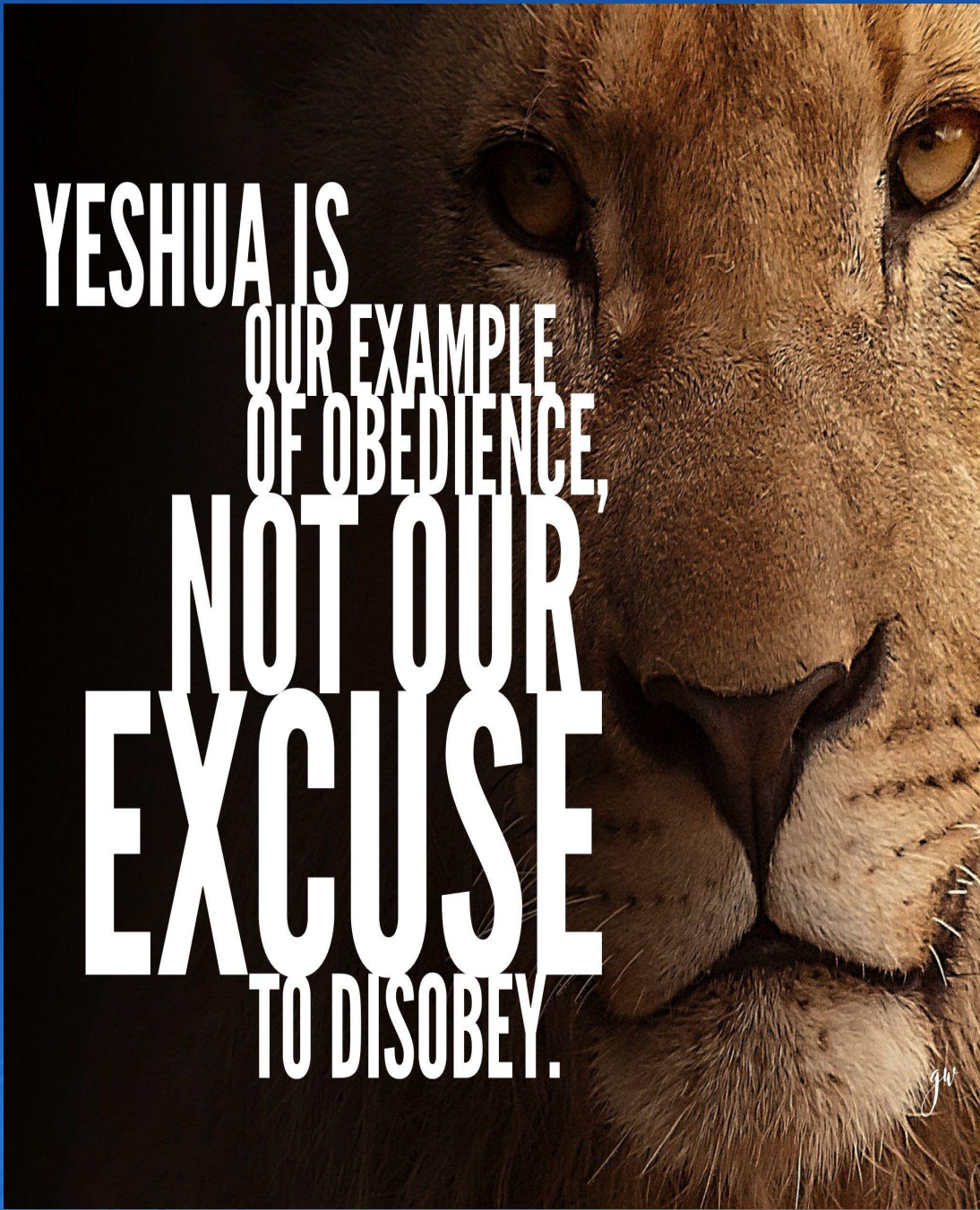


# NO BELIEVER CAN BE AN ISLAND



- Matthew 18:1 – 14 An examination of the Godly qualities the Lord expects within the Body of Believers
- One of the most loving and charitable things we can do is to confront a brother or sister over un-confessed or un-realized sin
- Background of Matthew 18 is about how a community of Believers is to think and to behave

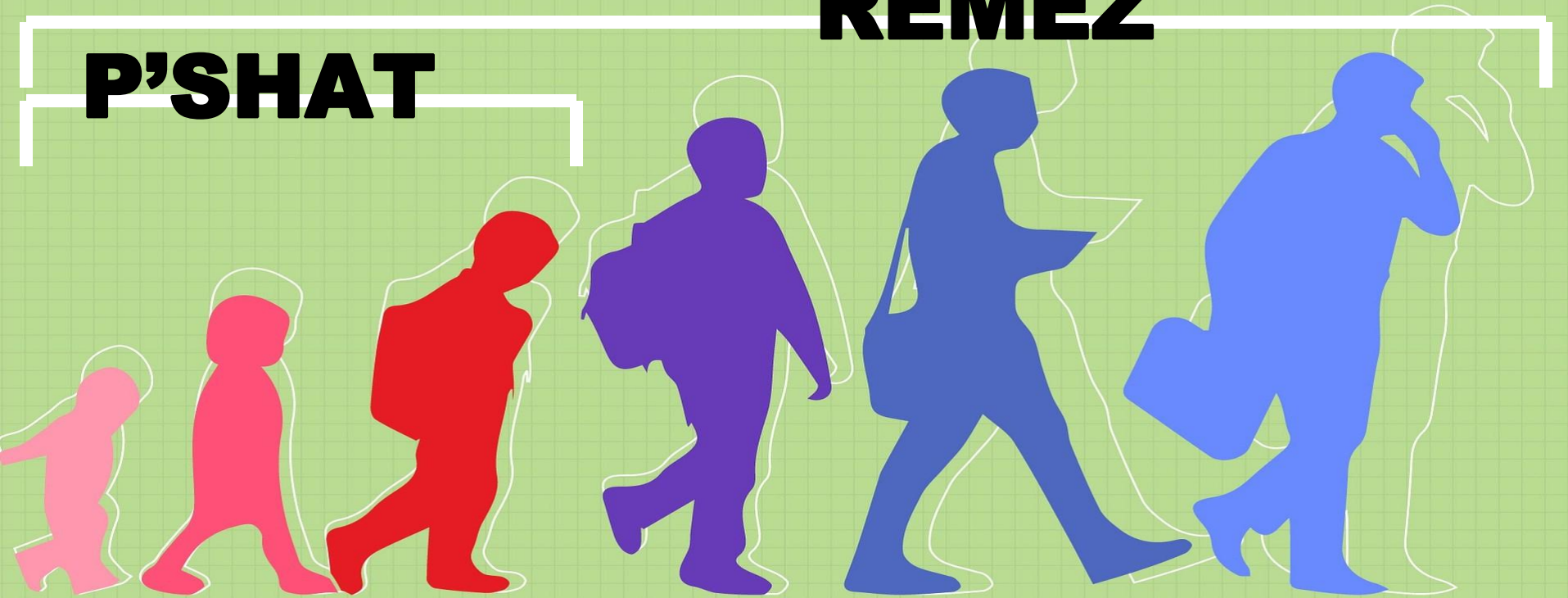
- To carry out Lev. 19:18 we must humble ourselves
- Disciples' argument is over status and rank
- Humility is the quality of a child Jesus wants in His followers
- 1<sup>st</sup> century families not designed to cater to every whim of their children
- Little children in our day are NOT the example because they've not been taught humility!



**YESHUA IS  
OUR EXAMPLE  
OF OBEDIENCE,  
NOT OUR  
EXCUSE  
TO DISOBEY.**

# P'SHAT

# REMEZ



- The object lesson of little children transforms into something deeper
- “Little one” morphs into meaning a new Believer of any age, but also retains the meaning of literal children
- Great care of new Believers must be taken, especially by the leaders

# EDUCATION NEEDED !!



- Hebrews 5:12
- Woe to anyone who sets a snare for the vulnerable
- Removing one's eye or foot is an expression to not sin is not a suggestion of mutilation
- The punishment for snare setting is Gei –Hinnom
- The worst fate for the dead
- Image is of Hell



# GUARDIAN ANGELS?

- Matt. 18:10 seems to be saying that the little ones have Guardian Angels
- Psalm 91
- Targum of Jacob 2:5
- Book of Jubilees 35:17
- Targum of Job 43:10
- Implication is that all Believers, at any age, have Guardian Angels
- Some Greek manuscripts have vs. 11



What do you think.....?

- Christ wants His disciples to pause and reflect
- Would you leave 99 sheep to find the one stray?
- Little ones = strayed sheep
- The 99 were mature and wise enough to be left
- The element of risk to the 99 plays no role in the story
- The point is the joy of rescuing the 1 that wandered off

# GOD'S LOVE FOR THE



- Jesus often spoke using Jewish cultural expressions
- Ezekiel chapter 34
- The sheep and shepherds in Ezekiel are identified as human beings
- God lays the responsibility on rescuing the strays mainly on the leadership

# 3 SOCIETAL SYSTEMS

- Matthew 18:15 – 20 is NOT dealing with criminality
- The offenses are between people
- The world's societies are generally divided into 3 kinds of social platforms
  - 1) Guilt and Innocence
  - 2) Power and Fear
  - 3) Shame and Honor
- These systems are rarely pure, and most societies have some elements of 2 or all

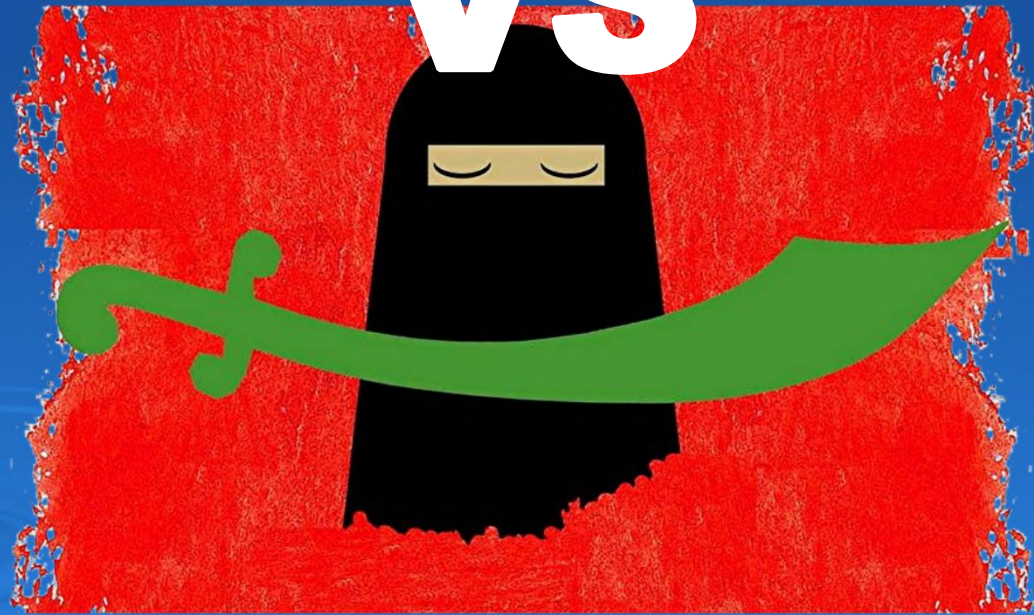


# A MIX OF SHAME AND LAW

- Matthew 18:15 – 20 shame and honor terms are being used
- Things the community ought to do and not do to another
- The offenses don't meet the spiritual ideals, so discipline is involved
- Discipline can rise to being banned, to losing leadership, to being shunned



vs



# DEALING WITH OFFENSES

- Different Bible versions say sin, offenses, or trespasses
- A multi-step approach
- Step 1: confronting the offender one on one, privately
- Vs. 15 seems to be only about an offense between 2 people, not against the community
- The goal is reconciliation
- The sheep, shepherds, and little ones are connected
- Step 2: only when step 1 fails

