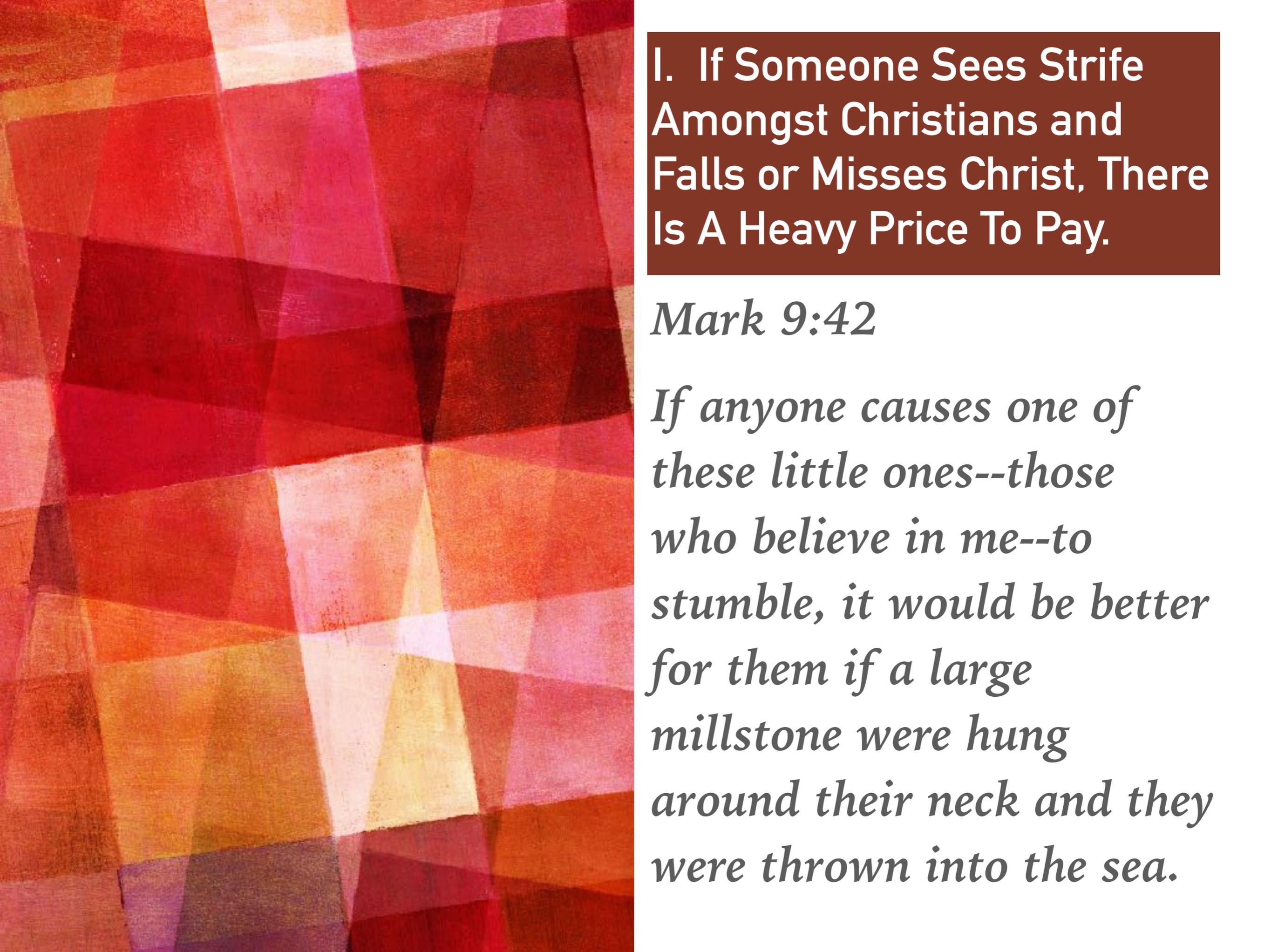


# Beware of Strife: The #1 Breakthrough Blocker





I. If Someone Sees Strife  
Amongst Christians and  
Falls or Misses Christ, There  
Is A Heavy Price To Pay.

*Mark 9:42*

*If anyone causes one of  
these little ones--those  
who believe in me--to  
stumble, it would be better  
for them if a large  
millstone were hung  
around their neck and they  
were thrown into the sea.*

# The Shocking Truth About Strife:

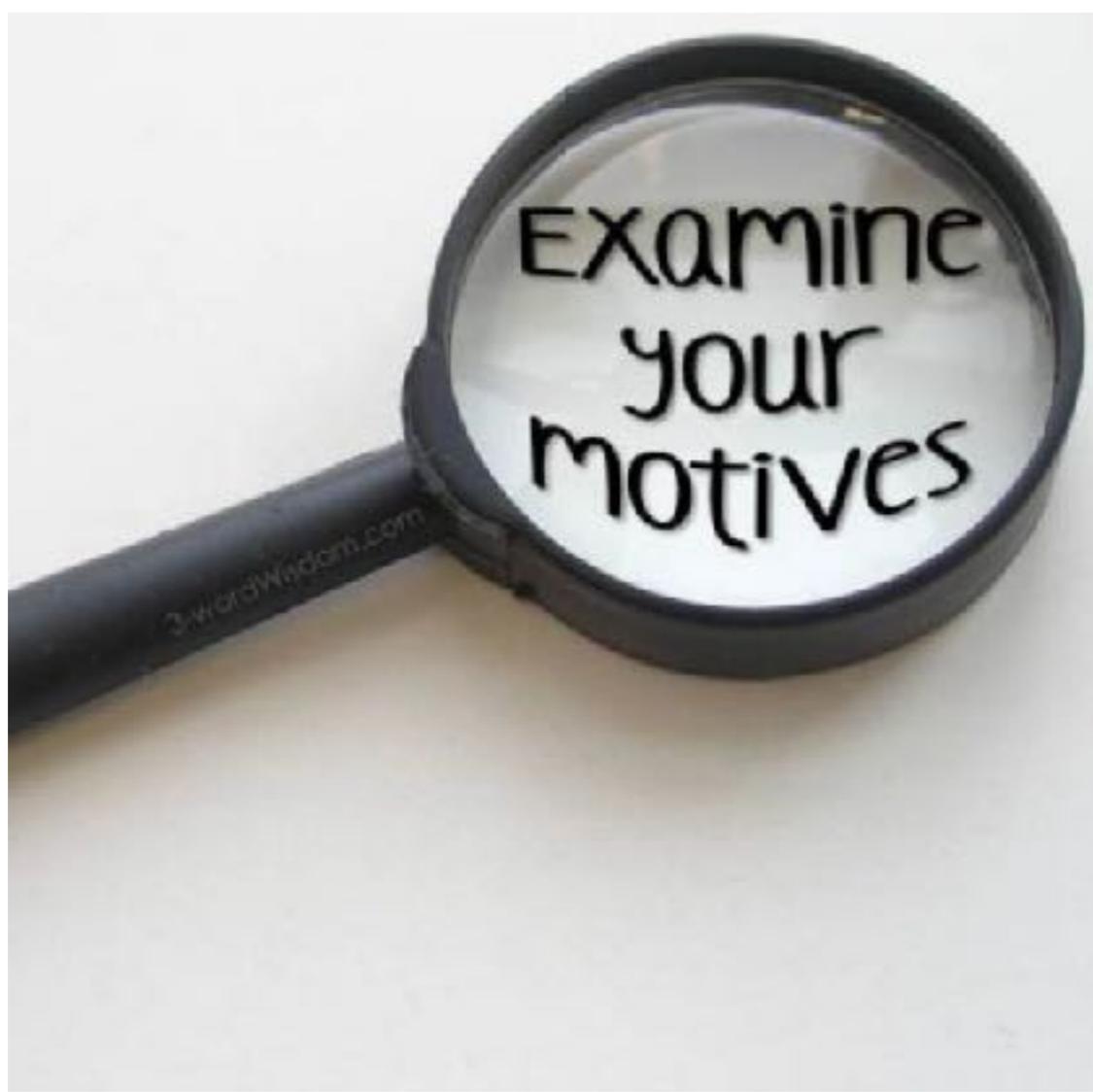
*II. Most of the Time The Fight With Another Is Actually A Reflection of Our Internal Feud (frustration, oversensitivity, self-dislike, prideful ambition).*

**James 4:1-3**

**1 - What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you?**

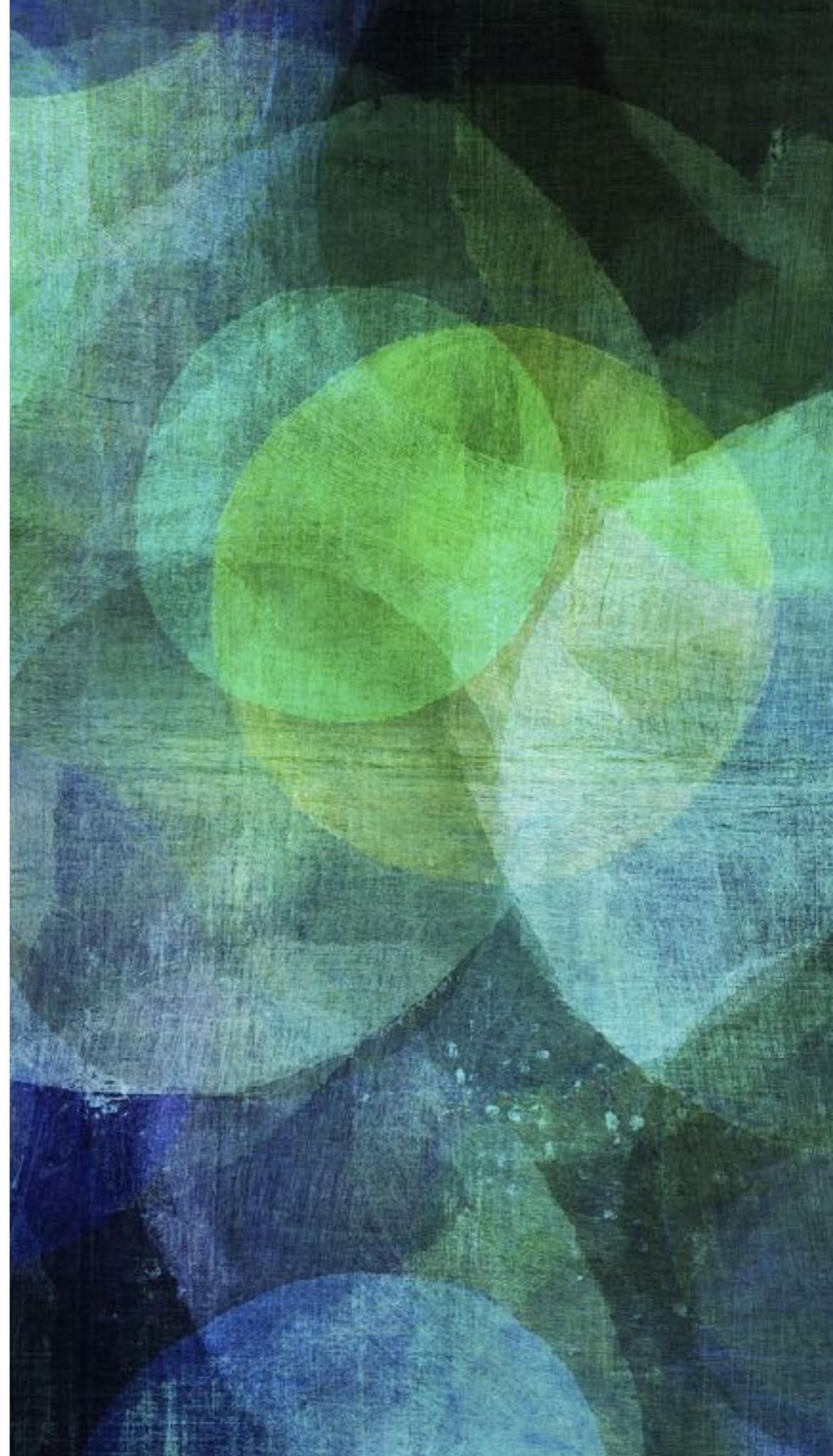
**2 - You desire but do not have, so you kill. You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight.**

**You do not have because you do not ask God.**



.....

*3 - When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.*



# III. So What Is The Impact of Strife (Anger From Being Disappointed).

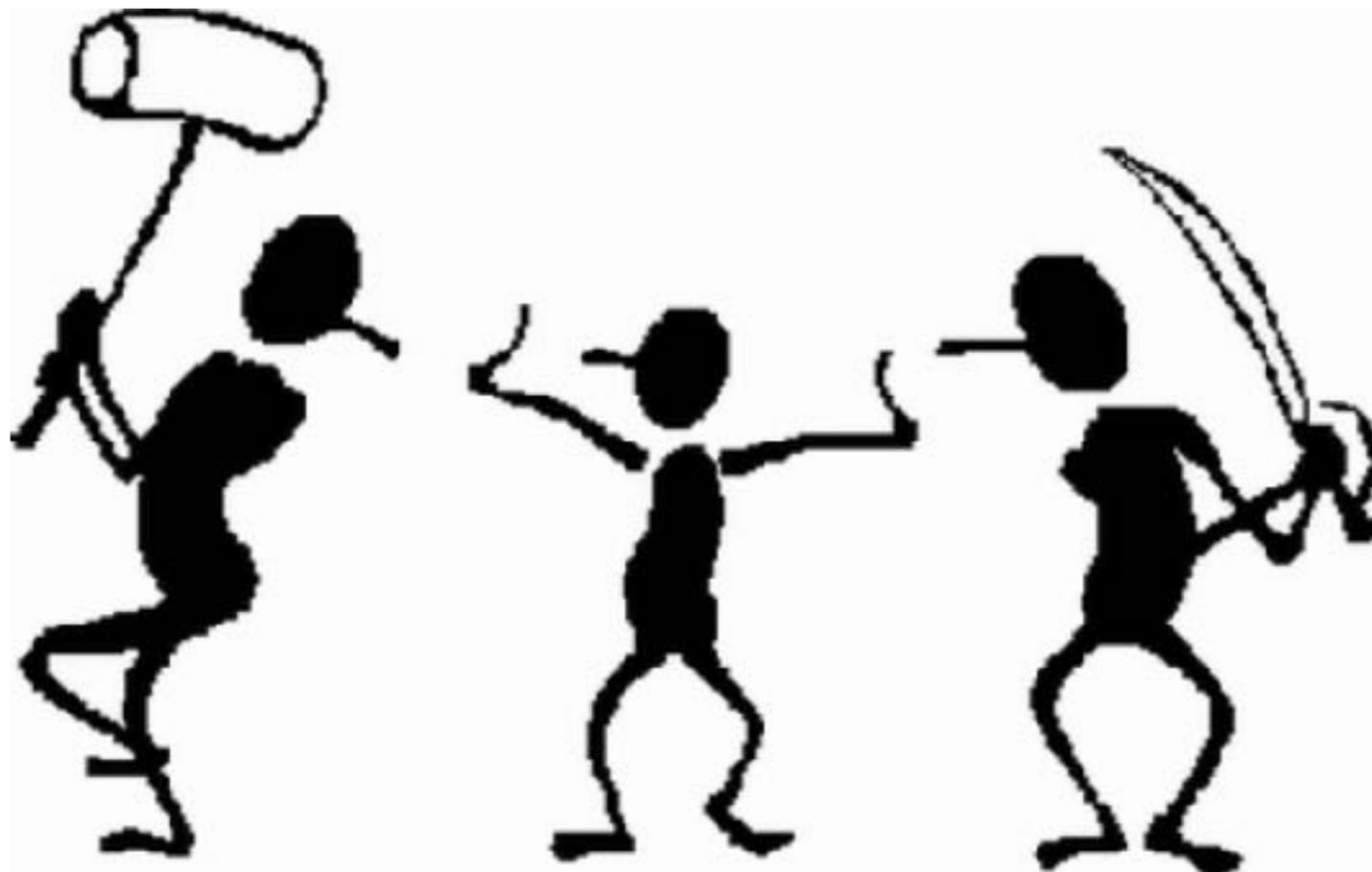
*Galatians 5:19-21 (MSG)*

*It is obvious what kind of life develops out of trying to get your own way all the time: repetitive, loveless, cheap sex; a stinking accumulation of mental and emotional garbage; frenzied and joyless grabs for happiness; trinket gods; magic-show religion;*

paranoid loneliness; cutthroat competition; all-consuming-yet-never-satisfied wants; a brutal temper; an impotence to love or be loved; divided homes and divided lives; small-minded and lopsided pursuits; the vicious habit of depersonalizing everyone into a rival; uncontrolled and uncontrollable addictions; ugly parodies of community. I could go on. This isn't the first time I have warned you, you know. If you use your freedom this way, you will not inherit God's kingdom.

# HOW TO RESOLVE CONFLICT:

*A Conflict Arises In The Church Among  
The Pharisees, Apostles And The Elders  
(CHURCH FOLK).*



## *Acts 15:5-11*

*5 Then some of the believers who belonged to the party of the Pharisees stood up and said, "The Gentiles must be circumcised and required to keep the law of Moses."*

*6 The apostles and elders met to consider this question.*

# 1. Delay Your Reaction So Impulse Doesn't Control The Situation.

*7 - After much discussion, Peter got up and addressed them: “Brothers, you know that some time ago God made a choice among you that the Gentiles might hear from my lips the message of the gospel and believe.*

## *2. Check Your Attitude (Eyes, Body Language, Words and Motives) For Purity.*

*Matthew 18:15-17 (ESV)*

*15 - “If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother.*

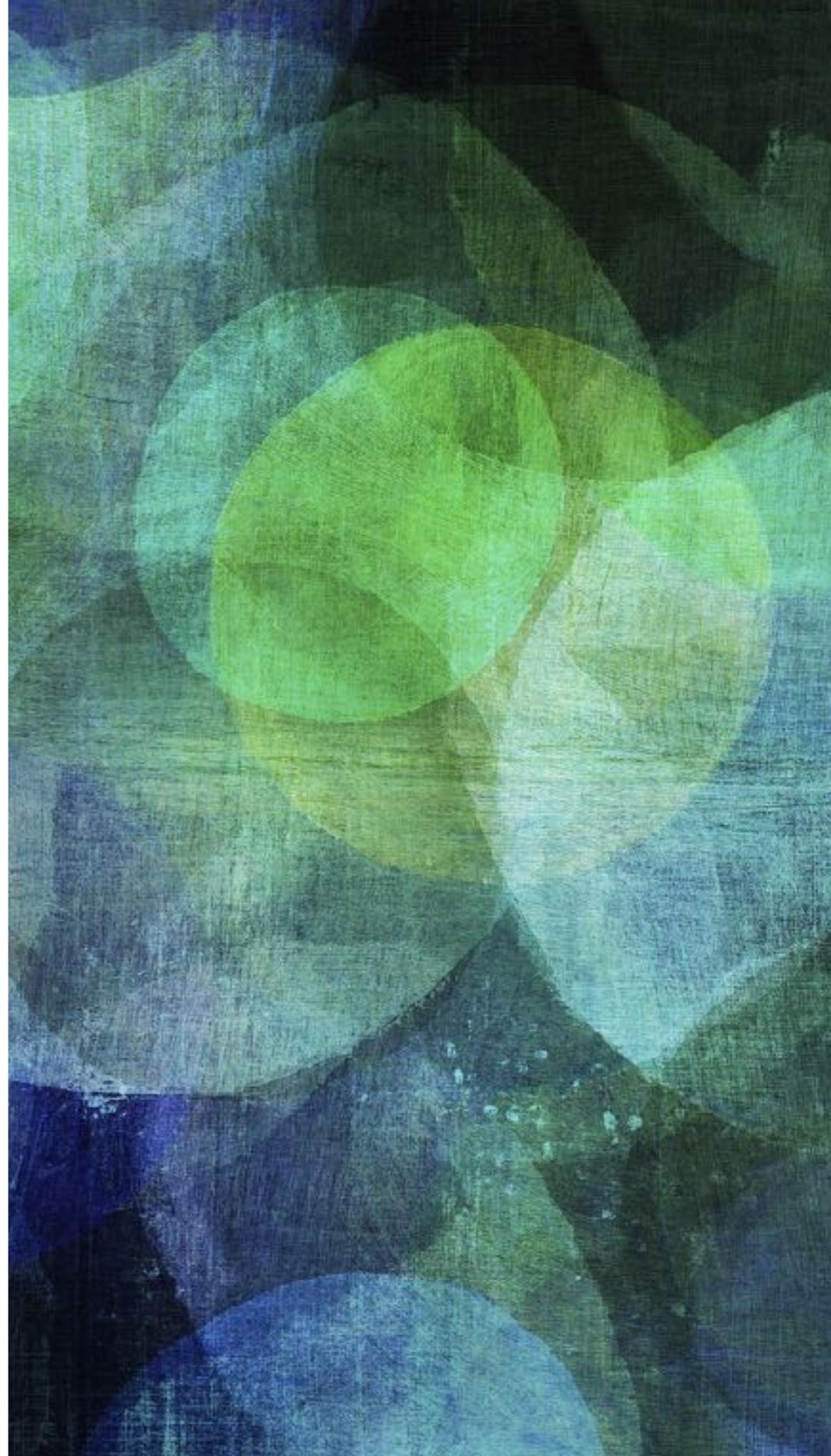
*16 - But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses.*

**3. Recognize and Destroy Your  
Pride By Admitting Your  
mistakes.**

*17... - If he refuses to listen to them,.....  
tell it to the church. And if he  
refuses to listen even to the church,  
let him be to you as a Gentile and a  
tax collector.*

*4. Sow The Type of Attitude You Want To See. Everything You Do Should Resemble Kingdom Not Flesh.*

*Back to Acts 15:10&11  
10 - Now then, why do you try to test God by putting on the necks of Gentiles a yoke that neither we nor our ancestors have been able... to bear?*



***5. Don't Go "Past Grabbing" To Support Your Present Anger. Deal With The Issue.***

***1 Corinthians 13:4&5 (NIV)***

***4 - Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud***

***5 - or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged.***

*6. And The Winner of The Disagreement  
Should Always Be...CHRIST!*

*Back to Acts 15:11&15*

*11 -No! We believe it is through the grace  
of our Lord Jesus that we are saved, just  
as they are.”*

*15 - The words of the prophets are in  
agreement with this, as it is written:*

7. So What if You Decide "I Hear You Preacher But I'm Not Letting This Squabble Go." Just Ask Yourself "Am I Willing To Pay The Price...?"

*Matthew 18:19 (NIV)*

*19 - "Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven.*

*Additional Notes:*

*Malachi 2:15 (NIV)*

*Has not [the LORD] made them one? In flesh and spirit they are his. And why one? Because he was seeking godly offspring. So guard yourself in your spirit, and do not break faith with the wife of your youth.*

*Proverbs 20:3*

*Solomon said, "It is to a man's honor to avoid strife, but every fool is quick to quarrel"*

*Proverbs 17:14*

*The beginning of strife is like letting out water, so quit before the quarrel breaks out.*

*Proverbs 12:16*

*A fool shows his annoyance at once, but a prudent man overlooks an insult.*