

ISAIAH ♦ Rescued & Renewed



“Estranged No More”

Isaiah 1:1-20

September 8, 2019



“Three Course Meal Gum”

**Creation
Fall
Rescue
Renewal**

Part 1 - Rebellion

1:15b Your hands are full of blood! ¹⁶ Wash and make yourselves clean.

Israel rejected God and lived self-centered lives at the expense of the marginalized. Isaiah warns them to return, or be disciplined.

Part 2 - Exile

43:2 When you pass through the waters, I will be with you

God sends Babylon to enslave Israel in order to break them of their arrogant self-dependency, leading them back to the Lord.

Part 3 - Rescue

61:1b He has sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners,

God rescues and renews Israel from “death,” all pointing to Jesus who does this for us.

⁴ Ah, sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity,
offspring of evildoers, children who deal corruptly!
They have forsaken the LORD
they have despised the Holy One of Israel,
they are utterly estranged.

^{5b}The whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint.

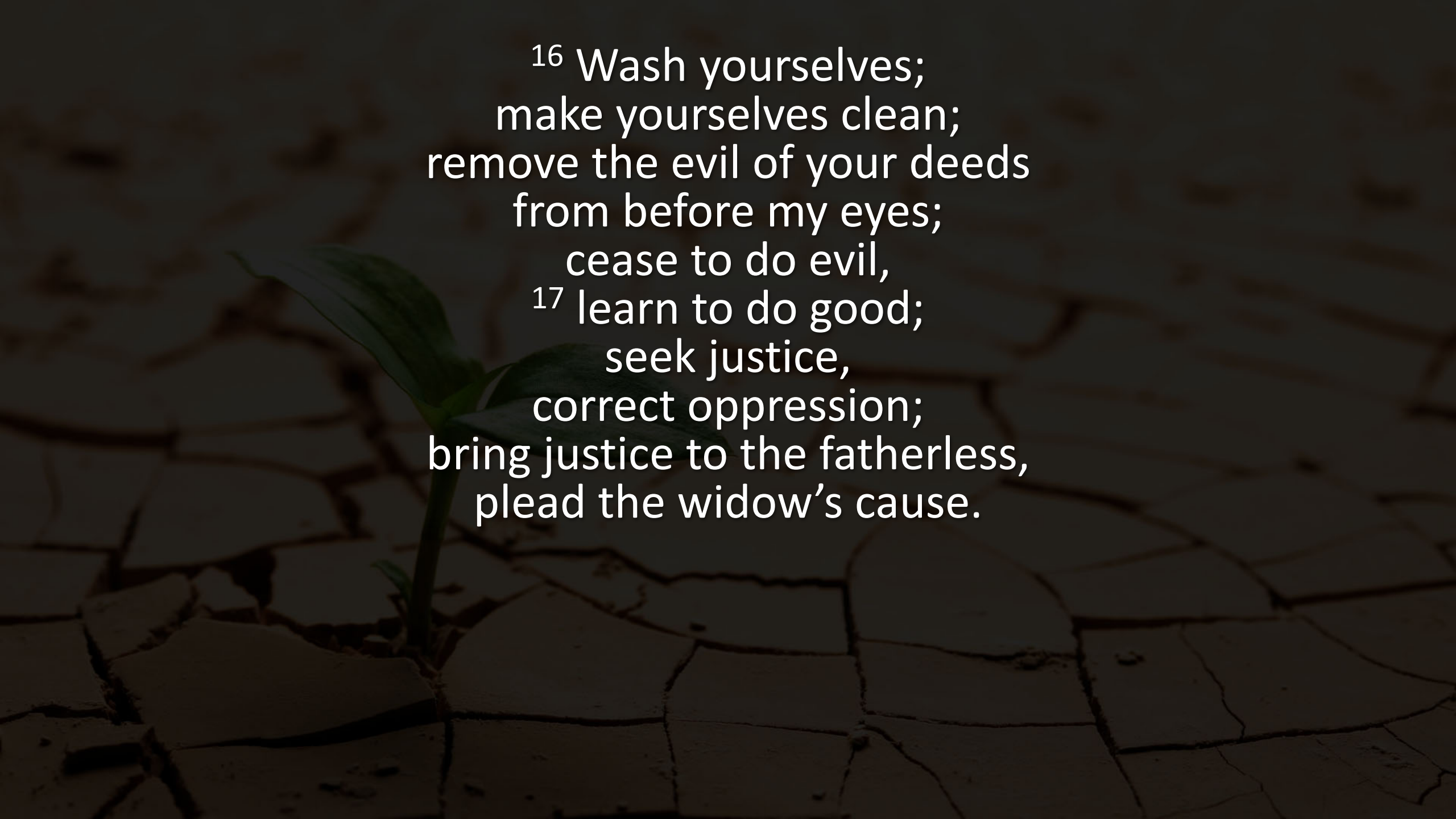
¹¹ “What to me is the multitude of your sacrifices?” says the LORD;
“I have had enough of burnt offerings of rams
and the fat of well-fed beasts;
I do not delight in the blood of bulls, or of lambs, or of goats.

¹³ Bring no more vain offerings;
incense is an abomination to me.

New moon and Sabbath and the calling of convocations—
I cannot endure iniquity and solemn assembly.

¹⁴ Your new moons and your appointed feasts my soul hates;
they have become a burden to me;
I am weary of bearing them.

¹⁵ When you spread out your hands,
I will hide my eyes from you;
even though you make many prayers, I will not listen;
your hands are full of blood.

A small green plant with several leaves is growing out of a patch of cracked, dry earth. The background is dark and textured, suggesting a parched landscape. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

¹⁶ Wash yourselves;
make yourselves clean;
remove the evil of your deeds
from before my eyes;
cease to do evil,
¹⁷ learn to do good;
seek justice,
correct oppression;
bring justice to the fatherless,
plead the widow's cause.

18 Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD:
though your sins are like scarlet,
they shall be as white as snow;
though they are red like crimson,
they shall become like wool.

19 If you are willing and obedient,
you shall eat the good of the land;
20 but if you refuse and rebel,
you shall be eaten by the sword;
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

1:2b *“Children have I reared
and brought up,*

but they have rebelled against me.

⁴ Ah, sinful nation, a people laden
with iniquity, offspring of evildoers,
children who deal corruptly!

They have forsaken the LORD
they have despised the Holy One of
Israel, they are ***utterly estranged.***”

Designed to be knit to God and one
another, resulting in:

- 1) Authentic Worship
- 2) Deep Community
- 3) Sacrificial Service

1) How We Live Estranged

2) How To ***Be*** Re-Connected

3) How To ***Live*** Re-Connected

How We Live Estranged: Both Near and Far

*⁴ Ah, sinful nation, a people
laden with iniquity,
offspring of evildoers,
children who deal corruptly!*

*They have forsaken the LORD
they have despised
the Holy One of Israel,
they are **utterly estranged**.*

*^{5b}The whole head is sick,
and the whole heart faint.*



Estranged: Me > Others

¹⁵ When you spread out your hands,
I will hide my eyes from you;
even though you make many prayers,
I will not listen;
your hands are full of blood.

To the extent that I am
disconnected from God and His
Gracious Love, I enthrone myself
and use others for ***my own benefit***

relationships... job... school... community... world

Estranged: Worship Façade

¹³ Bring no more **vain** offerings;
incense is an abomination to me.
New moon and Sabbath and the
calling of convocations—
I cannot endure iniquity
and solemn assembly.

¹⁴ Your new moons and your
appointed feasts my soul hates;
they have become a burden to me;
I am weary of bearing them.

¹⁵ When you spread out your hands,
I will hide my eyes from you;
even though you make many
prayers, I will not listen;
your hands are full of blood.

Worship for **my own
benefit**...cultural and personal
obligation, chasing a spiritual high.

Outward Piety,
Inward Corruption

Matthew 23:23

“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others.

*“I am my own master.
Everything and Everyone,
including God and church,
exist to please me”*

- Church is checking my spiritual box.
- How did the service make me feel?



So God simply gives us what we ask...he says "OK. Your will be done"

¹⁹ If you are willing and obedient,
you shall eat the good of the land;

²⁰ ***but if you refuse and rebel,
you shall be eaten by the sword;
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.***

For Them:
Exile to Babylon

For Us:
Exile to Sin, Fear and Death

How to Be Re-Connected

¹⁸ Come now, let us **reason** together, says the LORD: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool.

“Reason” – “lets get real...you’re broken and I’ve got the cure.”
“come to your senses” (Luke 15)

How to Be Re-Connected

Are: Scarlet & Crimson

Shall Be: Snow & Wool

Psalm 51

Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy
blot out my transgressions.

² Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin!

^{7b} Wash me and I shall be whiter than snow

How to Be Re-Connected

Jesus' "non-vain" offering on our behalf

Ephesians 5:2

And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

How to Be Re-Connected

Jesus' estrangement from the Father

Isaiah 53:4-5

Surely he has borne our griefs
and carried our sorrows;
yet we esteemed him stricken,
smitten by God, and afflicted.

⁵ But he was pierced for our transgressions;
he was crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,
and with his wounds we are healed.

How to LIVE Re-Connected

Micah 6:8

He has told you, O man, what is good;
and what does the Lord require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?

Begins with a loving
intimacy with God

...which leads to...

Loving Love

...which leads to...

Loving Others

Authentic Vertical Love

“Our gatherings were meant to look otherworldly!...We have become too easily satisfied. We are content if a person leaves (worship) pleased. God wants them AWED.”

Francis Chan, Letters to the Church

The Purpose of Corporate Worship

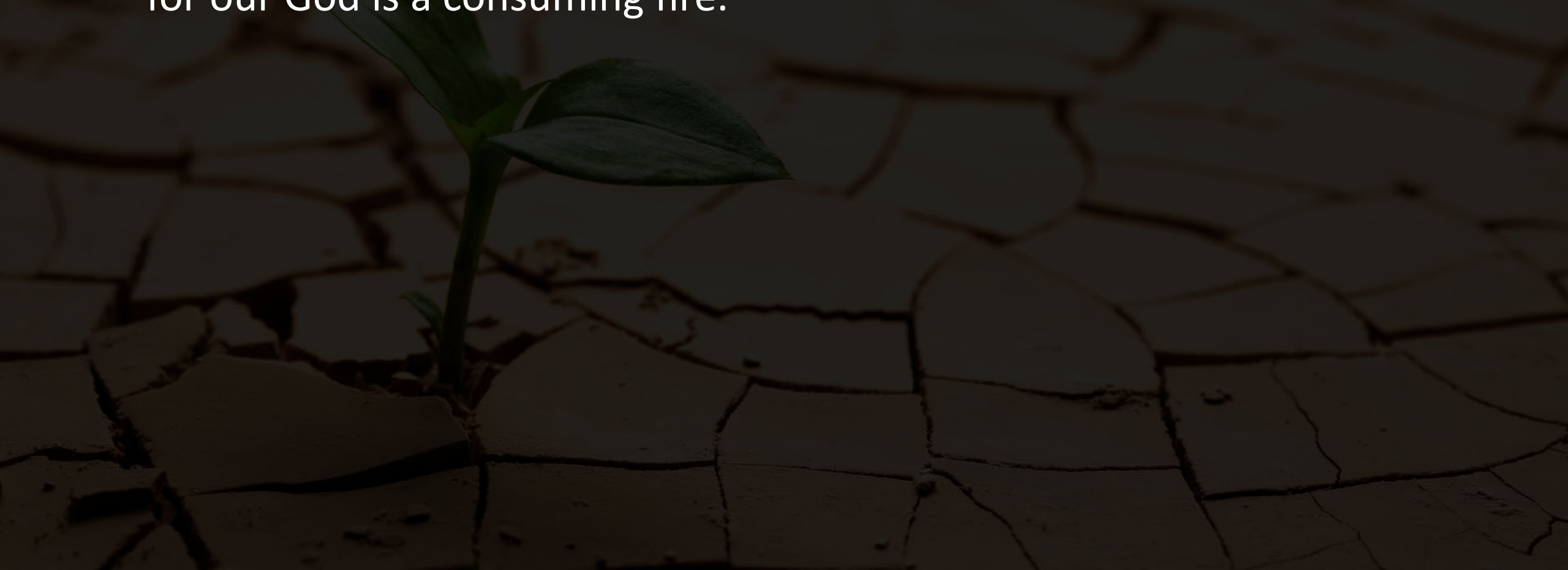
Remind Each Other of Our Rescuer
Celebrate Our Rescuer Together

Hebrews 12:28-29

Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and **thus** let us offer to God acceptable worship, with **reverence and awe**, for our God is a consuming fire.

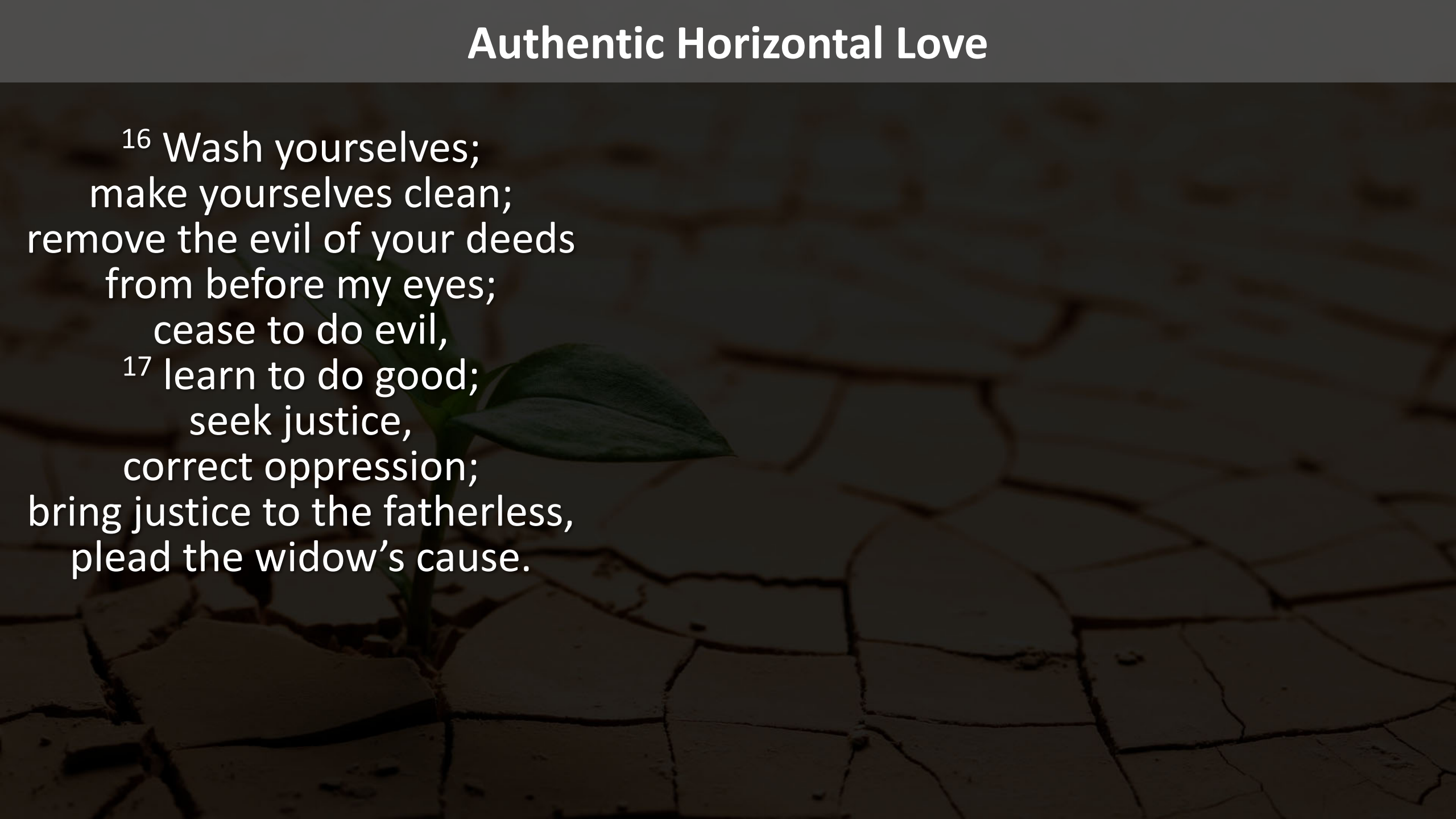
2 Samuel 6:14

And David danced before the Lord with all his might...wearing a linen ephod.



Authentic Horizontal Love

¹⁶ Wash yourselves;
make yourselves clean;
remove the evil of your deeds
from before my eyes;
cease to do evil,
¹⁷ learn to do good;
seek justice,
correct oppression;
bring justice to the fatherless,
plead the widow's cause.

A small green plant with two leaves is growing out of a cracked, dry, brownish ground. The background is a dark, textured surface with a grid-like pattern of cracks.

Authentic Horizontal Love

¹⁶ Wash yourselves;
make yourselves clean;
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bring justice to the fatherless,
plead the widow's cause.

“the test of a civilization is the way that it
cares for its helpless members.”
Pearl Buck (novelist)

In my
...relationships
...job ...school
...community ...world



Freedom
Sunday.
9/22

My Rescue and Renewal

Part 1 - Rebellion

Where are you “Me >” ?
...Living a façade?

Part 2 - Exile

Are you in a dark place,
wondering where God is?

Isaiah 54:8b
“...with everlasting love I
will have compassion on
you,” says the LORD, your
Redeemer.

Part 3 - Rescue

We are “UnEstranged”!

God has rescued us
from the bondage of
sin, fear and death; our
value is secure, we have
been renewed.