



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

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Circle Two-Spouse

The Purpose of Marriage for our Understanding and Motivation

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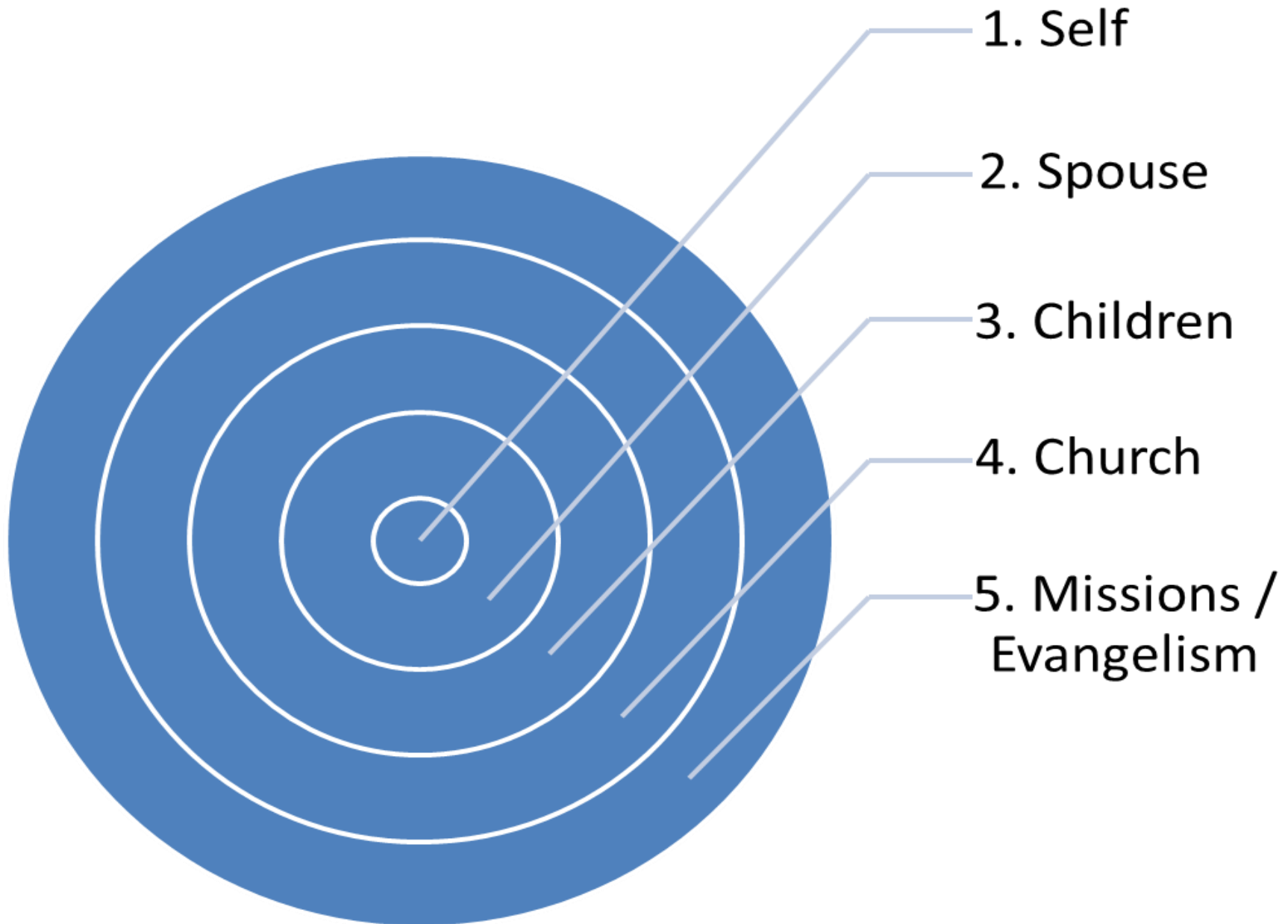
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Concentric Circles

Conforming our Lives to Scripture-Prioritizing our Lives



Circle Two-Spouse

Circle 2 & 3 are based on the providence of God

- Some may be called to singleness (1 Corinthians 7)
- Some may not have children (Genesis 30)
- If you have a spouse, you are accountable to this call

Why is this circle 2 in priority?

- Based on the principle of Biblical stewardship (Matt 25:14-29)
- Elder qualifications (1 Tim 3:1-7, Titus 1:5-9)

What is marriage, and what is it's intended purpose?

- Scripture is sufficient in answering these questions (2 Tim 3:16-17)
- Good for our understanding and motive in fulfilling our call

What is Marriage?

In order to see anything properly, we must view it through the lens of Scripture (God's perspective):

Genesis 2:18-24 *18Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him." 19Now out of the ground the LORD God had formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. 20The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him. 21So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. 22And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. 23Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man." 24Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.*

Genesis 2:18-24 Marriage

The institution of marriage (v24): *Therefore a man shall leave his father & his mother & hold fast to his wife, & they shall become one flesh*

- Marriage is between a man and a woman
 - Not a between a boy and a girl
- There is a leaving (father/mother) and a cleaving (wife)
 - Changing in responsibilities and priorities
- The husband and wife become one flesh (complete unity)
 - There is a leaving, cleaving, and a becoming “one”
 - In the original design of marriage, this is a permanent coming together
 - The oneness between a husband and wife cannot be achieved unless the husband and wife know, understand, accept and fulfill their role in the marriage

What is the ultimate purpose of marriage?

Ultimate Purpose of Marriage

Ephesians 5:22-32

31 “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.

- Since its origin (Gen 2:24), marriage had a divine purpose
- Marriage (Gen 2:24) refers to Christ and the church (gospel)
- In the gospel Jesus Christ loves the church and lays His life down and the church submits to Jesus
- In marriage, the husband loves his wife and lays his life down, and the wife submits to her husband
- **Marriage is primarily about displaying the covenant between Christ and the church**
- Our view of our marriage is a direct correlation of our view of the gospel

How important is the gospel? Eternal importance and preeminent

- Is this reflected in my marriage? Both ways husband/wife & wife/husband

Ultimate Purpose of Marriage

Husbands and wives, do you approach your role in your marriage with the driving force and motivation being “I will represent the gospel”?

- My great fear is that our motivation (“Why”) regarding fulfilling our role is selfishly, responsively or culturally motivated (Not Biblically/gospel)
- If our “Why” is unbiblical, we will only fulfill our roles to the degree things are going our way (good)
- In what we have looked at thus far (roles) “*Husbands love your wives as Christ loved the church*”... “*Wives submit to your own husband as unto the Lord.*”
 - Fulfilling our role in our marriage is NOT contingent upon our spouse.
 - It is contingent upon our view of the worth of the gospel and it’s proclamation
- If you have been fulfilling your role based upon your needs being met, how your spouse treats you, or your spouse fulfilling their role, you need to repent today.
- Marriage is a gospel-centered, gospel-driven, and gospel-proclaiming union

Introduction of Marriage Roles

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

When God created Adam first and then Eve (pre-fall), this was intentional and established a Biblical order

1 Timothy 2:11-13 *Let a woman learn quietly with all submissiveness. 12 I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man; rather, she is to remain quiet. 13 For Adam was formed first, then Eve*

- Husband role: Authority (leadership) and teaching
- Wife's role: Submission
- Reasoning: Adam was formed first (Biblical order)

1 Corinthians 11:1-3 *Now I commend you because you remember me in everything and maintain the traditions even as I delivered them to you. 3 But I want you to understand that the head of every man is Christ, the head of a wife is her husband, and the head of Christ is God. (Col 3:18, Eph 5:22, 1 Peter 3:1)*

- Distinct Biblical roles do not equate to less loved, dignified, valued or significance.
- Genesis 1:27, Galatians 3:28

Biblical Manhood & Womanhood

God has given clearly defined roles to men and women in the family and in the church. In the family, husbands are called to loving and humble leadership, rather than the cultural norm of passive or domineering headship. Wives are called to intelligent and willing submission, rather than usurpation or servility. Redemption in Christ gives men and women an equal share in the blessings of salvation and both are equally valued in God's economy; however, some governing and teaching roles within the church are restricted to men. (Gal 3:28; 1 Cor 11:2-16; 1 Tim 2:11-15; Prov 31, 12:4; Titus 2:3-5; I Tim 5:14).

Circle 2-Review

- Have you prioritized your life to know, understand, accept and fulfill your role in your marriage?
- Are you motivated to fulfill your role in your marriage by the infinite worth of the gospel, and displaying it in your marriage, or by how your spouse's response to you and their fulfillment of their role?
- No one is perfected in their marriage, but if you have not been fulfilling your responsibility due to lack of understanding, low view of the gospel or high view of self, you need to repent and confess your sins.