

KEEPING THE UNITY OF THE SPIRIT



Ephesians 4

Structure of epistle

Ch. 1-3 Our wealth in Christ

Ch. 4-6 Our walk in Christ

Walking worthy of our calling

4:1 – 4:6 Keeping the unity of the spirit

4:7 – 4:16 Growing unto the “perfect man”

Behaviour befitting members of the body

4:17 – 4:24 Putting on the new man

4:25 – 4:32 Our new life – in the ecclesia

5:1 – 5:21 Our new life – with respect to the world

5:22 – 5:33 Our new life – in marriage

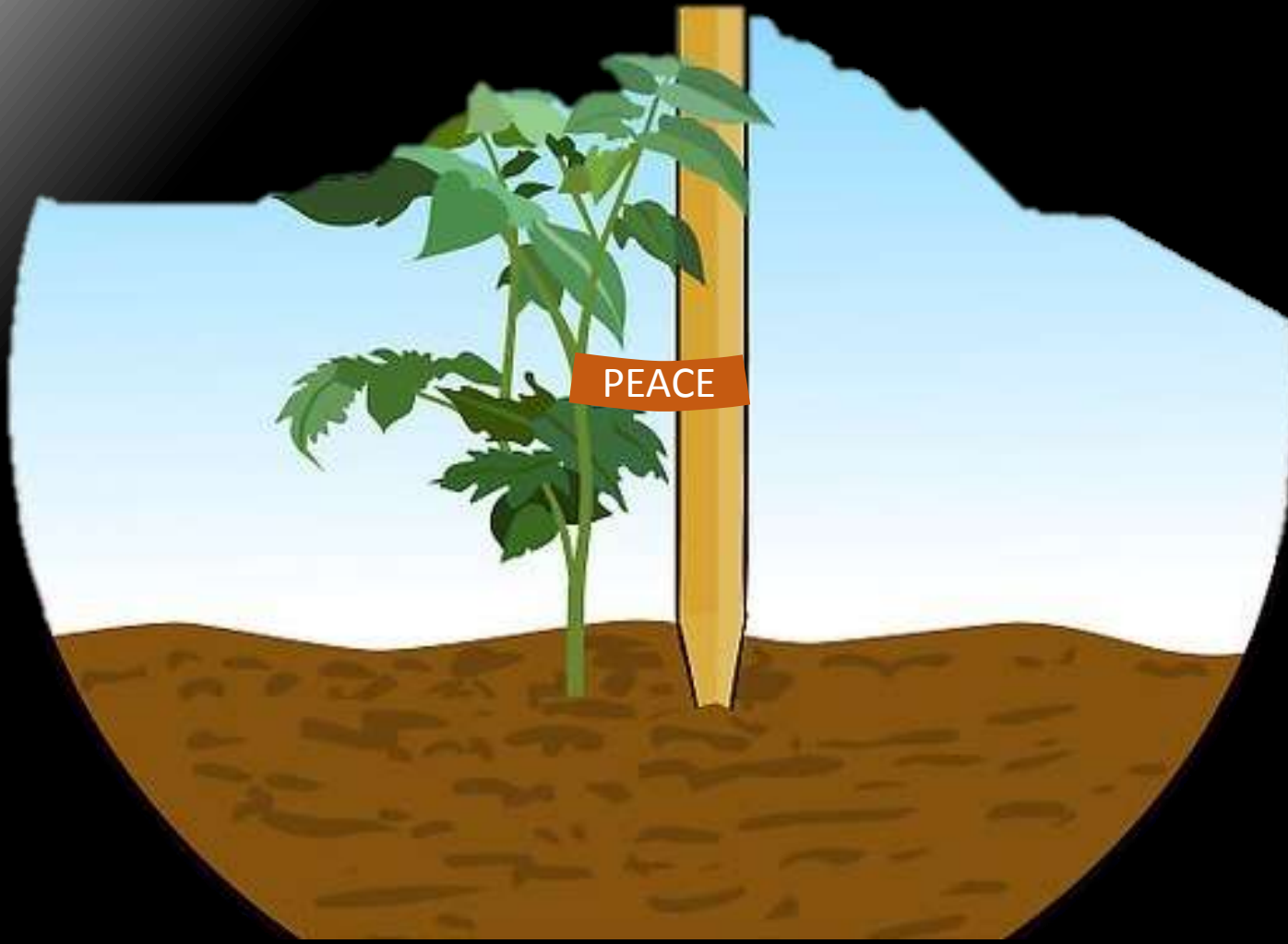
6:1 – 6:4 Our new life – in the family

6:5 – 6:9 Our new life – in the work place

6:10 – 6:17 Our new life – in personal warfare

6:18 – 6:24 Conclusion

Keeping the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace



Unity is a slow growing plant. It thrives in soil that is well drained of pride, assertiveness, and impatience. It needs light but withers in the presence of heated arguments. Being a tender plant, it requires a bond of peace to keep it in place. It has been planted by God, he expects us to keep it alive.

What are you doing to make it grow?

The 7 bonds of unity

(the things we must share in common to be in “unity”)

1. One **body** – we must live in harmony with other members of the Christ body (4:15-16), and love them as Christ loved the ecclesia (5:22-33).
2. One **spirit** – we must live in harmony with God’s word, not grieving the holy spirit (4:30), but manifesting the fruit of the spirit (5:8-9).
3. One **hope** – we must share the same hope.
4. One **Lord** – we must obey Christ our head (5:10,23;6:5).
5. One **faith** – we must have the same beliefs and not be carried about with every wind of doctrine (4:14-15).
6. One **baptism** – we must be baptized into Christ, put off the old man and put on the new (4:21-32).
7. One **God** and Father – we must worship the same God, be created after his likeness (4:24), be followers of Him (5:1-21), knowing he is our master in heaven (6:9).

The edifying of the body Eph. 4:6-17

CHRIST



"he gave (as a gift)
some apostles,
prophets,
evangelists, pastors,
teachers .."

Eph. 4:11

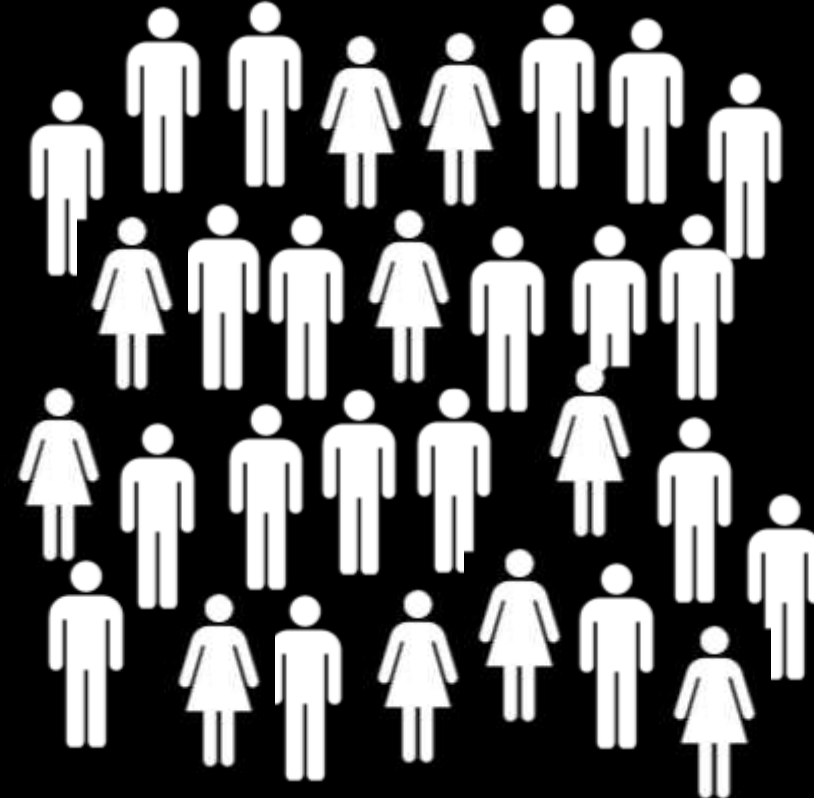
**APOSTLES
PROPHETS
EVANGELISTS
PASTORS
TEACHERS**



"in order fully to equip
His people for the
work of serving--for
the building up of
Christ's body.."

**Eph 4:12
(Weymouth)**

**SAINTS
(THE BODY OF CHRIST)**



"unto every one of us is given grace
(a ministering role) according to the
measure of the gift of Christ".

Eph. 4:7

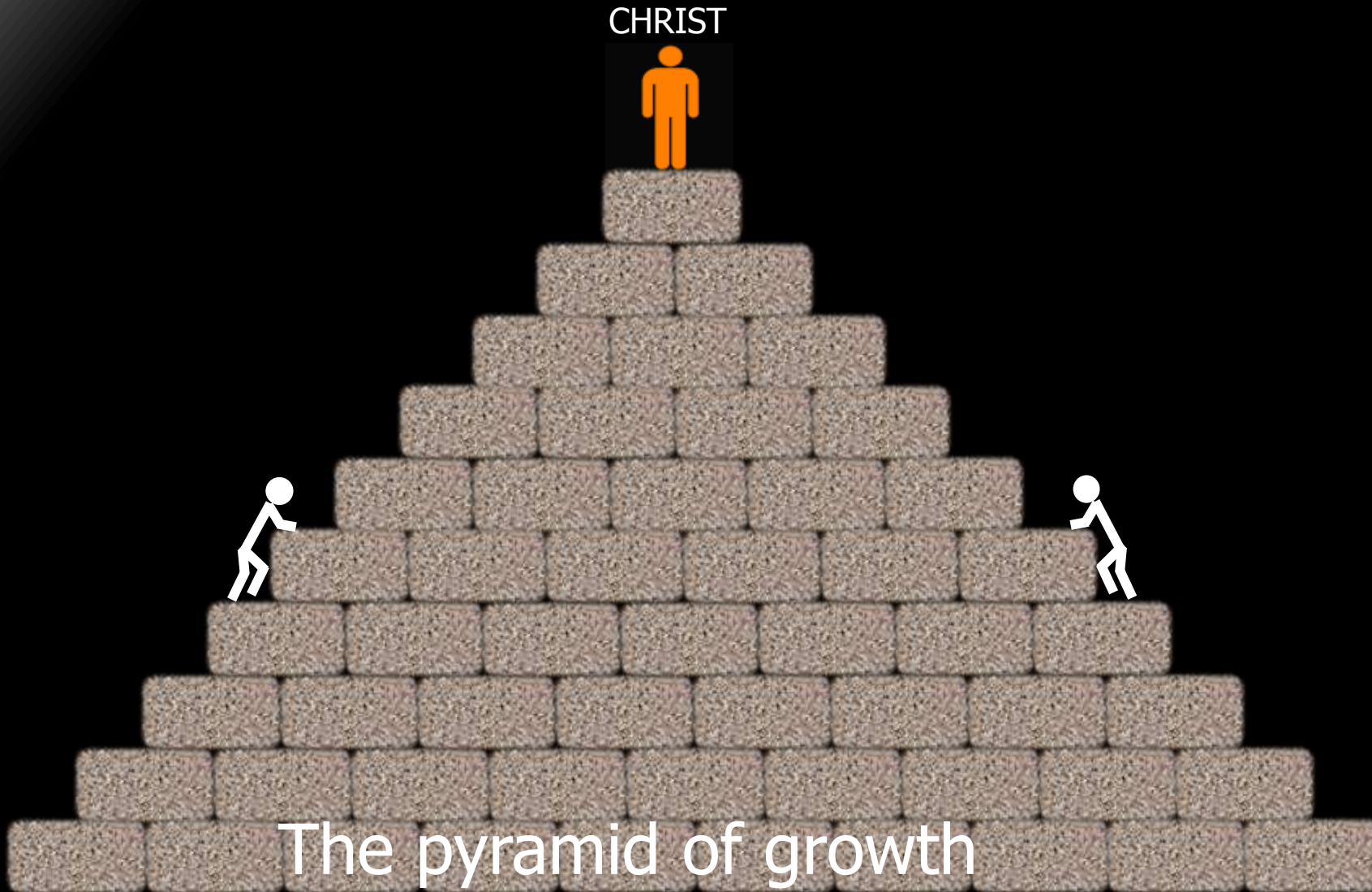
The "giving" of brethren was typified in
Num 8:19 and alluded to in **Psalms 68:18**.

Principles for us from Psalm 68

- 1. Dedication to God:** The Levites were given to God, then given by God. God can only give back to the ecclesia those who are dedicated to him.
- 2. Preparation for God:** God's work with his people was not completed by their deliverance. His work was completed when his people were prepared for him to "dwell among them". For this reason he gave certain brethren to equip the congregation to perform ministering roles.
- 3. Unity by diversity:** There was diversity in the roles (keepers of the house of Yahweh, officers and judges, porters, musicians) performed by the Levites. This was intended to promote cooperation not individuality.

Growing up into our head

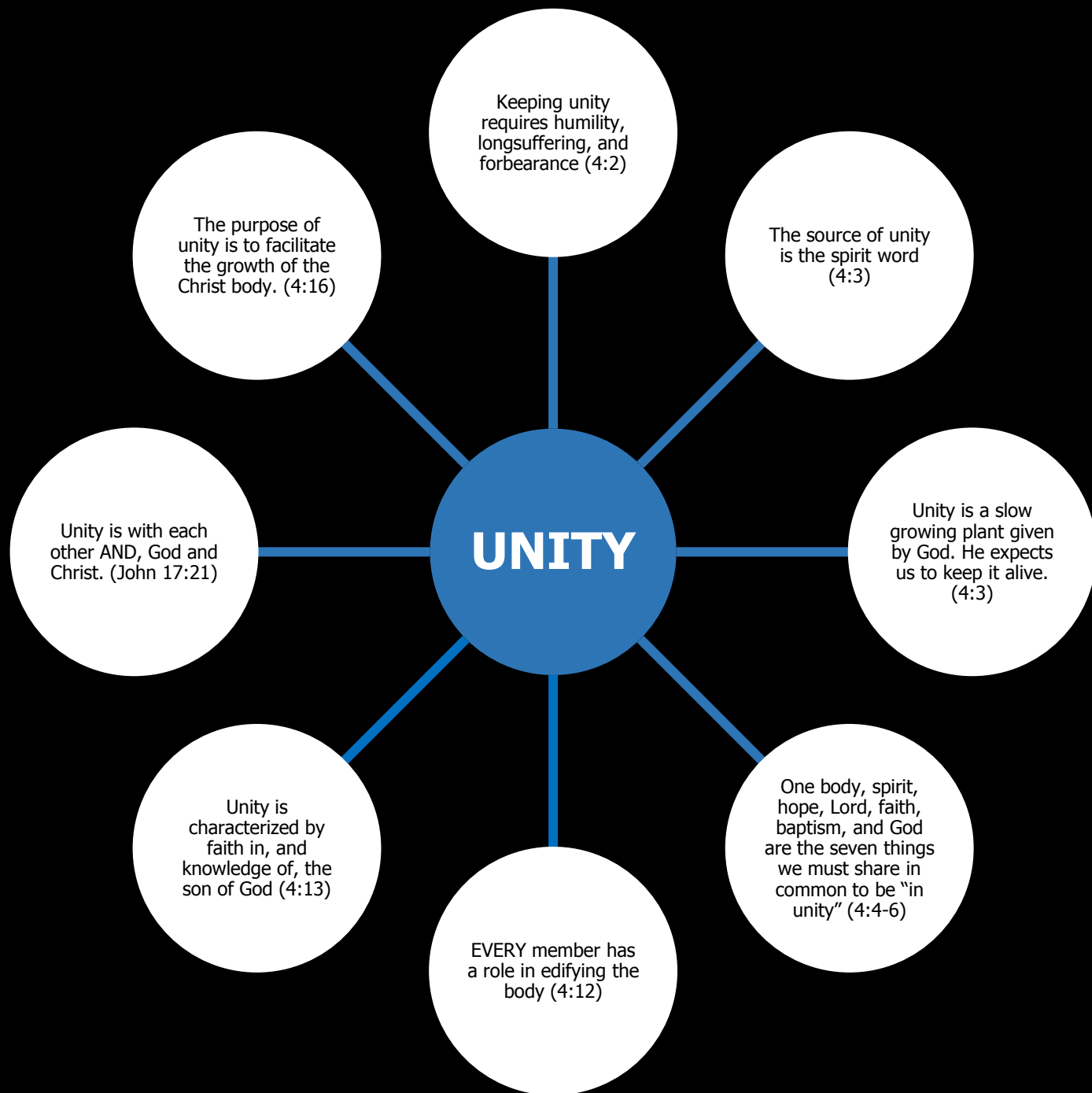
As we edify each other, we grow closer to each other



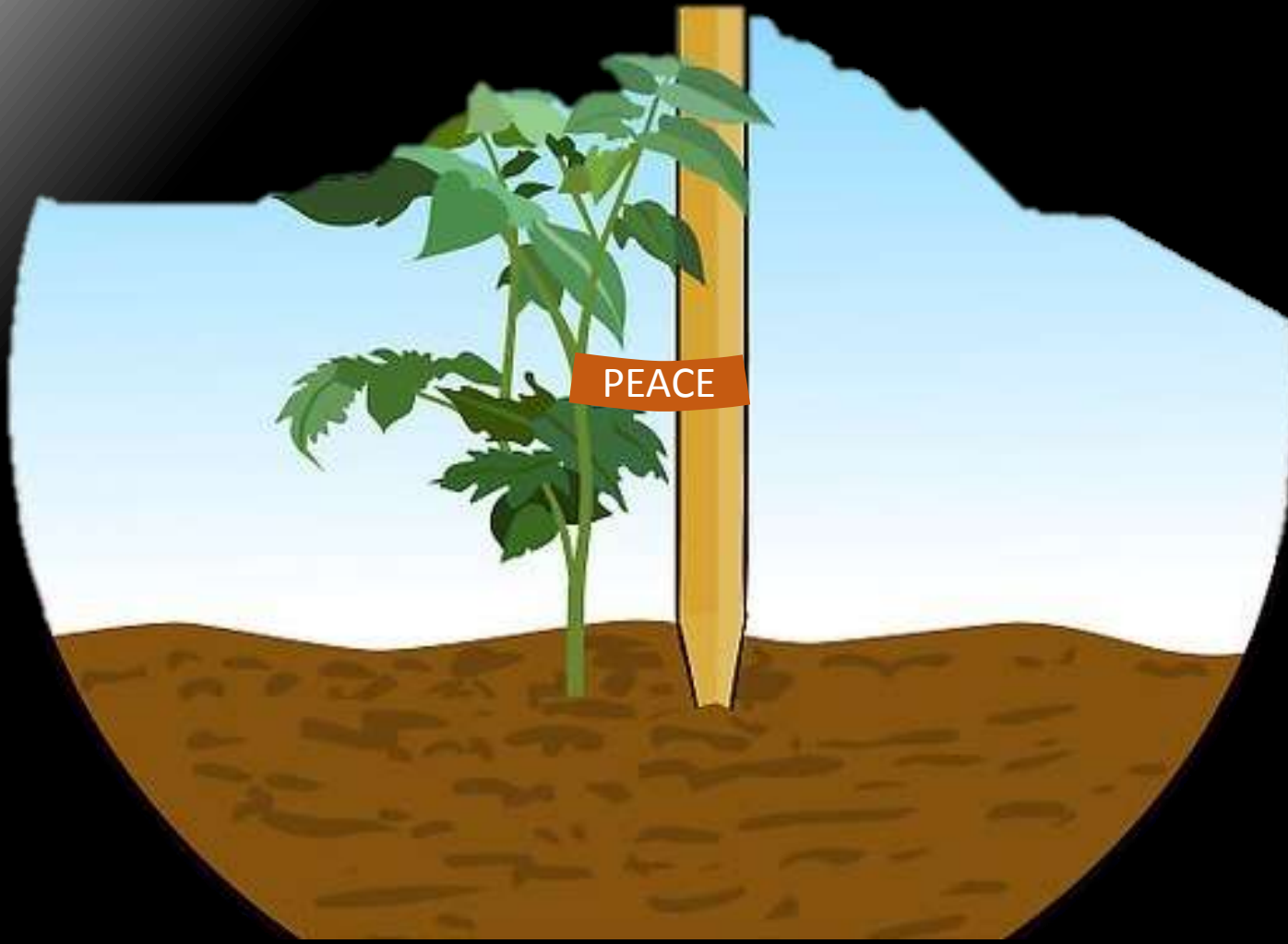
The new life – in the ecclesia

Put off	Put on	Motive
V25 lying	Speak the truth with his neighbour	For we are members one of another
V26-27 anger and rudeness		
V28 stealing	Labour working with his hands	That he may have to give to him that needeth
V29 vulgarity	That which is good to the use of edifying	That it may minister grace to the hearers
V30 impropriety		
V31-32 offensiveness	Kind one to another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another	Even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you

THE THEME



Keeping the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace



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