

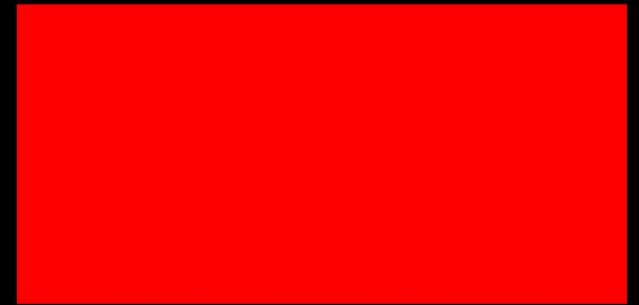
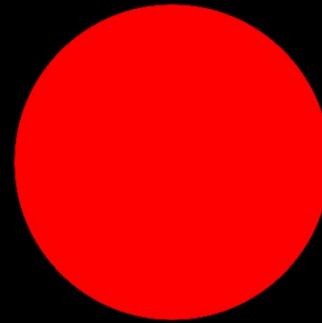
Interpretation

Josh Spoelstra | 16 July 2023

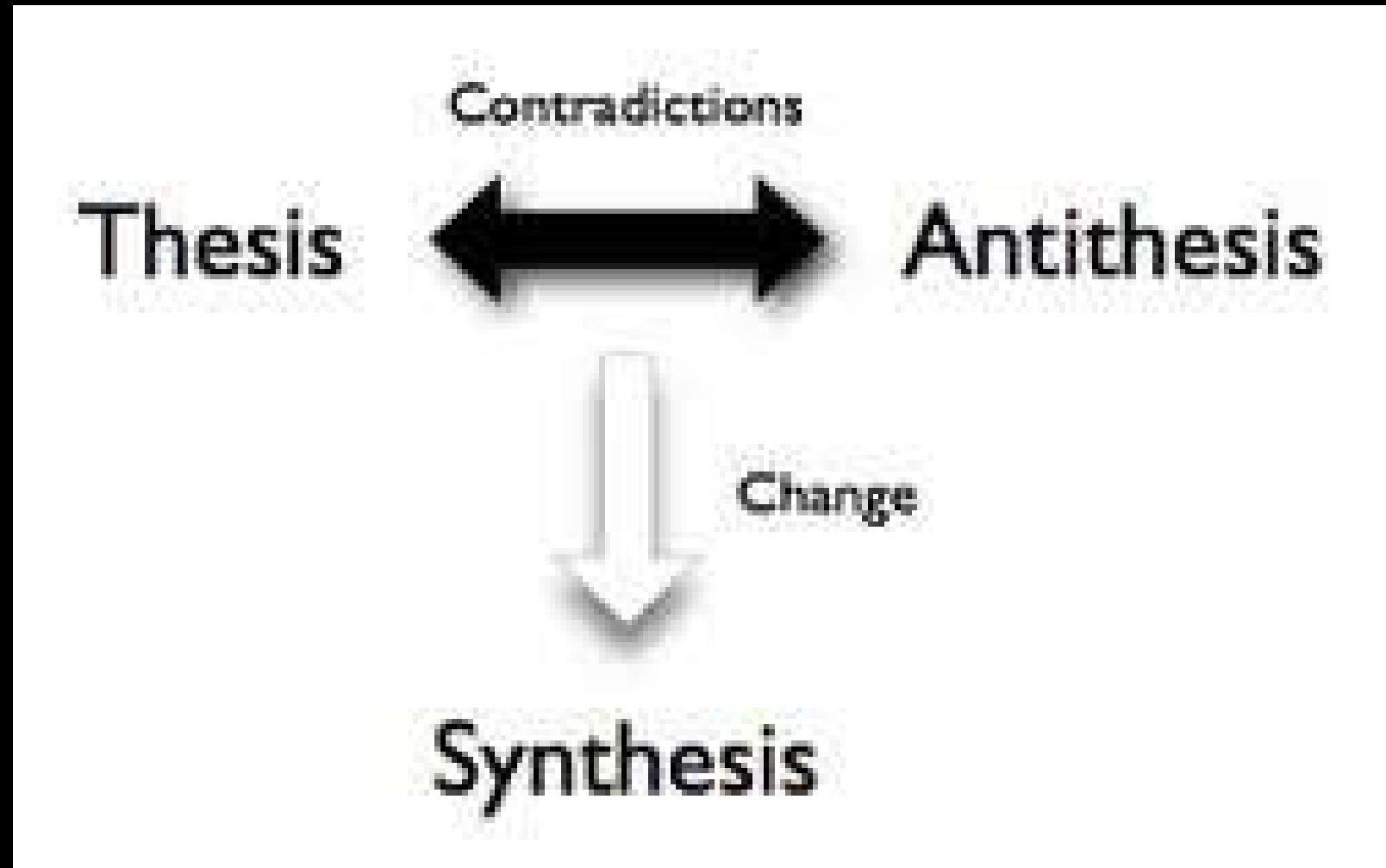
Paradox

Definition

- **a statement that is seemingly contradictory and yet is perhaps true**
- **one (as a person, situation, or action) having seemingly contradictory qualities or phases**



Hegelian Dialectics



Biblical Paradox

SINNER | SAINT

Biblical Paradox

Thesis = Sinner

Christ Jesus came into the world to save **sinners**, among whom I [Paul] am foremost of all.

(1 Timothy 1:15 NASB)

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Antithesis = Saint

To me [Paul], the very least of all **saints**, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unfathomable riches of Christ

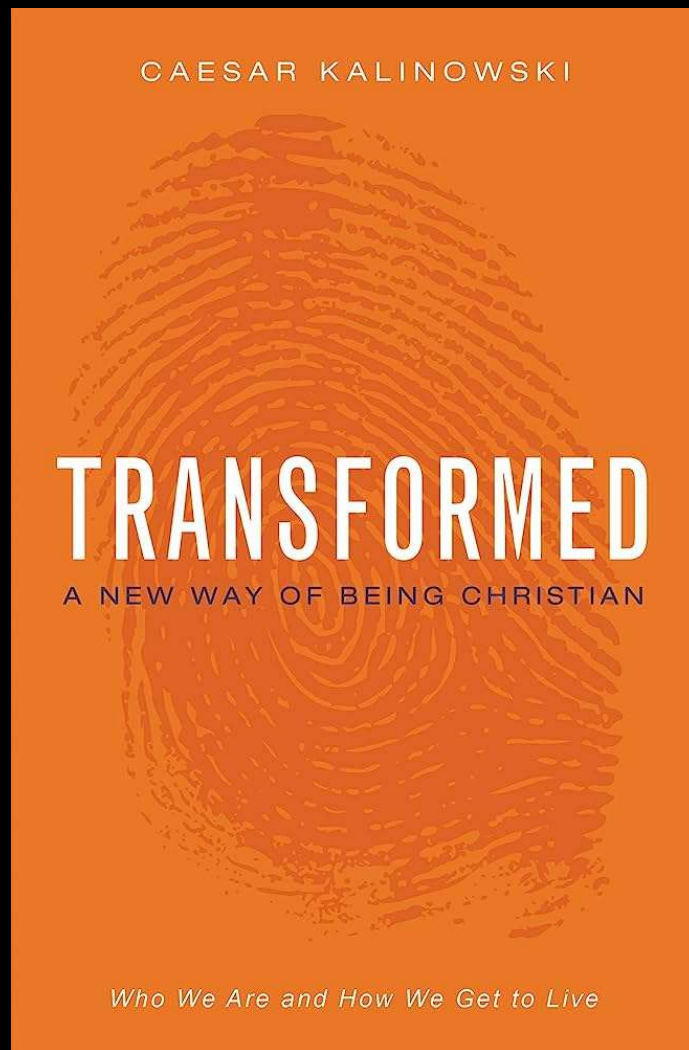
(Ephesians 3:8 NASB)

Biblical Paradox

Synthesis → Sanctifying/ed by the Holy Spirit

- To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those **sanctified** [Gk. *vhagiazō*] in Christ Jesus, called (to be) **saints** [Gk. *hagiois*] together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ...
(1 Corinthians 1:2 ESV)

Implications / Integration



For years I believed...I was a 'saved **sinner**' instead of the truth that I am now a **saint** (member of God's family) who still sins. The reason we continue to rebel against God and sin is that we have not fully trusted in his grace and are not living out of our new identity—that we are who we are because of what Jesus did.