

A man with a friendly smile, wearing a grey suit jacket over a light blue shirt, sits at a glass desk. He is holding a pair of glasses in his left hand and has a tablet computer in front of him. The background is a bright, modern office with large windows.

ADVENTIST LEADERS

KEEPING THE PRESIDENCY SPIRITUAL

Juan R. Prestol-Puesán PhD

The purpose of this presentation is to explore the *ethos* of the Adventist presidency and the important role it plays in church leadership.

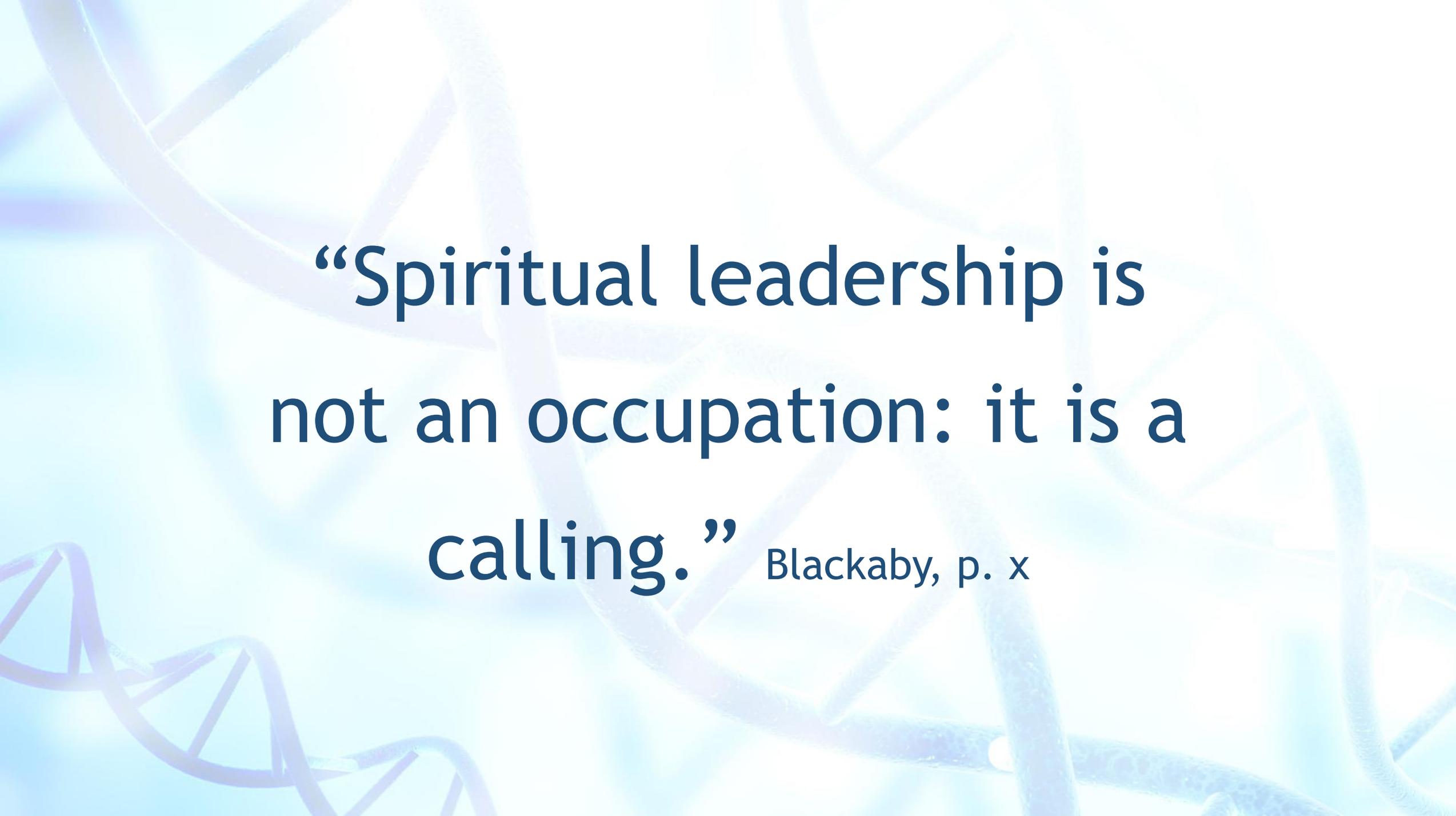




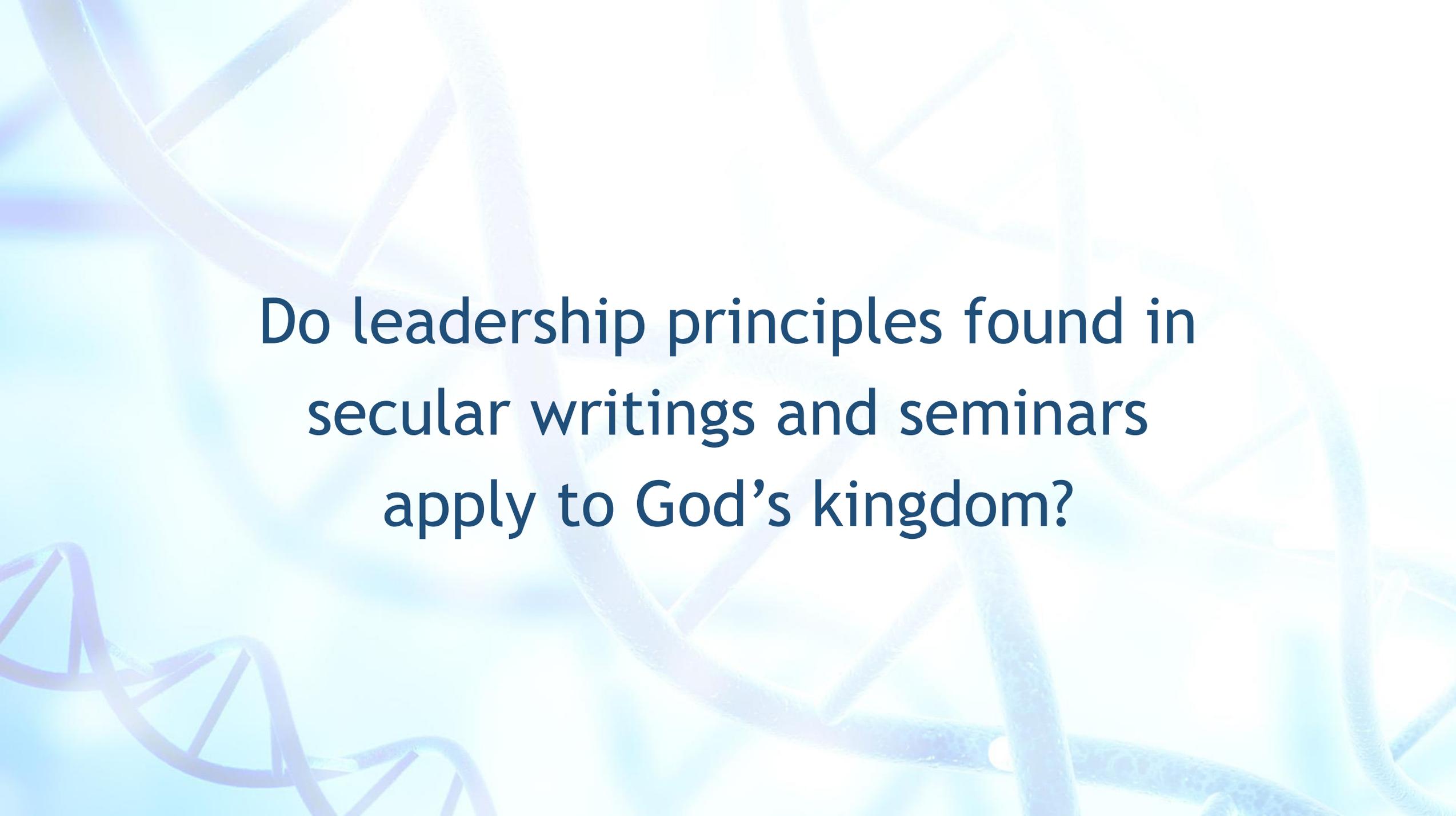
SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP

SPIRITUALITY in leaders is

the capacity of humans to connect with the divine. *A true spiritual leader is one God uses, sanctifies, enlarges, and maximizes* beyond the leader's ability to measure, or even understand.



**“Spiritual leadership is
not an occupation: it is a
calling.”** Blackaby, p. x

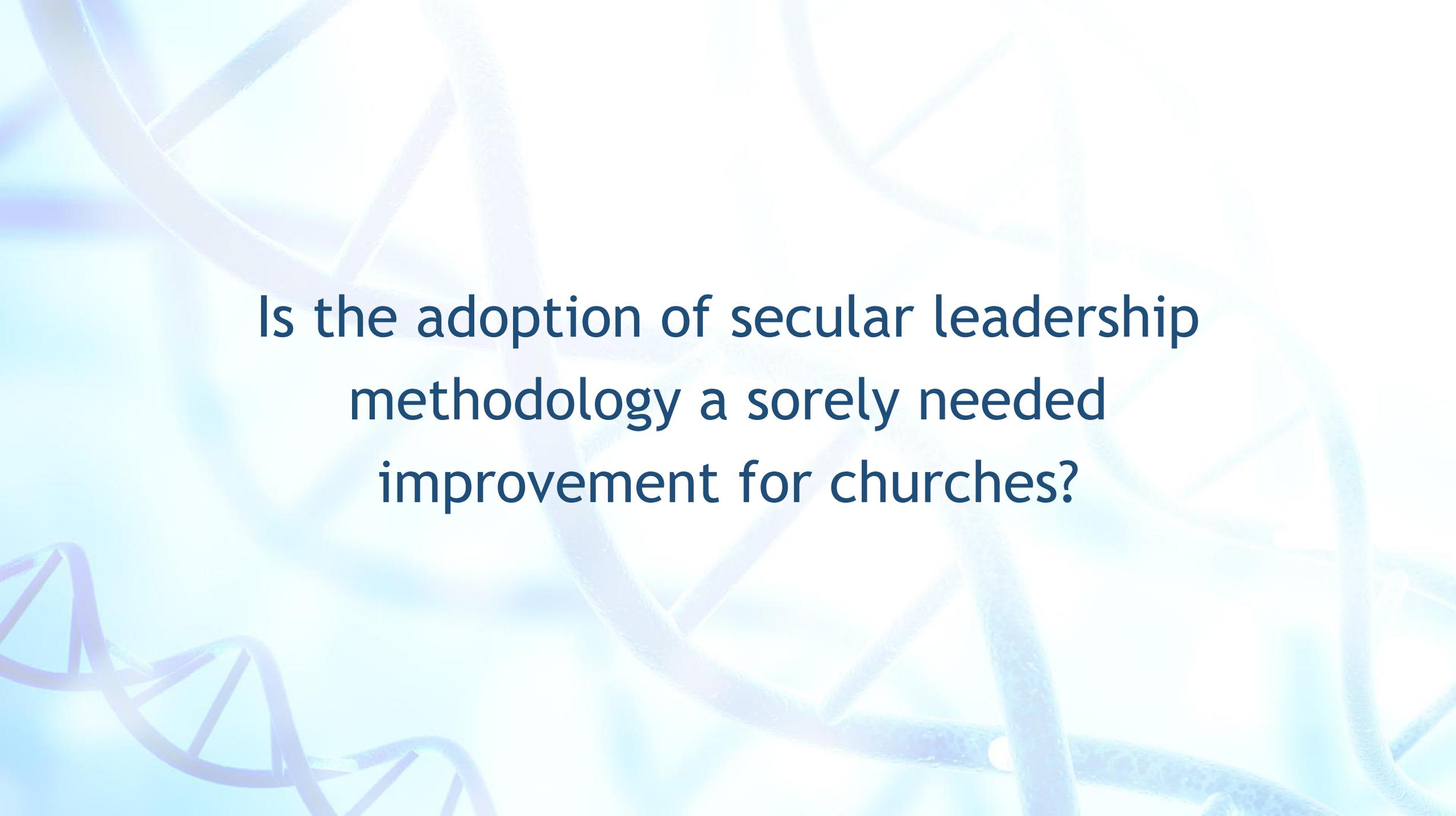


**Do leadership principles found in
secular writings and seminars
apply to God's kingdom?**

HENRY AND RICHARD BLACKABY

“Much secular leadership theory is based on presuppositions that may appear sound yet promote ideas contrary to the Scriptures. They leave God out! Secular and spiritual leaders may use similar methods, but *there are dimensions to spiritual leadership not present in secular leadership*. Spiritual leaders who simply follow secular methods may experience some degree of success, but they will not rise to the higher level of leadership possible for true spiritual leaders.”

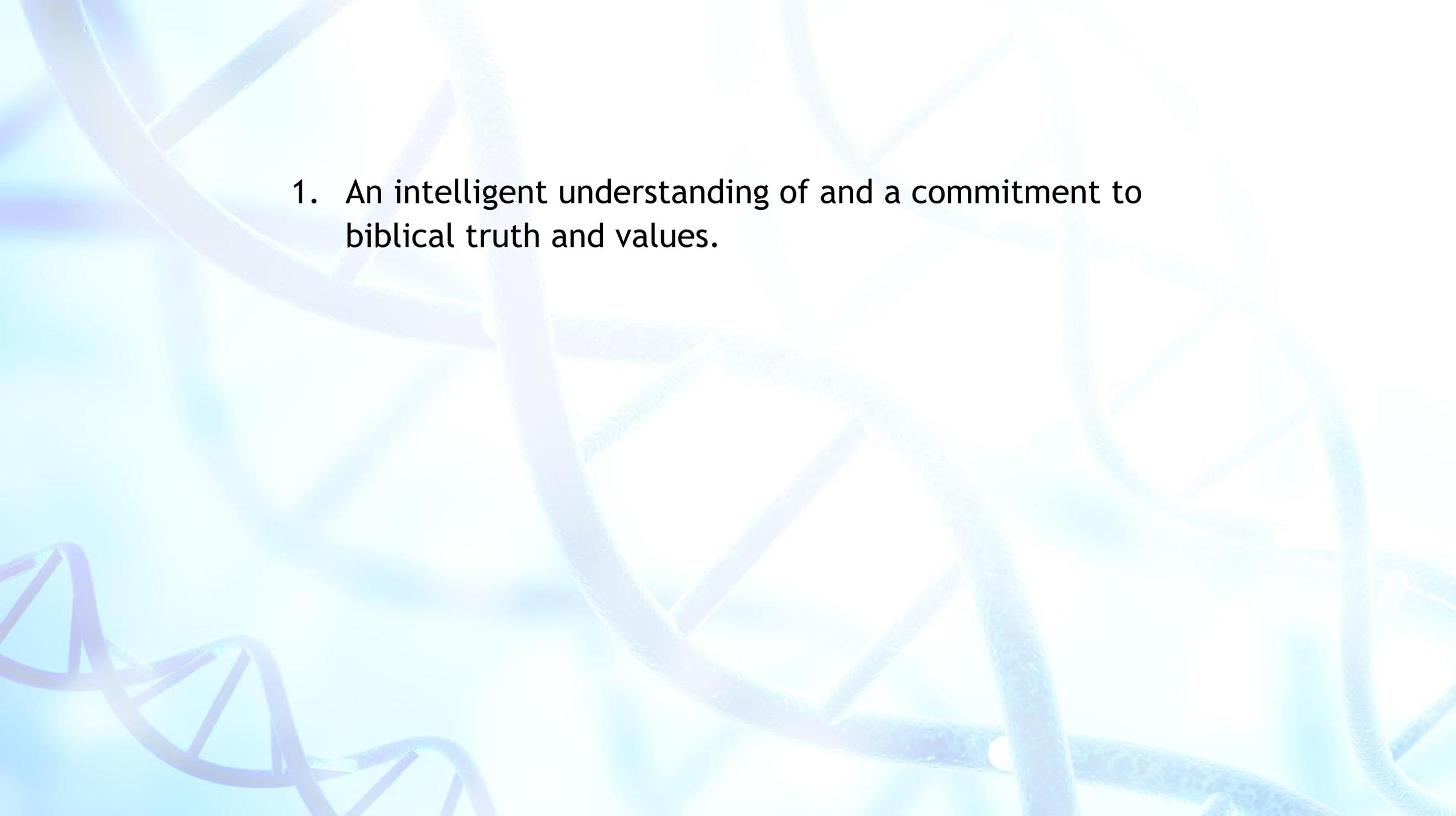
Spiritual Leadership, p.X

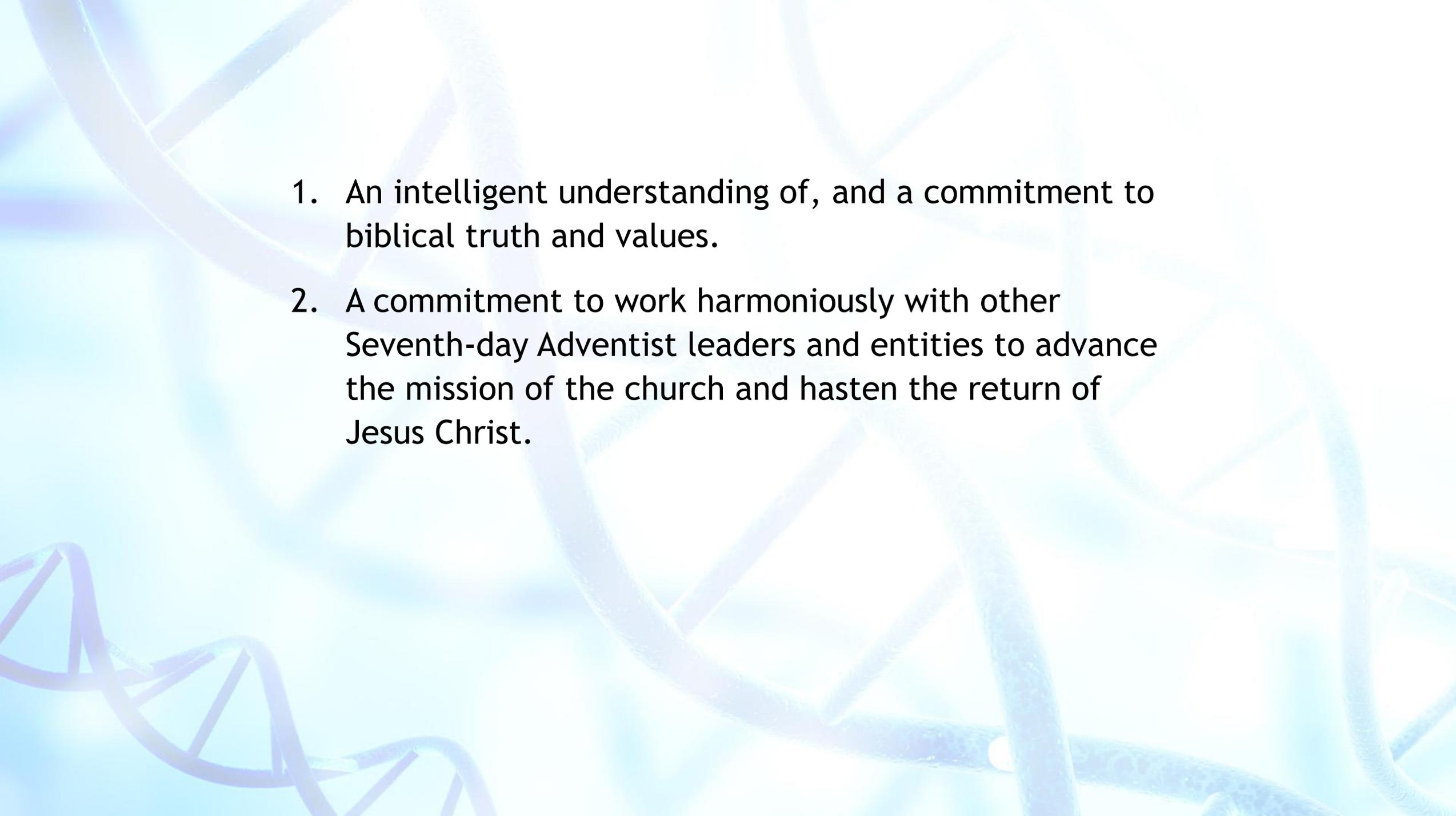


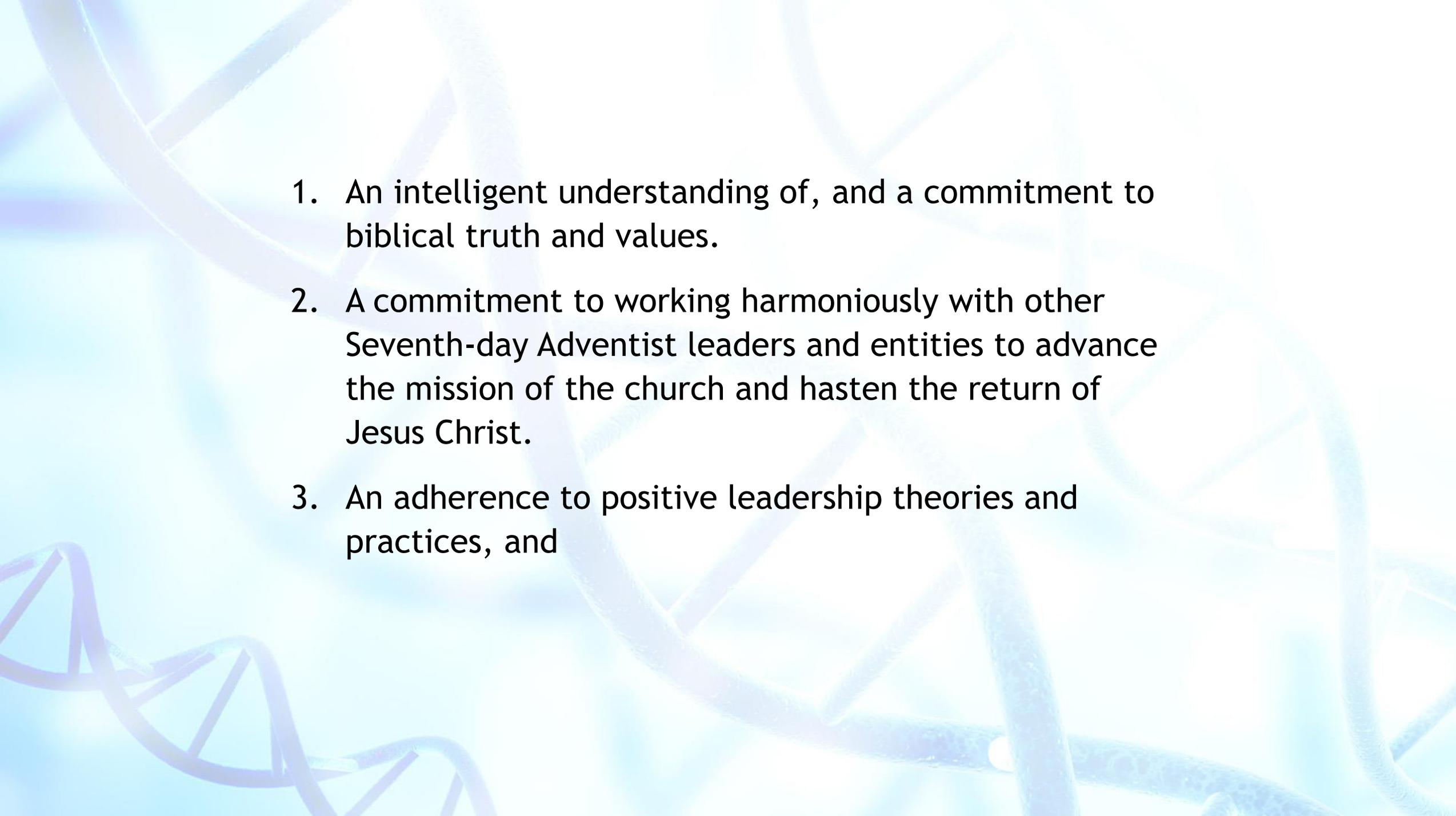
Is the adoption of secular leadership methodology a sorely needed improvement for churches?

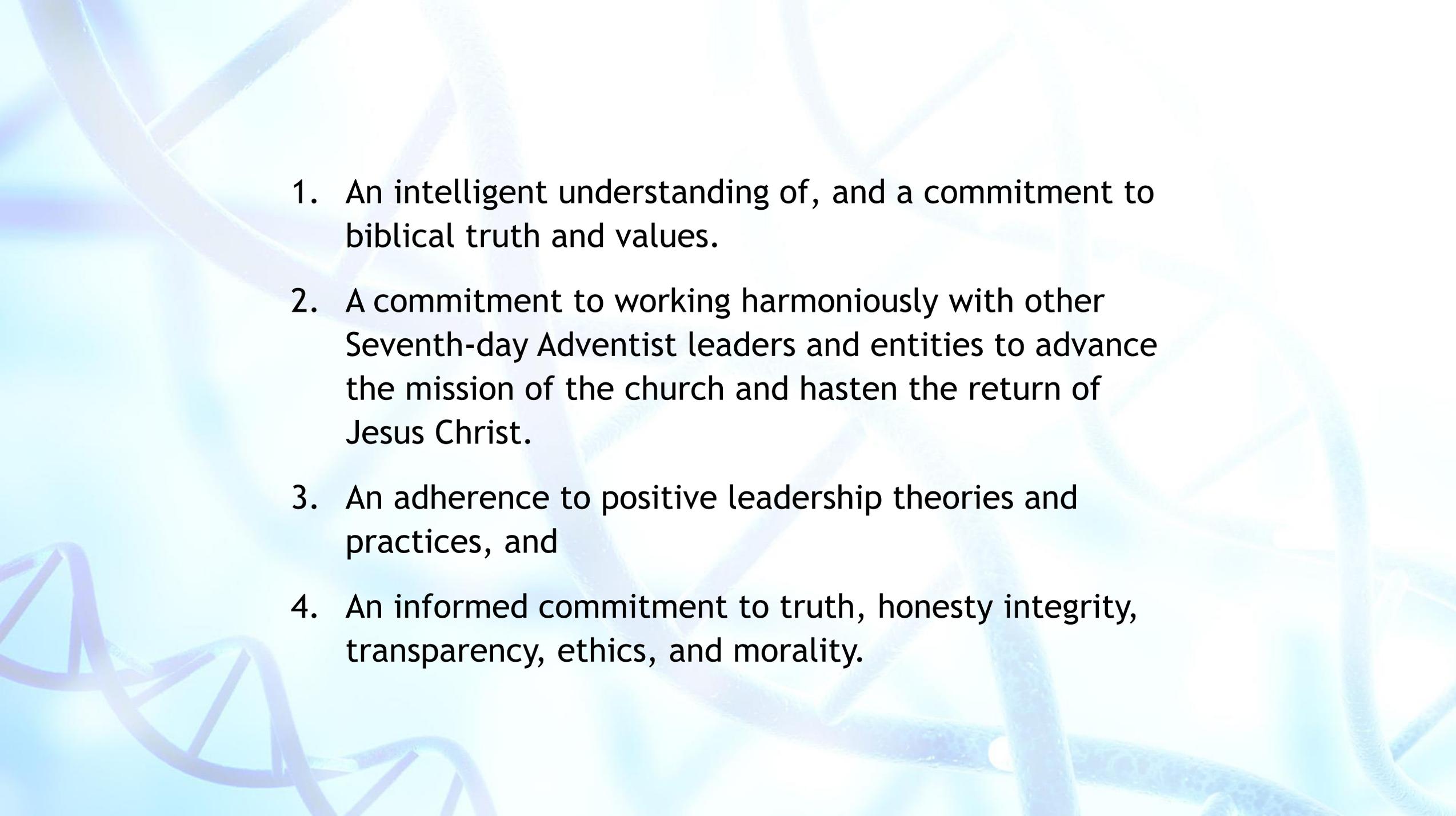


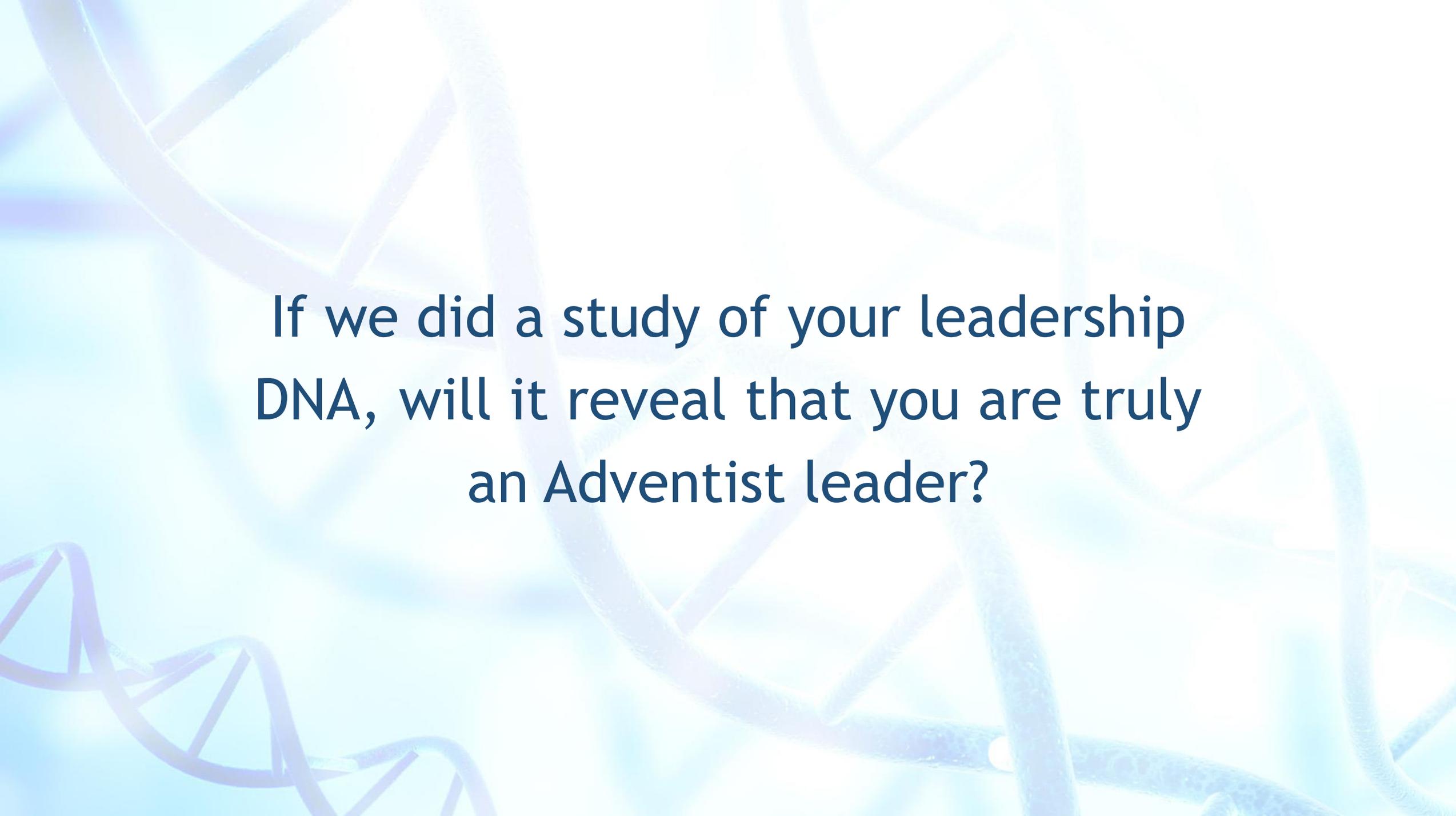
THE ADVENTIST LEADER

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1. An intelligent understanding of and a commitment to biblical truth and values.

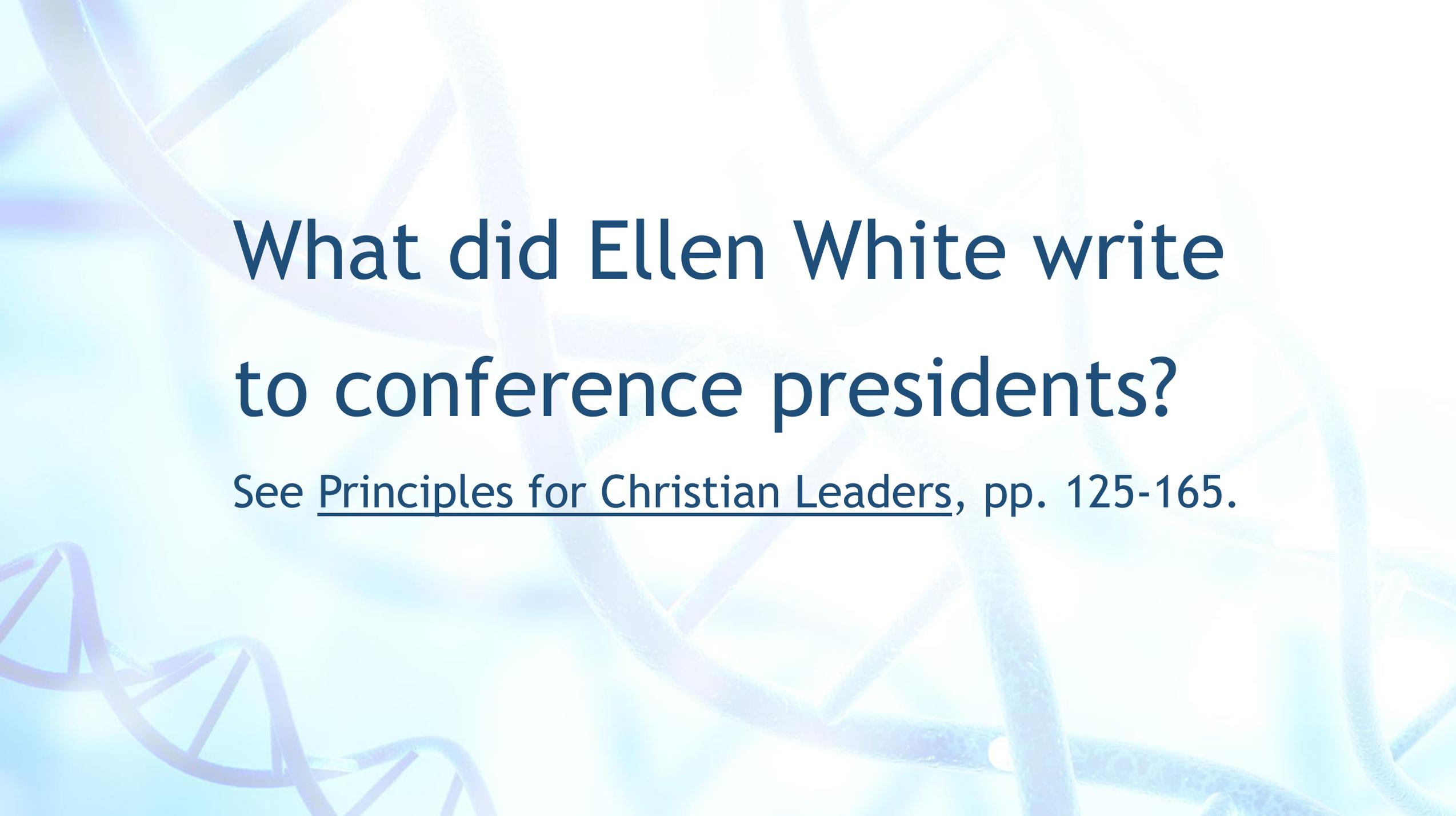
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 3. An adherence to positive leadership theories and practices, and
 4. An informed commitment to truth, honesty integrity, transparency, ethics, and morality.



If we did a study of your leadership DNA, will it reveal that you are truly an Adventist leader?



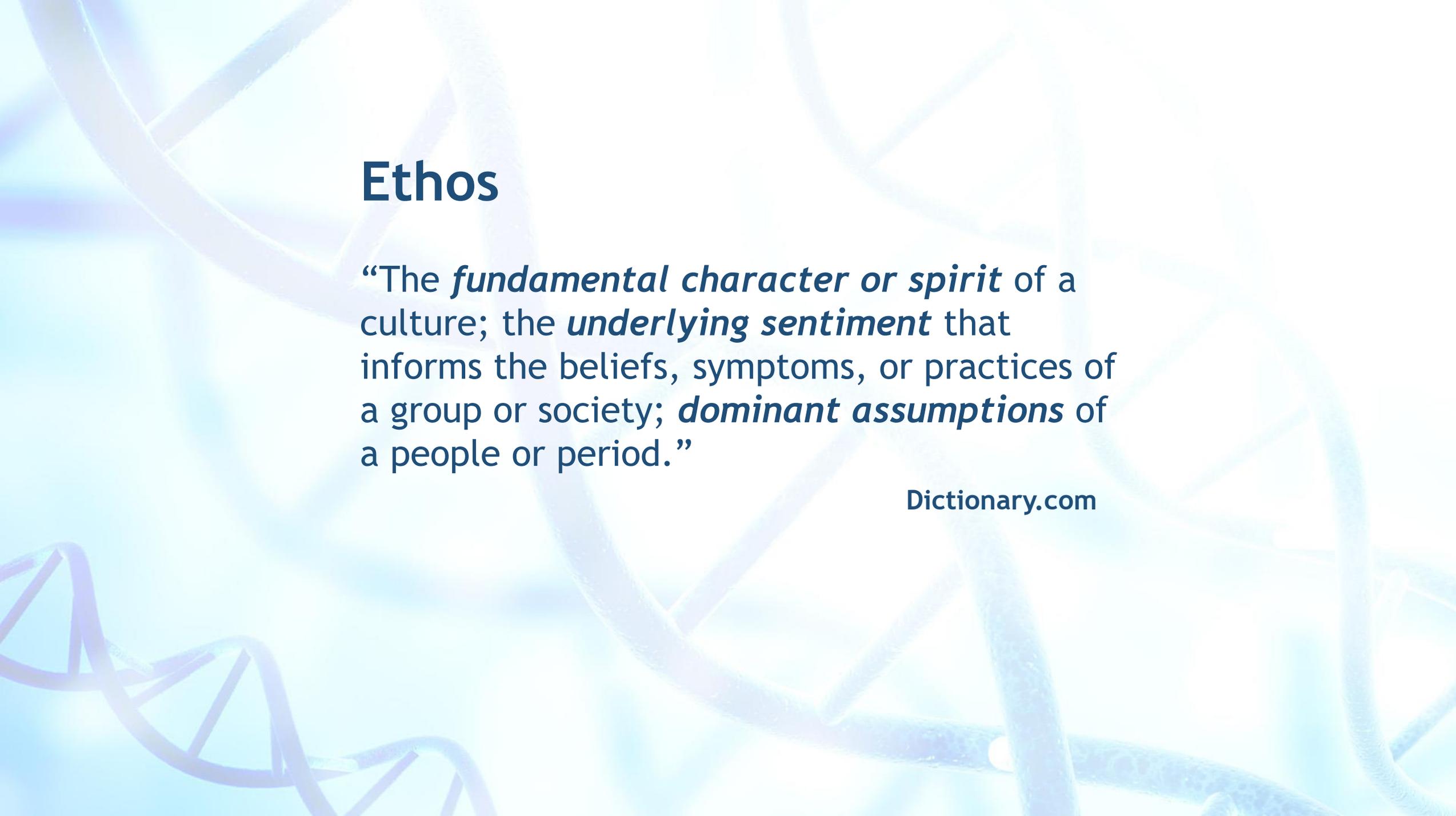
What did Ellen White write to conference presidents?

See [Principles for Christian Leaders](#), pp. 125-165.

“Presidents of conferences should be men who can be fully trusted with God’s work. They should be men of integrity, unselfish, devoted,... They, even more than other ministers of Christ, should set one example of holy living and of unselfish devotion to the interest of God’s cause, that those looking to have for an example may not be misled.” PCL 126 (5T 379).



THE ETHOS OF THE PRESIDENCY



Ethos

“The *fundamental character or spirit* of a culture; the *underlying sentiment* that informs the beliefs, symptoms, or practices of a group or society; *dominant assumptions* of a people or period.”

Dictionary.com



The Ethos of the Presidency

- INDIVIDUAL/PERSONAL/YOU
- RELATIONSHIPS
- PRIORITIES/PROGRAMS/ORGANIZATIONS/INSTITUTIONS
- INSTITUTIONS



INDIVIDUAL/PERSONAL/YOU

- Prayer and Scripture priority - personal reflections
- A clear knowledge of self: You don't know yourself until you know God. Acts 17:28
- Balanced understanding of truth. 2 Tim. 2:15
- Lives "a crucified life." Gal. 2:20



INDIVIDUAL/PERSONAL/YOU

- Lead from your knees
- Constant and authentic personal reflections
- Receive support from a sound home platform - spouse and family



RELATIONSHIPS

- Colleagues and fellow leaders
- Friends
- Sincere and supportive followers



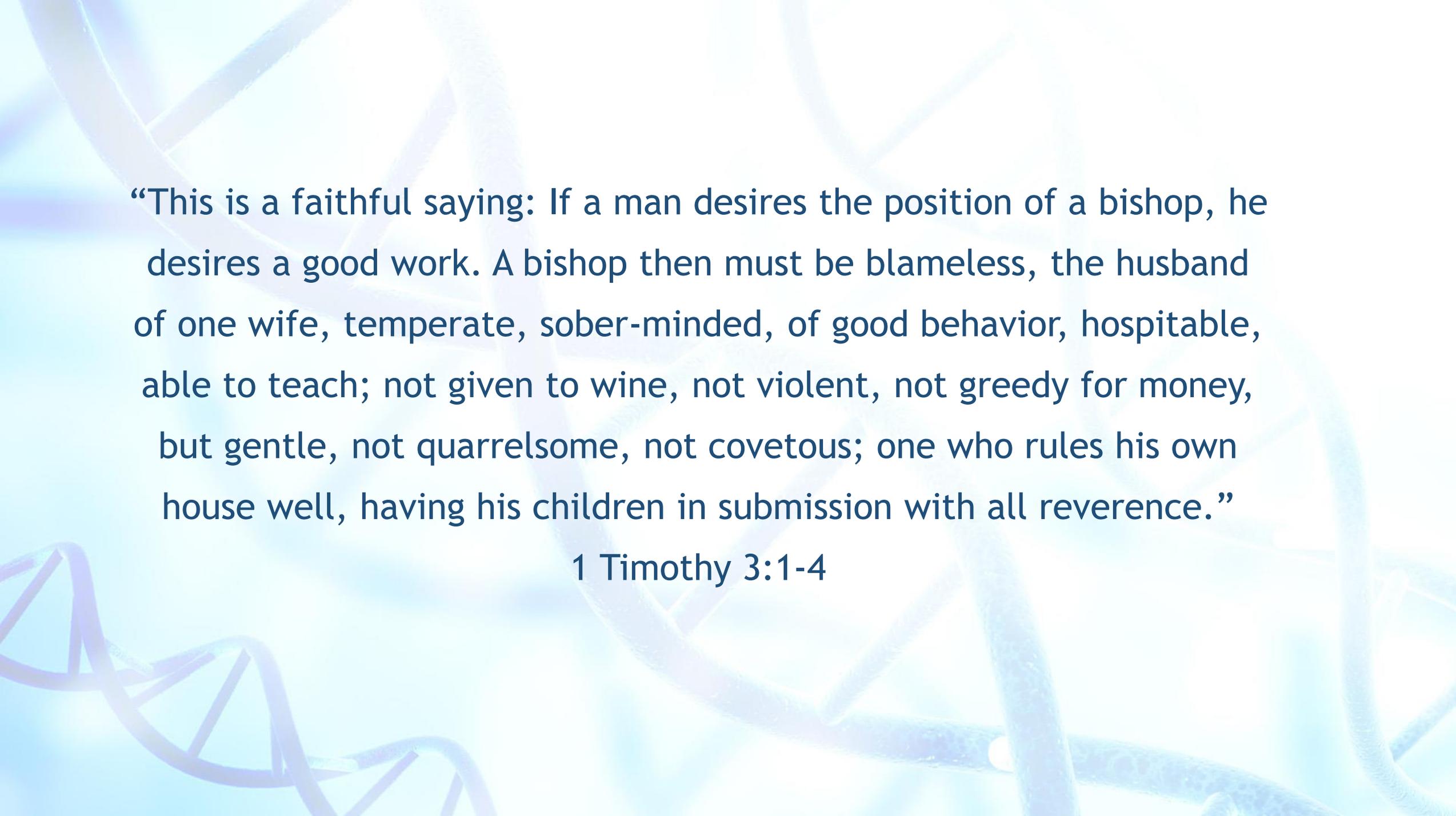
PRIORITIES, PROGRAMS, ORGANIZATIONS, INSTITUTIONS

- Works wisely with the denominational structure
- Knows denominational policies and procedures
- Does not allow his spiritual life to be subsumed or swallowed by his duties
- Limits functions to the Office of the President



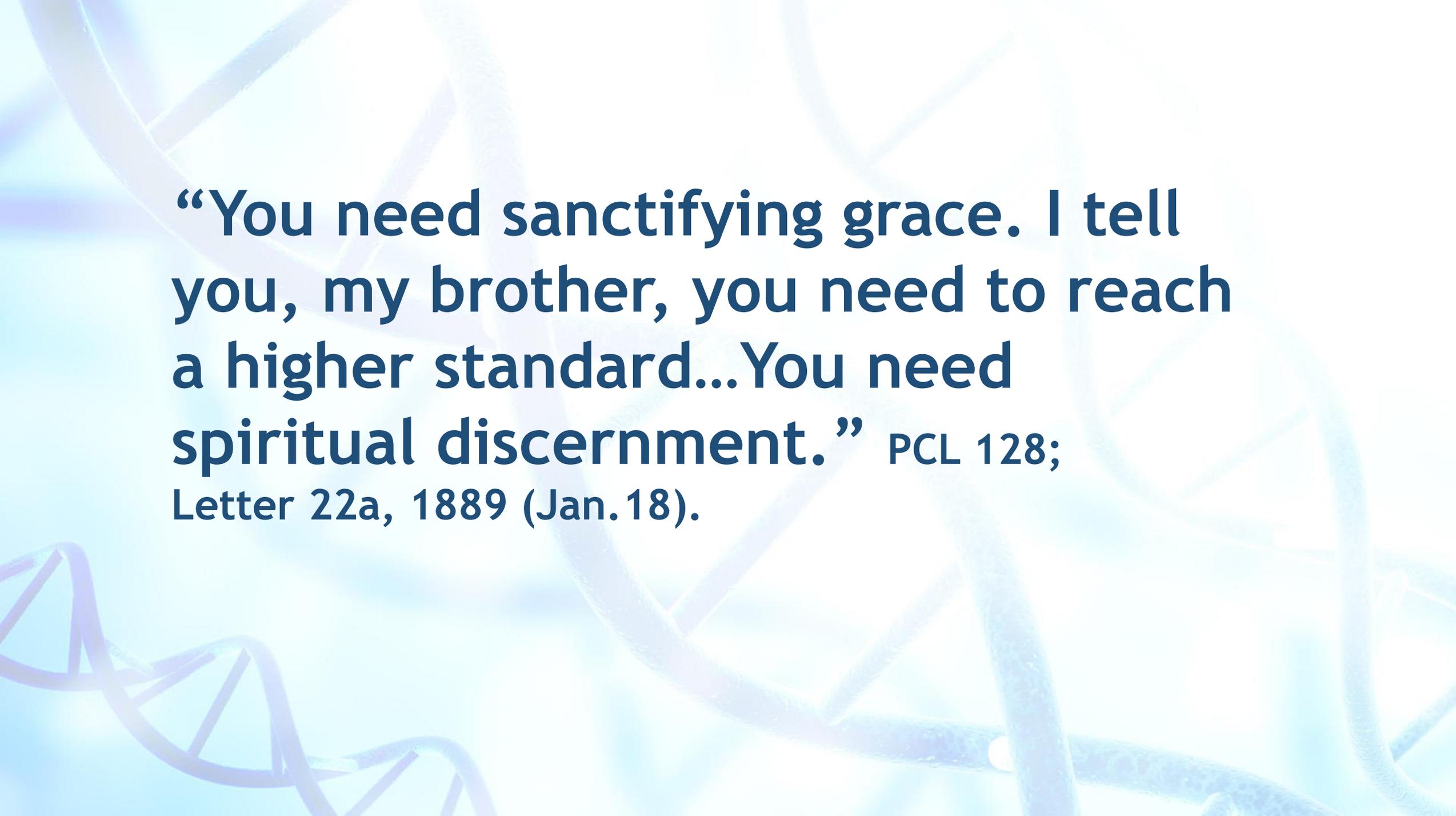
PRESENCE LEADERSHIP

- Uses the symbolic value of the presidency
- Enjoys the role without acting outside appropriate limits
- Treats the presidency as a privilege platform to sell mission ideas
- Creates opportunities to do things together
- Encourages bigger and far-reaching ideas and programs

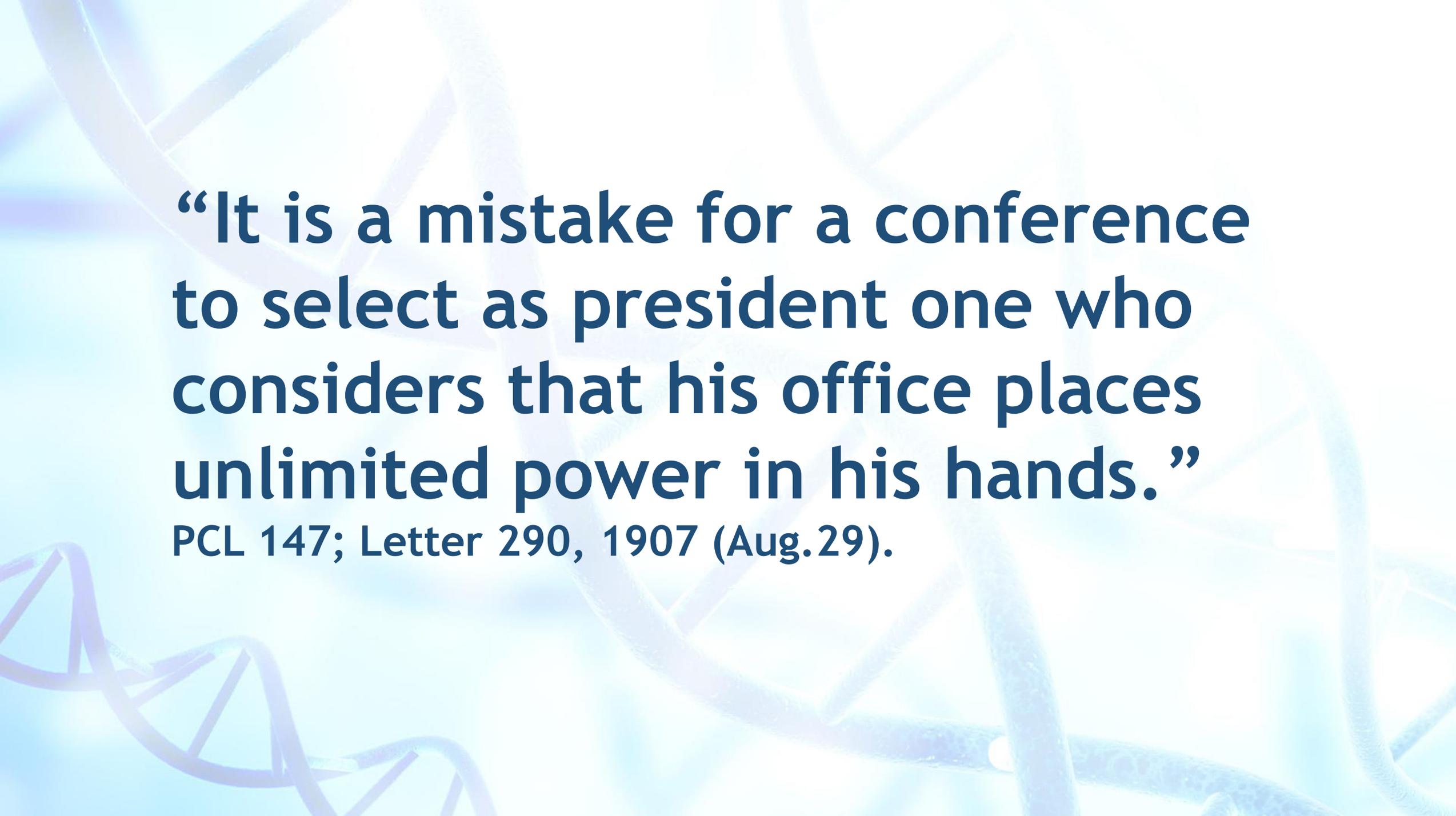


“This is a faithful saying: If a man desires the position of a bishop, he desires a good work. A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, temperate, sober-minded, of good behavior, hospitable, able to teach; not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, but gentle, not quarrelsome, not covetous; one who rules his own house well, having his children in submission with all reverence.”

1 Timothy 3:1-4



“You need sanctifying grace. I tell you, my brother, you need to reach a higher standard...You need spiritual discernment.” PCL 128; Letter 22a, 1889 (Jan.18).



“It is a mistake for a conference to select as president one who considers that his office places unlimited power in his hands.”

PCL 147; Letter 290, 1907 (Aug.29).

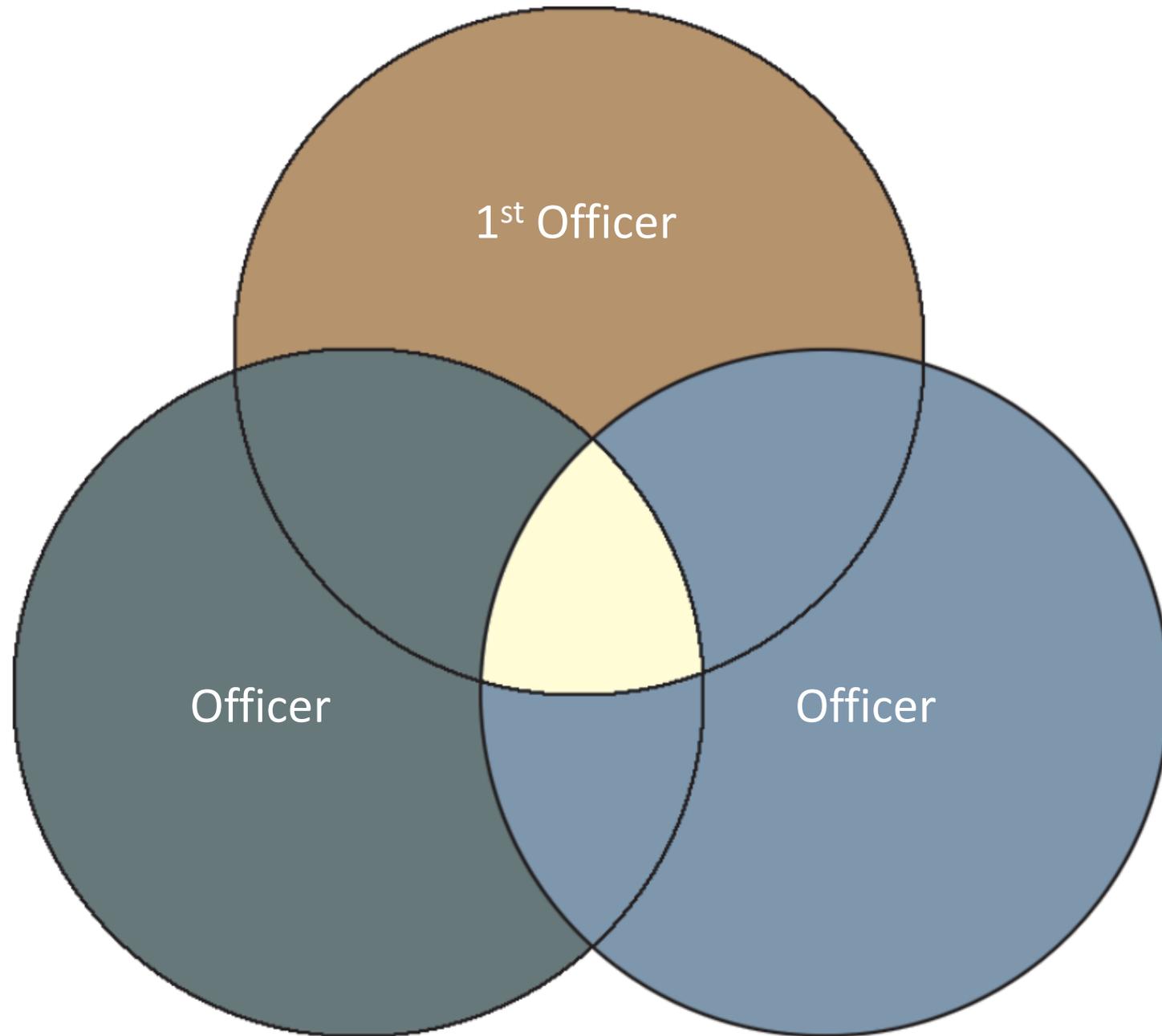


THE FIRST OF THREE LEADERS

THE FIRST OF THREE LEADERS

- First officer
- First coordinator
- First facilitator
- Captain of the team
- He has control of the agenda





The By-Laws describe a consultative model, with a first officer who presides at sessions, chairs the executive committee , and serves in the general interest of the organization.

The Constitution and By-Laws also designate two other officers with assigned areas of responsibility.

The three officers fulfill their duties in close consultation and cooperation with each other.

THE FIRST OF THREE LEADERS



The president holds the power of influence.

THE FIRST OF THREE LEADERS



The president sets the tone. He sees more.



**THE ADVENTIST PRESIDENT
A SPIRITUAL LEADER**

1. The president is the chosen face of the church.



1. The president is the chosen face of the church.

2. The president is a 1st officer.



1. The president is the chosen face of the church.
2. The president is a 1st officer.
3. A 1st Chair leader



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4. The 1st legal fiduciary of his territory



1. The president is the chosen face of the church.
2. The president is a 1st officer.
3. A 1st Chair leader
4. The 1st legal fiduciary of his territory
5. He is the chairman of the Executive Committee.



6. The 1st trustworthy Adventist in the territory



6. The 1st trustworthy Adventist in the territory
7. He is a symbolic figure of the function he represents.



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8. He is an enlargement, an aggrandized version of humanity (Joshua 3:7; 4:14)



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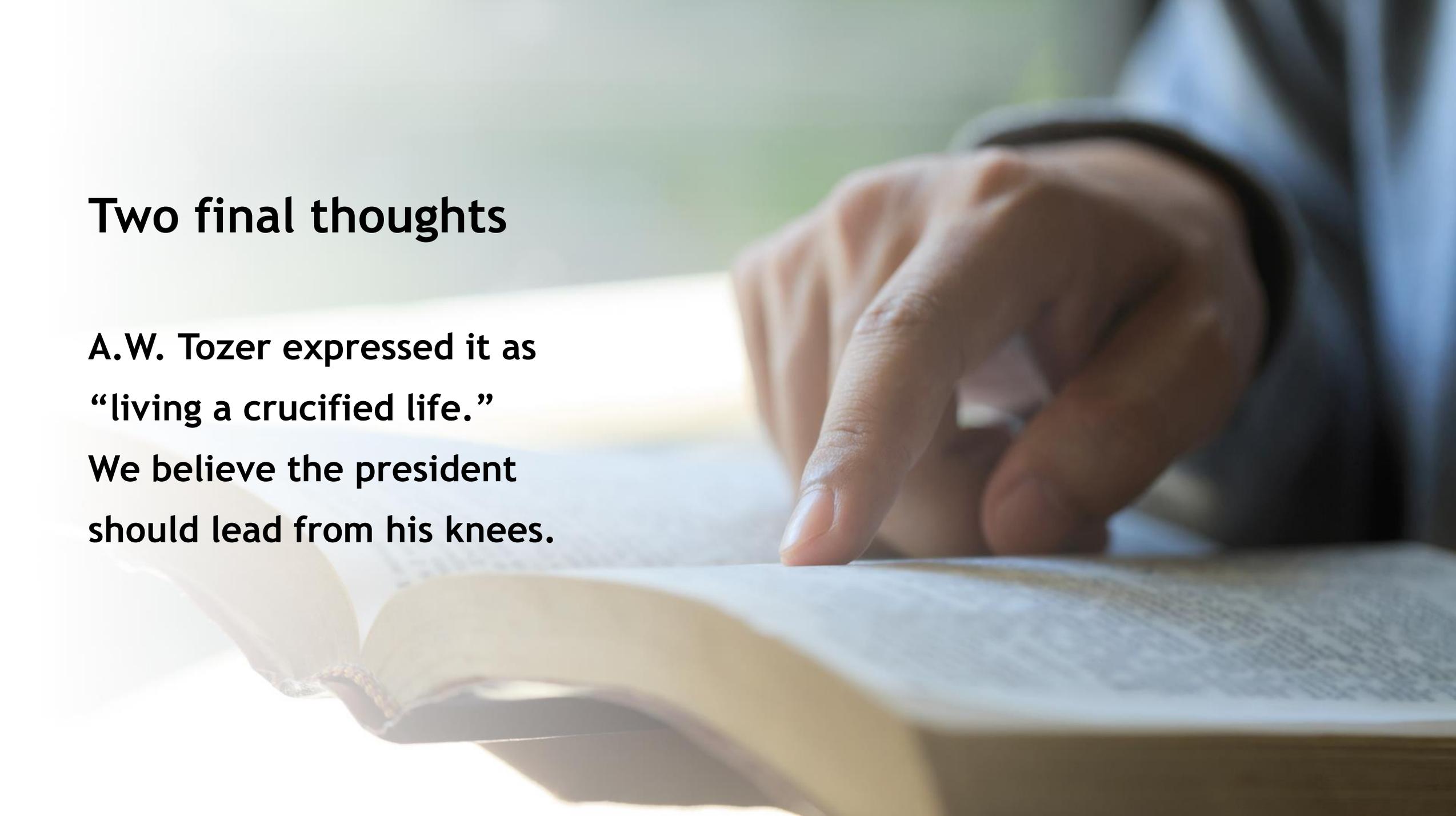
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9. The president is a top leader and as such he develops individual, theological, doctrinal, fiscal, and evangelistic relationships with his followers.
10. The president is the presidency.



Two final thoughts

**A.W. Tozer expressed it as
“living a crucified life.”**

**We believe the president
should lead from his knees.**



- How could you accomplish we are saying today?
- What is the importance of giving priority to spirituality over secular leadership knowledge and practice?
- Consider the idea of a construct called Adventist leadership. Do you have any thoughts to add to what has been expressed?
- Being the First of three leaders implies an open working relationship. Describe it.

