

# ACTS 7

Love



# Context

- Stephen is one of 7 “men of good repute, full of spirit and wisdom” Acts 6:3
- Dispute between Stephen and those from the “synagogue of the Freedmen” Acts 6:9-10
- Please listen to last week’s message



# What Happens:

- 1) Conspiracy against Stephen
- 2) History lesson and convicting his accusers
- 3) Stoning





# Conspiracy Against Stephen

- Accusers lacked the capacity to argue with Stephen
- Use of misinformation to manipulate the public to support a trial
- Strength of Social Capital/Fellowship
- “for we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and will change the customs that Moses delivered to us.” Acts 6:14





# Robert Putnam, Charles Tilly

**Social Capital:** networks of relationship among people in a particular society, enabling that society to function properly

**Fellowship:** Association amongst those with like interest



# Stephen's History Lesson

- He does not run away, call out the lie, yell, kick, scream, fight, cry, etc.
- Speaking to the high priest, Sanhedrin – assembly of rabbis (they don't need a history lesson)
- Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Joshua, David, Solomon





# Stephen's History Lesson

Abraham:

- 1) Father of the faith
- 2) Did not have a temple
- 3) Wasn't always entirely obedient and did not benefit fully from God's blessings until he grew spiritually
- 4) Lived in faith – manifestation of God's promises took a good long while



# Stephen's History Lesson

Joseph and Moses :

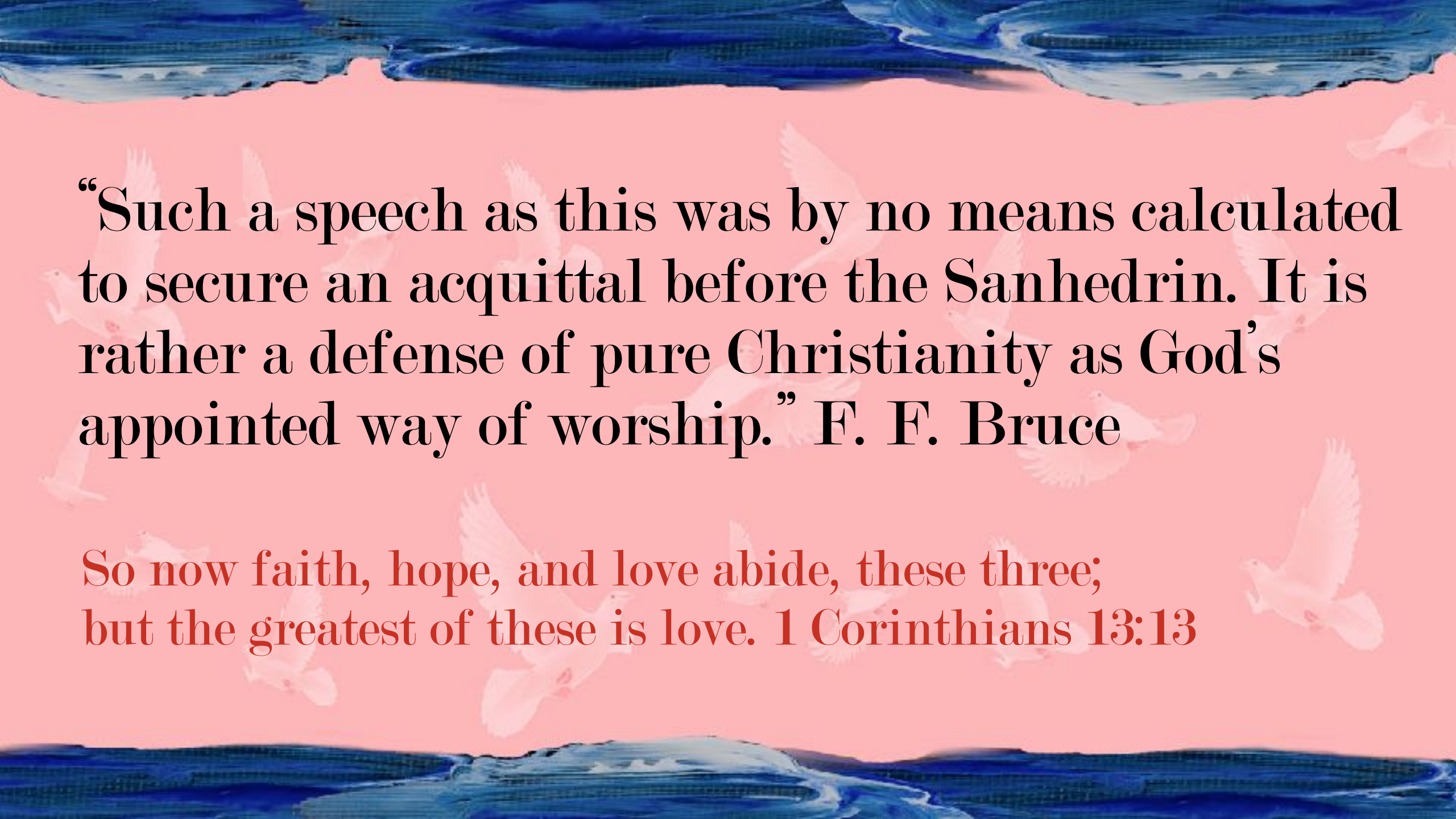
- 1) Received favor from God from infancy
- 2) Rejected by their people
- 3) Used by God bring salvation to the very people who had rejected them

‘God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your brothers.’ Acts 7:37b

Acts 7:47-48; Numbers 14:1-4







“Such a speech as this was by no means calculated to secure an acquittal before the Sanhedrin. It is rather a defense of pure Christianity as God’s appointed way of worship.” F. F. Bruce

So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three;  
but the greatest of these is love. 1 Corinthians 13:13

# Stephen Convicts His Accusers

Stephen calls out the crowd for:

- 1) Resisting the Holy Spirit (51)
- 2) Persecuting the prophets of the Lord (52)
- 3) Killing those who announced Jesus's arrival (52)
- 4) Killing Jesus (52)
- 5) Not keeping the law (53)

Jesus came for the sick  
Luke 5:31-32



# Stephen Petitions for the Forgiveness of his Murderers

Stephen:

- 1) Declares the glory of God (56)
- 2) Asks for the Lord to receive his soul (59)
- 3) Petitions for those stoning him (60)





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