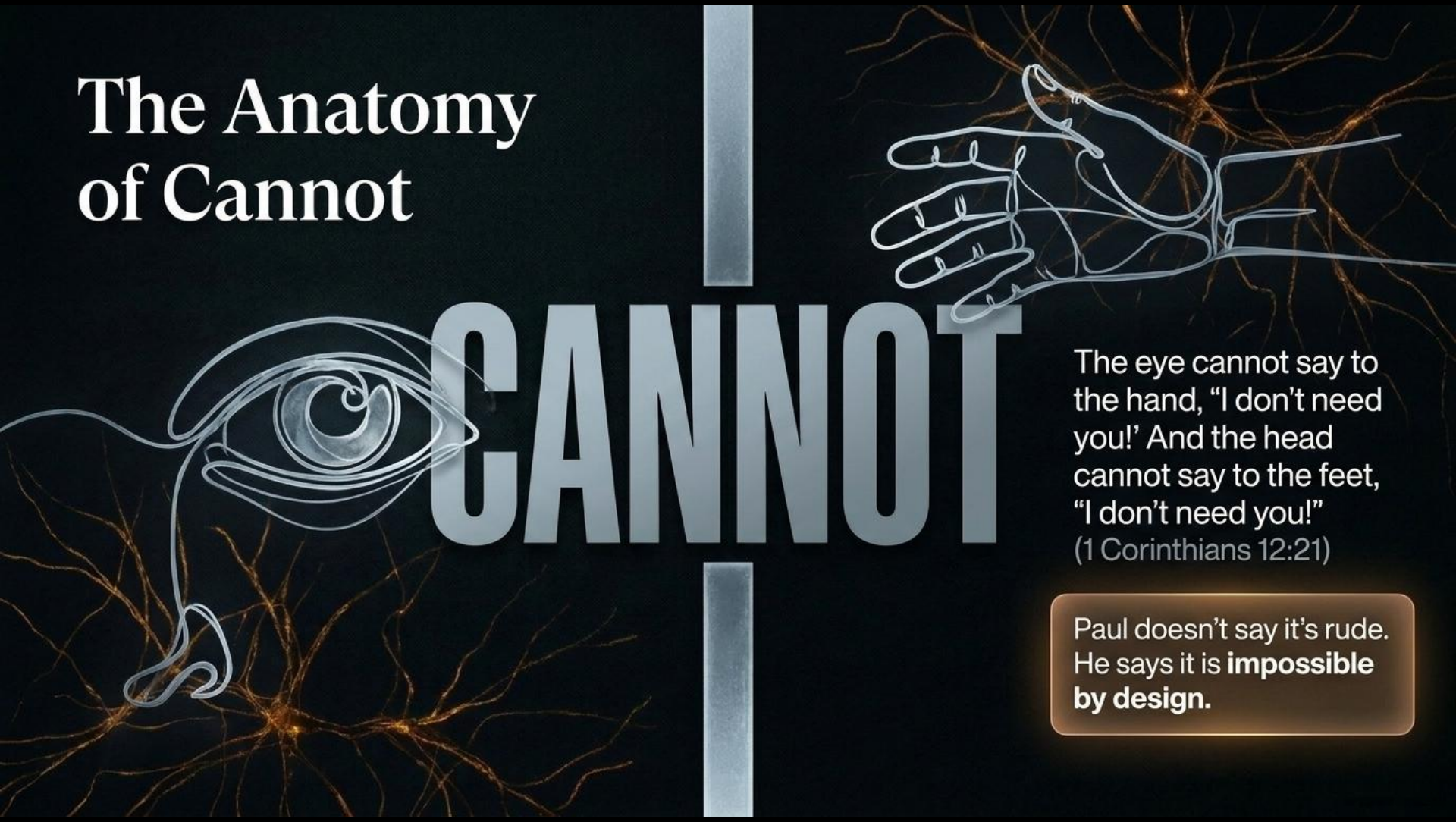
NOT WITHOUT YOU
1 Corinthians 12:21-31

1 Corinthians 12

21 The eye cannot say to the hand, “I don’t need you!” And the head cannot say
to the feet, “I don’t need you!” 22 On the contrary, those parts of the body that
seem to be weaker are indispensable, 23 and the parts that we think are less
honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are
treated with special modesty, 24 while our presentable parts need no special
treatment. But God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the parts
that lacked it, 25 so that there should be no division in the body, but that its
parts should have equal concern for each other. 26 If one part suffers, every part
suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.
27 Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. 28 And God
has placed in the church first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers,
then miracles, then gifts of healing, of helping, of guidance, and of different
kinds of tongues. 29 Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all
work miracles? 30 Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all
interpret? 31 Now eagerly desire the greater gifts.
And yet I will show you the most excellent way.

God designed Christ's body so that every member belongs.

The Anatomy of Cannot



CANNOT

The eye cannot say to the hand, “I don’t need you!’ And the head cannot say to the feet, “I don’t need you!”
(1 Corinthians 12:21)

Paul doesn’t say it’s rude. He says it is **impossible by design.**

The Twin Lies of Disconnection

Lie #1

I am different,
so I don’t belong.

Lie #2

You are different,
so I don’t need you.

The Roots of Withdrawal

Are all Apostles?

Are all Prophets?

Are all Teachers?

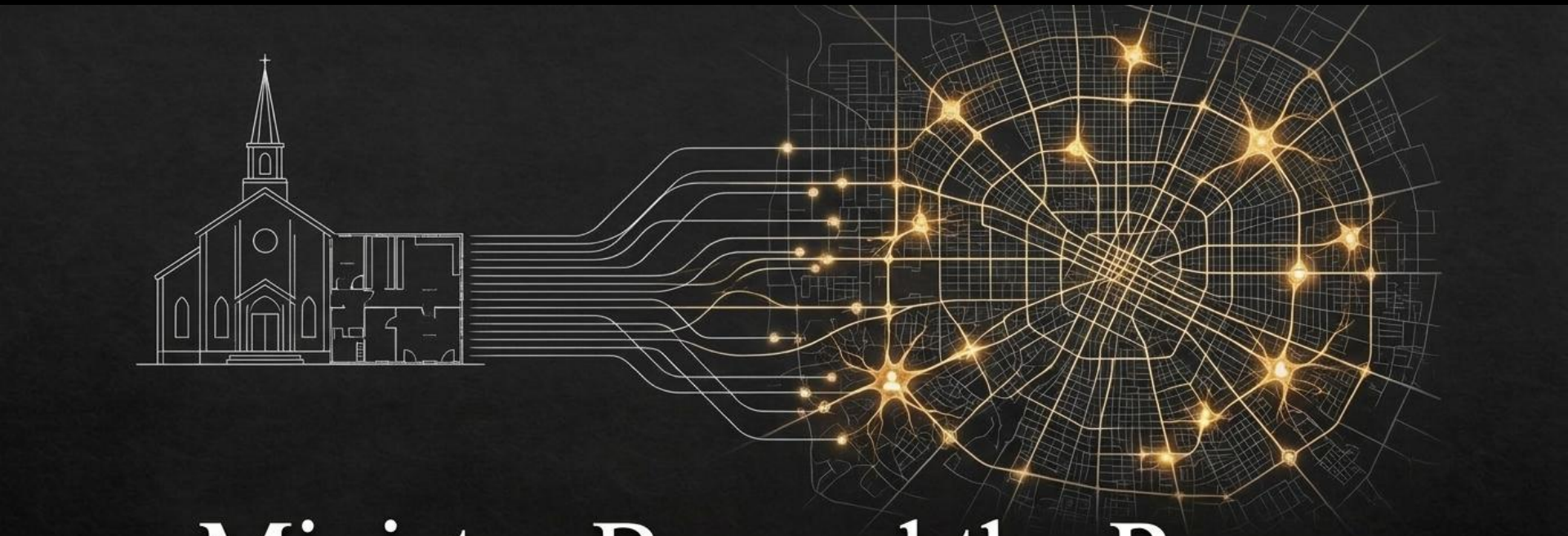
Do all work Miracles?

Do all have gifts of Healing?

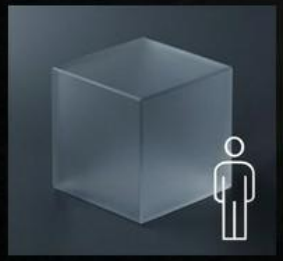
Of Helping? Of Guidance? Of Tongues?

Nobody has everything.

Nobody is everything.



Ministry Beyond the Room



The Spectator Myth
Church is just a Sunday gathering.
Result: I have the “freedom” to do nothing.

The Organic Reality
We are the body of Christ.
Result: You are indispensable to the hurting, captive, and despairing people in your specific circle.

The Most Excellent Way
"Now eagerly desire the greater gifts. And yet I will show you the most excellent way." (1 Corinthians 12:31)

Who have I decided I can do without?

Who am I failing to notice?

What am I doing with what God has given me?