
WHEEL DIAGRAM

THE FRUITFUL CHRISTIAN LIFE



WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO LIVE A HEALTHY CHRISTIAN LIFE?

Have you ever wondered what it would look like to live a fruitful & obedient Christian life? Have you ever been curious about what the absolute necessities are for walking with God?

The Wheel Diagram is a proven tool which both illustrates what the Christ-Centered life looks like and also instructs us in how to have it. Committing to grow in our understanding and application of the following five areas will mature us spiritually as we are shaped more and more into the image of Jesus (Romans 8:29). Read the following verses & descriptions about each aspect of the Wheel and evaluate where you are.

As you can see on the rim of the wheel, (pictured above) the fruitful Christian life is essentially made up of living out the privileges of our new identity in Christ. All Christians have the privilege of being called God's sons (Galatians 4:4-7; Romans 8:14-17) and the spokes of the wheel are the practical ways we can take advantage of our new status as God's children.

CHRIST THE CENTER:

Just as the hub of a physical wheel is the power source which the rest of the wheel depends on, so it is with our Christian life. The center of the wheel, our Union with Christ and the Lordship of Christ, is by far the most crucial aspect to understand about this illustration.

UNION WITH CHRIST:

Based on the following verses, we see that because of what Jesus has accomplished on the cross -- the taking on of our sin and curse and the transferring of His righteousness to us -- we are now one with Him and enjoy the benefits of the blessing that He deserves!

Read: 2 Corinthians 5:14-17, 21; Galatians 3:13-14; John 15:4-7; Galatians 2:20; Colossians 1:27-29; Philippians 3:8-11

LORDSHIP OF CHRIST:

Not only have we been saved through our union with Christ, but also He now rules in our life through the authority of His Word.

Read: Luke 6:46-49, 9:23-25; Colossians 1:15-23; Titus 2:11-14; Ephesians 2:1-10; Romans 12:1

Our overall purpose in life can be summed up as follows: We are created to know (enjoy and glorify) God and make Him known (1 Corinthians 10:31; Isaiah 43:7, 21; Mark 12:28-31). The rest of the wheel diagram is built on this twofold purpose of knowing God (vertically) and making Him know (horizontally).

VERTICAL RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD:

The most incredible privilege of our Christian life is that we get to have a relationship with God! (John 17:3; Philippians 3:10) As with any relationship, two-way communication is a vital aspect to the health of the relationship. In our relationship with God, we get to talk with God through prayer and He talks with us through His Word, the Bible.

PRAYER:

In approaching God in prayer, we should be passionate & reverent (Heb. 5:13) and also bold and confident (Hebrews 10:19-23; Ephesians 3:12). We should be desperately acknowledging our helpless dependence on Him while we ask Him to do big things!

Read: Colossians 4:2-4; Matthew 6:7-13; Philippians 4:6-7; John 15:7

WORD OF GOD:

God has given us his perfect, authoritative, and inspired Word to hear, read, study, memorize, meditate on, and apply to our lives. We should seek Him like silver in His Word (Proverbs 2)!

Read: 2 Timothy 2:15; 3:16-17; Joshua 1:8; Psalm 1:1-3; 119:9-11; Romans 12:1-2

HORIZONTAL RELATIONSHIPS WITH PEOPLE:

Not only has God given us the privilege of knowing Him, but we also have the opportunity to share with others about our relationship with Him! We get to share the good news of the gospel with our non-believing friends and our fellow believers!

FELLOWSHIP:

Coming into a new relationship with God as His children necessarily implies that we also come into a family relationship with His other sons and daughters. We have the duty and privilege to serve & encourage these brothers & sisters of ours.

Read: Hebrews 3:13; 10:24-25; John 13:34-35; Acts 2:42-47

EVANGELISM:

We also get to now come alongside God in His global mission of making His name known through our personal evangelism to our friends. It's too good to be true! God not only saved us, but wants to use us in His global purposes! How could we not share the great news of the gospel with our friends and get the joy of working with God!

Read: Matthew 28:18-20; Romans 1:16; 1 Peter. 3:15; 2 Corinthians 2:18-21; 2 Timothy 2:2; Matthew 4:19

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. How would you evaluate the health of your Christian life in light of this diagram?
2. Which aspect of the wheel is your strongest? Your weakest?
3. With other Christians, come up with an application step per aspect of the wheel diagram.