

The Balanced Christian Life – The Wheel

Chuck Lloyd - The Navigators

When this study is completed, the above Wheel Illustration will reflect the basics of a balanced Christian Life. The major areas of a wheel are: the HUB, the four SPOKES, and the RIM. Study the verses below and write a summary for each of the six topics listed. Write on the above wheel where you believe the six topics best fit. Answering the following questions will help in identifying where the areas of the wheel are located.

PRACTICAL FUNCTION:

What are two vertical ways in which a Christian relates to God?

What are two horizontal ways in which a Christian relates to people?

Where is the power of the Wheel located?

What part of the Wheel connects all the spokes together with action?

What would cause the Wheel to get out of balance?

1. Jesus Christ:

John 15:5

Galatians 2:20

Colossians 2:9, 10

II Corinthians 5:17

2. The Word:

Matthew 4:4

II Timothy 3:16

Joshua 1:8

Psalms 119:105

3. Prayer:

Philippians 4:6, 7

John 16:24

I John 5:14, 15

I Samuel 12:23

4. Witnessing:

Romans 1:16

I Peter 3:15

II Corinthians 5:19 ,20

Acts 1:8

5. Fellowship:

I John 1:3, 6, 7

Hebrews 10:24, 25

Ecclesiastes 4:9, 10

I Thessalonians 2:8

6. The Obedient Christian in Action (is an Obedient Walk by Faith):

John 14:21

James 1:22-25

Psalms 119:59, 60

Luke 6:46-48

Proverbs 3:5, 6; Hebrews 11:1, 6; 2 Corinthians 5:6-9

PERSONAL REFLECTION:

How does the Wheel illustration describe a balanced Christian Life?

What are the verses you like the best from each of the topics?

Out of the four spokes in the wheel, which ones are the strongest and weakest in your life?

What do you think you could do to help maintain a balanced Christian Life?

The Wheel Illustration
Christ-Centered Spirit-Filled Life

Gene Warr



The Christ-Centered Spirit-Filled Life

Gene Warr

The key to living a victorious, Spirit-filled Christian life is Jesus Christ as the Center and Lord of all we do. With Christ in control, life is balanced and effective. **The Wheel** illustrates this Christ-centered life.



- Just as the driving force in a wheel comes from the hub; so the power to live the Christian life comes from Jesus **Christ the Center**. He lives in us in the Person of the Holy Spirit, whose expressed purpose is to glorify Christ.
- The rim represents the Christian responding to Christ's Lordship through wholehearted, day-by-day **Obedience** to Him.
- The spokes show the means by which Christ's power becomes operative in our lives. We maintain personal contact with God through the vertical spokes - the Word and Prayer. **The Word** is our spiritual food as well as our sword for spiritual battle. It is the foundational spoke for effective Christian living.
- Opposite this is the spoke representing Prayer. Through **Prayer** we have direct communication with our heavenly Father and receive provision for our needs. As we pray we show our dependence upon and trust in Him.
- The horizontal spokes concern our relationship to people - believers, through Christian fellowship; and unbelievers, through witnessing. **Fellowship** centered around the Lord Jesus Christ provides the mutual encouragement, admonition and stimulation we all need.
- The first three spokes prepare us for passing on to others all that we have received from the Lord. This is accomplished through **Witnessing**, sharing our own experience of Christ and declaring and explaining the Gospel, God's power to save.

The Hub & The Rim

I. The Hub: *Christ the Center*

1. Why should Christ be the center of the believer's life?

John 13:13

I Corinthians 7:23

Hebrews 13:8

I Peter 5:7

2. In your opinion, what are some of the substitutions people make for Christ in the center of their lives?

II. The Rim

1. How will others judge our relationship to Jesus Christ?

Matt. 7:15-20

2. Our obedience indicates:

John 14:15

John 15:14

Matthew 7:21

I John 2:3-5

3. What are some things God promises those who obey Him?

Deuteronomy 28:2

Exodus 19:5

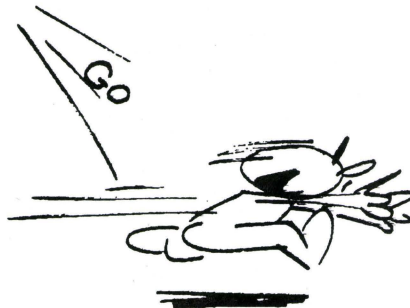
I Peter 1:22

4. What are we to obey?

John 14:21, Joshua 22:5

5. What are the two greatest commandments?

Luke 10:27



6. I Samuel 15:22 teaches us that obedience is better than _____. There is no substitute for obedience in the Christian life.

7. List three "sacrifices" that people try to substitute for obedience today:

8. Express Romans 8:32 in your own words.

9. In the light of Romans 8:32

A. What has God given us?

B. What will He give us?

10. Why does God want us to obey Him? Jeremiah 29:11

Ephesians 1:8 in the Living Bible says "And He has showered down upon us the riches of His grace - for how well he understands us and knows what is best for us at all times."

11. Do you believe God knows what is best for you and wants the best for you?

12. Then why would you not obey Him?

13. Obedience is a matter of the _____ Deut. 5:29

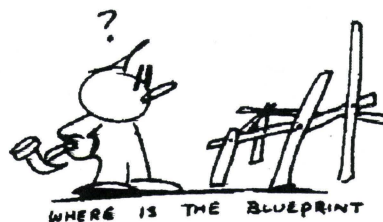
The Vertical Intake Spokes

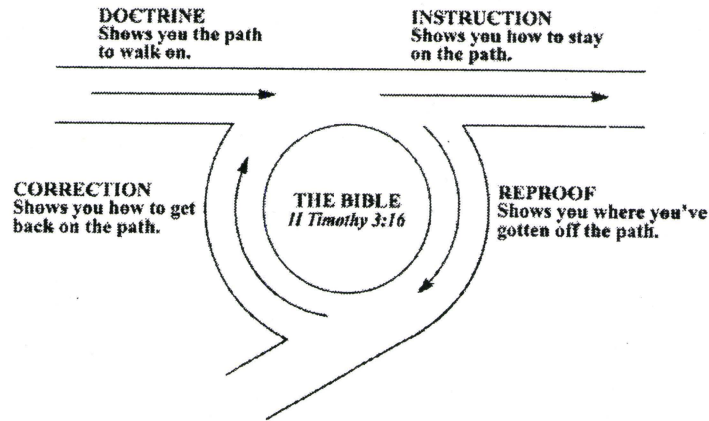
III. The Word

1. Why do you believe what you believe? Or, asking it another way, what is the basis of your final authority for what you believe?

Check One:

- A. It seems reasonable to me.
- B. I feel that way about it.
- C. My own experience.
- D. The experience of others.
- E. My church tells me.
- F. My parents taught me.
- G. The Bible.
- H. The sacred writings of the ages.





2. In II Timothy 3:16, what does the Bible say about:

A. It's origin?

B. It's profit in:

- (1) _____ (what to believe and do)
- (2) _____ (when we get off the road)
- (3) _____ (how to get back on the road)
- (4) _____ (how to stay on the road)

3. List opposite the scriptures below some further claims of the Bible:



II Timothy 3:15
 I Peter 2:2
 Psalms 119:105
 John 15:3
 Psalms 119:165
 Romans 10:17

The Word of God is:

Matchless - Man cannot duplicate it.

Ultimate - it is final, it will not be changed, there is no appeal, John 12:48.

Perfect - how would you improve on John 3:16?

Timeless - The Bible works now and forever.

Indestructible - Man cannot destroy it. Luke 21:33.

Whenever the Word of God is ineffective in a life, it is for one of three reasons:

- (1) Neglect
- (2) Doubt
- (3) Disobedience

IV. Prayer.

1. Define prayer
2. What are two reasons why we miss much of what God has for us?

A. James 4:2

B. James 4:3



3. Prayer is an act of faith. How should we pray?
Matthew 21:22

4. Since God knows our needs (Matt. 6:8), why should we bring them before Him?

Match the Phrases with the Verses:

- | | | |
|-------------|-----|---------------------------------|
| Luke 18:1 | () | 1. So our joy might be complete |
| John 16:24 | () | 2. It is commanded. |
| Ps. 62:8 | () | 3. To experience His peace. |
| Phil. 4:6-7 | () | 4. To demonstrate trust in Him |

5. What do you feel Matthew 7:7 teaches about prayer?

6. Our God is a God of law and, order. The physical laws operate in certain ways. Effects obey causes. This is true spiritually. God has placed some conditions on effective prayer. Discover and list some of them below.

Isaiah 59:1, 2

I John 3:22

I John 5:14, 15

I Peter 3:7



7. How can we know when we are praying "according to God's will?"

8. What does it mean to pray "In Jesus Name?"

9. How can we prevent sin from hindering our prayer life? I John 1:9

10. Most people have experienced the discouragement of seemingly unanswered prayers. Match up some reasons for ineffective prayer with the following verses:

Job 35:12-13 () 1. Lack of heart preparation

Eph. 6:12 () 2. Pride

Ps. 139:23-24 () 3. Satan's hindering

Matt. 6:33 () 4. Poor value system

Mark 11:25-26 () 5. Lack of faith

James 1:6-8 () 6. Unforgiving spirit

11. We have discovered some conditions of effective prayer and some hindrances. Which two do you feel you fail in most?

Why?

12. What will you do this week to allow God to begin correcting these in your life? Who will you ask to check up on you next week?

The Horizontal Outreach Spokes

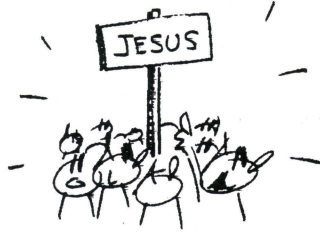


V. Fellowship

Fellowship is defined as comradeship, companionship, a relation in which parties hold something in common, mutual sharing, or friendly association. Someone has said, in the Christian context, that fellowship is two fellows on the same ship going in the same direction.

1. What is the basis of Christian fellowship? I John 1:3

2. The fellowship of the world rests on many different bases. Name some of the things which draw people together.



3. Why is Christian fellowship more permanent than the world's fellowship? Hebrews 13:8

4. Discover and list from Acts 2:42 four things in which the early church continued.

5. The New English Bible translates the part of Acts 2:42 on fellowship as "sharing the common life." Explain in practical ways what the term "sharing the common life" means to you.

6. Why is fellowship important to us?

Matthew 18:19-20

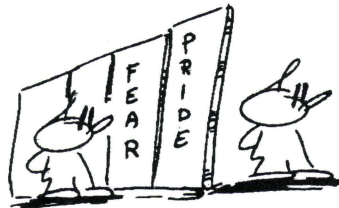
Lev. 26 :8

Ecc.4:9,10

Heb.10:25

7. Check two basic things which you feel hinder Christian fellowship most today:

- Pride ()
- Selfishness ()
- Lack of Love ()
- Lack of understanding ()
- Independence ()
- Busyness ()
- Fear ()
- Hypocrisy ()
- Sin in the life ()
- Other ()



8. Do you have at least one Christian friend with whom you are able to be completely yourself, knowing he will accept you and love you anyway?

A. If so, pause now and thank God for him. Thank him for being this kind of friend this coming week.

B. If not, pause now and ask God to bring someone like this into your life.

Read the prayer of Jesus in John 17 with the intention of discovering what He revealed about the importance of fellowship.

