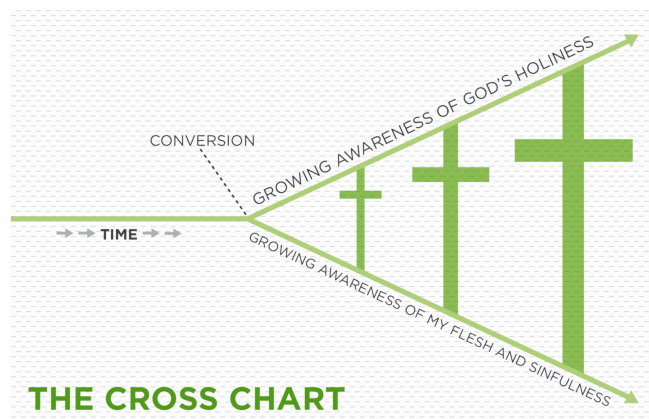


The Cross Chart

djourney.org/resources

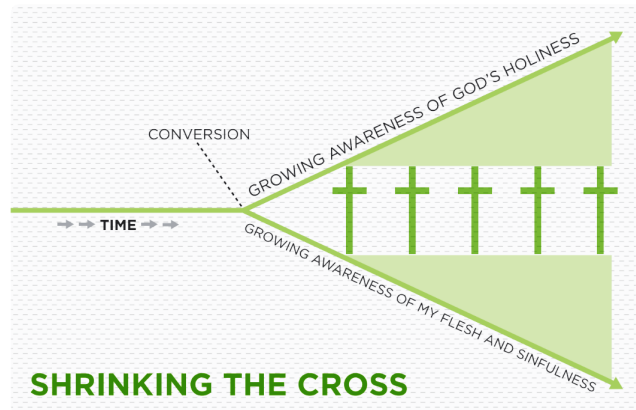
These quotes and images from *The Gospel-Centered Life* by Robert Thune and Will Walker can significantly help us understand and respond to the gospel in our everyday lives:¹



"The starting point of the Christian life (conversion) comes when I first become aware of the gap between God's holiness and my sinfulness. When I am converted, I trust and hope in Jesus, who has done what I could never do: He has bridged the gap between my sinfulness and God's holiness... The more I grow in my Christian life, the more I grow in my awareness of God's holiness and of my flesh and sinfulness. As I read the Bible, experience the Holy Spirit's conviction, and live in community with other people, the extent of God's greatness and the extent of my sin become increasingly clear and vivid. It is not that God is becoming more holy or that I am becoming more sinful. But my awareness of both is growing. I am increasingly seeing God as He actually is (Isa. 55:8-9) and myself as I actually am (Jer. 17:9-10). As my understanding of my sin and of God's holiness grows, something else also grows: my appreciation and love for Jesus. His mediation, His sacrifice, His righteousness, and His gracious work on my behalf become increasingly sweet and powerful to me..."

"Unfortunately, sanctification (growth in holiness) doesn't work quite as neatly as we'd like. Because of the indwelling sin that remains in me, I have an ongoing tendency to minimize the gospel or "shrink the cross." This happens when I either (a) minimize God's perfect holiness, thinking of him as something less than his Word declares him to be, or (b) elevate my own righteousness, thinking of myself as someone better than I actually am. The cross becomes smaller and Christ's importance in my life is diminished..."

¹ Thune, Robert H. and Will Walker, *The Gospel Centered-Life: Study Guide with Leader's Notes* (Greensboro, NC: New Growth Press, 2011), 12-14.



“Growing in the gospel means seeing more of God’s holiness and more of my sin. And because of what Jesus has done for us on the cross, we need not fear seeing God as he really is or admitting how broken we really are. Our hope is not in our own goodness, nor in the vain expectation that God will compromise his standards and ‘grade on a curve.’ Rather, we rest in Jesus as our perfect Redeemer—the One who is ‘our righteousness, holiness and redemption’ (1 Cor. 1:30).”

Questions and suggestions:

1. What stands out to you about “The Cross Chart?”
2. How do you either (a) minimize God’s perfect holiness or (b) elevate your own righteousness, thinking of yourself as someone better than you actually are?
3. How can you increasingly recognize God’s holiness and majesty? Perhaps by spending more time praying prayers of adoration and thanksgiving, looking for the specific ways that God is the hero of every biblical passage, or aiming to engage your heart more during Sunday services. What else?
4. How can you increasingly see your sin? Perhaps by spending more time praying prayers of confession, looking at the hidden sins and idols of your heart—not just visible sins, looking for how you share in the fallenness of those in Scripture, or asking trusted Christian friends to point things out to you graciously. What else?
5. If you’re not currently utilizing the “Bad News, Good News” method outlined in the *Beholding God in Scripture* Discipleship Journey Guide,² consider doing so. It greatly helps with seeing both God’s awesomeness and your fallenness.
6. If you sense that you or one of your discipleship partners isn’t especially grateful for Jesus and his work right now, consider how these charts reveal areas to be addressed. Focus your discipleship discussions on these areas.

² Available at djourney.org/guides. Going through a book of the Bible—for example, John, one passage at a time, is a great way to start. Consider utilizing the *Behold Response Page* or one of the *Behold* downloadable booklets available at djourney.org/behold.