

BE DIFFERENT LIVE DIFFERENT

Love Your Enemies Matthew 5:43-48

1. What was their distortion?
 - a. They were _____ God's character.
 - b. They _____ their own superiority.

2. What was Jesus' correction?
 - a. He clarified God's _____.

The _____ love of God refers to
His _____ of love toward all people,
even those who _____ Him.

The _____ love of God refers to
the _____ He has in His people
who _____ Him.

b. He clarified God's _____.

3. What is our motivation?

a. Our _____ as children of the Father.

b. Our desire for Fatherly _____.

**BE DIFFERENT
LIVE DIFFERENT**

Matthew 5-7



ID



Love Your Enemies

Matthew 5:43-47



Matthew 5:43-48

You have heard that it was said,
“You shall love your neighbor, and hate your enemy.”
But I say to you, love your enemies, and pray for those
who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your
Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise
on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the
righteous and the unrighteous.

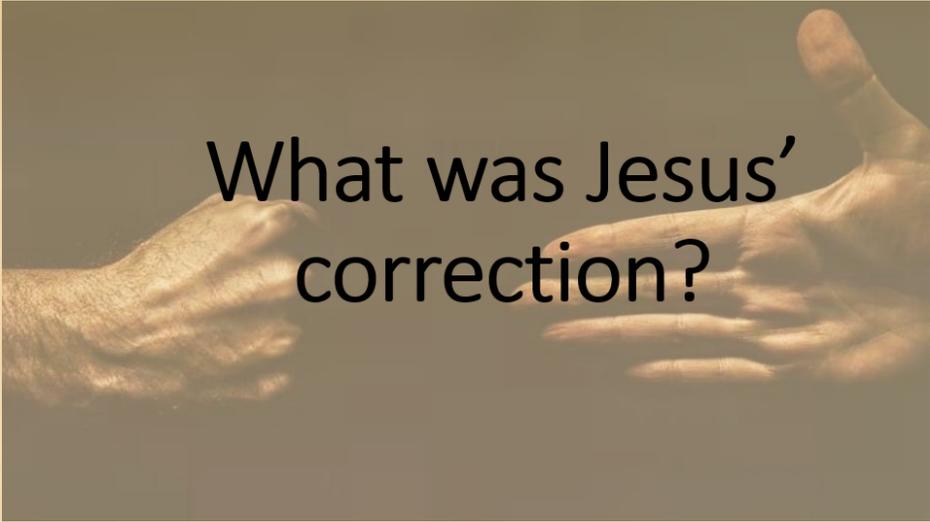
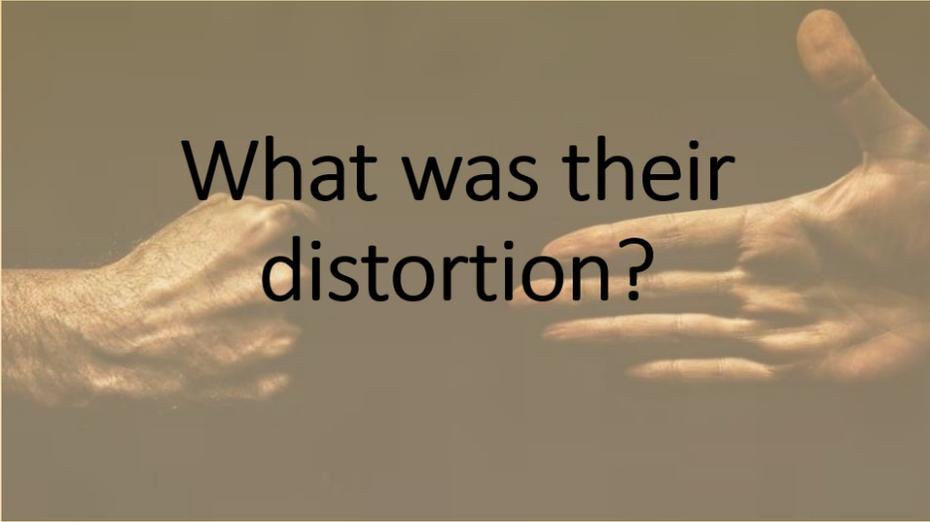
Matthew 5:43-47

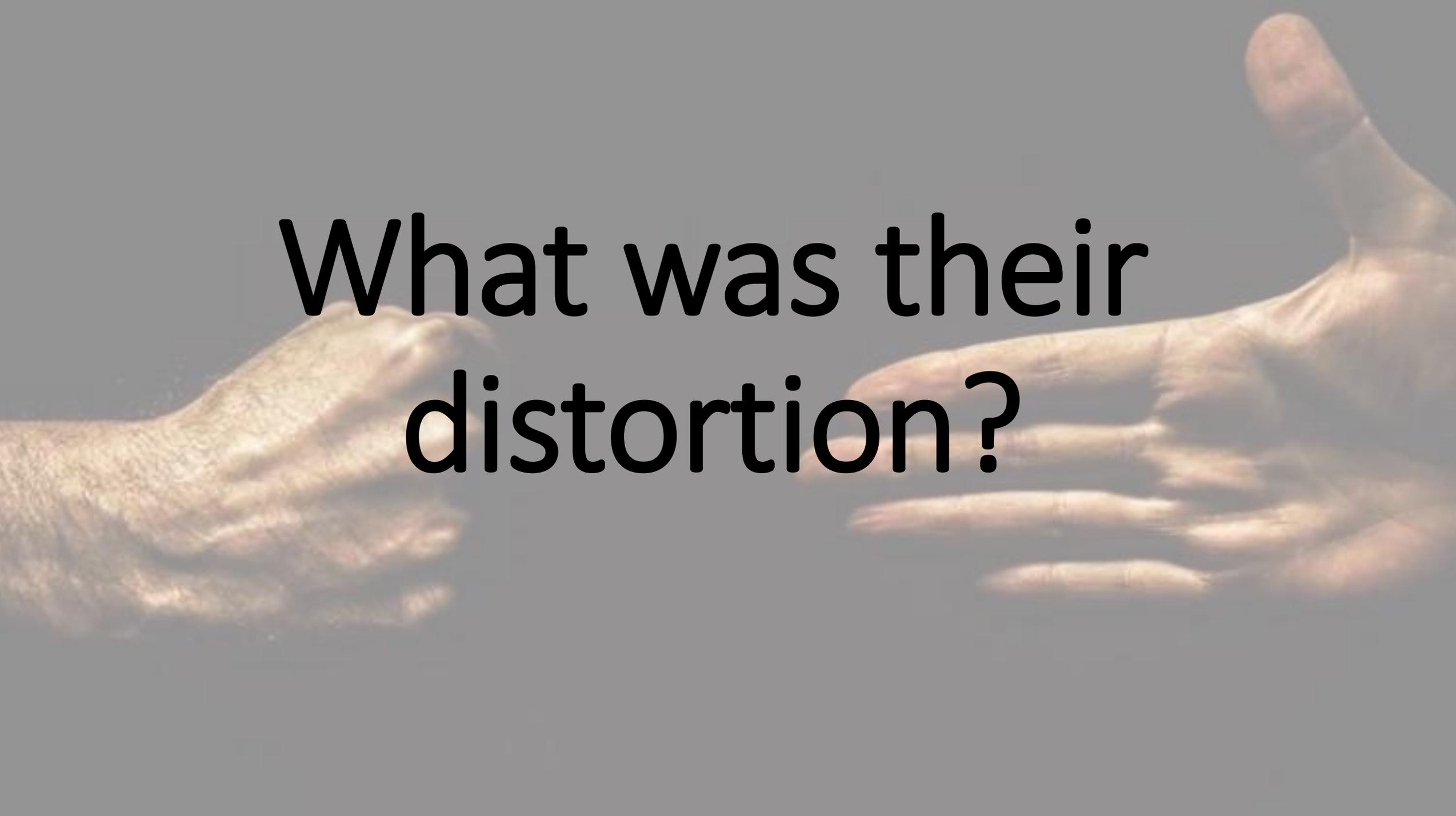
For if you love those who love you,
what reward do you have?

Do not even the tax collectors do the same?

If you greet only your brothers,
what more are you doing?

Do not even the Gentiles do the same?

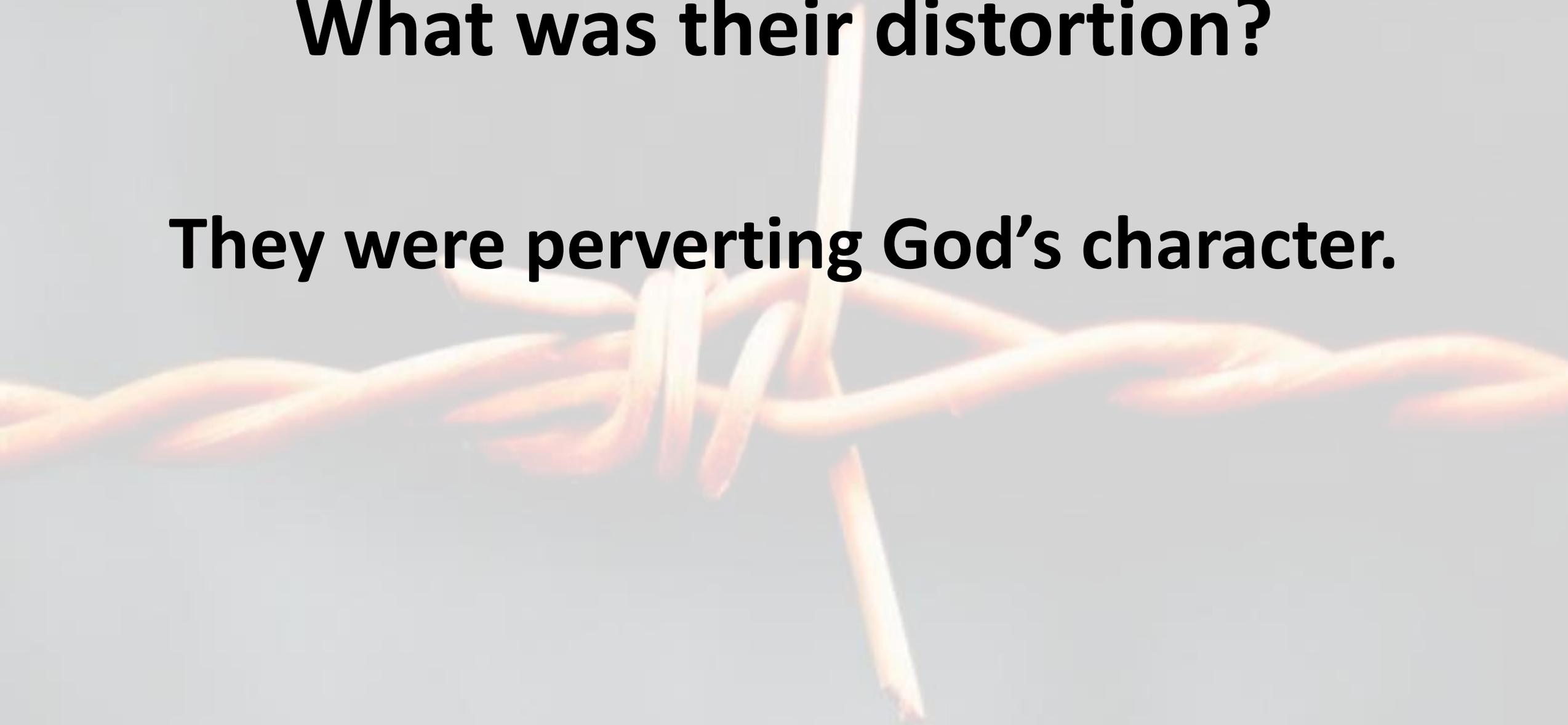


A background image showing two hands, one on the left and one on the right, reaching towards each other. The hands are slightly out of focus, with a soft, warm light illuminating them against a dark, muted blue-grey background. The text is overlaid in the center of the image.

**What was their
distortion?**

What was their distortion?

They were perverting God's character.



Matthew 5:43

You have heard that it was said,
“You shall love your neighbor,
and hate your enemy.”

Leviticus 19:18

You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any
grudge against the sons of your people,
but you shall love your neighbor as yourself;
I am the LORD.

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**Their perversion of God's
character served to justify their
own hatred for everyone not
like themselves.**

What was their distortion?

They were perverting God's character.

They presumed their own superiority.

Matthew 5:43

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“You shall love your neighbor,
and hate your enemy.”

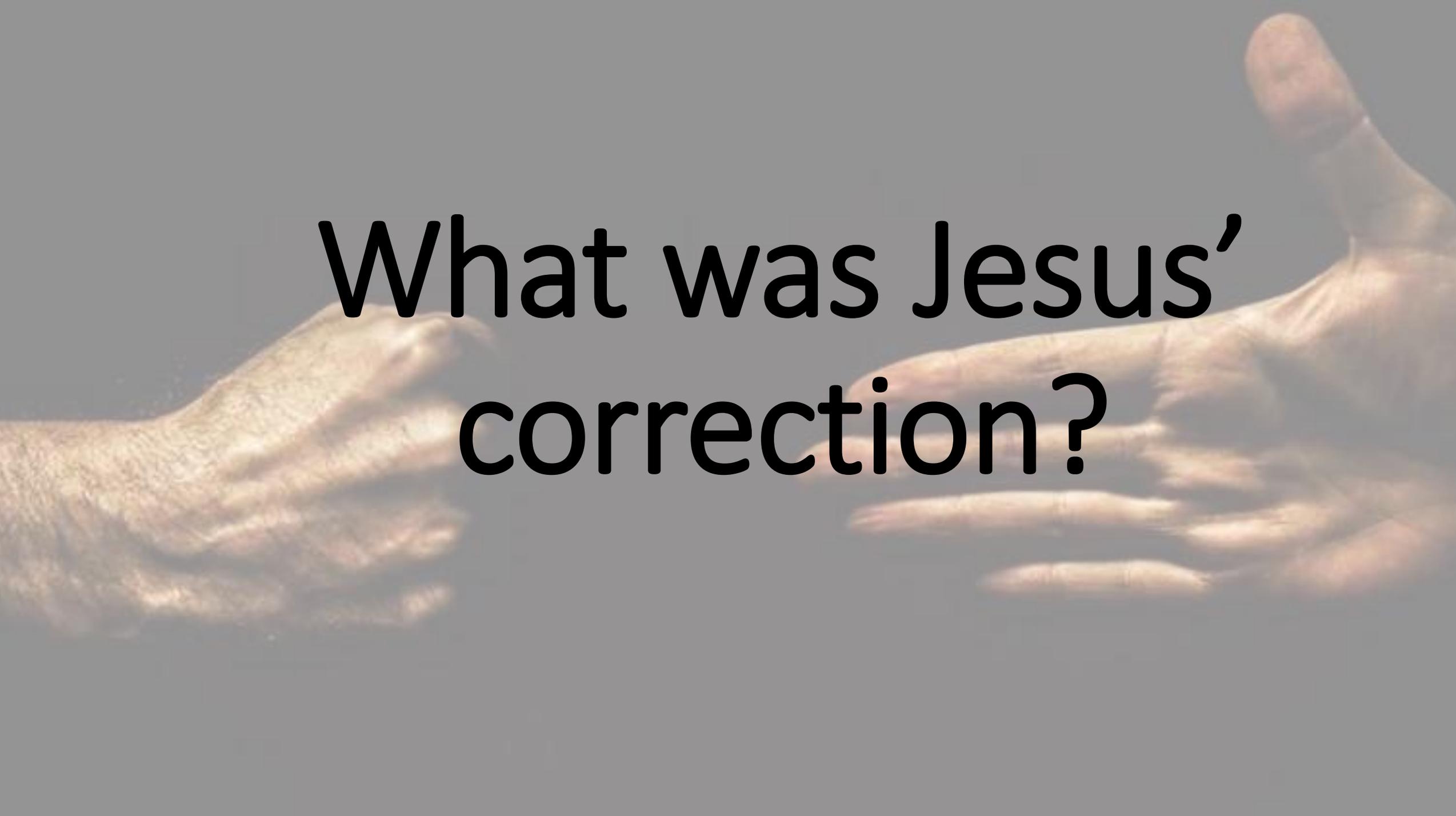
**Their distortion of God's
command stemmed from a
belief that God loved them
because they were special.**

Deuteronomy 7:7-8

Deuteronomy 9:4-5

How might similar distortions be
shaping your attitudes?

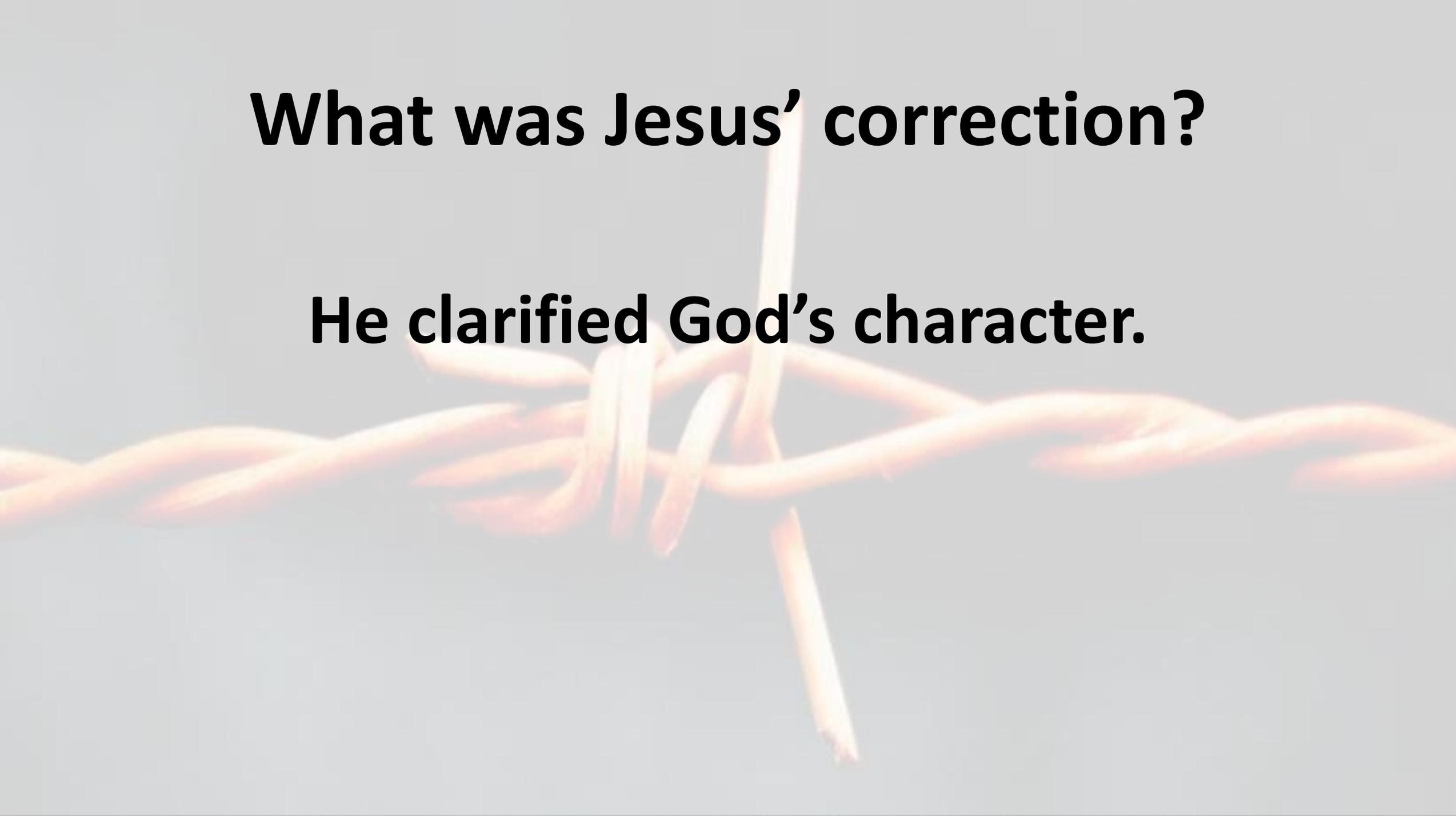
***What you believe about God
and yourself matters!***

A background image showing two hands, one on the left and one on the right, reaching towards each other. The hands are rendered in a soft, golden-brown glow against a dark, muted blue background. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the texture of the skin and the contours of the fingers. The overall mood is one of tension or anticipation.

**What was Jesus'
correction?**

What was Jesus' correction?

He clarified God's character.



Jesus' wants us to distinguish
between the *benevolent* love of God
and the *complacent* love of God.

The ***benevolent*** love of God refers to
His *disposition* of love toward all
people, even those who hate Him.

Matthew 5:44-45

But I say to you, love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.

Matthew 5:44-45

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Father who is in heaven; for **He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good,** and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.

Matthew 5:44-45

But I say to you, love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your

Father who is in heaven; for **He** causes His sun to rise

on the evil and the good, and **sends rain**

on the righteous and the unrighteous.

The ***complacent*** love of God refers to the *delight* He has in His people who by grace obey Him.

Matthew 5:46

For if you love those who love you,
what reward do you have?

Do not even the tax collectors do the same?

Luke 6:35

But love your enemies, and do good,
and lend expecting nothing in return;
and **your reward will be great...**

Jeremiah 32:40-41

And I will make an everlasting covenant with them that I will not turn away from them, to do them good; and I will put the fear of Me in their hearts so that they will not turn away from Me. And I will rejoice over them to do them good, and I will faithfully plant them in this land with all My heart and with all My soul.

What was Jesus' correction?

He clarified God's character.

He clarified God's calling.

Matthew 5:44-45

But I say to you, love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you, **so that you may be sons of your Father** who is in heaven.

You are called to reflect the nature
and character of your Father to a
watching world.

How?

Luke 6:27-28

But I say to you who hear,
love your enemies,
do good to those who hate you,
bless those who curse you,
pray for those who mistreat you.

Luke 6:27-28

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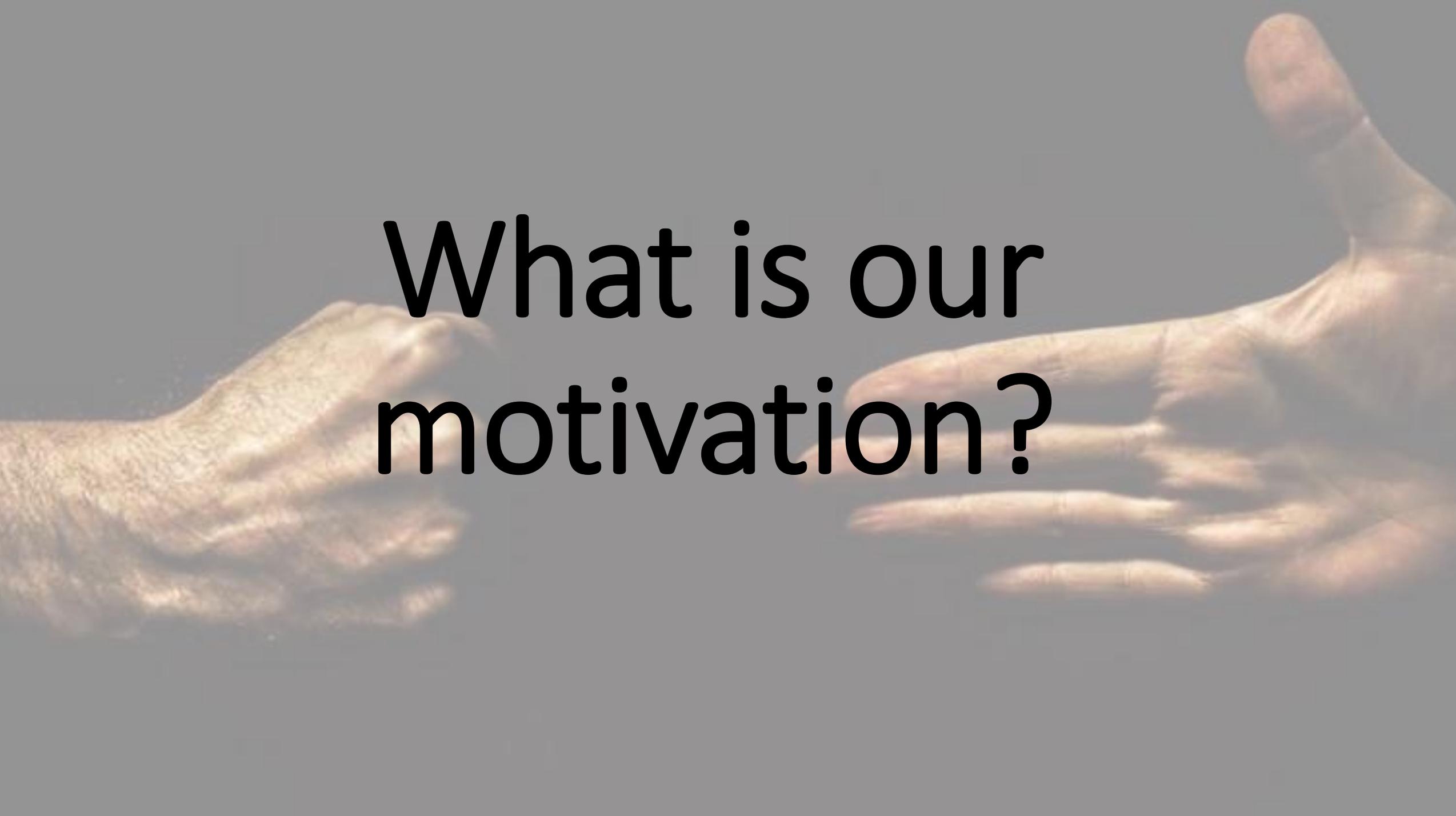
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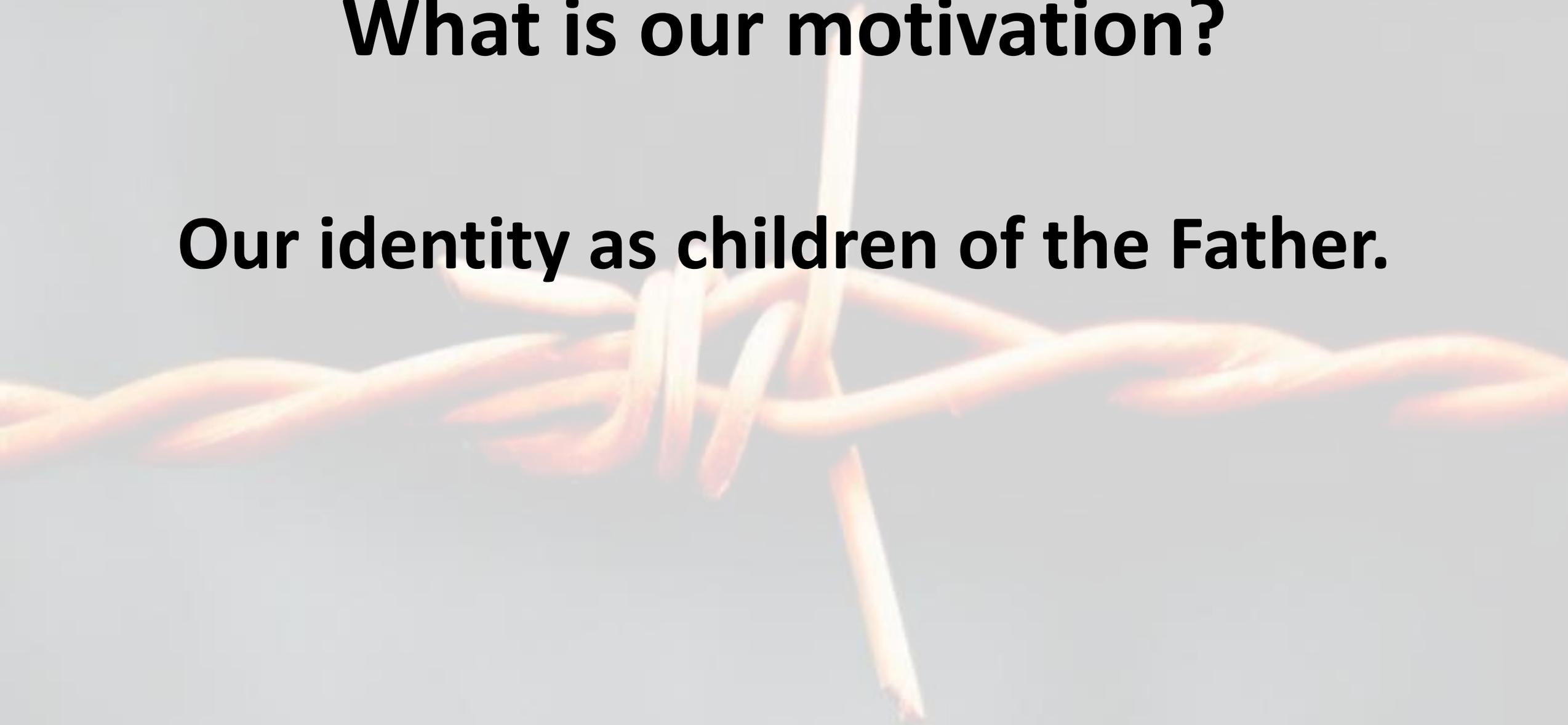
pray for those who mistreat you.

A background image showing two hands, one from the left and one from the right, reaching towards each other. The hands are slightly out of focus, creating a sense of depth. The lighting is soft, highlighting the texture of the skin. The overall tone is warm and hopeful.

**What is our
motivation?**

What is our motivation?

Our identity as children of the Father.



Matthew 5:44-45

But I say to you, love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven.

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who persecute you, **so that you may be sons
of your Father** who is in heaven.

*Sonship communicates identity.
But it also speaks to a change
of nature and a reorientation
of affections.*

1 John 4:7-8

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God;
and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.
The one who does not love does not know God,
for God is love.

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Our desire for Fatherly approval.

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The reward is the approval we receive from the Father when He affirms that we are His and that He is pleased with us.

1 Corinthians 4:5

Therefore do not go on passing judgment before the time, but wait until the Lord comes who will both bring to light the things hidden in the darkness and disclose the motives of men's hearts; and then each man's praise will come to him from God.

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and then **each man's praise will come to him from God.**

*Will you let the character of
your Father shape the
character of your heart?*