



Grace Life Church
of Dallas
The doctrines of grace, the life of the Spirit, to the glory of God

Concentric Circles

Biblically Prioritizing Our Lives

Circle Two-Spouse Part 2

Roles Within Marriage

All Bible Verses are in the ESV Version (unless noted)

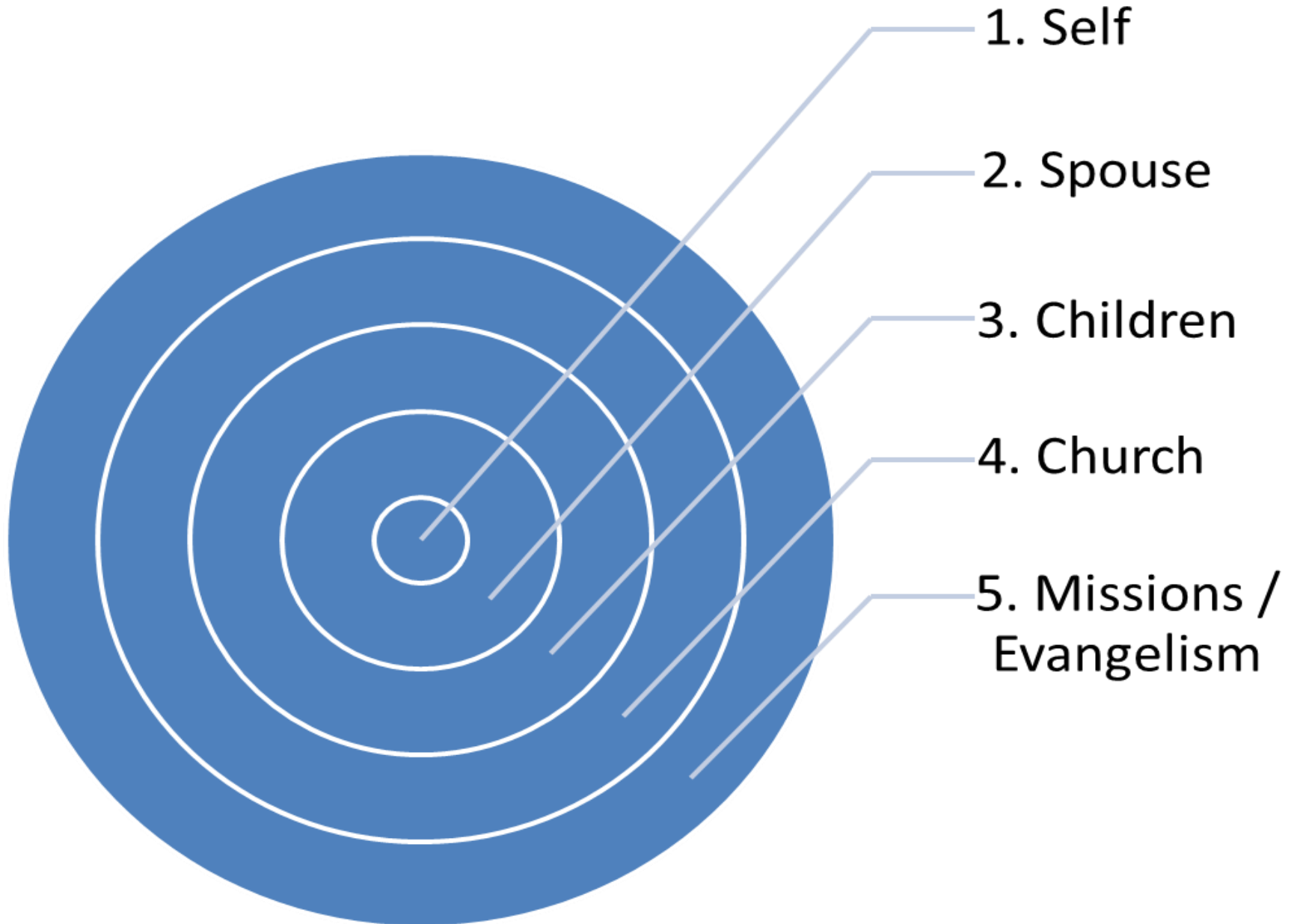
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Concentric Circles

Conforming our Lives to Scripture-Prioritizing our Lives



Circle Two-Spouse Review

Genesis 2:24 *Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.*

Ephesians 5:31-32 *“Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” 32 This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.*

- Marriage is primarily about displaying the covenant between Christ and the church (To magnify the gospel)
- Our view of the gospel (it’s importance), should have a direct correlation to our view of marriage (it’s importance)
- This is our “Why”, our motivation in fulfilling our roles
- Marriage is a gospel-centered, gospel-driven, & gospel-proclaiming union

Although a husband and wife have the same goal in marriage (magnifying the gospel) they have very distinct, yet complementary roles/responsibilities

- The husband is called to lead his wife, and the wife is called to submit to her husband

Biblical Call of Wives

Ephesians 5:22-24 *Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. 23 For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. 24 Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.*

Colossians 3:18 *Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.*

1 Peter 3:1-6 *Likewise, wives, be subject to your own husbands, so that even if some do not obey the word, they may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives, 2 when they see your respectful and pure conduct. 3 Do not let your adorning be external—the braiding of hair and the putting on of gold jewelry, or the clothing you wear— 4 but let your adorning be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which in God's sight is very precious. 5 For this is how the holy women who hoped in God used to adorn themselves, by submitting to their own husbands, 6 as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord. And you are her children, if you do good and do not fear anything that is frightening.*⁴

Biblical Call of Wives

Wife's primary calling regarding her husband is one of submission

Submission: to subject one's self, to subordinate

- The definition requires the understanding that the husband is the head

Submission

- To whom? *To your own husband*
- How? *As to the Lord* (in the same way) (*as the church submits to Christ*)
- Not contingent upon the husband (*even if some do not obey the word*)
 - When a husband is NOT obeying the Word (Unbeliever or believer)
 - *Win them without a word* (Contrary to culture/default)-Not a call to silence in the home
 - How will they be won? *By the conduct of their wives*
 - What type of conduct? *Respectful and pure conduct*
 - » *Adorning*
 - *Not external: hair, jewelry, clothing*
 - *Internal: hidden person of the heart with the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit (which is precious in God's sight)*

Biblical Call of Wives

Summary of submissive calling: Submit to your own husband, as unto the Lord, even when he doesn't lead well, being motivated by the call to magnify the gospel. The evidence you are fulfilling this call is you will be adorned with respectful and pure conduct, which is manifested by the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit. A warning sign you are not fulfilling the call is you are trying to win your husband over with words (which is not trusting the Lord).

Consider those times when you justify not fulfilling this call:

- When your husband is not treating you kindly or not leading you Biblically
- Who is at the center of this thinking?
- What should be at the center encouraging you, motivating you? The worth of the gospel proclamation
- Key: Look to example of Jesus Christ (1 Peter 2:21-23) *entrusting Himself to the Lord*

An additional calling of wives: (Titus 2:5, 1 Timothy 5:14)

- *Working at home, Manage their households*
- Managing family affairs, caring for the house, a domestic
- If your work outside the home keeps you from fulfilling your call inside the home, it is wrong

Biblical Call of Husbands

Ephesians 5:25-30 *Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, 26that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, 27so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. 28In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. 29For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, 30because we are members of his body.*

Colossians 3:19 *Husbands, love your wives, and do not be harsh with them.*

1 Peter 3:7 *Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.*

Husbands are to lead (head) (1 Cor 11:1-3, Eph 5:23, Col 3:18, 1 Tim 3:4)

Biblical Call of Husbands

Husband's primary calling is one of loving servant leadership (headship)

For the husband, Jesus Christ is his example in loving, serving and leadership

Leadership:

- Culture will encourage two aspects of leadership (Selfish Dictatorship or Selfish Passivity). They are both selfish and both sin.
- Jesus was a servant leader (which in our culture is an oxymoron)
 - **Matthew 20:28** *Even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.*
 - **Philippians 2:4-7** *Let each of you not look to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who though He was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but made Himself nothing, taking the form of a servant. And being found in human form, He humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.*
 - **John 13:12-15** *“Do you understand what I have done to you?” You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you.*

Biblical Call of Husbands

Husband's primary calling is one of loving servant leadership (headship)

For the husband, Jesus Christ is his example in loving, serving and leadership

Love: Jesus is the greatest example of true love

- Our love for our wives must be:
 - *As Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her (self-sacrificing)*
 - Marked by “*nourishing* (feeding, bringing up to maturity) *and cherishing* (tender love, keep warm)” (maturity in Christ, concerned with spiritual well-being/leading)
 - Not being *harsh* (from bitterness)
 - *Living with them in an understanding way* (according to knowledge)
 - *Showing honor* (to value) *as the weaker vessel* (understanding their call, & role)

All of this requires intentional and continual communication and time

Summary of loving servant leadership: Husbands are called to lead their wives by serving them and loving them as Christ loved and served the church. They are to help their wives grow in Christlikeness by nourishing and cherishing them, while showing them honor by living with them in an understanding way, and not being harsh but kind.

When do we justify not fulfilling this call? When we are not getting what we want (respect, intimacy, recognition, rest, etc). Who is at the center of this thinking? Ourselves

What should be our “Why”? The worth of the gospel proclamation

Practical Implications of Marriage Roles

Husbands, you are responsible for the spiritual condition of your home and wife

- Not overloading your wife with activities, fellowship, etc, but guarding her alone time in the Word and prayer
- Husbands are to be teaching their wives (Formally and informally)
- Women are to be looking to their husbands
 - **1 Corinthians 14:33-35** *As in all the churches of the saints, the women should keep silent in the churches. For they are not permitted to speak but should be in submission, as the Law also says. If there is anything they desire to learn, let them ask their husbands at home.*
 - **A wife's growing in the knowledge and grace of Jesus Christ will come through:** hearing the word (Pastor/Elder Eph 4:11-12, 1 Tim 2:11), through their husband (1 Cor 14:33-35, Eph 5:25-30), through personal reading/study (Romans 12:2), or through edifying relationships with other women in the church (Prov 27:17, Titus 2:3-5)
 - Relationships with other women in the church should **NOT** be in the place of their husband (The great majority of what we see happening in the church between women today is an attempt to fill the void of husbands not leading well)

Marriage is a great blessing and responsibility. May we all examine ourselves today to see what we have given a higher priority to than fulfilling our role in our marriage?

May the manifestation of the gospel propel us to fulfill our personal roles and continually grow in the understanding of our responsibilities in our marriage