



1525

2025

*at* **FIVE  
HUNDRED**

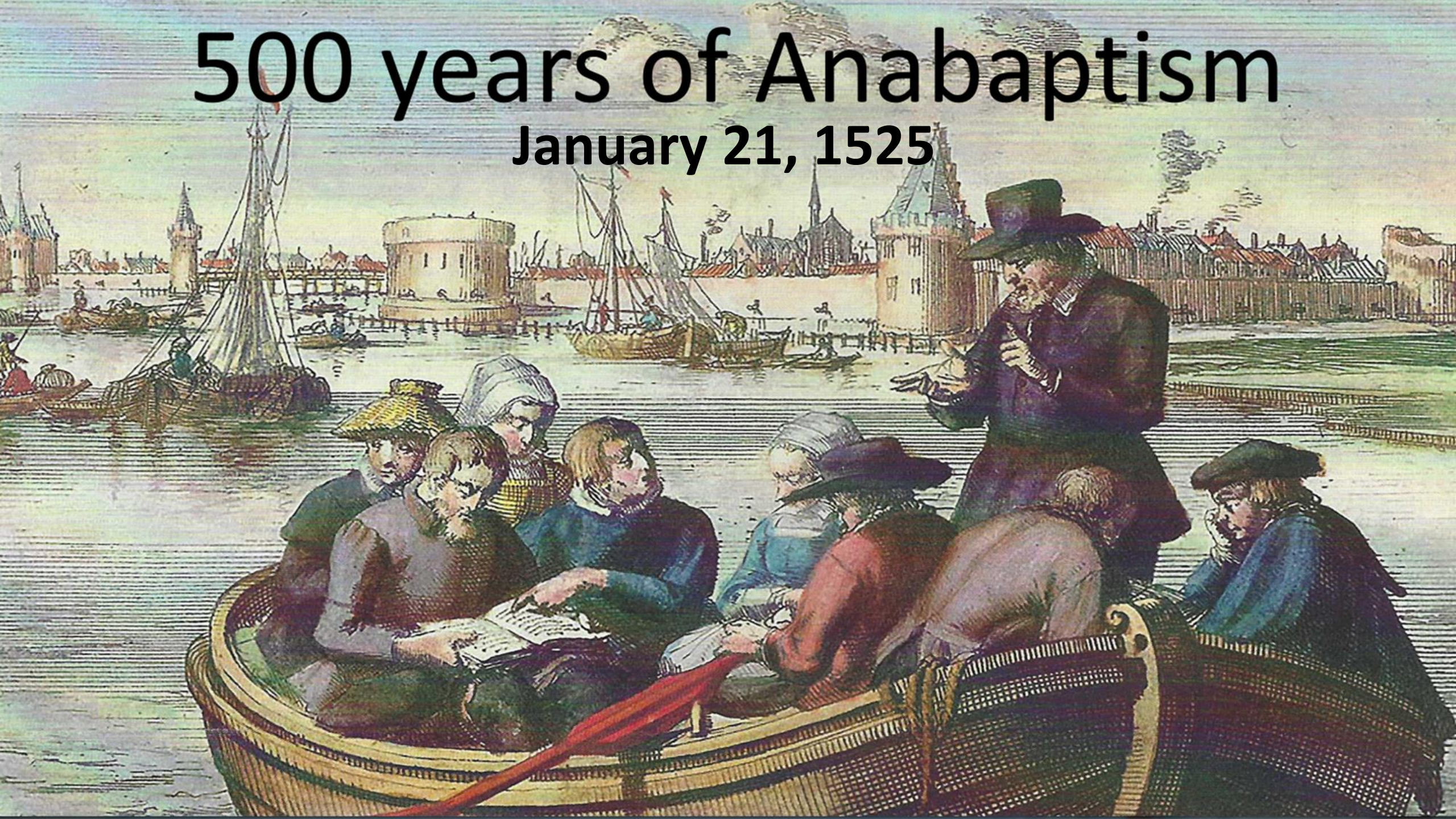
TODAY'S MESSAGE

**RECONCILIATION:  
The Center  
of Our Work**

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

# 500 years of Anabaptism

January 21, 1525





**2.12 Million Baptized Anabaptists**

**In 85 countries around the world**

**Largest number per continents**

**Africa**

**North America**

**Asia**

**South America**

**Europe**

A historical illustration of a group of people in a boat on a river. The scene is set in a town with several buildings and a church spire in the background. The boat is filled with people, some of whom are looking at a book or document. The overall tone is somber and historical.

# Core values of Anabaptism

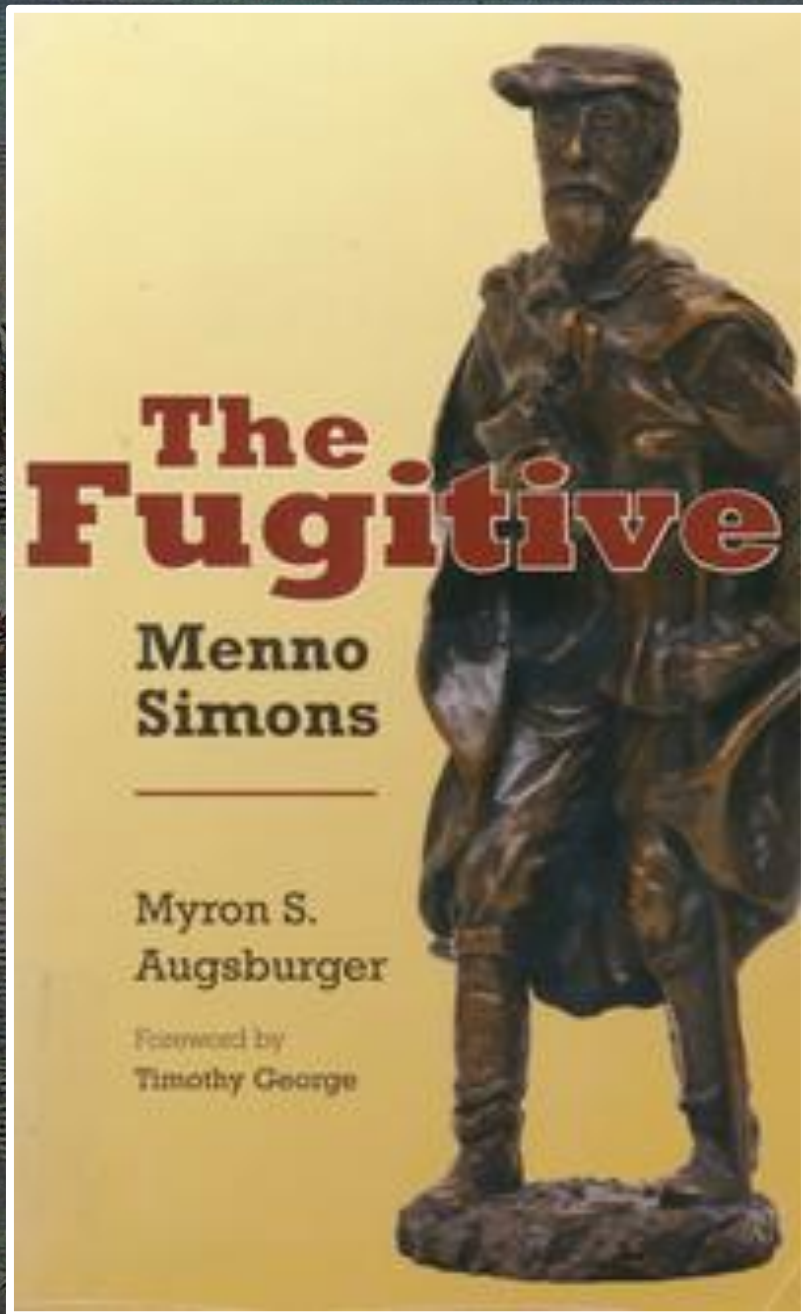
Jesus is the center of our faith

Community is the center of our lives

Reconciliation is the center of our work

Today's Scripture

2 Corinthians 5:16-21



1544

*:Farewell, my friends, by  
God's grace, I'll be back!*

*- Menno Simons*

*From "The Fugitive"*

*A historical fiction account of the  
life and ministry of Menno Simons.*

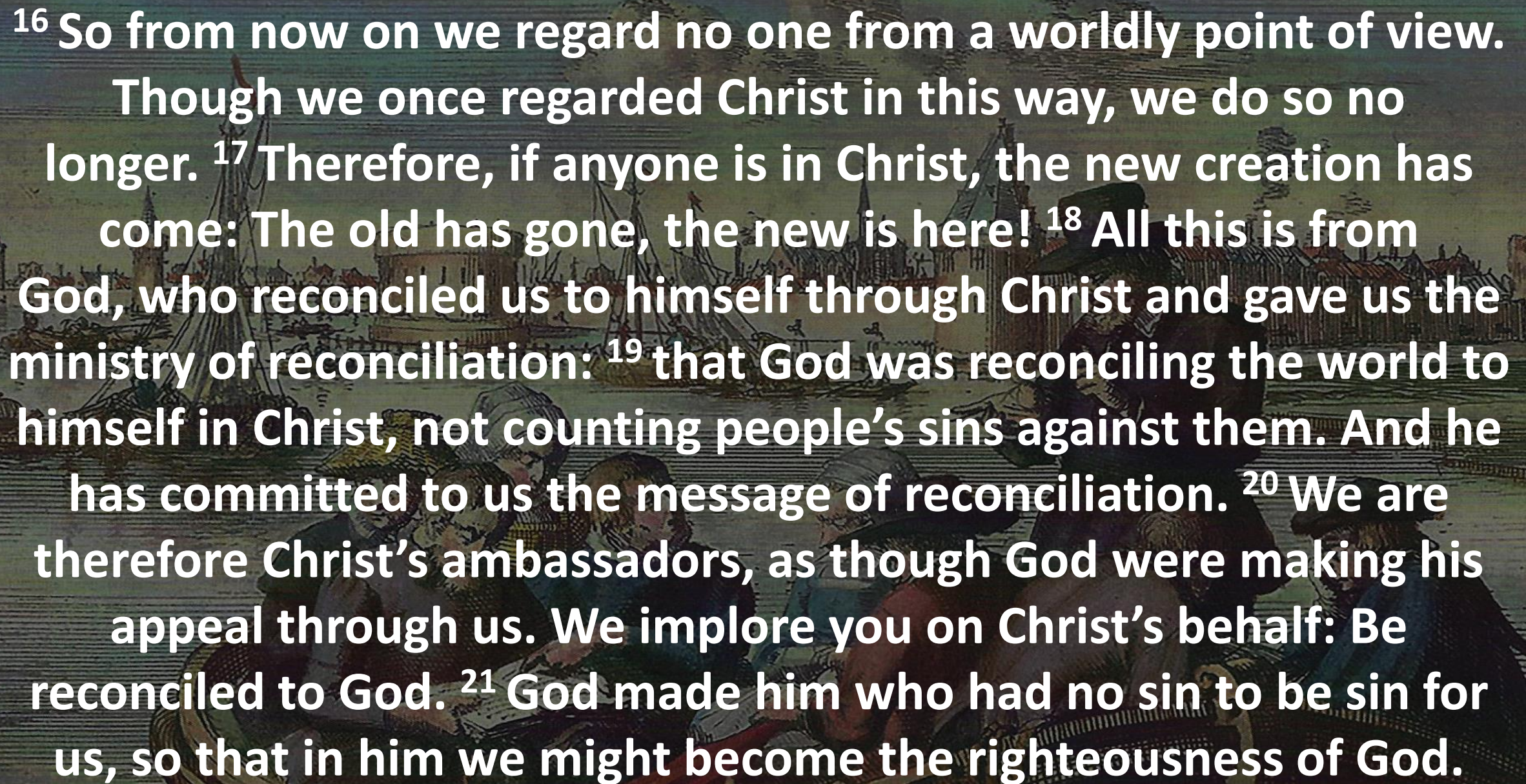


# Menists

*The name given to Menno Simon's churches in the 1500's by those who were trying to arrest them or kill them.*

# Mennonites

*The name given to many Menno inspired Anabaptist churches that formed later.*

A historical illustration of a harbor scene. In the foreground, a group of people are gathered around a small boat, possibly engaged in a religious or educational activity. One person is holding a book, and another is pointing towards it. The background shows a busy harbor with several large sailing ships and a town with buildings and a church spire. The overall tone is somber and historical.

**16** So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. **17** Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! **18** All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: **19** that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. **20** We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. **21** God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

**2 Corinthians 5:16-21**

A historical illustration of a harbor scene. In the foreground, a group of people are seated in a large, round, woven boat. They are dressed in period clothing, including hats and long coats. One man is standing at the back of the boat, holding a book or document, and appears to be addressing the group. The background shows a harbor with several sailing ships, a large cylindrical structure, and a town with buildings and a church spire in the distance. The overall tone is somber and historical.

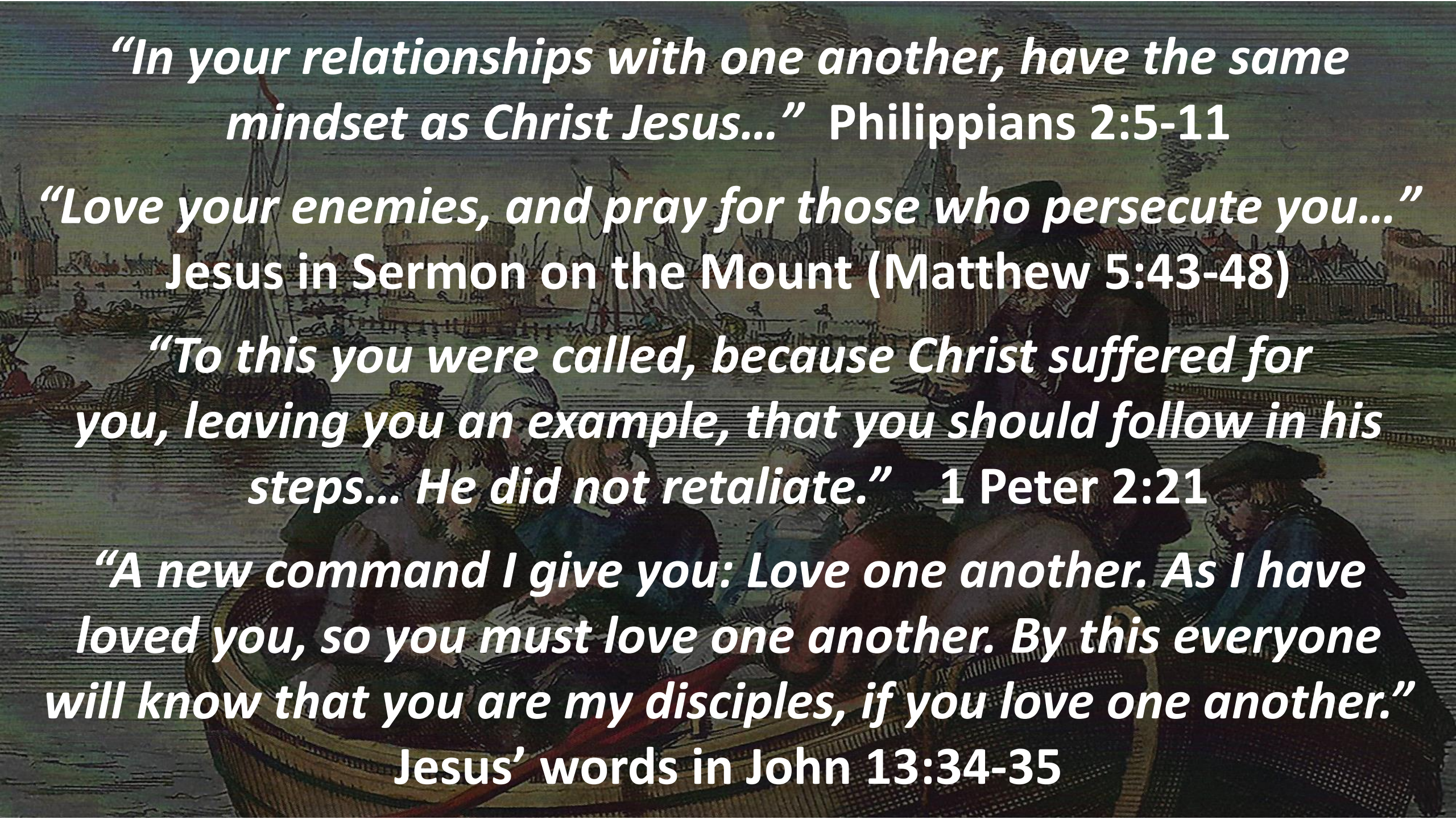
# RECONCILIATION IS THE CENTER OF OUR WORK

**We are reconciled with God through Jesus Christ!**

**We are to lead others to this reconciliation with God!**

**We are to help reconcile people to each other!**





*“In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus...”* Philippians 2:5-11

*“Love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you...”*  
Jesus in Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:43-48)

*“To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps... He did not retaliate.”* 1 Peter 2:21

*“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”*  
Jesus' words in John 13:34-35

A historical illustration of a harbor scene. In the foreground, a group of people are gathered in a small boat, some looking at a book. In the background, a town with a church spire and several sailing ships is visible on the water.

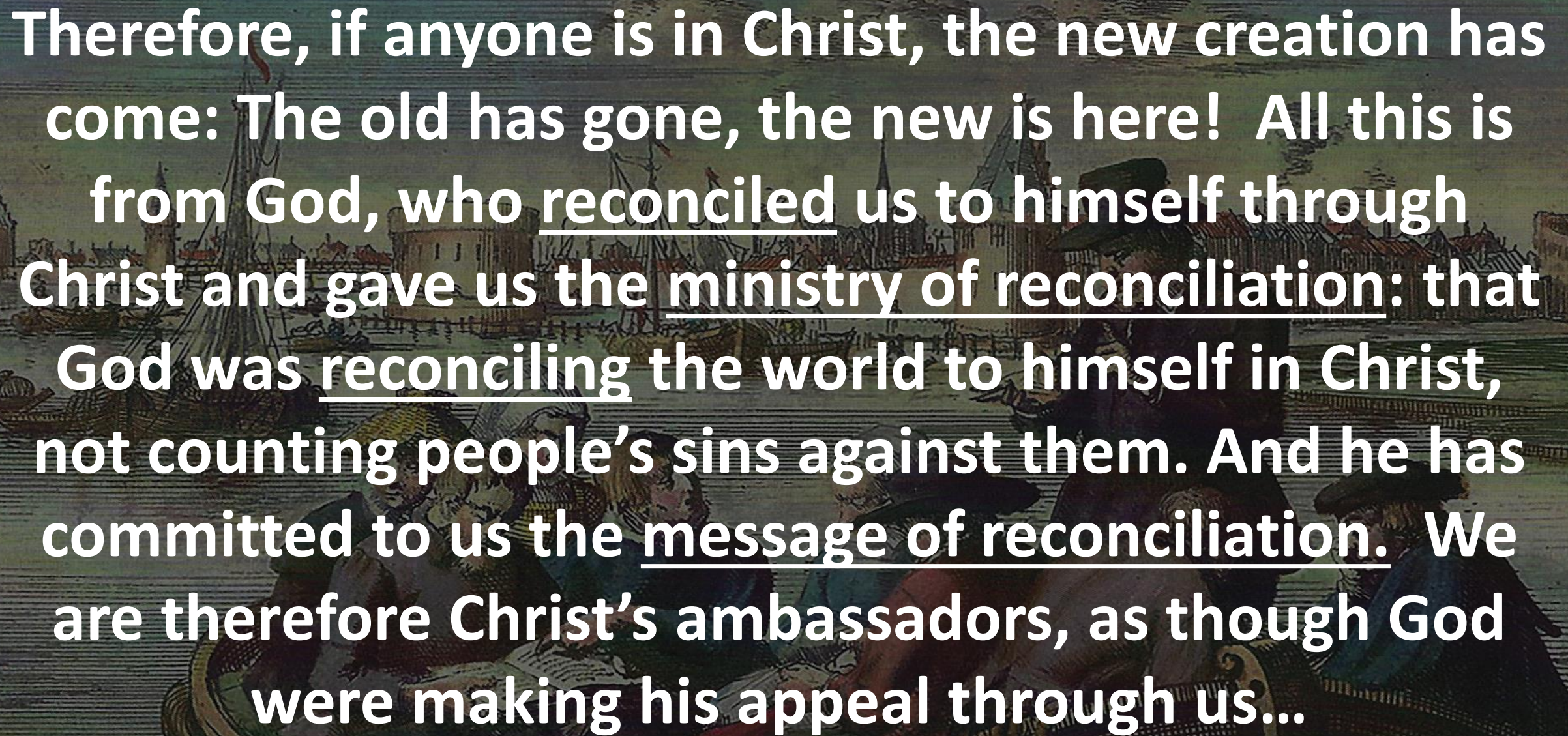
# RECONCILIATION IS THE CENTER OF OUR WORK

**We are reconciled with God through Jesus Christ!**

**We are to lead others to this reconciliation with God!**

**We are to help reconcile people to each other!**

**We are to ambassadors of reconciliation in the world!**

The background is a dark, atmospheric illustration of a harbor scene. In the foreground, a wooden boat is filled with several people, some of whom appear to be reading or looking at documents. The boat is on the water, and in the background, there are buildings and structures along the shore, possibly a town or city. The overall tone is somber and historical.

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us...

2 Corinthians 5:17-19

# LMC: A Fellowship of Anabaptist Churches Mission Statement

From diverse voices within LMC, a clear statement of identity emerged. This statement is grounded in our unique understanding of the gospel of Jesus Christ and the mission of love, peace, and reconciliation God has called us to as a fellowship of Anabaptist congregations. A Spirit-led movement to: Make disciples of Jesus, Mobilize every member as a missionary, and multiply faith communities locally and beyond! God has a deep desire for a relationship with humanity. Through the peace of Christ, humanity finds rest from hostility. We are called by a missionary God to enter fully into the ministry of reconciliation in our homes, congregations, neighborhoods and around the world. Empowered by God's Holy Spirit, LMC is developing new, revitalized, and multiplying congregations for God's present and coming Kingdom.