Challenges and Opportunities when serving in an Honor-Shame context

Many of the unreached embrace honor-shame cultures, and so do some of the families that have moved into our neighborhoods. To reach them we have to cross cultural barriers. How we serve and what we share sincerely from our perspective might easily be misinterpreted and sometimes even result in opposition. We need to discern, understand the risks and will look at what practices may help us show and share God's love appropriately.



Global Missions
Health Conference

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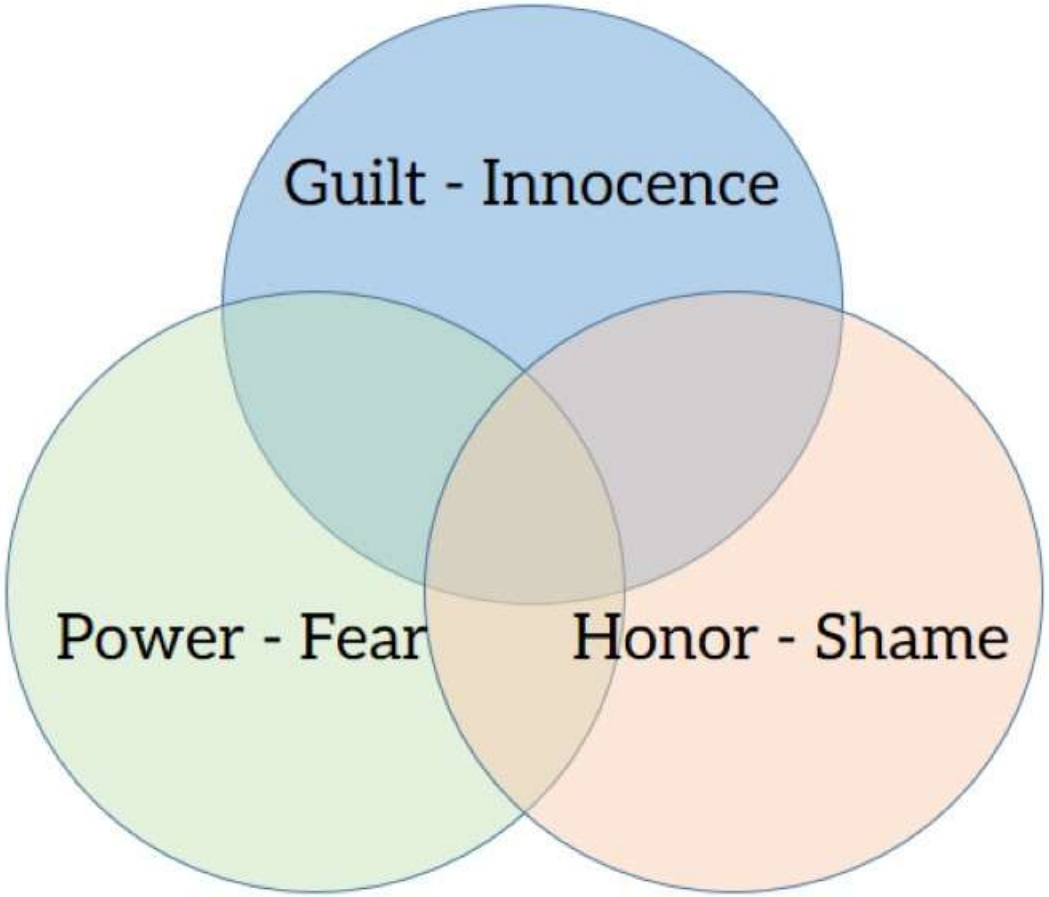
Challenges and Opportunities when serving in an Honor-Shame context

Alex.Tee@OMFmail.com



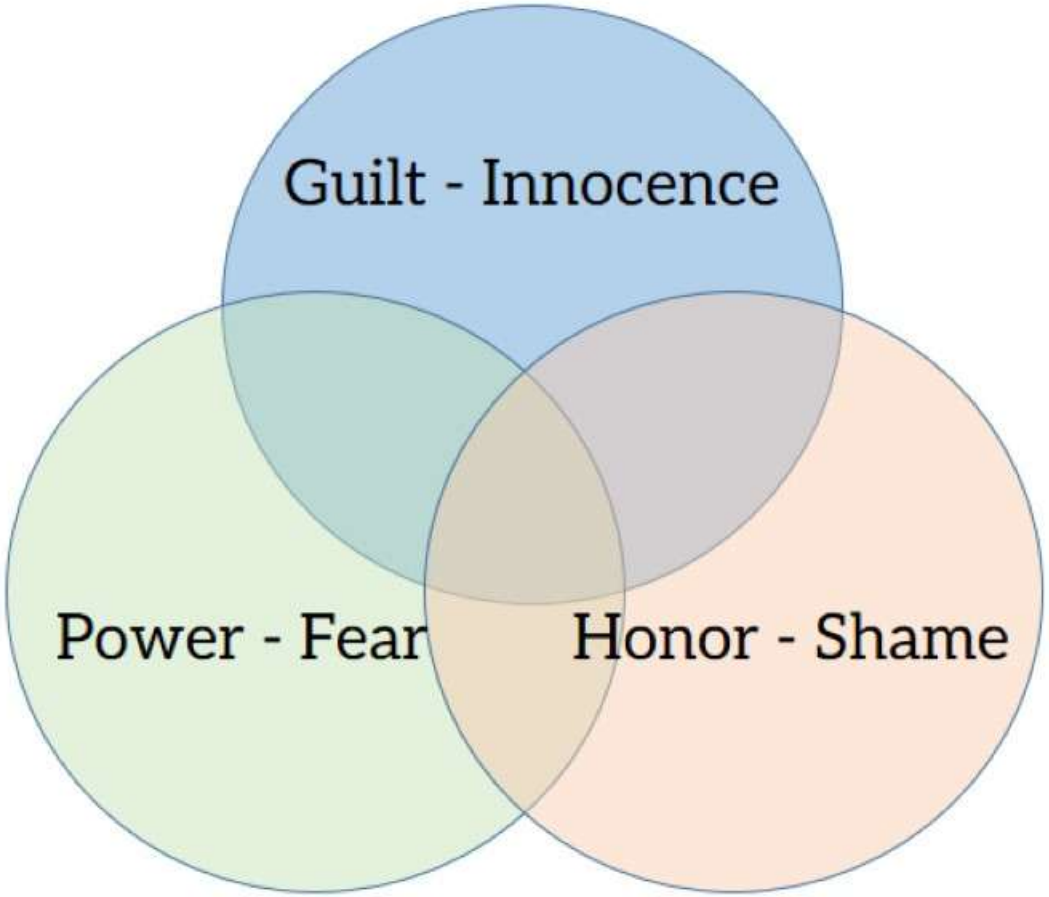





Guilt - Innocence
Power - Fear
Honor - Shame

deals with:

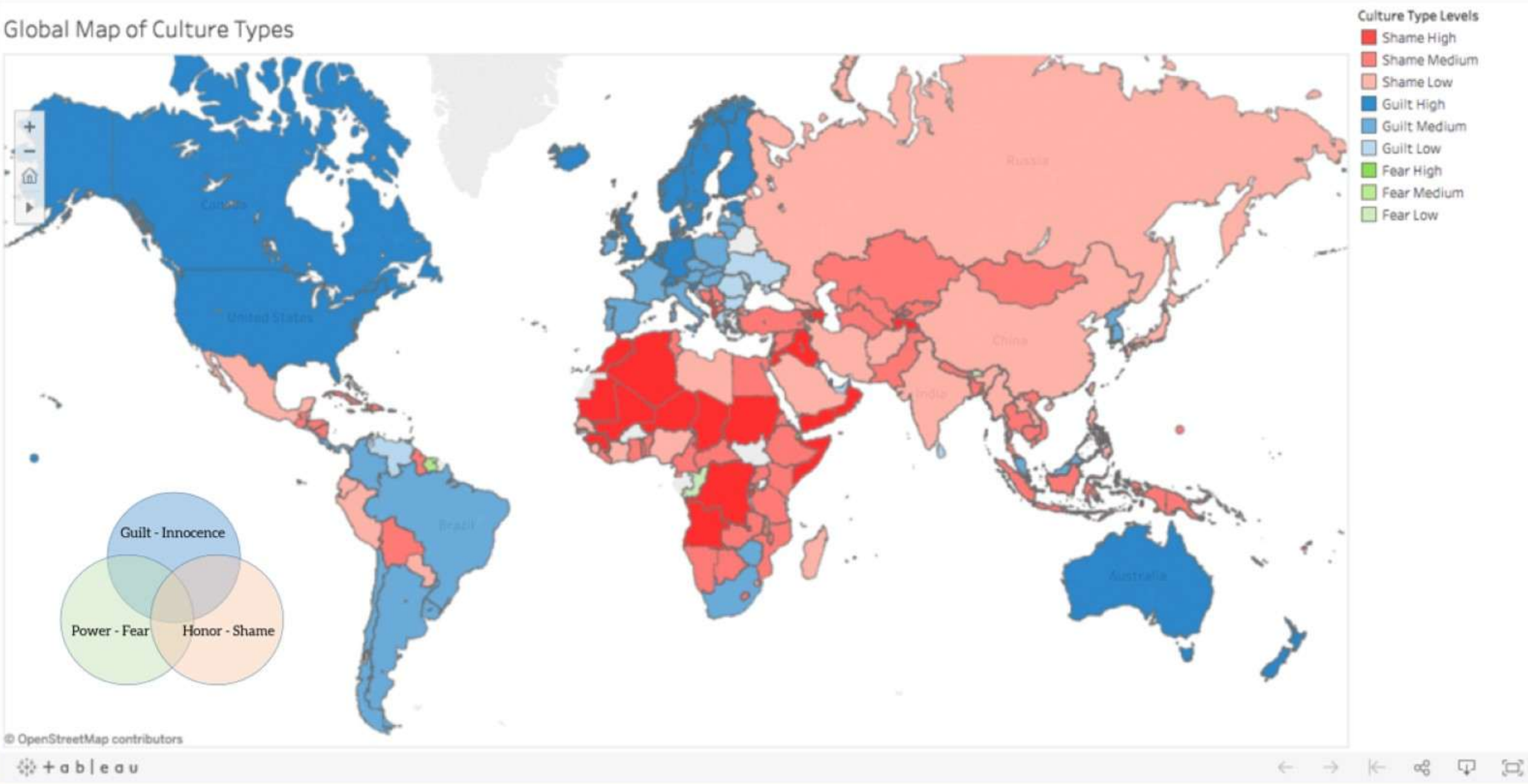
- ✓ **Guilt-Innocence:** right-wrong, facts/truth – what you've done
- ✓ **Honor-Shame:** relationship, belonging, identity, who you are (seen as)
- ✓ **Power-Fear:** control, order, certainty & confidence, being safe and secure



Interrelated

The Gospel deals with each

Take the http://theculturetest.com/!



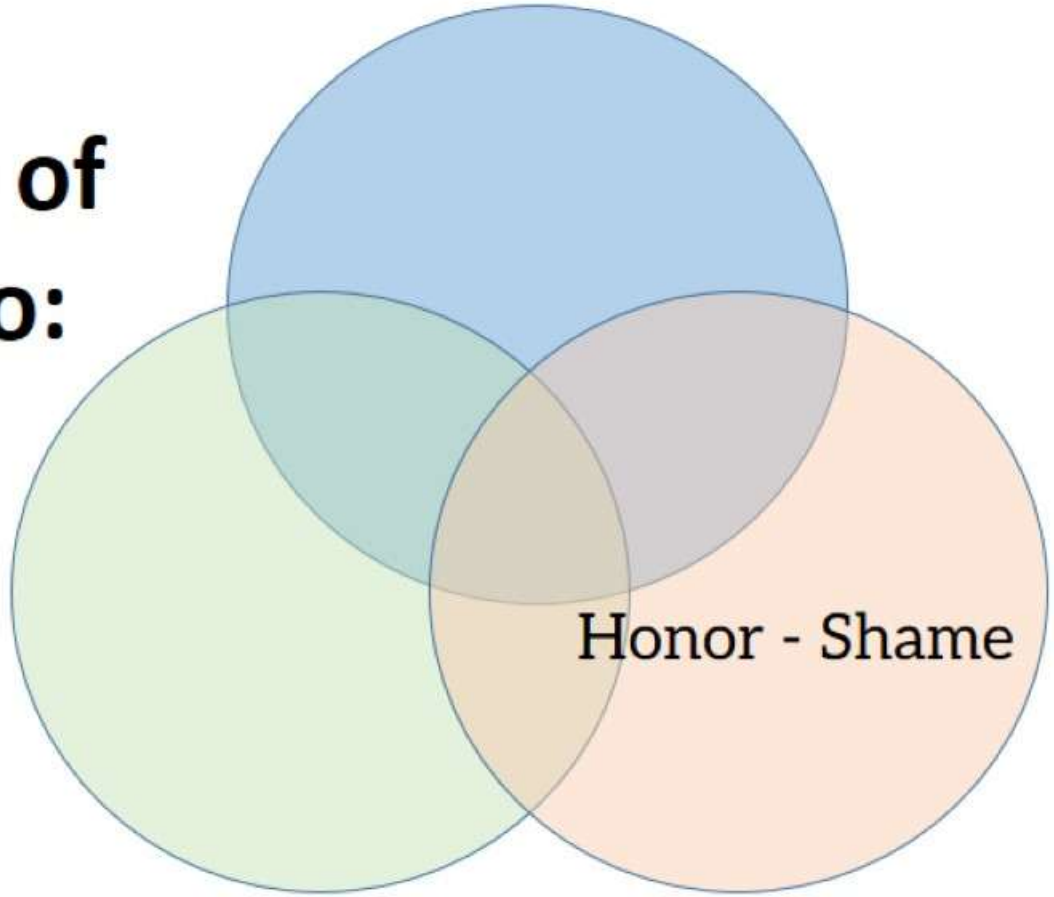
Take the http://theculturetest·com/!

https://honorshame.com/map/

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

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

(Jackson Wu)



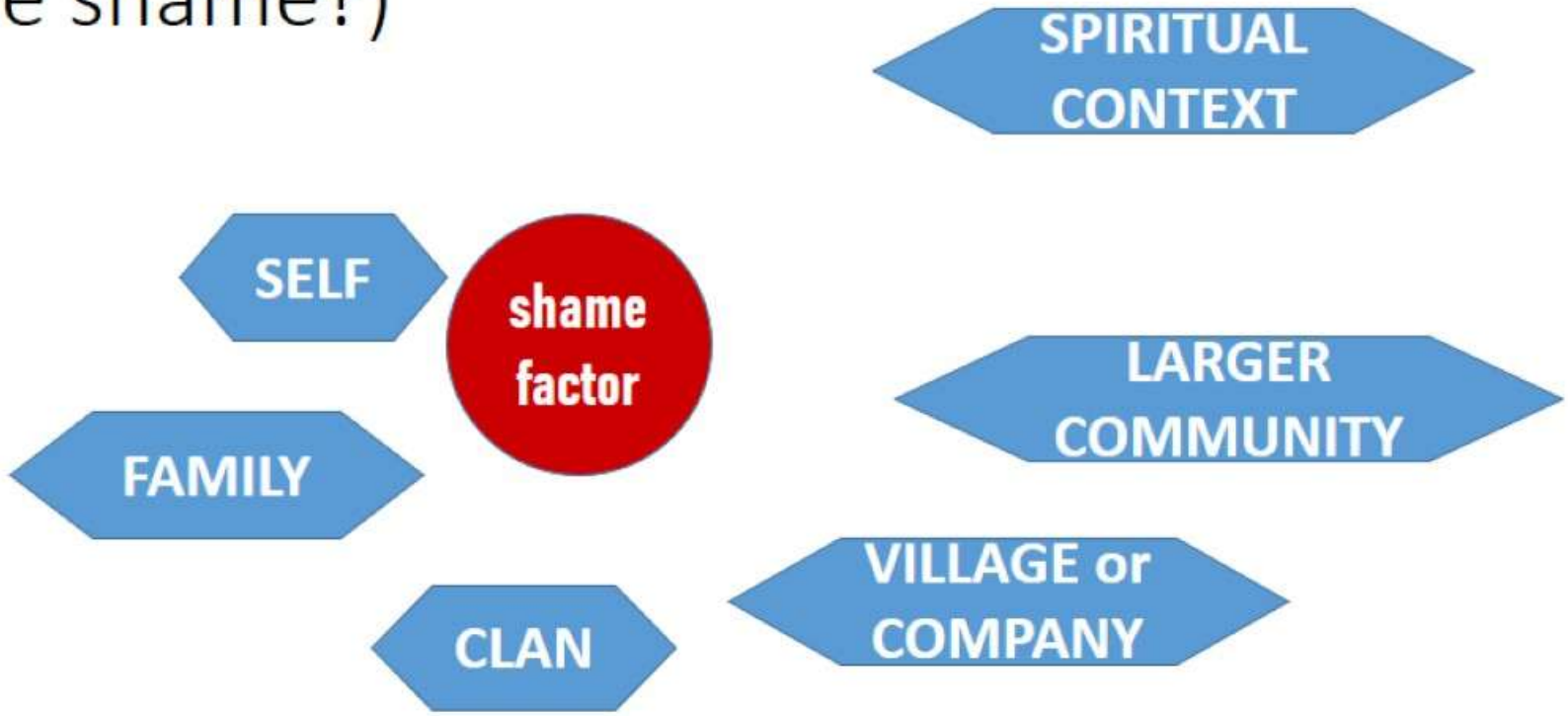
	Guilt-Based	**Shame-Based**
Normal defined by	Rules and laws	Relationships & roles
Behavior guided by	Internal conscience	External community
Violations produce	Guilt	Shame
Core problem	"I *made* a mistake" (action)	"I *am* a mistake" (being)
Violations Affect	The transgressor	The group
Violator's Response	Justify or apologize	Hide or cover
Public's Response	Punish to serve justice	Exclude to remove shame
Way for Resolution	Forgiveness	Restoration

The 3D Gospel, p23 – Jayson Georges

- A mistake
- A deliberate choice
- A disability
- Lack or resources
- A misfortune
- A disaster
- attacked, pain, suffering…
- Association with others having shame (“distance”)
- ***Something that makes you “less than” others in a given context & group***



circles of shame
(who feels the shame?)



varies with culture, with the kind of shame factor, …

Descent/heritage

Order or birth

Gender

Age

Decision

Religion

Ascribed



Performance

Works

Heroism

(money/wealth/power)

Achieved

in Christ

before God, by grace

Descent/heritage
Order or birth
Gender
Age
Decision
Religion

honor factors

Performance
Works
Heroism
(money/wealth/power)

Ascribed

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.

Serving with Compassion

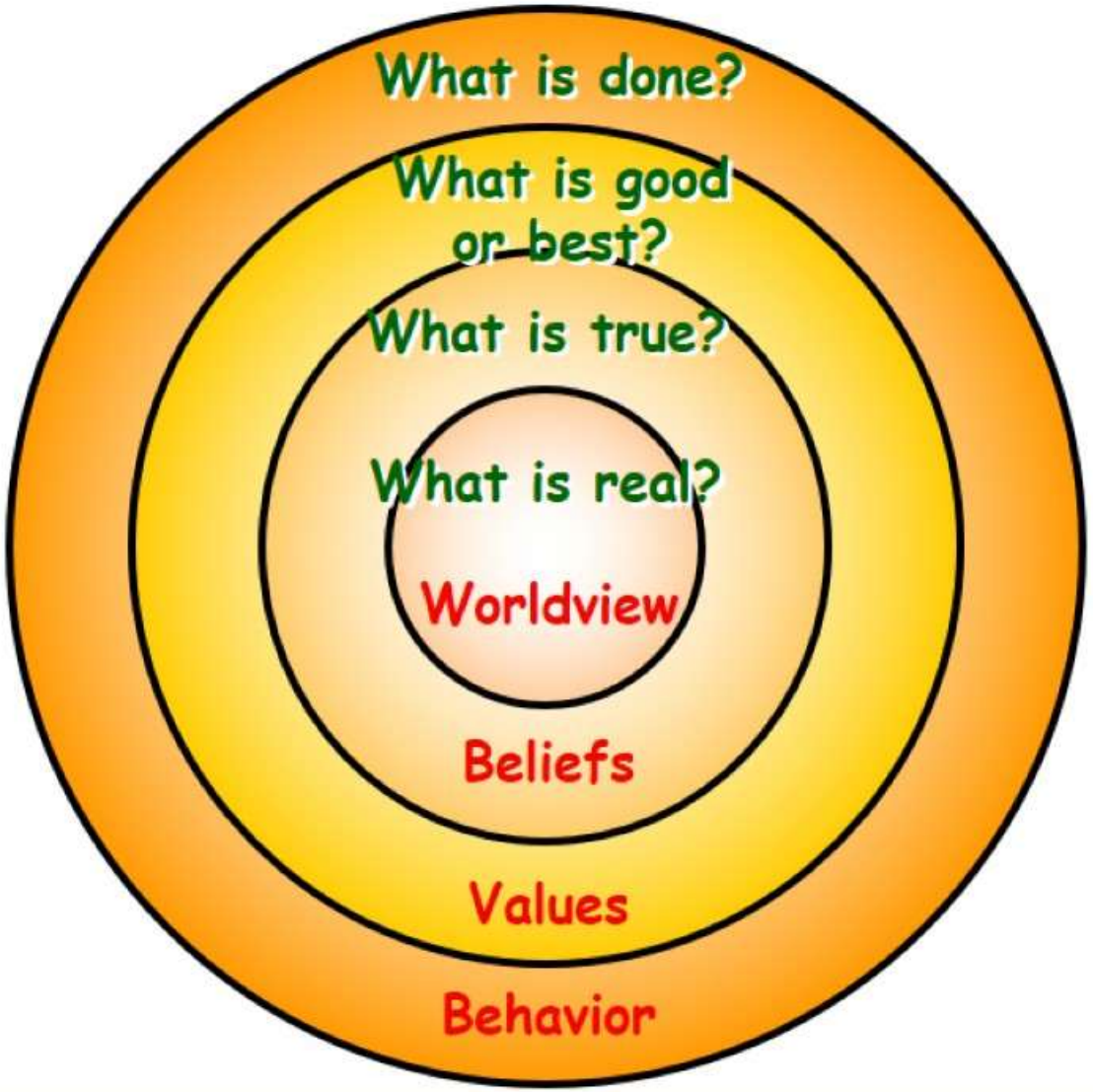
What we understand

What is done
What is observed

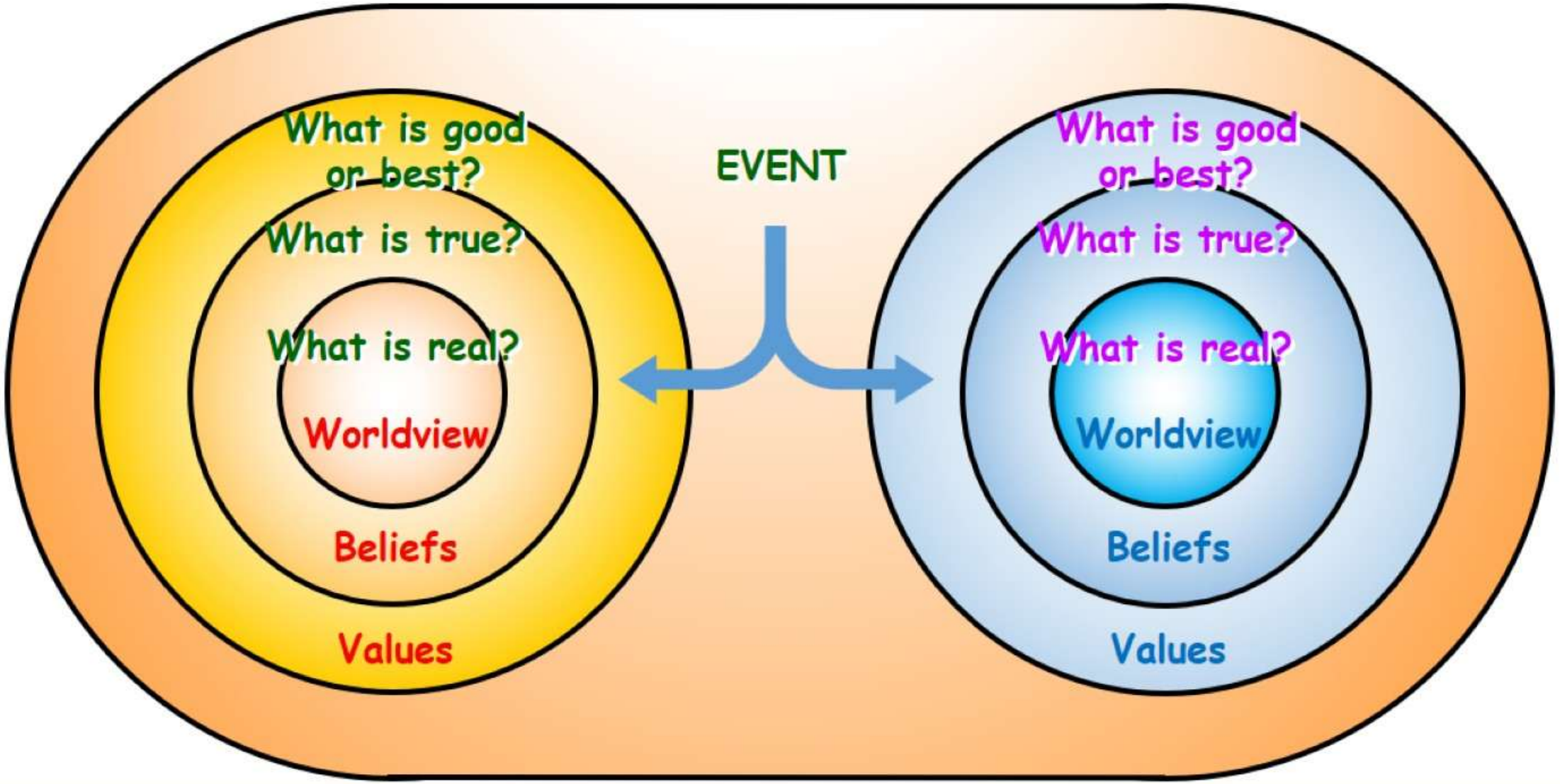
What they understand



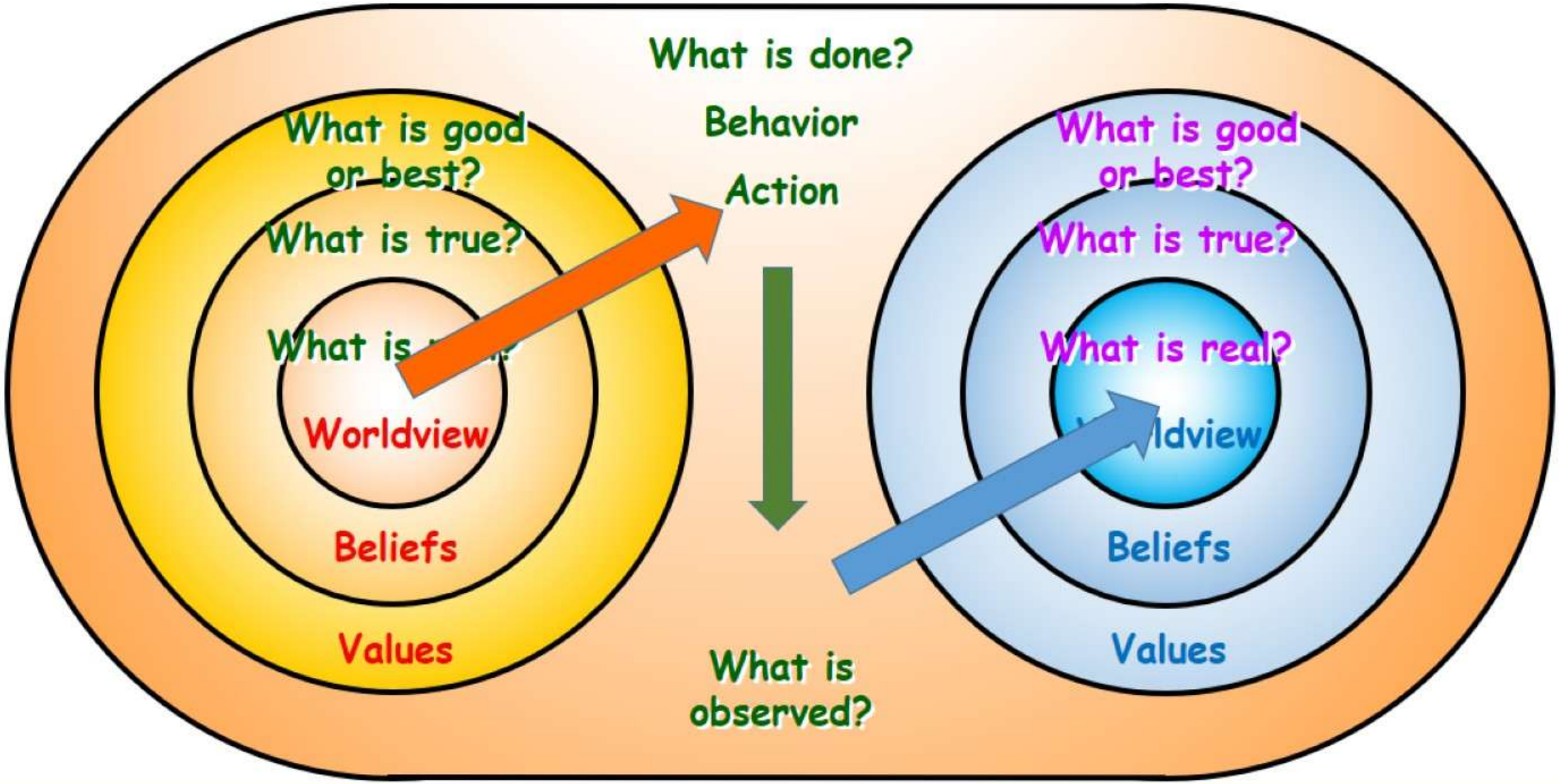
UNDERSTANDING a PERSON or a CULTURE



different interpretations and responses to an **event**

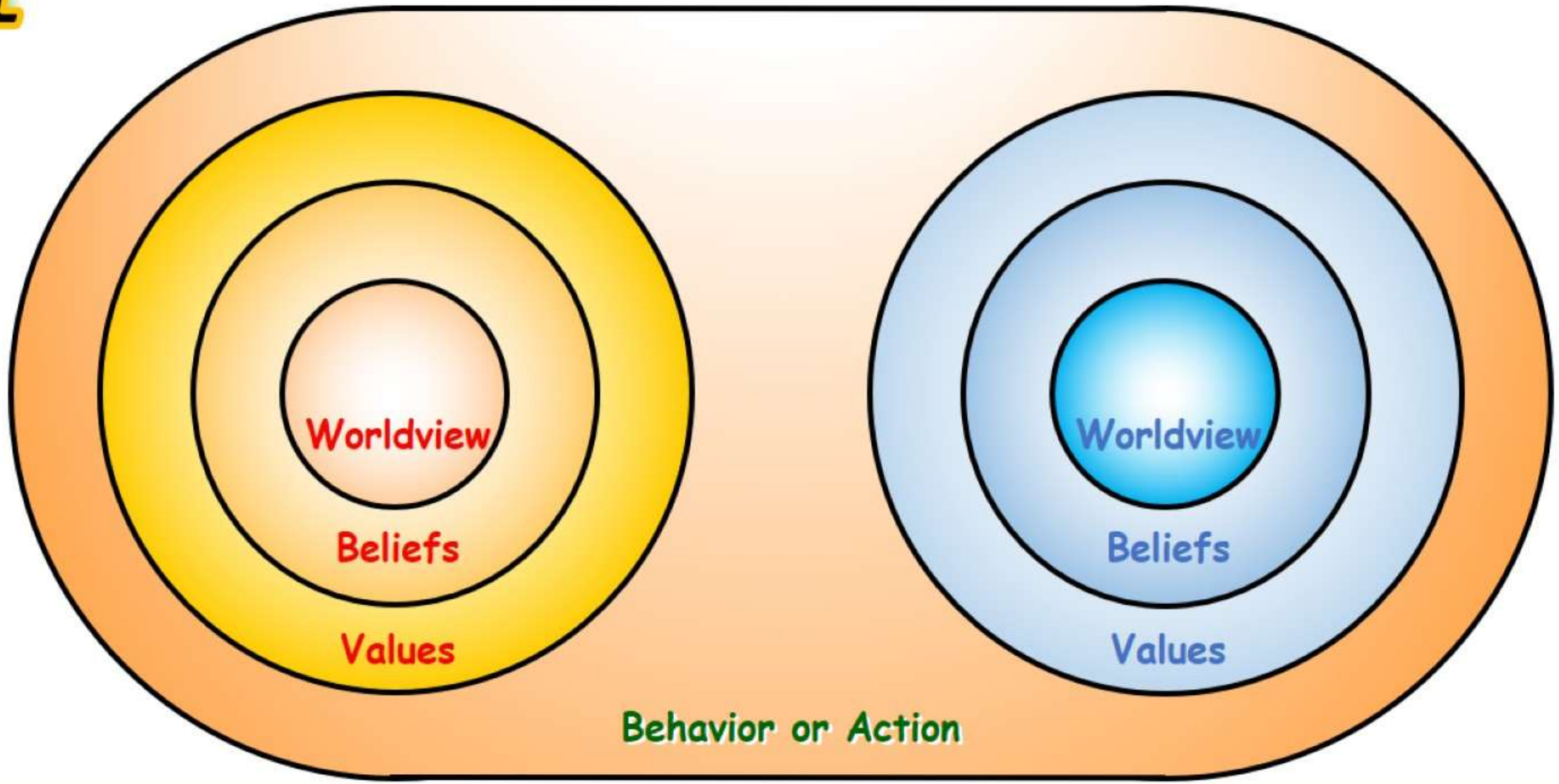


what is done by **one** is observed by the **other**



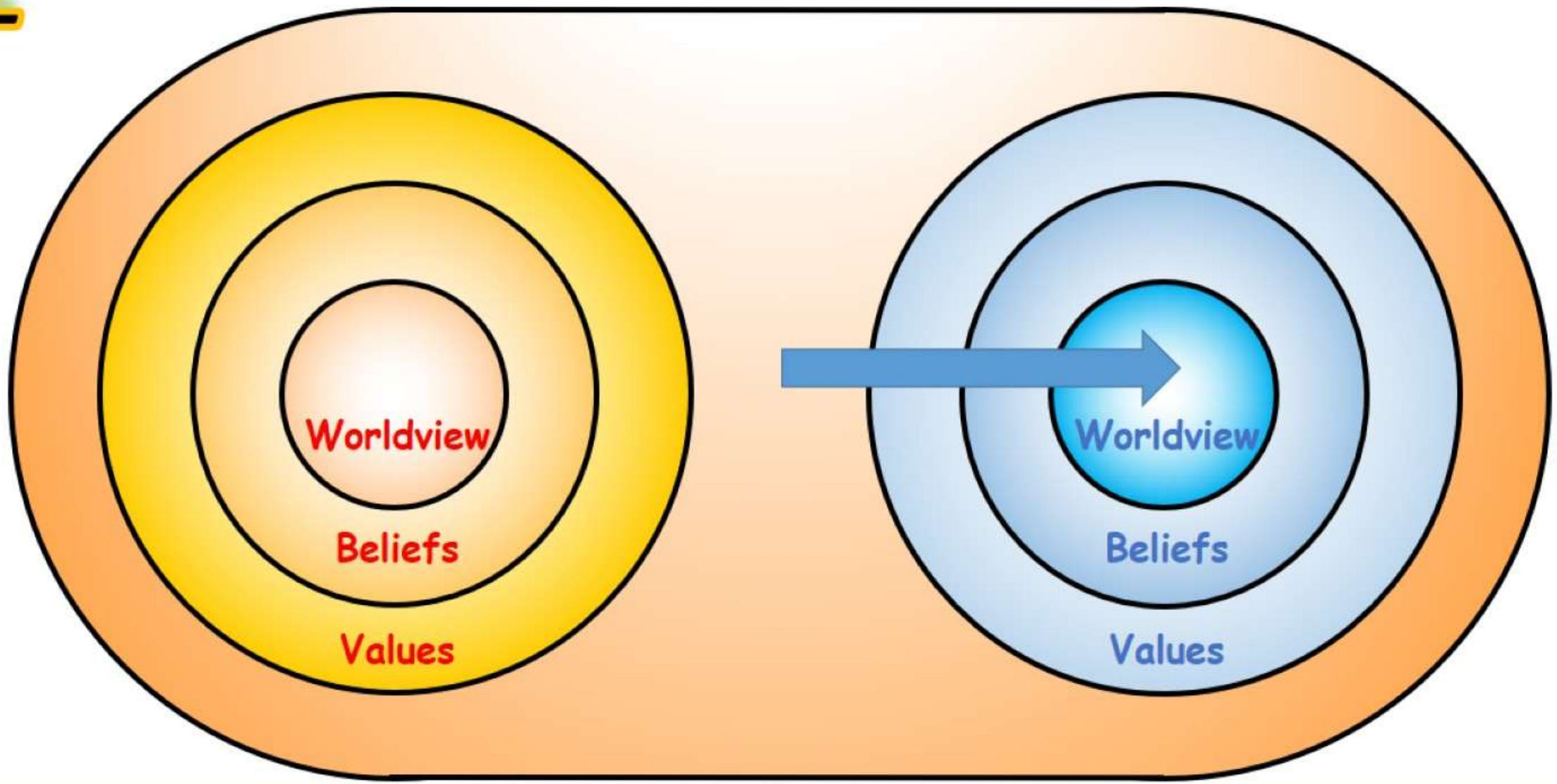
1

Worldview differences



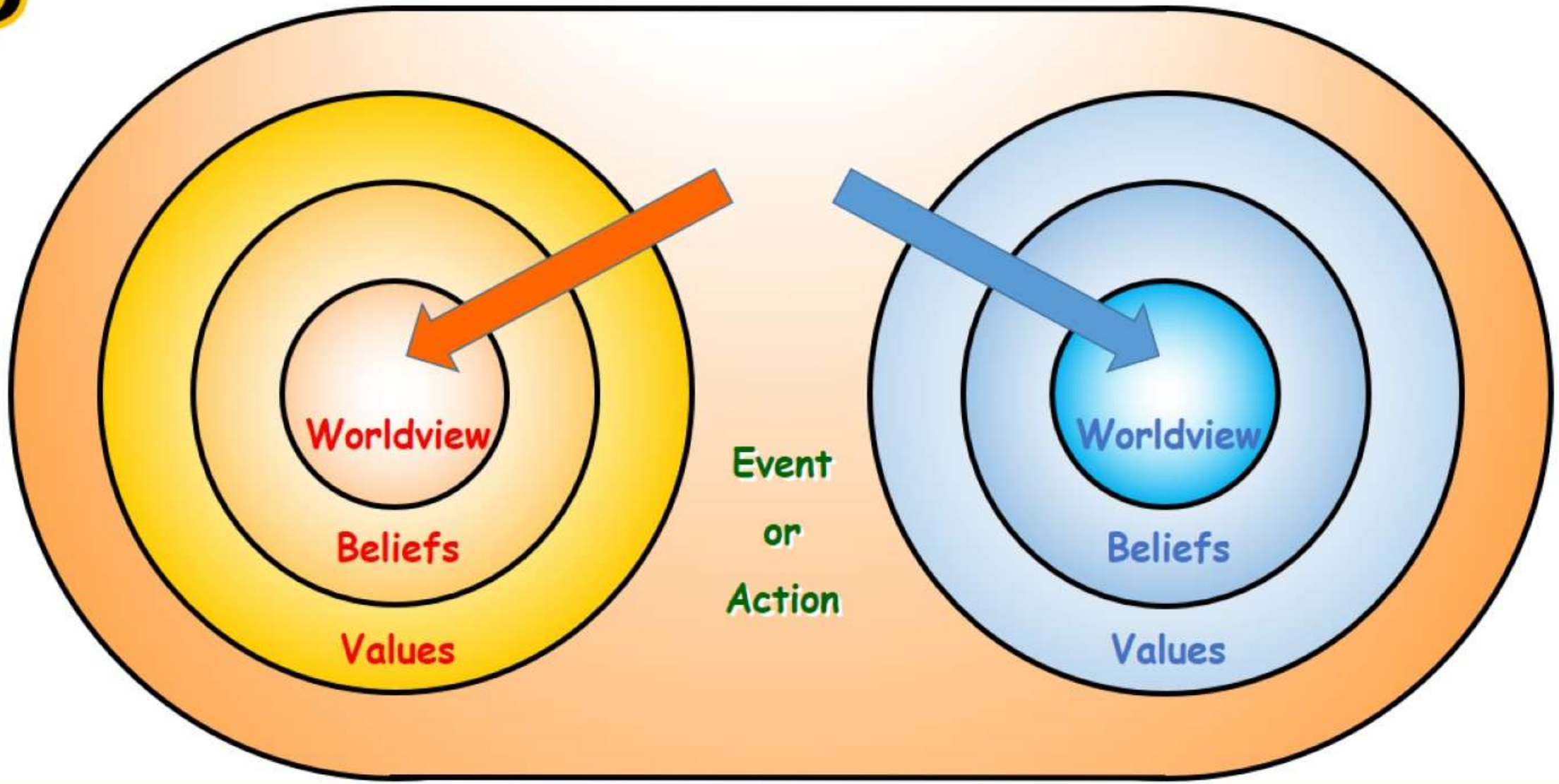
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Making sense of us



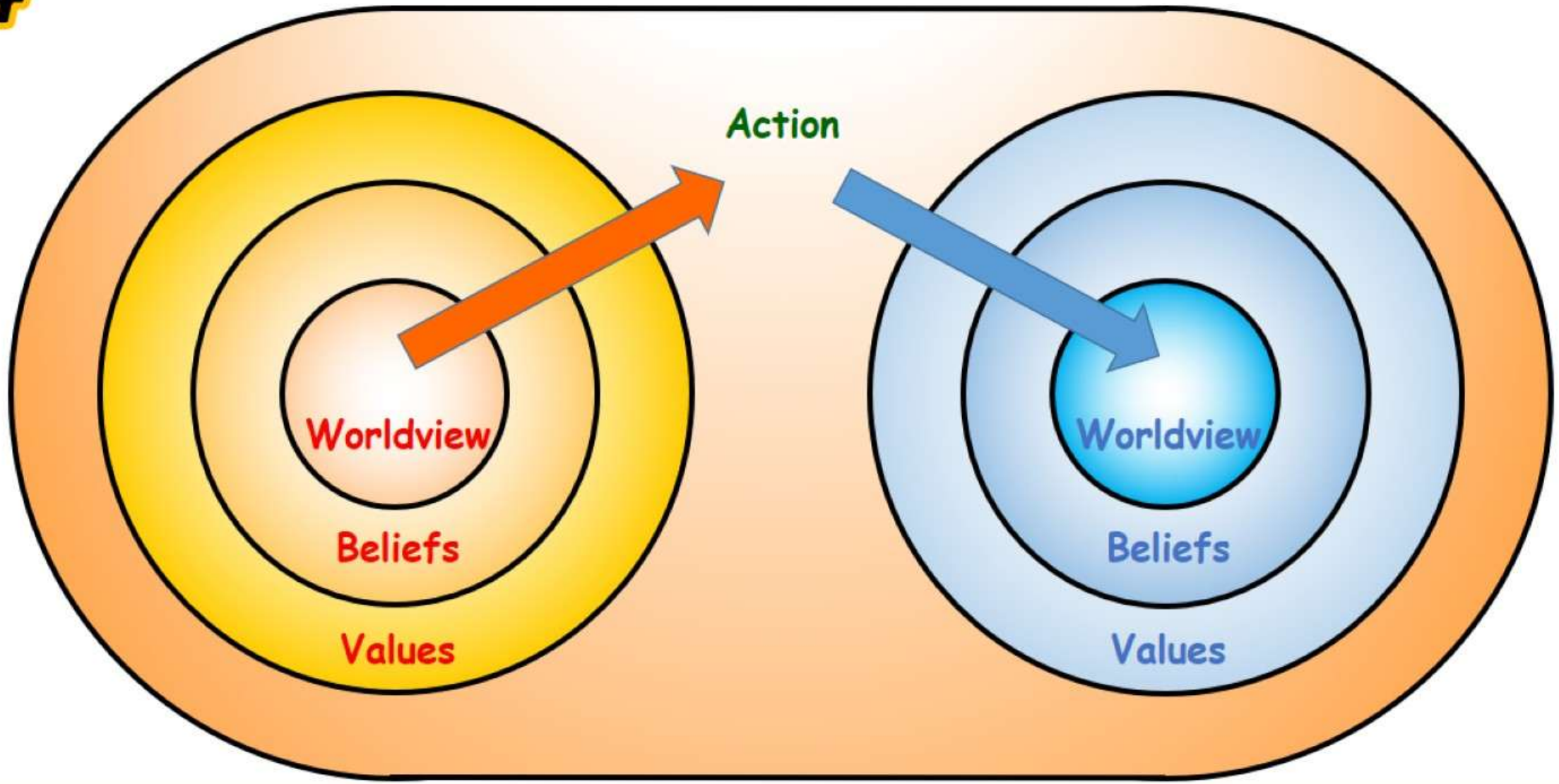
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Making sense of an event

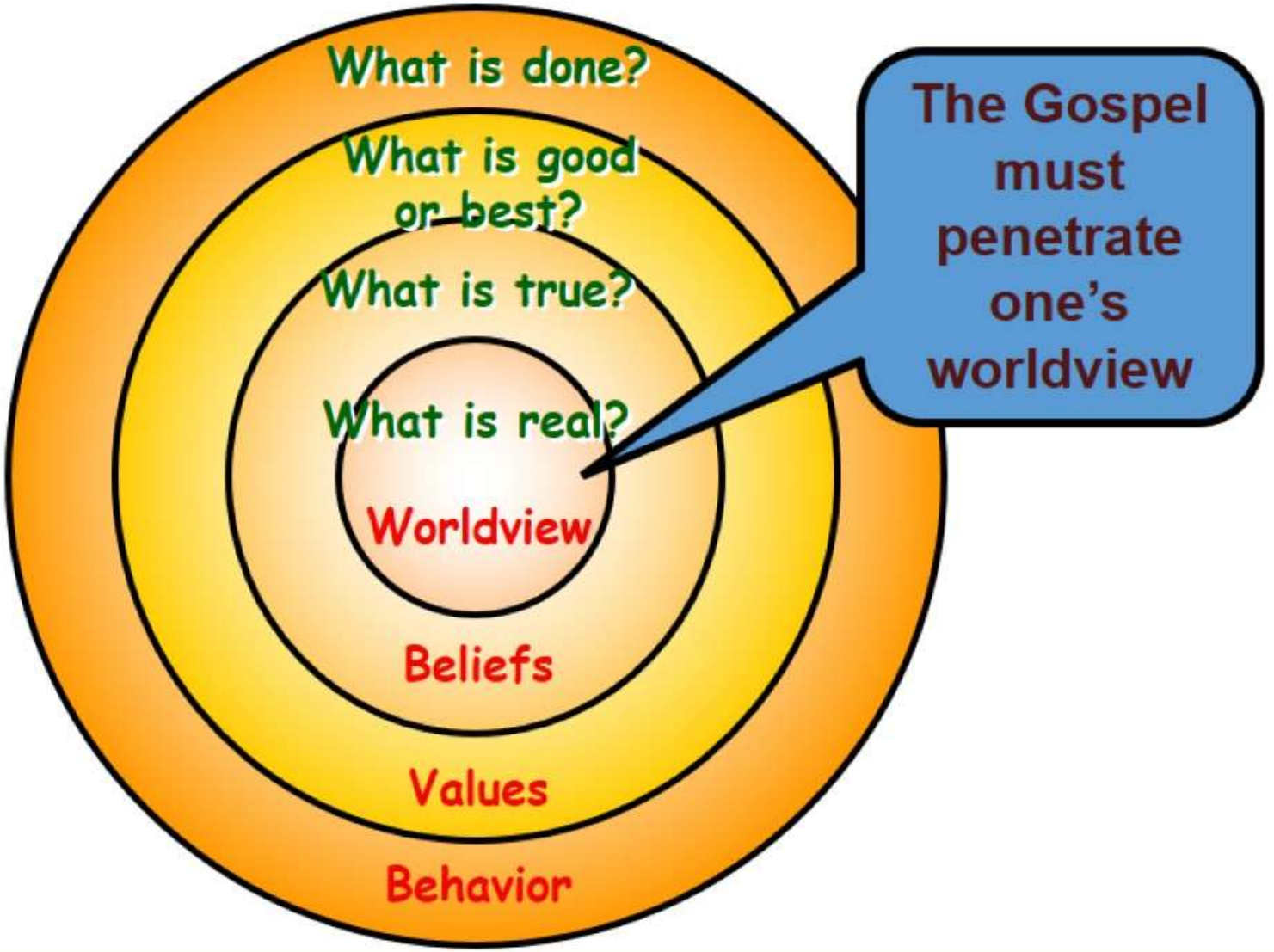


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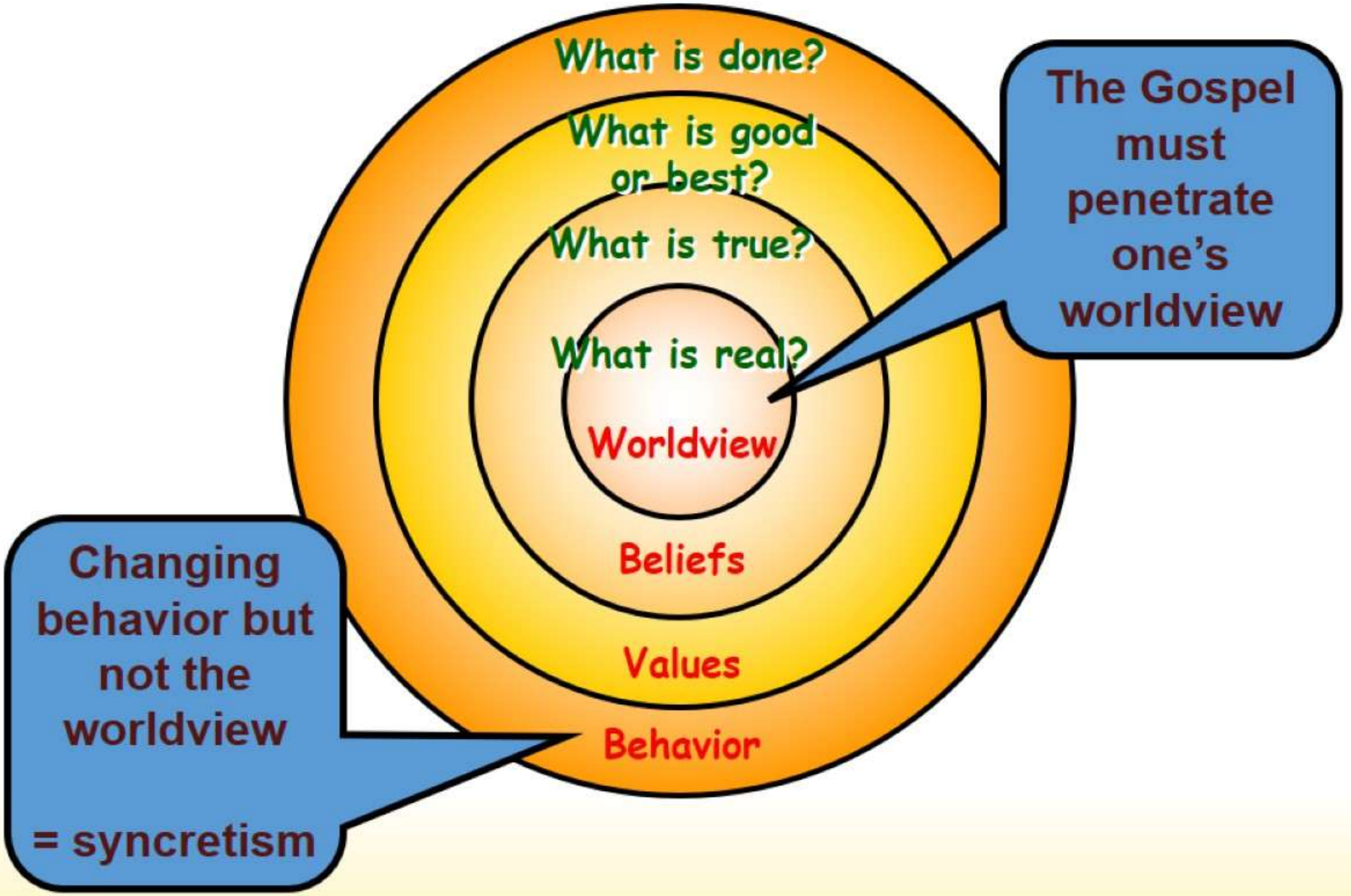
Making sense of our actions or response



UNDERSTANDING a PERSON or a CULTURE



UNDERSTANDING a PERSON or a CULTURE



Needs

Economic
Health
Education
Disability
Addictions
Injustice
Abuse
Environmental
Violence
Disasters
Uprootedness
…



Shame Factors


https://www.pexels.com/photo/children-in-refugee-camp-10360239/
...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
(existing honor-shame struggles among themselves)

- What is the real face of Islam?

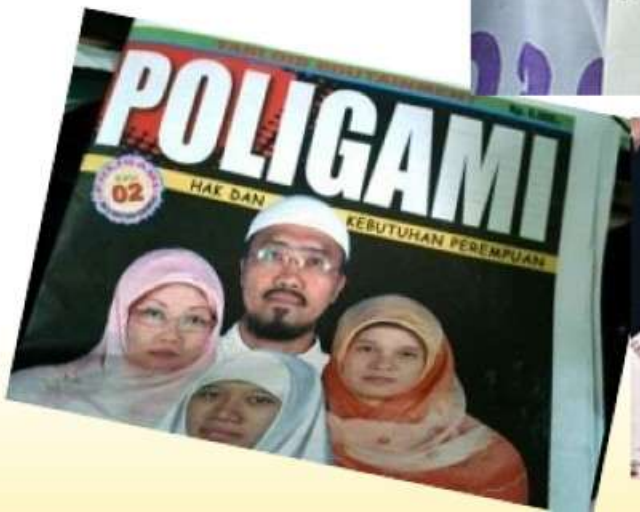




In the context of their other questions
(existing honor-shame struggles among themselves)

- What is the real face of Islam?









In the context of their other questions

(existing honor-shame struggles among themselves)

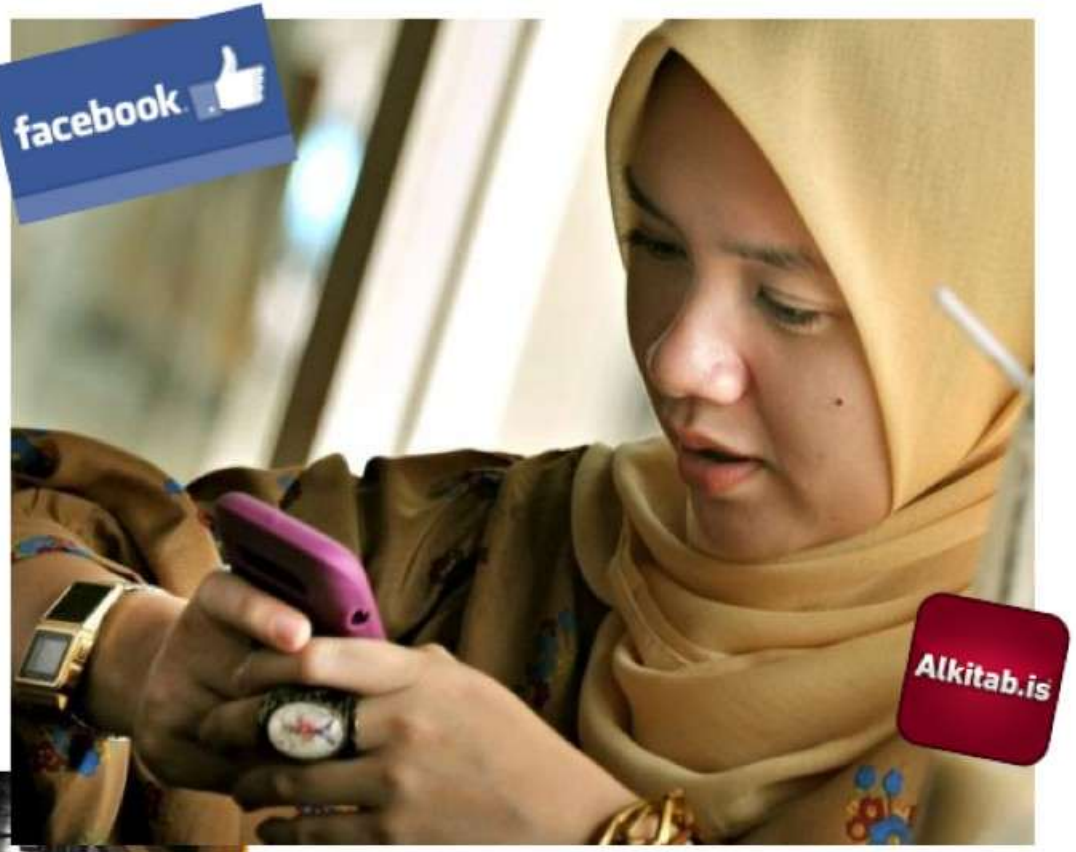
- globalization





- media





Worldviews Clash
while showing compassion



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From The Times

July 25, 2005

Christians face jail for giving treats tc children of Muslims

Jihad Watch

FrontPageMag.com By Robert Spencer By Hugh Fitzgerald Books Jihad Watch Islam 101 Qur'an B

« 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

June 23 (Compass) -- A

Nicolei:

Christians Defy Law to Convert Muslims in Tsunami Aftermath

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

U.S. & World

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

Tsunami Aid Workers Suspected of Trying to Convert Muslims

E-Mail | Print

Friday, January 21, 2005

Associated Press

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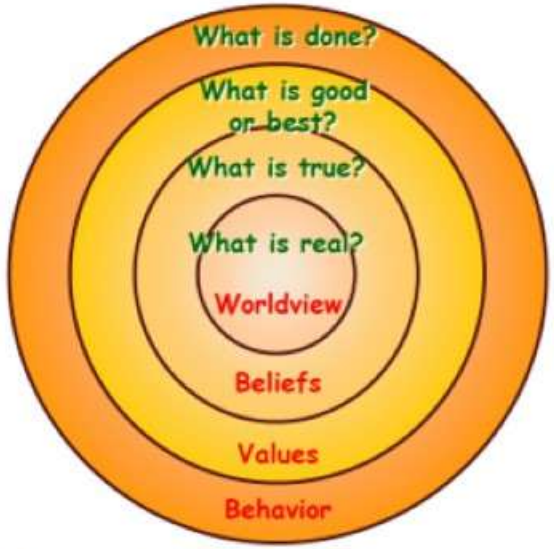
LADONG, Indonesia — The Americans in matching T-shirts were greeted as heroes when they arrived one afternoon with clean water and medical care. But how the help got here was something the tsunami survivors could scarcely comprehend.

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




RED ALERT !!
TRICK dan Strategi Pemurtadan
"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'afkaniah Biarkanlah Mereka, Sampai Allah Mendatangkan PerintahNYA (82). Sesungguhnya Allah Maha Kuasa Atas Segala Sesuatu" (Al-Baqarah (2): 108)
VALENTINE'S DAY?
NOT
FOR ME
BECAUSE
I AM A MUSLIM
Selamat Datang Di Page SMK
STOP MISI KRISTENISASI
AWAS!
KRISTENISASI
DAN PEMURTADAN
STOP PEMURTADAN & MENGHALALKAN SEGALA CARA
STOP
MISI KRISTENISASI
STOP MISI KRISTENISASI
الجبهة الدفاعية الإسلامية
FRONT PEMBELA ISLAM
#SAVEMARYAM
STOP
MISI KRISTENISASI
STOP
PEMURTADAN
INVITE TO THE WAY OF YOUR
LORD WITH WISDOM AND FAIR
PREACHING, AND ARGUE WITH
THAT IS BETTER.
SAVEMARYAM.COM
TWITTER.COM/SAVEMARYAM
Siloam Hospitals
RANAH MINANG #TOLAKSILOAM
KENAPA HARUS MENOLAK??? TEMUKAN JAWABANNYA!!
Aksi Long marc >> start dari masjid Nurul Iman Pasar Raya Padang
Mari BERGABUNG!!!
bersama ribuan orang!
STOP
Kamis
حق و باطل
عوام کی عدالت میں
AWAS..!!
KRISTENISASI
BERKEDOK ISLAM

From a Muslim Point of View



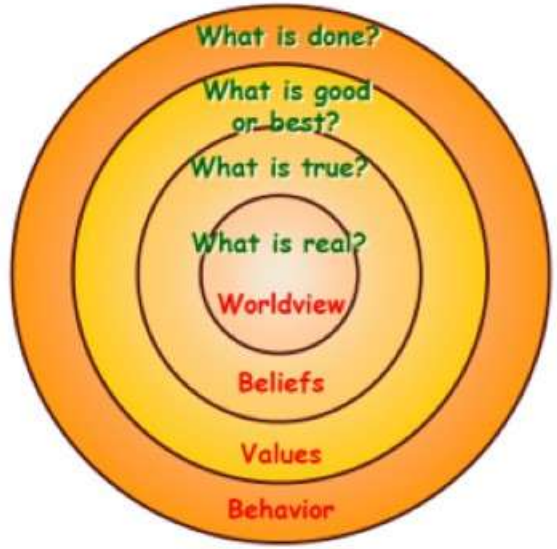
<u>How Christians Convert Muslims:</u>

- Education (young children)
- Health care, Medicine
- Philanthropy (giving out food, school fees…)
- Book publishing
- Internet, media
- Dating, pregnancy, forced 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



<u>What are our motives giving help?</u>

- 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): need an external savior
One distant God we cannot get to know and who can do anything he wants to (even change his mind)	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 thru uniformity religion = culture = law = society	unity in diversity, many cultures, individual & community, the church





إن شاء الله

IF ALLAH WILLS IT

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 include *the most merciful* ٱلرَّحْمَـانُ *and most loving* ٱلْوَدُودُ, 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)

Ar-Rahmaan = most or entirely merciful, Al-Wadood = most loving (https://99namesofallah.name/)

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, is shame

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.

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.*

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)

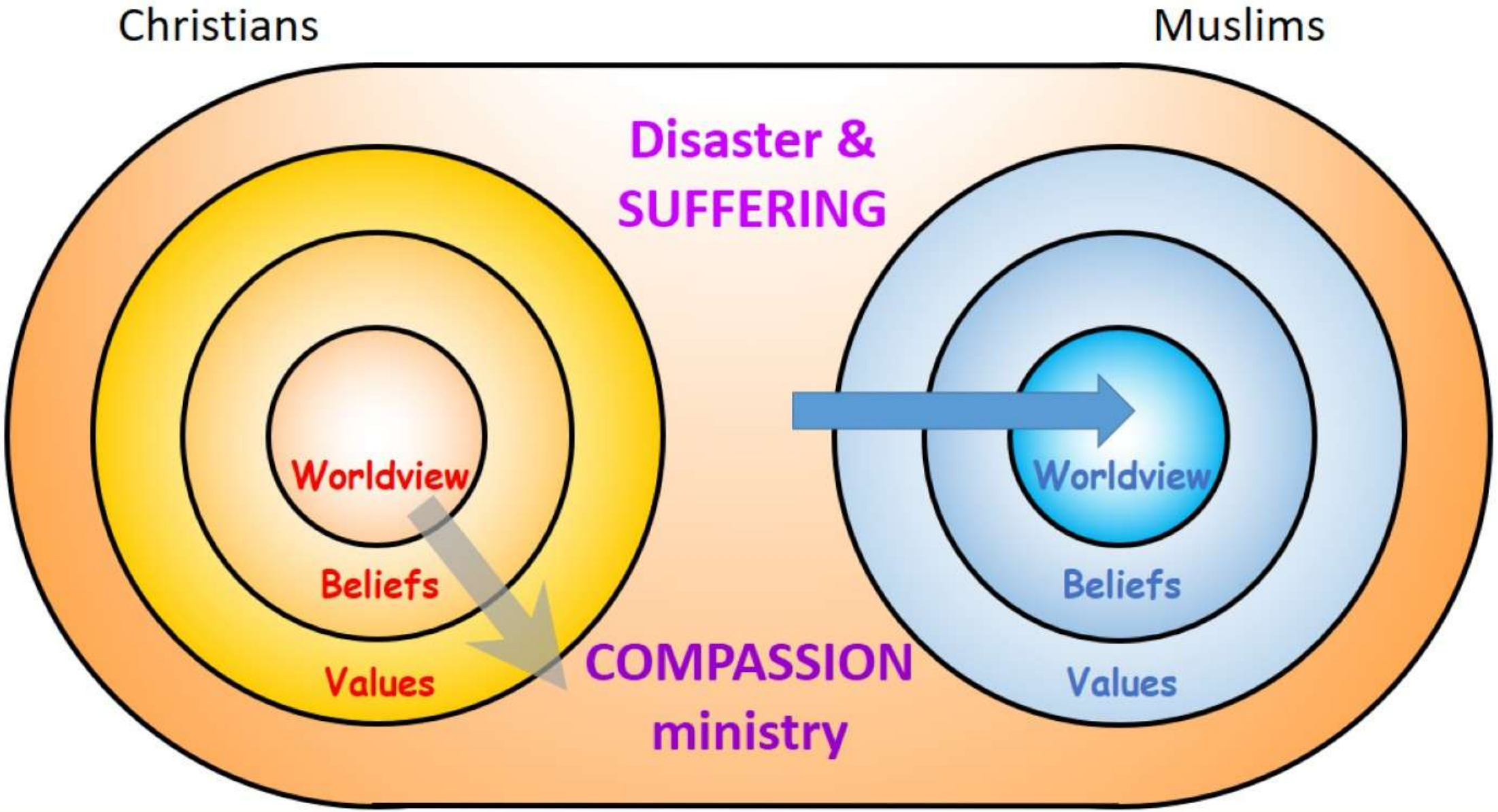
> "A Muslim who renounces Islam has, in Allah's judgment, forfeited his right to live; he has committed … high treason" (Imam Muhammad Al-Asi, Imam of the Islamic Center, Washington, D.C., 2005)



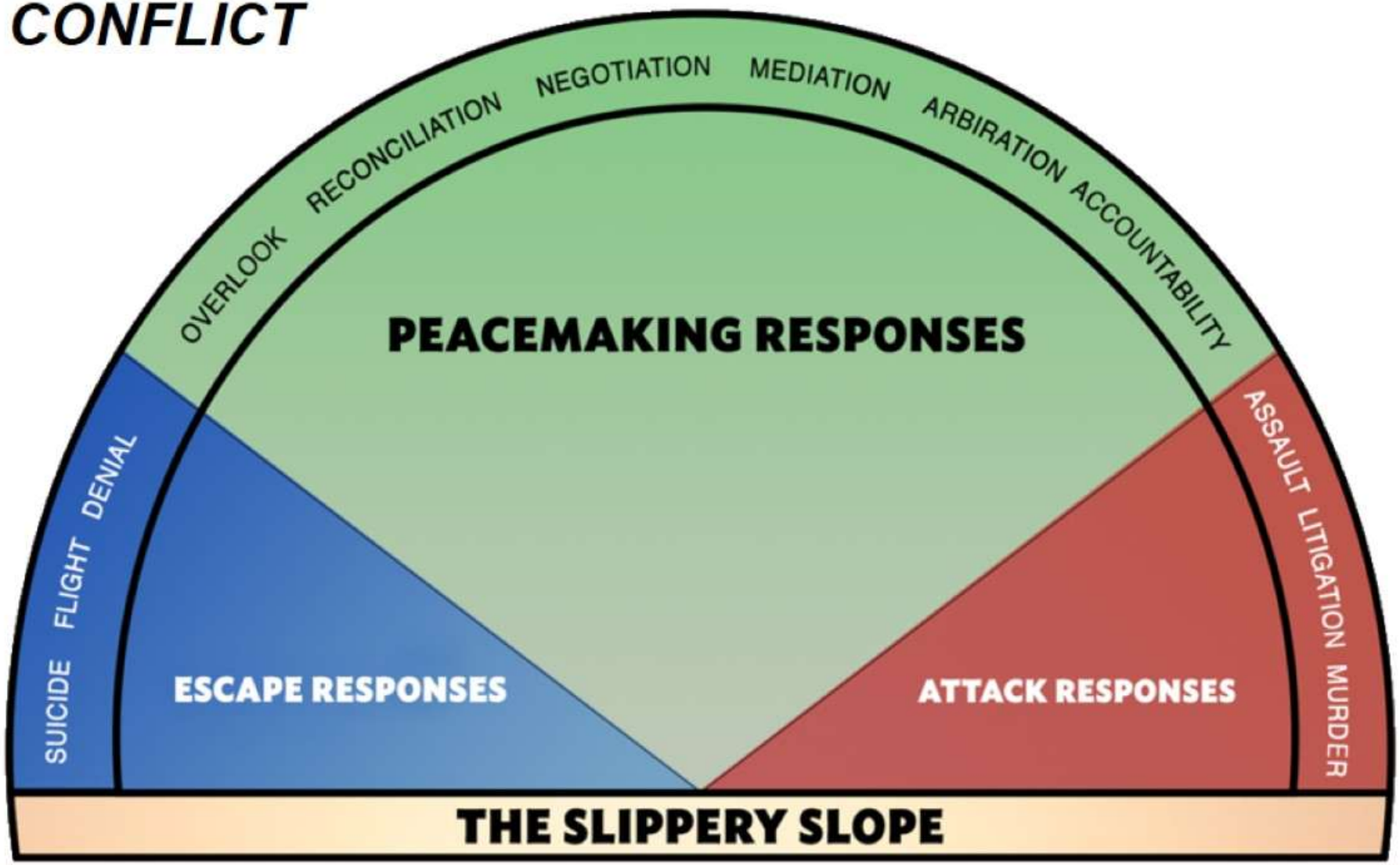
How Muslims make sense of:

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

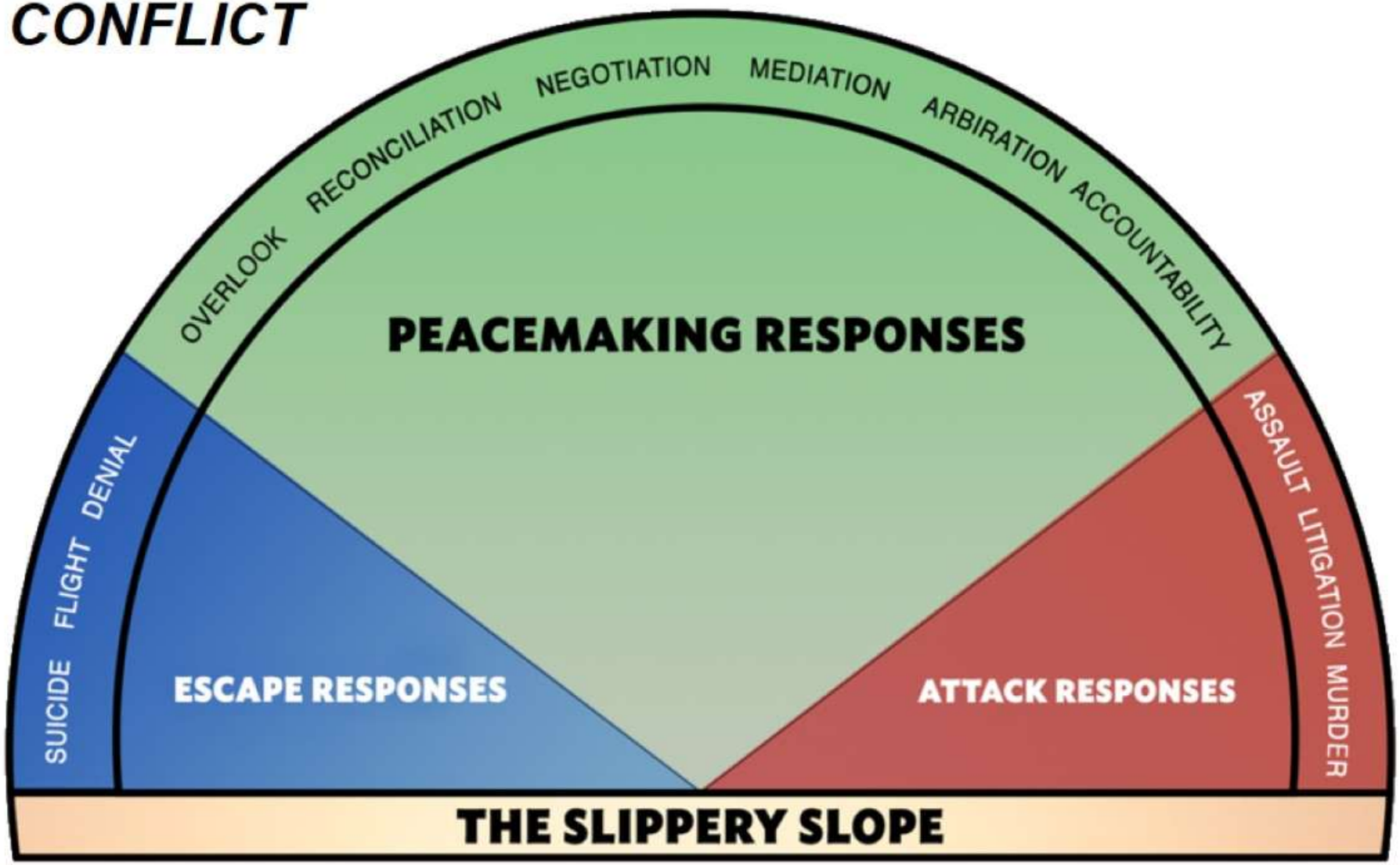



Christians
Muslims
Disaster &
SUFFERING
Worldview
Beliefs
Values
COMPASSION
ministry
Worldview
Beliefs
Values

Responses to CONFLICT



Responses to CONFLICT



Murder

Litigation

Assault

Accountability

Arbitration

Mediation

Negotiation

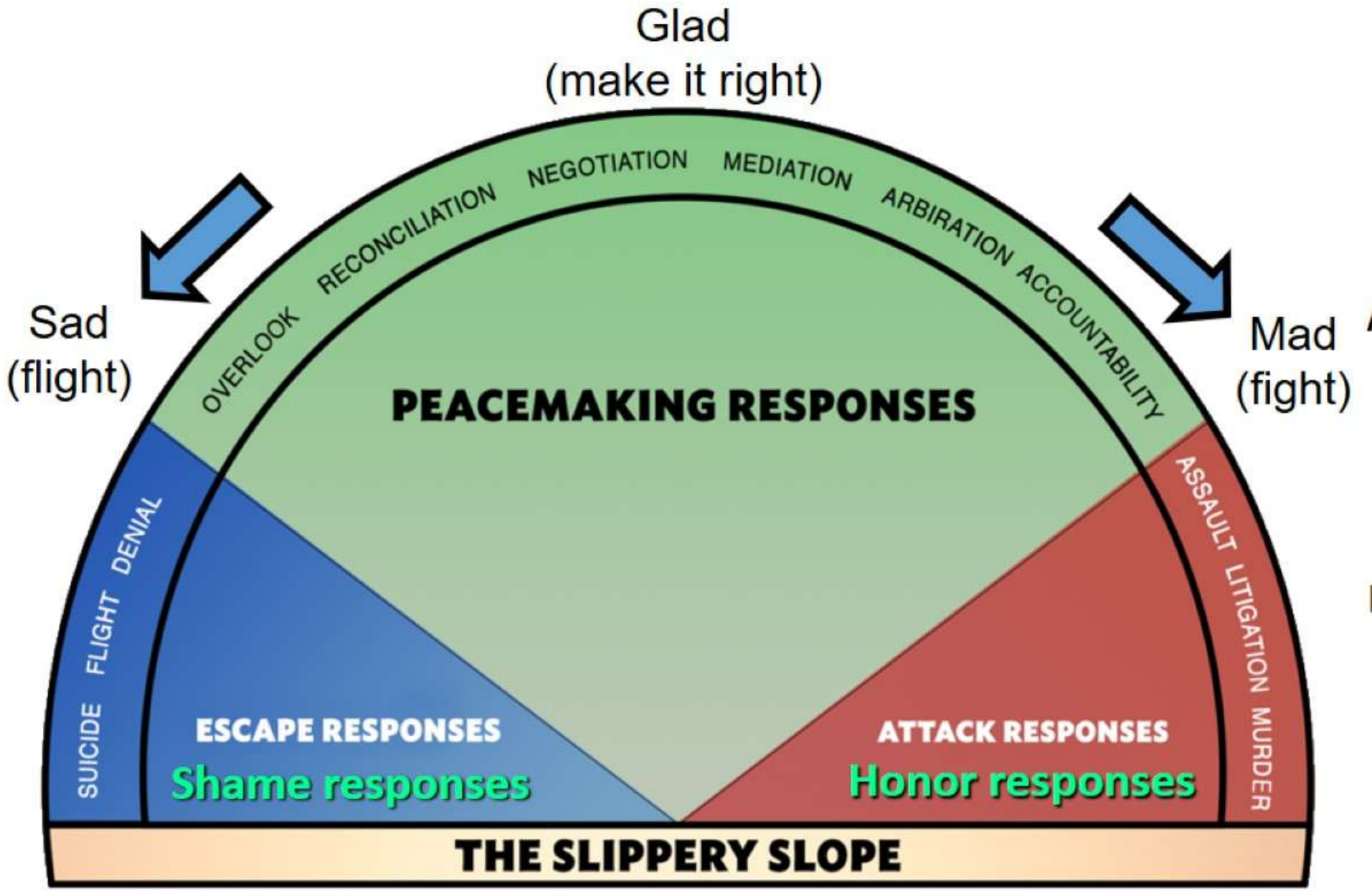
Reconciliation

Overlook

Denial

Flight

Suicide



Murder

Litigation

Assault

Accountability

Arbitration

Mediation

Negotiation

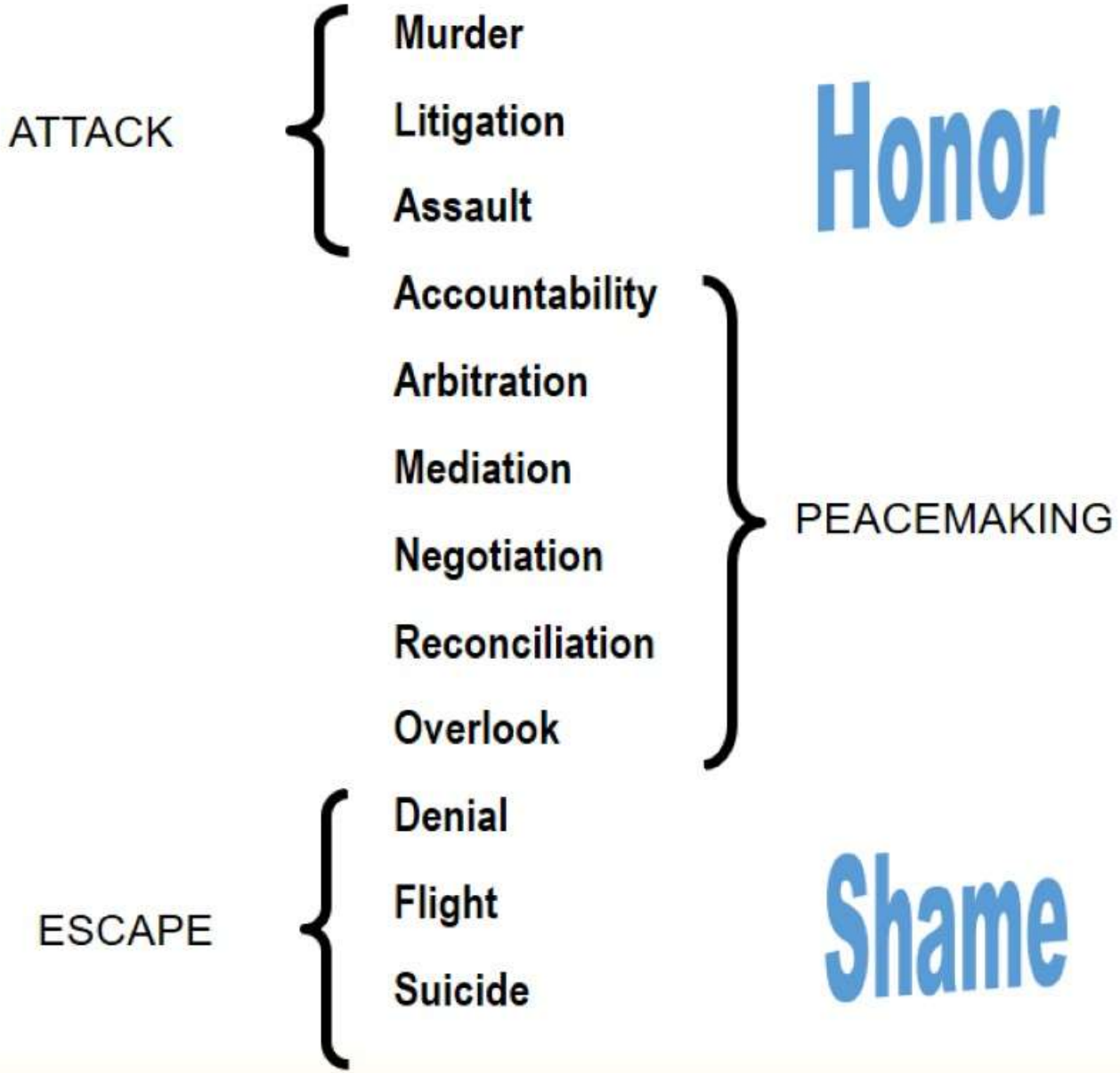
Reconciliation

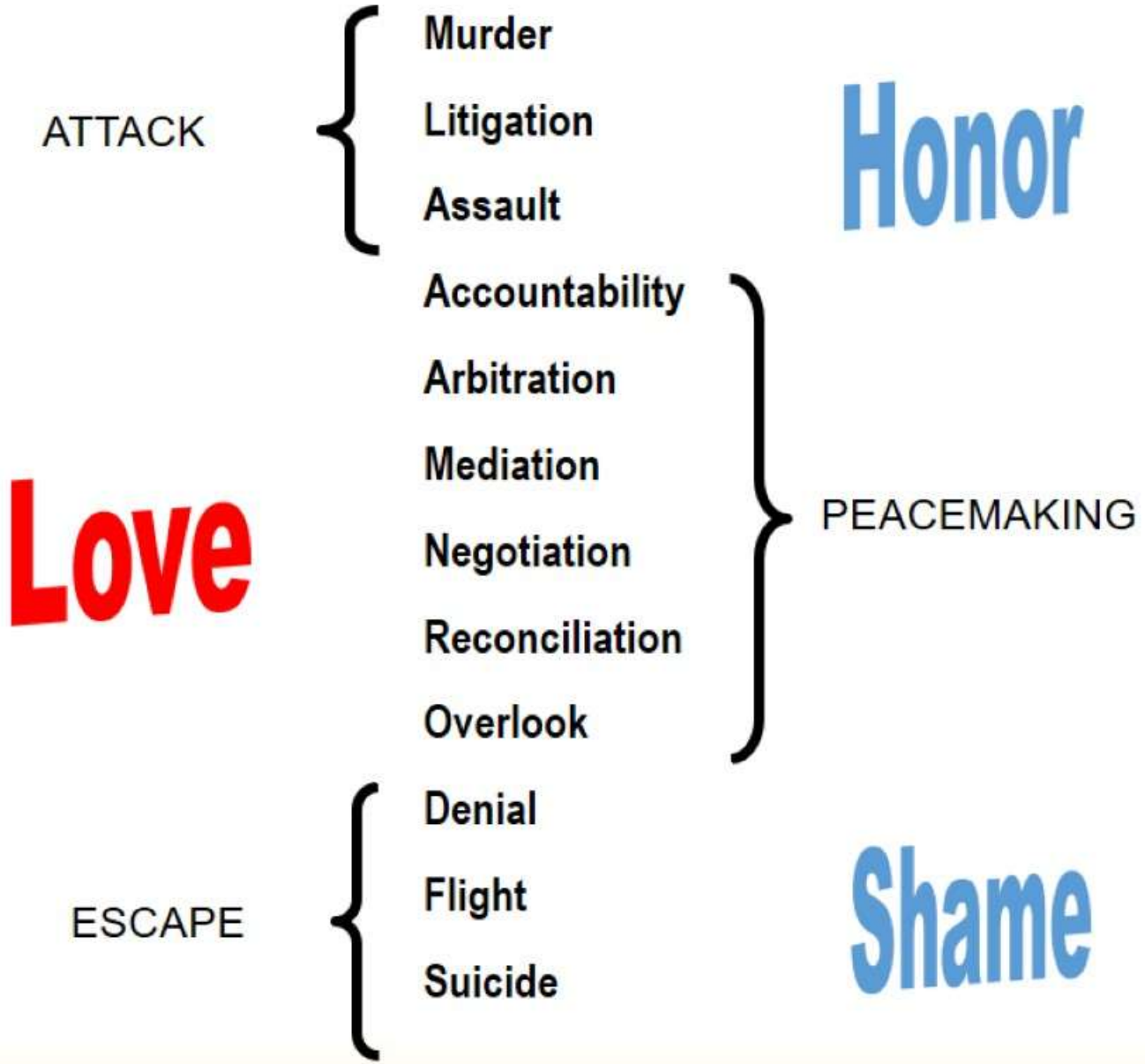
Overlook

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

- Murder
- Litigation
- Assault

Honor

- Accountability
- Arbitration
- Mediation
- Negotiation
- Reconciliation
- Overlook

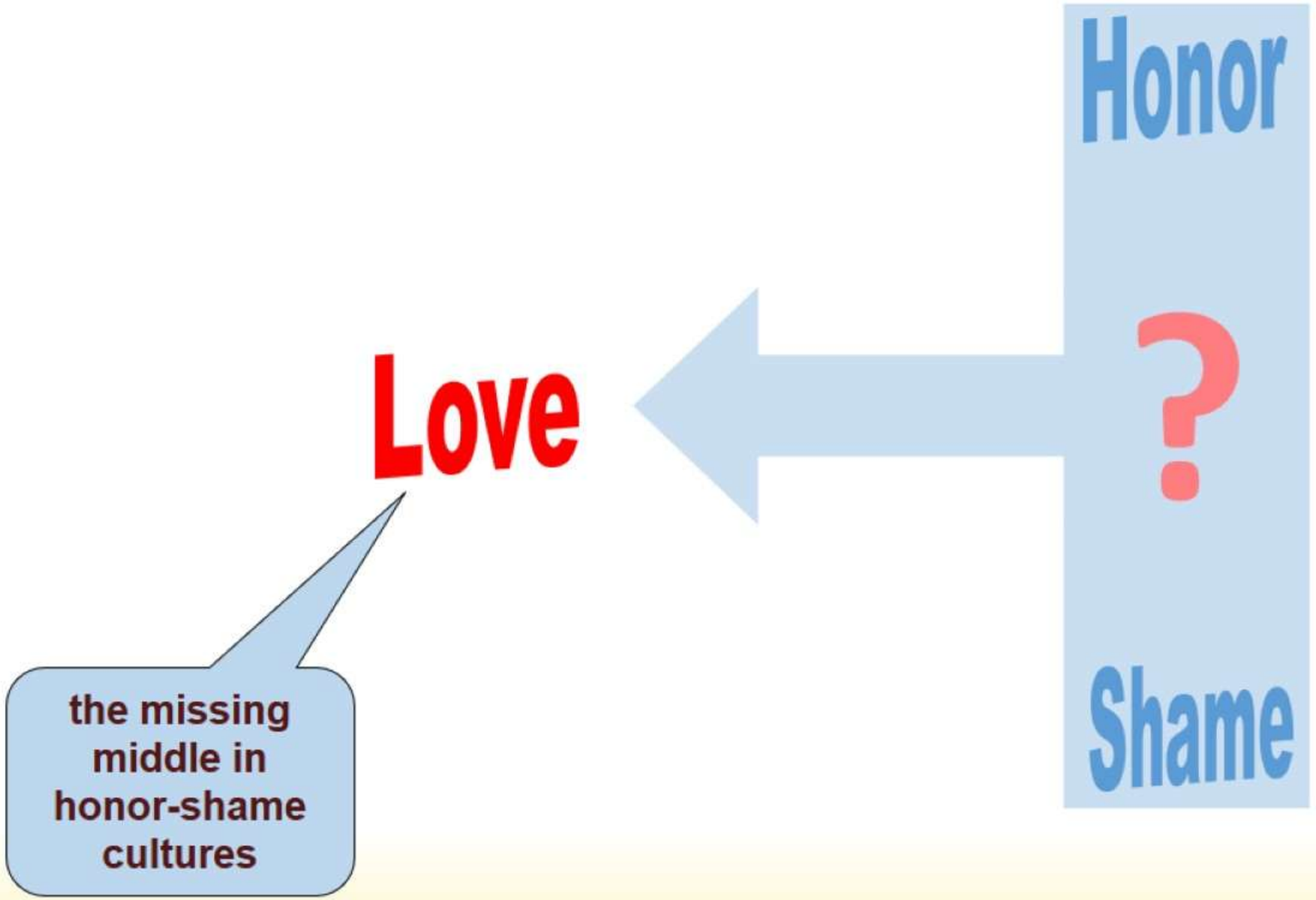
PEACEMAKING

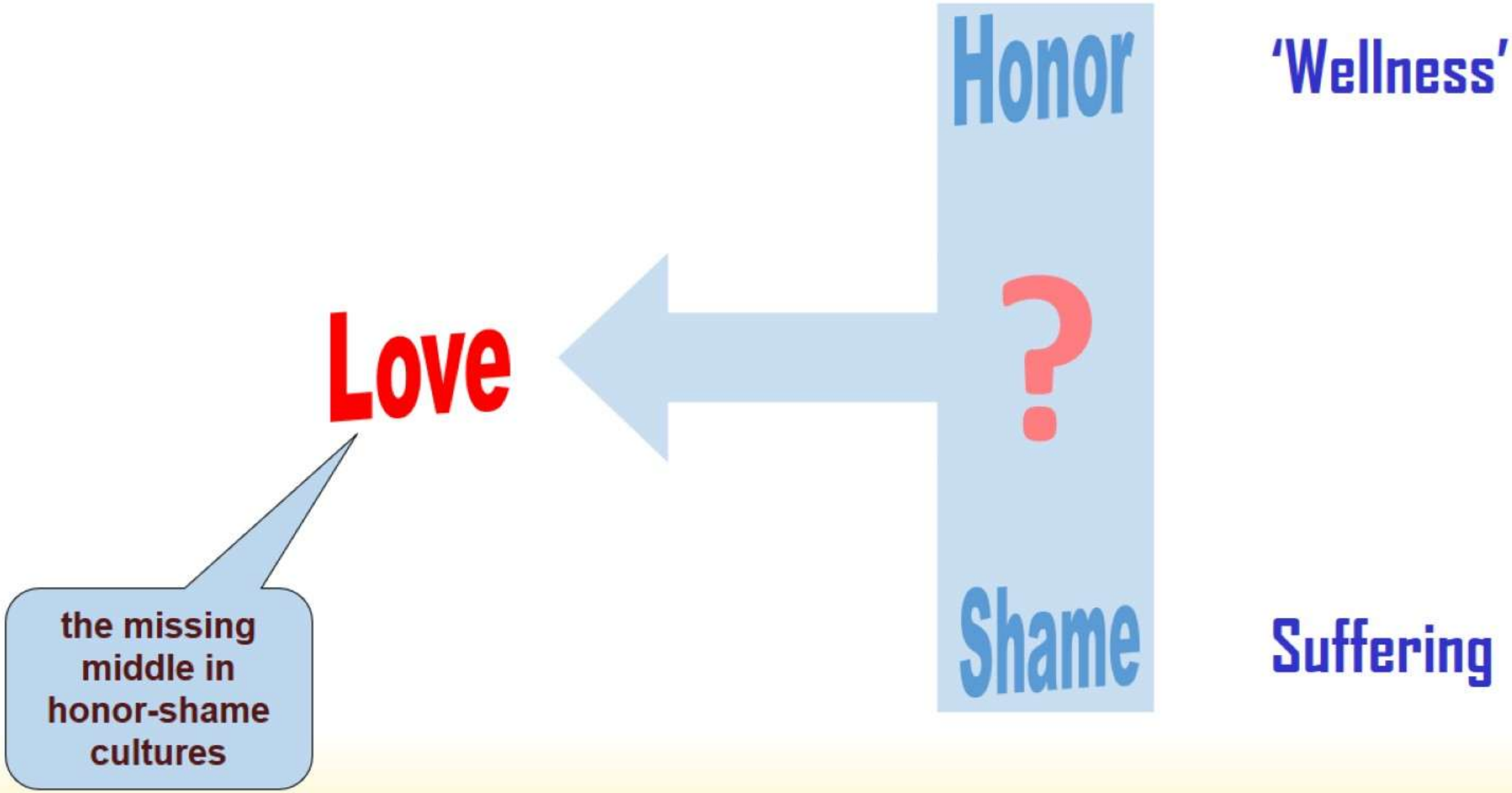
ESCAPE

- Denial
- Flight
- Suicide

Shame

the missing middle in honor-shame cultures


Honor
?
Shame
Love
the missing middle in honor-shame cultures


Honor
'Wellness'
Love
?
Shame
Suffering
the missing middle in honor-shame cultures

Compassion

- Love encounter

or

- Power encounter
- Revelation
- Relationship
- Truth encounter…

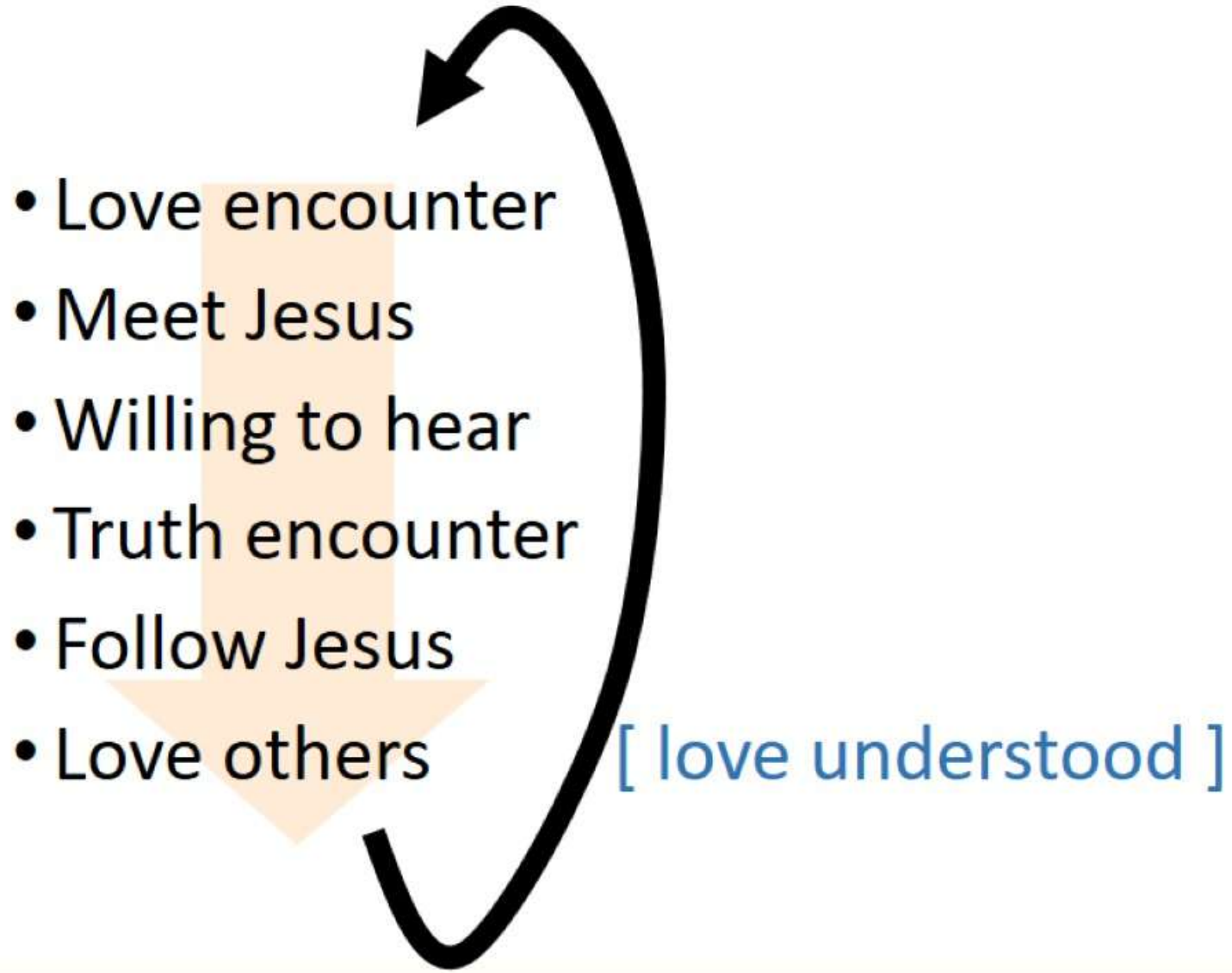
Love

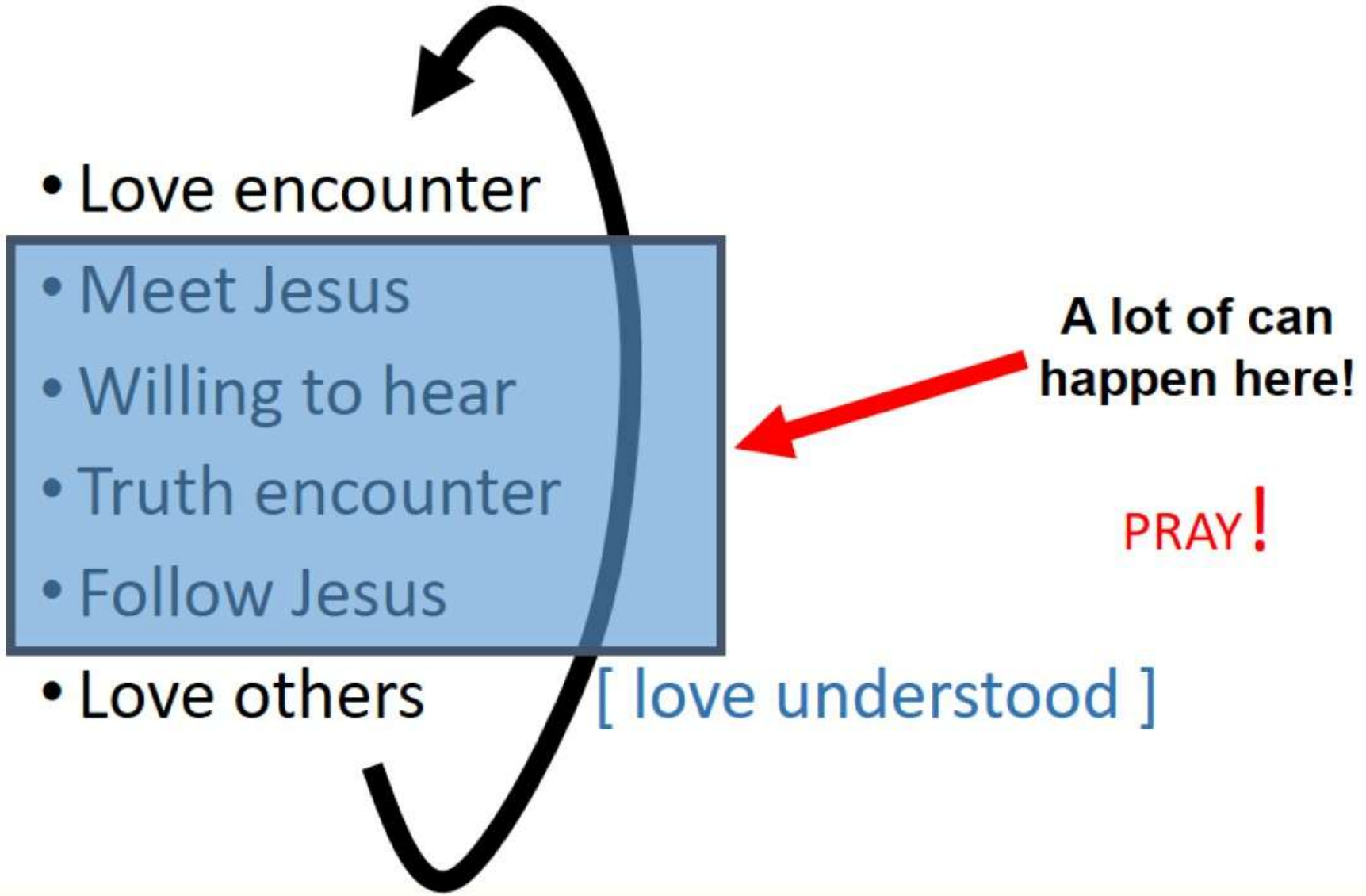
the missing middle in honor-shame cultures

Compassion

- Love encounter

- Love encounter
- Restoration & Meet Jesus [love restores honor]
- 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
A lot of can happen here!
PRAY!
[love understood]

LOVE

Experienced

HONORS

HEALS

willing to accept

community 1

LOVE

Experienced

HONORS

HEALS

willing to accept

community 1

LOVE

Observed from afar

MISUNDERSTOOD

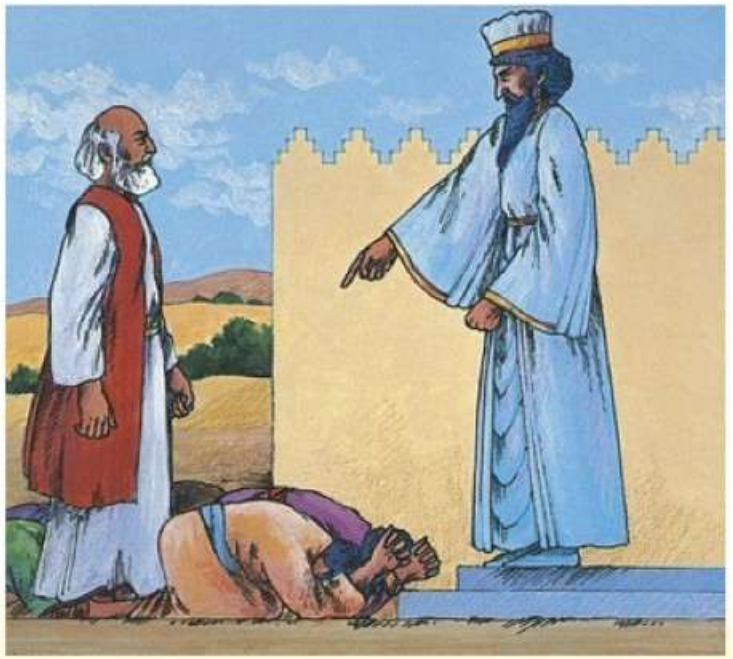
MISSED

Shamed → Persecute

community 2

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* - اَللهُ أَكْبَرُ) in all His attributes, i.e. He has the highest honor in these, 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. (Romans 5:8)

the missing middle in honor shame cultures

Christ's suffering is not a disgrace, but demonstrates that God is the greatest lover of all.

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

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.

We can do "Christian" ministry:

1) By our own strength → achieving our honor.
2) As an overflow from an abiding life in Christ → His honor.

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

5

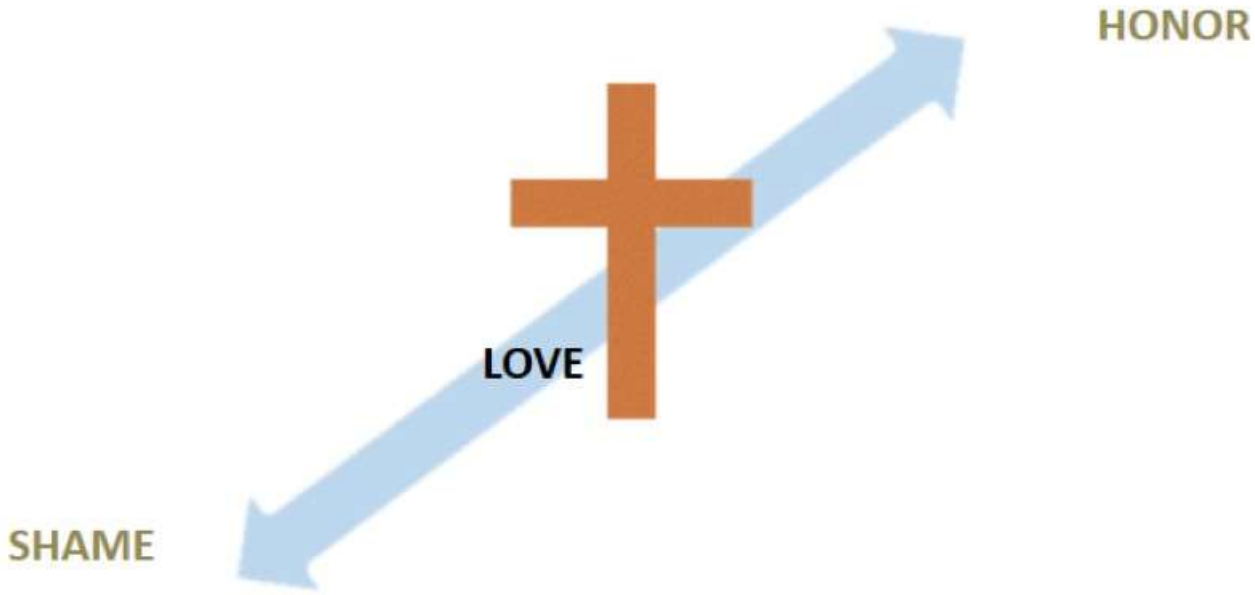
Reaching Communities & Networks

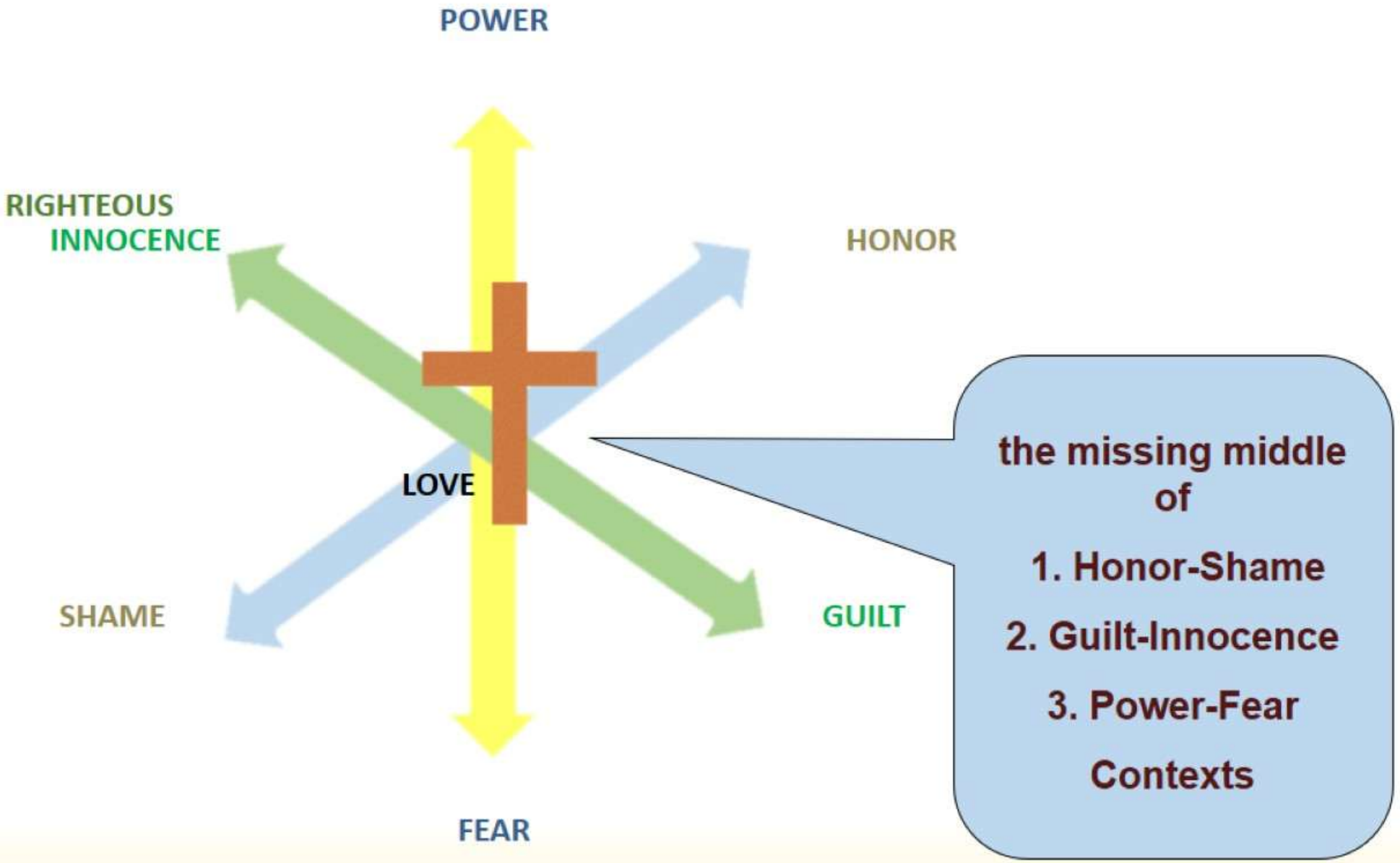
Seeking the honor of the community

- Permission and ownership from the local leaders
- Empowering = honoring. *E.g. 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)

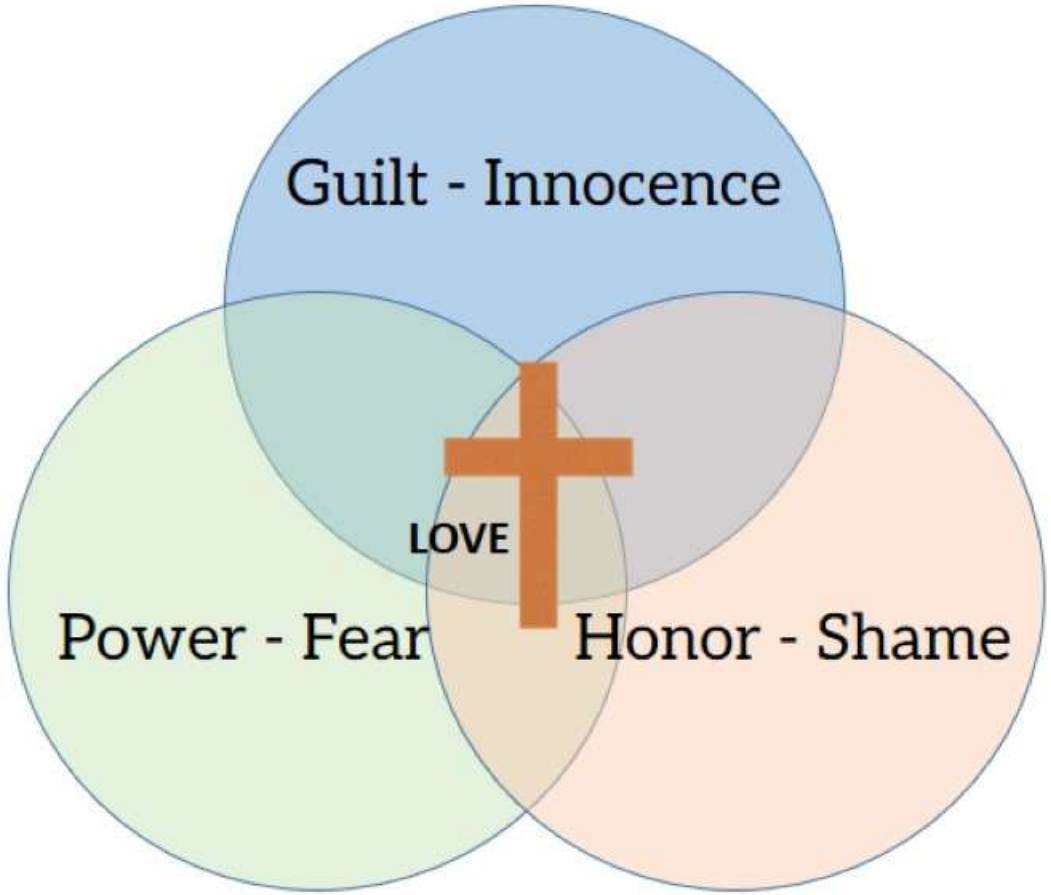

HONOR
LOVE
SHAME


POWER
RIGHTEOUS
INNOCENCE
HONOR
LOVE
SHAME
GUILT
FEAR
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)


Guilt - Innocence
LOVE
Power - Fear
Honor - Shame

1. Greatest honor is received when being most loved.
2. Greatest God = Greatest Love = Greatest Sacrifice (suffering) ⇨ 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.

Please fill out the workshop evaluation with this QR code

Questions, Comments?

Alex.Tee@OMFmail.com


God's love has been poured out into our hearts
through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.
(Romans 5:5)
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