

Spiritually alive.

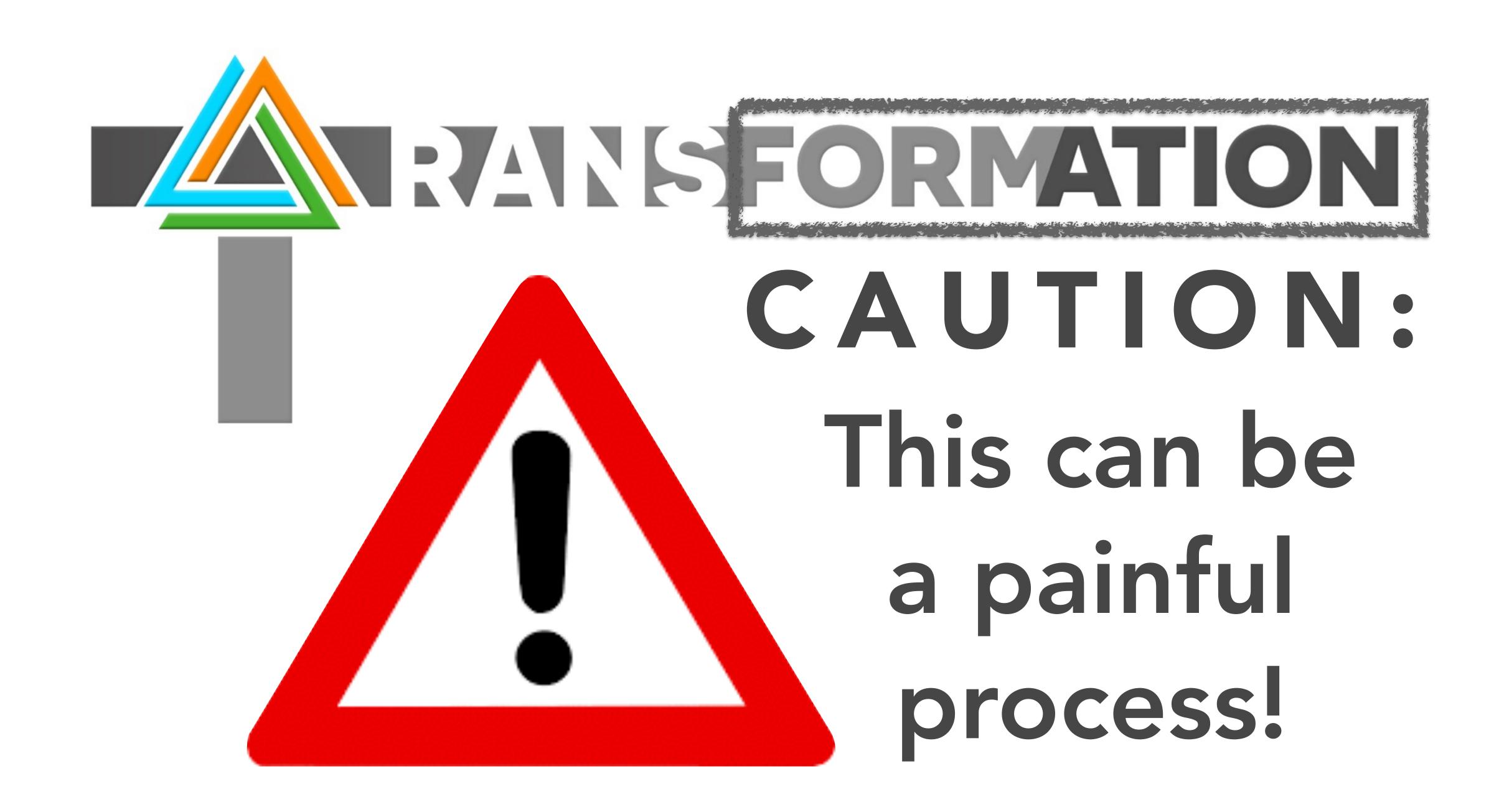
Relationally connected.

Missionally engaged.

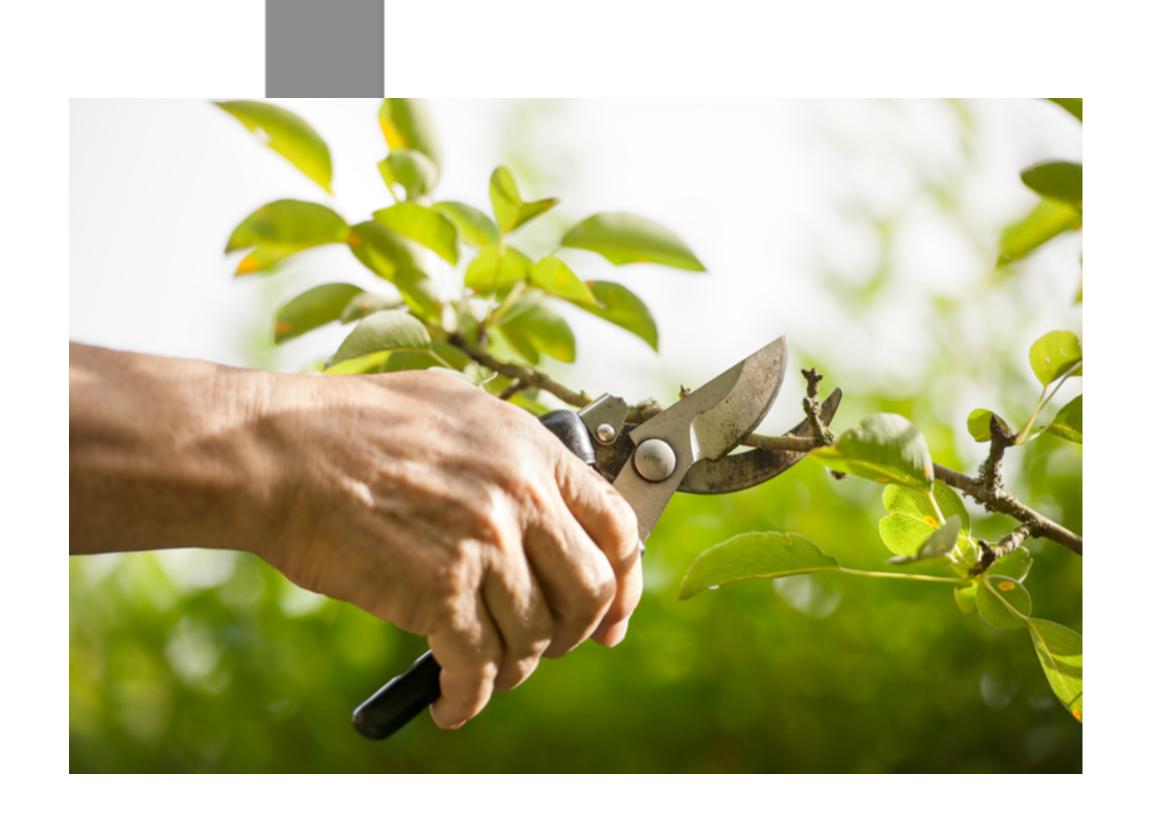


Ihe process of God FORMING

us into the person HE wants us to be, for His greater glory.



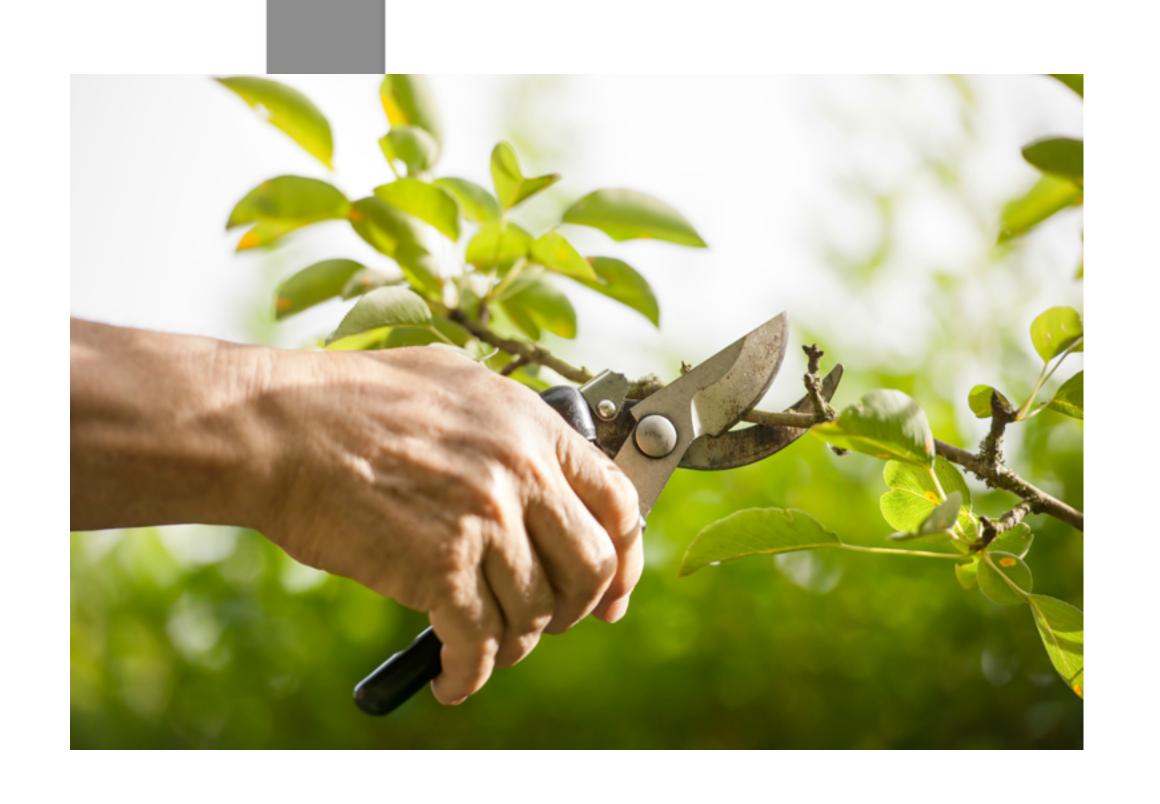




"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit He prunes so that it will be even more fruitful."

John 15:2





What does God need to prune from our lives, & how does He do it?





What does God need to prune from our lives?

A: The "desires of our flesh"



"So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.... The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like." Galatians 5:16-21



selfish ambition

:Getting what I want, the way I want it, when I want it.



selfish ambition

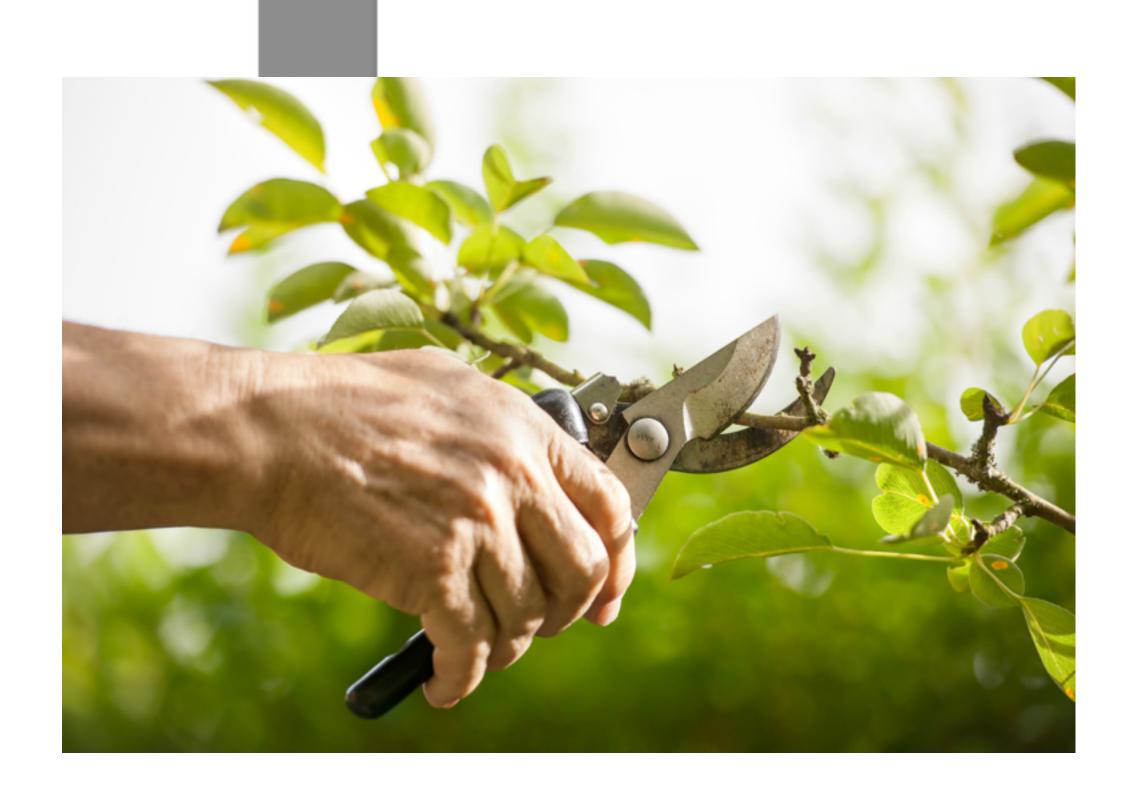


A:VISFORMATION



So if God's plan is to prune our selfish desires, what "tools" does He use to do it?





How does God prune the desires of our flesh?

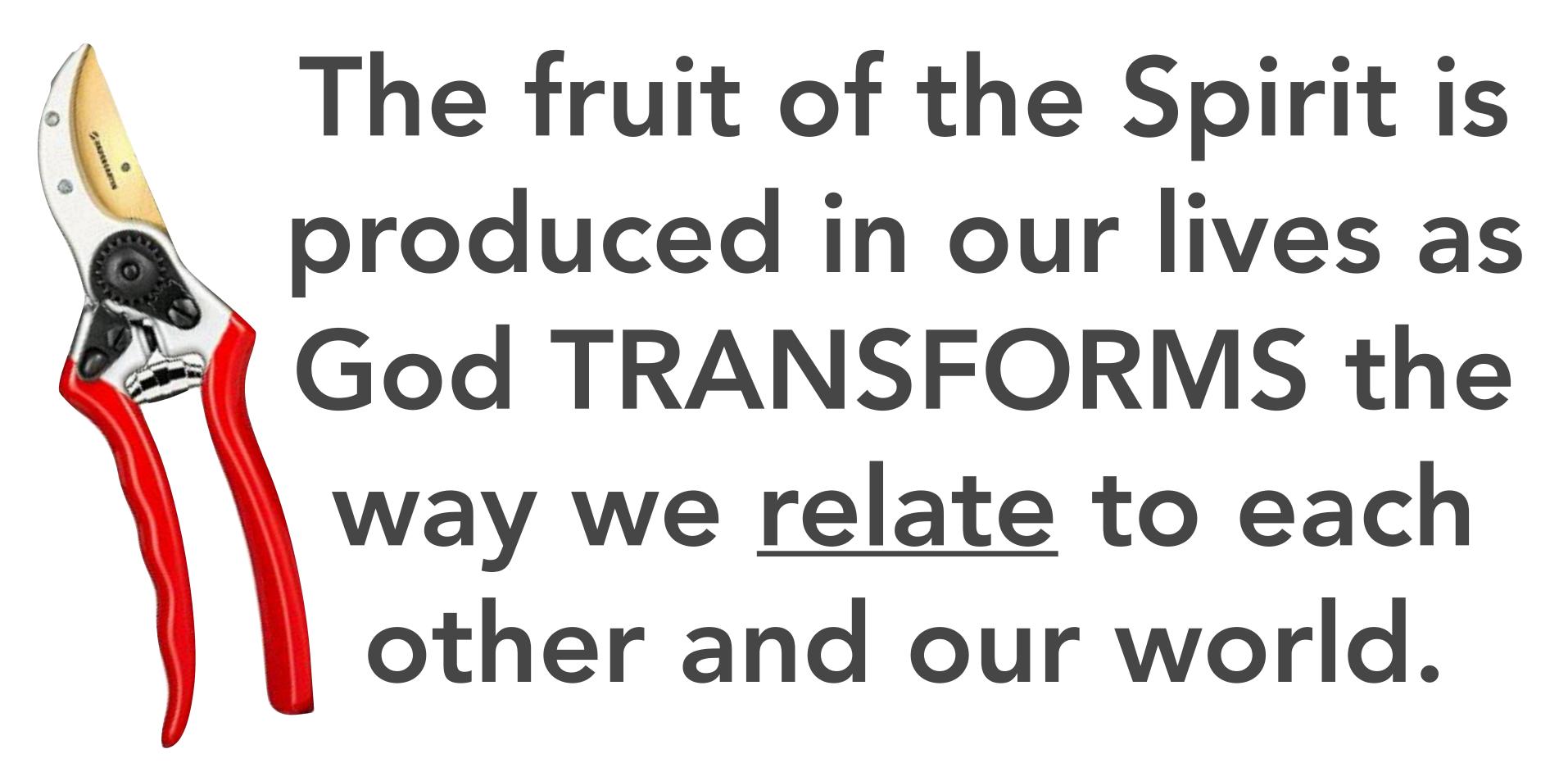
A: Our Relational Connections.



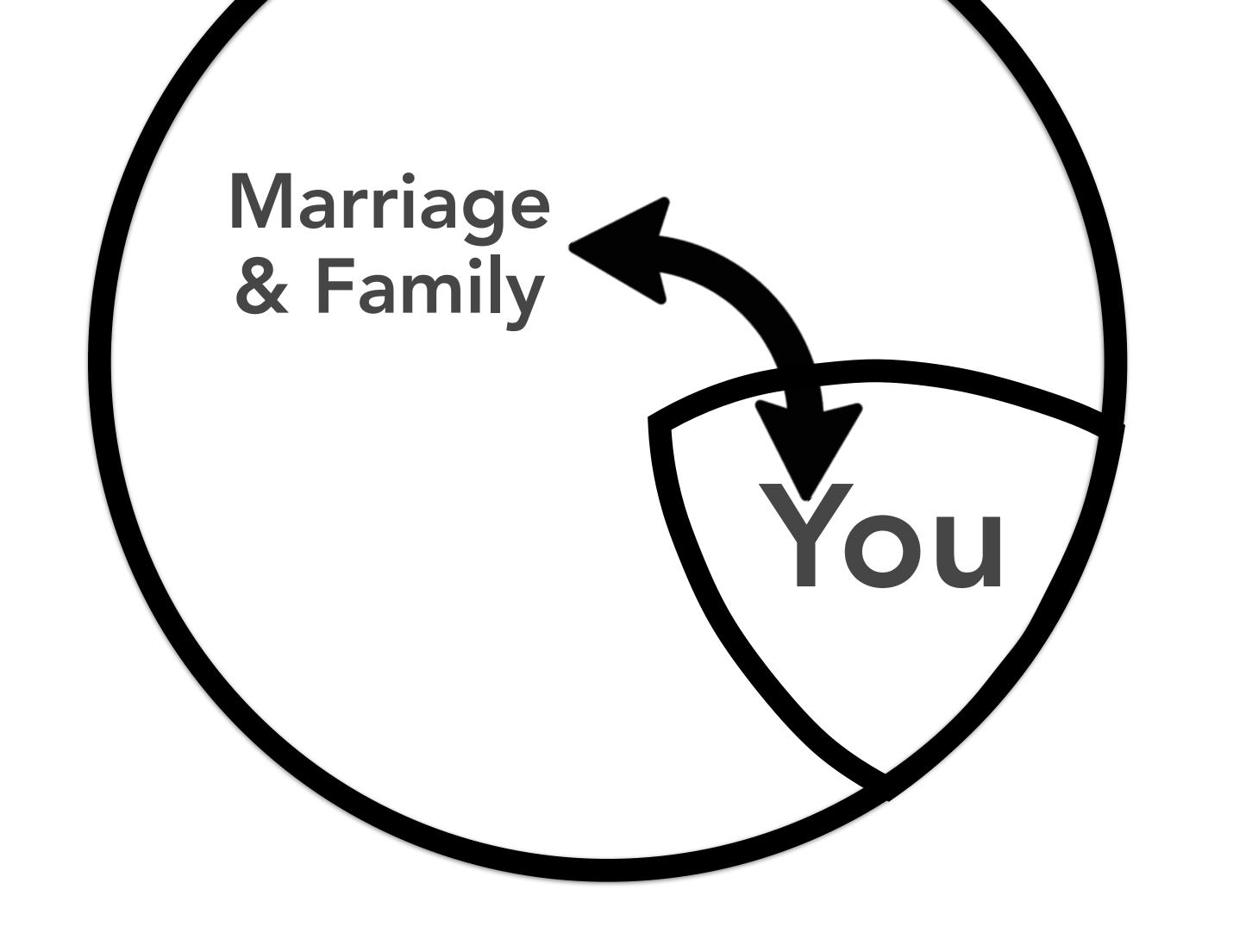
"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying one other."

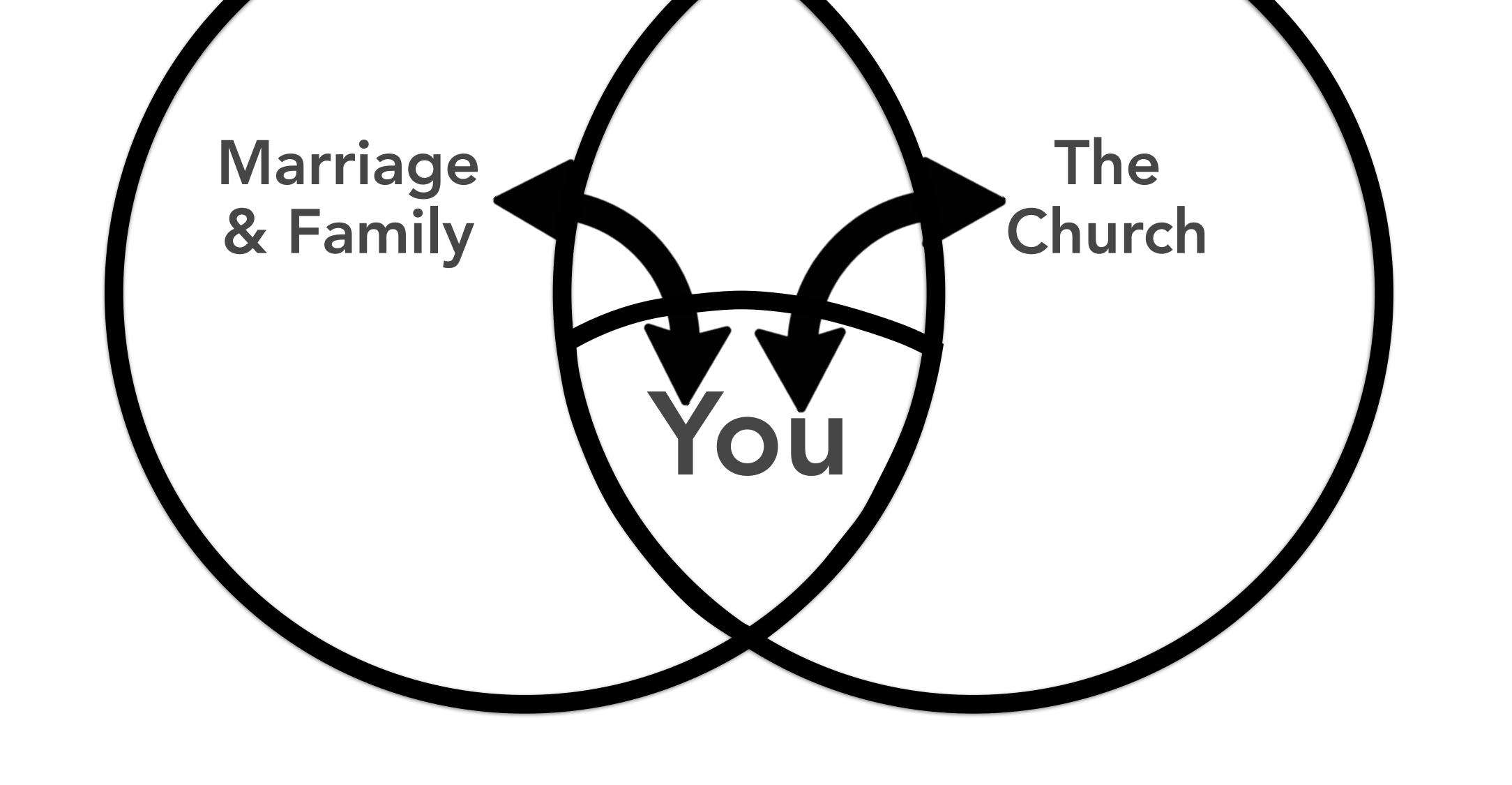
Galatians 5:22-26

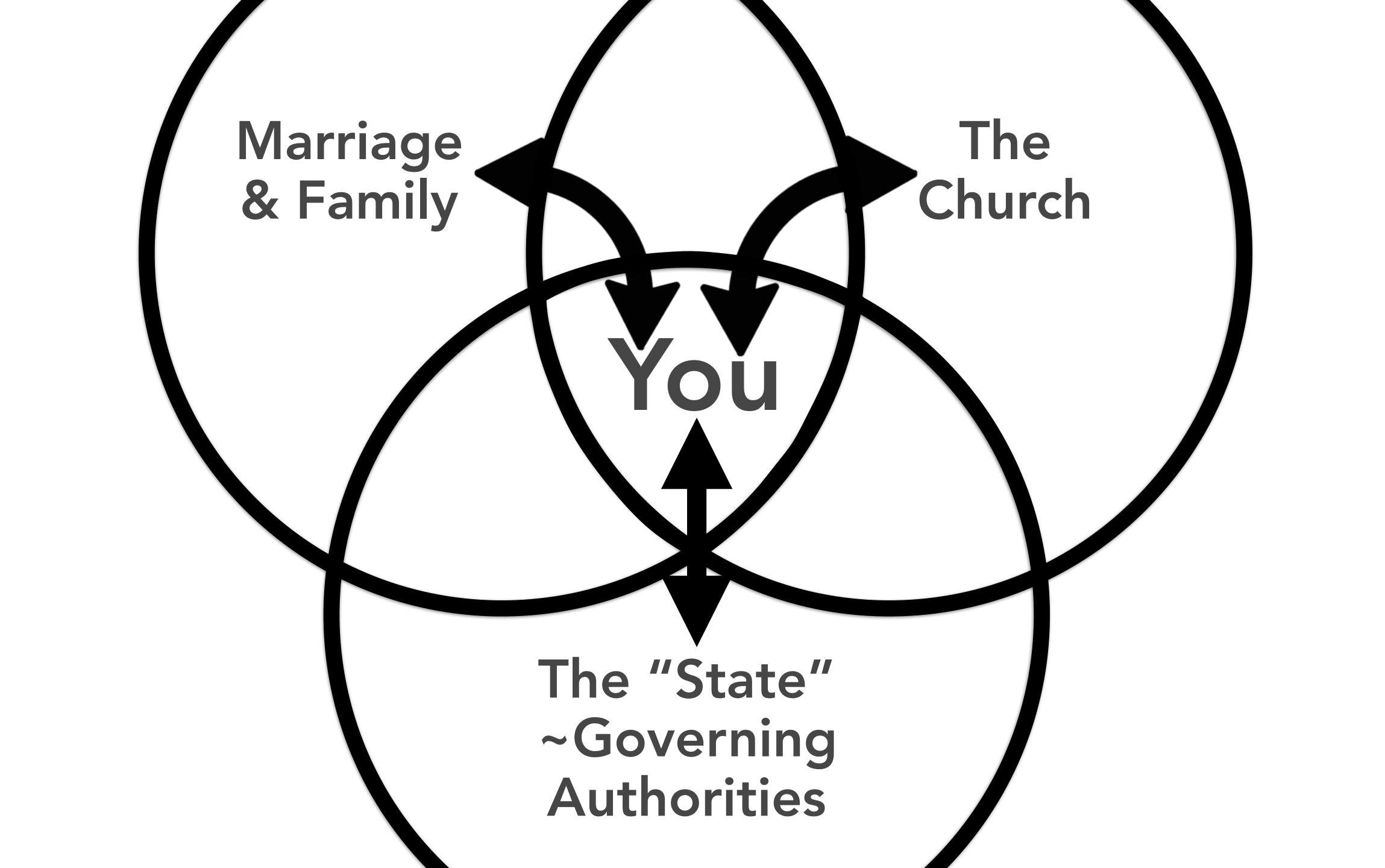




To illustrate this: God has designed us to live relationally within the context of three "institutions."







Marriage & Family

The desires of my flesh asks: "How can my family, my church & my government make ME happy?"

The Church

The "State" ~Governing Authorities

GARY THOMAS

- ACRED Marriage



WHAT IF GOD DESIGNED MARKINGE MORE THAN TO MAKE US HATTY

Marria

WHAT IF GOD DESIGNED MARKINGE MORE THAN TO MAKE US HAPPYT 10 MAKE US HOLY

"We have to rid ourselves of the notion that the difficulties of marriage can be overcome if we simply pray harder or learn a few simple principles. Most of us have discovered that these 'simple steps' work only on a superficial level. Why is this? Because there's a deeper question that needs to be addressed beyond how we can 'improve' our marriage:

"What if God didn't <u>DESIGN</u> marriage to be 'easier'? What if God had an end in mind that went beyond our happiness, our comfort, and our desire to be infatuated and happy as if the world were a perfect place. What if God designed our marriage to make us holy more than to make us happy? And what if your relationship isn't as much about you and your spouse as it is about you and God?"

What if God didn't design ANY of our relational connections to be easy? What if ALL of our relational connections are designed by God to transform us into more Holy people?

Romans 13:1-4

"The authorities that exist have been established by God.
...For the one in authority is God's servant for your good."

Allow God to TRANSFORM you into the person HE wants you to be, for His greater glory.

Change my heart oh God,
Make it ever true.
Change my heart oh God,
May I be like You.

You are the potter,
I am the clay,
Mold me and make me,
This is what I pray.