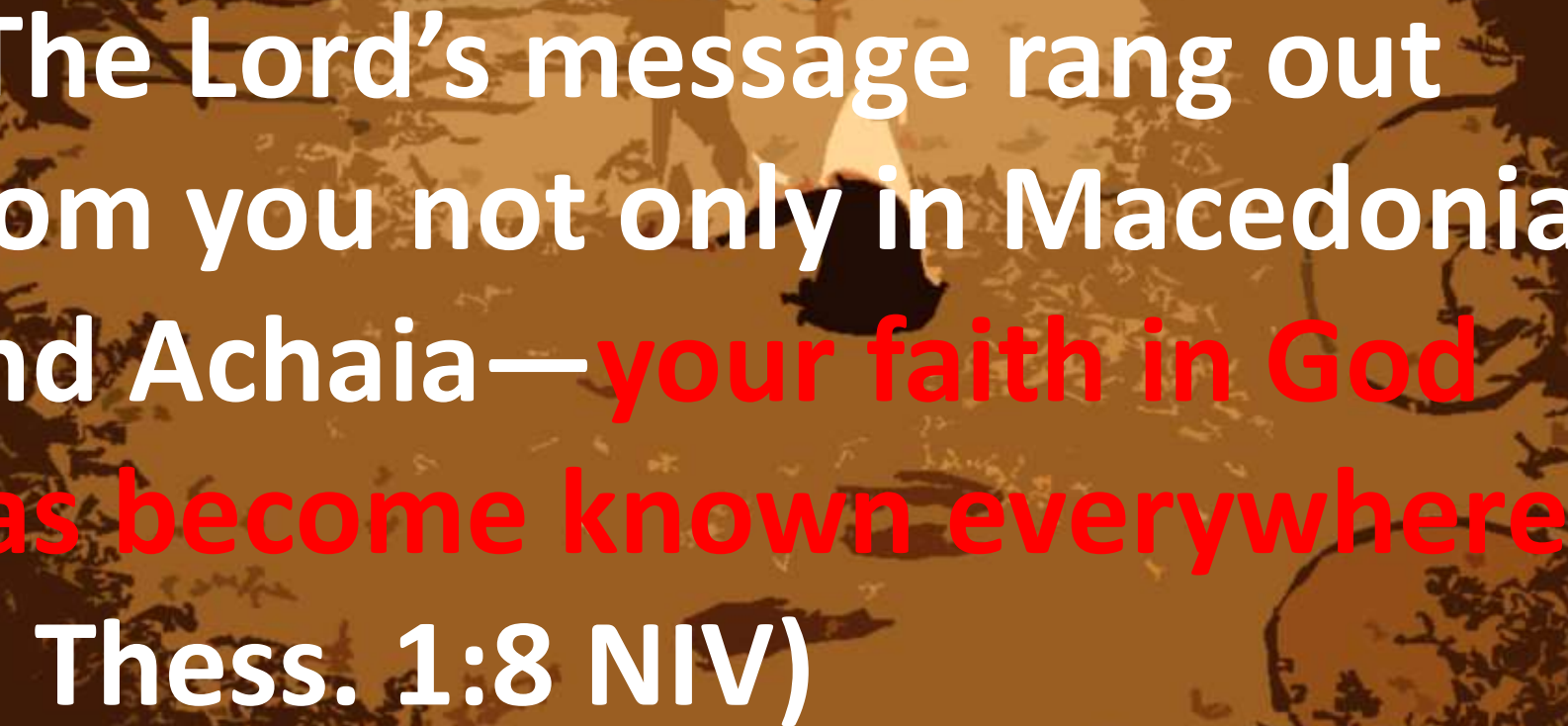


A MODEL DISCIPLE MAKER
TEXT: 1 THESSALONIANS 2:1-12
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INTRODUCTION

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A person in a dark coat and hat stands in a forest, holding a lit torch aloft. The scene is dimly lit, with the torch providing the primary light source, casting a warm glow on the surrounding trees and foliage. The background is a dense forest with various shades of brown and green, suggesting a natural, outdoor setting.

“The Lord’s message rang out from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia—**your faith in God has become known everywhere.**”
(1 Thess. 1:8 NIV)

INTRODUCTION

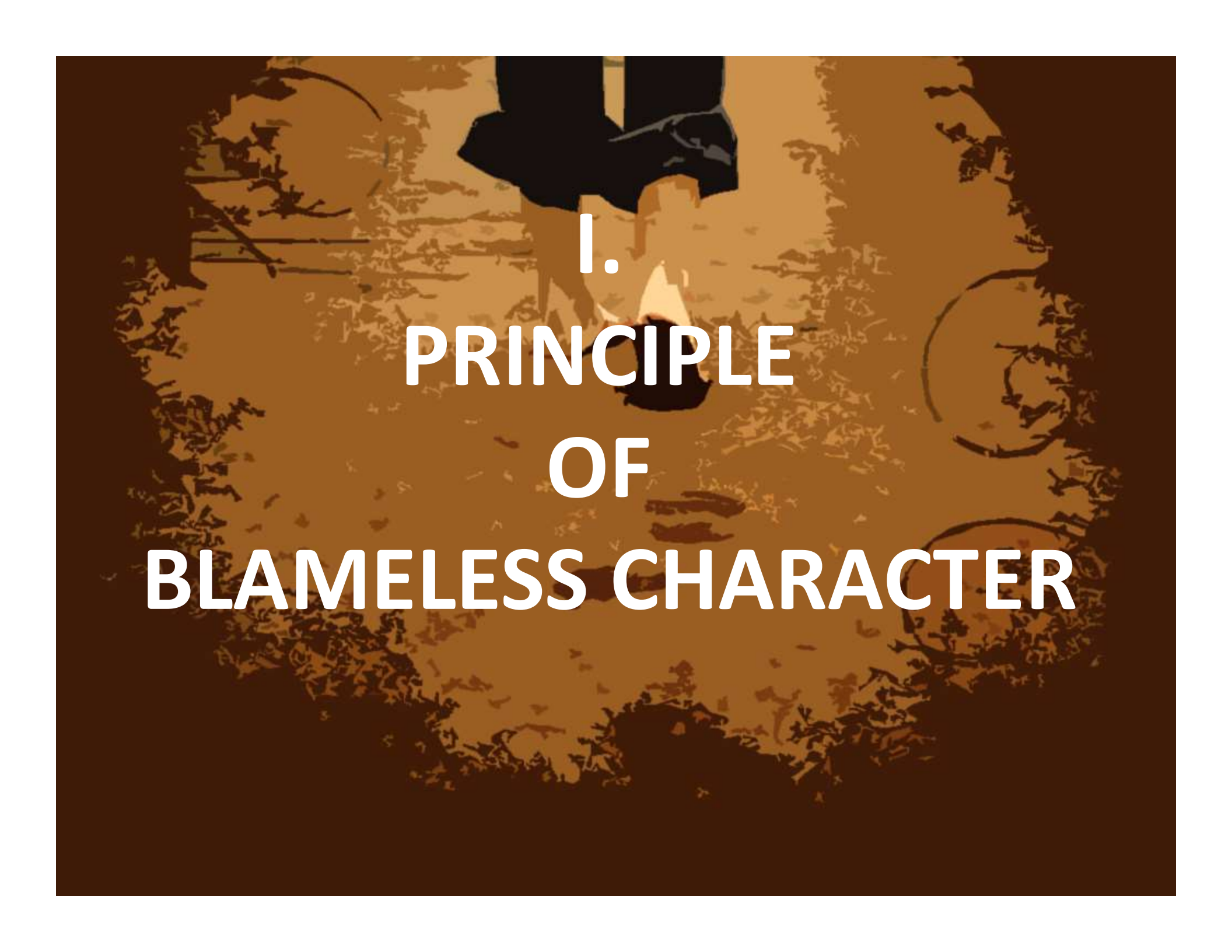
SERMON OBJECTIVE STATEMENT

1 Thess. 2:1-12 contains **three principles of discipleship** which Paul ministered on this young church of Thessalonica, and turned them into a model church who would carry out the similar passion to fulfill the Great Commission.

- I. Principle of blameless character
- II. Principle of parenting
- III. Principle of exemplary living

A photograph of a person kneeling in prayer in a forest, with the text "A MODEL DISCIPLE MAKER" overlaid in white. The person is wearing a dark jacket and a light-colored hat, and is kneeling on a log. The background is a dense forest with trees and foliage. The text is centered and reads "A MODEL DISCIPLE MAKER".

A MODEL DISCIPLE MAKER

A person wearing a dark coat and a hat is walking through a forest. The scene is captured in a high-contrast, sepia-toned style. The person is walking away from the viewer, and their shadow is cast on the ground. The text "I. PRINCIPLE OF BLAMELESS CHARACTER" is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif font, centered on the image.

I.
**PRINCIPLE
OF
BLAMELESS CHARACTER**

I. PRINCIPLE OF BLAMELESS CHARACTER

A. Bold and Courageous

“¹You know, brothers and sisters, that our visit to you was **not without results**. ²We had previously **suffered and been treated outrageously in Philippi**, as you know, but with the help of our God we **dared to tell you** his gospel in the face of **strong opposition**.” (1 Thess. 2:1-2 NIV)

I. PRINCIPLE OF BLAMELESS CHARACTER

B. Truthful

“For the appeal we make does not spring from **ERROR**...” (1 Thess. 2:3a NIV)

❖ “**Error**” in Greek is “plane” (Strong 4106), it means straying from orthodoxy or piety – deceit, to deceive, delusion or error (Strong Dictionary).

I. PRINCIPLE OF BLAMELESS CHARACTER

C. Pure

“For the appeal we make does not spring...**IMPURE MOTIVE...**” (1 Thess. 2:3b NIV)

❖ “**Impure motive**” alludes other to satisfy own **evils of ambition, pride, greed** and popularity.

I. PRINCIPLE OF BLAMELESS CHARACTER

D. Honest

“...nor are we trying to **trick** you.” (1 Thess. 2:3c NIV)

- ❖ The phrase/word “**are we trying to trick you**” (NIV) or “**trickery**” (NLT) was originally used of a fisherman to deceive a fish with a lure.
- ❖ “On the contrary, we speak as those **approved by God** to be **entrusted** with the gospel. We are **not trying to please people but God**, who tests our hearts.” (1 Thess. 2:4 NIV)

I. PRINCIPLE OF BLAMELESS CHARACTER

E. Sincere

“You know we never used **FLATTERY**, nor did we put on **a mask** to cover up greed—God is our witness.” (1 Thess. 2:5 NIV)

- ❖ Flattery is an act of praising someone, often in a way that is not sincere, because you want something from them. (Cambridge Dictionary)

A photograph of a person walking away on a dirt path through a forest. The scene is captured from a high angle, looking down at the person. The path is surrounded by dense green foliage and trees. The lighting is soft, suggesting a shaded forest environment. The text is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif font, centered on the image.

II.
PRINCIPLE
OF
PARENTING

II. PRINCIPLE OF PARENTING

A new convert is a babe in Christ, therefore **parental care should be given as priority**. In fact, Paul ministered both as **a mother** and **a father** to the new Christians in Thessalonica. He said, “But we were gentle among you, like **a nursing MOTHER** taking care for her own children...**like a FATHER** with his children” (1 Thess. 2:7, 11 ESV).

II. PRINCIPLE OF PARENTING

A. Feed the disciple

Instill security and belongingness

“But we proved to be **GENTLE** among you, **as a nursing mother** tenderly **CARES** for her own children.” (1 Thess. 2:7 NASB)

“FEED AND CARING”
(NLT)

II. PRINCIPLE OF PARENTING

A. Feed the disciple

“When I was a young Christian, I came under the ministry of Dawson Trotman, the founder of the Navigators. Dawson was a strong personality. He could be demanding. He was self-disciplined to an enormous degree, and he expected self-discipline of those who worked with him. That is a mark of the Navigators yet today, wherever they minister. But when I met alone with Dawson, he always was gentle. He always spoke directly to me, and seemed aware of my need, and my capacity. I often thought of him as being like the Apostle Paul. Paul could be stern and sharp, but when he was with someone alone, he was gentle. That is a mark of a true shepherd.” (Quote Ray C. Stedman)

II. PRINCIPLE OF PARENTING

B. Love the disciple

“We **LOVED** you so much that we shared with you not only God's Good News but our own lives.” (1 Thess. 2:8 NLT)

- ❖ **“Love”** in Greek is “himeiromai” (Strong 2442) and it is only used here in the NT, it is translated as **affection** in NASB, it means **“to desire, long for, esp. the longing of love”** (Thayer Lexicon).
- ❖ ESV translated **“Love”** as **“being affectionately desirous of you”** (1 Thess. 2:8 ESV); that is an unusual phrase, not often found in scripture.

II. PRINCIPLE OF PARENTING

B. Love the disciple

“Your **love** for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.” (John 13.35 NLT)

“... we **loved you so much**, we were delighted to share with you... our lives as well” (1 Thess. 2:8 NIV).

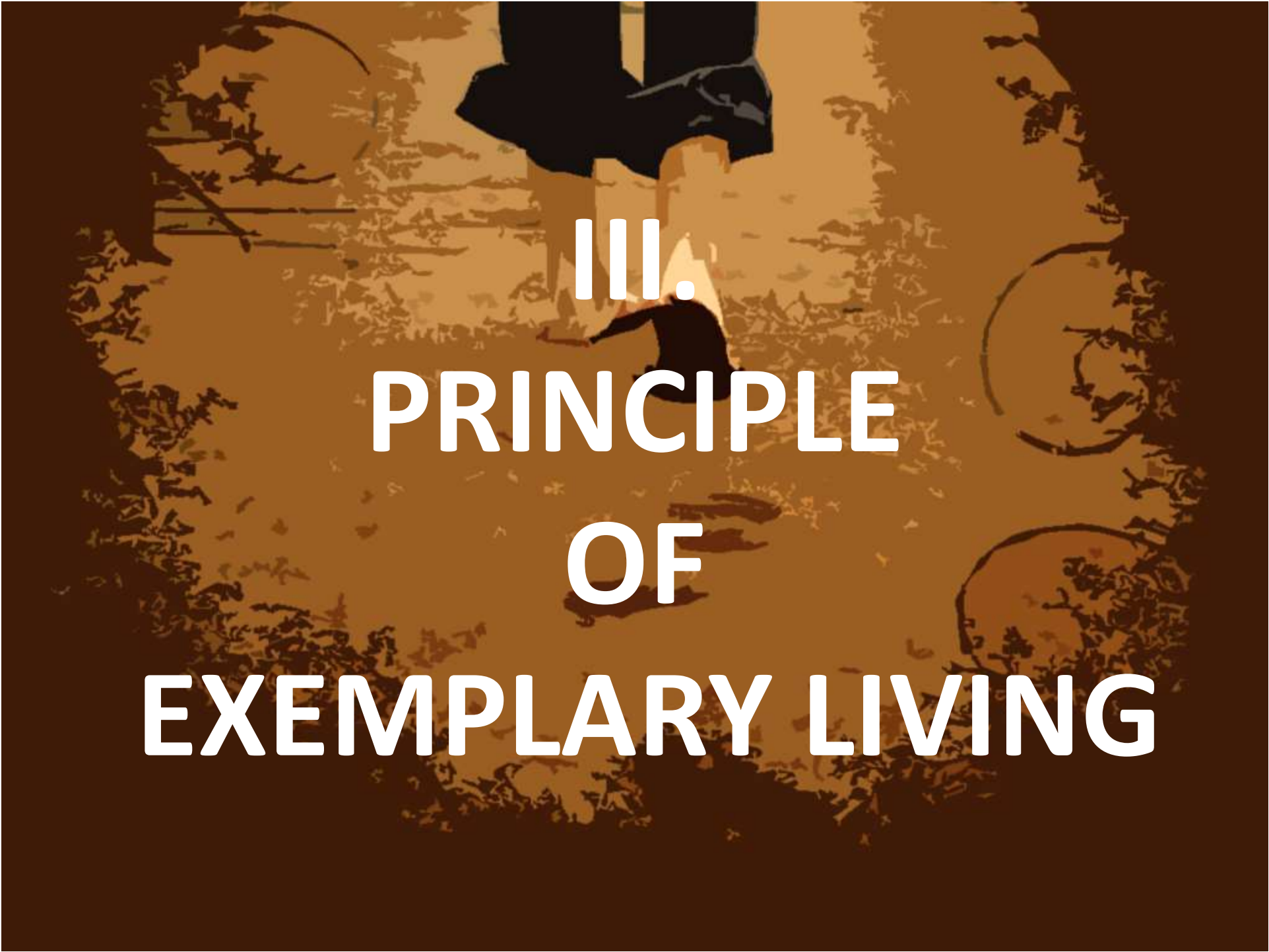
II. PRINCIPLE OF PARENTING

C. Discipline the disciple

POSITIVE DISCIPLINE

“Exhorting and encouraging you and insisting that you live in a way worthy of God who calls you to his own kingdom and his glory.”
(1 Thess. 2:12 NET)

NEGATIVE DISCIPLINE

A photograph of a person walking away on a dirt path through a forest. The scene is bathed in warm, golden light, likely from a low sun. A large, dark shadow of the person is cast onto the path ahead of them. The trees and foliage are silhouetted against the bright light, creating a high-contrast, atmospheric effect. The overall color palette is dominated by browns, oranges, and yellows.

**III.
PRINCIPLE
OF
EXEMPLARY LIVING**

III. PRINCIPLE OF EXEMPLARY LIVING

A. Avoid being a stumbling block to others

“Surely you remember, brothers and sisters, our toil and hardship; we worked night and day in order not to be a burden to anyone while we preached the gospel of God to you.”
(1 Thess. 2:9 NIV)

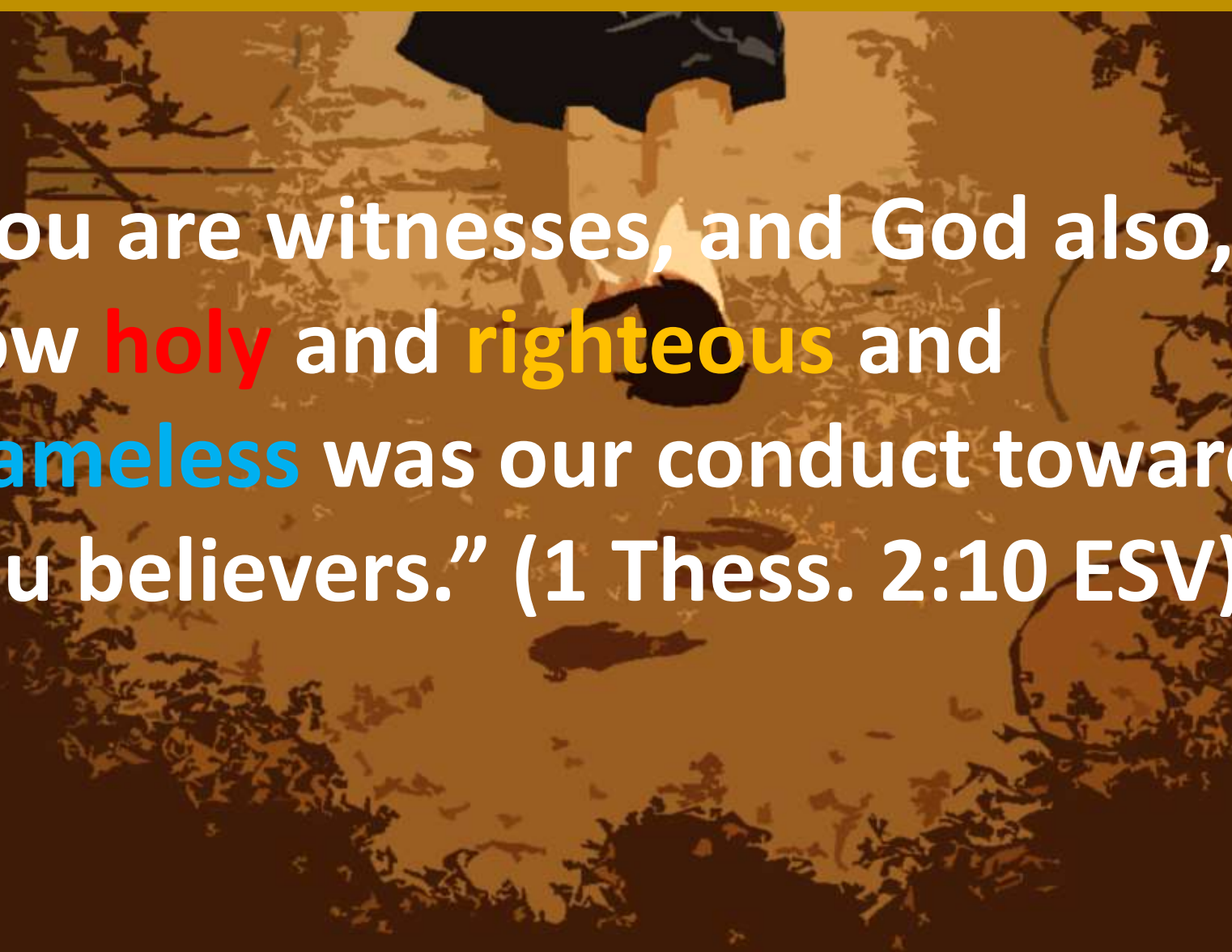
PRINCIPLE OF EXEMPLARY LIVING

A. Avoid being a stumbling block to others

“⁶ In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we command you, brothers and sisters, to keep away from every believer who is idle and disruptive and does not live according to the teaching you received from us. ⁷ For you yourselves know how you ought to follow our example. We were not idle when we were with you, ⁸ nor did we eat anyone’s food without paying for it. On the contrary, we worked night and day, laboring and toiling so that we would not be a burden to any of you. ⁹ We did this, not because we do not have the right to such help, but in order to offer ourselves as a model for you to imitate.” (2 Thess. 3:6-9 NIV)

III. PRINCIPLE OF EXEMPLARY LIVING

B. Demand highest standard of personal conduct in ministry

A photograph of a person kneeling in prayer in a forest. The person is wearing a white shirt and dark pants, with their hands clasped in front of them. The background is a dense forest with sunlight filtering through the trees, creating a warm, golden glow. The text is overlaid on the image in white, with the words 'holy', 'righteous', and 'blameless' highlighted in red, yellow, and blue respectively.

“You are witnesses, and God also, how **holy** and **righteous** and **blameless** was our conduct toward you believers.” (1 Thess. 2:10 ESV)

III. PRINCIPLE OF EXEMPLARY LIVING

B. Demand highest standard of personal conduct in ministry

#1 - HOLY

“You are witnesses, and God also, how **HOLY** and Righteous and blameless was our conduct toward you believers.” (1 Thess. 2:10 ESV)

- ❖ “**Holy**” speaks about inward affection toward both God and man.
 - ✓ NASB translates “**holy**” as “**devoutly**”. It means “**separate, intended for a single purpose**”.
 - ✓ In this sense, **singlemindedness** would be a good translation.
 - ✓ A disciple maker is required to be single-minded and undivided in serving God and serving man.

III. PRINCIPLE OF EXEMPLARY LIVING

B. Demand highest standard of personal conduct in ministry

#2 - RIGHTEOUS

“You are witnesses, and God also, how holy and **RIGHTEOUS** and blameless was our conduct toward you believers.” (1 Thess. 2:10 ESV)

- ❖ “**Righteous**” refers to their outward behavior toward God and man.
 - ✓ NASB translates “**righteous**” as “**uprightly**”.
 - ✓ A disciple maker must be upright, resisting things which would allow others to misconstrue or which would tend to mislead others.

III. PRINCIPLE OF EXEMPLARY LIVING

B. Demand highest standard of personal conduct in ministry

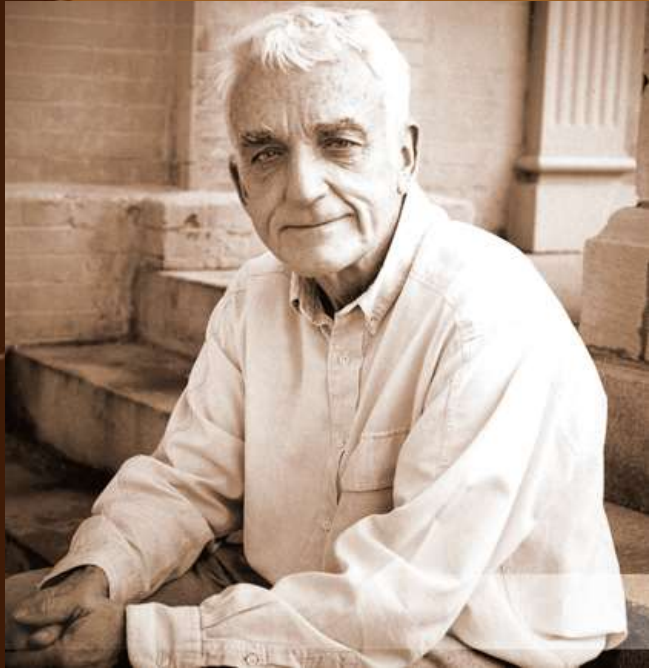
#3 - BLAMELESS

“You are witnesses, and God also, how holy and Righteous and **BLAMELESS** was our conduct toward you believers.” (1 Thess. 2:10 ESV)

- ❖ “**Blameless**” is the overarching result of being holy and righteous.
 - ✓ A disciple maker must ensure that no one could make an accusation against him and make it stick.

III. PRINCIPLE OF EXEMPLARY LIVING

B. Demand highest standard of personal conduct in ministry



“The greatest single cause of atheism in the world today is Christians who acknowledge Jesus with their lips and walk out the door and deny Him by their lifestyle. That is what an unbelieving world simply finds unbelievable.” (Quote Brennan Manning)

A photograph of a person walking away from the camera on a path through a forest. The person is wearing a white shirt and dark pants. The path is surrounded by trees and foliage. The word "CONCLUSION" is overlaid in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters in the center of the image.

CONCLUSION

CONCLUSION

Discipleship is never done in a classroom setting. Discipleship is done by a disciple maker **gently loving and feeding** the disciple by **teaching God's word and imparting skill to him by exemplary teaching and to insist changing of unacceptable behavior by discipline.**