



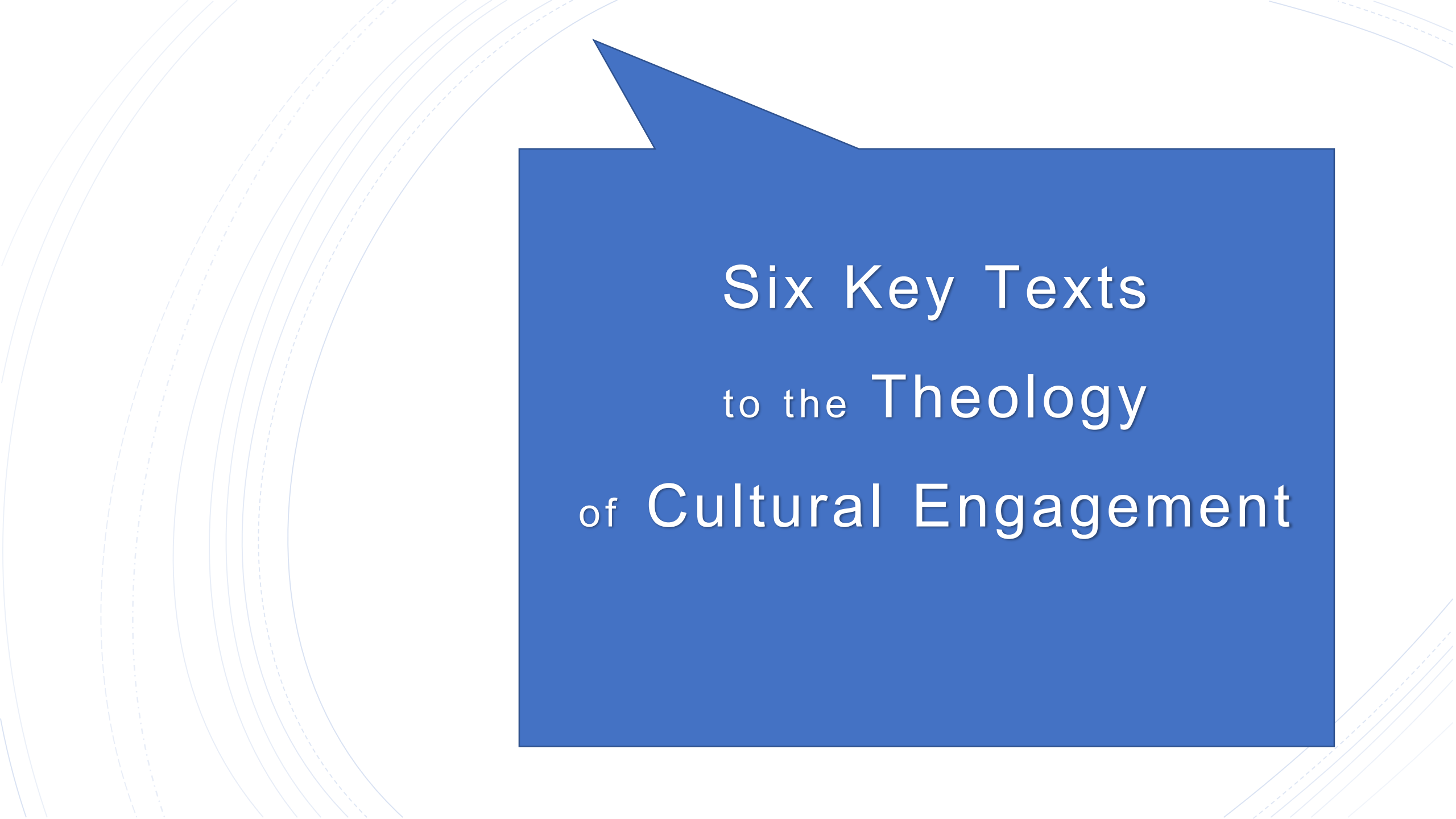
How Times Have Changed  
-----  
BIGGER & smaller global connections



**We have suffered the loss of the  
Judeo-Christian net.**

**We must engage with the reality of pluralism.**

*Coping with pluralism means being more aware of  
it and more engaged with it.*

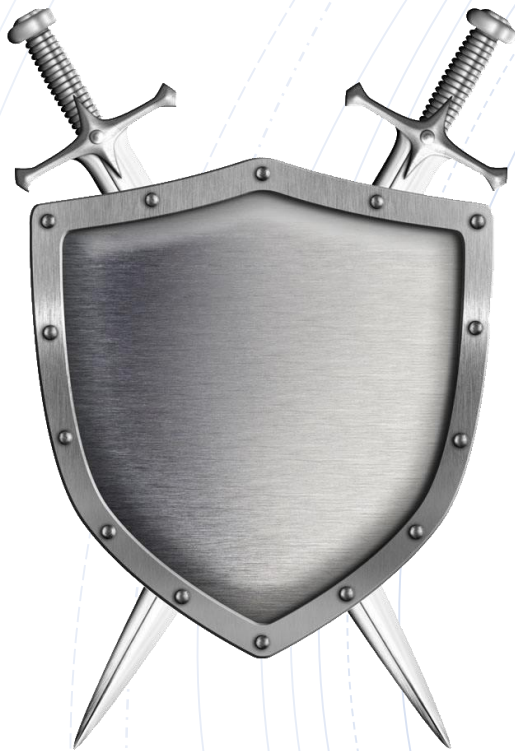
The background features several concentric circles of varying line styles (solid and dashed) in light blue and grey. A prominent blue callout box with a pointed top-left corner is positioned on the right side of the image. Inside this box, the title text is displayed in white.

Six Key Texts  
to the Theology  
of Cultural Engagement

## THE SPIRITUAL BATTLE

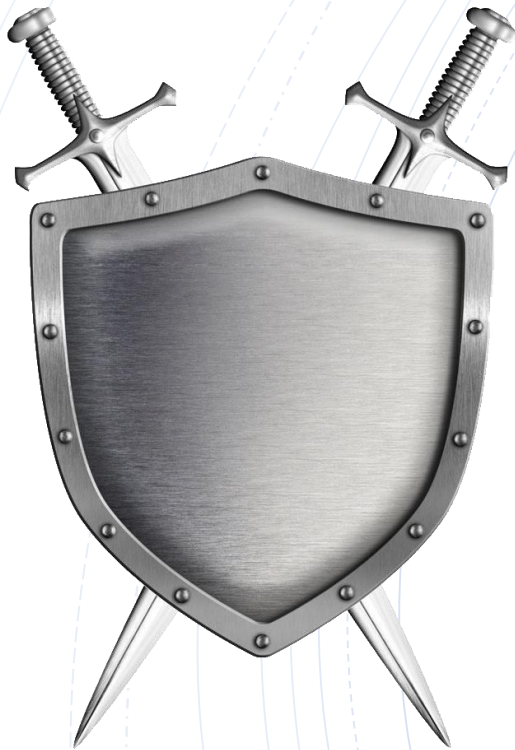
**“For our struggle is NOT against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world rulers of this darkness.”**

**Ephesians 6:10–18**



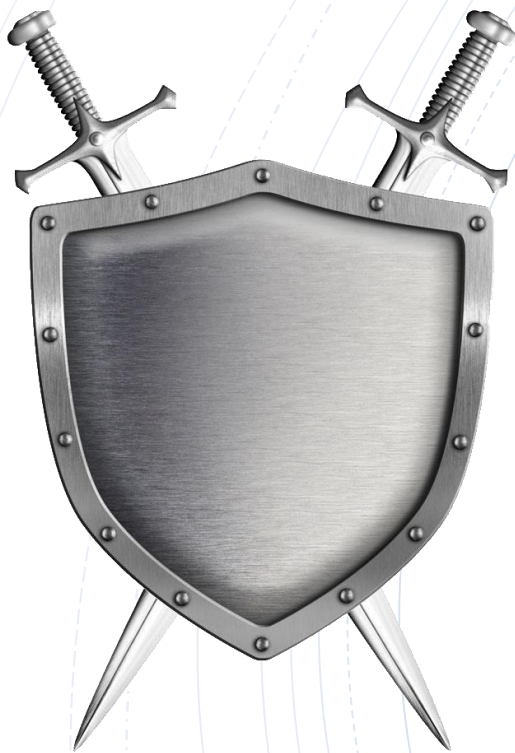
# THE BATTLE METAPHOR CHANGES.

**Change No. 1: the GIA (God's Intelligence Agency)**



## THE BATTLE METAPHOR CHANGES.

**Change No. 2: People are *not* the enemy but the goal.**



## THE BATTLE METAPHOR CHANGES.

**Change No. 3: The battle is spiritual; it requires spiritual resources. AND the Enemy works incognito.**



## HOPE with a PROPER TONE

“For who is going to harm you if you are devoted to what is good? <sup>14</sup> But in fact, if you happen to suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. But do not be terrified of them or be shaken. <sup>15</sup> But set Christ apart as Lord in your hearts and always be ready to give an answer to anyone who asks about the hope you possess...

## HOPE with a PROPER TONE

“<sup>16</sup> Yet do it with courtesy and respect, keeping a good conscience, so that those who slander your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame when they accuse you. <sup>17</sup> For it is better to suffer for doing good, if God wills it, than for doing evil...

## HOPE with a PROPER TONE

“<sup>18</sup> Because Christ also suffered once for sins,  
the just for the unjust,  
to bring you to God,  
by being put to death in the flesh  
but by being made alive in the spirit.”

1 Peter 3:13–18

## SPEECH: ALWAYS BE GRACIOUS

“Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunities. <sup>6</sup> Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you should answer everyone.”

**Colossians 4:5–6**

## SCOPE: DO GOOD TO ALL

“So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who belong to the family of faith.”

Galatians 6:10

## GOAL: AMBASSADORS OF RECONCILIATION

“So then, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; what is old has passed away—look, what is new has come! <sup>18</sup> And all these things are from God who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and who has given us the ministry of reconciliation. <sup>19</sup> In other words, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting people’s trespasses against them...

## GOAL: AMBASSADORS OF RECONCILIATION

“and he has given us the message of reconciliation.<sup>20</sup> Therefore we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making his plea through us. We plead with you on Christ’s behalf, ‘Be reconciled to God!’<sup>21</sup> God made the one who did not know sin to be sin for us, so that in him we would become the righteousness of God.”

2 Corinthians 5:17-21

## HOW AMBASSADORS WORK

**Our passport is the Kingdom.**

*Note the tone:* We beg/implore you to be reconciled.





SUMMARY: BE KIND, PATIENT, GENTLE SO OTHERS CAN ESCAPE  
SATAN'S TRAP.

“But keep away from youthful passions, and pursue righteousness, faithfulness, love, and peace, in company with others who call on the Lord from a pure heart. <sup>23</sup> But reject foolish and ignorant controversies, because you know they breed infighting. <sup>24</sup> And the Lord's slave must not engage in heated disputes but be kind toward all, an apt teacher, patient...

SUMMARY: BE KIND, PATIENT, GENTLE SO OTHERS CAN ESCAPE  
SATAN'S TRAP.

“<sup>25</sup> ...correcting opponents with gentleness. Perhaps God will grant them repentance and then knowledge of the truth <sup>26</sup> and they will come to their senses and escape the devil's trap where they are held captive to do his will.”

2 Timothy 2:22-26

## APPLICATION

- 1) To engage well, we must use the right **SPIRITUAL** resources and know where the real answer lies.
- 2) **TONE** matters.
- 3) Ambassadors know **WHO** they represent.
- 4) Our call is to be faithful in how we live, engage, and witness **TOGETHER**.