



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 One-Self

The Guarding & Nurturing of Your Soul

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

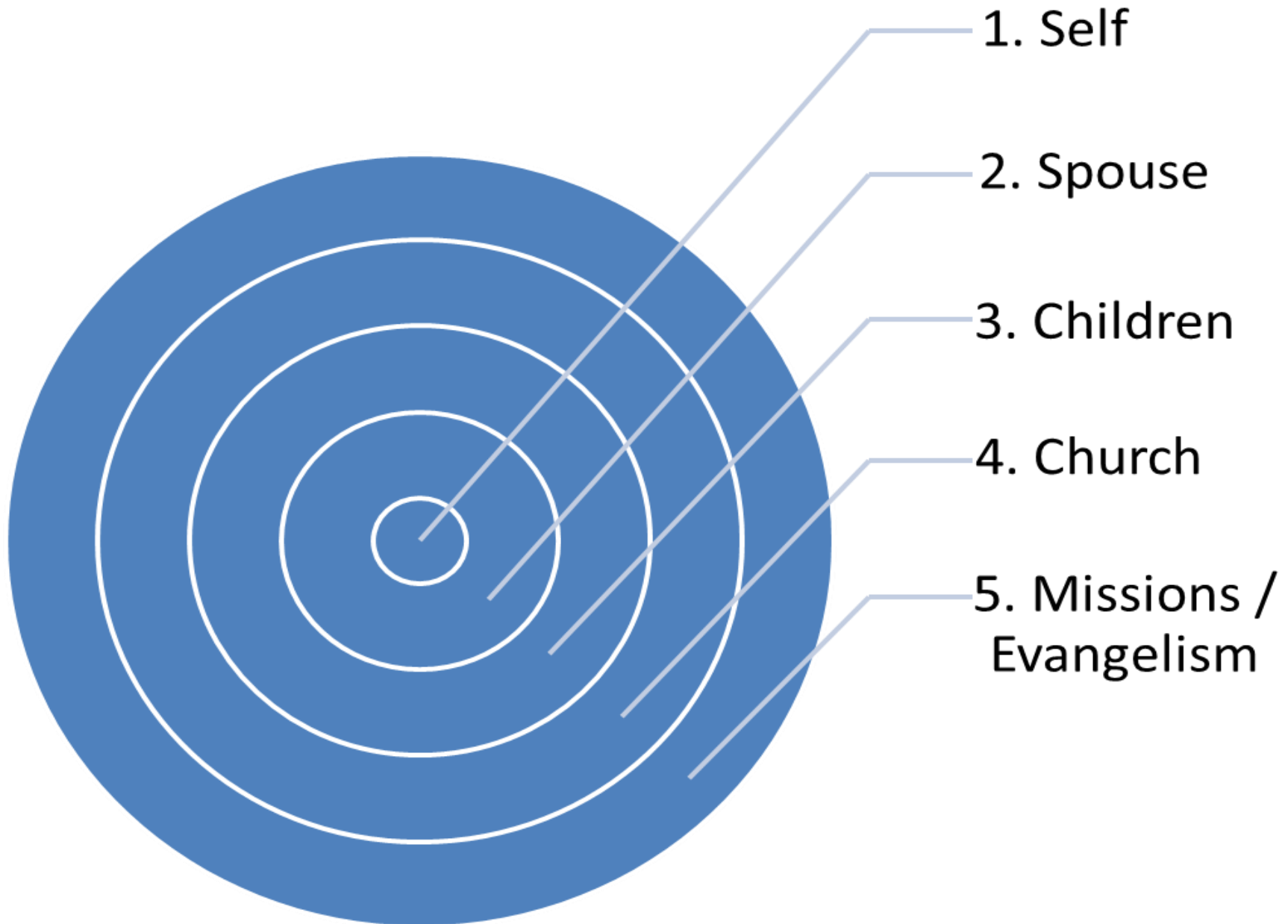
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Concentric Circles

Conforming our Lives to Scripture-Prioritizing our Lives



1 Timothy 4:6-8

If you put these things before the brothers, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, being trained in the words of the faith and of the good doctrine that you have followed. 7Have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths. Rather train yourself for godliness; 8for while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come. 9The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance.

- *The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance.*

Middle of v7 “**Train/Discipline yourself toward godliness**”

- **Guarding of Self:** *Have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths(v7)*
- **Nurturing of Self:** *Being trained (constantly nourished)in the words of the faith and of the good doctrine that you have followed(v6)*
- **Prioritizing of Life:** *While bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come.(v8)*

Guarding of Self (Heart)

1 Timothy 4:16 *Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching. Persist in this, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers.*

Proverbs 4:23 *Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life.*

Keep: guard, protect, maintain

Heart: feelings, will, intellect

Ephesians 5:15 *Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise*

- Guard your eyes **Psalms 101:3** *I will not set before my eyes anything that is worthless. I hate the work of those who fall away; it shall not cling to me.*
- Guard your company **1 Corinthians 15:33** *Do not be deceived: “Bad company ruins good morals.”*
 - **Proverbs 13:20** *Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm.*
 - **Psalms 1:1** *Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers*
 - **2 Corinthians 6:14** *Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness?*

Nurturing Self-Word

John 17:17 *Sanctify them in the truth, Your word is truth*

- You will not be sanctified apart from the Word of God (Means)

Psalms 1:1-3 *Blessed is the man.... V2 but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night. V3 He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.*

- We must consistently be reading, meditating, & memorizing Scripture
 - Reading (Breadth) & Meditating (Depth) Joshua 1:8, Ezra 7:10
- Is your life prioritized around the intake of the Word of God?

Romans 12:1-2 *I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. 2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.*

- The battle is to see and know Him (Ephesians 1:15-23, 2 Peter 1:3)
- Biblical world view (Seeing the world through the lens Scripture/gospel)

2 Corinthians 10:5 *We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ*

Nurturing Self-Prayer

Another aspect of nurturing your soul and communing with God: Prayer

- We saw last week that it is the Spirit, working through prayer that we are granted *“the Spirit of wisdom and revelation in knowledge of Him, having the eyes of our hearts enlightened”* concerning Him and who we are in Him.
 - In knowing Jesus, by the Spirit’s power, according to the Word we grow
- Paul warned the **Galatians in 3:3** *Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?*
 - We absolutely have a responsibility in our sanctification, but we never grow out of dependence on the Holy Spirit, but rather we grow in the understanding of how dependent we truly are (**John 15:5** *without Me you can do nothing*)
 - As we grow in the understanding of our weaknesses (which drive us to further dependence on Him), we boast in our weaknesses, because in our weaknesses we are strong, and His grace is sufficient (**2 Cor 12:9-10**)
 - Your prayer life is a reflection of your understanding of your dependence on Him (Study the book of Luke and reflect on the prayer life of Jesus)

Nurturing Self-Prayer

Two Aspects to our Prayer Life:

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 *Rejoice always, 17pray without ceasing, 18give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*

- Prayer without ceasing: Constant communion with the Lord (Relationship)

Matthew 6:6 *But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.*

- Purposed prayer (Planned)

What is keeping you from prayer?

We must daily be guarding our hearts, nurturing our souls in the Word and in communion with God through prayer.

- What have you given greater priority to?
- Circles 2-5 are an overflow when circle one is being consistently practiced