### Mindmap of Ven. Yinshun's preface in The Way to Buddhahood

# Reason underlying the myriad of wonderful teachings:

Buddhism is grounded in rationality, not just faith.
(Buddhism's fundamental quality)

### External unbiased aspects:

Myriad of wonderful teachings (Rich in variety and perfect in teaching)

#### **Internal Mind aspects:**

- 1. Unable to systematize all the teachings into one, don't know where to start.
- 2. Overlook that each teaching:
  - (1) has their targeted spiritual foundations,
  - (2) progresses in difficulty,
  - (3) mutually related, thinking they are generally the same.

#### Ven. Yinshun saw two main problems:

- 1. The belief that although there are many teachings, they are essentially the same: one teaching encompasses all, thus focusing on just a single drop of water in the ocean and forgoing the whole ocean, believing this drop is the ocean.
- 2. Unable to perfectly embrace all the Dharma teachings: praising to extreme the ones we accept, feeling they are the most supreme, they are all we need to understand and no other.

## Solutions put forward by past Masters:

- 1. The teachings of the Tiantai and Huayan Schools (focuses mainly on the ultimate teachings and ignore other teachings)
- 2. Je Tsongkhapa's *The Great Treatise on the Stages of the Path to Enlightenment*(utilizes the recollection of death as the entry way for the path shared with those of genuine lower capacity, this may not always accord with the practices of compassion and altruism in the Mahayana path)

#### Ven. Yinshun's solution and ideal:

Complied *The Way to Buddhahood* to elucidate an ideal solution by:

- Building on Master Taixu's teaching regarding the Buddha's true reason for appearing in this world—to teach humans to directly head for Buddhahood.
- Focusing on the cultivation of the ten wholesome righteous deeds, without neglecting the affairs of supporting one's livelihood. That is, to rely on the righteous practices of a human (as the beginning) of the practices for the Buddha vehicle.

#### Advantages:

- Encompasses the teachings of the five vehicles, three vehicles and the great vehicle.
- Encompasses all the teachings on the righteous normal path and the special expedient path
- Completely and perfectly reveals the stages on the path to Buddhahood, providing a guide to the ultimate and unsurpassed stage of Buddhahood.