

An aerial photograph of a city street scene, featuring a large multi-story building with a sign that reads "American Methodist Church". The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent white rectangle. In the center of this rectangle, the text "What Happens In Community?" is written in a large, bold, black sans-serif font. The background shows a street with lane markings, trees, and other buildings, including one with the number "4 5 2" on its facade.

What Happens In Community?

An aerial photograph of a city street scene, featuring a large multi-story building with a sign that reads "American Methodist Church". The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent white rectangle. In the center of this rectangle, the text "What Happens In Community?" is written in a large, bold, black sans-serif font. The background shows a street with lane markings, trees, and other buildings, including one with the number "4 5 2" on its facade.

What Happens In Community?

What Happens in Community?

- Role of God
- Role of Man



Role of God

- God the Father – the Lover
- God the Son – the Beloved
- God the Holy Spirit – the Glue

God the Father – the Lover

- The One who calls the community into a relationship with Him
- You shall be My people and I will be your God (e.g. Exo 6:7, Jer 30:22, Rev 21:3)

God the Son – the Beloved

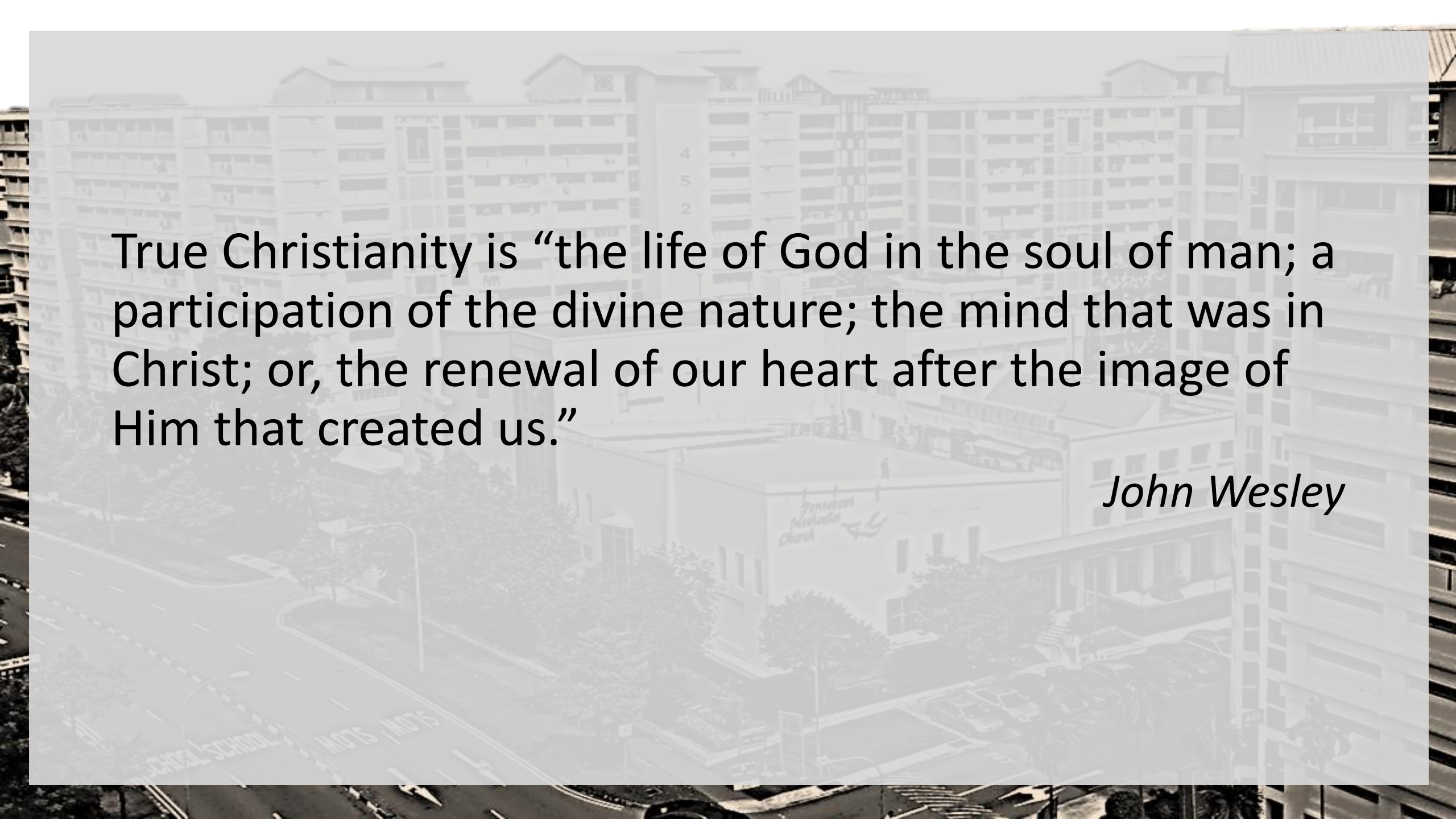
The end-goal of community: Christlikeness



God the Son – the Beloved

For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the **image of his Son**, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.

(Rom 8:29)

An aerial photograph of a city street, likely in a tropical or subtropical region, given the presence of palm trees. In the foreground, a church building is visible with a sign that reads "American Methodist Church". The street is lined with multi-story buildings, and there are parking lots and a road with lane markings. The overall scene is a dense urban environment.

True Christianity is “the life of God in the soul of man; a participation of the divine nature; the mind that was in Christ; or, the renewal of our heart after the image of Him that created us.”

John Wesley

God the Holy Spirit – the Glue

- The One who pours love into our hearts (Rom 5:5)
- Whose fruit is love (Gal 5:22)
- Love binds all virtues tog (Col 3:14)

What Happens in Community?

- Role of God
- Role of Man

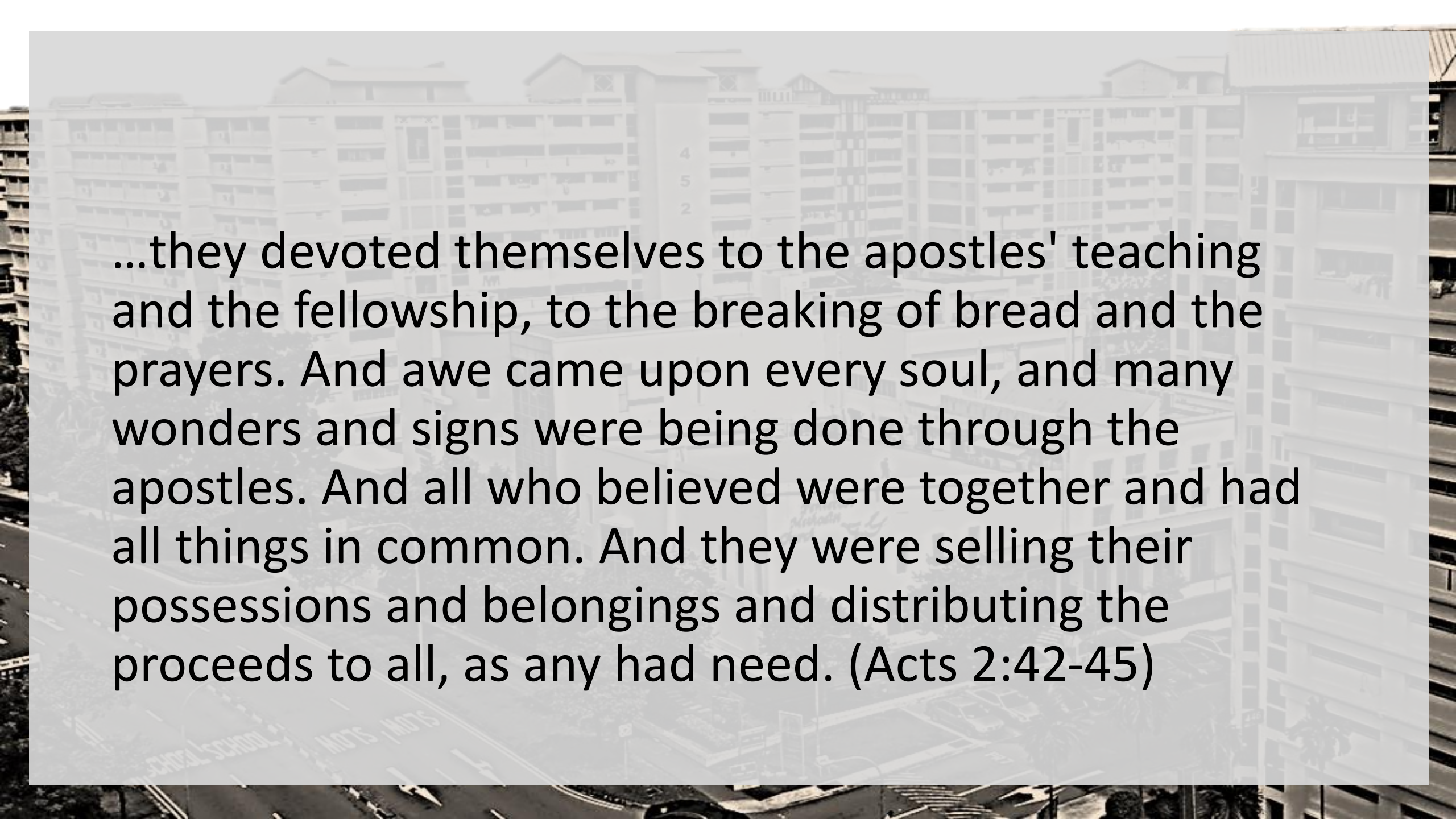


What Happens in Community?

LIFE

What Happens in Community?

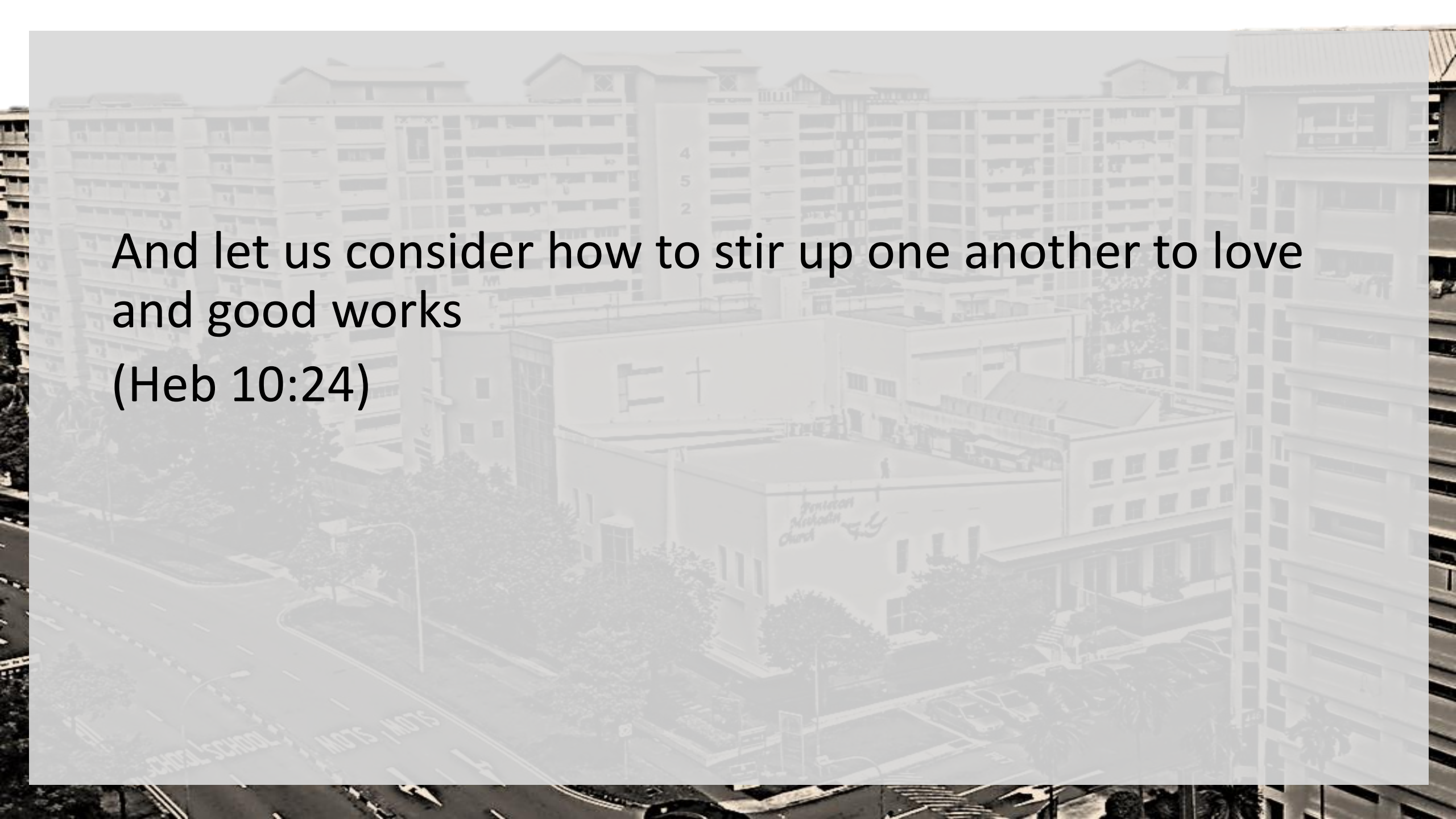
Learn from one another the new life in Christ

The background of the image is a high-angle, slightly blurred photograph of a modern multi-story apartment building. The building has a grid-like facade with many windows and balconies. A semi-transparent white rectangular box is overlaid on the center of the image, containing the text. The text is in a black, sans-serif font and is centered within the white box. The overall tone of the image is somewhat muted and professional.

...they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. (Acts 2:42-45)

What Happens in Community?

Irritate one another to good works

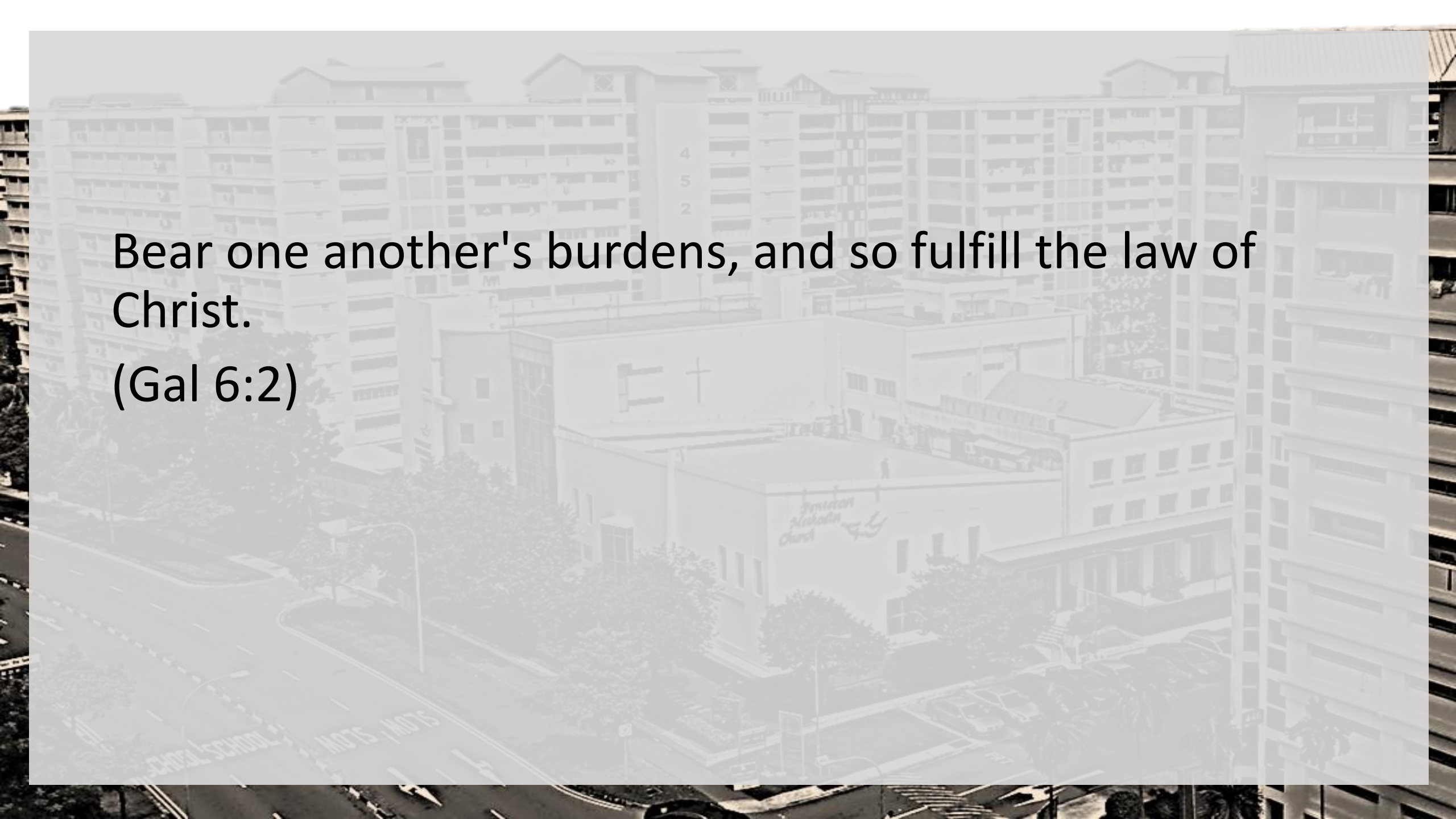
An aerial photograph of a city street. In the foreground, a church building with a cross on its roof and the words "American Methodist Church" on its side is visible. The church is surrounded by trees and a parking lot. In the background, several tall apartment buildings with many windows and balconies rise up. The entire image is overlaid with a semi-transparent white filter.

And let us consider how to stir up one another to love
and good works
(Heb 10:24)

What Happens in Community?

F

ulfill Christ's law in one another's lives

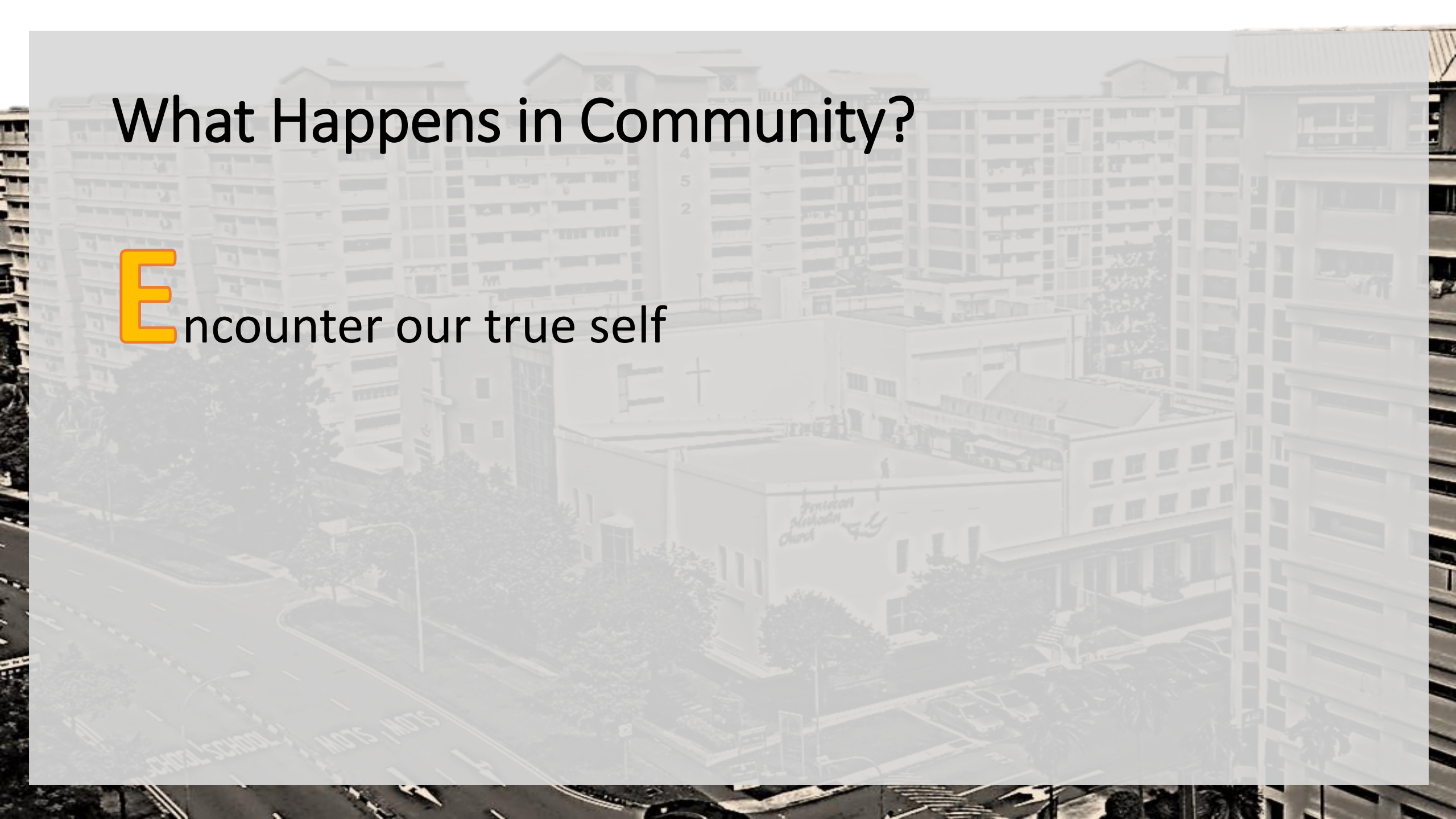
An aerial photograph of a city street. In the foreground, a church building with a cross on its roof and the words "American Methodist Church" on its side is visible. The church is surrounded by trees and a parking lot. In the background, several tall apartment buildings with many windows and balconies rise up. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent white rectangle containing text.

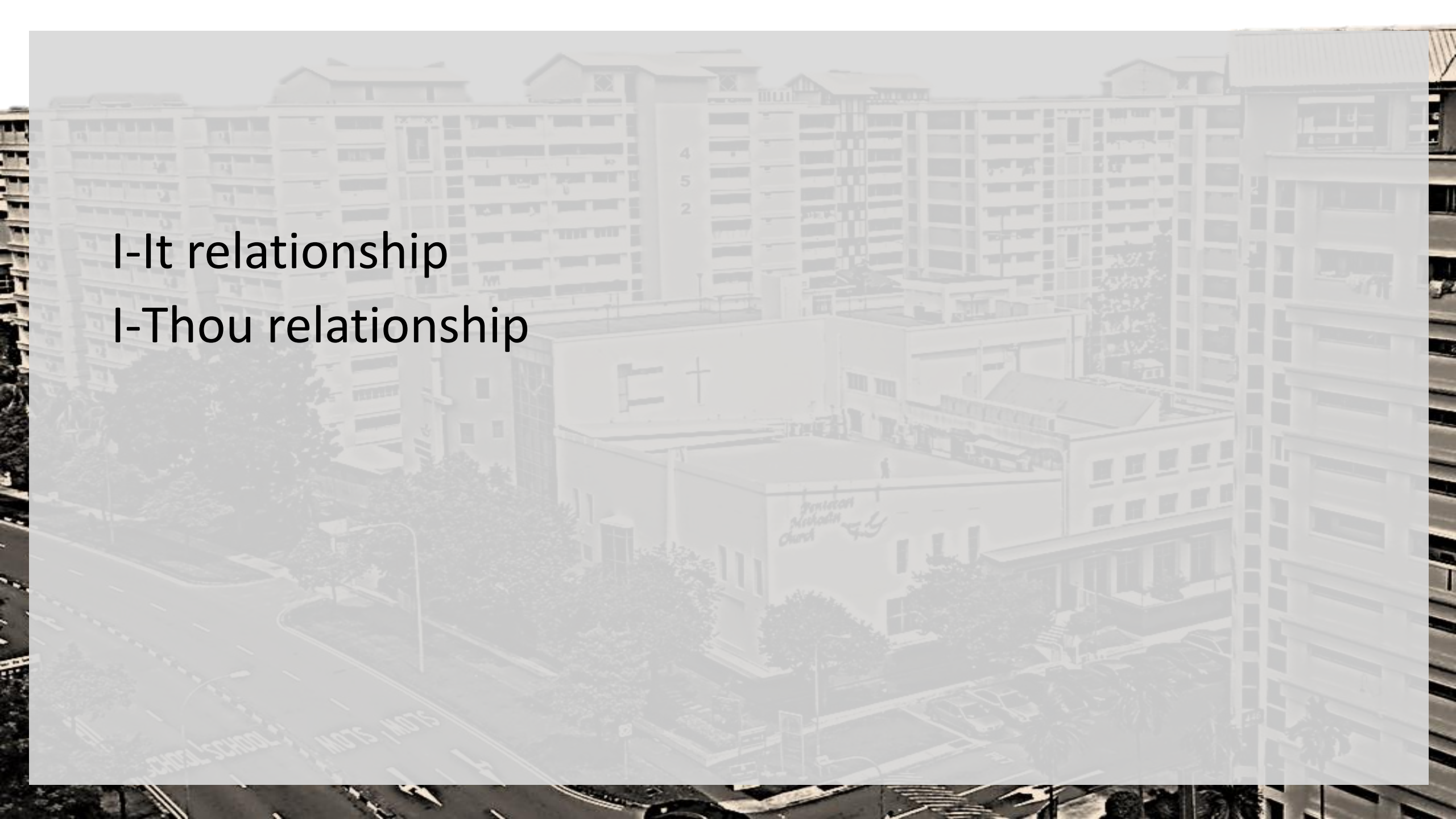
Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

(Gal 6:2)

What Happens in Community?

Encounter our true self



An aerial photograph of a city street scene. In the foreground, a road with lane markings and a 'SCHOOL' sign is visible. A church building with a cross on its roof and a sign that reads 'Methodist Church' is prominent. Behind it are several tall, multi-story apartment buildings with many windows. The entire image is overlaid with a semi-transparent white rectangle containing text.

I-It relationship
I-Thou relationship

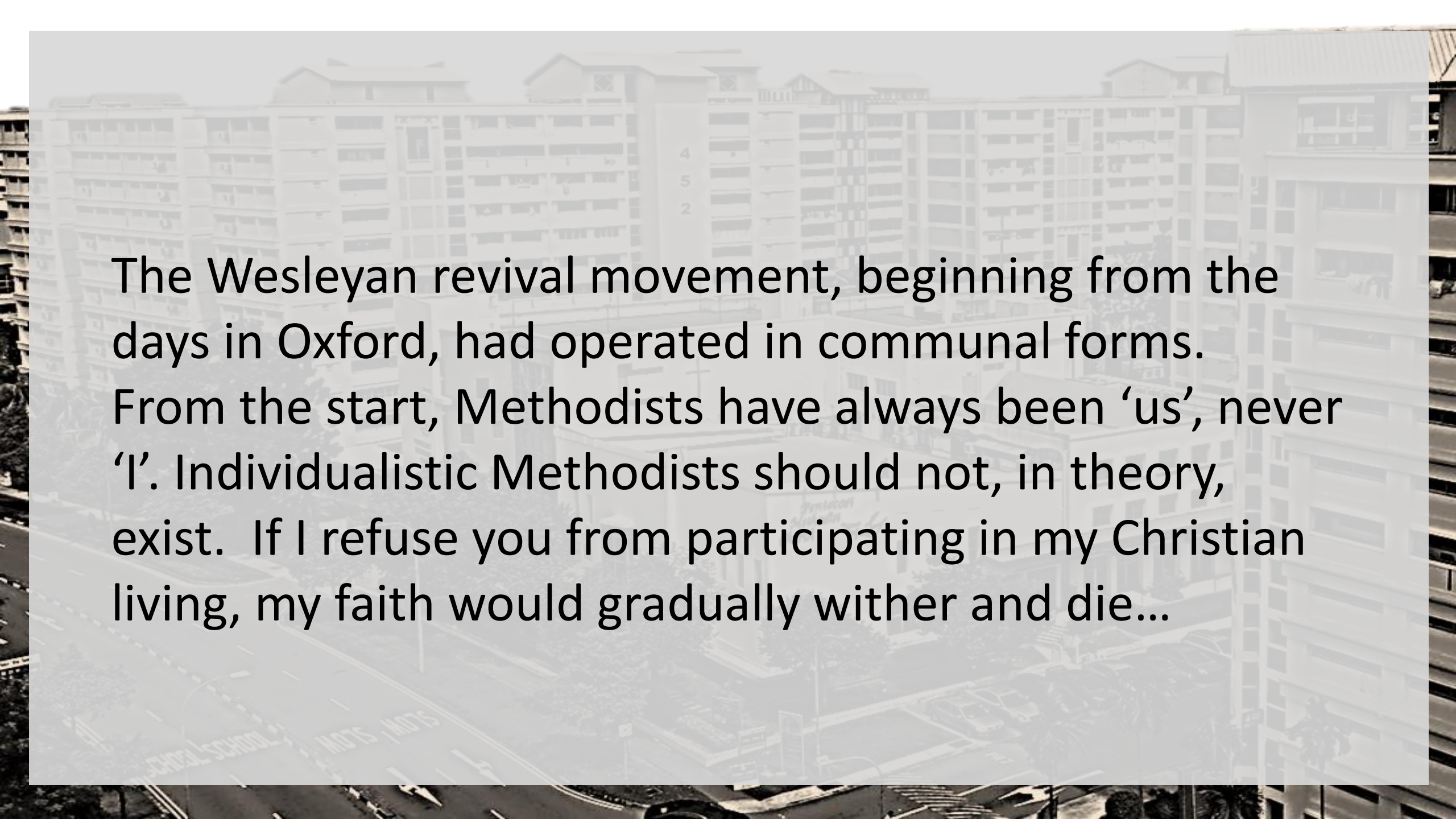
What Happens in Community?

Learn from one another -> **Discipleship**

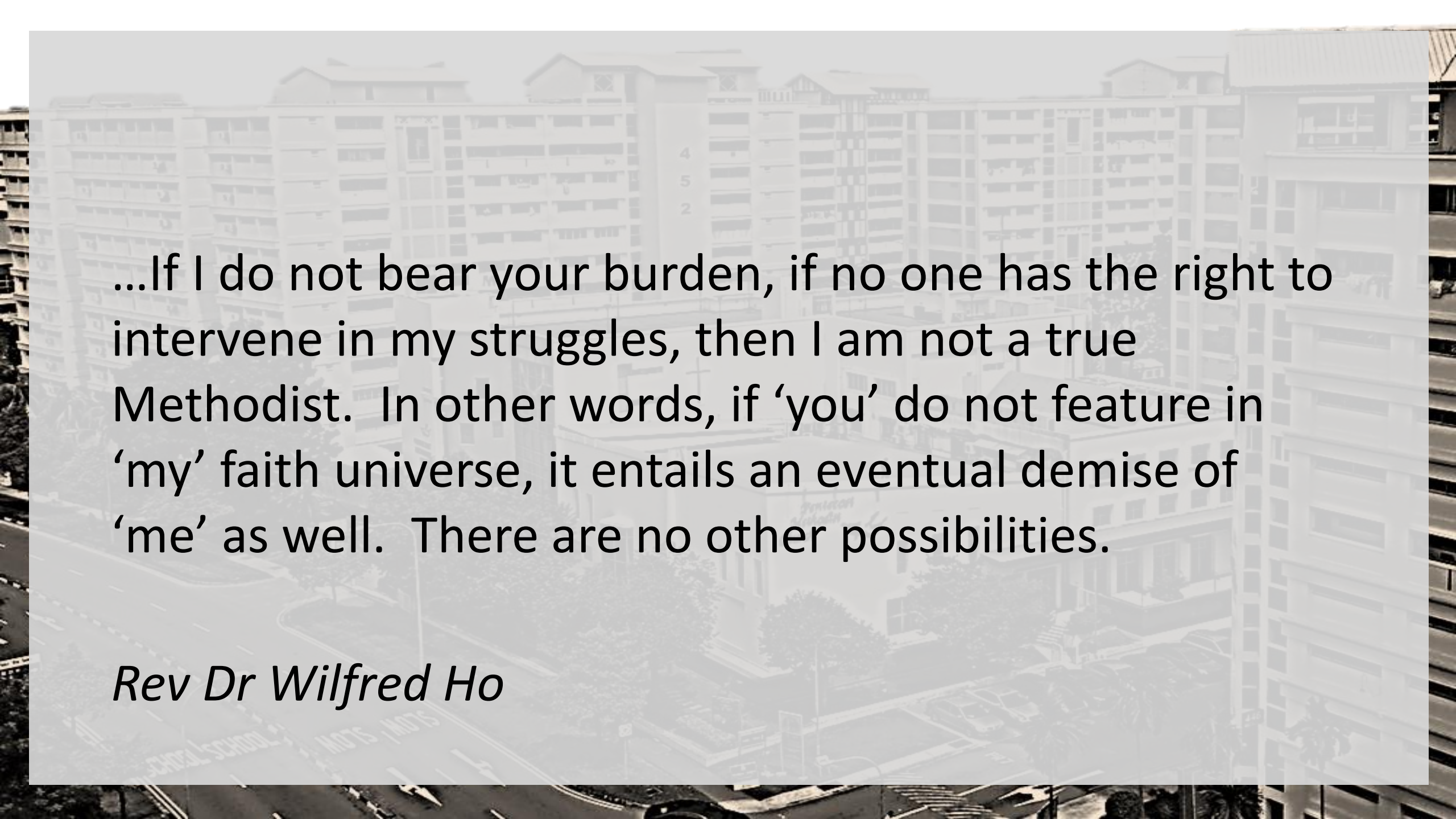
Irritate one another to good works -> **Maturity**

Fulfill Christ's law in one another's lives -> **Authenticity**

Encounter our true self -> **Wholeness**

The background of the slide is a faded, aerial photograph of a city. It shows a dense grid of high-rise apartment buildings with many windows. In the foreground, there are roads and some lower-level structures. The overall tone is light and slightly desaturated.

The Wesleyan revival movement, beginning from the days in Oxford, had operated in communal forms. From the start, Methodists have always been ‘us’, never ‘I’. Individualistic Methodists should not, in theory, exist. If I refuse you from participating in my Christian living, my faith would gradually wither and die...



...If I do not bear your burden, if no one has the right to intervene in my struggles, then I am not a true Methodist. In other words, if 'you' do not feature in 'my' faith universe, it entails an eventual demise of 'me' as well. There are no other possibilities.

Rev Dr Wilfred Ho