

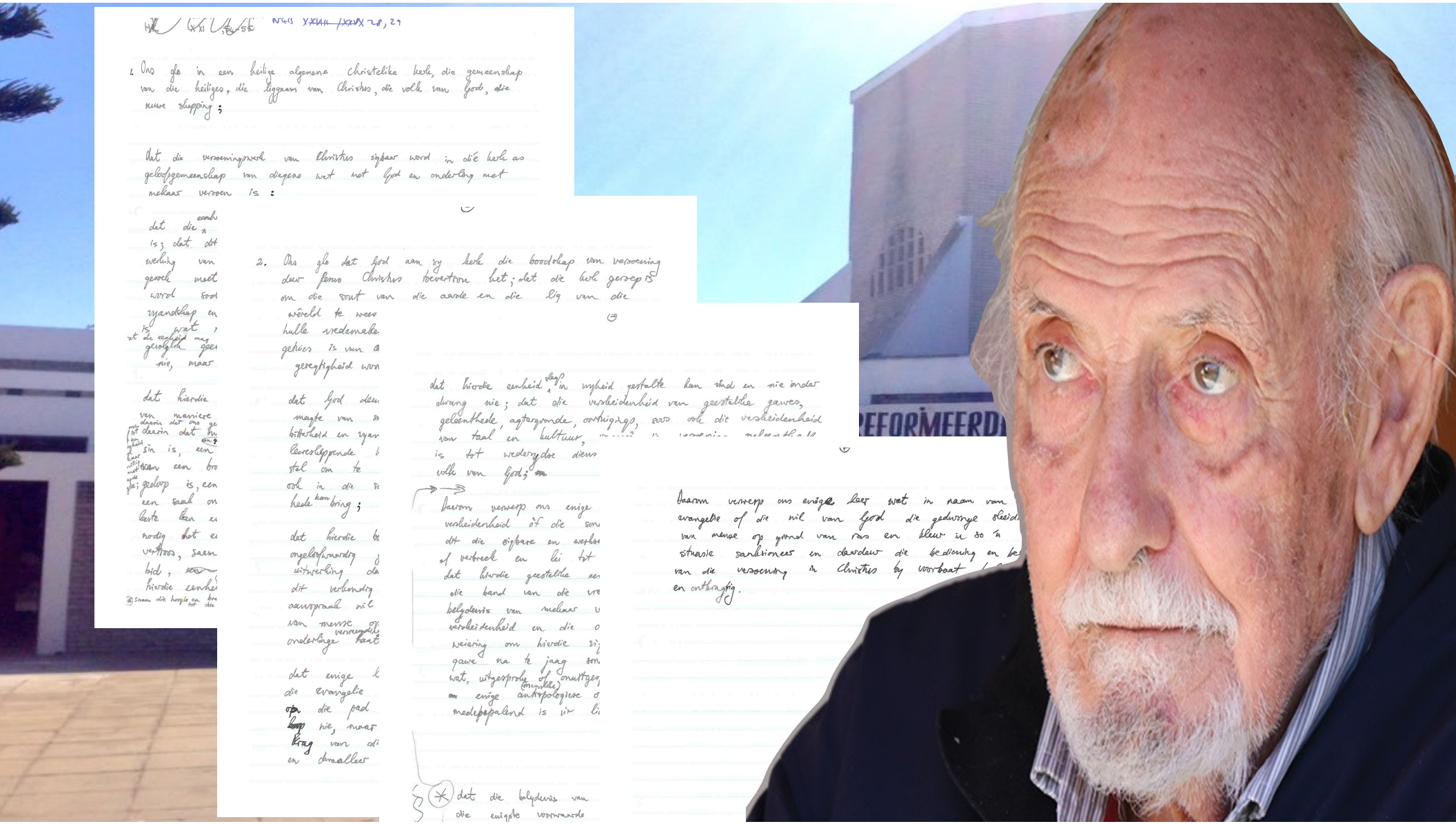
BARMEN & BELHAR: WESTMINSTER SEMINARS 2026

CONFESSING FREEDOM TODAY


CLIFFORD GLOVER
RANDY EVANS
AIYANA JONES
GEORGE FLOYD


#BLACKLIVESMATTER
Alicia Garza
July 13, 2013
black people. I love you. I love us. Our lives matter
Patrisse Marie Cullors-Brignac
July 13, 2013
declaration: black bodies will no longer be sacrificed for the rest of the world's enlightement. i am done. i am so done. trayvon, you are loved infinitely
#blacklivesmatter
REKIA BOYD
VONNE SMALLWOOD
DIALLO
AIYANA JONES
Matter
GEORGE FLOYD


#BLACKLIVESMATTER
Black
Lives
Matter



1. Ons glo in een heilige algemene Christelike kerke, die gemeenskap van die heiliges, die liggaam van Christus, die volk van God, die nuwe skepping;

dat die verenigingsverk van Christus sigbaar word in dié kerk as geloofsgemeenskap van diegene wat met God en onderling met mekaar versoen is:

dat die
is; dat dit
werking van
gesoek moet
word soos
vyandskap en
wat
die eenheid mag
geestelik gaan
nie, maar

dat hierdie
van manier
dat
sin is, een
een bro
geloof is, een
een saak on
kerke kan
nodig het
vertroos, saam
bid,
hierdie eenhe

2. Ons glo dat God aan sy kerk die boodskap van versoening deur Jesus Christus toevertrou het; dat die kerk gestuur is om die sonde van die aarde en die lig van die wêreld te wees
hulle wedersyds
gehoor is van
geregtigheid wor

dat God deu
magte van
bitterheid en vyan
lewerskappende
stel om te
ook in die
heelheid kom bring;

dat hierdie
ongelykwaardig
uitwerking
dit verhinder
aanspraak
van mense
onderlinge

dat enige
die evangelie
die pad
nie, maar
krag van
en dwaalleer

dat hierdie eenheid slegs in wyheid gestalte kan vind en nie onder dwang nie; dat die verskeidenheid van geestelike gawes, geleenthede, agtergronde, oortuigings, ens ook die verskeidenheid van taal en kultuur,
is tot wedersydse diens
volk van God;

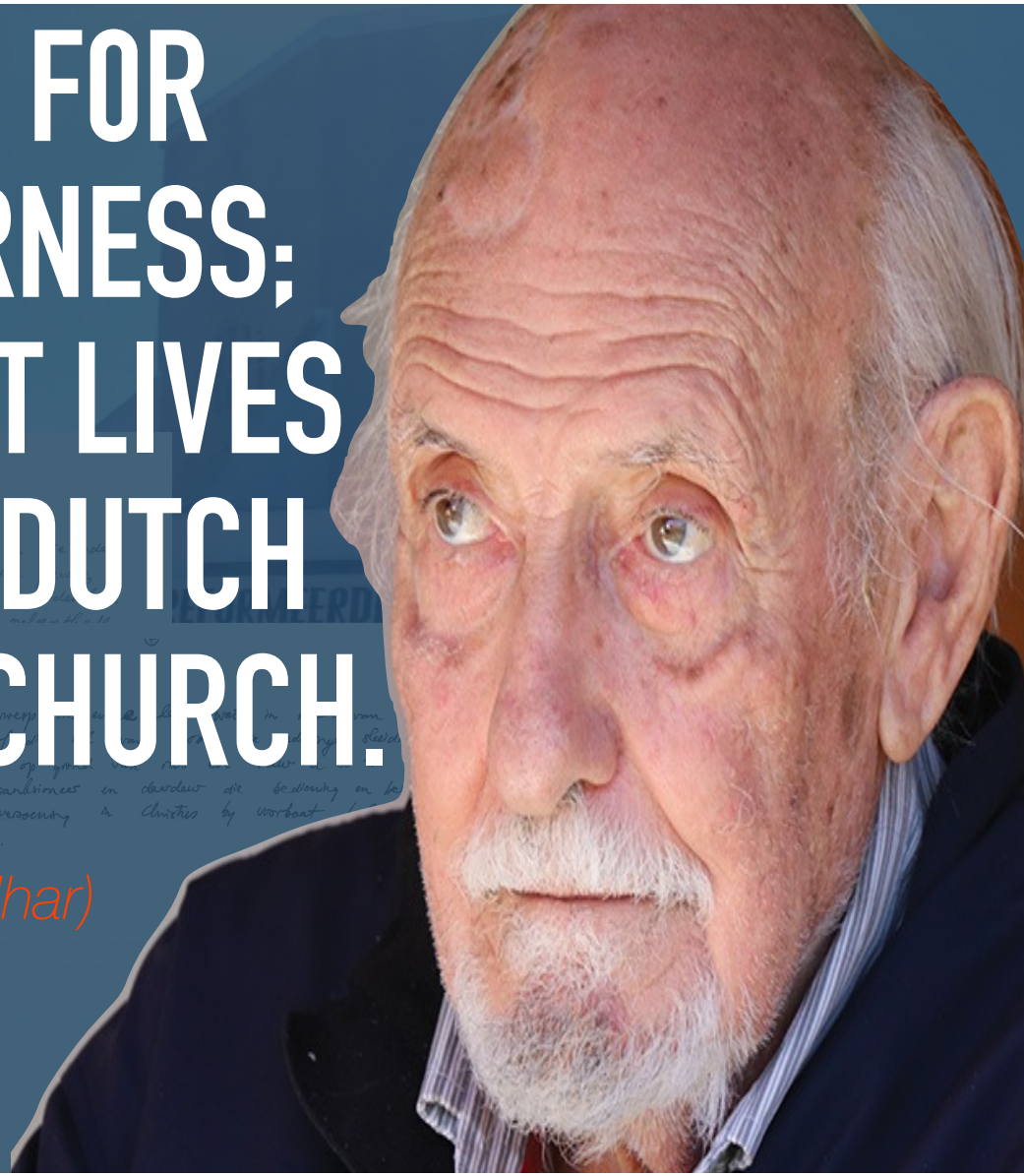
Daarom verwerp ons enige verheidenheid of die son
dit die sigbare en wesenl
of verbreek en lei tot
dat hierdie geestelike
die band van die
belydenis van mekaar
verskeidenheid en die
weiering om hierdie
gawe na te jaag
wat, uitgesproke of onuitgesproke
enige antropologiese
medebepalend is in

dat die belydenis van die enigste voorwaarde

Daarom verwerp ons enige kerk wat in naam van
evangelie of die wil van God die gedwonge skeid
van mense op grond van ras en kleur is so
situasie sanksioneer en daardeur die bediening en be
van die versoening in Christus by voorbaat
en onthrygend.

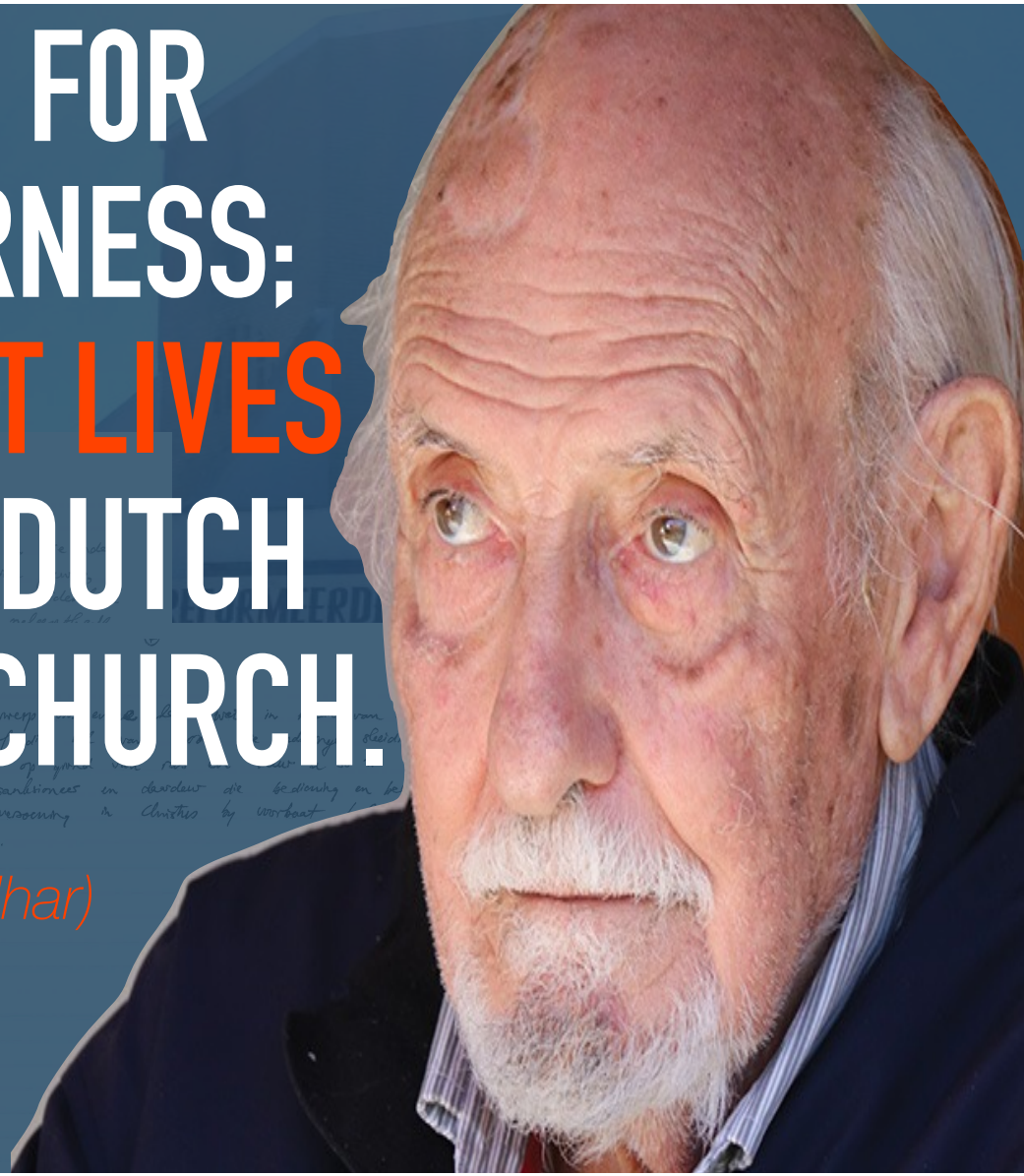
NOW IS NOT THE TIME FOR THEOLOGICAL CLEVERNESS; WE MUST WRITE WHAT LIVES IN THE HEART OF THE DUTCH REFORMED MISSION CHURCH.

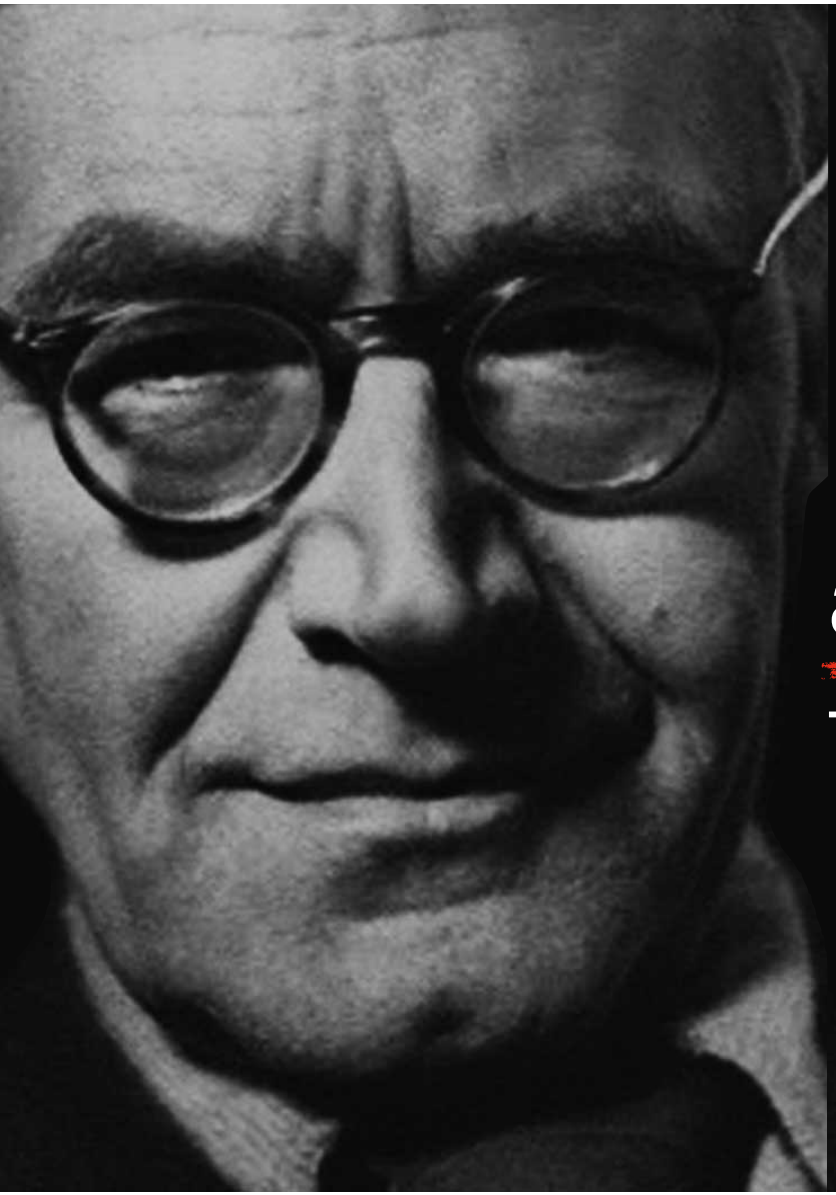
– Jaap Durand *(My Road to Belhar)*



NOW IS NOT THE TIME FOR THEOLOGICAL CLEVERNESS; WE MUST WRITE WHAT LIVES IN THE HEART OF THE DUTCH REFORMED MISSION CHURCH.

– Jaap Durand *(My Road to Belhar)*





Reformed folk do not allow themselves to be condescended to from above. They confess for themselves, or they don't confess at all.

– Karl Barth (*"Desirability & Possibility of a Universal Reformed Confession,"* 1925)



THE "POLITICS OF REFORMED CONFESSION"

- "Extension of 'New Testament Line of Thought'"

1 LET EVERY PERSON BE SUBJECT TO THE GOVERNING AUTHORITIES; FOR THERE IS NO AUTHORITY EXCEPT FROM GOD, AND THOSE AUTHORITIES THAT EXIST HAVE BEEN INSTITUTED BY GOD. 2 THEREFORE WHOEVER RESISTS AUTHORITY RESISTS WHAT GOD HAS APPOINTED, AND THOSE WHO RESIST WILL INCUR JUDGMENT. 3 FOR RULERS ARE NOT A TERROR TO GOOD CONDUCT, BUT TO BAD. DO YOU WISH TO HAVE NO FEAR OF THE AUTHORITY? THEN DO WHAT IS GOOD, AND YOU WILL RECEIVE ITS APPROVAL; 4 FOR IT IS GOD'S SERVANT FOR YOUR GOOD. BUT IF YOU DO WHAT IS WRONG, YOU SHOULD BE AFRAID, FOR THE AUTHORITY DOES NOT BEAR THE SWORD IN VAIN! IT IS THE SERVANT OF GOD TO EXECUTE WRATH ON THE WRONGDOER. 5 THEREFORE ONE MUST BE SUBJECT, NOT ONLY BECAUSE OF WRATH BUT ALSO BECAUSE OF CONSCIENCE.

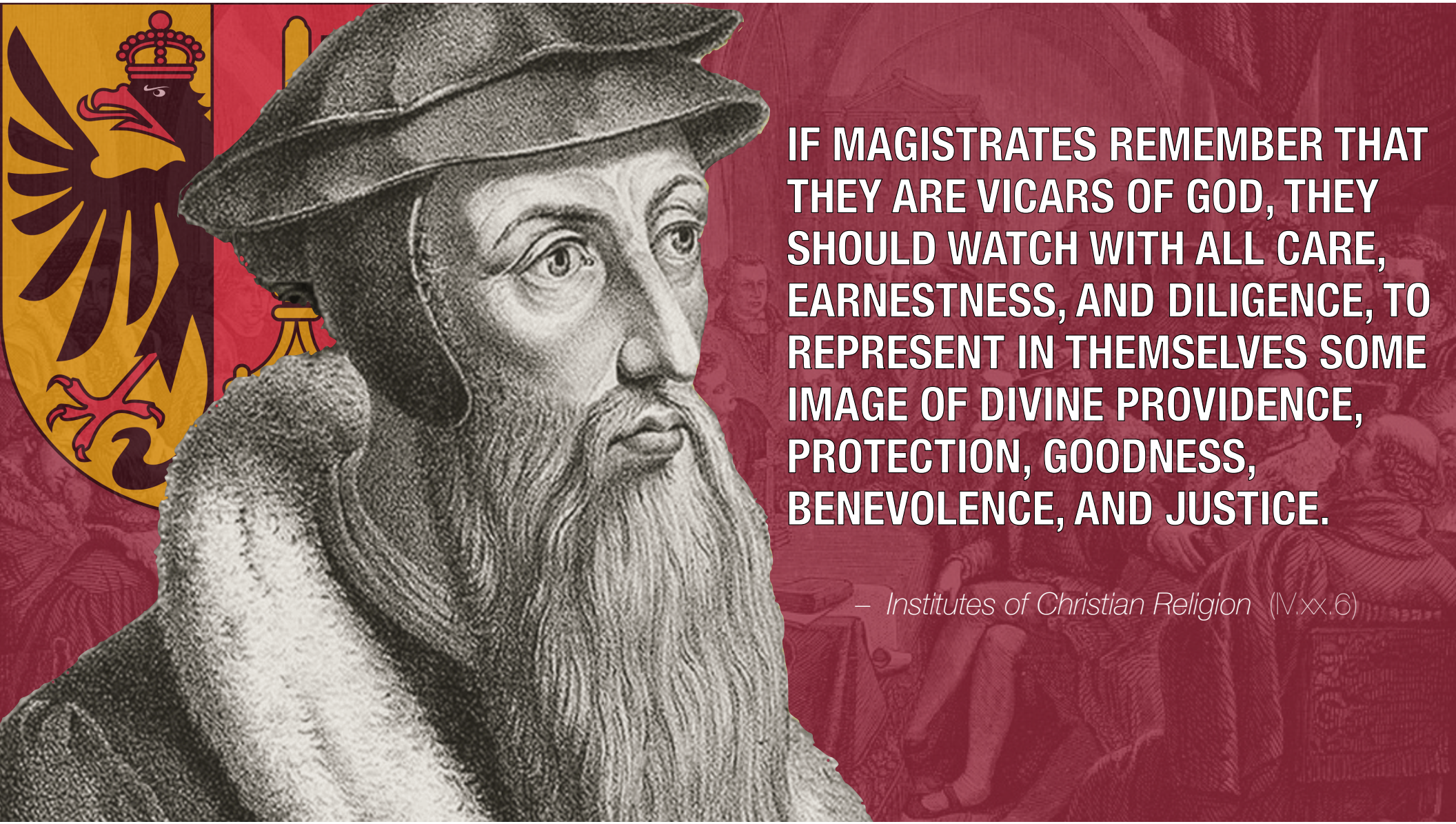
(ROMANS 13:1–5)

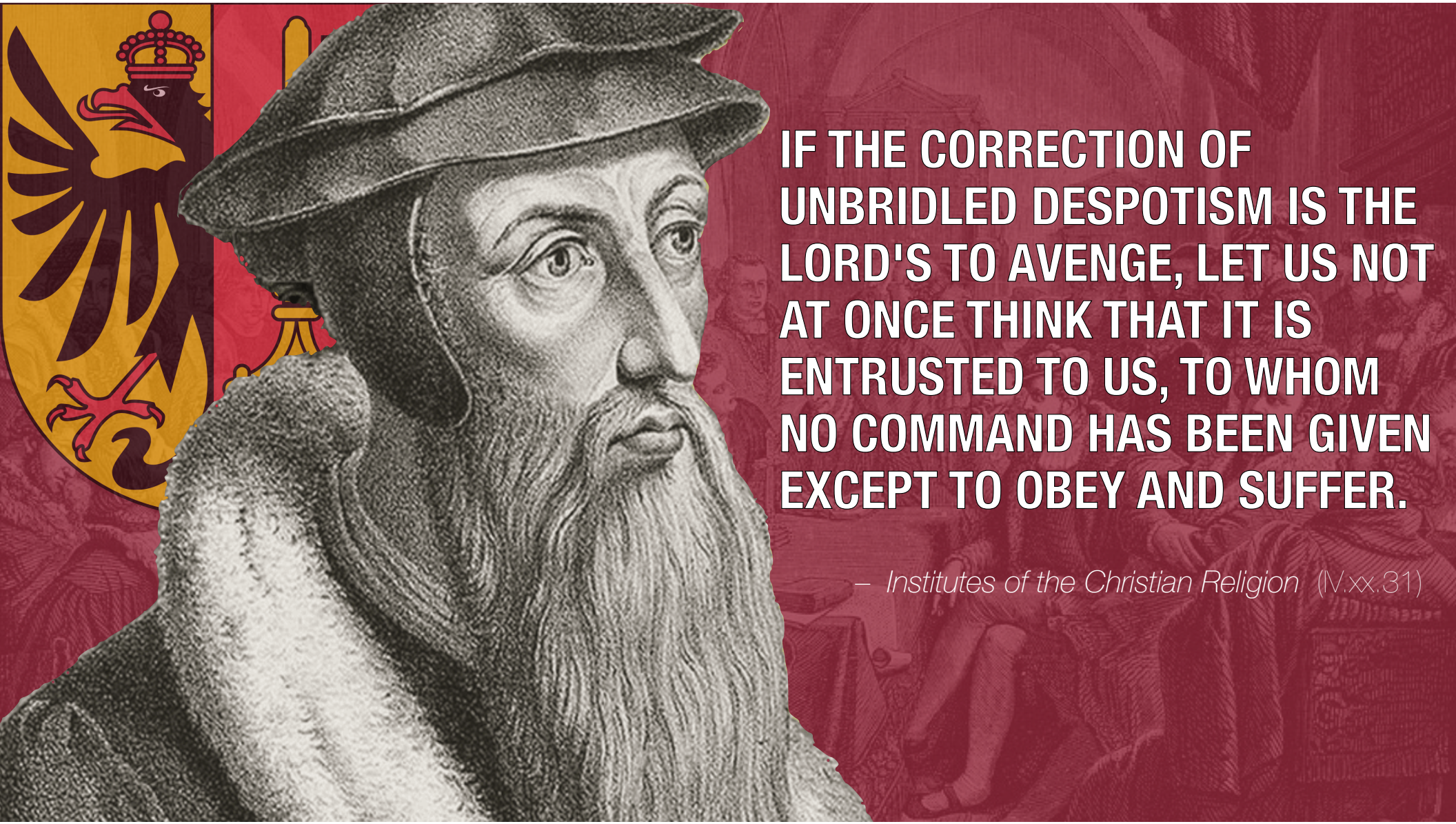
BE SUBJECT TO THE GOVERNING AUTHORITIES; FOR THERE IS NO AUTHORITY EXCEPT FROM GOD, AND THOSE AUTHORITIES HAVE BEEN INSTITUTED BY GOD. . . . WHOEVER RESISTS AUTHORITY RESISTS WHAT GOD HAS APPOINTED . . . FOR THE AUTHORITY IS THE SERVANT OF GOD TO EXECUTE WRATH ON THE WRONGDOER . . . THEREFORE ONE MUST BE SUBJECT BECAUSE OF CONSCIENCE.

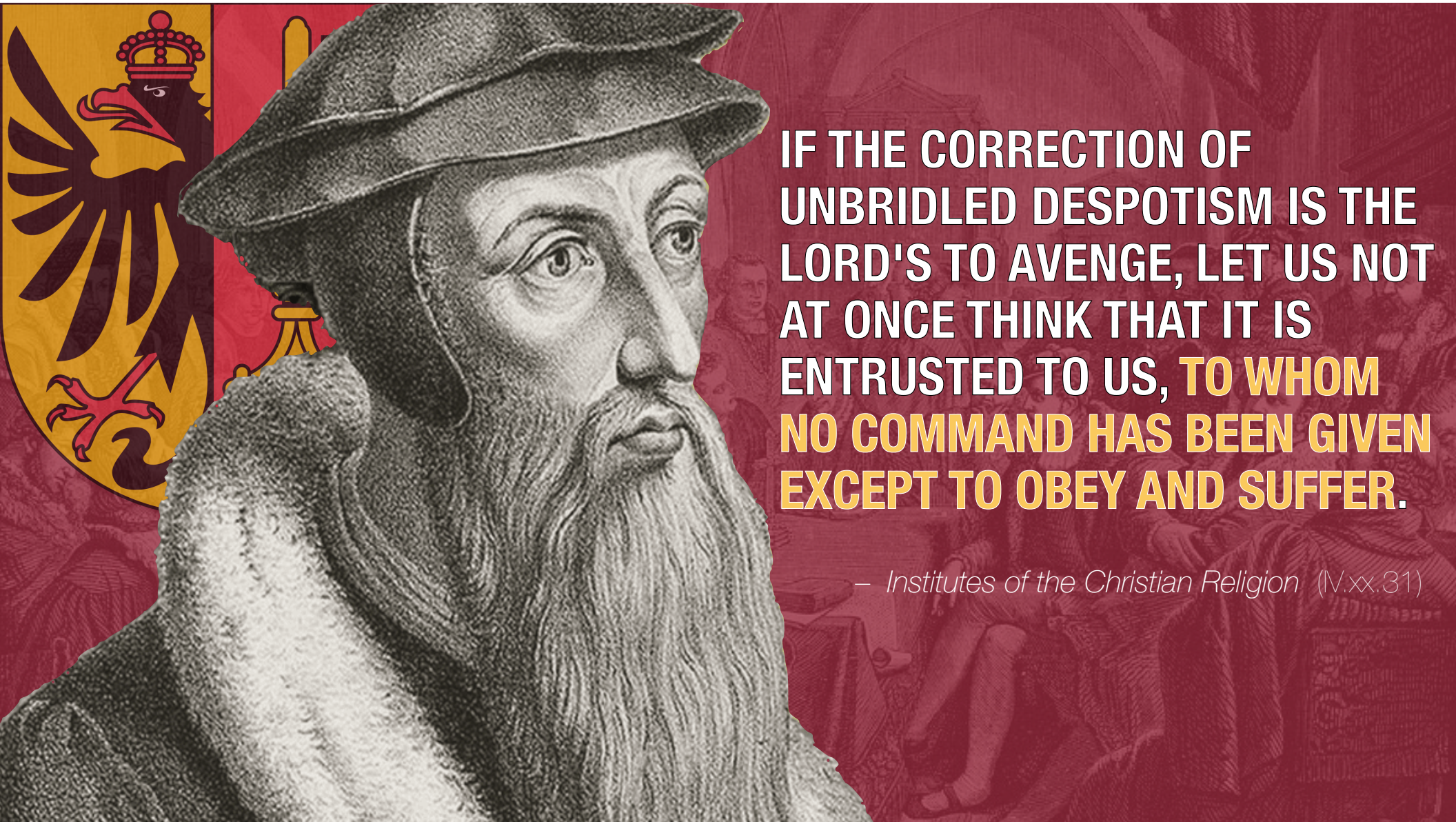
BE SUBJECT TO GOVERNING AUTHORITIES……
……BECAUSE OF CONSCIENCE






IF MAGISTRATES REMEMBER THAT THEY ARE VICARS OF GOD, THEY SHOULD WATCH WITH ALL CARE, EARNESTNESS, AND DILIGENCE, TO REPRESENT IN THEMSELVES SOME IMAGE OF DIVINE PROVIDENCE, PROTECTION, GOODNESS, BENEVOLENCE, AND JUSTICE.
– Institutes of Christian Religion (IV.xx.6)


IF THE CORRECTION OF UNBRIDLED DESPOTISM IS THE LORD'S TO AVENGE, LET US NOT AT ONCE THINK THAT IT IS ENTRUSTED TO US, TO WHOM NO COMMAND HAS BEEN GIVEN EXCEPT TO OBEY AND SUFFER.
– Institutes of the Christian Religion (IV.xx.31)


IF THE CORRECTION OF UNBRIDLED DESPOTISM IS THE LORD'S TO AVENGE, LET US NOT AT ONCE THINK THAT IT IS ENTRUSTED TO US, TO WHOM NO COMMAND HAS BEEN GIVEN EXCEPT TO OBEY AND SUFFER.
– Institutes of the Christian Religion (IV.xx.31)



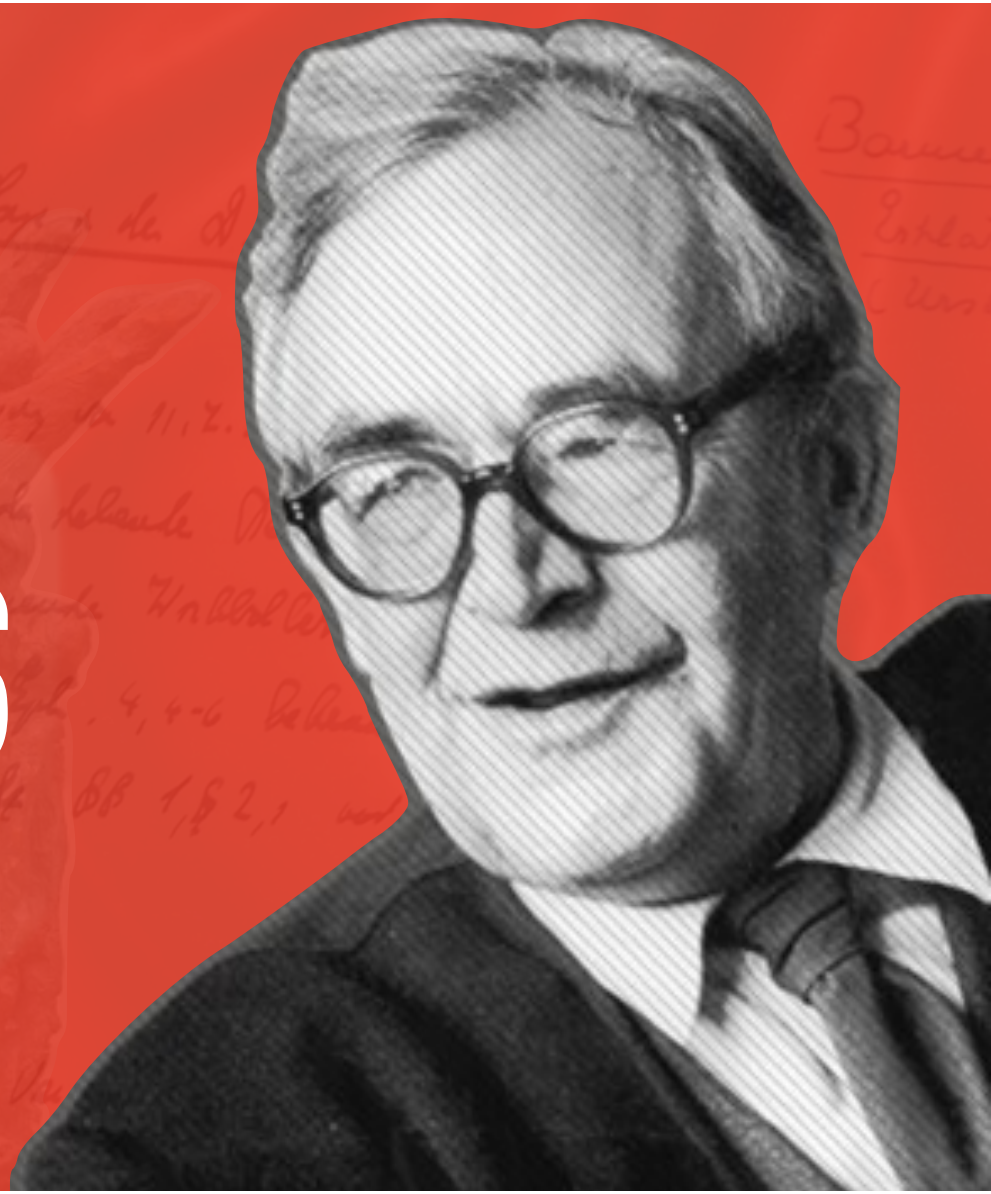
BE SUBJECT TO GOVERNING AUTHORITIES



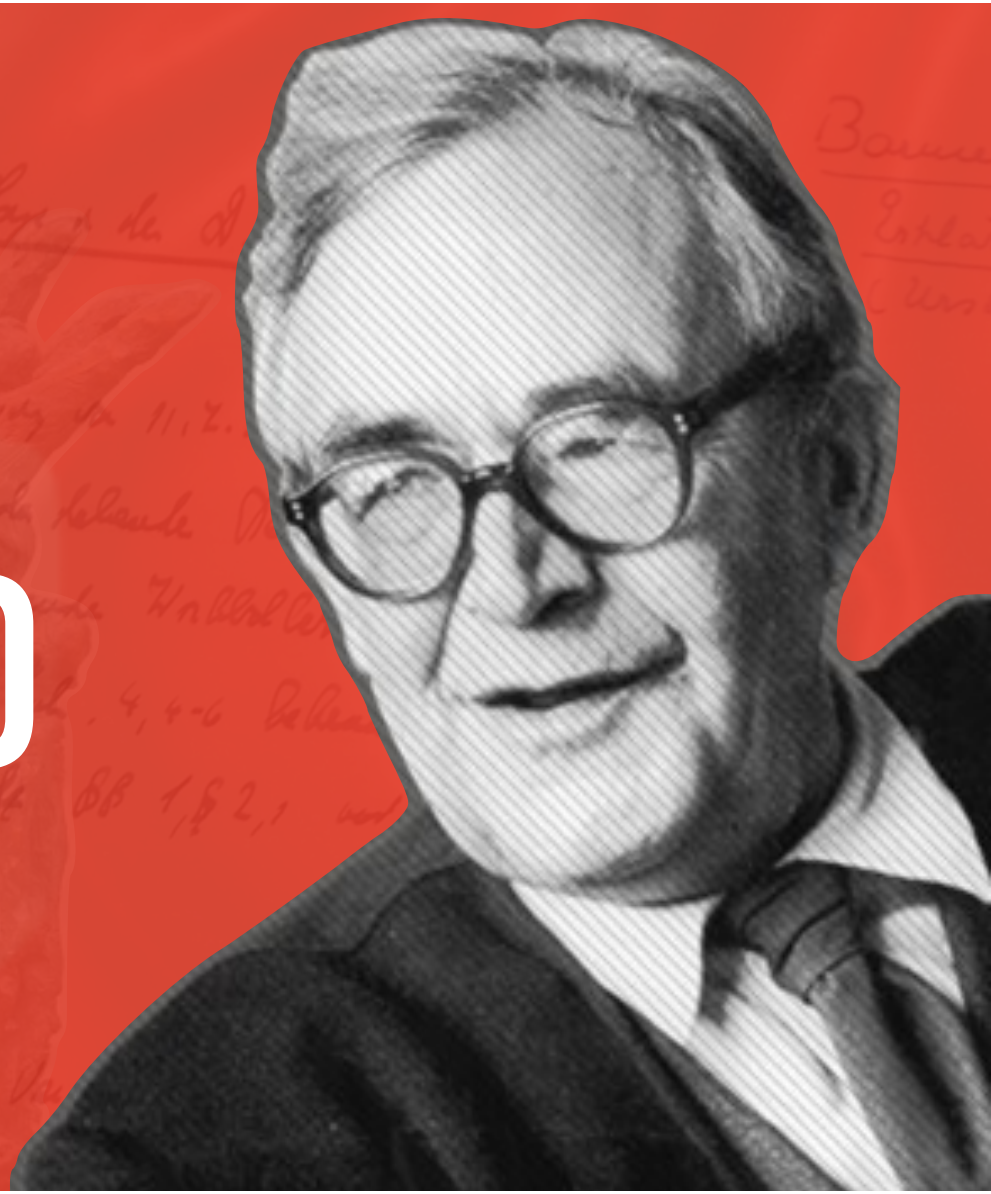
BE SUBJECT TO RULERS



RULERS
SUBJECTS



RULERS
THE RULED



SELF-RULE



GOVERNING AUTHORITIES INCLUDE CITIZENS.....

.....RULERS & RULED ARE MUTUALLY SUBJECT



GOD

GOVERNING AUTHORITIES

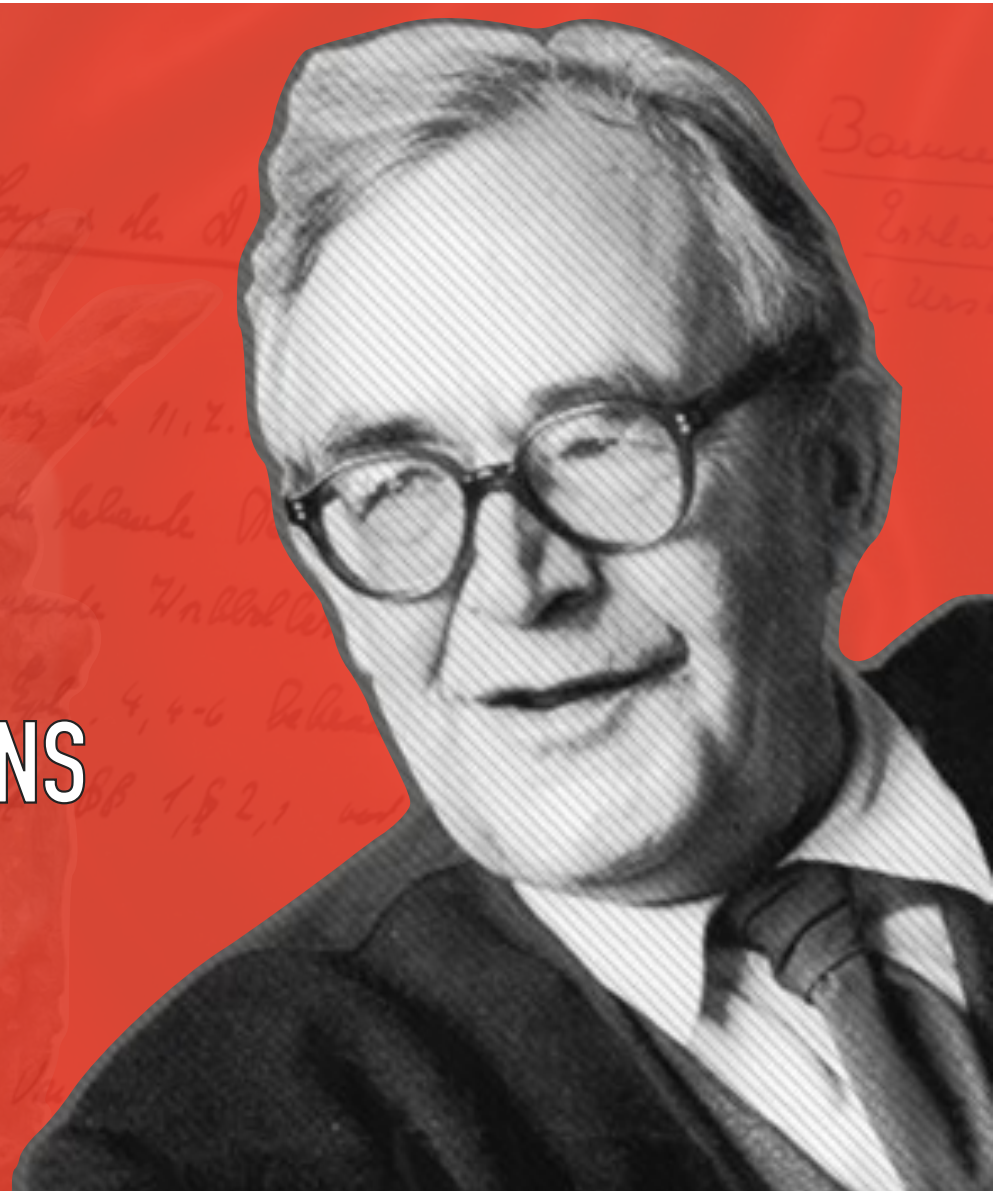
SUBJECTS



GOD

REPRESENTATIVES

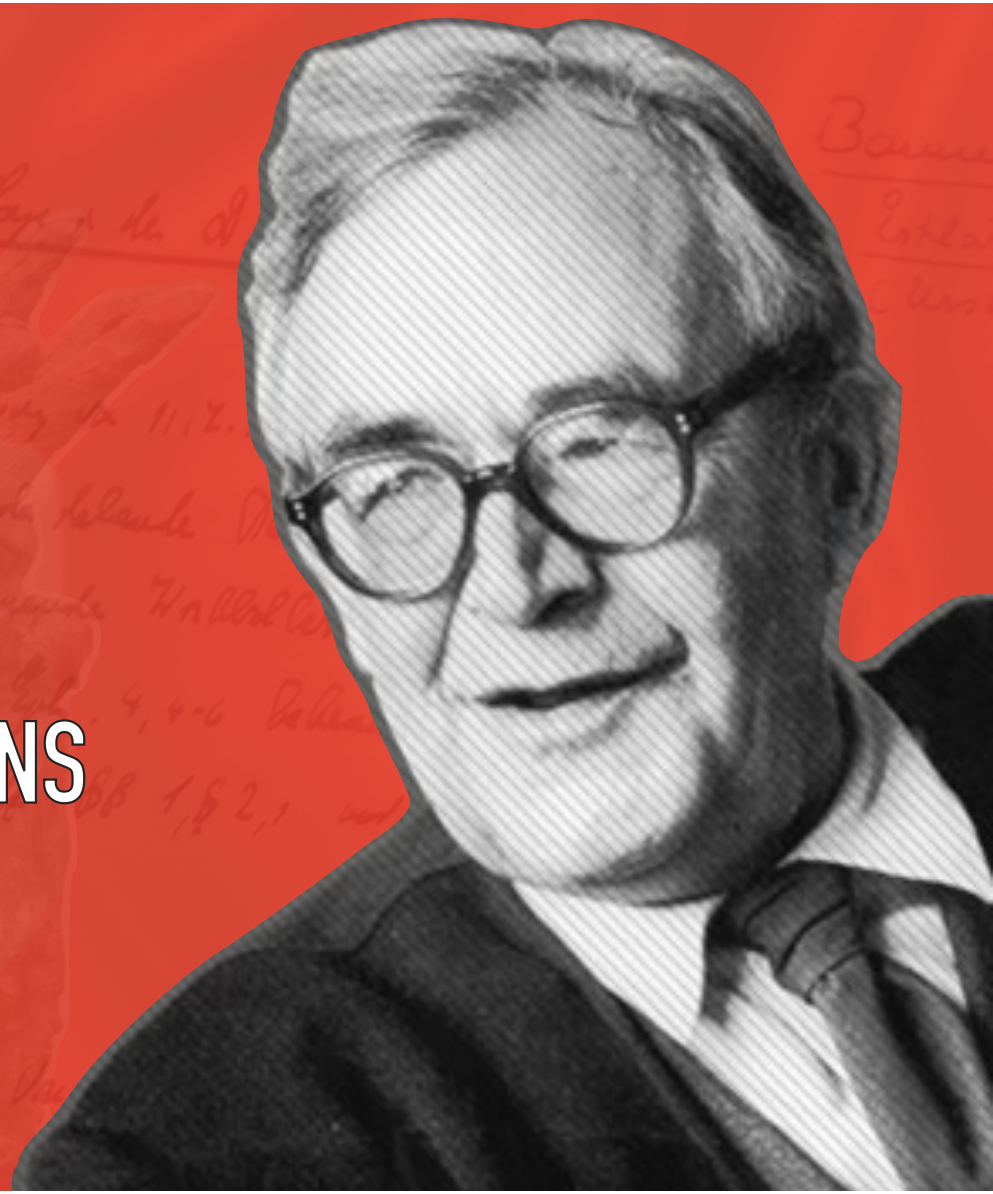
CITIZENS



GOD

REPRESENTATIVES

CITIZENS



GOD

JUSTICE & PEACE

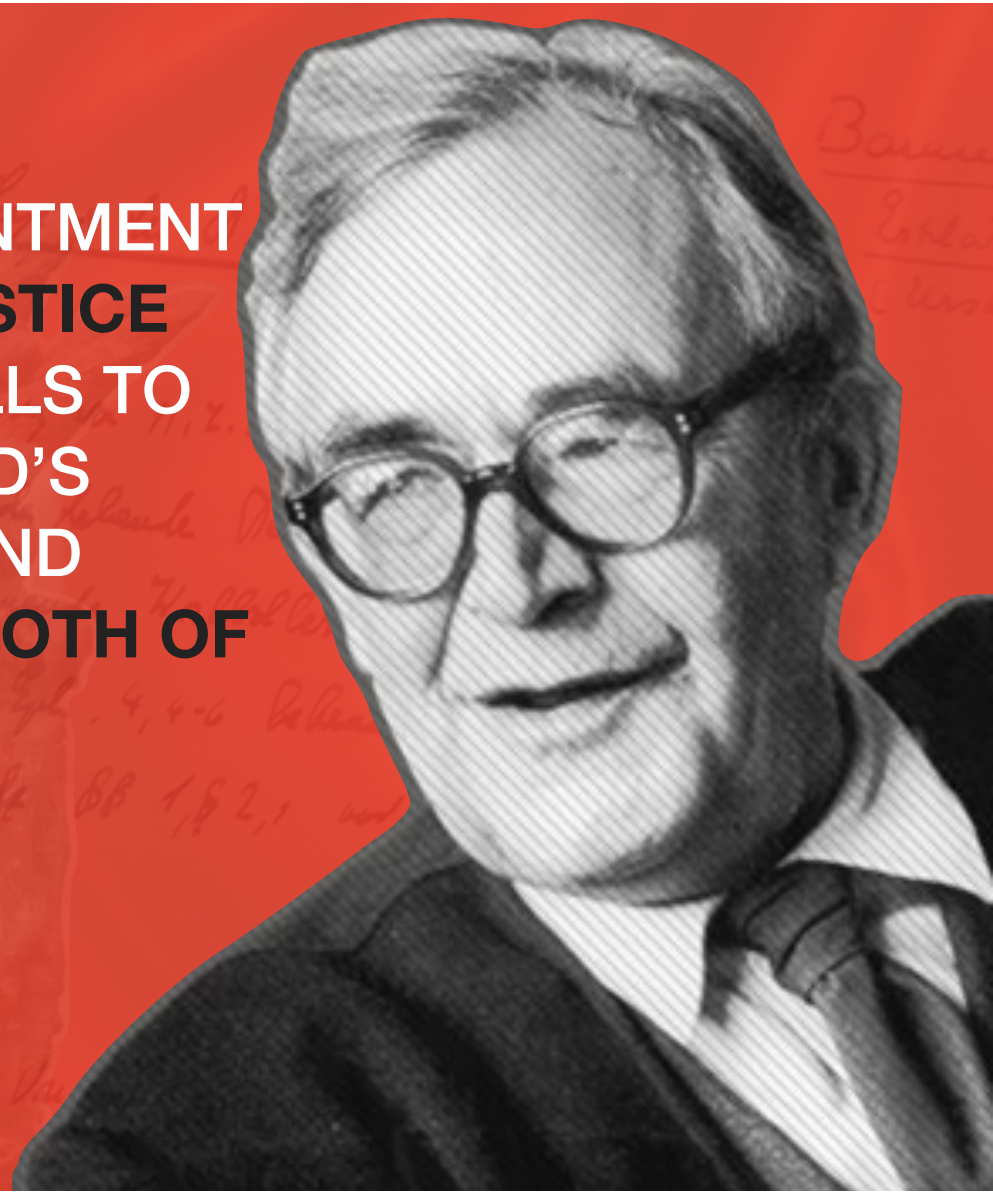
REPRESENTATIVES

CITIZENS



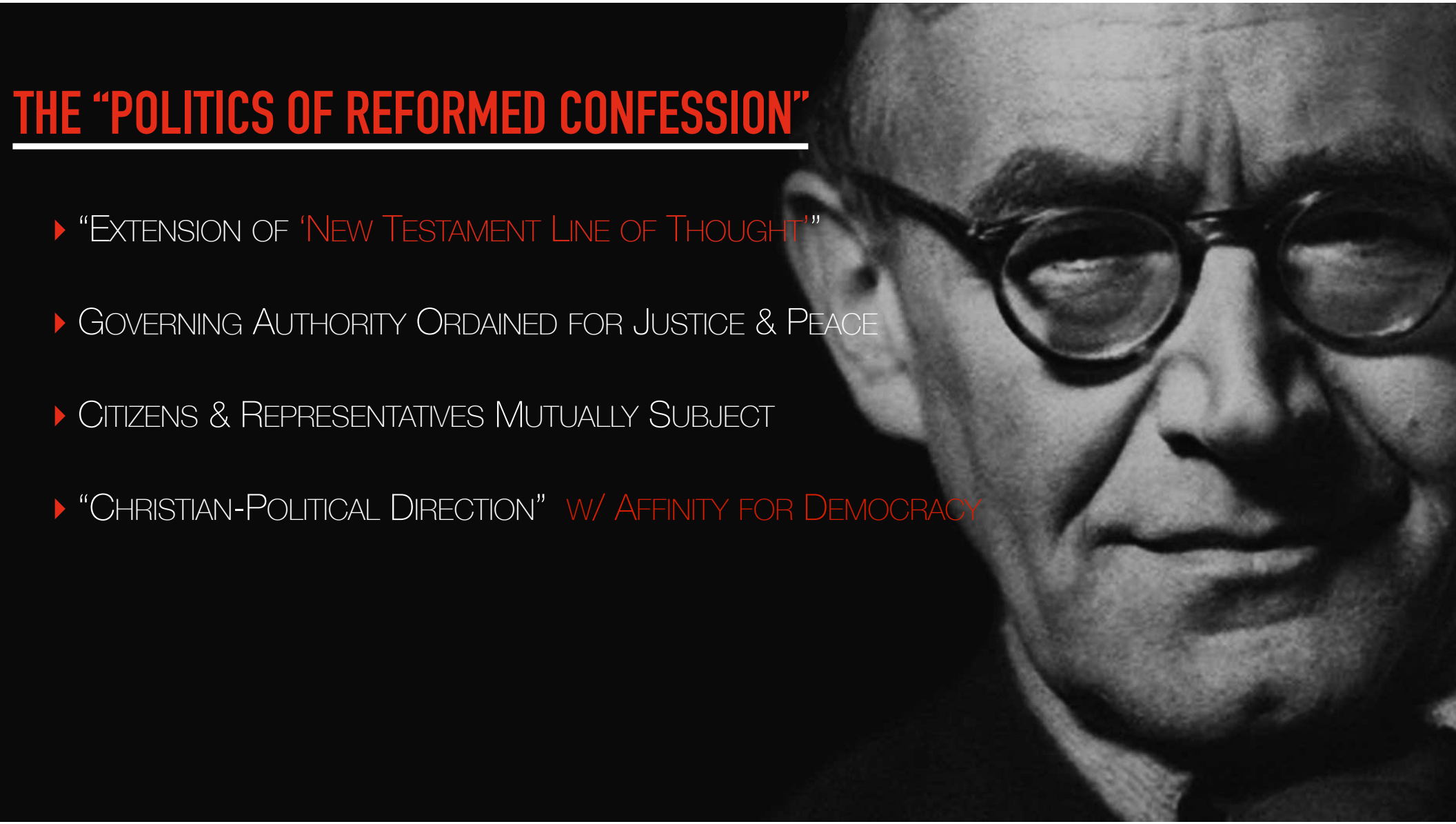
THE STATE HAS BY DIVINE APPOINTMENT THE TASK OF PROVIDING FOR **JUSTICE AND PEACE**….[THE CHURCH] CALLS TO MIND THE KINGDOM OF GOD, GOD'S COMMANDMENT AND JUSTICE, AND THEREBY THE **RESPONSIBILITY BOTH OF RULERS AND OF THE RULED.**

– *Barmen Declaration* (THESIS FIVE)



THE "POLITICS OF REFORMED CONFESSION"

- "Extension of 'New Testament Line of Thought'"
- Governing Authority Ordained for Justice & Peace
- Citizens & Representatives Mutually Subject
- "Christian-Political Direction" w/ Affinity for Democracy



12 THIS IS MY COMMANDMENT, THAT YOU LOVE ONE
ANOTHER AS I HAVE LOVED YOU. 13 NO ONE HAS GREATER
LOVE THAN THIS, THAT THEY LAY DOWN THEIR LIFE FOR
THEIR FRIENDS. 14 YOU ARE MY FRIENDS IF YOU DO WHAT I
COMMAND YOU. 15 NO LONGER DO I CALL YOU SLAVES, FOR
THE SLAVE DOES NOT KNOW WHAT THEIR MASTER IS DOING;
BUT I HAVE CALLED YOU FRIENDS, FOR ALL THAT I HAVE
HEARD FROM MY FATHER I HAVE MADE KNOWN TO YOU.

(JOHN 15:12–15)

NO LONGER DO I CALL YOU SLAVES,
FOR THE SLAVE DOES NOT KNOW
WHAT THEIR MASTER IS DOING; BUT I
HAVE CALLED YOU FRIENDS, FOR ALL
THAT I HAVE HEARD FROM MY FATHER
I HAVE MADE KNOWN TO YOU.

(JOHN 15:15)

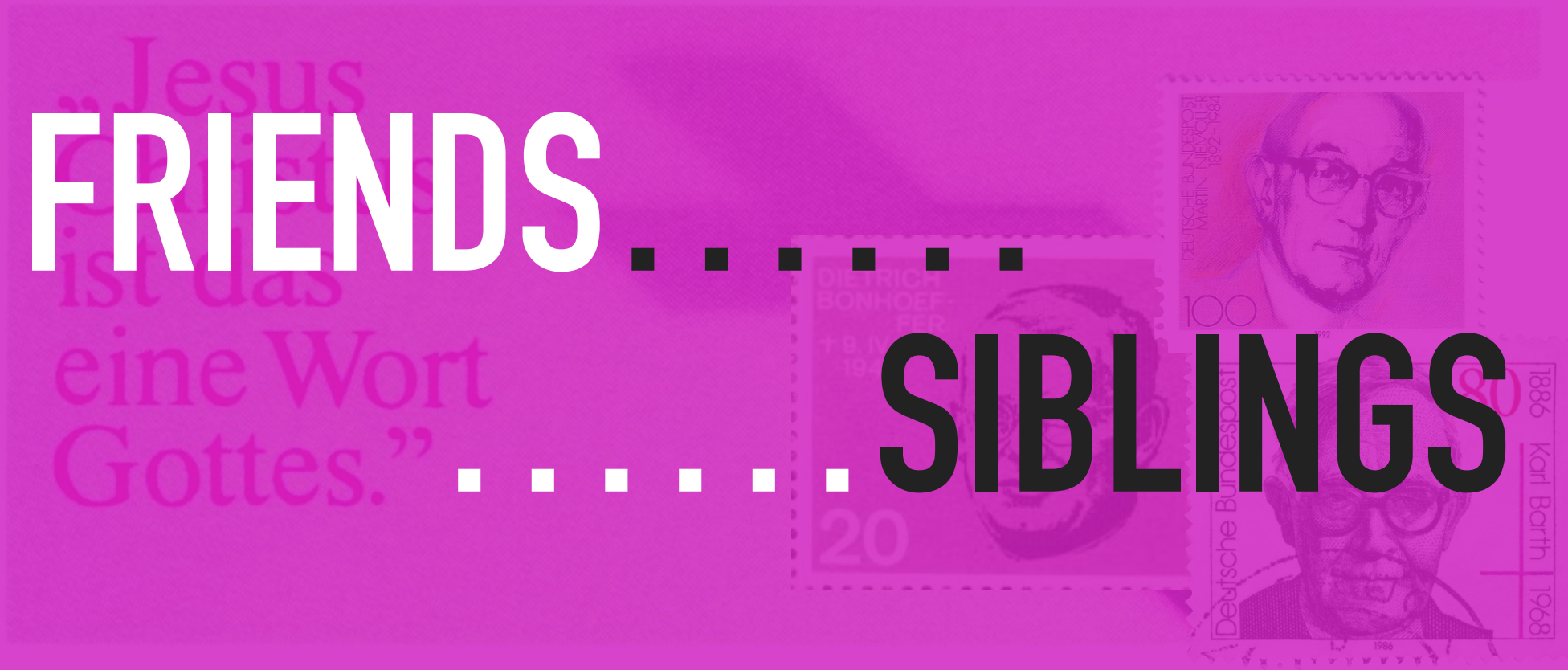
NO LONGER SLAVES.....

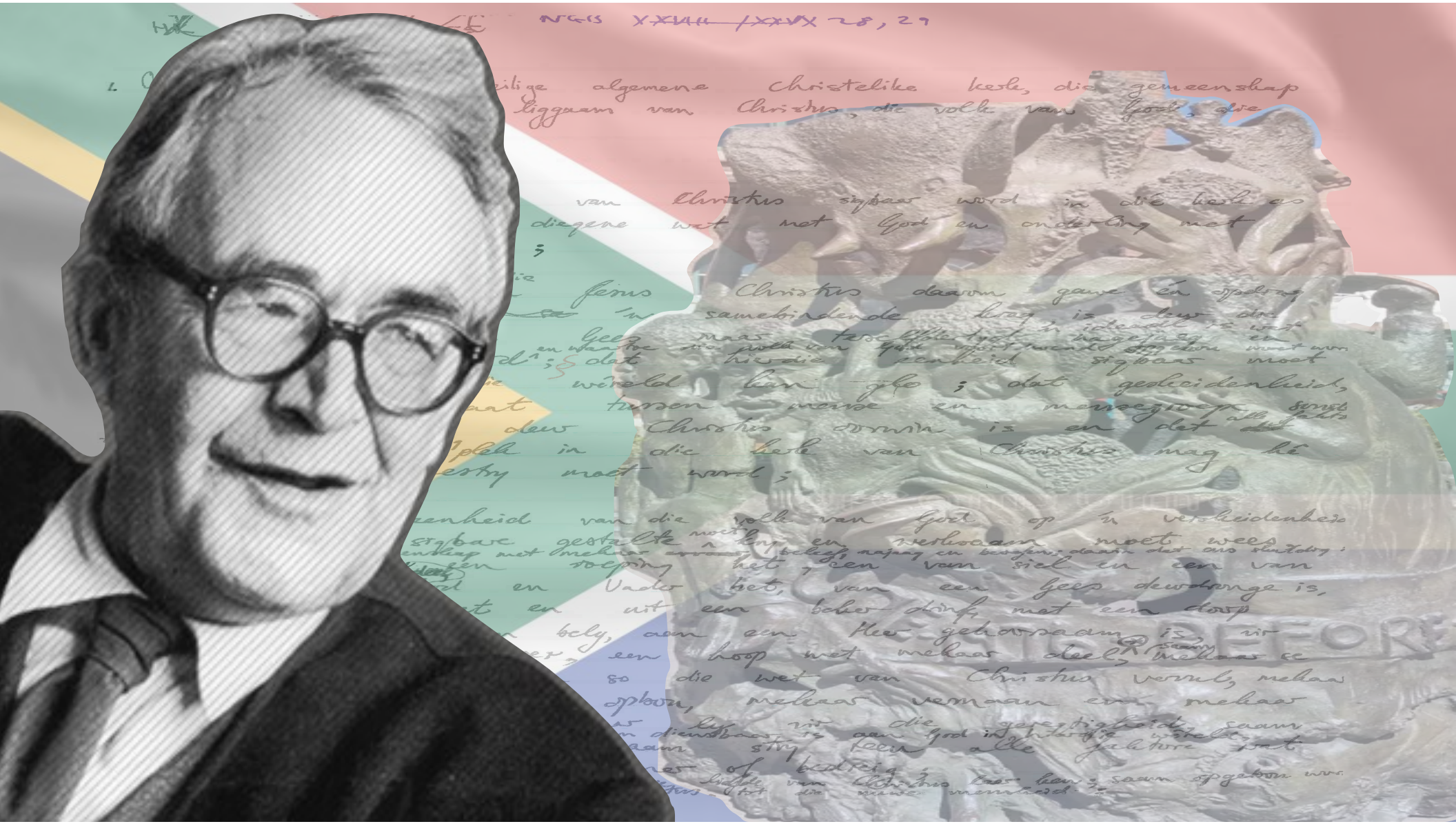
.....BUT FRIENDS

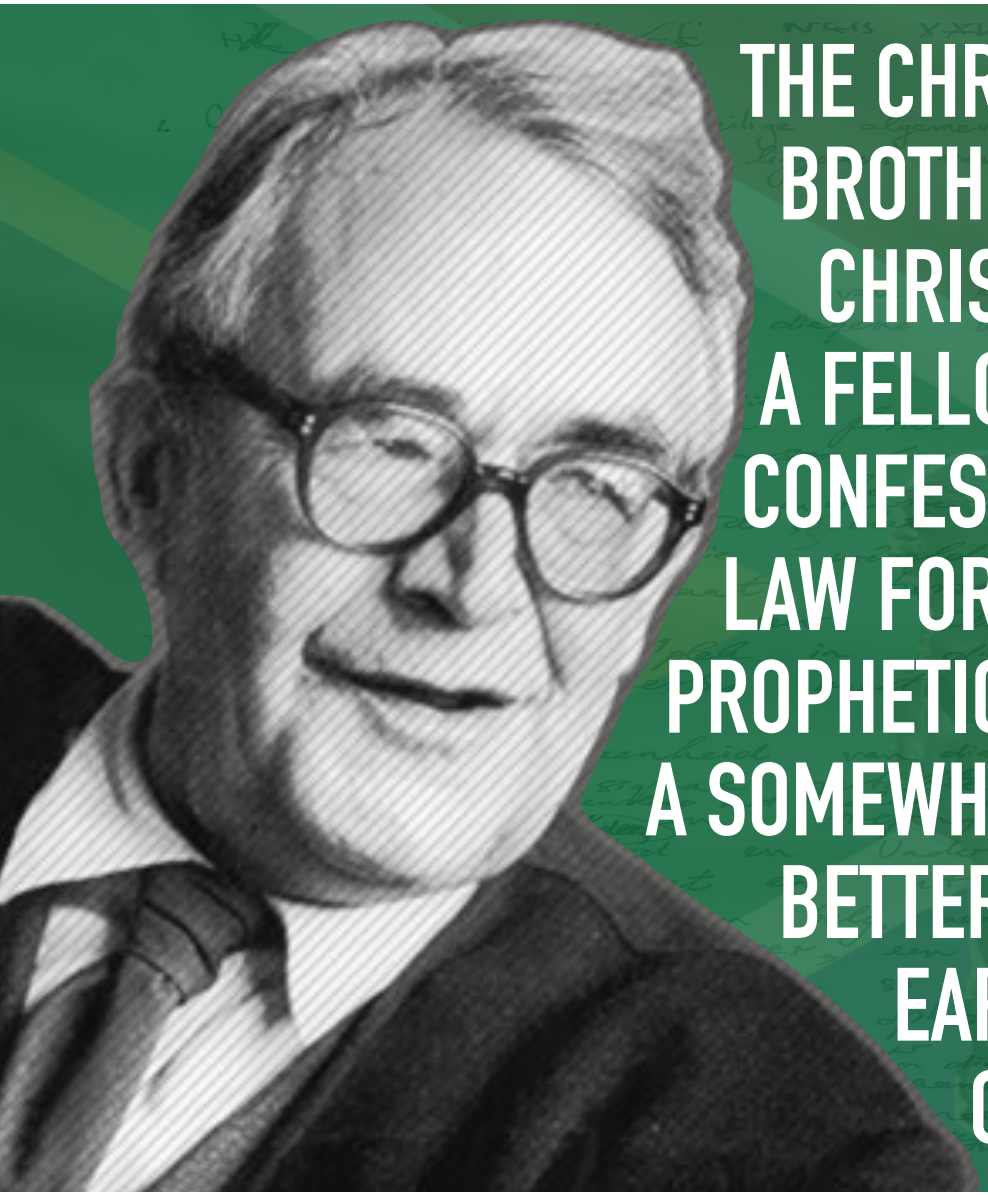



NO LONGER SLAVES
. . . . . .
. . . . . .BROTHERS & SISTERS

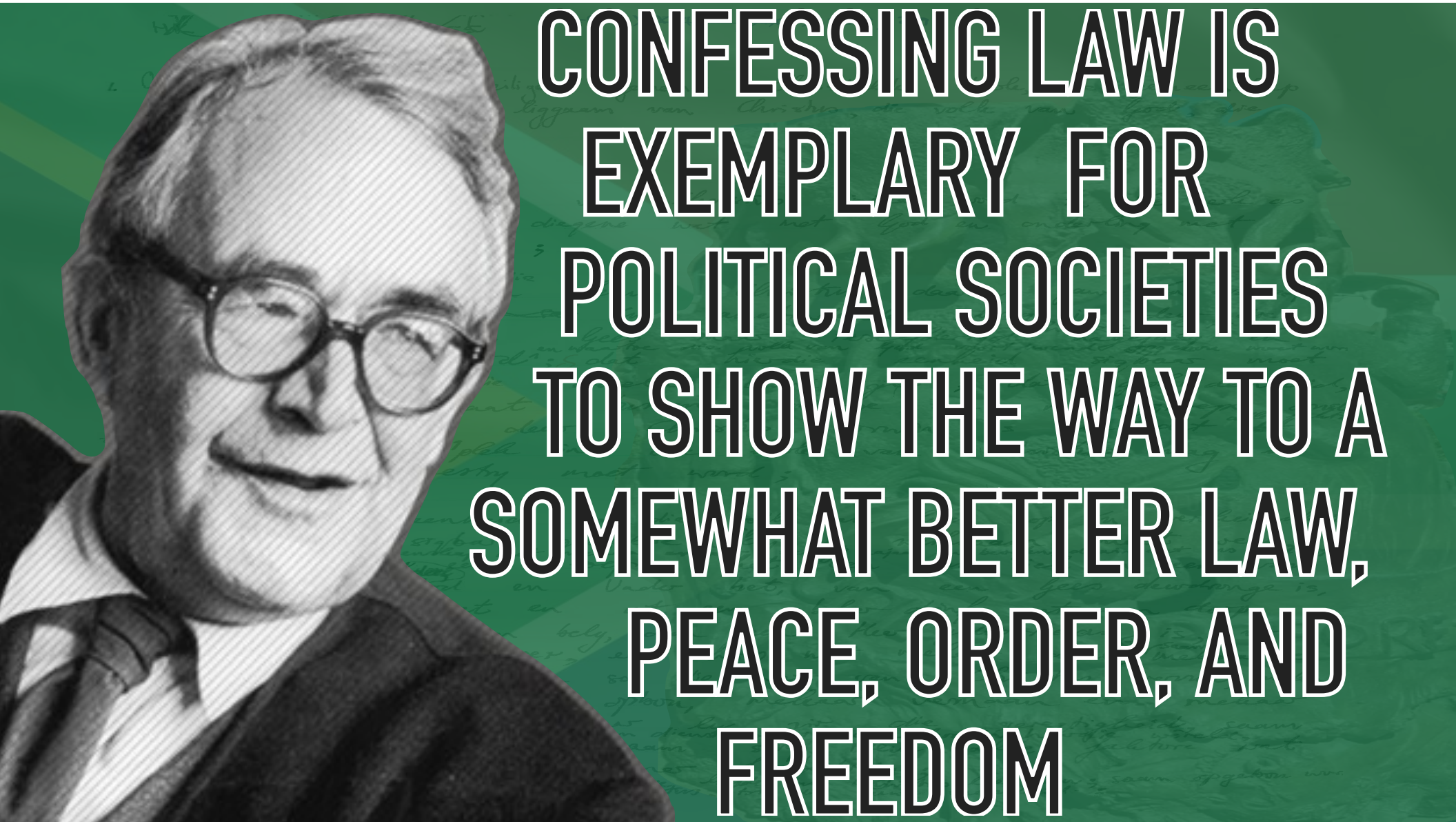
FRIENDS.....SIBLINGS

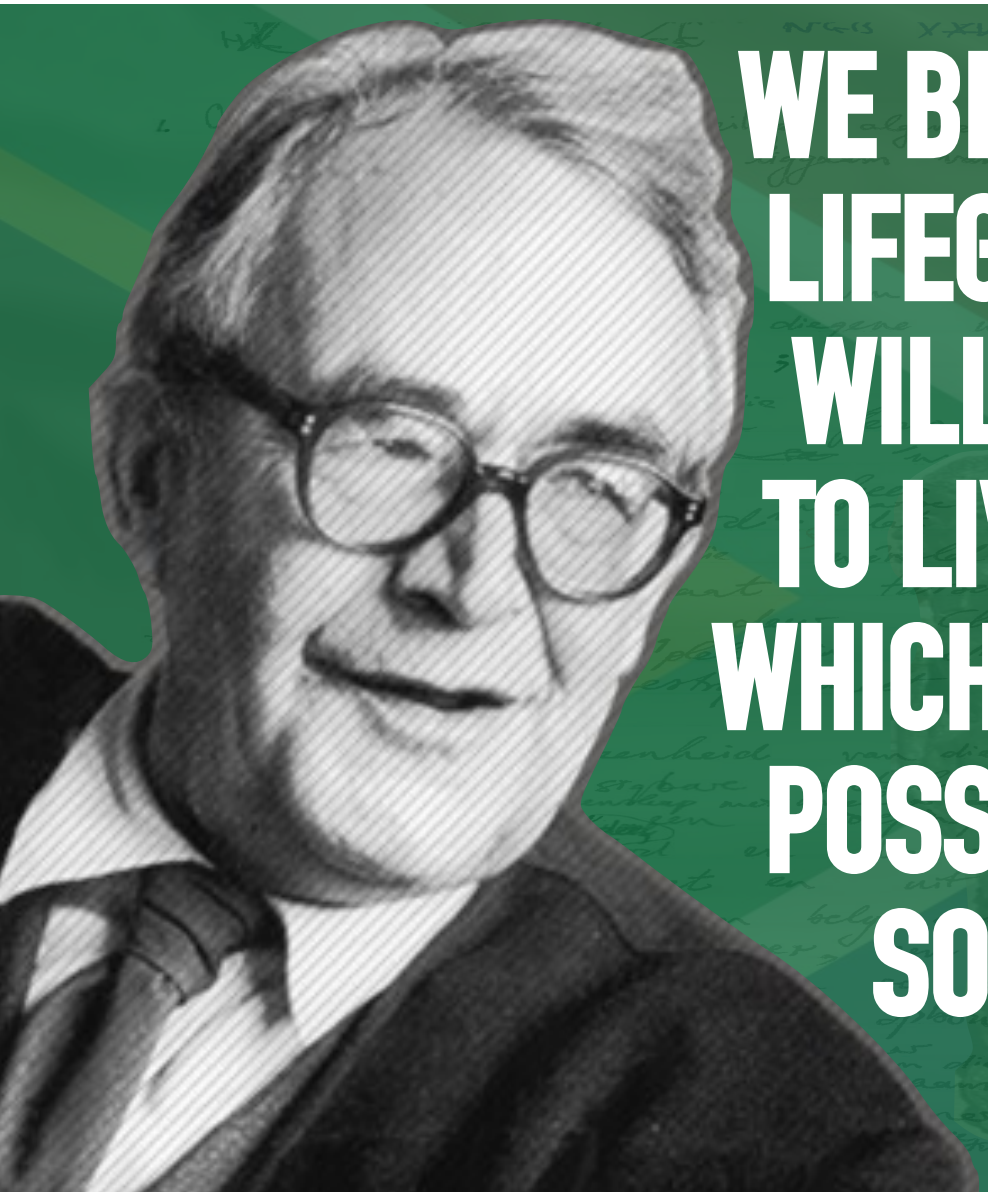






THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY IS A BROTHERLY CHRISTOCRACY . . . [OR] CHRISTOCRATIC BROTHERHOOD . . . [AND] A FELLOWSHIP OF LAW . . . SPIRITUAL LAW, CONFESSING LAW . . . WHICH IS EXEMPLARY LAW FOR POLITICAL SOCIETIES . . . WHOSE PROPHETIC MISSION IS TO SHOW THE WAY TO A SOMEWHAT BETTER LAW, A SOMEWHAT BETTER PEACE, A SOMEWHAT MORE EARNEST ORDER, A SOMEWHAT MORE GENUINE FREEDOM

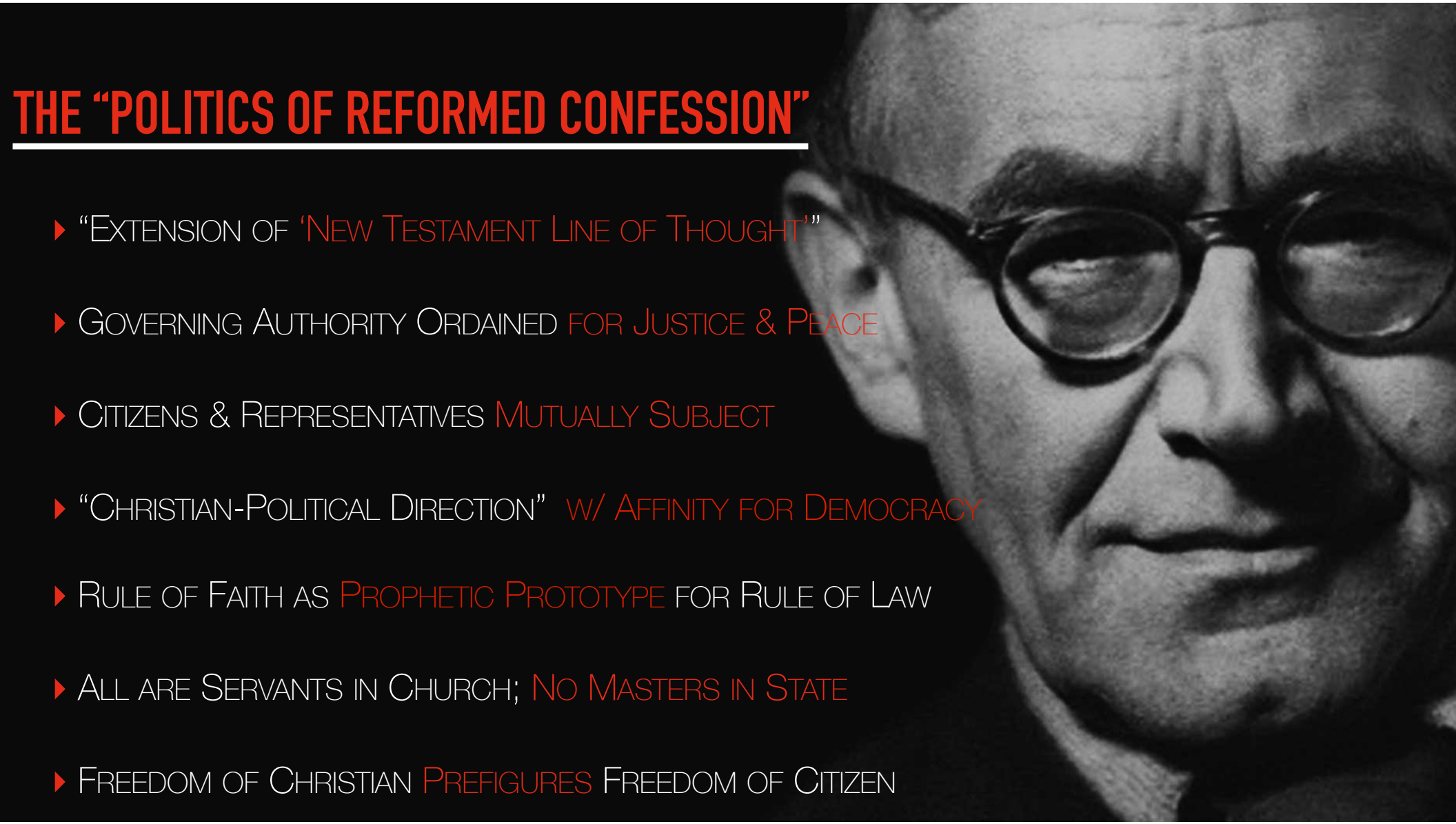

CONFESSING LAW IS
EXEMPLARY FOR
POLITICAL SOCIETIES
TO SHOW THE WAY TO A
SOMEWHAT BETTER LAW,
PEACE, ORDER, AND
FREEDOM



WE BELIEVE THAT GOD'S LIFEGIVING WORD AND SPIRIT WILL ENABLE THE CHURCH TO LIVE IN A NEW OBEDIENCE WHICH CAN OPEN NEW POSSIBILITIES OF LIFE FOR SOCIETY AND THE WORLD

– *Belhar Confession* (ARTICLE THREE)

THE "POLITICS OF REFORMED CONFESSION"

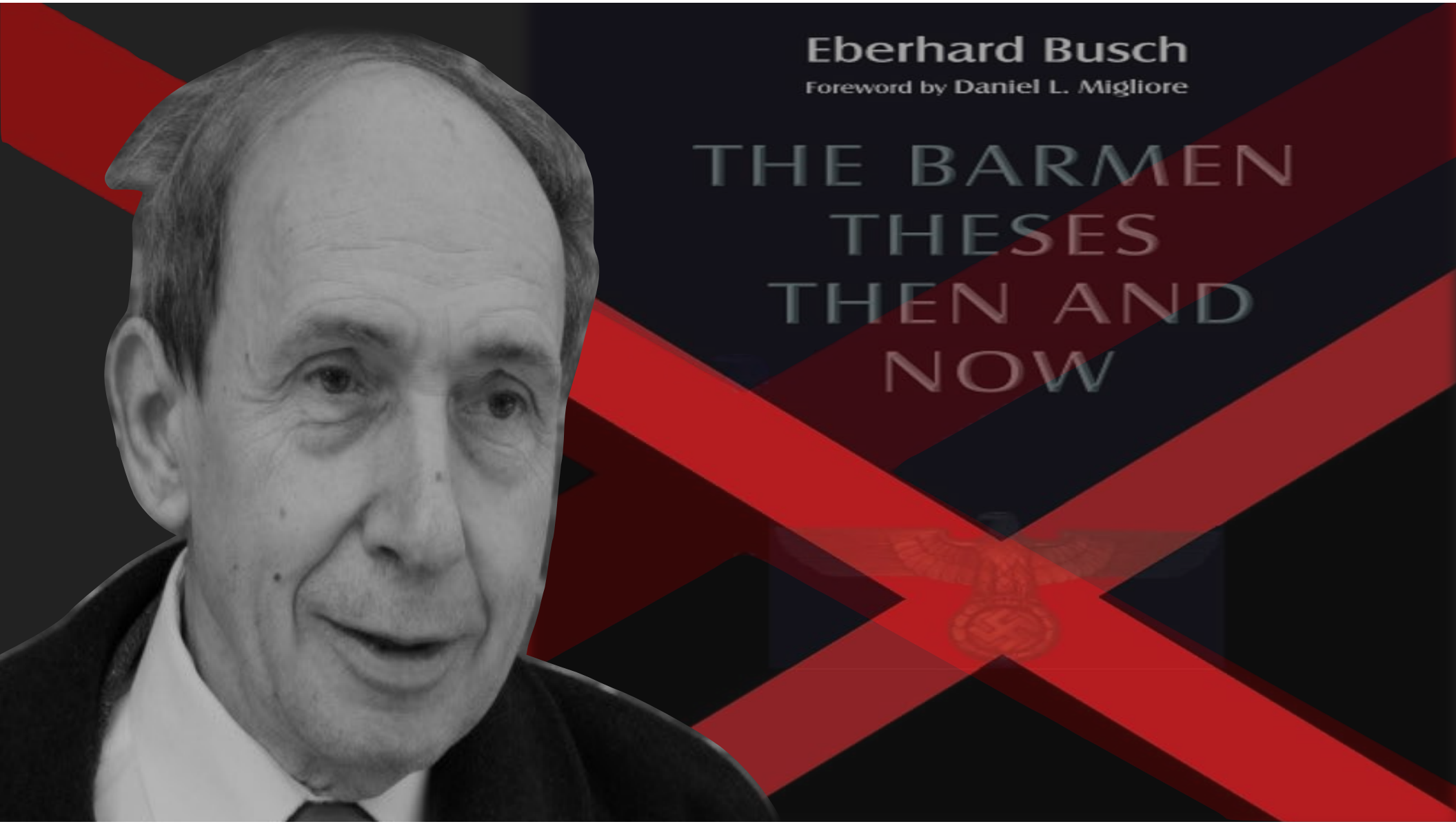


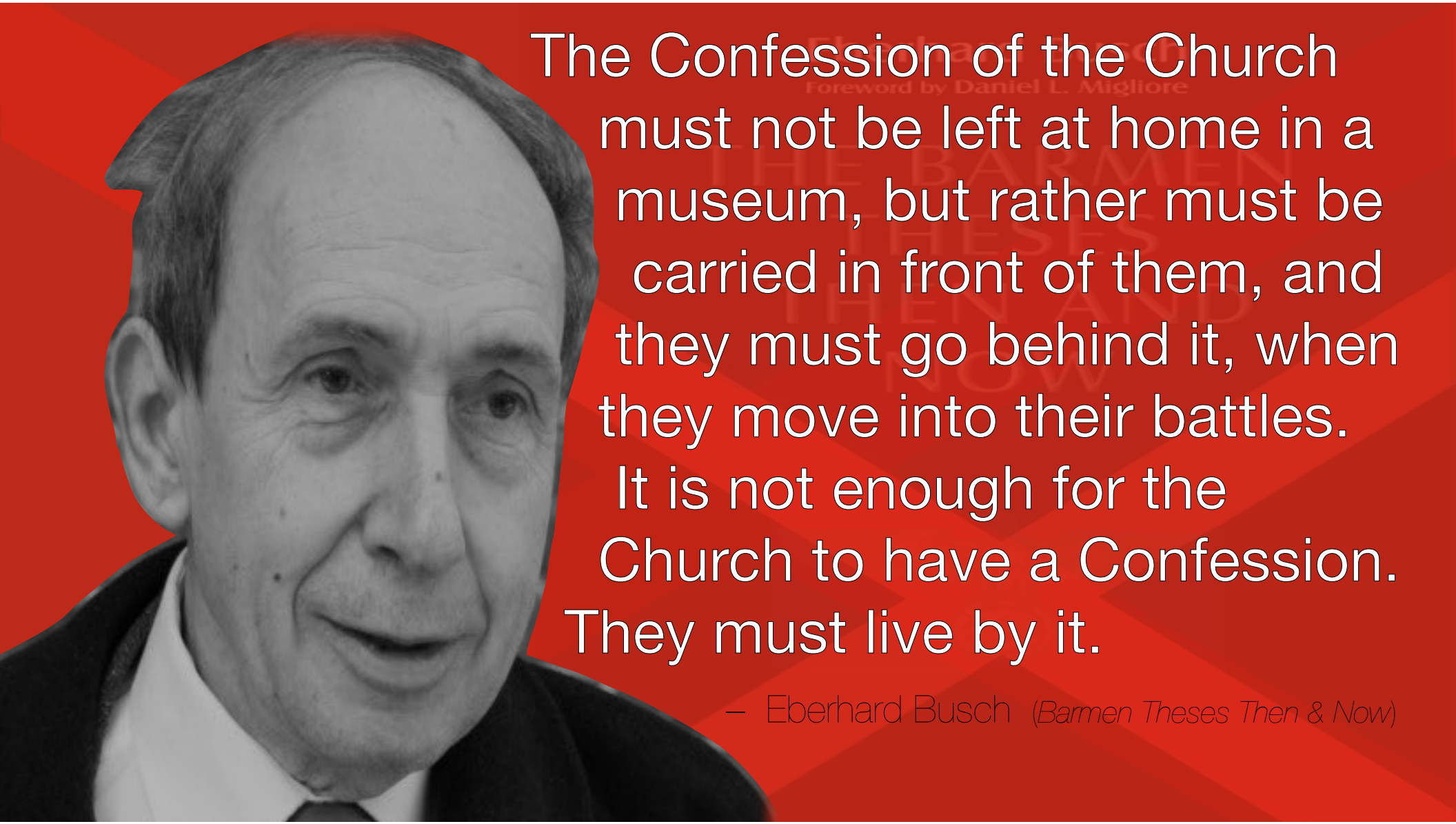
- "Extension of 'New Testament Line of Thought'"
- Governing Authority Ordained for Justice & Peace
- Citizens & Representatives Mutually Subject
- "Christian-Political Direction" w/ Affinity for Democracy
- Rule of Faith as Prophetic Prototype for Rule of Law
- All are Servants in Church; No Masters in State
- Freedom of Christian Prefigures Freedom of Citizen

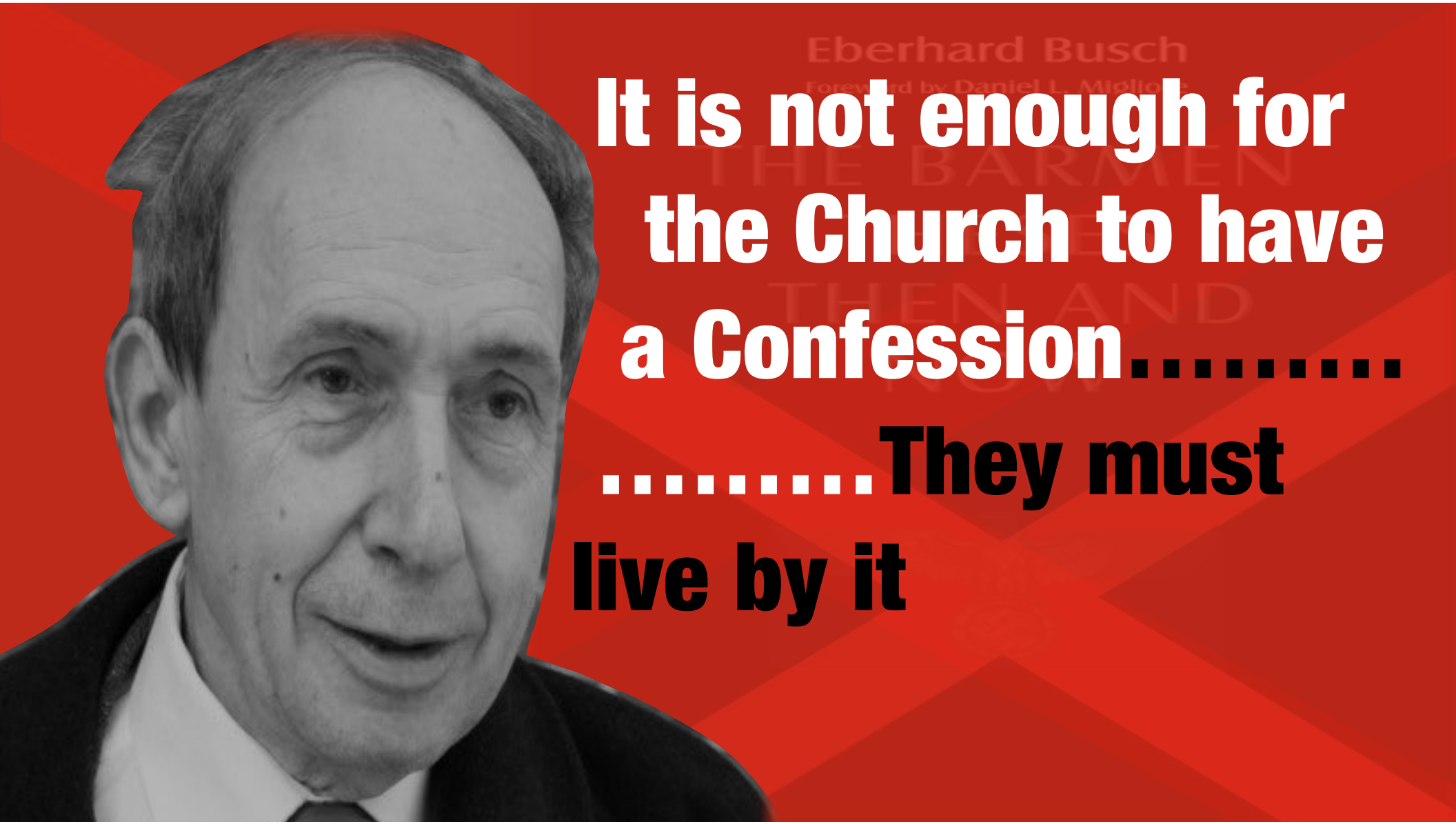

GOD'S TRUTH CANNOT BE RESTRICTED
GOD'S TRUTH CANNOT BE RESTRICTED
GOD'S TRUTH CANNOT BE RESTRICTED
GOD'S TRUTH CANNOT BE RESTRICTED
FREE


UDF UNITES - APARTHEID DIVIDES
UDF
JOIN A
MILLION PEOPLE
Say NO
to Apartheid
UNITED DEMOCRATIC FRONT
FORWARD TO PEOPLES POWER
the UDF
Declar
DON'T VOTE
IN APARTHEID ELECTIONS!
UDF
FOR
FREE
DETENTIONS!!!!
UDF LEADERS DETAINED
BANNINGS!!!!!!
MEETINGS IN 22 AREAS BANNED
REPRESSION!!!
PEOPLE SHOT DEAD IN TOWNSHIPS
MENT!!!
WE WILL NOT BE
SILENCED


THE DIVISIONAL COUNCIL OF THE CAPE
WHITE AREA
DIE AFDELINGSRAAD VAN DIE KAAP
BLANKE GEBIED
Freedom Rally


Eberhard Busch
Foreword by Daniel L. Migliore
THE BARMEN THESES THEN AND NOW


The Confession of the Church must not be left at home in a museum, but rather must be carried in front of them, and they must go behind it, when they move into their battles. It is not enough for the Church to have a Confession. They must live by it.
– Eberhard Busch (Barmen Theses Then & Now)


Eberhard Busch
It is not enough for the Church to have a Confession.....
.....They must live by it



TRINITY OF FATHER, SON, & SPIRIT

CENTRALITY & SUPREMACY OF CHRIST

ONE GOD, ONE LORD, ONE BAPTISM, ONE CHURCH

LORDSHIP OVER ALL OF LIFE (POLITICS, LAW, SOCIETY)

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY (JUSTICE, PEACE, RECONCILIATION)

POLITICAL SOLIDARITY (WRONGED, DESTITUTE, POOR)

PUBLIC ADVOCACY (DISSENT, PROTEST, CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE)


RESPONSIBILITY
SOLIDARITY
ADVOCACY


HOW NOW
SHALL WE
LIVE?

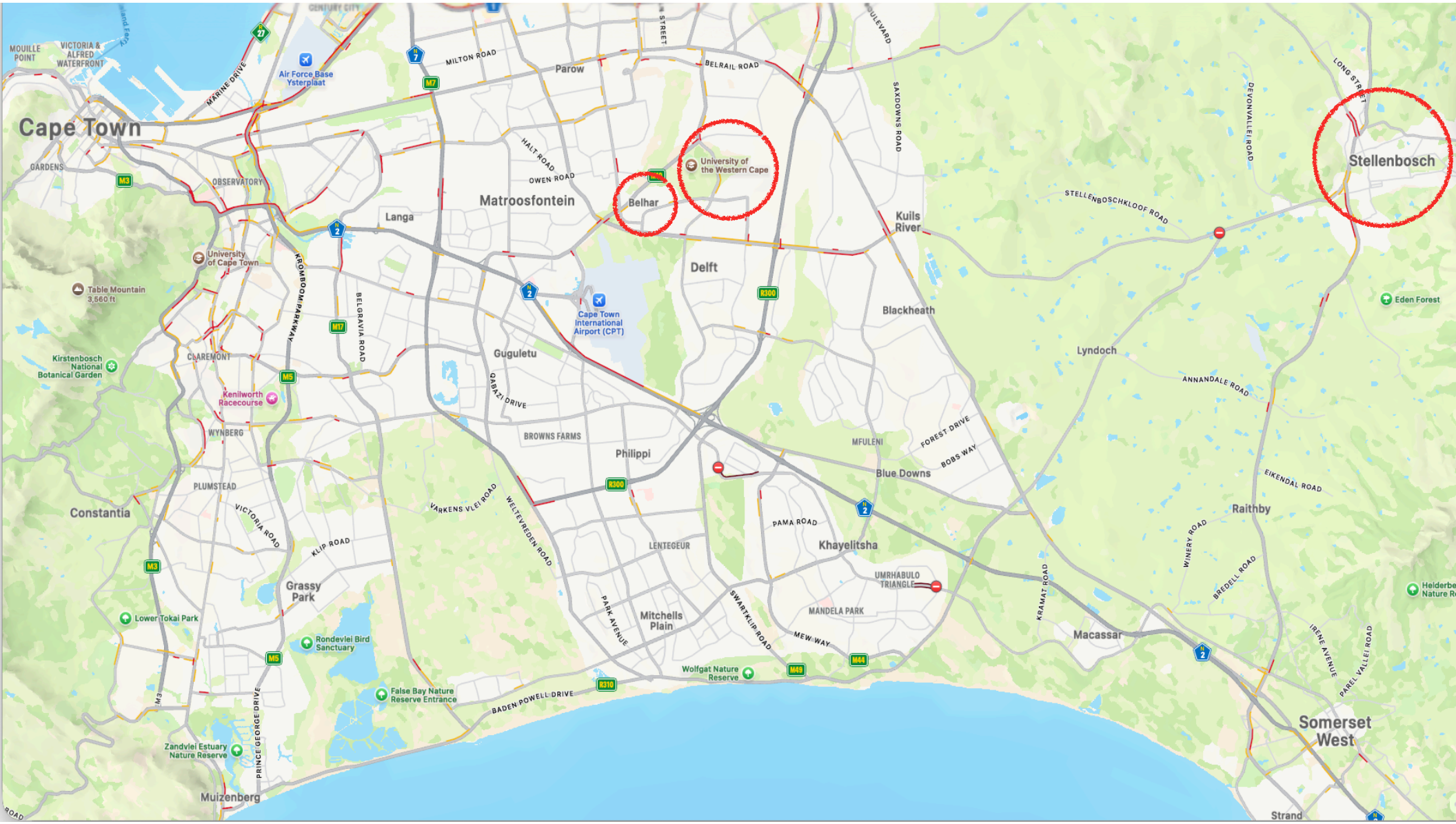


BARMEN & BELHAR: WESTMINSTER SEMINARS 2026

CONFESSING FREEDOM TODAY

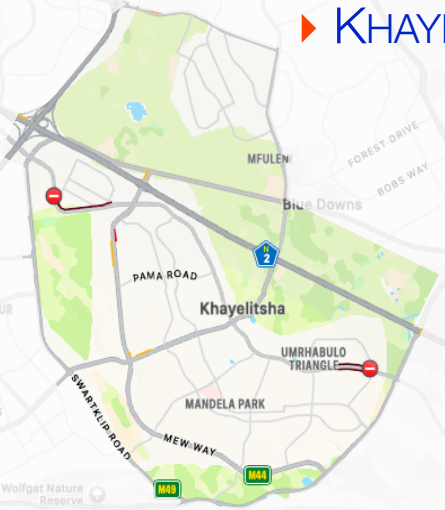





Cape Town
Stellenbosch
Somerset West
Muizenberg
Strand
Matroosfontein
Belhar
Langa
Delft
Kuils River
Blackheath
Lyndoch
Eden Forest
Guguletu
Philippi
Blue Downs
Khayelitsha
Mitchells Plain
Grassy Park
Constantia
Claremont
Wynberg
Plumstead
Observatory
Gardens
Mouille Point
Victoria & Alfred Waterfront
Century City
Parow
Raithby
Macassar
Table Mountain 3,560 ft
University of Cape Town
University of the Western Cape
Cape Town International Airport (CPT)
Air Force Base Ysterplaat
Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden
Kenilworth Racecourse
Lower Tokai Park
Rondevlei Bird Sanctuary
False Bay Nature Reserve Entrance
Zandvlei Estuary Nature Reserve
Wolfgat Nature Reserve
Marine Drive
Milton Road
Belrail Road
Halt Road
Owen Road
Saxdowns Road
Devonvalei Road
Long Street
Stellenboschkloof Road
Annandale Road
Eikendal Road
Winery Road
Bredell Road
Irene Avenue
Paarl Valley Road
Kromboom Parkway
Belgravia Road
Qabazi Drive
Browns Farms
Mfuleni
Forest Drive
Bobs Way
Varkens Vlei Road
Weltevreden Road
Victoria Road
Klip Road
Pama Road
Lentegeur
Umrhabulo Triangle
Mandela Park
Mew Way
Swartklip Road
Park Avenue
Kramat Road
Prince George Drive
Baden Powell Drive
M3
M5
M7
M17
M44
M49
R300
R310

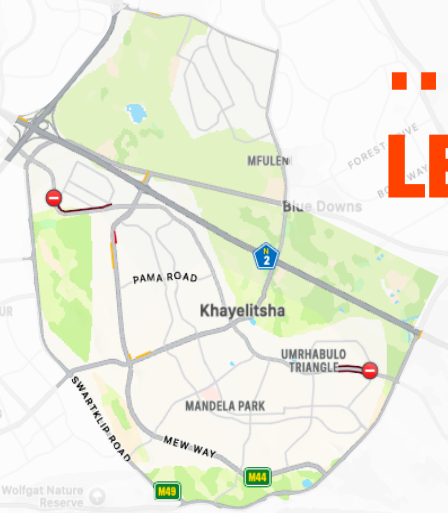

Cape Town
MOUILLE POINT
VICTORIA & ALFRED WATERFRONT
MARINE DRIVE
Air Force Base Ysterplaat
MILTON ROAD
Parow
BELRAIL ROAD
SAXDOWNS ROAD
DEVONVALLEI ROAD
LONG STREET
Stellenbosch
University of the Western Cape
STELLENBOSCHKLOOF ROAD
Kuils River
Delft
R300
Blackheath
Eden Forest
Lyndoch
ANNANDALE ROAD
MFULENI
FOREST DRIVE
BOBS WAY
Blue Downs
EIKENDAL ROAD
Raithby
PAMA ROAD
Khayelitsha
WINERY ROAD
BREDELL ROAD
UMRHABULO TRIANGLE
KRAMAT ROAD
Park
Lower Tokai Park
Rondevlei Bird Sanctuary
PARK AVENUE
Mitchells Plain
SWARTKLIP ROAD
MANDELA PARK
MEW WAY
Macassar
IRENE AVENUE
PAREL VALLEI ROAD
Wolfgat Nature Reserve
False Bay Nature Reserve Entrance
BADEN POWELL DRIVE
R310
PRINCE GEORGE DRIVE
Zandvlei Estuary Nature Reserve
Somerset West
Muizenberg
Strand





- PITTSBURGH ≈ 302,971 RESIDENTS
- KHAYELITSHA ≈ 391,789 RESIDENTS
- PITTSBURGH ≈ 58.34 SQUARE MILES
- KHAYELITSHA ≈ 14.95 SQUARE MILES





KHAYELITSHA HAS 29% MORE RESIDENTS THAN PITTSBURGH...

...RESIDING IN 74% LESS LIVING SPACE



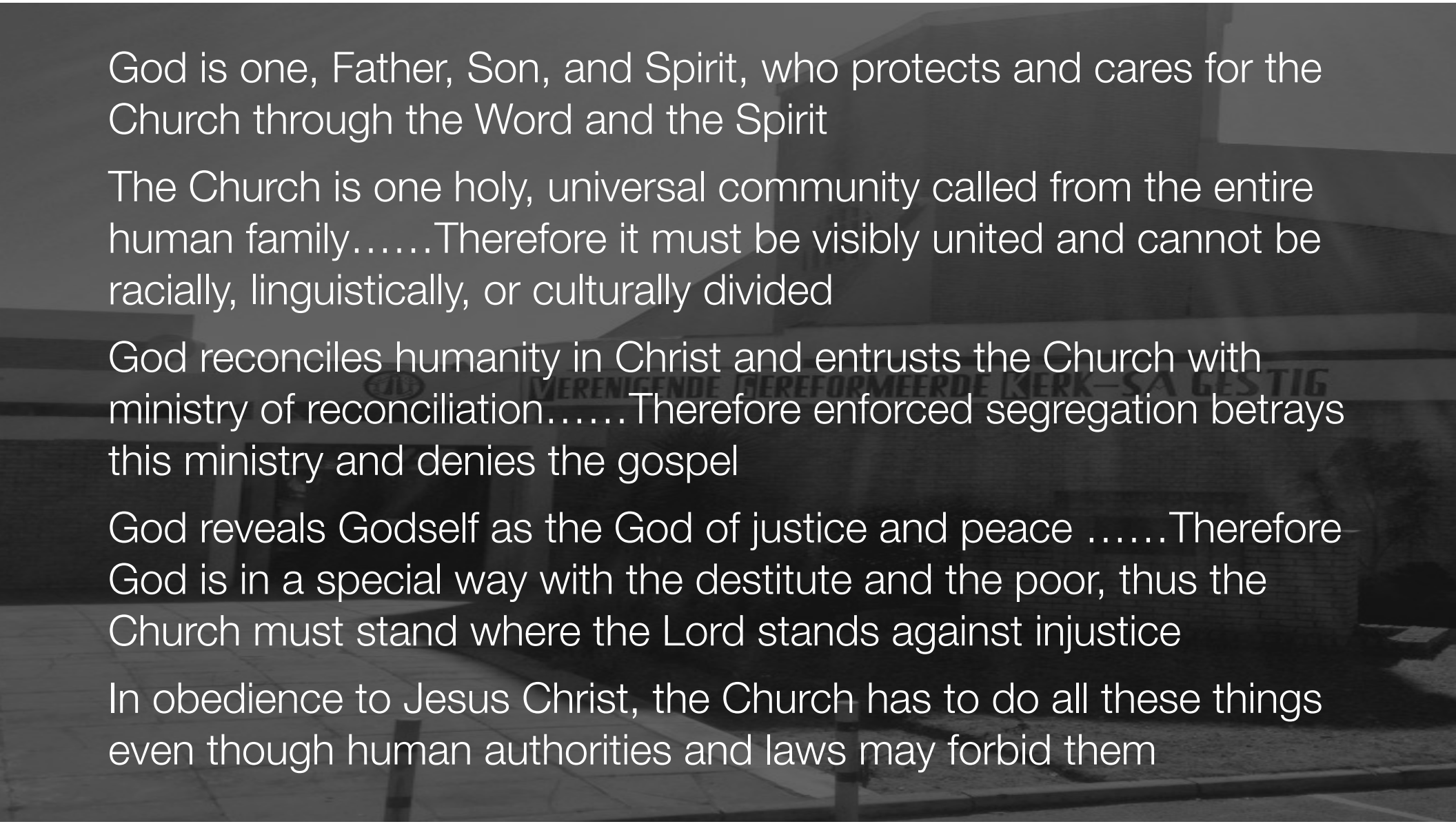


IMAGINE THE ENTIRE POPULATION OF PITTSBURGH RESIDING IN ROBINSON TOWNSHIP



BARMEN & BELHAR: WESTMINSTER SEMINARS 2026

CONFESSING FREEDOM TODAY



God is one, Father, Son, and Spirit, who protects and cares for the Church through the Word and the Spirit

The Church is one holy, universal community called from the entire human family……Therefore it must be visibly united and cannot be racially, linguistically, or culturally divided

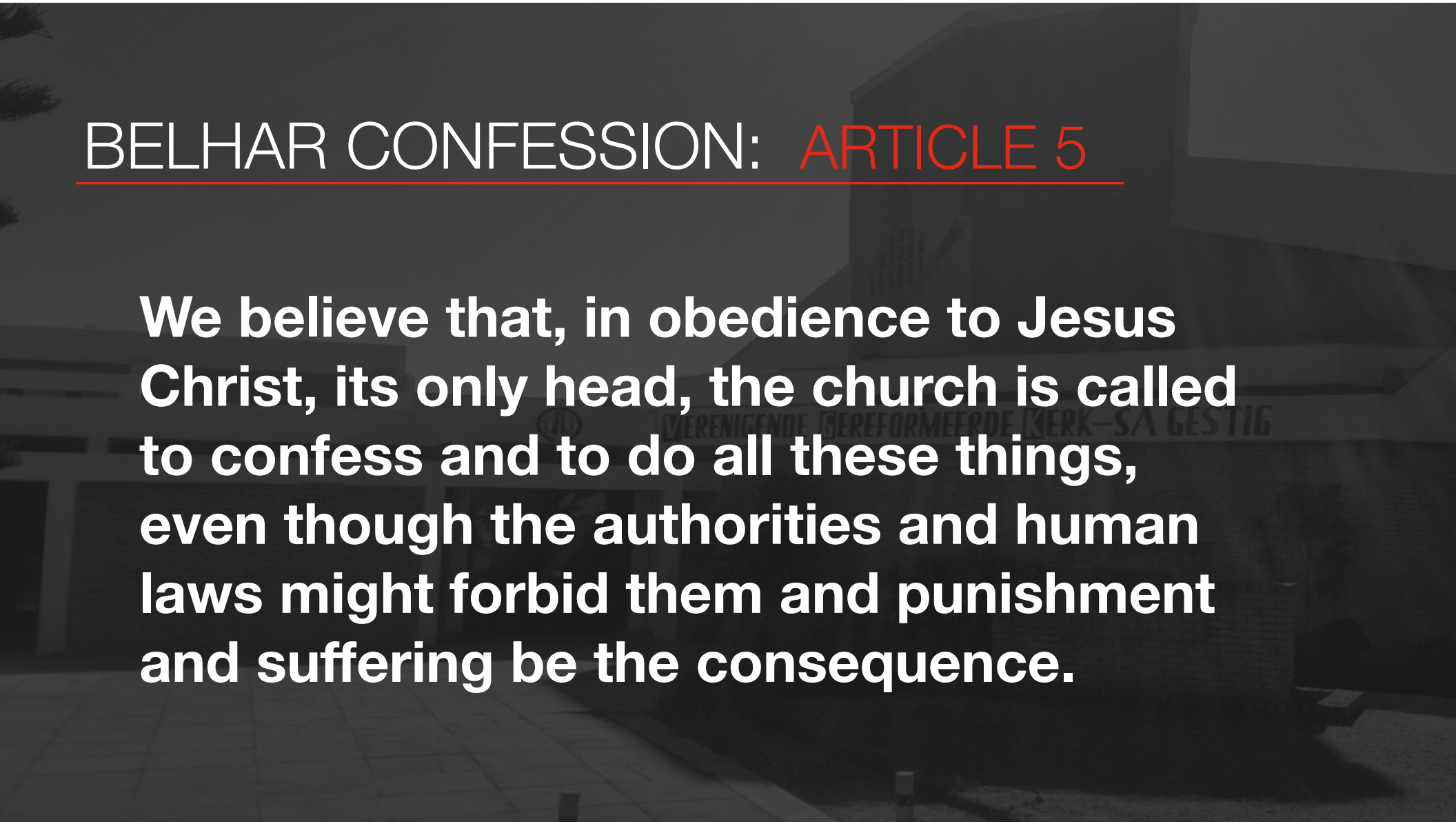
God reconciles humanity in Christ and entrusts the Church with ministry of reconciliation……Therefore enforced segregation betrays this ministry and denies the gospel

God reveals Godself as the God of justice and peace ……Therefore God is in a special way with the destitute and the poor, thus the Church must stand where the Lord stands against injustice

In obedience to Jesus Christ, the Church has to do all these things even though human authorities and laws may forbid them

BELHAR CONFESSION: ARTICLE 1

We believe in the triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, who gathers, protects and cares for the church through Word and Spirit. This, God has done since the beginning of the world and will do to the end.

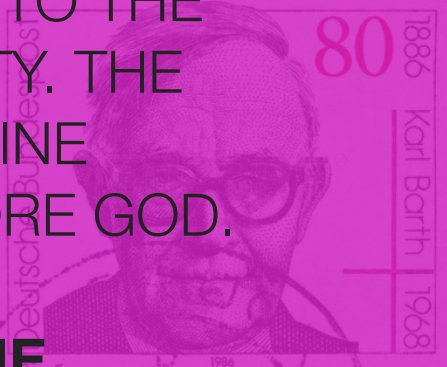


BELHAR CONFESSION: ARTICLE 5

We believe that, in obedience to Jesus Christ, its only head, the church is called to confess and to do all these things, even though the authorities and human laws might forbid them and punishment and suffering be the consequence.

THE BARMEN DECLARATION: THESIS 5

SCRIPTURE TELLS US THAT, IN THE AS YET UNREDEEMED WORLD IN WHICH THE CHURCH ALSO EXISTS, **THE STATE HAS BY DIVINE APPOINTMENT THE TASK OF PROVIDING FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE**. [IT FULFILLS THIS TASK] BY MEANS OF THE THREAT AND EXERCISE OF FORCE, ACCORDING TO THE MEASURE OF HUMAN JUDGMENT AND HUMAN ABILITY. THE CHURCH ACKNOWLEDGES THE BENEFIT OF THIS DIVINE APPOINTMENT IN GRATITUDE AND REVERENCE BEFORE GOD. **IT CALLS TO MIND THE KINGDOM OF GOD, GOD'S COMMANDMENT AND JUSTICE, AND THEREBY THE RESPONSIBILITY OF BOTH RULERS AND OF THE RULED.** IT TRUSTS AND OBEYS THE POWER OF THE WORD BY WHICH GOD UPHOLDS ALL THINGS.



THE BARMEN DECLARATION: THESIS 5

THE STATE HAS BY DIVINE APPOINTMENT THE TASK OF PROVIDING FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE….IT CALLS TO MIND THE KINGDOM OF GOD, GOD'S COMMANDMENT AND JUSTICE, AND THEREBY THE RESPONSIBILITY BOTH OF RULERS AND OF THE RULED.



THE BARMEN DECLARATION: THESIS 6

WE REJECT THE FALSE DOCTRINE, AS THOUGH THE CHURCH IN HUMAN ARROGANCE COULD PLACE THE WORD AND WORK OF THE LORD IN THE SERVICE OF ANY **ARBITRARILY CHOSEN DESIRES, PURPOSES, AND PLANS**.

THE CHURCH'S COMMISSION, UPON WHICH ITS FREEDOM IS FOUNDED, CONSISTS IN DELIVERING THE MESSAGE OF THE **FREE GRACE OF GOD TO ALL PEOPLE** IN CHRIST'S STEAD, AND THEREFORE IN THE MINISTRY OF HIS OWN WORD AND WORK THROUGH SERMON AND SACRAMENT.

(1) Jesus Christ is the one Word of God revealed by the witness of Scripture

(2) Salvation of the Gospel brings obligation of the Law for both discipleship and citizenship

(3) As community faith & religious institution, Church belongs to Christ alone

(4) Ministry of Christ given equally to each & every member of the community

(5) State is responsible for justice & peace; rulers & ruled alike share this responsibility

(6) The Grace of the Gospel & the mission of the Church are for all persons & peoples

(1) No other word, person, people (VOLK), or event has authority of revelation

(2) There are no other lords beyond or beside Jesus Christ

(3) Theology, morality, liturgy, & ecclesiology cannot be subordinated to ideology

(4) There can be no special leaders (FÜHRER) in the Church or for the Church

(5) The state can neither neglect justice & peace, nor assert totalitarian order

(6) Neither the German people (VOLK) nor the German State (REICH) has a divine mission

(1) Jesus Christ is the one Word of God revealed by the witness of Scripture

(2) Salvation of the Gospel brings obligation of the Law for both discipleship and citizenship

(3) As community faith & religious institution, Church belongs to Christ alone

(4) Ministry of Christ given equally to each & every member of the community

(5) State is responsible for justice & peace; rulers & ruled alike share this responsibility

(6) The Grace of the Gospel & the mission of the Church are for all persons & peoples

(1) No other word, person, people (VOLK), or event has authority of revelation

(2) There are no other lords beyond or beside Jesus Christ

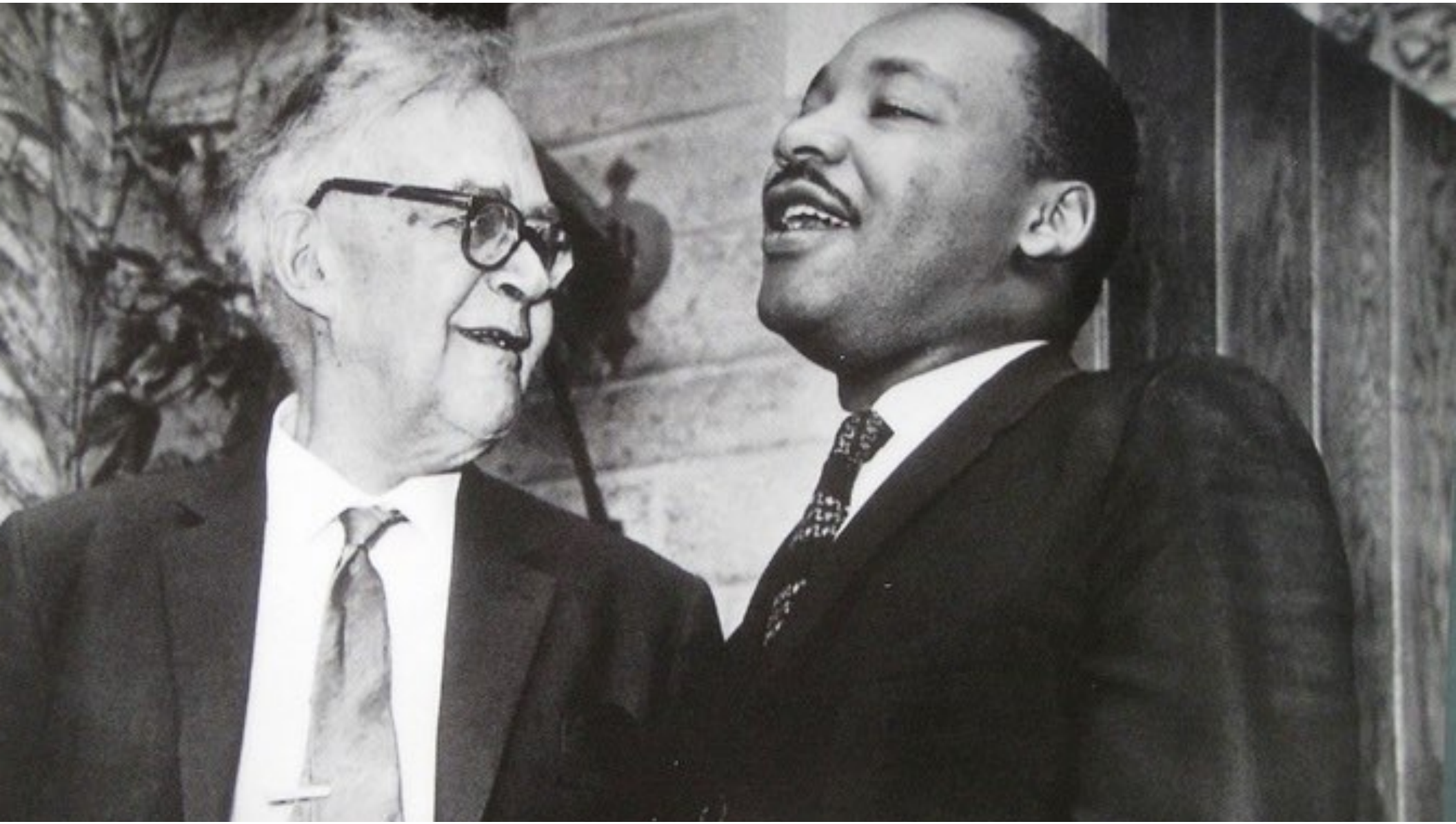
(3) Theology, morality, liturgy, & ecclesiology cannot be subordinated to ideology

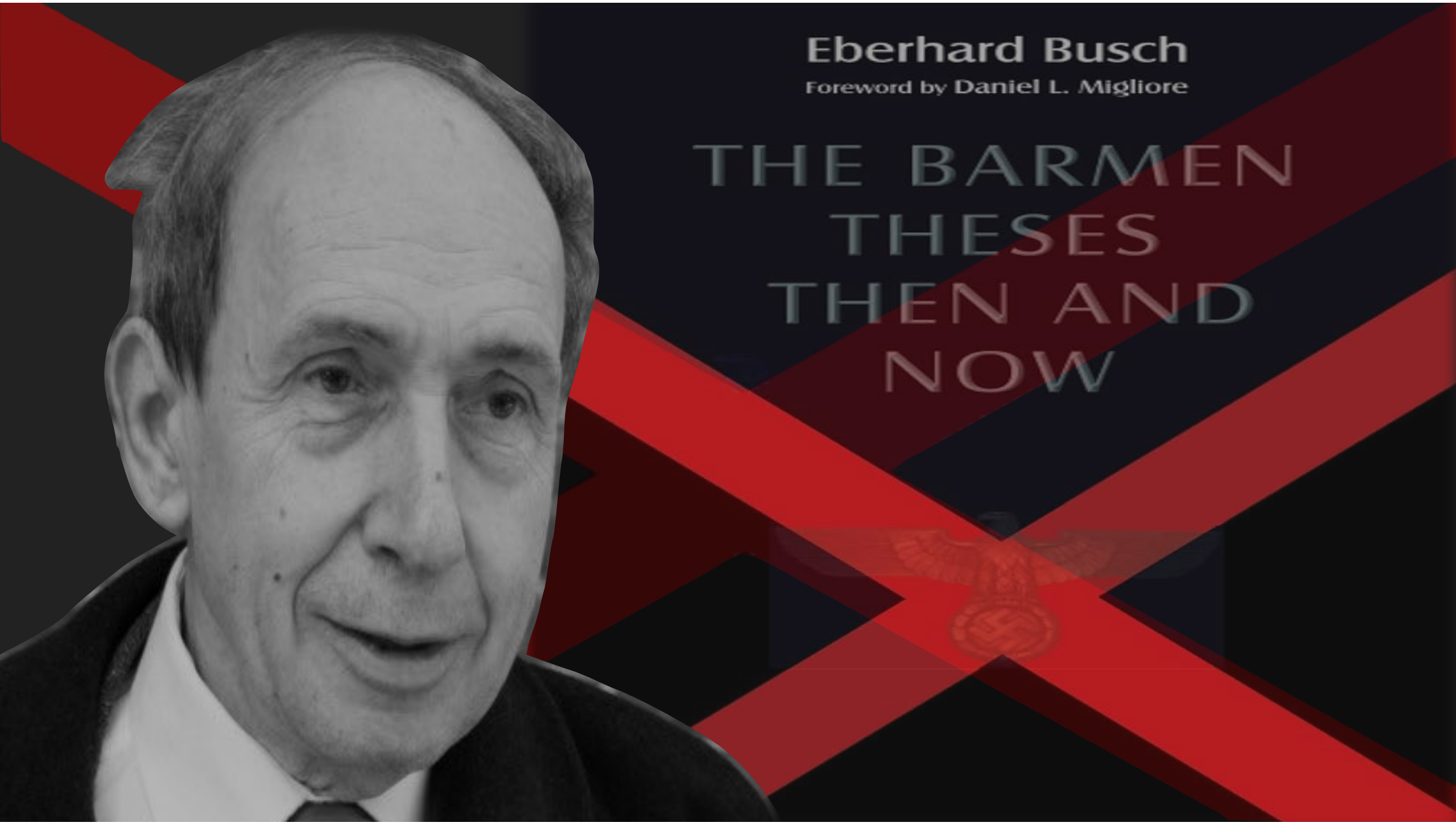
(4) There can be no special leaders (FÜHRER) in the Church or for the Church

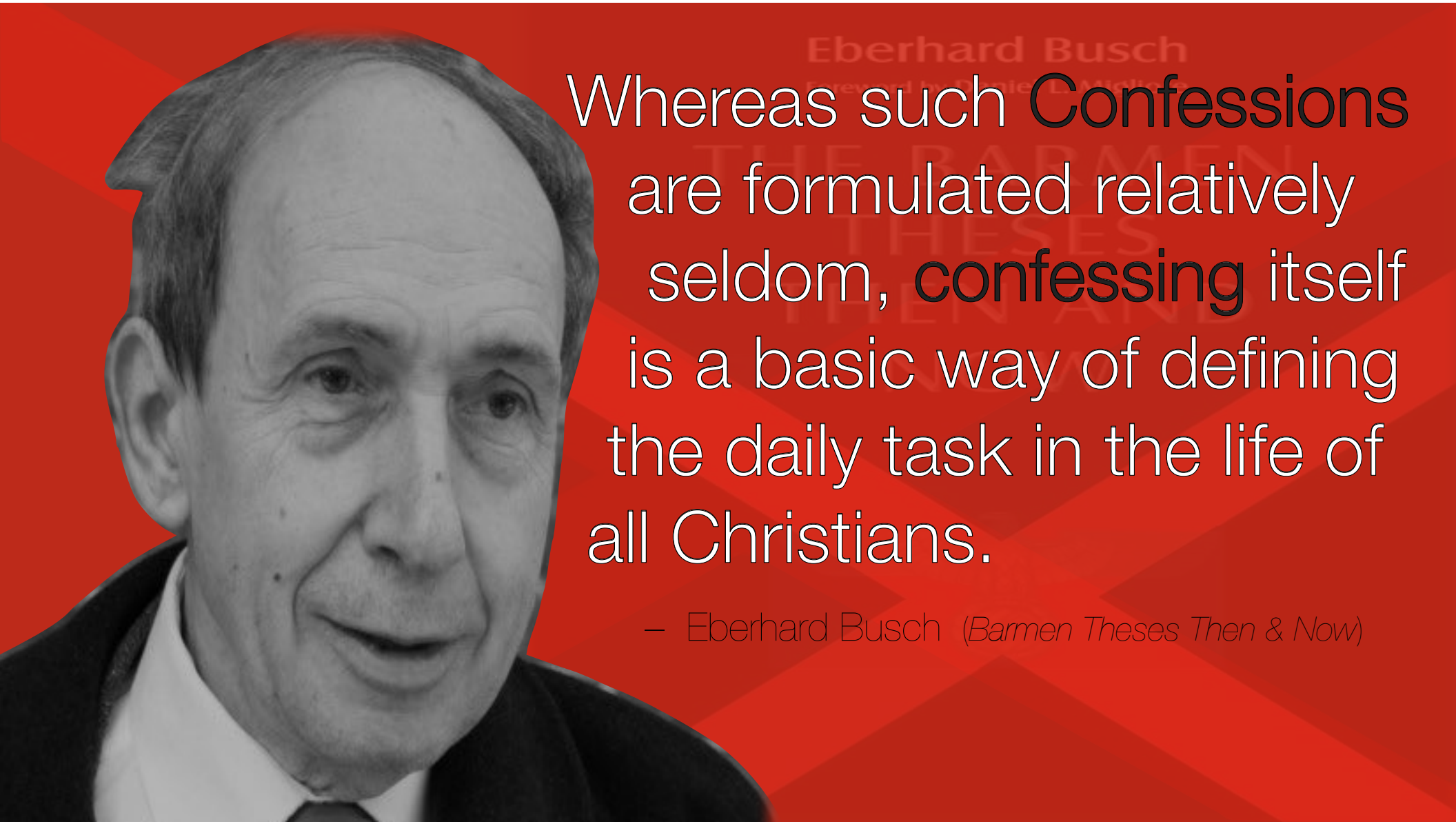
(5) The state can neither neglect justice & peace, nor assert totalitarian order

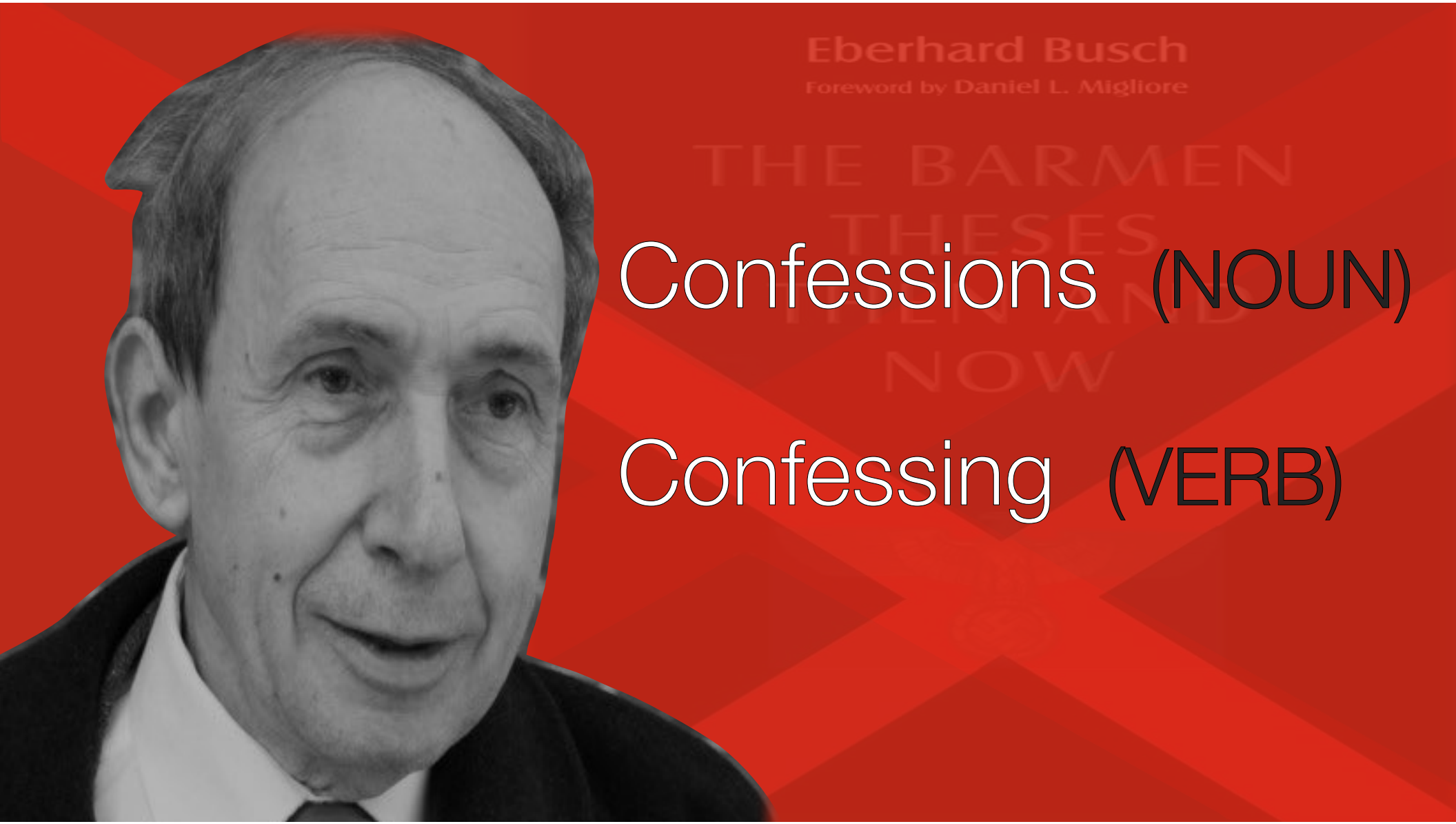
(6) Neither the German people (VOLK) nor the German State (REICH) has a divine mission





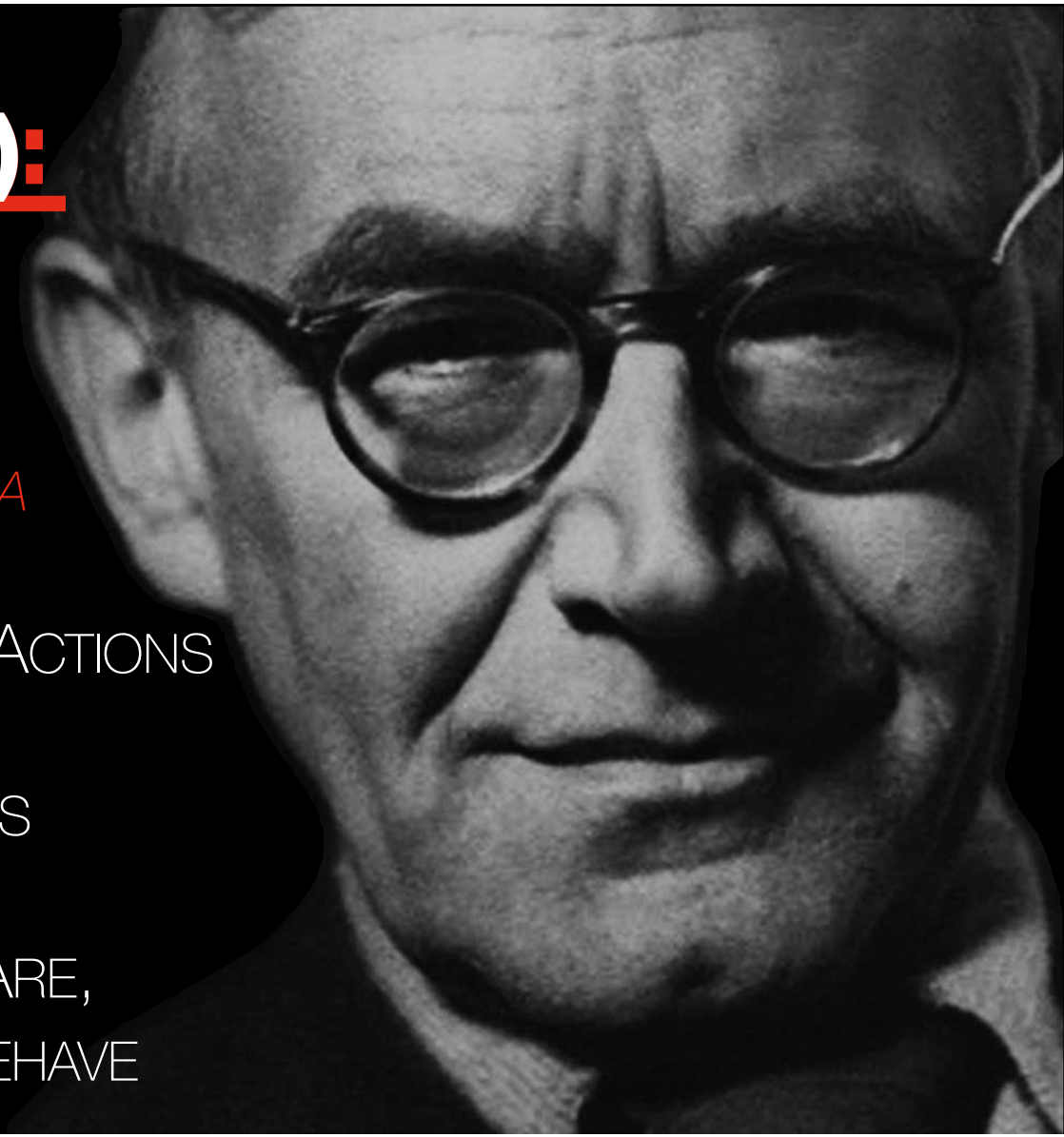

Eberhard Busch
Foreword by Daniel L. Migliore
THE BARMEN THESES THEN AND NOW

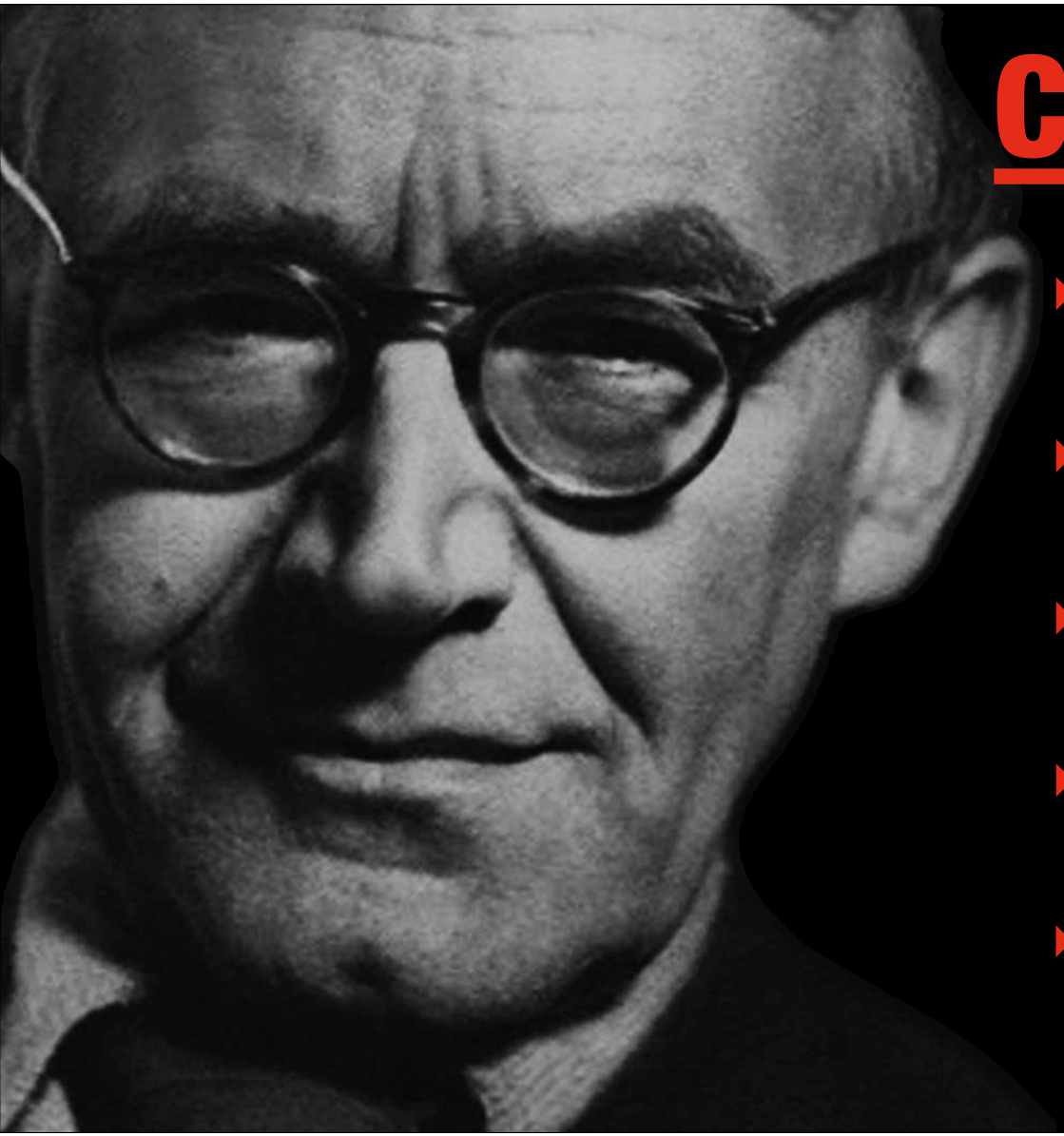

Eberhard Busch
Whereas such Confessions are formulated relatively seldom, confessing itself is a basic way of defining the daily task in the life of all Christians.
– Eberhard Busch (Barmen Theses Then & Now)


Eberhard Busch
Foreword by Daniel L. Migliore
THE BARMEN THESES
Confessions (NOUN)
Confessing (VERB)

Confession (VERB):

- "Wider Sense" of Concept
- Ordinary *Confessio Continua*
- Everyday Ongoing Words & Actions
- Informal Working Consensus
- Common Sense of Who We Are, What We Believe, How We Behave



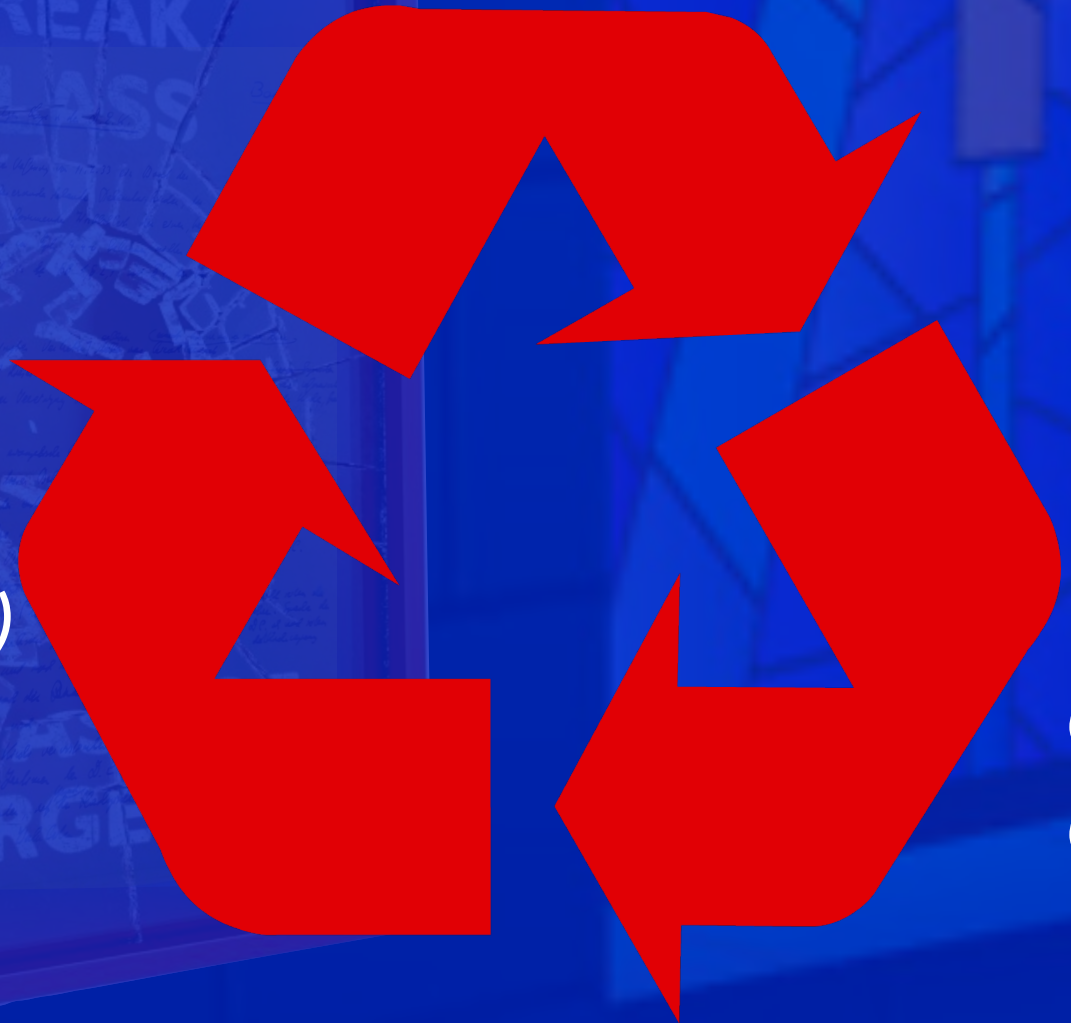


Confession (noun):

- "Narrower Sense" of Concept
- Extraordinary *Status Confessionis*
- Episodic Declaration & Action
- Formally Worked-Out Consensus
- Critical Sense of Who We Are, What We Believe, How We Behave (Especially What We Reject / Refuse)

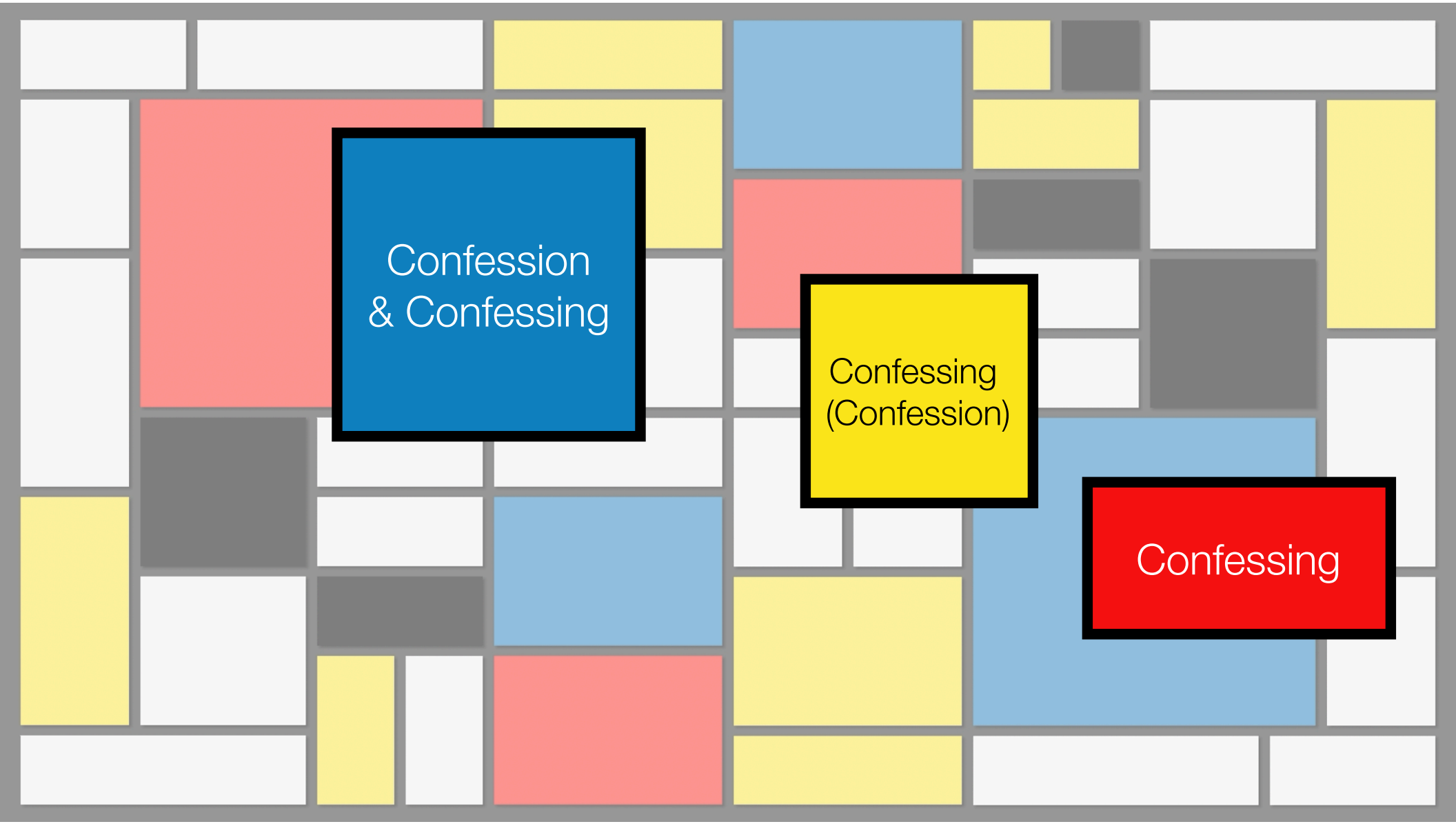

BREAK
GLASS
IN CASE OF
EMERGENCY

Status Confessionis



(Processus Confessionis)

Confessio Continua


Confession
& Confessing
Confessing
(Confession)
Confessing

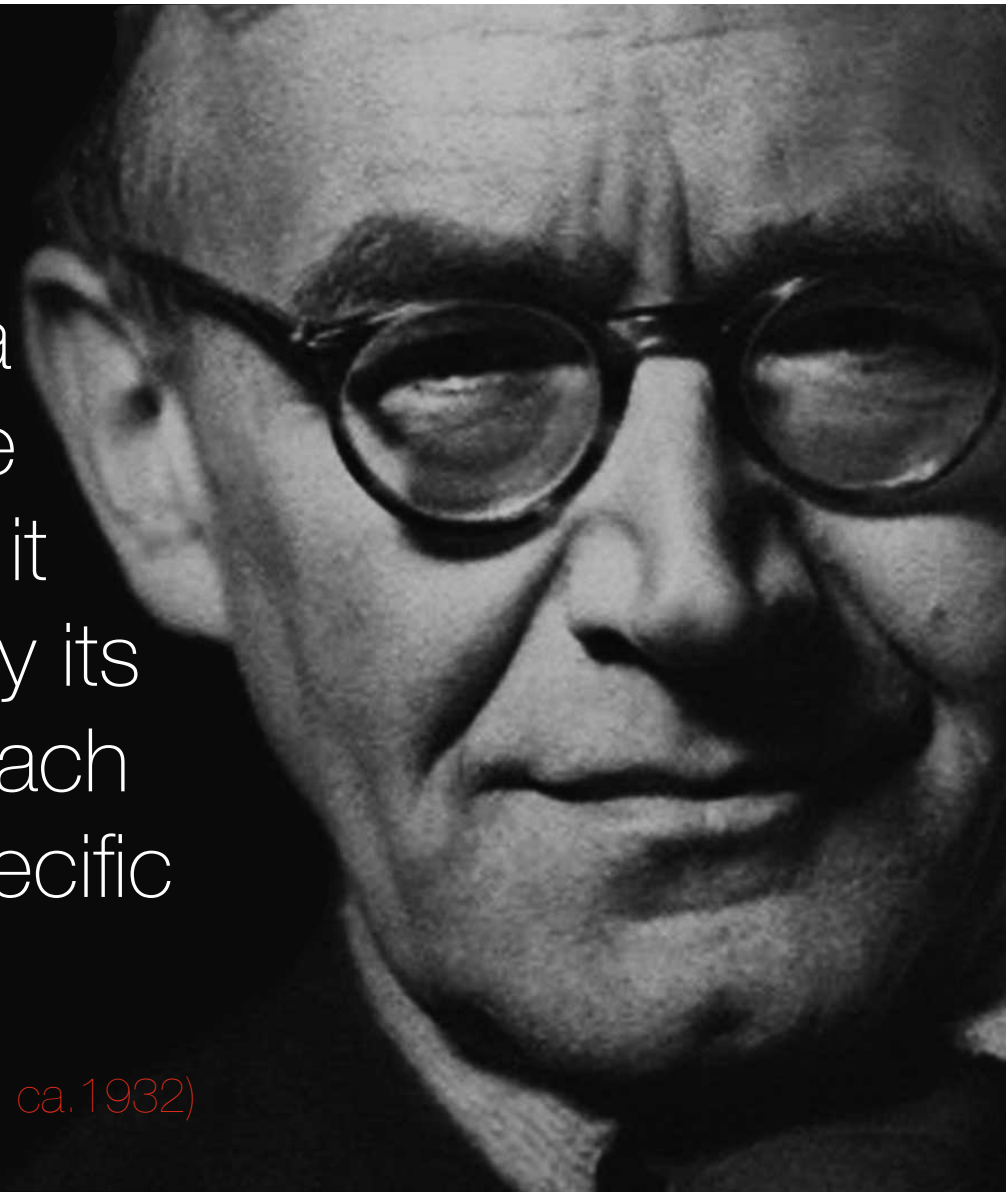
MISCONCEPTIONS OF "CONFESSION(S)"

- Seldom, Random, Peripheral, Negligible
- Authoritarian Rather Than Authoritative
- Work of Singular Heroic Genius or Solitary Prophetic Witness
- Confession Appears to be a Product, Rather Than a Process & a Praxis

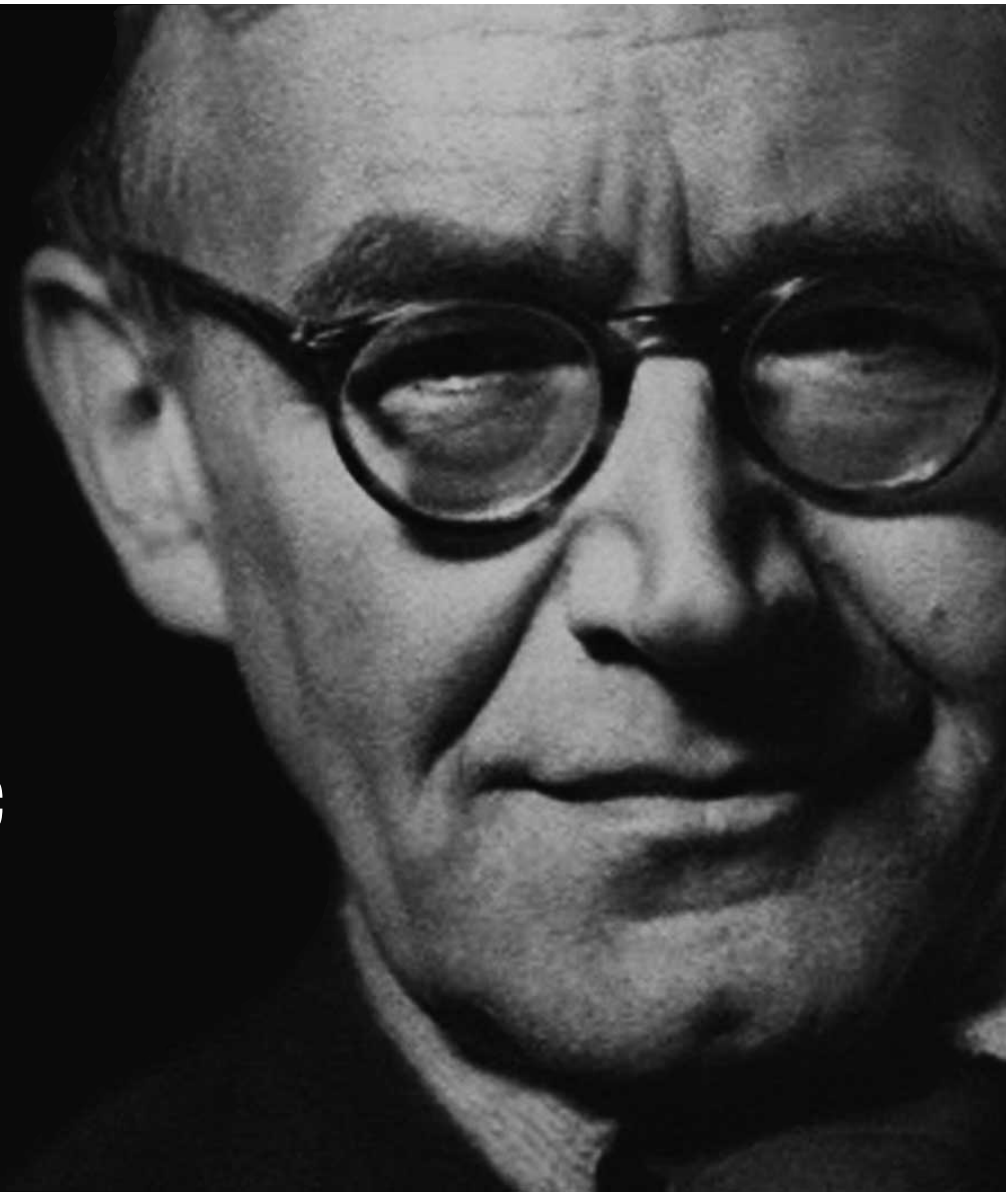


Dogmatics is a theological discipline. But theology is a function of the Church. The Church confesses God as it speaks about God. First, by its existence in the action of each believer. Second, by its specific action as a community.

– Karl Barth (*Church Dogmatics* I/1 §1 ca.1932)



Theology is the **lived existence** of the Church as it **confesses God** in the **action of each believer** and its specific **action as a community**





THE CONCEPT "REFORMED CONFESSION"

- Praxis of Disputation, Deliberation, & Decision
- Interpretation of Text of Scripture in Context
- Mutual Authority & Reciprocal Freedom
- Consensus via Speech & Counter-Speech
- Inherently Political & Intrinsically Democratic











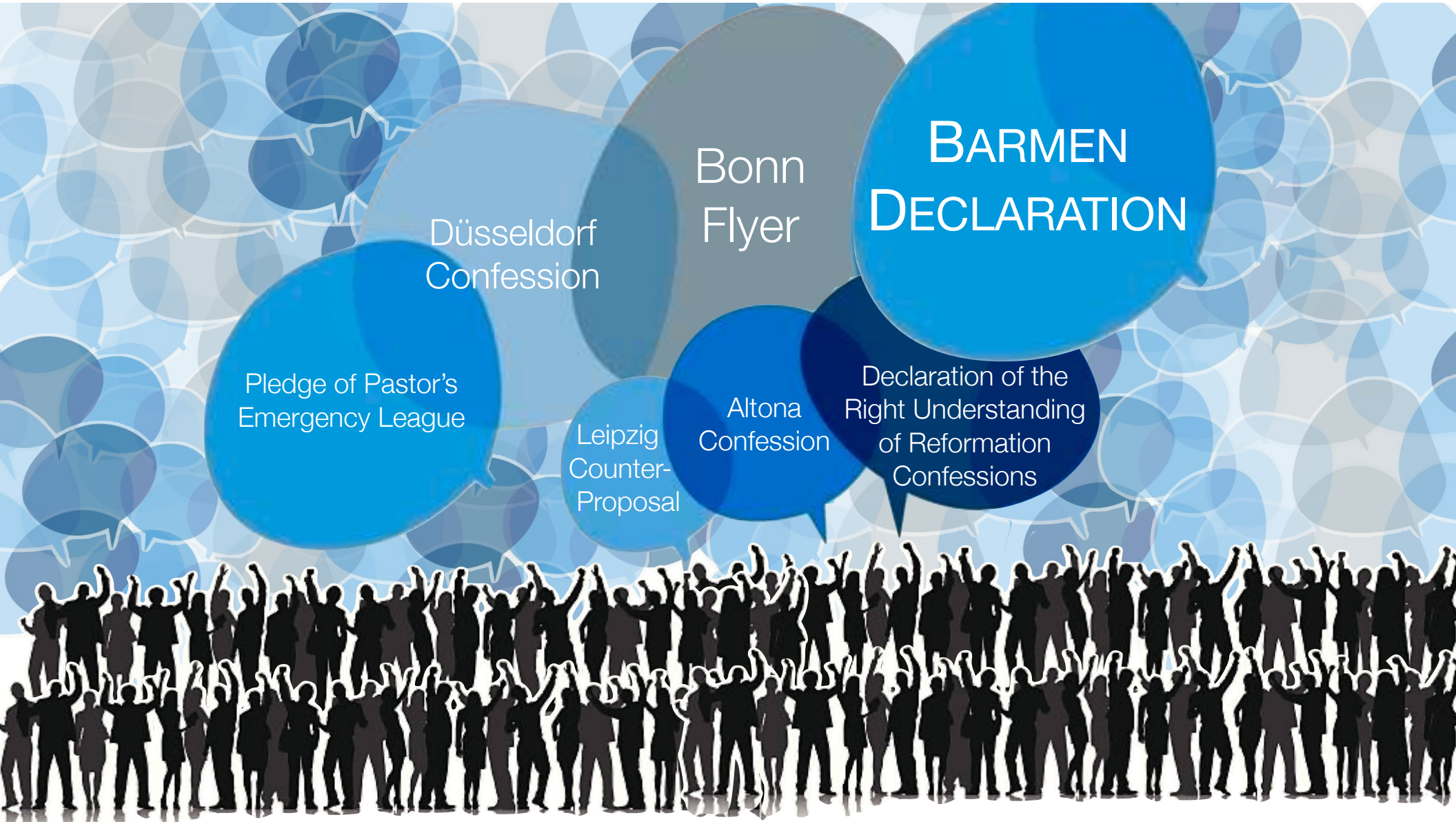


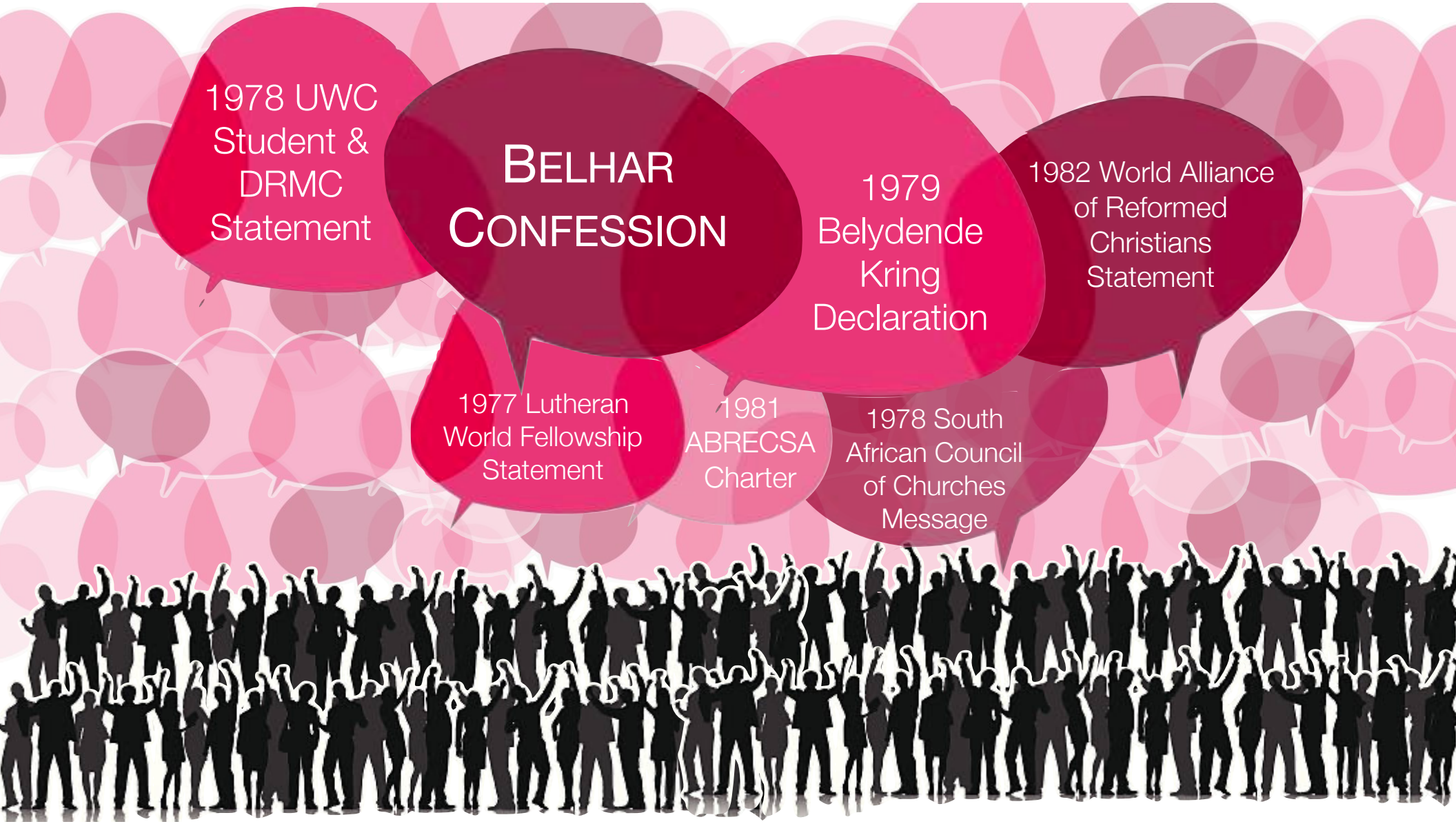



We, Here, Now Confess This


We, Here, Now Confess This


We, Here, Now Confess This

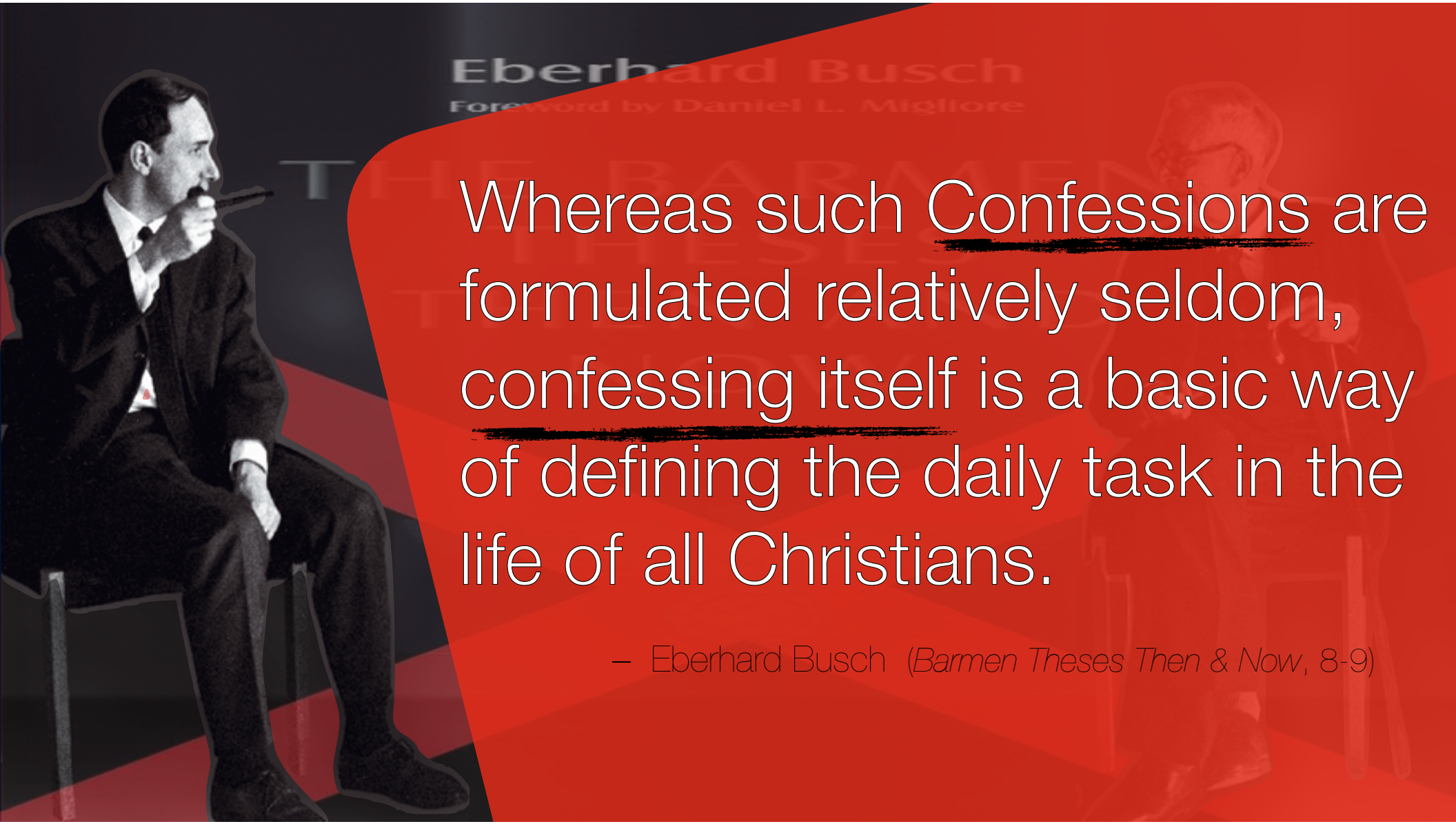

Pledge of Pastor's Emergency League
Düsseldorf Confession
Bonn Flyer
Leipzig Counter-Proposal
Altona Confession
Declaration of the Right Understanding of Reformation Confessions
BARMEN DECLARATION


1978 UWC Student & DRMC Statement
BELHAR CONFESSION
1979 Belydende Kring Declaration
1982 World Alliance of Reformed Christians Statement
1977 Lutheran World Fellowship Statement
1981 ABRECSA Charter
1978 South African Council of Churches Message

ONCE A CONFESSION HAS BEEN FORMALLY APPROVED, THAT CHURCH SPEAKS OR CONFESSES, RATHER THAN THE AUTHORS OR COMMITTEE THAT FORMULATED IT. IT IS COMMUNAL AUTHORSHIP THAT IS AT WORK HERE.

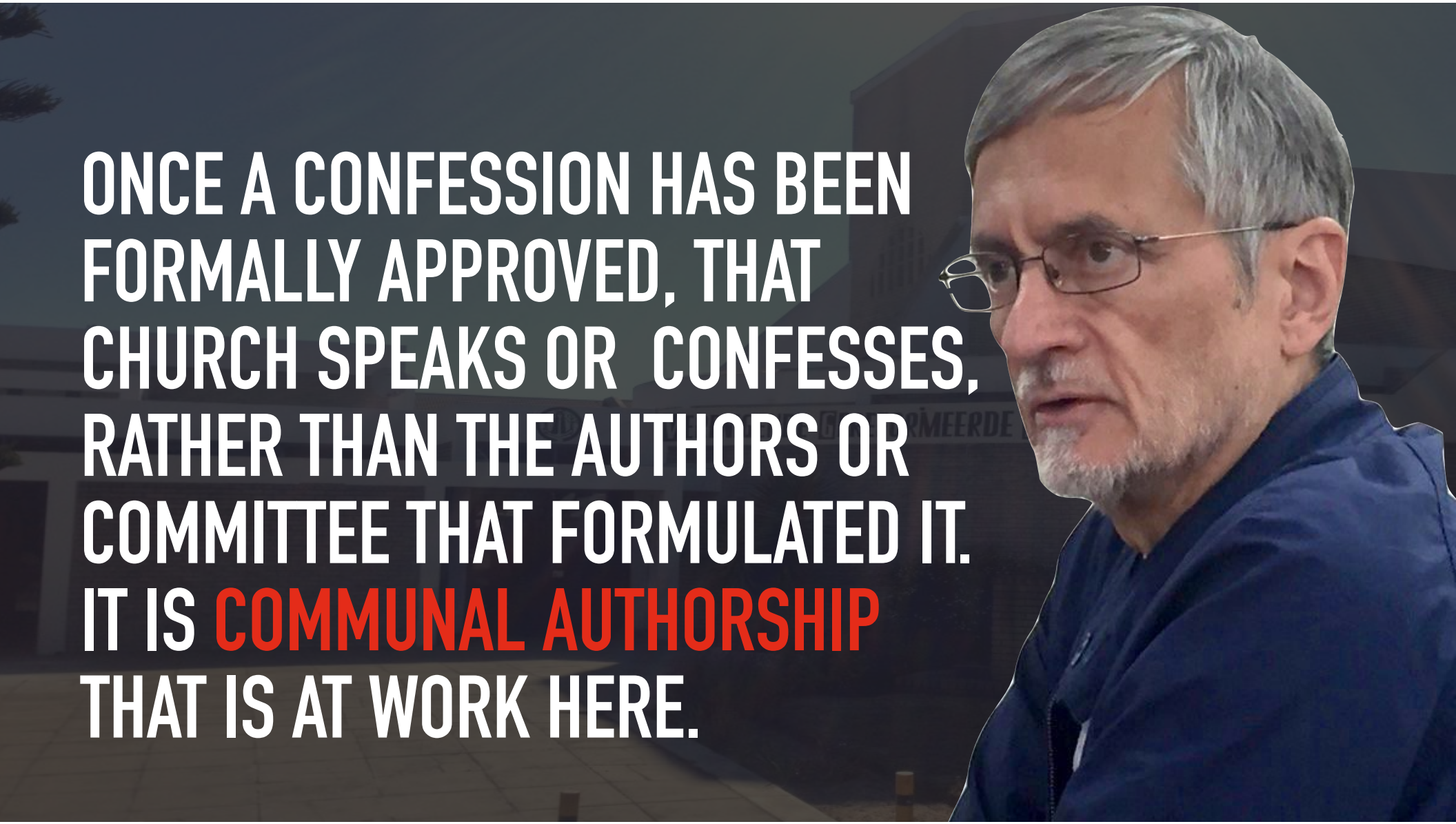
– Klippies Kritzinger "Celebrating Communal Authorship"



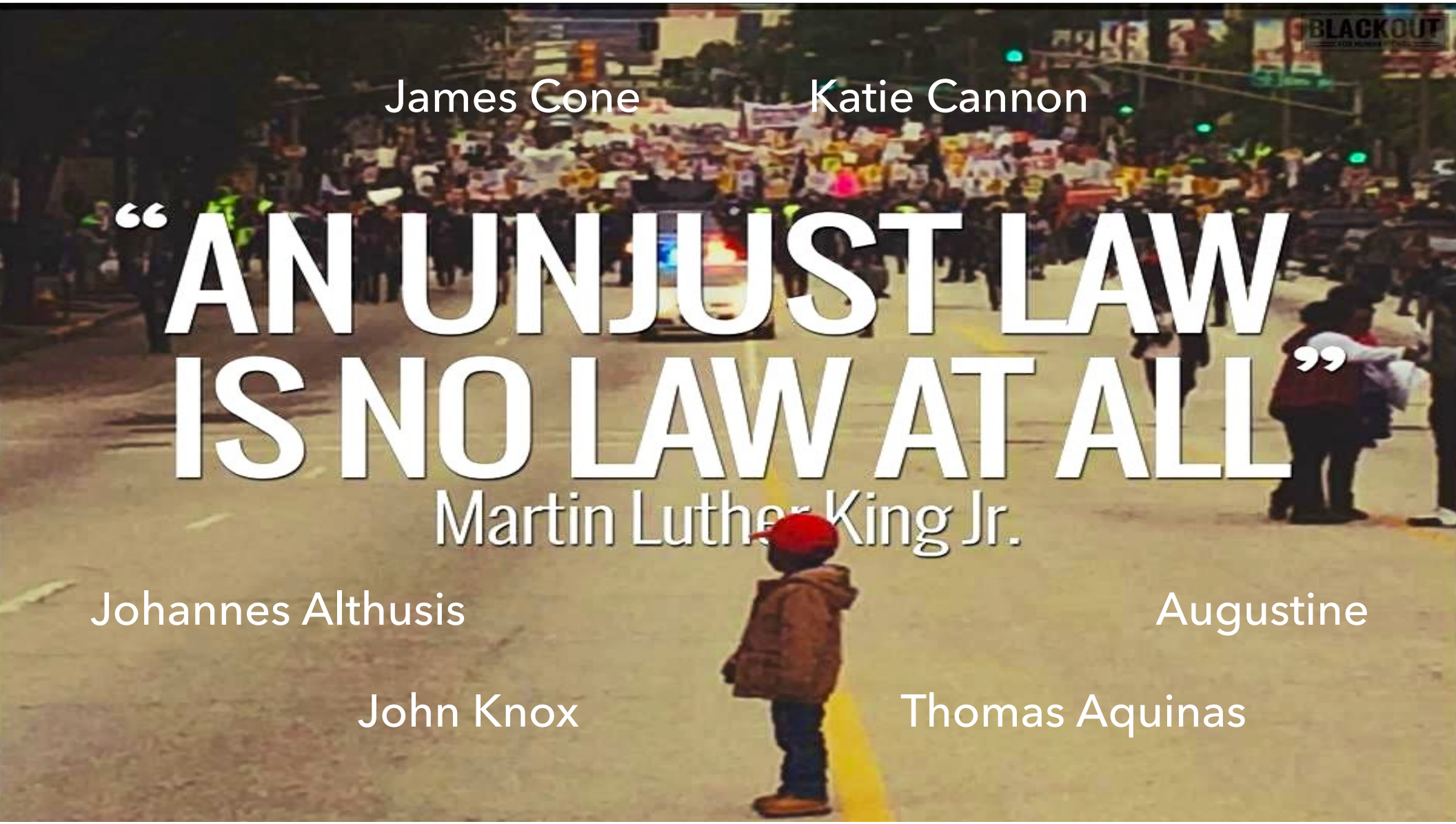


Whereas such Confessions are formulated relatively seldom, confessing itself is a basic way of defining the daily task in the life of all Christians.

– Eberhard Busch (*Barmen Theses Then & Now*, 8-9)


ONCE A CONFESSION HAS BEEN FORMALLY APPROVED, THAT CHURCH SPEAKS OR CONFESSES, RATHER THAN THE AUTHORS OR COMMITTEE THAT FORMULATED IT. IT IS COMMUNAL AUTHORSHIP THAT IS AT WORK HERE.


A Declaration by the Representatives of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, in General Congress assembled.
When in the course of human events it becomes necessary for a people to
We hold these truths to be
that all men are created equal
that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights
that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.
that to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among men, deriving their
just powers from the consent of the governed,
that whenever any form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people
to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such
principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness.
prudence indeed will dictate that governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed.
But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same object
evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such government, and to provide new guards for their future security.
Such has been the patient sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former systems of government.
The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States.
To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world.
He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good.
He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation till his Assent should be obtained, and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them.
He has refused to pass other Laws for the accommodation of large districts of people, unless those people would relinquish the right of Representation, a right inestimable to them and formidable to tyrants only.
He has called together legislative bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the depository of their public records, for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into compliance with his measures.
He has dissolved Representative houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly firmness his invasions on the rights of the people.
He has refused for a long time, after such dissolutions, to cause others to be elected, whereby the legislative powers, incapable of annihilation, have returned to the people at large for their exercise, the State remaining in the mean time exposed to all the dangers of invasion from without, and convulsions within.
He has endeavored to prevent the population of these States; for that purpose obstructing the Laws for naturalization of foreigners, refusing to pass others to encourage their migrations hither, and raising the conditions of new Appropriations of lands.
He has obstructed the Administration of Justice, by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary powers.
He has made Judges dependent on his Will alone, for the tenure of their offices, and the amount and payment of their salaries.
He has erected a multitude of New Offices, and sent hither swarms of Officers to harass our people, and eat out their substance.
He has kept among us, in times of peace, Standing Armies without the Consent of our legislatures.
He has affected to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil power.
He has combined with others to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitution, and unacknowledged by our laws; giving his Assent to their Acts of pretended Legislation:
For quartering large bodies of armed troops among us:
For protecting them, by a mock Trial, from punishment for any murders which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States:
For cutting off our Trade with all parts of the world:
For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent:
For depriving us, in many cases, of the benefits of Trial by Jury:
For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended offences
For abolishing the free System of English Laws in a neighbouring Province, establishing therein an Arbitrary government, and enlarging its Boundaries so as to render it at once an example and fit instrument for introducing the same absolute rule into these Colonies:
For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws, and altering fundamentally the Forms of our Governments:
For suspending our own Legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with Power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever.
He has abdicated Government here, by declaring us out of his Protection and waging War against us.
He has plundered our seas, ravaged our Coasts, burnt our Towns, and destroyed the lives of our people.
He is at this time transporting large Armies of foreign Mercenaries to compleat the works of death, desolation and tyranny, already begun with circumstances of Cruelty & perfidy scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages, and totally unworthy the Head of a civilized nation.
He has constrained our fellow Citizens taken Captive on the high Seas to bear Arms against their Country, to become the executioners of their friends and Brethren, or to fall themselves by their Hands.
He has excited domestic insurrections amongst us, and has endeavoured to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers, the merciless Indian Savages, whose known rule of warfare, is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes and conditions of existence.
In every stage of these Oppressions We have Petitioned for Redress in the most humble terms: Our repeated Petitions have been answered only by repeated injury. A Prince whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a People who mean to be free.
Nor have We been wanting in attention to our British brethren. We have warned them from time to time of attempts by their legislature to extend an unwarrantable jurisdiction over these our States. We have reminded them of the circumstances of our emigration & settlement here. We have appealed to their native justice and magnanimity, and we have conjured them by the ties of our common kindred to disavow these usurpations, which would inevitably interrupt our connections and correspondence. They too have been deaf to the voice of justice & of consanguinity. We must, therefore, acquiesce in the necessity, which denounces our Separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of mankind, enemies in war, in peace friends.
We, therefore, the Representatives of the United States of America in General Congress assembled, do, in the Name, & by authority of the good people of these States, reject and renounce all allegiance and subjection to the kings of Great Britain and all others who may hereafter claim by, through, or under them; we utterly dissolve all political connection which may heretofore have subsisted between us & the people or parliament of Great Britain: and finally we do assert and declare these colonies to be free and independent states, and that as free & independent states they have full power to levy war, conclude peace, contract alliances, establish commerce, & to do all other acts and things which independent states may of right do. And for the support of this declaration, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes, & our sacred honor.


James Cone
Katie Cannon
“AN UNJUST LAW IS NO LAW AT ALL”
Martin Luther King Jr.
Johannes Althusis
Augustine
John Knox
Thomas Aquinas

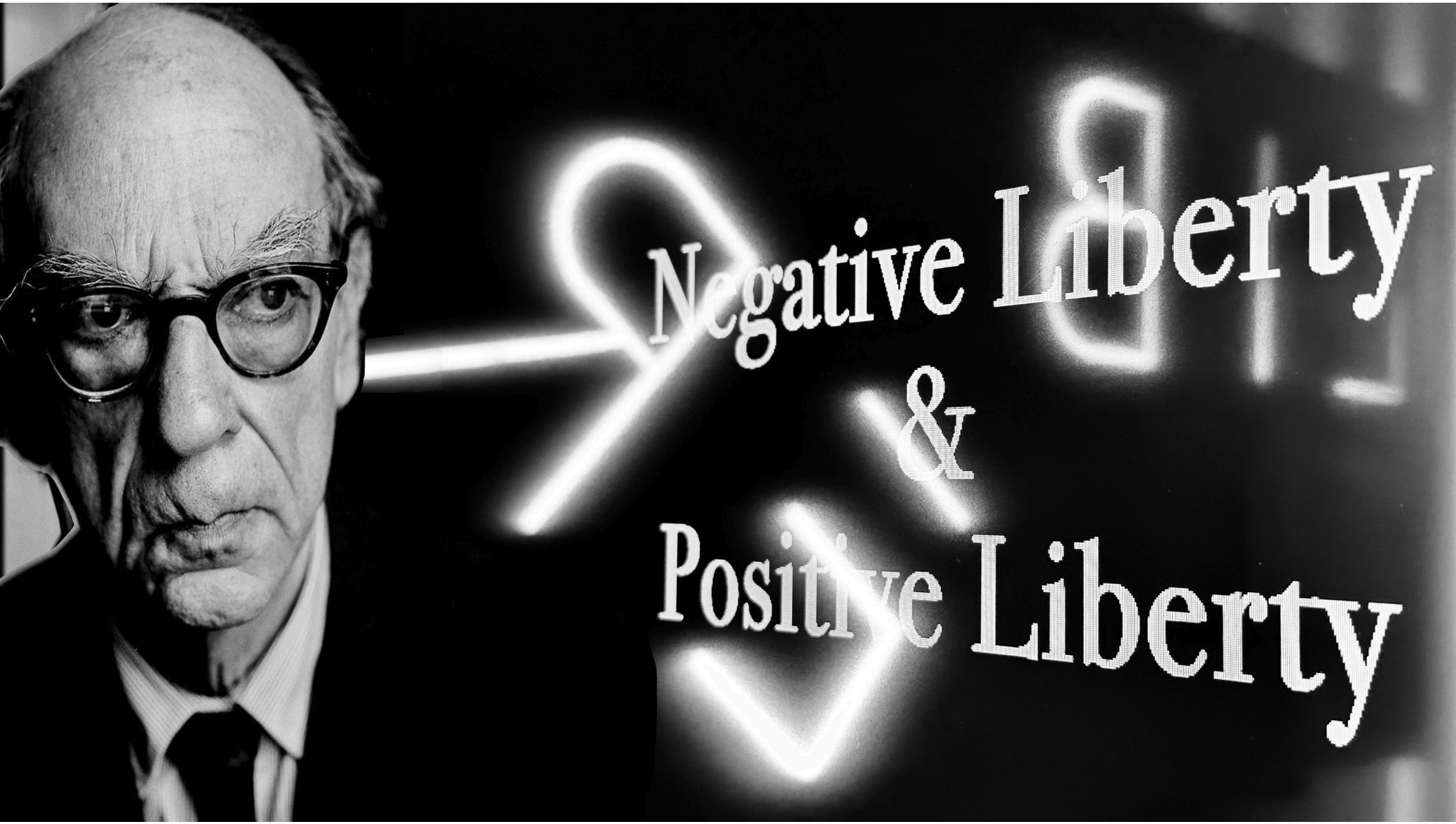

DIS?OBEY?



¿WHAT IS "FREEDOM"?



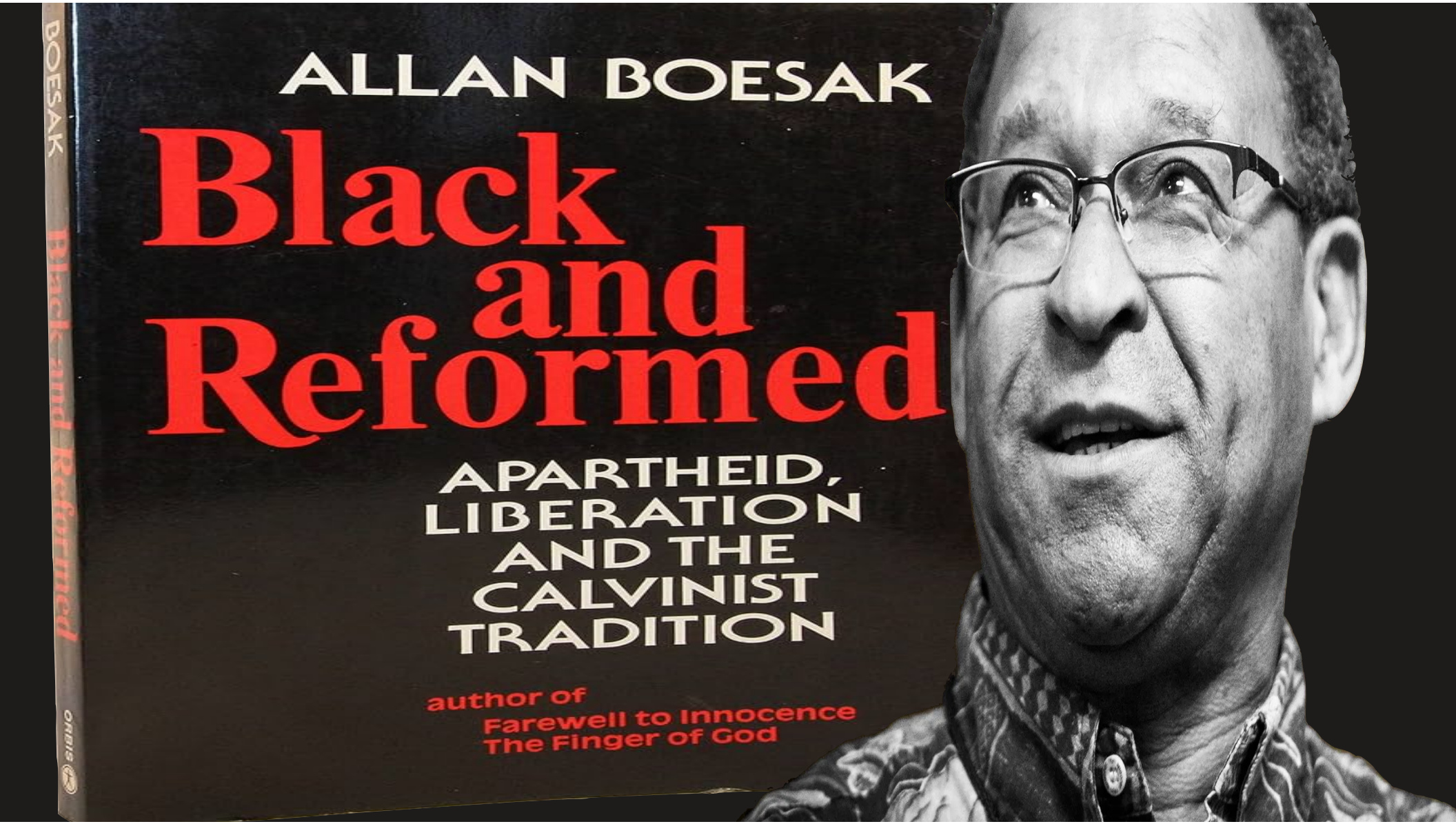

S.C.
N.C.
V.A.
M.D.
N.J.
N.Y.
N.E.
JOIN, or DIE.
DONT TREAD ON ME


Negative Liberty
&
Positive Liberty


Nur für Juden!
EUROPEANS
BLANKES


CIVITAS
DEI


SPRINGBOKS
GO HOME
SUPPORT BLACK
LIBERATION
DON'T PLAY RUGBY
WITH
RACISTS


BOESAK
Black and Reformed
ORBIS
ALLAN BOESAK
Black and Reformed
APARTHEID, LIBERATION AND THE CALVINIST TRADITION
author of
Farewell to Innocence
The Finger of God

THE REFORMED TRADITION HAS A FUTURE IN THIS COUNTRY ONLY IF BLACK REFORMED CHRISTIANS ARE WILLING TO TAKE IT AND MAKE IT TRULY THEIR OWN, AND LET THIS TRADITION ONCE AGAIN BECOME WHAT IT ONCE WAS: A CHAMPION OF THE CAUSE OF THE POOR AND THE OPPRESSED.

— Allan Boesak ("Black & Reformed," 95)

