

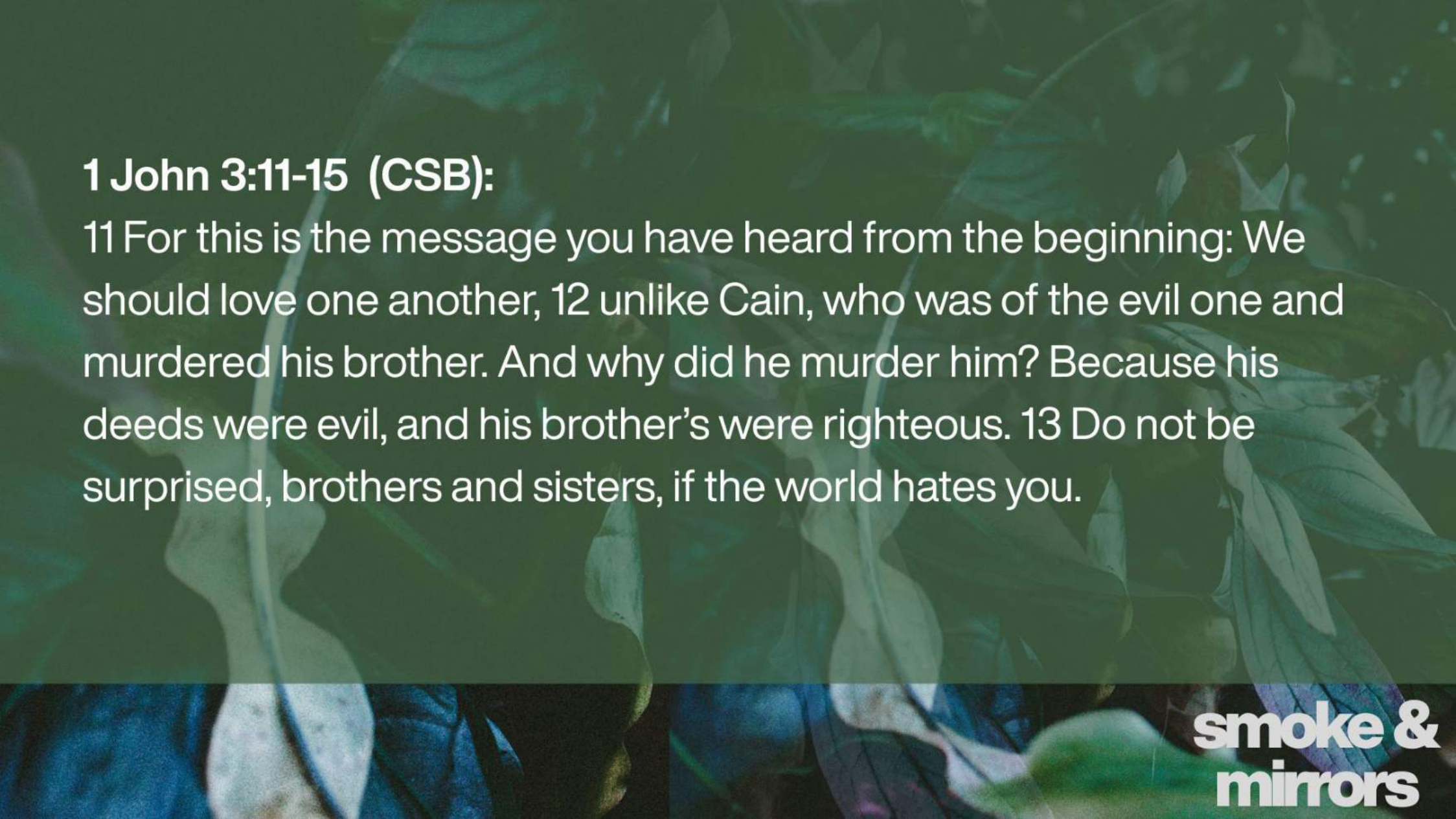


smoke & mirrors

THIS WEEK 1 JOHN 3: 11-24

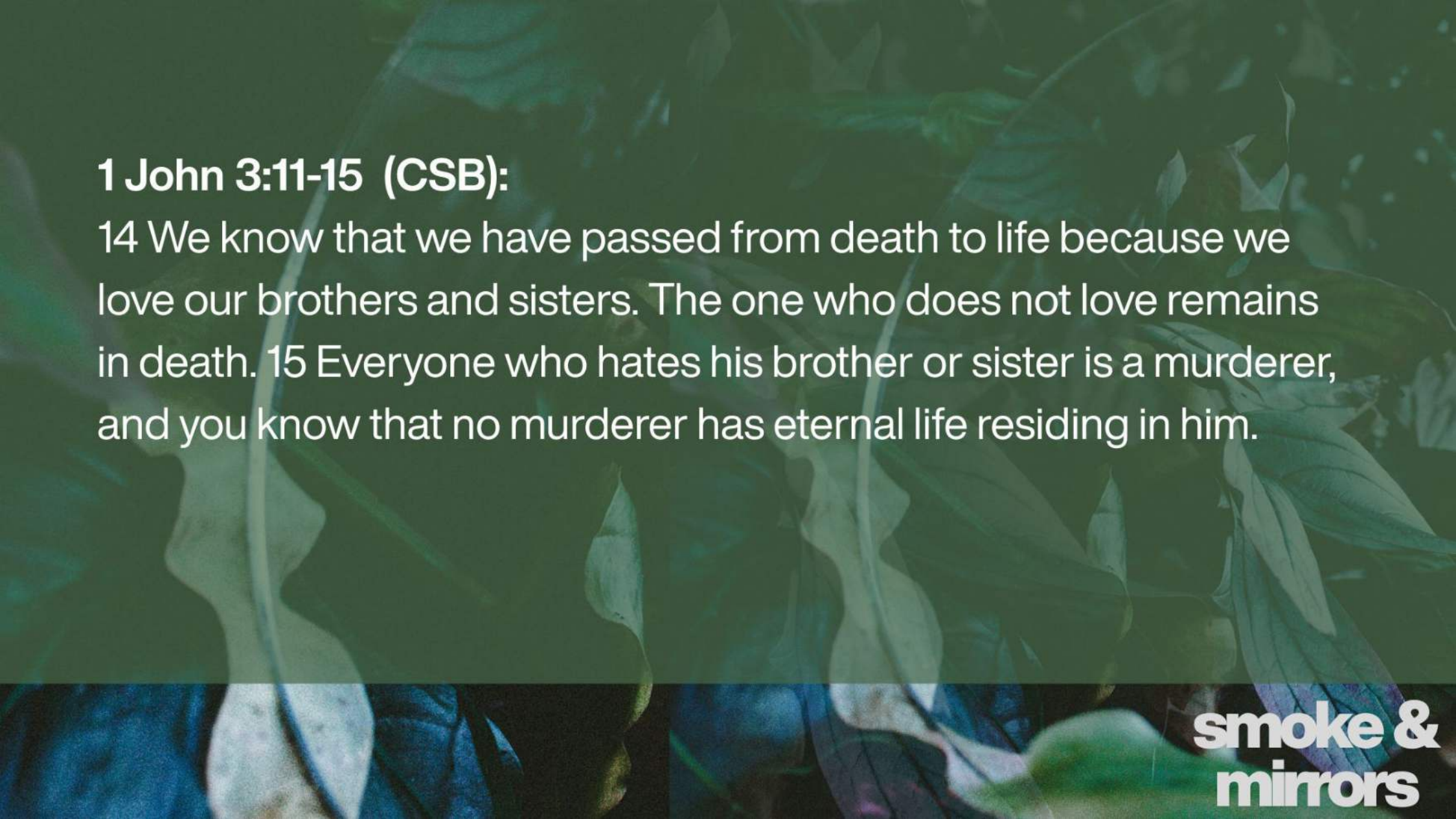
**1 John 3:11-15— Love Is the Mark
of God's Children**

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1 John 3:11-15 (CSB):

11 For this is the message you have heard from the beginning: We should love one another, 12 unlike Cain, who was of the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his deeds were evil, and his brother's were righteous. 13 Do not be surprised, brothers and sisters, if the world hates you.



1 John 3:11-15 (CSB):

14 We know that we have passed from death to life because we love our brothers and sisters. The one who does not love remains in death. 15 Everyone who hates his brother or sister is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life residing in him.

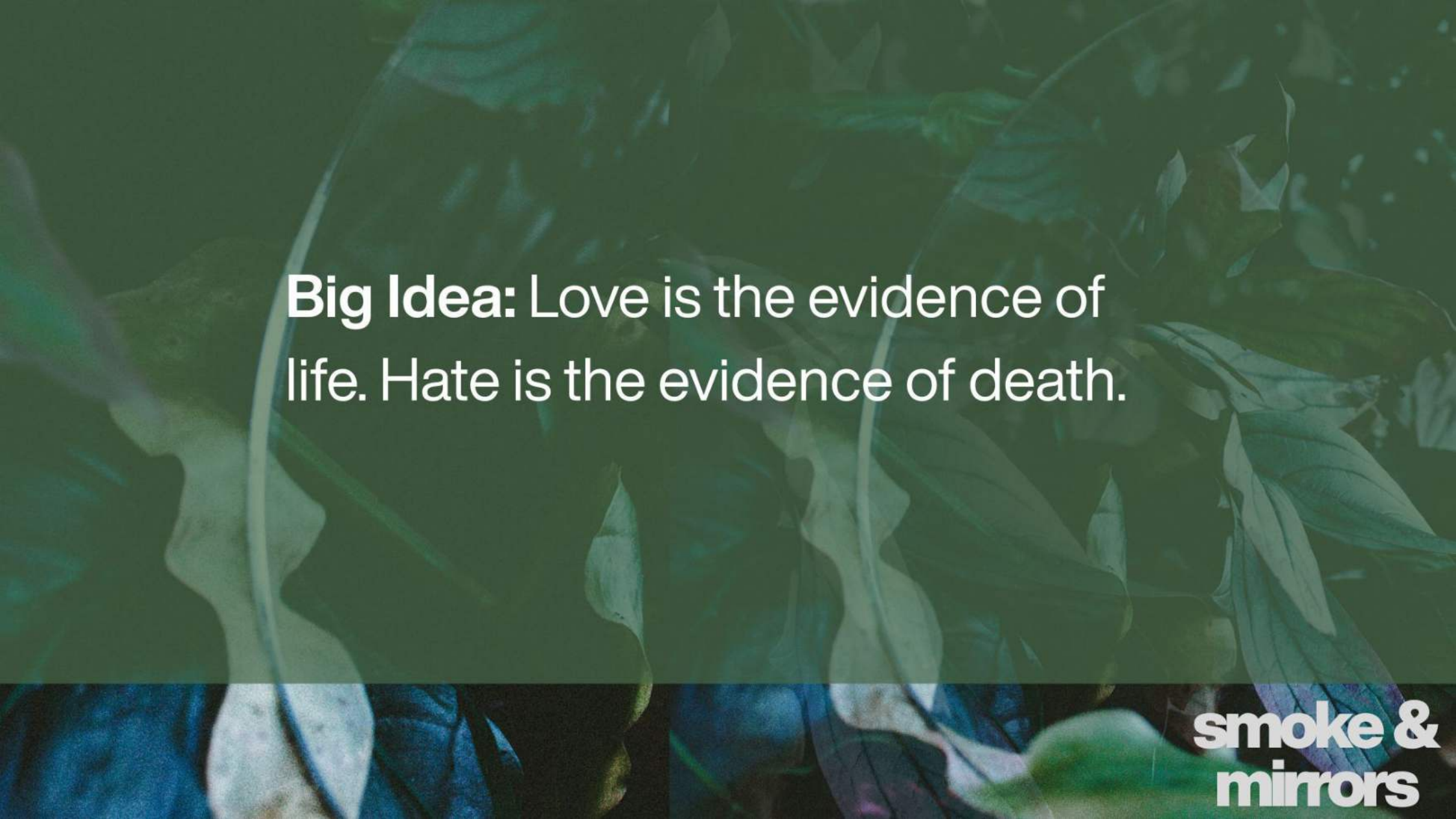
1 John 3:11-15— Love is the Mark of God's Children

John uses Cain as the opposite example—hatred shows we're aligned with darkness, not God.

Love isn't optional; it's evidence of new life.

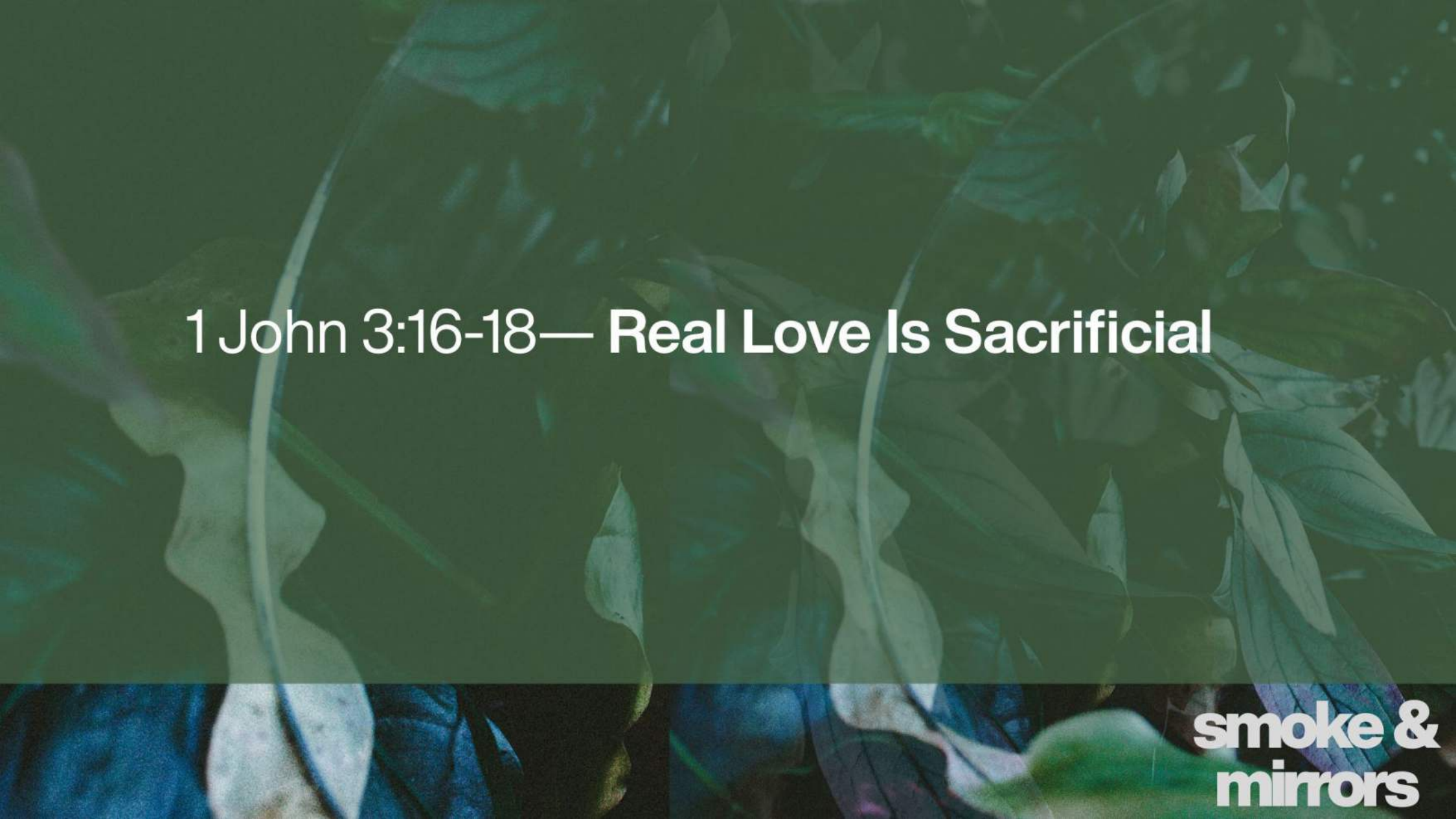
John reemphasizes that the world won't understand or may even hate us when we live like Christ, because our actions are the opposite of how the world operates.

Don't be shocked when the world hates Christians—it's the same spirit that fueled Cain's jealousy.



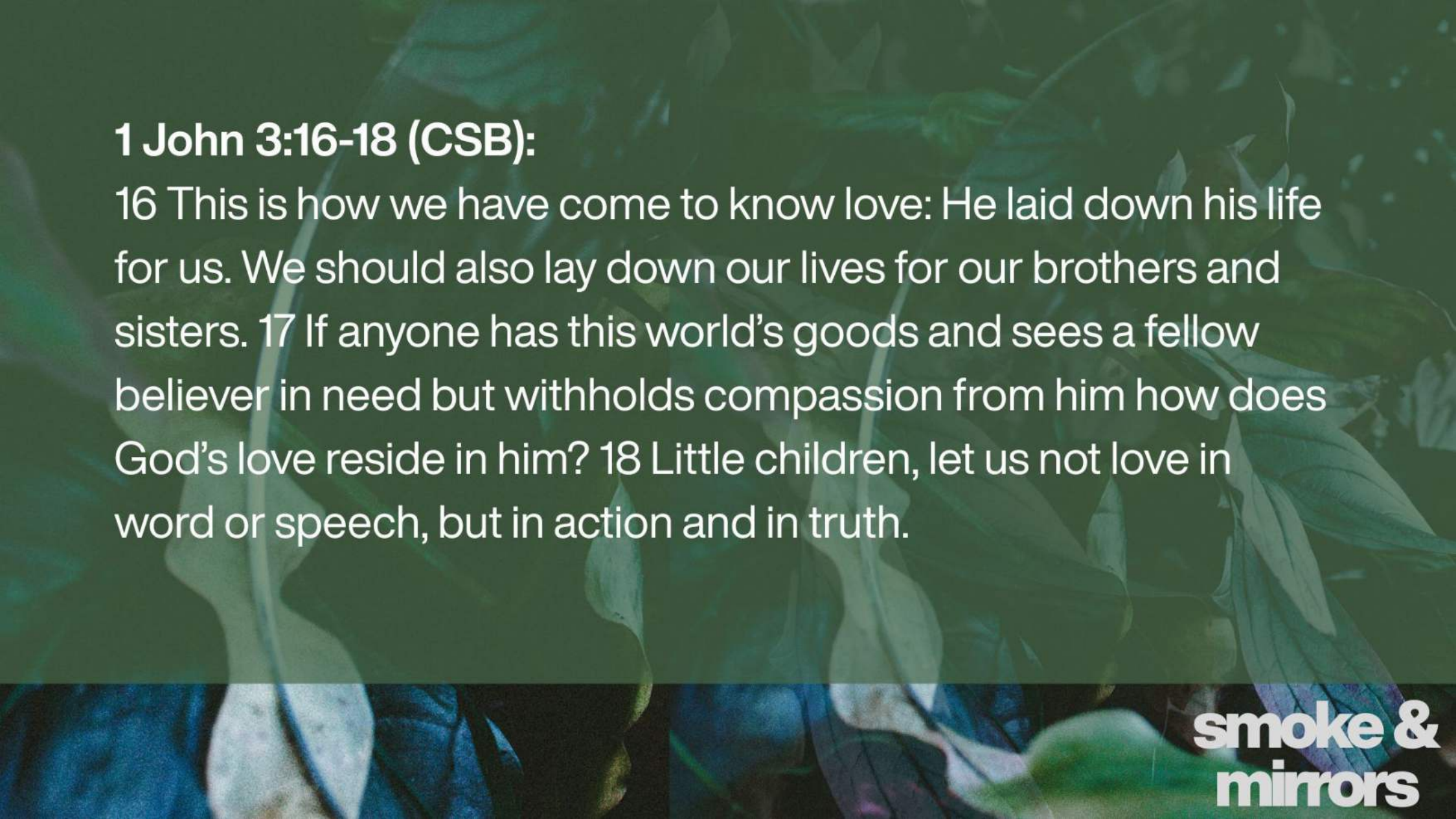
Big Idea: Love is the evidence of
life. Hate is the evidence of death.

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1 John 3:16-18— Real Love Is Sacrificial

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1 John 3:16-18 (CSB):

16 This is how we have come to know love: He laid down his life for us. We should also lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. 17 If anyone has this world's goods and sees a fellow believer in need but withholds compassion from him how does God's love reside in him? 18 Little children, let us not love in word or speech, but in action and in truth.

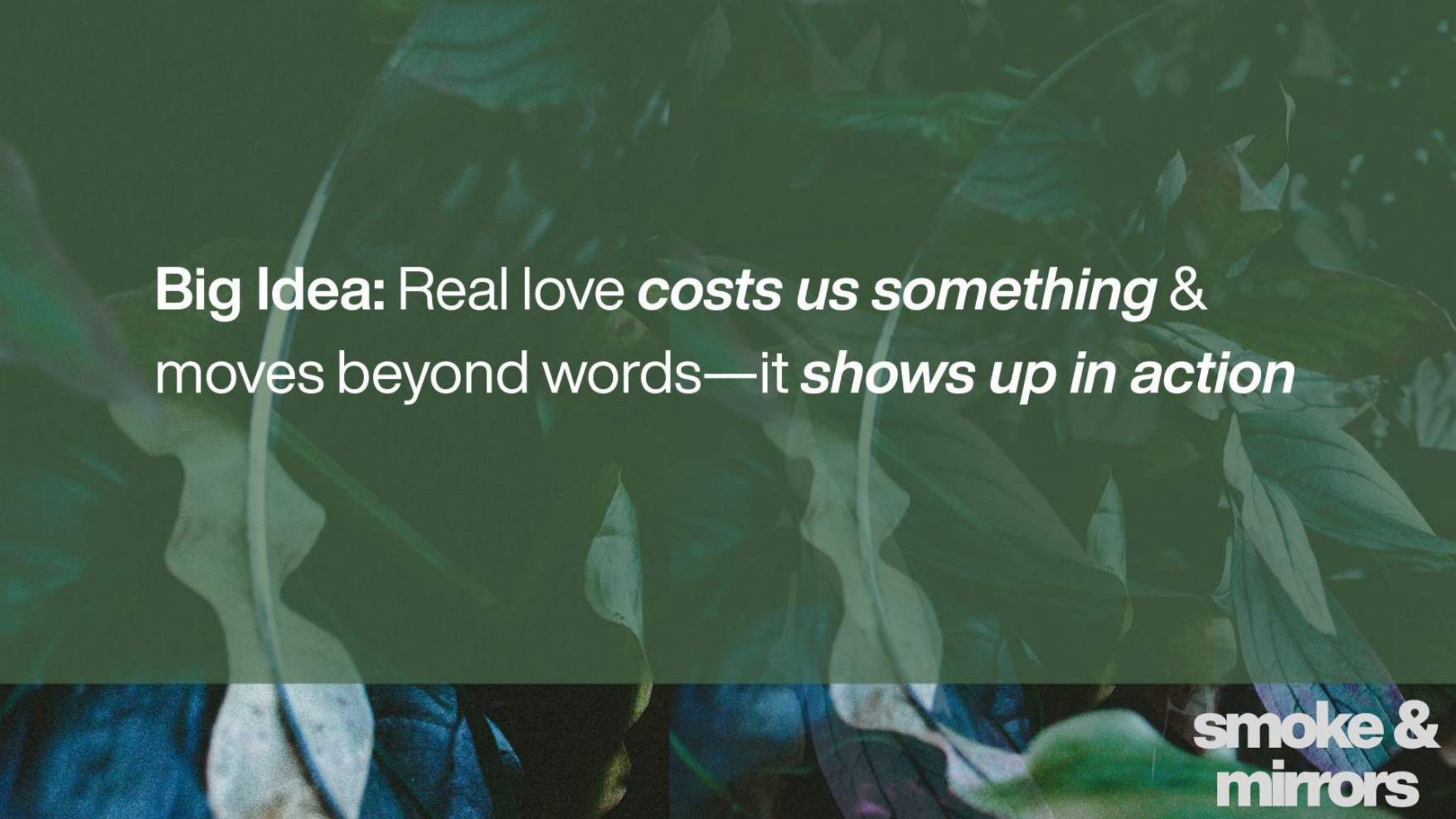
1 John 3:16-18— Real Love is Sacrificial

Jesus sets the definition of love—sacrificial, selfless, costly.

Love moves beyond feelings and words to action.

Ignoring needs around us contradicts claiming God's love inside us.

Love isn't theory—it's lived out in the small, practical ways.

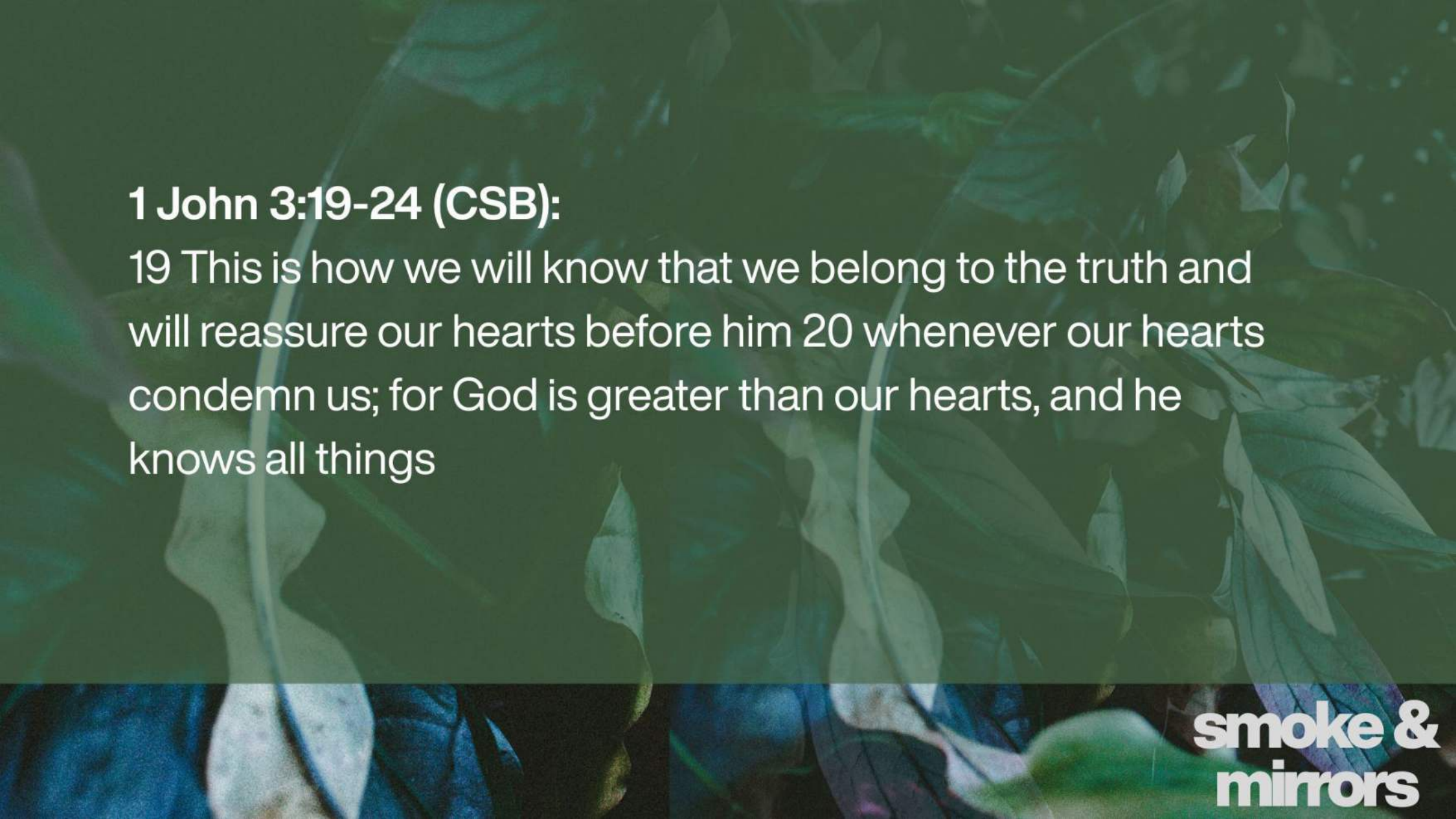


Big Idea: Real love *costs us something* &
moves beyond words—it *shows up in action*

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**1 John 3:19-24— Confidence in God
Shows Through Faith and Love**

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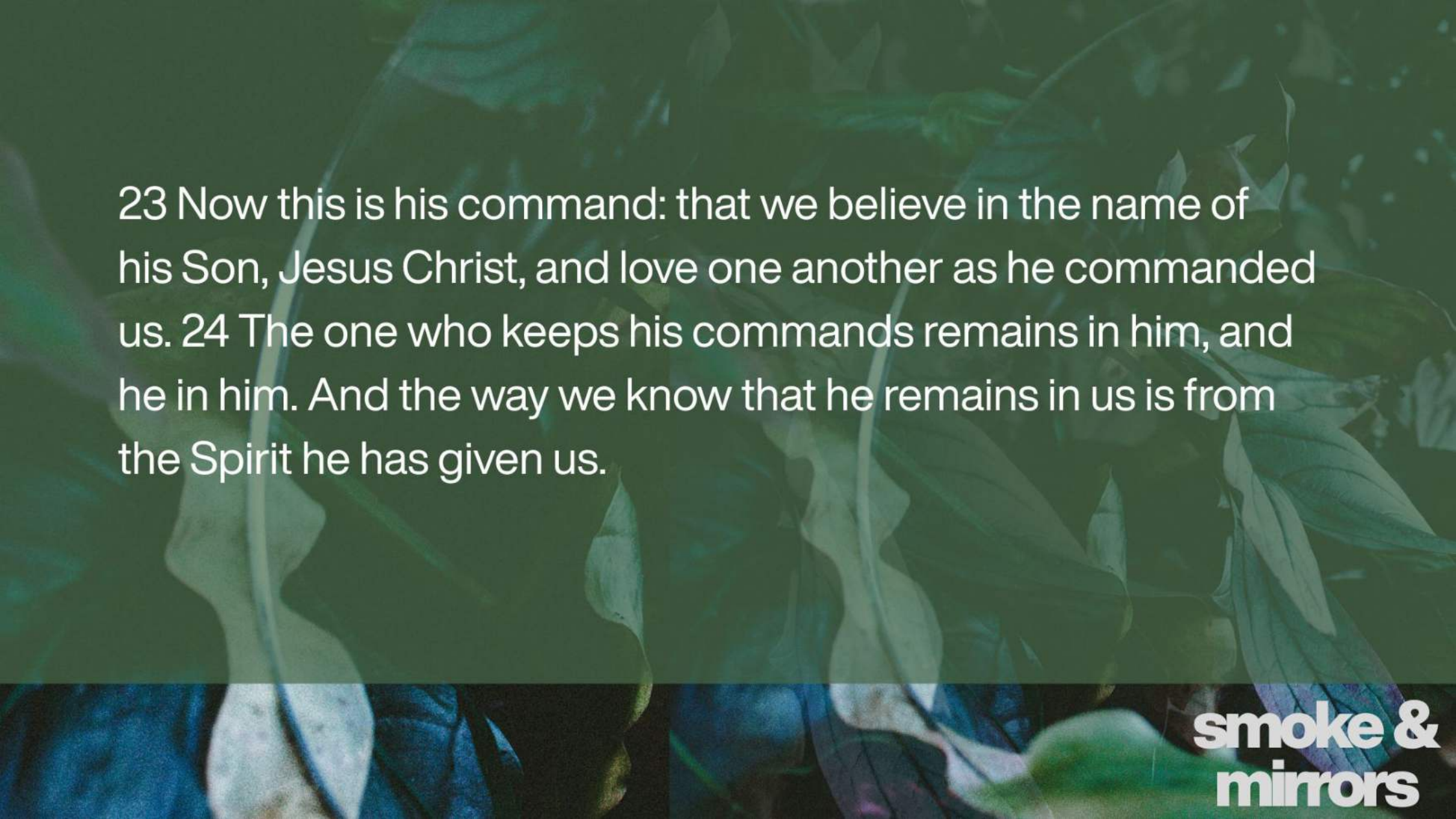
1 John 3:19-24 (CSB):

19 This is how we will know that we belong to the truth and will reassure our hearts before him 20 whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows all things



21 Dear friends, if our hearts don't condemn us, we have
confidence before God 22 and receive whatever we ask
from him because we keep his commands and do what is
pleasing in his sight.

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23 Now this is his command: that we believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and love one another as he commanded us. 24 The one who keeps his commands remains in him, and he in him. And the way we know that he remains in us is from the Spirit he has given us.

Reassurance through Truth (vv. 19–20)

Our hearts sometimes condemn us, but God is greater than our hearts.

He fully knows our motives, struggles, and faith.

Assurance comes from His knowledge and faithfulness, not our feelings.

Confidence Through Obedience (vv. 21–23)

Confidence flows from faith + love in action:
believing in Christ and loving others.

Obedience isn't earning salvation—it's evidence of
living in Christ.

Aligned with God's will, our prayers are bold and confident.

Evidence of God's Spirit (v. 24)

Abiding in God is relational; His Spirit lives in us.

The Spirit is proof of our belonging and empowers love and obedience.

Love and obedience are the fruit of a Spirit-filled life.

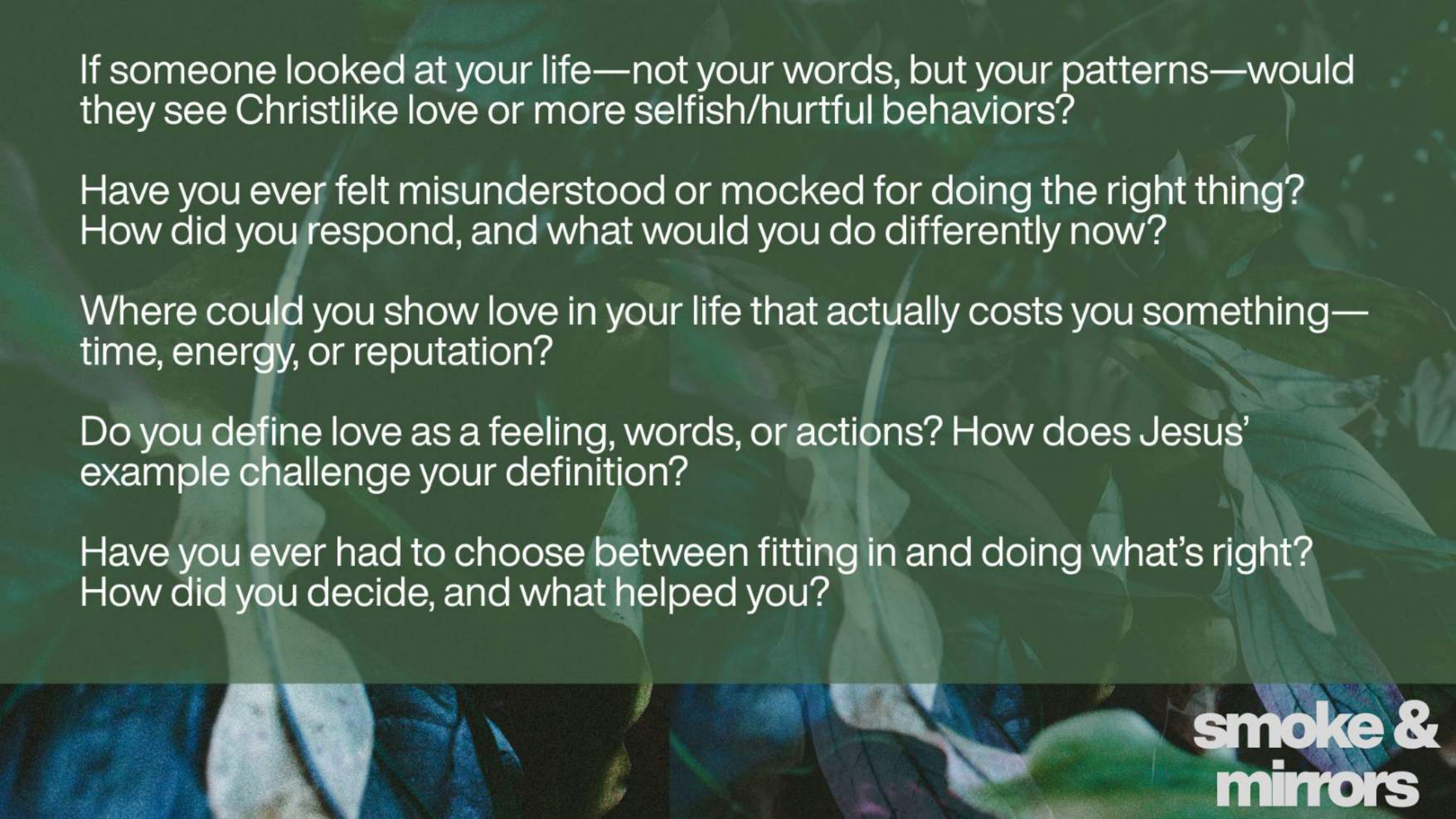


Big Idea: Confidence in God comes from
believing in Christ, loving others, and abiding
in His Spirit— *not our feelings or performance.*

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Reflection questions





If someone looked at your life—not your words, but your patterns—would they see Christlike love or more selfish/hurtful behaviors?

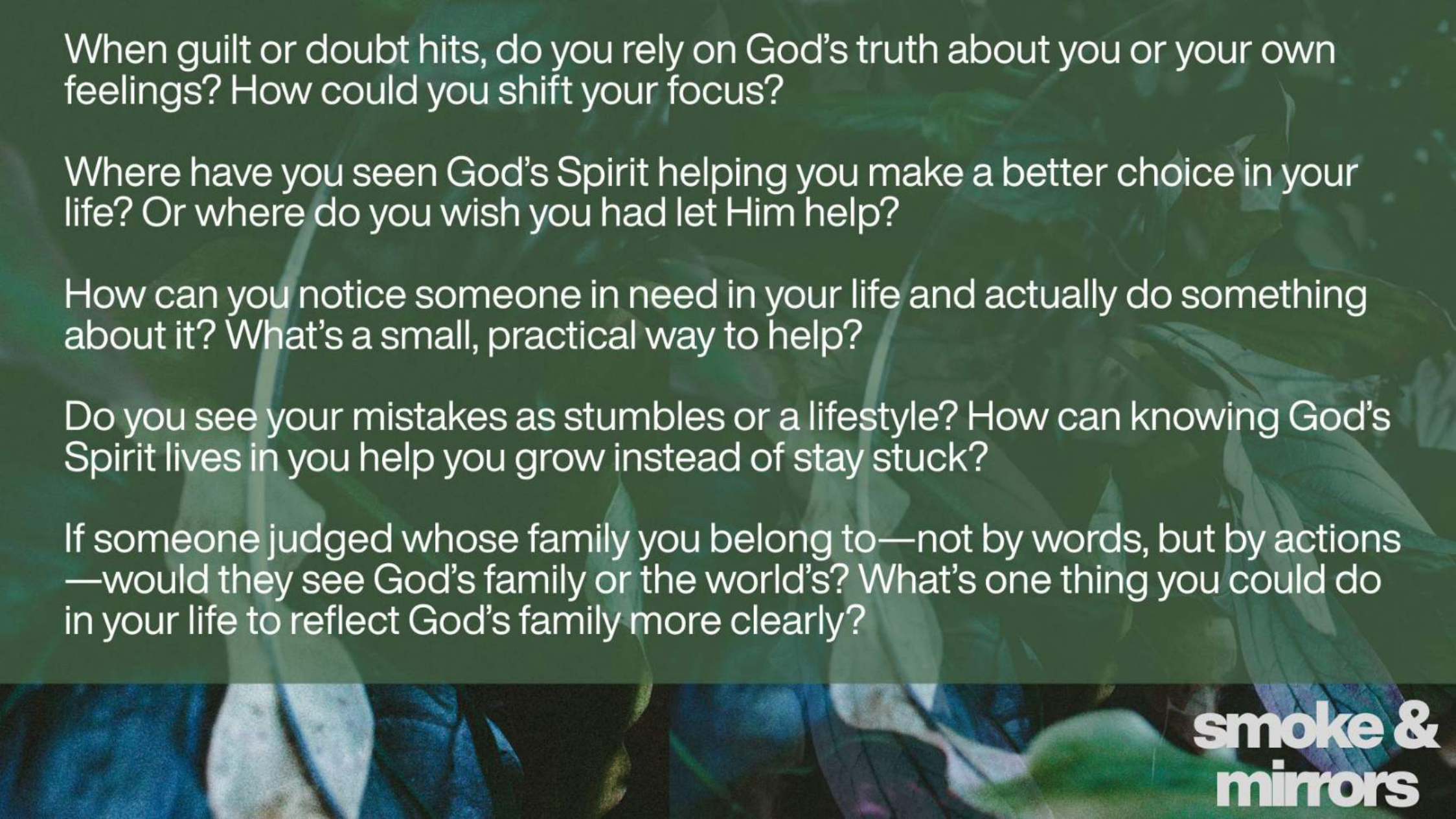
Have you ever felt misunderstood or mocked for doing the right thing? How did you respond, and what would you do differently now?

Where could you show love in your life that actually costs you something—time, energy, or reputation?

Do you define love as a feeling, words, or actions? How does Jesus' example challenge your definition?

Have you ever had to choose between fitting in and doing what's right? How did you decide, and what helped you?

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When guilt or doubt hits, do you rely on God's truth about you or your own feelings? How could you shift your focus?

Where have you seen God's Spirit helping you make a better choice in your life? Or where do you wish you had let Him help?

How can you notice someone in need in your life and actually do something about it? What's a small, practical way to help?

Do you see your mistakes as stumbles or a lifestyle? How can knowing God's Spirit lives in you help you grow instead of stay stuck?

If someone judged whose family you belong to—not by words, but by actions—would they see God's family or the world's? What's one thing you could do in your life to reflect God's family more clearly?

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