

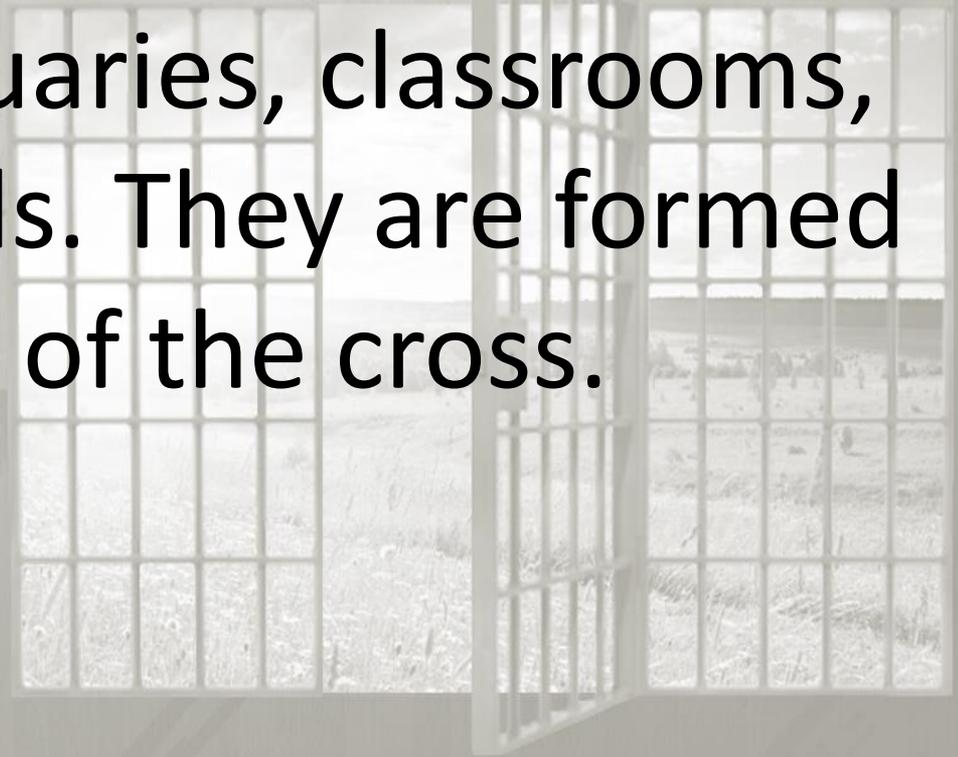
A cityscape at sunset with a glowing cross in the sky. The background is a panoramic view of a city, likely San Francisco, with a prominent cross in the sky on the right side, emitting a bright light and rays. The overall color palette is warm, with oranges, yellows, and reds from the sunset, and a blue sky above. The text is overlaid on the image.

The **T** **R** **A** **N** **S** **F** **O** **R** **M** **I** **N** **G**
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Introduction:

True Christian communities aren't formed in sanctuaries, classrooms, or fellowship halls. They are formed at the foot of the cross.



Text: 1 John 3:16-20

**This is how we know what love is:
Jesus Christ laid down his life for us.**

**And we ought to lay down our lives
for our brothers.**

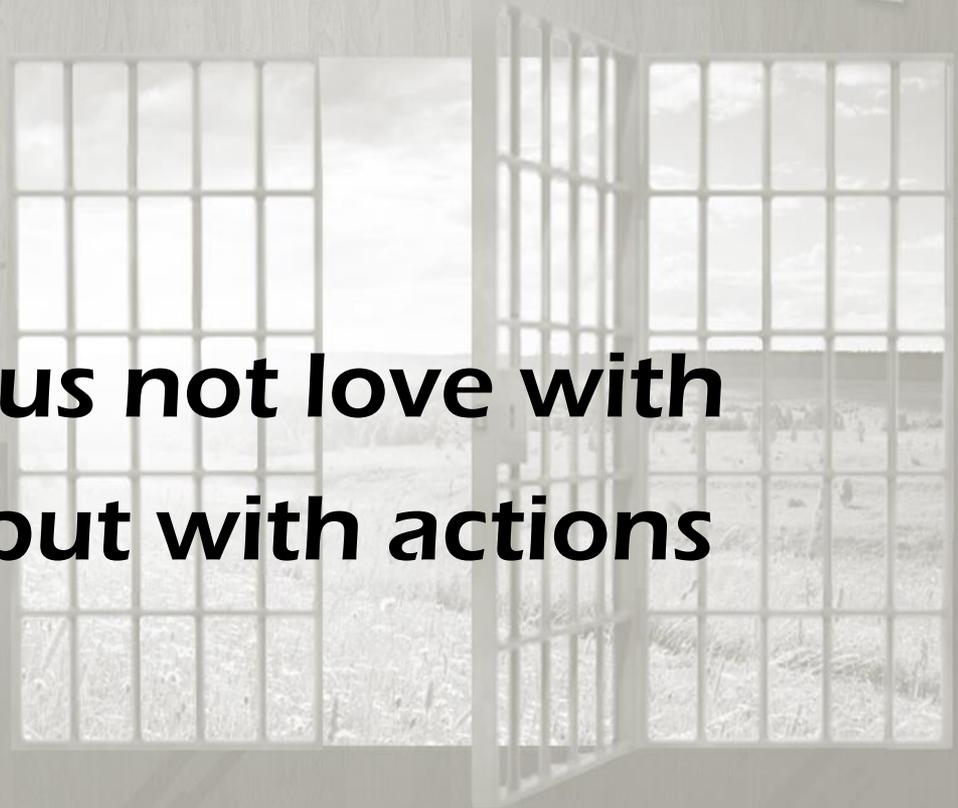
A PRISON



If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him?

BECAUSE PRIDE IS

Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.



This then is how we know that we belong to the truth, and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence whenever our hearts condemn us.

BECAUSE PRIDE IS

For God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything.

1 John 3:16-20

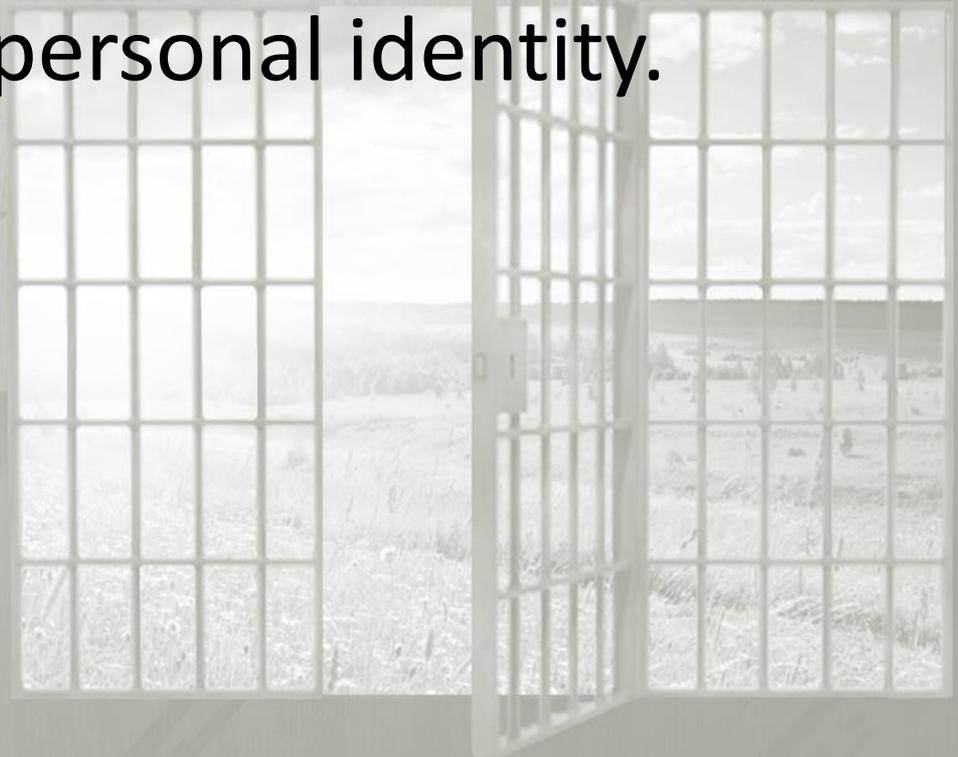
True communities are formed when people discover that they share a common **IDENTITY**.

BECAUSE PRIDE IS
A PRISON



A **SOCIOLOGICAL** approach to building churches focuses on language, ethnicity, and socio-economic status as the keys to our sense of personal identity.

BECAUSE PRIDE IS
A PRISON



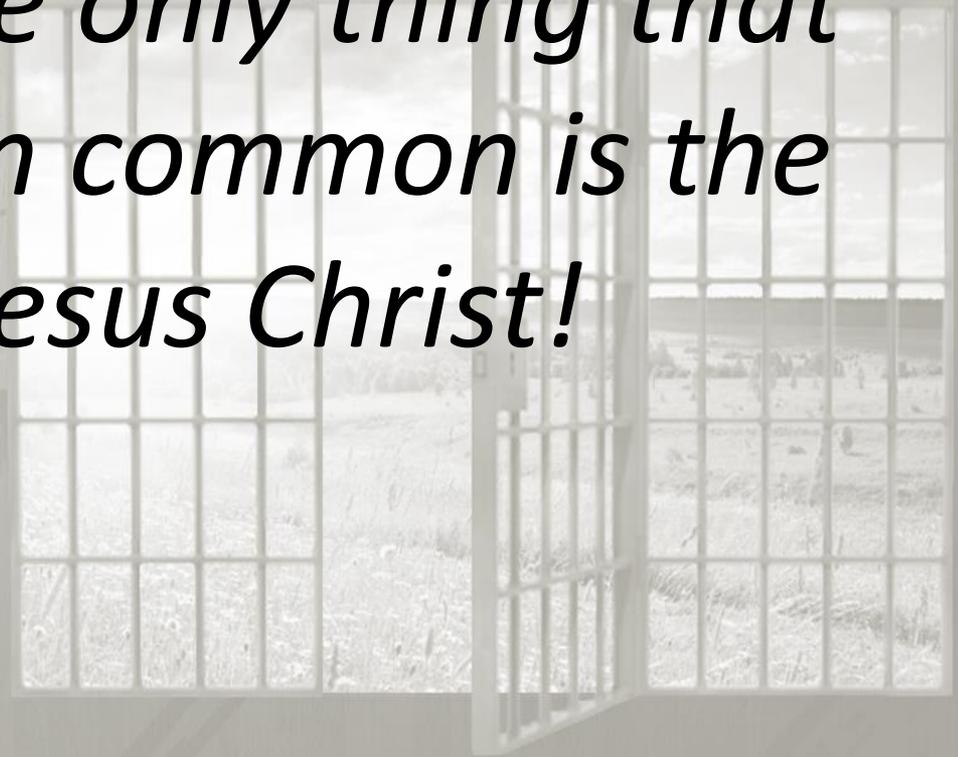
A **THEOLOGICAL** approach to building churches focuses on shared **BELIEF** systems and **LIFESTYLE** commitments as the keys to our sense of personal identity.

A PRISON



When we get to Heaven, we will realize that the only thing that we ALL have in common is the cross of Jesus Christ!

BECAUSE PRIDE IS
A PRISON



We all:

Have **SINNED**.

"...for all have sinned and fall short of the
glory of God."

Romans 3:23



We all:

Have received the same opportunity to

BELIEVE in Jesus Christ.

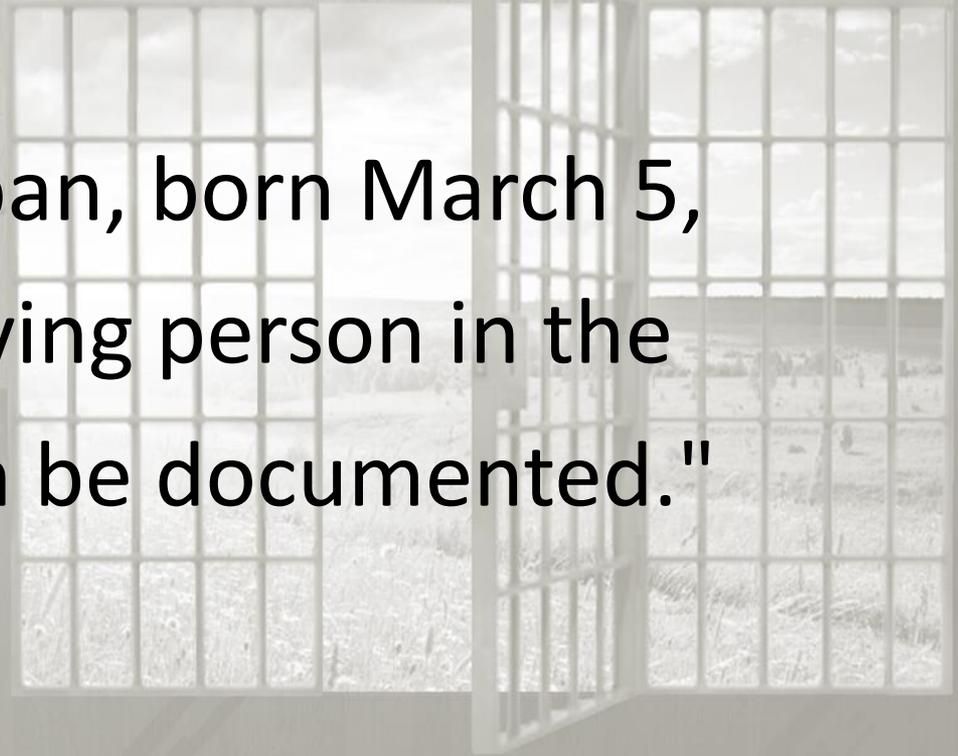
"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

John 3:16

We all:

Will someday **DIE**.

"Misao Okawa of Japan, born March 5, 1898, is the oldest living person in the world whose age can be documented."



We all:

Will someday stand before God to be

JUDGED.

"By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly."

2 Peter 3:7

We all:

Have been given the same opportunity,
through Christ alone, to stand in

CONFIDENCE on the Day of
Judgment.

A PRISON



"And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus."

1 John 4:16-17

We all:

Have been given the same opportunity to
RECEIVE Jesus Christ.

BECAUSE PRIDE IS
A PRISON



"Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God --- children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God."

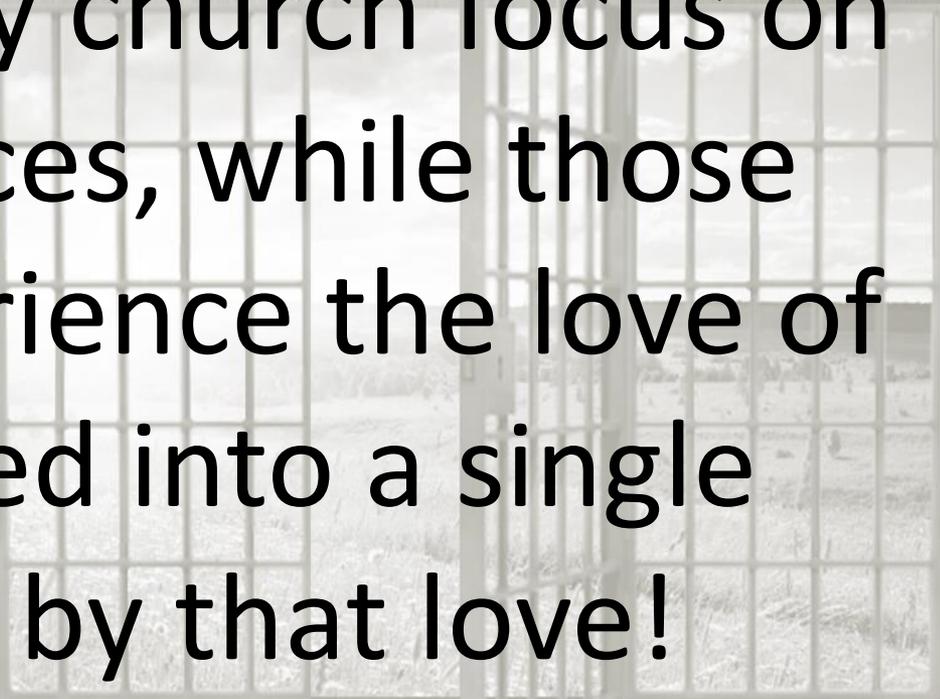
John 1:12-13

JAIL BREAK

Conclusion:

People who play church focus on their differences, while those who truly experience the love of God are forged into a single community by that love!

BECAUSE PRIDE IS
A PRISON



A cityscape at sunset with a glowing cross in the sky. The background is a panoramic view of a city, likely San Francisco, with the Golden Gate Bridge visible in the distance. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and blue, with a bright, glowing cross in the upper right corner. The text is overlaid on the image.

The **T** R A N S F O R M I N G
P O W E R ^of **C** r o s s

THE COMMUNITY OF THE CROSS