

1 Corinthians 7:17-24

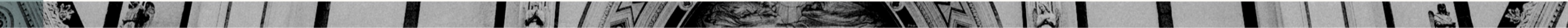
# HOLINESS IN DEVOTION TO GOD





1 CORINTHIANS

# POP QUIZ



1 CORINTHIANS

## POP QUIZ

1. Who wrote the letter of 1 Corinthians?

1 CORINTHIANS

## POP QUIZ

2. Where is Corinth located?

a. Italy

b. Turkey

c. Greece

d. Israel

1 CORINTHIANS

## POP QUIZ

3. Which of the following topics is **NOT** addressed in the letter?

a. Incest

b. Marriage

c. Sexual Immorality

d. Lawsuits

1 CORINTHIANS

## POP QUIZ

3. Which of the following topics is **NOT** addressed in the letter?

- a. Incest      b. Marriage      c. Sexual Immorality      d. Lawsuits
- e. All of the above

1 CORINTHIANS

## POP QUIZ

4. What is the name of the woman who reported the problems within the Corinthian church to the Apostle Paul?

1 Corinthians 7:17-24

# HOLINESS IN DEVOTION TO GOD





How should my conversion  
affect my life status?

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## How should my conversion affect my life status?

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MARITAL STATUS:  
**MAKE NO CHANGE**

RELIGIOUS STATUS:  
**MAKE NO CHANGE**

VOCATIONAL STATUS:  
**MAKE NO CHANGE**

## How should my conversion affect my life status?


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MARITAL STATUS:  
**MAKE NO CHANGE**

RELIGIOUS STATUS:  
**MAKE NO CHANGE**

VOCATIONAL STATUS:  
**MAKE NO CHANGE**

IN OTHER WORDS:  
**STAY PUT!**



**Marital Status**  
**Religious Status**  
**Vocational Status**

**1 Corinthians 7:17** <sup>NIV</sup>

Nevertheless, each person should live as a believer in whatever situation the Lord has assigned to them, just as God has called them. This is the rule I lay down in all the churches.



**Marital Status**  
Religious Status  
Vocational Status

## 1 Corinthians 7:8-13 <sup>NIV</sup>

Now to the unmarried and the widows I say: It is good for them to stay unmarried, as I do.<sup>9</sup> But if they cannot control themselves, they should marry, for it is better to marry than to burn with passion.

<sup>10</sup> To the married I give this command (not I, but the Lord): A wife must not separate from her husband. <sup>11</sup> But if she does, she must remain unmarried or else be reconciled to her husband. And a husband must not divorce his wife.

<sup>12</sup> To the rest I say this (I, not the Lord): If any brother has a wife who is not a believer and she is willing to live with him, he must not divorce her.

<sup>13</sup> And if a woman has a husband who is not a believer and he is willing to live with her, she must not divorce him.



# SEXUAL ETHIC

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Sex is to be practiced in the context  
of a heterosexual monogamous  
marriage relationship for life.



# SEXUAL ETHIC

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God designed sex biologically, relationally, emotionally, and spiritually to be expressed in the context of a faithful covenant marriage relationship between a man and woman.

# SEXUAL ETHIC

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Therefore, sex outside of marriage is a sin. That includes pre-marital sex, extramarital sex, homosexual sex, multiple partner sex, rape, incest, bestiality, and pornography.



**Marital Status**  
Religious Status  
Vocational Status


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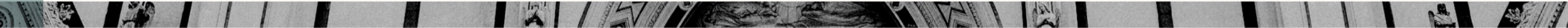
<sup>13</sup> And if a woman has a husband who is not a believer and he is willing to live with her, she must not divorce him.



**Marital Status**  
Religious Status  
Vocational Status

### 1 Corinthians 7:32-35 <sup>NIV</sup>

I would like you to be free from concern. An unmarried man is concerned about the Lord's affairs—how he can please the Lord. <sup>33</sup> But a married man is concerned about the affairs of this world—how he can please his wife—<sup>34</sup> and his interests are divided. An unmarried woman or virgin is concerned about the Lord's affairs: Her aim is to be devoted to the Lord in both body and spirit. But a married woman is concerned about the affairs of this world—how she can please her husband. <sup>35</sup> I am saying this for your own good, not to restrict you, but that you may live in a right way in undivided devotion to the Lord.





ACCORDING TO PAUL

# Advantages of Singleness

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**UNDIVIDED DEVOTION**

**DIMINISHED COMPLEXITY**

**GREATER POTENTIAL IMPACT**



**The bible teaches that both singleness and marriage are pathways to glorifying God.**



# Things not to say to singles






## Things not to say to singles



“So...Are you dating anyone?” (“Why aren’t you married?”)



## Things not to say to singles




“So...Are you dating anyone?” (“Why aren’t you married?”)

“Have you tried dating apps?” (“Put yourself out there.”)



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“You are being too picky, the perfect person doesn’t exist.”

**“Your time will come when you least expect it.”**



## Things not to say to singles

“So...Are you dating anyone?” (“Why aren’t you married?”)

“Have you tried dating apps?” (“Put yourself out there.”)

“You are being too picky, the perfect person doesn’t exist.”

“Your time will come when you least expect it.”

**“Are you free to babysit?”**



Marital Status  
**Religious Status**  
Vocational Status



### 1 Corinthians 7:18-20 <sup>NIV</sup>

Was a man already circumcised when he was called? He should not become uncircumcised. Was a man uncircumcised when he was called? He should not be circumcised. <sup>19</sup> Circumcision is nothing and uncircumcision is nothing. Keeping God's commands is what counts. <sup>20</sup> Each person should remain in the situation they were in when God called them.

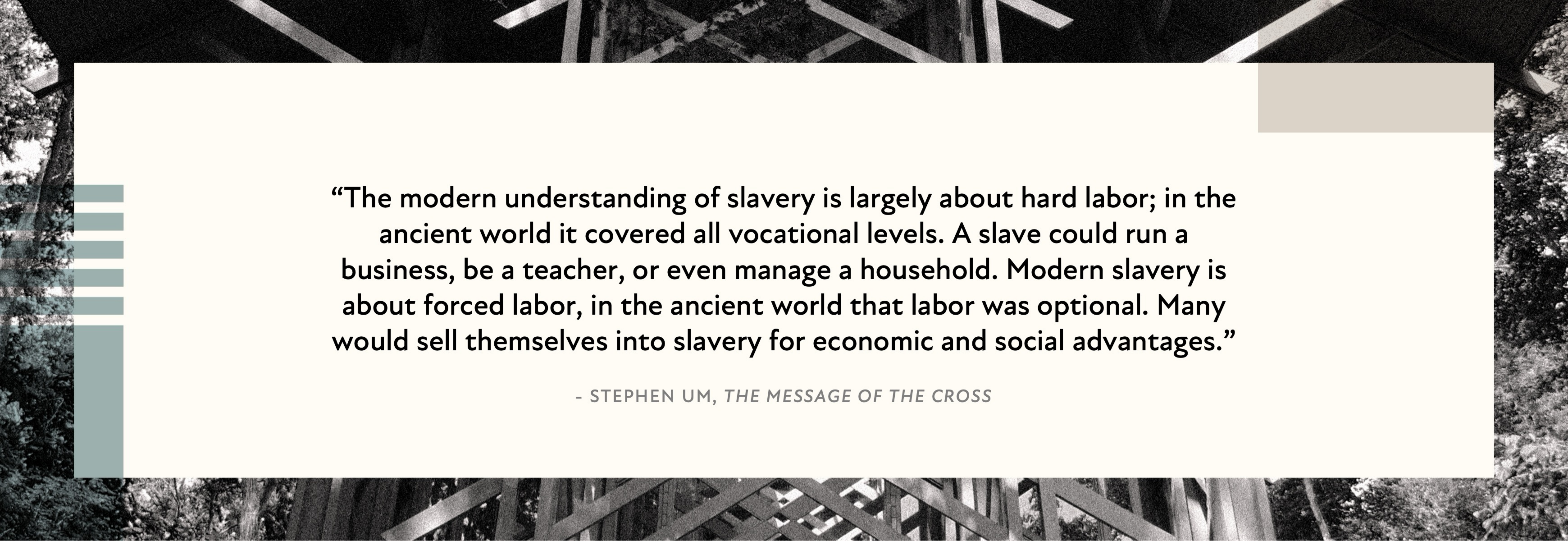


Marital Status  
Religious Status  
**Vocational Status**

### 1 Corinthians 7:21-24 <sup>NIV</sup>

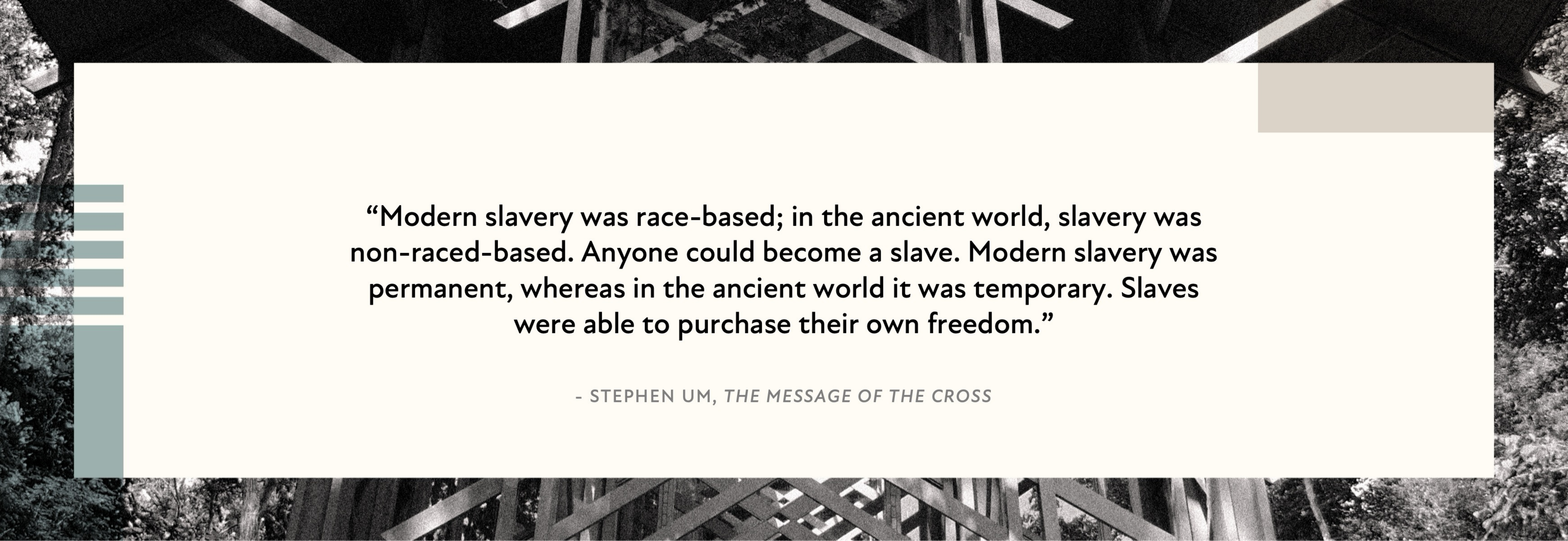
Were you a slave when you were called? Don't let it trouble you—although if you can gain your freedom, do so. <sup>22</sup> For the one who was a slave when called to faith in the Lord is the Lord's freed person; similarly, the one who was free when called is Christ's slave. <sup>23</sup> You were bought at a price; do not become slaves of human beings. <sup>24</sup> Brothers and sisters, each person, as responsible to God, should remain in the situation they were in when God called them.





“The modern understanding of slavery is largely about hard labor; in the ancient world it covered all vocational levels. A slave could run a business, be a teacher, or even manage a household. Modern slavery is about forced labor, in the ancient world that labor was optional. Many would sell themselves into slavery for economic and social advantages.”

- STEPHEN UM, *THE MESSAGE OF THE CROSS*



**“Modern slavery was race-based; in the ancient world, slavery was non-raced-based. Anyone could become a slave. Modern slavery was permanent, whereas in the ancient world it was temporary. Slaves were able to purchase their own freedom.”**

- STEPHEN UM, *THE MESSAGE OF THE CROSS*



Marital Status  
Religious Status  
**Vocational Status**



### **1 Corinthians 7:21-23** <sup>NIV</sup>

Were you a slave when you were called? Don't let it trouble you—although if you can gain your freedom, do so. <sup>22</sup> For the one who was a slave when called to faith in the Lord is the Lord's freed person; similarly, the one who was free when called is Christ's slave. <sup>23</sup> You were bought at a price; do not become slaves of human beings.



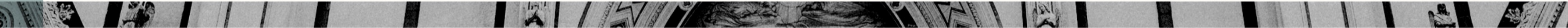
**Marital Status**

**Circumcision**

**Vocational**

**1 Corinthians 7:24** <sup>NIV</sup>

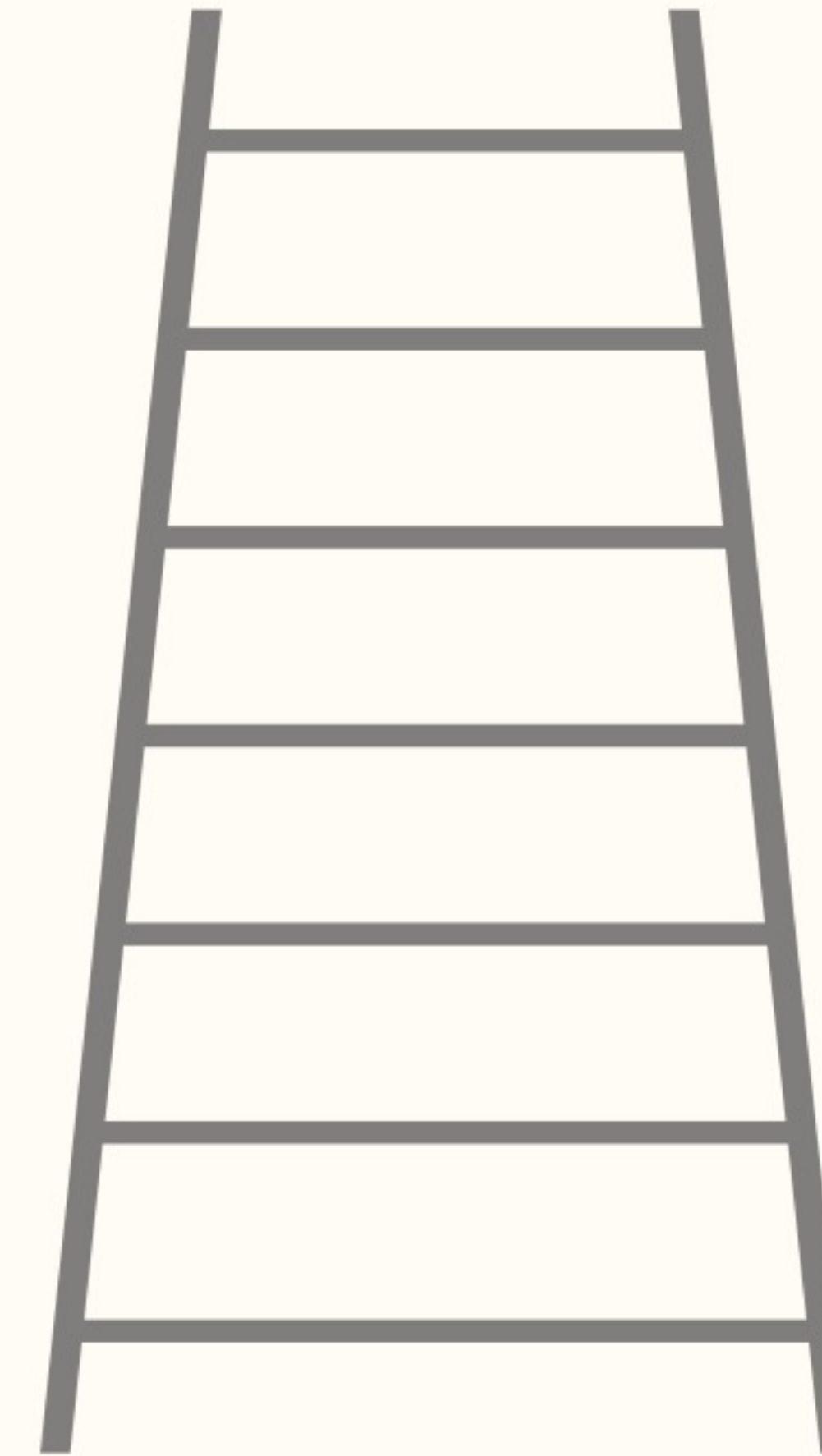
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THE LADDER OF  
**ABSTRACTION**

ABSTRACT



CONCRETE

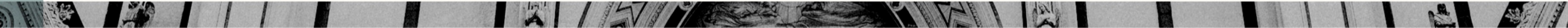


**We are called to be faithful  
regardless of our circumstance.**



APPLICATION

# POP QUIZ



APPLICATION

## POP QUIZ

1. What is the primary focus of your life right now?

a. Your current circumstance

b. Your faithfulness to God

APPLICATION

**POP QUIZ****2. Is being faithful/obedient to Jesus something you...**

a. lived out in the past?

b. are waiting to live out in the future?

c. are living out in the present?

APPLICATION


**POP QUIZ****3. What do you need to do to begin being faithful to him today?**

a. Repent of sin and resist temptation

b. Pursue a vibrant devotional life

c. Join a community of people who are living for the kingdom

d. Think outside myself through giving/serving



**We are called to be faithful  
regardless of our circumstance.**