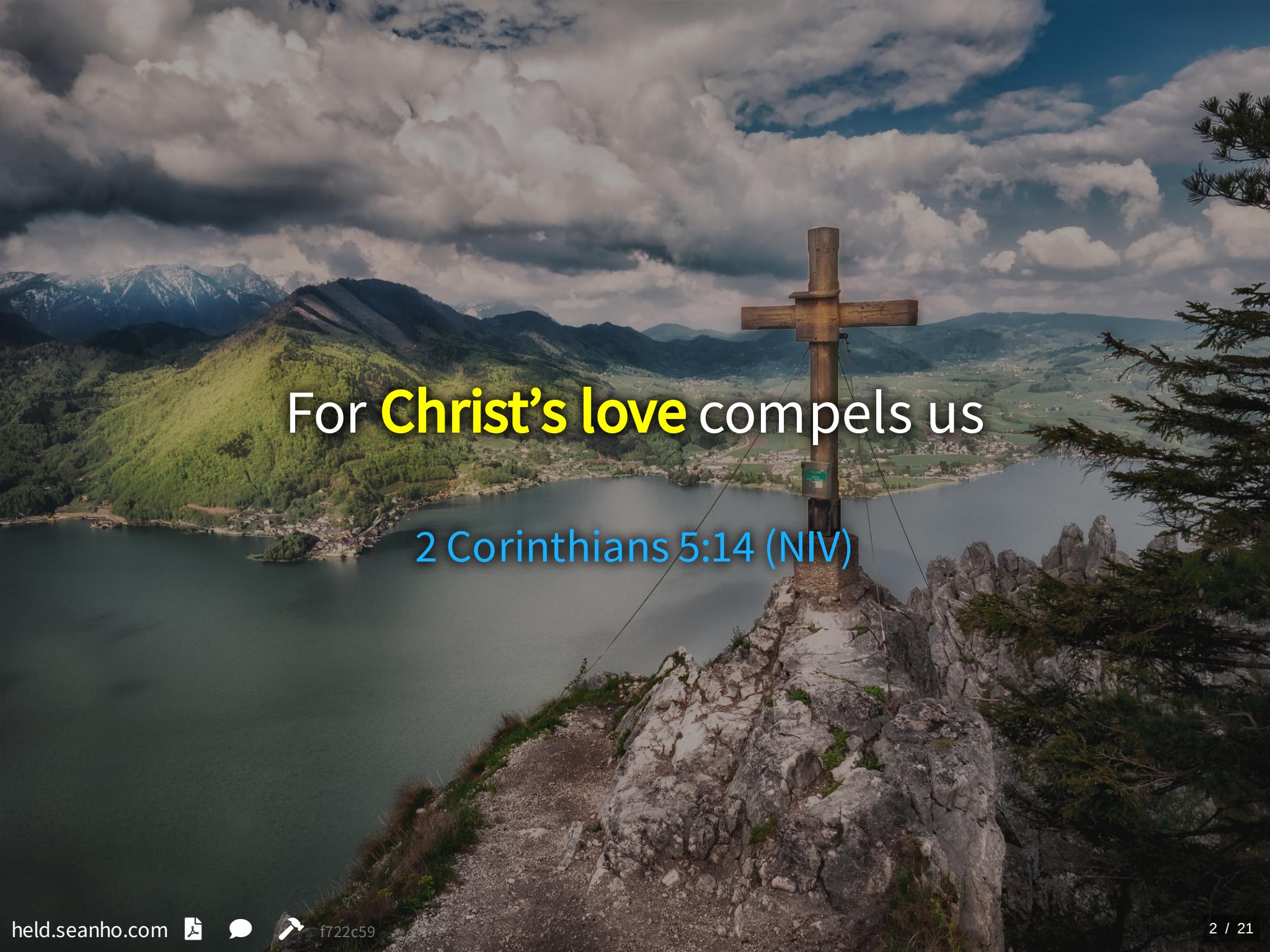




Held Together

2 Corinthians 5:13-15

Olivia Snow

A scenic landscape featuring a large, dark lake nestled among green hills and mountains under a dramatic sky filled with white and grey clouds. In the foreground, a rocky mountain peak rises, topped by a tall, weathered wooden cross. A metal plaque is attached to the cross post.

For Christ's love compels us

2 Corinthians 5:14 (NIV)

How does God's
love **change** you?

13 For if we are **beside ourselves**, it is for **God**;
if we are in our **right mind**, it is for **you**.

14 For the **love** of Christ **controls** us,
because we have concluded this:

2 Corinthians 5:13-15 (p.1/2) (ESV)

that **one** has died for all,
therefore **all** have died;

15 and he **died** for all, that those who live
might no longer live for **themselves**
but for **him** who for their sake
died and was **raised**.

2 Corinthians 5:13-15 (p.2/2) (ESV)



For the love of Christ **controls** us
(συνέχει: *holds together*)

2 Corinthians 5:14 (ESV)

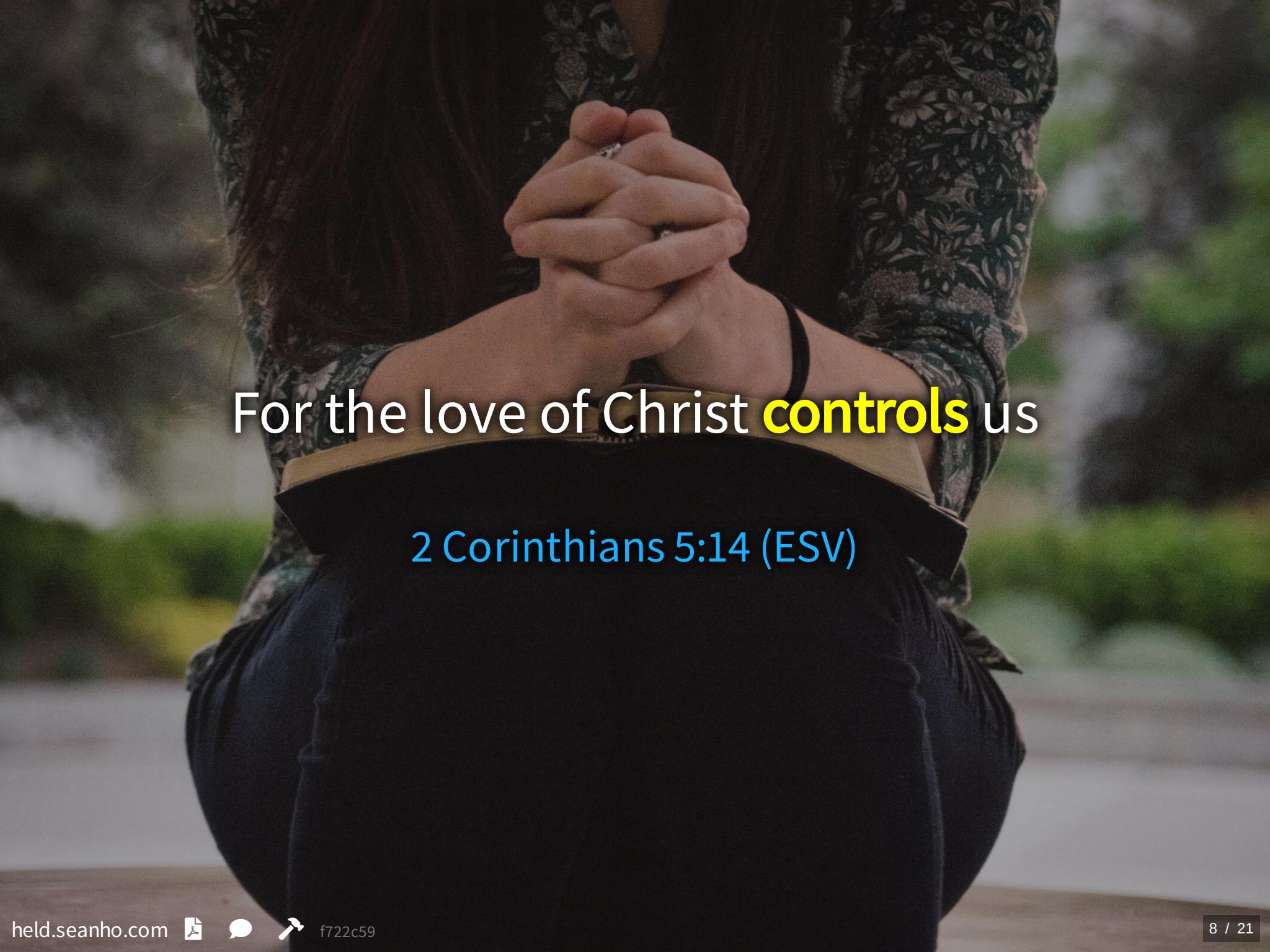
23 I am **hard pressed** between the two.

My desire is to **depart** and be with Christ,
for that is far **better**.

22 If I am to **live** in the flesh,
that means **fruitful labor** for me.

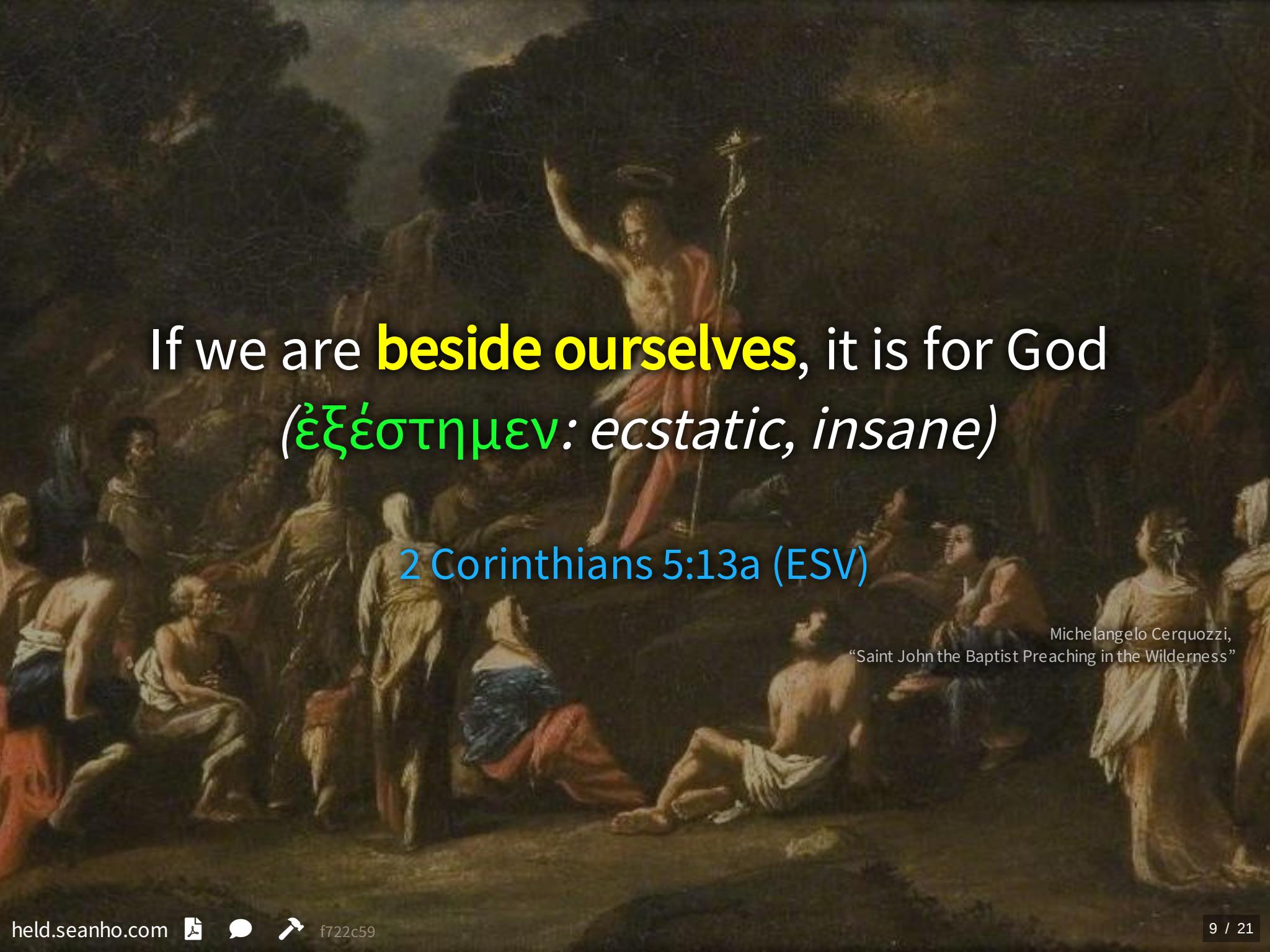
Philippians 1:23,22 (ESV)

Noah Silliman

A close-up photograph of a person from the waist up. They are wearing a dark, long-sleeved shirt with a dense floral or leaf pattern. Their hands are clasped behind their head, with their fingers interlaced. They are also wearing dark, possibly black, pants. The background is blurred, showing some greenery and what might be a paved path or road.

For the love of Christ **controls** us

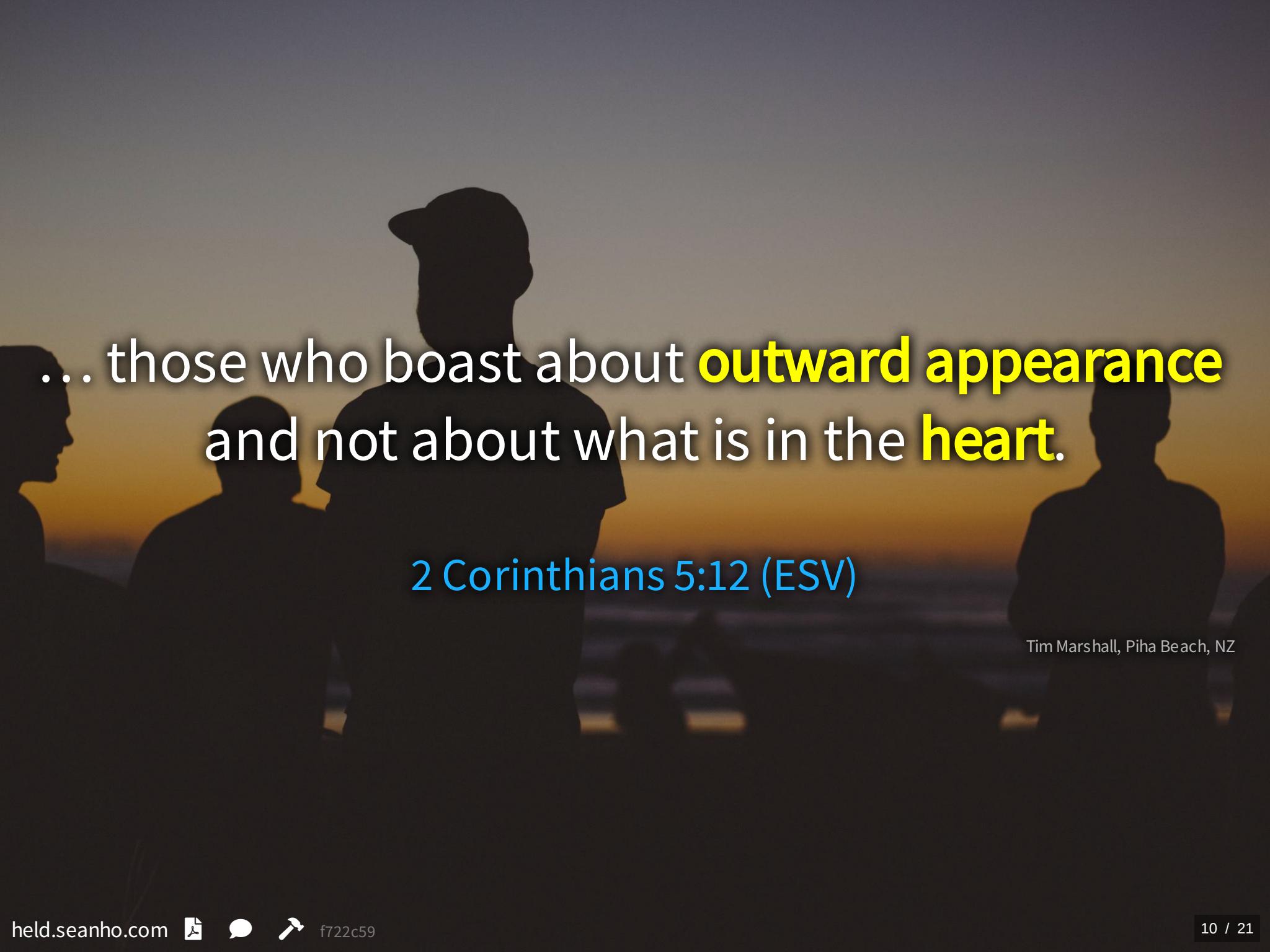
2 Corinthians 5:14 (ESV)

A painting depicting Saint John the Baptist in the center, standing on a rocky ledge and gesturing with his hands while speaking. He is surrounded by a group of people, some kneeling and others standing, all appearing to be in a state of awe or ecstasy. The scene is set in a dark, rugged landscape.

If we are **beside ourselves**, it is for God
(*ἐξέστημεν: ecstatic, insane*)

2 Corinthians 5:13a (ESV)

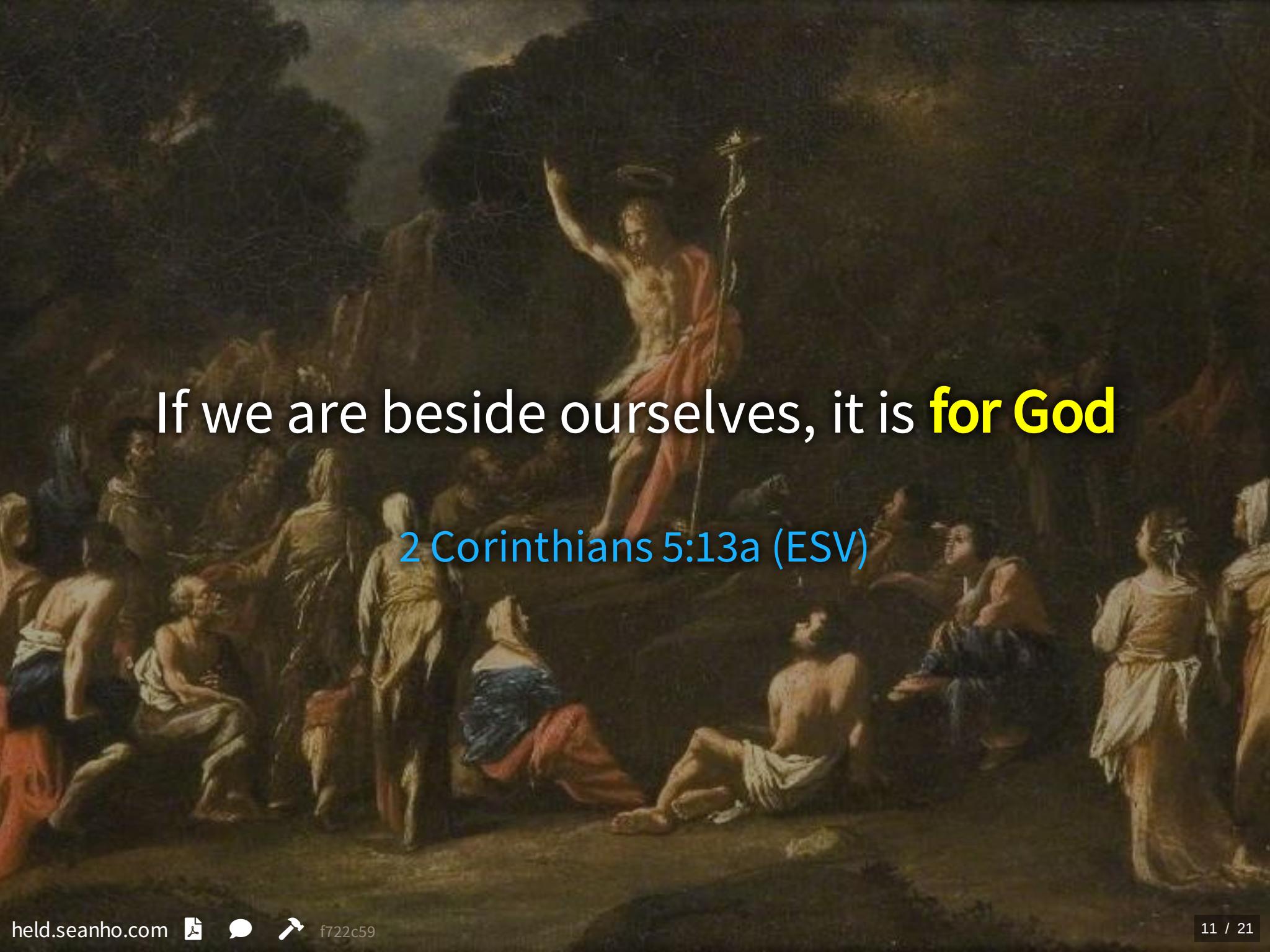
Michelangelo Cerquozzi,
“Saint John the Baptist Preaching in the Wilderness”

A photograph showing silhouettes of several people standing in a row against a warm, orange and yellow sunset sky. The foreground is dark, making the silhouettes stand out.

...those who boast about **outward appearance**
and not about what is in the **heart**.

2 Corinthians 5:12 (ESV)

Tim Marshall, Piha Beach, NZ

A dramatic painting depicting a scene from the crucifixion. In the center, Jesus Christ is shown on the cross, his body contorted in agony. He is shirtless, with a red cloth draped over his lower body. His right arm is raised, and his left hand holds a small object. A crown of thorns sits on his head. Below him, several figures are watching; some are kneeling in prayer, while others stand with expressions of despair or curiosity. The background is dark and filled with smoke or clouds, creating a somber and intense atmosphere.

If we are beside ourselves, it is **for God**

2 Corinthians 5:13a (ESV)

Amy Carmichael



Dr. John Sung



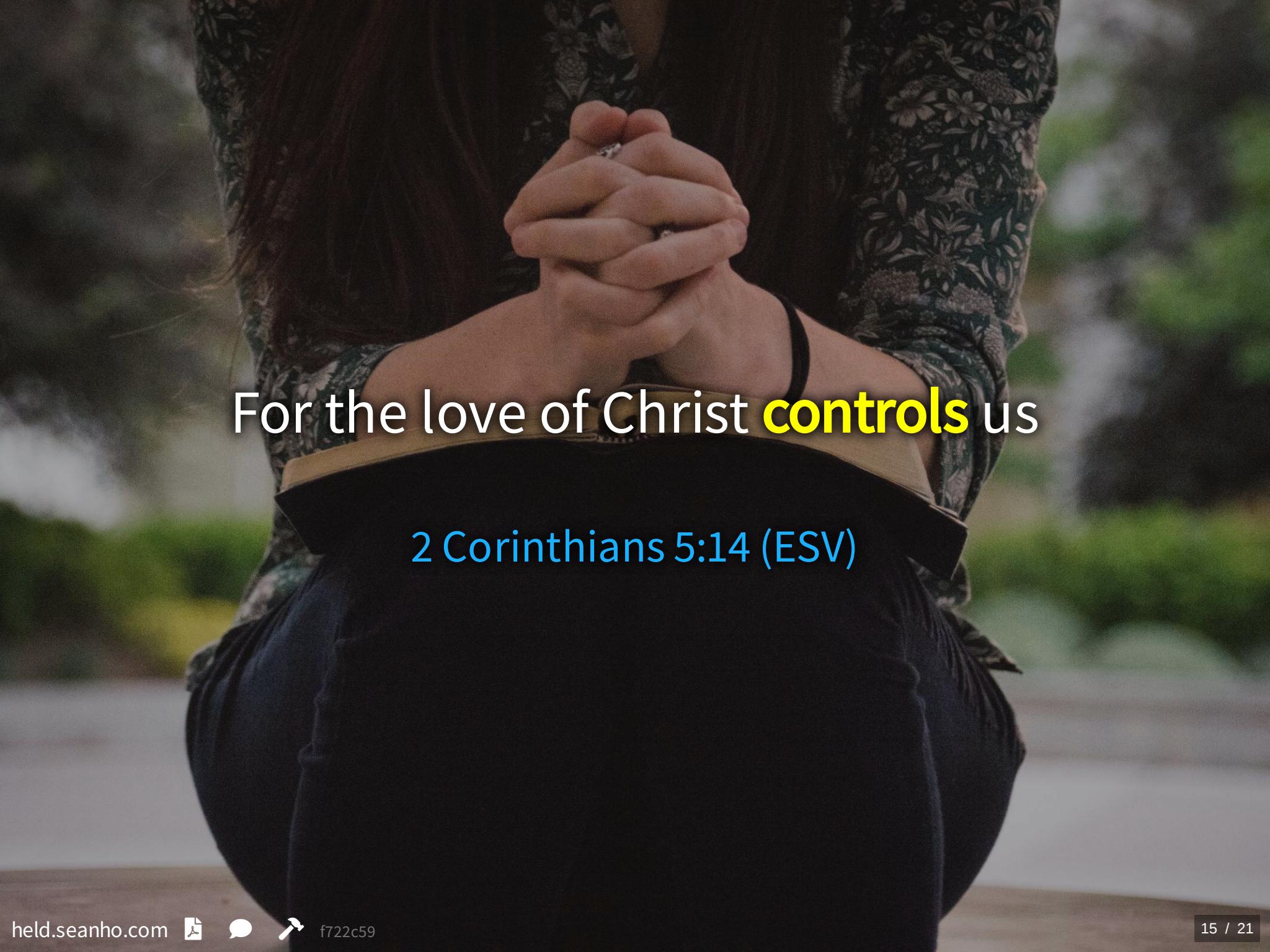
A photograph of a simple wooden cross standing against a backdrop of a blue sky filled with white and grey clouds. The cross is made of dark wood and has a rough, natural texture.

For the word of the cross is **folly**
to those who are **perishing**,

but to us who are being **saved**
it is the **power of God.**

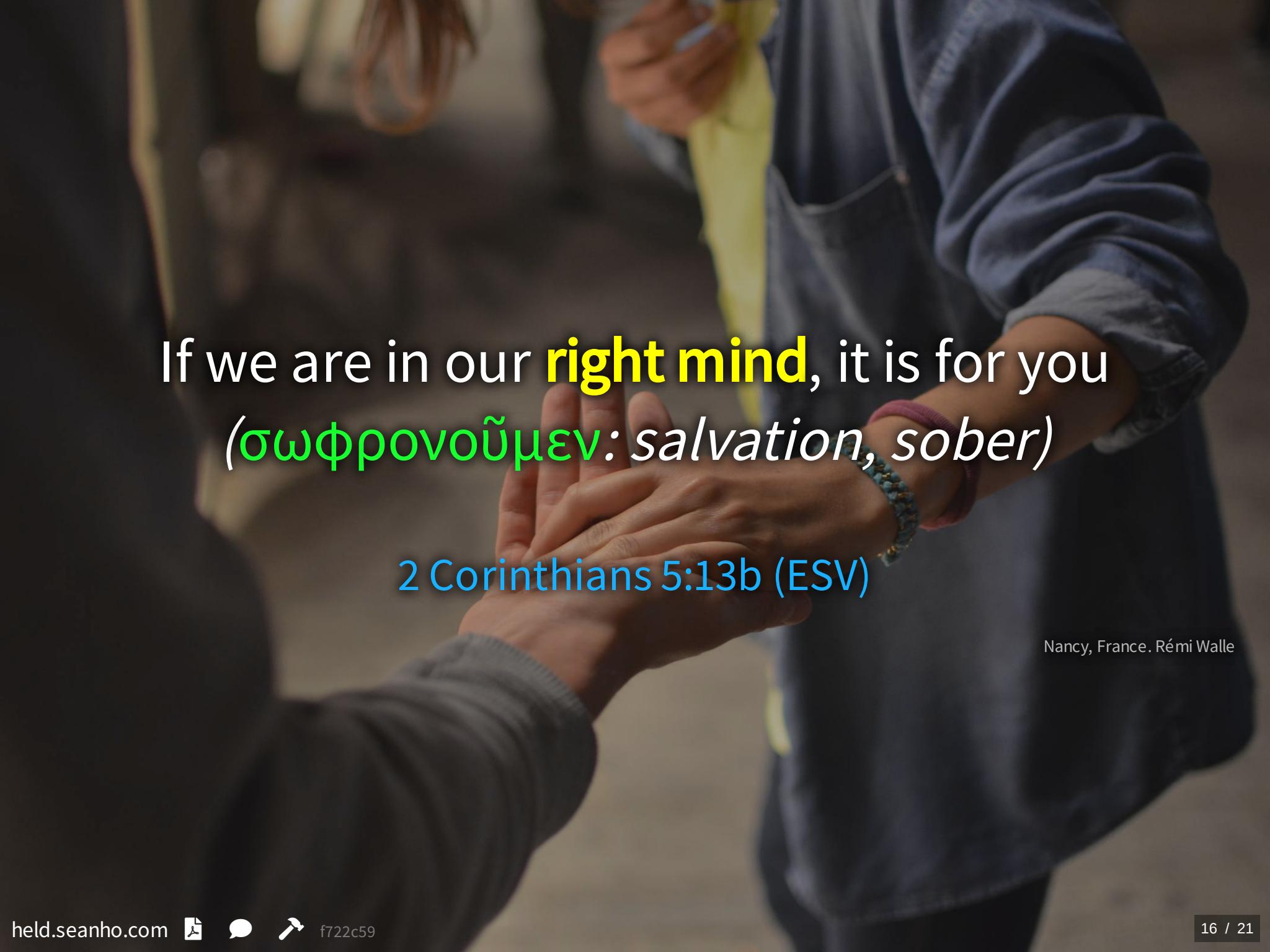
1 Corinthians 1:18 (ESV)

Aaron Burden



For the love of Christ **controls** us

2 Corinthians 5:14 (ESV)



If we are in our **right mind**, it is for you
(σωφρονοῦμεν: *salvation, sober*)

2 Corinthians 5:13b (ESV)

Nancy, France. Rémi Walle

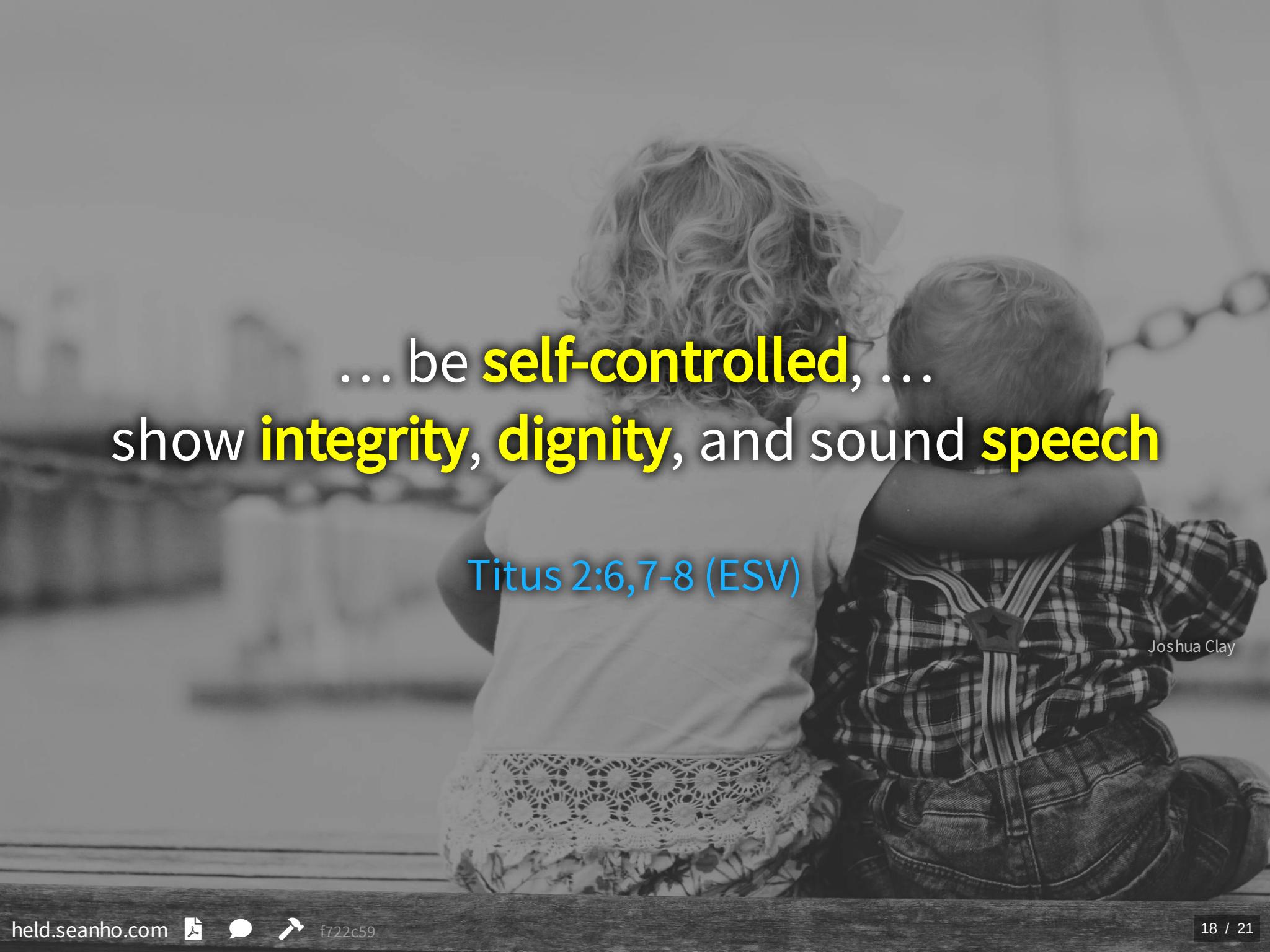


Likewise, urge the **younger** men
to be **self-controlled**.

7 Show yourself in all respects to be
a model of **good works**,
and in your teaching show
integrity, dignity, ⁸ and sound **speech**

Titus 2:6-8 (ESV)

Grenoble, France. Helloquence

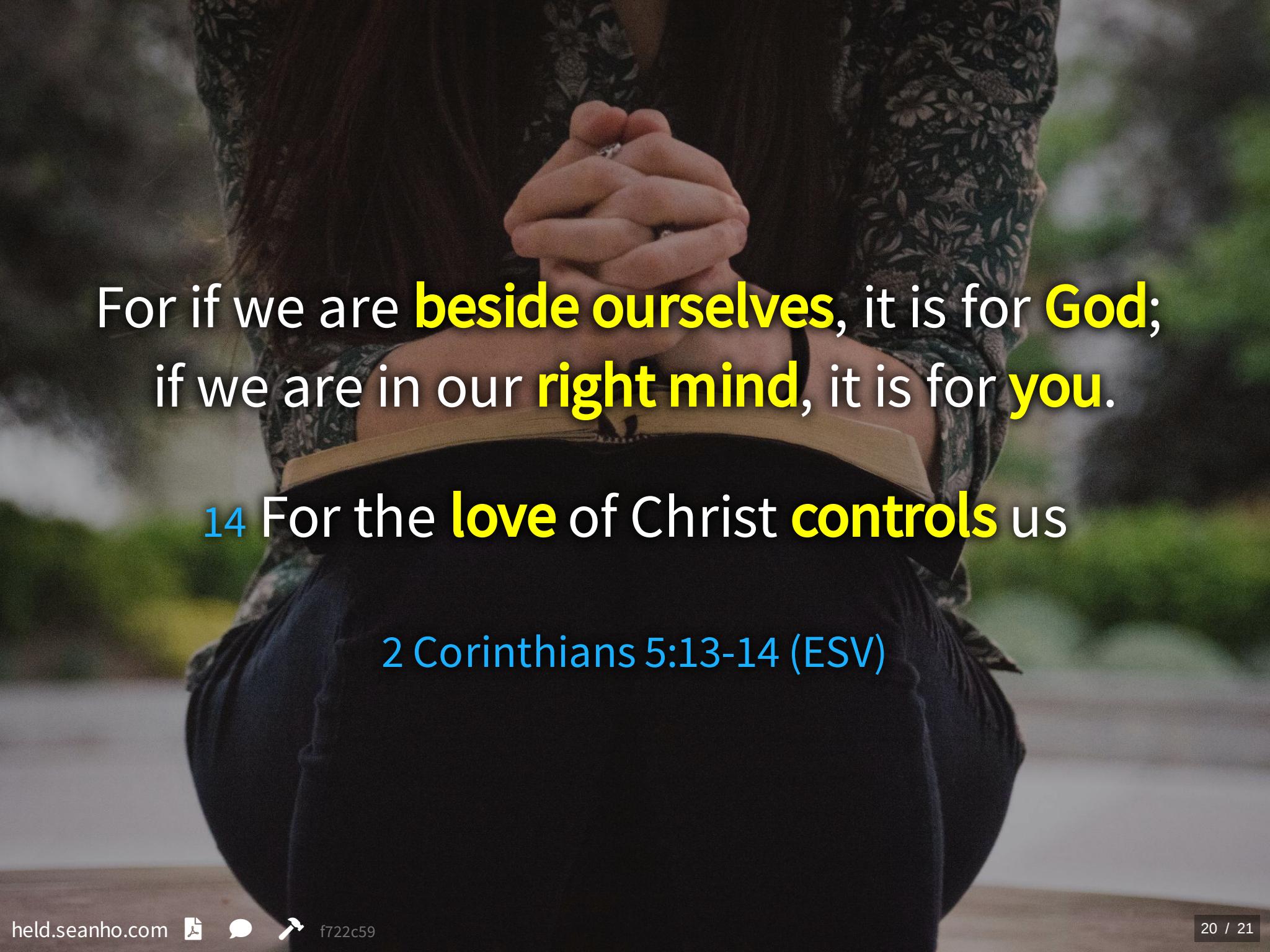


... be **self-controlled**, ...
show **integrity**, **dignity**, and sound **speech**

Titus 2:6,7-8 (ESV)

Joshua Clay

**What holds you
together?**



For if we are **beside ourselves**, it is for **God**;
if we are in our **right mind**, it is for **you**.

14 For the **love** of Christ **controls** us

2 Corinthians 5:13-14 (ESV)

