



When there is no good choice - facing moral dilemmas

A person is walking away from the camera on a moving walkway in a modern, brightly lit transit station. The walkway is flanked by glass railings and the walls are covered in large, abstract murals. The lighting is warm and the overall atmosphere is clean and contemporary.

Christianity Everyday Online
CHRISTIAN THINKING ABOUT COVID & ITS IMPACT

moral dilemmas



moral dilemmas



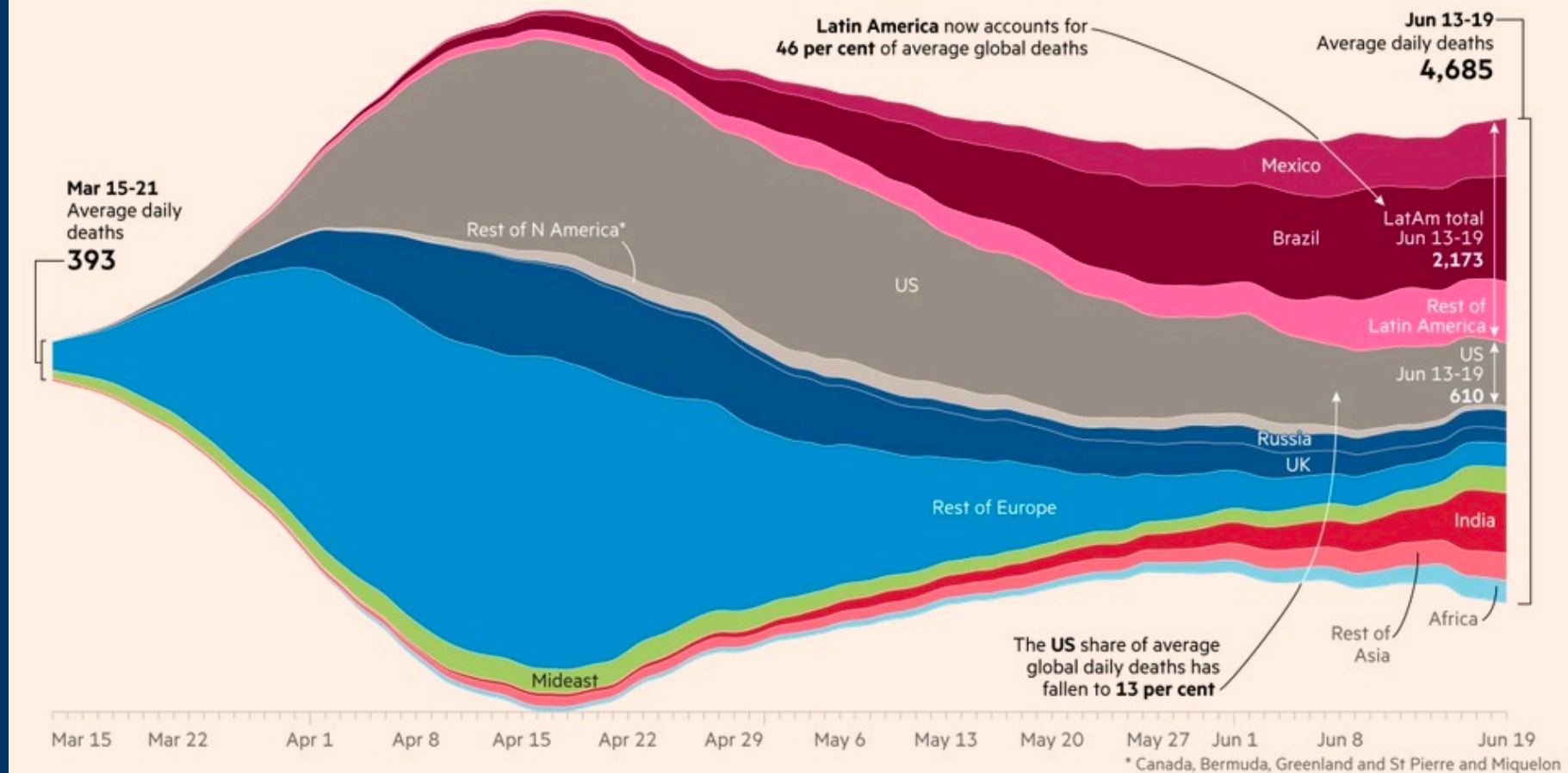
Dr. L: "We have to decide who must die and whom we shall keep alive."

Lisa Rosenbaum: all the physicians she interviewed "seemed exquisitely uncomfortable when asked to describe how these rationing decisions were being made. My questions were met with silence"

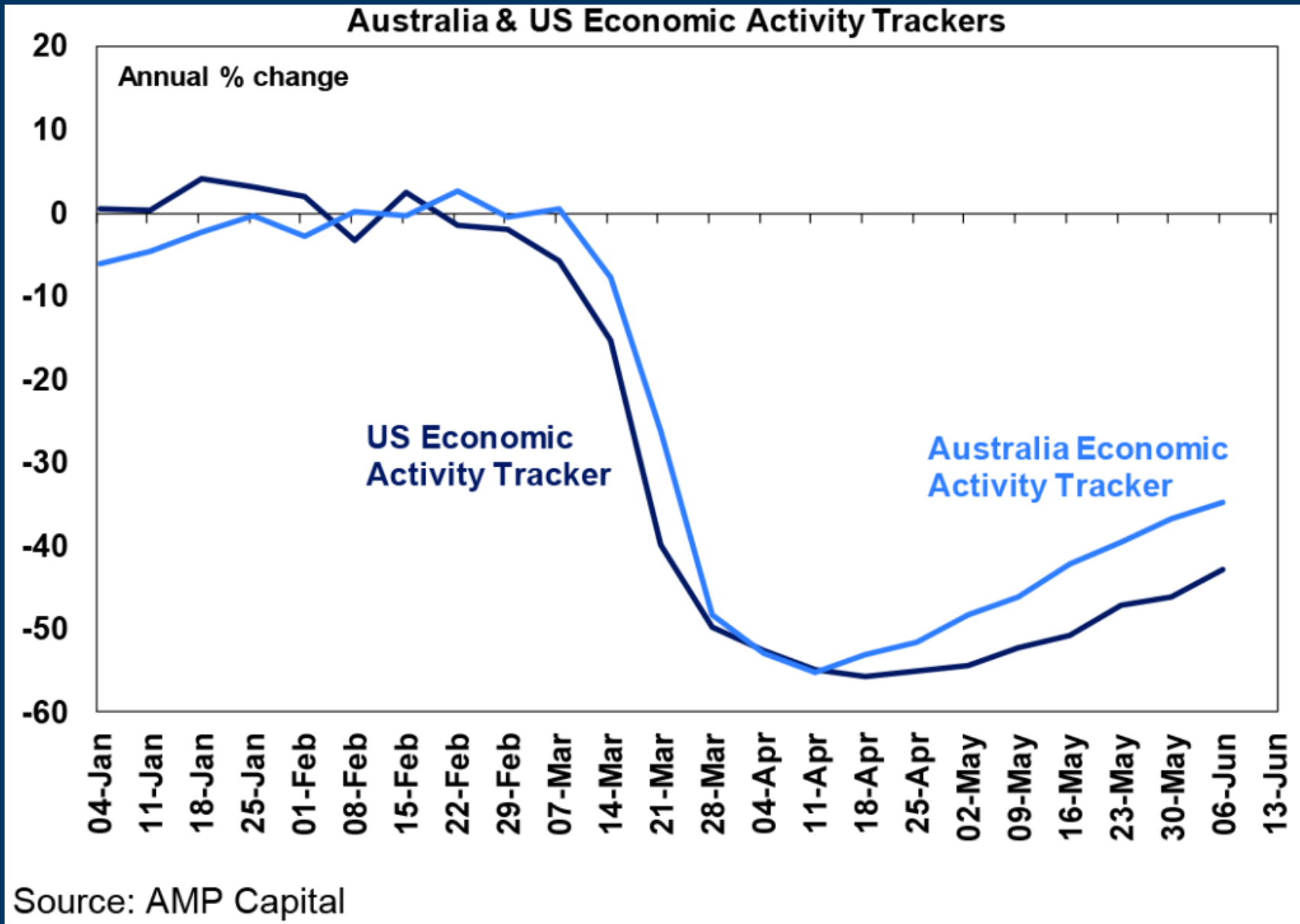
Lisa Rosenbaum, "Facing Covid-19 in Italy — Ethics, Logistics, and Therapeutics on the Epidemic's Front Line" *N Engl J Med* (March 18, 2020)

moral dilemmas

Daily deaths of patients diagnosed with coronavirus (7-day rolling average)



moral dilemmas

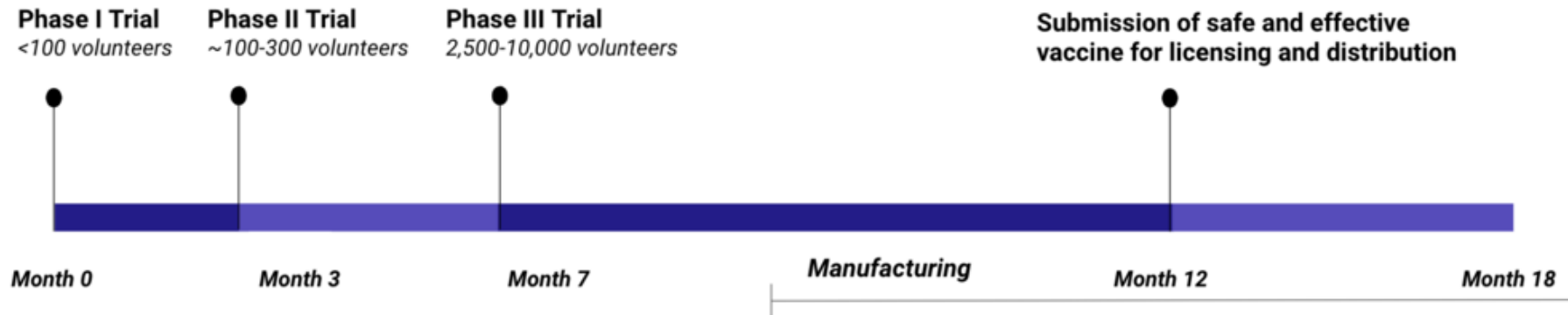


moral dilemmas



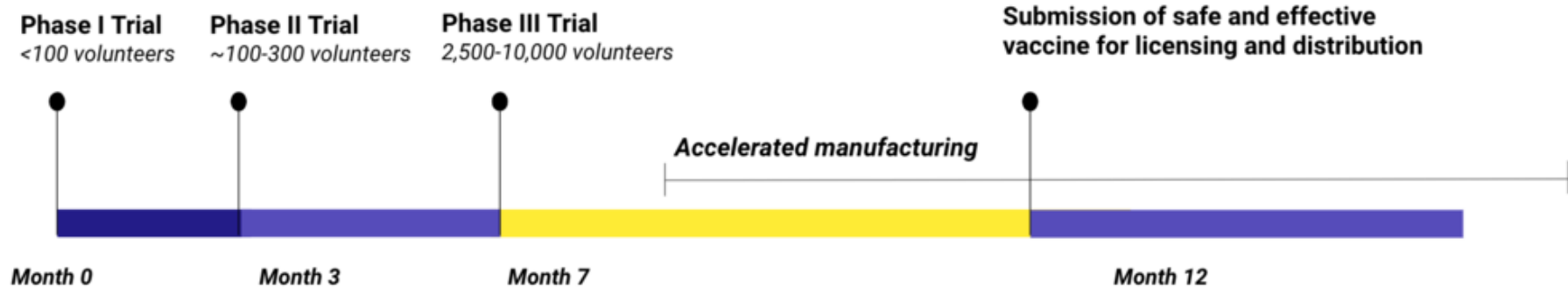
moral dilemmas

Without Challenge Trial



Using a COVID-19 Challenge Trial

As vaccine trial timing is highly variable and uncertain, this is an idealized approximation



Preparation of Challenge System

Develop good manufacturing practices and conduct dose escalation study

COVID-19 Challenge Trial

to assess efficacy

moral dilemmas

“The situation has all the earmarks of a quintessential ethical dilemma: Is it permissible to intentionally inflict serious harm on a few for a possible benefit to many?”.

“a rush to begin human challenge vaccine trials for a grave disease lacking an effective treatment is ethically unjustifiable”

moral dilemmas

COVID-19

**> HELPING BUSINESS GET
BACK TO WORK**



16 June 2020

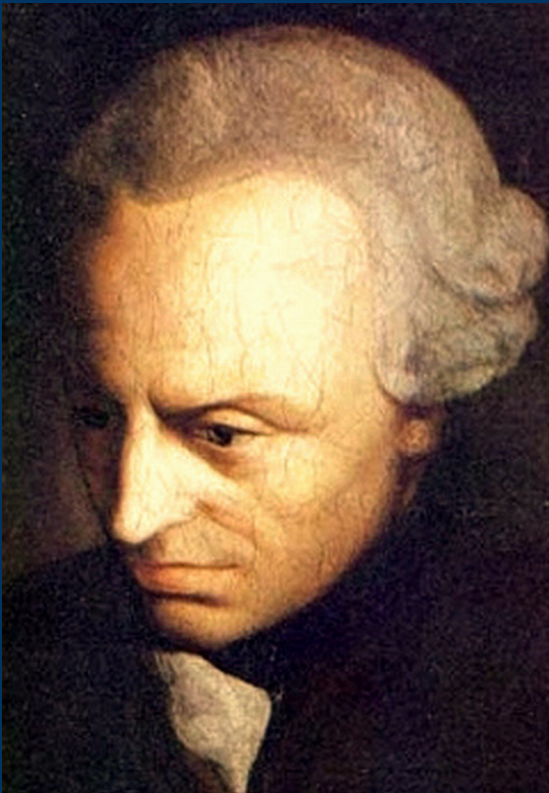
COVID-19 Safety Plan

Places of worship

We've developed this COVID-19 Safety Plan to help you create and maintain a safe environment for you, your workers and your congregants.

Is there always a good choice?

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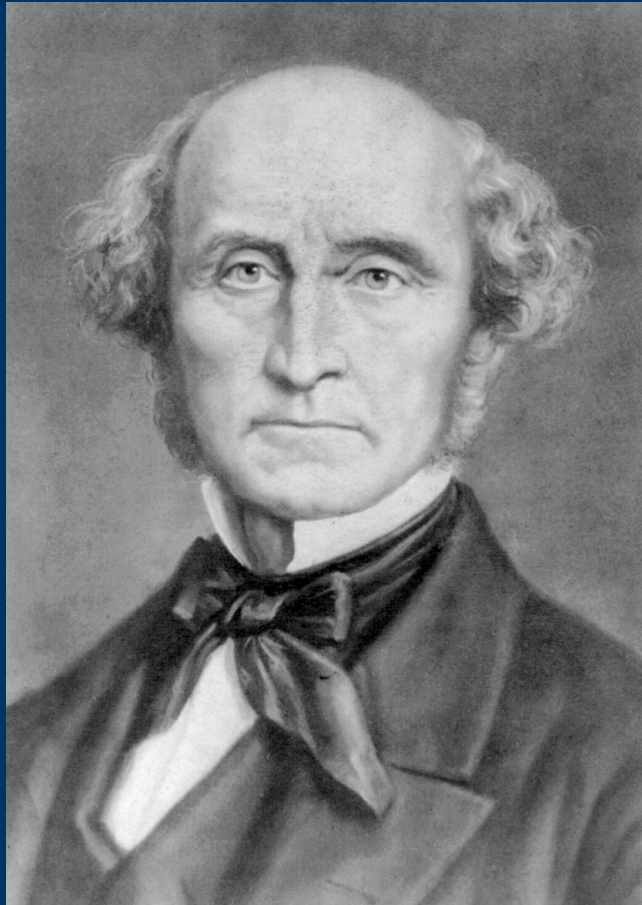


“two rules opposed to each other cannot both be necessary at the same time – rather if it is one’s duty to act according to one of them, to act according to the opposite one is not only no duty, but even contrary to duty — a collision of duties and obligations is not even conceivable”

Metaphysics of Morals VI 224.9–26

Immanuel Kant (1724-1804)

Is there always a good choice?



"actions are right in proportion as they tend to promote happiness, wrong as they tend to produce the reverse of happiness"

happiness is "pleasure, and the absence of pain"

Utilitarianism, X: 210

John Stuart Mill (1806–73)

Is there always a good choice?

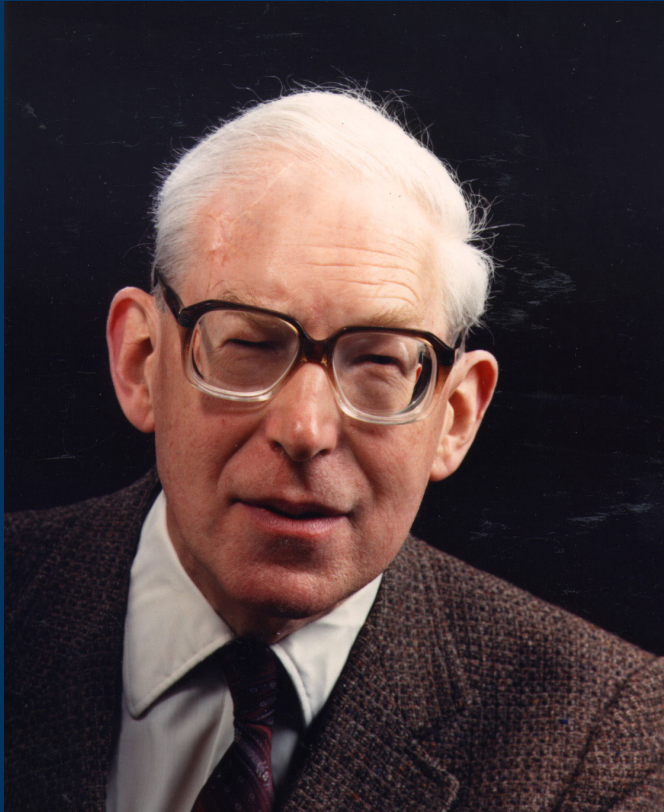
Graded absolutism



- All moral precepts are always absolute.
- All moral conflicts are only apparent.
- It is always possible to do right, or to avoid doing something that is wrong.

Norman Geisler (1932–2019)

Is there always a good choice?

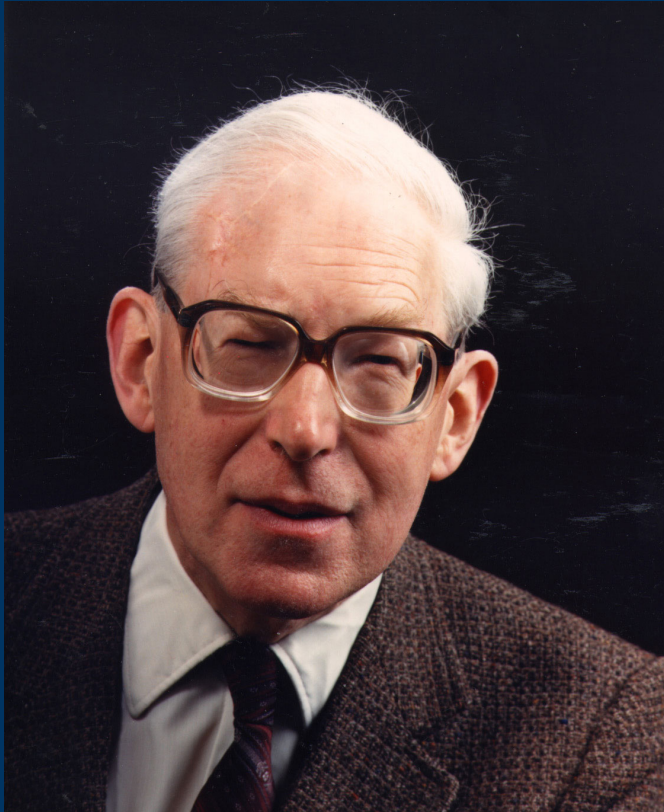


J.I. Packer (b.1926)

“Love’s task ... is to find how to do the most good, and the least evil ... love for persons must arbitrate between the conflicting claims of moral principles.”

“Doctrinaire decisions in such cases will not make the best of the bad job ... unwillingness to face the situation’s full complexities, and insensitivity to the variety of rules and claims that apply, will lead straight into ironclad Pharisaic legalism.”

Is there always a good choice?



“We shall insist that evil remains evil, even when, being the lesser evil, it appears the right thing to do; we shall do it with heavy heart, and seek God’s cleansing of our conscience for having done it.”

J.I. Packer (b.1926)

God's promised help

"If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you" James 1:5

"Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God — this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is — his good, pleasing and perfect will." Romans 12:1-2

Framework

"If you love me, keep my commands. ... Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me." (John 14:15, 21).

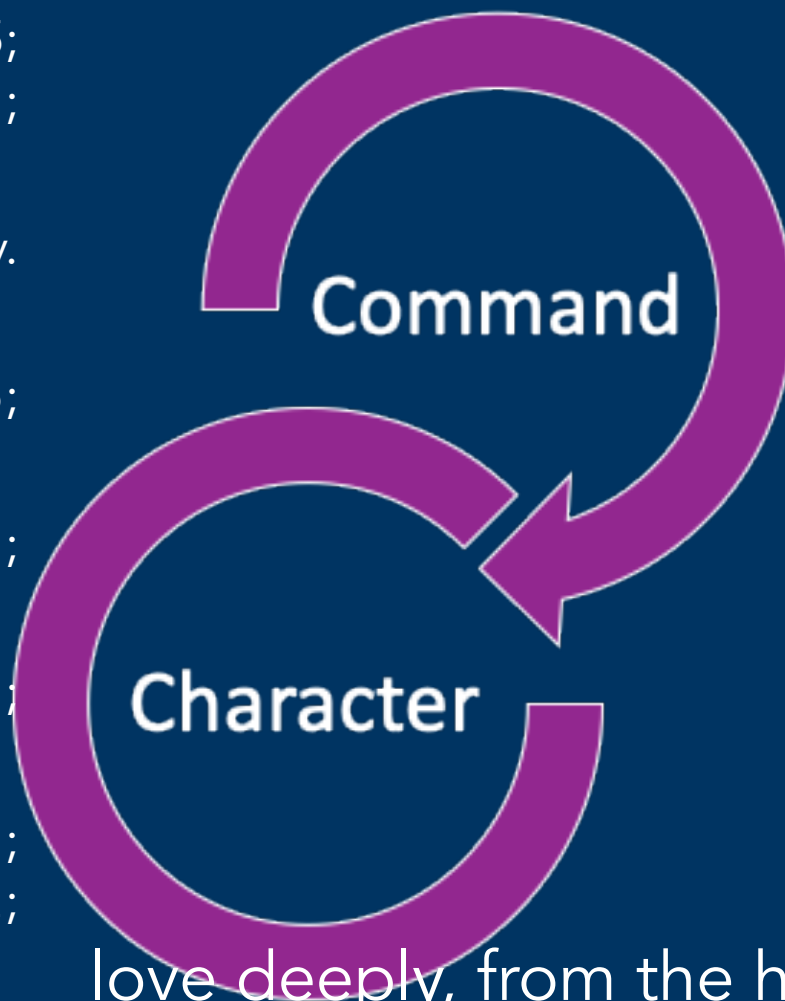


"Do not steal" (Ex 20:15)

"Love our enemies" (Matt. 5:44; Luke 6:27, 3).

Wisdom from the fear the Lord (Prov 1:7) leads people to do what is “right and just and fair” (Prov 1:3; 2:9).

- honest (Prov. 12:17; 14:5; 16:11, 13; 17:26; 22:21; 24:26)
- loving and faithful (Prov. 3:3; 14:22; 16:6; 20:28)
- generous (Prov. 11:25; 22:9)
- humble (Prov. 11:2; 15:33; 18:12; 22:4)
- diligent (Prov. 10:4; 12:24, 27; 13:4; 21:5),
- discretion (Prov. 1:4; 2:11; 3:21; 5:2; 8:12; 11:22)
- promote peace (Prov 12:20)



thankfulness, generosity, honesty, self-control, patience, kindness, joy, peace, faithfulness, gentleness, compassion, humility, endurance, submission, mercy, impartiality, sincerity

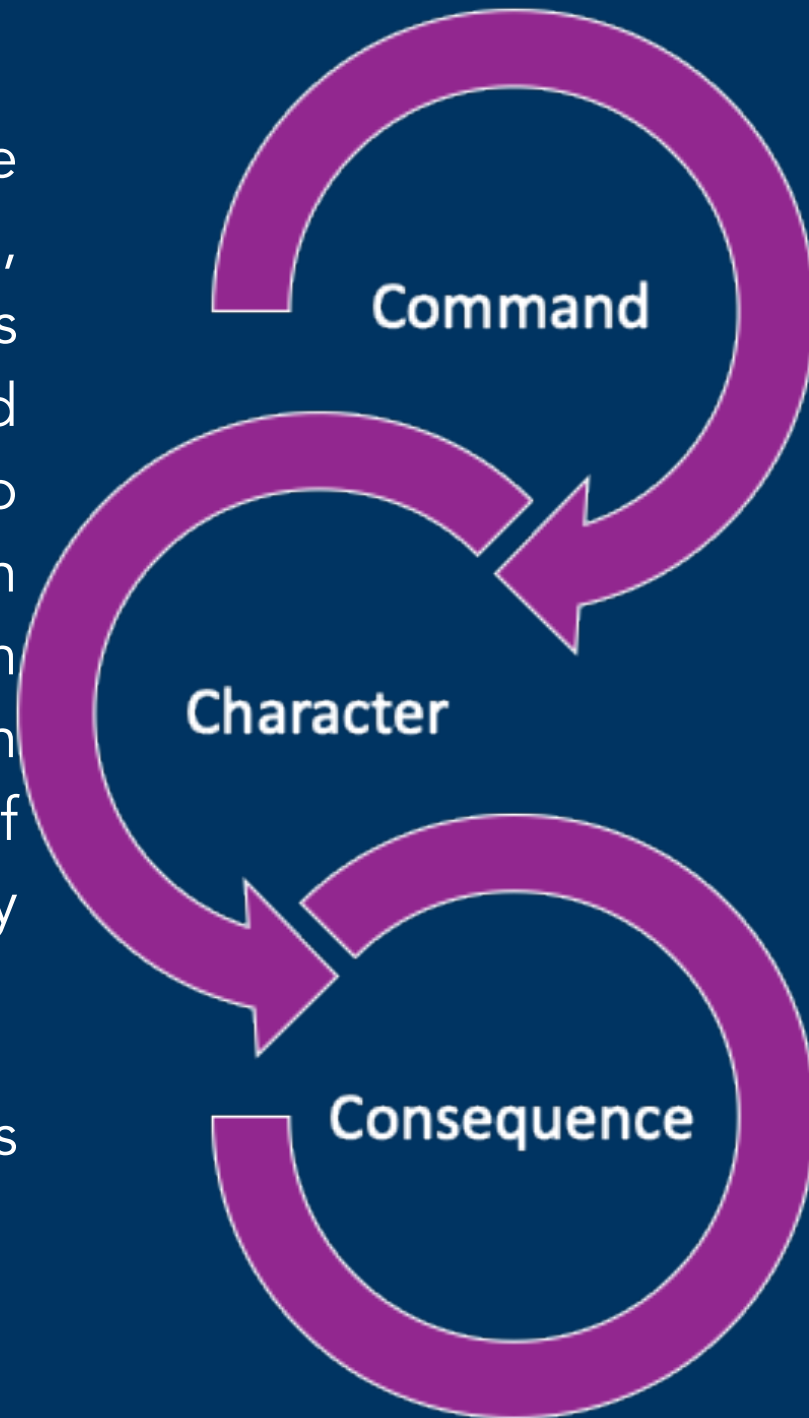
love deeply, from the heart (1Peter 1:22)

fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:22-23)

life of love (1 Cor 13:4-7)

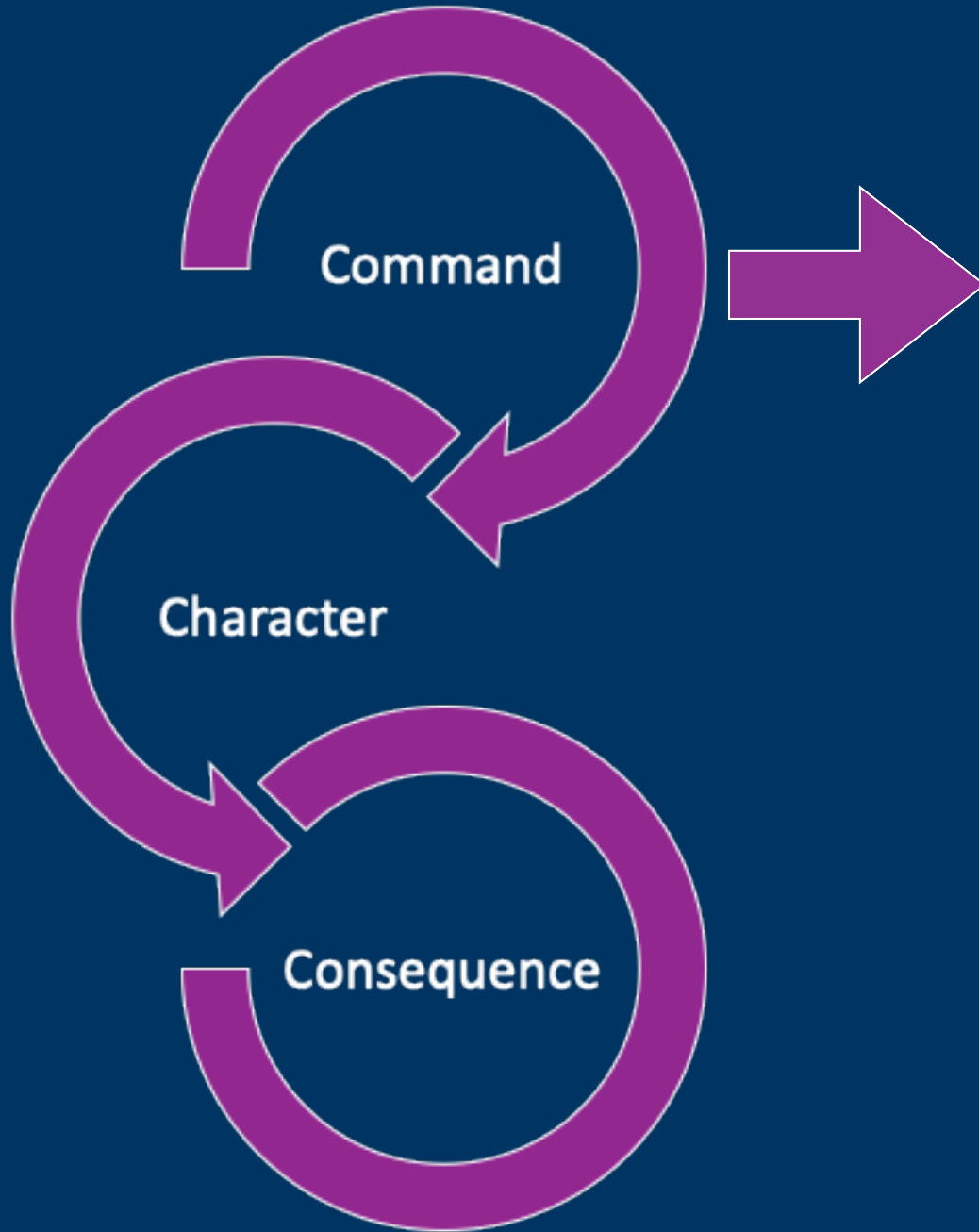
“ Do not cause anyone to stumble, whether Jews, Greeks or the church of God — even as I try to please everyone in every way. For I am not seeking my own good but the good of many, so that they may be saved”

1 Corinthians
10:31-32



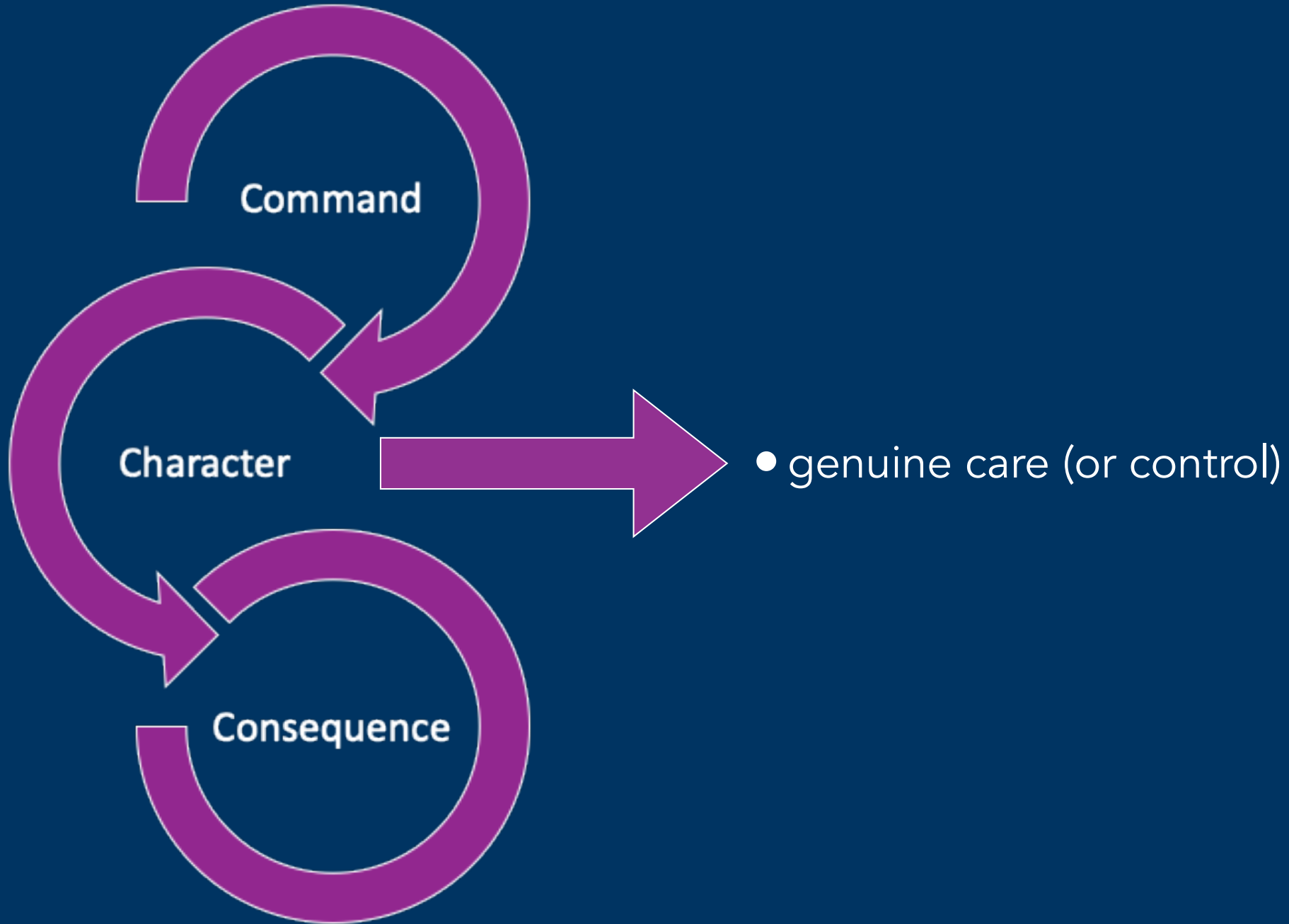
Framework

returning to gathered worship

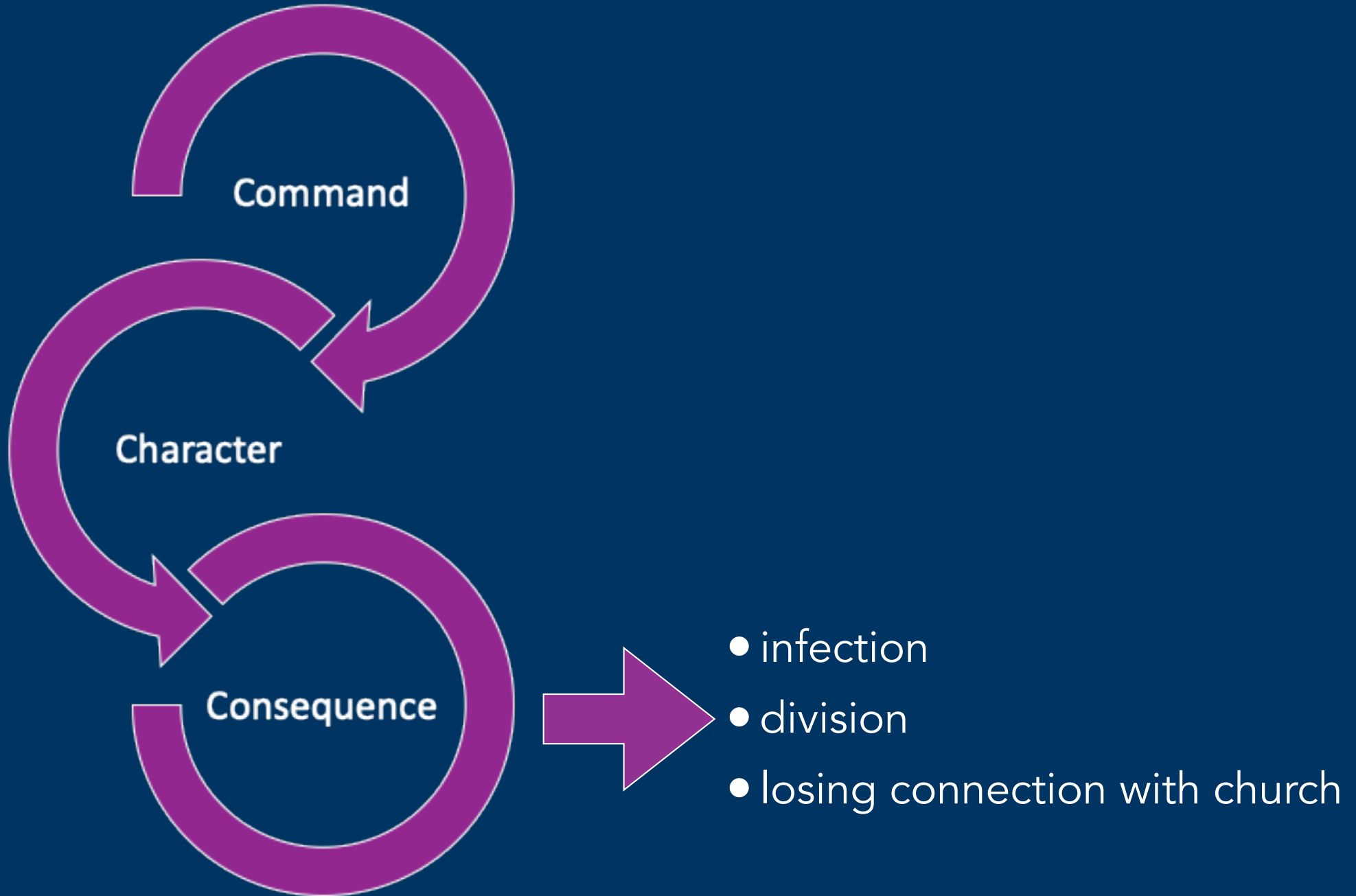


- Do not kill (Ex 20:13)
- Westminster Larger Catechism (Q 135) "The duties required in the sixth commandment are all careful studies, and lawful endeavours, to preserve the life of ourselves and others".
- "Stand up in the presence of the aged, show respect for the elderly and revere your God. I am the LORD." (Lev 19:32)
- government advice

returning to gathered worship



returning to gathered worship



- Context
- Slow to judge
- Patience

