

GROWING UP IN CHRIST: SEVEN LEVELS OF MORAL DECISION MAKING

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The God-Shaped Brain: How Changing Your View of God Transforms Your Life – 2013

The Journal of the Watcher – 2014

The Remedy NT – 2015

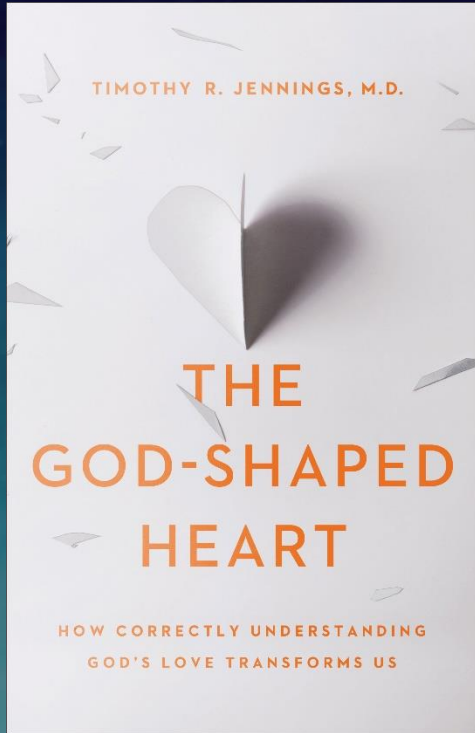
The God-Shaped Heart: How Correctly Understanding God's Love Transforms Us – 2017

The Aging Brain: Proven Steps to Prevent Dementia and Sharpen Your Mind – 2018

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RESOURCE



- English
- Korean

**HAVE YOU EVER BEEN ONE OF THE FIRST TO
KNOW SOMETHING WAS WRONG?**

HAVE YOU EVER BEEN ONE OF THE FIRST TO KNOW SOMETHING WAS WRONG?

Have you ever had the difficulty of identifying a problem when someone in leadership already concluded that no problem exists?

THERE IS SOMETHING WRONG IN CHRISTIANITY

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- Pornography use No different
- Disunity and fragmentation with 41,000 different groups

2TIMOTHY 3:1-5

But mark this: There will be terrible times in the **last days**. People will be **lovers of themselves**, lovers of money, boastful, proud, **abusive**, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, **without self-control**, **brutal**, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, **lovers of pleasure** rather than lovers of God— **having a form of godliness but denying its power.**

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Today, we will:

- Expose an infection of thought/distortion of belief that keeps good people trapped in addiction and violence cycles

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Today, we will:

- Expose an infection of thought/distortion of belief that keeps good people trapped in addiction and violence cycles
- Present a Remedy to bring healing and prepare people to meet Jesus

HOW DO YOU DETERMINE WHAT IS RIGHT AND WRONG?

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- Do you look to a higher authority – parent, teacher, political leader, pastor, priest or deity – to tell you?
- Do you look for a consensus among peers, or perhaps a code of rules or system of established laws?
- Or do you have another standard?

WE WILL EXAMINE THE 7 LEVELS SO THAT...

“We shall all come together to that *oneness* in our faith and in our knowledge of the Son of God; we shall become *mature people*, reaching to the very height of *Christ’s full stature*. Then we shall no longer be *children*, carried by the waves and blown about by every shifting wind of the teaching of deceitful people, who lead others into error by the tricks they invent.” Ephesians 4:13,14 GNT, emphasis mine

ERIC WRIGHT

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- What should he do?



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ERIC WRIGHT

- What should he do?
- What is the RIGHT action to take?



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- What should he do?
- What is the RIGHT action to take?
- Should he break the law?



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ERIC WAS ARRESTED AND CHARGED WITH

- Assault on an police officer
- Disorderly conduct
- Reckless endangerment
- Two counts of traffic signals violation
- Expired registration

DID ERIC DO RIGHT OR WRONG?

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It all depends on your level of Moral
Development

1: REWARD AND PUNISHMENT

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- The most basic level

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- Right – if rewarded

1: REWARD AND PUNISHMENT

- The most basic level
- Right – if rewarded
- Wrong – if punished

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- Wrong – if punished
- Nazi soldiers
- Ancient Israel as slaves in Egypt

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- Mercy or failure to punish is viewed as weakness and immoral by level 1 thinkers
- People at this level see a God of mercy, who doesn't inflict punishment as a marshmallow God and insist God must use His power to inflict torment and death

GOD MEETS PEOPLE WHERE THEY ARE

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- “I did this so that you might know that I am the Lord your God.” Deuteronomy 29:6

LEVEL 1 IS SO PRIMITIVE IT DOESN'T REQUIRE A BRAIN

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- It is Satan's goal to reduce us to "brute beasts, creatures of instinct" operating at level one.

2: MARKETPLACE EXCHANGE

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- Quid pro quo: You do something for me in return for something of agreed-upon value

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- As ancient Israel said when the law was read, “All the Lord has said WE will do.”

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- This is the health/wellness gospel
 - If you do these rituals or say this prayer for so many days, you will be blessed of God.

LEVEL 2 BARELY REQUIRES A BRAIN

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3: SOCIAL CONFORMITY

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- Like ancient Israel when they wanted kings and when they collectively punished/stoned/ostracized

LEVEL 3 DOESN'T REQUIRE THINKING

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LEVEL 3 DOESN'T REQUIRE THINKING

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- Many herd animals follow the crowd, even if it is right over the cliff
- Again, not worthy of beings created in the image of God

4: LAW AND ORDER

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- Judgment is deferred to properly elected or otherwise constituted authorities
- Authority figures rarely questioned: He must be right, he's the judge, mayor, president, pastor, pope, God...

4: LAW AND ORDER

- As ancient Israel at the time of Christ said, “We have a law...”

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- Much of the modern world with imposed laws, judicial systems and COERCIVE enforcement

LEVEL 4: MINIMAL LEVEL OF THINKING

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- At this level, one only has to think, “What are the rules?” “What is the law?”

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- Doesn't have to understand why
- Doesn't have to consider variables – if the rule says it, one must do it

LEVEL 4: MINIMAL LEVEL OF THINKING

- Security is found in law-keeping – “I can’t be punished if I keep the rules” – OR in a legal loophole - substitutionary law-keeping, legal payments made to appease the legal authority.

LEVEL 5: LOVE FOR OTHERS

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- People have value regardless of the “law” (i.e. African Americans have value regardless of Jim Crow laws)
- Right is determined, NOT by checking rules, but by doing that which is actually good for another

LEVEL 5: LOVE FOR OTHERS

- This was Jesus healing on the Sabbath, socializing with tax collectors and touching lepers. Also, the story of the Good Samaritan, Apostles picking grain on Sabbath, David and the showbread.

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- Except you become like little children...

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- This was Jesus and the Apostles after Pentecost

LEVEL 6 REQUIRES THINKING

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- Mature individuals don't use illegal drugs, not because they are illegal, but because they violate the laws of health. Thus, even when made legal by the state, they still don't use them.

LEVEL 7: UNDERSTANDING FRIEND OF GOD

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- Not only understands God's design for life
- But understands and intelligently participates in *God's purposes*
- "I'm no longer calling you servants because servants don't understand what their master is thinking and planning. No, I've named you friends because I've let you in on everything I've heard from the Father." John 15:15 Message

LEVEL 7

- Jesus operated at this level

LEVEL 7

- Jesus operated at this level
- As will those who are ready for translation

LEVEL 7

- Jesus operated at this level
- As will those who are ready for translation
- The Scriptures describe those who are ready to meet Christ when He returns as:
 - Being sealed in their foreheads with the seal of God.
Revelation 7:3
 - Those who do not love their lives so much as to shrink from death. Revelation 12:11

LOVE IS THE BASIS OF LIFE

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- Level 7 would have no problem avoiding expensive jewelry, or flashy cars, or clothes designed to promote self
- But level 4 would make rules, such as no cosmetics or jewelry, but never notice the person who weekly buys an expensive coat or dress because that's not one of the rules.

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- Understanding that people operate at level 4 and below gives insight as to why there are so many laws in the books of Moses.
- Consider how many laws we have in our society. When people operate at level 4 and below, they need a law for every situation.

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- But when people reach level 5 and above, it can be summed up in two:
 - Love God and Love each other.
- Rules are no longer needed because they are written upon the heart. Hebrews 8:10

CONSIDER A CHILD BRUSHING HIS TEETH THROUGH THE 7 LEVELS

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Level 1 reward and punishment:

It is wrong not to brush because mommy will be mad and the child will be punished. It is right to brush because the child will be praised.

CONSIDER A CHILD BRUSHING HIS TEETH THROUGH THE 7 LEVELS

Level 2 marketplace exchange:

This is the child or parent who says, "I'll brush my teeth if you read me a bedtime story," or "Brush your teeth and I'll read you a bedtime story." Don't brush, no story. Do brush, get the story.

CONSIDER A CHILD BRUSHING HIS TEETH THROUGH THE 7 LEVELS

Level 3 social conformity:

It's wrong not to brush at this level because one will be teased at school, it's right to brush in order to be accepted

CONSIDER A CHILD BRUSHING HIS TEETH THROUGH THE 7 LEVELS

Level 4 law and order:

At this level there is a family behavior contract, with codified expectations and written consequences. Don't brush and lose a prescribed privilege, no cell phone for that day. Do brush and maintain the privilege.

CONSIDER A CHILD BRUSHING HIS TEETH THROUGH THE 7 LEVELS

Level 5 love for others:

Realizing it would inconvenience one's parents to take him to dentist and pay dental bills and, therefore, desiring to reduce burdens on his parents, one brushes his teeth.

CONSIDER A CHILD BRUSHING HIS TEETH THROUGH THE 7 LEVELS

Level 6 principle based:

The person at this level understands the second law of thermodynamics (even if they can't name it) that if energy isn't put into the system, it will decay. Therefore, one brushes because this is how things actually work best.

CONSIDER A CHILD BRUSHING HIS TEETH THROUGH THE 7 LEVELS

Level 7 understanding friend of God:

CONSIDER A CHILD BRUSHING HIS TEETH THROUGH THE 7 LEVELS

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- Not only loves others and understands God's design

CONSIDER A CHILD BRUSHING HIS TEETH THROUGH THE 7 LEVELS

Level 7 understanding friend of God:

- Not only loves others and understands God's design
- Also realizes made in God's image and the body is the Spirit Temple.

CONSIDER A CHILD BRUSHING HIS TEETH THROUGH THE 7 LEVELS

Level 7 understanding friend of God:

- Knows that failure to brush causes decay, increases sickness, and undermines one's ability to fulfill God's purpose.

CONSIDER A CHILD BRUSHING HIS TEETH THROUGH THE 7 LEVELS

Level 7 understanding friend of God:

- Knows that failure to brush causes decay, increases sickness, and undermines one's ability to fulfill God's purpose.
- So one brushes as a good steward to maintain one's health in order to be of greatest usefulness in God's cause, be a good witness to others, and demonstrate love for God and fellow human beings.

AT ALL 7 LEVELS TEETH ARE BRUSHED

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- But only level 5 and above can be trusted
- Level 4 and below require some external threat, some external oversight to enforce the behavior
- Level 4 and below have a selfish motivation – no heart change
- Level 5 is the first level the law is internalized, where the law is written on the heart and the motive changes to love!

IMPOSED VS. DESIGN LAW

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- Level 1-4 views life through imposed law lens

IMPOSED VS. DESIGN LAW

- Level 1-4 views life through imposed law lens
- Level 5-7 views life through Design law lens

HEBREWS 5:11-14

We have much to say about this, but it is hard to explain because you are slow to learn. In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food!...

HEBREWS 5:11-14

Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.

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- Has a form of godliness but denies the power

IMMATURE CHRISTIANITY AND OUR YOUTH

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- Remember the tooth brushing analogy and the descriptions of level 4 and below operations

IMMATURE CHRISTIANITY AND OUR YOUTH

- Have you ever wondered why so many young people leave the church?
- Teaching level 4 and below is why many young people leave the church
- Remember the tooth brushing analogy and the descriptions of level 4 and below operations
- We must help our young people grow up to understand God, His character of love, His methods and design for life!

SO WHAT PREVENTS MATURING?

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- Staying on Infant Formula

SO WHAT PREVENTS MATURING?

- Staying on Infant Formula
- And what is the theological formula of infants?

SO WHAT PREVENTS MATURING?

“Therefore let us move beyond the elementary teachings about Christ and be taken forward to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death...”

Hebrews 6:1

WHAT IS INFANT FORMULA?

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- Do's and don'ts, the commandments, behavioral/legal religion, keeping track of deeds and sins

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- This is the starting point, the infant stage
 - We must be born in order to grow physically
 - We must be born again and repent, to grow spiritually
 - The law initially convicts us so we know something is wrong

WHAT IS INFANT FORMULA?

- Freedom from guilt and shame is wonderful
 - Sadly many stay as babes with chronic conviction of sin and repentance from acts

HEALTHY REPENTANCE

- When we realize the truth of God's design for life, His character of love, and our terminal condition, we surrender ourselves in trust to Jesus.

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- When we realize the truth of God's design for life, His character of love, and our terminal condition, we surrender ourselves in trust to Jesus.
- This is David praying, search me and see the wicked way in me, create in me a clean heart, oh God!

WHAT PREVENTS GROWING UP?

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- Level 4 and below theologies with legal descriptions and legal solutions – for those who don't leave the church – end up trapped in addiction and violence cycles. Why?

WHAT PREVENTS GROWING UP?

- Level 4 and below theologies with legal descriptions and legal solutions – for those who don't leave the church – end up trapped in addiction and violence cycles. Why?
- Because they are told a false legal solution, which has a form of godliness, but no power to heal.

WHAT IS INFANT FORMULA?

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- Told, accept the legal tooth brushing of your older brother or do a ritual/have intercession with the Dentist

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- Seek help – from an expert
- Told, accept the legal tooth brushing of your older brother or do a ritual/have intercession with the Dentist
- Your older brother will be examined instead of you and the record of His perfect teeth will be recorded in your chart

WHAT IS INFANT FORMULA?

- You will be declared to have perfect teeth, even though you don't. Just believe you do.

WHAT IS INFANT FORMULA?

- You will be declared to have perfect teeth, even though you don't. Just believe you do.
- You claim you believe it, but you continue to get worse.

GENUINE RIGHTEOUSNESS/JUSTIFICATION

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- Being set right in heart with God again
- Natural heart distrusts God/ enmity Romans 8:7
- Abraham “trusted God and was recognized to be righteous” or set right Romans 4:3
- His heart changed from distrust to trust
- In trust, open the heart and receive the indwelling Holy Spirit that takes Christ’s victory and reproduces it in us!

INFANT REPENTANCE

- Childlike conviction of our bad deeds

INFANT REPENTANCE

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- Feel guilty and ashamed of the bad things we have done

INFANT REPENTANCE

- Childlike conviction of our bad deeds
- Feel guilty and ashamed of the bad things we have done
- Live in fear of punishment and rejection

INFANT REPENTANCE

- Vulnerable to have our understanding of God distorted because

INFANT REPENTANCE

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 - We want to do something to “make up” for our badness; we believe the lie that God needs something done to Him to make up for our badness.

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3. Getting approval/acceptance
4. Avoiding legal trouble, penal/legal theologies

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 7. Fulfilling God's purposes

MORAL DECISION MAKING IN THE REAL WORLD

- Sandi

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- Did she have Biblical grounds?
- At what level were the conference officials operating – were they "right" or "wrong"?
- Your answers reveal much about your developmental level.

LAW OF LOVE

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- So beating your wife fails to love her, i.e. betrays her trust, which is adultery

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE THROUGH THE 7 LEVELS

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Level 1 reward and punishment:

- It isn't wrong because he is stronger and as long as he isn't punished for it, it is right. It is only wrong if it results in his being punished.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE THROUGH THE 7 LEVELS

Level 2 marketplace exchange:

- It isn't wrong, it is just and proper to give a wife the beating she deserves when she doesn't fulfill her side of the marital bargain. It would only be wrong if the husband beats her without proper cause.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE THROUGH THE 7 LEVELS

Level 3 social conformity:

- It is only wrong if my culture says it is wrong.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE THROUGH THE 7 LEVELS

Level 4 law and order:

- It isn't wrong, because broken rules require punishment. God gave us rules and when they are broken, justice requires God punish. Jesus took our punishment, and if I want to be like God, I must punish my disobedient wife. This is how love teaches her to obey her husband.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE THROUGH THE 7 LEVELS

Level 5 love for others:

- It is wrong to beat your wife because it fails to love her, to treat her as a daughter of God, with value as a person.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE THROUGH THE 7 LEVELS

Level 6 principle based:

- It is wrong because it violates God's design for life and love. It violates the law of liberty, one of God's design protocols for healthy relationships. Love can only exist in an atmosphere of freedom.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE THROUGH THE 7 LEVELS

Level 6 principle based:

- Further, God designed husbands and wives as co-equals and husbands are to treat their wives as Christ treats the church, sacrificing himself for her.

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Level 7 understanding friend of God:

It is wrong because it not only violates God's design

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- It damages the mind, character, and conscience of the husband
- Destroys the individuality of the wife
- Misrepresents God as dictatorial

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- To enter into the fullness of Godlike love

WHY DID CHRIST HAVE TO DIE? THE ATONEMENT THROUGH THE 7 LEVELS:

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Satisfaction Theory of Atonement

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Level 2 marketplace exchange:

Because Satan now had rights to this earth and claimed the lives of the sons of Adam and daughters of Eve, and God struck a bargain with the devil to exchange the life of Christ for the life of humans. Or Aslan had to give his life to the White Witch to free the son of Adam.

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Ransom Theory of Atonement

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Governmental Theory of Atonement

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To pay the legal penalty the law demanded and the heavenly judge imposed. The Law must be kept. Man broke the Law. Someone had to pay the penalty. Jesus paid that penalty. The integrity of the Law was maintained.

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Penal Substitution Theory

WHY DID CHRIST HAVE TO DIE? THE ATONEMENT THROUGH THE 7 LEVELS:

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Moral Influence Theory

WHY DID CHRIST HAVE TO DIE? THE ATONEMENT THROUGH THE 7 LEVELS:

Level 6 principle based:

It was the only means to fix what sin had done to God's creation. When mankind sinned, they deviated from God's design for life and their condition was terminal. Christ came to fix what sin did to this creation. Thus "he who knew no sin became sin for us so that we might become the righteousness of God."

2Corinthians 5:21

www.comeandreason.com

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**Christus Victor and Recapitulation
Theory**

WHY DID CHRIST HAVE TO DIE? THE ATONEMENT THROUGH THE 7 LEVELS:

Level 7 understanding friend of God:

Christ died to reveal truth to win us to trust (John 8:32), destroy death (2Timothy 1:10), destroy sin and Satan (Hebrews 2:14), restore humanity back to God's original ideal (1John 3:8), and secure the universe unfallen in its innocence. "All things in heaven and in earth are reconciled to Christ at the cross." (Colossians 1:20)

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The Healing Reality

WHY DID CHRIST HAVE TO DIE? THE ATONEMENT THROUGH THE 7 LEVELS:

Level 7 understanding friend of God:

Atonement is at-one-ment with God, having the law written on the heart, operating with the mind of Christ, partaking of the divine nature; restoring creation back to God's original design.

WHY DID CHRIST HAVE TO DIE? THE ATONEMENT THROUGH THE 7 LEVELS:

Level 7 understanding friend of God:

Doing right because it is right and right doing
is pleasing to God.

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Doing right because it is right and right doing is pleasing to God.

Neither God, nor His law, defined as the eternal principles upon which He bases His government, change, but our understanding of His law changes, and the human species is changed to live in harmony with that law.

WHY DID CHRIST HAVE TO DIE? THE ATONEMENT THROUGH THE 7 LEVELS:

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We understand at this level that God speaks to people at each level of their understanding.

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It is a mistake to stay stuck at earlier levels of understanding and refuse to mature, regardless of how valid and useful they were in their own context.

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- Satisfaction
- Creation is out of harmony with God and in a terminal condition
- God is like a parent whose child is dying of leukemia—what is the only thing that will satisfy?
- A Remedy that heals and saves!
- “He will see the *result* of the suffering of his soul and be *satisfied*” Isa 53:11

MATURE WAY TO UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE METAPHORS

- Ransom Theory

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- Ransom is the price required to free from bondage

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MATURE WAY TO UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE METAPHORS

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- Ransom is the price required to free from bondage
- What holds us in bondage?
- Lies about God and our own carnal nature
- What is the price to free?
- Truth and a new nature (bread and wine)

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- Governmental Theory
- God rules on design law—love, truth, & liberty
- God can only heal minds, i.e. win to love and trust in harmony with His methods
- Thus God's government, design laws, are sustained as the only method upon which life, health and peace operate

MATURE WAY TO UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE METAPHORS

- Penal Substitution Theory

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- Added law (10 Commandments, ceremonial law etc.) is rightly understood as setting healthy boundaries for the immature to protect, diagnose, teach and lead to Christ for healing

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- Accepted as *part* of the reality needed to heal

MATURE WAY TO UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE METAPHORS

- Moral Influence Theory
- Accepted as *part* of the reality needed to heal
- But understood as being incomplete—in addition to winning us to trust, a real remedy to fix the damage of sin and to restore God's original design for human character was needed

MATURE WAY TO UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE METAPHORS

- Christus Victor and Recapitulation

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- Understood as Christ's victory over all opposition to His methods here on earth:
- Truth overcomes lies; Love overcomes selfishness
- Jesus took up humanity broken and damaged by sin and perfected it!

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MATURE WAY TO UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE METAPHORS

- Healing Reality
- Accepts Moral Influence of truth to destroy lies and win to trust
- Accepts the Victory of Christ over Satan directly and over the carnal nature to destroy the infection of fear and selfishness and restore love within
- And realizes All things in *heaven* and earth are reconciled to Christ at the cross. (Col 1:18-20)

CONFLICT IN CHRISTIANITY

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- Level 4 are often in church administration – great concern for keeping rules, proper doctrinal definitions and protecting the institution
- Danger—often resort to coercive methods which are opposite of God's methods

CONFLICT IN CHRISTIANITY

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- Levels 6 & 7 persons who want to discuss general principles are called "liberal"
- Level 5 people who seek to love others and show compassion to the "sinner" drug addict and homosexual, are seen as having loose standards by level 4 and below

CONFLICT IN CHRISTIANITY

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- Levels 6 & 7 persons may become very bored with legalistic sermons aimed at level 4, or with level 1, the fiery hell and damnation threats
- Level 4 members feel threatened by questions which undermine their legal security or God as a dictator.

CONFLICT IN CHRISTIANITY

- Some are attracted to level 2, the health wellness gospel: if you do the right rituals, keep the right rules then God will bless you, while others find such explanations fall short and get frustrated when they see bad things happen to good people

GROWING THROUGH THE STAGES

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- Distress that doesn't fit one's understanding motivates growth (rejoice in trials)
- What matters is function, not explanation
 - Some individuals function at level 5 but explain theology at level 4

GROWING THROUGH THE STAGES

- Can retain vestiges of previous levels
 - law and order person could still demand vengeance, just via legal channels

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 - law and order person could still demand vengeance, just via legal channels
- Can only understand one level beyond your current level
- Most people operate level 4 and below and persecute people operating at levels 5-7

THE GROOM AND HIS BRIDE

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- Christ is returning for His Bride

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- But He is not coming back for a **CHILD** Bride
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- Christ is returning for His Bride
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- He wants a mature Bride, one who has grown up and is ready to see Him face to face for we shall be like Him! 1John 3:2

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- He wants a mature Bride, one who has grown up and is ready to see Him face to face for we shall be like Him! 1John 3:2
- I challenge you to leave the elementary teachings behind and move on to maturity!

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

