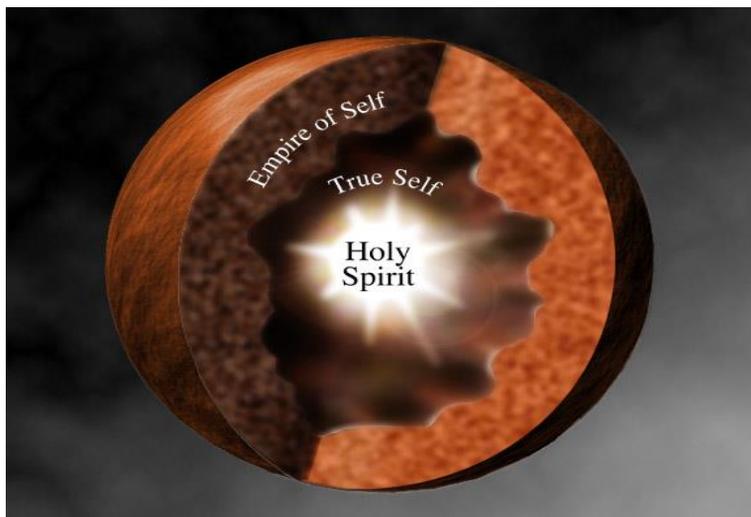


Christ in You the Hope Of Glory



Christ is the Archetype of Humanity

Source and destiny	Colossians 1:16
Consummation	Ephesians 1:10
Alpha and Omega	Revelation 22:13
Formed in Christ	Galatians 4:19
Conformed to Christ	Romans 8:29
Fullness through Christ	Ephesians 3:19
Maturity of Christ	Ephesians 4:13
Attitude of Christ	Philippians 2:5
Mind of Christ	1 Corinthians 2:16
Affections of Christ	Philippians 1:8
No longer I, but Christ	Galatians 2:20

Our union with Christ is not metaphorical, it is metaphysical!

The Bonding Process



<u>Babes</u>	<u>Young Men</u>	<u>Fathers</u>
1. Formed	Conformed	Transformed
2. Outer Court	Inner Court	Holy of Holies
3. Desire	Discipline	Delight
4. Purgative	Illuminative	Unitive
5. Self-knowledge	Self-actualization	Self-transcendence
6. Personal	Intimate	Organic

1 John 2:12-14

I write to you, little children, Because your sins are forgiven you for His name's sake. 13 I write to you, fathers, Because you have known Him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, Because you have overcome the wicked one. I write to you, little children, Because you have known the Father. 14 I have written to you, fathers, Because you have known Him who is from the beginning. I have written to you, young men, Because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, And you have overcome the wicked one.

The Bonding Process

1 John 2:12-14



Stages

1. There are stages of spiritual formation. Each has differing characteristics and tasks. The slide represents just possible ways to view these stages. The categories/rows encompass *biblical metaphors* (1-2), *personal experience* (3), *theological constructs* (4), *psychological development* (5), and *spiritual reality* (6).
2. While these stages are helpful, we must remember that each stage has many subdivisions and side-paths. Each person is unique and their journey to God is individual. Also remember the stages are not separated by hard and fast lines; a soul does not wake up one day and find himself in the next stage.
3. **Babes** in Christ are more focused on self and dealing with sin; getting rid of the bad; *letting go of vices*; and learning to say “no.” **Young men** are more focused on God and Christ, coming to know, love and follow him; pursuing the good; *laying hold of virtues*; learning to say “yes.” **Fathers** are more contemplative, focusing on the vision of God for Himself alone; *letting go of self* so that Christ might dwell in fullness.

The Great Chain of Being

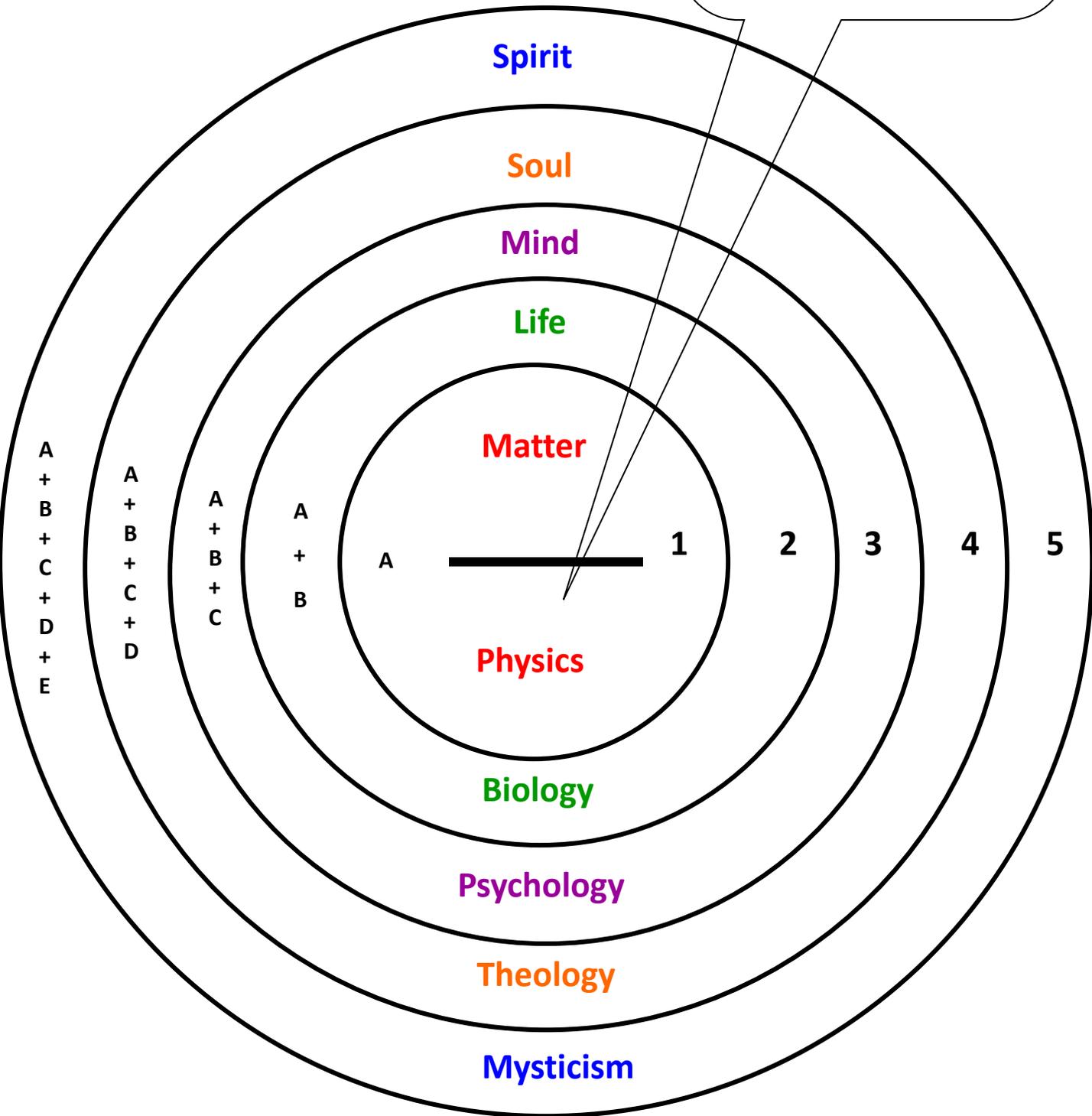
Acts 17:28

HOW WE KNOW

1 + 2 = Body
Empirical
Eye of the Flesh

3 + 4 = Soul
Rational
Eye of the Mind

5 = Spirit
Mystical
Eye of the Spirit



The Great Chain of Being

Holons

1. Virtually all of the world's great wisdom traditions subscribe to a belief in the Great Chain of Being. The perennial philosophy of nearly all premodern cultures embraces some form of the Great Chain. Each senior level envelopes or enfolds its junior dimensions--a series of nests within nests of Being so that everything in the world is really interwoven and all is ultimately enveloped by the Spirit of God. The modern West, after the Enlightenment, was the first major civilization to deny the Great Chain of Being. Spirit and soul were totally rejected as a part of reality and a source of knowledge.

2. Several important truths are embodied in the Great Chain.

- a) Reality is composed of different but continuous dimensions, which seem to promise us a wholeness and harmony which often eludes us.
- b) In the developmental sequence, what is whole at one stage becomes merely a part of a larger whole at the next stage. This is what is called a "holon." A holon is something which is whole in one context but is a part of a wider whole in another. A "letter" (from our alphabet) is whole in itself but becomes a part of larger whole when included in a "word." The word is whole but can be included in a *sentence*, the sentence in a *paragraph*, the paragraph in a *book*, etc.
- c) The whole is more than the sum of its parts and can influence and determine the function of the parts. The meaning of "bark" is different in the phrase "the bark of the dog" or "the bark of the tree." The whole (in this case a sentence) determines the function of the parts (i.e. the word "bark").

The Great Chain of Being

Holons (cont.)

3. As we develop, unity increases and wider identities develop. Holons do not occur in reverse. You cannot start with a paragraph and then add a sentence or start with a word and then add letters. In other words, growth occurs in stages and each stage must be developed by including and then transcending the previous stage. Babes...young men...fathers. There is a necessary sequence.

4. Pathology occurs as lower levels seek to control higher level functions. Or a higher level tries to repress or ignore a lower level. It must integrate the lower level and nurture it to full, healthy functioning.

5. What was helpful at one level may not be helpful at the next. What was perceived as “true” at one level may not be “true” at the next.

a) The lesser "holons" become instrumental, not essential.

b) Body, mind, and spirit are holons. So, we have body (eye of flesh), mind (eye of mind), and spirit (eye of spirit), each a greater holon with the lesser holons meant to be in service to the greater.

c) Each senior dimension “transcends and includes” its juniors. Spirit transcends but includes soul. Soul transcends but includes mind, which transcends but includes the living body, which transcends but includes matter.

d) Our lives are a holon for God's greater life. We must learn to “disidentify” with the “self” as the greatest truth. We must move into the transpersonal arena of Spirit and become organically included by God.