



Global Missions
Health Conference

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DO NOT POST

Honor Shame Dynamics: How to serve effectively

*Understand misunderstandings when reaching
out with compassion in honor-shame cultures.*

Alex.Tee@OMFmail.com

Honor Shame Dynamics: How to serve effectively

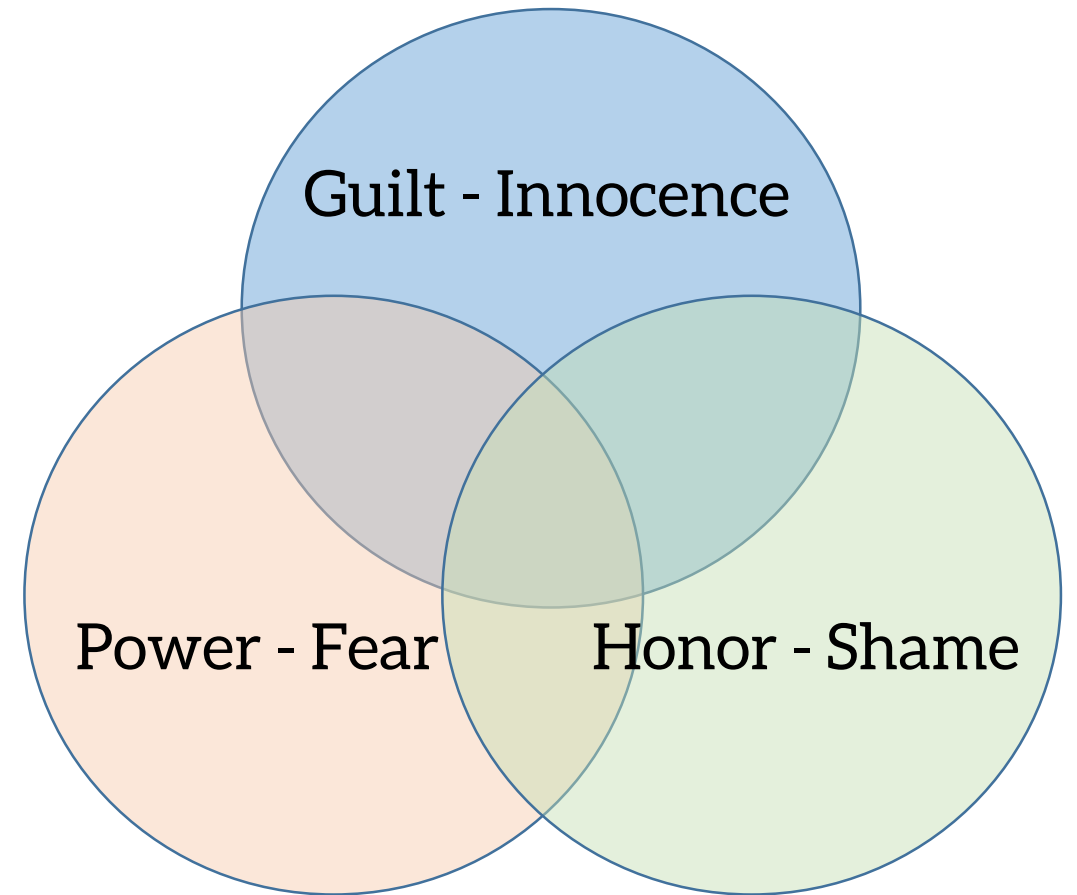
Understand misunderstandings when reaching out with compassion in honor shame cultures.

When we show Christ's love, people interpret what we do based on their worldview. In Honor-Shame cultures, people might misinterpret and see in our actions merit making, proselytization or apostasy, however pure our motivation may be. We will look at honor-shame based worldviews, come to understand how and why people may misinterpret what we do and look at risks and practices that may help us show and share God's love appropriately. To illustrate, the workshop will use observations from relief and urban poor work in SE Asia. Application is relevant both overseas or close to home when reaching out to neighbors from honor-shame contexts.



deals with:

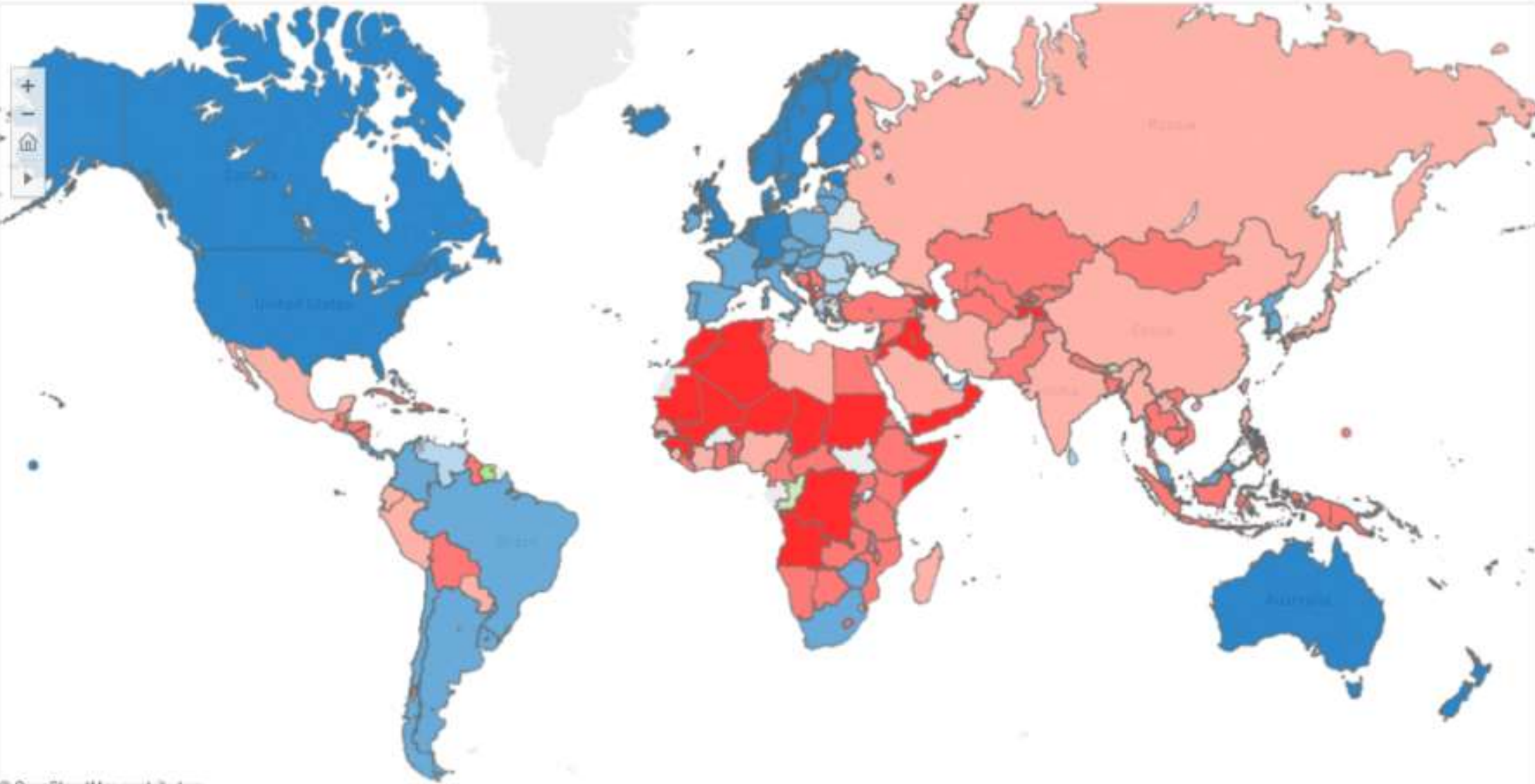
- ✓ Guilt-Innocence: right-wrong, facts
- ✓ Power-Fear: control, order
- ✓ Honor-Shame: relationship, belonging



*Interrelated
Gospel deals with each*

Take the [http://theculturetest.com/!](http://theculturetest.com/)

Global Map of Culture Types



- Culture Type Levels**
 - Shame High
 - Shame Medium
 - Shame Low
 - Guilt High
 - Guilt Medium
 - Guilt Low
 - Fear High
 - Fear Medium
 - Fear Low
- Education**
 - Masters
 - Bachelors
 - High School
 - No Response
- Residency in Country**
 - Primary
 - Host: 10+ years
 - Host: 4-9 years
 - Host: <3 years
 - No Response
- Age**

13 ————— 98
- Ethnicity/Culture**

- Sex**
 - Female
 - Male
 - No Response

© OpenStreetMap contributors

+ a b l e o u



<https://honorshame.com/map/>

Eastern Cultures



Western Cultures



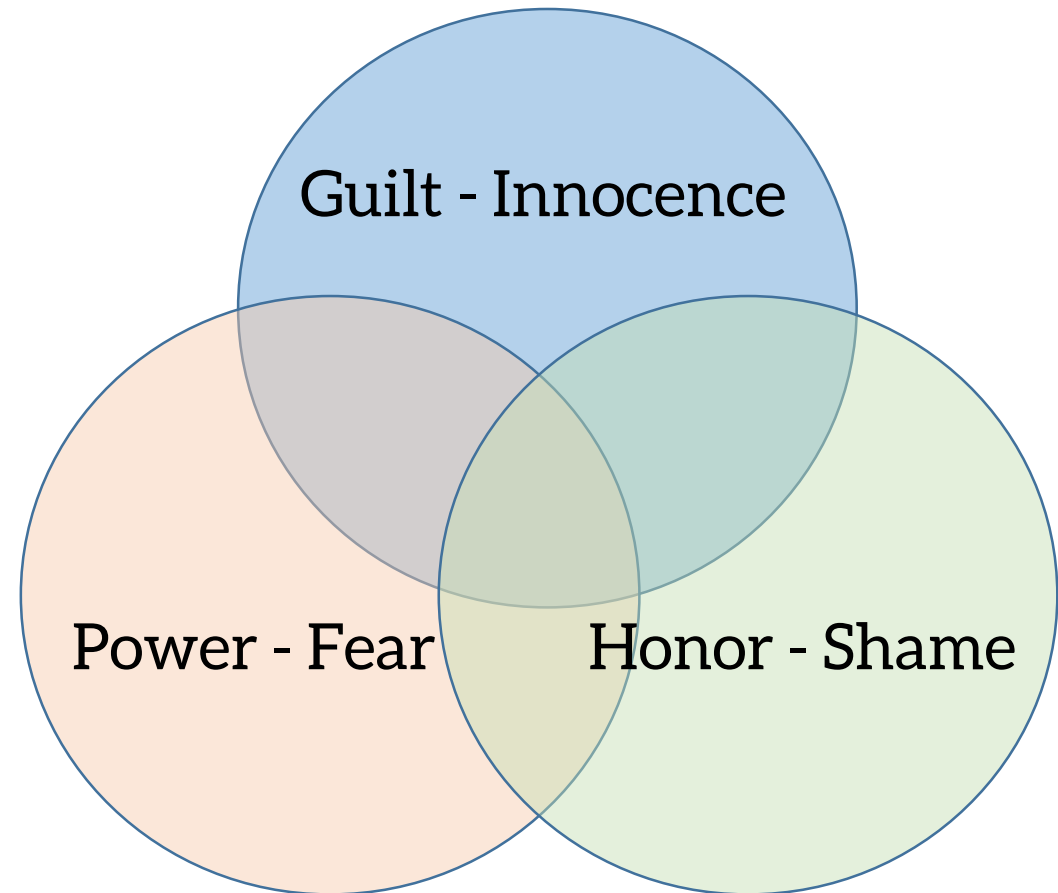
Shame = fear, pain or state of being *devalued* according to

- One's **own** standards
- **Social** standards
- **Sacred** standards

(Jackson Wu)

Shame = about who you are (seen as)

Guilt = about what you have done



WEST

Cultural Vantage Points

EAST

EQUALITY

seems disrespectful



Relationships

HIERARCHY

seems oppressive

TASK-FOCUS

seems unkind



Time

EVENT-FOCUS

seems inconsiderate

HONESTY

seems rude



Speech

HARMONY

seems dishonest

INDEPENDENCE

seems stingy



Money

PATRONAGE

seems corrupt

EFFICIENCY

seems neglectful



Food

HOSPITALITY

seems ostentatious

GUILT-BASED

seems shameless

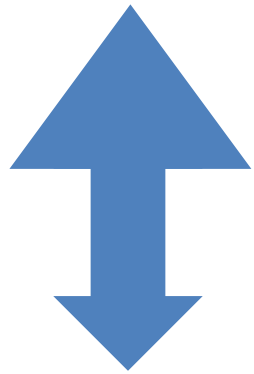


Ethics

SHAME-BASED

seems lawless

Shame = about who you feel you are
(or what others ascribe)



Guilt = about what you have done

**Shame draws the question
of what am I guilty off.
Sometimes it is not
something you have done
or not done!**

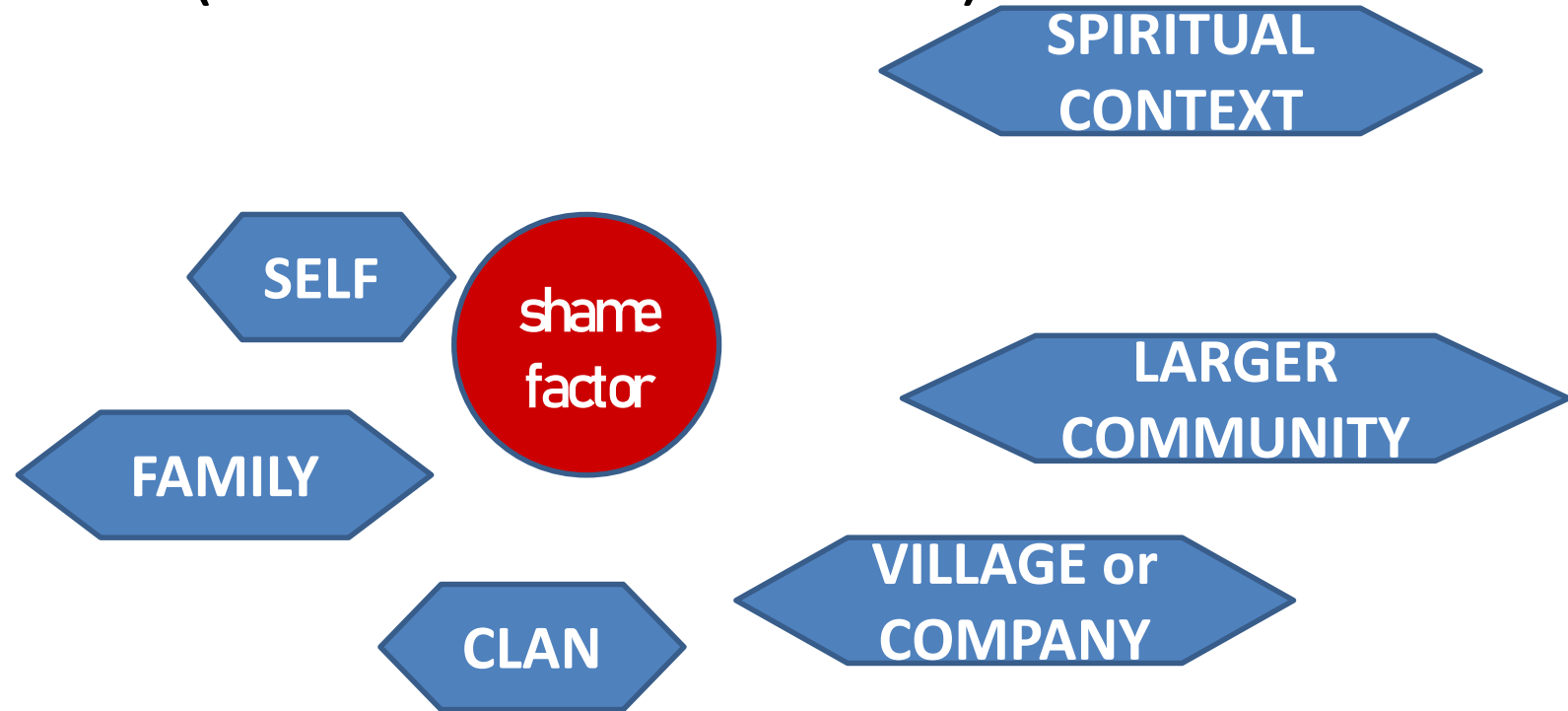
**Guilt will give a reason for
shame, if not in eyes of
others, at least before God
and self (unless it is
surpressed)**

- A mistake
- A deliberate choice
- A disability
- Lack of resources
- A misfortune
- A disaster
- attacked, pain, suffering...
- Association with others having shame



circles of shame

(who feels the shame?)

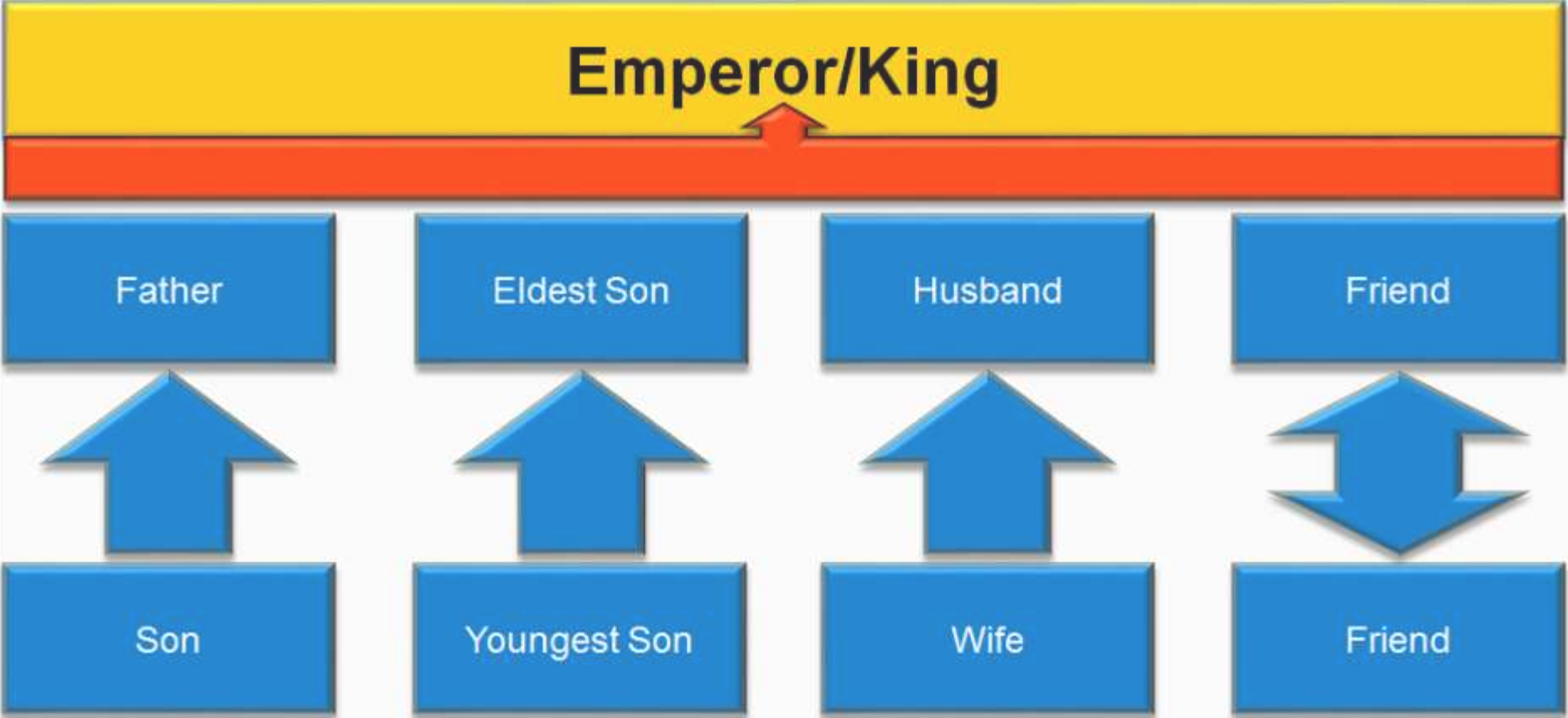


- What is shamed?
- What is blamed?

Varies with the kind of shame factor

- Arab Bedouin proverb: “I against my brothers. I and my brothers against my cousins. I and my brothers and my cousins against the world.”
- Trust is given first to the closest of relationships and diminishes with distance.

Confucianism



Benevolence
/
Loyalty

Love/
Filial Piety

Kindness/
Deference

Righteous-
ness/Sub-
missiveness

Fidelity/
Fidelity

Descent/heritage

Order of birth

Gender

Age

Decision

Religion

Ascribed



Performance

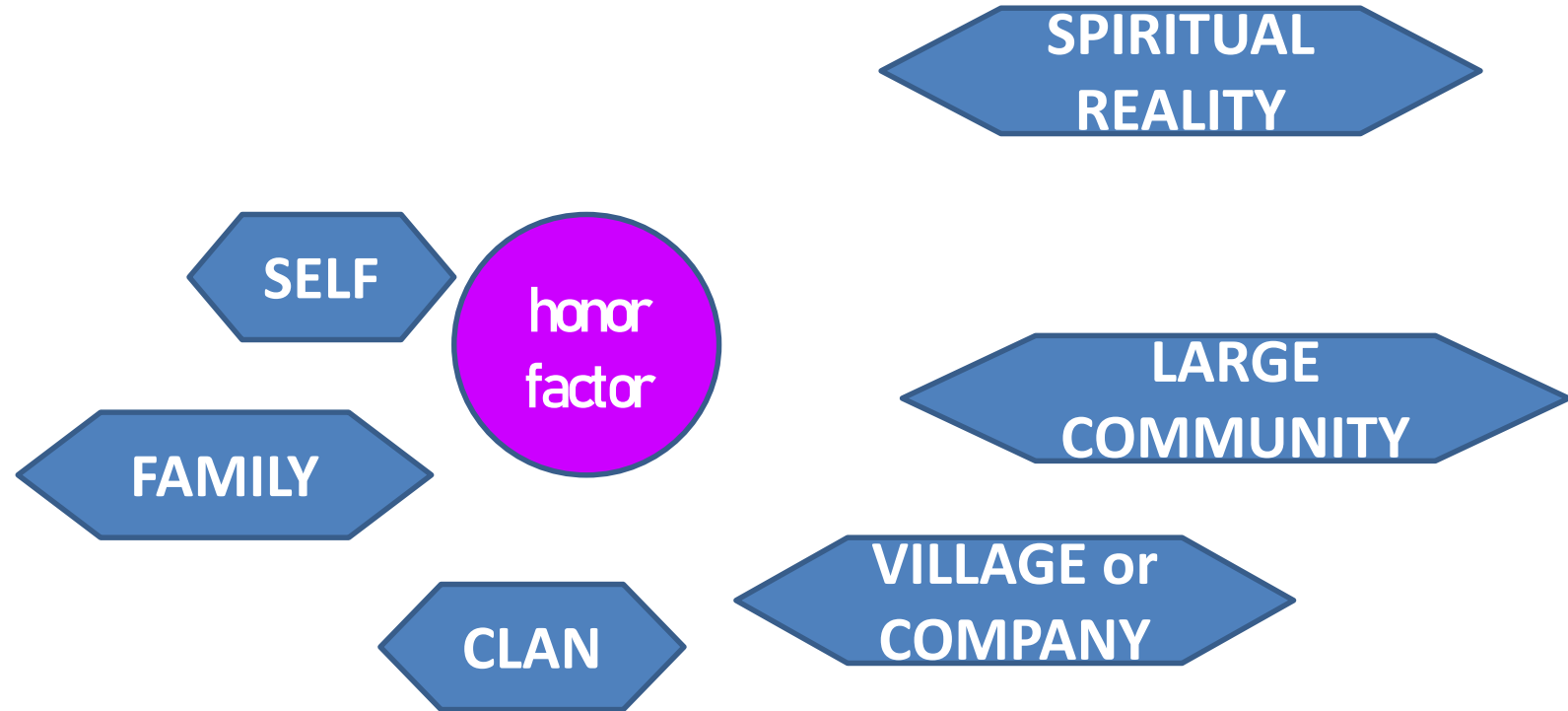
Works

Heroism

(money/wealth/power)

Achieved

circles of honor



Honor ascribed

Honor achieved

striving for more honor

Belittling others to gain honor status.

Telling 'white lies'

Aggression

Making others lower so you stand out more! → paralyzes:
work, growth, overall status of a project.

- Outsiders: Trust must be earned over time. The less you have in common religiously, culturally, and linguistically, the less trust there will ever be.

in Christ

Descent/heritage
Order or birth
Gender
Age
Decision
Religion



Ascribed



Performance
Works
Heroism
(money/wealth)



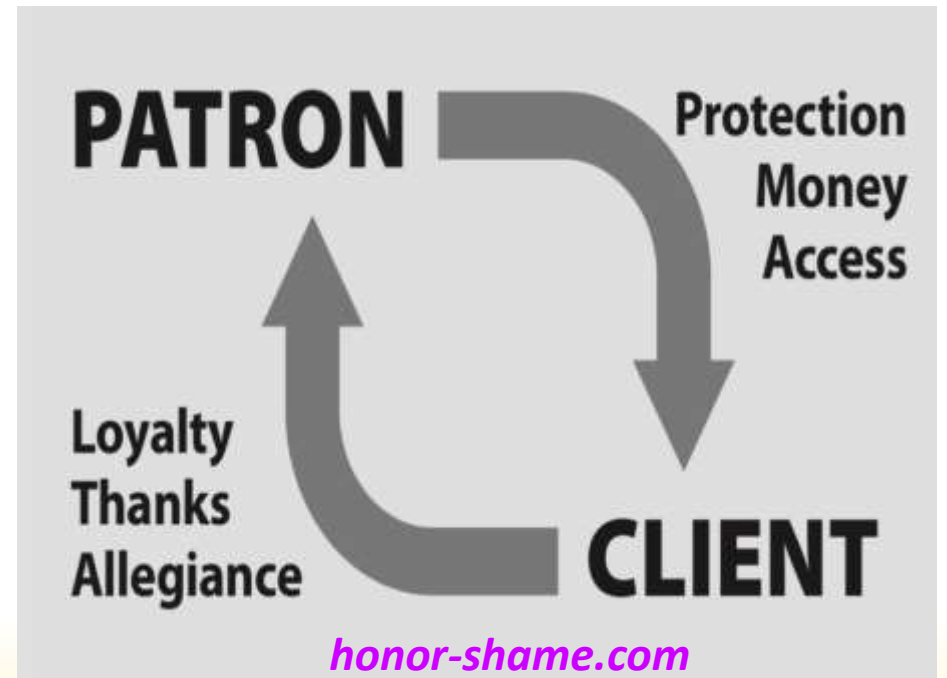
Achieved

Jn 1:12-13 But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were **born**, not of **blood** nor of the **will of the flesh** nor of the **will of man**, but **of God**.

social structure based on honor/shame

Patron – Client relationship: a mutual arrangement between a person that has authority, social status, wealth, or some other personal resource (patron) and another who benefits from their support or influence (client). (Wikipedia).

Social structures based on/reflect status.



WESTERN WORLD



MAJORITY WORLD

Context:
in an honor-shame host culture

setting up something new!

TRADITIONAL STRUCTURE

= **ESTABLISHED** HONOR RANKINGS

(elders, status, ...)

NEW STRUCTURE

= **NEW** HONOR RANKINGS!

(e.g. a **hospital** or **university** or *church*)

- Outsiders with no or different status.
- Insiders with new achieved status and skills.
- New honor competition!
- ➔ Seek honor (respect) for local culture

setting up something new!

- Explain the new relationships. (Model servant leadership)
- Know and involve the honor-shame circle of people involved
 - You are not hiring just individuals for a job, but their honor-shame circle influence as well (family, friends, ...). The repercussions of that will show up differently if you are host or guest in the culture.
- Decide where explicit ministry happens (counting the cost of opposition for one, a few, or many). Factors include the size of group where conversations happen.
 - Inside
 - Outside

Decision Making Differences

and how it affects leadership

West (Guilt Innocence)

Select, pick and chose what is good, leave rest. Not based on the whole story or relationship.

Critical thinking, asking questions

East (Honor-Shame)

Follow only and all when status is honorable

(leadership → coaching)

(honor of person > content of training in HS)

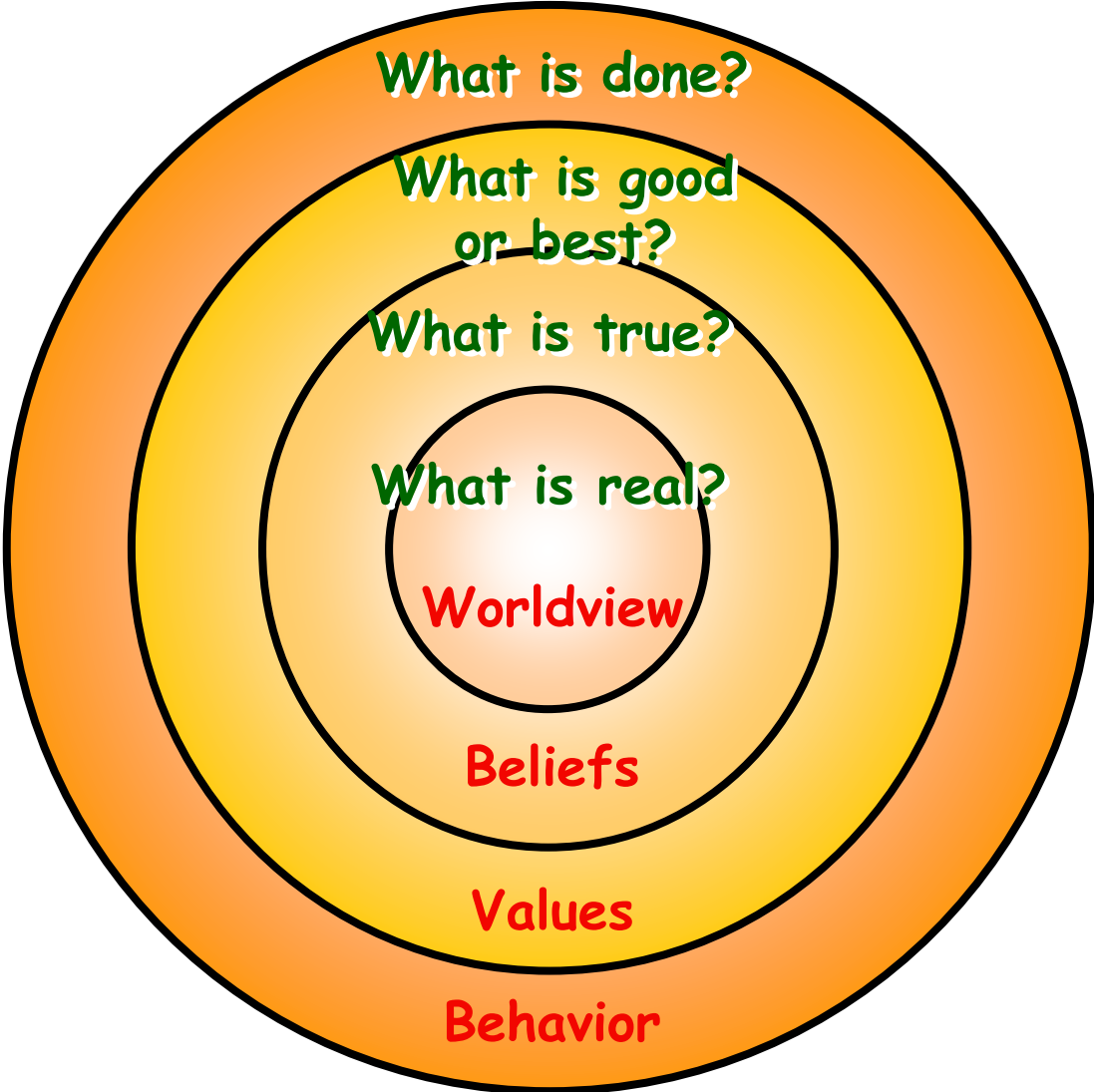
Serving with Compassion

What we mean

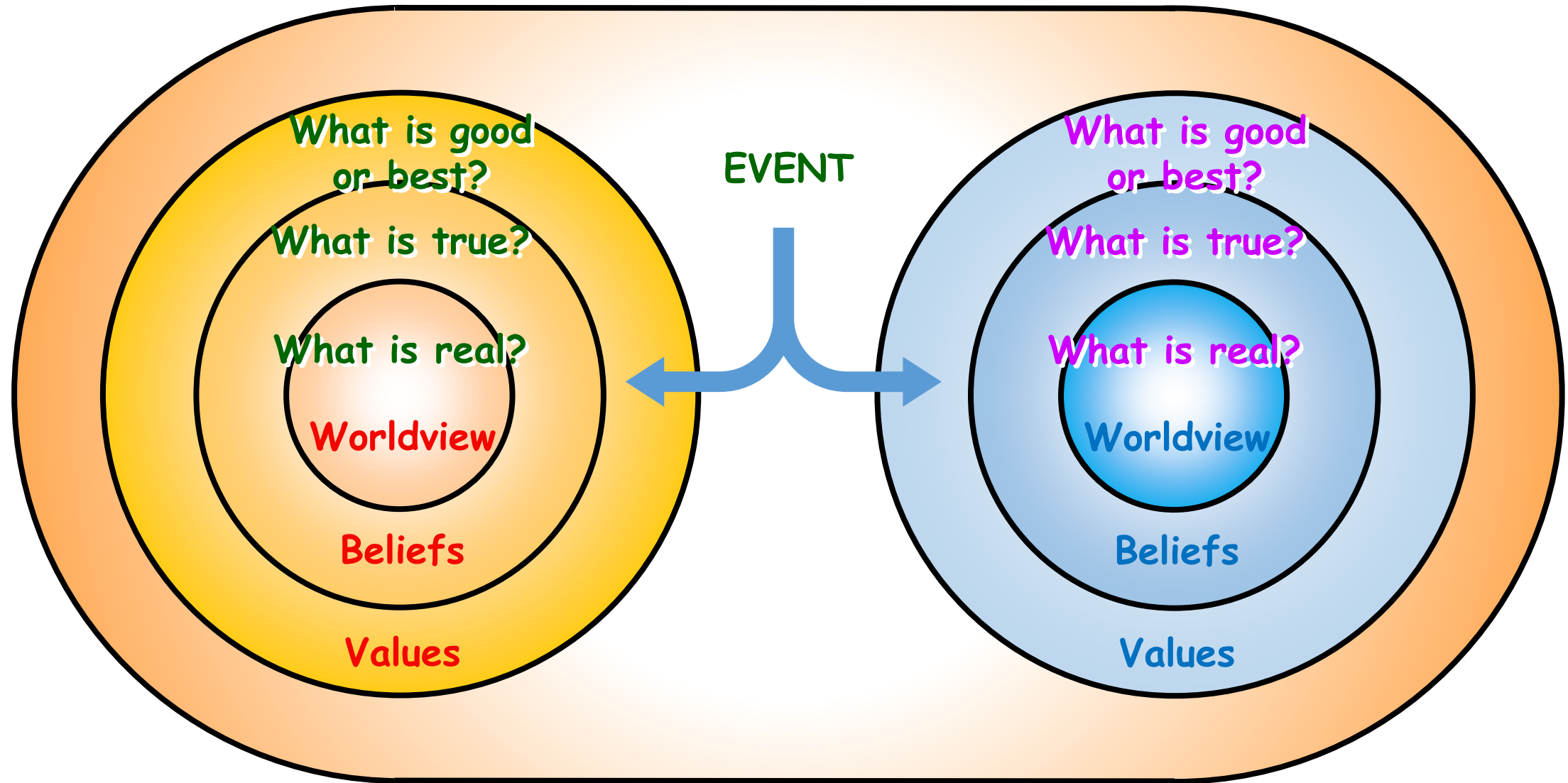
What they see



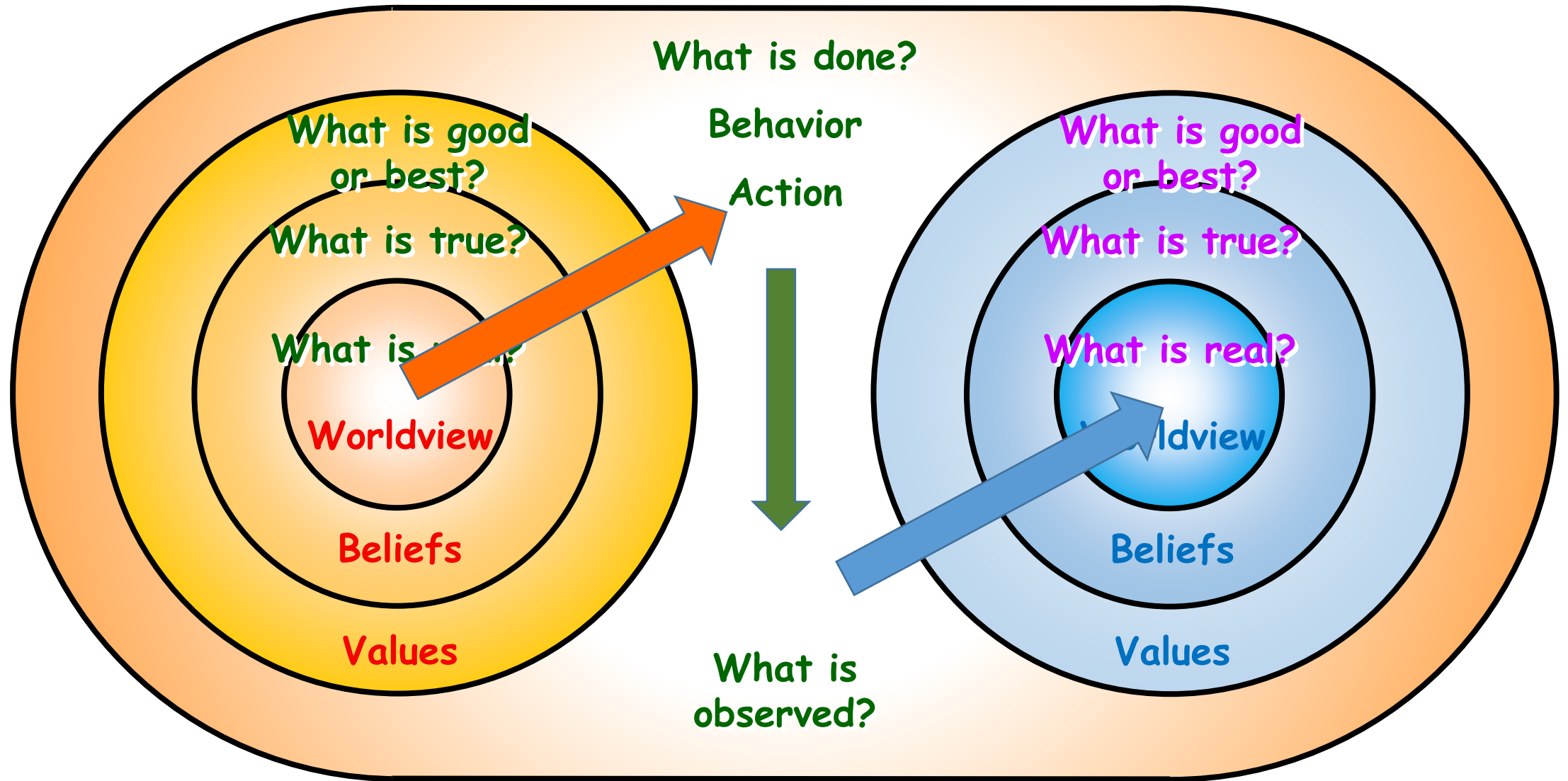
UNDERSTANDING a PERSON or a CULTURE



different interpretations and responses to an event

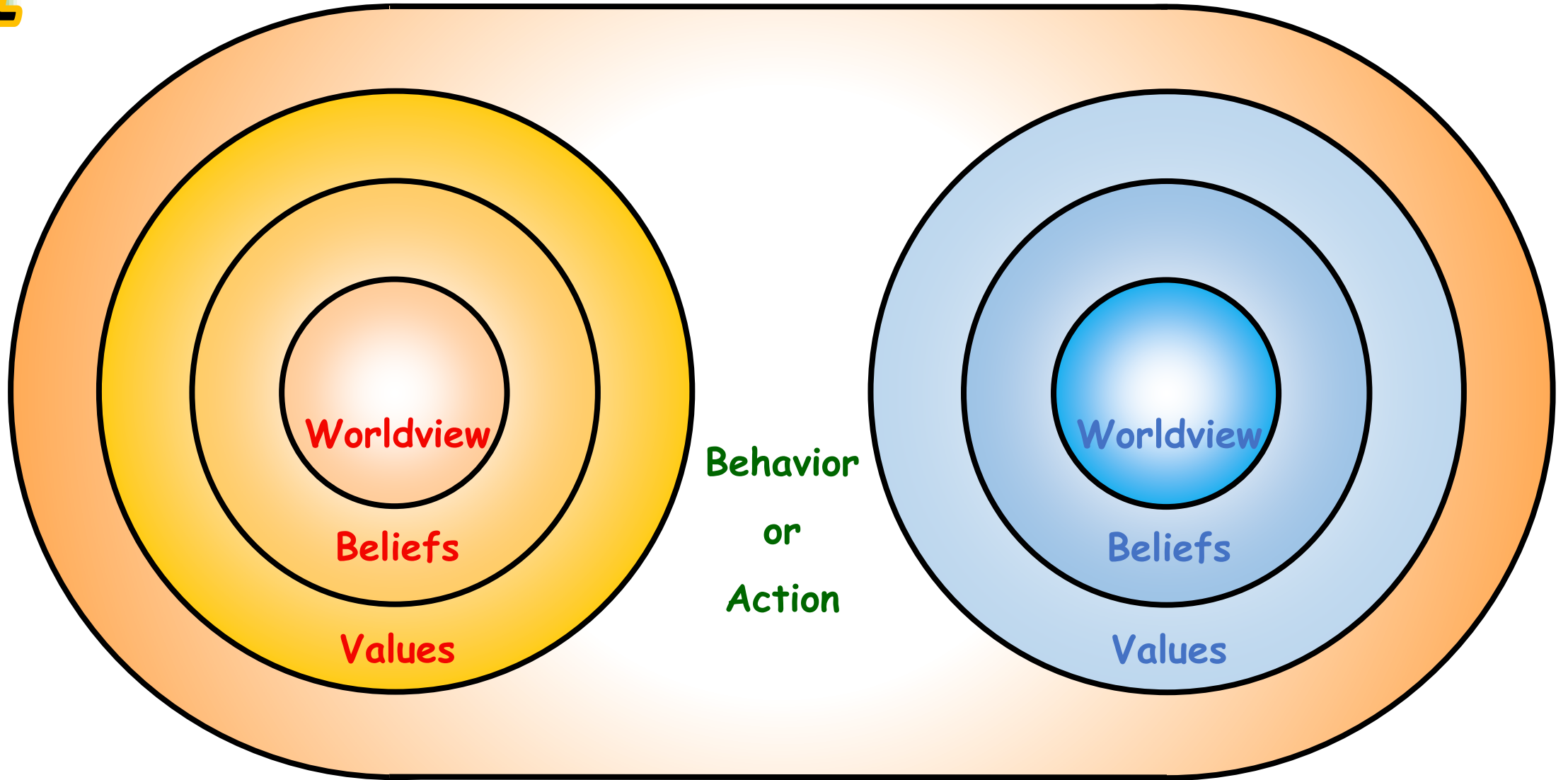


what is done by **one** is observed by the **other**



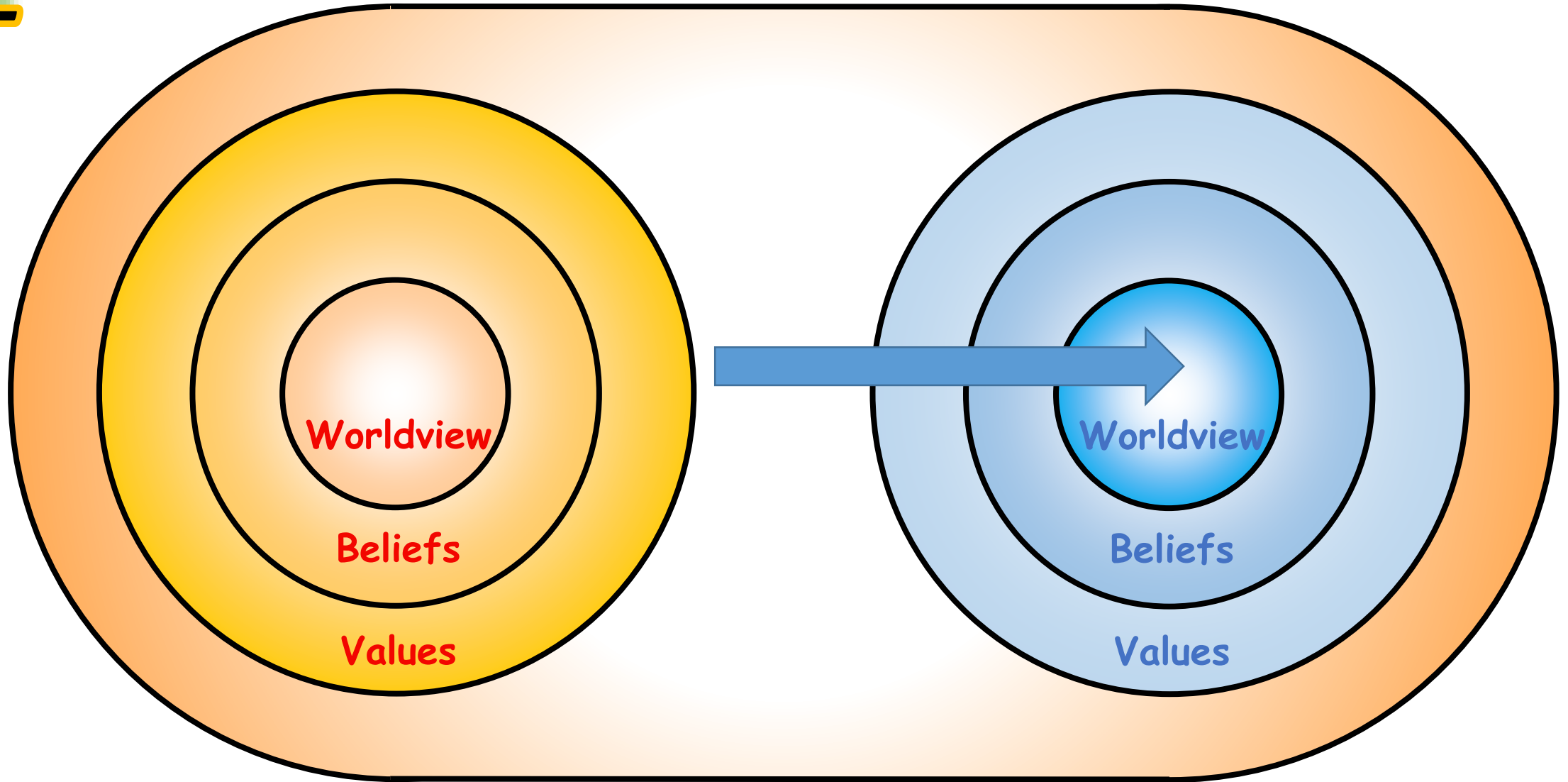
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Worldview differences



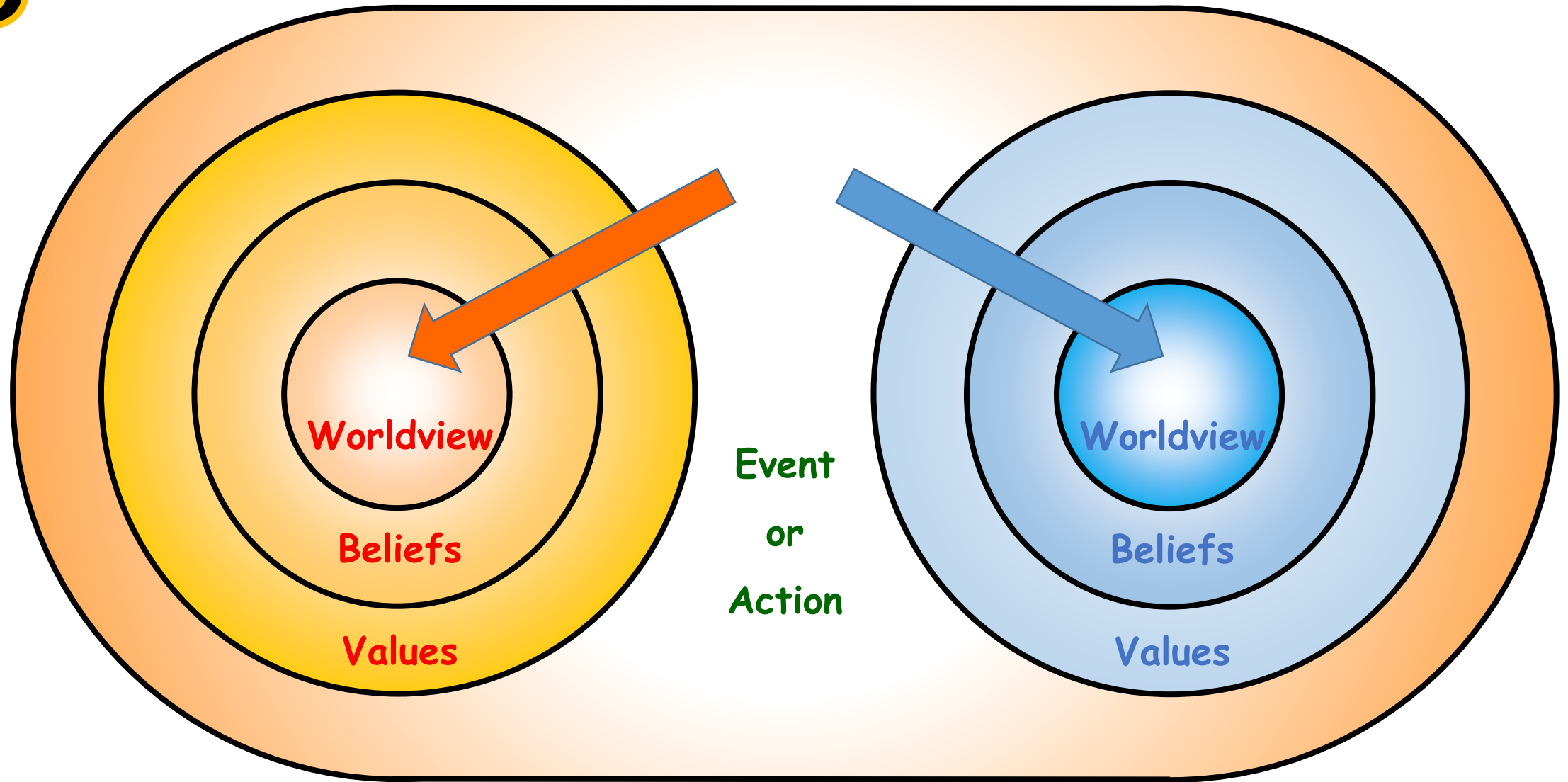
2

How do they see us?



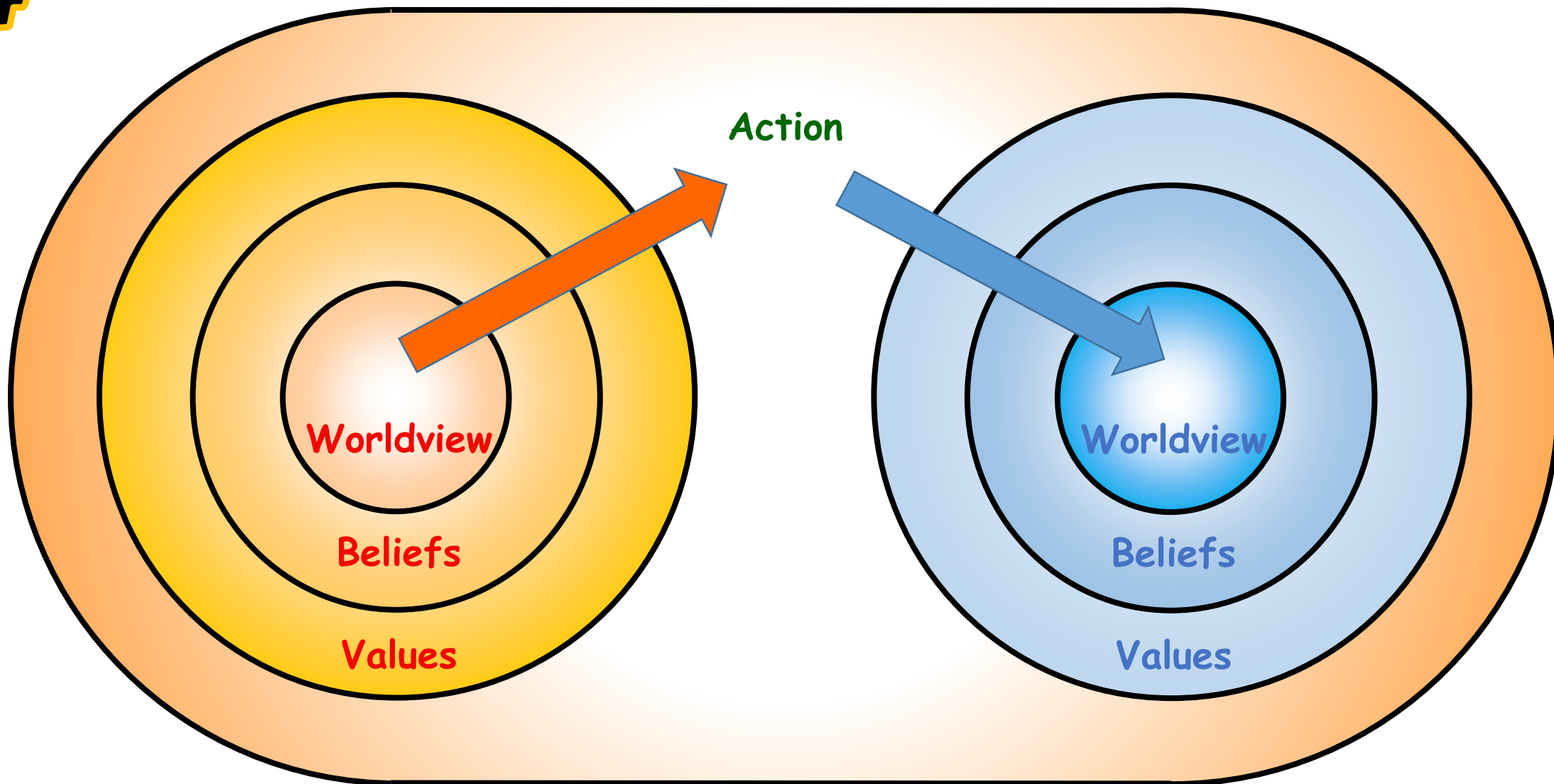
Making sense of an event

3

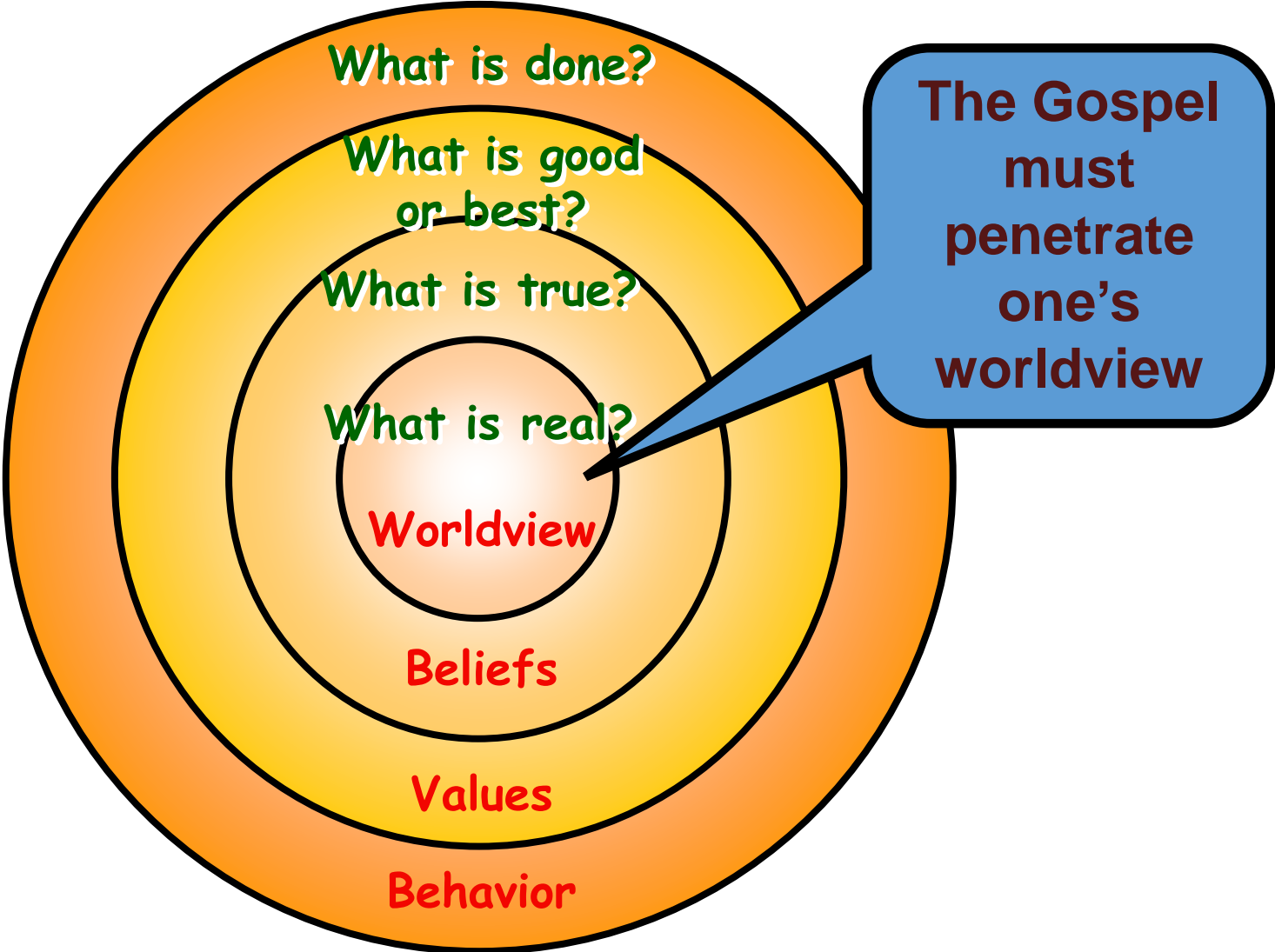


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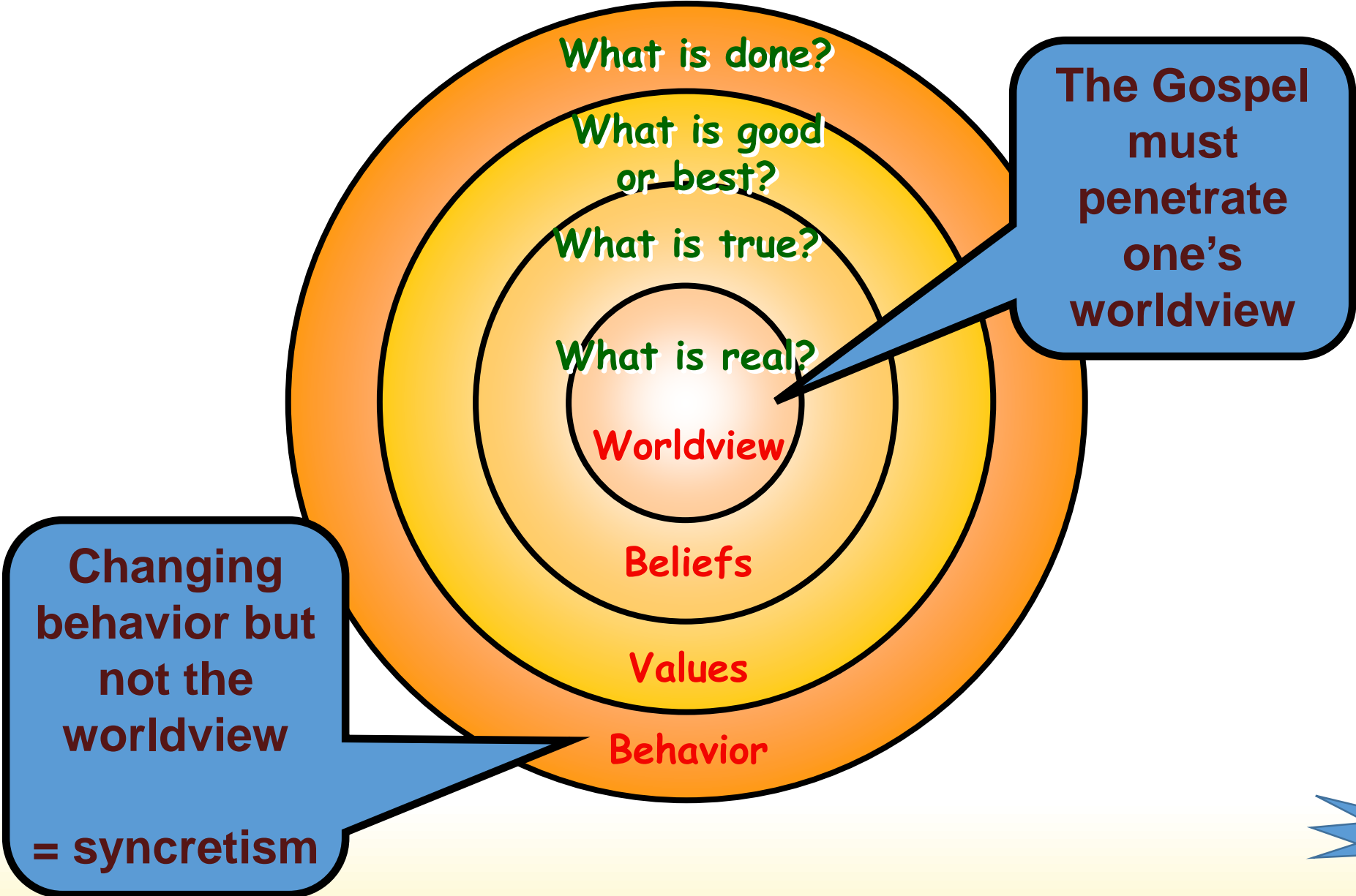
Our response and how it is interpreted



UNDERSTANDING a PERSON or a CULTURE



UNDERSTANDING a PERSON or a CULTURE



What is done?

What is good or best?

What is true?

What is real?

Worldview

Beliefs

Values

Behavior

The Gospel must penetrate one's worldview

Changing behavior but not the worldview = syncretism



Physical Needs

Urban Poor:

- economic
- health
- environmental
- education
- disabled
- drugs, addictions
- street children
- prostitution
- domestic abuse



Shame Factors

Physical Needs

- the poor (rural)
- environmental
- migration to city
- transmigration
- trafficking, slavery
- war, terrorism
- refugees, IDPs
- epidemics...



Physical Needs

Disasters:

- Earthquakes
- Floods
- Landslides
- Tsunamis
- Volcanic eruptions
- Accidents (planes, trains, ferries, fires...)



David Longstreath Associated Press

NEEDS in the Muslim World

- 60% of the world's poorest people are Muslim
- 75% of the world's refugees are Muslim

(adapted from Keith Swartley in Encountering the World of Islam, p46)



*...their physical needs...
an open door to their whole being
to bring the Good News
and introduce Jesus ?*



*In the context of their other questions
(honor-shame struggles among themselves)*

- **What is the real face of Islam?**



*In the context of their other questions
(honor-shame struggles among themselves)*

- **What is the real face of Islam?**



*In the context of their other questions
(honor-shame struggles among themselves)*

- globalization





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When Worldviews Clash while showing compassion



From The Times
July 25, 2005

Christians face jail for giving treats to children of Muslims



Indonesia: Missionaries expelled for baptisms, converts from Islam sent to re-education camp

« Defaced Koran angers Nashville Muslims | Main | Australia: Free speech farce »

June 25, 2005

Indonesia: three Christian women arrested for attempting to convert Muslims

Three Women Arrested, Charged," from Compass News Service
June 23 (Compass) -- A Muslim

Christians Defy Law to Convert Muslims in Tsunami Aftermath

U.S. & World

- NEWS ARCHIVE
HOT TOPICS
- Sound Off in the FOX Forum
 - Obama's First 100 Days
 - Celebrity Gossip

FOXNEWS.COM HOME > WORLD > NATIONAL

Tsunami Aid Workers Suspected of Trying to Convert Muslims

Friday, January 21, 2005

Associated Press



LADONG, Indonesia — The Americans in matching T-shirts were greeted as heroes when they arrived one afternoon with clean water and medical care. But how the help something the tsunami survivors could scarcely comprehend.

The forces of faith, fund-raising and globe-trotting volunteerism have opened a Christian aid to one of the most religiously conservative corners of Muslim Ind



RED ALERT !! TRICK dan Strategi Pemurtada



*Sebagian Besar Ahli Kitab Menginginkan Agar Mereka dapat mengembalikan Kamu Pada Setelah Kamu beriman, Karena Dengki Yang (Timbul) dari Diri Mereka Sendiri, Setelah Nyata Bagi Mereka Kebenaran. Maka Ma'ankanlah Biarkanlah Mereka, Sampai Allah Mendatangkan PerintahNYA (82). Sesungguhnya Allah Maha Kuasa Atas Segala Sesuatu" (Surah (2): 108) Made By Sayid Manzura Khan

VALENTINE'S DAY? **NOT** FOR ME BECAUSE I AM A MUSLIM

Search for people, places and things

alamat Datang Di Page SMK **STOP MISI KRISTENISASI**

TO GROUP

KEBENARAN DAN TILAN

STOP PEMURTADAN & MENGHALALKAN SEGALA CARA

AWAS! KRISTENISASI DAN PEMURTADAN Di Sekitar Anda

STOP MISI KRISTENISASI

15,515 likes · 2,952 talking about this



INVITE TO THE WAY OF YOUR LORD WITH WISDOM AND FAIR PREACHING, AND ARGUE WITH ANY WAY THAT IS BETTER.

Siloam Hospitals

RAHANG MINANG #TOLAKSILOAM

KENAPA HARUS MEHOLAK??? TEMUKAN JAWABANNYA!!

Aksi Long march >> start dari masjid Nurul Iman Pasar Raya Padang

Mari BERGABUNG bersama ribuan orang Mahasiswa dan Masyarakat dalam aksi

Kamis 28



AWAS...!! KRISTENISASI BERKEDOK ISLAM



SAVEMARYAM.COM TWITTER.COM/SAVEMARYAM

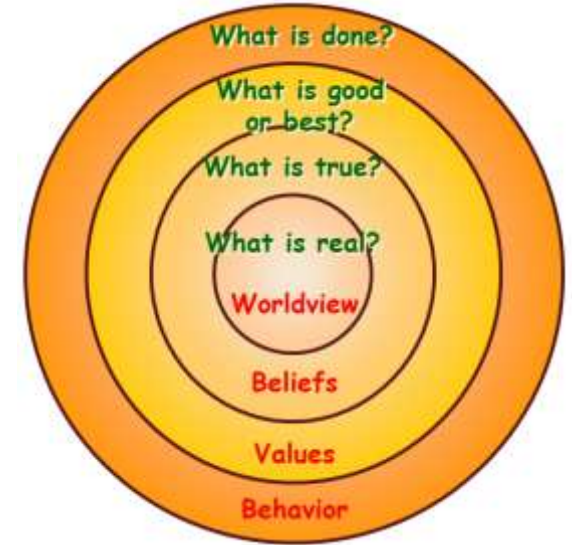
From a Muslim Point of View

How Christians Convert Muslims:

- Education (young children)
- Health care, Medicine
- Philanthropy (giving out food, school fees...)
- Book publishing
- Internet, media
- Dating, pregnancy, marriage
- Drugs (plus rehabilitation)
- Mysticism, spells

<http://viva-khilafah.blogspot.com/2008/09/motif-kristenisasi-menjadikan-orang.html>

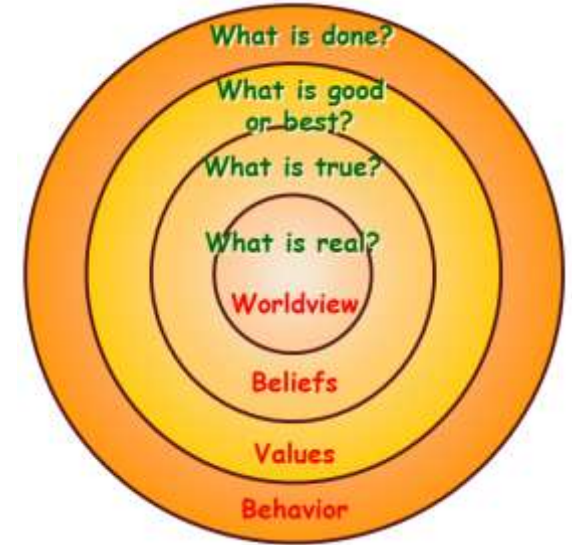
<https://tabligh.id/gerakan-kristenisasi-gayabaru-diindonesia-part2/>



From a Muslim Point of View

What are our motives giving help?

- making money: paid by a big organization
- merit making: getting blessings from God
- superiority: our ways are better so we come to you
- gaining power: imposing culture and values in order to exploit
- making converts: development is just a pretext



note the honor factors in these motives!

Paul Bendor Samuel, Interserve - Initial Reflections on Holistic Ministries in an Islamic Context.

St. Francis Magazine Nr.2 Vol.III (September 2007)



Five Pillars of Islam



Practice depends more on conforming to rules than to principles from the heart
= **achieved honor**

- Declaration of faith
- Prayer 5x daily
- Almsgiving (1/40th)
- Fasting month
- Pilgrimage to Mecca

relevant Worldview Differences

ISLAM	CHRISTIANITY
man: weak (=sin), knowledge is the issue, obedience overcomes	man: made in the image of God + sin (depravity): needs an external savior
One, a distant God we cannot get to know and who can do anything he wants to.	Trinity, relational, loving (already before creating anything). Intimately involved in our lives.
God's rule thru Sharia (external)	God's rule from within (Holy Spirit), overflowing outwardly
unity in community → uniformity religion = culture = law = society	unity in diversity, many cultures, individuality also acknowledged, the church





FATALISM
{“Insha’Allah”}



- “If God wills” (‘the Lord willing’)
- Practically “Whatever happens is God’s will”

Allah’s moral character is ultimately unknowable, and Allah’s ways are beyond all understanding. Muslims are not certain about God’s ultimate attitude or will towards them (incl. forgiveness)

<http://www.30-days.net/reveal/fatalism/>

a distant love

- Allah's names are *the most merciful* الرَّحْمَانُ and *most loving* الْوَدُودُ, but for practical reasons he is primarily *judge and ruler*.
- Allah is not known in the day to day affairs of the life of a Muslim (searching for that power/love)

Perhaps nothing more separates Christianity from Islam
more than the attitude toward **suffering**

For the Muslim, suffering is not part of God's will, but a part of weakness.

Islam denies the cross, not from historical certainty, but out of theological necessity.

to suffer = shame



Two Different Ways

Theological opposites as illustrated by their origins:

Islam begins when the prophet Mohammed flees Mecca from suffering and persecution (= shame) and goes to Medina (the *Hijra*). There he builds up political and military power as tools for his purposes and own freedom (honor).

Christianity begins with Christ, God incarnate, refusing the way of military and political power, and choosing suffering and persecution in order to set a sin and shame-suffering humanity free.

Honor & Shame

Power, wealth, success and even knowledge are signs of God's blessing or of being on "God's side"

There is no right to change your religion (out of Islam)

"A Muslim who renounces Islam has, in Allah's judgment, forfeited his right to live; he has committed ... high treason" (Imam Muhammad Al-Asi, Imam of the Islamic Center, Washington, D.C., 2005)



***From a Muslim Point of View:
'Historic' Honor-Shame issues***

“Christians have sinned against Muslims” {crusades, colonial period, Israel, ...}

Christians don't have God's latest revelation, Christianity is only second best...

➔ *Just being attached to something associated with Christianity
can bring a sense of shame.*

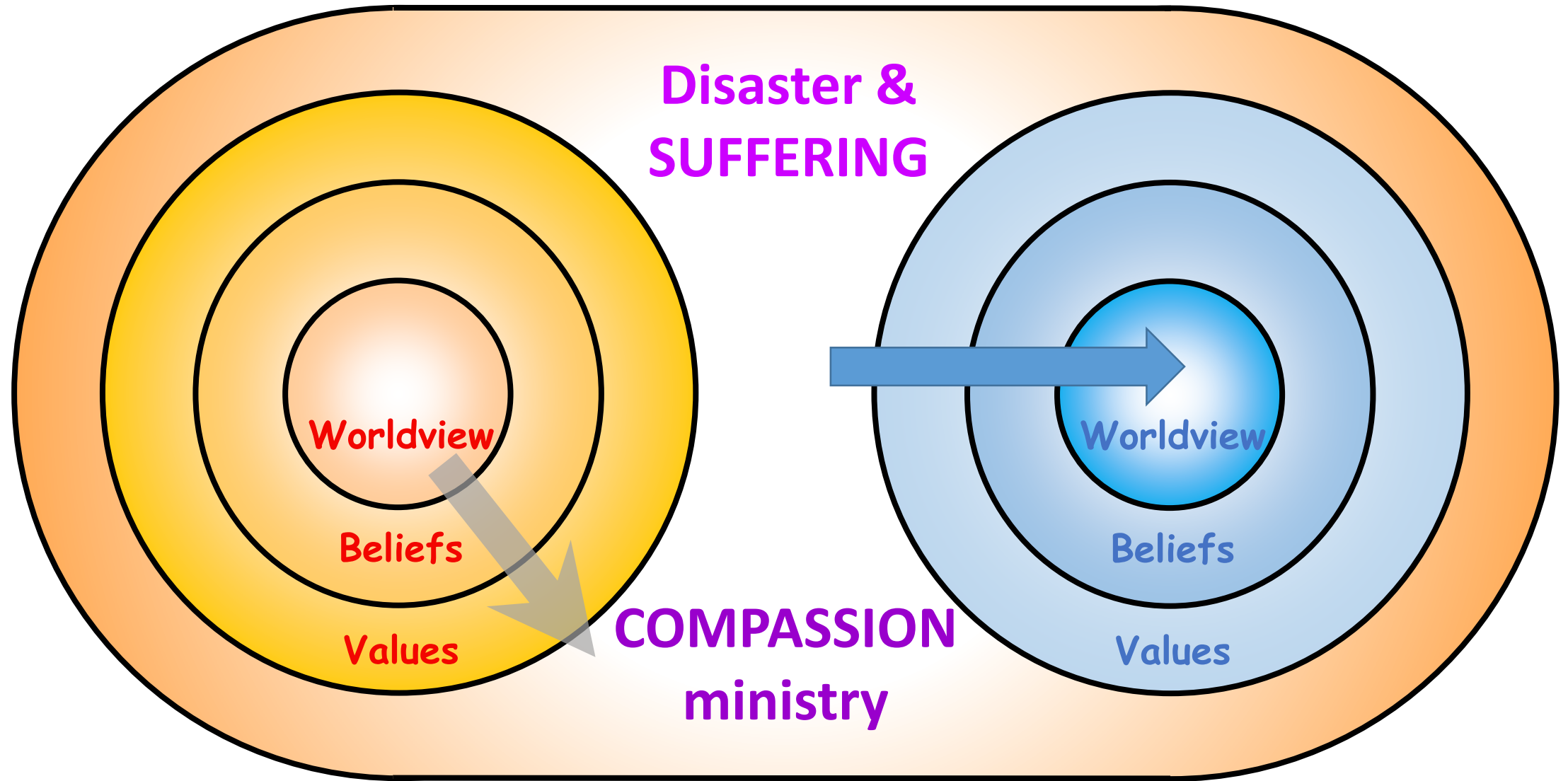
How Muslims make sense of:

- Suffering of good Muslims?
- Outsiders that come to help?

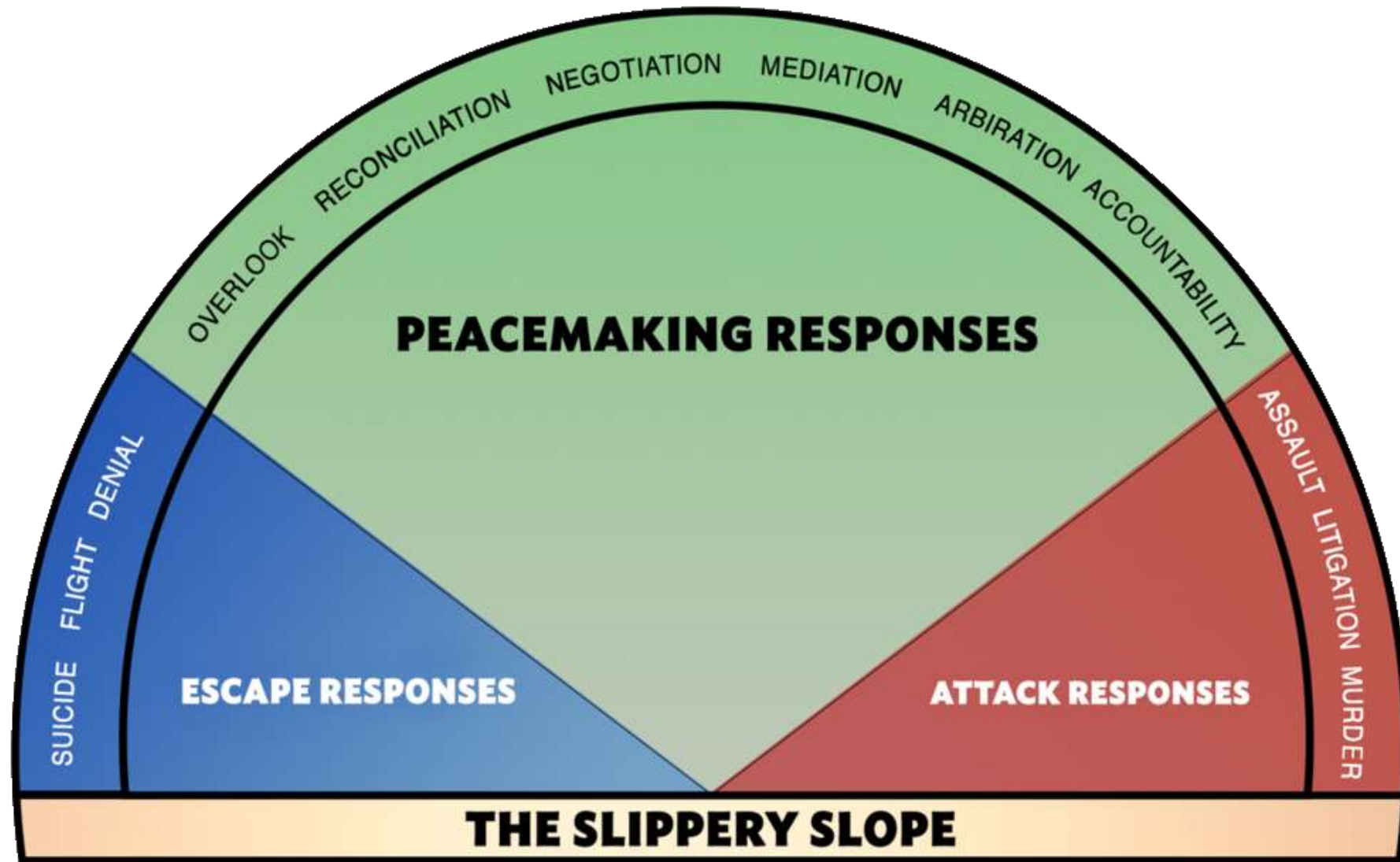


Christians (outside or inside)

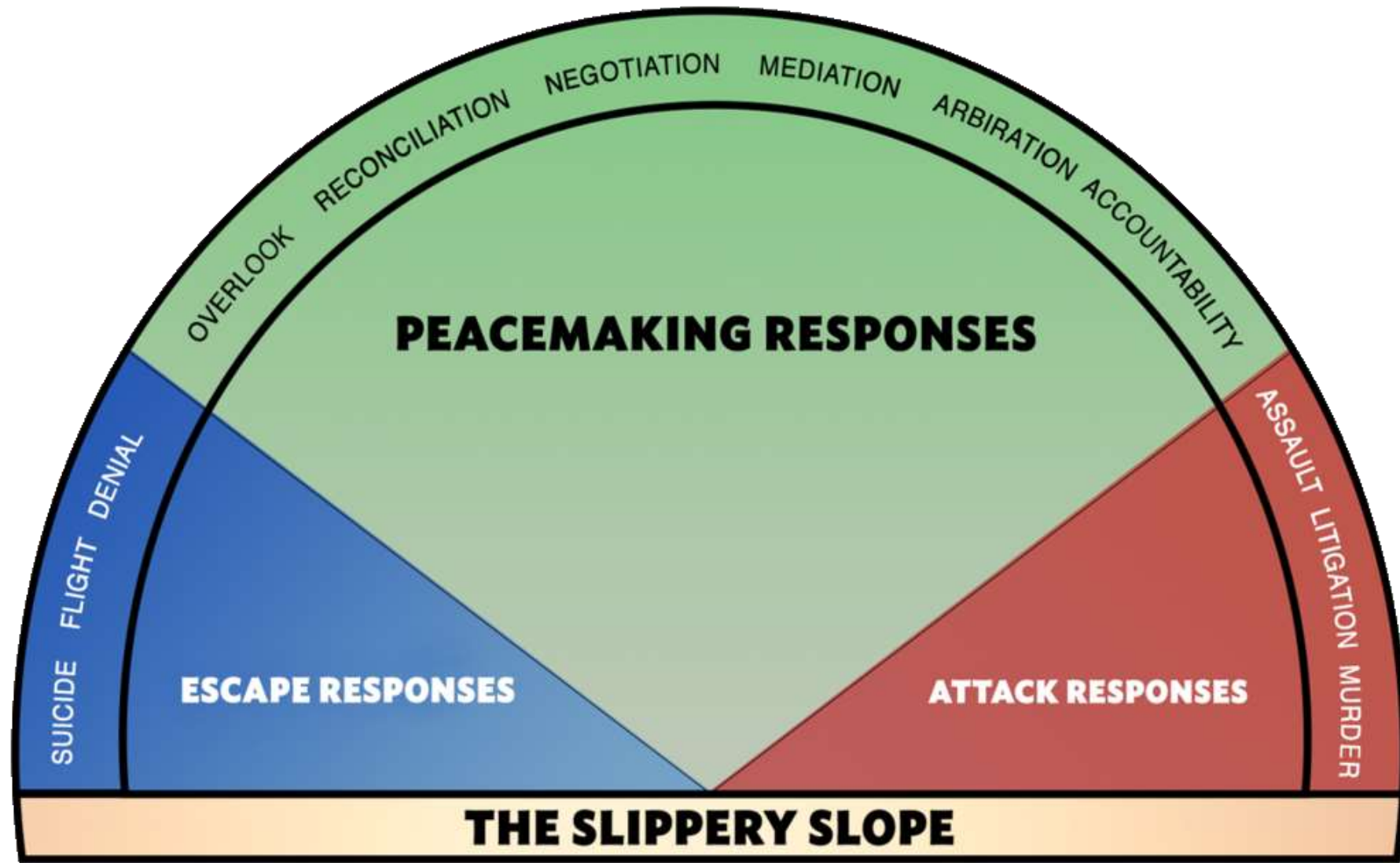
Muslims (inside +)



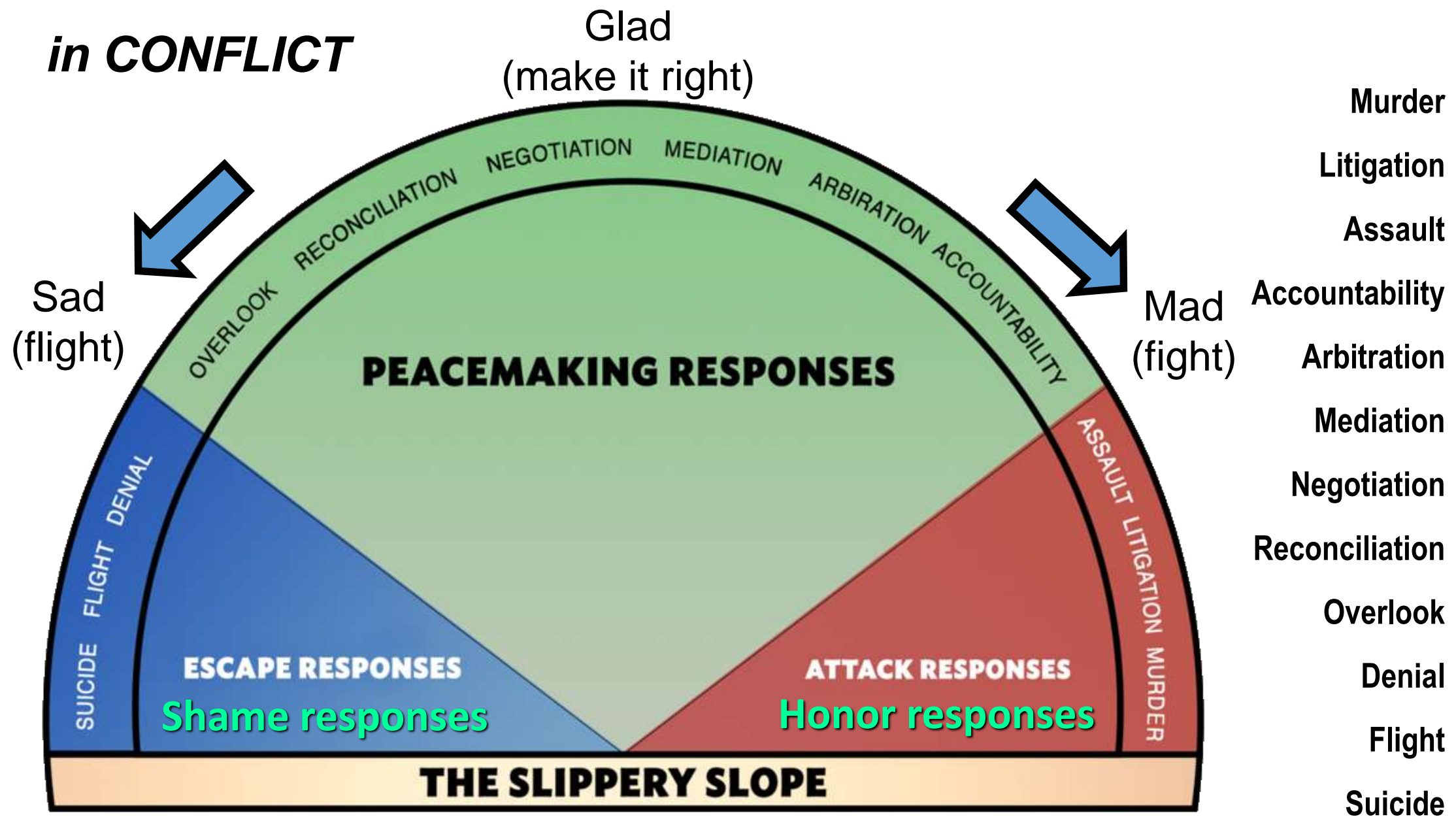
in CONFLICT



in CONFLICT



- Murder
- Litigation
- Assault
- Accountability
- Arbitration
- Mediation
- Negotiation
- Reconciliation
- Overlook
- Denial
- Flight
- Suicide



ATTACK



Murder
Litigation
Assault

Honor

Accountability
Arbitration
Mediation
Negotiation
Reconciliation
Overlook



PEACEMAKING

ESCAPE



Denial
Flight
Suicide

Shame

ATTACK

Murder
Litigation
Assault

Honor

Love

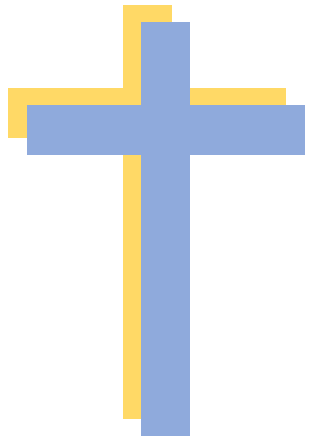
Accountability
Arbitration
Mediation
Negotiation
Reconciliation
Overlook

PEACEMAKING

ESCAPE

Denial
Flight
Suicide

Shame



Love

ATTACK

ESCAPE

Murder
Litigation
Assault

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Overlook

Denial
Flight
Suicide

Honor

PEACEMAKING

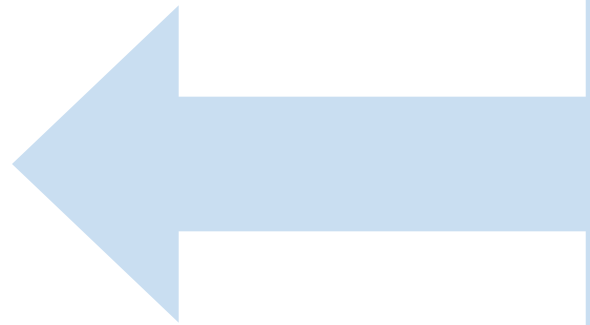
Shame

the missing
middle in
honor-shame
cultures

Honor

?

Shame

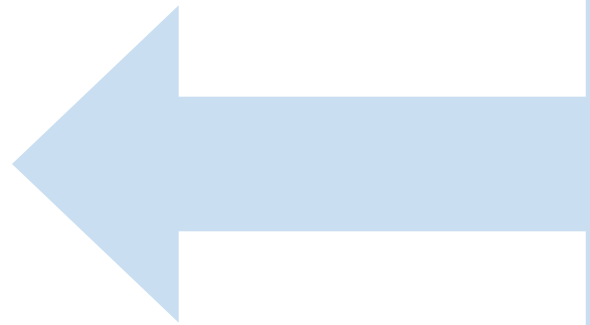


Love

the missing middle in honor-shame cultures

Love

the missing middle in honor-shame cultures

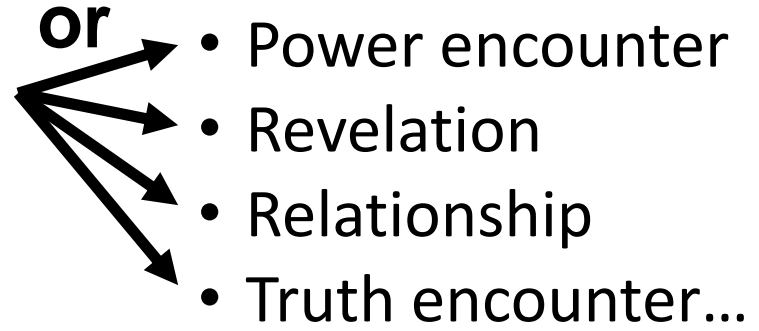


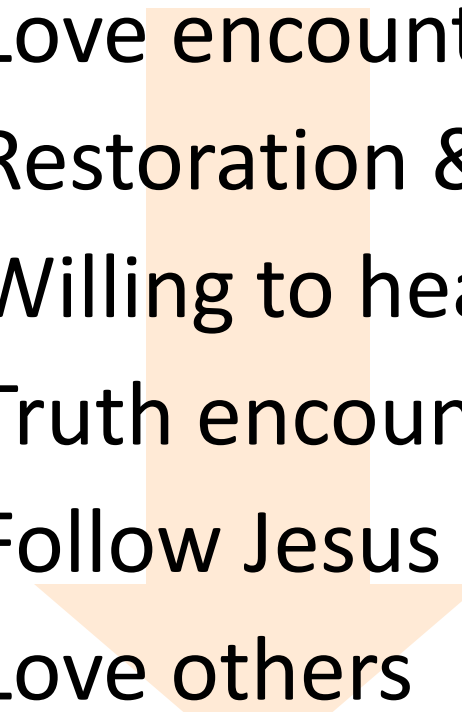
'Wellness'

Suffering

- Love encounter

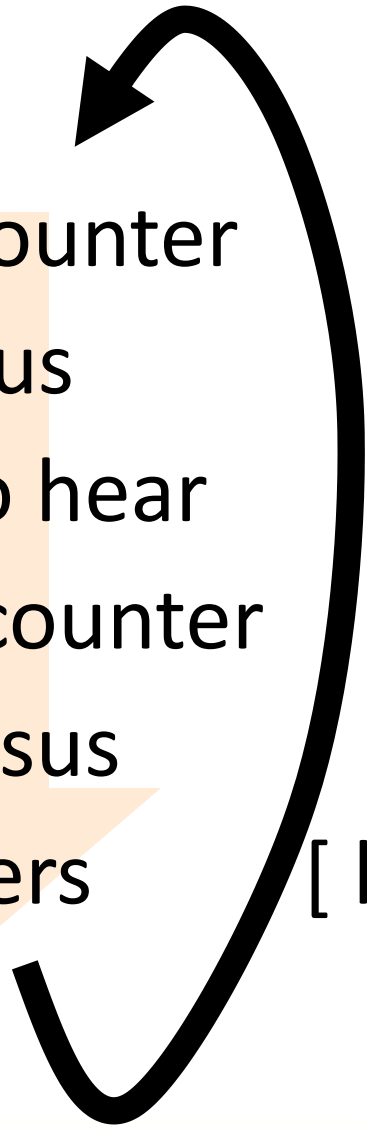
Compassion



- 
- Love encounter
 - Restoration & Meet Jesus [honor received]
 - Willing to hear
 - Truth encounter
 - Follow Jesus
 - Love others [love understood]

- Love encounter
- Meet Jesus
- Willing to hear
- Truth encounter
- Follow Jesus
- Love others

[love understood]



• Love encounter

- Meet Jesus
- Willing to hear
- Truth encounter
- Follow Jesus

• Love others

[love understood]

A lot of can
happen here!

PRAY !



LOVE

Experienced

HONORS

HEALS

willing to accept

community 1

LOVE

Observed from afar

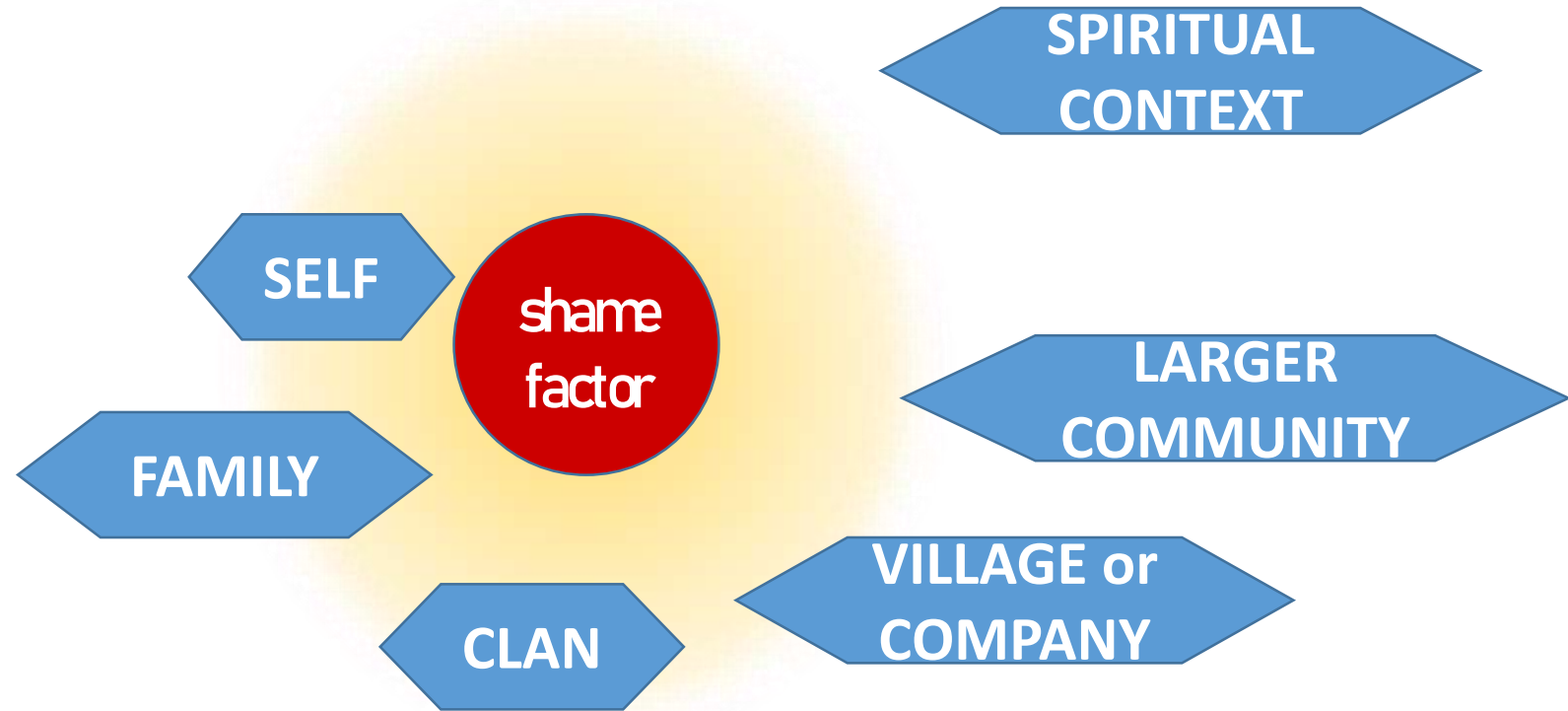
MISUNDERSTOOD

MISSED

Shamed → Persecute

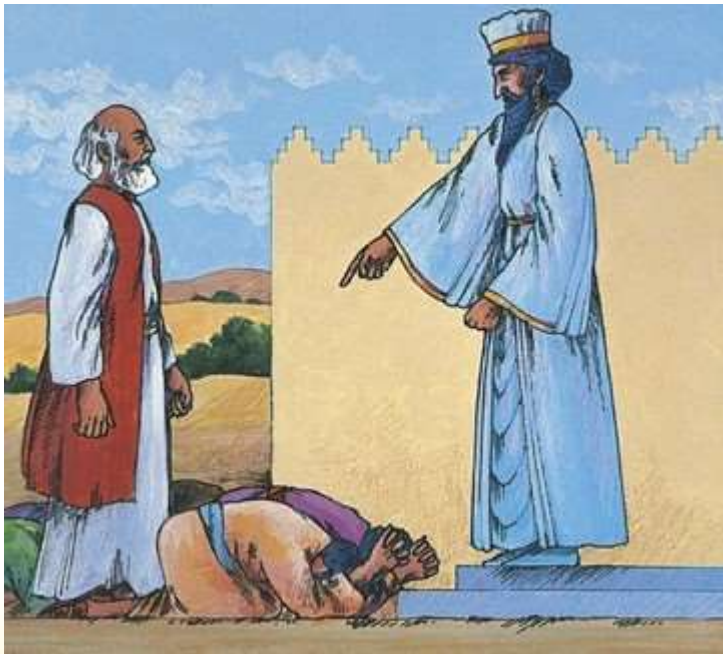
community 2

circles of shame



1

- You can honor a king by just **obeying** his rules, but a king is even more honored (or glorified) when his subjects love him. The invitation is to give God the greatest honor in a relationship! Freely loving is greatest!



**the missing middle
in honor shame
cultures**

2

- God is the greatest (*Allahu Akbar*) in all things, i.e. He has the highest honor in all things, including love.
- Love is greatest when someone gives His life for others.
- God has demonstrated, and has given us, this greatest and most honored love in Christ, His death and resurrection.

**the missing middle
in honor shame
cultures**

3 Know 'Honor-Shame' when sharing the Good News!

Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever. (Westminster Shorter Catechism)

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God - (Romans 3:23)

Our sin:

- Offends, dishonors God. His creation tainted, a shamed race.
- Is our shame before God, ourselves, and others.

The solution:

- The Cross, Love, Grace; Jn 3:16, Ro 5:8

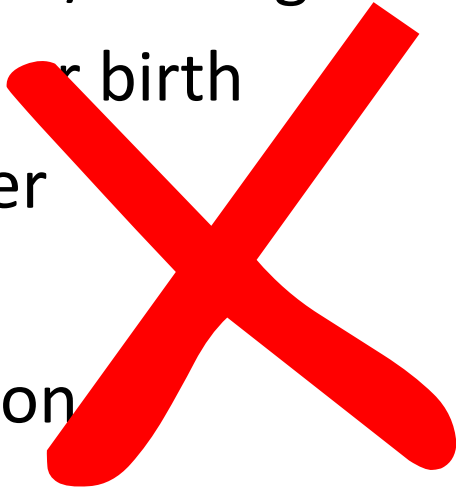
Becoming part of a New Community



*The Cross
Symbol of Shame*

in Christ

Descent/heritage
Order of birth
Gender
Age
Decision
Religion



Ascribed



Performance
Works
Heroism
(money/wealth)



Achieved

The cross takes any boasting away. In Christ we are all equal, receiving His honor → New Community

4 Whose Honor Do We Seek In Compassion?

We are not seeking merit or honor for ourselves!? Or are we? We are God's channels to restore His honor, based on His already finished work.

Love God, Love Neighbor = how we serve; = summary of the OT Law.
Can be done in own strength (weakness of the law), or out of abiding in Christ (=loving God, bearing fruit – See Jn 15).

Kinds of “Christian” ministry:

- 1) Demonstrating what Christians and our values are? (How great these are, how good we feel, defending those – seeking our own honor?)
- 2) Fruit-bearing and a passion to seek God's glory. Showing God and inviting under his Lordship? “Man shall not live from bread alone” (nor healthcare, justice, ...) – he would still fall short of the glory of God.

Let us not confuse the effect and expressions with the source itself

Missions is *living from* and *inviting to* the Source
and is *expressed* and *demonstrated* in Compassion

4b

Some Checkpoints:

- Do I serve *from grace* or *for honor*? Is my compassion my doing or the fruit of abiding? Whose glory/honor am I after?
- Can I recognize, or will I trust, God's sovereignty into the situation to where He sends me to show compassion, and keep focused on the source, realizing His love and grace?
- Did Jesus have to die for this? Do I withhold parts of His love when I share?

The commitment to social change will inevitably at some point come into conflict with the desire to see men and women become disciples of Jesus. The only way forward in this dilemma is to resist all pressure to compartmentalize our lives and pursue our calling in a holistic way.

Paul Bendor Samuel, Interserve - Initial Reflections on Holistic Ministries in an Islamic Context. St. Francis Magazine Nr.2 Vol.III (September 2007)

5

Reaching Communities & Networks

Seeking the honor of the community by outreach

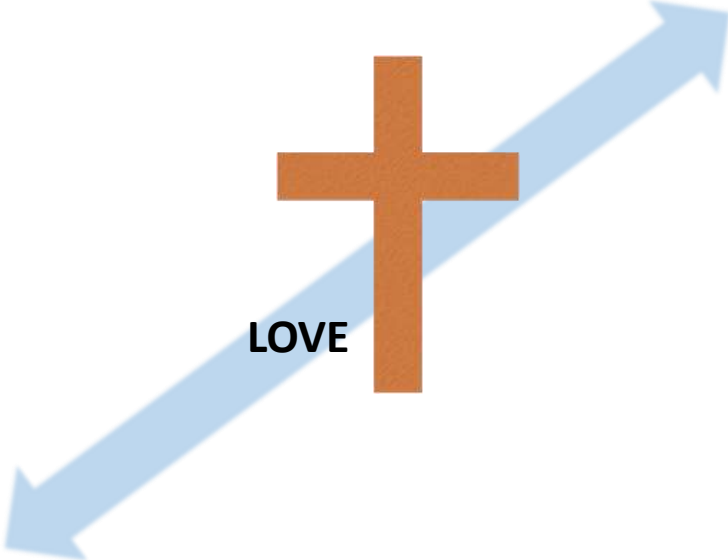
- Permission and ownership from the local leaders
- Empowering = honoring. Cf Helping without Hurting (chalmers.org) – ABCD: Asset Based Community Development. *Give face!
- Incarnational & contextual: honoring the culture

Discern Opposition

- Outsiders will misinterpret
- Include people's honor circles
- Avoiding extraction (of families, individuals)

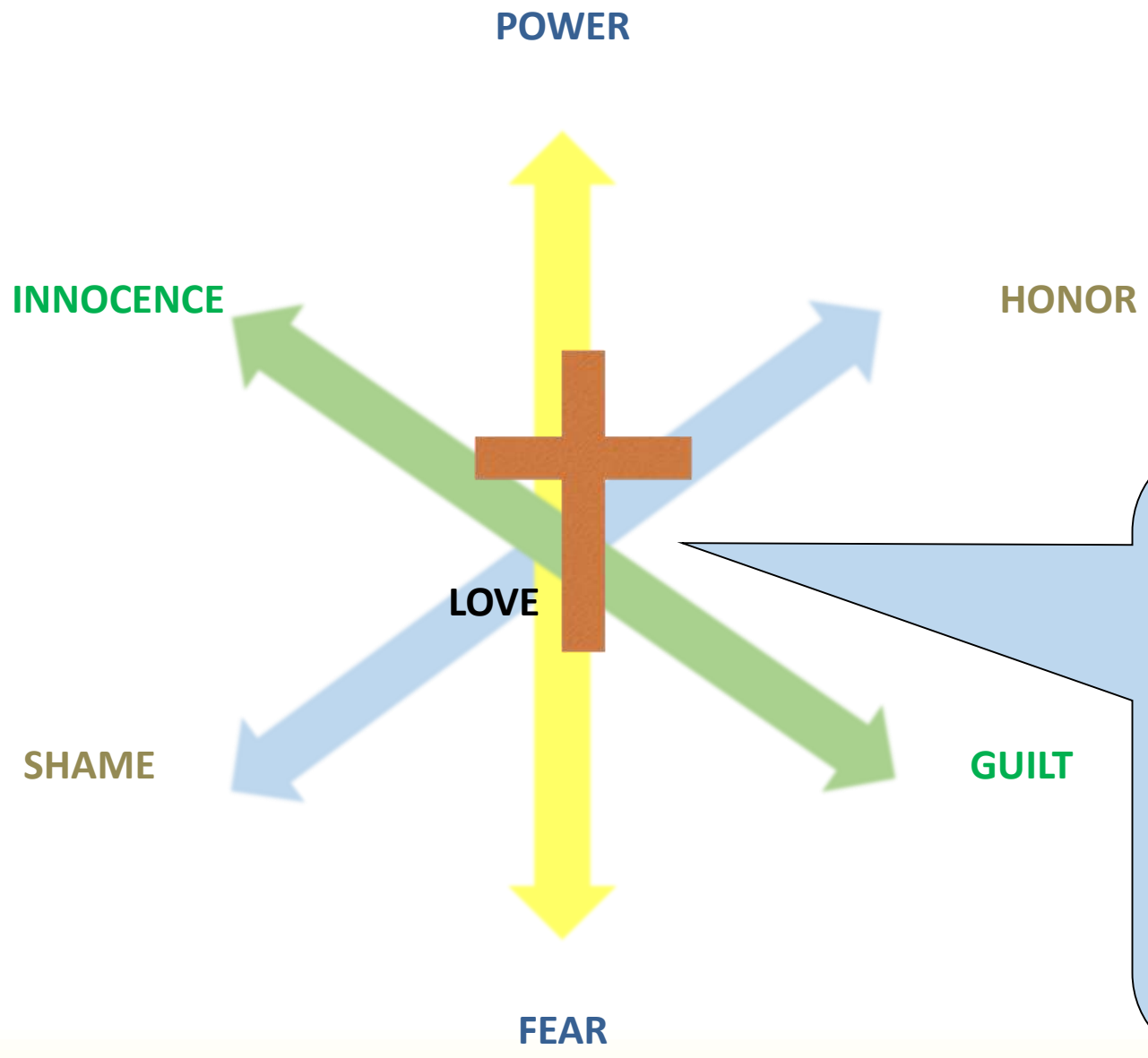
1. Greatest honor is received when being most loved.
2. Greatest God = Greatest Love = Greatest Sacrifice (suffering) \Rightarrow incarnation, trinity.
3. The gospel: Restores God's and our honor, a new community.
4. Give God's love, let people meet Him; not us, not our honor. Don't compartmentalize.
5. Reach (love) and empower a community, not individuals.

SHAME



LOVE

HONOR



the missing middle
of

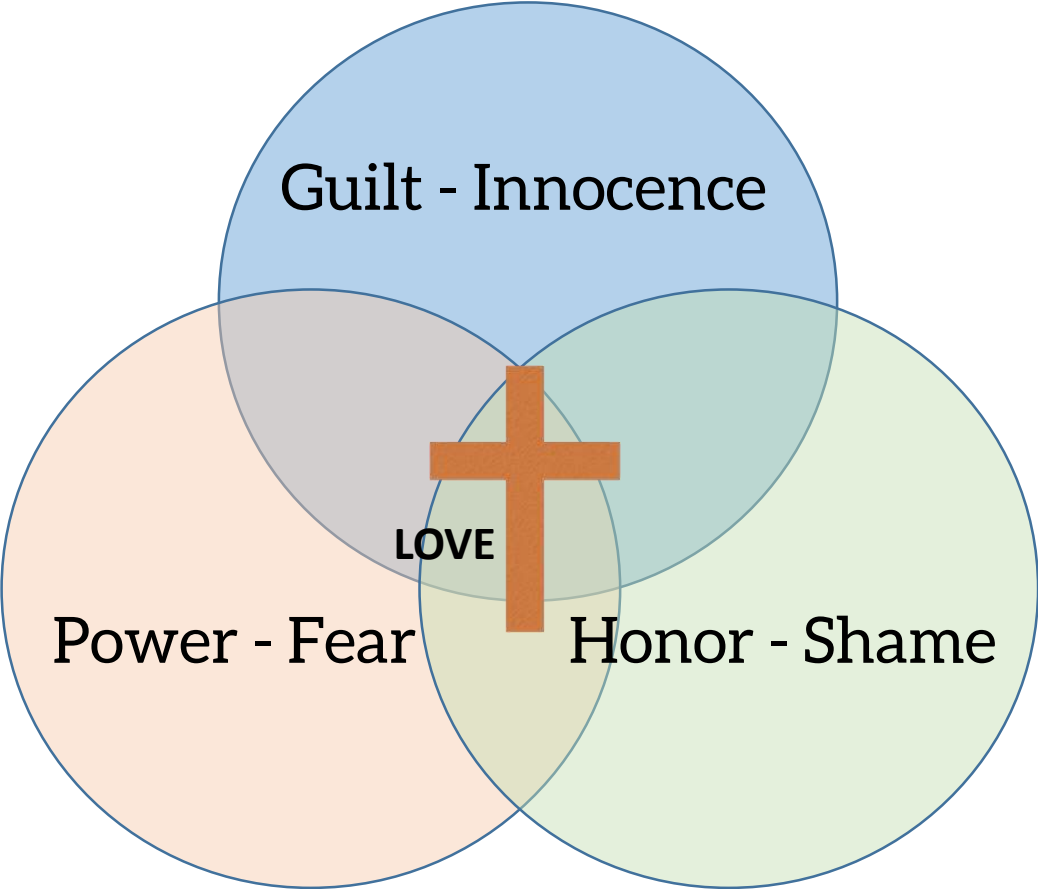
1. Honor-Shame
2. Guilt-Innocence
3. Power-Fear

Contexts

When love is taken out:



because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold (Mt 24:12)



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Questions, Comments?

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