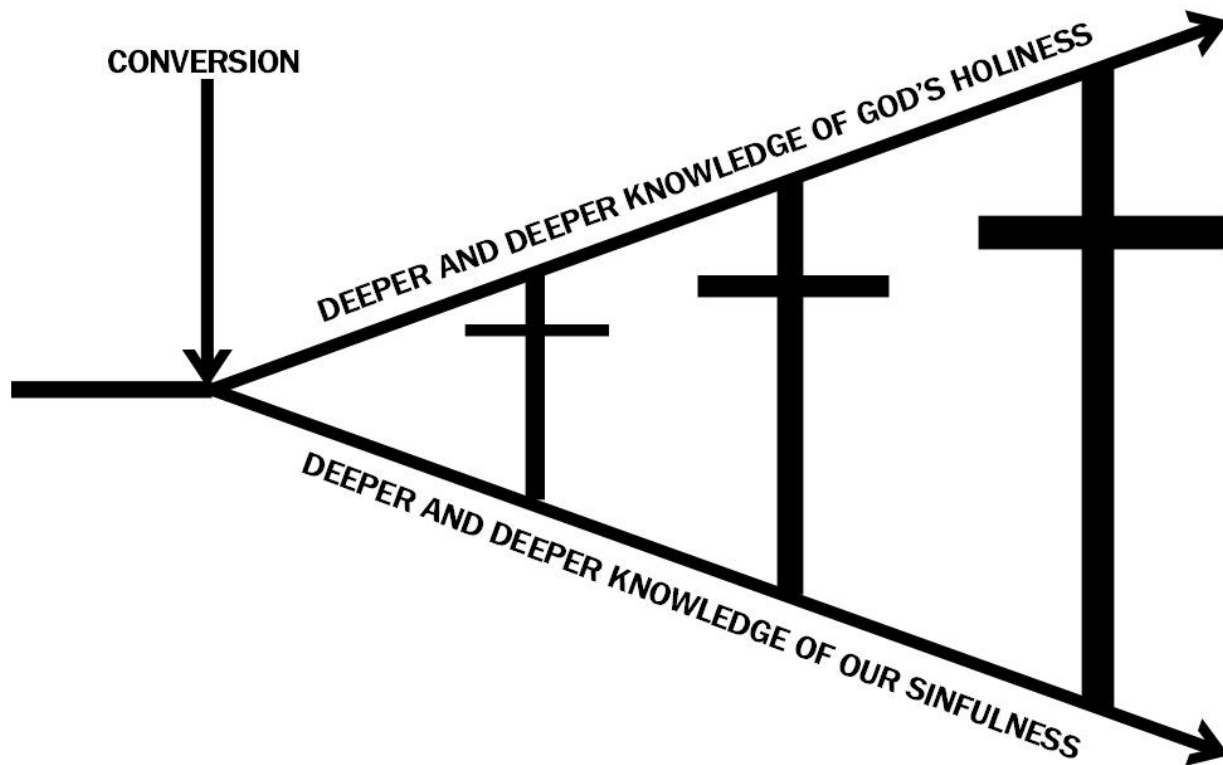


**Gospel
Pretending and Performing
Message #2
(notes)**

The Cross Chart



(The Gospel-Centered Life (participant guide), Robert H. Thume and Will Walker (page 13))

Conversion and A Gospel-Centered Life

There is a difference between a gospel-moment and a gospel-centered life.

Conversion – embracing Jesus as He has offered in the gospel

Growing – growing in relation to the gospel

A gospel-centered life involves a continual reminder of what Jesus did to bridge the gap by means of the cross.

What is the gospel and how is it to work in our lives?

A growing awareness of God's holiness.

A growing awareness of my own sinfulness.

The Gospel-Centered Life → A continual renewal of our understanding that God saves sinners through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

The Problem

We begin to see that there is this great distance between us and God.

This distance doesn't sit well with our conscience.

We start to forget that only Jesus bridges that gap.

We tend to minimize the gap between our sinfulness and God's holiness in two ways.

**Two Ways We Tend to Minimize the Gap
(Two Enemies of the Gospel)
(Luke 18:9-14)**

Pretending

Pretending is minimizing our sin.

Two ways that we pretend.

1 – We compare ourselves to others.

2 - We focus on external behavior.

The gospel deals with the greater bad guy. The gospel begins to transform us in places we're not even aware of.

Performing

Performing is minimizing God's holiness.

In Pretending and Performing, we shrink the cross.

The gospel-centered life says that as we grow, we don't trust the cross less, but more.

Our lifelong cry ought to be that of the tax collector. → 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!'

Here are two essential elements of a gospel-centered life.

A growing awareness of my sinfulness

A growing awareness of God's holiness

“As these 2 lines diverge, the cross becomes larger in our experience, producing a deeper love for Jesus and a fuller understanding of his goodness.” (page 21)

For there to be a healthy life of faith, these must be present.

A significant awareness of the holiness of God

A significant awareness of my own sin

A regular crying out for the mercy of God

A settled awareness that God is satisfied with me because of the cross