

Faith or Works Contradiction?

◇ You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone.

◇ James 2:24

◇ Yet we know that a person is justified not by the works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ.

◇ Galatians 2:16

Or not so different?

◆ For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything; the only thing that counts is **faith working through love.**

◆ Galatians 5:6

◆ You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, “You shall **love your neighbor as yourself.**”

◆ James 2:8

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *The Cost of Discipleship*

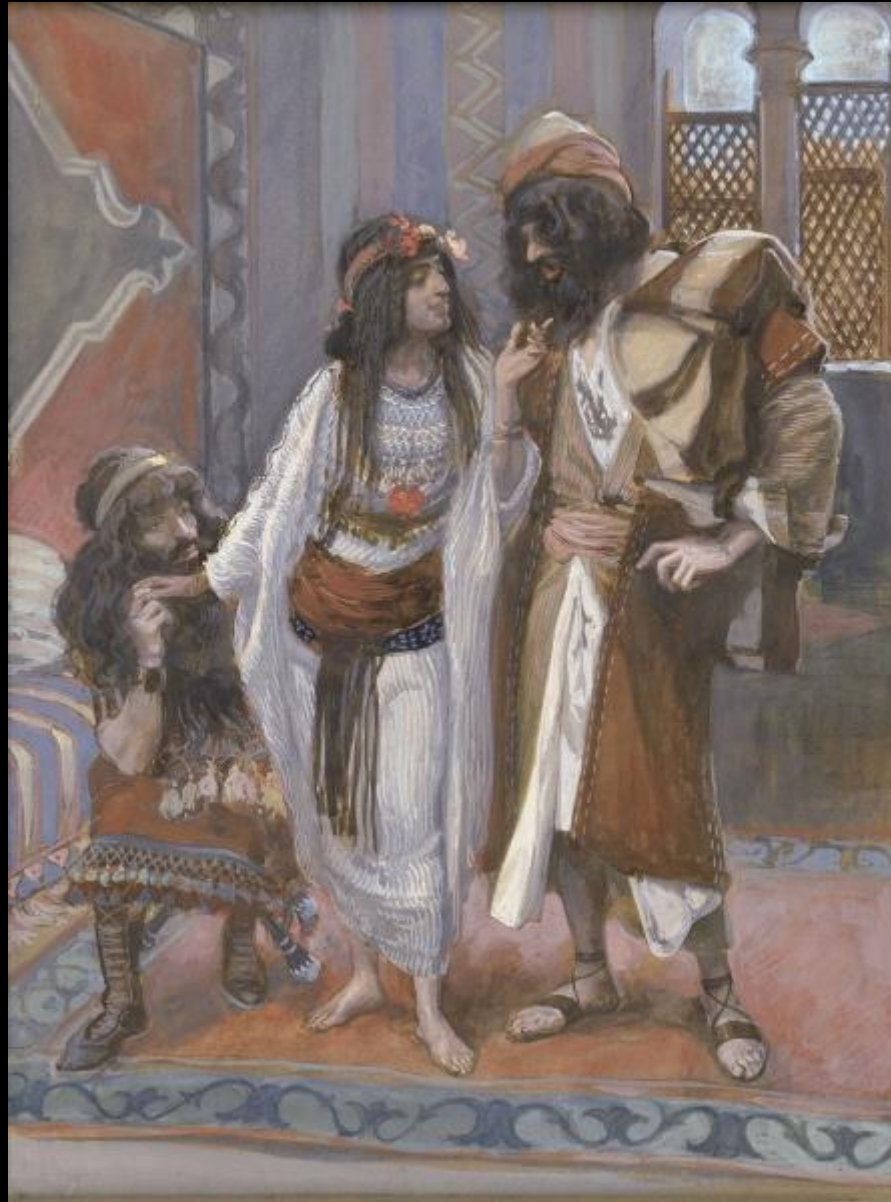
- ◆ "Costly grace is the treasure hidden in the field; for the sake of it a man will gladly go and sell all that he has. It is the pearl of great price to buy which the merchant will sell all his goods...."
- ◆ "Such grace is costly because it calls us to follow, and it is grace because it calls us to follow Jesus Christ. It is costly because it costs a man his life, and it is grace because it gives a man the only true life."

James 2:20

- ◆ Do you want to be shown, you foolish person, that faith apart from works is useless? (ESV)
- ◆ Faith without works *doesn't work*.
- ◆ Faith without action is *inaction*.

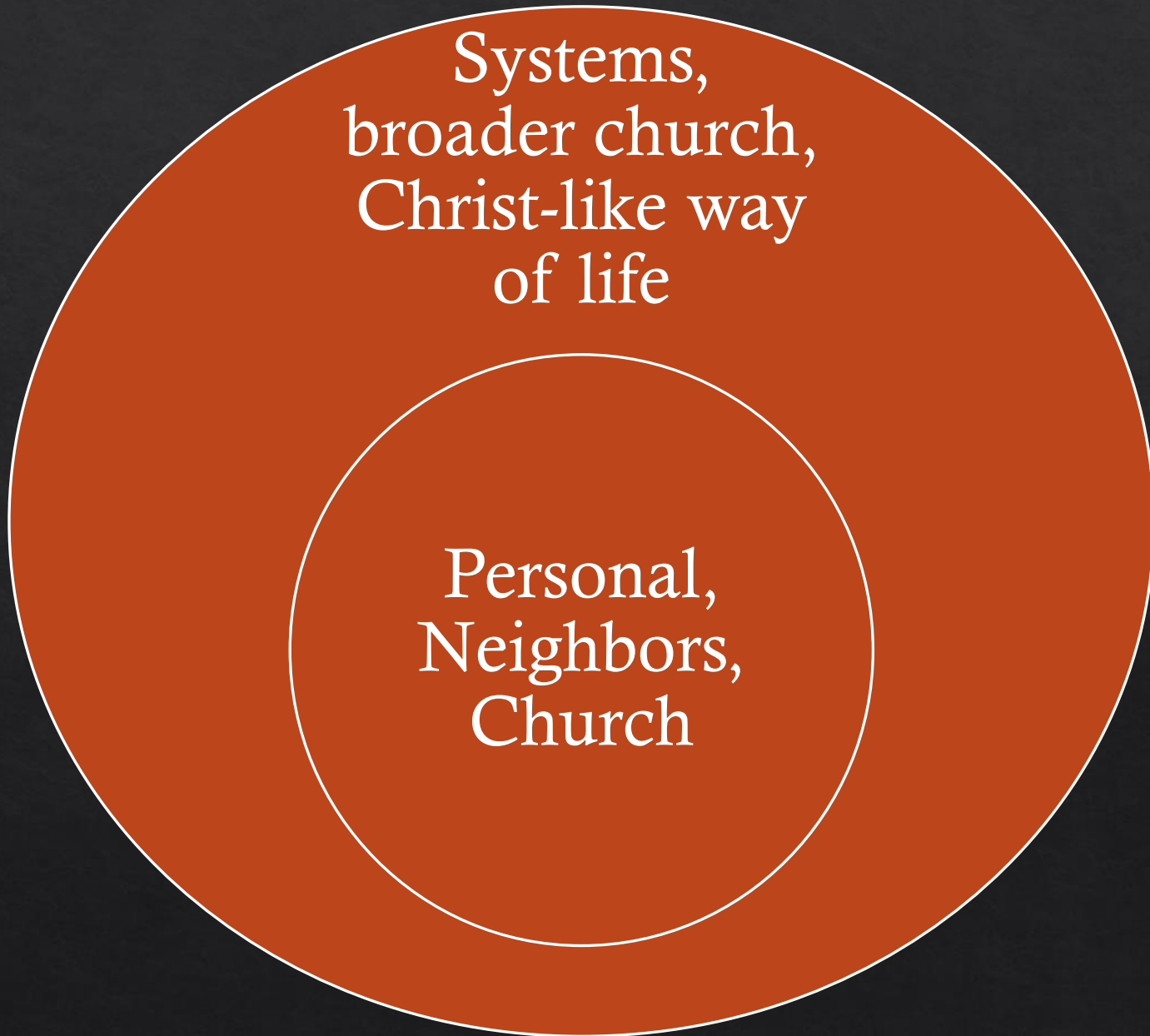


Abraham and Isaac, Rembrandt, public domain



The Harlot of Jericho and the Two Spies, Tissot, public domain

Dimensions of action



Reflection

- ◆ How does my daily life already express my faith? How does it not?
 - ◆ What choices would make it more consistent?
- ◆ Do I need to discover God's forgiveness and grace or do I simply need motivation?
- ◆ What nudges am I ignoring or putting off?