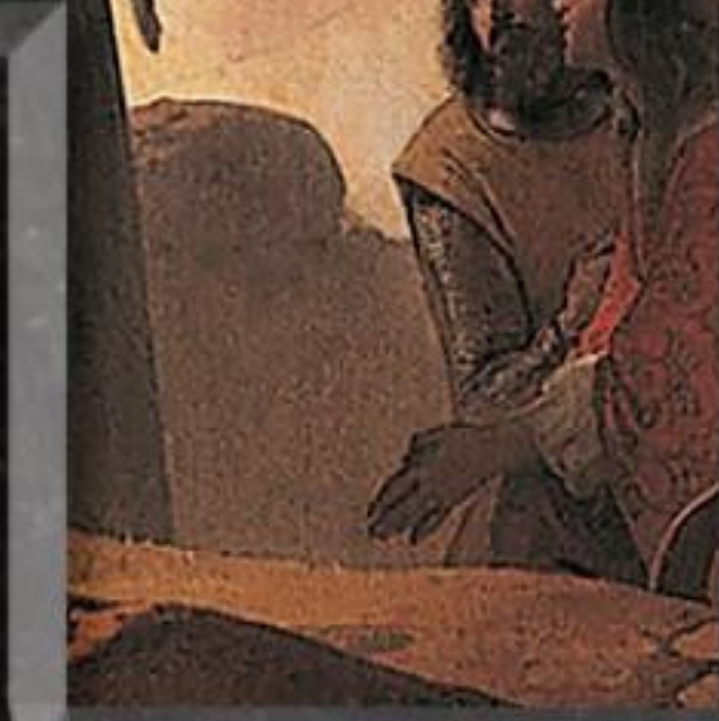


THE EVILS OF CHRISTIAN HISTORY



A Threefold Approach

Half of people around the world think that religion does more harm than good – but views vary greatly between some countries.

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?
Religion does more harm in the world than good?

Ipsos Poll (Oct 2017)

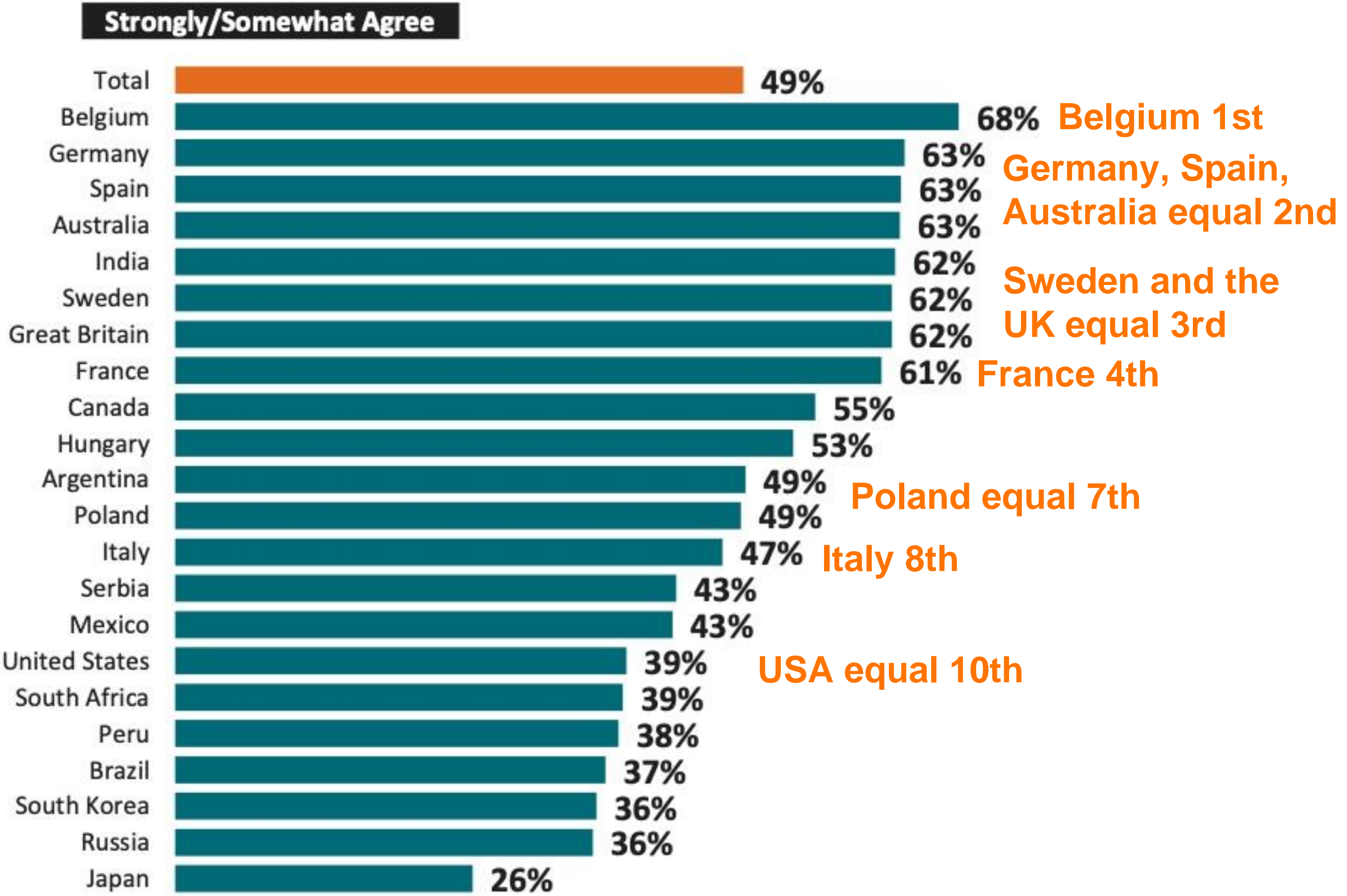
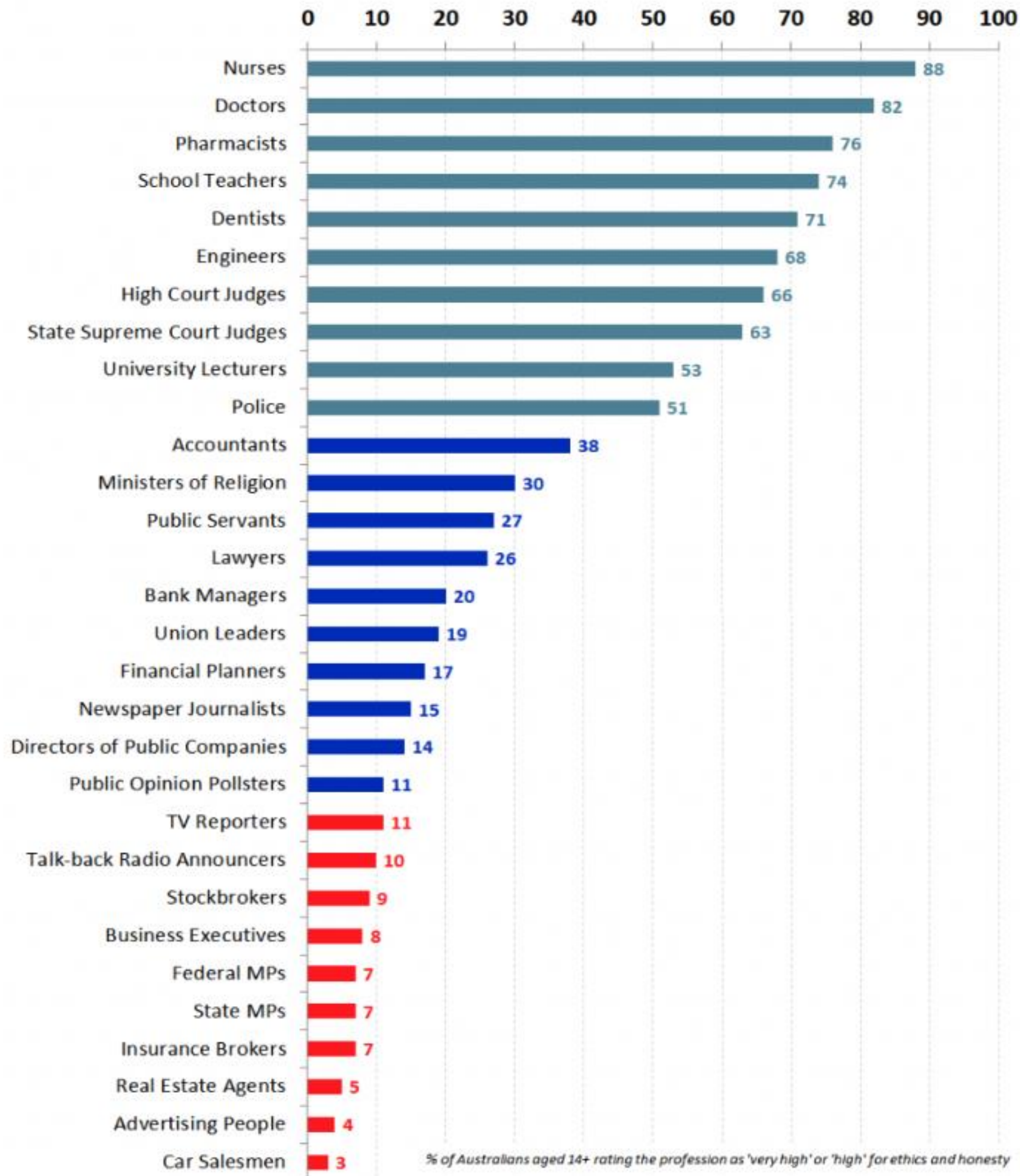


Image of Professions 2021: % of Australians aged 14+ rating the profession as 'very high' or 'high' for ethics and honesty



Respondents were asked (April 2021):
 “As I say different occupations, could you please say – from what you know or have heard - which rating best describes how you, yourself, would rate or score people in various occupations for honesty and ethical standards (Very High, High, Average, Low, Very Low)?”

THE CURSE OF CAIN

THE VIOLENT
LEGACY OF
MONOTHEISM

REGINA M. SCHWARTZ

“Whether as singleness (this God against the others) or totality (this is all the God there is), monotheism abhors, reviles, rejects, and ejects whatever it defines as outside its compass.”

(Regina M. Schwartz, *The Curse of Cain: The Violent Legacy of Monotheism*. University of Chicago Press, 1998, 63)

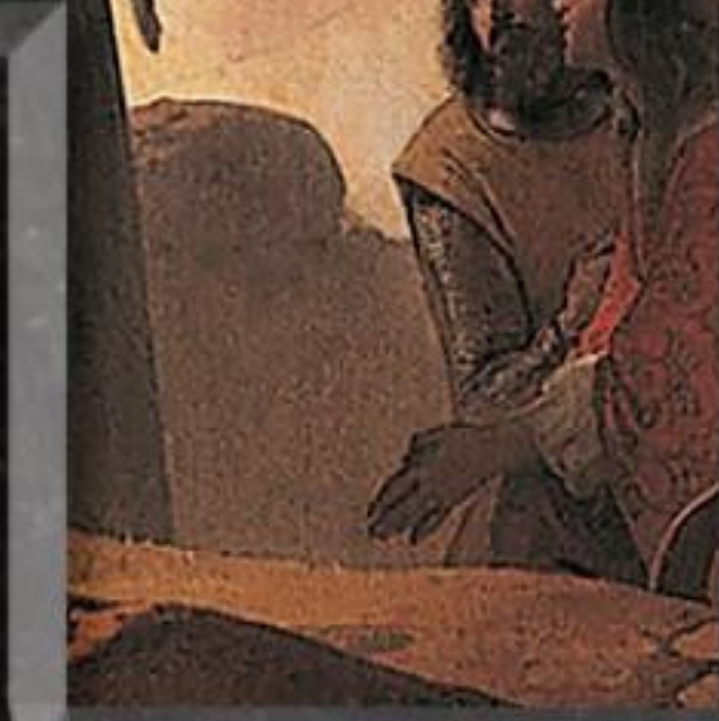


Prof Michel Onfray

“The religion of the one God seeks to promote self-hatred to the detriment of the body, to discredit the intelligence, to despise the flesh, and to prize everything that stands in the way of a gratified subjectivity. Launched against others, it foments contempt.”

Michel Onfray, The Atheist Manifesto. Arcade Publishing, 2005, 66-67.

THE EVILS OF CHRISTIAN HISTORY



A Threefold Approach

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs
is the kingdom of heaven.”

Matthew 5:3





“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

Matthew 5:3

“Why do you see the speck in your neighbor’s eye, but do not notice the log in your own eye? Or how can you say to your neighbor, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ while the log is in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your neighbor’s eye?”

Matthew 7:3-5



Hypatia of Alexandria, a brilliant philosopher
murdered by a Christian mob in AD 415

Socrates Scholasticus, *Ecclesiastical History*, 7.14-15

Charlemagne (Charles the Great), (AD 742–814). ‘Converted’ the Saxons: “Baptism or the sword”



Einhard, Life of Charlemagne, 8; Capitulatio de partibus Saxoniae 8.





Al-Aqsa Mosque, Jerusalem



Religious upbringing associated with less altruism, study finds

By [Susie Allen](#)
NOVEMBER 5, 2015

Many families believe religion plays an essential role in childhood moral development. But children of religious parents may not be as altruistic as those parents think, according to a [new international study](#) from the University of Chicago published Nov. 5 in *Current Biology*.

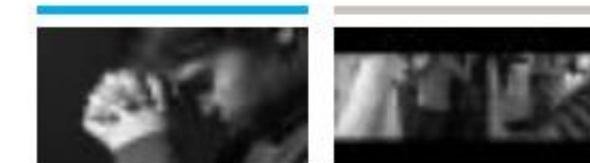
A team of developmental psychologists led by [Prof. Jean Decety](#) examined the perceptions and behavior of children in six countries. The study assessed the children's tendency to share—a measure of their altruism—and their inclination to judge and punish others for bad behavior.

Children from religious families were less likely to share with others than were children from non-religious families. A religious upbringing also was associated with more punitive tendencies in response to anti-social behavior.

13.2K 2705 19.6K

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PHOTOS



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their altruism—and their inclination to judge and punish oth
bad behavior.

Children from religious families were less likely to share with
religious families. A religious upbringing also was associated
response to anti-social behavior.

Study: Religious Kids Are Jerks

| WWJD |

A study published in the journal *Current Biology* testing the behavior of Christian, Muslim, and atheist children has found that religious kids are meaner and less generous.

Bobby Azarian | Updated Apr. 13, 2017 6:18PM ET / Published Nov. 06, 2015 4:48AM ET



Jamie Grill/Corbis

Religious upbringing associated with I

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The image shows a screenshot of a research article page from the journal *Current Biology*. The article title is "The Negative Association between Religiousness and Children's Altruism across the World". The authors listed are Jean Decety, Jason M. Kang, Lee, Randa Mahasneh, Susan Malcolm-Smith, Bigdeli, Xiang, and Zhou. The article is dated November 16, 2015. The page includes a "Highlights" section with three bullet points, an "Authors" section, and a "Correspondence" section. A large red "RETRACTED" watermark is overlaid diagonally across the entire page. The page also features a "CellPress" logo in the bottom right corner and a Creative Commons license in the bottom left corner.

Report

Current Biology

The Negative Association between Religiousness and Children's Altruism across the World

Highlights

- Family religious identification decreases children's altruistic behaviors
- Religiousness predicts parent-reported child sensitivity to injustices and empathy
- Children from religious households are harsher in their punitive tendencies

Authors
Jean Decety, Jason M. Kang, Lee, Randa Mahasneh, Susan Malcolm-Smith, Bigdeli, Xiang, Zhou

Correspondence
dece@uchicago.edu

Abstract
Decety and colleagues assessed altruism and moral cognition in six countries. Parents in religious households reported that their children expressed more empathy and sensitivity for justice in everyday life. However, religiousness was inversely predictive of children's altruism and positively correlated with their punitive tendencies.

Decety et al., 2015, *Current Biology* 25, 2951–2955
November 16, 2015 ©2015 Elsevier Ltd All rights reserved
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.cub.2015.09.058>

CellPress

Was the murder of Hypatia part of a broader Christian trend of opposing women and stifling education?



Socrates Scholasticus, *Ecclesiastical History*, 7.14-15;

Philostorgius, *Church History*, 8.9

Was Charlemagne's policy of "Baptism or the sword" typical?



Alcuin of York
(AD 735–804)



Epistolae Karolini, Alcuin to Meginfrid, Ep.110; Ep.111.
Decree Capitulare Saxonicum, 28 October 797.



Spanish Inquisition 1478 - 1834



Spanish Inquisition 1478 - 1834

5000-6000 deaths

Henry Kamen,
The Spanish Inquisition
(New Haven: Yale University Press, 1997).

French Revolution
'The Terror'
(Sept 1793 - July 1794)

17,000+ executions

[https://www.britannica.com/place](https://www.britannica.com/place/France/The-Reign-of-Terror)

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**The problem isn't
religion or irreligion**



**but the human heart with
a passion unrestrained**

The real question *isn't*:

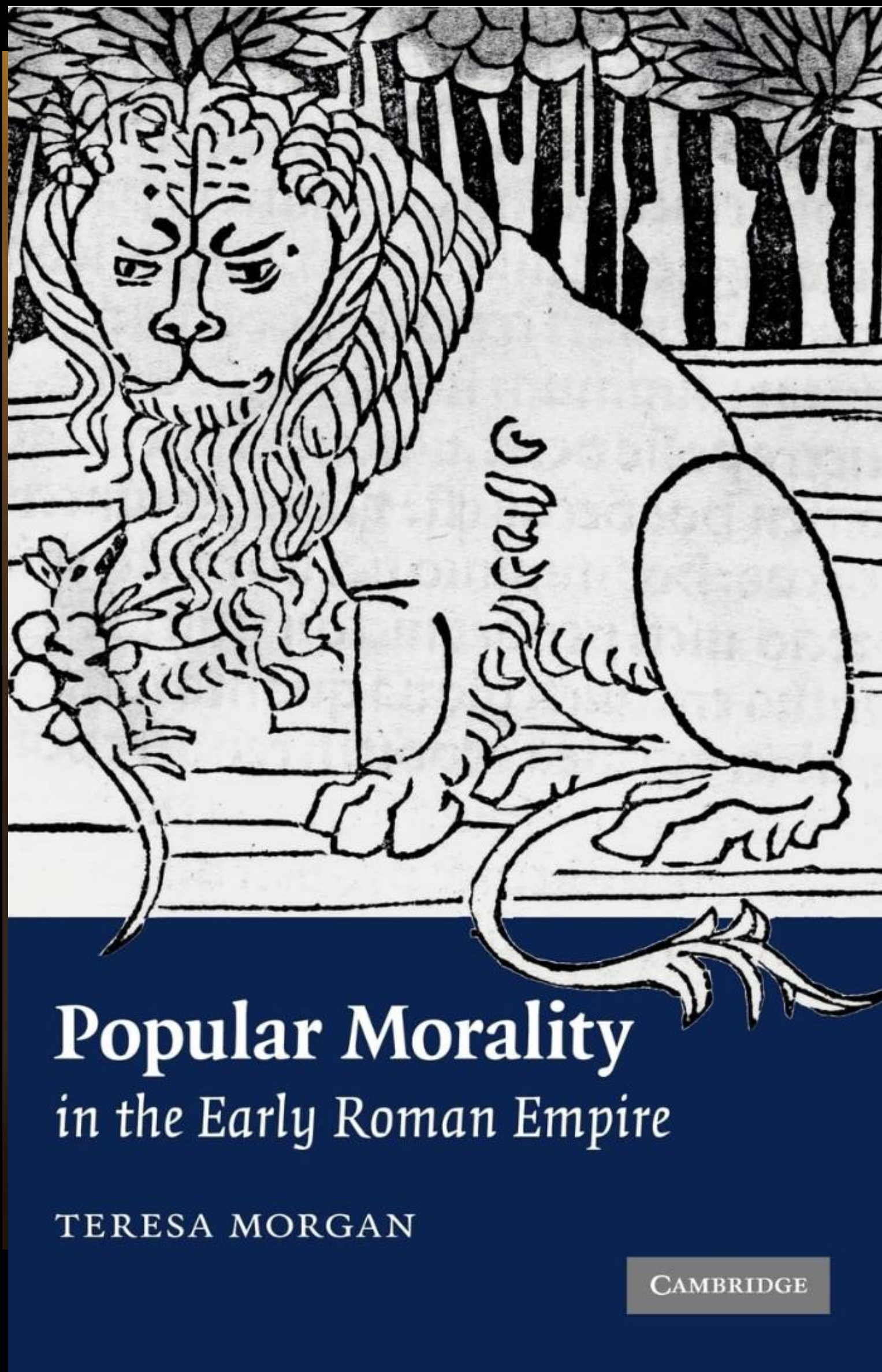
Have Christians participated in the evils common to humanity?

The real question *isn't*:

Have Christians participated in the evils common to humanity?

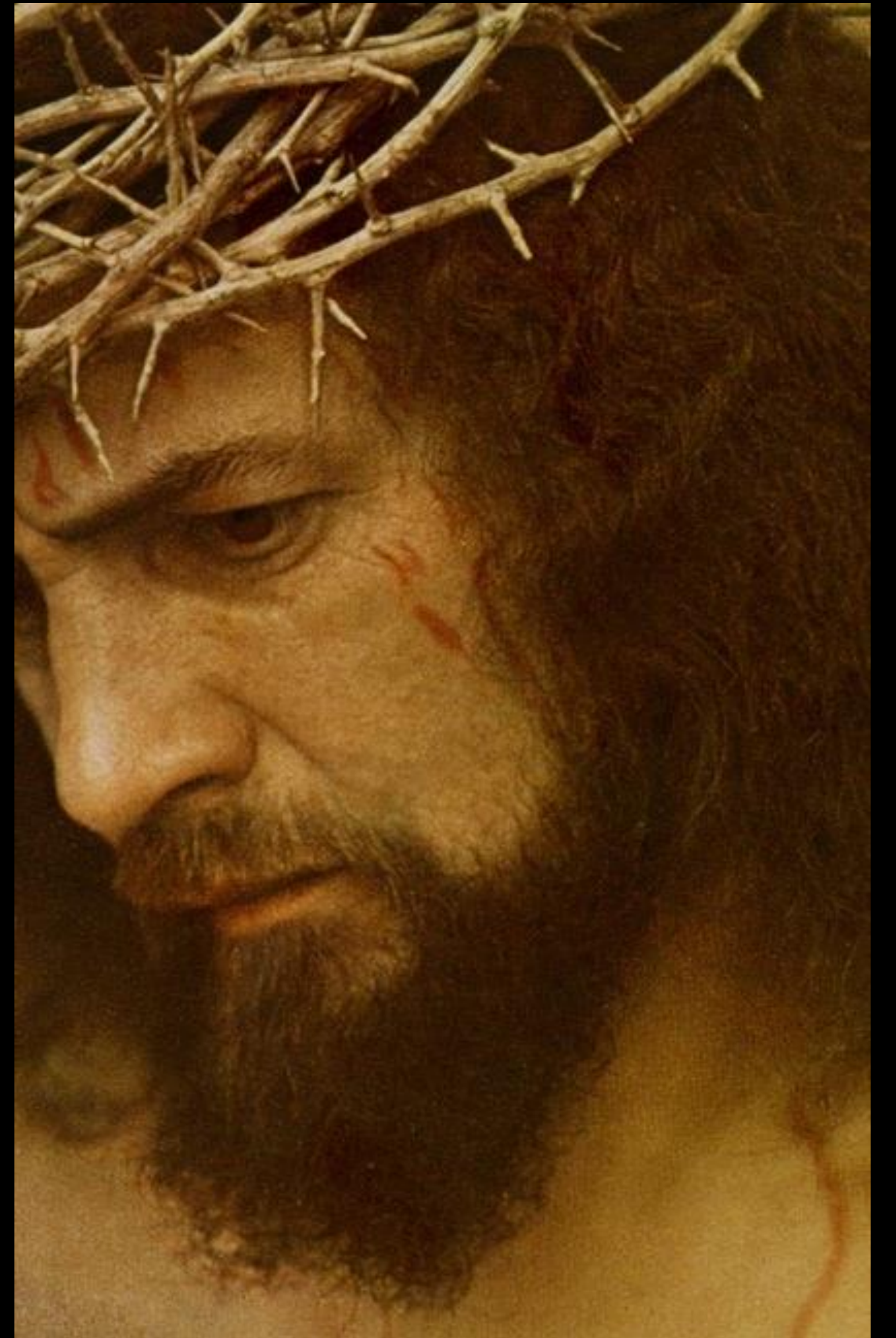
The more revealing question is:

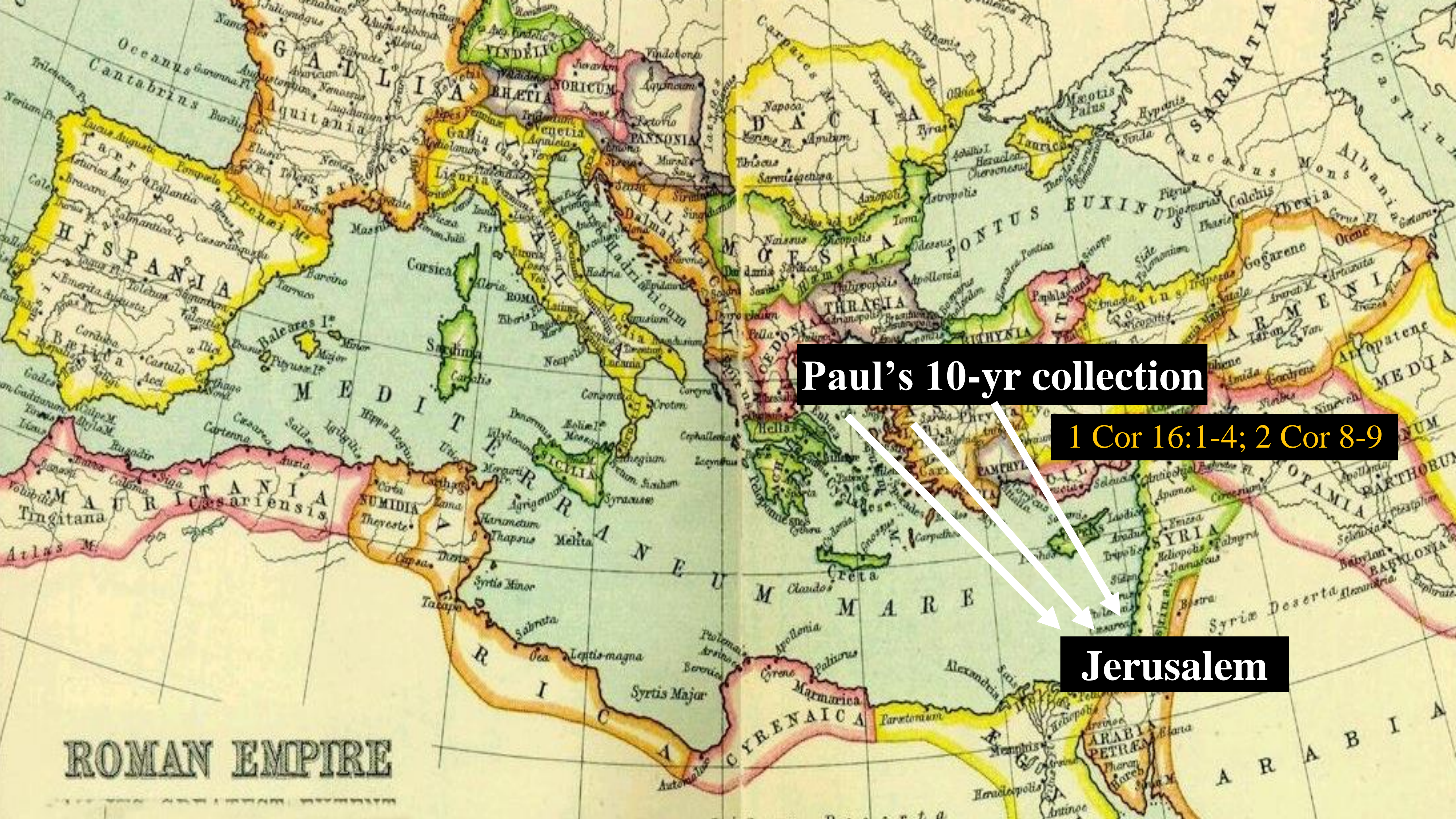
What is Christianity's *unique* contribution to humanity?



TERESA MORGAN
Professor of Graeco-Roman History,
Faculty of Classics, University of Oxford

“Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. If someone slaps you on one cheek, turn to them the other also. Do to others as you would have them do to you. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.” **Luke 6:27-31**



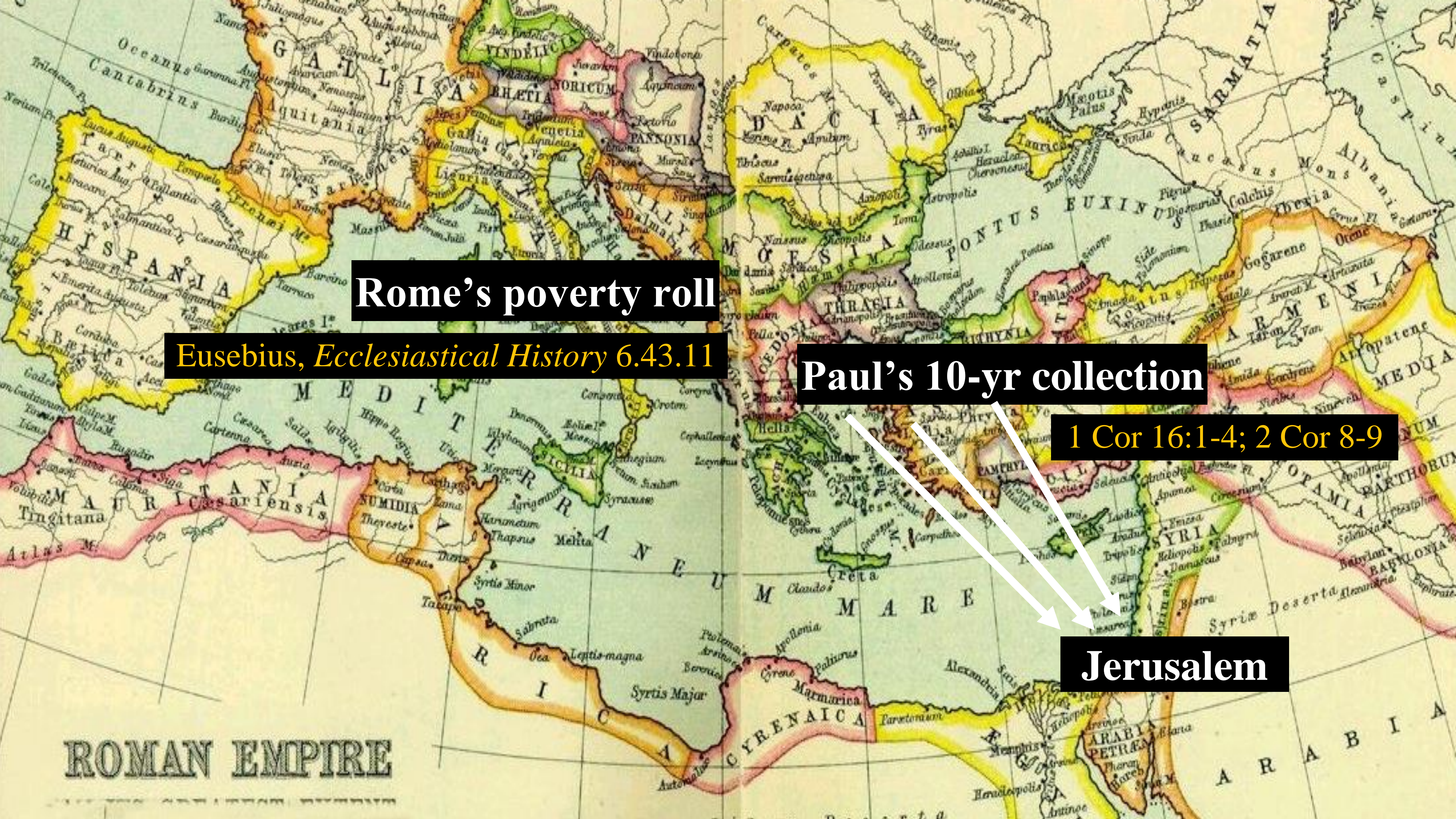


Paul's 10-yr collection

1 Cor 16:1-4; 2 Cor 8-9

Jerusalem

ROMAN EMPIRE



Rome's poverty roll

Eusebius, *Ecclesiastical History* 6.43.11

Paul's 10-yr collection

1 Cor 16:1-4; 2 Cor 8-9

Jerusalem

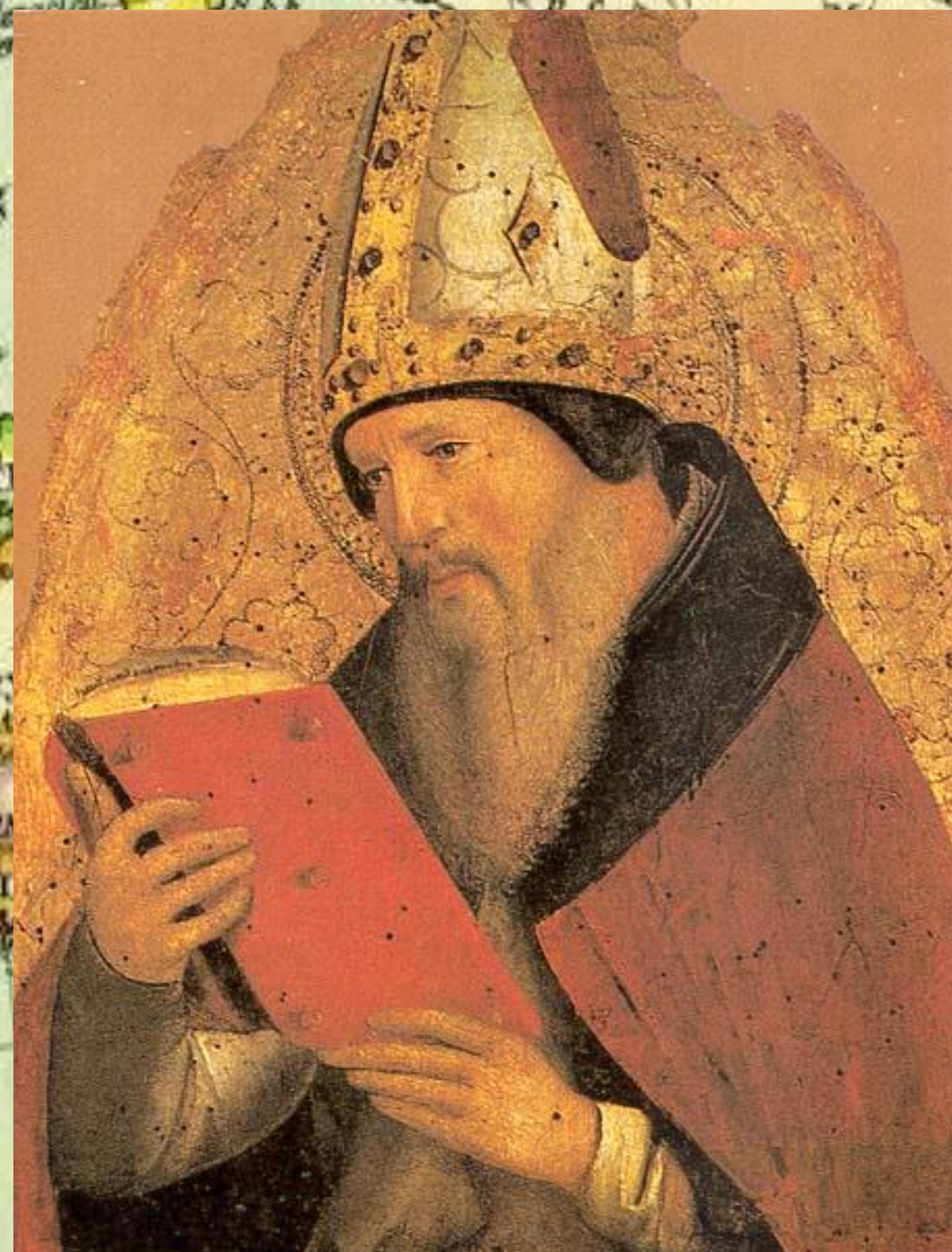


Eligius of Nth France
AD 600s

Dado, Vita Eligii 1-2



Freeing slaves



Augustine of Hippo
AD 400s

Augustine, Letter 10, To Alypius*

ROMAN EMPIRE



**Fabiola of Rome
(died AD 399)**

**Jerome, "On the Death of
Fabiola," Letter 77.6**

First public hospitals



**Basil of Caesarea
(died AD 379)**

**Gregory of Nazianzus, "Funeral
Oration on Basil the Great"**

Birth of public education

Einhard, *Life of Charles the Great (Vita Karoli Magni)*, 25; Alcuini Epistolae. Patrologia Latina, ed. Migne. Vol. C.



Alcuin of York
(AD 735–804)

ROMAN EMPIRE

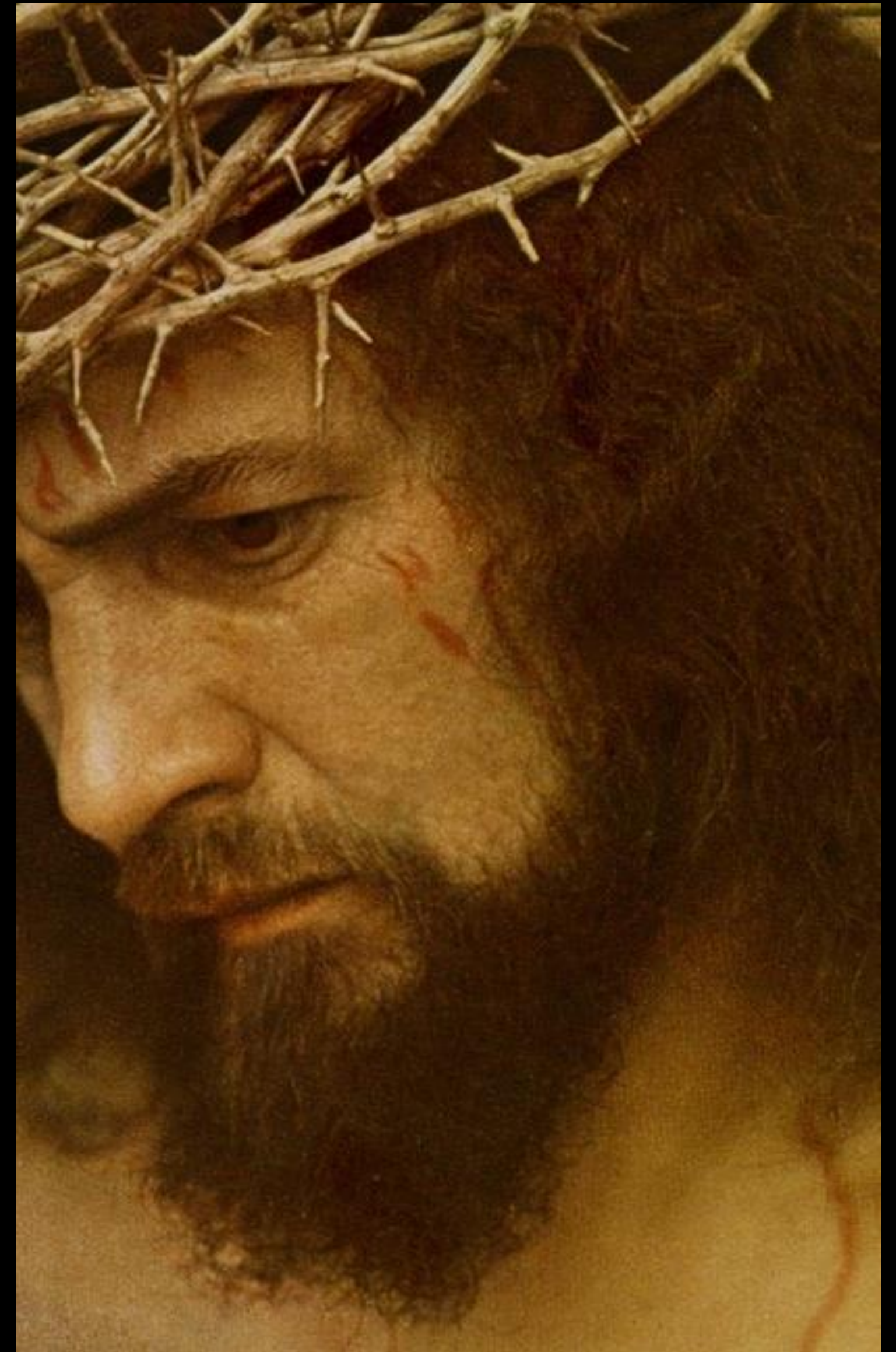


J. S. Bach
Cello Suites

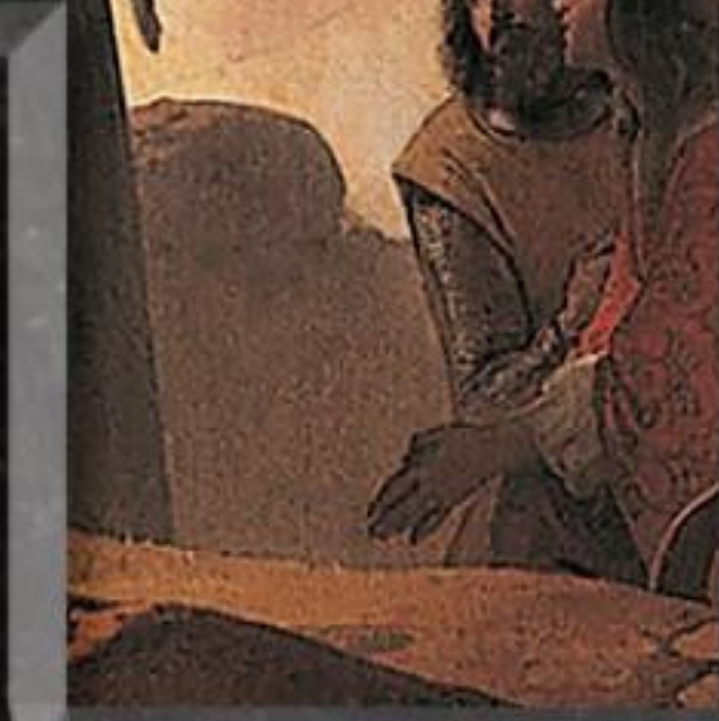


“Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. If someone slaps you on one cheek, turn to them the other also. Do to others as you would have them do to you. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.”

Luke 6:27-31



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A Threefold Approach