

1 Corinthians 7:1-16; 25-40

# HOLINESS IN MARRIAGE AND SINGLENES



# CONTEXT

Infancy of Church

Immorality

Issue of Status

View of Marriage

Other Writings

# CONTEXT

Genesis 1:27-28

Genesis 2:18-25

Deuteronomy 19:1-4

Matthew 5:27-32

Matthew 19:3-11

Ephesians 5:21-33

I Peter 3:1-7



Cross-shaped wisdom gives us divine gospel purpose  
in singleness and marriage.

# CROSS-SHAPED WISDOM

## **I Corinthians 1:17-18** NIV

For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel—not with wisdom and eloquence, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power. <sup>18</sup> For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

## **I Corinthians 1:30** NIV

It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption.

# CROSS-SHAPED WISDOM

Identity

Sanctity

Mutuality

Responsibility

# CROSS-SHAPED WISDOM

## For the Married

Believing spouses

Believing spouse/Unbelieving spouse

## For the Unmarried

Never-married single

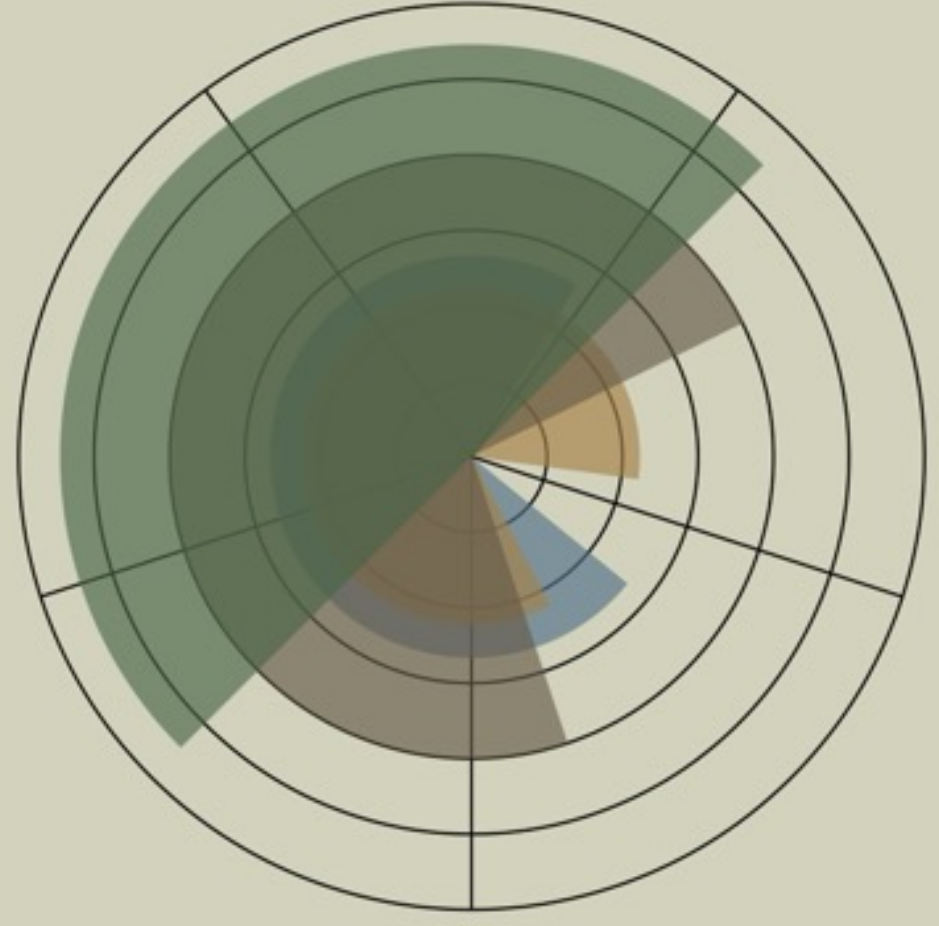
Engaged

Abandoned spouse

Divorced

Widowed

# SERMON NOTES





## QUESTIONS

**7:6** I say this as a concession, not as a command.

**7:12a** To the rest I say this (I, not the Lord):

**7:25** Now about virgins: I have no command from the Lord, but I give a judgment as one who by the Lord's mercy is trustworthy.

**7:40** In my judgment, she is happier if she stays as she is—and I think that I too have the Spirit of God.

## QUESTIONS

**7:10-11** To the married I give this command (not I, but the Lord): A wife must not separate from her husband. <sup>11</sup> But if she does, she must remain unmarried or else be reconciled to her husband. And a husband must not divorce his wife.

**7:12-13** To the rest I say this (I, not the Lord): If any brother has a wife who is not a believer and she is willing to live with him, he must not divorce her. <sup>13</sup> And if a woman has a husband who is not a believer and he is willing to live with her, she must not divorce him.

**7:15** But if the unbeliever leaves, let it be so. The brother or the sister is not bound in such circumstances; God has called us to live in peace.

**7:39** A woman is bound to her husband as long as he lives. But if her husband dies, she is free to marry anyone she wishes, but he must belong to the Lord.



## CROSS-SHAPED WISDOM

Identity

Sanctity

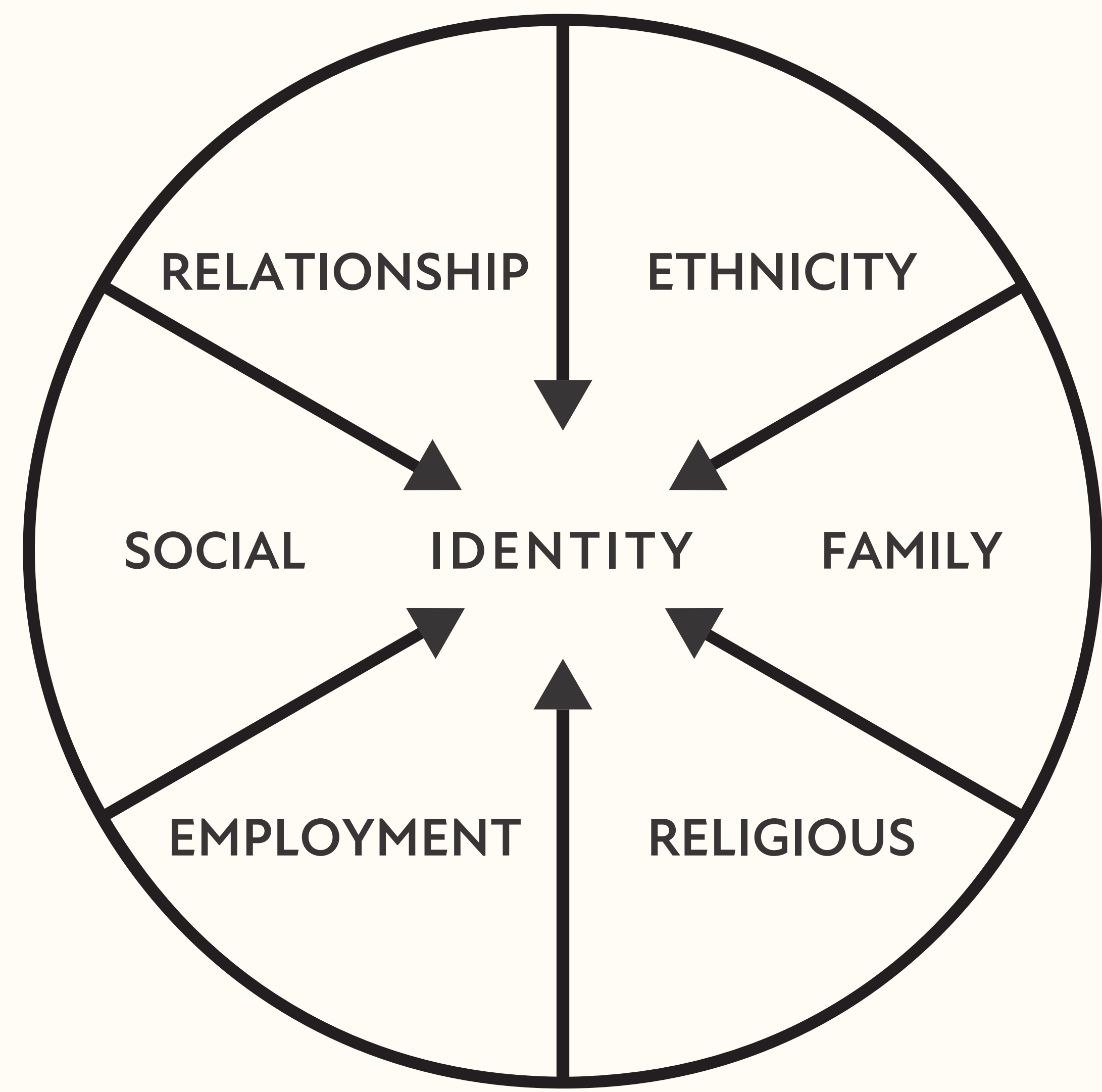
Mutuality

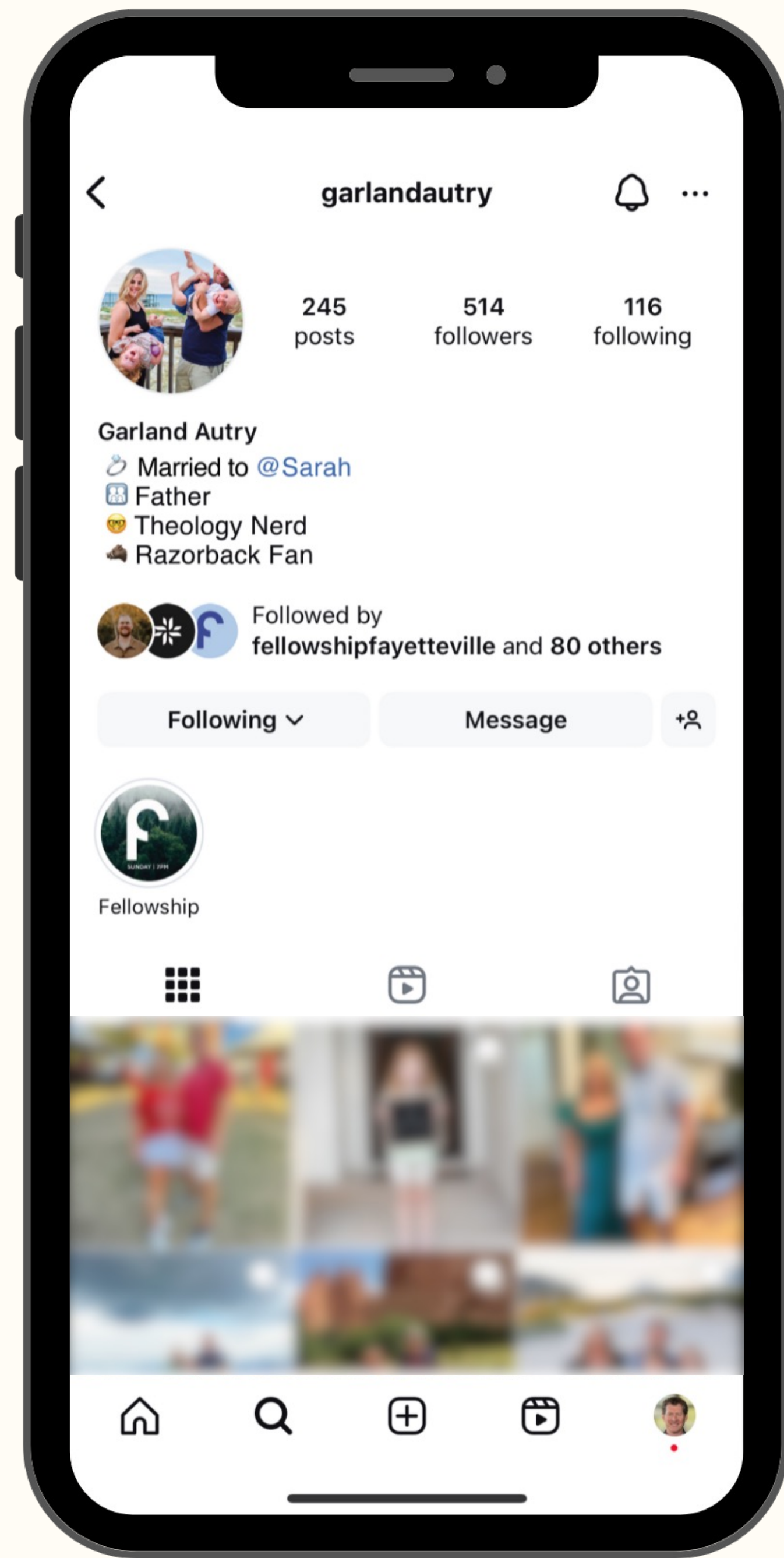
Responsibility

### 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 NIV

Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; <sup>20</sup> you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.







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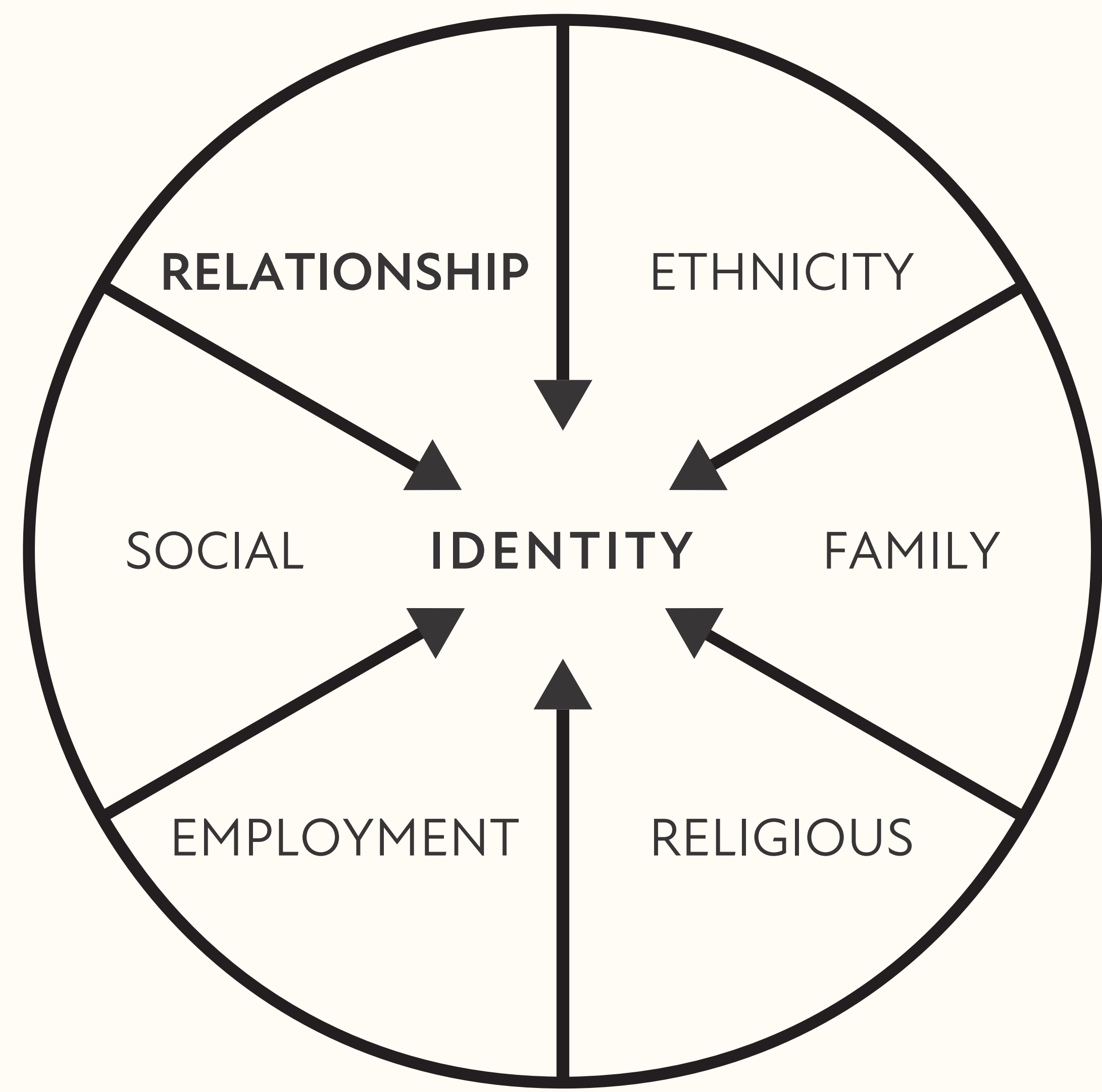
Following

Message



Fellowship





# RELATIONSHIP STATUS

Married

Widowed

Separated

Divorced

Single

Engaged

# RELATIONSHIP STATUS

Civil Union

Domestic Partnership

Taken

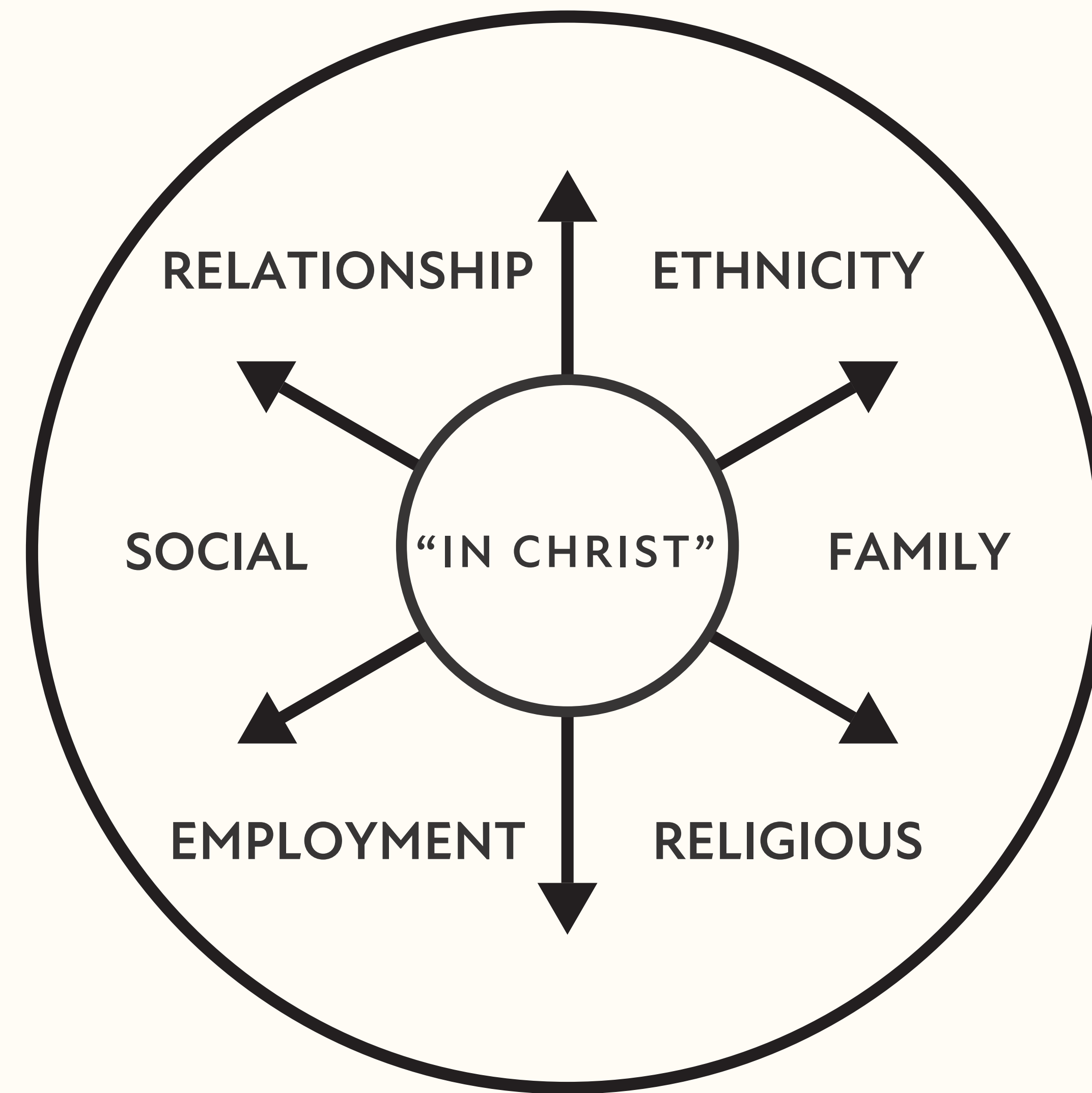
Open

Unspecified

Rather Not Say

It's Complicated







## CROSS-SHAPED WISDOM

Identity

**Sanctity**

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### 1 Corinthians 7:1-2 <sup>NIV</sup>

Now for the matters you wrote about: “It is good for a man not to have sexual relations with a woman.” <sup>2</sup> But since sexual immorality is occurring, each man should have sexual relations with his own wife, and each woman with her own husband.





## CROSS-SHAPED WISDOM

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### Genesis 1:27 <sup>NIV</sup>

So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

### Genesis 2:22-25 <sup>NIV</sup>

Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man. <sup>23</sup> The man said, “This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called ‘woman,’ for she was taken out of man.” <sup>24</sup> That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh. <sup>25</sup> Adam and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.





## CROSS-SHAPED WISDOM

Identity

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### Ephesians 5:25-32 <sup>NIV</sup>

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her <sup>26</sup> to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, <sup>27</sup> and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. <sup>28</sup> In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. <sup>29</sup> After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their body, just as Christ does the church— <sup>30</sup> for we are members of his body. <sup>31</sup> **“For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.”** <sup>32</sup> This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church.





## CROSS-SHAPED WISDOM

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### 1 Corinthians 7:32-35 <sup>NIV</sup>

I would like you to be free from concern. An unmarried man is concerned about the Lord's affairs—how he can please the Lord. <sup>33</sup> But a married man is concerned about the affairs of this world—how he can please his wife— <sup>34</sup> and his interests are divided. An unmarried woman or virgin is concerned about the Lord's affairs: Her aim is to be devoted to the Lord in both body and spirit. But a married woman is concerned about the affairs of this world—how she can please her husband. <sup>35</sup> I am saying this for your own good, not to restrict you, but that you may live in a right way in undivided devotion to the Lord.





## CROSS-SHAPED WISDOM

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### 1 Corinthians 7:3-5 <sup>NIV</sup>

The husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife, and likewise the wife to her husband. <sup>4</sup>The wife does not have authority over her own body but yields it to her husband. In the same way, the husband does not have authority over his own body but yields it to his wife. <sup>5</sup>Do not deprive each other except perhaps by mutual consent and for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer. Then come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.





## CROSS-SHAPED WISDOM

Identity

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Responsibility



### 1 Corinthians 7:12-14 <sup>NIV</sup>

To the rest I say this (I, not the Lord): **If any brother has a wife who is not a believer and she is willing to live with him, he must not divorce her.** <sup>13</sup> **And if a woman has a husband who is not a believer and he is willing to live with her, she must not divorce him.** <sup>14</sup> For the unbelieving husband has been sanctified through his wife, and the unbelieving wife has been sanctified through her believing husband. Otherwise your children would be unclean, but as it is, they are holy.





## CROSS-SHAPED WISDOM

Identity

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1 Corinthians 7:7 <sup>NIV</sup>

I wish that all of you were as I am. **But each of you has your own gift from God; one has this gift, another has that.**







## CROSS-SHAPED WISDOM

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1 Corinthians 7:17; 24 <sup>NIV</sup>

Nevertheless, each person should live as a believer in whatever situation the Lord has assigned to them, just as God has called them. This is the rule I lay down in all the churches.

Brothers and sisters, each person, as responsible to God, should remain in the situation they were in when God called them.





Cross-shaped wisdom gives us divine gospel purpose  
in singleness and marriage.

# CROSS-SHAPED WISDOM

**IDENTITY** The gospel defines our core identity, not our singleness or marital status.

**SANCTITY** Both singleness and marriage are set apart as a special calling.

**MUTUALITY** Both the single and married are to give up their rights to build up one another.

**RESPONSIBILITY** We are responsible to God to steward our body and season of life for His purposes.

1 Corinthians 7:1-16; 25-40

# HOLINESS IN MARRIAGE AND SINGLENES

