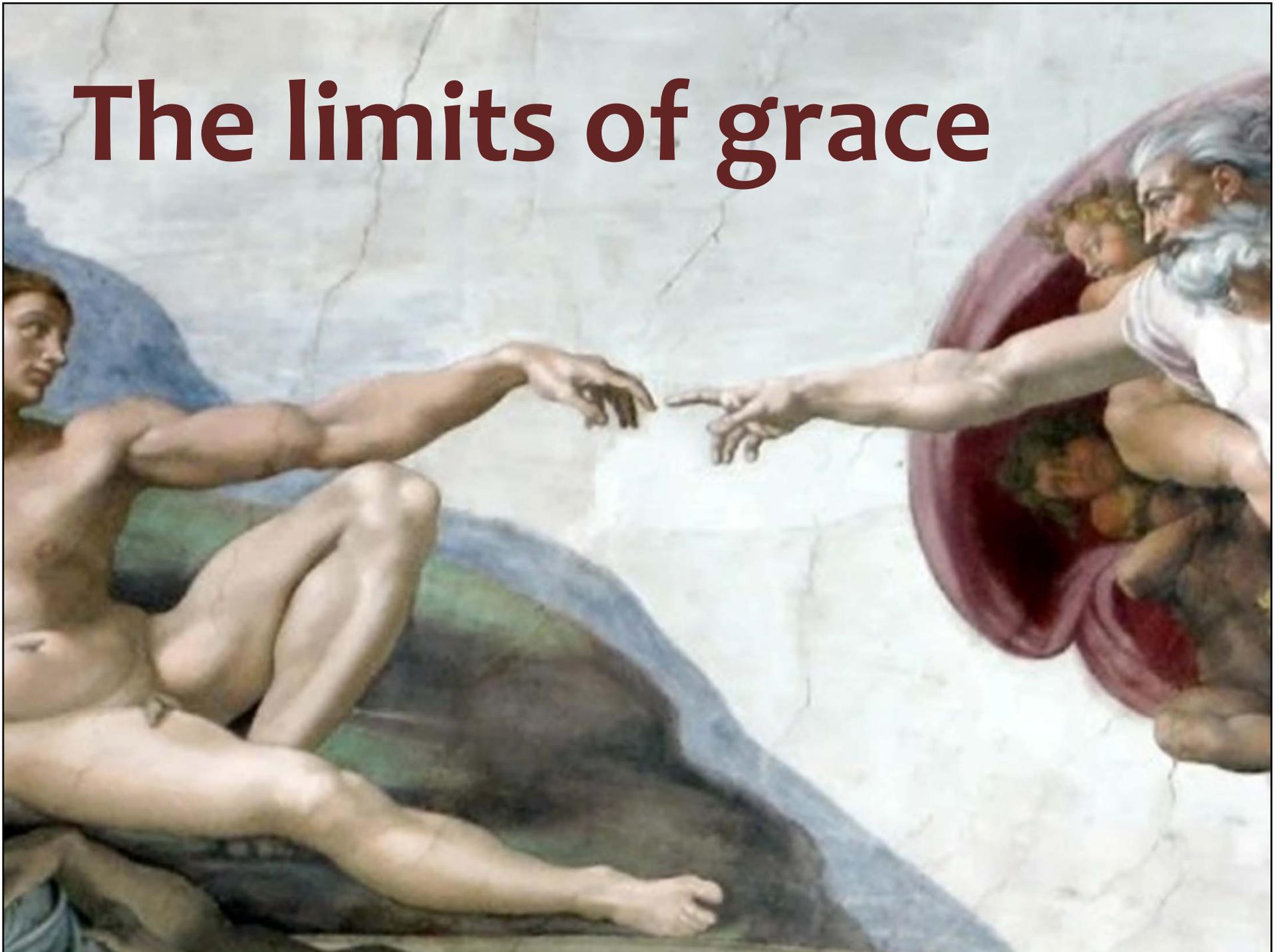


The limits of grace





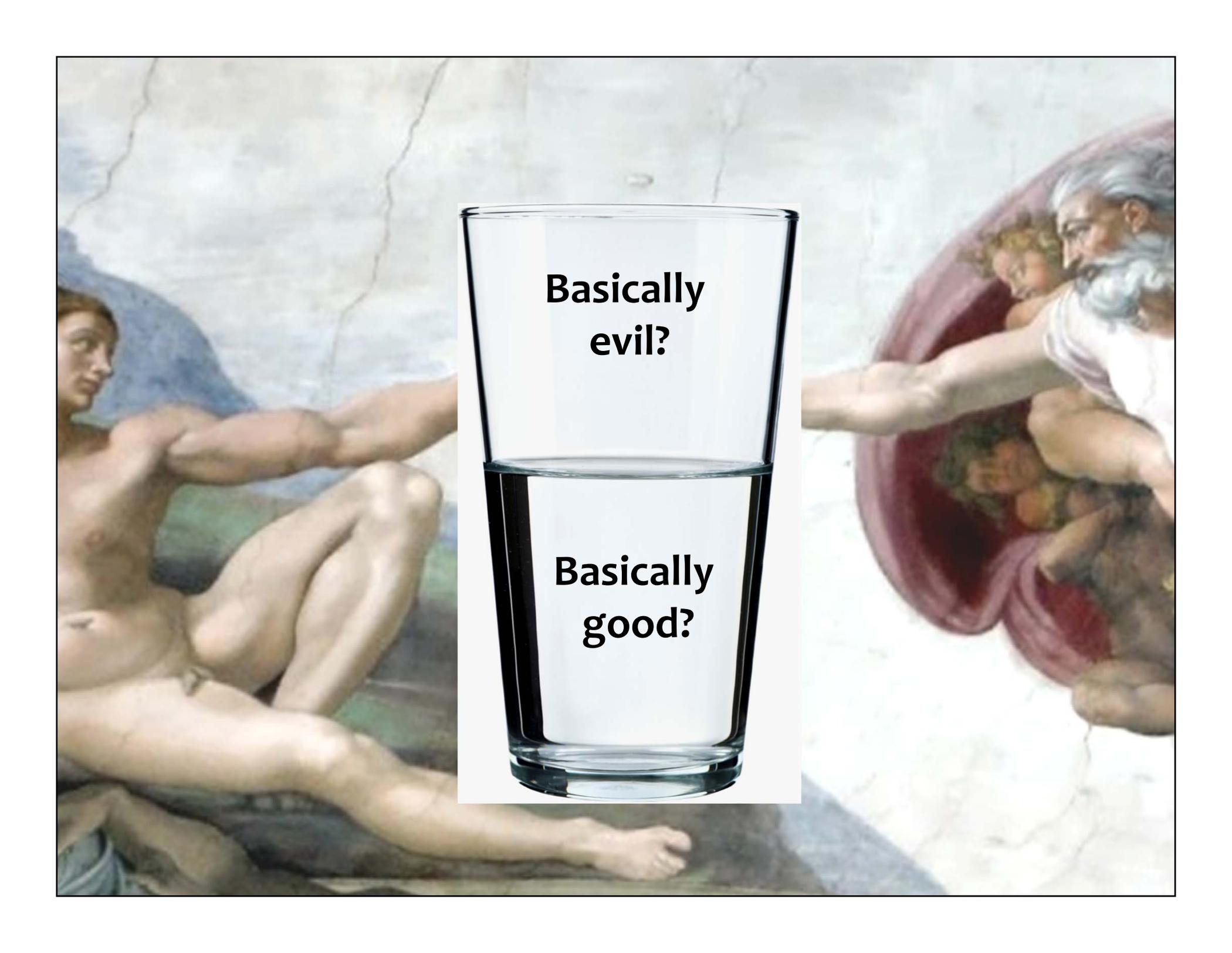
GRACE

**Every good and perfect gift is from above
coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights**

James 1:17



Sanctifying grace
Irresistible grace
Effectual grace
Sustaining grace
Preventing grace
Common grace
Justifying grace

A glass of water is centered in the image. The background is a reproduction of Michelangelo's 'The Creation of Adam' fresco. The glass is partially filled with water. The text 'Basically evil?' is written in black, bold font inside the empty upper portion of the glass. The text 'Basically good?' is written in black, bold font inside the lower portion of the glass, which is submerged in water. The background shows the reclining Adam on the left and the reaching God on the right, with the infant Christ and the Virgin Mary behind him.

**Basically
evil?**

**Basically
good?**

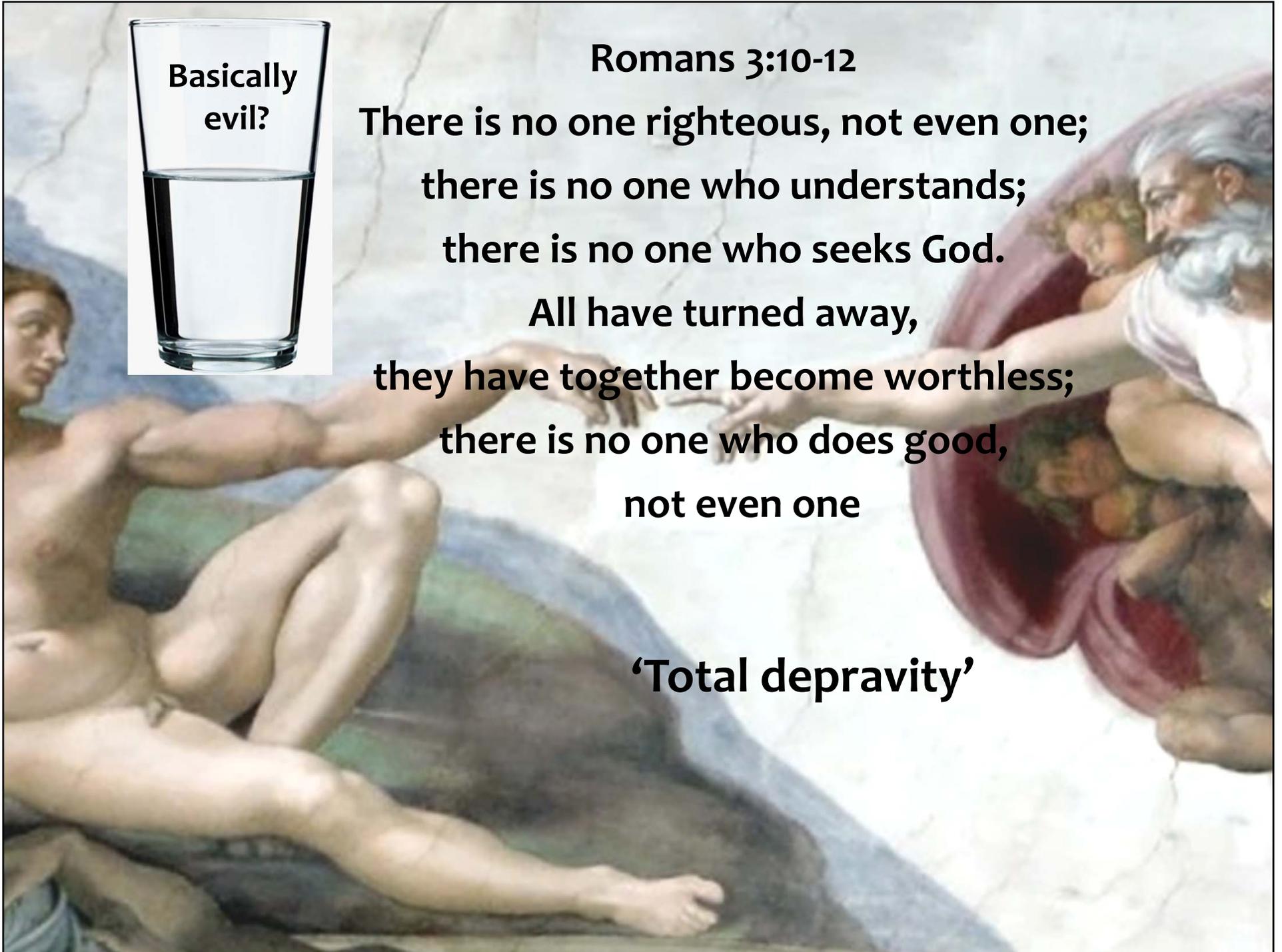


Romans 3:10-12

**There is no one righteous, not even one;
there is no one who understands;
there is no one who seeks God.**

**All have turned away,
they have together become worthless;
there is no one who does good,
not even one**

‘Total depravity’

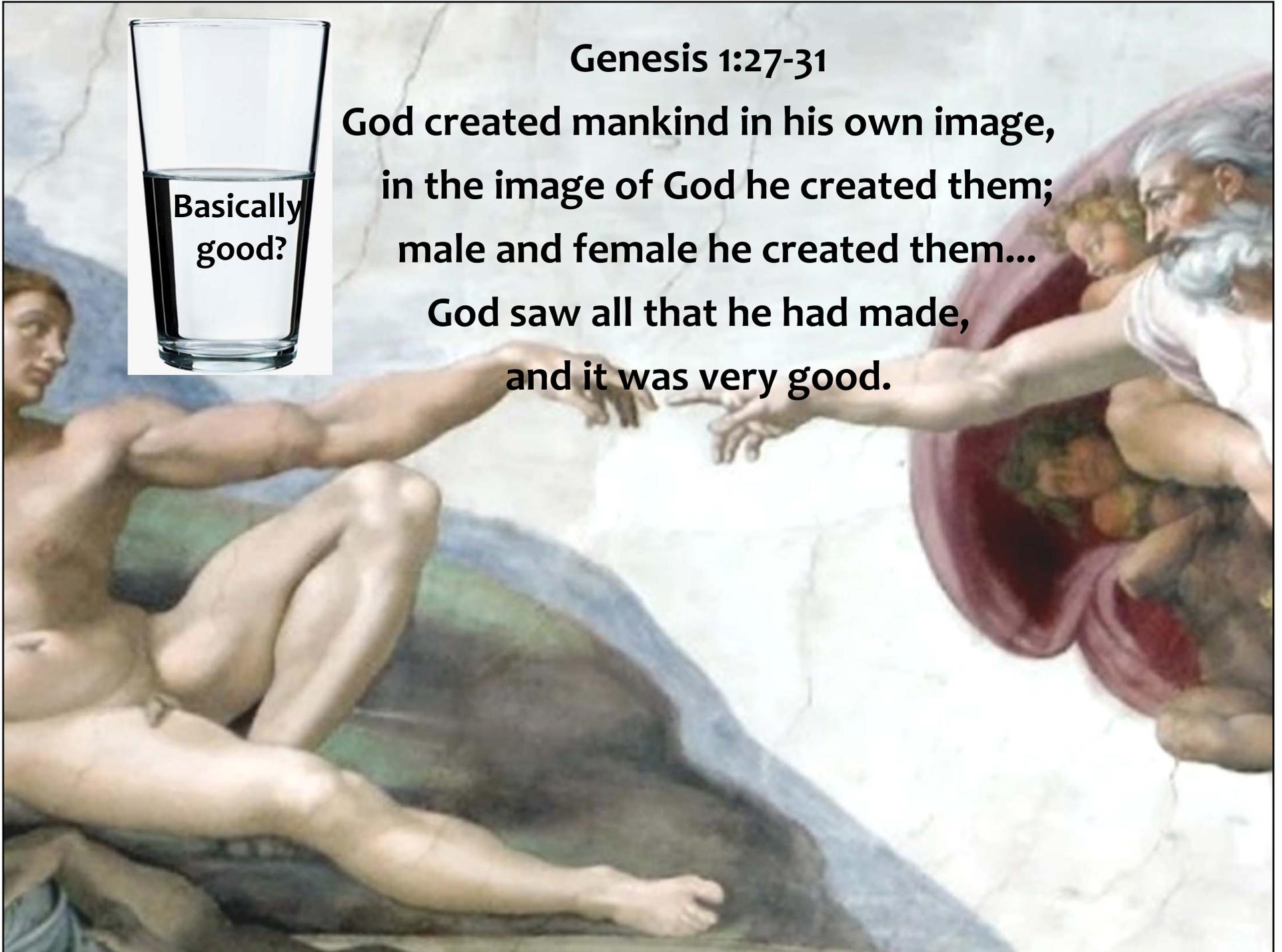




Genesis 1:27-31

God created mankind in his own image,
in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them...

God saw all that he had made,
and it was very good.



Common Grace

The Lord is good to all
He has compassion on all he has made
Psalm 145:9



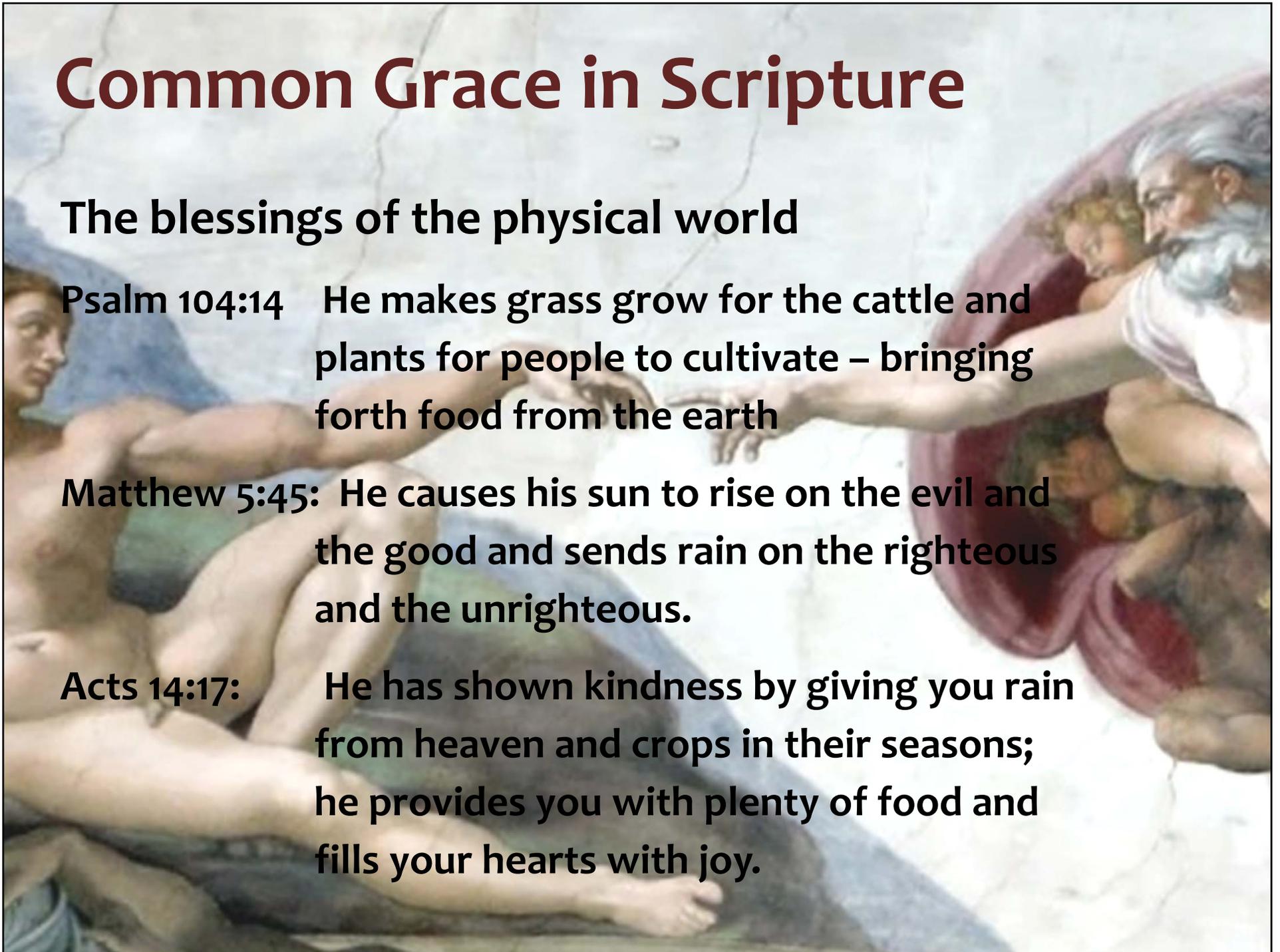
Common Grace in Scripture

The blessings of the physical world

Psalm 104:14 He makes grass grow for the cattle and plants for people to cultivate – bringing forth food from the earth

Matthew 5:45: He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.

Acts 14:17: He has shown kindness by giving you rain from heaven and crops in their seasons; he provides you with plenty of food and fills your hearts with joy.



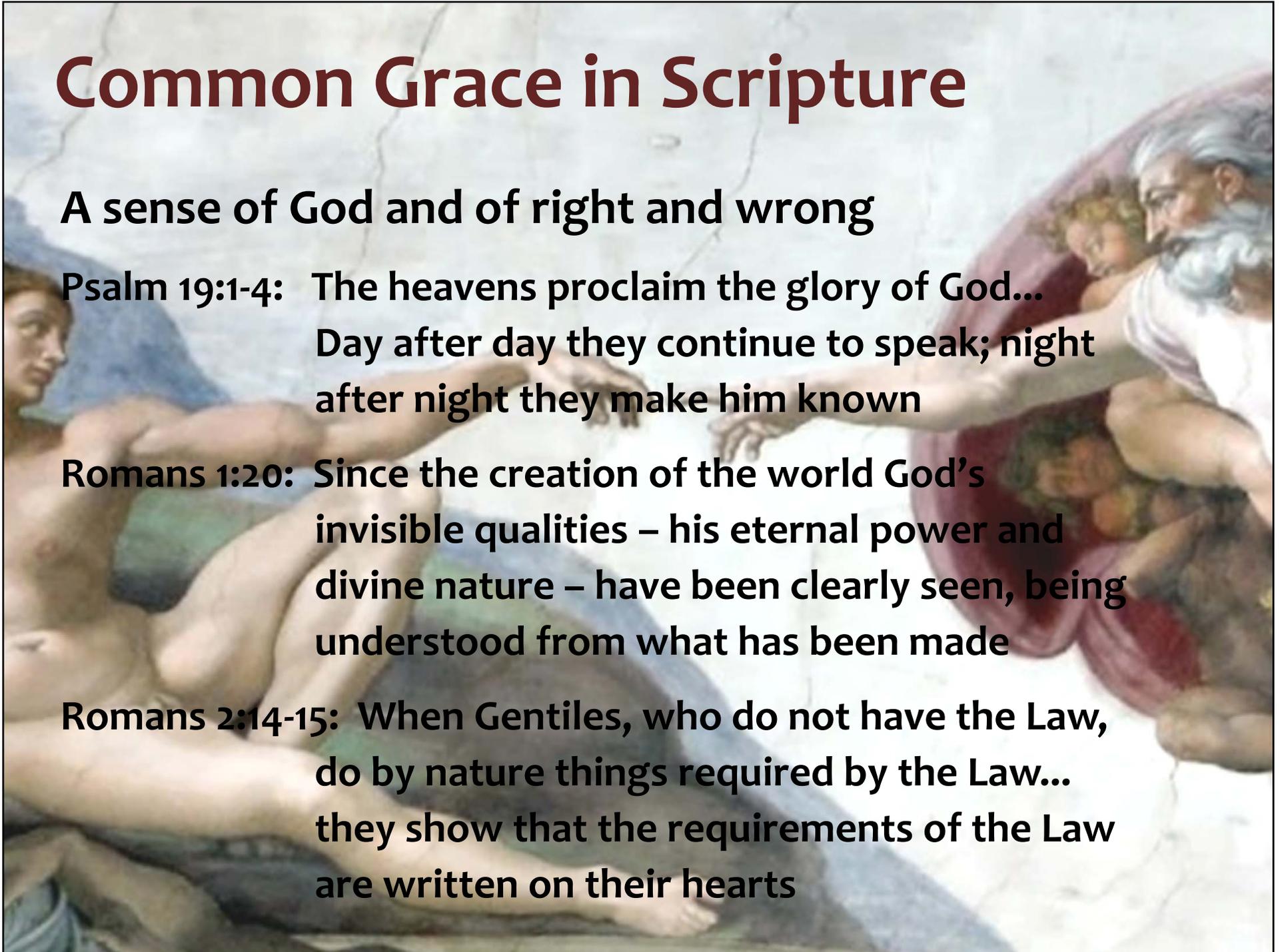
Common Grace in Scripture

A sense of God and of right and wrong

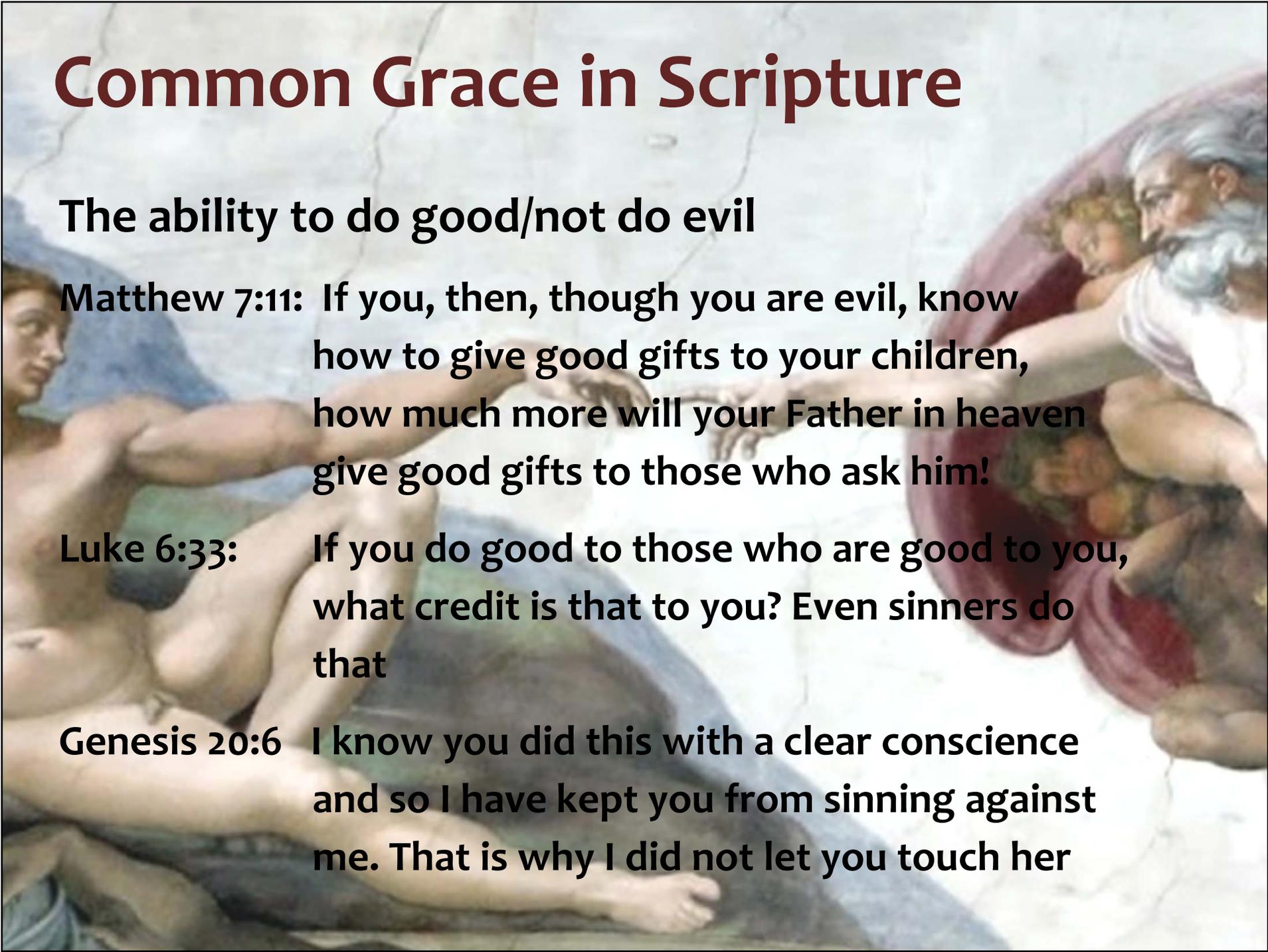
**Psalm 19:1-4: The heavens proclaim the glory of God...
Day after day they continue to speak; night
after night they make him known**

**Romans 1:20: Since the creation of the world God's
invisible qualities – his eternal power and
divine nature – have been clearly seen, being
understood from what has been made**

**Romans 2:14-15: When Gentiles, who do not have the Law,
do by nature things required by the Law...
they show that the requirements of the Law
are written on their hearts**



Common Grace in Scripture

The background of the slide is a reproduction of Michelangelo's famous fresco, "The Creation of Adam." It depicts Adam lying on a rock on the left, reaching out with his right arm towards God on the right. God is shown reclining on a purple cushion, holding a book and pointing his right index finger towards Adam's outstretched hand. The space between their hands is the focal point of the image.

The ability to do good/not do evil

Matthew 7:11: If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!

Luke 6:33: If you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do that

Genesis 20:6 I know you did this with a clear conscience and so I have kept you from sinning against me. That is why I did not let you touch her

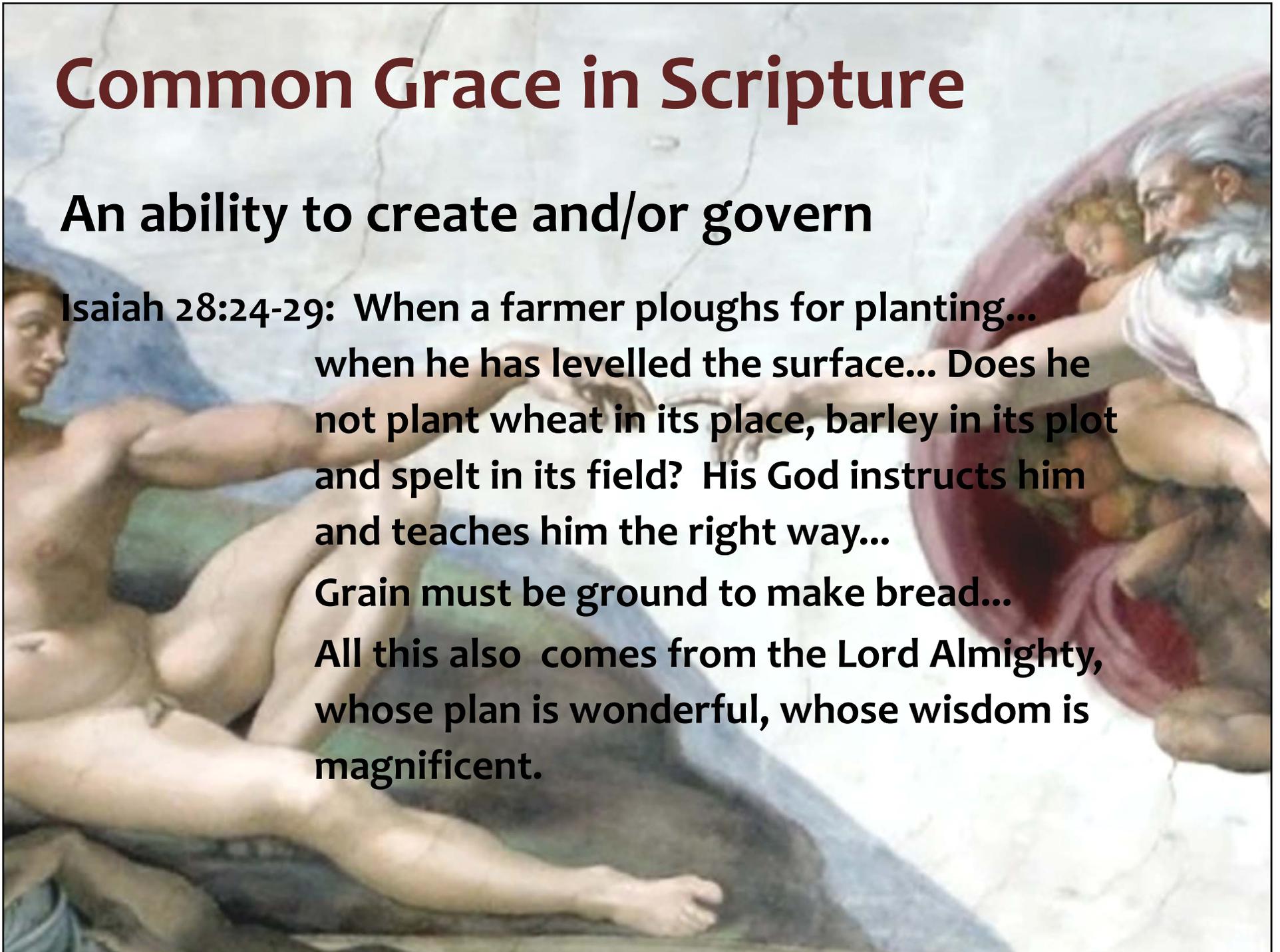
Common Grace in Scripture

An ability to create and/or govern

Isaiah 28:24-29: When a farmer ploughs for planting... when he has levelled the surface... Does he not plant wheat in its place, barley in its plot and spelt in its field? His God instructs him and teaches him the right way...

Grain must be ground to make bread...

All this also comes from the Lord Almighty, whose plan is wonderful, whose wisdom is magnificent.

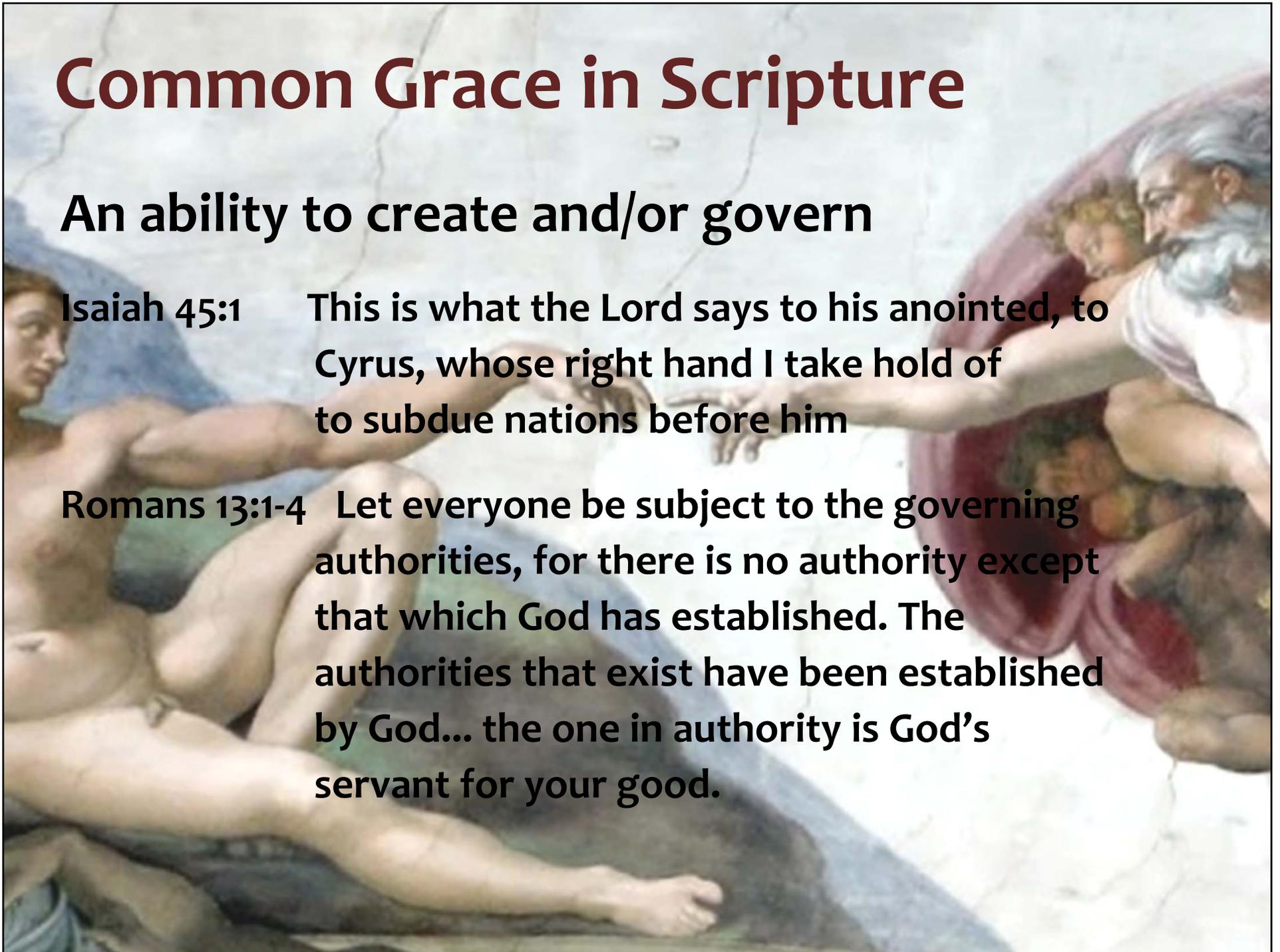


Common Grace in Scripture

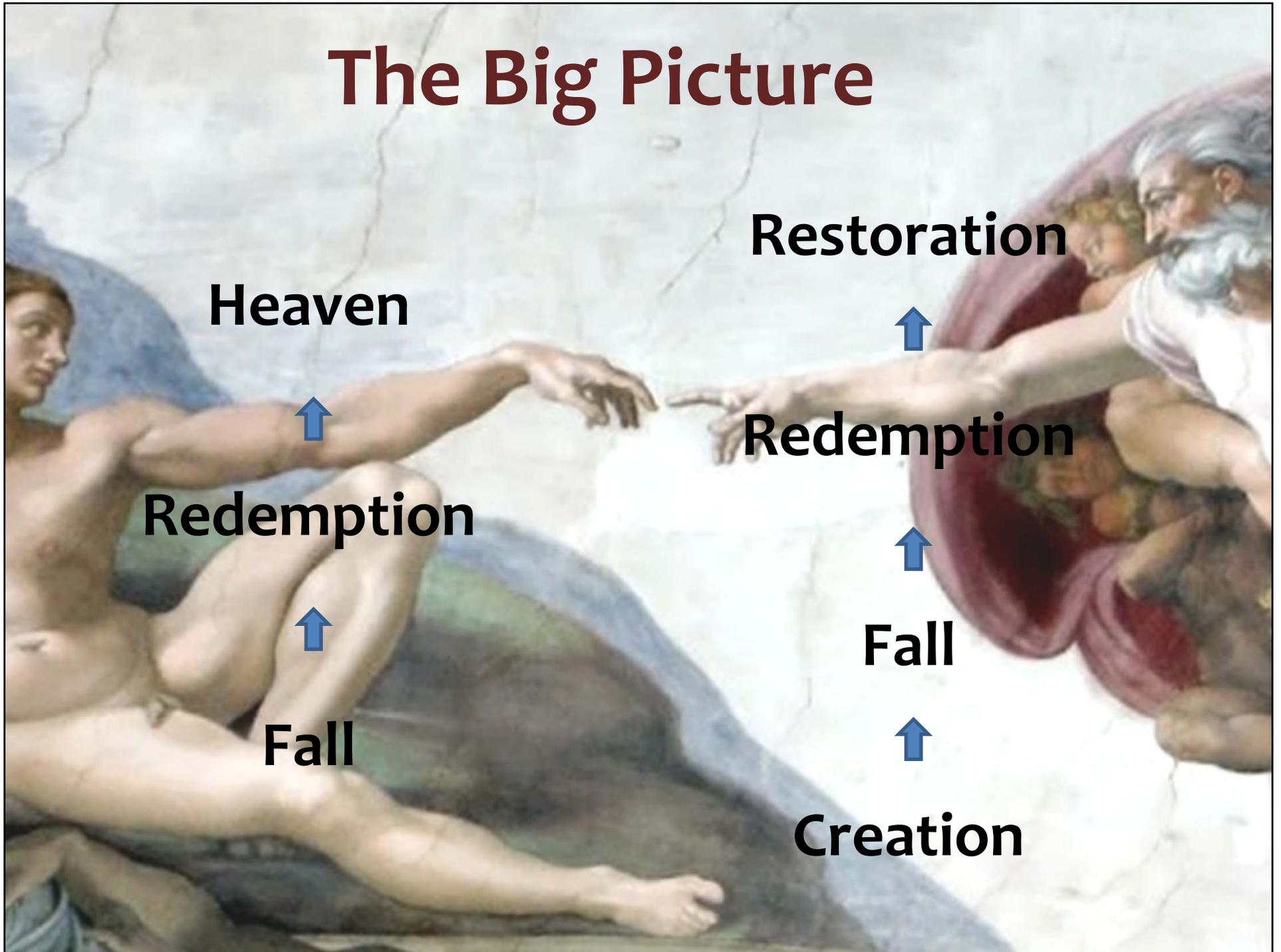
An ability to create and/or govern

Isaiah 45:1 This is what the Lord says to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I take hold of to subdue nations before him

Romans 13:1-4 Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God... the one in authority is God's servant for your good.



The Big Picture



Heaven

Restoration

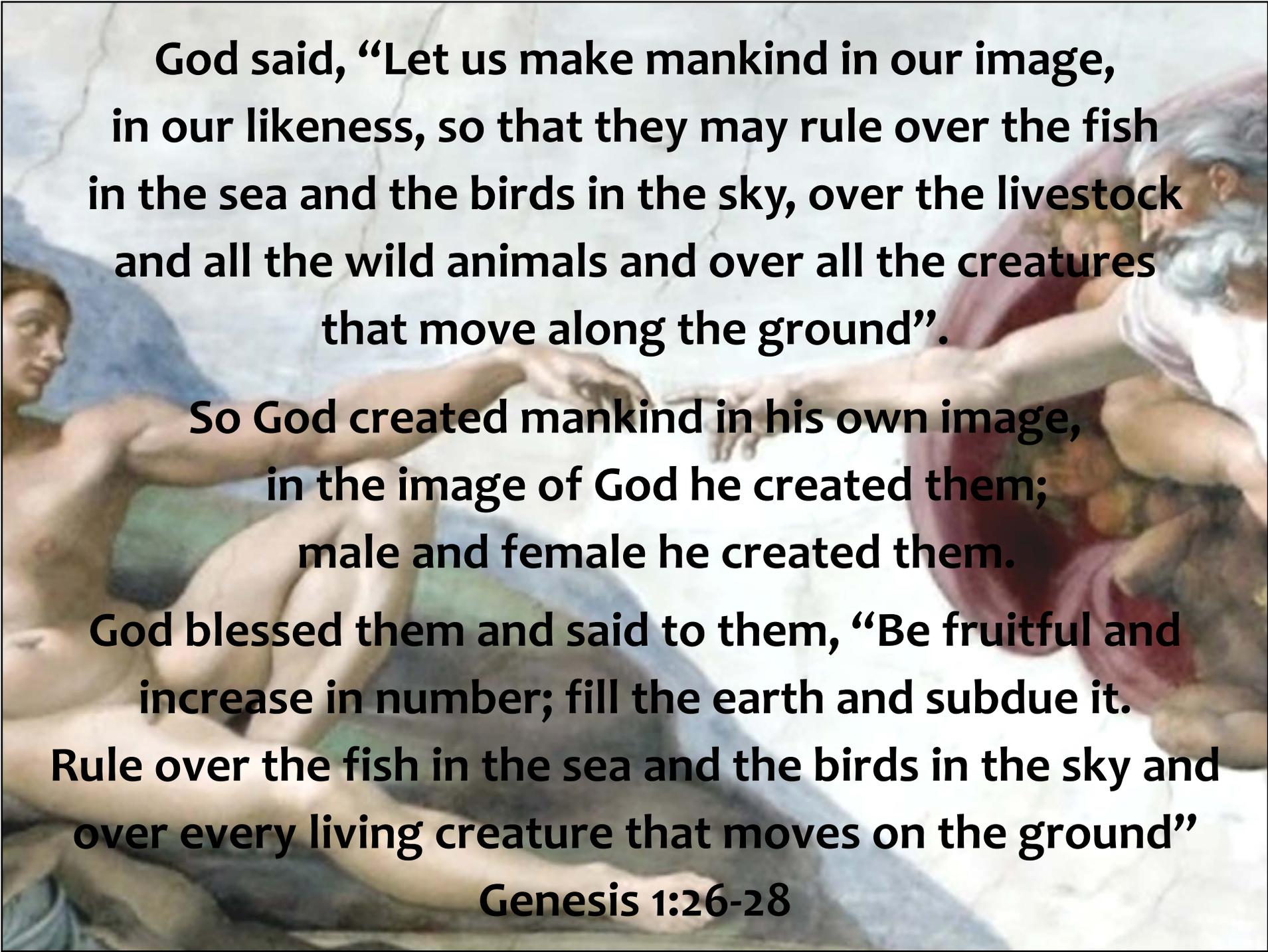
Redemption

Redemption

Fall

Fall

Creation

The background of the image is a reproduction of Michelangelo's famous fresco, "The Creation of Adam". It depicts God on the right, reclining and reaching out with his right hand towards Adam on the left, who is lying on a rock and reaching back with his right hand. The two hands are just inches apart, creating a sense of tension and divine spark. The text is overlaid on this image in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

**God said, “Let us make mankind in our image,
in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish
in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock
and all the wild animals and over all the creatures
that move along the ground”.**

**So God created mankind in his own image,
in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.**

**God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and
increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it.**

**Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and
over every living creature that moves on the ground”**

Genesis 1:26-28

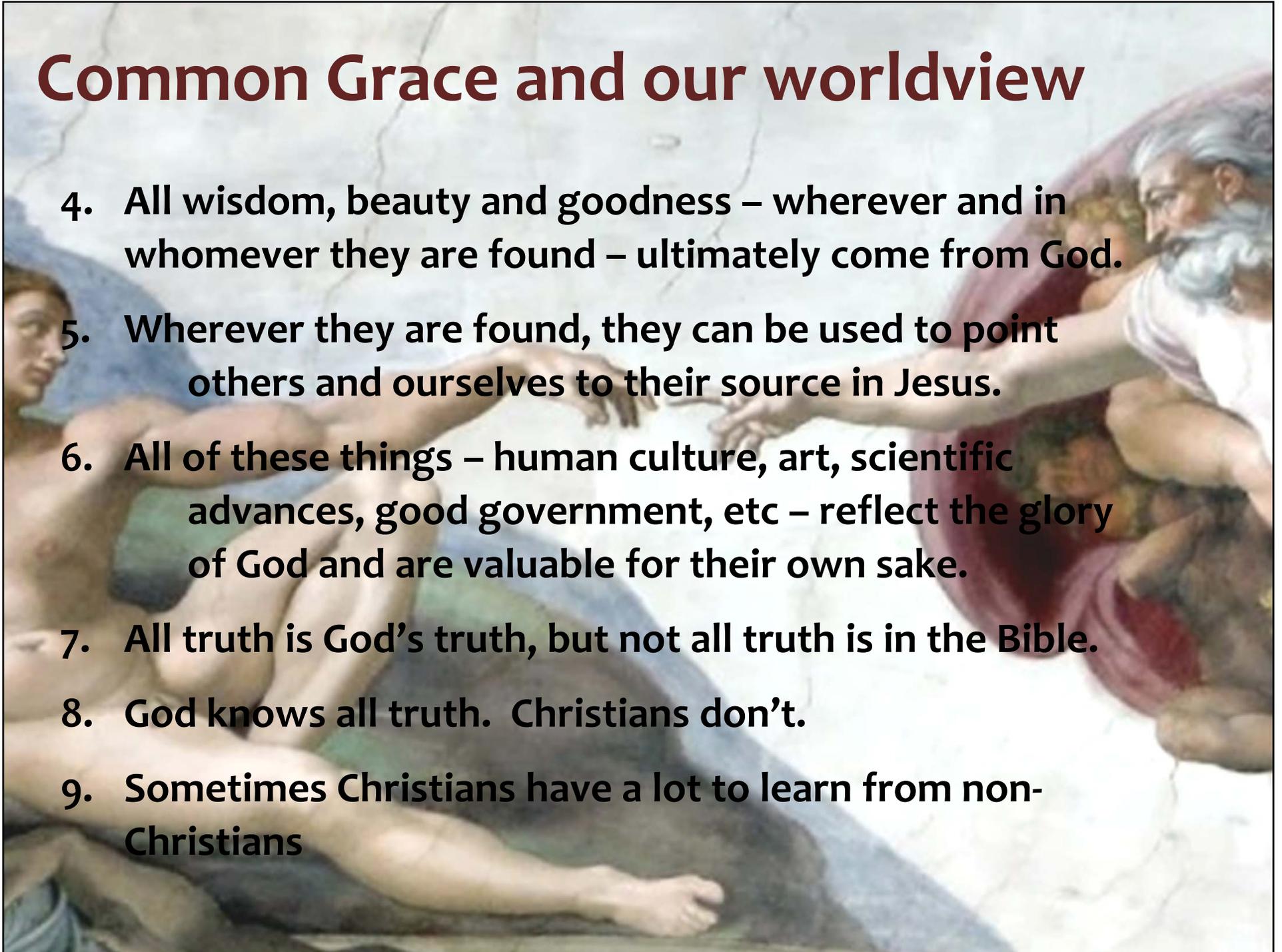
Common Grace and our worldview

1. God gives immense grace to all His creatures, in many ways.
2. God cares about more than just saving individual souls. He also cares about restoring His creation to glory through the coming of His kingdom.
3. All humans still carry something of the image of God. This can be seen in:
 - a hunger for justice
 - a thirst for spirituality
 - a longing for relationship
 - a recognition of and desire for beauty
 - a desire to create, to order or to manage/govern

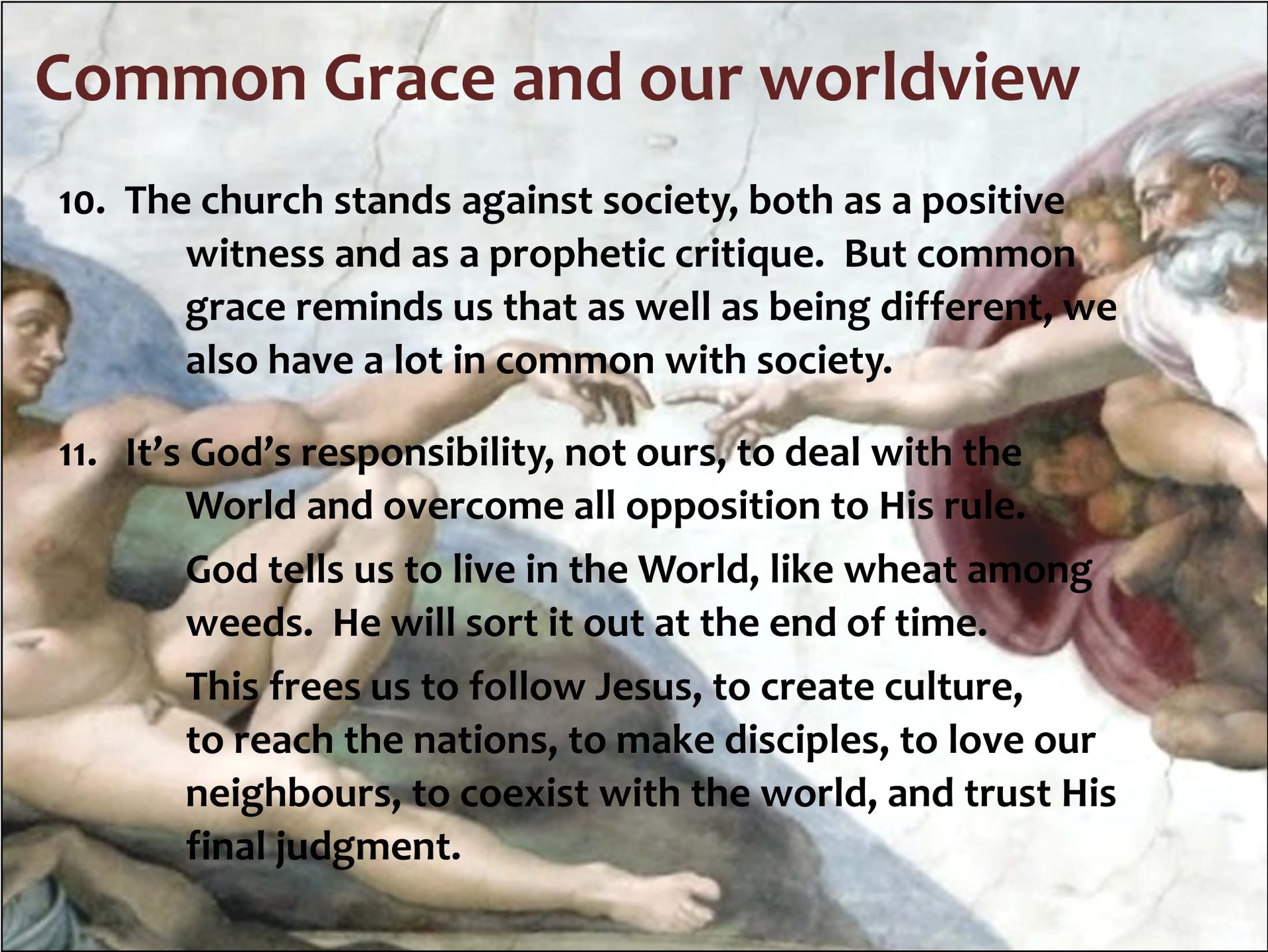


Common Grace and our worldview

4. All wisdom, beauty and goodness – wherever and in whomever they are found – ultimately come from God.
5. Wherever they are found, they can be used to point others and ourselves to their source in Jesus.
6. All of these things – human culture, art, scientific advances, good government, etc – reflect the glory of God and are valuable for their own sake.
7. All truth is God's truth, but not all truth is in the Bible.
8. God knows all truth. Christians don't.
9. Sometimes Christians have a lot to learn from non-Christians



Common Grace and our worldview

The background of the slide is a reproduction of Michelangelo's famous fresco, 'The Creation of Adam'. It depicts Adam lying on a rock on the left, reaching out with his right arm towards God on the right. God is shown reclining on a purple cushion, leaning forward with his right hand extended towards Adam's hand. The space between the two hands is the focal point of the image, symbolizing the spark of divine spark or grace.

10. The church stands against society, both as a positive witness and as a prophetic critique. But common grace reminds us that as well as being different, we also have a lot in common with society.

11. It's God's responsibility, not ours, to deal with the World and overcome all opposition to His rule. God tells us to live in the World, like wheat among weeds. He will sort it out at the end of time. This frees us to follow Jesus, to create culture, to reach the nations, to make disciples, to love our neighbours, to coexist with the world, and trust His final judgment.

Common Grace and our worldview

Common Grace says:

- Man is originally good, made in the image of God
- God loves the world
- We can't withdraw from culture
- My enemy is not a person
- The world is full of good

It doesn't say:

- Man's goodness can save him
- God loves everyone the same
- We can withdraw from evangelism
- We don't have to fight the enemies of the world, the flesh and the devil
- It's all good

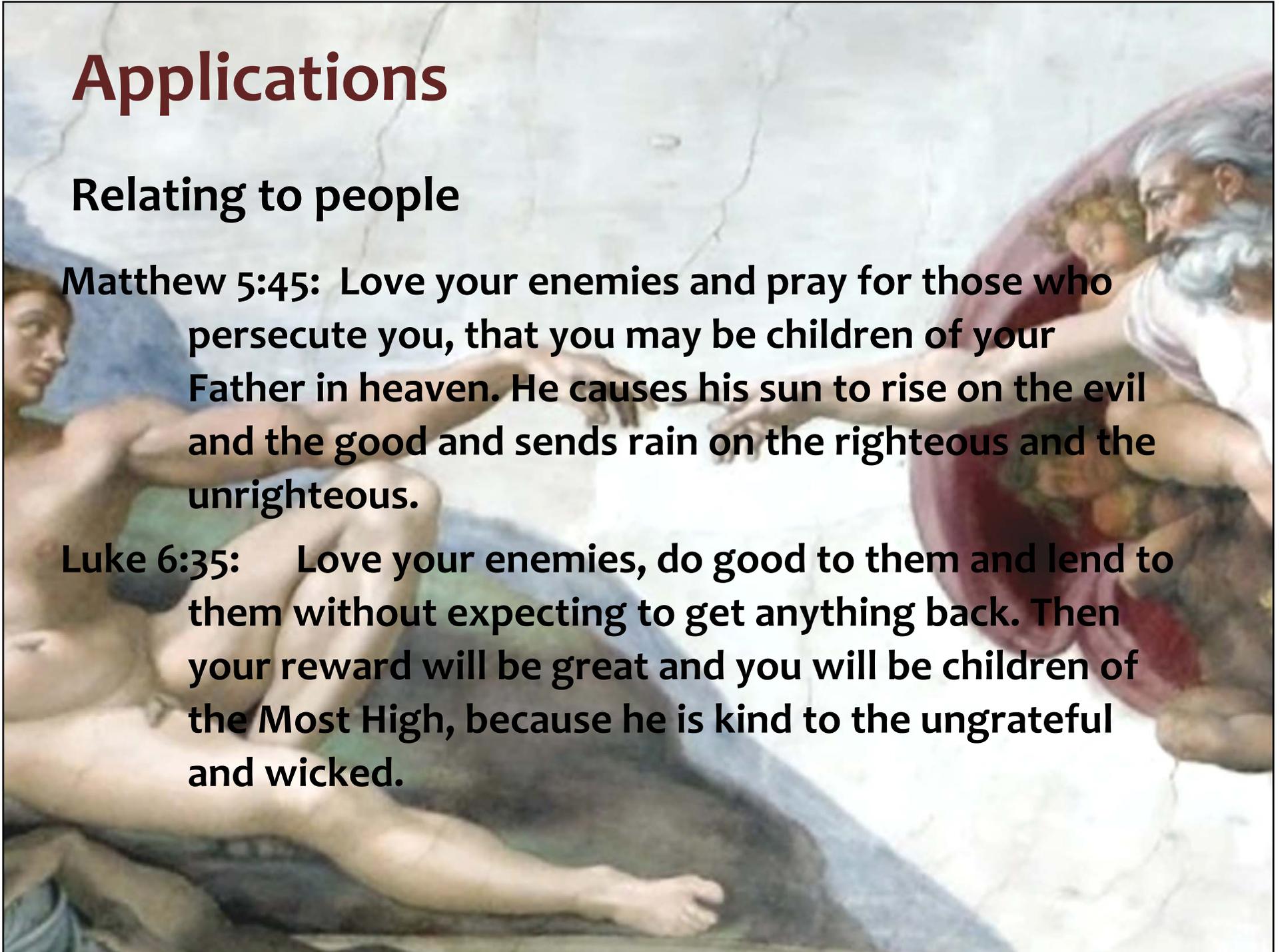


Applications

Relating to people

Matthew 5:45: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.

Luke 6:35: Love your enemies, do good to them and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked.



Applications

Relating to people

God gives the sun to the evil and the good

God sends rain on the righteous and unrighteous

God is kind to the ungrateful and wicked.

Despite all the effects of sin in the world, God continues to love humanity (and the world) and to shower blessings on it. He wants us to do the same.

Love people for their own sake – even if they never become believers. This is actually the best witness to Jesus that you can give them.



Applications

Relating to the world

Seek the common good!

Jeremiah 29:7 Seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.

1 Thessalonians 5:15 Always strive to do what is good for each other and for everyone else.

“Seeking the common good pleases God, multiplies our impact and enhances our witness. Good deeds lead to goodwill, which opens the door for the good news.



Applications

Relating to the world

Seek the common good!

“Many people get gripped by the agenda of the King before they know the King of the agenda”



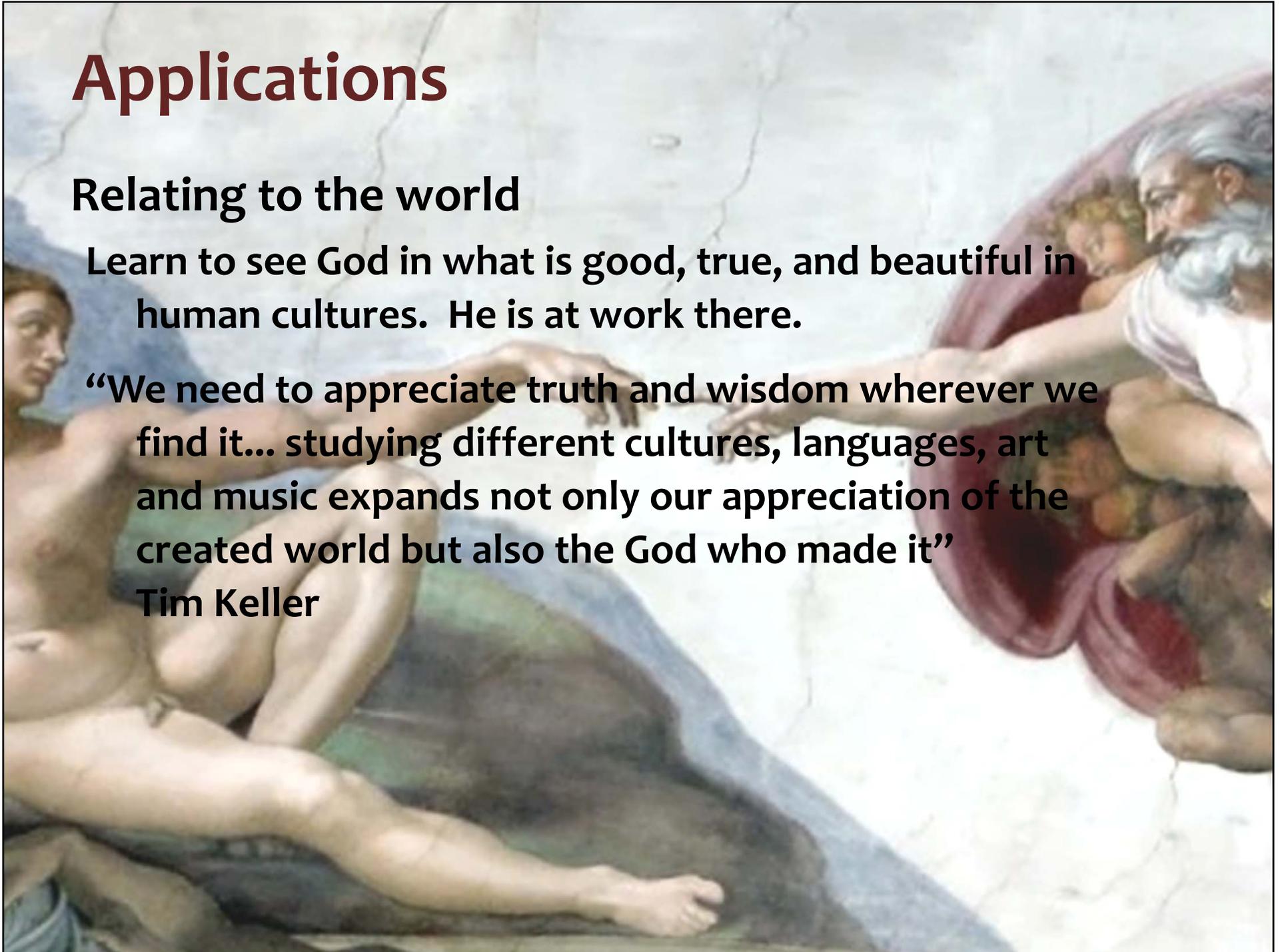
Applications

Relating to the world

Learn to see God in what is good, true, and beautiful in human cultures. He is at work there.

“We need to appreciate truth and wisdom wherever we find it... studying different cultures, languages, art and music expands not only our appreciation of the created world but also the God who made it”

Tim Keller



Applications

Relating to the world

Find the good, the true and the beautiful wherever it exists in your world. This can be in a person, a work of art, an organization, a relationship, a city, your job, you name it.

Point to its source in Christ. This can be through a silent prayer of thanksgiving, a bold evangelistic proclamation, or anything in between.

Find the good, point to Christ. Repeat.

