

God's care often doesn't
FEEL gentle



1. It doesn't FEEL gentle

that perception DOES feel like reality

2. God's care IS gentle

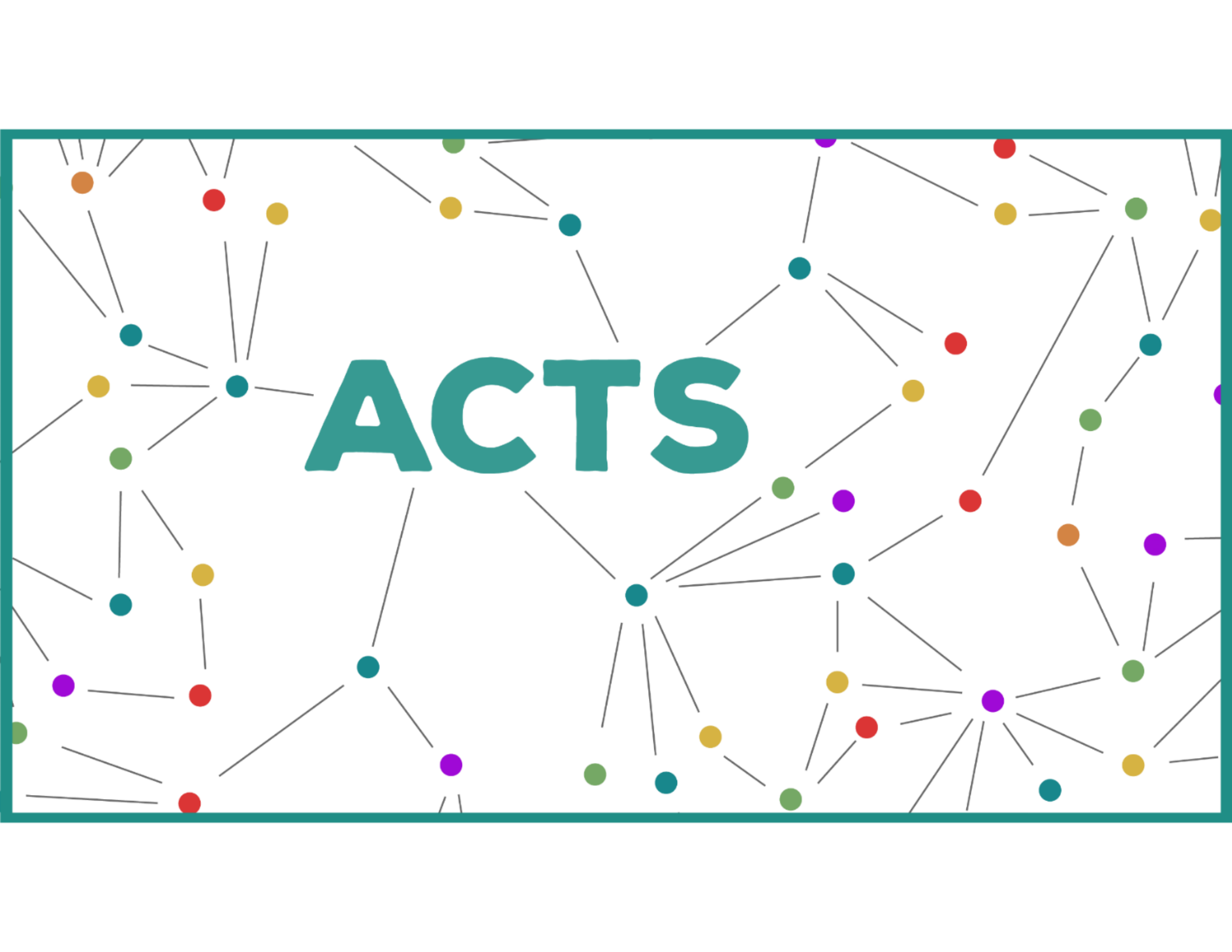
Perception isn't reality

Now what?

3. We need to change our attitude

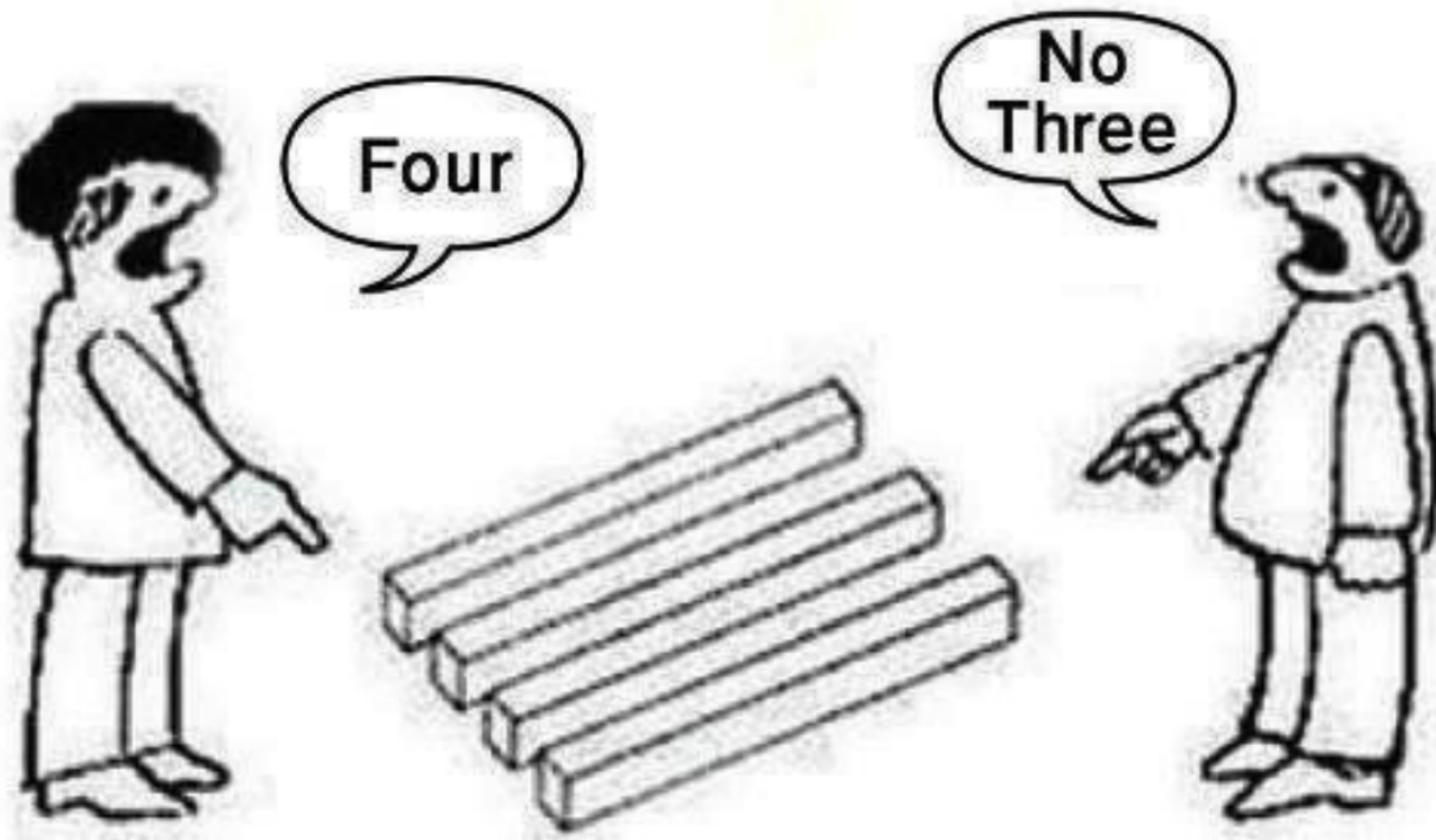
you need a new perception



The image features a network diagram as a background. It consists of numerous small, colored circular nodes (in shades of teal, yellow, red, green, and purple) connected by thin, grey lines. These connections form a complex web of clusters and paths across the entire frame. The word "ACTS" is prominently displayed in the center in a large, bold, teal-colored sans-serif font. The entire composition is enclosed within a thin, dark teal rectangular border.

ACTS





Is it?
Proceed
or
Persuade



Is it?

Proceed
or
Persuade

PERCEPTION



REALITY



**God is very
misunderstandable**



**God is very
misunderstandable**



God's care often doesn't FEEL gentle

Luke 13:34-35

O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing! Look, your house is left to you desolate. I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord."

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- Super bright light
- Knocks him down
- Demands an answer
- Doesn't say what will happen
- Strikes him blind
- can't eat or drink

Reality
 Acts 9:12-17

The Lord called to him in a vision, "Ananias!" "Yes, Lord!" he answered. The Lord told him, "Go to the house of 2. Saul on Straight Street and lay your hands on him; he's blind." (9:12) So Ananias, praying, "In whose name, Lord, will I lay my hands on him?" (9:13) The Lord answered, "Go, for he is my chosen vessel to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and all the people of Israel." (9:15)

Perception

"So, just you and I? The crazy Christian killing before, maybe he'll believe you to find your hands better to drop you like him to tell or keep him you."

that perception DOES feel like reality

Hello Mr. 2x4

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- Knocks him down
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- can't eat or drink

Ananias

Reality

Acts 9:10-12

The Lord called to him in a vision, "Ananias!" "Yes, Lord," he answered. The Lord told him, "Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying. In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight."

Perception

"Go turn yourself in to the crazy Christian killing fellow. maybe he'll torture you to find your friends before he drags you 150 miles to kill or imprison you."

God is gentle as God

1. Gentleness is relative to weakness/strength
2. Gentleness is relative to other perfections

God is gentle as savior of all

1. Gentleness serves mercy
2. The work and message of the Gospel is the greater mercy

Acts 9-31!!!

God is gentle as doctor of souls

1. He is gentle with *our treatment*
2. Pain and shock are tools of divine opportunity

100% 100%

2. God's care IS gentle

Perception isn't reality

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God is gentle as savior of all

1. Gentleness serves mercy

Acts 9:15-17
But the Lord said to Ananias, "Get! This man is my chosen instrument to carry my name before the Gentiles and their kings and before the people of Israel. I will show him how much he must suffer for my name."
Then Ananias went to the house and entered it.

2. The work and message of the Gospel is the greater mercy

Acts 9-11!!!

Acts 9:15-17

But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! This man is my chosen instrument to carry my name before the Gentiles and their kings and before the people of Israel. I will show him how much he must suffer for my name."

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God is gentle as doctor of souls

1. He is gentle with ***our treatment***

2. **Pain and shock** are tools of divine **opportunity**

Saul is stubborn - not easily influenced

1. "Murderous threats"

2. "Breathing out"

3. Willing to go to Damascus
(145 Miles, 6-12 day journey)

4. Wanting to imprison "both men and women"

Paul **says** God was gentle (years later)

1 Timothy 1:15-17

There is a subtlety saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners - of whom I am the worst. But for that very reason I had shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his unlimited patience **as an example** for those who would believe on him and receive eternal life. Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

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Now what?

3. We need to change our attitude you need a new perception

You won't be gentle if...
Substantively

If you don't believe God is gentle

If you don't see why God is Gentle

If you don't wonder at the beauty of
God's gentleness

2 applications of humility in God's gentleness

1. Add MUCH WISDOM and patience
to your severity.



2. Add MUCH GOSPEL to your understanding of
gentleness, patience, and kindness.



Philippians 4:4-6

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it
again: Rejoice in your gentleness be
evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not
be anxious about anything, but in
everything, by prayer and petition, with
thanksgiving, present your requests to
God.

Colossians 3:12-14

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly
loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness,
gentleness, and patience. Bear with one another
as the Lord has borne with you, since you are
members of his body. Because of the word of the
Lord, you must put on love, which binds all
things together in perfect unity.

1 Peter 3:15-16

But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always
be prepared to give an answer to everyone who
asks you to explain the hope that you have.
Do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a
clear conscience, so that those who speak
against you may be ashamed, since God
will judge the living and the dead.

2 Corinthians 10:1

By the meekness and gentleness of Christ, I appeal
to you—I, Paul, who am "tender" when face to face
with you, but "tender" when away!

Galatians 5:22-23

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience,
kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and
self-control. Against such things there is no law.

1 Timothy 5:10-12

For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil.
Some people, eager for money, have wandered
from the faith and pierced their consciences with many
grievs. But you, man of God, flee from all this, and
pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love,
mercifulness and gentleness. Fight the good fight of
the faith, take hold of the eternal life to which you
were called when you made your good confession
in the presence of many witnesses.

You *won't* be gentle if...

Substantively

If you don't believe God is gentle

If you don't see why God is Gentle

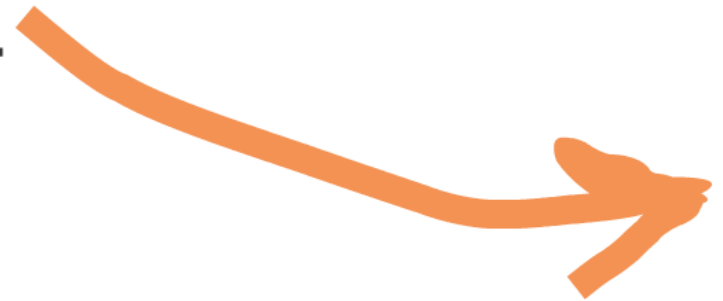
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Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!  5 Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. 6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

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By the meekness and gentleness of Christ, I appeal to you-- I, Paul, who am "timid" when face to face with you, but "bold" when away!

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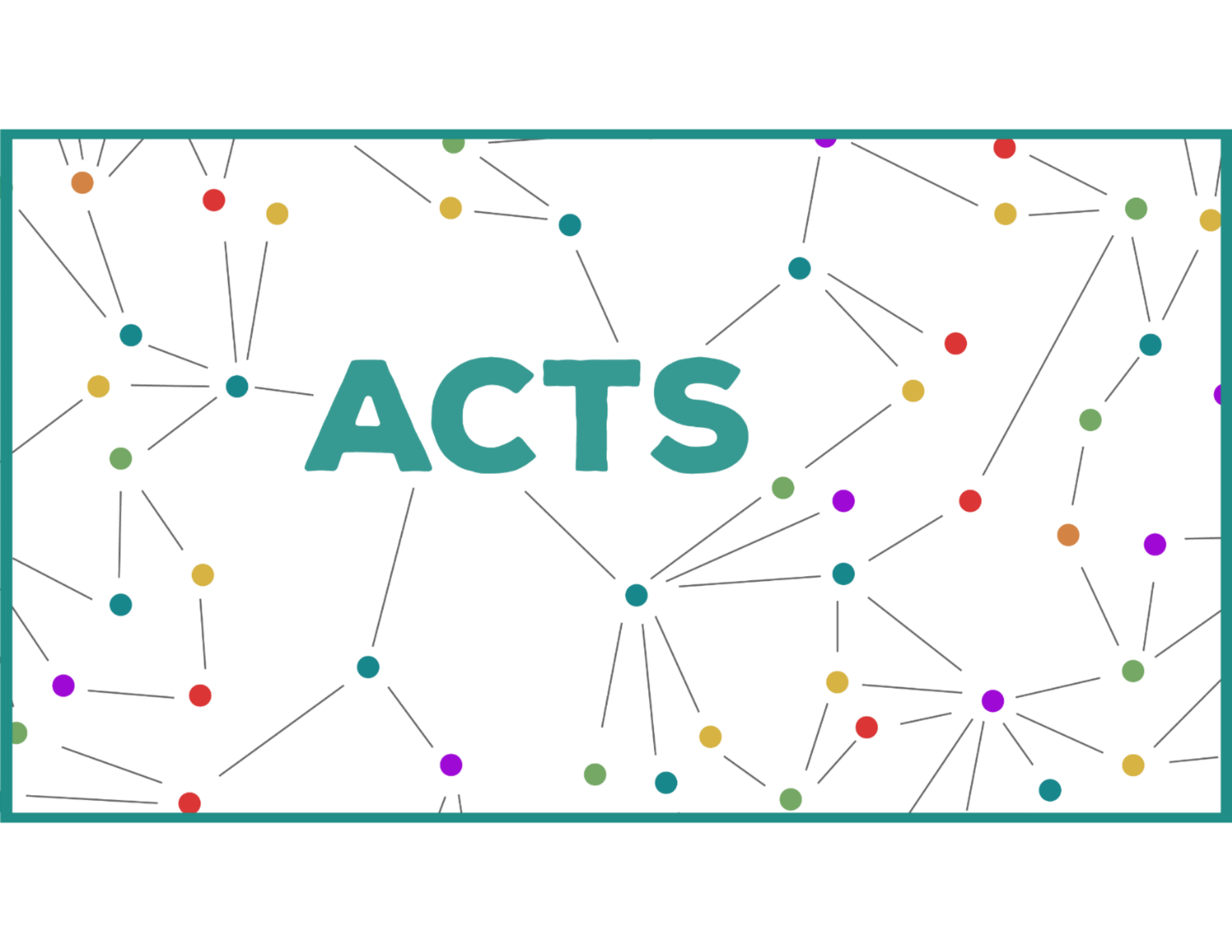
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But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.

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