

INTRODUCTION

THREE CONTRASTS: Simon: Woman:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

THREE POINTS OF THE PARABLE

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

THREE ESSENTIALS OF THE GOSPEL

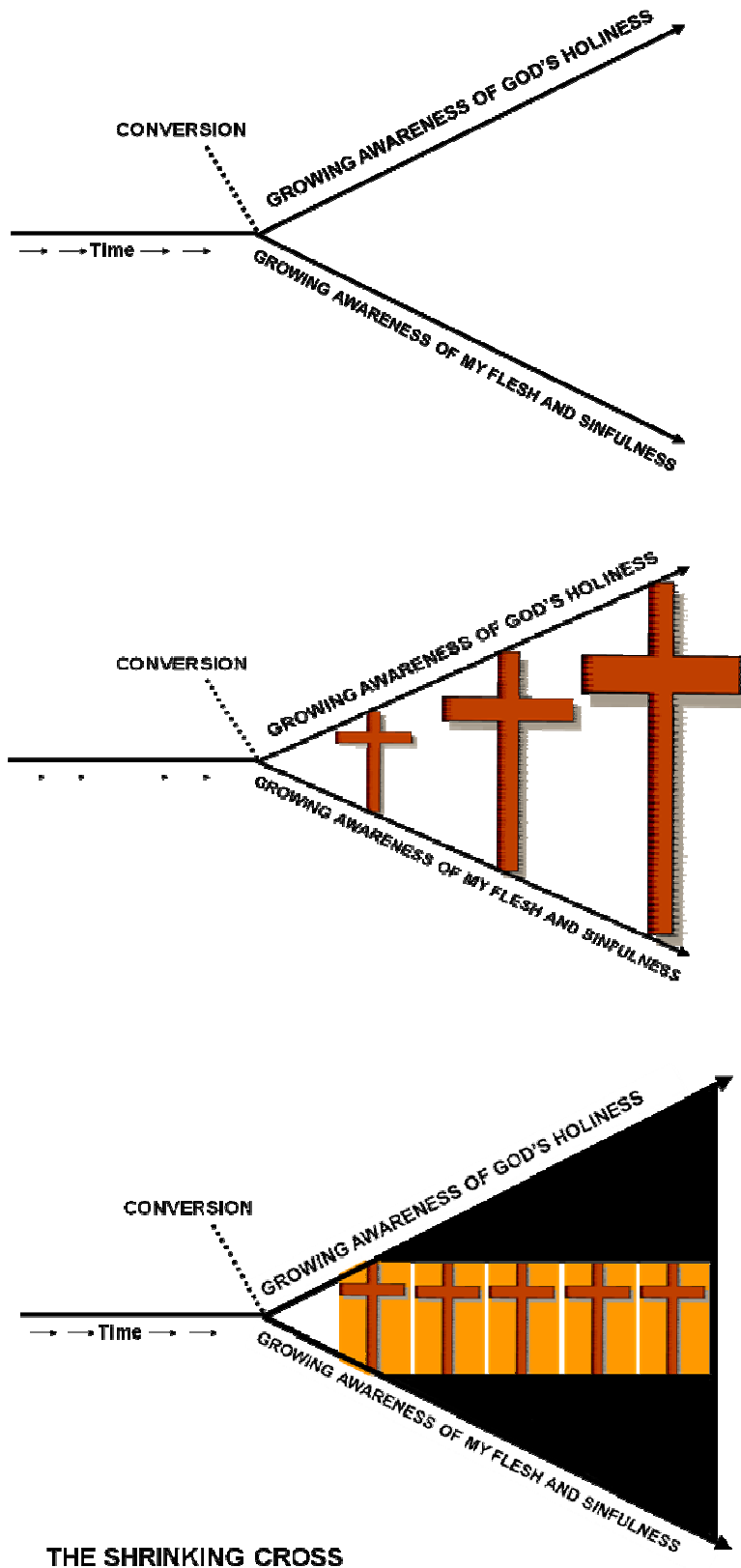
- 1.
- 2.
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THREE SPIRITUAL CONDITIONS

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

APPLICATION

# “The Cross Chart” by World Harvest Mission



THE SHRINKING CROSS

## Questions for Reflection and Discussion:

1. Is it “natural” for people to love God, love each other, and serve the world? In other words, is it “human nature” to do so? [see *Romans 3:9-20*].
2. In our love relationship with God, who takes the initiative in that relationship? [*John 15:16-17*; *1 John 4:19*].
3. Mention has been made of “Christian naiveté” in this message. Are you surprised when seemingly committed Christians say or do things that seem to contradict their faith? Biblically, what is the explanation for this inconsistency? [*1 John 1:8-9*].
4. One of Pastor Hopper’s favorite phrases (borrowed from the late Dr. Jack Miller) is: “CHEER UP, YOU ARE WORSE THAN YOU THINK AND THE GOSPEL IS BETTER THAN YOU KNOW.” How do you respond to this statement and concept?
5. The GOSPEL brings a message of “full exposure with full acceptance” [see *Hebrews 4:12-16*]. When your faults or secret sins are exposed for others to see, how does that make you feel? The GOSPEL formula is radically unique: full exposure = full acceptance (in Christ). How does that make you feel? How does that feeling shape and control your lifestyle?
6. Simon the Pharisee is the classic example of what Pastor Hopper refers to as “cultural Christianity” [*1 Timothy 3:1-5*]. Without naming people or churches in judgment, what are some characteristics of “cultural Christianity” in America today?
7. In the story of the *sinful woman*, she is both passionate and extravagant in her demonstrated love for Jesus. What “fuels” or motivates her love for the Lord? What motivates your love for the Lord? In what specific ways is your response to the gospel passionate and extravagant?
8. Do you understand and can you explain “the cross chart” to another person? “How BIG is your JESUS?”