

# Has the CHURCH lost her VOICE?



RECOVERING  
THE AUTHORITY  
OF THE CHURCH  
IN THE WORLD

CORE  
CONFERENCE



# THE AUTHORITY OF THE CHURCH IN COUNSELING



Stuart W. Scott

Bob Jones University | 2025



# CHURCHES

ALL ABOUT  
PREACHING

ONE ON ONE  
GETTING  
RARE

PUBLIC

private

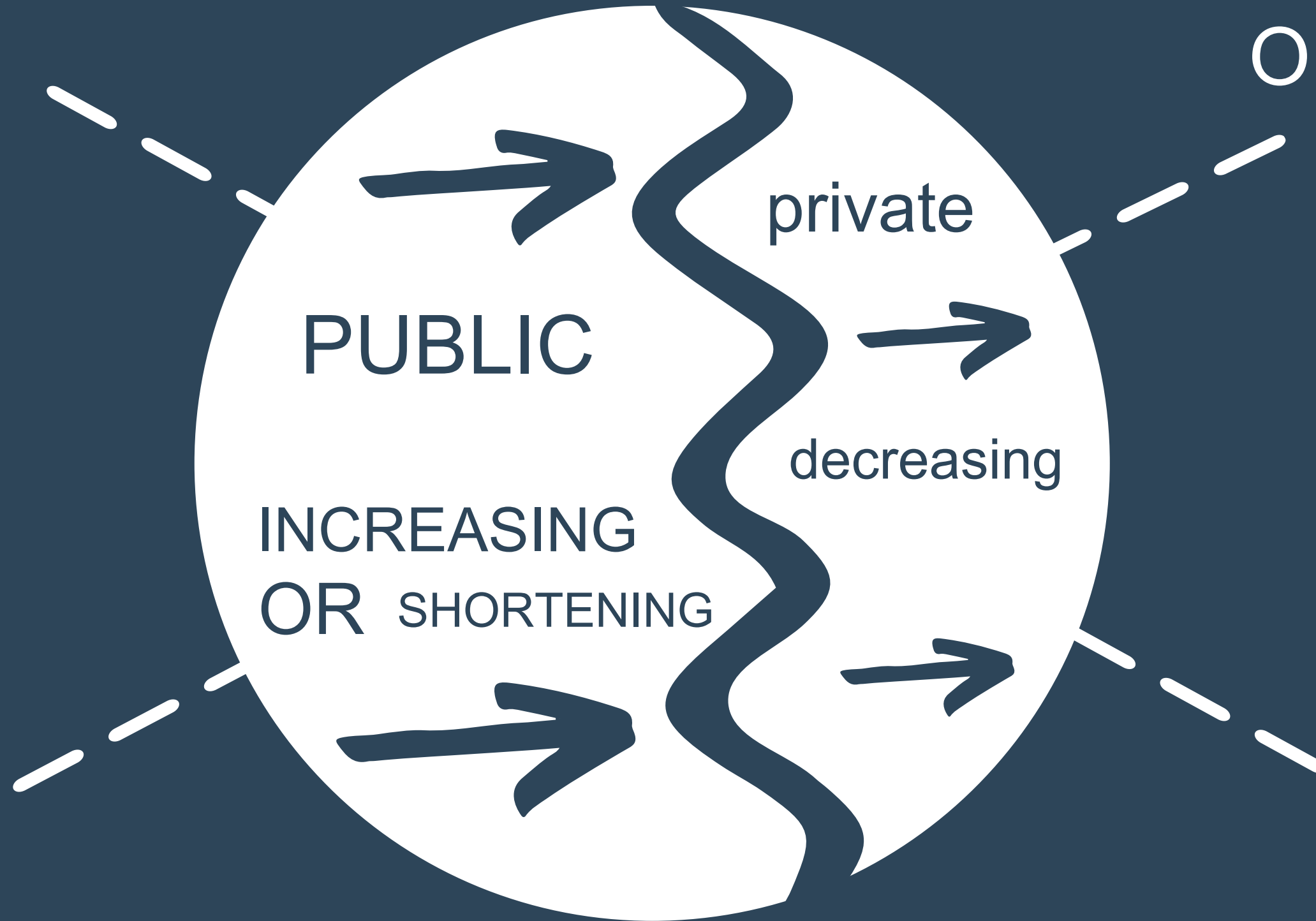
decreasing

INCREASING  
OR SHORTENING

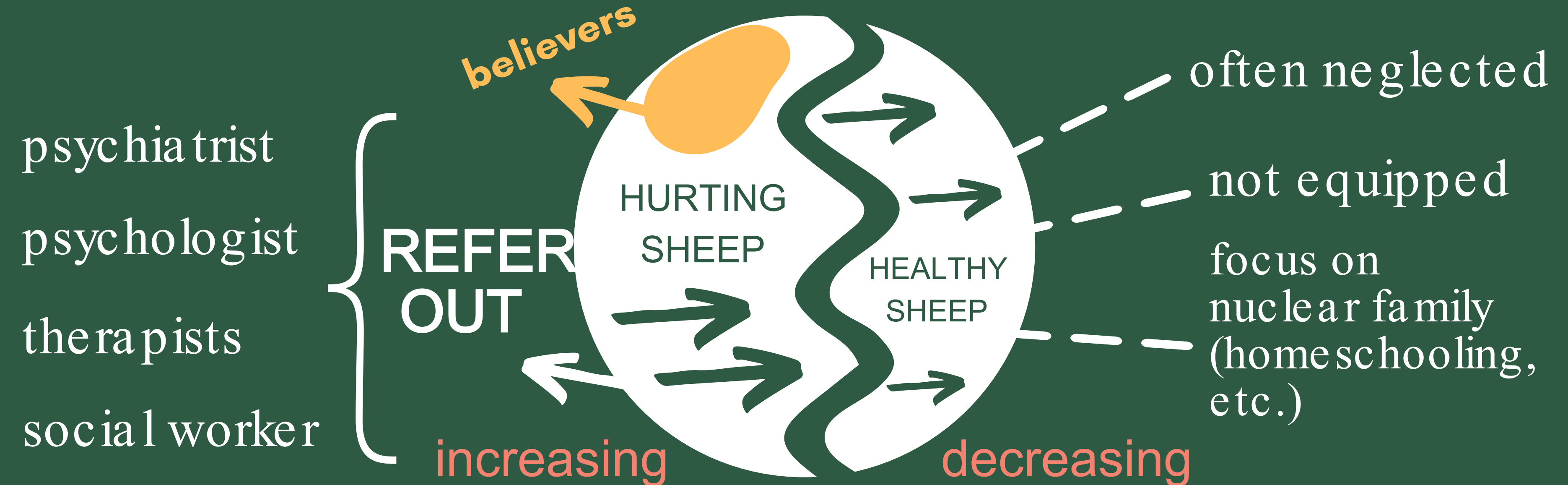
TITUS 2 -  
MOSTLY FOR  
GROUPS OF  
WOMEN & MEN

LESS  
SERVICES

MINISTRY OF GOD'S WORD



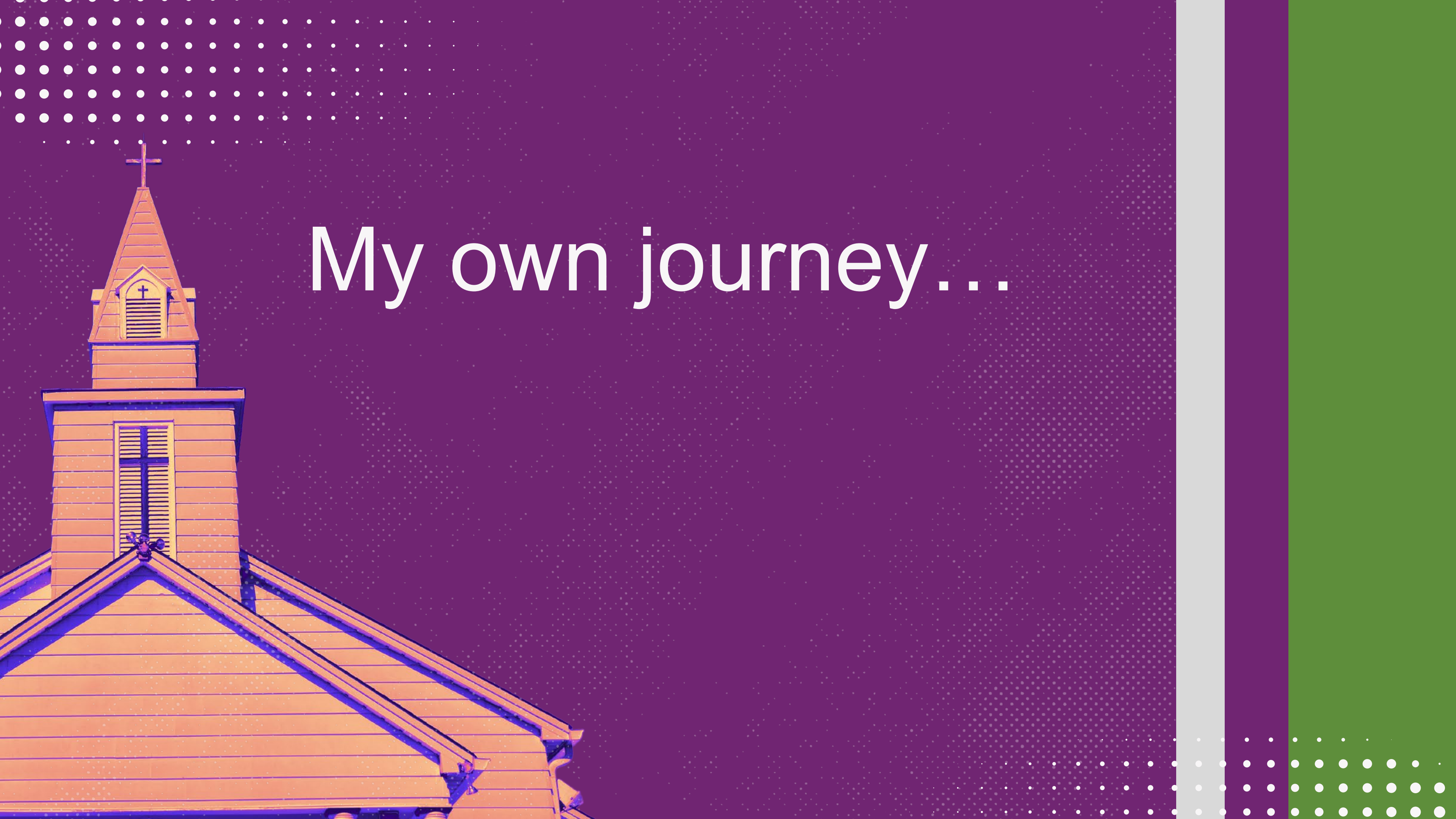
# CHURCHES



## DEALING WITH MEMBER CARE

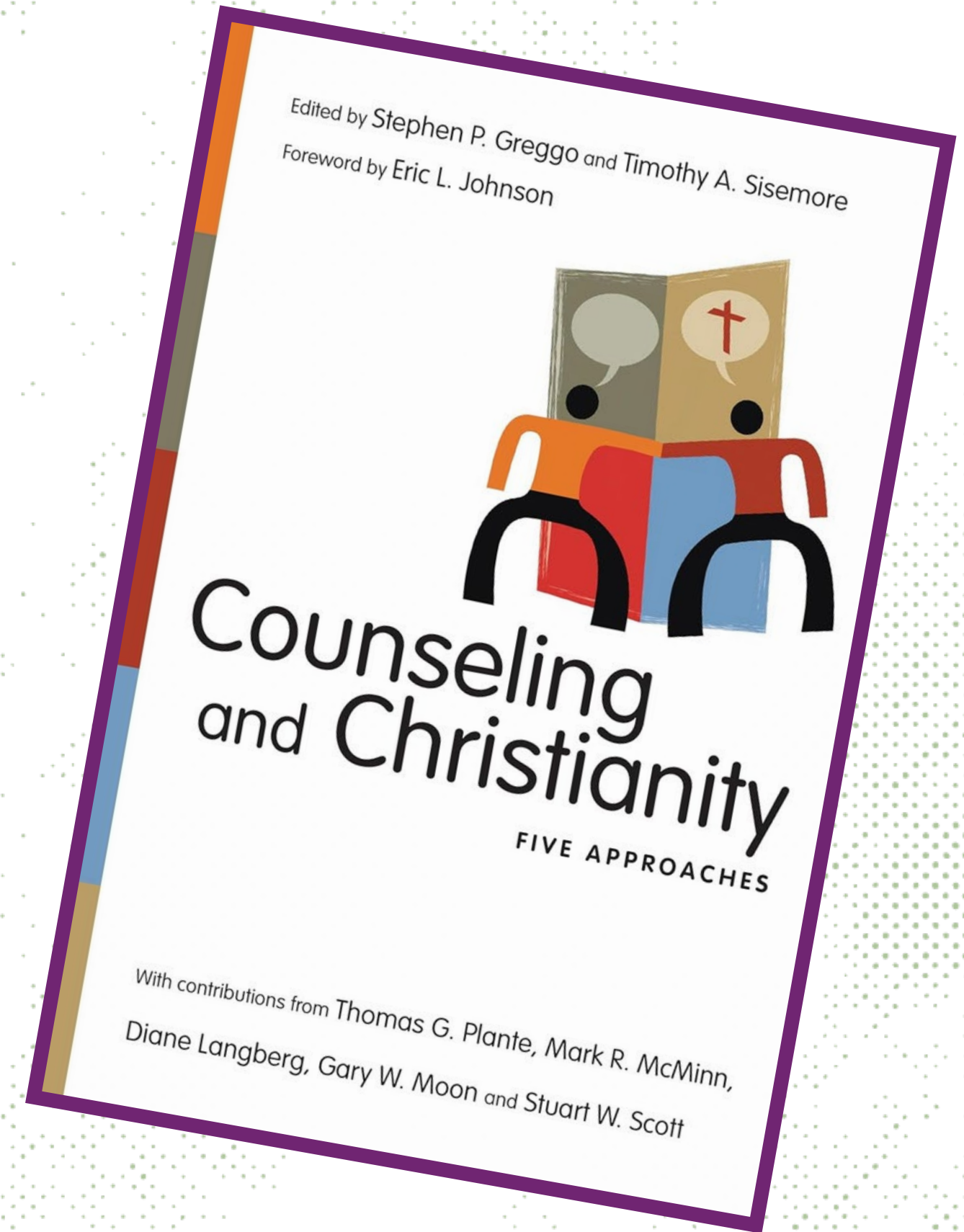
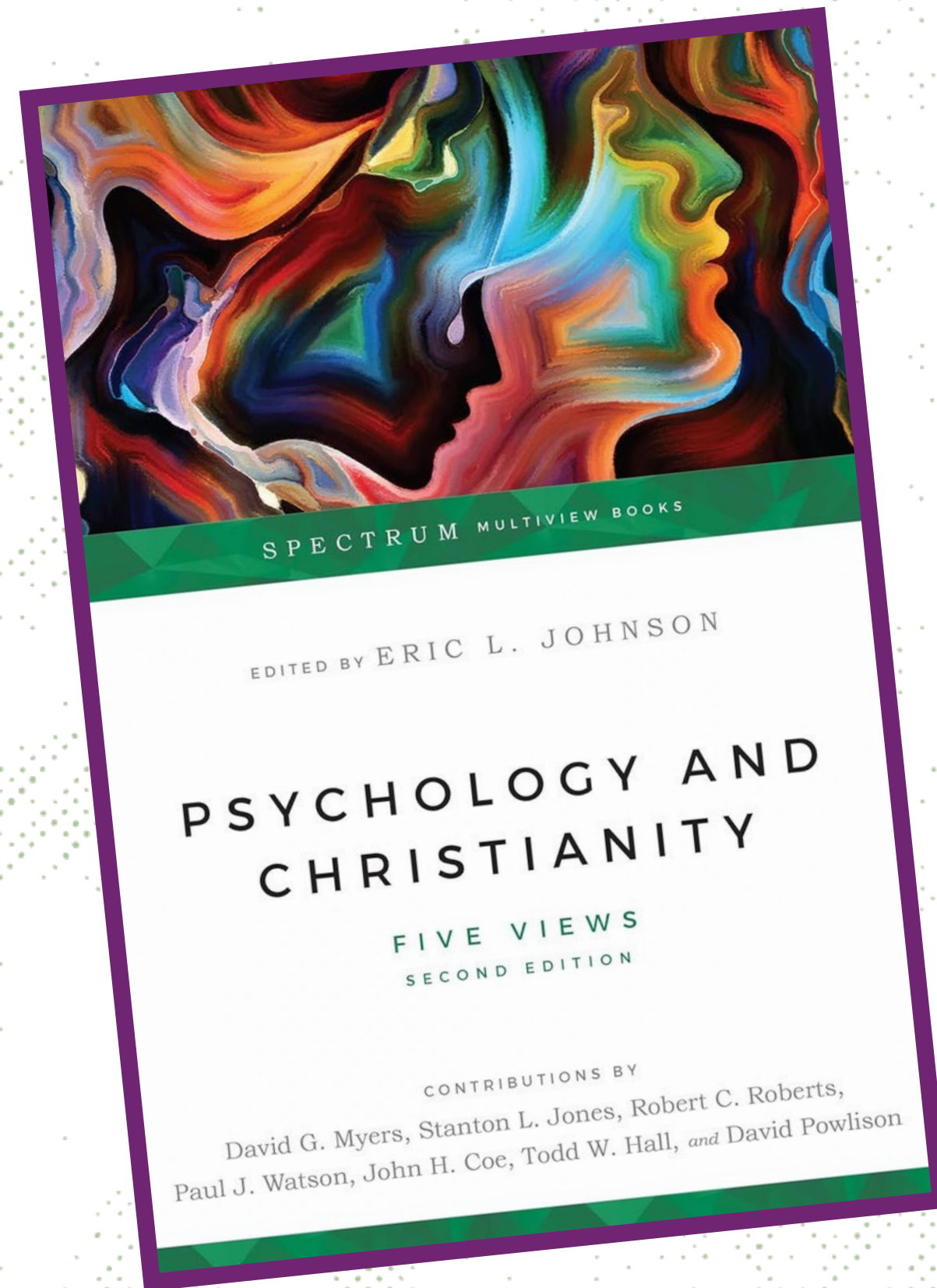
- ▶▶ Church attendance declining
- ▶▶ Those seeing church as not that helpful





My own journey...





# HOW DO WE UNDERSTAND IT?



# AUTHORITY

a





# Authority

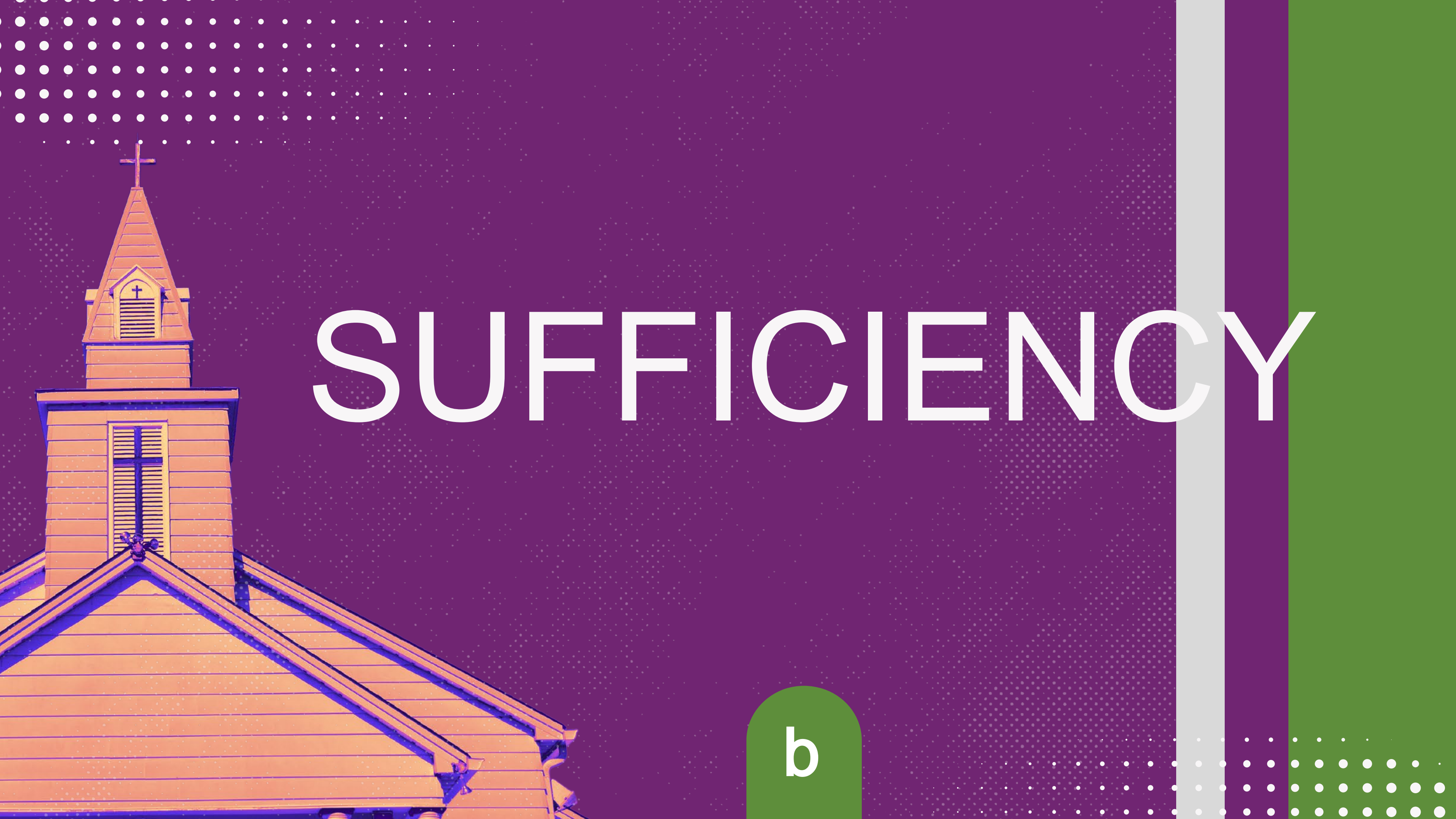
“ Authority,...is the moral right or license to make decisions with that power...every authority or authorization has boundaries or limits...or what we might call a jurisdiction....The Creator alone has absolute and comprehensive authority....”

Jonathan Leeman, *Authority*, p.24-25.”

# 2 Tim 3:15-17

and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.





# SUFFICIENCY

b

# 2 Tim 3:15-17

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# 2 Peter 1:3ff

His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence,...



“The Bible contains all we need to know about God’s will and live a life pleasing to him.”

Dr. Heath Lambert





“Sufficiency is an attribute of Scripture whereby it provides everything that people need to be saved and everything that Christians need to please God fully.”



Dr. Gregg Allison





# Counseling for the Saints must be truly biblical

C







# ACBC on Biblical Counseling

Biblical counseling is the personal discipleship ministry of God's people to others under the oversight of God's church, dependent upon the authority and sufficiency of God's Word through the work of the Holy Spirit...

# Jay Adams on Biblical Counseling

“It is truly biblical... It is counseling that from start to finish is founded upon Scriptural principles and practices.

It is exegetically based. It is theologically competent. It is anchored in eternal truth that does not change...”





# The place of the church in counseling the saints

- Under the church
- Leadership Oversight
- Counselee's Involvement



# HOW DO WE HONOR IT, OR NOT?





# FAITHFUL PRACTICES

a

# 1. Criticism: reader over text



READER



TEXT

reader has last word



## 2. Dialogue: reader beside text



# TEXT



Text (or God)  
has last word

## 3. Submission: reader under text



# READER





# FAITHFUL PRACTICES

a

# UNFAITHFUL PRACTICES

b



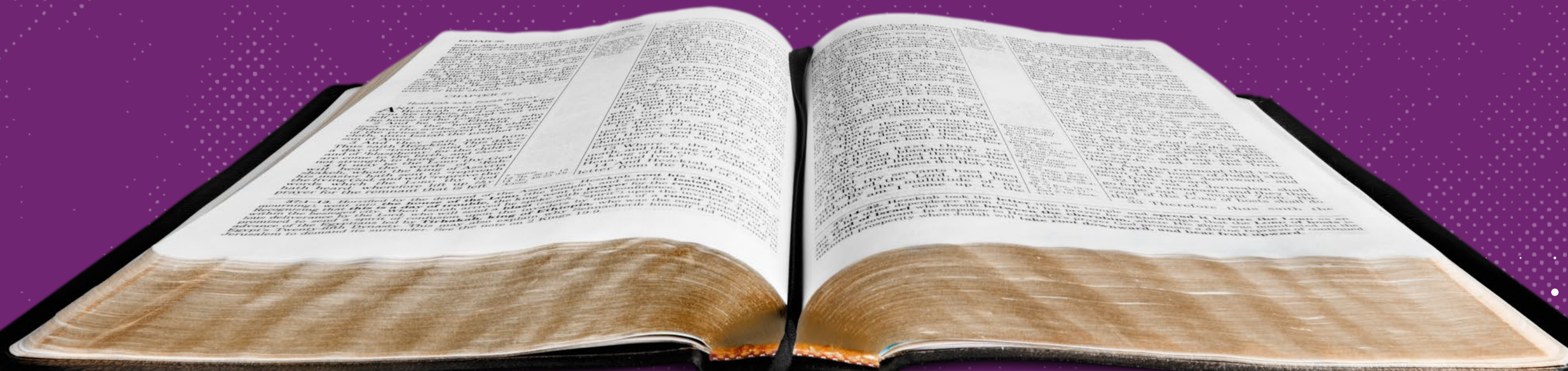


- ➔ Ignore, neglect, and avoid
- ➔ Use various excuses
- ➔ Commit to man's wisdom and stay uninformed concerning God's Word
- ➔ Integrate sec. methodologies
- ➔ Refer to inadequate, ill-equipped or harmful counselors





Only biblical counseling can truly be  
authoritative and sufficient because  
it only draws from God's Word what  
is needed for salvation and  
sanctification.





# HOW CAN WE ACCOMPLISH IT?




→ Instruction

→ Reproof

→ Correction

→ Training in Righteousness





Let God's Word be read,  
practiced and heard both  
publicly AND privately as  
we minister to the souls  
of people around us."



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