



The
FLOW
Adult CURRICULUM

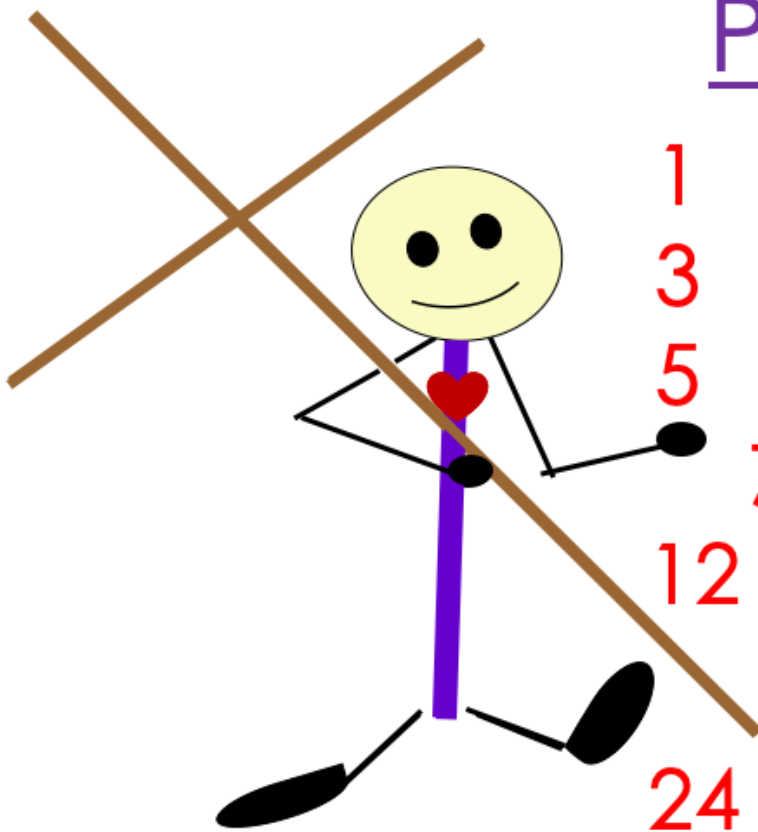
#7

LEARNER

John 17:17

(Come And See Christianity book pages 28-29)

The FLOW

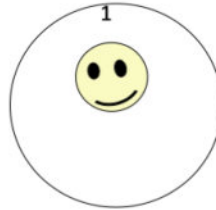


PREVIEW:

- 1 Design
- 3 Divisions
- 5 Disciples
- 7 Details
- 12 Disciplines
- 24 Distinctives

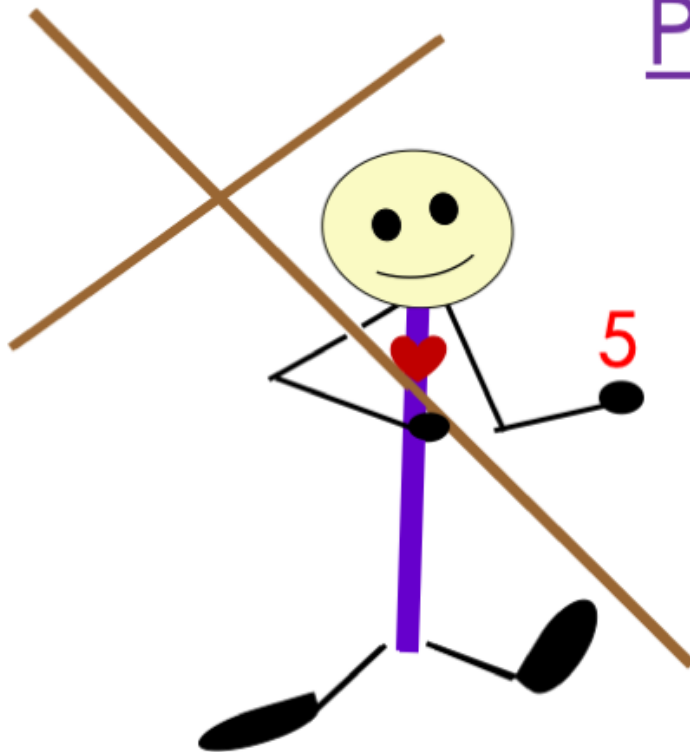
SECTION THREE: 5 Disciples

The
HEAD

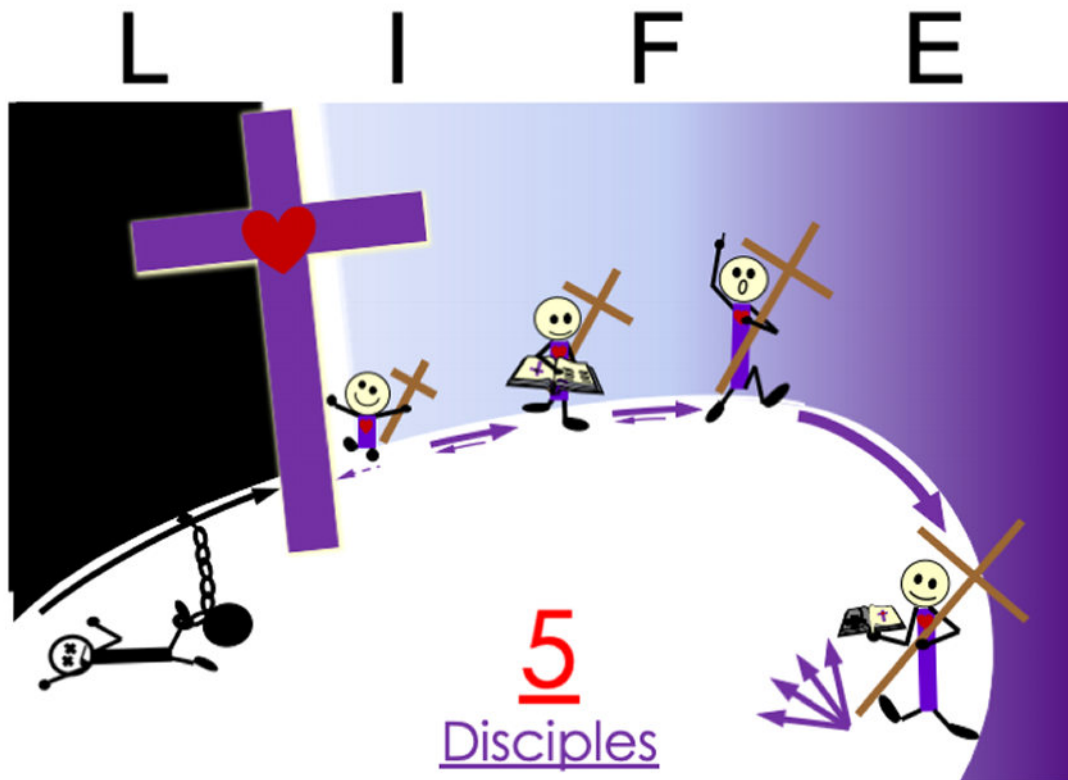


continued...

PREVIEW:

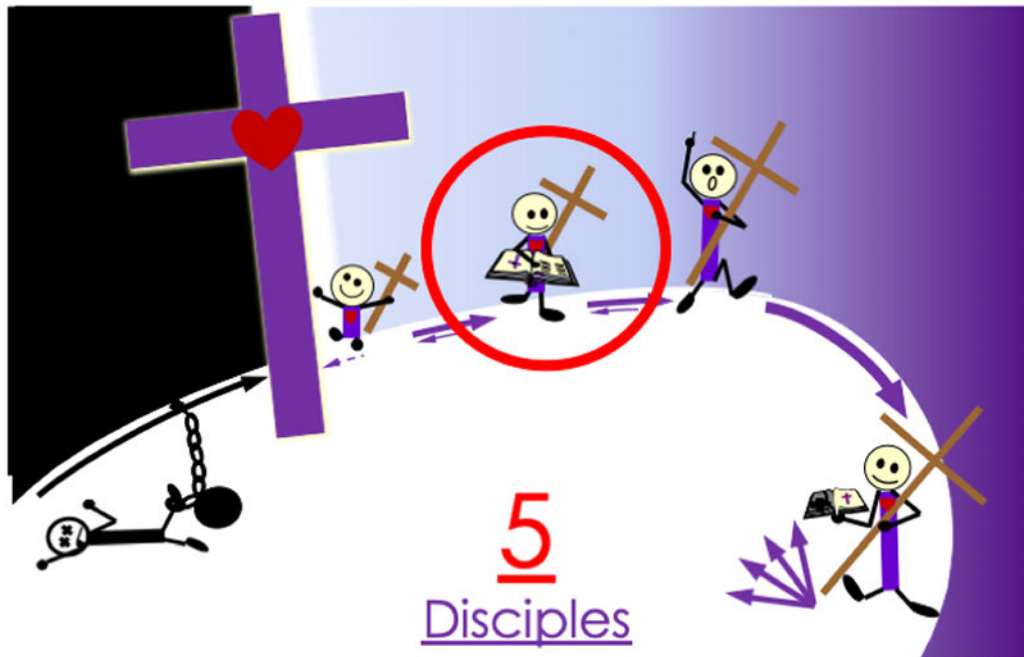


5 Disciples



5 DISCIPLES: The world is made up of 5 different types of people (a.k.a. “disciples”). Spiritually speaking, everyone fits somewhere in this biblical & progressive blueprint... Are you amongst the Lost, Lovers, Learners, Leaders, or Lifers?

L I F E



The LEARNER

A born again, growing, fruit-producing, biblical-follower of the Lord Jesus Christ; a **spiritual adolescent** (complete with their typical ups & downs)... Discovery & development, amidst a dark & distracting world, are daily dynamics in the **"Learner's"** life, as they are actively & intentionally disciplined in how to live & love in the light of their new Christian identity.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17so that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

INTRO:

Welcome back to Section Three, where we are continuing to discuss the “5 Disciples.” Herein we will show where and how Christianity can give an account for EVERY human being... past, present, and future. In other words, Christianity has a valid designation and description for every person, everywhere, throughout all human history. No exceptions. Zero! Moreover, our “Framework” diagram (also known as the “LIFE Cycle” in earlier training materials) offers a user-friendly, visual, and comprehensive tool that aids in the spiritually-defining and missional-placement of each individual on earth. EVERY single person. Bar none.

Having said that, being able to define and describe all of humanity is both valuable and validating for any professing worldview. In the case of Christianity, our worldview is unique, in part, to the extent that we recognize the reality and relationship that exists between the 5 types of disciples who make up the world’s population.

At the risk of overstating the obvious, take note, without a cohesive comprehension of how the people of the world relate to one another, at the core of their humanness, it would be hard to advance, with any viable seriousness, a credible worldview. Fortunately, the God of the Bible has been more than forthright when it comes to engaging and explaining the human condition from birth to burial, from the Garden of Eden to each soul’s eternal destination.

Finally, before we begin, just to be clear, let us briefly review Section One (“1 DESIGN”), Section Two (“3 DIVISIONS” – HEAD, HEART, and HANDS), and how they have begun the “FLOW,” which now cascades down to Section Three and the “5 DISCIPLES.”

Seeing the holistic connection between Come And See Christianity’s FLOW sections is critical for one’s long-term understanding of the definitions and dynamics that make up a biblical worldview AND Christian discipleship. Stated differently, God’s one divine design calls for the sharing of THE Gospel, per God’s Word, will, and ways (a.k.a. a biblical worldview). At the same time, the missional “design” of Almighty God calls for the miraculous transformation of each person’s three core “divisions” – their HEAD, their HEART, and their HANDS. Now we are ready to address humanity in whole.

PRAYER:

LORD, we seek to bless You with all that is within us. Help us here, we pray, to be that blessing as we come to better understand You and Your eternal truth in love (Ephesians 4:15). Help us to see with Your eyes and love with Your love, all that You would reveal to us through Your Word, Your will, and Your ways. May we grow in our grasp of Your realities, Your means of restoration, and Your mission of reproduction. In the holy name of Jesus we pray. Amen and Amen

CONTEXT:

Macro

In our previous lesson, we looked at the second type of the world's five disciples... the LOVER. By definition, in that study, we learned that EVERY true born-again (John 3:3) Christian is a new biblical LOVER of God.

As we begin to focus on the LEARNER, it is important to note that everything which defines and describes the LOVER remains in the LEARNER. To that end, developing into greater Christ-likeness is the key difference and dynamic at this transitional stage. Consider, in the same way that a baby changes and grows into a teenager, so it is with the baby LOVER who grows into a spiritual adolescent (also known as the LEARNER). Notice that the growth process, in both the physical AND spiritual examples, can be quite dramatic and very noticeable, while never altering the person's DNA.

Next, it is absolutely essential that the Holy Bible, God's inspired and inerrant (without error) Scriptures, be used, in full context, to define and describe ALL aspects and dynamics that prove to be relevant to our topic. In short, God's Word is both the Almighty's absolute AND authoritative truth. In our study and in our lives, if God said it, that settles it!

Finally... it is important to recognize that any thorough attempt to explain what Christianity means by "saved" must, at the very least, expand upon and explain some foundational, biblical, spiritual, personal, and eternal relationships. For example, there is a need to understand the relationship between Creator God and created man (John 1:1-18); between the Savior of souls and the enemy (1 Peter 5:8) of souls; between truth and lies; between love and hate; between heaven and hell; between sin and salvation; between the temporal and the eternal; between the Word of God and the opinions of the world... All of these and more have a part to play when it comes to understanding the cause, affect, grace, and blessings of the LEARNER.

NOTE:

When we speak of the four (4) “saved” types of disciples (LOVER, LEARNER, LEADER, & LIFER) in a collective, historical, and global sense; together (in contrast to the LOST), they make up the biblical Christian Church (capital “C” intended). Herein, you will find true and authentic (while still sinful and imperfect) Christianity.

Micro

While the Bible speaks of the capital “C” Church in an “all-Christians” everywhere context, make no mistake, the global-macro family portrait of Christianity is nothing more than a culmination of all the micro, individual, and personal Christians being pooled together as the Church. In other words, biblically speaking, being a LEARNER (a.k.a. adolescent Christian) is a very personal and, by God’s grace, eternal condition. Amen! Consequently, Christ’s best ambassadors personally Engage, Explain, Equip, Empower, and Exemplify Christlikeness when discipling LEARNERS and helping them to share Christianity’s “gospel” – which literally means “good news.”

At this point, we would be well served to revisit our “Framework” diagram, which divides all of humanity into 5 specific types of DISCIPLES: the LOST, the LOVER, the LEARNER, the LEADER, and the LIFER. Remember, from our introduction to Section Three, every human being belongs, at any given point in their lives, in ONE of these five DISCIPLE groups, at any given time. Moreover, each person’s positioning is based on their current spiritual relationship to Creator Christ and all that His cross represents.

To be clear... in saying (above) that, “each person’s positioning is based on their current, spiritual relationship to Creator Christ and all that His cross represents,” there are three biblical truths that should be undergirded.

1. “Current” implies that changes can occur... because they can and they should. In short, God’s divine design calls for spiritual growth.
2. Having said that, also note that the spiritual path between the LOST and LOVER only goes one way. The good news is that the “current” LOST can become, by God’s grace, a future “LOVER” (Ephesians 2:1-10). The even better news is that **it is impossible for a born-again LOVER to lose their salvation and go back to being LOST.** According to Jesus and the teaching of God’s Word, the life God gifts to the LOVER is ETERNAL life – never ending (John 5:24), forever and ever and ever – Amen!
3. Finally, the word “current” underscores that we are highlighting and explaining the broad, 5 step, potentially dynamic process of spiritual growth that Christianity reveals. Moreover, in the same way that one can review a physical life from pre-birth, to infancy, to adolescence, to adulthood, to senior citizenship, so it is spiritually when we describe the LOST, the LOVER, the LEARNER, the LEADER, and the LIFER.

Message

*Sanctification makes us holy and destroys the breed of sin,
the love of sin and carnality. It makes us pure and
whiter than snow. Bless His holy name!*

- William J. Seymour

BIG IDEA: **The LEARNERS are miraculously GROWING
and fruit producing Christians.**

PREVIEW:

1. VALIDATION
2. SANCTIFICATION
3. CONTINUATION

TEXT:

John 17:17

“Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.

1. VALIDATION

Illustration:

Tragically, in many of today’s global cultures, the institution of marriage is widely being ignored, dismissed, attacked, and grossly perverted. Rather than embrace the God-honoring prerequisites, loving guardrails, legal standards, and biblical oneness that God designed and describes in His Word, the world at large is saying that such expectations and requirements are outdated and unnecessary. One need only look at the utter decay and functional devastation that has fallen upon the fabric of our society, coupled with implosion of far too many “family” units, to realize that **sequence and substance are critical matters** when it comes to building and sustaining families and cultures. The same is true when it comes to growing disciples.

Explanation:

Tell me not of your justification, unless you have also some marks of sanctification. Boast not of Christ's work for you, unless you can show us the Spirit's work in you.

- J. C. Ryle

Earnest souls who are attempting sanctification by struggle, instead of sanctification by faith, might be spared much humiliation by learning the teaching of the Sermon on the Mount.

- Henry Drummond

The faith which has not a sanctifying influence on the character is no better than the faith of devils. It is a "dead faith, because it is alone."

- J. C. Ryle

None can know their election but by their conformity to Christ; for all who are chosen are chosen to sanctification.

- Matthew Henry

Those who have been justified are now being sanctified; those who have no experience of present sanctification have no reason to suppose they have been justified.

- F.F. Bruce

The sanctified body is one whose hands are clean. The stain of dishonesty is not on them, the withering blight of ill-gotten gain has not blistered them, the mark of violence is not found upon them. They have been separated from every occupation that could displease God or injure a fellow-man.

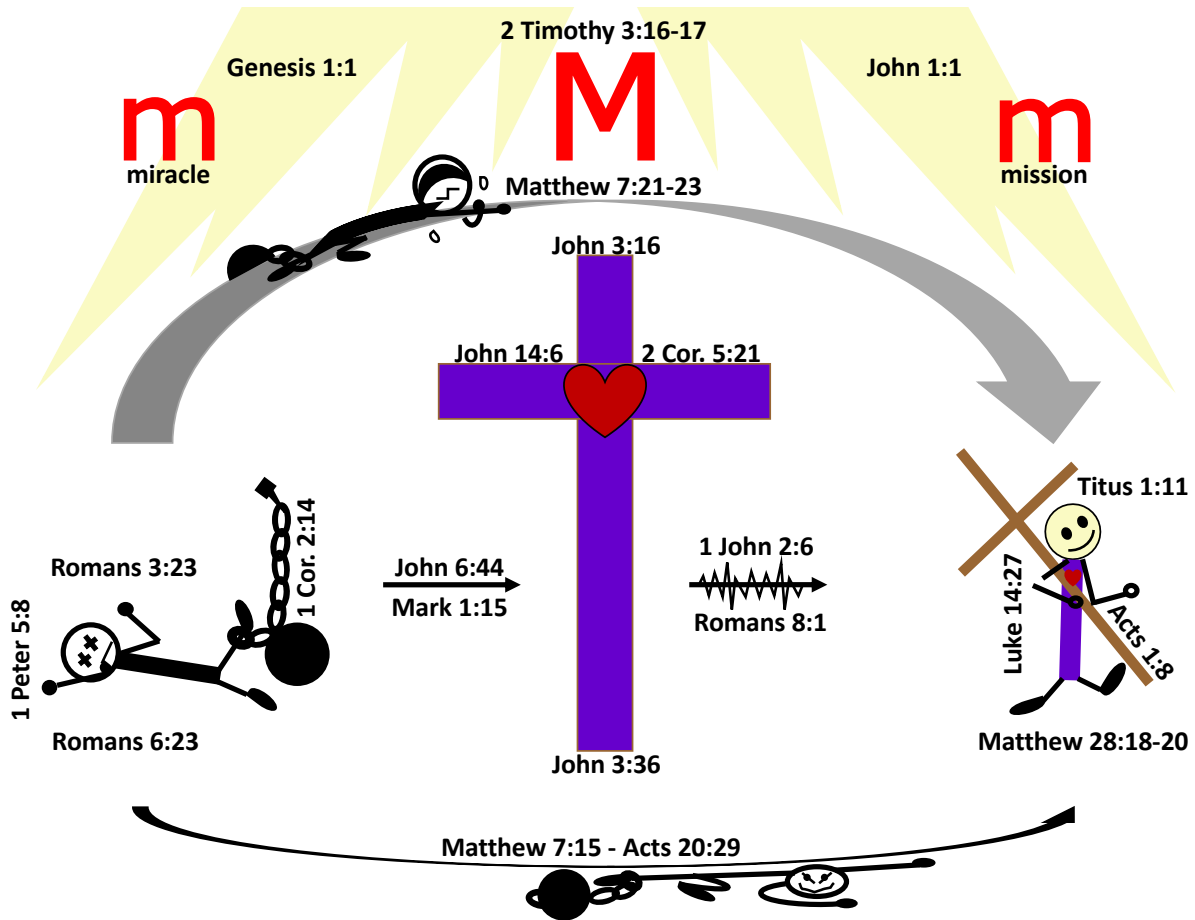
- A. B. Simpson

Any man that is saved and sanctified can feel the fire burning in his heart when he calls on the name of Jesus.

- William J. Seymour

Application:

With a biblical understanding of The Gospel and Christ's teaching about the narrow way (John 7:14-27), revisit the Stickman Gospel diagram and Scriptures, while applying 2 Corinthians 13:5 to your head, heart, and hands. Who and where, according to the Scriptures, are you in this diagram?



2. SANCTIFICATION

Illustration:

It is absurd to imagine that God should justify a people and not sanctify them, that He would justify a people whom He could not glorify.

- Thomas Watson

Explanation:

Having first validated the disciple's eternal *justification* (which made them a LOVER), it is now time to focus on the VISION, FUSION, and MISSION that come together in SANCTIFICATION, as the new LEARNER continues to grow in grace. Remember, one cannot begin sanctification without the miracle of justification as their foundation.

I. VISION: *We will seldom BE what we cannot see...*

Proverbs 29:18

*Where there is no prophetic vision the people cast off restraint,
but blessed is he who keeps the law.*

Our BRIDGE family has followed Christ and His example, insomuch as we have committed to sharing God's divine design, His "truth in love" (Ephesians 4:15), His vision, and His mission... all locally, regionally, and globally (Acts 1:8). Our witness is one that, in part, seeks to **engage** the LOST, **explain** to the LOVERS, and **equip** the LEARNERS with biblical, multifaceted, multidimensional discipleship (a.k.a. sanctifying) tools and teaching. Below are a handful of visionary resources that can be shared via HISbridge.com.

- a. mMm (miracle, MESSIAH, mission – Gospel explanation)
- b. The Stickman Gospel
- c. The BRIDGE family Manifesto
- d. The FLOW (book, ebook, and curriculum)
- e. ComeAndSeeChristianity.com (extensive discipleship equipping)
- f. BE-ing in the BRIDGE family (see New Members Orientation)
 - i. Join our weekly praise and worship services
 - ii. Join our weekly Bible Study (before worship)
 - iii. Join our weekly preaching of God's Word
 - iv. Join our weekly Prayer Meeting (Saturdays)
 - v. Join our weekly LIFE Groups (various times)
 - vi. Join our weekly Leader Development Groups
 - vii. Join our weekly mission to glorify our God

II. FUSION: The same "truth in love" that saves souls... also sanctifies souls.

John 17:17

Sanctify them in the truth, Your word is truth.

Here we see that it is God who sanctifies and grows His family of Christians in the same way that it is Christ who builds His Church (Matthew 16:18). Stated differently, no human being can sanctify themselves. Note here that **it is God's Spirit who will use God's Word to sanctify God's people, in the context of their faithful obedience BE-ing lived out on mission.** The importance of this defining reality cannot be doubted or overstated.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

When discipling non-Christians, our tactical energy is invested in ENGAGING the LOST. Moving forward, when discipling a LOVER, our strategic objective is to biblically EXPLAIN the realities and implications of their miraculous transformation. Pressing on, when discipling a growing LEARNER, the new progressive bullseye becomes EQUIPPING the spiritual adolescent. When EQUIPPING LEARNERS, we are preparing them to go back and help the LOST and LOVERS behind them, while simultaneously EQUIPPING them to get ready for what lies ahead.

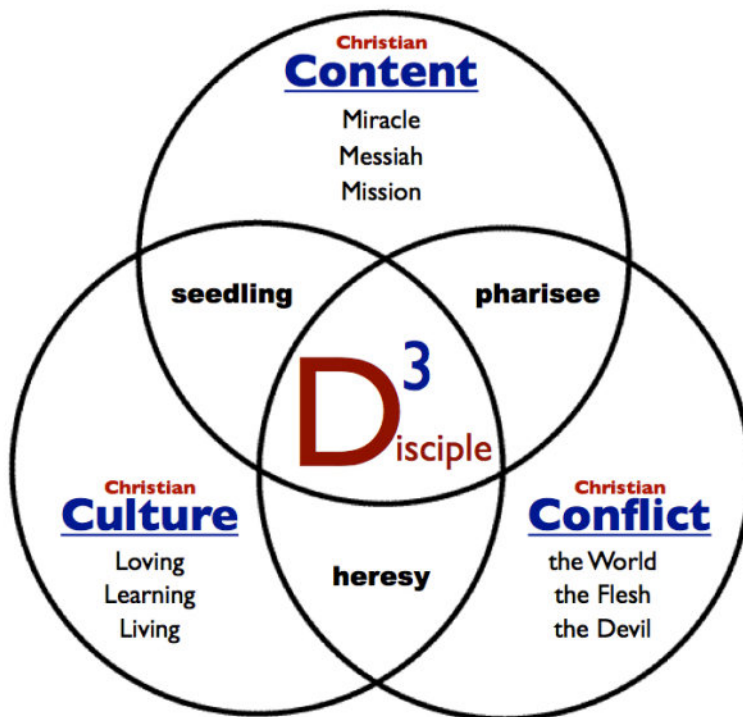
Herein, the word "FUSION" begins to make sense... The LEARNER is the Christian whose Head, Heart, and Hands begin to supernaturally bear real and regular fruit. Moreover, it is the LEARNER who's potential and passions begin to surface. While still quite immature, the LEARNER starts to beautifully blossom, while embracing and resembling, more and more, the Word, will, and ways of God. The "miraculous transformation" that best described the newly born-again LOVER is now undergoing a "miraculous transition" as seen in the maturing LEARNER – a growing spiritual force in the army of God. LEARNERS are active threats to the enemies of God.

The diagram below ("Discipleship Contextualization") offers an equipping blueprint of the "FUSION" process. While the graphic's definitions and dynamics apply, in principle, to ALL 5 disciples, the content and "next steps" upon completion of the cycle are tailored to each progressive discipleship step (LOST, LOVER, LEARNER, LEADER, & LIFER). Once again, to parallel the process, think of the absence of life, then an infant who grows and goes to elementary school, then on to high school and college thereafter, all in preparation for a potential Ph.D. one day. So it is with the substance and sequence of spiritual growth from LOST to LIFER.

Lastly, when it comes to FUSION, we use the Venn (3 circle) Diagram to show the essential interconnectedness of God's sanctification components and both His blueprint AND bullseye when it comes to biblical discipleship.

Note, the LEARNER begins to realize that all (3) three components must be unified, otherwise, by definition, biblical FUSION has not occurred.

DISCIPLESHIP CONTEXTUALIZATION



By way of example, when the Content of truth and the Culture of love are established, but one has not yet been tested by spiritual Conflict, according to Christ’s Parable of the Soils in Matthew 13, the only thing we can affirm is that the person in question is a “seedling,” as opposed to a confirmed, fruit-bearing branch that is abiding in the Vine. Similarly, if one has the Culture of God’s love and has seemingly persevered through their spiritual Conflicts, but they do not hold to the Content of God’s Word, “heresy and heretics” come into focus. Once more, if someone has an apparent victory in spiritual Conflict, coupled with the Content’s biblical truth, but they do not have a Culture of God’s love in their heart, they are akin to the biblical Pharisees – those who live *in* self-righteous religion, BUT *out* of a gospel gifted relationship with the living God.

It is only when the FUSION of all (3) three components are in holy harmony with God’s Word, will, and ways that the biblical bullseye (“D³”) of Christ-likeness has been hit. At that point, the LOST becomes a found LOVER. Similarly, when the LOVER grows through this discipleship diagram, they are ready to move on and grow up into the LEARNER’s FUSION... and so it goes up through the LEADER and LIFER stages as well.

III. MISSION:

God sanctifies the LEARNER for the same reason that He sanctifies ALL Christians, so that we will bear much fruit and bring Him glory.

John 15:8

*By this my Father is glorified,
that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.*

Application:

*Living and loving the VISION, thru FUSION on MISSION,
is SANCTIFICATION'S best APPLICATION.*

Sanctification makes us pure in heart.

- William J. Seymour

The inner change, justification, is effected at the moment of salvation. The outer change in the believer's daily walk, sanctification, continues throughout life. But the progressive work of sanctification is only fully effective when the radical, inner transformation of justification is realized and appropriated by faith.

- Neil T. Anderson

3. CONTINUATION

Illustration:

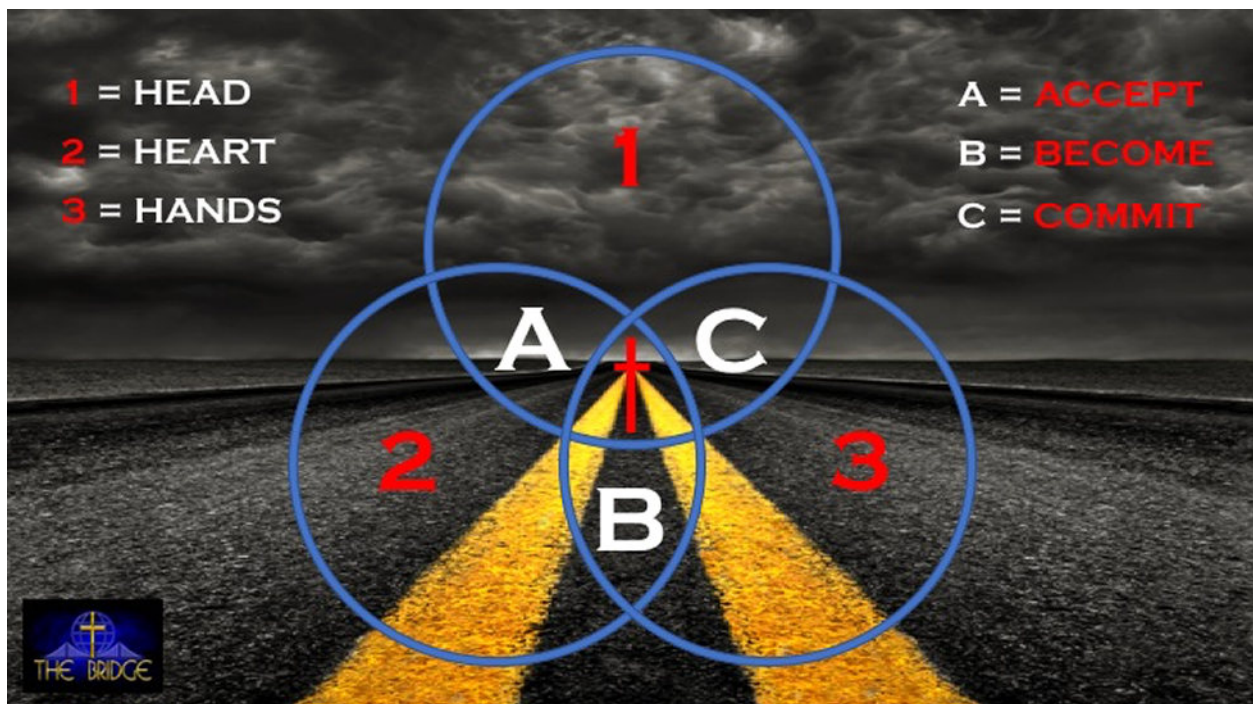
Graduations, at every level, can be exciting and celebratory times when they are followed by the graduate's next steps of opportunity and potential fulfillment. The same can be said for sanctification and discipleship. The Bible tells us that all of heaven rejoices when a single LOST person becomes a LOVER (Luke 15:7). In the same way, when LOVERS grow into LEARNERS and LEARNERS into LEADERS and LEADERS into LIFERS, the entire family of God has reason to celebrate such graces and gifts of God.

Where science speaks of improvement, Christianity speaks of renovation; where science speaks of development, Christianity speaks of sanctification; where science of progress, Christianity speaks of perfection.

- James H. Aughey

Explanation:

The continuation of spiritual growth (also known as sanctification and discipleship) can be blueprinted, by God's grace and for His glory, with the following "123ABC Discipleship" diagram.



Here again, when the person's HEAD, HEART, and HANDS, Accept, Become, and Commit to God's Truth, Love, and Work, according to His Word, Will, and Ways, spiritual growth is going to happen... AND continue, all by God's grace, all through His Gospel, and ALL for His glory – Amen and AMEN!

While that truth is what changed the LOST into a LOVER, it is the LEARNER who begins to truly understand this process and grow up in it.

Hebrews 10:10

*...we have been sanctified through
the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.*

Application: Go and grow to the glory of God!

Associate with sanctified persons. They may by their counsel, prayers, and holy example, be a means to make you holy.
- Thomas Watson

REVIEW: **The LEARNERS are miraculously GROWING
and fruit producing Christians!**

CLOSE:

Do not allow the transformative graces of sanctification to satisfy one's hunger and thirst for holiness at the LEARNER's level. No. Press on! By God's grace and for His glory, ask the King of kings and LORD of lords to continue to grow every person into their fullest God given potential.

Sanctification is "Christ in you."... Sanctification is not drawing from Jesus the power to be holy; it is drawing from Jesus the holiness that was manifested in Him, and He manifests it in me.
- Oswald Chambers

While the agent of renovation is the Divine Spirit, and the condition of renovation is our cleaving to Christ, the medium of renovation and the weapon which the transforming grace employs is "the word of the truth of the gospel," whereby we are sanctified.
- Alexander MacLaren

For What?

The Christian life requires hard work. Our sanctification is a process wherein we are coworkers with God. We have the promise of God's assistance in our labor, but His divine help does not annul our responsibility to work (Phil. 2:12-13).
- R. C. Sproul

So What?

Even when growing is hard, do **never give up on God!** (Revelation 2:10)

Sanctified afflictions are like many craftsmen working on a pious man's crown to make it more bright and massive.

- Assorted Authors

Now What?

John 17:18

*“Just as You (Father God) sent Me (Jesus) into the world,
I also sent them (all Christians) into the world.”*

John 20:21

“As the Father has sent Me, so now I send you.” - Jesus

*Let no man join us who is afraid, we want none but those who are saved,
sanctified, and aflame with the fire of the Holy Spirit.*

- Samuel Chadwick

PRAYER

Dear heavenly Father, thank You so much for the Truth and Love of Your Word, will, and ways. Please help us to absorb and apply ALL that You have shared and commanded in the Bible. May our heads be infilled with Your defining Scriptures, for the express purpose of informing, inspecting, and inspiring our sanctified hearts and serving hands.

In Jesus name we pray.

Amen and Amen

Related SERMON:

“Show And Tell To Sanctify & Renew”

John 17:17

February 28, 2021

Sermon Series: Show And Tell