



## The Cycle of Relationships (Proverbs 3:5-6)

Dr. Nicolas Ellen

### I. The Premise of Trusting God (v5)

- A. Trusting God means to rely on and place confidence in who He is.
  - 1. It is not a mental assent of what you understand.
  - 2. It is an act of the mind, will, and emotions responding to who He is.
  - 3. It is an act of submission to the self-existent, eternal God.
- B. Trusting God must start from the inside out.
  - 1. It starts with taking every thought captive to His Word.
  - 2. It moves to setting your affections on His Will, His Way, and His Promises.
  - 3. It ends with a sense of well-being, knowing God has everything under control even when things look and feel out of control.
- C. We must trust that God is:
  - 1. Sovereign – He controls all things at all times for His Glory and our good. (Lamentations 3:37-38, Ephesians 1:11, 1 Timothy 6:13-16)
  - 2. Infinite in wisdom – He knows the best course of action and the way to bring about the best results. (Colossians 2:1-3, Romans 11:33)
  - 3. Perfect in love – He seeks the highest good of individuals. (Psalm 32:10, 1 John 4:9-10, Lamentations 3:22-23)

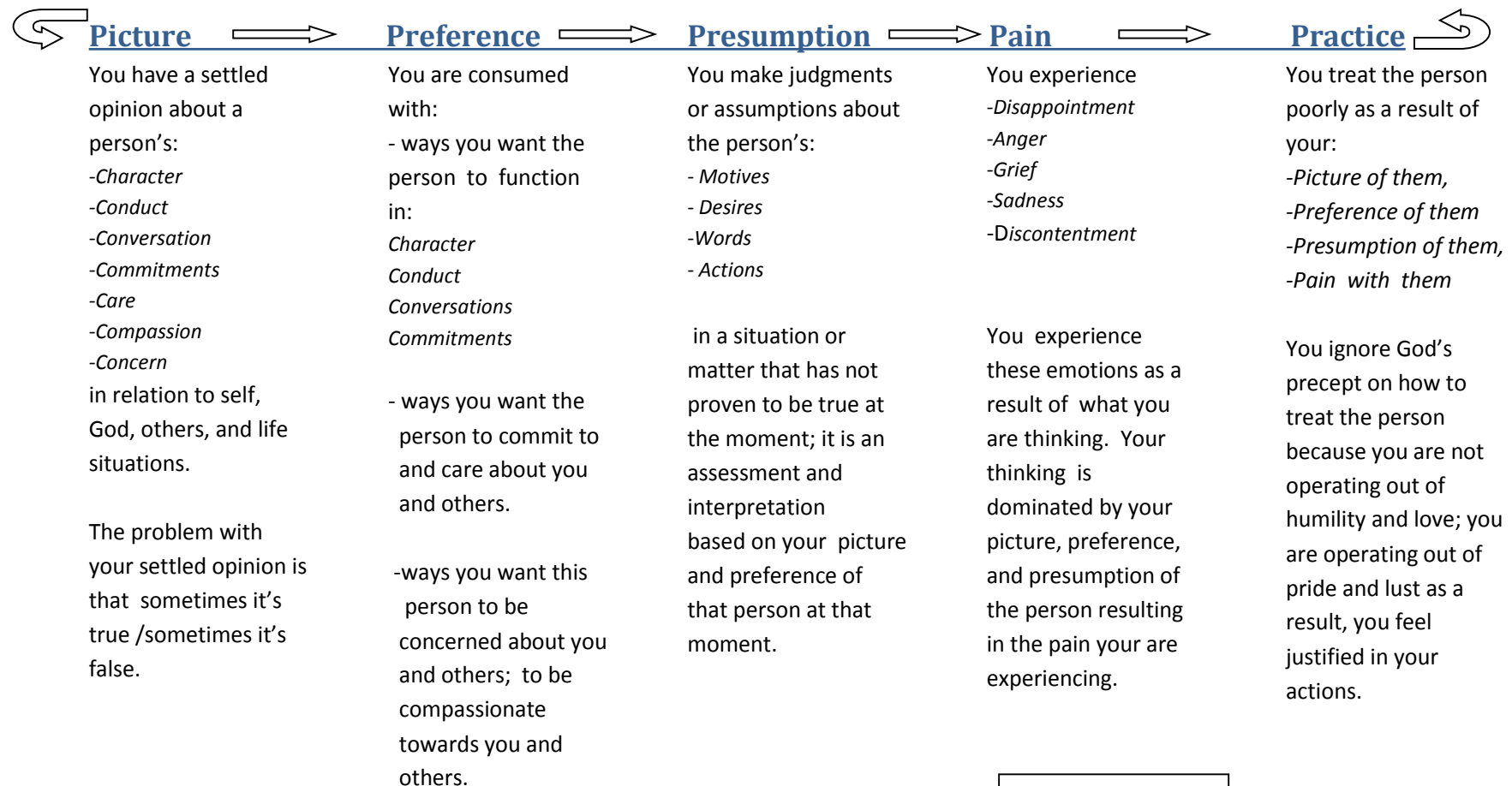
### II. The Pitfall to Trusting God (v5)

- A. The pitfall to trusting God is relying on your own insight.
- B. Relying on your own insight is having a human observation apart from a biblical interpretation. (Psalm 73)
- C. Where there is a human observation apart from a Biblical interpretation, you will develop in a cycle of self-centered relationships:

# The Cycle of Self Centered Relationships( Pastor Nicolas Ellen)

*Pride is a mind set on self with resistance to the will and ways of God. This leads to evaluating and dealing with people according to your own estimations, leading to various relational problems (Prov. 3:5-8, 28:26, 14:12).*

**As you function in pride, you tend to develop a picture of people in accordance to your opinion, resulting in an inevitable cycle:**



He who trust in his own heart is a fool, but he who walks wisely will be delivered (Prov. 28:26).

Therefore, do not let what is for you a good thing be spoken of as evil (Rom 14:16).

There is a way which seems right to a man but its end is the way of death (Prov. 14:12).

The heart knows its own bitterness, and a stranger does not share its joy (Prov. 14:10).

Every prudent man acts with knowledge, But a fool displays folly (Prov. 13:16).

### **III. The Process of Trusting God (v6)**

- A. We must acknowledge God in every aspect of life.
- B. To acknowledge God means to acquire God's instruction for every aspect of life and obey God's instruction for every aspect of life. (Matthew 6:33)
- C. When we acquire God's instruction and obey God's instruction for relationships, we will develop in a cycle of Christ-centered relationships:

# The Cycle of Christ-Centered Relationships

*Humility is a mind set on Christ with a submission to the will of God.*

*This leads to evaluating life, God, and people according to the Word of God (Romans 12:2, Philippians 2:3-5).*

**As you function in humility, you tend to see people according to their position before God  
and their position before you, resulting in an inevitable cycle:**

