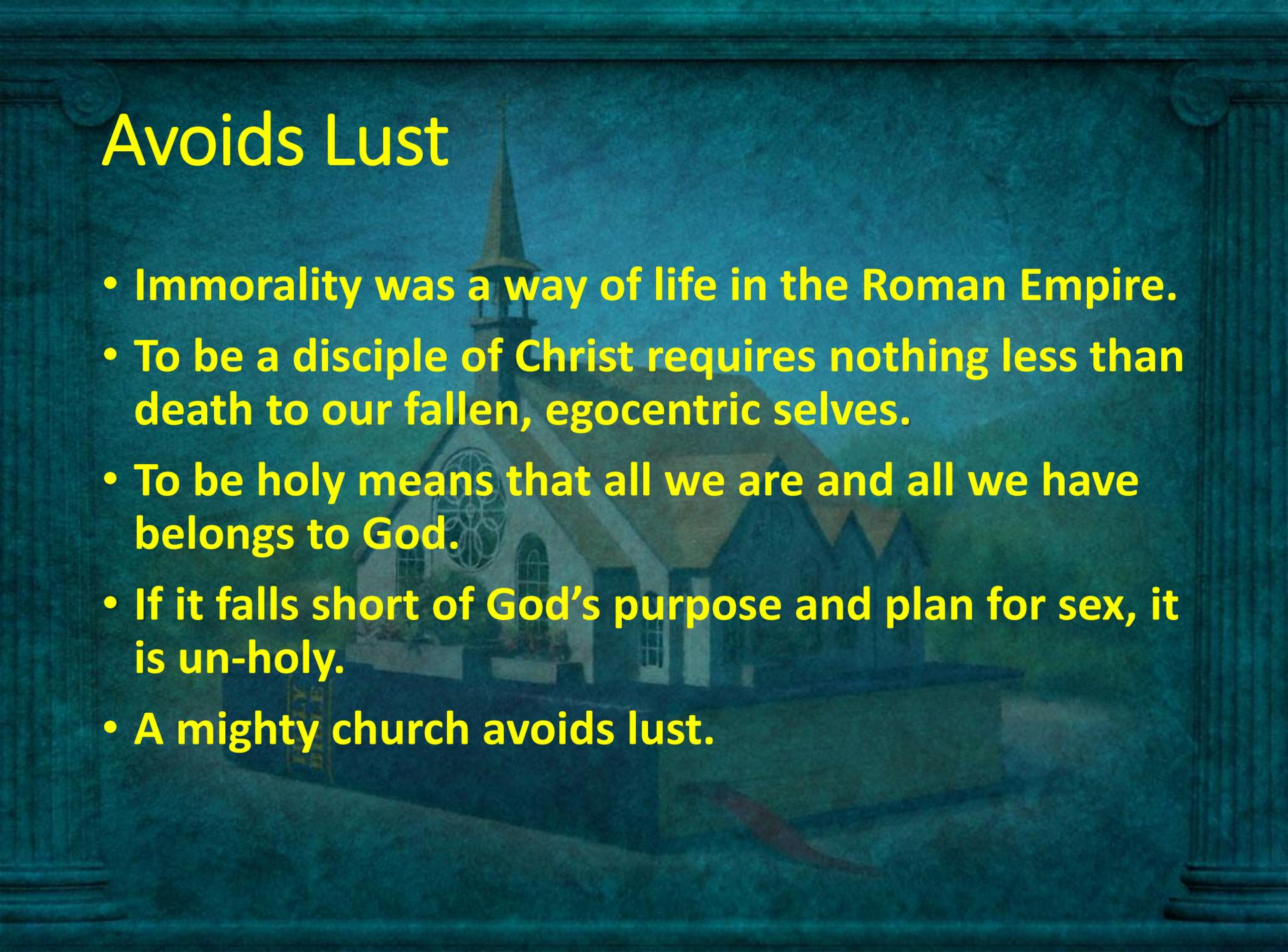


# An Exemplary Church

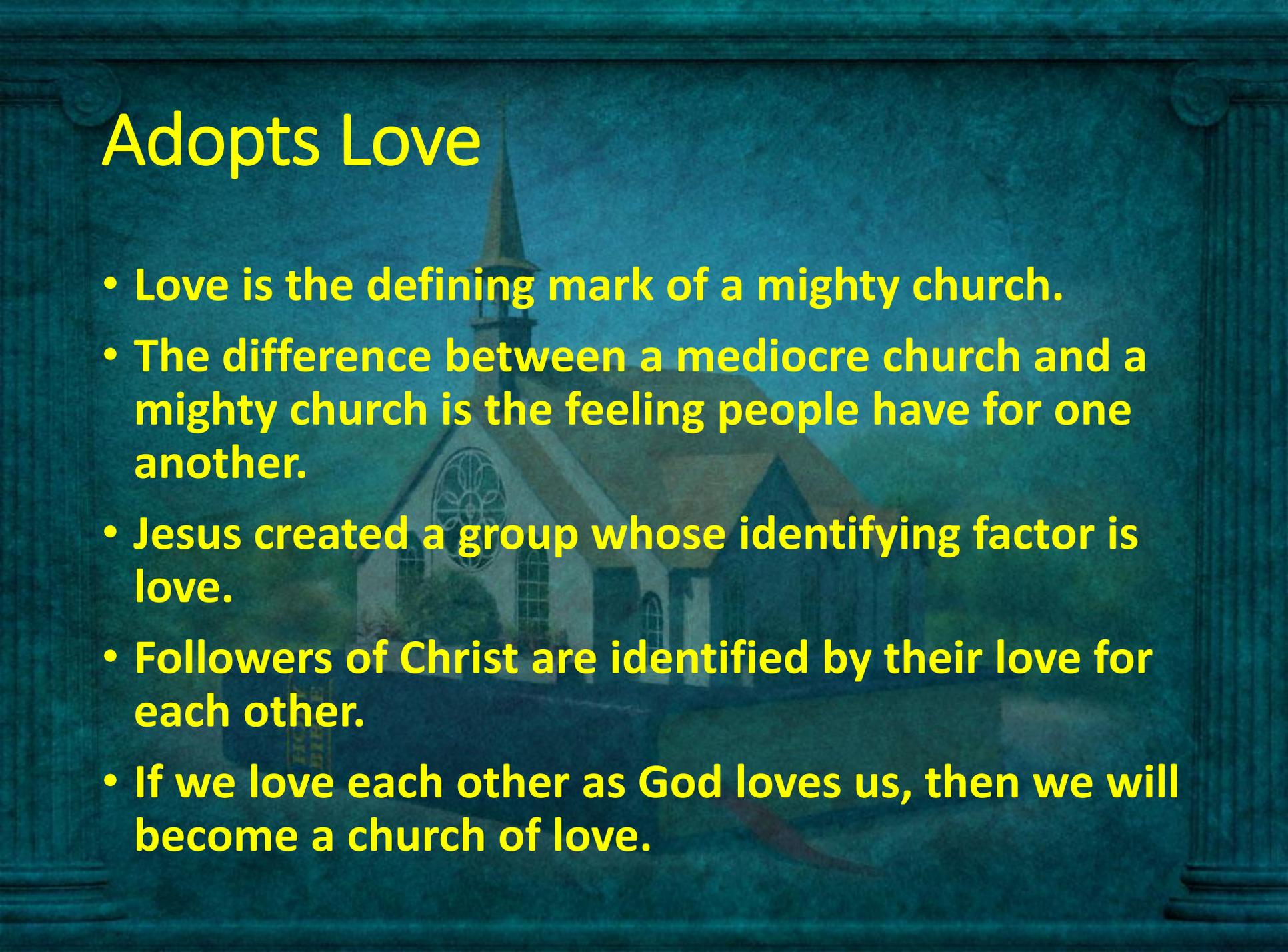
1 Thessalonians 4:1-12

# Avoids Lust

The background of the slide features a faint, artistic illustration of a church with a prominent steeple and a large rose window. The church is set against a dark, textured blue background. On either side of the church, there are faint outlines of classical columns, suggesting an architectural or historical setting. The overall tone is somber and reflective.

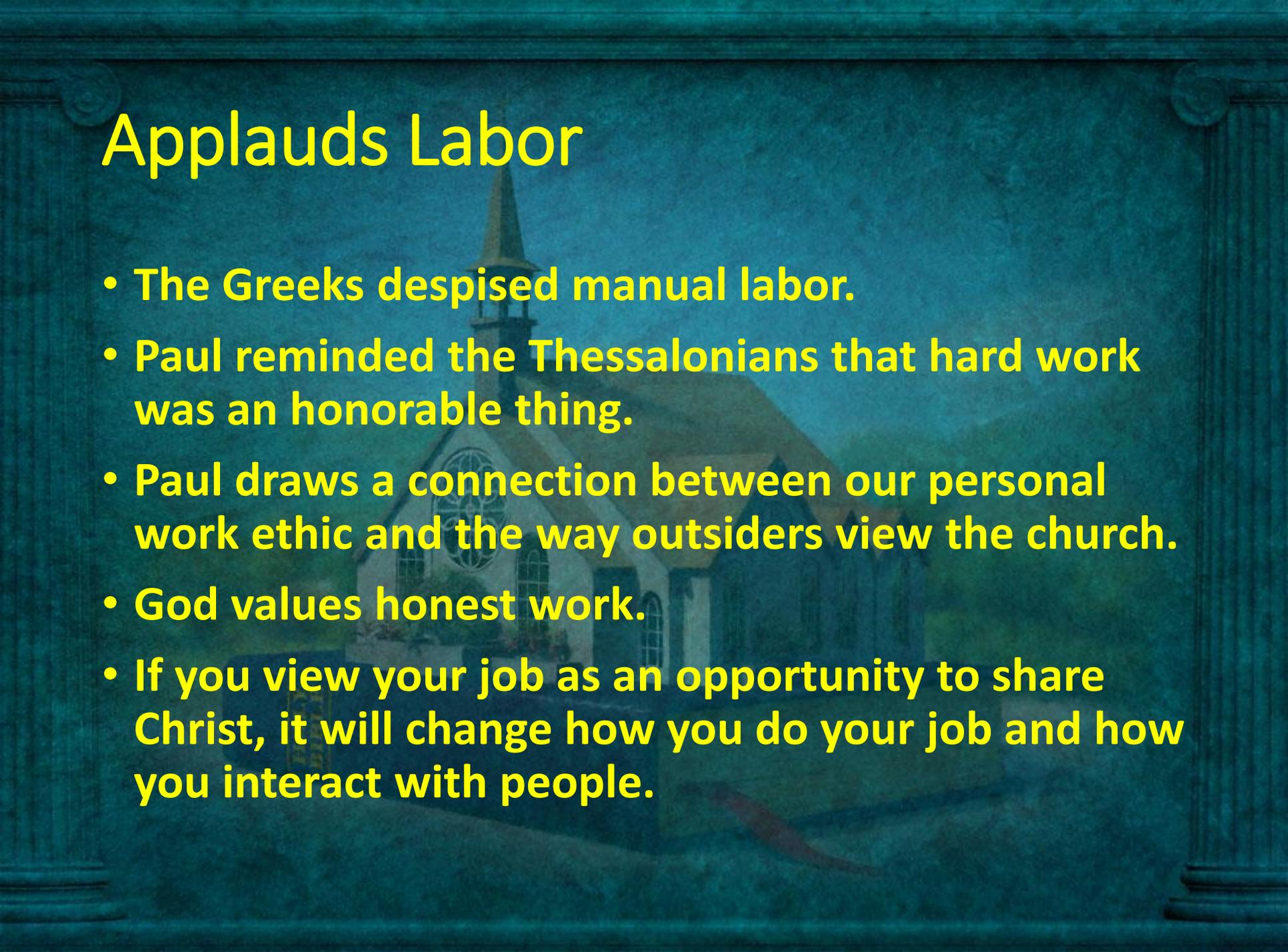
- **Immorality was a way of life in the Roman Empire.**
- **To be a disciple of Christ requires nothing less than death to our fallen, egocentric selves.**
- **To be holy means that all we are and all we have belongs to God.**
- **If it falls short of God's purpose and plan for sex, it is un-holy.**
- **A mighty church avoids lust.**

# Adopts Love

The background of the slide features a faint, artistic rendering of a church with a prominent steeple and a large rose window. The scene is framed by classical architectural columns on either side, all set against a dark, textured blue background.

- Love is the defining mark of a mighty church.
- The difference between a mediocre church and a mighty church is the feeling people have for one another.
- Jesus created a group whose identifying factor is love.
- Followers of Christ are identified by their love for each other.
- If we love each other as God loves us, then we will become a church of love.

# Applauds Labor



- The Greeks despised manual labor.
- Paul reminded the Thessalonians that hard work was an honorable thing.
- Paul draws a connection between our personal work ethic and the way outsiders view the church.
- God values honest work.
- If you view your job as an opportunity to share Christ, it will change how you do your job and how you interact with people.

# Conclusion

- **Three marks of a mighty church:**
  - **Avoids lust**
  - **Adopts love**
  - **Applauds labor**
- **The Thessalonian church set a great example for churches to follow.**
- **A church is only as mighty as its members.**

