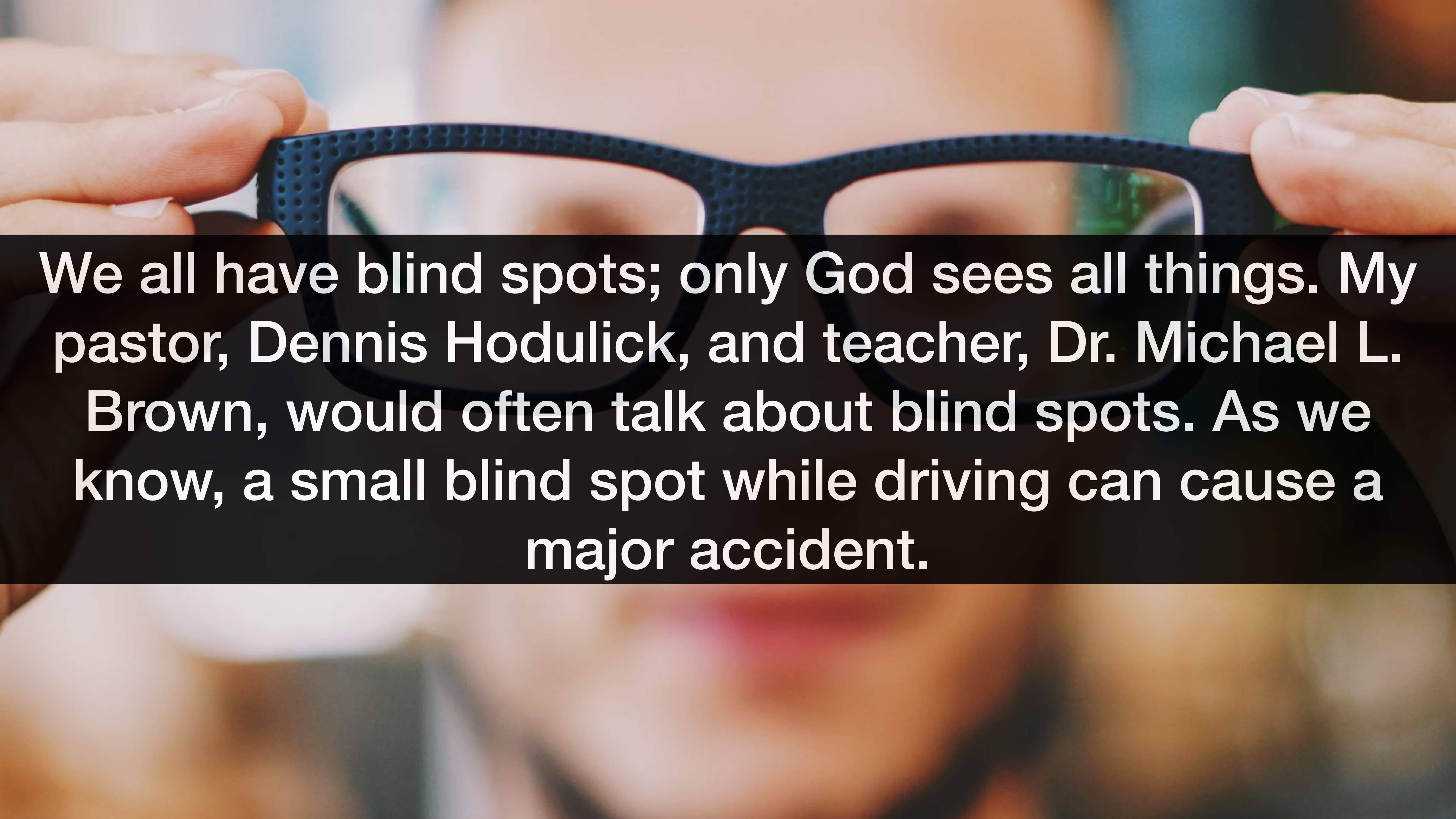
The second feature of Ezekiel's wheels is that they contain eyes all around.

A large Ferris wheel is shown at night, illuminated with white lights. The wheel is partially visible, showing its intricate metal structure and several white passenger cars. The background is dark, suggesting a night sky or a dark park setting. The text is overlaid on the center of the image.

Human beings have two eyes, so the vision of a rim full of eyes is confronting and unusual. But there's wisdom in seeing three hundred and sixty degrees around. In other words, there are no limitations in this kind of vision and no blind spots.



Again, each of us has two eyes. But if we are in a group of twelve and stand in a circle facing outward, we will have eyes all around. Together, as a body, we will be able to see everywhere. Our complete vision comes by standing shoulder to shoulder and back to back like the rims of a wheel.



We all have blind spots; only God sees all things. My pastor, Dennis Hodulick, and teacher, Dr. Michael L. Brown, would often talk about blind spots. As we know, a small blind spot while driving can cause a major accident.

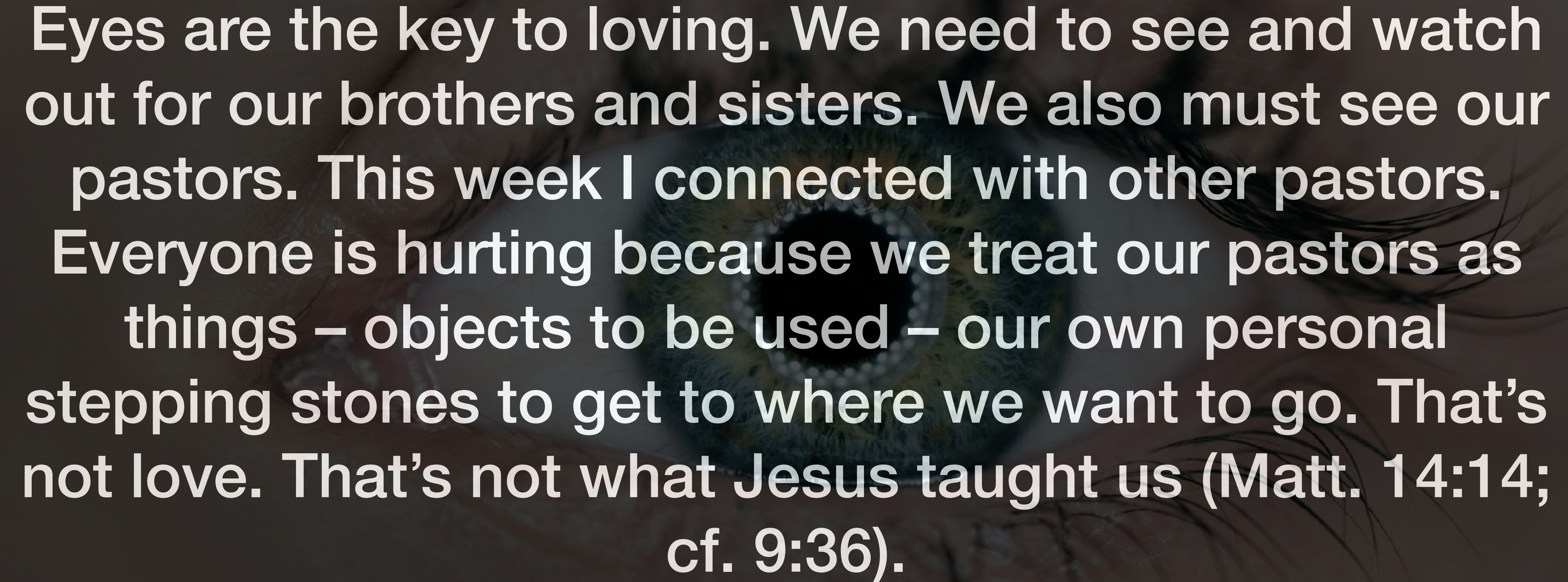


I've wondered how someone can do such hurtful things and then post about how we must love one another on social media. I scratch my head and pray, "Help me, Jesus, not to react." What's the cause of such behaviour? Blind spots.

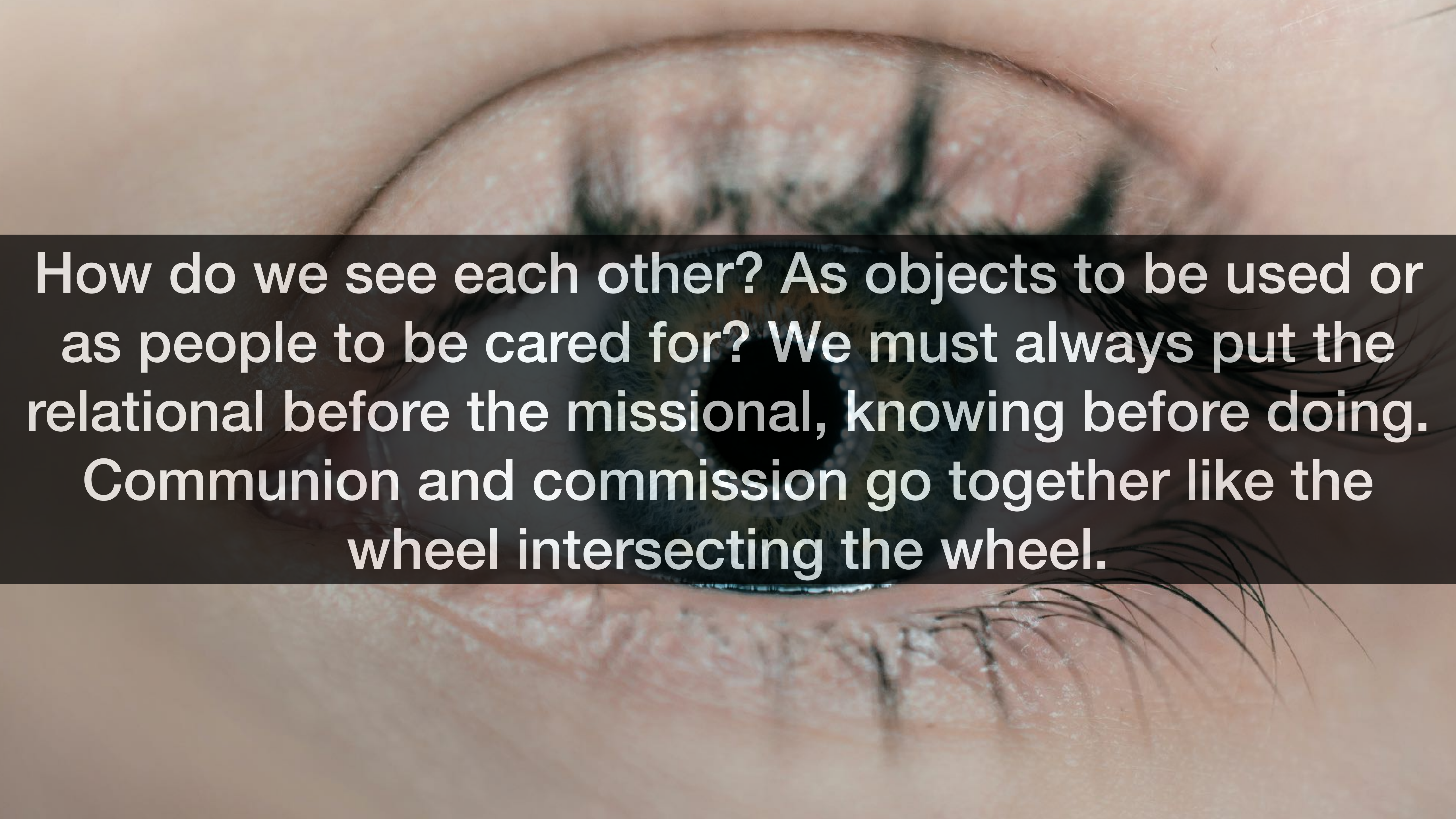




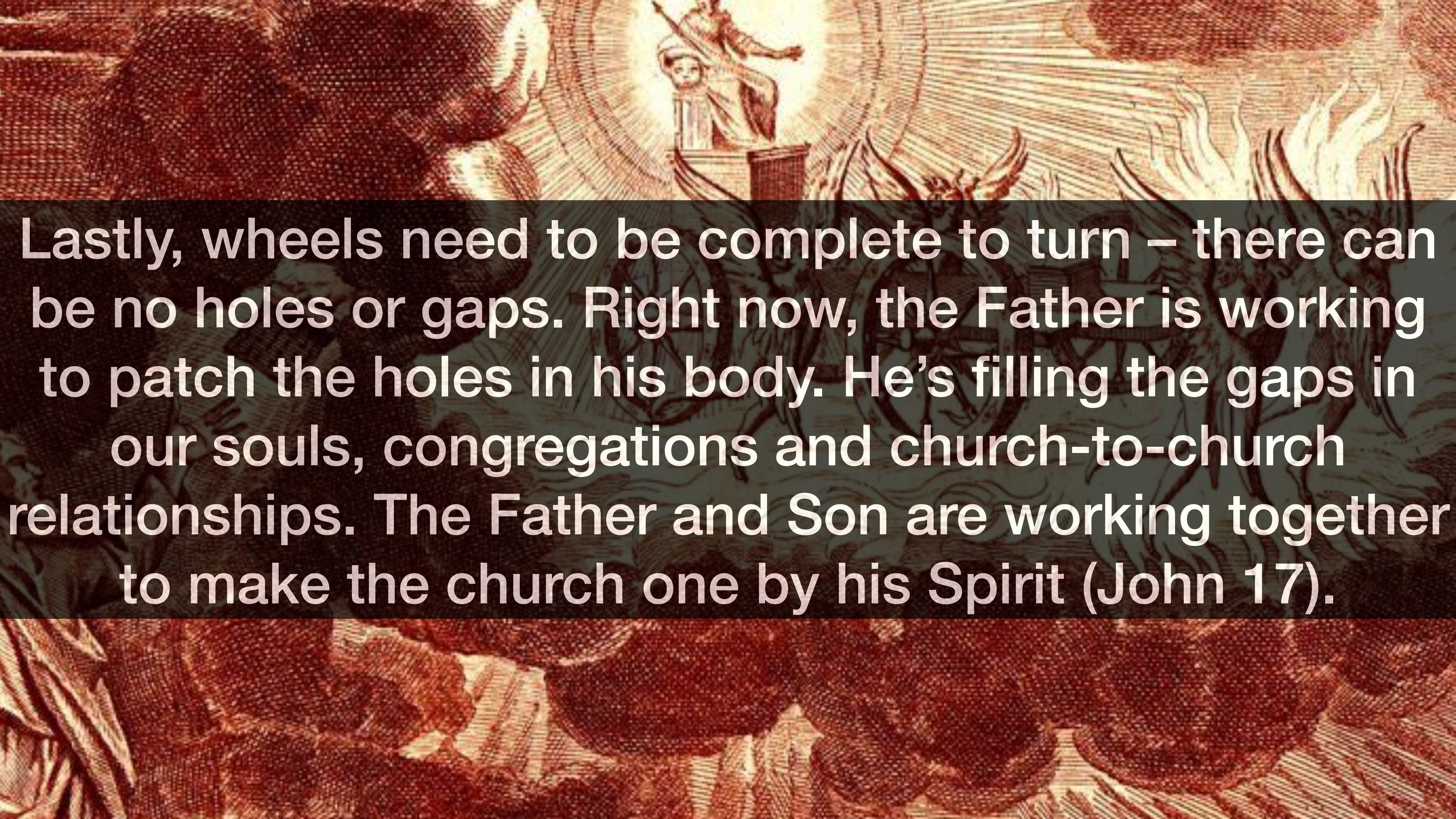
What's the cure for our blind spots? Allowing the Holy Spirit to open our eyes and bring us together like the wheels in Ezekiel. We need to both see and listen by the Spirit's power.

A close-up photograph of a human eye, showing the iris and eyelashes. The eye is looking directly at the camera. The image is used as a background for the text.

Eyes are the key to loving. We need to see and watch out for our brothers and sisters. We also must see our pastors. This week I connected with other pastors. Everyone is hurting because we treat our pastors as things – objects to be used – our own personal stepping stones to get to where we want to go. That's not love. That's not what Jesus taught us (Matt. 14:14; cf. 9:36).

A close-up photograph of a human eye, looking slightly to the right. The eye is framed by a dark, semi-transparent horizontal band that serves as a background for white text. The text is centered and reads: "How do we see each other? As objects to be used or as people to be cared for? We must always put the relational before the missional, knowing before doing. Communion and commission go together like the wheel intersecting the wheel." The background image shows the iris, pupil, and eyelashes in detail.

How do we see each other? As objects to be used or as people to be cared for? We must always put the relational before the missional, knowing before doing. Communion and commission go together like the wheel intersecting the wheel.



Lastly, wheels need to be complete to turn – there can be no holes or gaps. Right now, the Father is working to patch the holes in his body. He's filling the gaps in our souls, congregations and church-to-church relationships. The Father and Son are working together to make the church one by his Spirit (John 17).



Let's learn the wisdom of the heavenly wheels so we can move forward and carry the Kingdom to every place.



The Chief Shepherd restores us through relationships with one another, through giving and receiving love.

