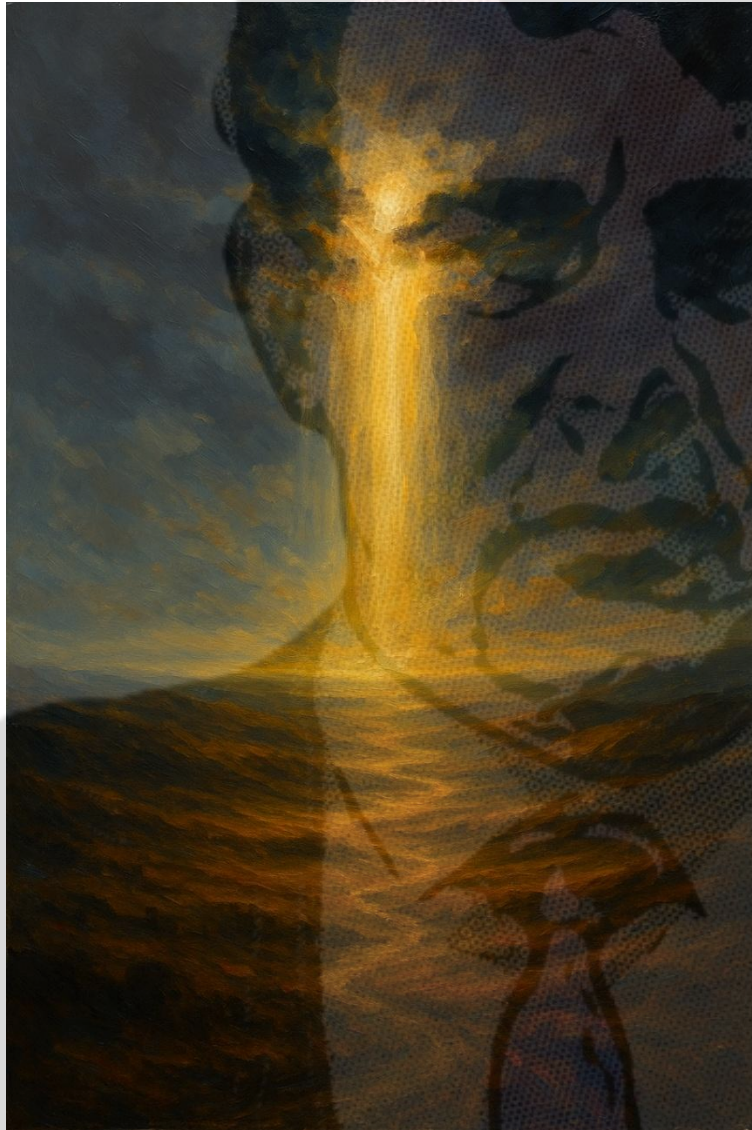


✚ Charity was never Caesar's job — it was given to the Church. When the state tries to be the church, everyone suffers, but when the Body of Christ reclaims her calling, society finds true compassion.



✚ Charity, the Church, and the State

Who really bears the burden of love?

⚡ Every society must answer: *Who cares for the poor, the widow, the orphan, the stranger?*

From the beginning, God gave this calling to His people — the Church.

Yet in the modern world, governments have stepped into that role. Taxes rise, programs expand, laws multiply.

But here's the truth: governments can redistribute wealth, but they cannot create compassion. 💔

Charity is the God-given responsibility of the Church, not the state — governments may tax and redistribute, but only the Body of Christ can love with the compassion that transforms lives.

God's Design for Charity

- 📖 Leviticus 19 — leave gleanings for the poor
 - 📖 Deuteronomy 14 — tithes for widows & orphans
 - 📖 Acts 2 & 4 — believers shared all things
 - 📖 James 1:27 — pure religion: care for widows & orphans
 - 📖 Matthew 25:40 — *"Whatever you did for the least of these, you did for Me."*
 - 👉 From the start, God entrusted mercy to His people — not to kings or emperors.
-

The Early Church and Rome

- 📌 Christians stayed during plagues while Rome fled
- ❤️ Tertullian observed: *"See how they love one another."*
- 🔥 No imperial program could rival the Church's witness

Charity was evangelism. Mercy was mission.

From Parish to Public Fund

-  Monasteries & parishes ran hospitals, orphanages, schools
 -  Almsgiving was local & personal
 -  Over time rulers collected “poor taxes” & redirected church funds
 -  Often funds were **taken or absorbed**, not freely surrendered.
-

us America’s Story

-  Colonial poor relief tied to churches
 -  Early America: charity remained voluntary & local
 -  20th century: New Deal & Great Society expanded state welfare
 -  Evangelicals narrowed to “spiritual focus,” leaving charity to government — the *Great Reversal*
 -  In America, it was **both**: the state took, and parts of the Church stepped back.
-

What Governments Get Wrong

-  Government works by force: taxation & regulation
-  The Church works by love: freedom & compassion
-  Laws restrain behavior — but cannot change hearts

🍞 Programs feed for a day — but often create dependency instead of dignity

Caesar can redistribute bread, but he cannot offer the Bread of Life. 🍞 ✝️

🚧 The Consequences

💎 Citizens taxed “for compassion” rarely see compassion face-to-face

😬 The Church’s witness weakens when it outsources mercy

🔴 Governments start to act like saviors

🏠 Societies grow brittle as bureaucracy replaces relationship

🌱 What If We Tried Another Way?

⚡ Laws restrain, but parables reveal

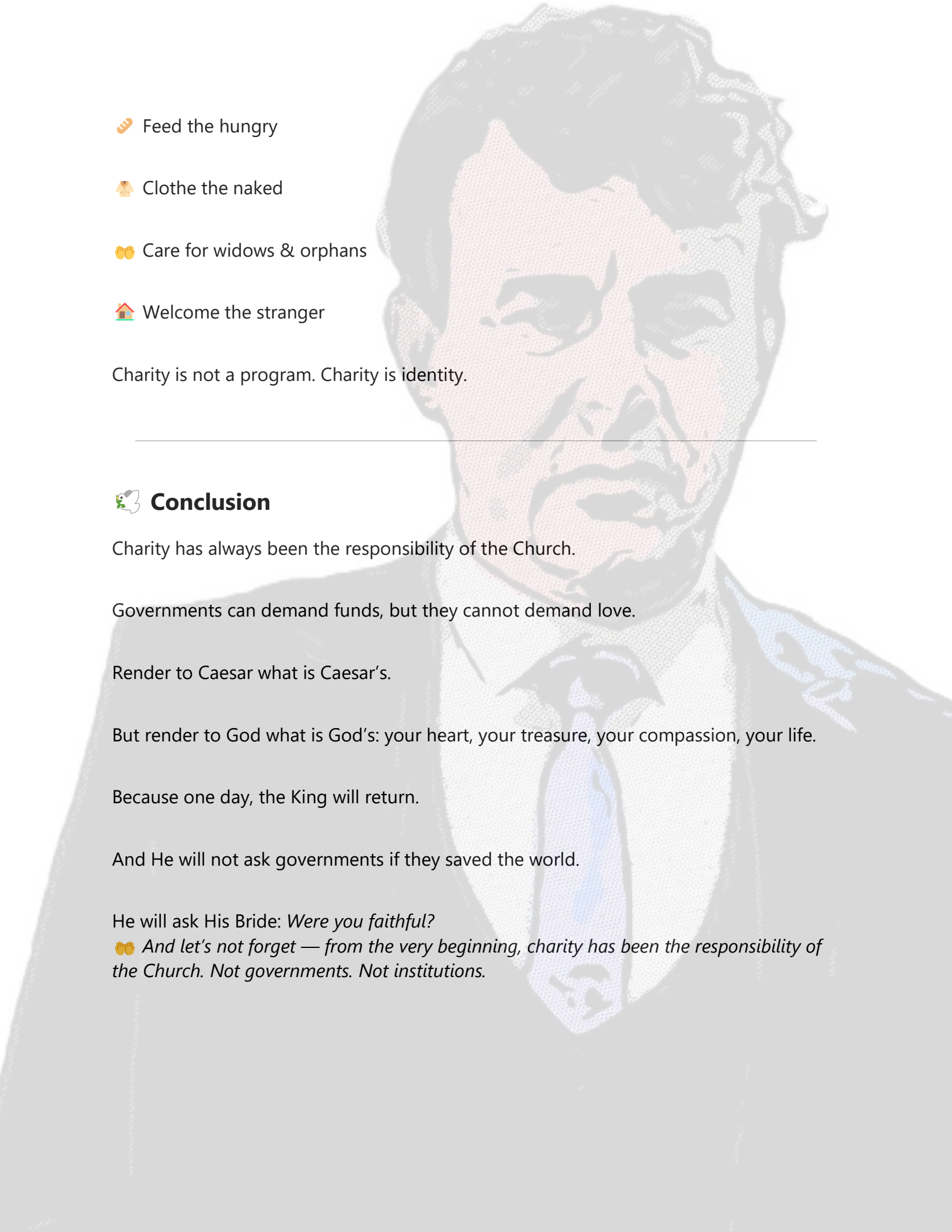
⚡ Programs manage, but relationships heal

⚡ Institutions enforce, but the Church embodies

Imagine if leaders paused before passing sweeping laws — and gave the Church space to model mercy, tell parables, and build real solutions.

🏛️ The Call to the Church

🙏 Honor Caesar (Romans 13), but don’t surrender your calling (Acts 5:29)



🍷 Feed the hungry

👤 Clothe the naked

👨👩 Care for widows & orphans

🏠 Welcome the stranger

Charity is not a program. Charity is identity.

📖 Conclusion

Charity has always been the responsibility of the Church.

Governments can demand funds, but they cannot demand love.

Render to Caesar what is Caesar's.

But render to God what is God's: your heart, your treasure, your compassion, your life.

Because one day, the King will return.

And He will not ask governments if they saved the world.

He will ask His Bride: *Were you faithful?*

👏 *And let's not forget — from the very beginning, charity has been the responsibility of the Church. Not governments. Not institutions.*