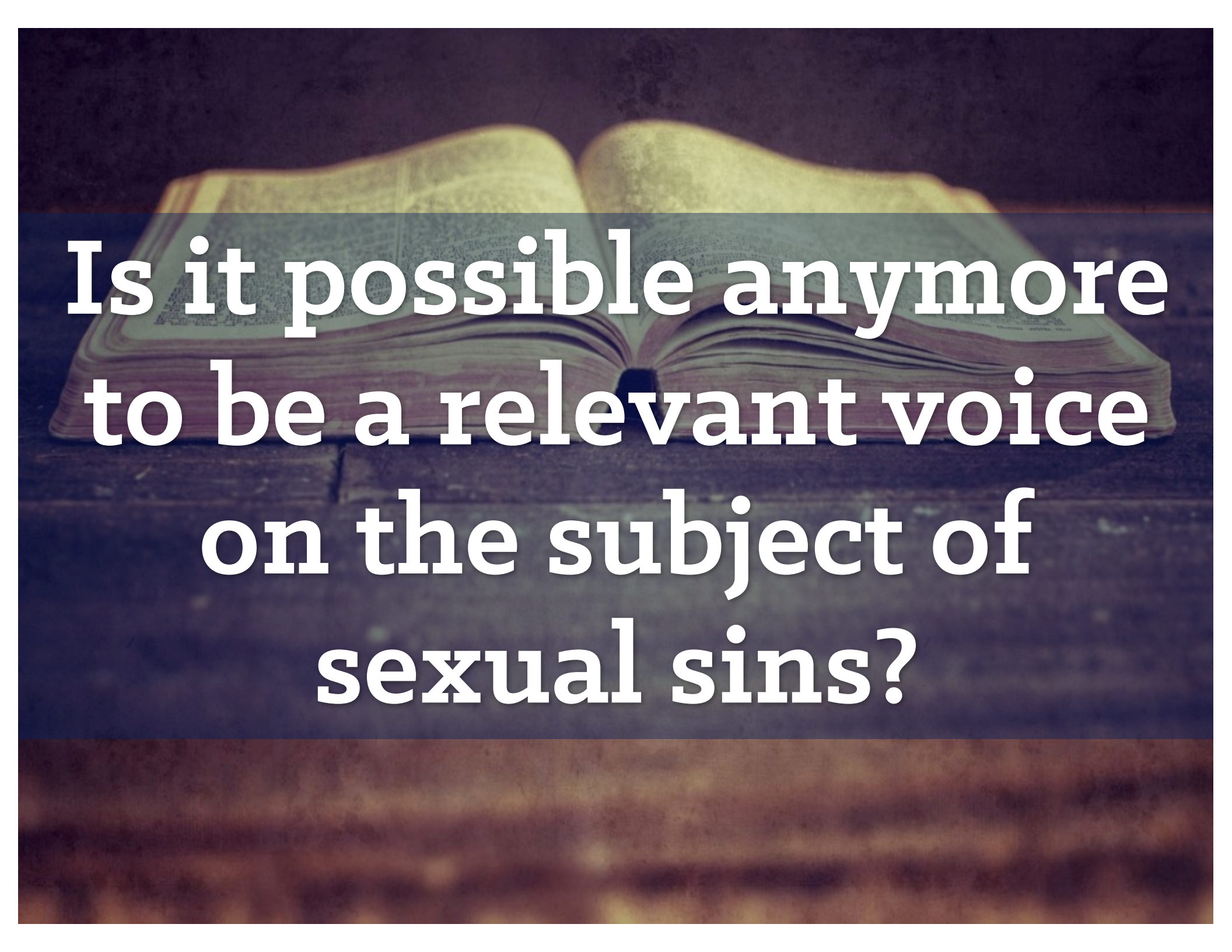




ASK, SEEK, KNOCK

Answering your questions about
life, the Bible, and God

An open book with yellowed pages is shown from a top-down perspective, resting on a dark surface. The book is open to a page with dense, small text. A semi-transparent dark blue horizontal band is overlaid across the middle of the image, containing white text. The background is dark and textured, possibly a wooden surface.

**Is it possible anymore
to be a relevant voice
on the subject of
sexual sins?**

THE CHALLENGE

- Our culture's attitude and approach to sex has left us seeming outdated and irrelevant. Whether it is the prevalence of unmarried couples having sex, the overwhelming acceptance of homosexuality, or the rise of the "post-gender" society, we seem to be preaching a message that is, at best, falling on deaf ears – and at worst, seen as hate speech.
- Our challenge is to ask the tough questions that have been brushed under the rug by some professed Christians and wholeheartedly rejected by secularists. Like the little child who knew the emperor wasn't wearing any clothes, we have to be the lone voice of reason in a society drunk on relativism.



ARE WE THE ONLY ONES NOT TALKING ABOUT THIS?

My frustration comes from the feeling that everybody else is saying what they want on the subject, but nobody is representing the truth. Not those who indulge in the flesh (Eph. 2:3, Rom. 8:12-13). And certainly not those who misrepresent Christianity in a hateful, ugly way (2 Tim. 2:22ff).

SO, WHY ARE WE (HOPELESSLY?) OUT OF TOUCH?

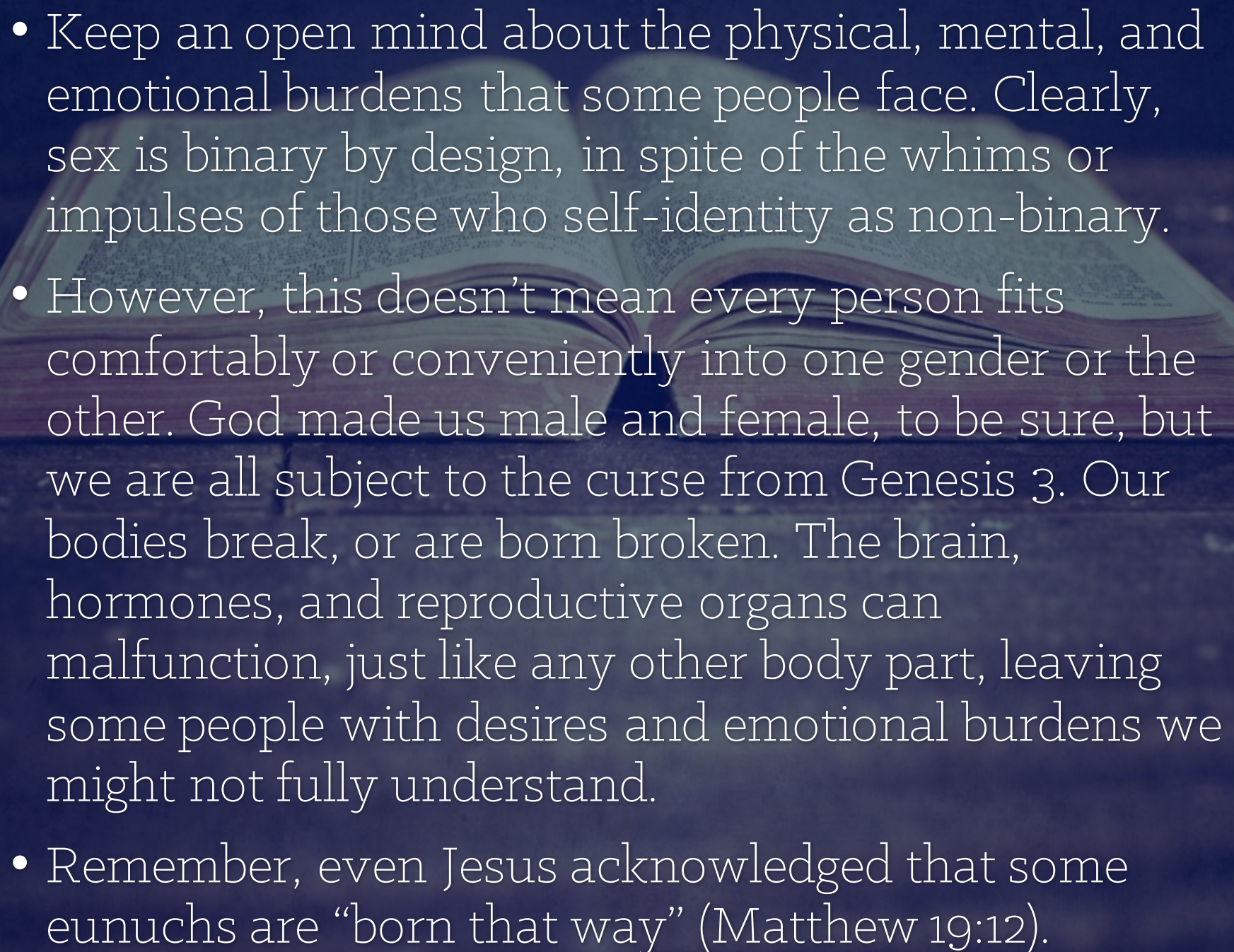
- Partly, it is because we have allowed other people to do our talking for us, for too long. It is easier to let the street preachers, politicians, and social commentators talk about LGBT issues and just parrot them on social media or keep silent around others who we know disagree.
- Matthew 10:16 requires us to act shrewdly, but with all innocence. Speak when something needs to be said, but be so far above reproach in your character that it is the message people have a problem with, not the messenger (Acts 6:8ff, 1 Peter 2:11-12, 15).

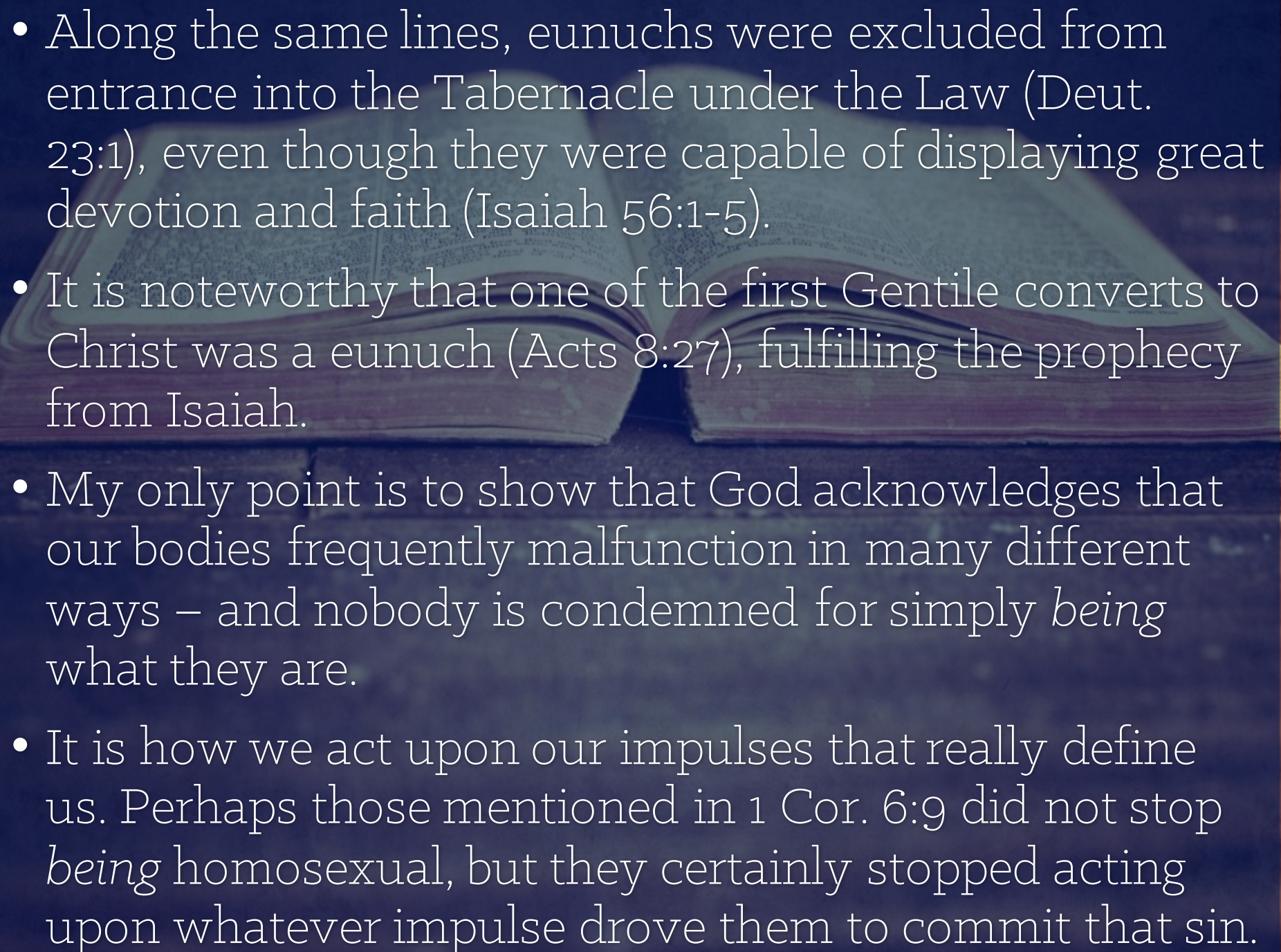
DON'T ACT SO SURPRISED

- Truth will never be as popular as falsehood. It is simply easier to indulge in the flesh and do what feels good. We need to quit feeling sorry for ourselves and remember that nothing we observe today is new – in the First Century, our spiritual forefathers observed immorality to the extreme (homosexual slaves, gladiatorial combat, incest, cult of Bacchus, etc.).
- While the world offers instant gratification, the Gospel offers a “narrow way” and discipleship. Why should we be surprised if most people hate a message that says, “Deny yourself, take up your cross, and follow Jesus” (Matthew 16:24ff).



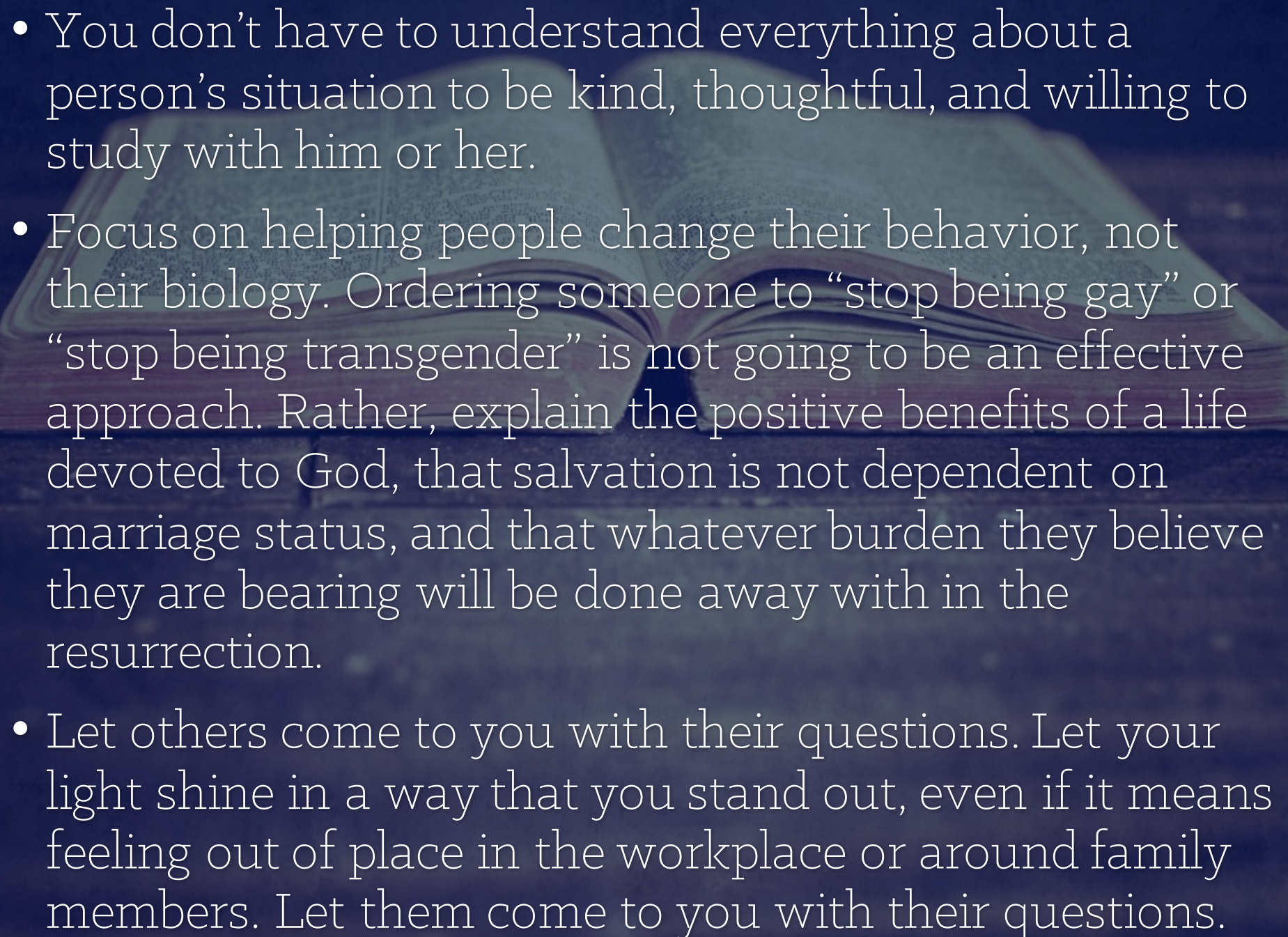
So what can we do?

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- An open book with text overlaid on a dark blue background. The text is white and consists of three bullet points. The background is a dark blue gradient with a faint image of an open book.
- Keep an open mind about the physical, mental, and emotional burdens that some people face. Clearly, sex is binary by design, in spite of the whims or impulses of those who self-identity as non-binary.
 - However, this doesn't mean every person fits comfortably or conveniently into one gender or the other. God made us male and female, to be sure, but we are all subject to the curse from Genesis 3. Our bodies break, or are born broken. The brain, hormones, and reproductive organs can malfunction, just like any other body part, leaving some people with desires and emotional burdens we might not fully understand.
 - Remember, even Jesus acknowledged that some eunuchs are “born that way” (Matthew 19:12).

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- An open book is shown in the background, with its pages slightly blurred. The text is overlaid on a dark blue, semi-transparent background that covers the entire image. The text is white and consists of four bullet points.
- Along the same lines, eunuchs were excluded from entrance into the Tabernacle under the Law (Deut. 23:1), even though they were capable of displaying great devotion and faith (Isaiah 56:1-5).
 - It is noteworthy that one of the first Gentile converts to Christ was a eunuch (Acts 8:27), fulfilling the prophecy from Isaiah.
 - My only point is to show that God acknowledges that our bodies frequently malfunction in many different ways – and nobody is condemned for simply *being* what they are.
 - It is how we act upon our impulses that really define us. Perhaps those mentioned in 1 Cor. 6:9 did not stop *being* homosexual, but they certainly stopped acting upon whatever impulse drove them to commit that sin.

TRUTHS THAT CANNOT BE COMPROMISED

- God has consistently, plainly condemned homosexuality in every covenantal age. The same is true of fornication and adultery. Sexual sins pollute the body and soul (1 Cor. 6:15-18), and the rule for all mankind, for all time, is one man and one woman who marry for life.
- If one cannot accept these terms, then one is not eligible to be married and partake of the sexual union (Matt. 19:4-6, 10-11, Rom. 1:24-27, 1 Cor. 7:1-5).
- So, is it possible to get along with others in a world that has almost universally rejected this standard?

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- An open book is shown in the background, with its pages slightly blurred. The text is overlaid on the book in a white, serif font. The background is a dark, textured surface, possibly a wooden table or a book cover.
- You don't have to understand everything about a person's situation to be kind, thoughtful, and willing to study with him or her.
 - Focus on helping people change their behavior, not their biology. Ordering someone to “stop being gay” or “stop being transgender” is not going to be an effective approach. Rather, explain the positive benefits of a life devoted to God, that salvation is not dependent on marriage status, and that whatever burden they believe they are bearing will be done away with in the resurrection.
 - Let others come to you with their questions. Let your light shine in a way that you stand out, even if it means feeling out of place in the workplace or around family members. Let them come to you with their questions.