

CHART SHOWING THE THREE WAYS OF THE SPIRITUAL LIFE

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OUTSIDE THE 3 WAYS	CRISIS #1	THE FIRST WAY	CRISIS #2	THE SECOND WAY	CRISIS #3	THE THIRD WAY
<p>THE UNBAPTIZED SOUL</p> <p>or</p> <p>THE SOUL HABITUALLY IN MORTAL SIN</p> <p>and</p> <p>THE LUKEWARM SOUL The lukewarm soul might not commit Mortal Sins, but it most certainly is a soul that is at peace with Venial Sin</p> <p>The lukewarm soul can be said to be at the doorway of the spiritual life or "The Seven Mansions" or Seven Rooms as St. Teresa of Avilla calls the spiritual life. The Lukewarm soul has one foot in the first mansion or room, and one foot outside the mansion.</p> <p>It depends on whether the lukewarm soul is committing less Venial Sins or more Venial Sins. If it commits less Venial Sins, then we can say it is in the process of entering the Spiritual Life. If it is committing more and more Venial Sins, then we can say it is leaving the Spiritual Life and heading for Mortal Sin.</p> <p>The words of God in Holy Scripture seem to indicate His wish to cast out the lukewarm soul as something that revolting and intolerable to Him:</p> <p><i>"I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot. I would thou wert cold or hot. But because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will begin to vomit thee out of my mouth!"</i> (Apocalypse 3:15-16)</p>	<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">CONVERSION FROM MORTAL SIN TO A STATE OF SANCTIFYING GRACE</p>	<p>VARIOUS TITLES / NAMES / DESCRIPTIONS THE WAY OF BEGINNERS PURGATIVE WAY MANSIONS 1 & 2 CHILDHOOD: Immaturity (0-12) FRIENDSHIP NOVICE APOSTLES: from Calling until Passion JOYFUL MYSTERIES OF ROSARY KNOWLEDGE</p> <p>MAIN FOCUS: Purify from past faults CHIEF CHARACTERISTICS: In a state of grace most of the time Avoid mortal sins Frequent venial sins Conform to God's Will in First Degree Obey Commandments, accept trials Humility practiced in First Degree Lots of self-love Thoughts mainly centered on self, not God</p> <p>Regular prayer life PRAYER: vocal, discursive, active Start of Meditation</p> <p>Sorrow for past sin Acts of Penance (pay for past sins) Acts of Mortification (avoid future sins)</p> <p>Fight Temptation to fall back into sin Struggle against sins and temptation Practice virtue in haphazard way Bearing with the faults of our neighbor Forgiving injuries</p> <p>GENERAL FAULTS: Inexperience Lack of generosity Distractions Discouragement Seeking personal advantages Lives too much by feelings Theoretical and abstract faith Too material & sensual Prayer can be mechanical</p>	<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">DARK NIGHT OF THE SENSES : DETACHMENT FROM PERSONS, PLACES & THINGS OF THE WORLD</p>	<p>VARIOUS TITLES / NAMES / DESCRIPTIONS THE WAY OF THE PROFICIENT ILLUMINATIVE WAY MANSIONS 3/4/5 ADOLESCENCE: Partial maturity (13-21) BETROTHED POSTULANT APOSTLES: Passion to Resurrection SORROWFUL MYSTERIES OF ROSARY UNDERSTANDING</p> <p>MAIN FOCUS: Imitating Christ CHIEF CHARACTERISTICS: Avoid deliberate venial sins Occasional mortal sin (to destroy pride) Conform to God's Will in Second Degree Pleasure and love of God's Will Humility practiced in Second Degree Less self-love Thoughts mainly centered on Our Lord</p> <p>Persevering prayer throughout trials Hours in prayer and recollection Difficulty with Discursive Mental Prayer Beginning of Infused Prayer More focus on affections & petitions Beginning of Contemplation Love of penance Desire for virtue Struggle to adorn oneself with virtues Works of charity to neighbor Foreseeing needs, compassion, generous</p> <p>Use time well Ordered life Profound convictions on great truths Love to study Jesus --> love of Jesus Love of prayer --> love of Jesus Love of Jesus leads to imitation of Jesus</p> <p>GENERAL FAULTS: Subtle pride Too focused on seeking consolations of God Sluggish in ways of God Distracted & dissipated Obstinate & stubborn viewpoints Presumption Spiritual Pride Vanity Failures in fraternal charity Failure in justice Intellectual pride Jealousy</p>	<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">DARK NIGHT OF THE SOUL : DETACHMENT FROM SPIRITUAL CONSOLATIONS & PLEASURES</p>	<p>VARIOUS TITLES / NAMES / DESCRIPTIONS THE WAY OF THE PERFECT UNITIVE WAY MANSIONS 5 & 6 ADULTHOOD: Maturity begins (18/21+) MARRIED STATE PERPETUAL VOWS APOSTLES: After Pentecost GLORIOUS MYSTERIES OF ROSARY WISDOM</p> <p>MAIN AIMS: Total Union with Christ CHIEF CHARACTERISTICS: No more deliberate mortal or venial sin Avoidance of all imperfections Conform to God's Will in Third Degree Desire to suffer greatly for God Humility practiced in Third Degree No self-love Thoughts totally centered on Our Lord Heroic charity of Christ Heroic service of neighbor Heroic love of enemies</p> <p>Perpetual presence of God Detachment from all things, events, persons Love of God becomes sole ruling virtue Perpetual Prayer</p> <p>Great spirit of faith Total abandonment to God Unalterable patience</p>