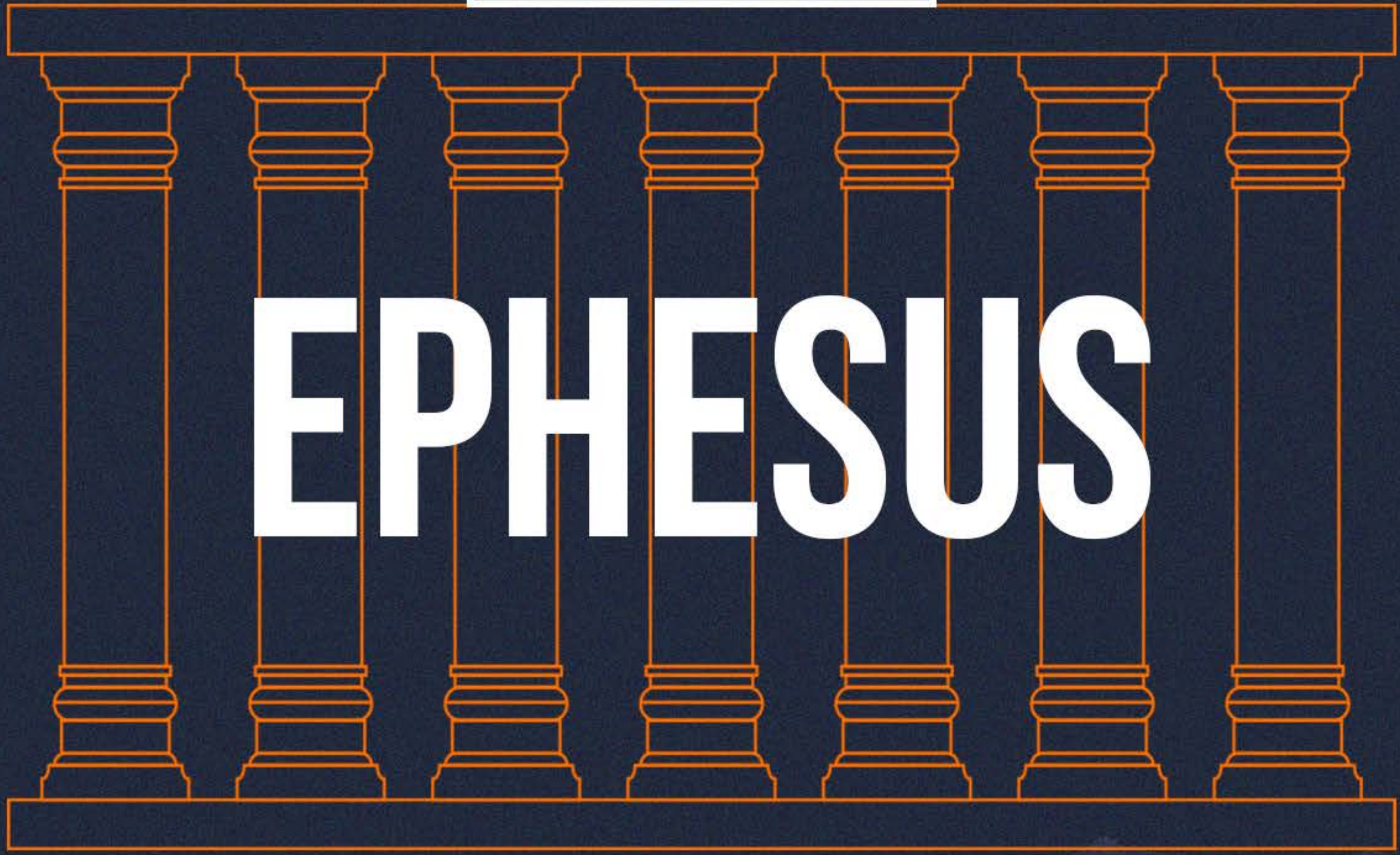


EARS2HEAR



EPHESUS

Revelation 2:1-7

To the angel of the church in Ephesus write:

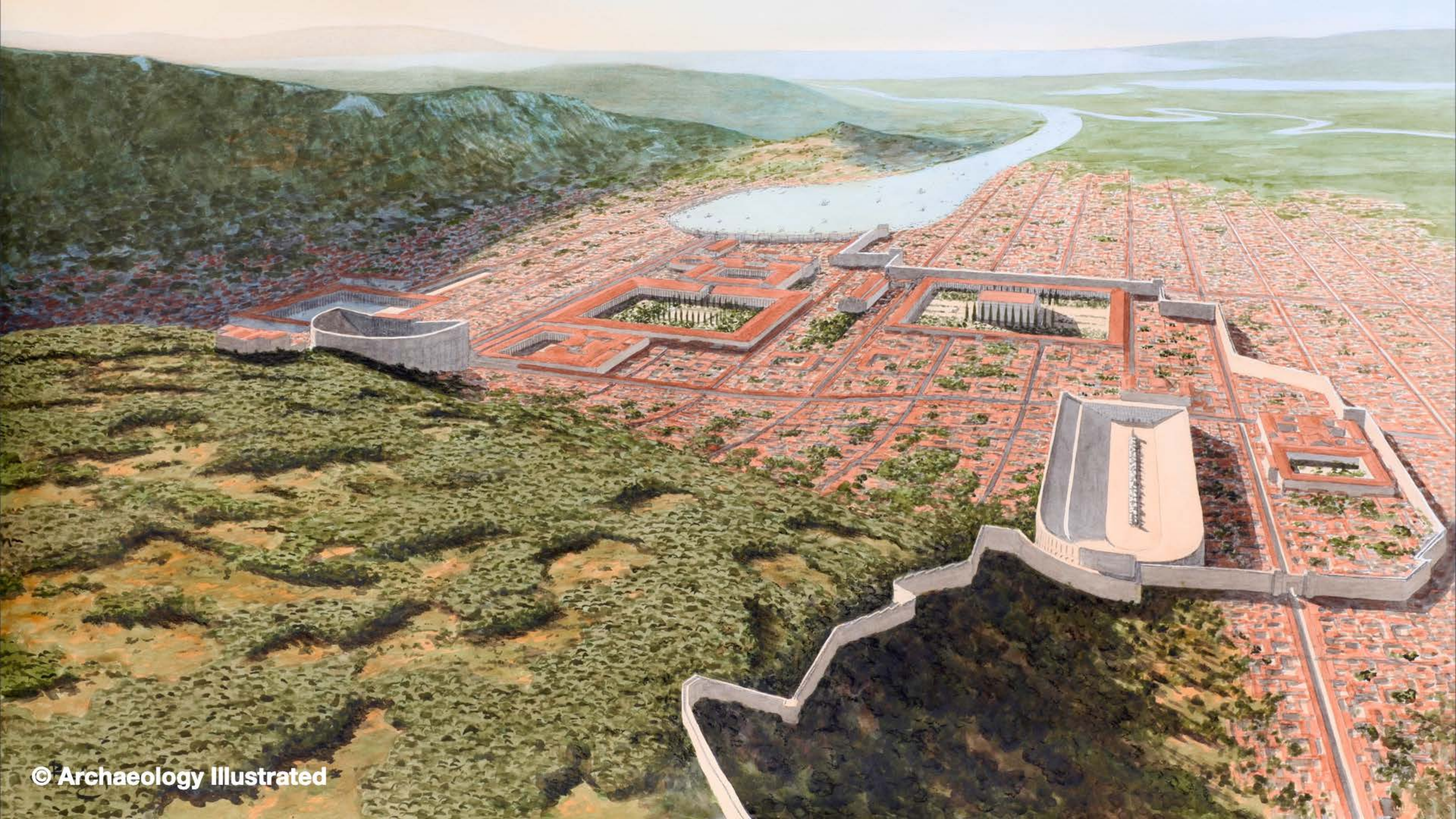
These are the words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand and walks among the seven golden lampstands. I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked people, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false. You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary.

Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first. Consider how far you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place. But you have this in your favor: You hate the practices of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.

Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.

Commendations

- their deeds
- their hard work and perseverance
- their intolerance of wickedness
- testing those who claimed to be apostles
- persevering and enduring hardship
- not growing weary
- hating the practices of the Nicolaitans











1 Timothy 6:20

Timothy, **guard** what has been entrusted to your care. Turn away from godless chatter and the opposing ideas of what is falsely called knowledge...

1 Timothy 1:3-5

As I urged you when I went into Macedonia, stay there in Ephesus so that you may **command certain people not to teach false doctrines any longer or to devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies. Such things promote controversial speculations rather than advancing God's work**—which is by faith. The goal of this command is love, which comes from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.

Challenge

Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first.

Revelation 2:4

It misrepresents the faith
when we present ourselves
in an unloving way.

VIGILANCE

Suspicion

LOVE

VIGILANCE

Suspicion

Constantly vigilant so that
a commitment to the truth
prevents relationships from
forming.

LOVE

Acts 19:9

But some of them became obstinate; they refused to believe and publicly maligned the Way. So Paul left them. He took the disciples with him and had discussions daily in the lecture hall of Tyrannus.

VIGILANCE

A diagram consisting of a vertical orange line and a horizontal orange line intersecting at the center. The word 'VIGILANCE' is written in orange at the top of the vertical line. The word 'LOVE' is written in orange at the right end of the horizontal line. The word 'Suspicion' is written in white in the upper-left quadrant of the crosshair.

Suspicion

LOVE

Acts 19:9

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The vigilance of other believers led to Paul leaving Thessalonica (Acts 17:10), Berea (Acts 17:13-14), Iconium (Acts 14:5-6), Damascus (Acts 9:24-25) and Jerusalem (Acts 9:29-30). **Clearly vigilance is not wrong, it can't function alone.**

VIGILANCE

Suspicion

LOVE

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VIGILANCE

Suspicion

LOVE

Acts 20:28-31

Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. **Be shepherds** of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood. I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them. So be on your guard! Remember that for three years I never stopped warning each of you night and day with tears.

VIGILANCE

Suspicion

LOVE

VIGILANCE



A 2x2 matrix diagram with 'VIGILANCE' at the top, 'LOVE' on the right, 'Suspicion' in the top-left, and 'Dilution' in the bottom-right. The axes are orange lines intersecting at the center.

Suspicion

LOVE

Dilution

VIGILANCE

Suspicion

LOVE

Dilution

Where the acceptance
of people waters down
the truth

*(2 John 7-11; 3 John 9-10;
Cor. 11:9-15; 1 Tim. 1:19-20)*

2 John 7-11

I say this because many deceivers, who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh, have gone out into the world.

...Watch out that you do not lose what we have worked for, but that you may be rewarded fully. Anyone who runs ahead and does not continue in the teaching of Christ does not have God; whoever continues in the teaching has both the Father and the Son. If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not take them into your house or welcome them. Anyone who welcomes them shares in their wicked work.

VIGILANCE

Suspicion

LOVE

Dilution

2 John 7-11

I say this because many deceivers, who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh, have gone out into the world. ...Watch out that you do not lose what we have worked for, but that you may be rewarded fully. Anyone who runs ahead and does not continue in the teaching of Christ does not have God; whoever continues in the teaching has both the Father and the Son. If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not take them into your house or welcome them. Anyone who welcomes them shares in their wicked work.

VIGILANCE

Suspicion

LOVE

Dilution

3 John 9-10

I wrote to the church, but Diotrefes, who loves to be first, will not welcome us. So when I come, I will call attention to what he is doing, spreading malicious nonsense about us. Not satisfied with that, he even refuses to welcome other believers. He also stops those who want to do so and puts them out of the church.

VIGILANCE



A 2x2 matrix diagram with a dark blue background. The vertical axis is labeled 'VIGILANCE' at the top in orange. The horizontal axis is labeled 'LOVE' on the right in orange. The top-left quadrant contains the word 'Suspicion' in white. The bottom-right quadrant contains the word 'Dilution' in white. The axes are orange lines intersecting at the center.

Suspicion

LOVE

Dilution

VIGILANCE

Suspicion

LOVE

Safety

Dilution

VIGILANCE

Suspicion

LOVE

Safety

Pull back from the task and
do nothing to jeopardize
your safety

*(2 Tim 1:15; 4:10; 4:16;
cf. 2 Cor 1:8-11)*

Dilution

2 Timothy 1:15

You know that everyone in the province of Asia has deserted me, including Phygelus and Hermogenes.



VIGILANCE

Suspicion

LOVE

Safety

Dilution

VIGILANCE

Suspicion

Sacred Trust

LOVE

Safety

Dilution

VIGILANCE

Sacred Trust

The ability to balance
a passion for the truth
with a compassion
for people

(3 John 5-8; 2 John 5-6)

Suspicion

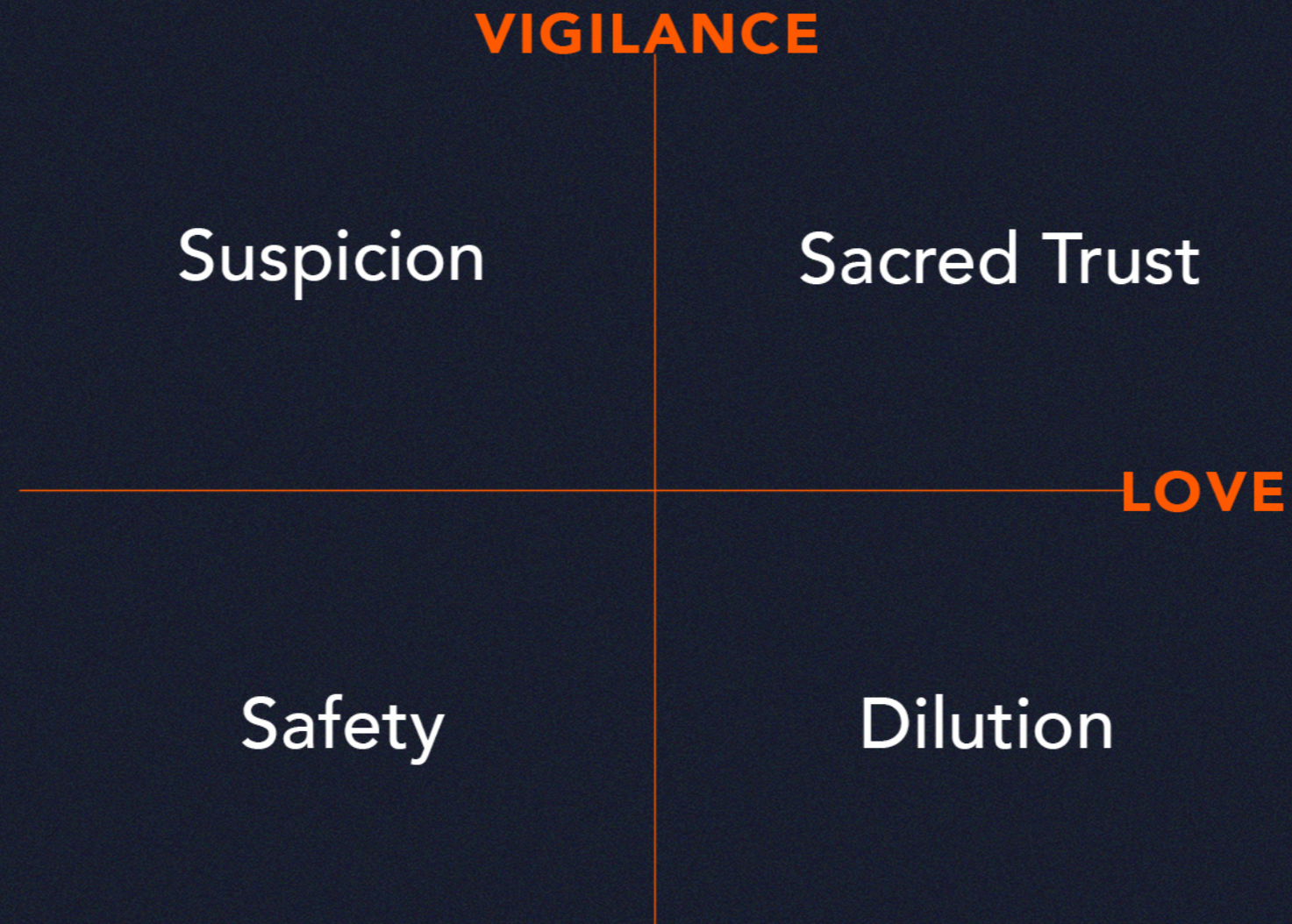
LOVE

Safety

Dilution

2 John 5-6

And now, dear lady, I am not writing you a new command but one we have had from the beginning. I ask that we love one another. And this is love: that we walk in obedience to his commands. As you have heard from the beginning, his command is that you walk in love.



2 John 5-6

And now, dear lady, I am not writing you a new command but one we have had from the beginning. I ask that we love one another. And this is love: that we walk in obedience to his commands. As you have heard from the beginning, his command is that you walk in love.

VIGILANCE

Suspicion

Sacred Trust

LOVE

Safety

Dilution

3 John 5-8

Dear friend, you are faithful in what you are doing for the brothers and sisters, even though they are strangers to you. They have told the church about your love. Please send them on their way in a manner that honors God. It was for the sake of the Name that they went out, receiving no help from the pagans. We ought therefore to show hospitality to such people so that we may work together for the truth.

VIGILANCE

Suspicion

Sacred Trust

LOVE

Safety

Dilution

So how did they do?

The Epistle of Ignatius to the Ephesians, chapter 4
Therefore in your concord and harmonious love, Jesus Christ is sung. And man by man, become a choir, **that being harmonious in love**, and taking up the song of God in unison, you may with one voice sing to the Father through Jesus Christ, so that He may both hear you, and perceive by your works that you are indeed the members of His Son.

Revelation 2:7b

To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.