

Circles of Importance

S.R. 1 Thess. 4:9 - 12

9 – 24 - 2023

Introduction

- A. My girls used to ask: Dad, what do you want?”
 - 1. “Peace and tranquility” (1 Tim. 2:2)
- B. Circles of Importance
 - 1. **1 Thess. 4:9 – 12** excel still more – Thanks to Kris Emerson
- C. I have been Thinking about and praying about it
 - 1. Loneliness is crushing – many of you are facing the future with some family member (s) no longer among the land of the living.

I. God is the center of our innermost circle

- A. Great God of Heaven will you help me to identify my circles of importance and then to live a life that honors them.
- B. Relationships should drive habits
- C. An emotional, personal, daily and effective ongoing relationship with God
- D. Seeing who God is: To know Him he must reveal himself.
 - 1. Acts 17:24 - 28 He himself gives (to me) life and breath and all things. He made all of us. In Him (I) live and move and my very being is in Hi
 - 2. Eph. 1: 18 - Pray one thing for myself and for my family and yours: surpassing greatness of His power
- E. We leave this building with God so on our hearts that He is on our tongue.**

II. Circle # 2 My Family

- A. You may place someone else in circle # 2
- B. Family – God’s family (local church family) and my personal family.
- C. I chose a covenant commitment of marriage to Cindy on Aug. 4th 1978.
- D. I have other commitments, but none on earth supersede my covenant to my God and my wife. (Eph. 5:25 – 28, 32)
- E. Wife – then children: Psalm 127 – 128:4

III. Circle 3: Brethren – Marion Street family

- A. 1 Cor. 12:22 – 26

1. If you have joined yourself to fellow believers then we are his hands, feet, inside organs are vital workers – and He is our head.
 2. Cor. 12:25 - if you claim that God is the center of your life but God's people are not that important to you. "Same care for one another" (1 Cor. 12:25)
- B. God's people – one body – no division –

IV. Circle 4: Everyone else – any and every soul that God places in my path as I journey toward home.

- A. Visitors to our assemblies. Live near by. Have visited now for months – Have you met and introduced yourself?
- B. Love God – Circle # 1 Love neighbor – (Luke 10:25 – 37)

V. Conclusion:

- A. Did you notice there are no "things" in my circles.
- B. Persons matter: God, Son, Spirit, wife – children – you – neighbors
- C. All of the things with which God has temporarily entrusted me are to serve the people who are my priorities.
- D. Self – not even up there – no where on the target
 1. You may say, If you don't take care for yourself you can't take care of others.
 2. **1 Thess. 4:9 – 12** - but especially **verse 11** - "My ambition"
 3. Everyone of those circles includes a relationship that I am in:
 - a. Healthy relationships with: God – wife – children – God's family
 4. The best way to nurture our health is to nurture the health of others
 - a. A healthy relationship is worth more than all the things in the world.
 - b. All the things in the world cannot buy a relationship with God or your family.
- E. What are your circles?
- F. 1 Thess. 1:9 – 10; 4:9 - 11