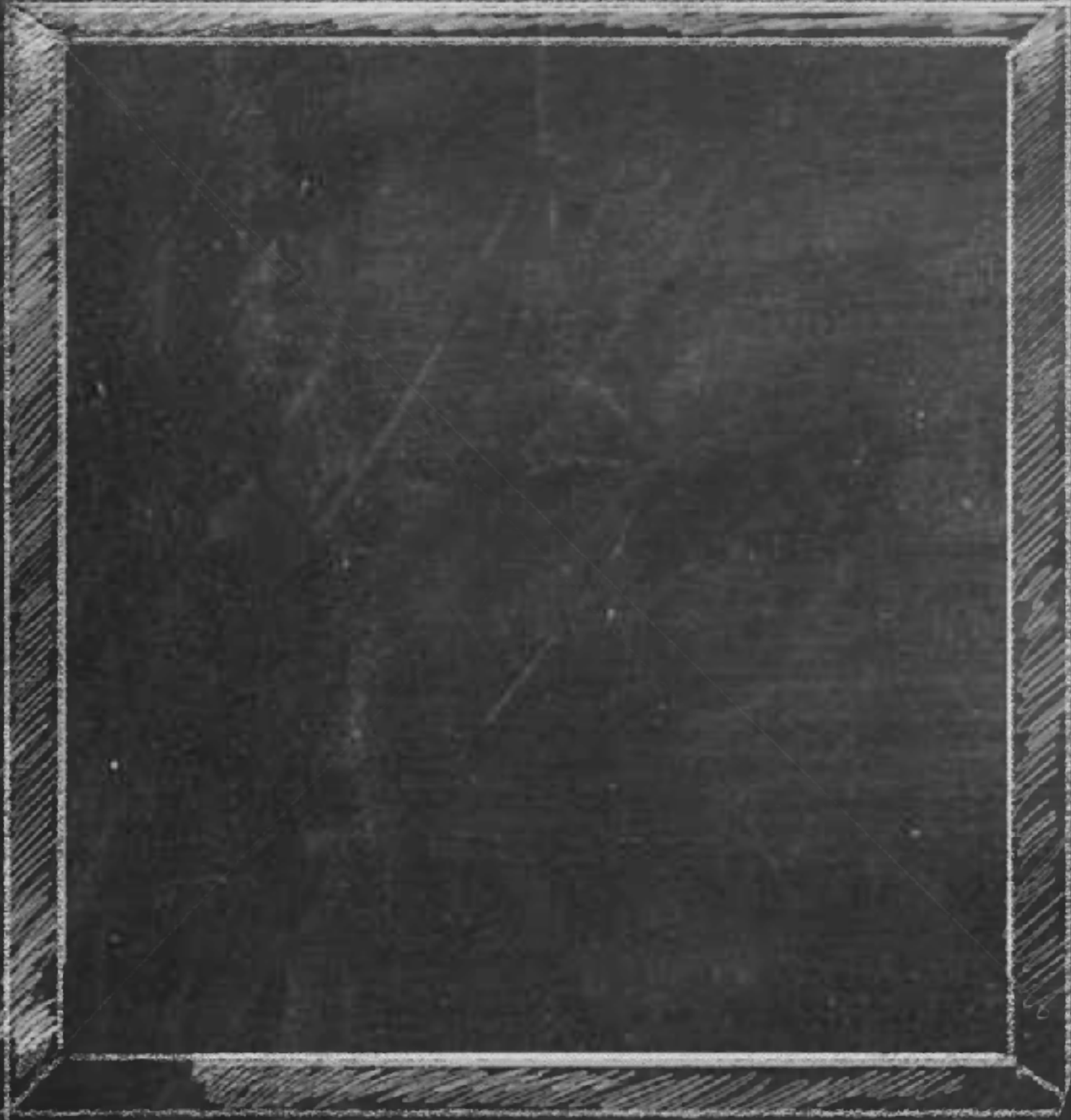




THE VISION
ENGAGING WITH TRUTH



THE VISION
ENGAGING WITH TRUTH

... for this reason I was born and for this I
came into the world, to testify to the **truth**.

-John 18:37

When the Spirit of **Truth** comes, he will
guide you into all **truth**.

-John 16:13

The Vision

Christian **families committed** to the shalom of
their neighbors

We will build real relationships
with those providentially in our Jerusalem,
through prayer and action,
with **grace** and **wisdom** and **truth**,
being attractively winsome,
tearing down walls, building up trust,
doing the work of the Kingdom.

“...but in your **hearts** honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being **prepared** to make a **defense** to anyone who asks you for a **reason** for the hope that is in you; yet **do it with gentleness and respect**. -1 Peter 3:15

The Lord's servant **must gently instruct** his opponents...“in the hope that God will **grant them** repentance leading them to a knowledge of the **truth**, and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them **captive** to do his will.” -2 Timothy 2:24-26

Conduct yourselves with **wisdom** toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunity. Let your **speech** always be with **grace**, as though seasoned with salt, so that you might know how to respond to each person.

-Colossians 4:5-6

How shall we then engage?

with Grace and Wisdom
and Truth

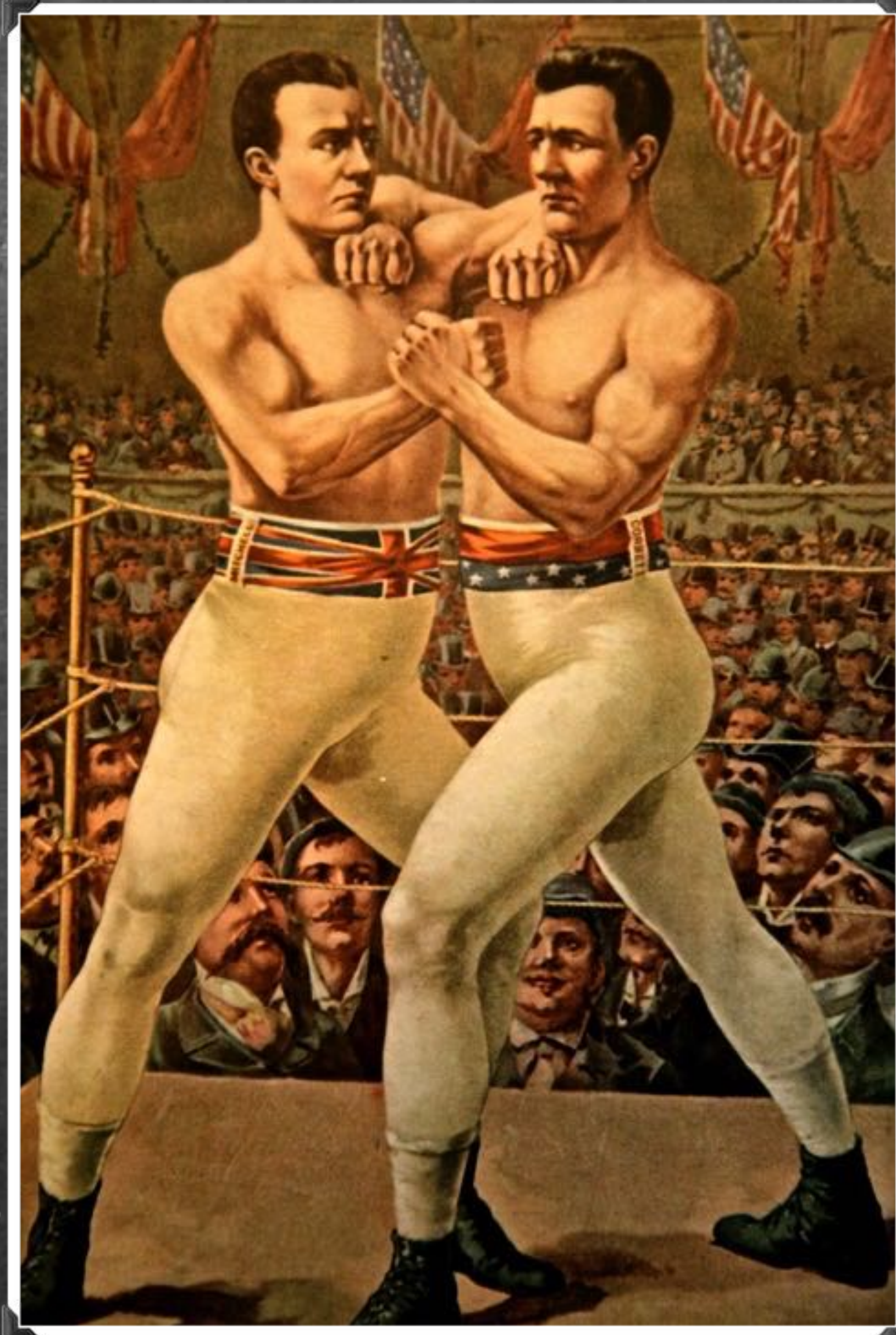
...speaking the truth in love...

-Ephesians 4:15

why do we speak truth?

we seek their true good

♦ not to “win” or for “power”



we seek their **true good**

♦ not to “win” or for “power”

engaging our neighbors is not a prize-fight...

we seek their true good

- ♦ not to “win” or for “power”
- ♦ nor under the guise of being a “faithful” witness

truth is not the endgame

if we see truth as the means to the end
(**abundant life**) then it changes not only how
we “receive” truth, but how we “speak” truth...

if we speak from **true agape love**, we don't speak
to merely “deliver” truth, but with a sacrificial zeal
that seeks another's shalom...

the purpose of truth
is bound up in
true agape love

God's endgame is
abundant life

Engaging with **Truth**

you are either **EXCITED** about this:

tendency will be to speak truth often...
but without true agape love

or you are **FRIGHTENED** by this:

tendency will be to not engage at all... or to
“love” more than speaking truth

For the **excited**:

If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have **true agape love**, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.

-1 Corinthians 13:1

For the **frightened**:

...let each one of you speak the **truth** with his neighbor.

-Ephesians 4:25

These are the things that you shall do: Speak the **truth** to your neighbor...

-Zechariah 8:16

Truth and true agape love
need each other

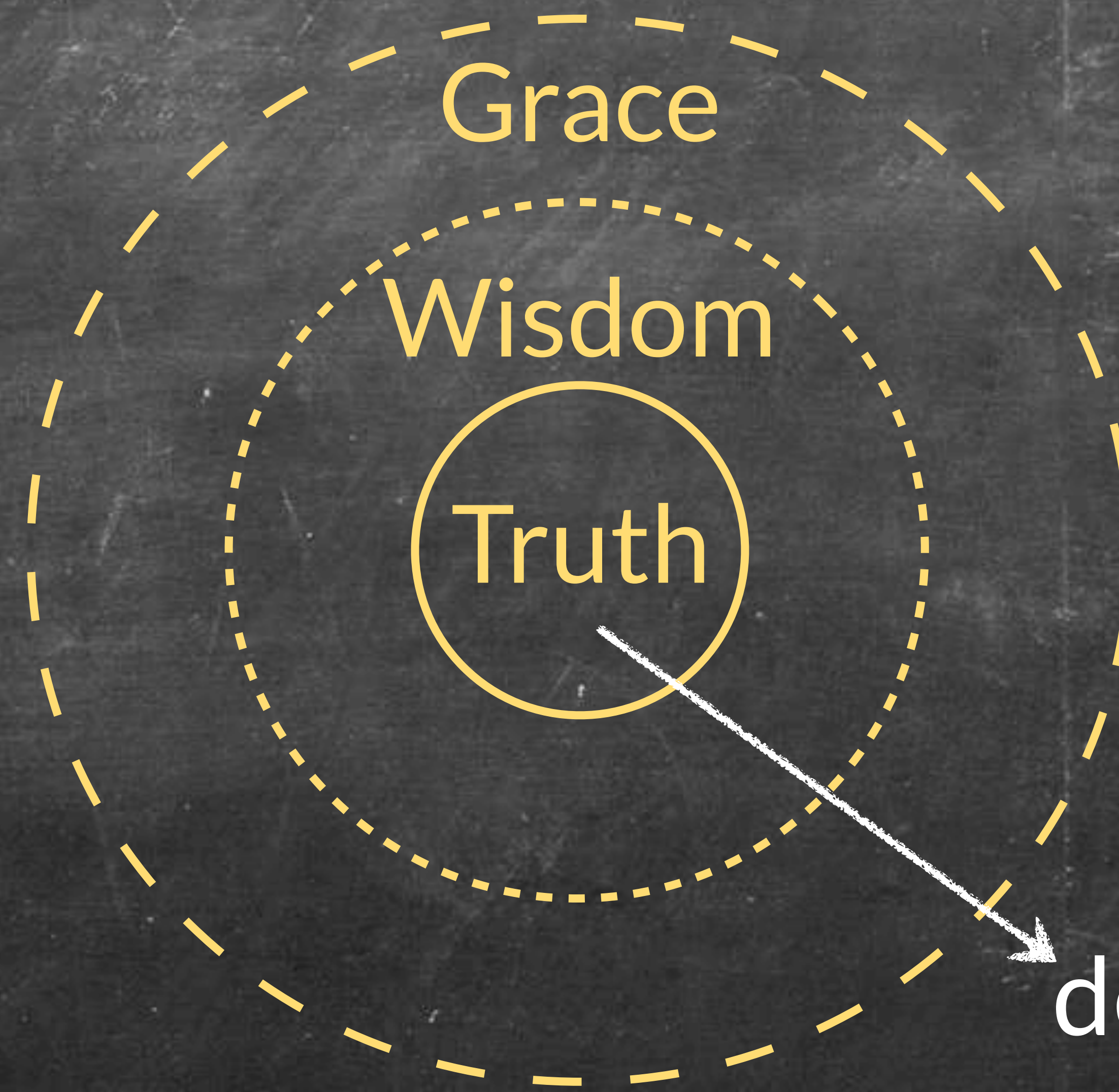
If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have true agape love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.

-1 Corinthians 13:1

... speaking the truth in true agape love

-Ephesians 4:15

Engaging with



deep, significant
relationship

we will speak truth through the layers
of **wisdom** and **grace** and **relationship**

how different would this look if we
were speaking truth just to win an
argument for our own significance?

Engaging with **grace** and **wisdom**
and **Truth**

What does this look like





What if you had lived next door to
Dr. Rosaria Champagne?

Do you really believe God can do this?



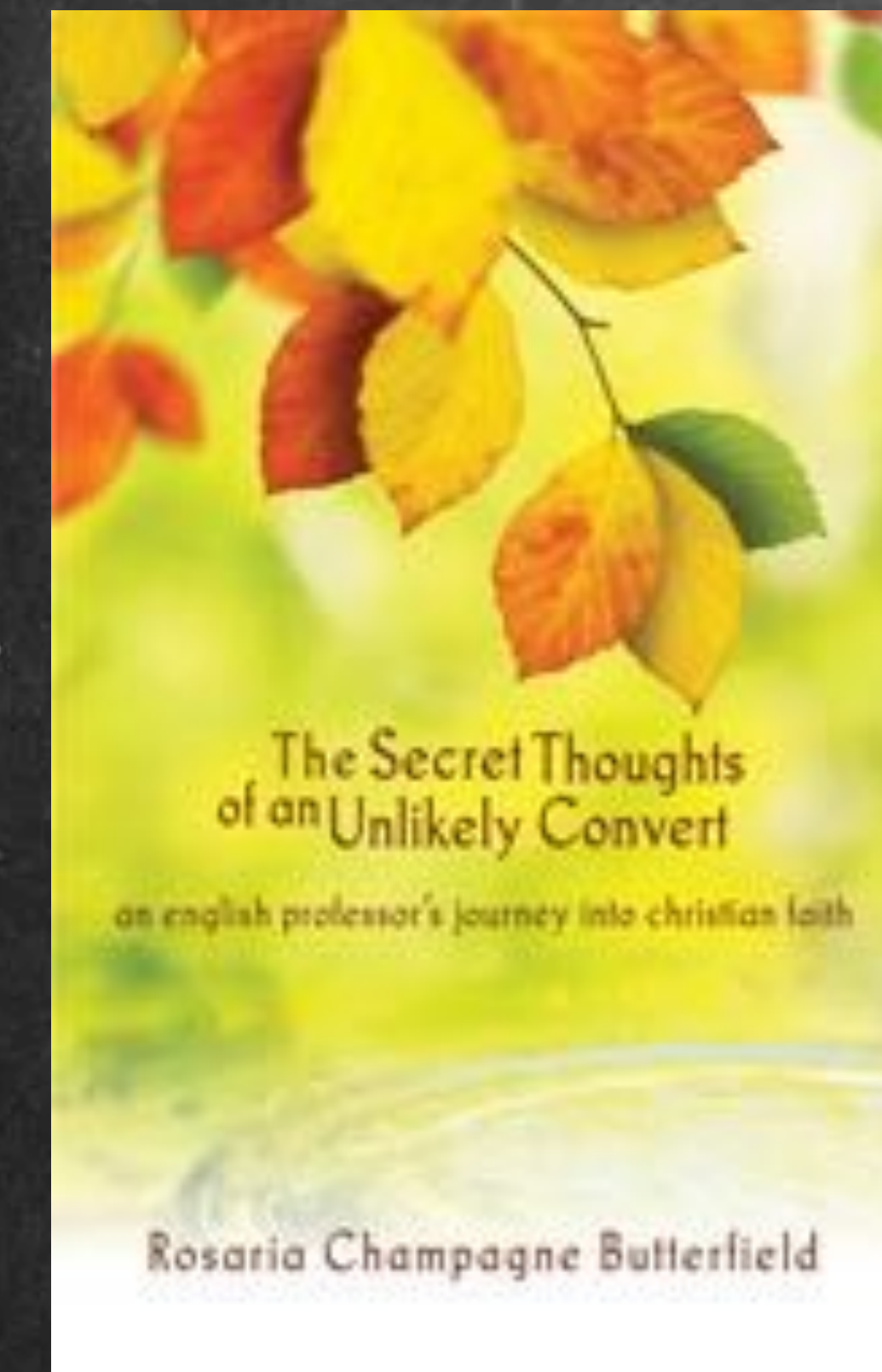
We will build real **relationships**
with those providentially in our Jerusalem,
through **prayer** and action,
with **grace** and **wisdom** and **truth**,
being **attractively winsome**,
tearing down walls, building up trust,
doing the **work of the Kingdom**.

Truth and true agape love
drive us into real relationships

speaking truth is most effective when
done in the context of a significant
relationship



“Ken was wise to know that he could only **speak truth** as deep as our **relationship** could stand.”



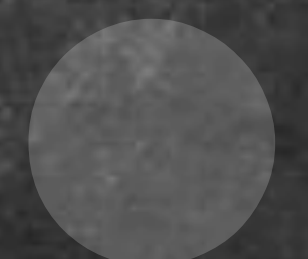
what was Ken's objective
in speaking truth?





Evangelism

our role



Evangelism

God's role



how do we keep our **desire...**
from becoming our **agenda**

or our **script?**

“A friend speaks truth. An enemy
speaks lies. With one, my ears and
heart are open. With the other,
they are closed.”

seek a friendship
with
NO AGENDA

This is our **hope**, our longing, but not our **agenda**

Agendas **destroy** relationships

We are called to **Love** our neighbors

The Lord's servant must gently instruct his opponents...in the hope that **God** will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.

-2 Timothy 2:24-26

we are back to the importance of deep
relationships

...and the nature of God

The Vision

Christian **families committed** to the shalom of
their neighbors

We will build real relationships
with those providentially in our Jerusalem,
through prayer and action,
with **grace** and **wisdom** and **truth**,
being attractively winsome,
tearing down walls, building up trust,
doing the **work of the Kingdom**.

Kingdom Perspectives

Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade men... For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; and He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf.

Therefore from now on we recognize no one according to the flesh; even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him in this way no longer. Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

-2 Corinthians 5:11-17

Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

Therefore, we are **ambassadors** for Christ...

-2 Corinthians 5:18-20

VELVYSLANECTVÍ
NEBESKÉHO KRÁLOVSTVÍ

EMBASSY OF THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

VELVYSLANECTVÍ
NEBESKÉHO KRÁLOVSTVÍ

EMBASSY OF THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

The greatest commandment:

love God and love your neighbor... -Matthew 22:37-40

All commandments “summed up” in:

love your neighbor as yourself.

-Romans 13:9; Galatians 5:14

The “Royal Law”:

love your neighbor as yourself. -James 2:8

if this is the primary work of the Kingdom

then He has entrusted that Kingdom work
to you and me...

the common every-day Christian family

what could be more exciting?

if this is the primary work of the Kingdom

then He has entrusted that Kingdom work
to you and me...

the common every-day Christian family