



LOVE... WHERE YOU LIVE

THE ART OF **NEIGHBORING**

¹ Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ,
To God's elect, exiles scattered throughout the provinces
of Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia, ² who
have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God
the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to be
obedient to Jesus Christ and sprinkled with his blood:
Grace and peace be yours in abundance. ...

1 Peter 1:1-9, 2:9-12

...³ Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,⁴ and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you,⁵ who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. ...

1 Peter 1:1-9, 2:9-12

...⁶ In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials.⁷ These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. ...

1 Peter 1:1-9, 2:9-12

... ⁸ Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, ⁹ for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls. ...

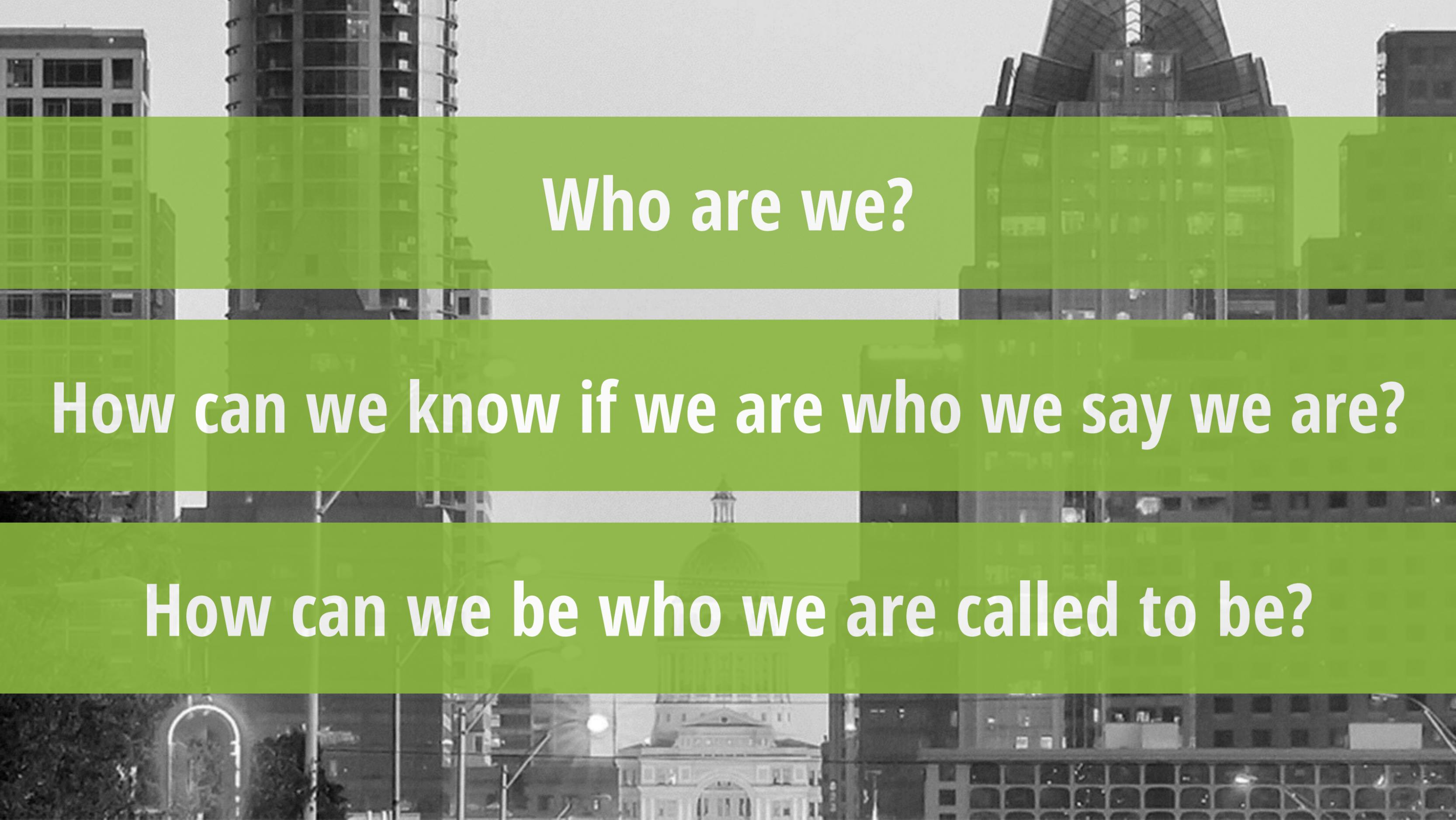
1 Peter 1:1-9, 2:9-12

...⁹ But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. ...

1 Peter 1:1-9, 2:9-12

... ¹¹ Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul. ¹² Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

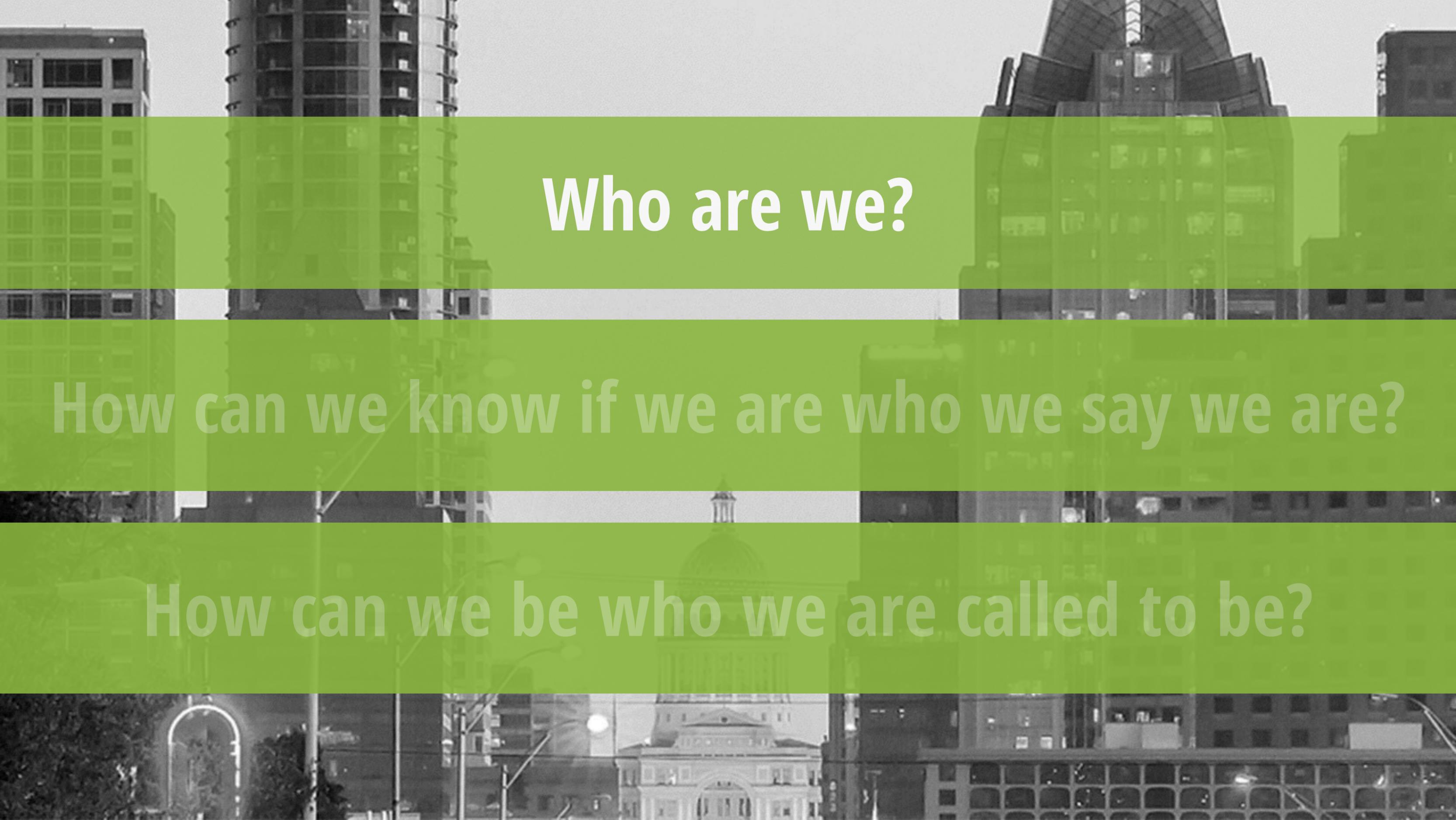
1 Peter 1:1-9, 2:9-12



Who are we?

How can we know if we are who we say we are?

How can we be who we are called to be?



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"To God's elect, **exiles** *scattered*
throughout the provinces..."

1 Peter 1:1

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1 Peter 1:1

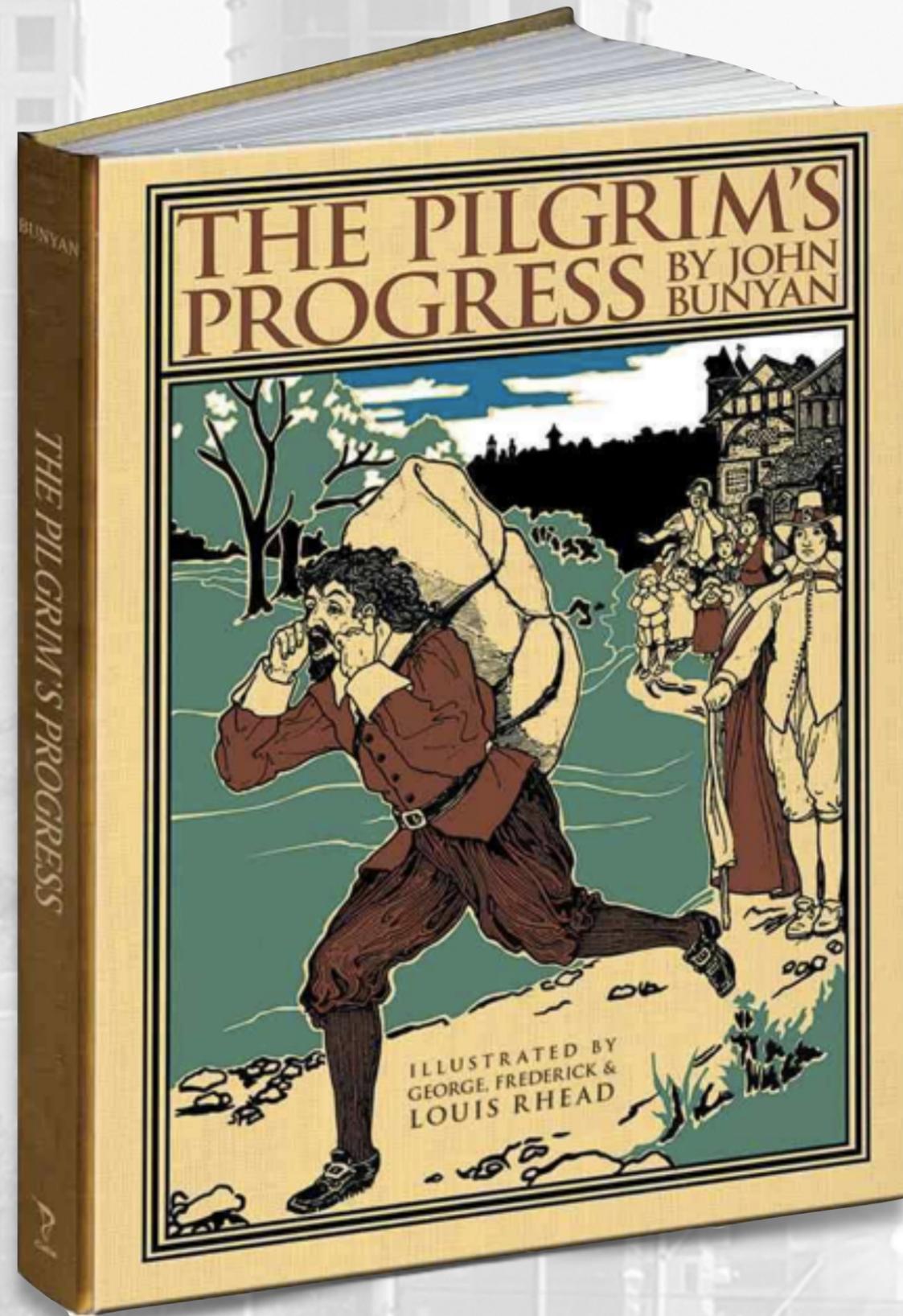
[Greek: ***diaspora***]

"To God's elect, **exiles scattered**
throughout the provinces..."

1 Peter 1:1

parepidēmos: para [alongside] and
pidemos [one who travels or pilgrims
in a strange land]

**"Sideways Walker" or
"Resident Alien"**

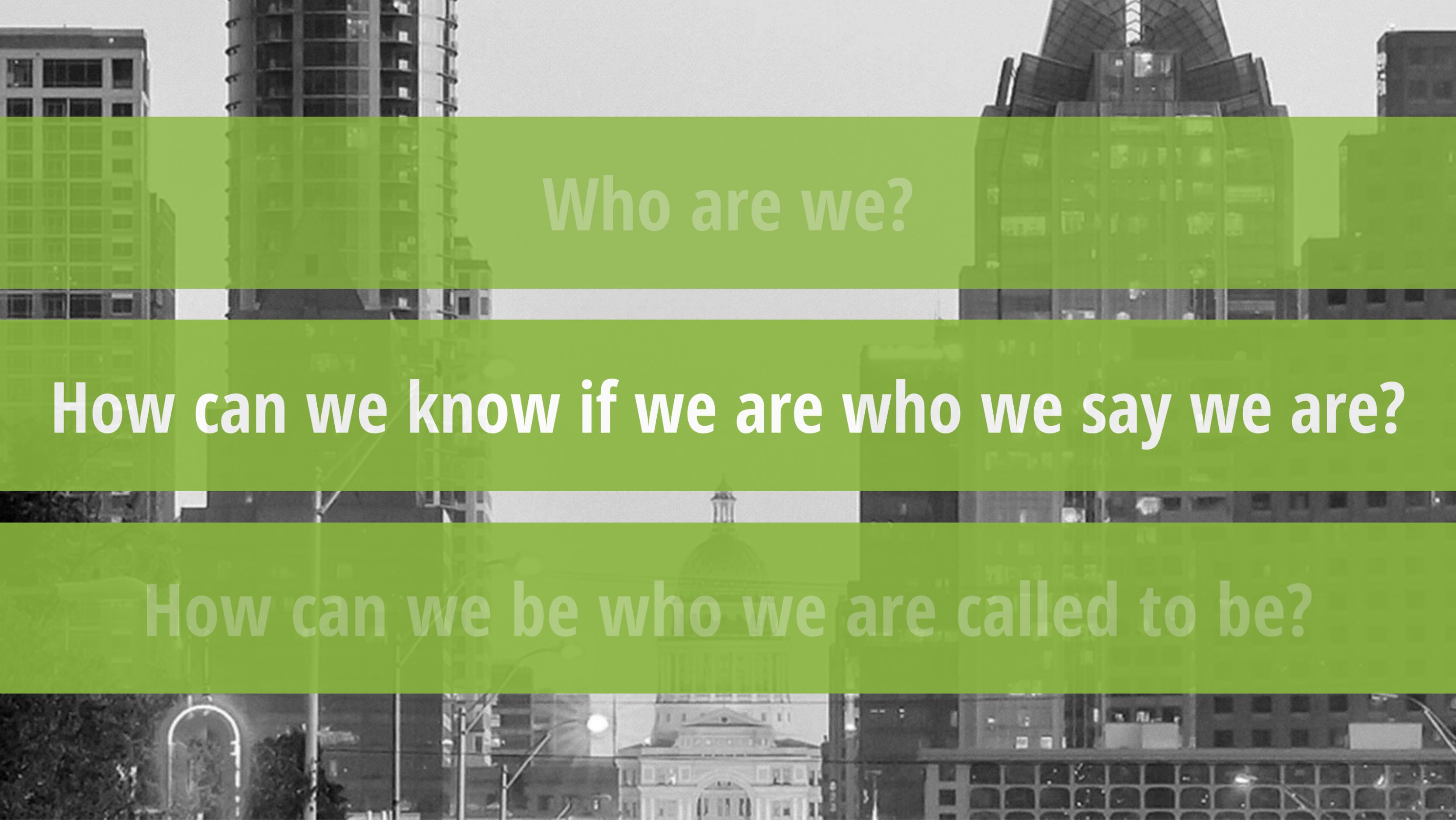


The Pilgrim's Progress from This World to That Which Is to Come

by John Bunyan

"To put it all in a nutshell, why do we have an eagerness to live in limbs that are destined to rot? For most men the approach of dinner, the arrival of a letter or a smile from a passing girl are enough to help them get around it, but the man who digs into ideas finds that being face to face with the fact of death gives rise to disgust and revulsion, and this revolt of the body is what we call nausea."

Albert Camus



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1 Peter 2:11-12

How did they live good lives?

→ They **forgave**.

How did they live good lives?

- They forgave.
- They **cared for the poor.**

"Atheism [Christianity] has been specially advanced through the loving service rendered to strangers, and through their care for the burial of the dead. It is a scandal that there is not one single Jew who is a beggar, and that the godless Galileans care not only for their own poor but for ours as well; while those who belong to us look in vain for the help that we should render them."

Roman Emperor Julian

How did they live good lives?

- They **forgave**.
- They **cared for the poor**.
- They **faced death with joy**.

How did they live good lives?

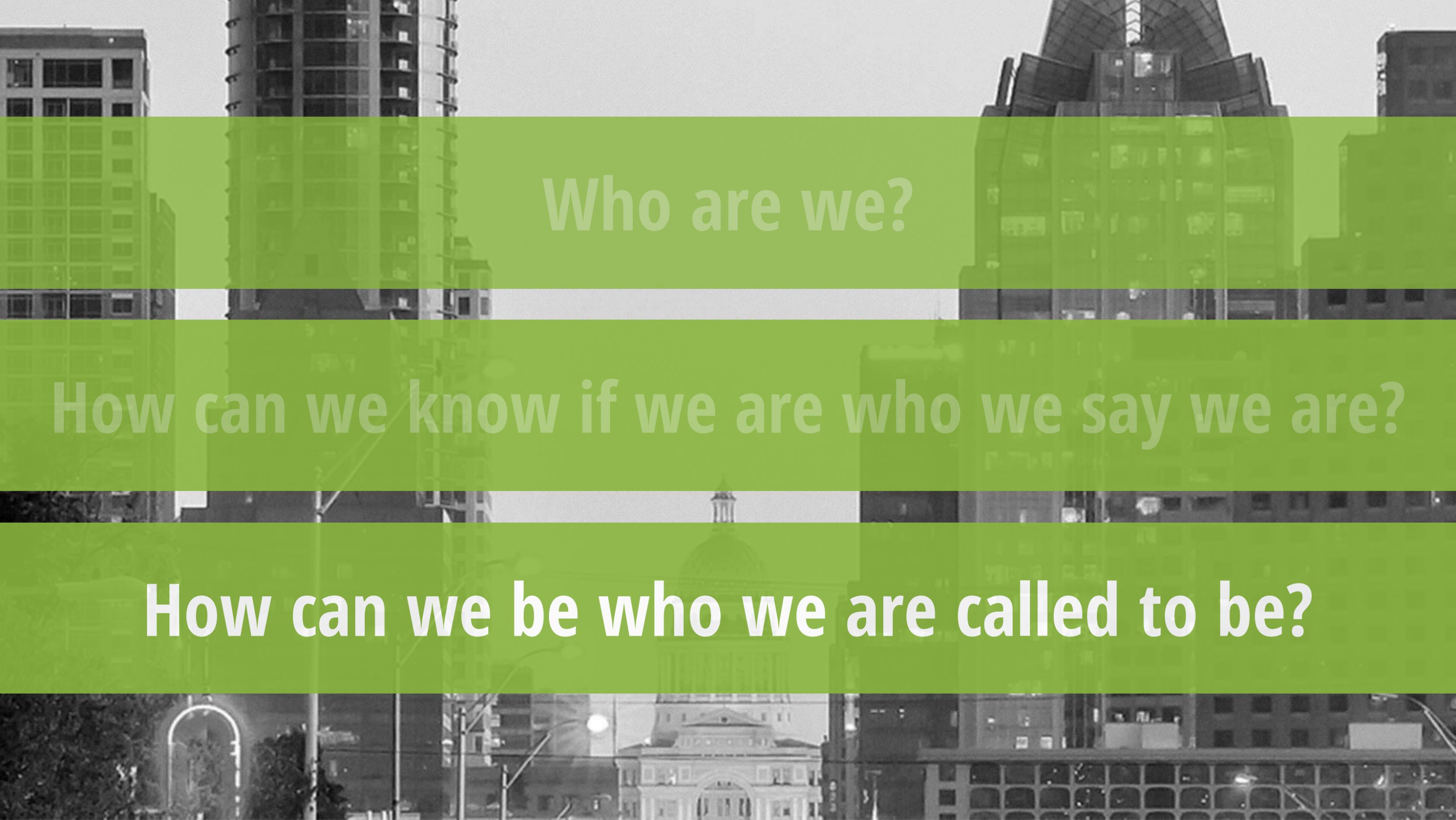
- They **forgave**.
- They **cared for the poor**.
- They **faced death with joy**.
- They **were sexually chaste**.

"Christians are indistinguishable from other men either by nationality, language or customs. They do not inhabit separate cities of their own, or speak a strange dialect, or follow some outlandish way of life. ...

"The Letter to Diognetus"

... And yet there is something extraordinary about their lives. They live in their own countries as though they were only passing through. They play their full role as citizens, but labor under all the disabilities of aliens. Any country can be their homeland, but for them their homeland, wherever it may be, is a foreign country. Like others, they marry and have children, but they do not expose them. They share their meals, but not their wives."

"The Letter to Diognetus"



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1 Peter 2:9-10

"sprinkled with **his blood**"

1 Peter 1:2

"I have come home at last! This is my real country! I belong here. This is the land I have been looking for all my life, though I never knew it till now."

C.S. Lewis | The Last Battle



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