

Classic Patterns of Christian Spirituality

Summary Comparison, offered by Norvene Vest and Douglas Vest

	Benedictine	Carmelite	Celtic	Franciscan	Ignatian/Jesuit	Reform
Founded (Person/Place/Time)	Benedict of Nursia (Italy) in the 6th Century	Teresa of Avila and John of the Cross (Spain) in the 16th Century	Gradual blending of local spirituality with Christianity, beginning approx. 4th Century (Britain)	Francis of Assisi (Italy) in the late 12th and early 13th Centuries	Ignatius of Loyola (Spain) in the early 16th Century	A wide stream, usually associated with John Calvin (Switzerland) in the early 16th Century
Preferred Mode of Knowing	Familial & communal	Imageless union with God	Sensual & mystical	Affective & ecstatic: expressive of both joy and suffering	Speculative & Intentional	Rational & pietist, rooted in Scripture
Primary Pattern of Prayer and/or Approach to Scripture	Offices and associated <i>lectio divina</i>	Wordless contemplation; resting in God	Daily domestic rituals incorporate awareness of the Divine in poetic formulas	Discovering Christ, especially in persons on the margins and in natural wonders	Placing oneself within a Gospel situation and listening to Christ	Confession (a) of Jesus as Lord, and (b) of personal sins; and detailed study of scripture
Principal Ministry Focus	Hospitality and witness to an alternative way of life	Prayer support on behalf of all the world	Experiencing the Trinity as witness and presence in all events	Imitating Christ, especially in identification with and service to the poor	Redressing structural injustice wherever it is found	Sharing the Good News of Christ, and effecting personal salvation
Summary Approach to Spiritual Direction	Finding God in the midst of daily life, especially communal life and its rhythms	Moving from purgation of sins to illumination (seeing with the eyes of God) to union of spirit with God's very life	Nurturing a soul capable of deep friendship	Simplification of life and ever-deepening trust in God	Periodic intensive meditation on Christ's life and ministry as it illumines personal call	Discipling: following a more mature Christian and learning from him or her
Key Doctrine	Incarnation: God is with us	The Better Way: deep listening at the feet of Christ	Trinity: God's life in loving relationship to all creation	Creation and Crucifixion	The Great Commission: carry Christ's Spirit to the ends of the earth.	Justification by Faith through Christ's Atonement

Norvene Vest refers to this chart in the "Overview" section of Disc 1 of the DVD program

This chart is available online as a PDF file, at www.axisterrae.com