

THE SACRAMENT OF LIVING

EPIPHANY 2011

Ultimately each church will be evaluated by only one thing. Its disciples. Your church is only as good as its disciples. It does not matter how good your praise, preaching, programs or property are: If your disciples are passive, needy, consumerist, and not moving in the direction of radical obedience, your church is not good.

Neil Cole

Every knee shall bow, and tongue confess, that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

St Paul

Philippians 2 vs. 5-11

⁵In your relationships with one another, have the same attitude of mind Christ Jesus had: ⁶Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; ⁷rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. ⁸And being found in appearance as a human being, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death— even death on a cross! ⁹Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Glen H. Stassen and David P. Gushee

It is no overstatement to claim that the evasion of the teachings of Jesus constitutes a crisis of Christian identity and raises the question of who exactly is functioning as the Lord of the church. When Jesus' way of discipleship is thinned down, marginalized or avoided, then churches and Christians lose their antibodies against infection by secular ideologies that manipulate Christians into serving the purposes of some other lord. We fear precisely that kind of idolatry now.

IF JESUS IS LORD

WE WORSHIP

Alan Hirsch : ReJesus

The sole sovereignty of God is realized only by stern struggle with other gods, with all the forces that oppose his will. This is to say that, to the biblical writers, monotheism begins not as a stage of metaphysical speculation, not as a final step in the development out of polytheism, not as the merging of all gods into one (as in Hinduism), but when one God becomes the decisive reality for a particular man and thereby calls for the dethronement of all other gods.

IF JESUS IS LORD

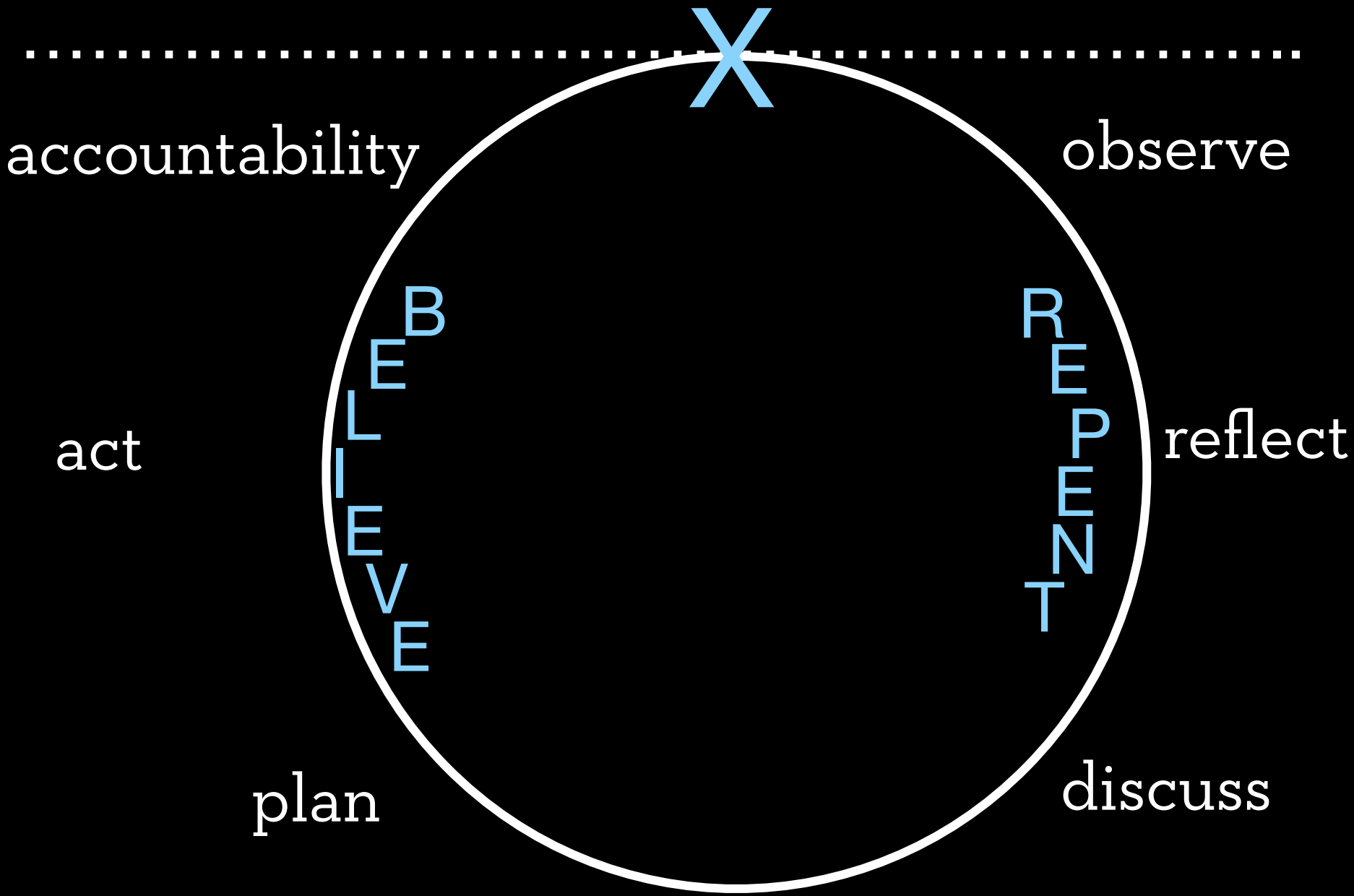
WE LISTEN AND OBEY

Luke 6

⁴⁶“Why do you call me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do what I say?”

1 John 2

³We know that we have come to know him if we keep his commands.
⁴Those who say, “I know him,” but do not do what he commands are liars, and the truth is not in them. ⁵But if anyone obeys his word, love for God is truly made complete in them. This is how we know we are in him: ⁶Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did.



FOR STARTERS

- When did you sense God's presence most strongly?
- What season are you in?
- What did you read in God's word that stood out to you or spoke to you this week?
- What was the most beautiful thing you saw this week?
- What words from all of your conversations carried the most weight?
- When did you feel most hurt?
- What doors and opportunities are present in your life right now?
- Did you feel the prompting of the Spirit? Did you obey?

IF JESUS IS LORD

WE CAN REST

Matthew 11

²⁸“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

Greg Boyd

Many things can make us feel worthwhile and significant, but our deepest hunger is only satisfied when we're rightly related to God. Only our Creator can give us the fullness of life we crave. Jesus' death on the cross is proof that we could not possibly have more worth and significance to God. Despite our sin, our Creator thinks we are worth experiencing a hellish death for. In fact, it was for the joy of spending eternity with us that Jesus endured the cross. In other words, Calvary reveals our unsurpassable worth and significance. At the core of our being, this is what we long for.

IF JESUS IS LORD

WE DECLARE IT IN PRAYER

MY Kingdom

MY name

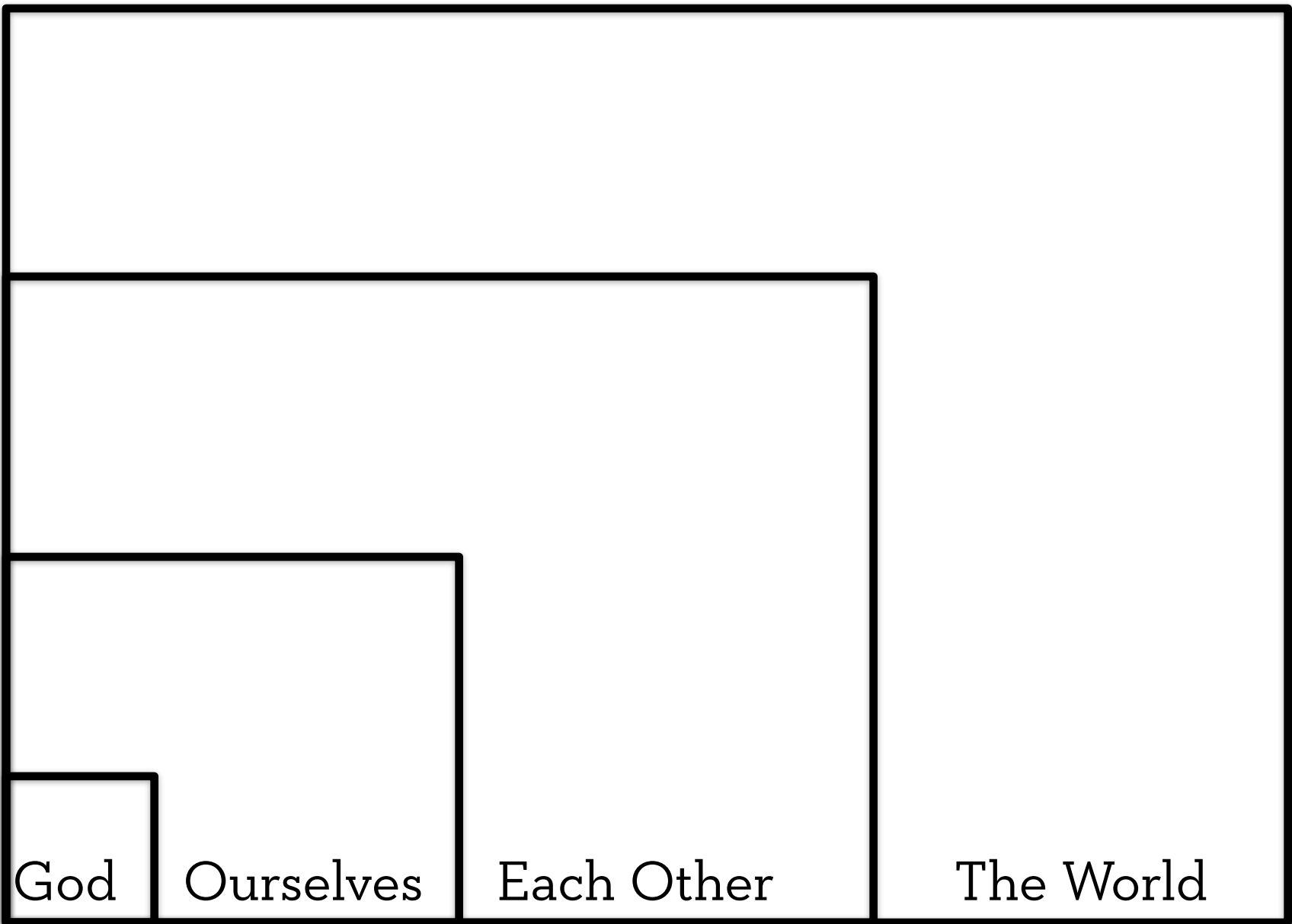
MY will

MY needs

MY safety

MY relationships

MY glory

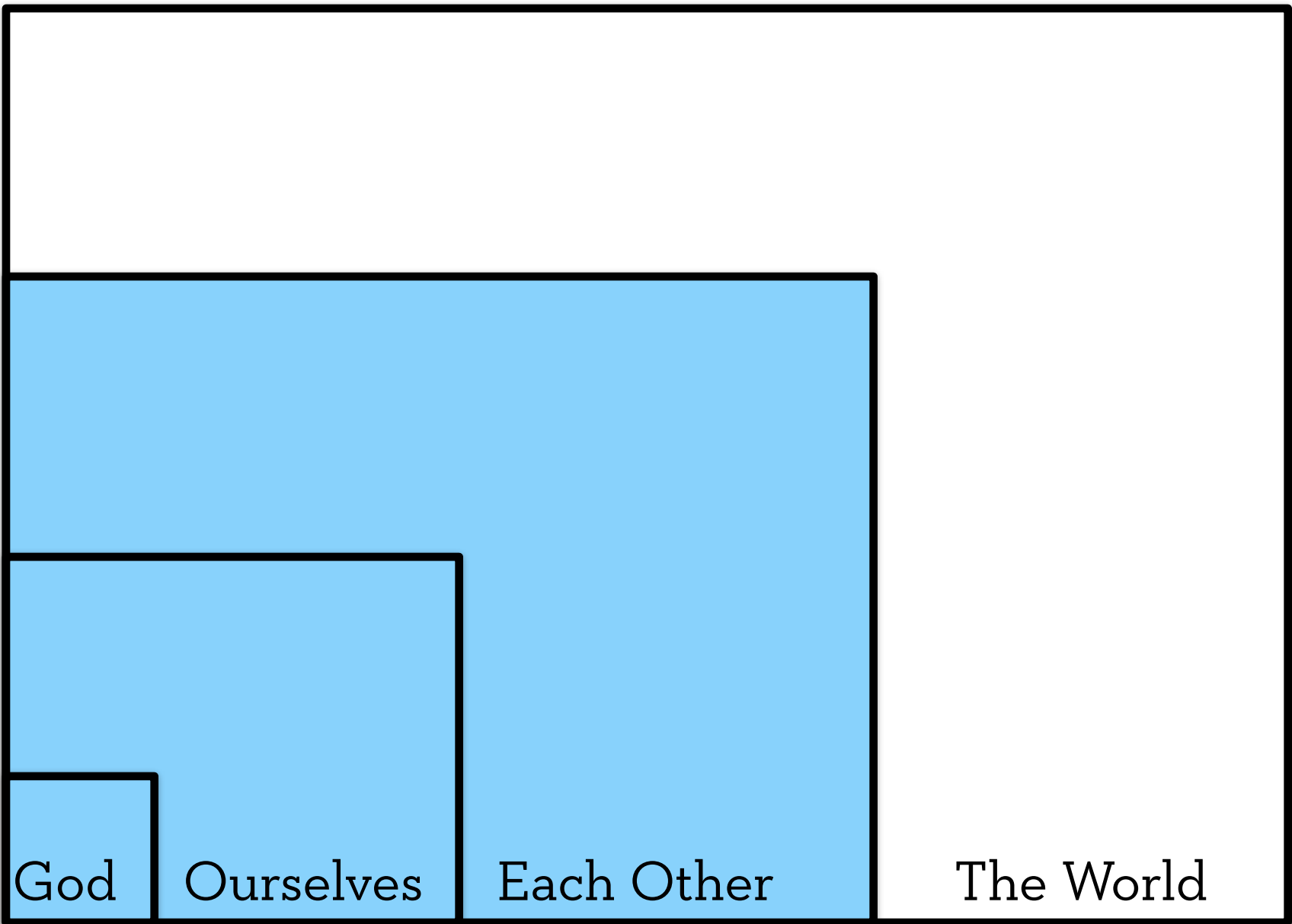


God

Ourselves

Each Other

The World



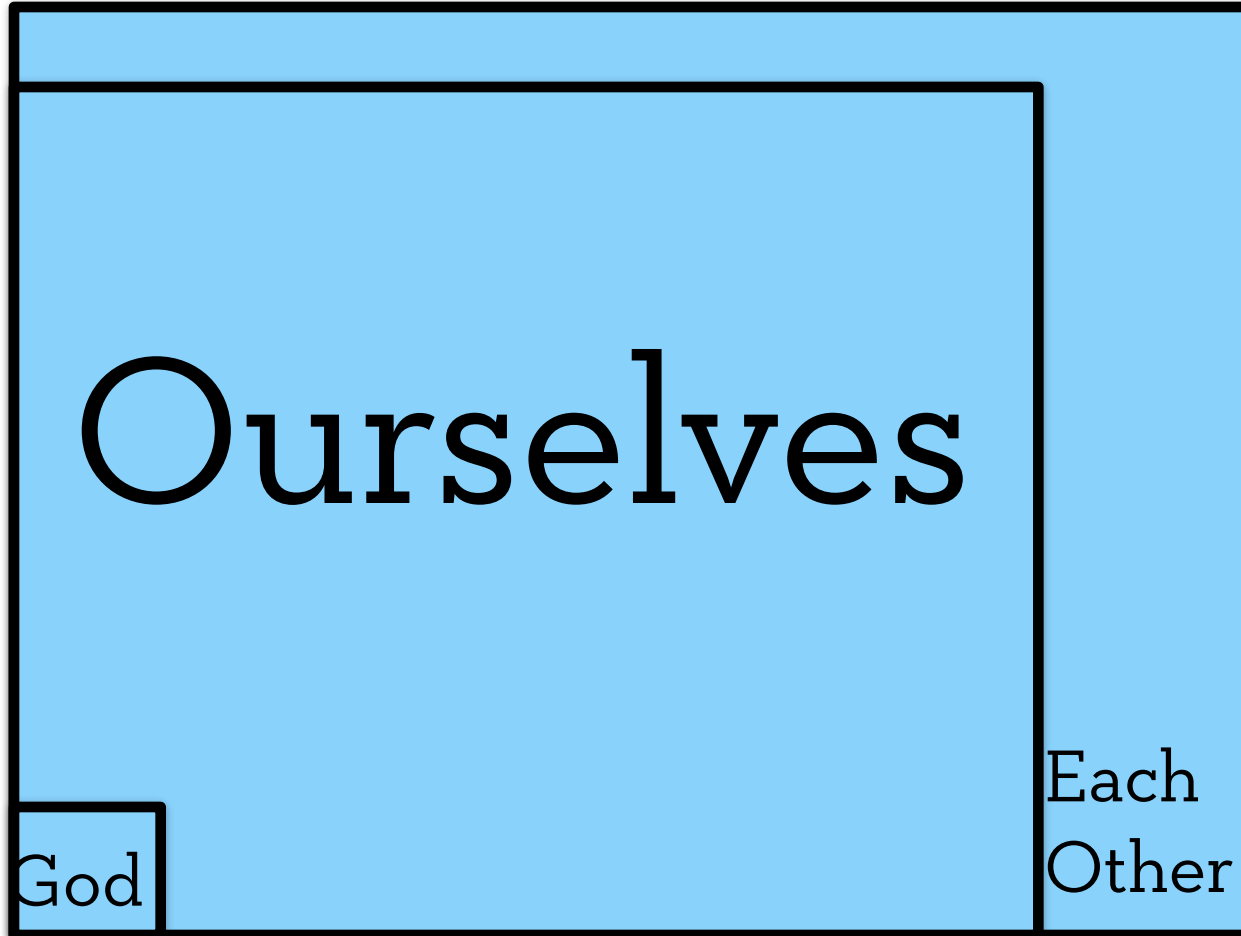
God

Ourselves

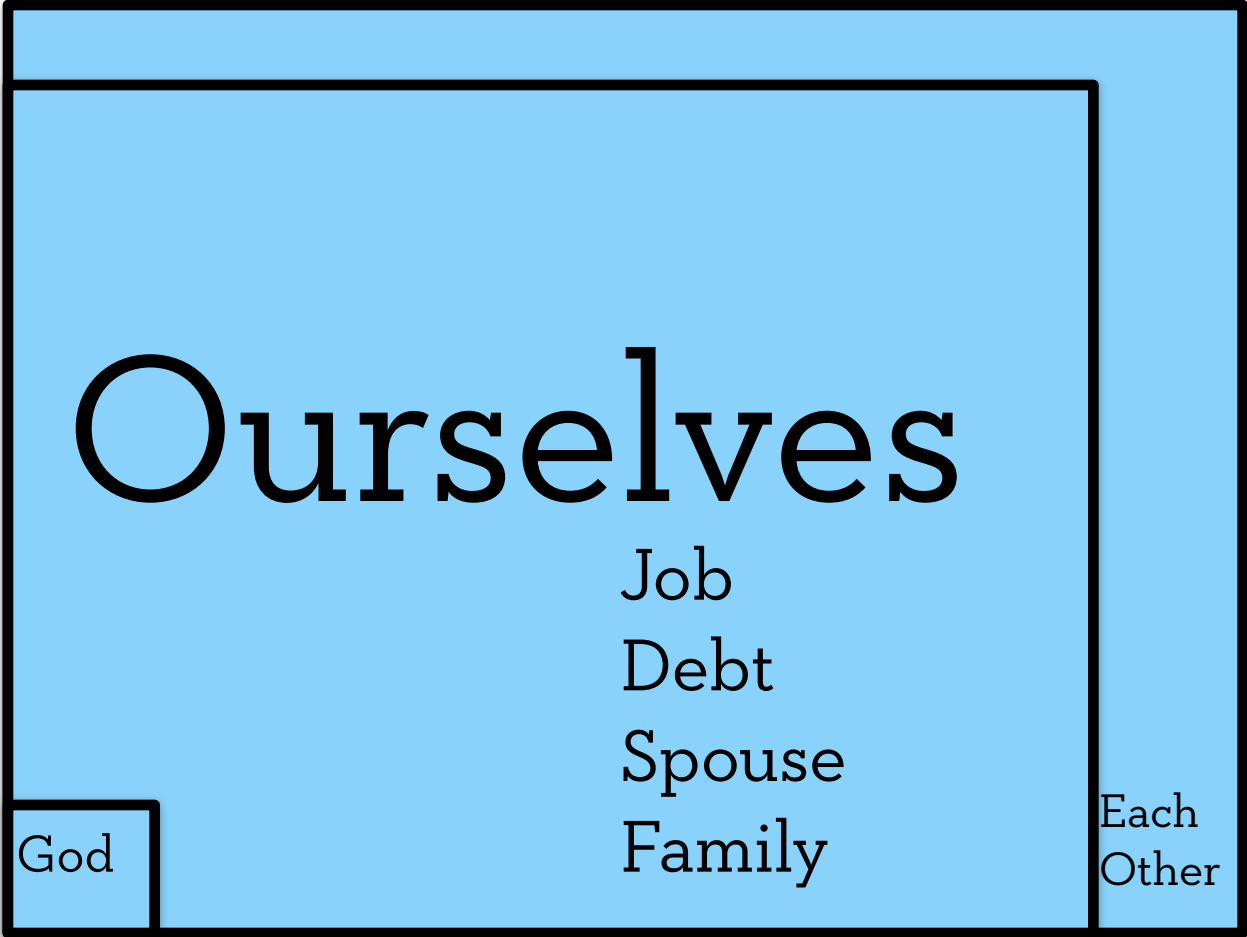
Each Other

The World

The World

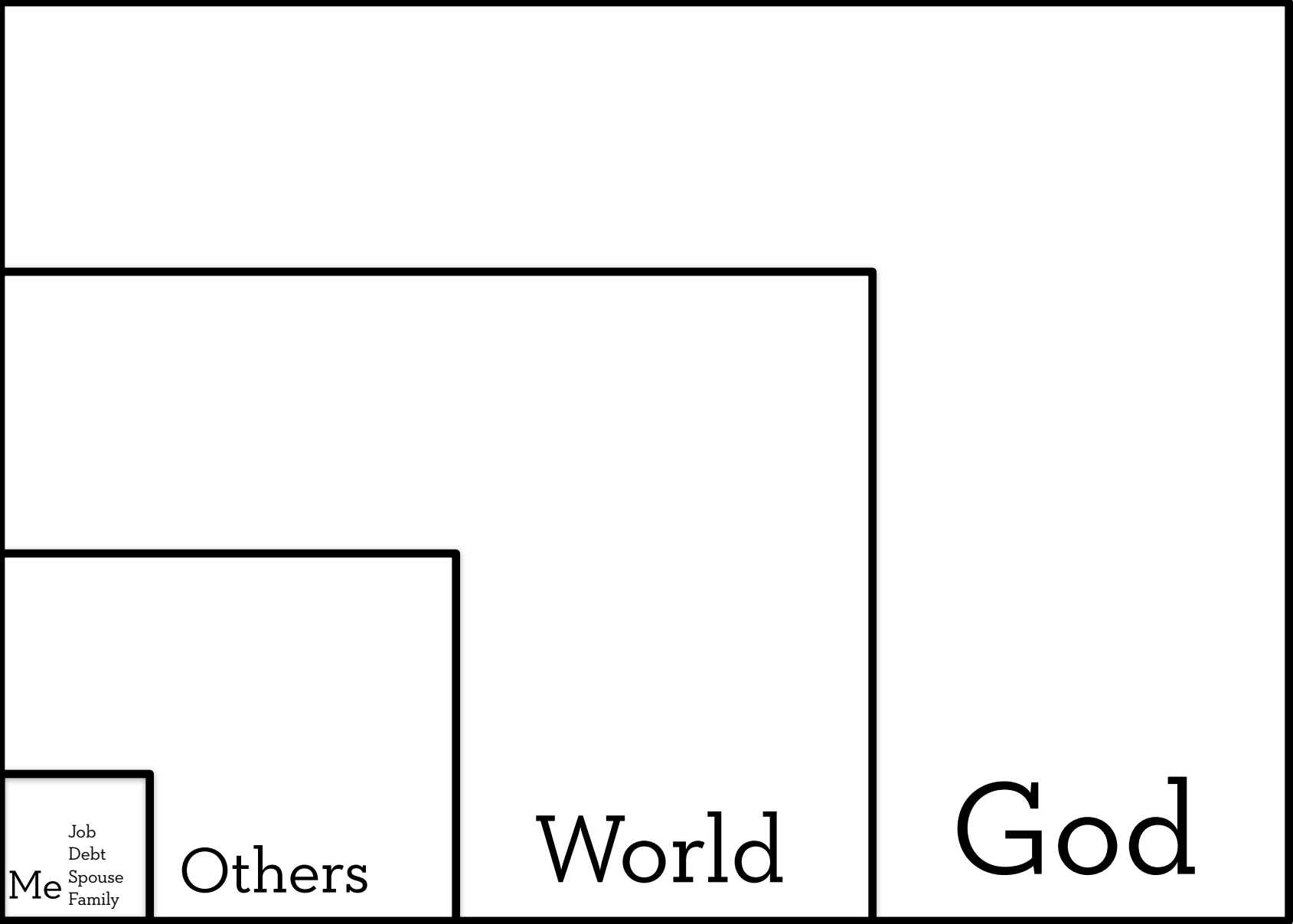


The
World



Jesus

“This, then, is how you should pray: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For yours is the kingdom, and the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.



Me

Job
Debt
Spouse
Family

Others

World

God

IF JESUS IS LORD

WE SURRENDER

Greg Boyd

The only way we can experience fullness of Life is to give up trying to acquire it on our own. We must surrender ourselves completely to God. This is not merely a matter of believing that our attempts to acquire worth and significance are idolatrous and unsatisfying. A person can easily believe this and yet fail to relinquish their idols and surrender to God. We enter into the Life of God only when our false gods have in fact been relinquished and only when God is in fact reigning over our life.

WE SET CHRIST APART AS LORD

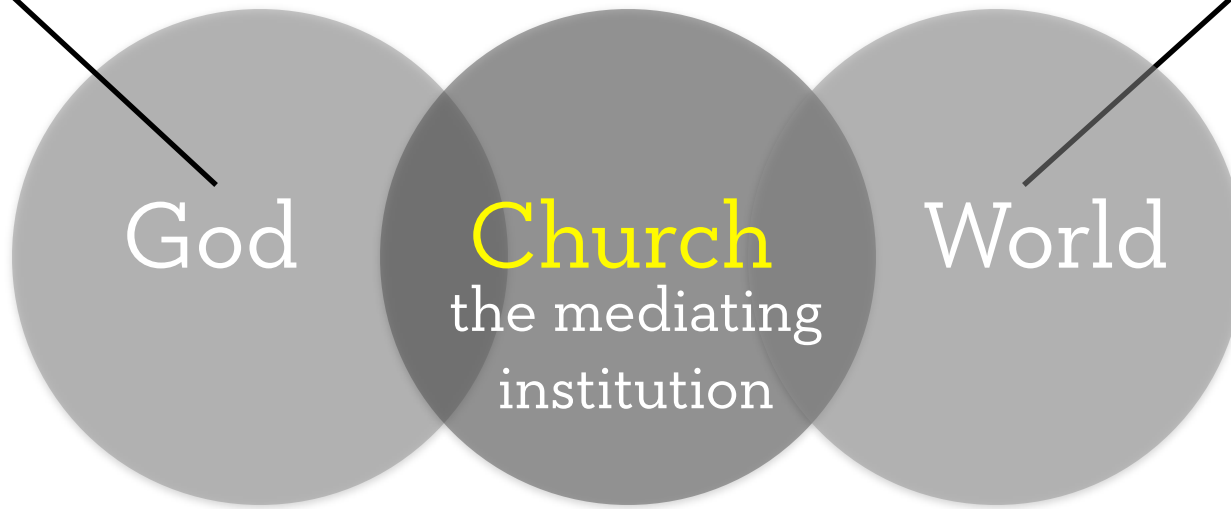
1 Peter 3

¹⁵But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect

THE DEATH OF DUALISM

- Private sphere.
- Worship, prayer etc

- Public Sphere.
- Work, play, sex, etc



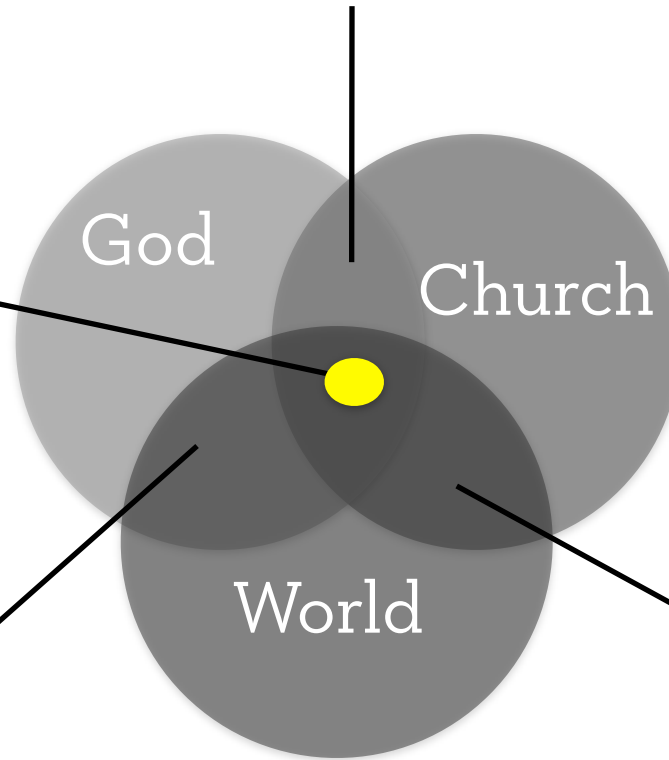
Sacred Realm

Secular Realm

Dualistic Spirituality

- Non missional theology.
- Worship done in abstract
- Spooky church expression.

- Unifying our lives under the one God.
- Sanctifying the everyday



- Common grace.
- God's presence in Strange place

- Technique oriented faith
- Moralism and legalism
- Dry religiosity

JESUS IS LORD OF ALL

A DANGEROUS CONFESSION

Philippians 2 vs. 5-11

⁵In your relationships with one another, have the same attitude of mind Christ Jesus had: ⁶Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; ⁷rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. ⁸And being found in appearance as a human being, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death— even death on a cross! ⁹Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.