

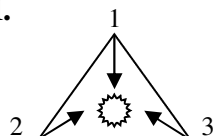
The Seven Measures of the Godly Thinker

A VFC Victory Visual: # 92
www.venturesforchrist.com

These seven “ascents” measure the trajectory and goals of the
Triune Thinker who is “cross pursuing” the reality of the
Oneness of the Christ Life.

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I.



The Beginning Ascent:

— Triune Thinking comprehends, balances and unites the “threefold realities” of existence into a “single decision thought” that will exalt and complete the Godhead’s will for His creation and His new creation Disciples. Triune Thinking is the foundational concept by which we exchange our thinking for Mind of Christ Thinking

“God (1st, the Truth) put the man (2nd, the you) in the Garden to labor (3rd, the issue);” Israel is to celebrate three times a year; the Son of Man points to three days in the fish and the tomb, “After three days I will rise again.” “These three remain ... faith, hope, love.” There are three witnesses ... His Life, His Blood, His Spirit.” (Gen. 2:15; Exodus 23:14; Matt. 12:40; Mark 8:31; I Cor. 13:13; I John 5:6) Our Lord’s own words should seal our conviction concerning this triune formula, “... go and baptize them in the Name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit” (Matt. 28:19) ... The Godhead Three!

II.

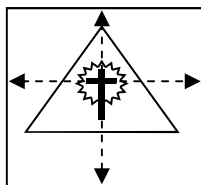


Leads To:

— Cross Thinking captures the reality of “good and evil” as revealed by the “innocent suffering” of the Lord Jesus Christ. Cross Disciples see and embrace the necessity and glory of their own spiritual crucifixion if they are to escape illusion and live in Godhead reality. Taking up your cross does not mean to simply endure negative circumstances. Cross Following Jesus means to respond to every situation in your life with the sacrifice necessary to please Jesus, to be like Him and to point to His significance and honor! That kind of mind and heart action alone will meet the definition of “taking up my cross”!

“Carrying His Own cross, Jesus went out to die ... anyone who doesn’t carry his or her own cross and follow Me cannot be My Disciple.” (John 19:17; Luke 14:27) “Anyone who does not take up his cross and follow Me is not worthy of Me. Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.” (Matt. 10:38-39) “I have been crucified with Christ, and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me (so I can become ‘a Jesus’ to everyone I know and to everything I confront).” (Gal. 2:20) “The Mind of Christ Jesus led Him to the humble and painful obedience of dying for us ... even on a cross!” (Phil. 2:5-11) “... for the joy Jesus knew was ahead of Him He could put up with anything ... He even endured the horror of cross crucifixion ... so study how He did it and do the same!” (Heb. 12:2, Peterson, HDM) There is only one answer to the popular Christian motto, “What would Jesus Do?” (W.W.J.D.) The “first thing” essential and critical “to do” is to think like Jesus thinks ... triunally!

III.



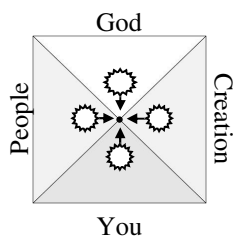
Leads To:

- Centered Thinking” about Christ’s cross challenge” will establish our own fourfold foundation for sacrifice as well as the perimeters of ministry we are to build on our own cross cornerstone. (Eph. 2:20; I Peter 2:6) Four considerations are always in implicit (fixed, inherent, absolute) in every decision a Cross Disciple makes. You consider the resulting choice by what it will mean to God, to yourself, to His people and to the creation situation!



“God’s fullness was in Christ ... reconciling all things by His cross ... so we proclaim Him at the center of life’s mystery ... in order to bring everyone to their full maturity in knowing Christ!” (Col. 1:20, 28) “... the powerful action at the center of everything that exists for human beings ... Christ on the cross ... must not be trivialized by mere words or fancy rhetoric. To those whose lives continue to diminish into emptiness and futility the cross message of the crucified Messiah is silly, moronic and foolish! But for those of us in the process of discovering the fullness of our salvation and destiny, it makes perfect sense!” (I Cor. 1”17-18, Peterson, HDM, Greek) Cross centered thinking enables you “to come alive” to the wonder of Jesus and triumph over evil by the cross He offers you! (Col. 2:13-15) Centering your thinking “in Christ” enables you to handle the four walls and/or doors surrounding you!

IV.



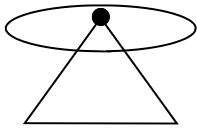
Leads To:

- Pyramid Thinking is the visual concept tool that recognizes, refines, resolves and unifies Truth’s four practical, daily dimensions that creation puts before us. Spiritual skill in this decision will complete the “wisdom and reconciling peace purposes” of our calling. We must expand our fourfold thinking about each concern and let our conclusions meet and merge at the highest level of truth (pinnacle). Each quadrant of the pyramid (note the four triangles) must be triangulated by Triune Thinking.



“... As God’s chosen people clothe yourselves with [maturity] ... forgive others as He forgave you ... above all put on love which binds all things together in perfect unity.” (Col. 3:12-14) As three is God’s number of revelation, four is man’s creation number of application. Every issue, question, situation, circumstance or given in life produces four options or considerations to be understood, resolved and/or reconciled. Simply responding to our given four directions (north, south, east, west) and choosing which direction to go demands: awareness truth (of where you are), inner truth (what is best for you), social truth (the effect on others) and issue truth (how to find the best practical solution for the circumstances). There are scores of examples: In politics it is liberal, conservative, radical, passive. In society it is culture, sub-culture, counter-culture, supra-culture. In economics it is make it, spend it, save it and give it away. In sports it is conditioning, performance, execution and emotion. In business it is you, the product, the people and the goal.

V.



Leads To:

— Pinnacle Thinking rewards the “pyramid climber by creating the high perceptions, conclusions and actions of seeing all things with “Christ Eyes.” This takes our vision for living to its highest crest. We begin to see the eternal intensions of the Godhead in creating all things “one” in the fullness of Himself. “I, the Lord your God, Am One God ...” (Deut. 6:4) “I pray, Holy Father, that they may be One!” (John 17:11) The first word of the Lord to His chosen people, Israel, was oneness. The Savior’s last word to the Father and His Disciples was oneness. We will never be captured and enthralled by the increasing and experiential fullness of the splendor, majesty and glory of our triune Lord without cross growth into the Mind of Christ. We must view all of life from the pinnacle of His sovereign oneness!

“... You are a chosen people ... belonging to our God of exalted grandeur ... that you may declare His praises for calling you out of darkness into His marvelous light” (I Peter 2:9) “Nothing will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Rom. 8:39) The view from your pinnacle of reality gives you a 360° perception of your world. The higher you are in the Savior’s light the more you see and grasp the truth that sets you free! (John 8:31-32, HDM) The Master himself warned us of the danger and diminishment of having “bad eyes” that are “full of darkness.” (Matt. 6:22-23) We most fully live when we most fully see the world around us God’s way ... with His purposes, wisdom and timing!

VI.



Leads To:

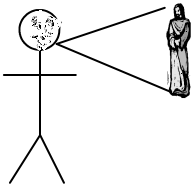
— Christ Mind Thinking increasingly transforms and conforms us into His Image and Character. This enables us to demonstrate His life, manifest His fragrance and live out our minutes as a “more than conqueror.” Our impassioned pursuit of the Master becomes our most compelling, thrilling and fulfilling ambition for our living!

“God predestined us to be conformed to the likeness of His Son.” “In all things we are more than conquerors through Christ Jesus Who loves us!” (Rom. 8:29, 37) The “conqueror wins” with the things that exist around him. The “more than conqueror wins” with the things that exist within him! (HDM) Even while being crucified by His temporary, earthly “conquerors,” the Lord Jesus was “more than a conqueror” in the issues of eternal value. “Who has known the Mind of the Lord ... but we have the Mind of Christ.” (I Cor. 2:16) “I must be about My Father’s business.” (Jesus in Luke 2:47-50) “Zeal for My Father’s house consumes Me.” (Jesus in John 2:16-17 and King David in Psalm 69:9)

VII.

Leads To:

— New Creation Thinking in its fullness empowers us to touch others with “The Voice” of our Perfecter-Redeemer-Creator.



“God’s messenger ... the voice of one crying in the wilderness (of mankind’s ignorance and arrogance).” (Mark 1:2-3) “... we are being transformed into His likeness with ever increasing glory ...” (II Cor. 3:18) “... we try to persuade men ... we are convinced ... we see no one from a worldly point of view ... we are ‘new creations’ ... we have been given the ministry and message of reconciliation ... we are Christ’s ambassadors ...!” (II Cor. 5:11-20) And ... most astounding of all ... “In Christ we might become the righteousness of God!” (II Cor. 5:21) To passionately capture this obsession for our daily living is to find an earth existence of blessedness and elation known to only a few. This is our Lord’s own limit! (Matt. 7:13-14) The most satisfied and significant “Christ Life” belongs to “those few” who sacrifice the most to repeat the Savior’s life in all they think, desire and do! Let us never stop our ascent to more and more “Godly Thinking.”