




WELCOME!
Minneapolis-St.Paul Church Of Christ
“Accepting Love”




Accepting Love

Romans 15:7

A group of piglets is shown in a close-up shot. One piglet in the center is white and has a large red bow on its head. To its left, another piglet is brown and white striped. The piglets are resting on a textured surface, possibly a blanket or rug. The background is softly blurred, showing more piglets and a wooden surface.

Accepting Love: Loving others for *who* they are and
where they are at.


Definition

A close-up photograph of piglets. One piglet in the center is white with a red bow on its head. To its left is a brown piglet, and to its right is another white piglet. The piglets are resting on a textured surface.

Question: How welcoming and accepting of others are we as a church?

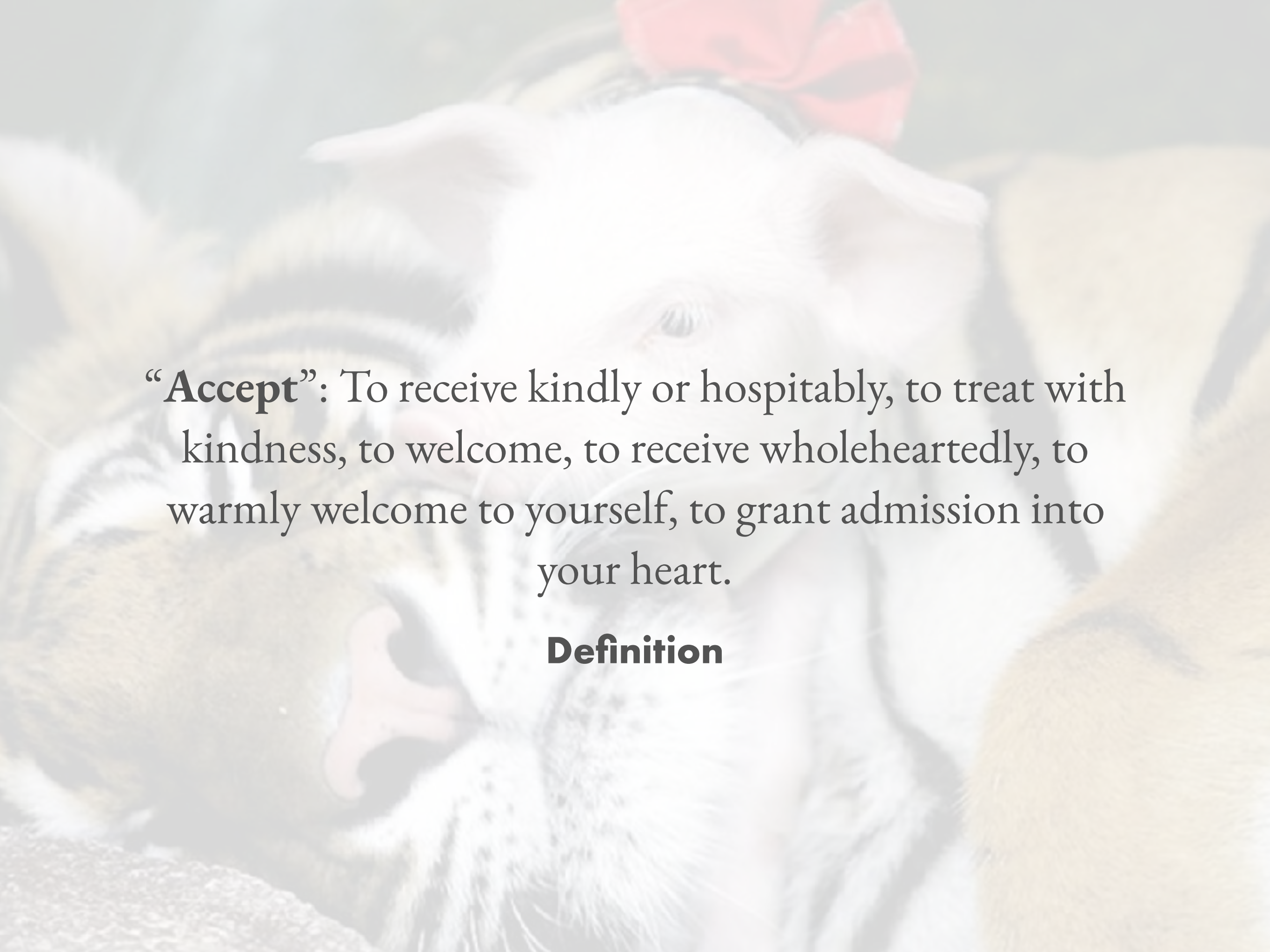


We *cannot* experience *real*
christian community without the
ability to *accept one another*.



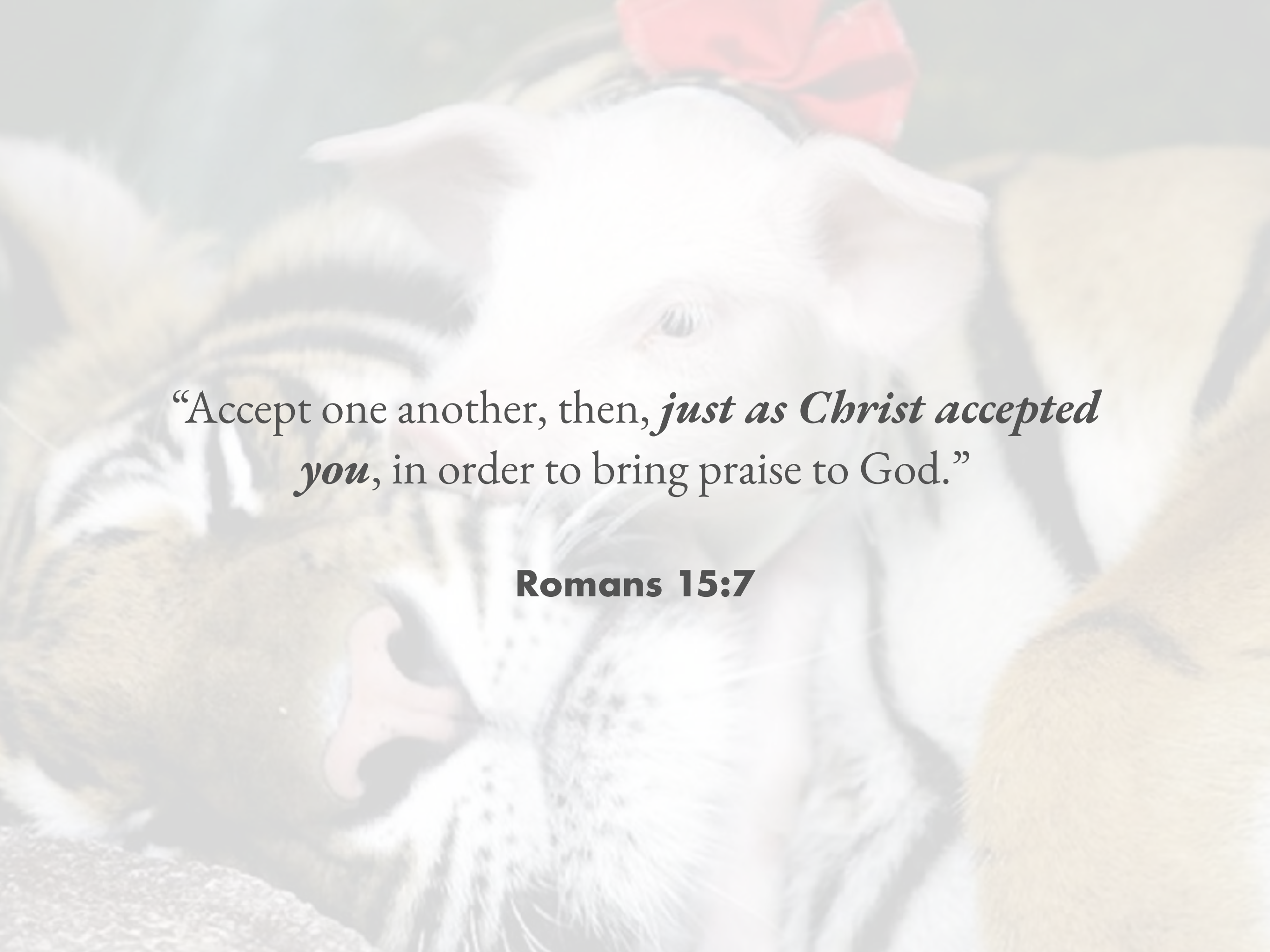
“Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you,
in order to bring praise to God.”

Romans 15:7




“Accept”: To receive kindly or hospitably, to treat with kindness, to welcome, to receive wholeheartedly, to warmly welcome to yourself, to grant admission into your heart.

Definition



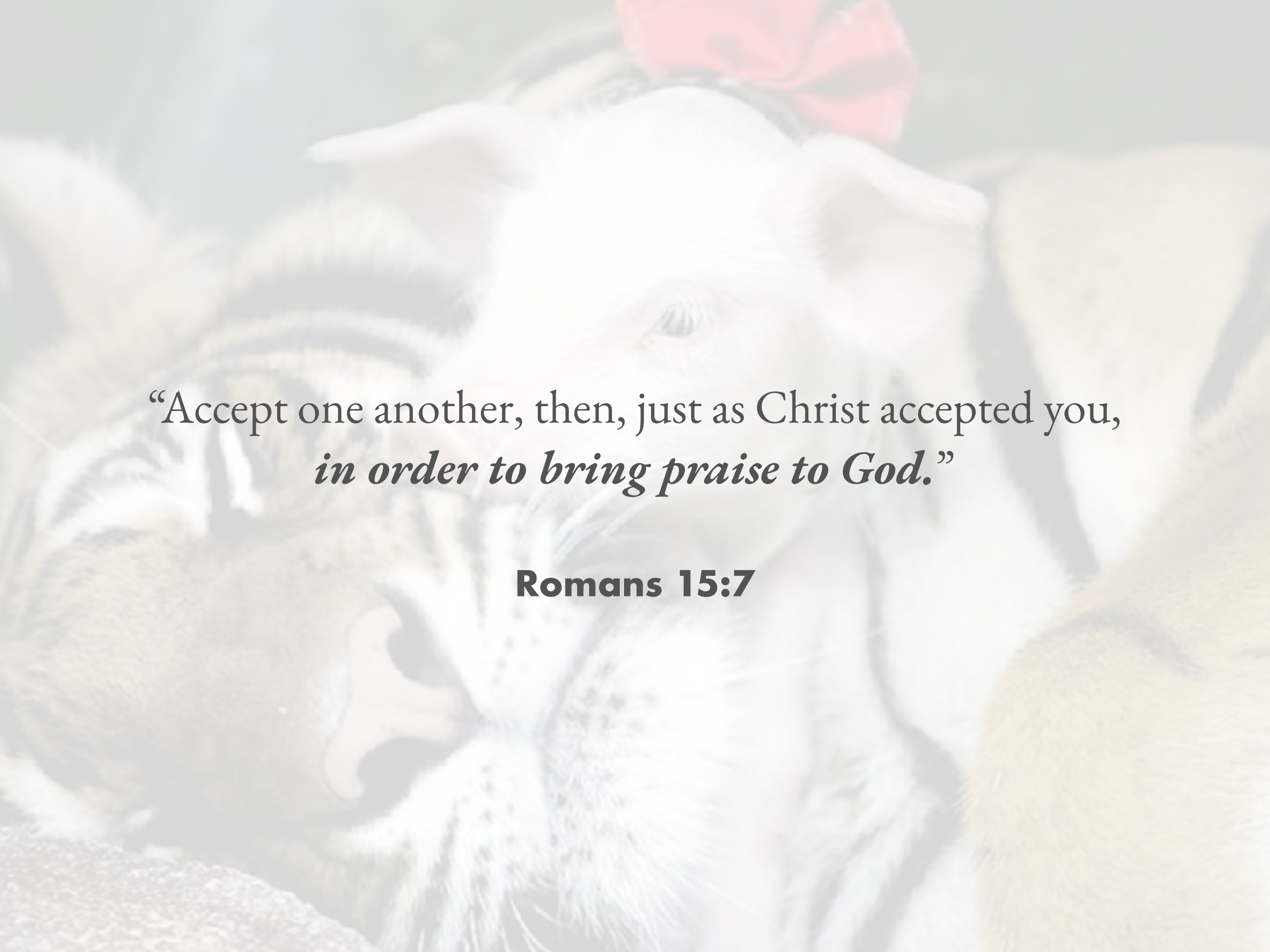
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Romans 15:7



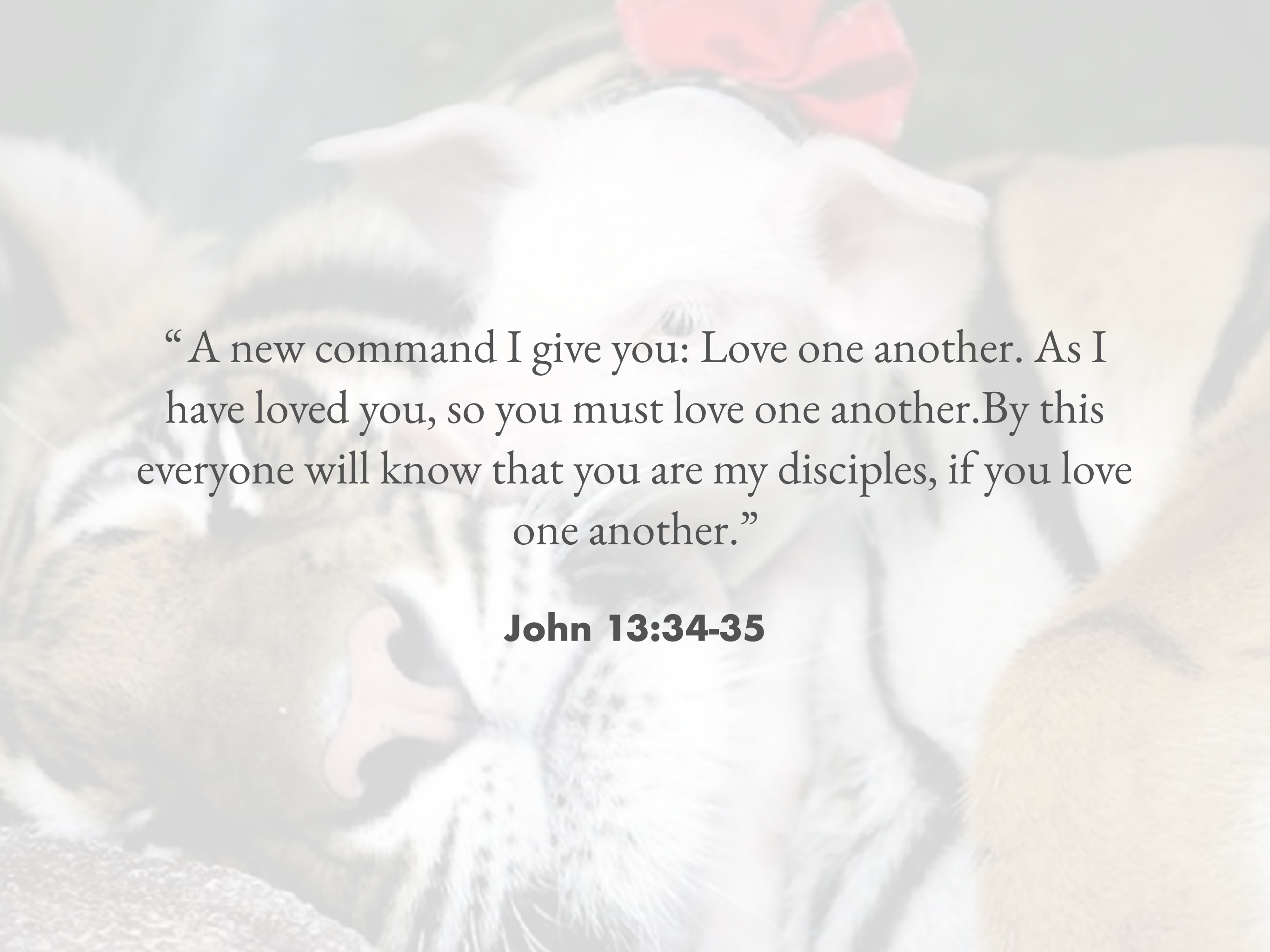
“But God demonstrates his own love for us in this:
While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

Romans 5:8



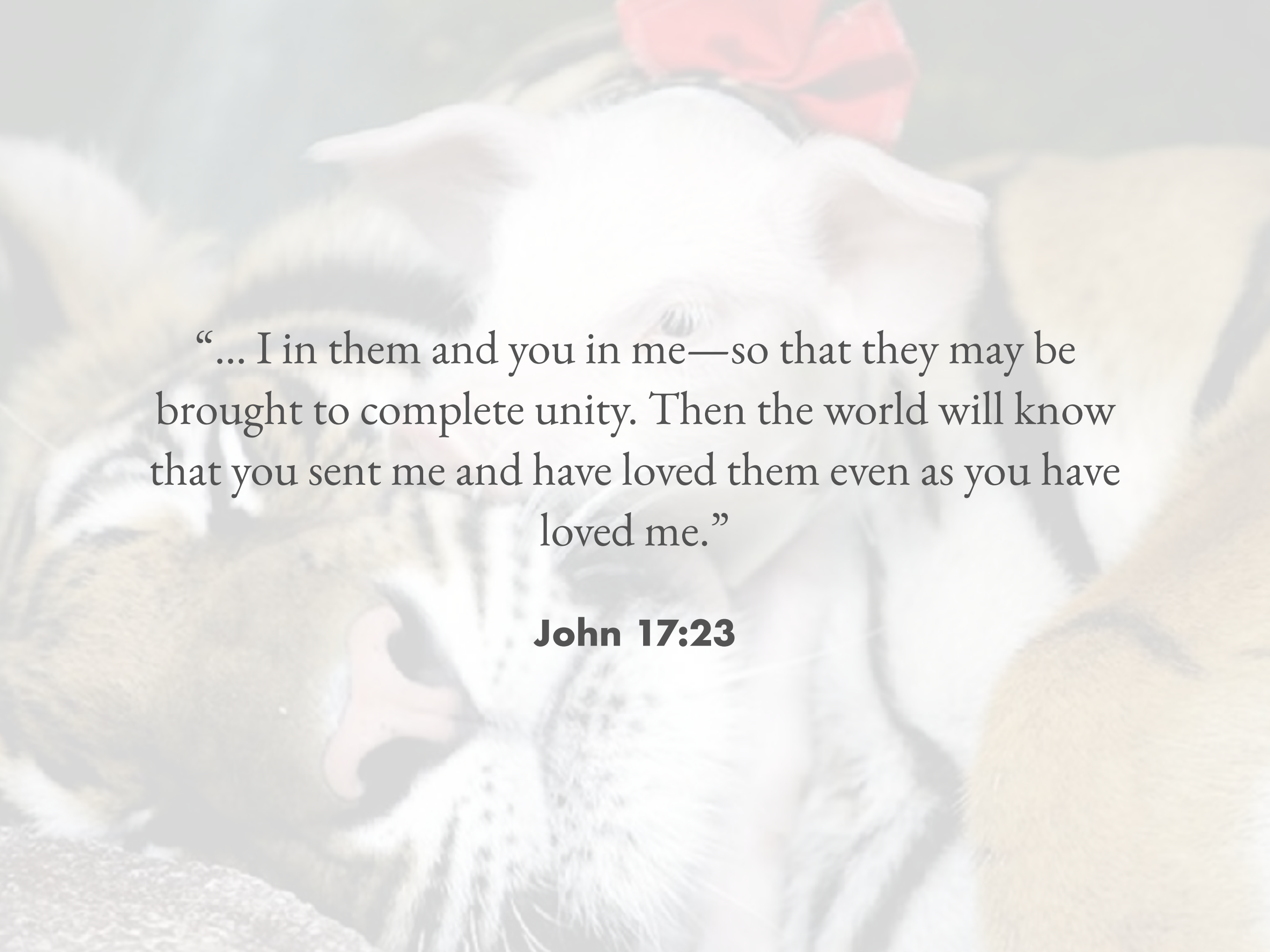
“Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you,
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Romans 15:7




“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

John 13:34-35

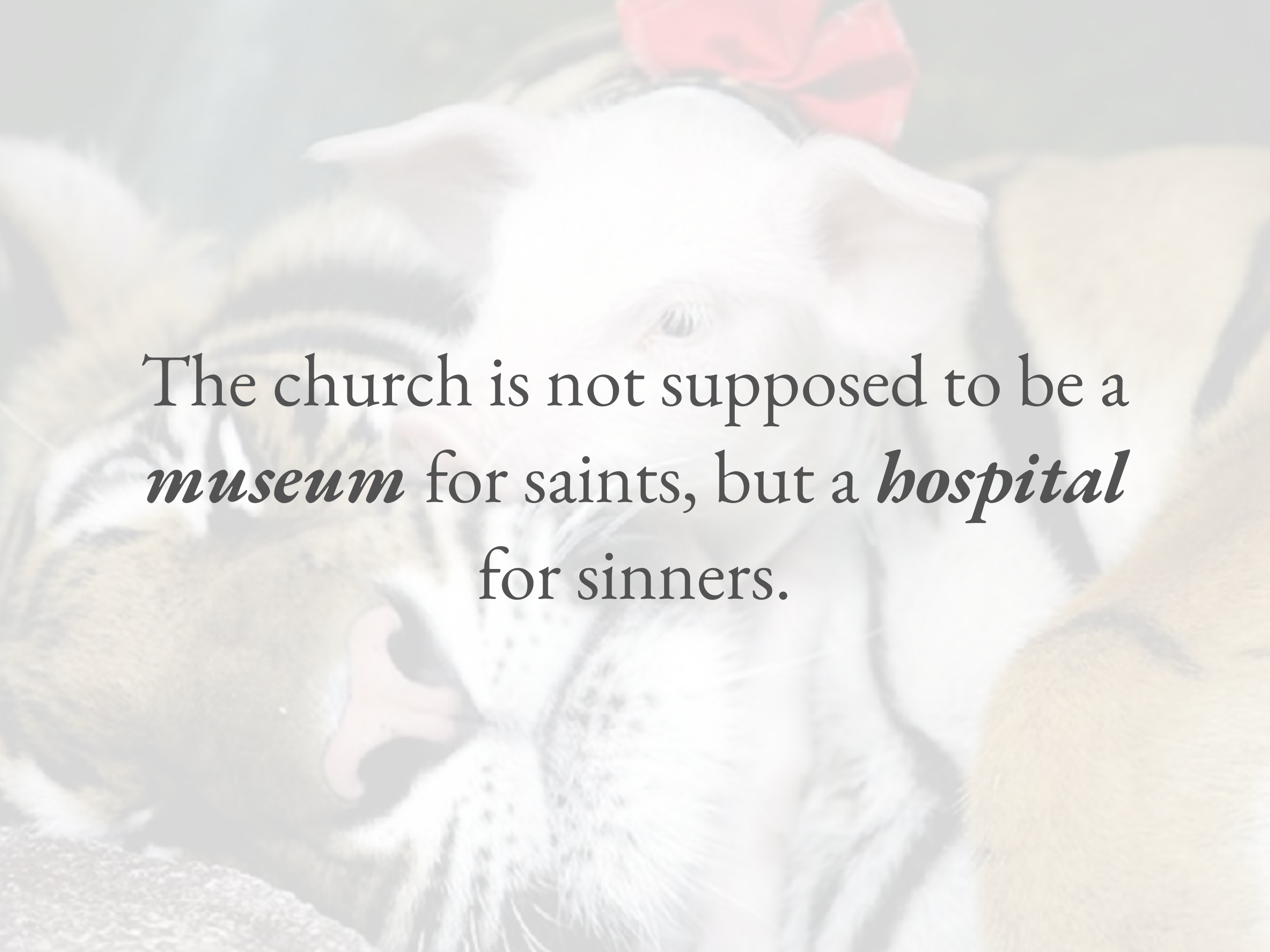


“... I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.”

John 17:23

A group of sheep is shown in a close-up, slightly blurred view. One sheep in the foreground is wearing a red and black striped hat. The background shows other sheep and a person's hand. The overall scene is warm and intimate.

God created us *all* with the need to be *loved* and *accepted*, and for the church to be the place where love and acceptance can reign.



The church is not supposed to be a *museum* for saints, but a *hospital* for sinners.

A group of piglets is shown in a natural setting. One piglet in the center is white with a red bow on its head. Other piglets with brown and white patterns are visible around it. The scene is softly lit, and the text 'JESUS' EXAMPLE' is overlaid in the center.

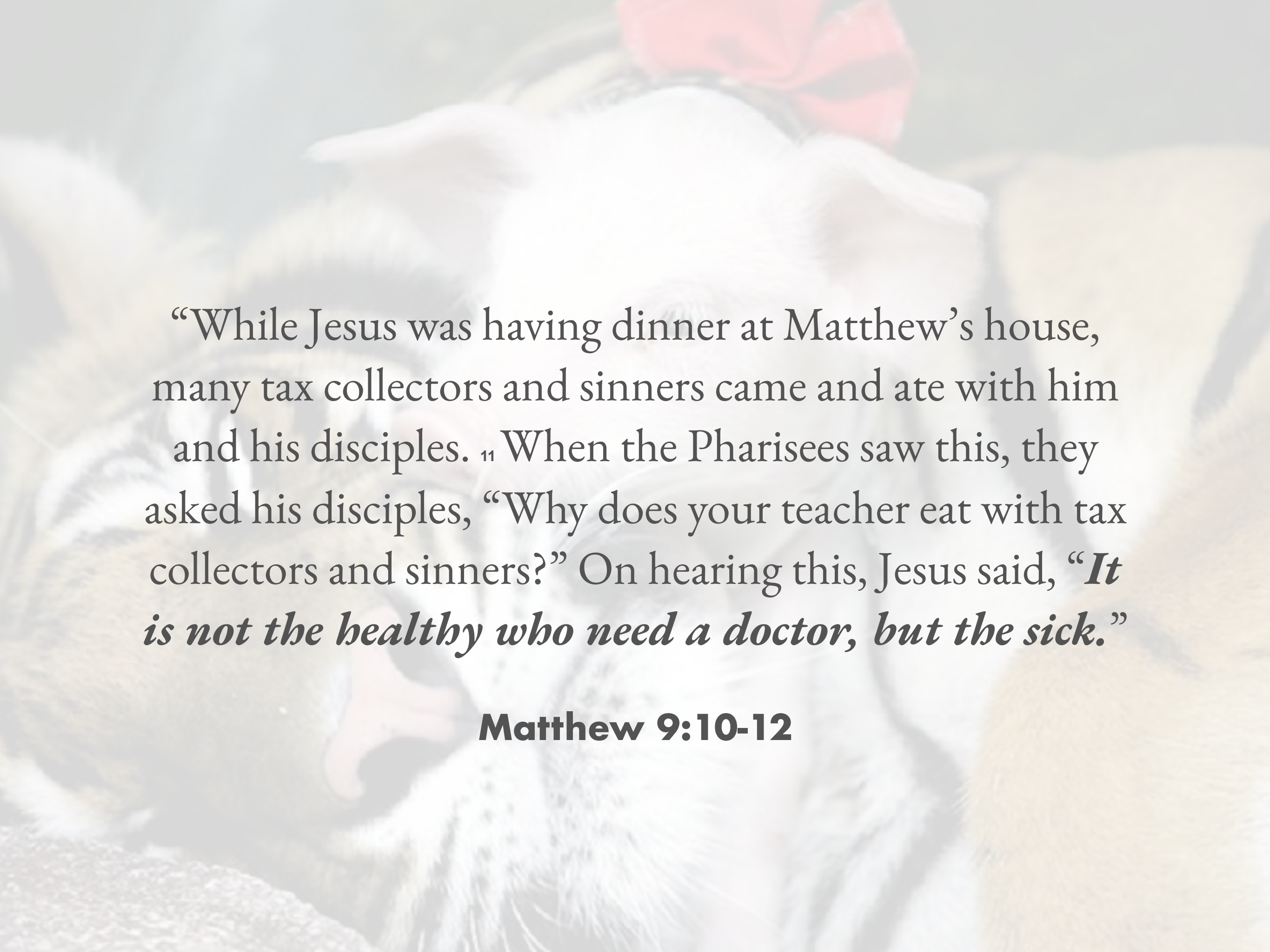
JESUS' EXAMPLE



THE SAMARITAN WOMEN
JOHN 4

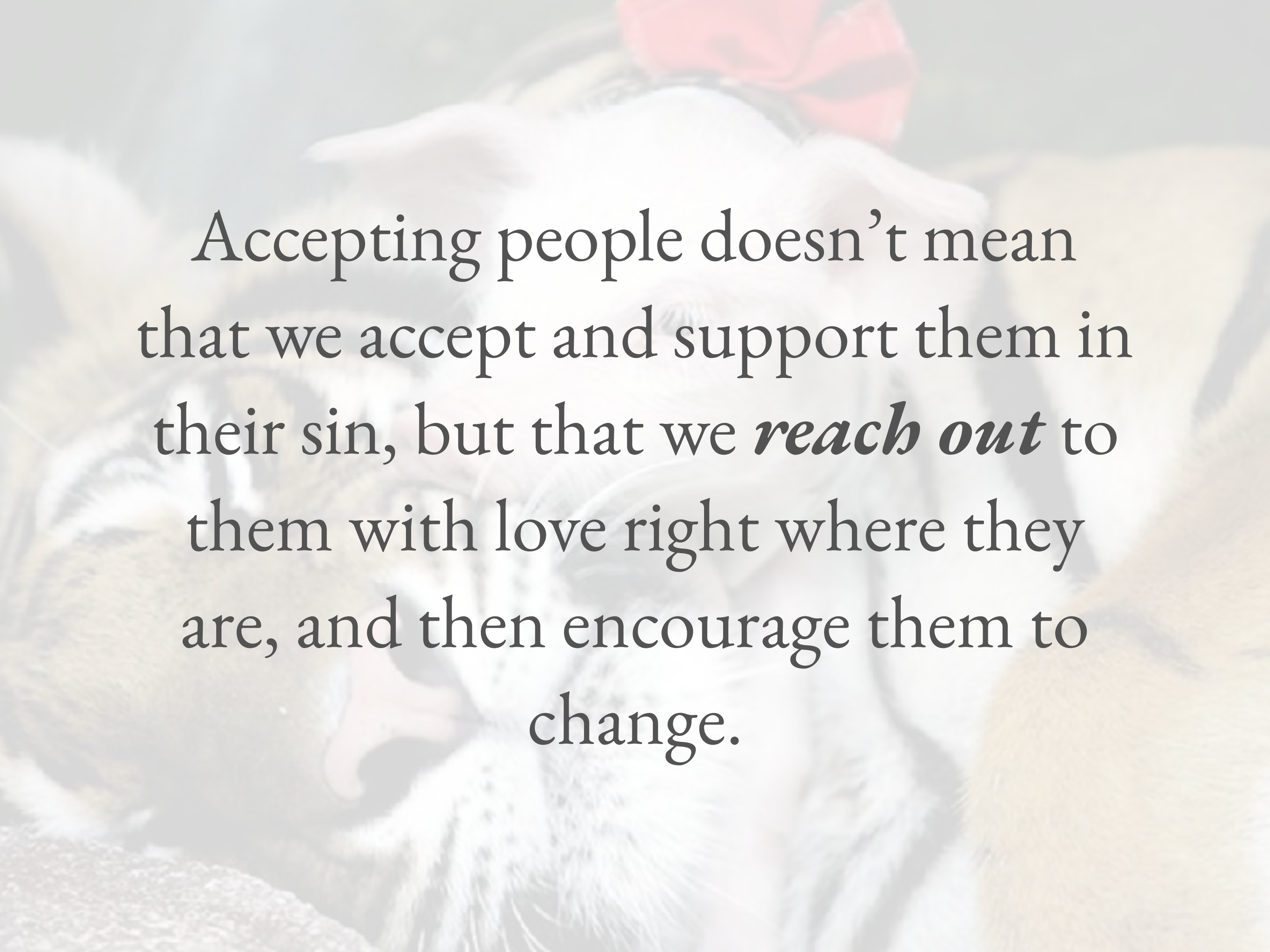
A close-up photograph of a white piglet with a red bow on its head. The piglet is looking directly at the camera with a calm expression. The background is slightly blurred, showing other piglets and a wooden structure. The overall tone is soft and gentle.

THE CALLING OF MATTHEW
MATTHEW 9



“While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew’s house, many tax collectors and sinners came and ate with him and his disciples. ¹¹ When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?” On hearing this, Jesus said, “***It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick.***”

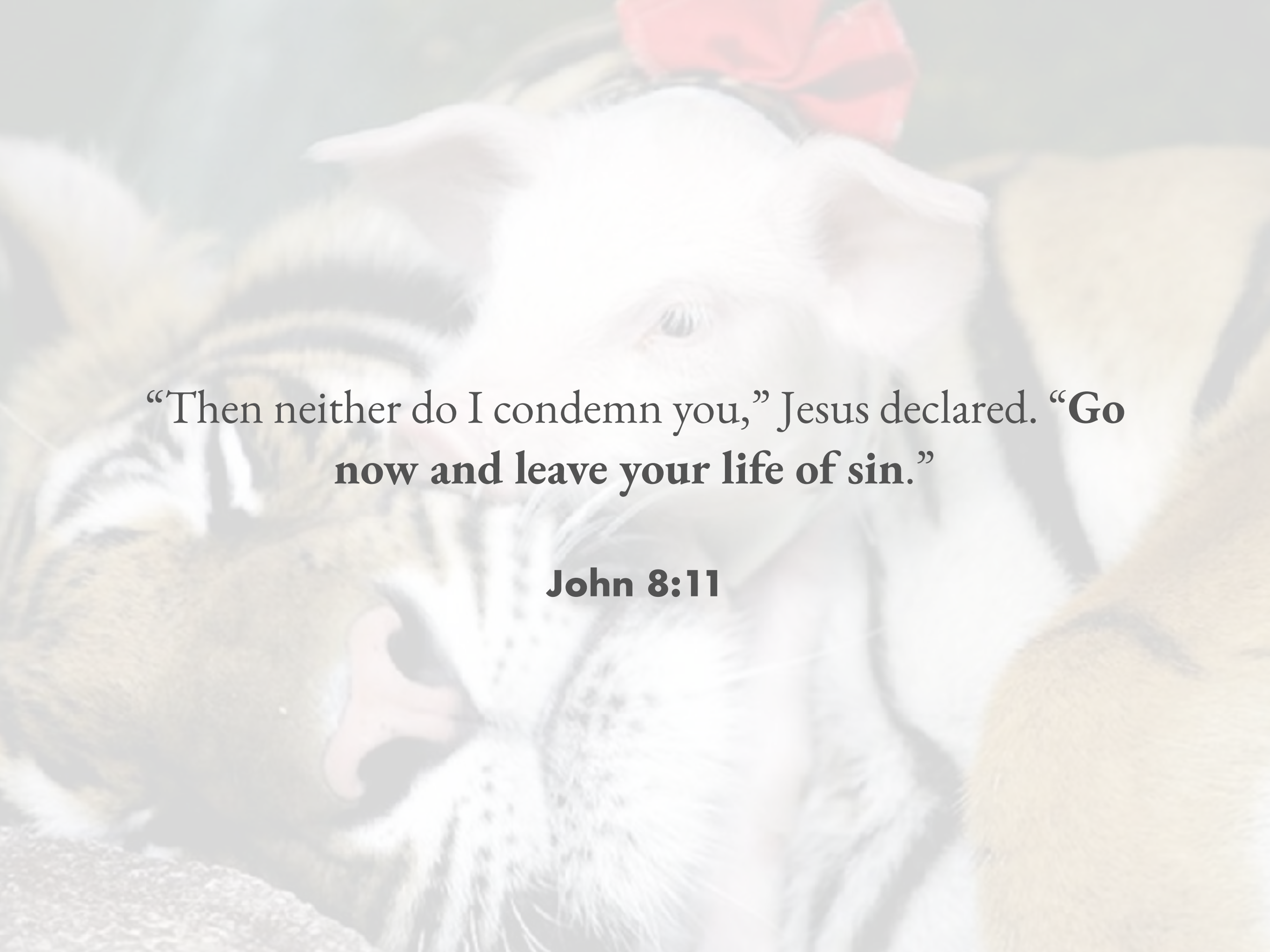
Matthew 9:10-12



Accepting people doesn't mean that we accept and support them in their sin, but that we *reach out* to them with love right where they are, and then encourage them to change.

A white piglet with a red bow on its head is the central focus of the image. It is sitting on a patterned blanket. The background is slightly blurred, showing other piglets and a person's hand. The overall tone is soft and gentle.

WOMEN CAUGHT IN ADULTERY
JOHN 8

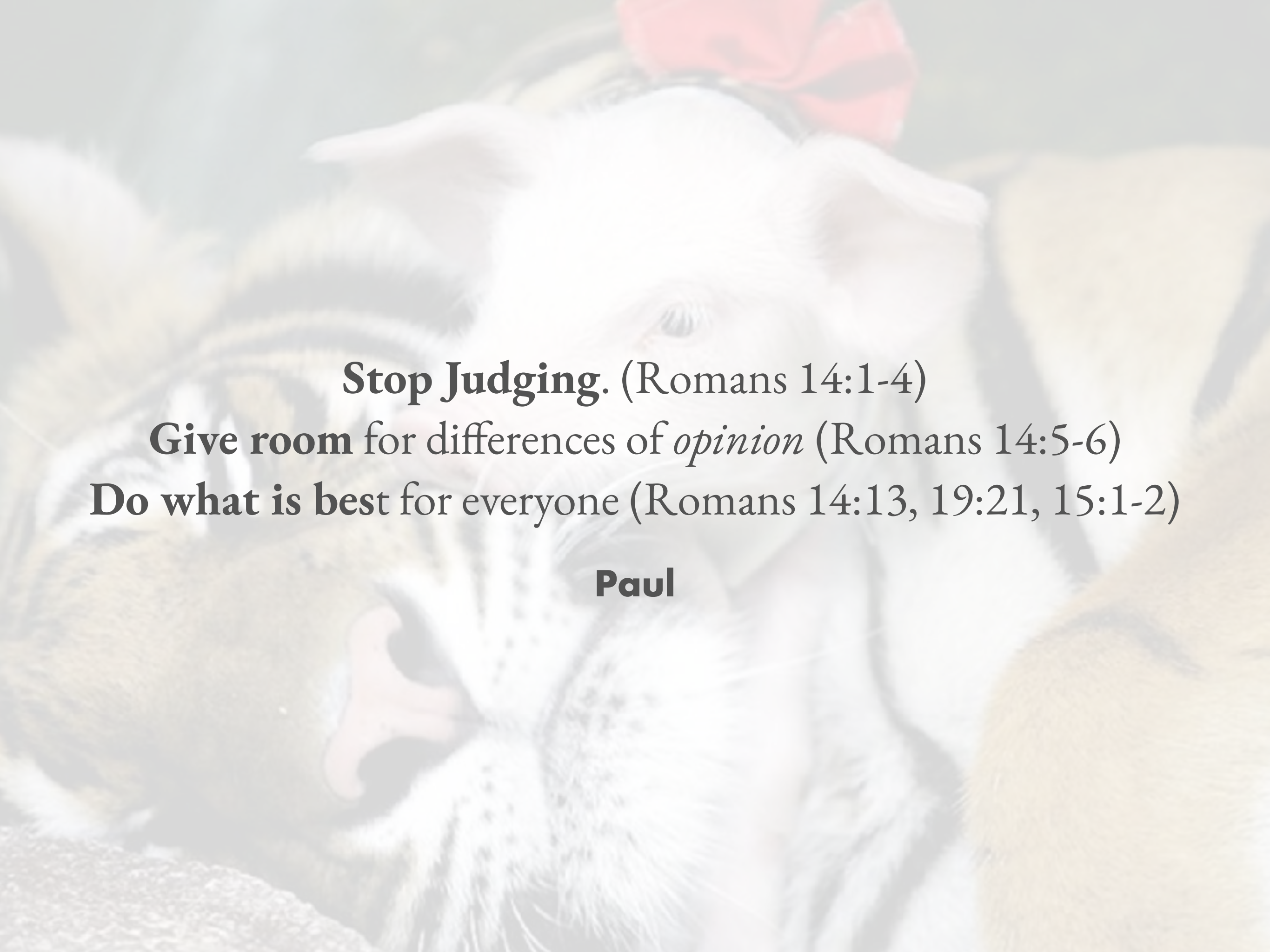
A close-up photograph of a white piglet with a red bow on its head, sitting on a patterned blanket. The piglet is looking towards the camera with a calm expression. The background is slightly blurred, showing more of the blanket and the piglet's body.

“Then neither do I condemn you,” Jesus declared. **“Go now and leave your life of sin.”**

John 8:11

A close-up photograph of a pig's head. The pig is white with some dark spots on its face and neck. It is wearing a large, bright red bow on top of its head. The pig's eyes are dark and it is looking slightly to the right of the camera. The background is out of focus, showing some green and brown tones, possibly foliage or a natural setting. The overall lighting is soft and natural.

Question: What about those who *think* differently?




Stop Judging. (Romans 14:1-4)

Give room for differences of *opinion* (Romans 14:5-6)

Do what is best for everyone (Romans 14:13, 19:21, 15:1-2)

Paul



“**The King** will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, **you did for me.**’”

Matthew 25:40



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