



# Grace Life Church *of Dallas*

The doctrines of grace, the life of the Spirit, to the glory of God

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

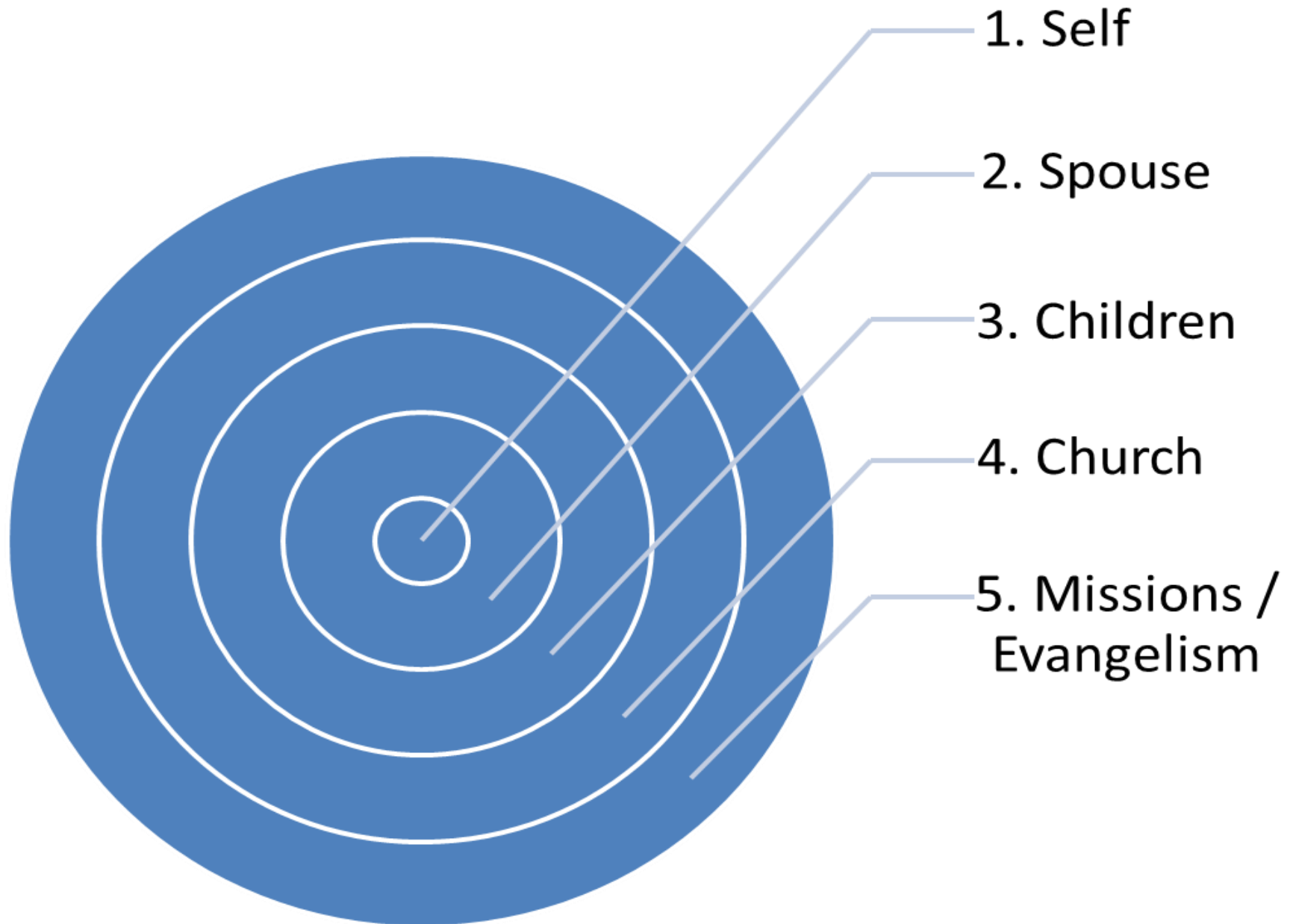
© 2001–2014 Crossway.

All rights reserved.

All emphasis added/insertions are mine

# Concentric Circles

**Conforming our Lives to Scripture for the Glory of God**



# **Luke 23:39-43**

## **The Basis of your acceptance before God**

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

© 2001–2014 Crossway.

All rights reserved.

All emphasis added/insertions are mine

# Luke 23:32-43

*32 Two others, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. 33 And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. 34 And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." And they cast lots to divide his garments. 35 And the people stood by, watching, but the rulers scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!" 36 The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine 37 and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" 38 There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."*

# Luke 23:32-43

*39 One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, “Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!” 40 But the other rebuked him, saying, “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? 41 And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong.” 42 And he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” 43 And he said to him, “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise.”*

# Luke 23:32-43

*v39 One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, “Are you not the Christ? Save yourself & us!”*

- **Matthew 27:44** *And the robbers who were crucified with him also reviled him in the same way*
- **Mark 15:32** *Those who were crucified with him also reviled him.*

What did the criminal say in railing Jesus?

- *“Are you not the Christ?”* Where did they learn that? *V35 Rulers*

*V40-41 But the other (criminal) rebuked him, saying, “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation?” And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong.”*

- Both criminals were railing Jesus together, what made this one criminal stop railing Jesus (repent), start fearing God, and begin to see his own sin?
- Jeremiah 13:23, Romans 3:18, John 3:29-30-Sovereign Grace (Regeneration John 3:8, Ezekiel 36:31, 2 Tim 2:25)
- When you are giving your testimony it is good to mention your circumstances but not to give your circumstances the glory for your conversion.

# Luke 23:32-43

*V42 And he (criminal) said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”*

- He was born again & repented in v40-41, and now he is turning to Jesus
- He acknowledges Jesus is God by confessing that the kingdom (heaven) Jesus is entering into belongs to Jesus “*Your kingdom*”
- What is his request? *Remember me*, meaning what? Bring me into your kingdom. He is looking to Jesus alone as his Savior (not trusting in self)
  - He is demonstrating the faith he has in Jesus as Lord and Savior

All of us are the thief on the cross: born in sin, living a life of sin, deserving of death, helpless to change ourselves, and hopeless to save ourselves

What was Jesus’ response? *V43 And he said to him, “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise.”*

- **Romans 10:13** *Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.*

# *Today you will be with me in Paradise*

Where is the thief when he hears these glorious words from Jesus?

- Nailed to a tree
- He can't be baptized
- He will be dead in a few moments
- He cannot do anything, yet in a few moments, he will be in paradise with Jesus

**Do we understand what this means?**

- By repenting of his sin and placing his trust (faith) in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior **APART FROM ANY WORKS OF HIS OWN**:
  - All his sins are forgiven (Applied to Jesus and Jesus bore his wrath & died)
  - He has perfect obedience (Jesus' righteousness imputed to his account)
  - He is justified (declared righteous by God)
  - Is the thief himself righteous? No, he is ungodly, but in salvation God *"justifies the ungodly"*. How? *"His faith is counted as righteousness"*  
**Romans 4:5**
  - Through faith alone in Jesus Christ alone, all our sins are forgiven by the blood of Jesus (Rom 5:9, 1 John 1:7), and we have the righteousness of Jesus applied to our account (2 Cor 5:21, Rom 3:28; 10:4) (Perfect forgiveness, Perfect righteousness)



# *Today you will be with me in Paradise*

Can perfect righteousness be added to, or increased? No

- This is the basis by which God accepts all Christians (not our performance)
- If any of our works are part of the equation that bring about our justification, it is tainted and we are not right with God
- No Christian is more justified than another (because we are all justified in the perfect righteousness of Jesus Christ)
- God joyfully and lovingly accepts and embraces us because of our union with Jesus Christ
- Is this (Jesus Christ) the basis of your boasting?
  - **Galatians 6:14** *But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ*
  - **1 Corinthians 2:2** *For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.*
- When we are rightly seeing this gospel truth, our joy is in Him, our boasting is in Him, our acceptance is in Him and we are humbled
- Does Jesus finished work deal with our future sins? **Heb 10:12** *When Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God*
- When this glorious gospel is rightly understood, it compels to holy living in gratitude & thanksgiving because we have been accepted in Jesus, not so we will be accepted