

The Bonding Process



1. Babes

Young Men

Fathers

2. Formed

Conformed

Transformed

3. Outer Court

Inner Court

Holy of Holies

4. Desire

Discipline

Delight

5. Purgative

Illuminative

Unitive

**6. Self-
knowledge**

**Self-
actualization**

**Self-
transcendence**

7. Personal

Intimate

Organic

1 John 2:12-14

The Bonding Process



1 John 2:12-14

1. There are stages of spiritual formation. Each has differing characteristics and tasks. The slide on p. 11 represents just a few of the possible ways to view these stages. The categories encompass biblical metaphors (1-3), personal experience (4), theological constructs (5), psychological development (6), and spiritual reality (7).
2. While these stages are helpful, we must remember that each stage has many subdivisions and side-paths, perhaps as many as there are souls in the world. 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. We are all mixtures of stages; they intertwine, and we may seem in one stage in one aspect of our life and in another stage in another aspect. Still, analysis by stages is helpful because at any given stage of spiritual growth, a soul will normally be experiencing the graces of one stage or another and will need to be guided according to the rules of that stage.
3. **Babes** are more focused on self and dealing with sin; getting rid of the bad; letting go of vices; and learning to say “no.”
4. **Young men** are more focused on God and Christ, coming to know, love and follow him; pursuing the good; laying hold of virtues; and learning to say “yes.”
5. **Fathers** are more contemplative, focusing on the vision of God for Himself alone; letting go of self so that Christ might dwell in fullness.

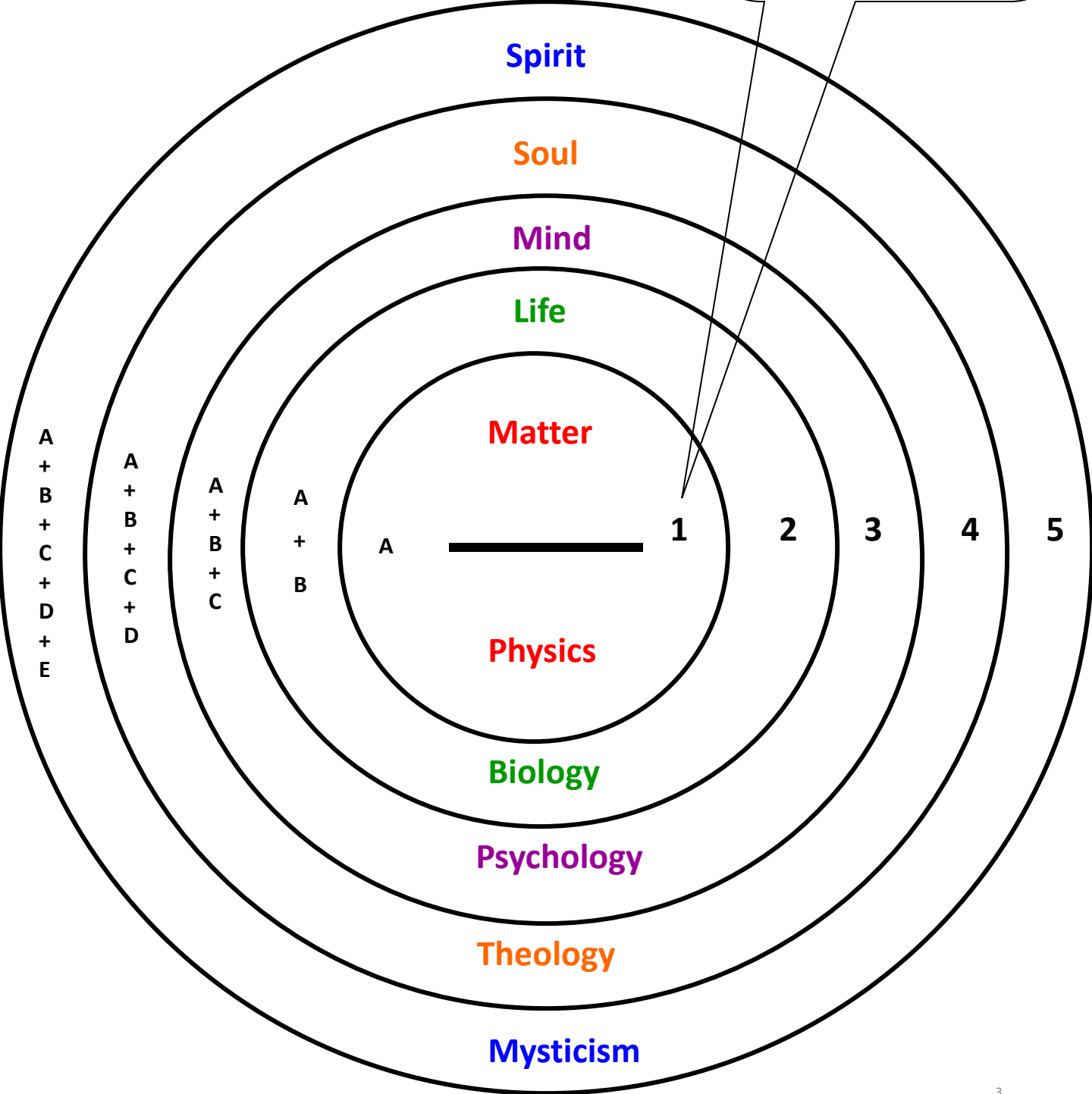
The Principle of Holons

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 Principle of Holons

1. Reality is composed of different but continuous dimensions which seem to promise us a wholeness and harmony which often eludes us.
2. 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 is whole in itself but becomes a part of a 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.
3. 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 determines the functions of the parts.
4. As we develop, unity increases and wider identities develop. Growth occurs in stages and each stage must be developed by including and then transcending the previous stage. Babies...young men...fathers. There is a necessary sequence.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. The lesser "holons" become instrumental, not essential.
8. 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.
9. 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.
10. Our lives are a holon for God's greater life. We must learn to “disidentify” with the “isolated self” as the greatest truth. We must move into the transpersonal arena of Spirit and become organically included by God.

The Beautiful Possibility: Christification



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!