

PART 2

A CALL TO LOVE

HOW REAL LOVE BEHAVES/ LOVE THAT HEALS AND COVERS

PASTOR DENIS WADE

A CALL TO **LOVE**

1 CORINTHIANS 13:1-13

1. The **Priority** of love
2. The **Portrait** of love
3. The **Practise** of love
4. The **Pre-eminence** of love

A CALL TO LOVE

1 CORINTHIANS 13:1-13 – The Greatest Gift

¹ Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. ² And though I have *the gift of* prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. ³ And though I bestow all my goods to feed *the poor*, and though I give my body ^[a]to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing. ⁴ Love suffers long *and* is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not ^[b]puffed up; ⁵ does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, ^[c]thinks no evil; ⁶ does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; ⁷ bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. ⁸ Love never fails. But whether *there are* prophecies, they will fail; whether *there are* tongues, they will cease; whether *there is* knowledge, it will vanish away. ¹³ And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these *is* love.

Love covers a multitude of sins

1 PETER 4:8

Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.

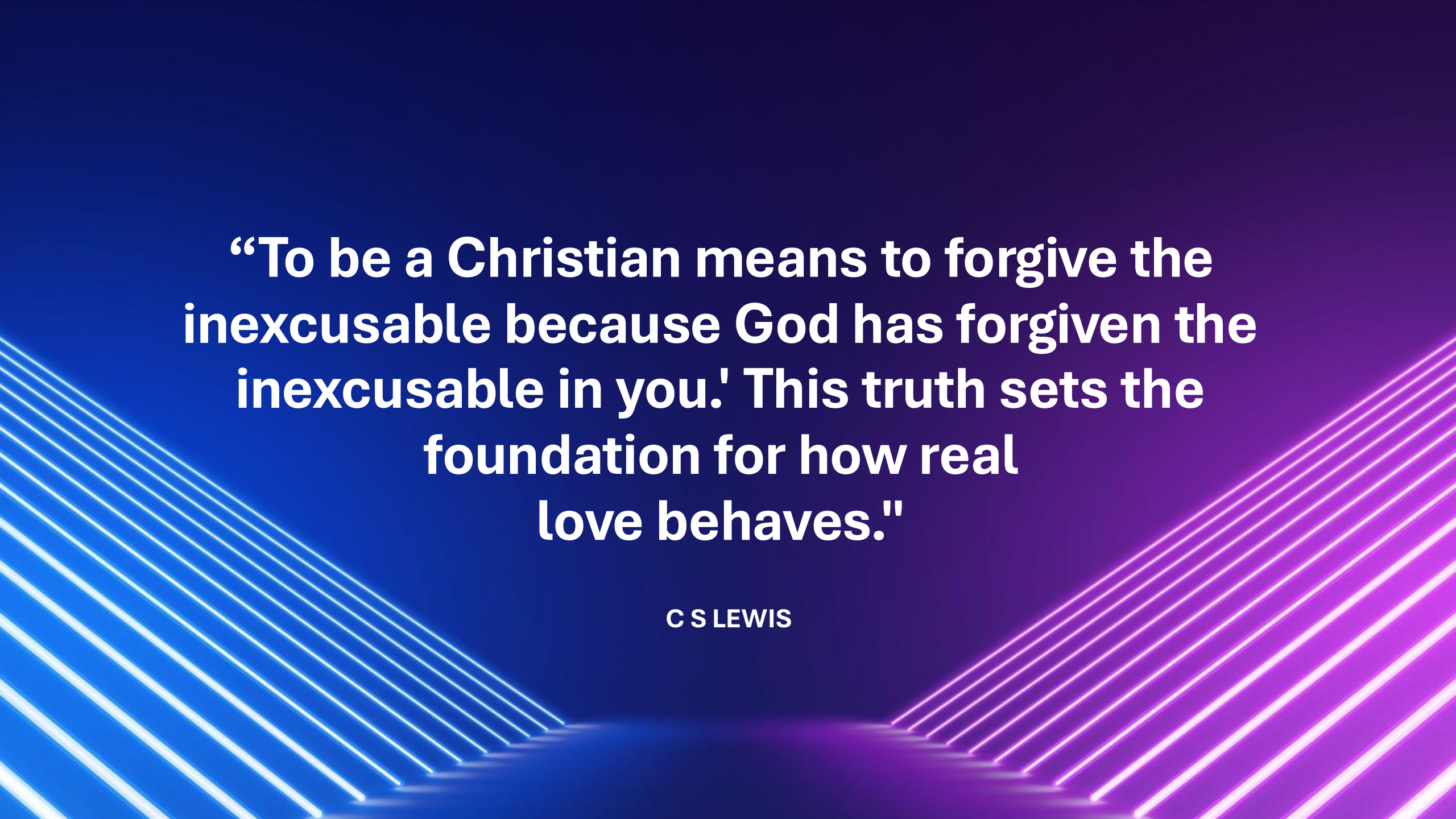
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WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

1. Love Promotes Forgiveness
2. Love Fosters Unity
3. Love Reflects God's Character




**“To be a Christian means to forgive the
inexcusable because God has forgiven the
inexcusable in you.’ This truth sets the
foundation for how real
love behaves.”**

C S LEWIS

1. **Love** Promotes Forgiveness

PROVERBS 10:12

Hatred stirs up conflict, but love covers all wrongs.



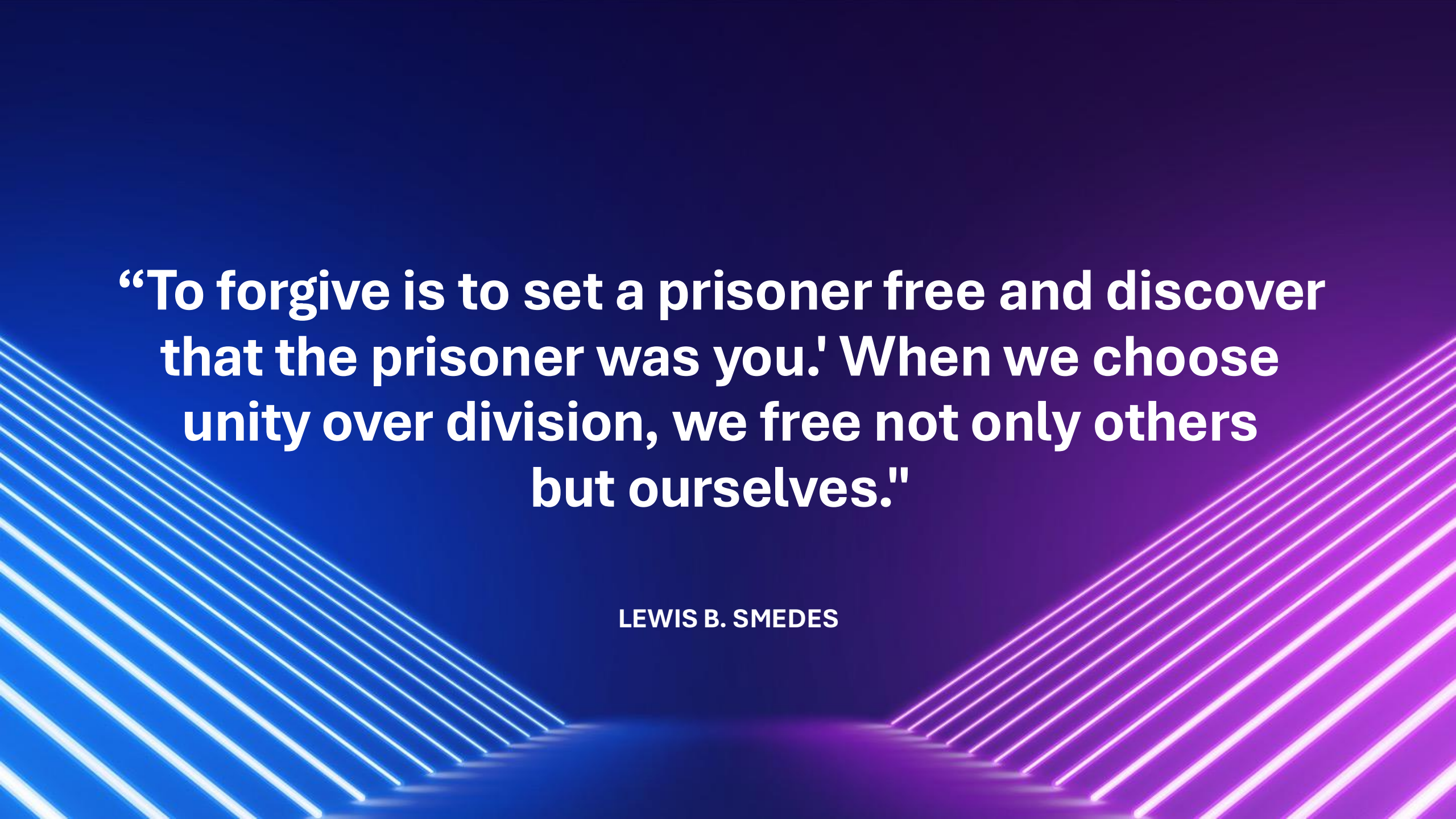
“Forgiveness is not an occasional act; it is a permanent attitude.’ This kind of forgiveness requires a transformation of our hearts.”

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR

2. Love Fosters Unity

COLOSSIANS 3:13-14

Bear with each other and forgive one another... And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

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“To forgive is to set a prisoner free and discover that the prisoner was you.’ When we choose unity over division, we free not only others but ourselves.”

LEWIS B. SMEDES

3. **Love** Reflects God's Character

ROMANS 5:8

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

“Forgiveness is the key that unlocks the door of resentment and the handcuffs of hatred.’ Her life demonstrated how God's character can be reflected even in the darkest circumstances.”

CORRIE TEN BOOM (HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR)

Does this mean **love** ignores **sin**?

GALATIANS 6:1-3 (NLT)

Dear brothers and sisters, if another believer is overcome by some sin, you who are godly should gently and humbly help that person back onto the right path. And be careful not to fall into the same temptation yourself.

Does this mean **love** ignores **sin**?

GALATIANS 6:1-3 (MSG)

Live creatively, friends. If someone falls into sin, forgivingly restore him, saving your critical comments for yourself. You might be needing forgiveness before the day's out.

Stoop down and reach out to those who are oppressed. Share their burdens, and so complete Christ's law.


If you think you are too good for that, you are badly deceived.

“The weak can never forgive. Forgiveness is the attribute of the strong! True love requires the strength to address sin while maintaining grace.”

MAHATMA GANDHI

How can we apply this?

- 1. Choose forgiveness over resentment when someone wrongs you.**
- 2. Respond to offenses with grace and patience rather than anger.**
- 3. Help others grow and heal rather than shaming them.**
- 4. Show love in a way that brings peace and unity, even in difficult situations.**
- 5. At its core, this verse calls us to love as God loves—deeply, sacrificially, and with a heart ready to forgive**

The background features a dark gradient transitioning from deep blue on the left to deep purple on the right. Diagonal lines of varying thickness and brightness, in shades of cyan and magenta, radiate from the bottom corners towards the center, creating a sense of depth and movement.

“The practice of forgiveness is our most important contribution to the healing of the world.”

MARIANNE WILLIAMSON