

Christian Life Model Core Elements

The notion in ascetical theology that worship, doctrine and action were interdependent and essential is common in Anglican thought. For example,

John Macquarrie - "There are three major factors combined together in the living unity of the Christian religion: doctrine, worship and deeds. I am reminded of a saying in the Old Testament: a threefold cord is not quickly broken. The strength of the Christian religion lies in this complex texture embracing the whole of human life. The three factors are intertwined, so that each strengthens the other. Together they form something that can stand up to the greatest strains without giving way. But if we allow the strands to become separated, then any one of them in isolation begins to show weakness and will not maintain itself for long." Macquarrie, John. *Paths in Spirituality*, SCM Press, 1972.

"Martin Thornton points to it in *The Rock and the River* and in his description offers a process and systems perspective: 'Moral action only flows from doctrinal truth by grace and faith, that is through prayer.'"1965

Lambeth Conference 1978 "This inextricable fusion of worship, of doctrine, and of action constitutes the distinctive contribution the churches of the Anglican Communion desire to make to the Universal Church of God in Jesus Christ."

All three of those quotes were sources that inspired the idea of a W-D-A mode (The Christian Life Model) It's a long standing way in Anglicanism of thinking about the "major factors." The development of a *model* in the sense used in organization development was the work of Robert Gallagher, OA.

Resources on the Christian Life Model include: Chapter Two, *Fill All Things: The Dynamics of Spirituality in the Parish Church*, Robert Gallagher, Ascension Press, 2008. In the Shaping the Parish Resources at www.orderoftheascension.org Under "Five Core Frameworks" are a one page handout using the model for the parish system, down just a bit under PDFs is a 4 page handout from the perspective of an individual's spiritual life and a related worksheet, further down is a PDF of *Power from on High* which was an early version of the model, and still further is an assessment using the model in regard to the parish.