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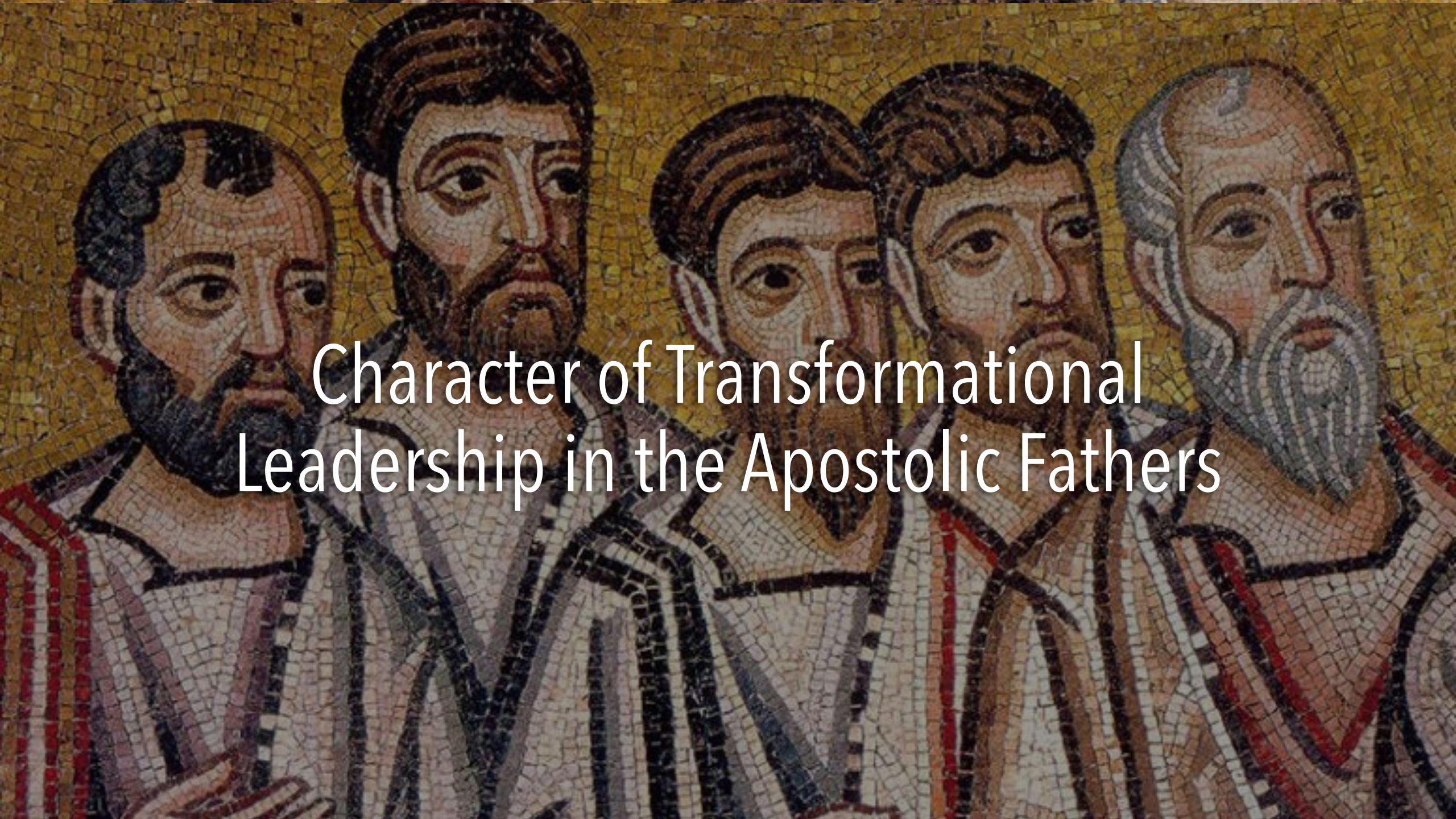
Conferences and Lectures

10-25-2022

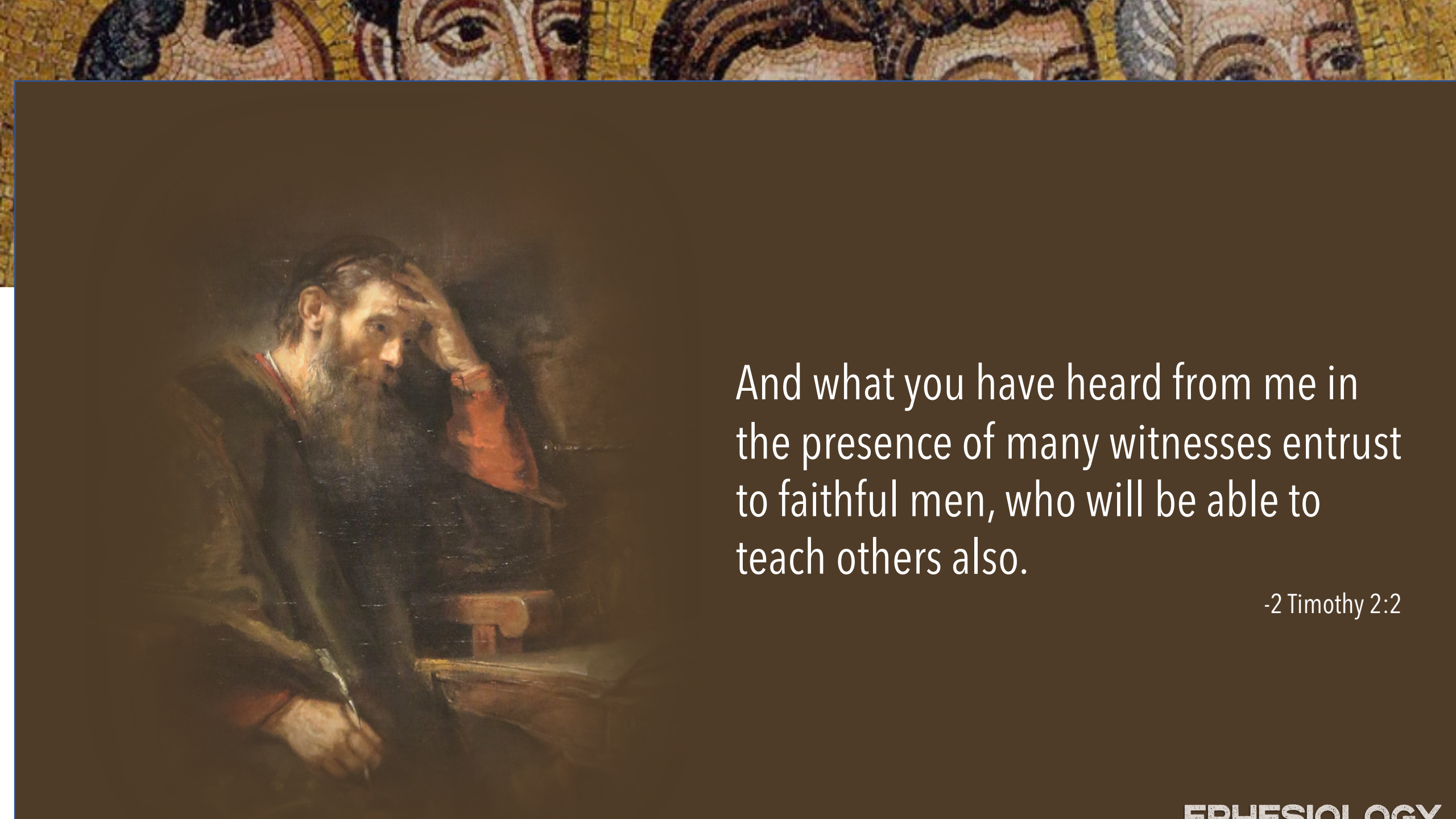
Character of Transformational Leadership in the Apostolic Fathers

Michael T. Cooper

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A mosaic depicting five men, likely the Apostolic Fathers, with beards and long hair, wearing robes. The background is a golden mosaic. The text is overlaid in the center.

Character of Transformational Leadership in the Apostolic Fathers



And what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.

-2 Timothy 2:2

The Apostolic Fathers



- The Disciples of the Apostles
 - Clement and the Romans leaders
 - Ignatius of Antioch
 - Polycarp of Smyrna
- Apostolic Fathers
 - Barnabas, Diognetus, Didache, 2 Clement
 - Hermas, Fragments of Papias

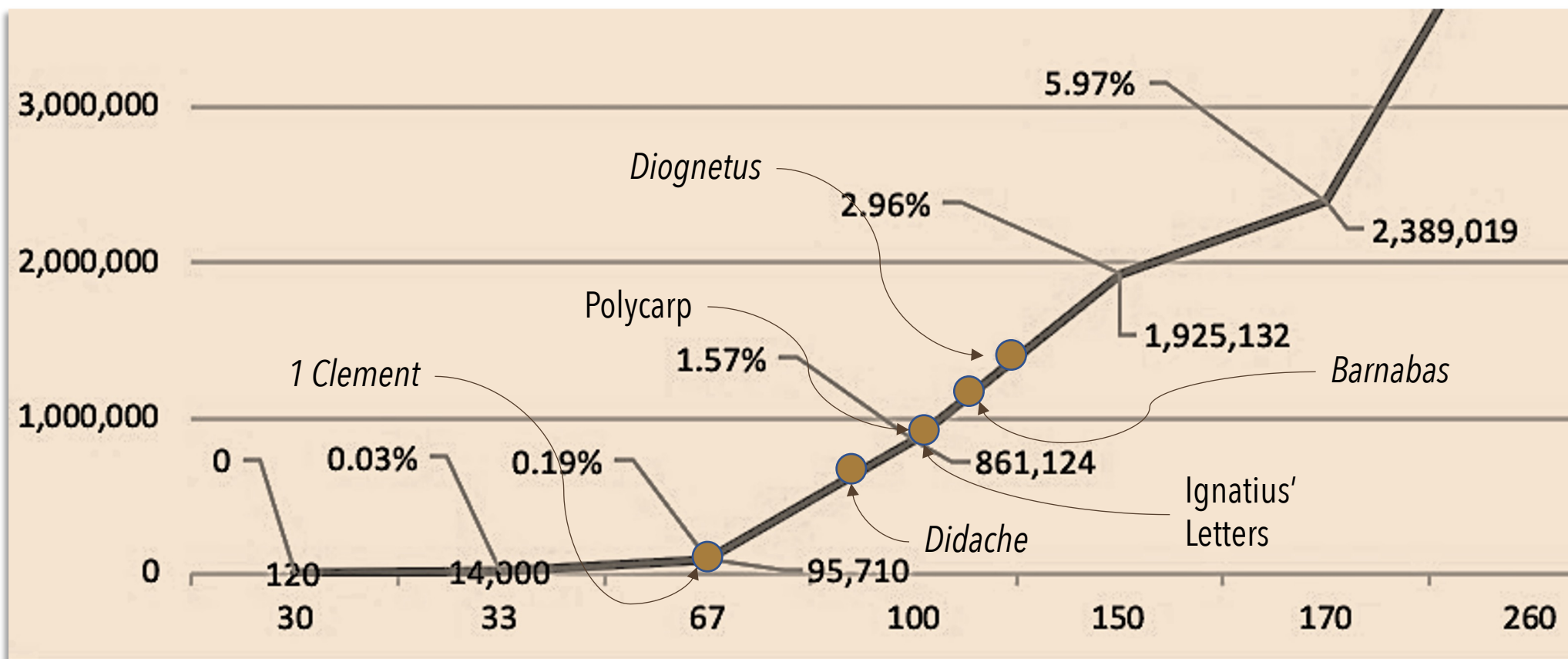
Geographical Breadth of the Apostolic Fathers



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Growth of Early Christianity





The Apostolic Fathers

- Background

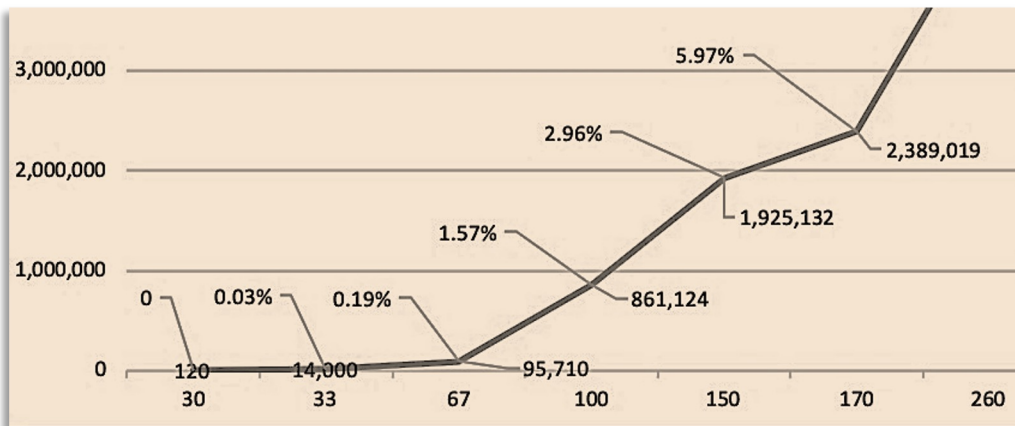
- Christological Heresies
- Divisions and Leadership
- Defense of the Faith

- The Disciples of the Apostles

- Clement and the Romans leaders
- Ignatius of Antioch
- Polycarp of Smyrna

- Apostolic Fathers

- Barnabas, Diognetus, Didache, 2 Clement
- Hermas, Fragments of Papias



A mosaic depicting five men, likely the Apostles, with various hairstyles and beards, set against a golden background. A semi-transparent dark grey box is overlaid on the center, containing a quote. A small brown circle with white quotation marks is positioned above the text.

”

The Apostolic Fathers provide a thread of continuity in ministry and theology between the time of Jesus' disciples and the second century. What we observe in them is a faithful application of the Apostolic Tradition.

A mosaic depicting five men's faces, likely the Apostles, arranged in a row. The style is traditional, with visible mosaic tiles and a golden background. The men have various features like beards and hair, and are looking slightly to the right.

Spiritual Friends

- Hermeneutical Community
- Being disciples of Apostolic Fathers
- Imitate our leaders and spiritual friends



So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. Give no offense to Jews or to Greeks or to the church of God, just as I try to please everyone in everything I do, not seeking my own advantage, but that of many, that they may be saved. Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.

-1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1

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But not only dwelling on ancient examples, let's talk about the most recent spiritual heroes. Let's take the beautiful examples from our own generation.

-1 Clement 5a

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Let us be imitators also of those who in
goat-skins and sheep-skins went about
proclaiming the coming of Christ.

-1 Clement 17

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A stylized illustration of St. Ignace of Loyola, a Jesuit saint. He is depicted from the chest up, wearing a white cassock with a large black cross on the front. He has a long, flowing white beard and hair, and a halo around his head. The background is a warm, golden-brown color.

I received, therefore, your whole congregation in the name of God through Onesimus, a man of inexpressible love and your bishop in the flesh. I implore you by Jesus Christ to love like him and seek to be like him.

-Ignatius, To the Ephesians 1

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A mosaic depicting five men's faces, likely the apostles, with various expressions and beards, set against a golden background.

Character of a Transformational Leader

- Full the Holy Spirit



At the same time, a full outpouring of the Holy Spirit was on each of you.

-1 Clement 59.4

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A mosaic depicting five men's faces, likely the apostles, with various expressions and beards, set against a golden background.

Character of a Transformational Leader

- Full the Holy Spirit
- Imitates Christ



And let us seek to be imitators of the Lord even though unjustly treated, even destitute, and more condemned, so that no weed of the Devil may be found in you. Instead, you must remain in all holiness and seriousness in Jesus Christ, both with respect to the flesh and spirit.

-Ignatius of Antioch, *To the Ephesians* 10a

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Let us then be imitators of [Christ's] patience. And if we suffer for His name's sake, let us glorify Him. For He has set us this example in Himself, and we have believed that such is the case.

-Polycarp, *To the Philippians* 8

A mosaic depicting five men's faces, likely the apostles, with various expressions and beards, set against a golden background.

Character of a Transformational Leader

- Full the Holy Spirit
- Imitates Christ
- Bears the fruit of a Christian



The tree is made manifest by its fruit, so those who profess themselves to be Christians will be recognized by their conduct.

-Ignatius of Antioch, *To the Ephesians* 14

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A mosaic depicting five men's faces, likely the apostles, with various expressions and beards, set against a golden background.

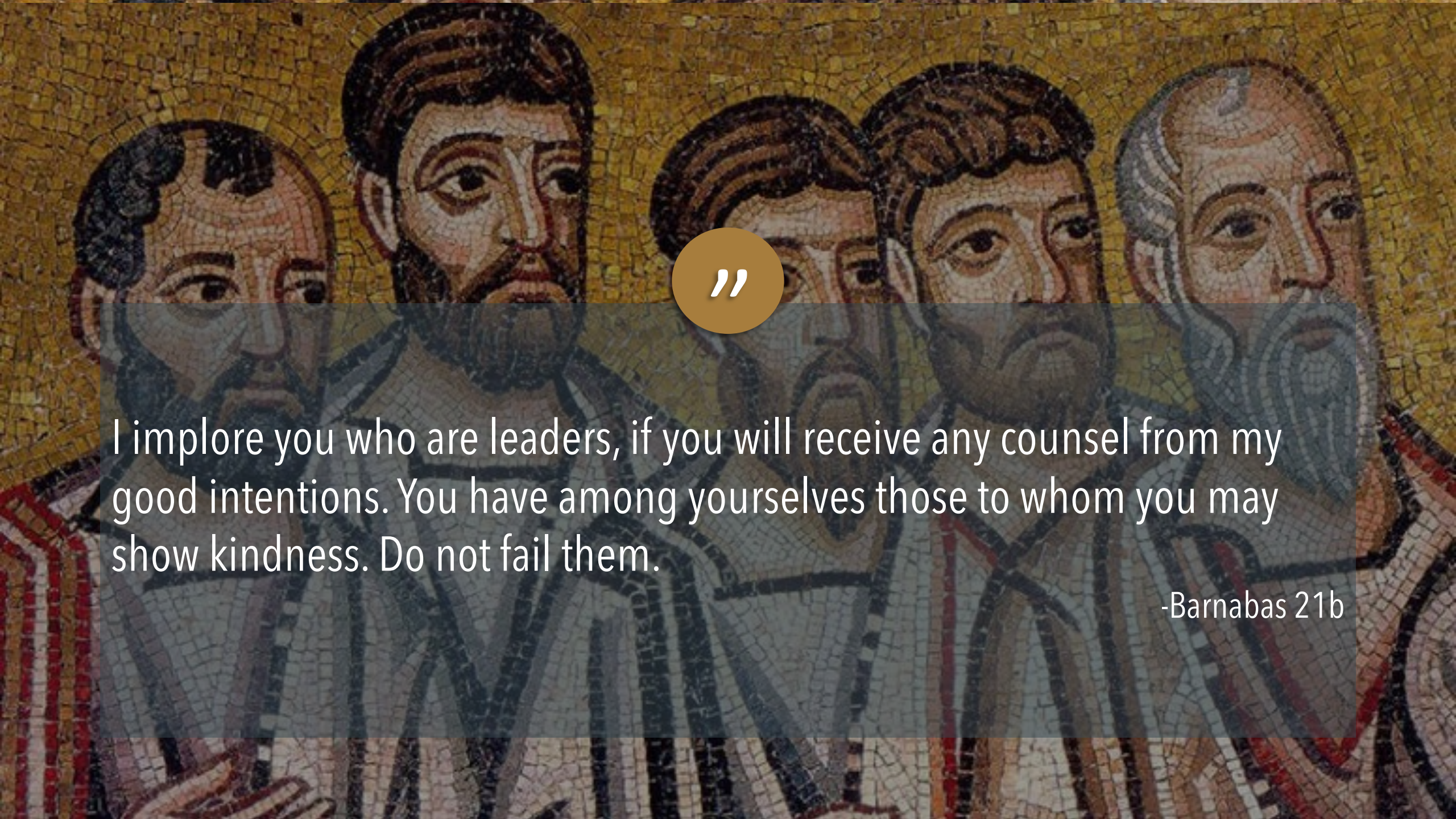
Character of a Transformational Leader

- Full the Holy Spirit
- Imitates Christ
- Bears the fruit of a Christian
- Kind and Compassionate



And let the elders be
compassionate and merciful to all.
They must bring back those that
wander, visit all the sick, and not
neglecting the widow, the orphan,
or the poor. They must always
“provide for that which is
becoming in the sight of God and
man” ...

-Polycarp, *To the Philippians* 6



”

I implore you who are leaders, if you will receive any counsel from my good intentions. You have among yourselves those to whom you may show kindness. Do not fail them.

-Barnabas 21b

A mosaic artwork featuring five distinct faces of men, likely representing the apostles, rendered in a traditional Byzantine style with gold leaf backgrounds. The faces are arranged horizontally across the top of the slide.

Character of a Transformational Leader

- Full the Holy Spirit
- Imitates Christ
- Bears the fruit of a Christian
- Kind and Compassionate
- Meek



I am struck with admiration for [the bishop's] meekness and who by his silence is able to accomplish more than those who talk vainly. For he is attuned with the instructions even as the harp is with its strings.

-Ignatius of Antioch, *To the Philadelphians* 1


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Character of a Transformational Leader

- Full the Holy Spirit
- Acts as he speaks
- Imitates Christ
- Bears the fruit of a Christian
- Kind and Compassionate
- Meek

A stylized illustration of Ignatius of Antioch, an elderly man with a long, flowing white beard and hair, wearing a white robe with a dark cross on the chest. He is set against a golden background with a faint halo. The illustration is positioned on the left side of the slide.

It is better to be silent and exist than to speak and not exist. It is good to teach if he who speaks also acts.

-Ignatius of Antioch, *To the Ephesians* 14

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Character of a Transformational Leader

- Full the Holy Spirit
- Imitates Christ
- Bears the fruit of a Christian
- Kind and Compassionate
- Meek
- Acts as he speaks
- Love for all



If you love the good disciples, no thanks are due to you on that account. Rather, seek with gentleness to calm the more troublesome. Every kind of wound is not healed with the same plaster. Ease irritations with gentle applications. In all things be "wise as a serpent and harmless as a dove."

-Polycarp, *To the Philippians* 6


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Character of a Transformational Leader

- Full the Holy Spirit
- Imitates Christ
- Bears the fruit of a Christian
- Kind and Compassionate
- Meek
- Acts as he speaks
- Love for all
- Committed to the unity of the church

A stylized illustration of Ignatius of Antioch, an elderly man with a long, flowing white beard and hair, wearing a white robe with a dark cross on the chest. He is set against a golden background with a faint circular halo behind his head.

Therefore, I performed my role
as one devoted to unity. For
where there is division and
anger, God does not dwell.

-Ignatius of Antioch, *To the Philadelphians* 8a

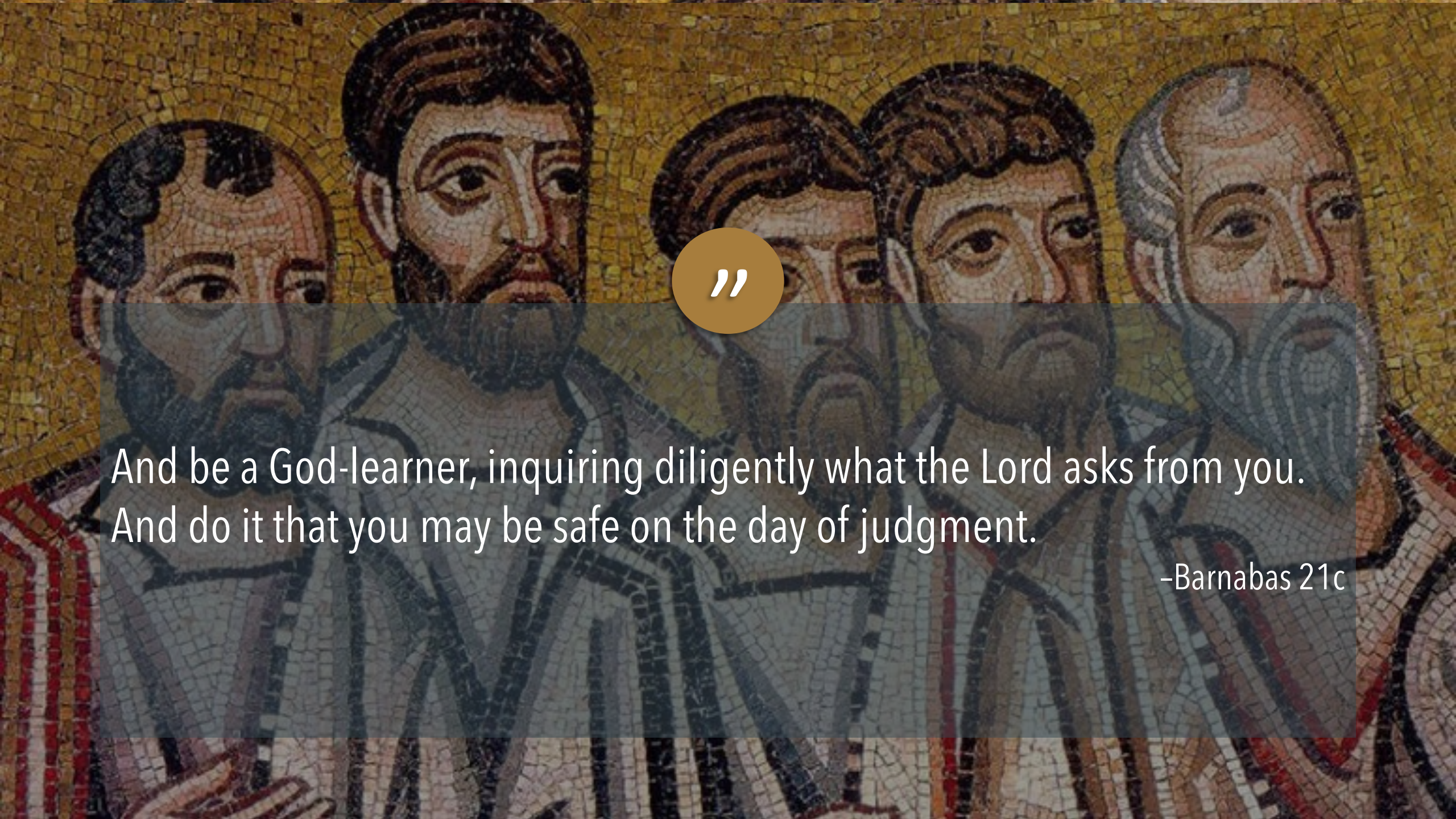
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Character of a Transformational Leader

- Full the Holy Spirit
- Imitates Christ
- Bears the fruit of a Christian
- Kind and Compassionate
- Meek
- Acts as he speaks
- Love for all
- Committed to the unity of the church
- A Student of God



”

And be a God-learner, inquiring diligently what the Lord asks from you.
And do it that you may be safe on the day of judgment.

-Barnabas 21c



Character of a Transformational Leader

- Full the Holy Spirit
- Imitates Christ
- Bears the fruit of a Christian
- Kind and Compassionate
- Meek
- Acts as he speaks
- Love for all
- Committed to the unity of the church
- A Student of God
- Heart for the nations



Let all the nations know you,
that you alone are God, that
Jesus Christ is your child, and
that we are your people and
the sheep of your pasture.

-1 Clement 59.4

A mosaic depicting five men's faces, likely the apostles, with various expressions and features. The title text is overlaid on this image.

Character of a Transformational Leader

- Full the Holy Spirit
- Imitates Christ
- Bears the fruit of a Christian
- Kind and Compassionate
- Meek
- Acts as he speaks
- Love for all
- Committed to the unity of the church
- A Student of God
- Heart for the nations

Discussion

- Which of the 10 leadership characteristics do you find to be the most challenging to implement in your life?
- What would you need to do to work on that characteristic?
- How can spiritual friends help you?

The Practices of the Ancient Church

