

Bridge and Four Worlds Comparison

Bridge Diagram

Strengths	Weaknesses
Captures the concept of personal sin and guilt	Highly individualistic; difficult to bring in social sins (complicitness in injustice, consumerism, irresponsible resource use, etc.)
Provides a natural platform for explaining substitutionary atonement	Uses a lot of loaded terminology (king, sin, law, hell) without necessarily placing the burden on the presenter to explain the terms
Deals clearly with hell	Learnability: there aren't really any repeating themes or motifs, making it difficult to learn for students who think in terms of patterns
The cross is naturally the centerpiece of the presentation	Doesn't naturally bring in kingdom theology
Familiar structure for churched evangelicals	Can emphasize decision in order to escape hell at the expense of personal lifestyle transformation
Learnable for those who think in terms of linear storylines	The church is peripheral

Four Worlds Diagram

Strengths	Weaknesses
Provides a wholistic picture of God's original intention and the impact of sin, encompassing the individual, relationships, and society	Bringing in hell, personal sin, guilt, and judgment is awkward at best
Provides an explanation for the state of the world today	Doesn't provide a natural backdrop to substitutionary atonement
Involves a fine-grained diagnostic for the participant's spiritual state	The cross isn't forced to play a central role
Affords the church and the work of the Holy Spirit today a central role	Appeals primarily to the participant's sense of activism/altruism, and so it runs into problems with students who have no such impulses
Natural device for communicating kingdom theology	Completely unfamiliar to all presenters (except OSU students)
Learnable for those who think in terms of patterns	Learnability: has a complicated structure from which it's fairly easy to accidentally leave important things out

