



THE RELATIONSHIP SOLAR SYSTEM

A Strategy for Getting Along with Anyone

Dr. Robert Dotson

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What is a Solar System?

A solar system is a collection of planets, moons, asteroids, comets, and other celestial bodies that orbit around a central star, known as a sun. Our solar system consists of eight planets that orbit the Sun, along with various moons and other smaller objects.

How does The Relationship Solar System operate?

In the relationship solar system, the relationships occupy seven orbits around the Sun of God, our Lord Jesus Christ. The Son of God and the believer interact with others, ranging from enemies or adversaries in the outermost orbit to the closest, best friend and spouse.

‘The Relationship Solar System is a strategy for getting along with anyone.’

What orbits should believers NOT connect with unbelievers?

Believers in Christ connect with enemies, associates, acquaintances and family members, because we can't win a soul unless we do connect with the lost. We don't agree with their ungodly lifestyles.

* Believers should NOT connect in orbits with unbelievers as friends, a best friend and certainly NOT engage or marry an unbeliever. ***“Be not unequally yoked with unbelievers.”*** (2 Cor 6:14)

All my Enemies

We begin in the outermost orbit and move
inward to the Son of God

‘Me and My Enemies or Adversaries’

THE SEVEN RELATIONSHIP ORBITS

Anam Cara (soulmate)

CONTINUAL PRAYER

7 ME AND ALL MY ENEMIES

POLITE KINDNESS

ME AND ALL MY ASSOCIATES 6

ONE IN CHRIST JESUS

MUTUAL LOYALTY 3

ME AND ALL MY FAMILY

JESUS CHRIST

MUTUAL TRUST

2 ME AND MY BEST FRIEND

ME AND MY SPOUSE

1 INTIMACY AND COMMITMENT

MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL

5 ME AND ALL MY ACQUAINTANCES

ME AND ALL MY FRIENDS

4 MUTUAL COMPANIONSHIP

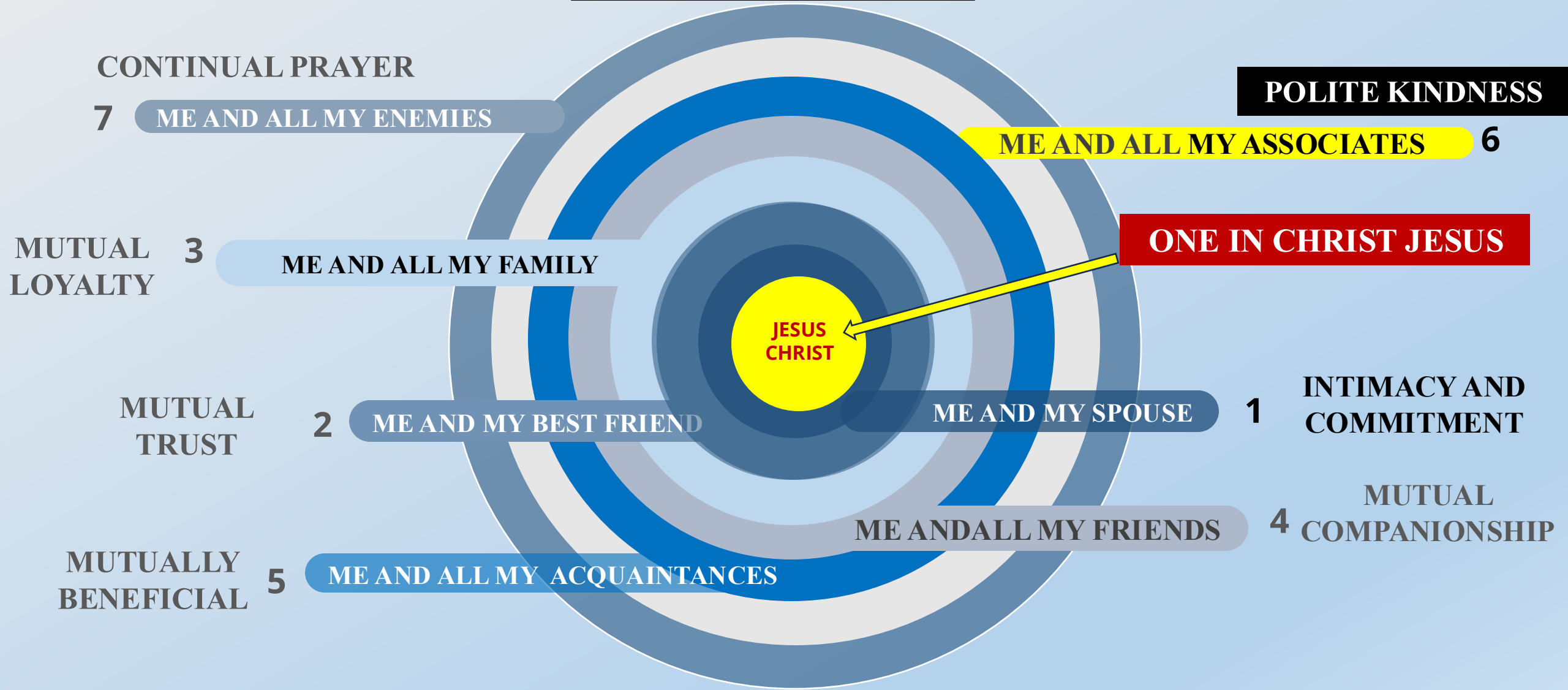
7. The Characteristic of **ALL MY ENEMIES** **Continual Prayer**

Enemies will not support; will seek ways to disrupt what you do. Enemies can be trusted to harm whenever possible.

In Matthew 5:43,44, Jesus said, “You have heard that it was said, You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy. But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and PRAY for those who spitefully use you and persecute you.”

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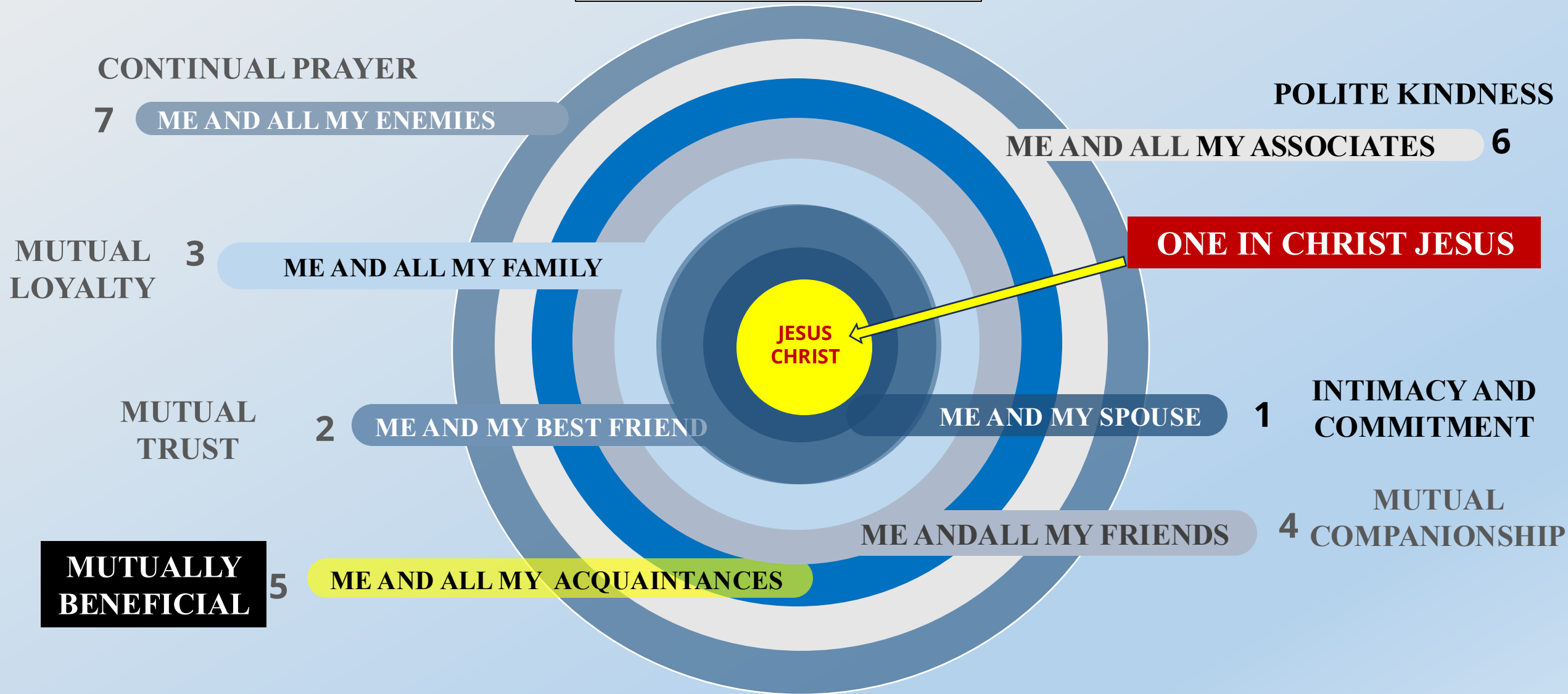
6. The Characteristic of **ALL MY ASSOCIATES: Polite Kindness**

Associates represent the vast majority of people we come into contact with. They are the nurses, servers, clerks, and others with whom we have no intimate association. They may be our neighbors.

* **Jesus said in Matthew 22:38, “*You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*”**

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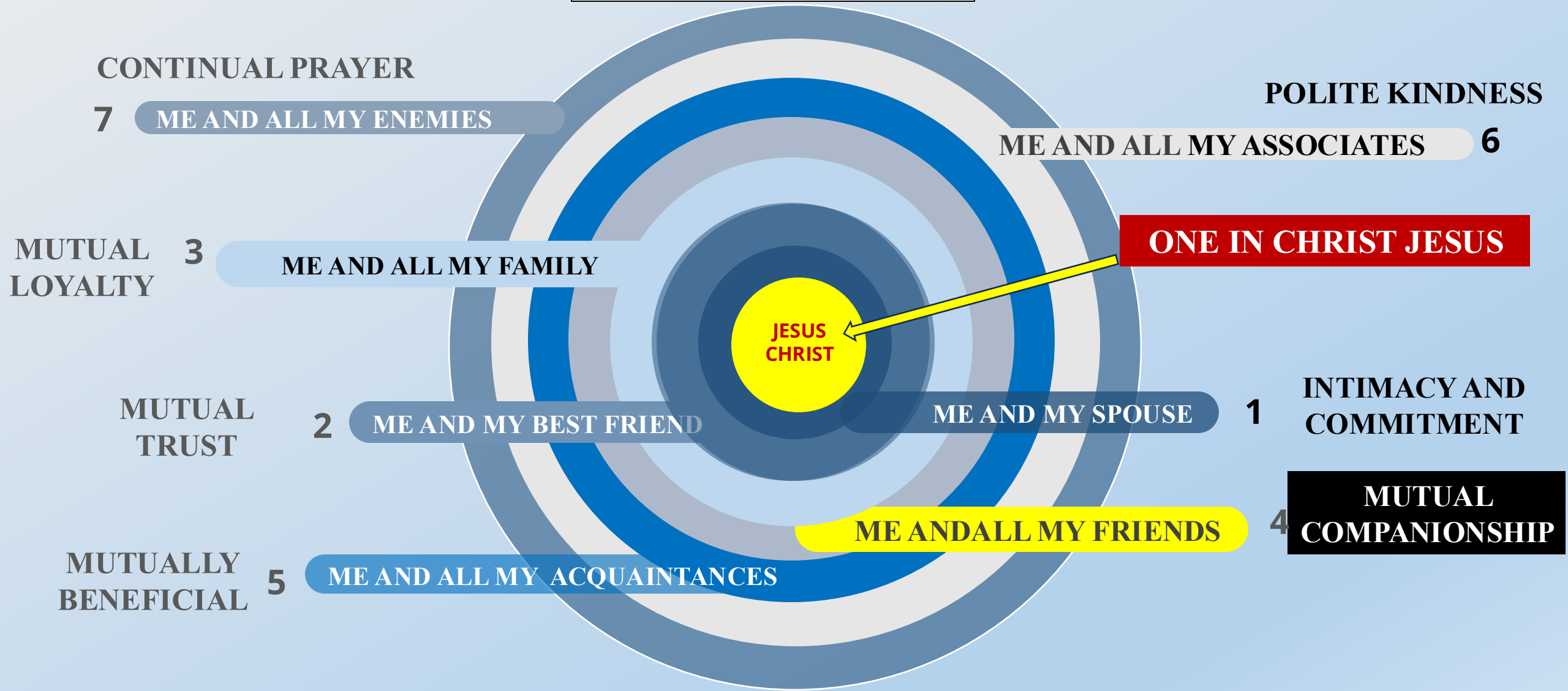


5. The Characteristic of ALL MY ACQUAINTANCES: Mutually Beneficial

Acquaintances are those with whom we do business. Also include working colleagues. Business means any encounter with a mutually beneficial requirement; pay for services provided, etc. It is wise to keep acquaintances in their orbits and to know when they drift into the neighboring orbit. The adage, “*You scratch my back, and I’ll scratch yours,*” applies well to acquaintances.

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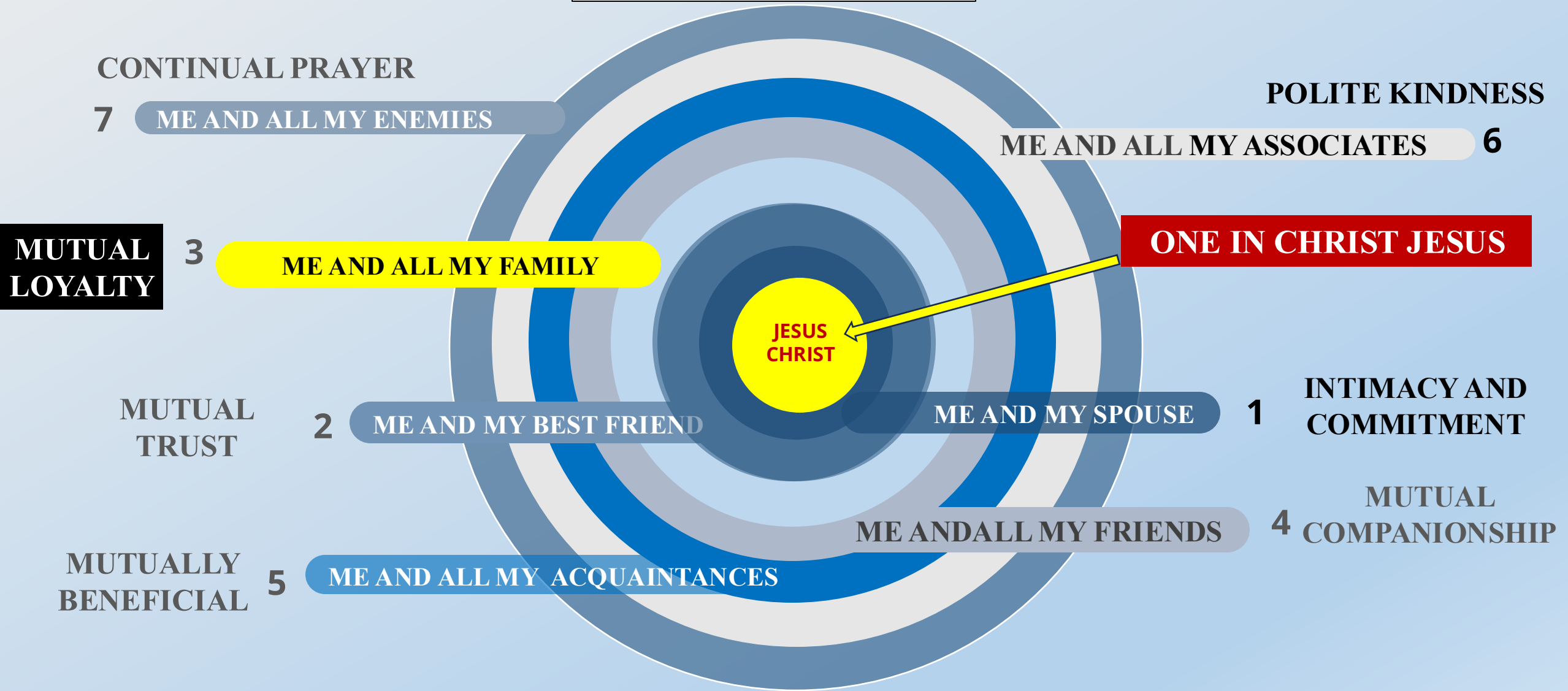
4. The Characteristic of ALL MY FRIENDS Mutual Companionship

Friends are the folks we hang out with. They like us, and we like them. We always trust them to be likable and easy to get along with.

Jesus said in John 15:14, ***“You are My friends if you do whatever I command you.”***

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3. The Characteristic of **ALL MY FAMILY** **Mutual Loyalty**

Family members are blood relatives, but there are many who are friends being much closer and considered family.

There are also other special people, such as the pastor, the family doctor, and other professionals, who may also be considered family.

*** Loyalty among family members will often supersede family disputes.**

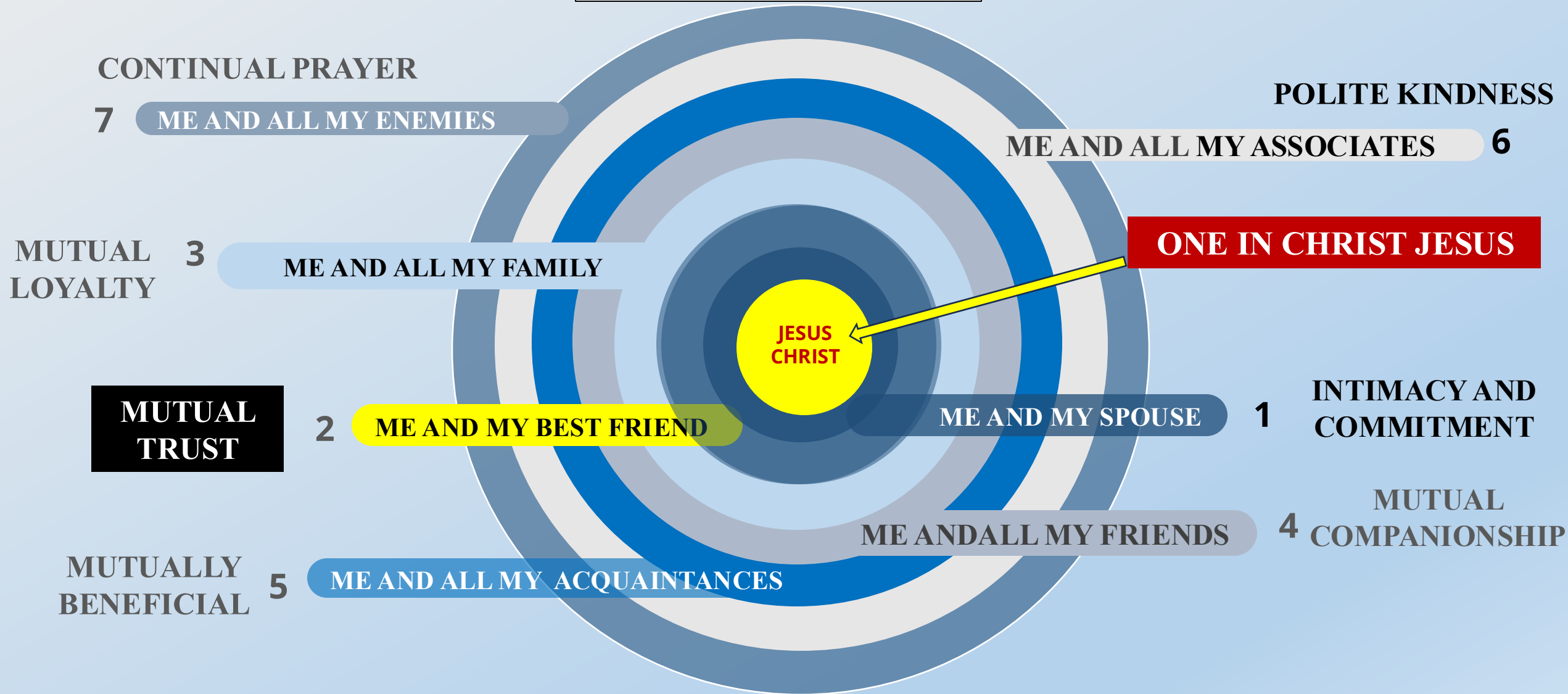
Caution: Cross Connections

- When connecting in an orbit, determine the characteristic of the orbit and maintain it with both connectors.
- When cross connections occur, the relationship becomes dysfunctional. For example: ***One connector may see the other person as a friend, while the other connector maintains the perception of an acquaintance.***

***A dysfunctional connection.**

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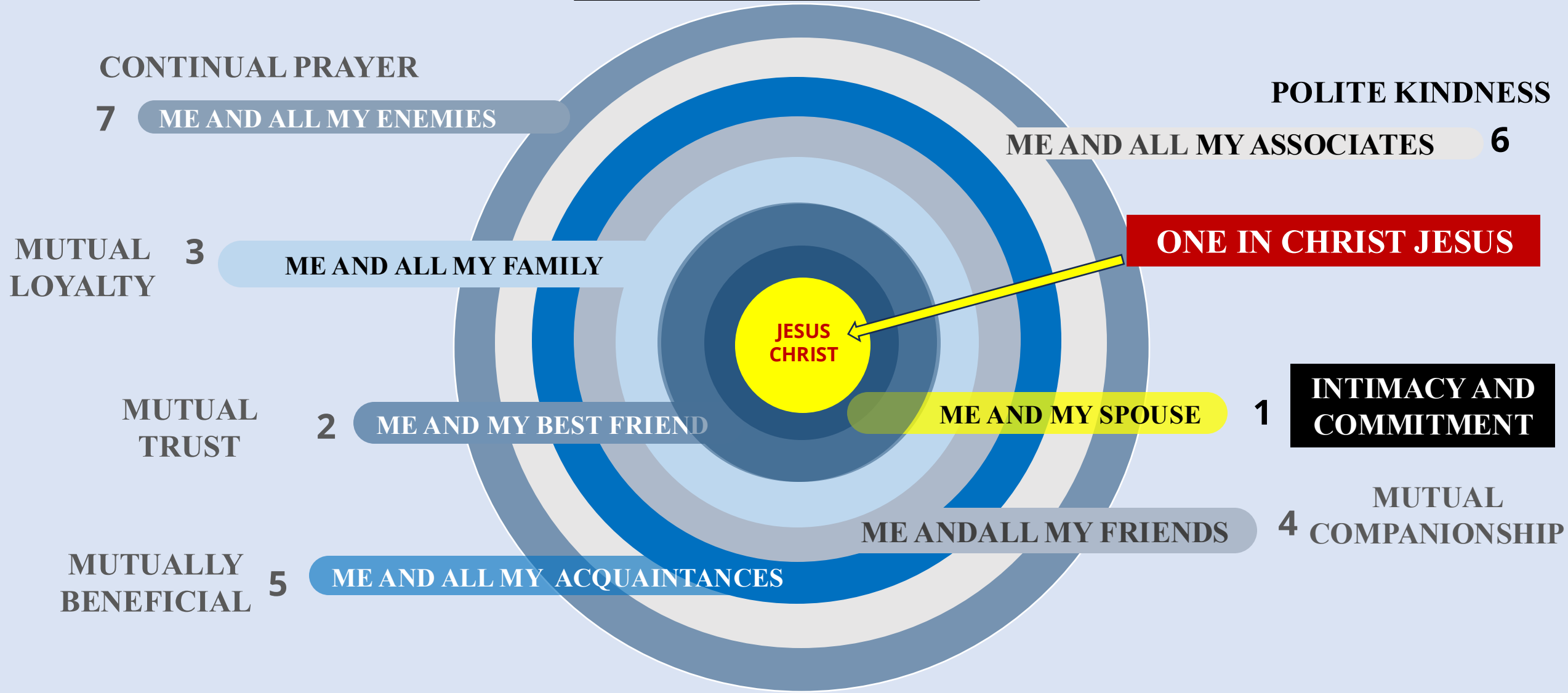
2. The Characteristic of **MY BEST FRIEND** **Mutual Trust**

There is only one best friend, even though occasionally people say they have more than one best friend, those friends may feel like best friends.

*** There still remains only one best friend and best friends trust each other more than family.**

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1. The Characteristic of MY SPOUSE

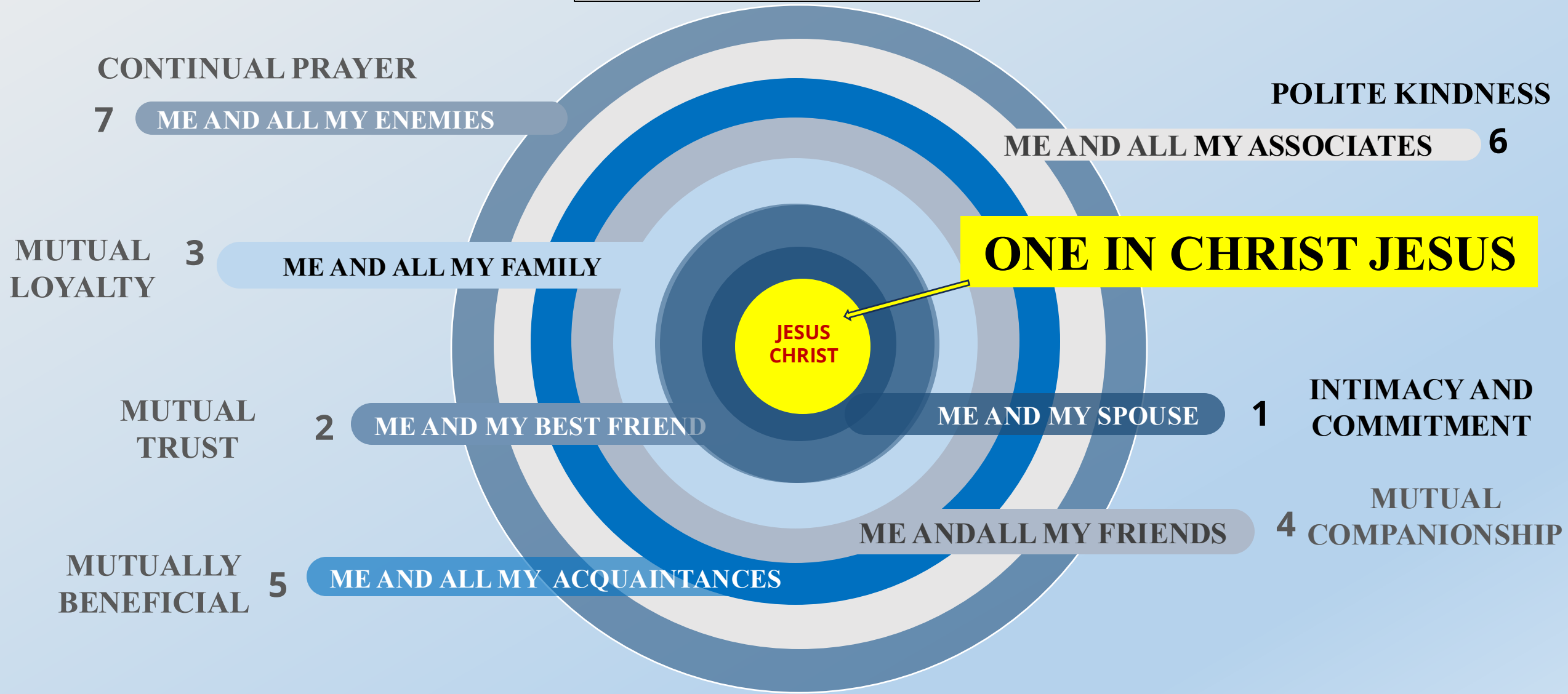
Intimacy and Commitment

My spouse is the most important human relationship we engage in. The word of God says in Mark 10:7,8, *“...A man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh...”*

* Orbits two and one become one orbit; spouses must therefore be best friends because they have become one.

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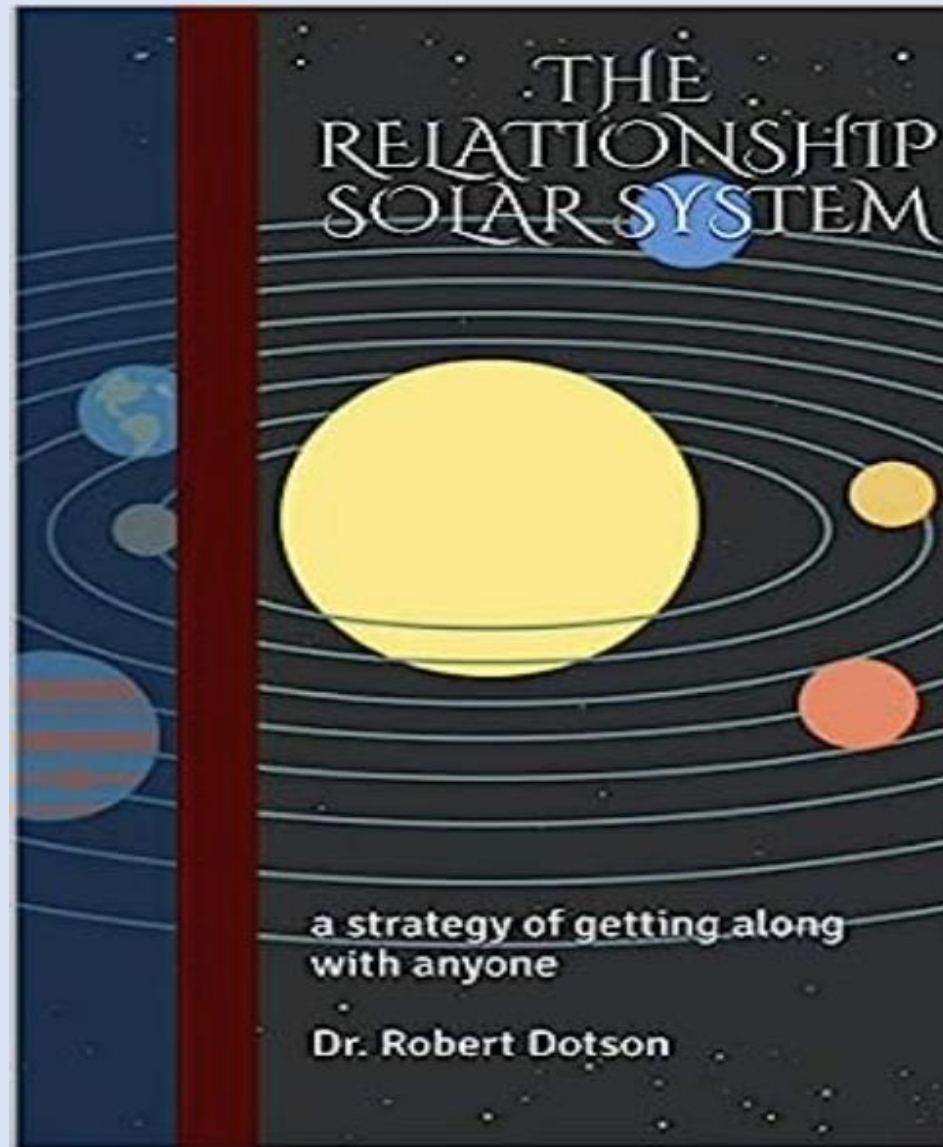
The most important relationship of all: **ONE IN CHRIST**

The connection we make with Jesus is our most important relationship. The connection with Him is pure and unbreakable. Jesus is the center of every aspect of life. He knows us better than anyone else possibly can. Our relationship with Christ is eternal.

Jesus is our faithful *'Anam Cara'

10 Helpful Tools for Understanding Relationship Connections from the book

- **What is a Feud?**
- **Fight Fair:** Excerpts from *'Fight Fair'* by Tim and Joy Downs
- **Total Forgiveness:** Excerpts from by R.T. Kendall
- **High-Maintenance Relationships:** Excerpts by Les Parrott III, Ph.D.
- **Dealing with Passive-Aggressive Behavior:** <https://psychologytoday.com>
- **Narcissistic Behavior:** *Excerpts by Sander van der Linden, Ph.D.*
- **Emotional Affairs:** Excerpts by Debbie Cherry, *'Focus On The Family'*
- **Transactional Analysis:** Excerpts by Eric Berne
- **Love Yourself First:** *'The God-Kind of Love is Tough'* by Dr. Robert Dotson
- **Building Legacy in Relationships**



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