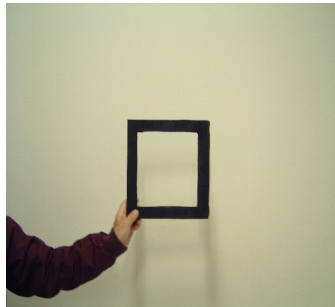


The Cross, Revisited

Christianity is replete with images of the cross of Jesus Christ. The following five photos show yet another interpretation which at first glance is abstract but requires actually holding two pieces of the cross to realize it.

The image of a square signifies the created realm. According to some ancient philosophies such as Stoicism, creation consists of four elements: earth, air, fire and water. Their combination and interaction produces everything we see about us as well as our own human nature. The square represents the created realm which mirrors God's transcendent perfection and can be taken as his presence within the world. In addition to this square we have a circle, traditional symbol of perfection and thus applicable to God.



Note that in the next photograph the circle and square are interlocked as well as having the same dimensions. At the same time this interlocking serves to reveal their differences and similarities. They are inseparable from each other and cannot be parted.

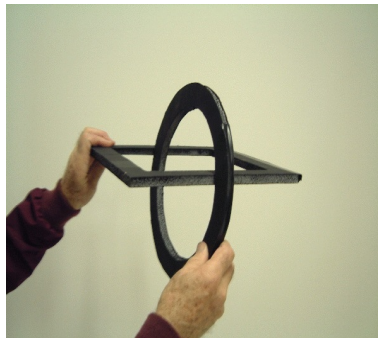


A true cruciform shape needs to be made from the circle and square. They can't be

set up as an object out there much like a traditional crucifix. In order to effect this cross, a person must actually hold the circle and square in balance. It would make no sense if this cross were suspended as a mobile of sorts. To form the cross, one adopts in a literal yet different sense the words of Christ, “Let him take up his cross and follow me.”

A person carries out this command as follows:

- 1) Hold the circle in a vertical position with one hand. Since it represents the divinity, this vertical position shows that it fully transcends creation.
- 2) Hold the square in a horizontal position with the other hand. Along with being representative of the created realm, the position can show the linear passage of time.
- 3) As already noted, both circle and square are interlocked and are inseparable. In order to form a cross, these two objects must be held in perfect balance. The person holding them must line them up, otherwise the cross would not take shape.



How does this cross become visible? If you were to look at it from any angle other than straight-on as seen above, all you'd see is the interlocking of circle and square.



Now the person who holds the cross is crucial for its realization. Both circle and square can't hang there in space, otherwise they would fall to the ground. Also, if you

hold the circle alone, the square would drop and visa versa. Thus two hands are required. We could almost name this cross a participatory one.

In conclusion, this cross can only be realized if you look at both circle and square head on with each balanced to produce a cruciform object. The idea lying behind this gesture is not so much to look upon the cross but to become an integral part of its formation. This may be expressed by saying that through the circle a person incorporates the divinity into oneself along with a transformed humanity. To put it theologically in terms of the Council of Chalcedon, Jesus Christ is one person with two natures, human and divine.

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