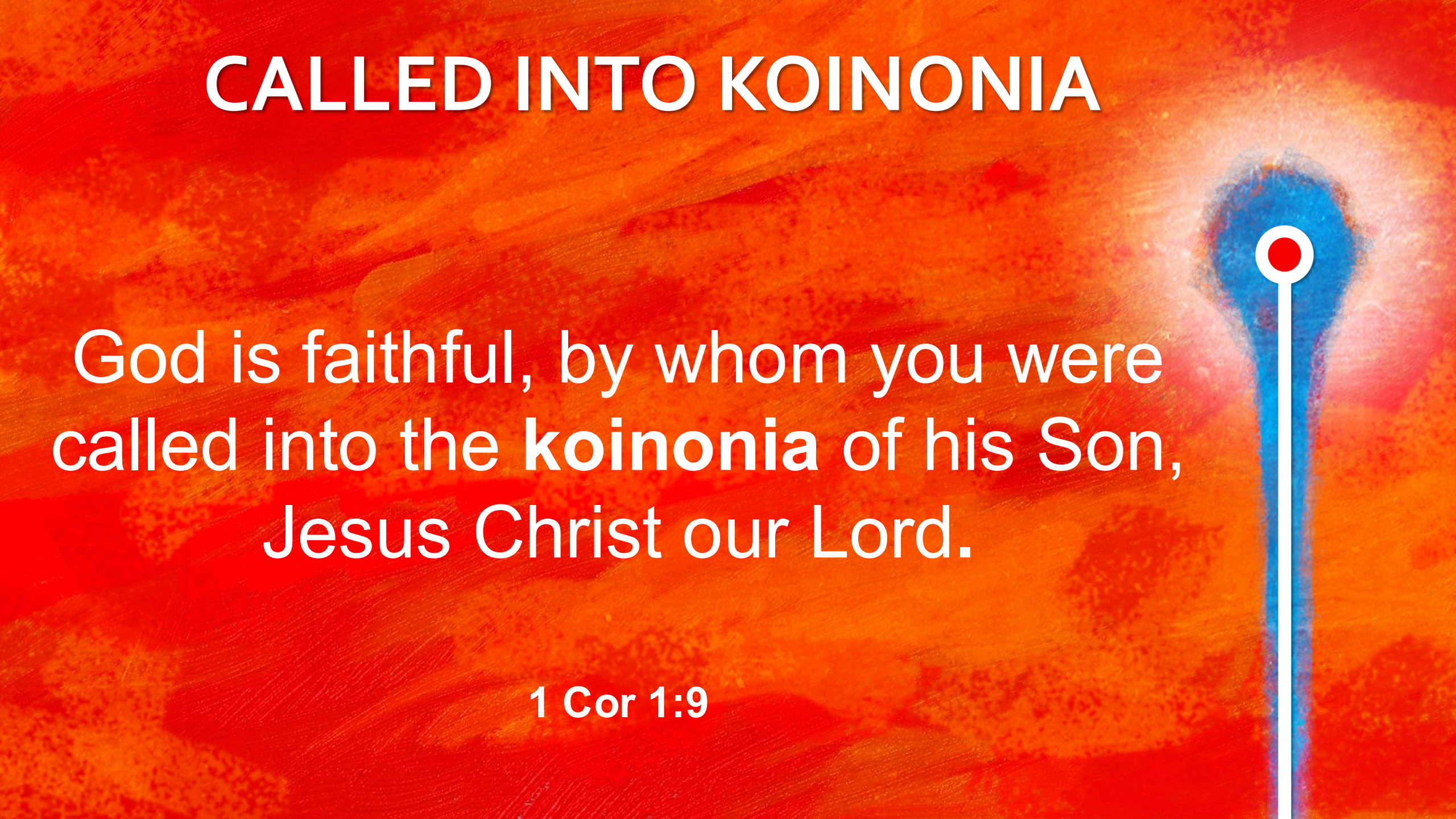
DIFFERENT, BUT TOGETHER

Adventisms within Adventism

Tihomir Lazić | Poland | 19 Sep 2026

CALLED INTO KOINONIA



God is faithful, by whom you were called into the **koinonia** of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

1 Cor 1:9

CALLED TO COMMUNION, LIVING IN DIVISION

1 Cor 1. 9

…called into the **koinonia** of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord**.**

AND THEN THE VERY NEXT VERSE…

1 Cor 1.10

"I appeal to you, brothers and sisters…that **there be NO DIVISIONS among you…"**



Called in COMMUNION.
Living in FRAGMENTATION.



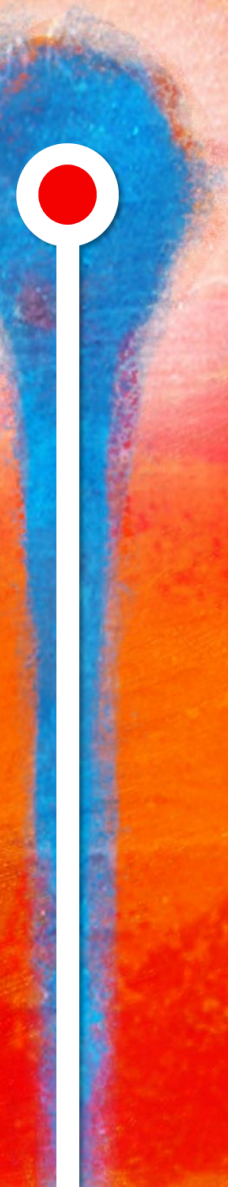
KOINONIA IN A MESSY CHURCH

CORINTH

Factions & polarization
Sexual misconduct
Lawsuits between believers
Marriage & sexuality disputes
Food, idols & conscience
Rich-poor divisions
Competition over spiritual gifts
Disorder in worship
Disagreement about resurrection

"I belong to Paul…Apolos…Cephas…"

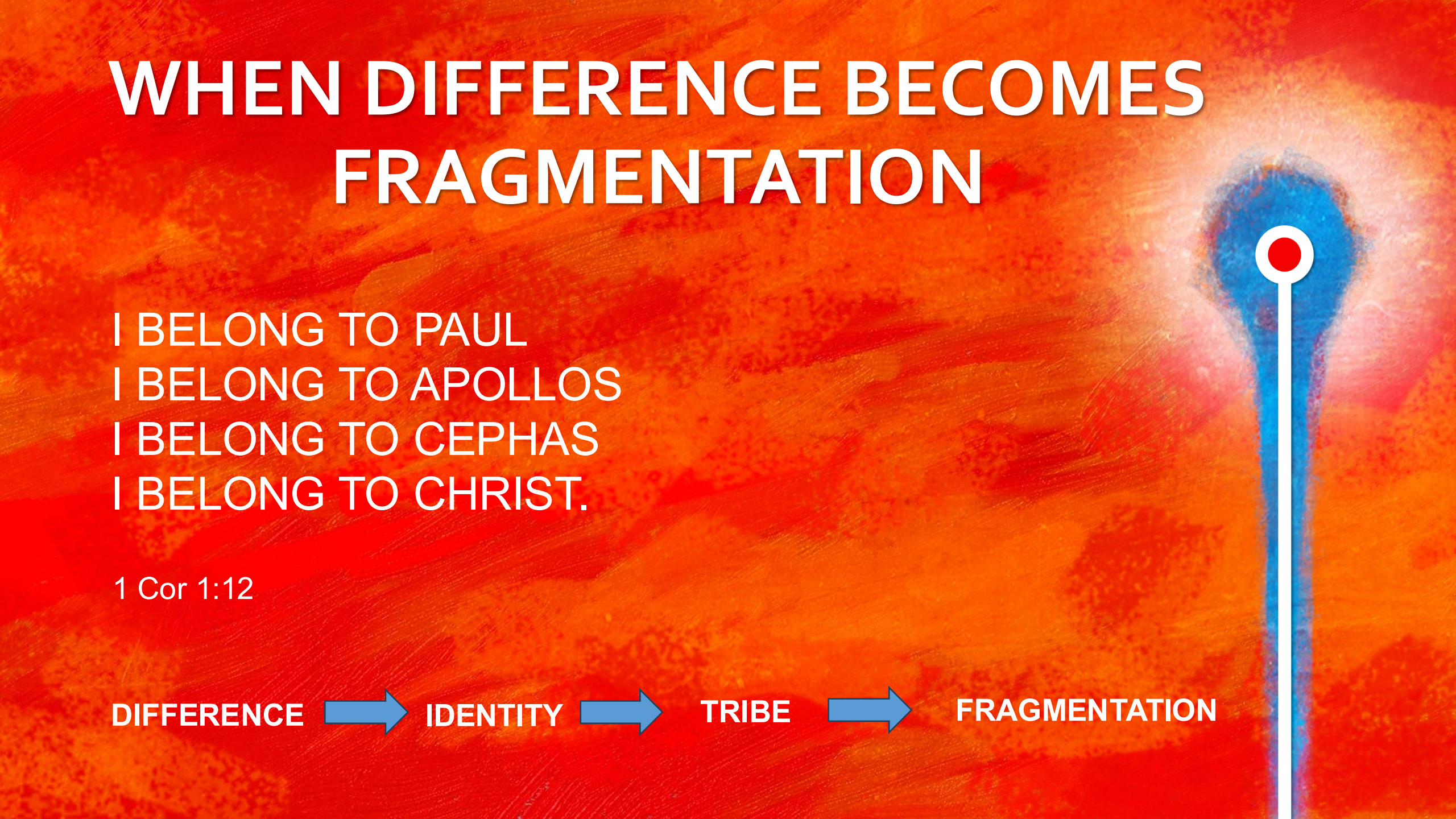
"…sanctified in Christ Jesus,
CALLED TO BE SAINTS…"
(1 Cor 1.2)



WHEN DIFFERENCE BECOMES FRAGMENTATION

I BELONG TO PAUL
I BELONG TO APOLLOS
I BELONG TO CEPHAS
I BELONG TO CHRIST.

1 Cor 1:12



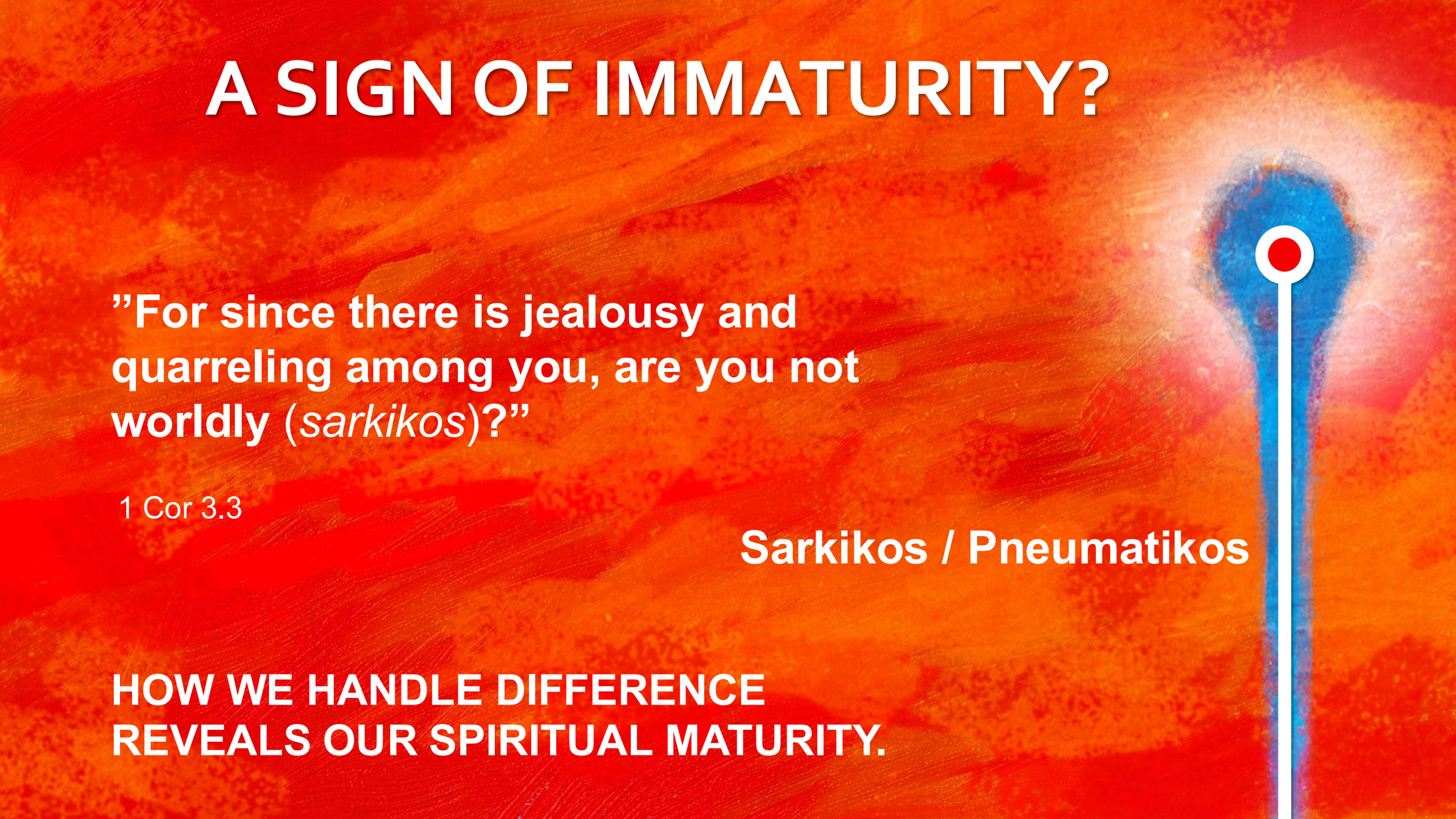
A SIGN OF IMMATURITY?

”For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly (*sarkikos*)**?”**

1 Cor 3.3

Sarkikos / Pneumatikos

HOW WE HANDLE DIFFERENCE REVEALS OUR SPIRITUAL MATURITY.



DIFFERENCE IS NOT THE PROBLEM

”I PLANTED
Apollos WATERED,
But God gave the GROWTH”

1 Cor 3.6

DIFFERENT PEOPLE.
DIFFERENT CONTRIBUTIONS.
GOD GIVES THE GROWTH.



DIFFERENT, BUT TOGETHER

1 Cor 3.8

”The one who plants and the one who waters are ONE…”

DIFFERENCE ≠ DIVISION

Different contributions.
One purpose.
One God.

THE GREAT REVERSAL

1 Cor 3.8

They say: "I BELONG TO PAUL."
Paul says: "ALL THINGS ARE YOURS…"

Paul – Apollos - Cephas

"…and you are Christ's,
and Christ is God's."
1 Cor 3:21-23.

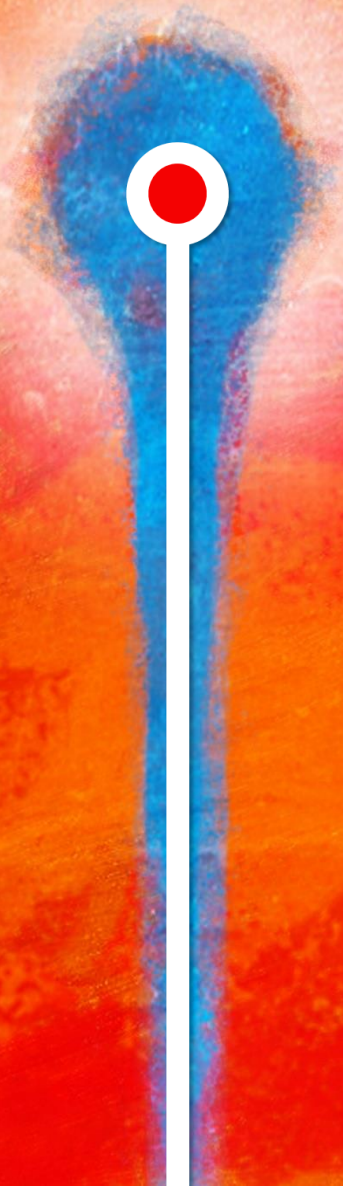
TWO FAILED RESPONSES TO DIFFERENCE

FRAGMENTATION

Different, but not together.

UNIFROMITY

Together, but not different.



ANOTHER POSSIBILITY

DIFFERENT, BUT TOGETHER

Communion without uniformity.
Difference without fragmentation.

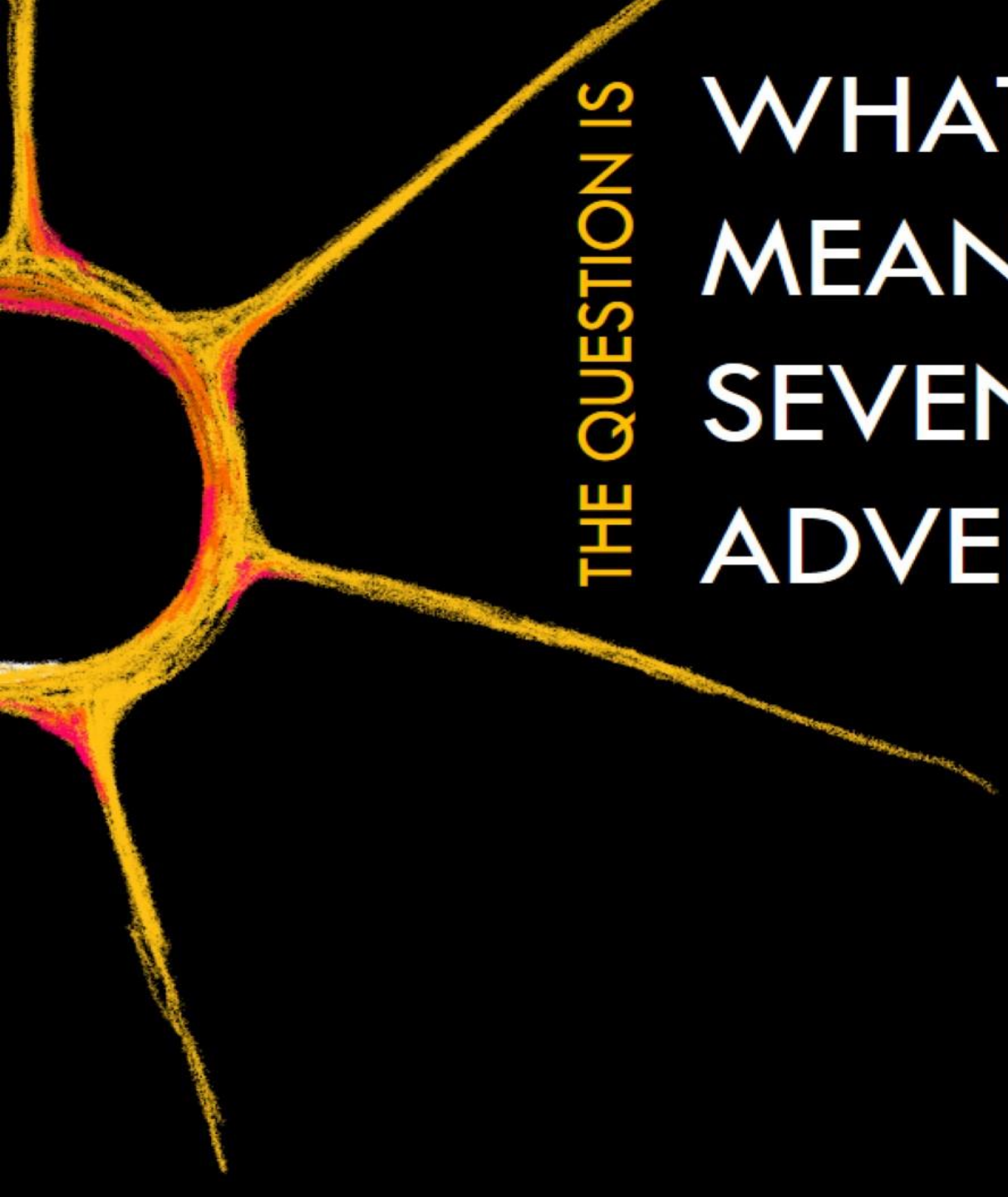


OUR QUESTION

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN ONE CHURCH CONTAINS DIFFERENT VISIONS OF FAITHFULNESS?

WHEN DOES DIVERSITY ENRICH?
WHEN DOES DIVERSITY FRAGMENT?

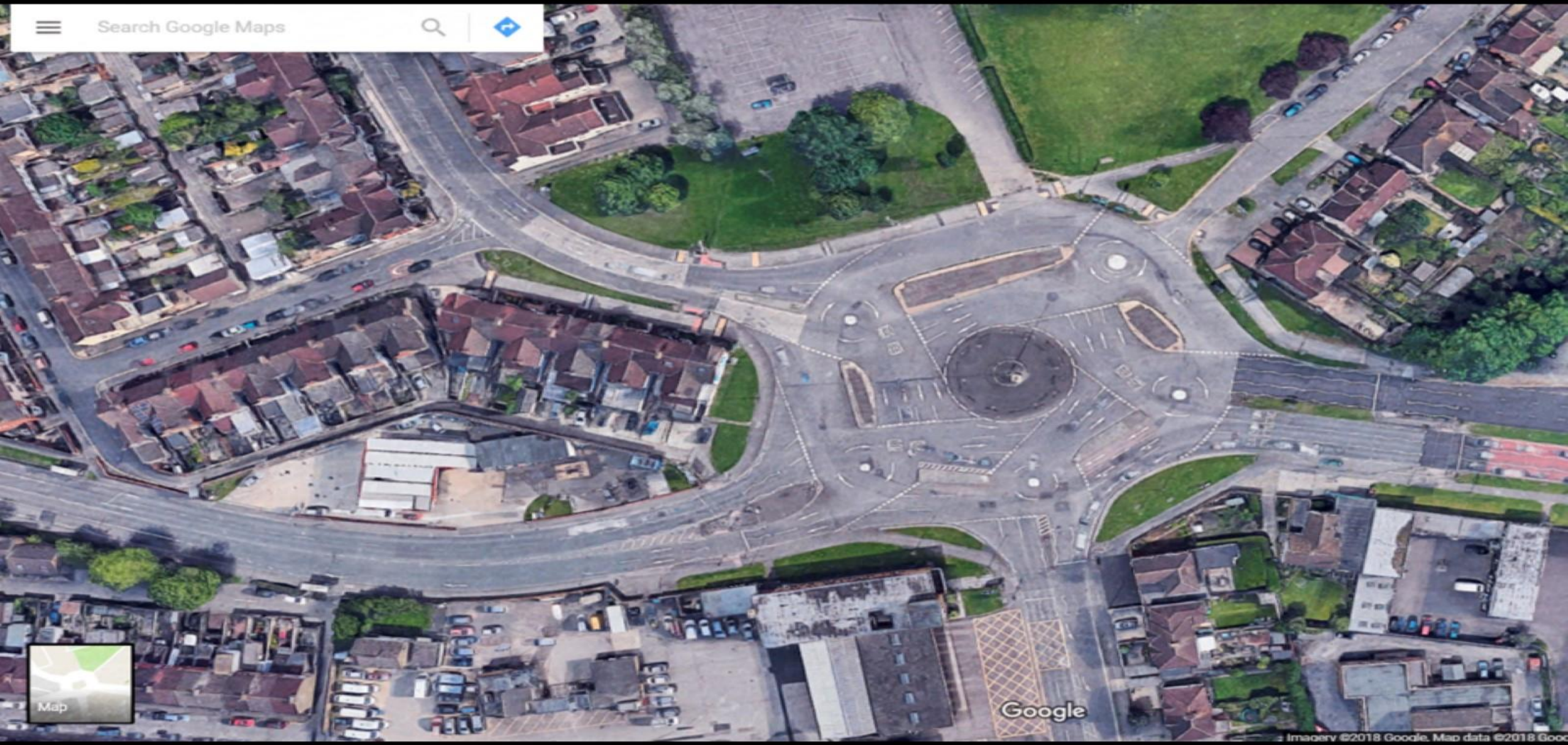




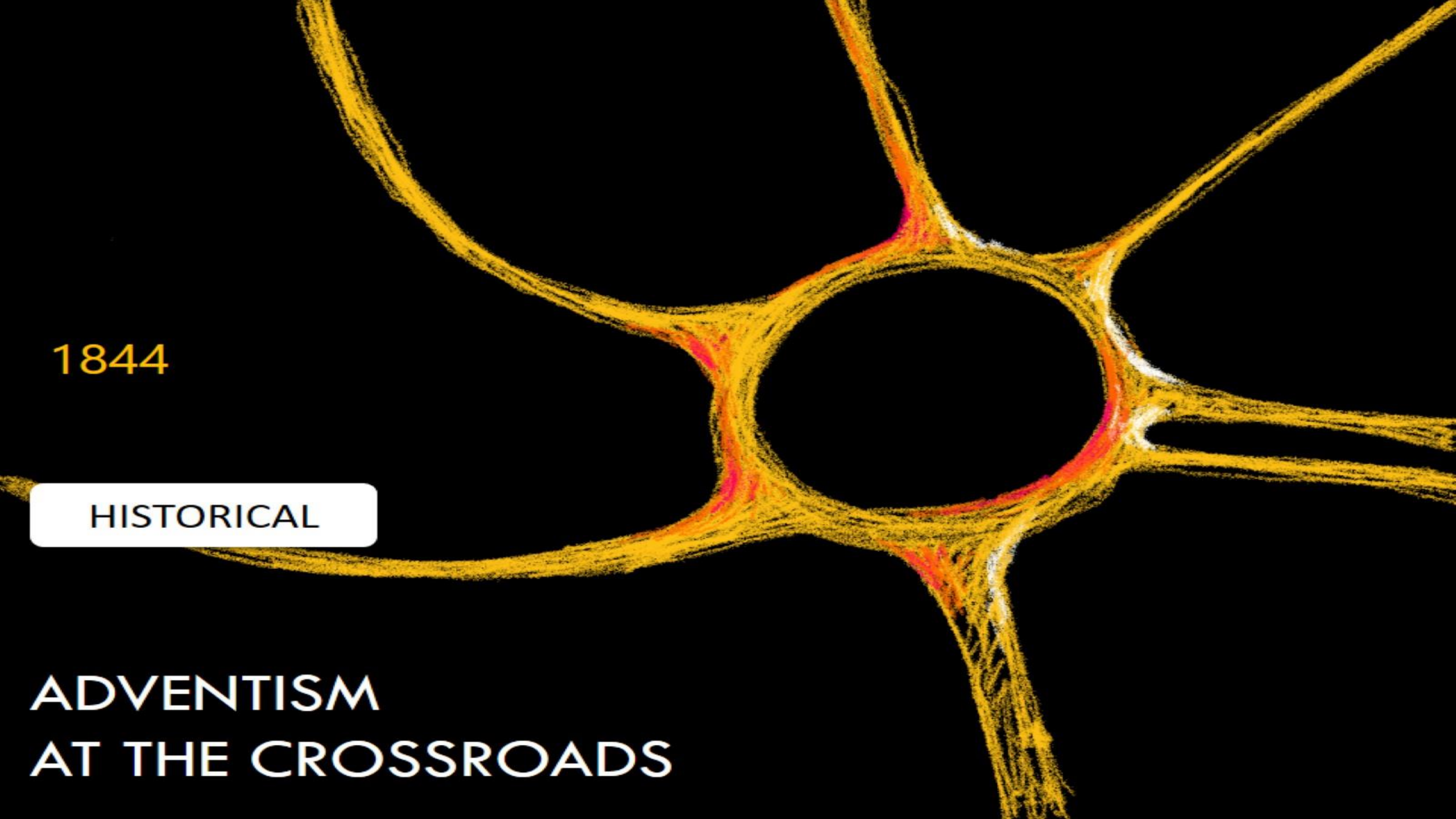
THE QUESTION IS

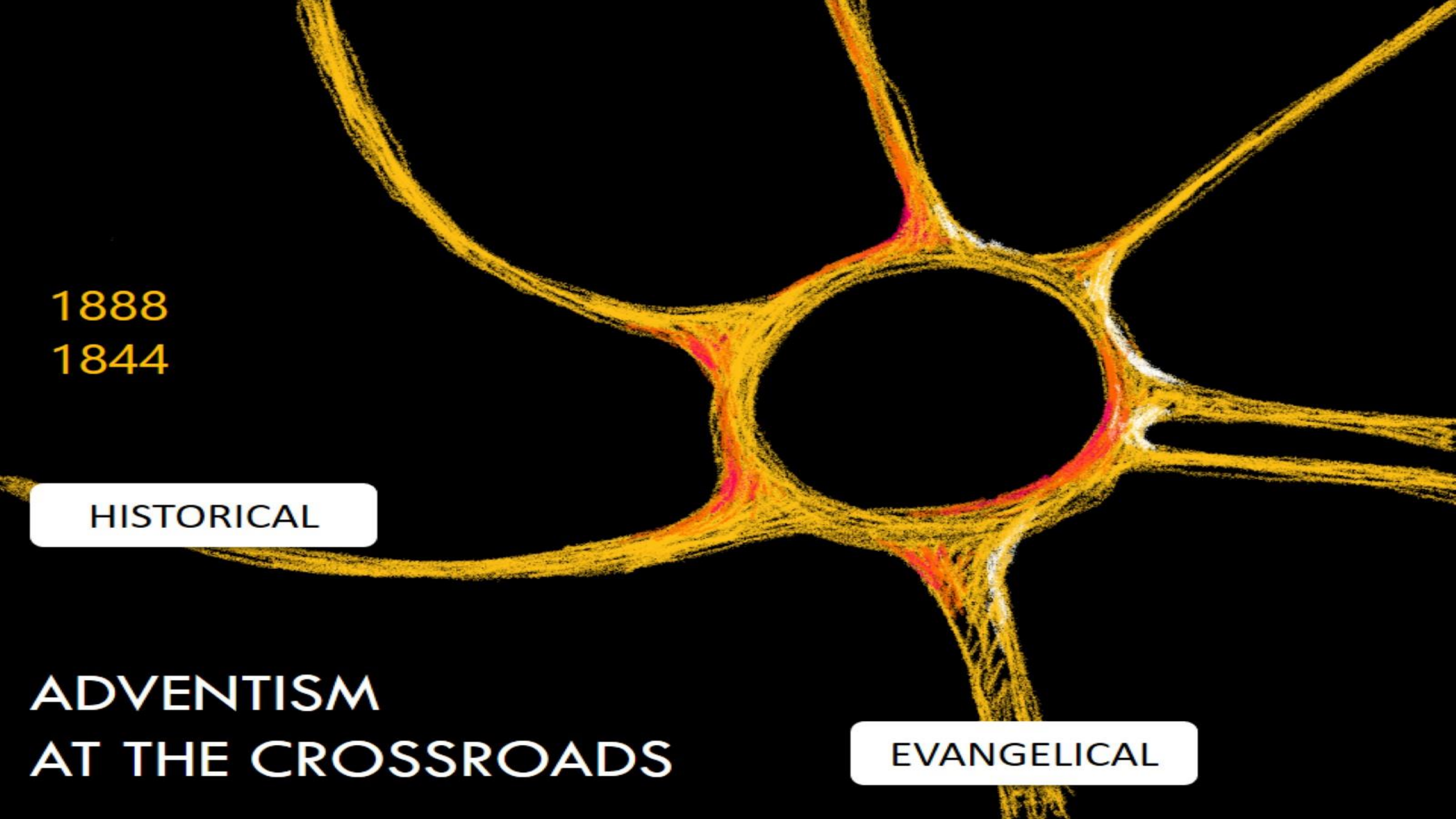
WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST?

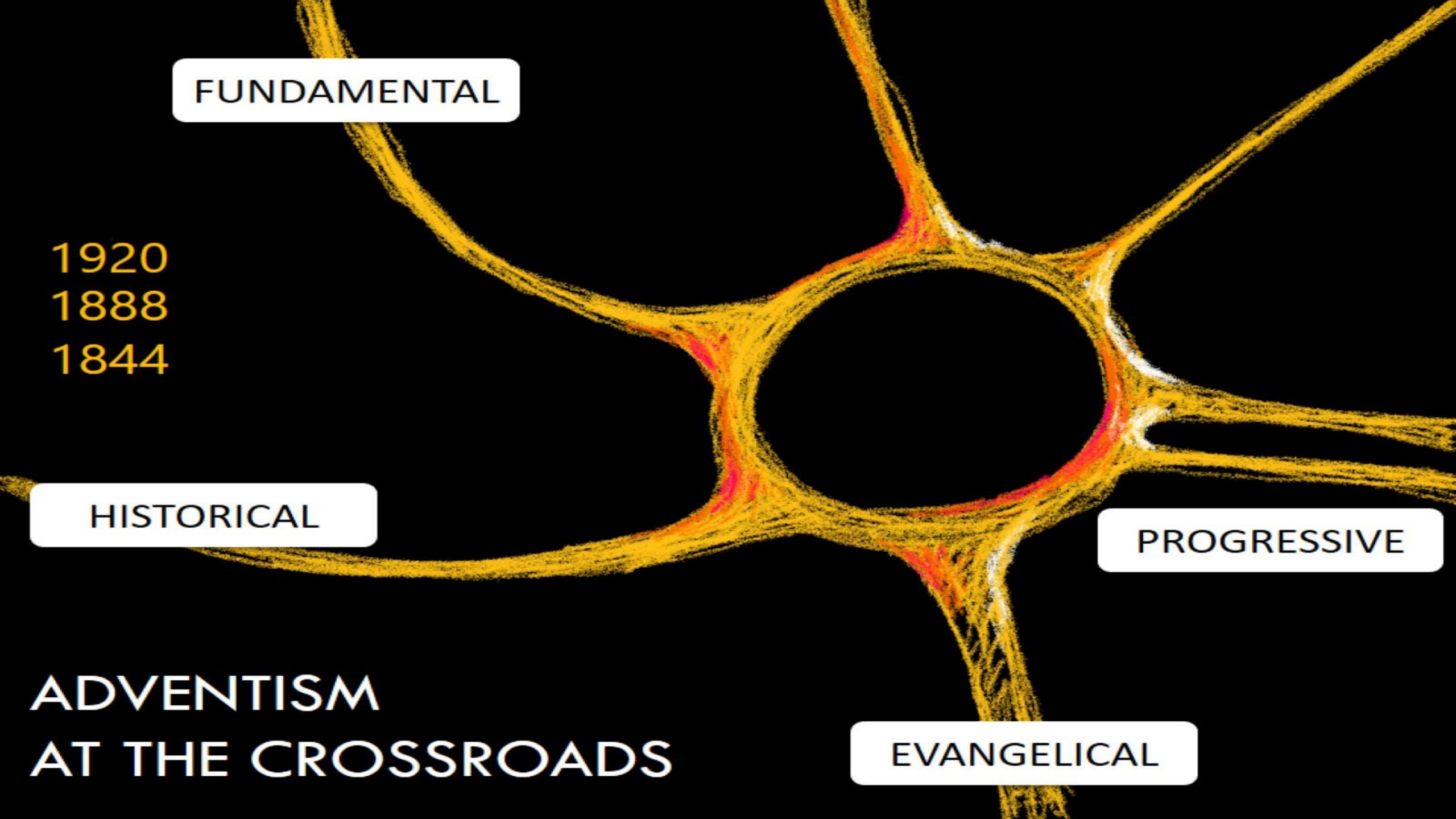

THE MAGIC ROUNDABOUT
Motorway M4
Marlborough (A 346)
Burford (A 361)
Oxford (A 420)
R
R
Cirencester
A 4289
(A 419)
Wroughton
B 4289
(A 4361)

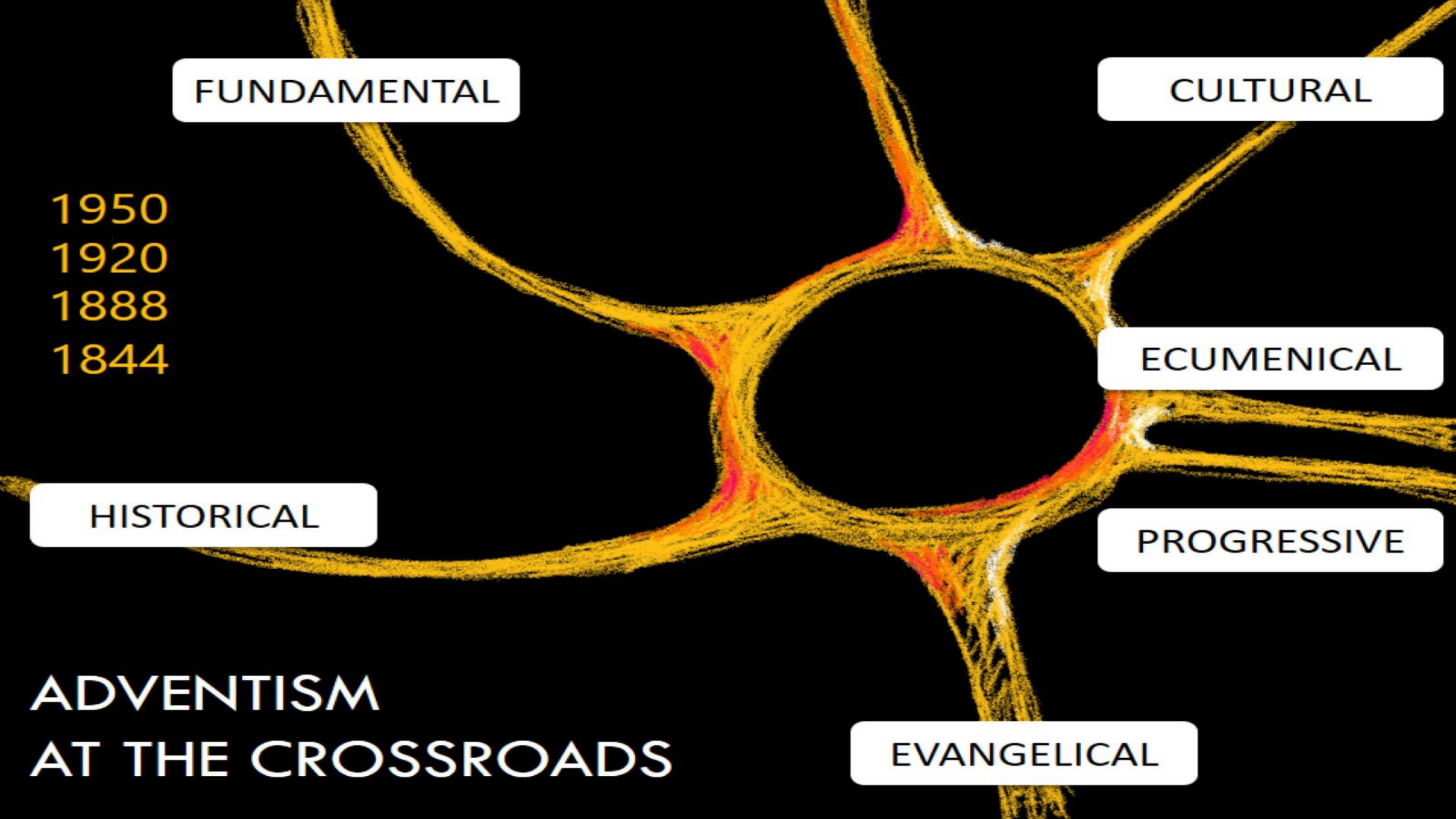

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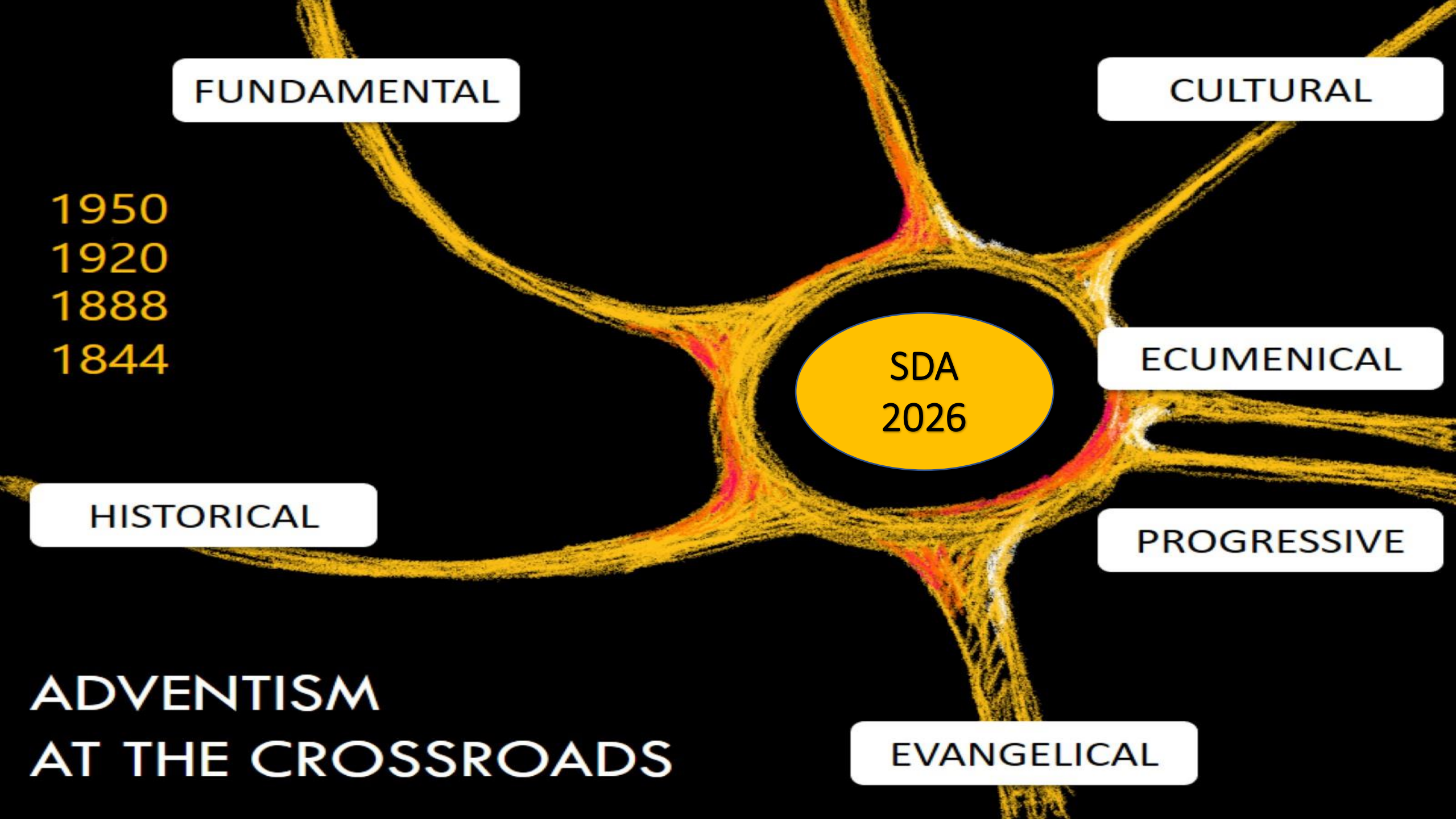

ADVENTISM
AT THE CROSSROADS


1844
HISTORICAL
ADVENTISM
AT THE CROSSROADS


1888
1844
HISTORICAL
ADVENTISM
AT THE CROSSROADS
EVANGELICAL


FUNDAMENTAL
1920
1888
1844
HISTORICAL
PROGRESSIVE
ADVENTISM
AT THE CROSSROADS
EVANGELICAL


FUNDAMENTAL
CULTURAL
1950
1920
1888
1844
ECUMENICAL
HISTORICAL
PROGRESSIVE
ADVENTISM
AT THE CROSSROADS
EVANGELICAL



ADVENTISM AT THE CROSSROADS

NOW WHAT?

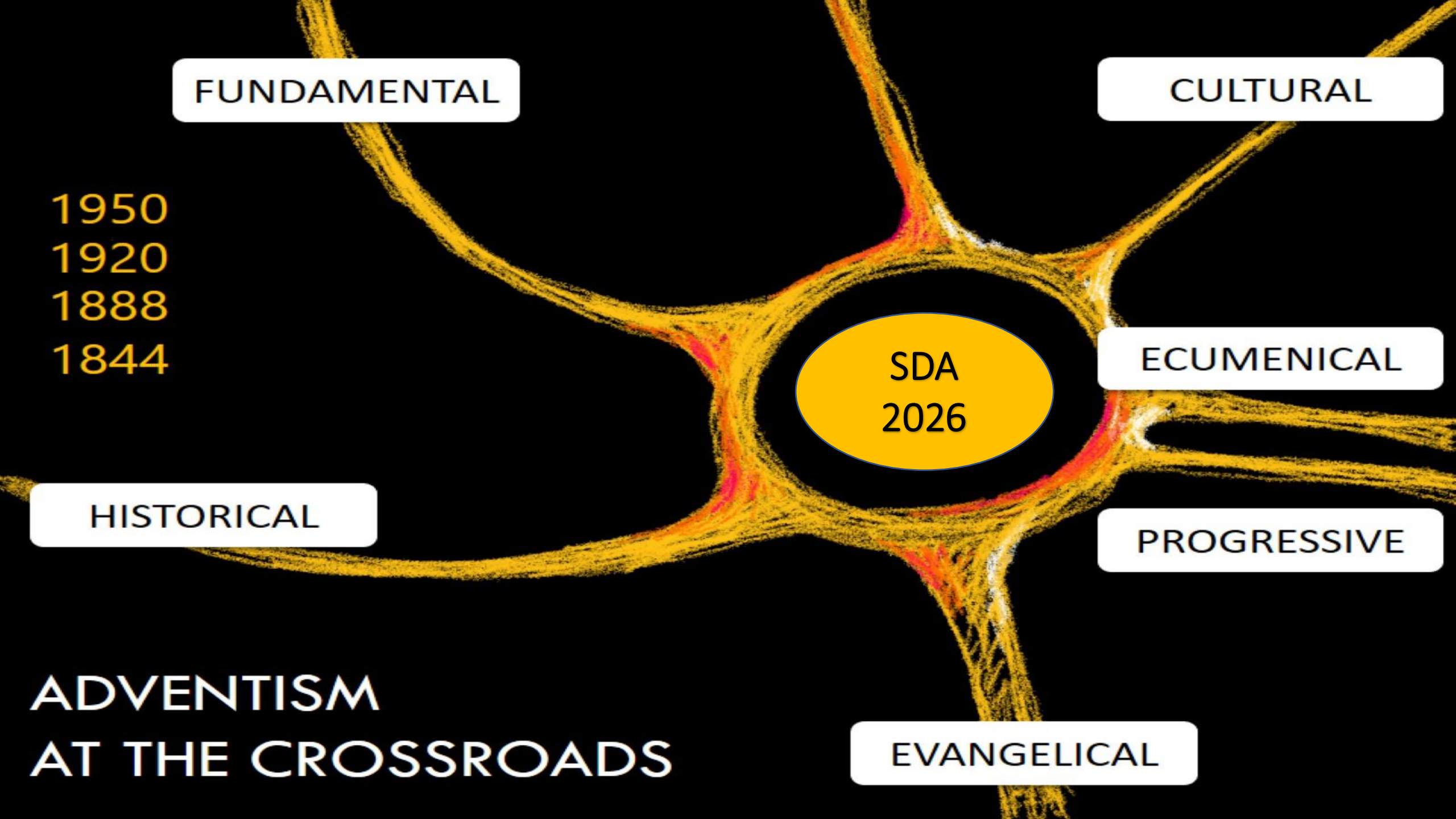
WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

How do we navigate increasing diversity and polarisation without losing our identity or one another?



FOUR WAYS FORWARD

APPROACH	GUIDING QUESTION	CORE CHALLENGE
SINGLE STRAND	Which strand is right?	What if other strands contain legitimate insights?
ECLECTIC	What should we take from each?	Who decides what to select—and by what criteria?
INTEGRATION	What should we adopt, adapt, abandon, or advance?	What shared framework guides our discernment?
INNOVATION	What might emerge beyond the existing strands?	How do we innovate while remaining continuity with our core identity?



ADVENTISM AT THE CROSSROADS

THE QUESTION BENEATH THE QUESTIONS

By what shared criteria do we discern together?

What is our common frame of reference?

Whether we select, integrate, or innovate, we cannot escape the question of **how we discern what is faithful.**



HOW DO WE DISCERN TOGETHER?

What must remain at the centre if we are to navigate our differences faithfully?

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Resource:

An Adventist Version of Communio *Ecclesiology: Remnant in* Koinonia



DIFFERENT, BUT TOGETHER

Adventisms within Adventism

Tihomir Lazić | Poland | 21 Sep 2026