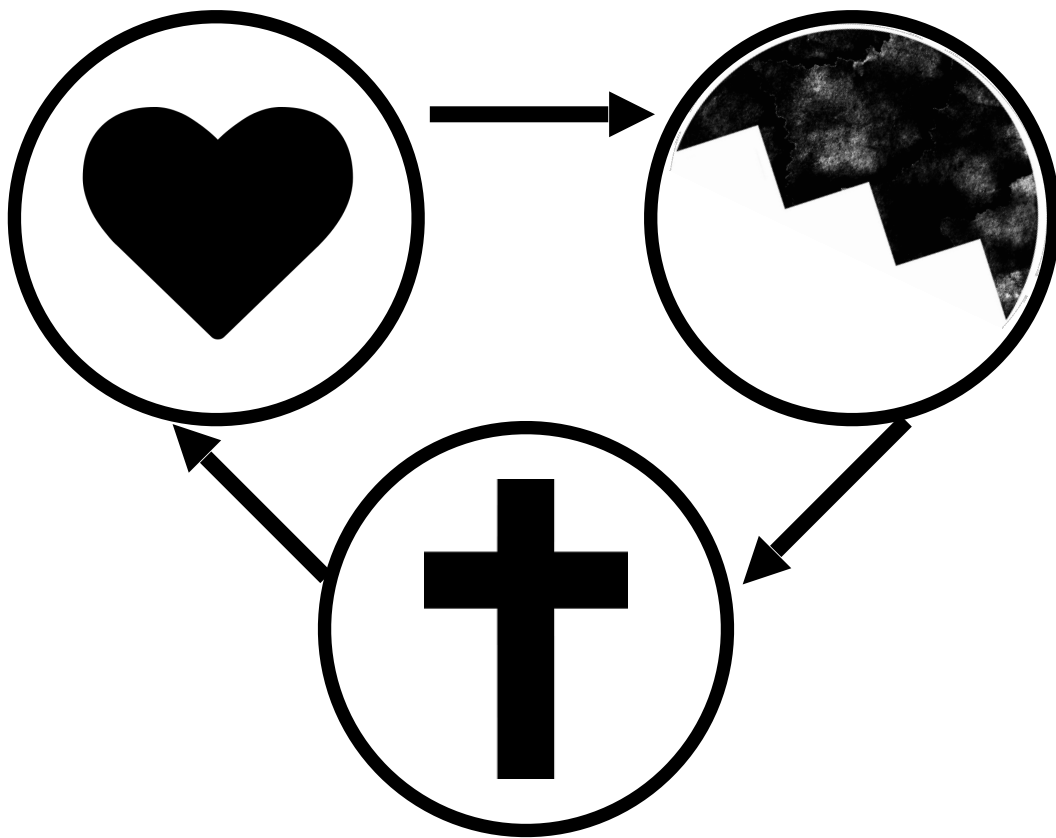


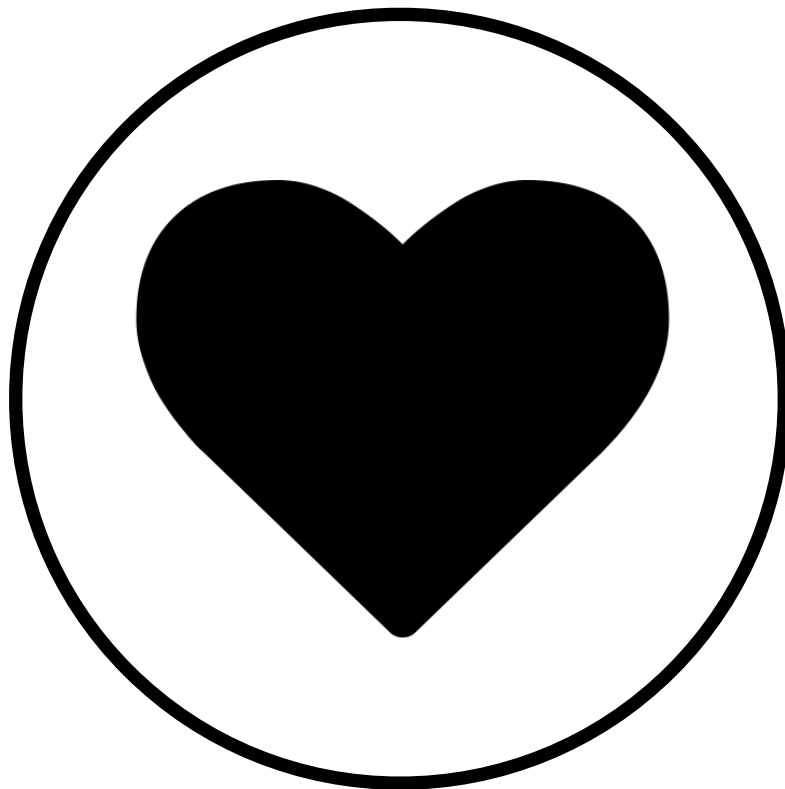
3 Circles: From Broken To Whole



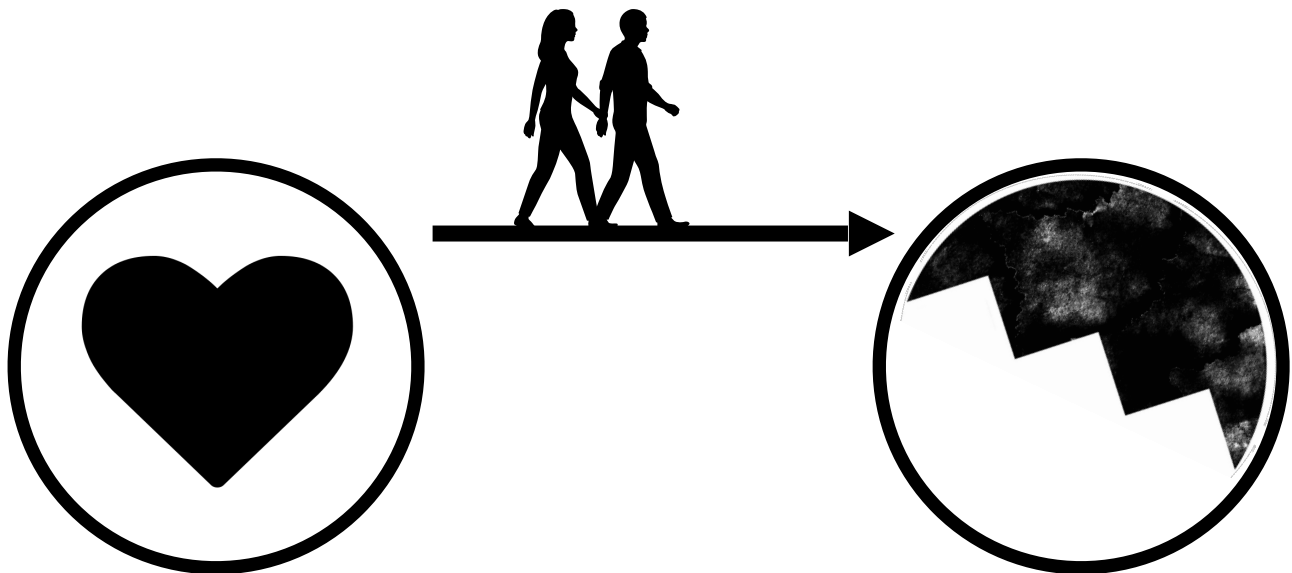
**We live in a broken world.
You only need to read the newspaper,
watch the cable news or check your
Facebook feed for one moment
to know that this world is a broken
place full of disease, violence, war,
suffering and death.**



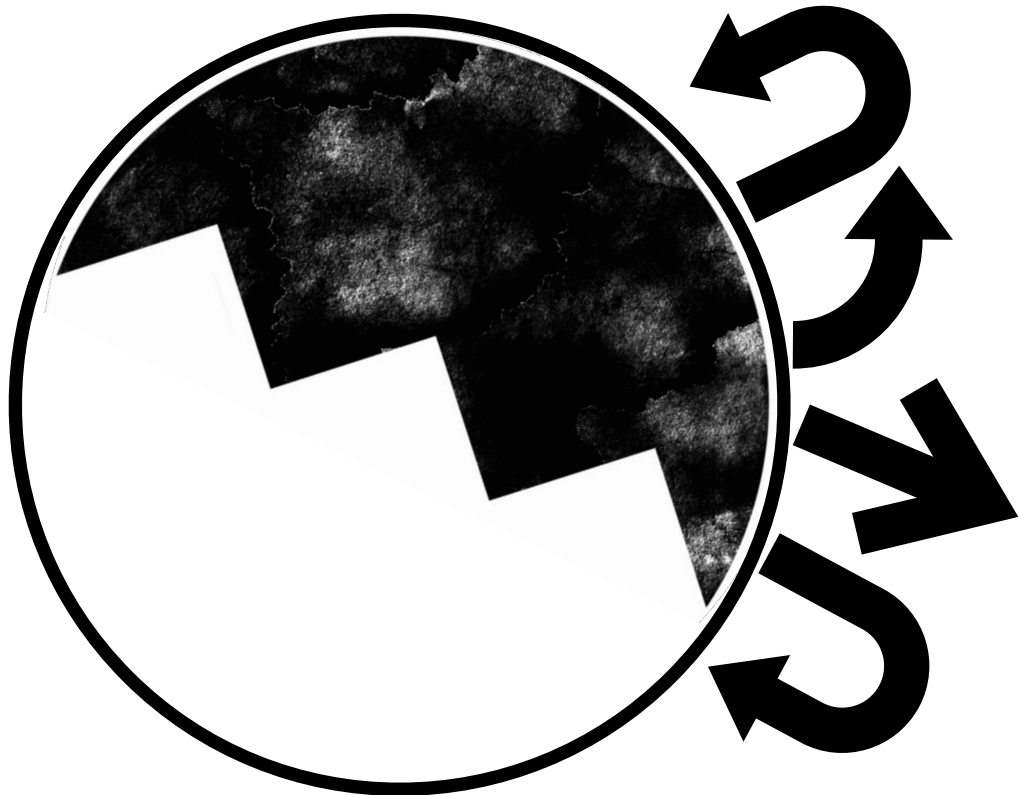
**But it wasn't always like this.
When God created the world,
His design was perfect and good.
Brokenness did not exist. We can
still see traces of this goodness
in the precious smile of a baby
or a beautiful sunrise or sunset.**



When God made the first man and woman, He gave them a choice to trust Him or trust themselves. To follow in His ways or go their own. The first man and woman chose to go their own way, rejecting and leaving God's perfect and good design for one of their own making. And every human being to walk the earth since, has chosen the same thing. Choosing one's own way over God's is sin and mankind's sin has resulted in all the brokenness in the world.



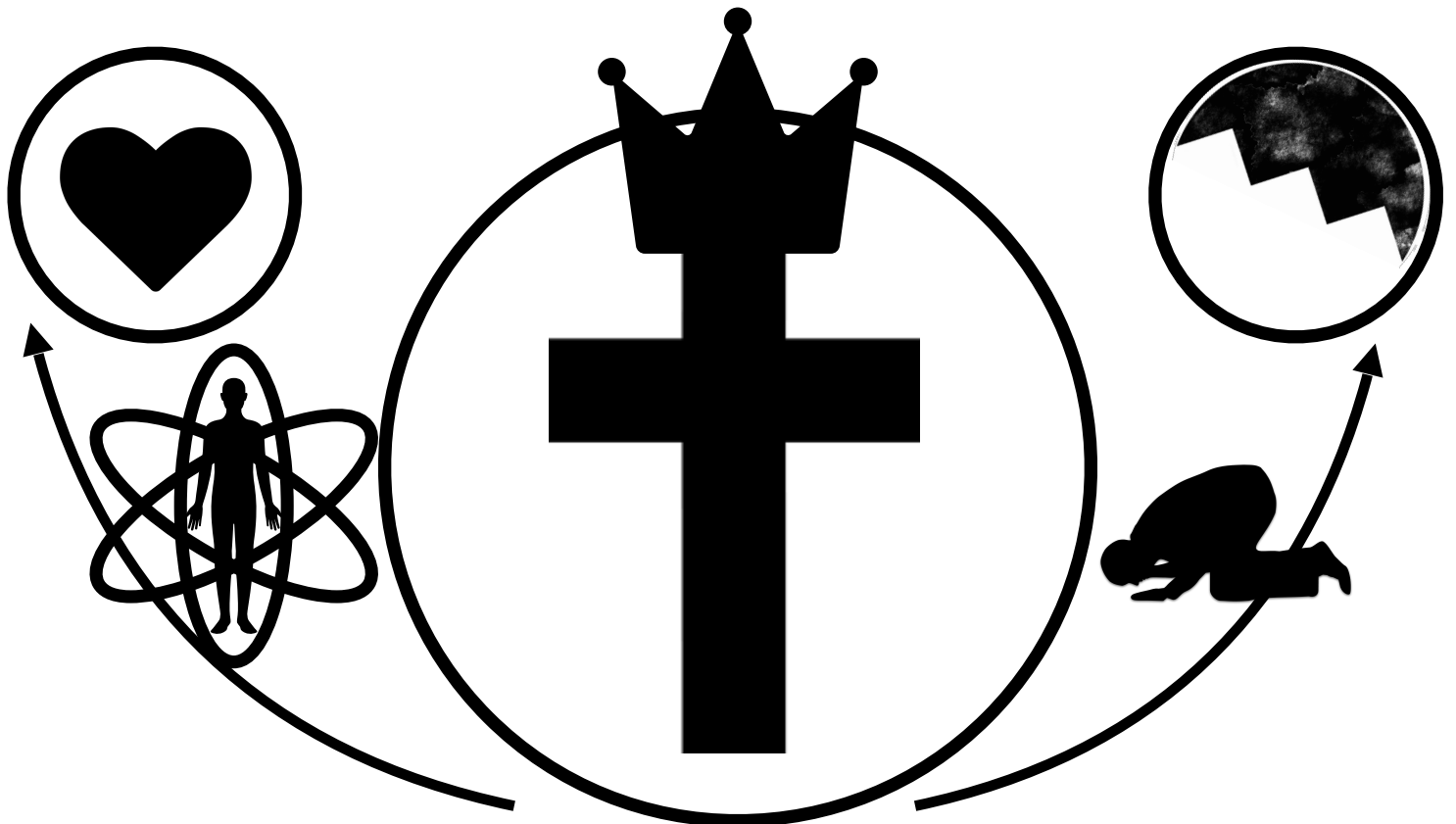
But we don't like to be in brokenness so we try to escape it. Some try through drugs and alcohol. Others through success in school or business, earning degrees and big salaries. Some try to escape through their endless pursuit of material possessions. Others try through relationships or marriage or having kids. Some try through religion or humanitarian efforts. Others try through fitness, exercise and physical improvement. Others through sex. Some try to escape through video games and virtual reality. Some end their own lives to escape this broken world. They alone succeed. All others may find satisfaction for a time, but it doesn't last. The brokenness returns. In reality, it never left.



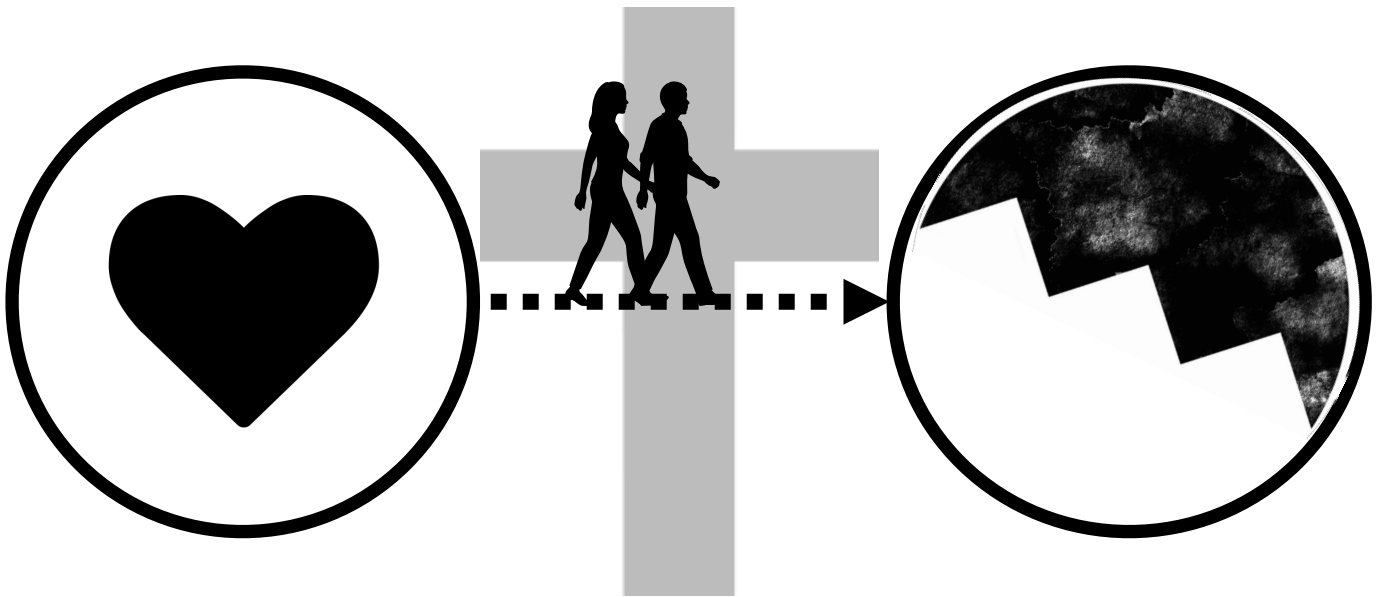
But here's the good news. Remember God? We left Him, but God never left us and He still loves us and wants to get us out of brokenness. He knows we are stuck and cannot get out by ourselves so He made a way to do it for us. God sent His one and only son, Jesus, down into our broken world to not only teach and show us what God's perfect and good design looks like, but to rescue us out of our brokenness and place us back into God's perfect and good design. Jesus accomplished this by willingly dying on a cross, being broken in our place and receiving the punishment for OUR sins on HIS body, thereby appeasing God's holy wrath and judgement against sin.



Now God says to all mankind, "Your sin separated you from my perfect design, but my Son has opened a door for your return, BUT YOU MUST RETURN THROUGH HIM ALONE." This is why Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father, but through me." God says if you will put your full trust in what Jesus did on the cross - believing that He came, died and rose again for your salvation - and if you will repent of your sins, surrender your life to Jesus and declare your allegiance to his authority then you will be forgiven of all your sins - past, present AND future. In Jesus Christ, you are a new creation and placed back into God's perfect and good design.



Being back in God's perfect and good design however, does not mean that God removes you from this broken world. Just as Jesus was sent into the world to show the world the way out of brokenness, now God wants to use you to do the same thing. God says, "Now you go and represent me and teach and show and lead others to freedom through Jesus. I will be with you to help, guide and empower you for the task. And when your work is done, I will bring you home to a place I've prepared for you and all my children, where brokenness no longer exists."



TWO QUESTIONS:

1. WHERE ARE YOU? Are you still living in brokenness and trying to escape in your own power and effort?

2. WHERE DO YOU WANT TO BE? Do you want to stay in brokenness or walk in God's perfect and good design?

**GOD STILL OFFERS THE CHOICE:
MY WAY OR YOURS?**

**“The time promised by God has come at last!”
Jesus announced. “The Kingdom of God is near!
Repent of your sins and believe the Good News!” Mark 1:15**

BELIEVE IN JESUS.

Becoming a Christian requires belief, confession and repentance and results in obedience. A true follower of Jesus Christ BELIEVES that Jesus is the Son of God who came to earth to die for the sins of the world. A true follower of Jesus Christ CONFESSES their sin to God and REPENTS of the sinful and selfish way they have lived. A true follower of Jesus Christ commits to OBEYING His words, teachings and commands.

A simple prayer, like the one below, is how many people begin their new life of faith in Jesus Christ:

“God of all creation, I confess that I am a sinner whose actions, thoughts, and desires have fallen short of your perfect ways. I am sorry for the sinful and selfish way I have lived my life. I believe that Jesus Christ died on the cross for my sins and so I put my complete trust and faith in Him. I commit to following and obeying Him for the rest of my days on earth. Thank you for forgiving my sins and for making me a new person from the inside out. Thank you for giving me your Holy Spirit to help me live out my new life of faith. In Jesus name I pray, amen.”

If you prayed that prayer then congratulations, you are a new creation in Jesus Christ! You are forgiven and cleansed and free from condemnation! You can now live a life of faith that pleases God!

To grow stronger and more mature in your faith, commit to daily PRAYER (talking to God), daily READING & STUDYING God's word (The Bible), and weekly FELLOWSHIP (church) with other Christians. Always keep in mind that a TRUE CHRISTIAN CHURCH professes Jesus Christ is the Son of God who died on the cross and rose again to save us from our sins and there is NO other way to be saved, but through Him and this salvation is a gift from God that we receive through faith because there is NOTHING we can DO to earn it. Any church whose teachings do not agree with ALL of these statements is not a true Bible believing, Christian church. Get involved in a true Christian church where you can learn, serve and grow together with other believers as the Body of Christ.

"I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." Philippians 1:3-6

"Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom." Psalm 90:12

God saw all that He had made, and it was good. GENESIS 1:31

Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned. ROMANS 5:12

You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly...God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. ROMANS 5:6,8

He was pierced for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed. ISAIAH 53:5

(Jesus) was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake. Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God. 1 PETER 1:20-21

For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whosoever believes in Him, will not perish, but have everlasting life. JOHN 3:16

I am the resurrection and the life, anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying. JOHN 11:25

Let your light shine before others that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. MATTHEW 5:16

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age. MATTHEW 28:19-20

I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world. JOHN 16:33

Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. MATTHEW 25:34

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