



# **ECCLESIOLOGY**

Government of the Church

# WHY DOES CHURCH STRUCTURE MATTER TO ME?



# THE EXTREMES



# THE EXTREMES

Spiritual Anarchy

Chaos



# THE EXTREMES



Spiritual Anarchy

Chaos

Institutionalism

Legalism

# THE EXTREMES

Spiritual Anarchy



Institutionalism



# THE BIBLICAL MOSAIC (UNITY & DIVERSITY)



| How Churches have Organized | Primary Locus of Authority  | Structural Hierarchy                                       | Denominational Examples                            | Congregational Role                |
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| Episcopal                   | Bishops & Higher Clergy     | Vertical Hierarchy (Bishops / Archbishops / Pope)          | Roman Catholic, Eastern Orthodox, United Methodist | Receives sacraments & direction    |
| Presbyterian                | Representative Elder Courts | Multi-tiered Connectional Courts (Sessions / Presbyteries) | PCA, PCUSA, Dutch Reformed                         | Elects representative local elders |
| Congregational              | Democratic Local Assembly   | None (Complete Autonomy)                                   | Southern/Independent Baptists, some nondenom       | Votes on all major decisions       |

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# HOW RENEWAL CHURCH IS ORGANIZED

|                            | Primary Locus of Authority | Structural Hierarchy       | Denominational Examples                                               | Congregational Role                                                                                                     |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Elder-Led<br/>Local</b> | Local Plural Elder Team    | None External (Autonomous) | Non-denominational Bible Churches, Sovereign Grace, Plymouth Brethren | Active service and ministry, discipleship, testing teaching, Support and Stewardship, <b>“Life-blood” of the church</b> |

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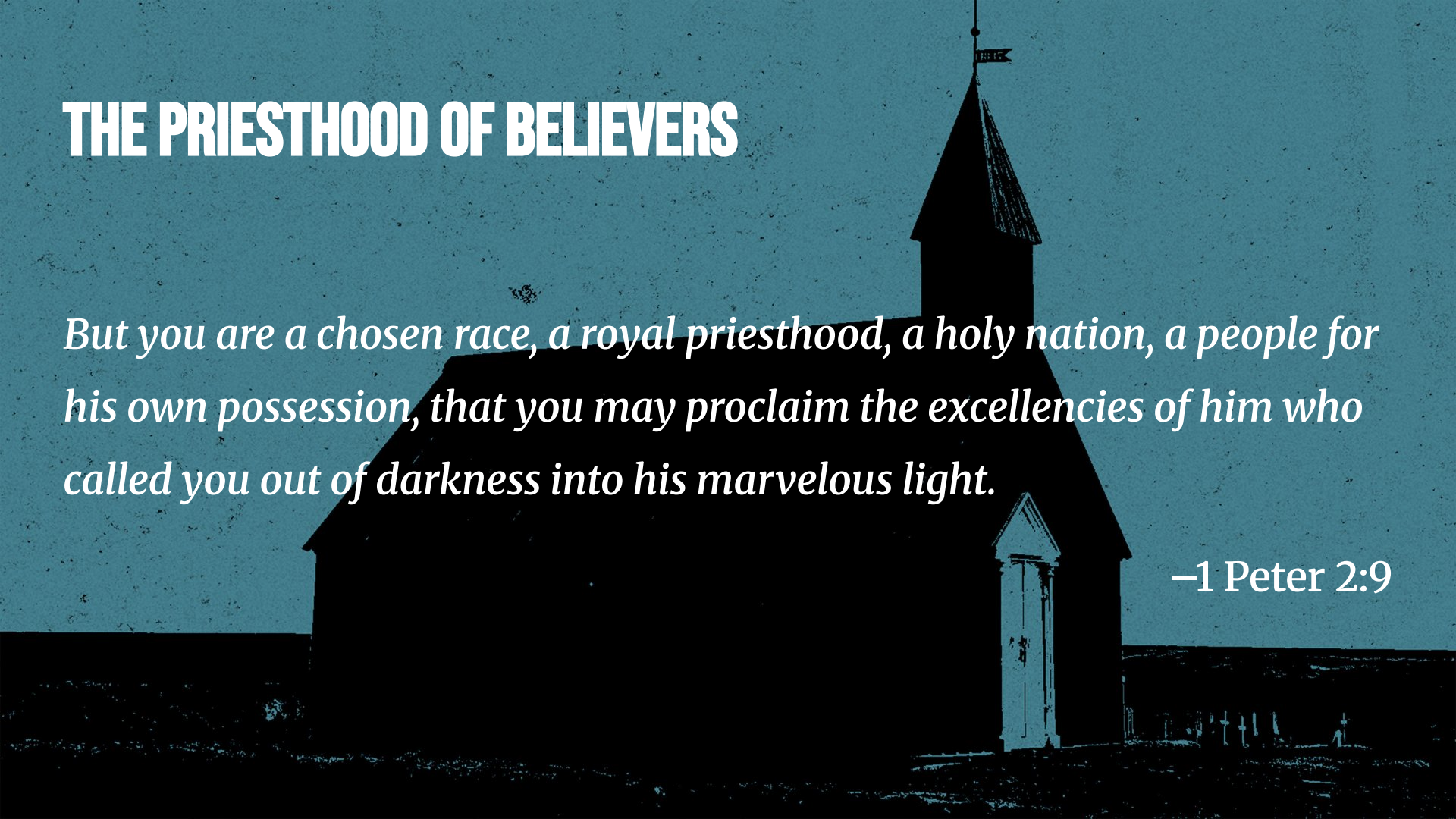
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4. Local Autonomy (No Denominational Hierarchy in the NT)

# THE PRIESTHOOD OF BELIEVERS



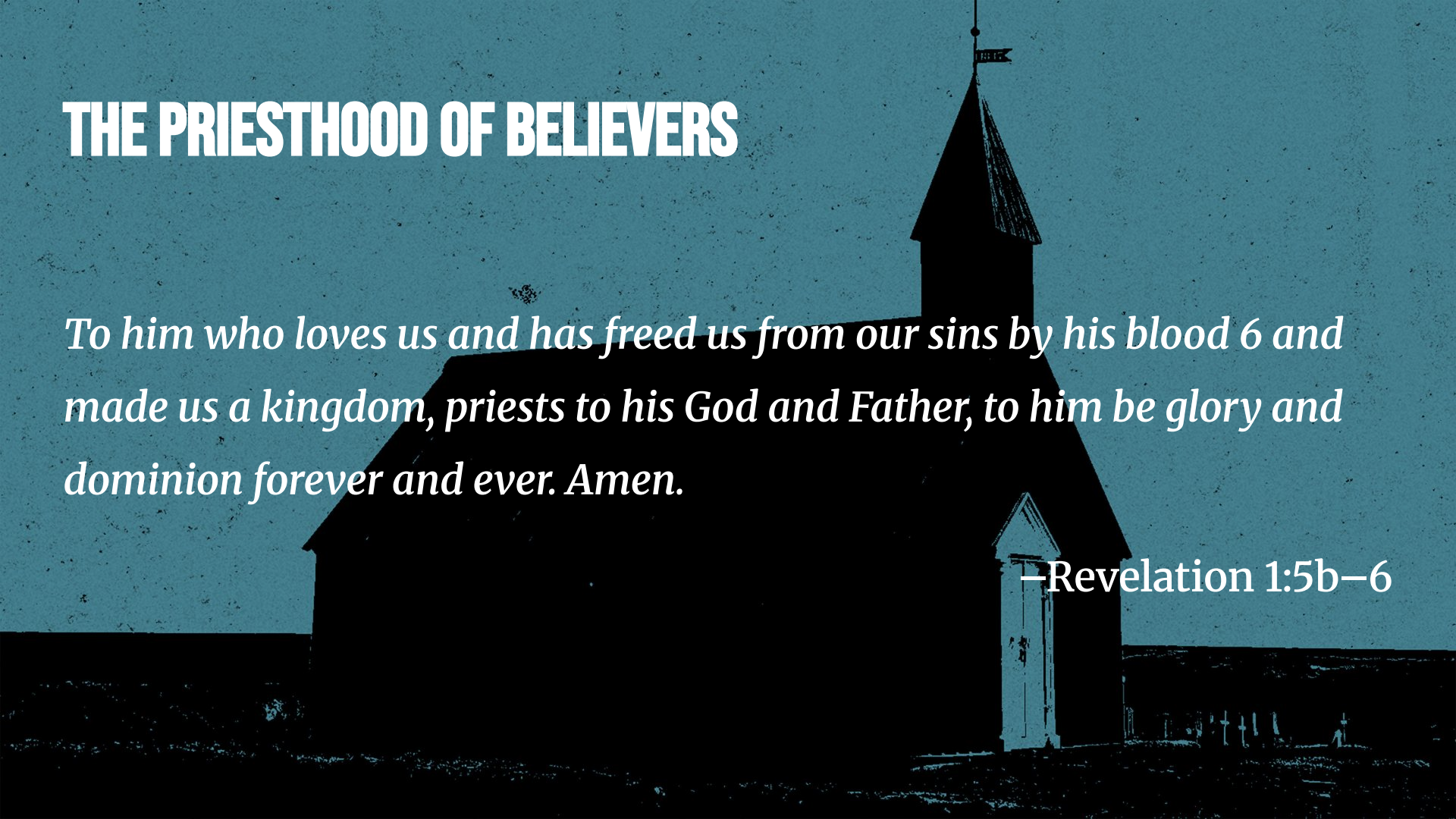
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*But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.*

—1 Peter 2:9

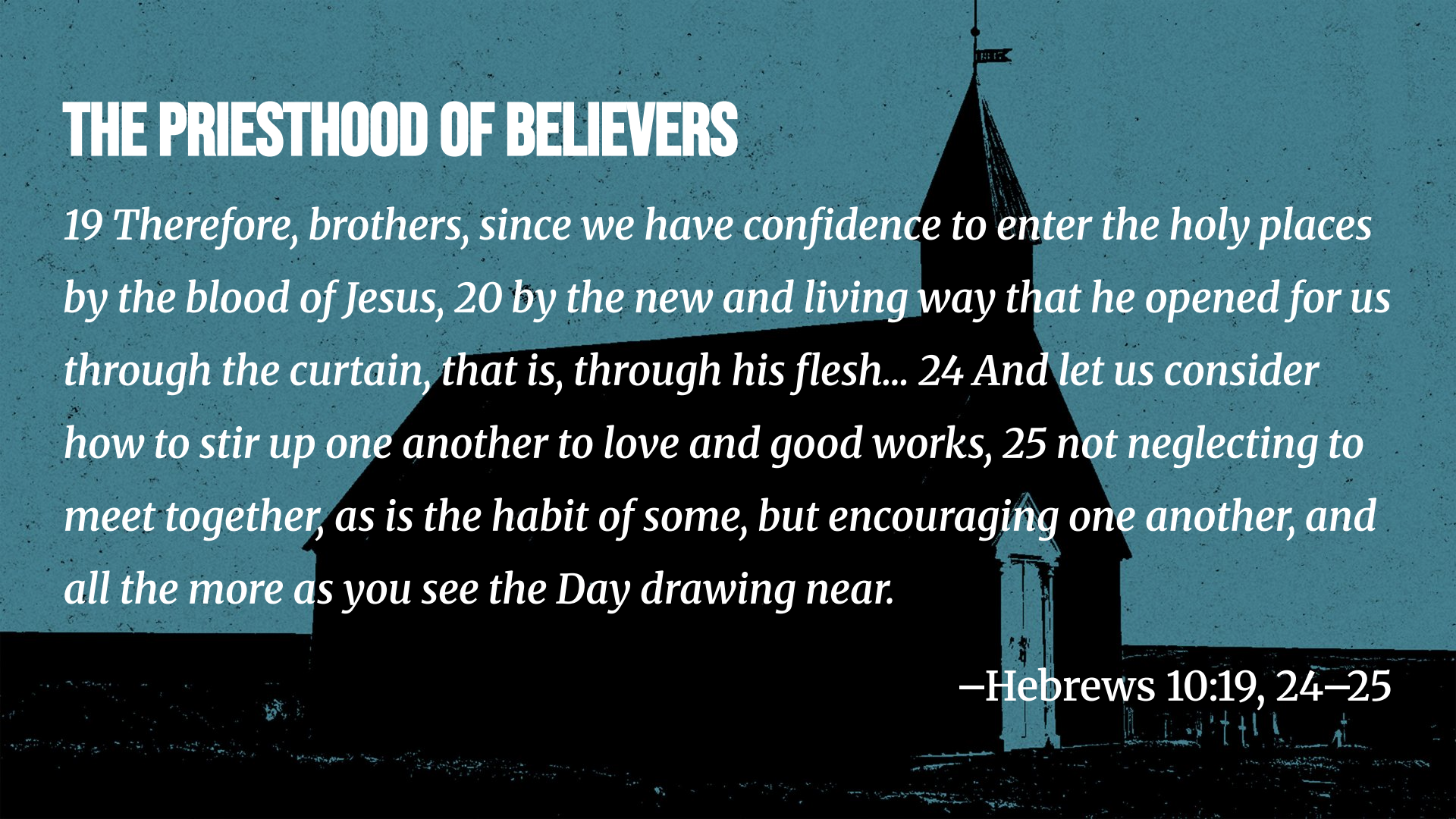
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*To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood 6 and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.*

—Revelation 1:5b–6

# THE PRIESTHOOD OF BELIEVERS

A small, dark wooden church with a steeple, set against a dark, textured background. The church has a simple design with a gabled roof and a small steeple topped with a cross. The background is a dark, mottled blue-grey color.

*19 Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, 20 by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh... 24 And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, 25 not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.*

*—Hebrews 10:19, 24–25*

# PRACTICAL IMPLICATIONS FOR CHURCH LIFE

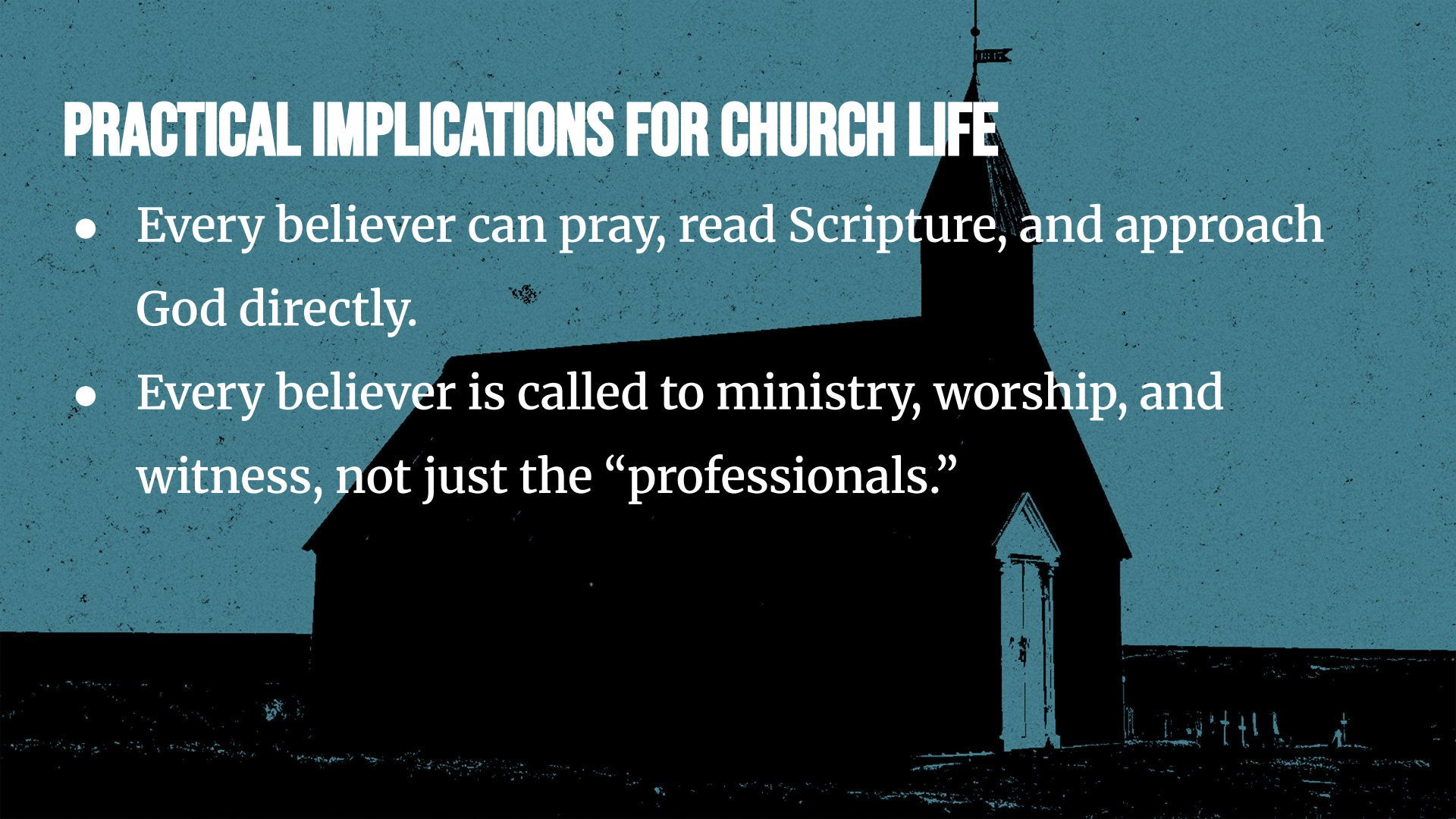


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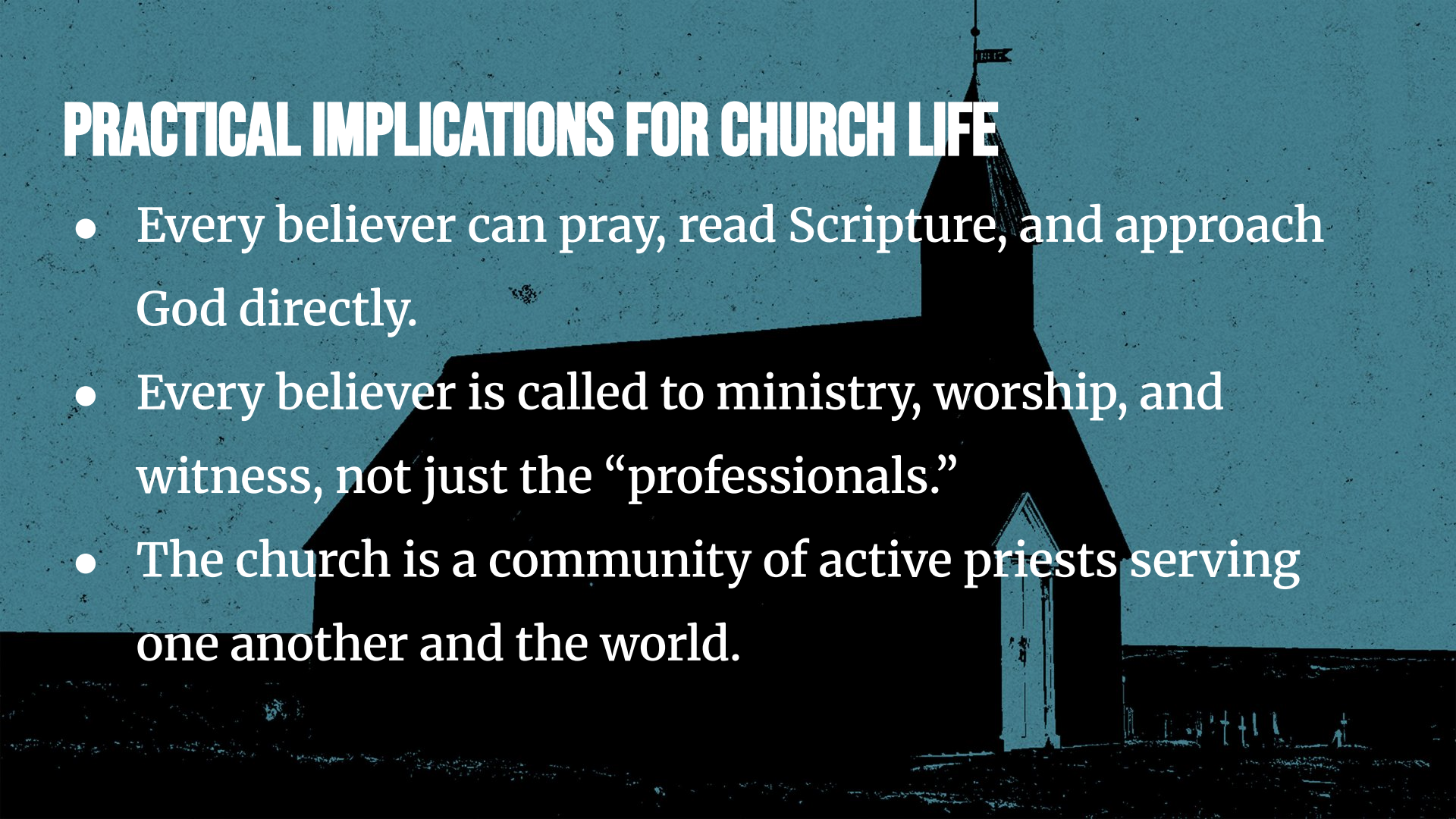


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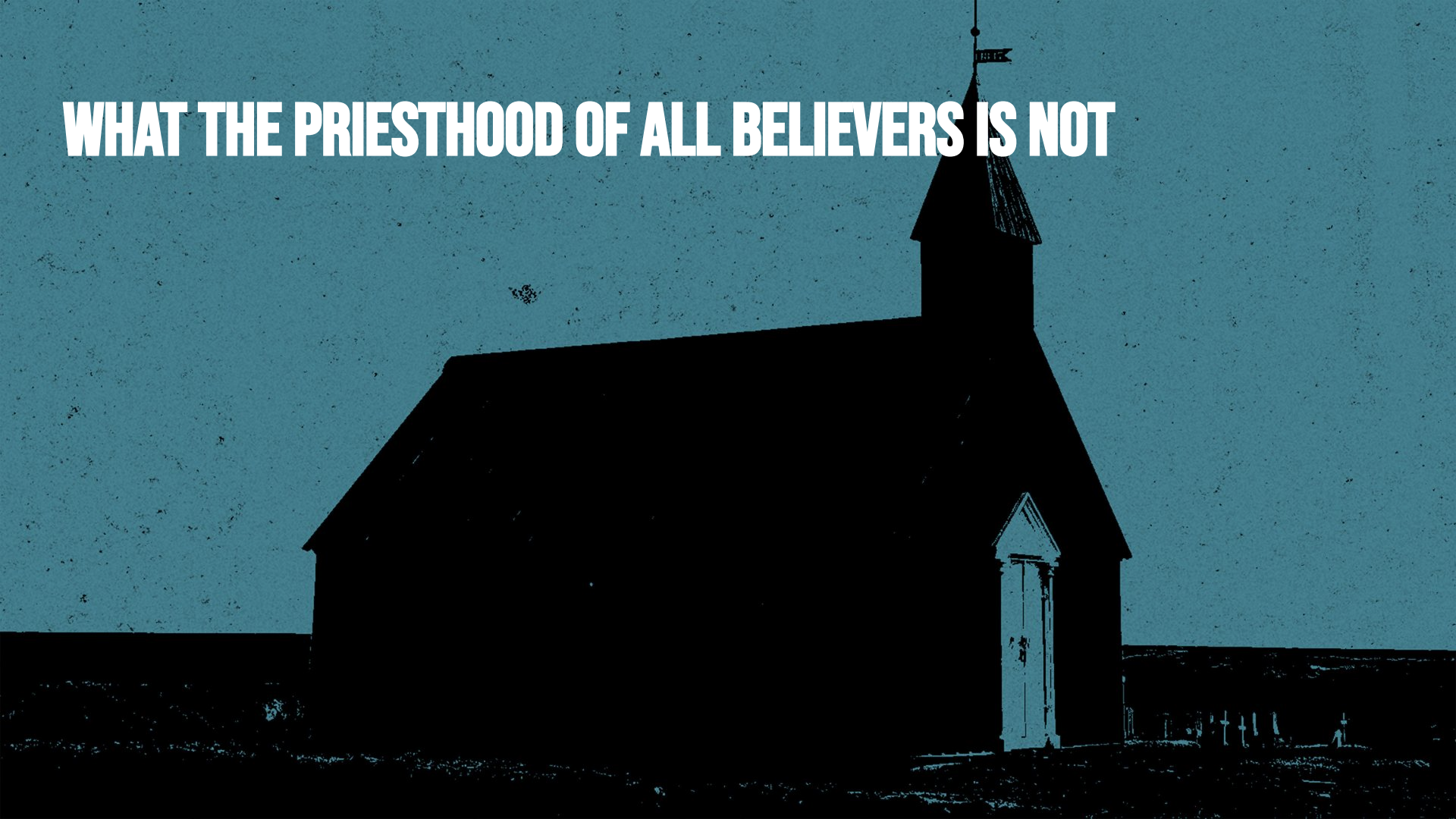
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- Every believer is called to ministry, worship, and witness, not just the “professionals.”

# PRACTICAL IMPLICATIONS FOR CHURCH LIFE

A small, white, wooden church with a steeple and a cross on top, set against a dark, textured background. The church is the central focus of the image, with its white walls and dark roof contrasting sharply with the dark background. The steeple is tall and narrow, topped with a cross. The church has a simple, rectangular body with a small door and windows. The background is a dark, textured blue-grey color, giving the impression of a night sky or a dark wall. The overall mood is solemn and contemplative.

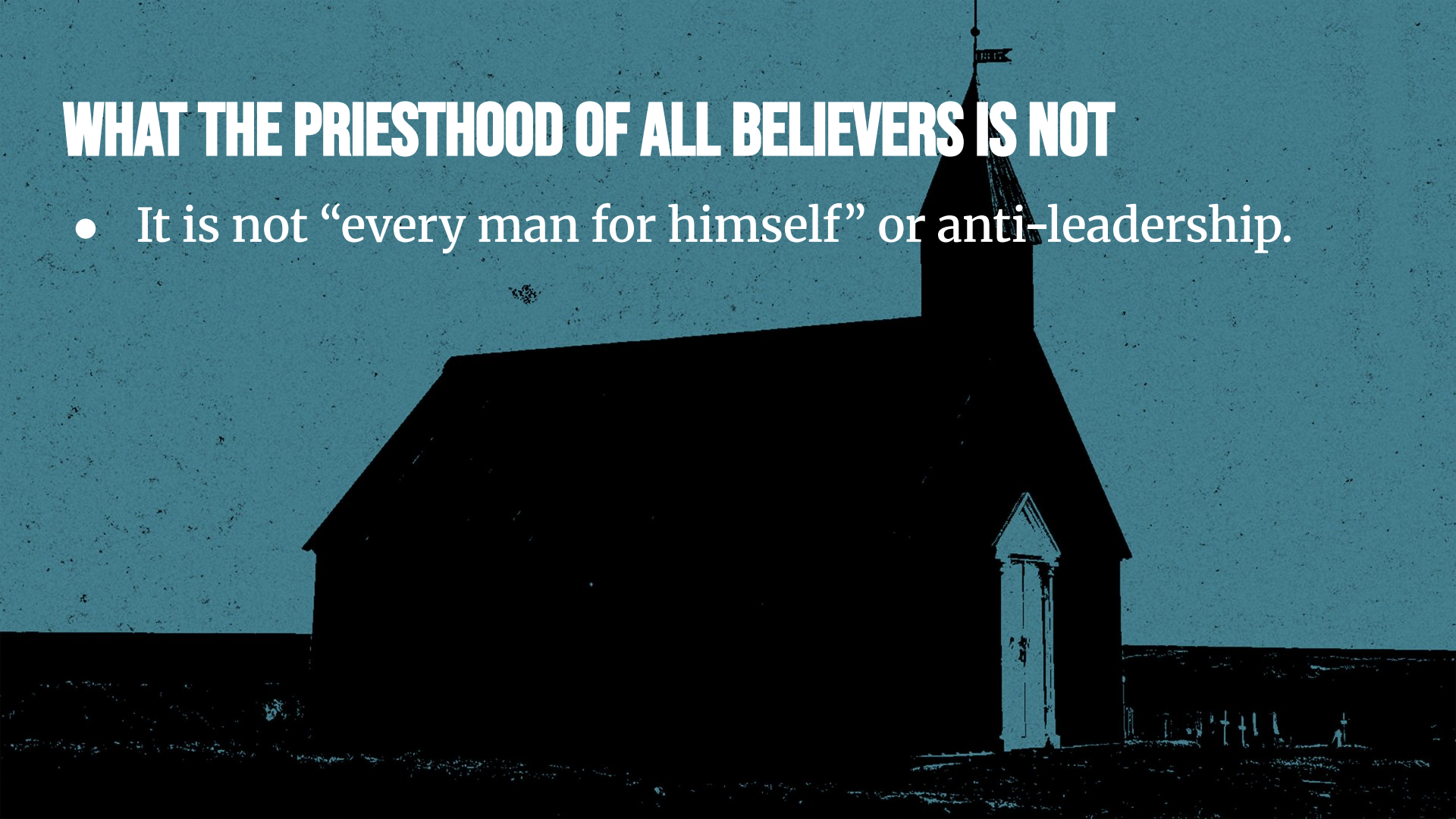
- Every believer can pray, read Scripture, and approach God directly.
- Every believer is called to ministry, worship, and witness, not just the “professionals.”
- The church is a community of active priests serving one another and the world.

**WHAT THE PRIESTHOOD OF ALL BELIEVERS IS NOT**



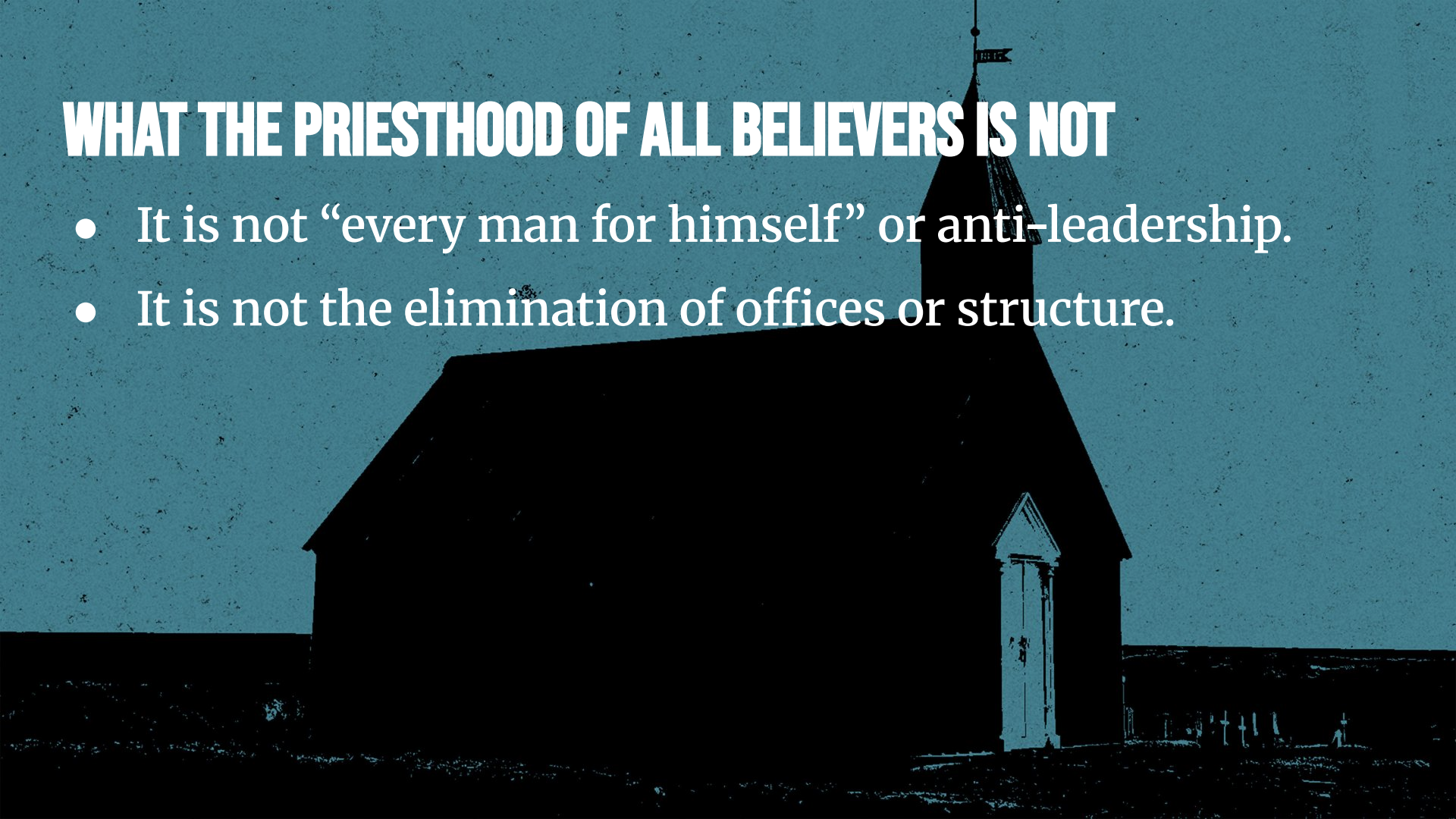
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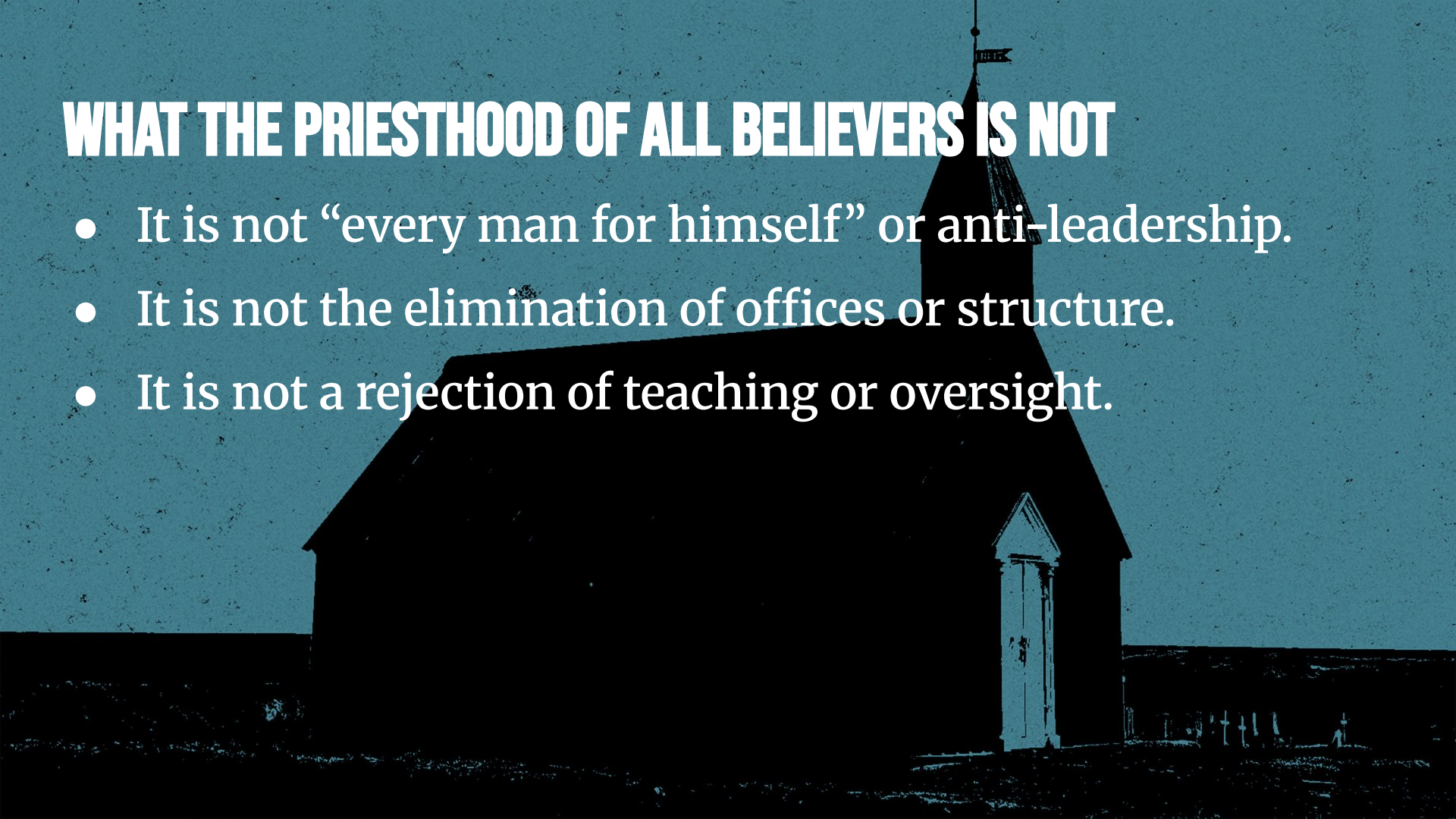
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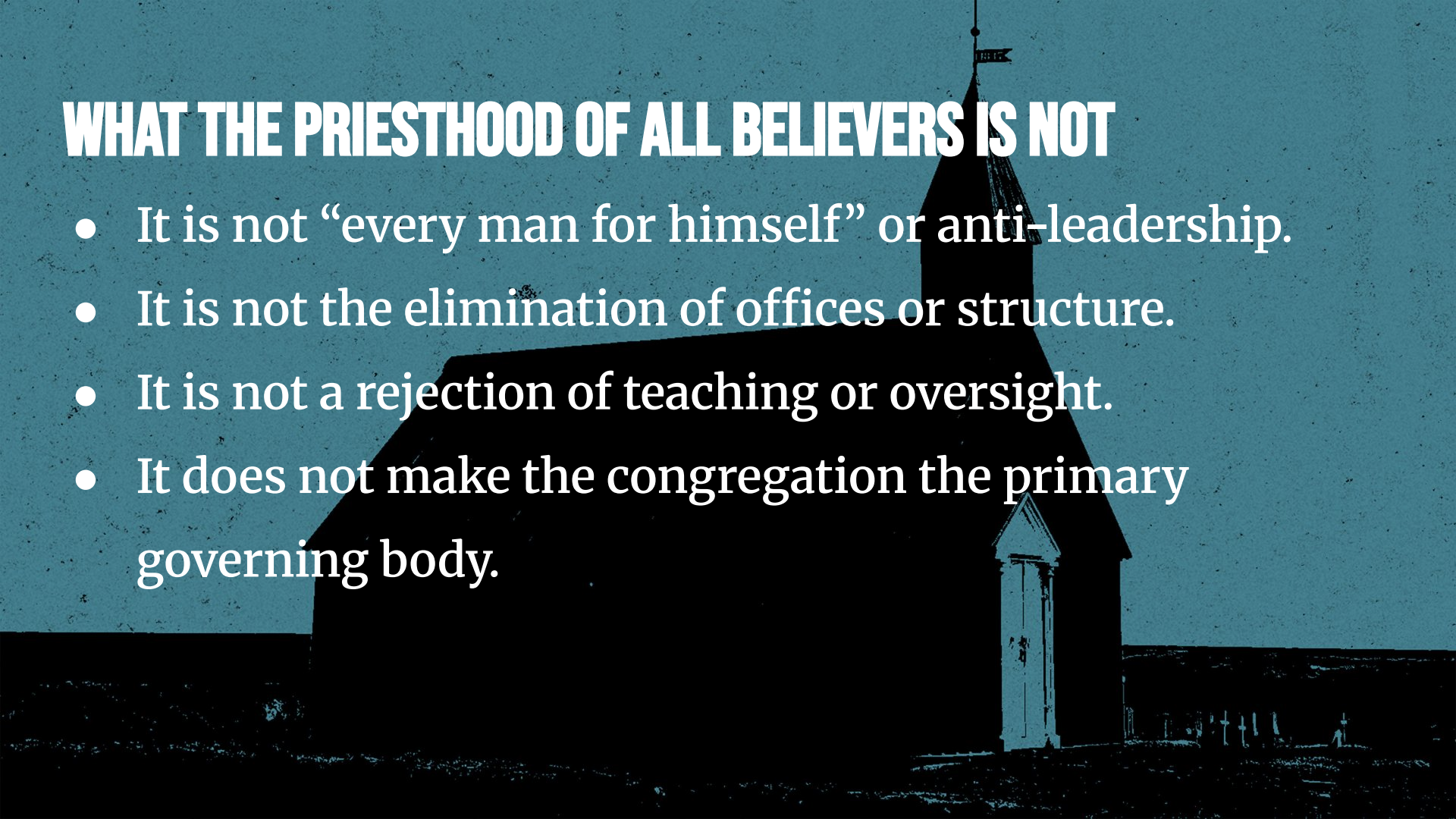
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- It is not the elimination of offices or structure.
- It is not a rejection of teaching or oversight.
- It does not make the congregation the primary governing body.



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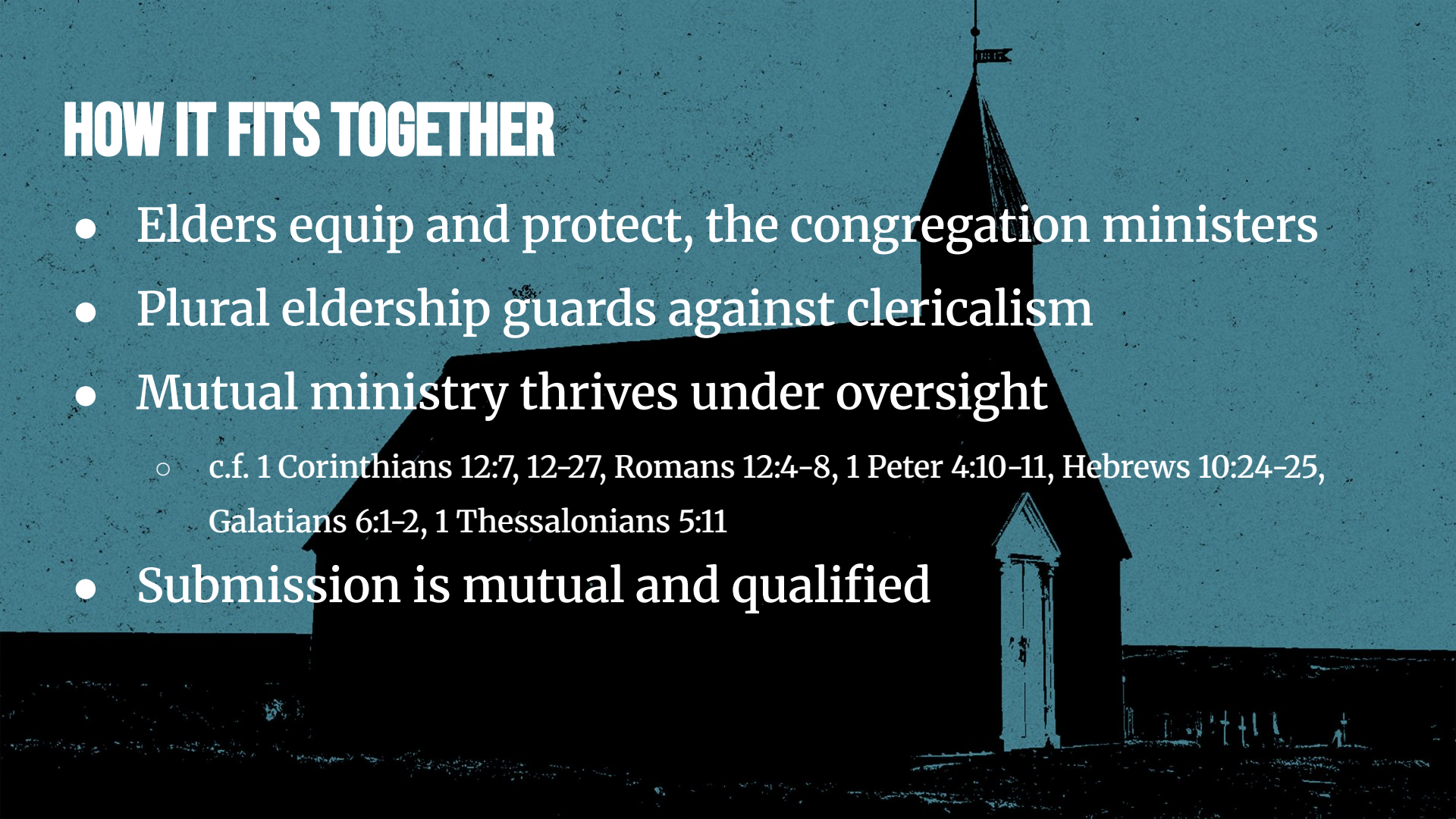


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- Submission is mutual and qualified

