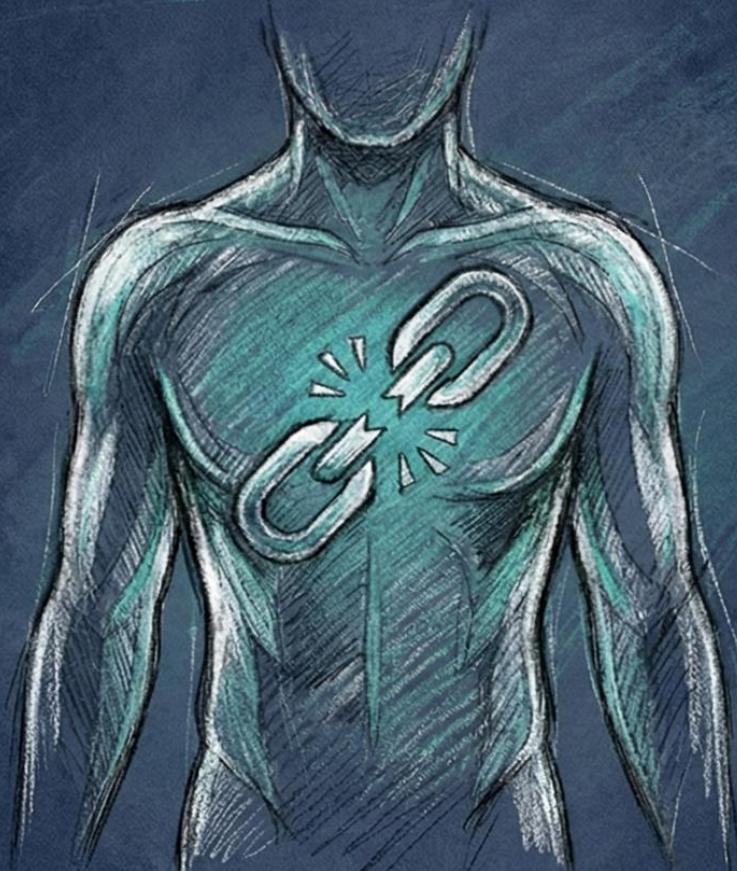


Oneness in the Body



The Unity Crisis:
Divisions and Christ's Call
(1 Cor 1:10-18)

Connecting
East & West

Ionian
Sea

Isthmus
of Corinth

Aegean
Sea

Corinth

Peloponnese

Long & Treacherous
Sea Route

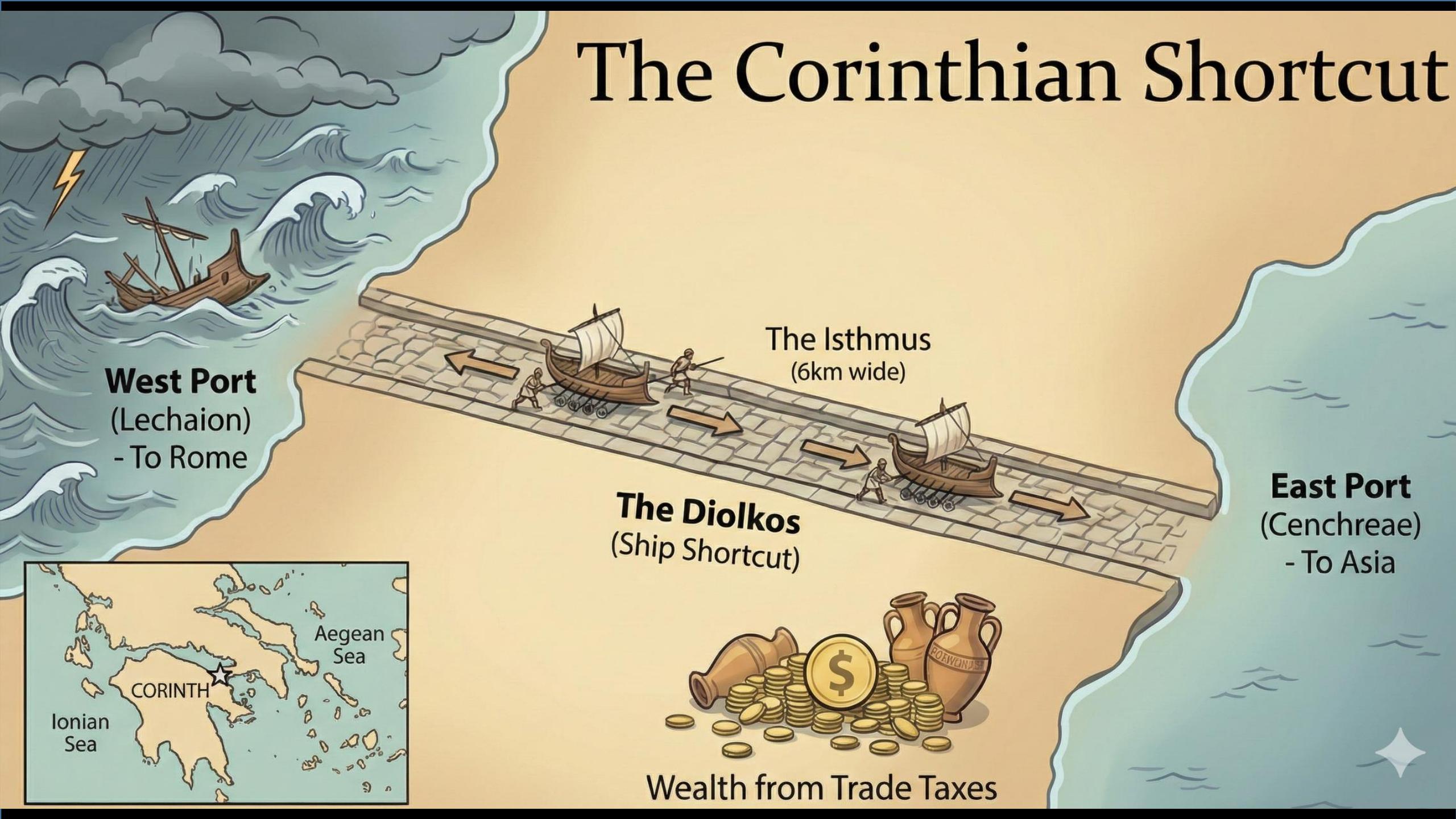
Avoiding the
Dangerous
Southern Cape

Mediterranean Sea

Cape
Maleas

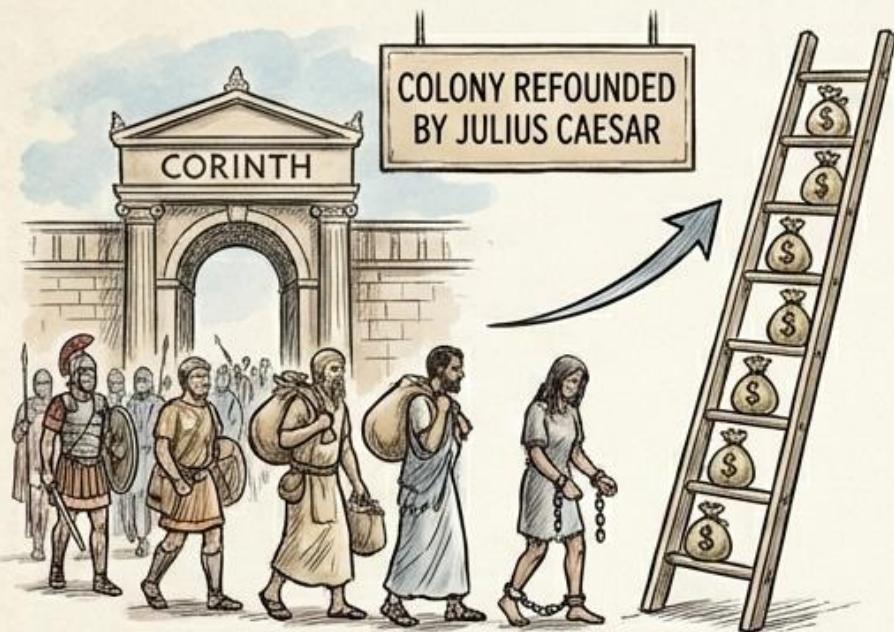
A Vital Trade
& Travel Link

The Corinthian Shortcut



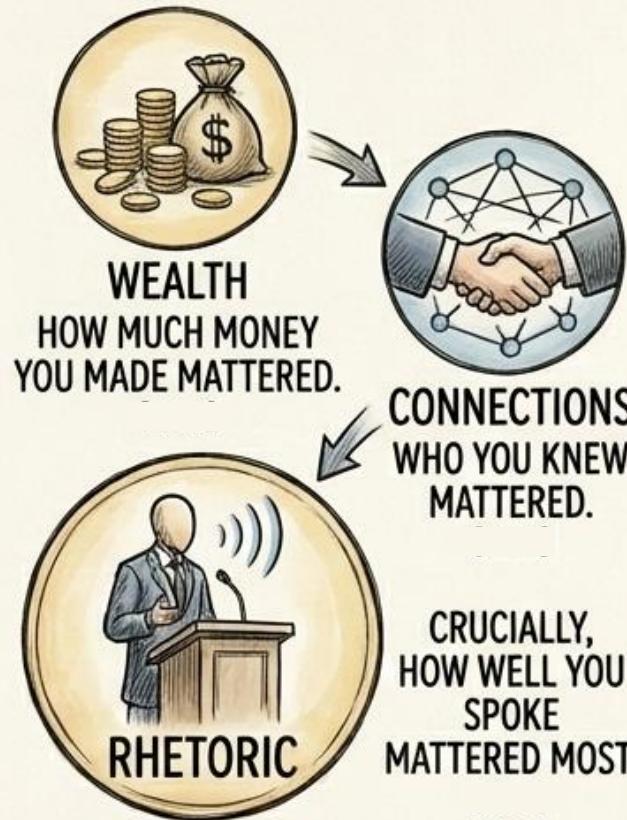
THE CULTURE OF CORINTH: UPWARD MOBILITY & STATUS

REINVENTION & “NEW MONEY”



UNLIKE ROMAN WORLD (FIXED STATUS), CORINTH WAS A PLACE TO REINVENT YOURSELF. POPULATED BY VETERANS, MERCHANTS, FORMER SLAVES. YOU COULD BUY YOUR WAY UP THE SOCIAL LADDER.

DRIVERS OF STATUS



OBSESSION WITH RHETORIC



CROWDS FLOCKED, ARGUED OVER THE BEST, AND CRITIQUED TONE, GESTURES, AND VOCABULARY.

A SOCIETY DRIVEN BY SUCCESS, STATUS, WEALTH, AND CELEBRITY CULTURE.

I appeal to you, brothers and sisters,
in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,
that all of you agree with one another
in what you say and that there be no
divisions among you, but that you be
perfectly united in mind and thought.
(1 Cor 1:10)

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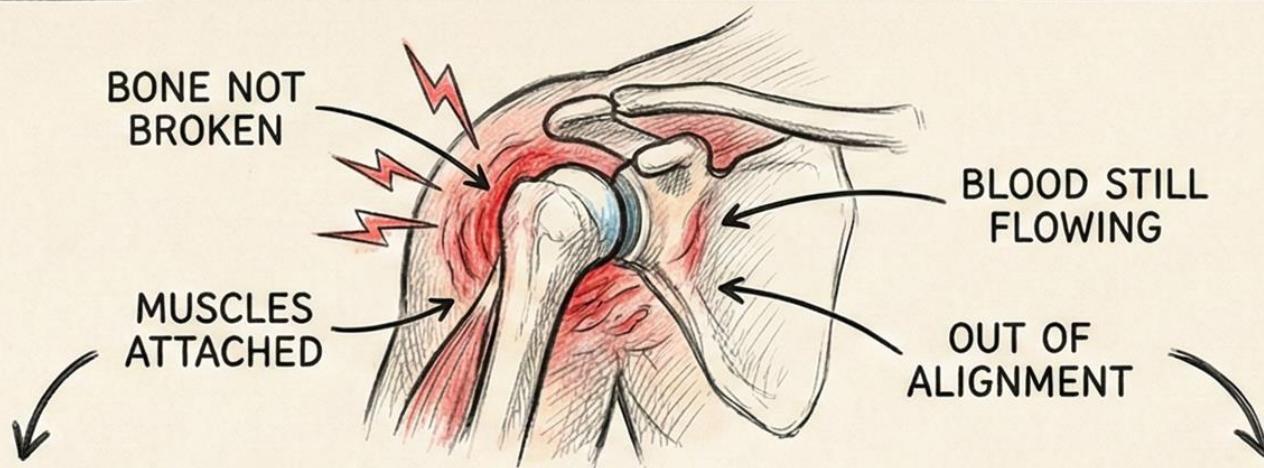
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(1 Cor 1:10)



Katartizo – To Fix or Mend

PAUL'S DIAGNOSIS: THE DISLOCATED BODY



1. PAIN (AGONIZING & HYPERSENSITIVE)

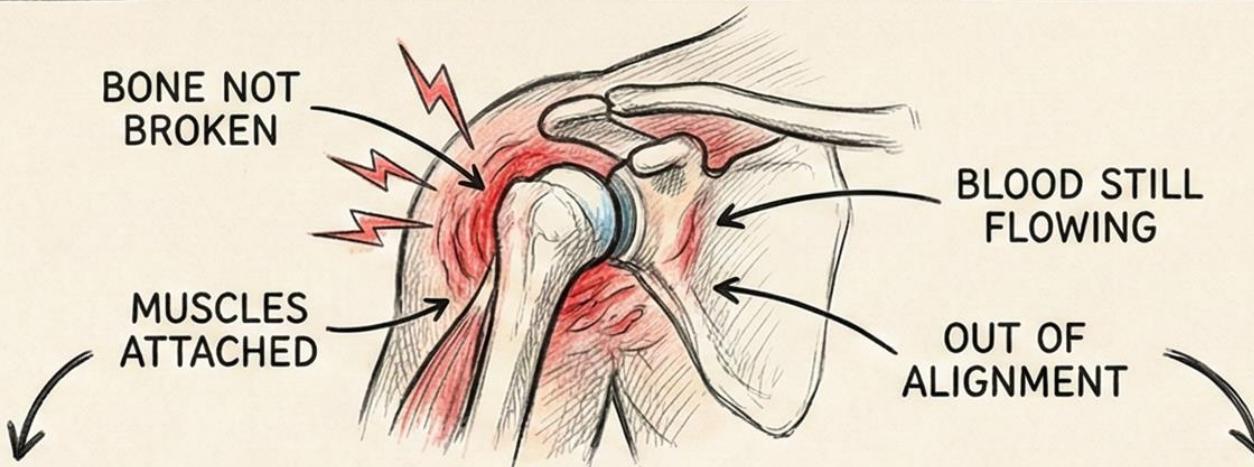


- AGONIZING MOVEMENTS
- HYPERSENSITIVE REACTION
- DECISIONS CAUSE FRICTION
- WALKING ON EGGSHHELLS



- PRESENT THE BACK FRICTION
- PRESENT BUT POWERLESS
- INFLAMED BODY

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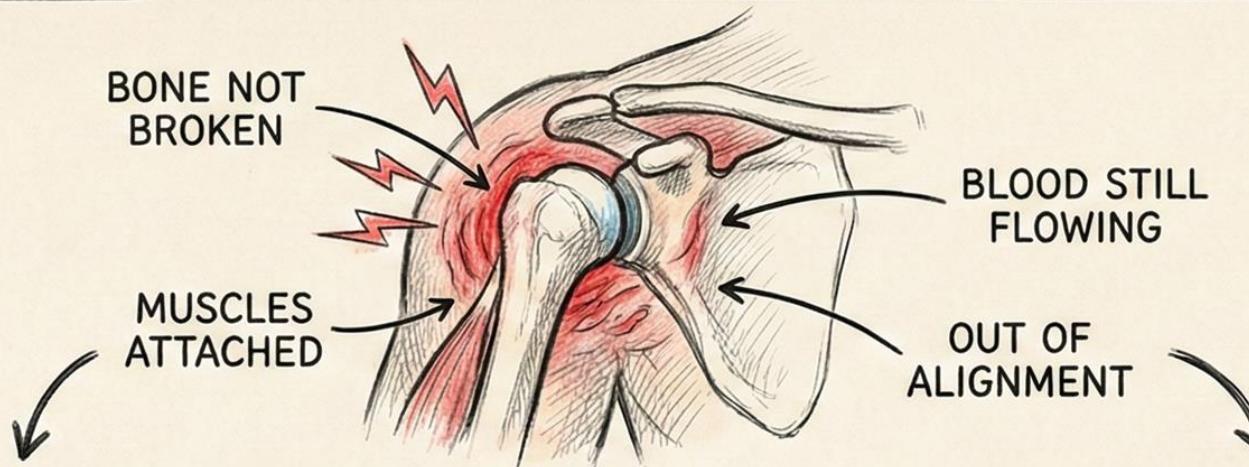
2. PARALYSIS (USELESS & POWERLESS)



- DEAD WEIGHT
- CANNOT LIFT, DRIVE, EMBRACE



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THE TREATMENT: KATARTIZO



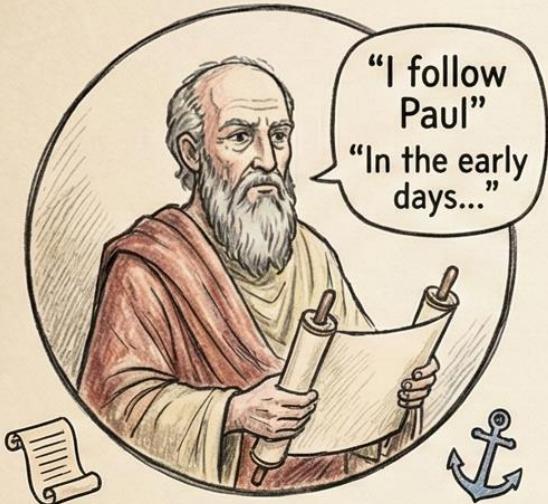
PUT THE BONE
BACK IN PLACE
NOT AMPUTATION

A DISLOCATED BODY THRASHES IN PAIN; IT CANNOT SERVE.

My brothers and sisters, some from Chloe's household have informed me that there are quarrels among you. What I mean is this: One of you says, 'I follow Paul'; another, 'I follow Apollos'; another, 'I follow Cephas'; still another, 'I follow Christ.' (1 Cor 11:11-12)

THE CORINTHIAN “FAN CLUBS”: SPIRITUAL CONSUMERISM

Applying Corinth’s Celebrity Culture to Pastors. Four Ways We Act as Consumers.



1. THE PAUL GROUP (Loyalists / Traditionalists)

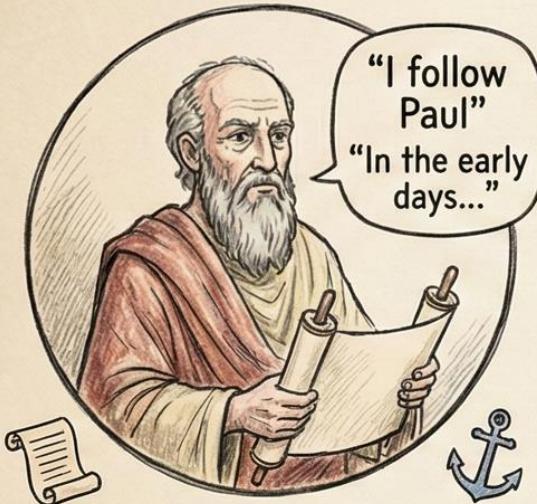
Founder, Planter.
Loved History & Pioneer.
Change = Betrayal.
Valued “Good Old Days”.



FRACTURED INTO FAN CLUBS. ARGUING OVER “BEST” PASTOR.
COMPETITIVE, CELEBRITY-OBSSESSED CULTURE APPLIED TO CHURCH LEADER.

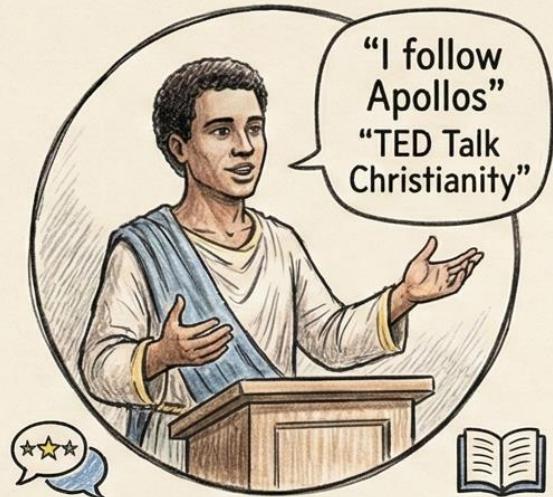
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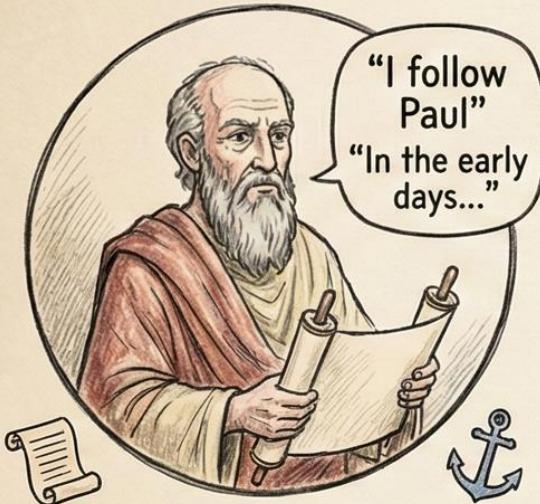
2. THE APOLLOS GROUP (Intellectuals / Stylists)

Alexandrian Scholar, Master Rhetorician.
Polished, Exciting, Superstar Speaker.
Wanted Premium Product.
Followed Talent.

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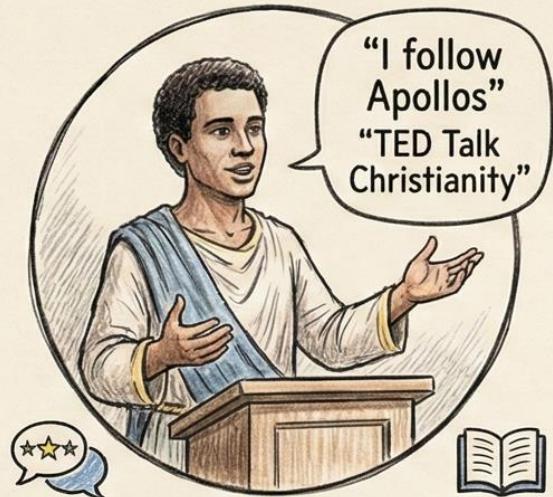
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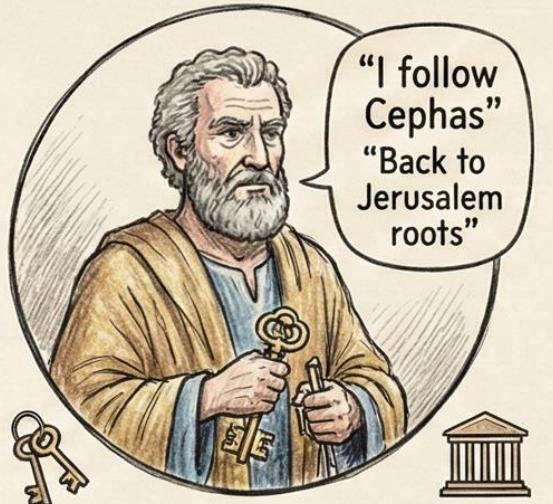
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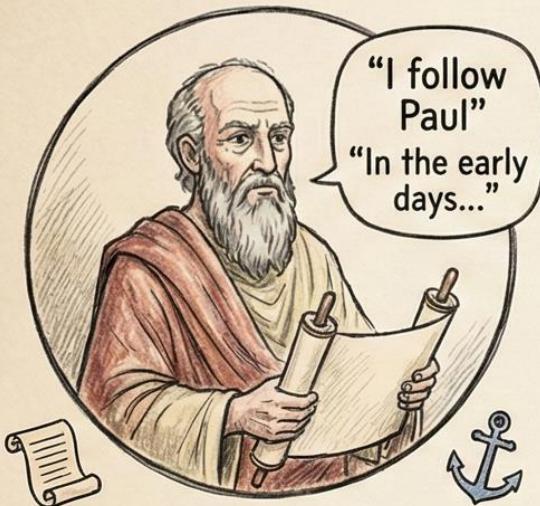
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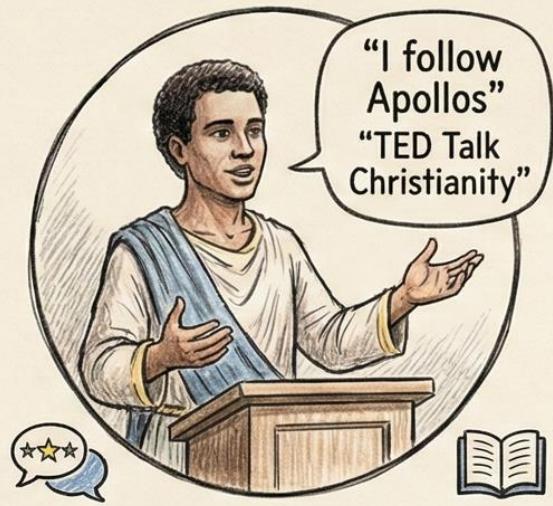
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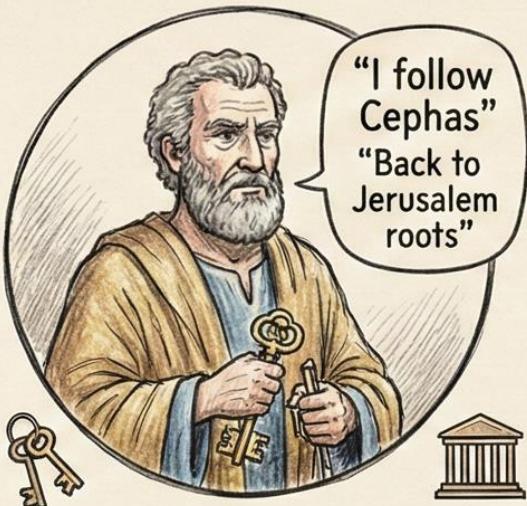
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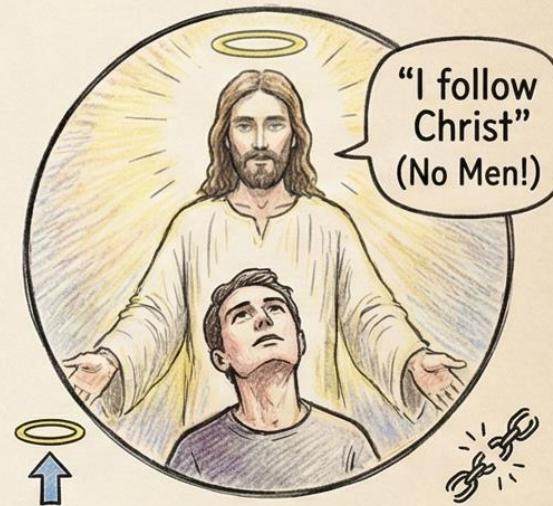
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4. THE CHRIST GROUP (Super-Spiritualists)

Most Arrogant.
“Direct Line to God.”
Rejected Human Leadership
(Paul, Apollos, Peter).
Masked Rebellion with Piety.



FRACTURED INTO FAN CLUBS. ARGUING OVER “BEST” PASTOR.
COMPETITIVE, CELEBRITY-OBSSESSED CULTURE APPLIED TO CHURCH LEADER.

Community is the place where
the person you least want to
live with always lives.

- Henri Nouwen

We dislocate the Body by
climbing up for Status

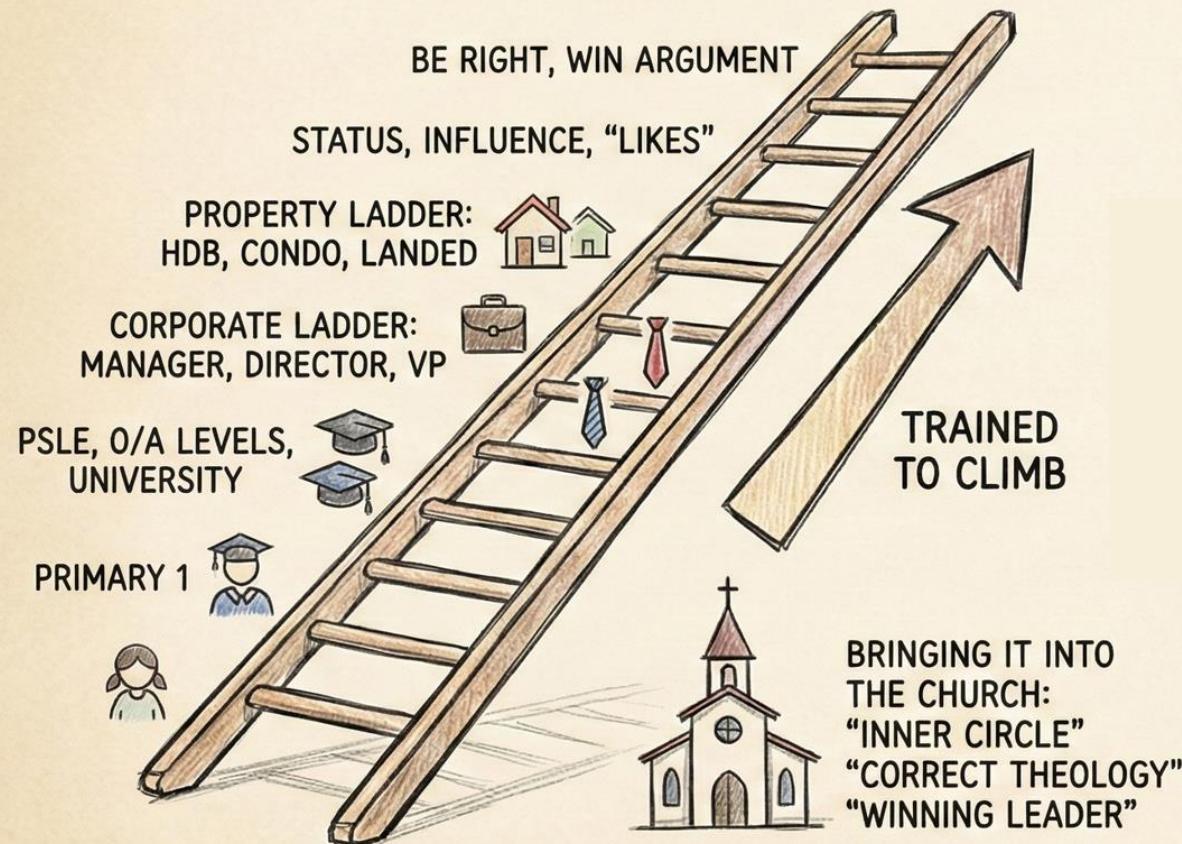
Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Were you baptized in the name of Paul? (1 Cor 1:13)

THE ULTIMATE SOLUTION: "SETTING THE BONE" & GETTING INTO ALIGNMENT

THE RADICAL SHIFT: FROM UPWARD TO DOWNWARD MOBILITY

UPWARD MOBILITY

(The World's Way: Corinth & Singapore)



THE ULTIMATE SOLUTION: "SETTING THE BONE" & GETTING INTO ALIGNMENT

THE RADICAL SHIFT: FROM UPWARD TO DOWNWARD MOBILITY

UPWARD MOBILITY

(The World's Way: Corinth & Singapore)

BE RIGHT, WIN ARGUMENT

STATUS, INFLUENCE, "LIKES"

PROPERTY LADDER:
HDB, CONDO, LANDED



CORPORATE LADDER:
MANAGER, DIRECTOR, VP



PSLE, O/A LEVELS,
UNIVERSITY

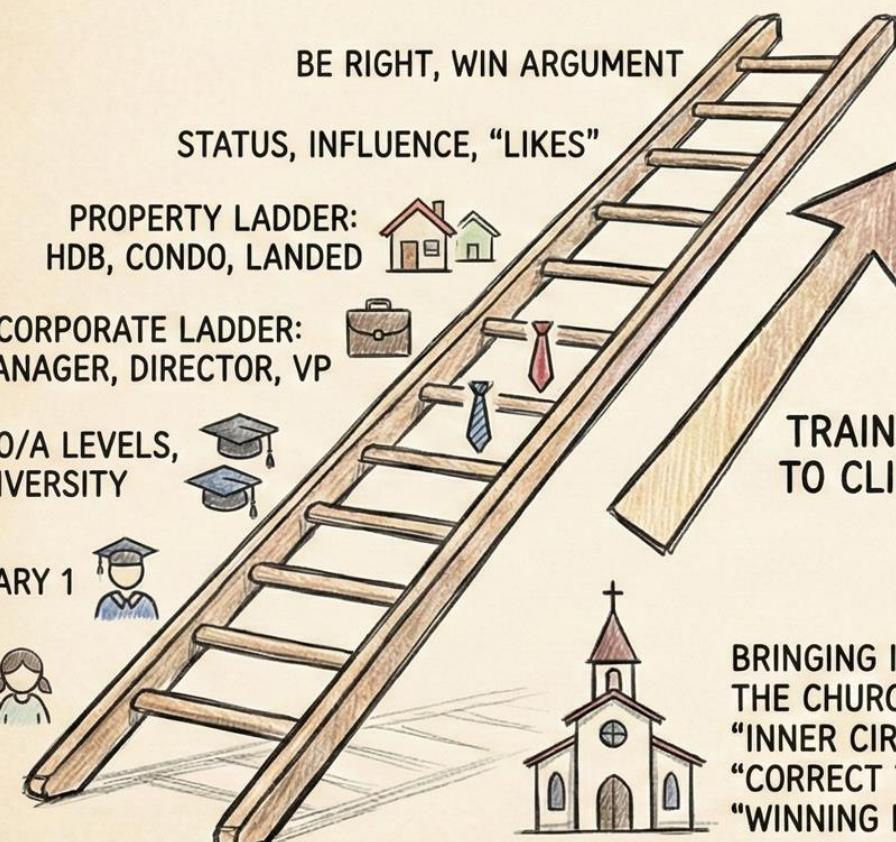


PRIMARY 1



TRAINED
TO CLIMB

BRINGING IT INTO
THE CHURCH:
"INNER CIRCLE"
"CORRECT THEOLOGY"
"WINNING LEADER"



DOWNWARD MOBILITY

(The Christian's Way: Henri Nouwen)



JESUS
(Philippians 2)

DID NOT GRASP
EQUALITY

CLIMBED DOWN



EMPTIED HIMSELF

TOOK FORM
OF A SERVANT

HUMBLED TO
DEATH ON A
CROSS

CLIMBING
DOWN TO
THE CROSS



"The way of the Christian
is not the way of upward
mobility in which our world
has invested so much, but
the way of downward
mobility ending on the Cross."
- Nouwen

THE SECRET TO ALIGNMENT: CHOOSING THE LOWER PLACE, HUMILITY, AND SERVICE.

— THREE MARKS OF AUTHENTIC ALIGNMENT —

1. LET GO OF THE RESUME



- IN A STATUS-OBSESSED CITY, STOP PRESENTING YOUR "RESUME" AND START SHARING YOUR "REALITY".
- NEED A SAFE CIRCLE WHERE YOU DON'T HAVE TO PERFORM.

AUTHENTIC RELATIONSHIP BEGINS WHEN YOU ALIGN WITH REALITY, DIVERSITY, AND COMMITMENT.

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2. LET GO OF THE MIRROR



- AVOID THE CHECKLIST APPROACH TO FRIENDSHIP.
- WALK ACROSS THE ROOM TO SPEAK TO SOMEONE YOU HAVE NOTHING IN COMMON WITH EXCEPT JESUS.
- LEAVE YOUR BASE TO WELCOME SOMEONE ELSE.

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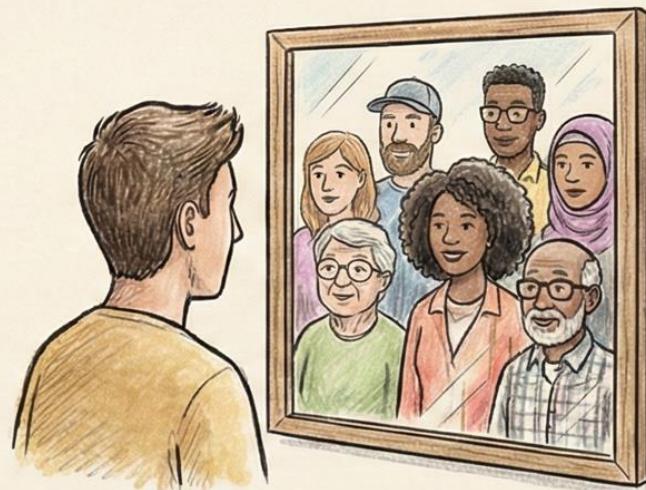
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3. LET GO OF THE EXIT



- DON'T TREAT PEOPLE LIKE DISPOSABLE PRODUCTS.
- STAY IN THE CONVERSATION; PRESS THROUGH THE MISUNDERSTANDING.
- AUTHENTIC RELATIONSHIPS ARE FORGED IN THE FIRE OF FORGIVENESS.

AUTHENTIC RELATIONSHIP BEGINS WHEN YOU ALIGN WITH REALITY, DIVERSITY, AND COMMITMENT.

We dislocate the Body by
climbing up for Status, **but we**
align the Body by stepping
down to Serve

For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel — not with wisdom and eloquence, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power. (1 Cor 1:17)

We dislocate the Body by
climbing up for Status, but we
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Power of the Cross.

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