

God's
MISSION
in the world

2026-01-11

Chris Greenhalgh

Sunday series up to Easter

- Mission
 - Introduction & overview – today :-)
 - Mission and relationships, inspiring examples, World mission
- Parables
 - What God and God's Kingdom are like

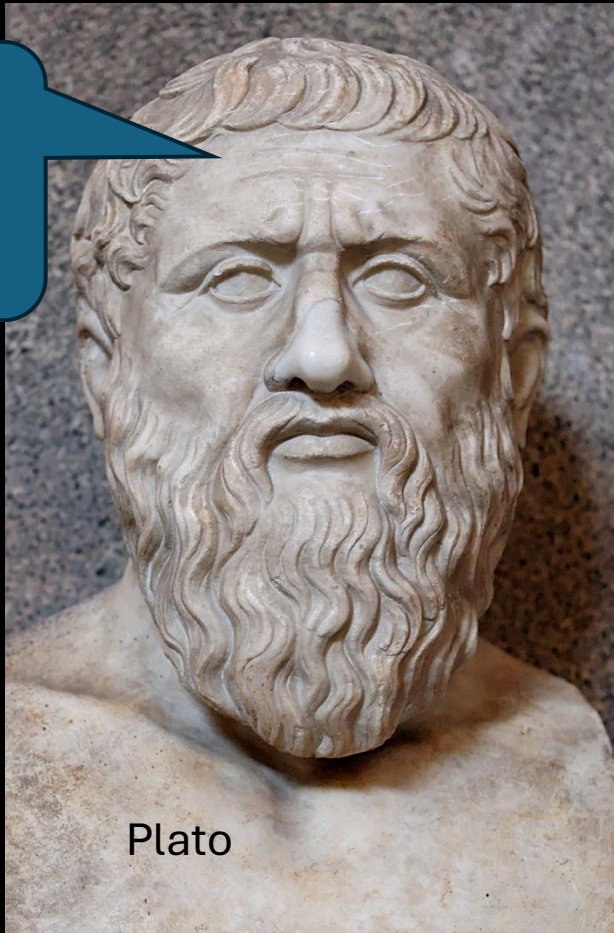
Contents

- Good news?!
- Evangelism or Social Action?!
- What is God's Kingdom like??
- God's mission > our mission > my mission
- Where does that make a difference??
- How should we do it??
- So what does the church do??

Good news: God's mission is not to destroy the world!

**Greek OVER-Emphasis
on ideas, non-physical**

Note
large
brain



Plato

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Real Good News



Note
physical
presence

Good news: God's mission is not to destroy the world!

Greek OVER-Emphasis

- God: Pure and Perfect
- Problem: Personal moral failures a.k.a. "sins"
=> Judgement
- Solution: An innocent man (Jesus) is punished in our place
- Response: We pray the "Jesus prayer"
- Outcome: Get your soul into heaven

Real Good News

- God: Loving and Good
- Problem: Rebellion and idolatry, including "satan" & sin
=> Broken relations
- Solution: God deals with our debt, heals our sickness and disarms sin
- Response: We live as part of God's family under God's new rule on earth
- Outcome: God reconciles ALL THINGS to God

Two gospels?

- Greek-style “Gospel-Express”
 - Jesus died for your “sins” so if you “believe” in him you can go to “heaven” (e.g. John 3:16)
- Real Good News
 - [...] Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. ‘The time has come,’ he said. ‘The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!’ (Mark 1: 14-15)
 - ‘This, then, is how you should pray: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.” (Matthew 6:9-10)
 - Jesus is Lord!

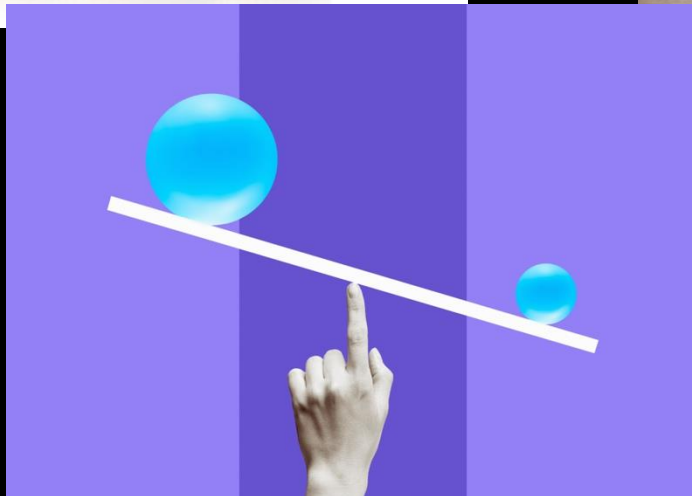
Instead of living in God's love...

How does love "work"?

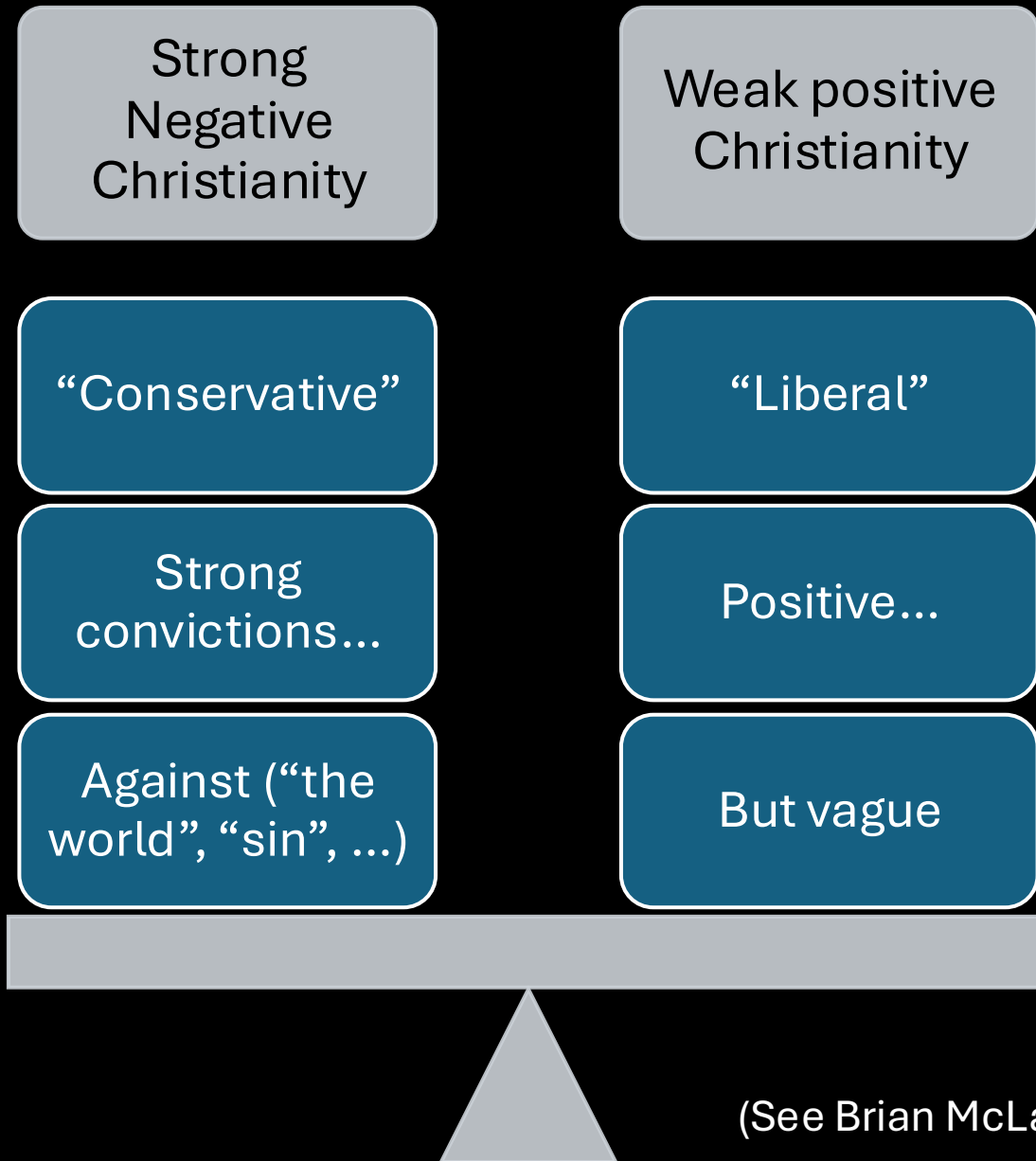
(e.g.) What gift? Made how?



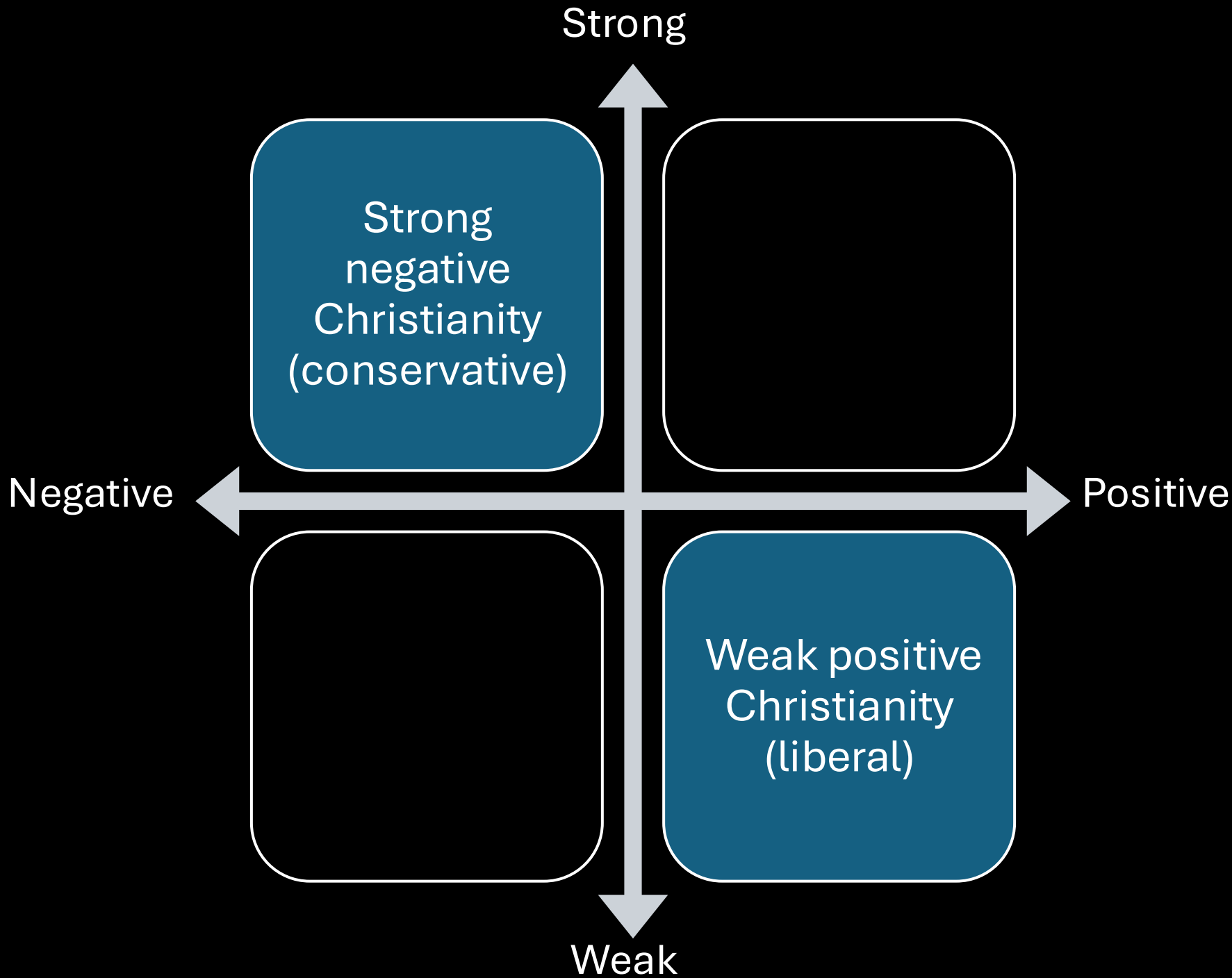
Rational Efficient Technological Consumerist Transactional Faith



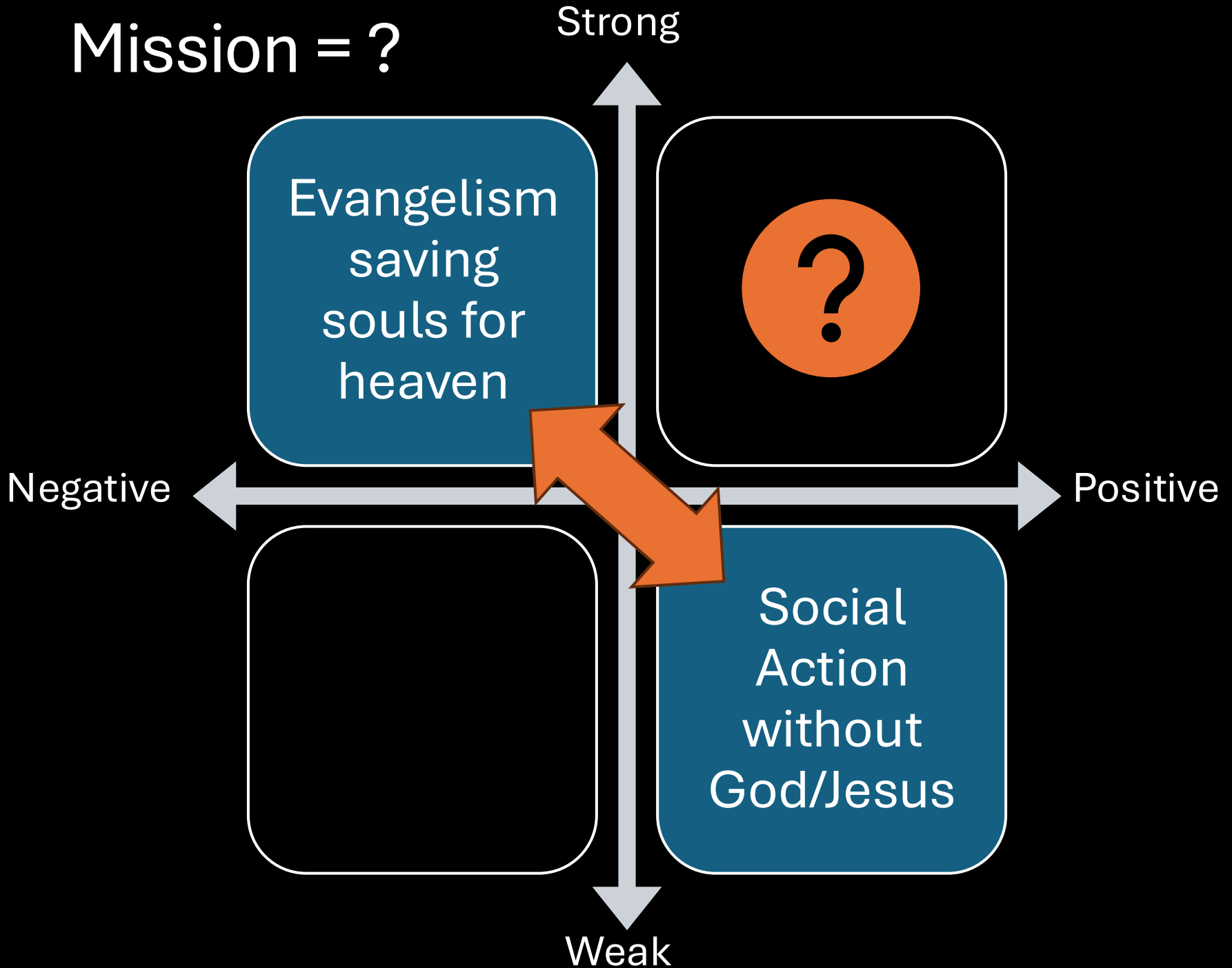
The traditional (20th Century) choice:



(See Brian McLaren)



Mission = ?



Or could there be... **Strong**

Strong
negative
Christianity
(conservative)

**Strong
Positive
Christianity
!!**

Negative ←

→ **Positive**

(uninspiring
and
ineffective :)

Weak positive
Christianity
(liberal)

Weak

Mission

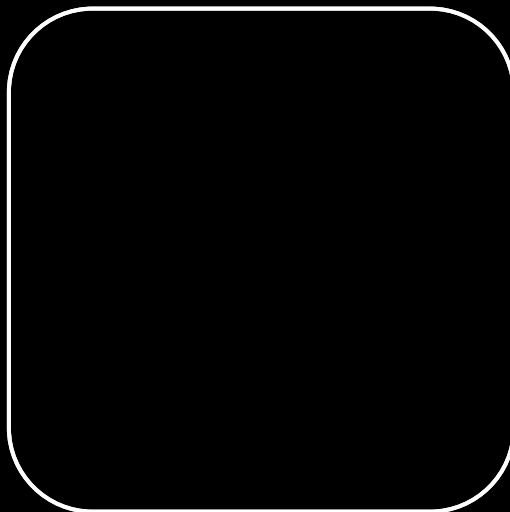
Strong

Evangelism
saving
souls for
heaven



Negative

Positive

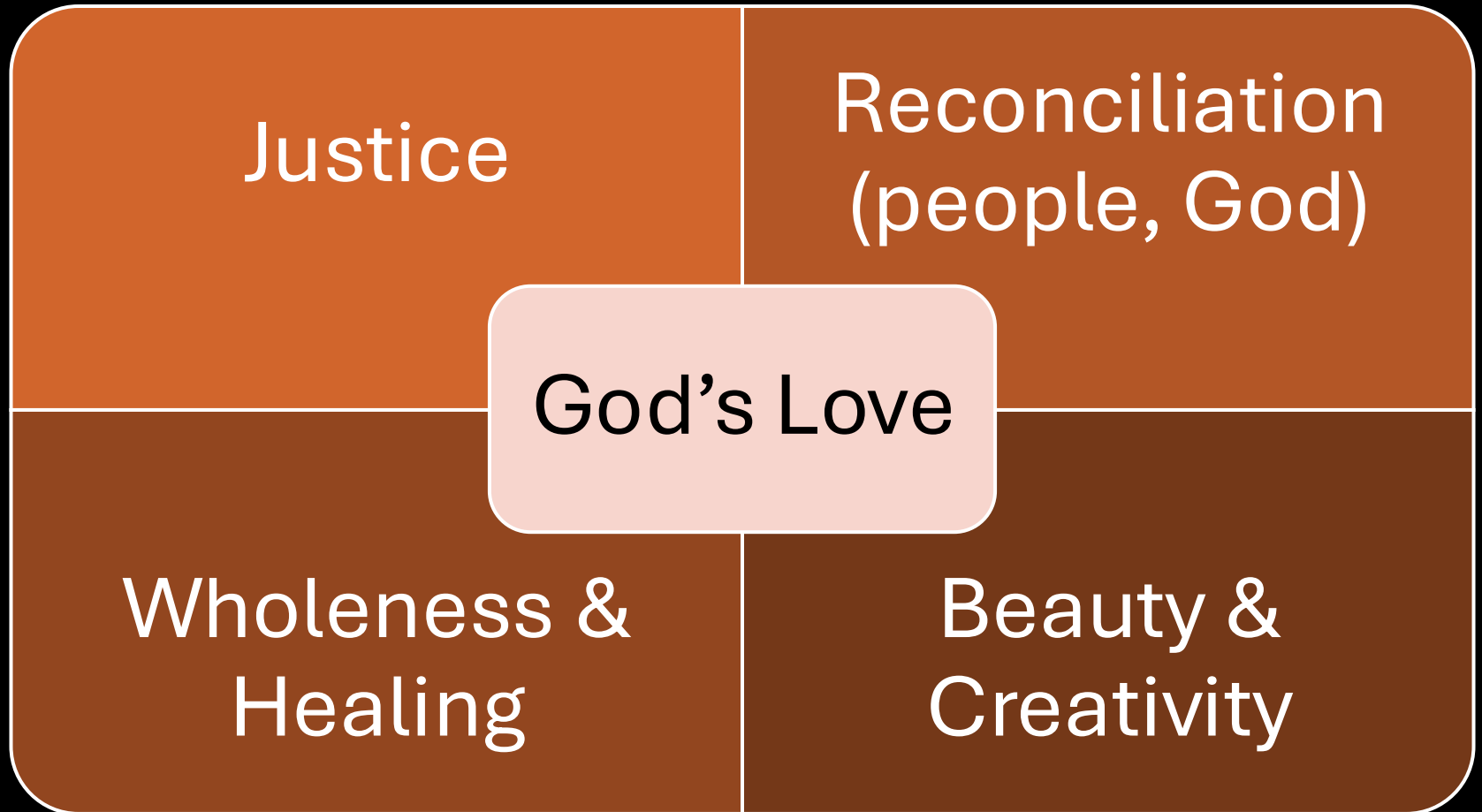


Social
Action
without
God/Jesus

Weak



What is God's Kingdom like??



Justice

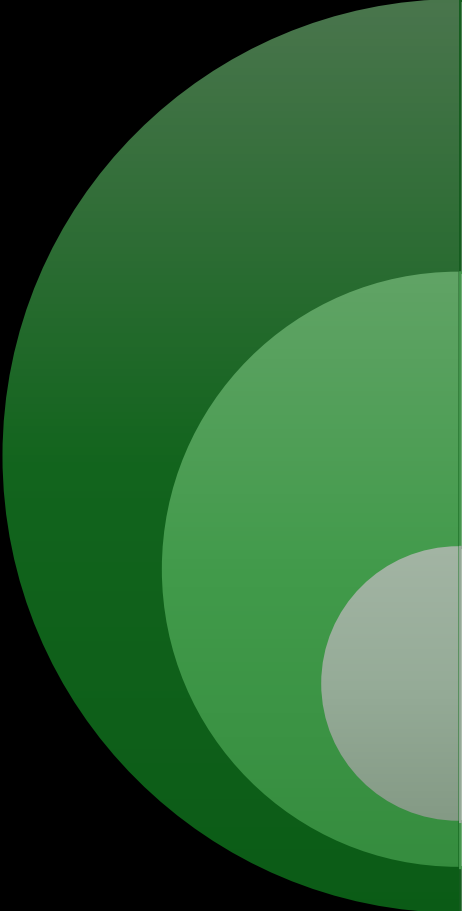
Reconciliation
(people, God)

God's Love

Wholeness &
Healing

Beauty &
Creativity

God's mission > our mission > my mission...



God's mission	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reconciliation• Renewal
The church's mission	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Worldwide...• RBC
My mission & calling	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Individually• Collaboratively

My mission... (and our mission...)

- To work with God to extend God's Kingdom!
- To partner with God to make the world more like God wants it to be!

Verse for 2026

**“Do not be afraid,
little flock, for your Father
has been pleased to give
you the kingdom.”**

Luke 12:32 (NIV)



RUDDINGTON
BAPTIST CHURCH

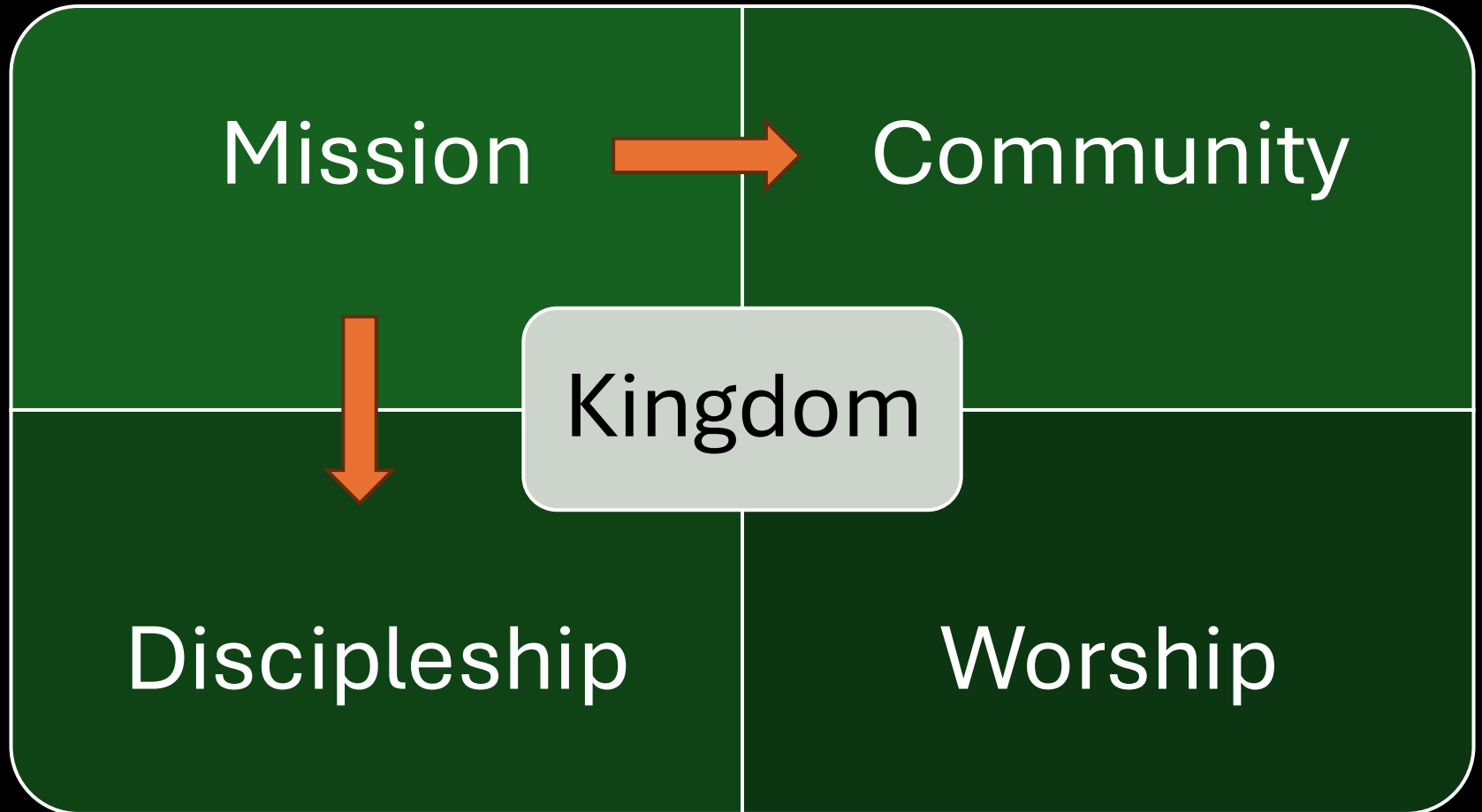
Where does that make a difference??



How should we do it??

- “Do not be afraid”:
- Be confident (in Jesus and the Holy Spirit)
- Consistent, gentle, humble & kind (like Jesus)
- As Jesus said to Pilot, ‘My kingdom is not [the kind you normally get in] this world...’ John 18:36
- “The medium is the message” Marshall McLuhan

So what does the church do??



Mission - conclusion

- Our mission... is part of God's mission:
- To work with God to extend God's Kingdom
- God's Kingdom of: Justice, Reconciliation, Wholeness & Healing, Beauty & Creativity
- In our: Home & Family, Work, Neighborhood & Community, the Whole World & Creation
- How? "Do not be afraid": be confident (in Jesus and the Holy Spirit), consistent, gentle, humble & kind (like Jesus)