

Doing **Short-Terms Missions** without Doing **Long-Term Harm**

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EXERCISE

Imagine that you are trying to design a Short-Term Missions Program for your church.

What are some key questions you should ask?

WHAT IS **POVERTY**?

**HOW WE DEFINE POVERTY
DETERMINES THE SOLUTIONS WE
PROPOSE**

THE CAUSE OF POVERTY

Lack of knowledge

Oppression by powerful people

Personal sins of the poor

Lack of material things

PROPOSED SOLUTION

Education

Work for social justice

Evangelism and discipleship

Greater access to material things

THE CAUSE OF POVERTY

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MOST AMERICANS DEFINE POVERTY IN MATERIAL TERMS

A person wearing a grey hoodie and blue jeans is sitting on a bench, looking down at a white cup in their hands. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with a building and trees. The image is dimly lit, with a dark overlay.

MOST AMERICANS DEFINE POVERTY IN MATERIAL TERMS

LACK OF INCOME

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MOST AMERICANS DEFINE POVERTY IN MATERIAL TERMS

LACK OF

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MOST AMERICANS DEFINE POVERTY IN MATERIAL TERMS



MOST AMERICANS DEFINE POVERTY IN MATERIAL TERMS

LACK OF WEALTH

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MOST AMERICANS DEFINE POVERTY IN MATERIAL TERMS

A group of diverse people, including men and women of various ages, are gathered around a table serving food. They are using plates and bowls, and some are holding food items. The scene is outdoors, and the background is slightly blurred, focusing attention on the people and their actions. The overall tone is one of community and care.

MOST AMERICANS DEFINE POVERTY IN MATERIAL TERMS

LACK OF FOOD

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MOST AMERICANS DEFINE POVERTY IN MATERIAL TERMS

LACK OF

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MOST AMERICANS DEFINE POVERTY IN MATERIAL TERMS



MOST AMERICANS DEFINE POVERTY IN MATERIAL TERMS

LACK OF HOUSING

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MOST AMERICANS DEFINE POVERTY IN MATERIAL TERMS

LACK OF

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MOST AMERICANS DEFINE POVERTY IN MATERIAL TERMS

A group of healthcare professionals in white coats are gathered around a patient. One person is writing on a clipboard. The scene is dimly lit, with a focus on the hands and the clipboard. The text is overlaid on the image.

MOST AMERICANS DEFINE POVERTY IN MATERIAL TERMS

LACK OF HEALTHCARE



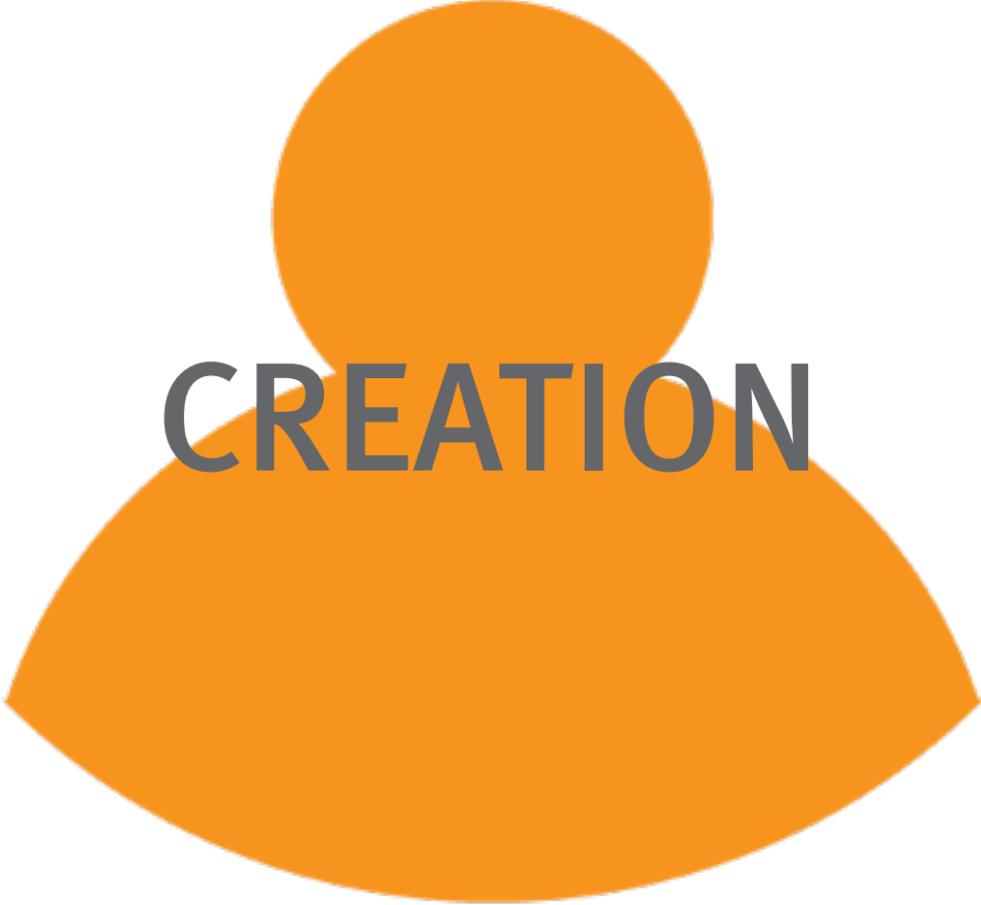
MOST AMERICANS DEFINE POVERTY IN MATERIAL TERMS

LACK OF

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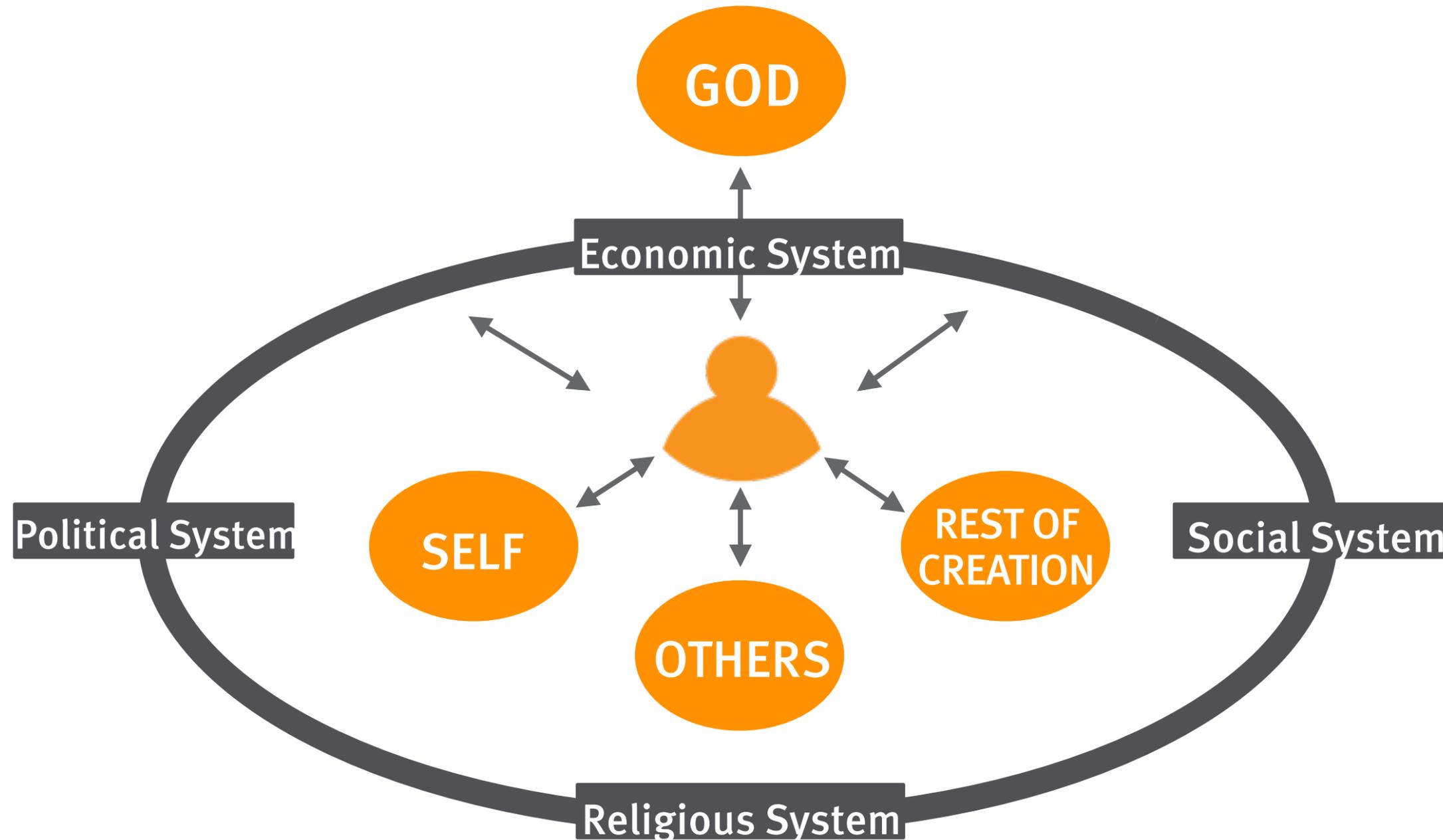
“For a poor person, everything is terrible - illness, humiliation, and shame. We are cripples; we are afraid of everything; we depend on everyone. No one needs us. We are like garbage that everyone wants to get rid of.”

Woman from **Moldova**

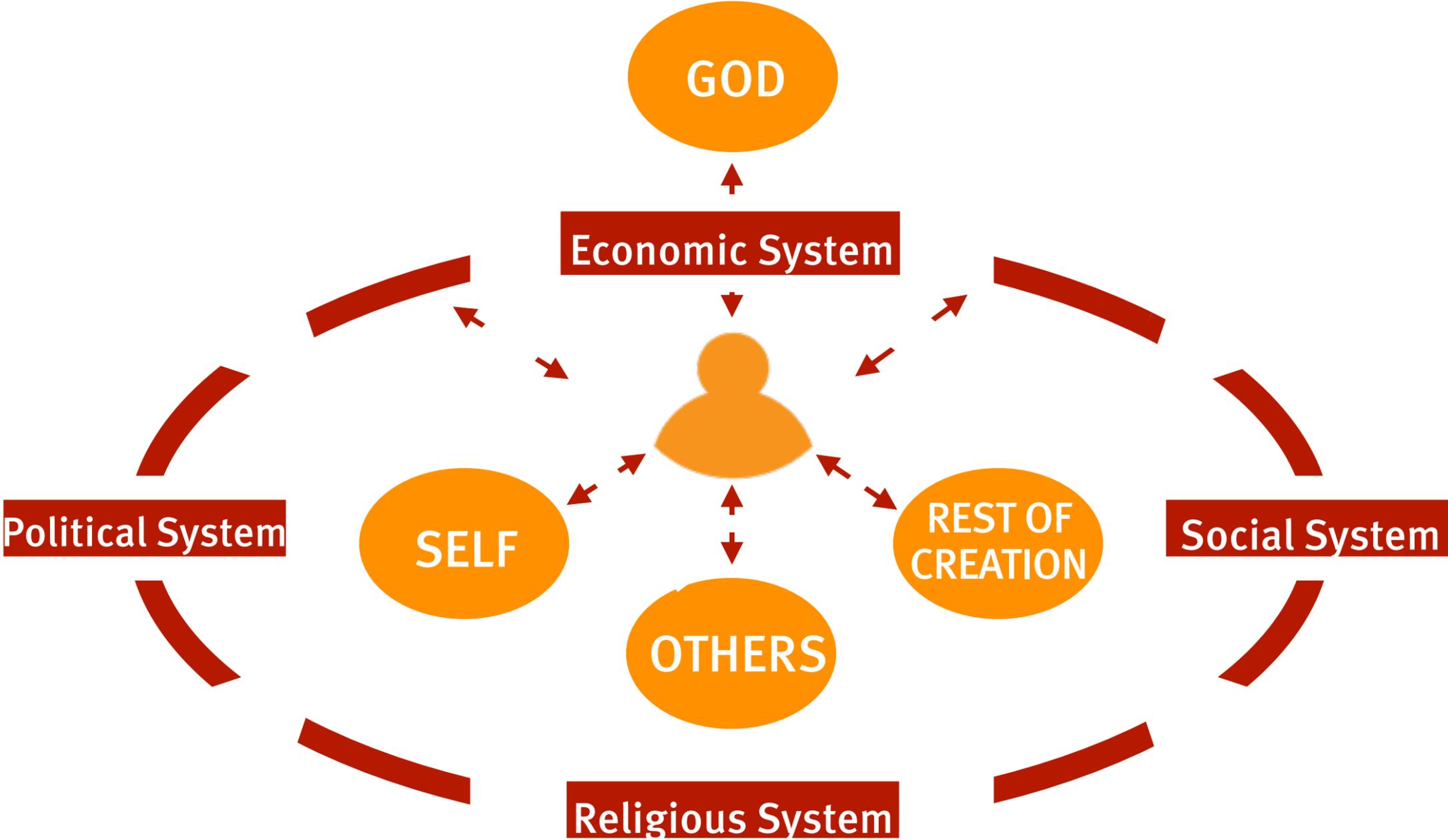
A stylized orange icon of a person, consisting of a circle for the head and a larger, rounded shape for the torso. The word "CREATION" is centered over the torso.

CREATION

CREATION



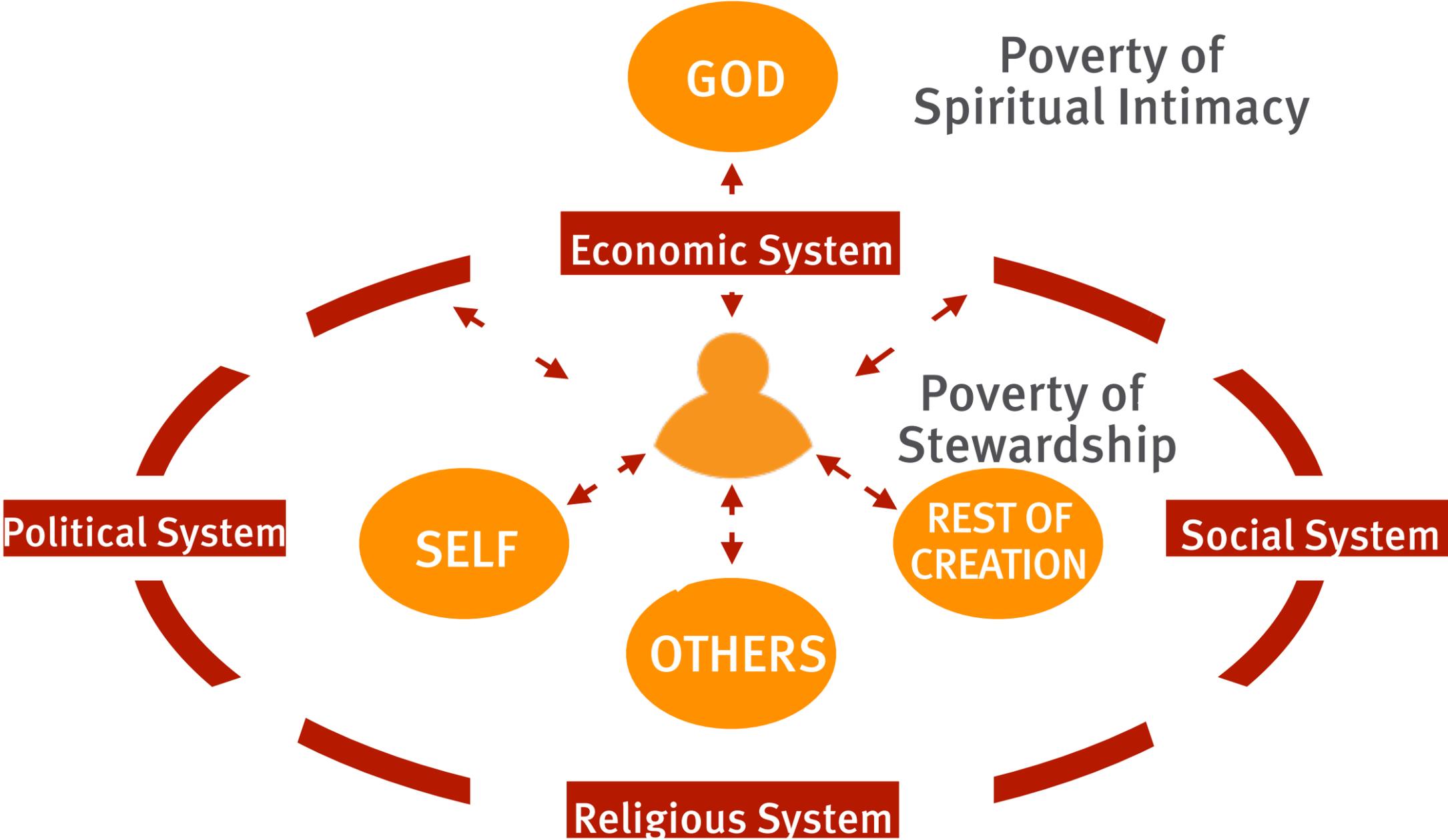
THE FALL



THE FALL



THE FALL



THE FALL



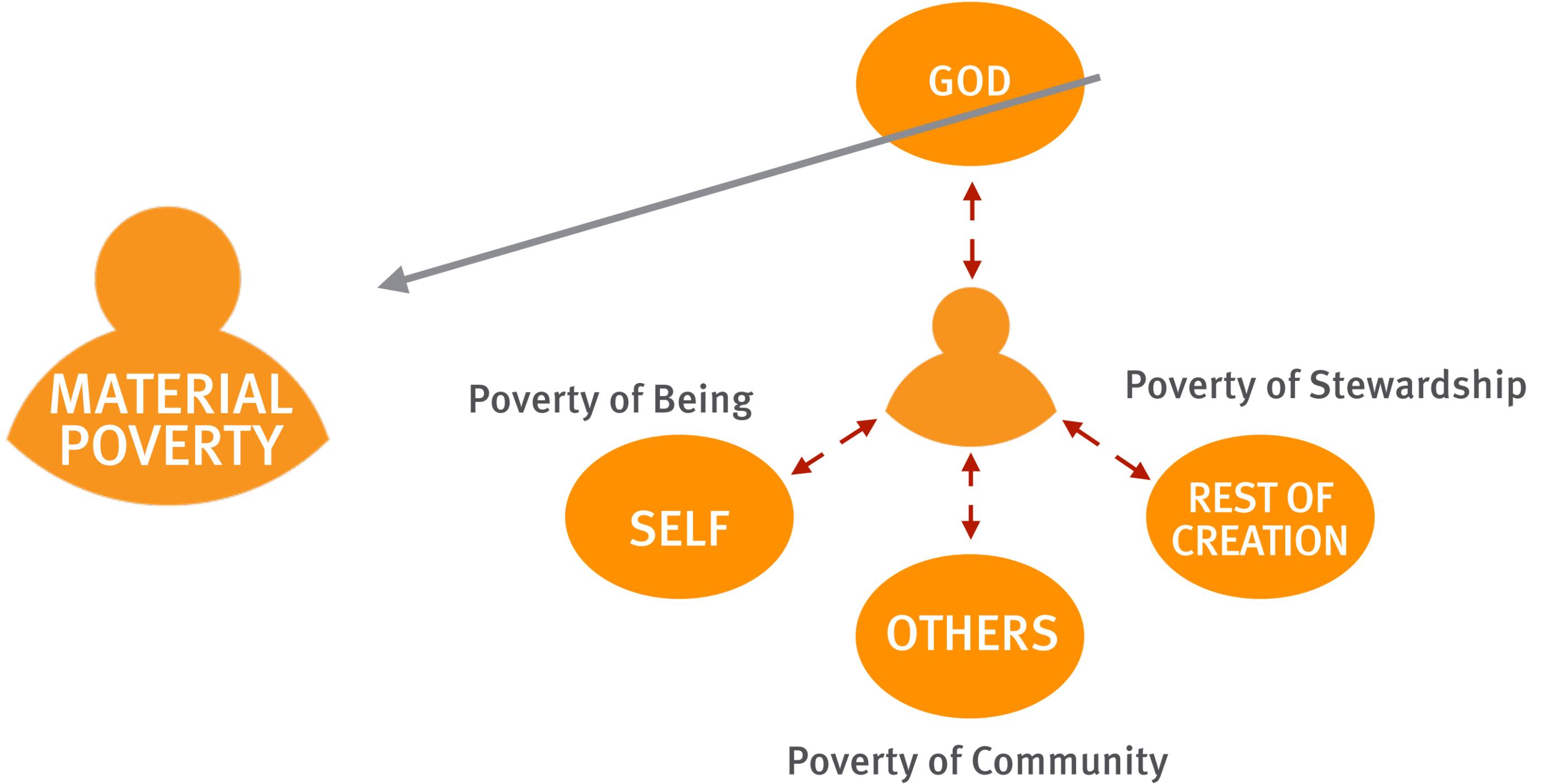
THE FALL

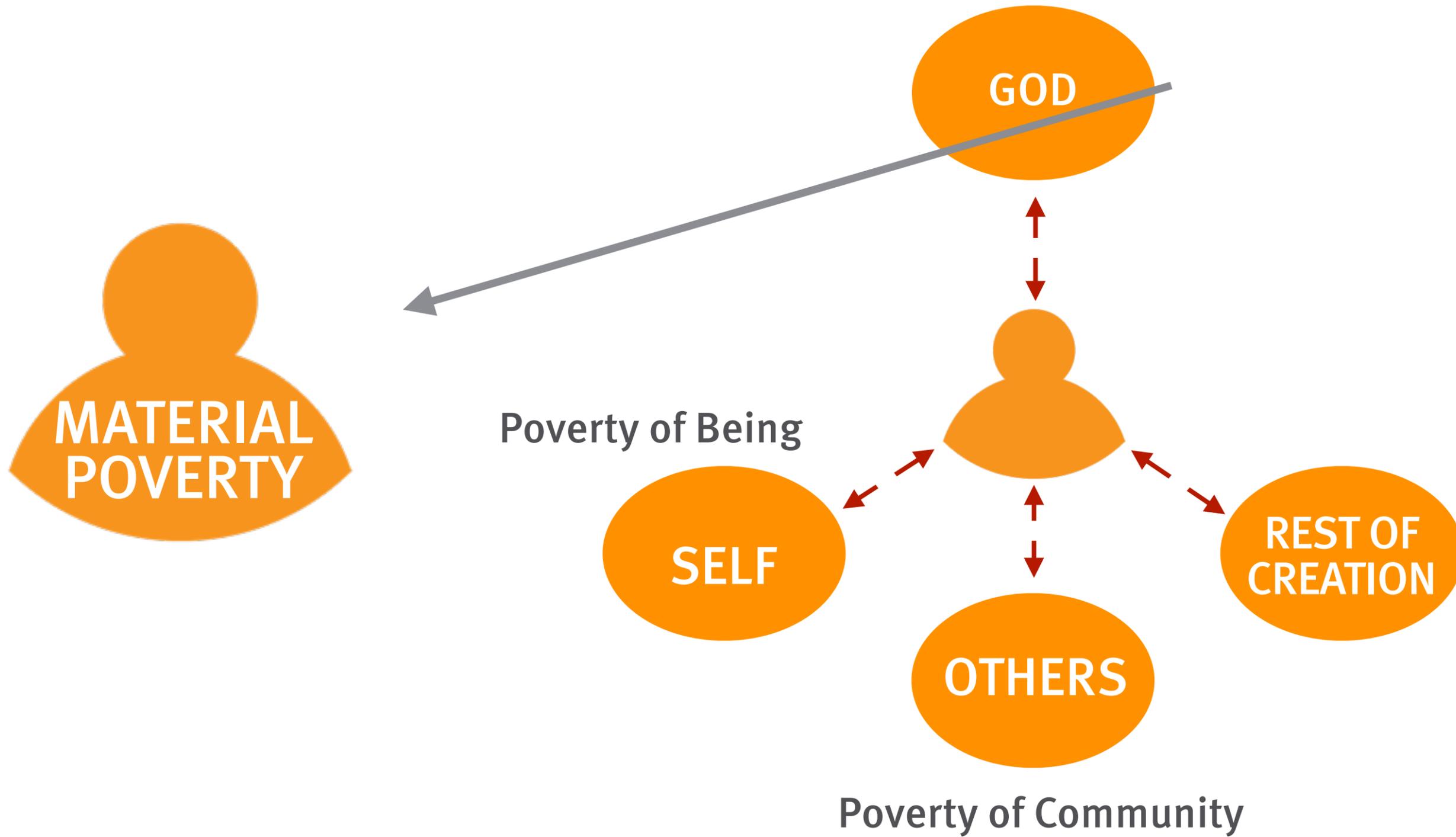


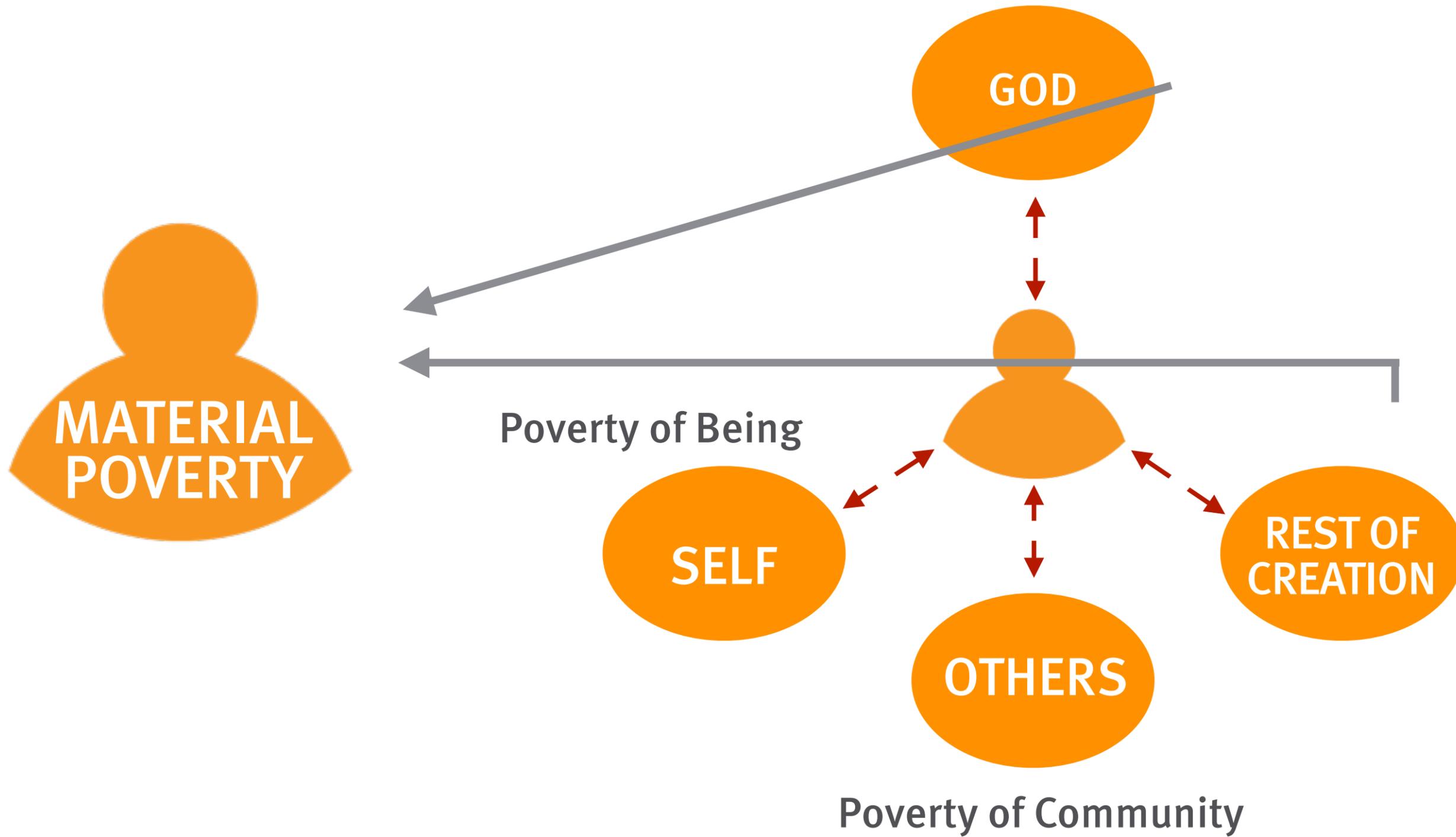


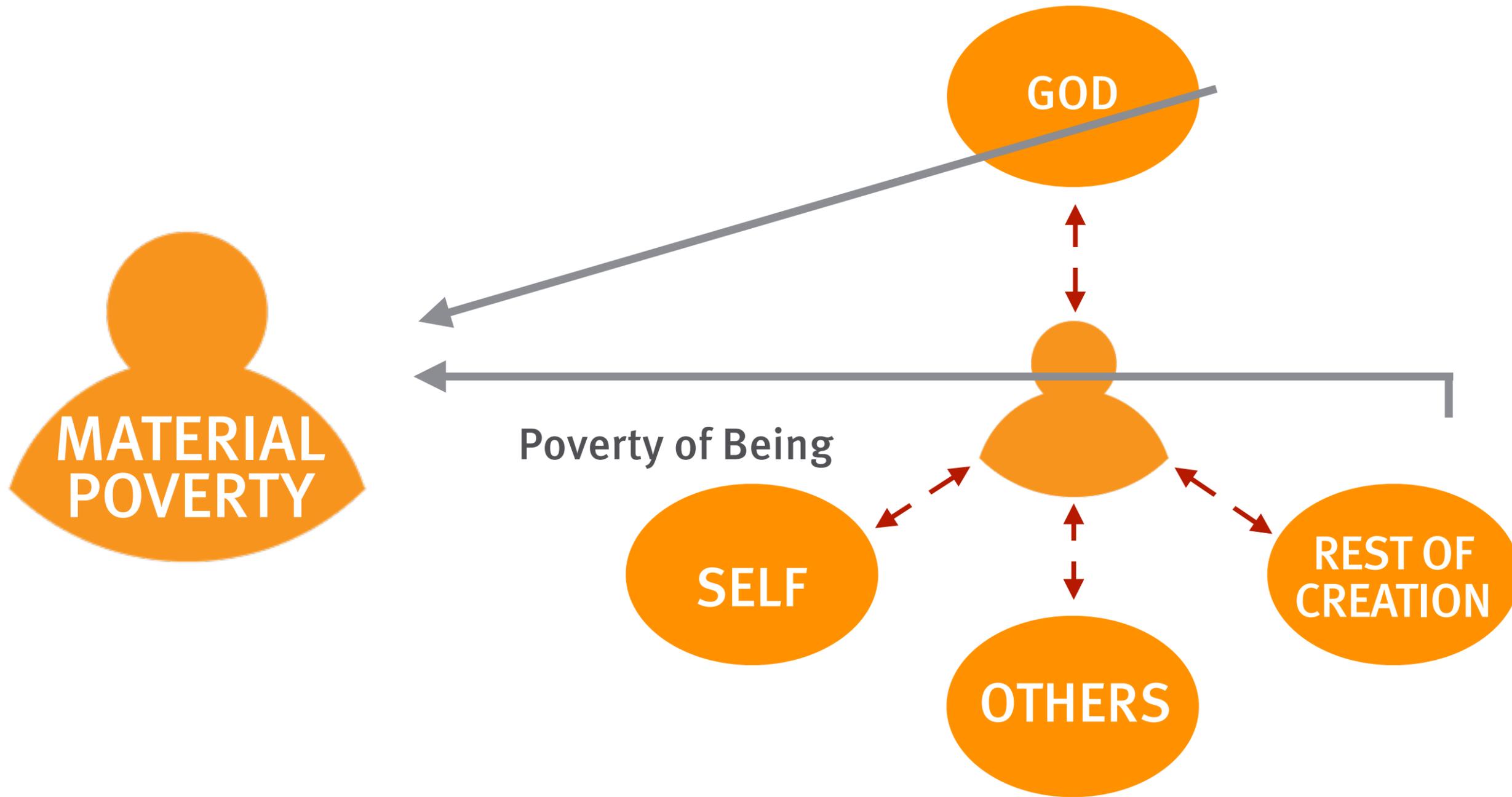


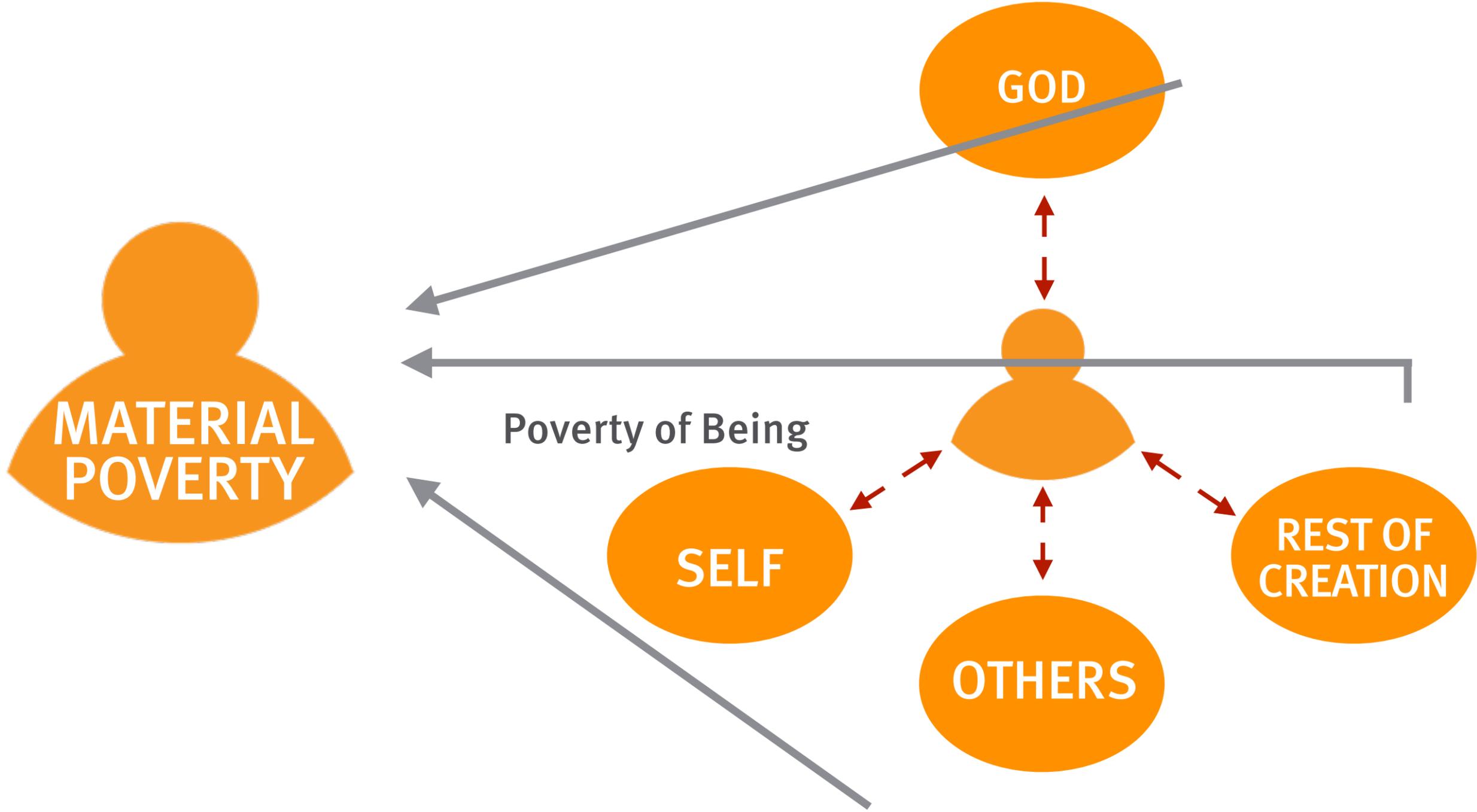


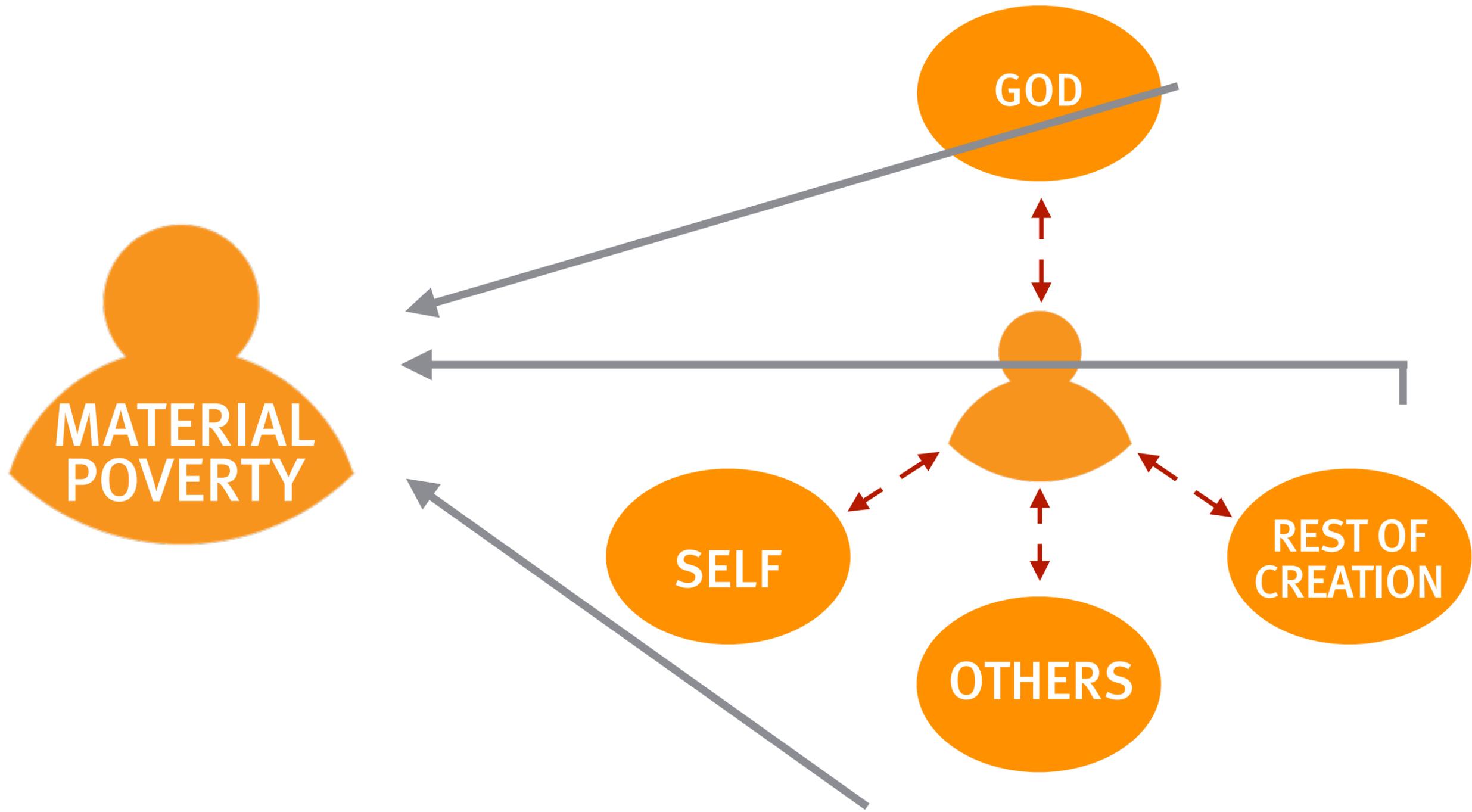


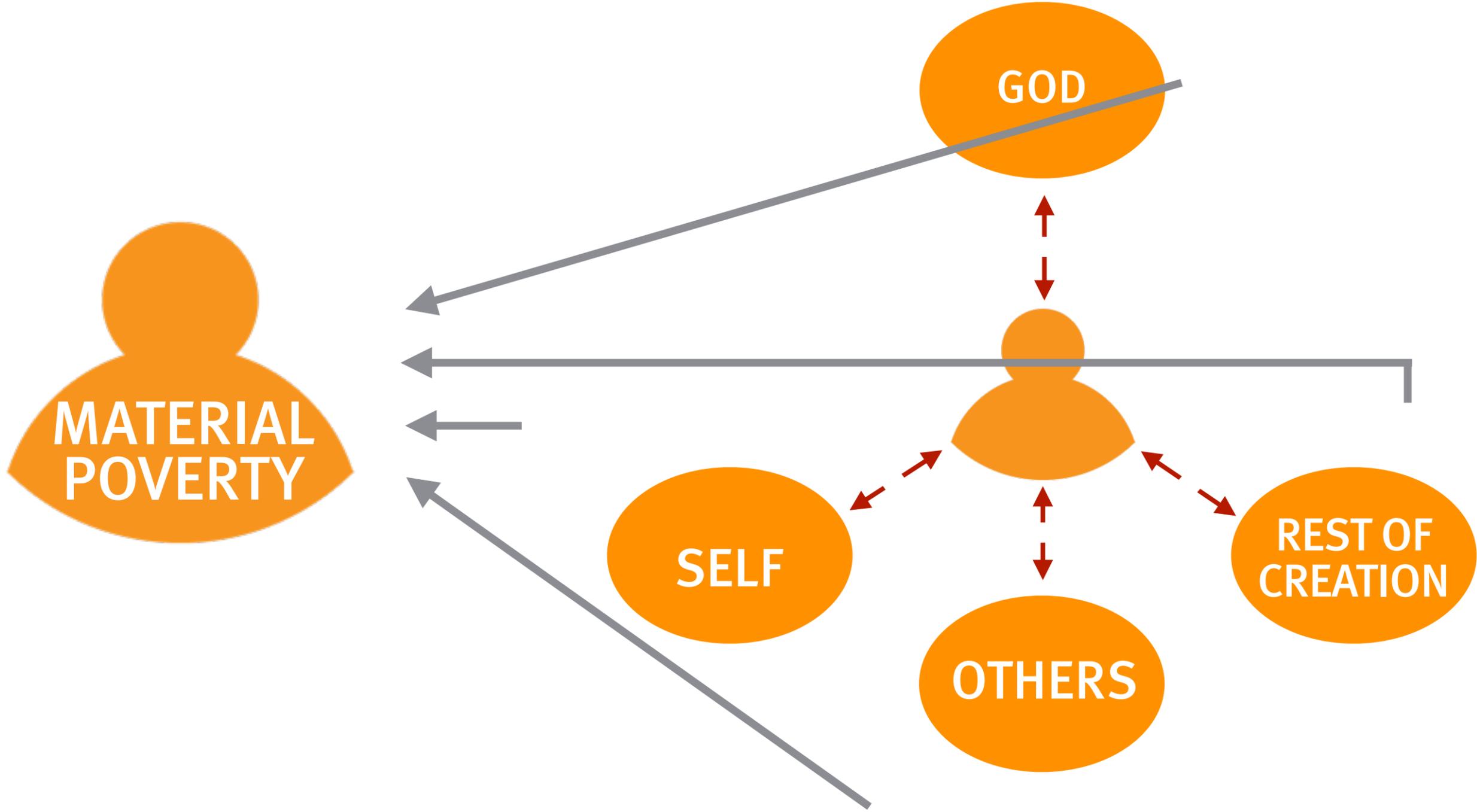


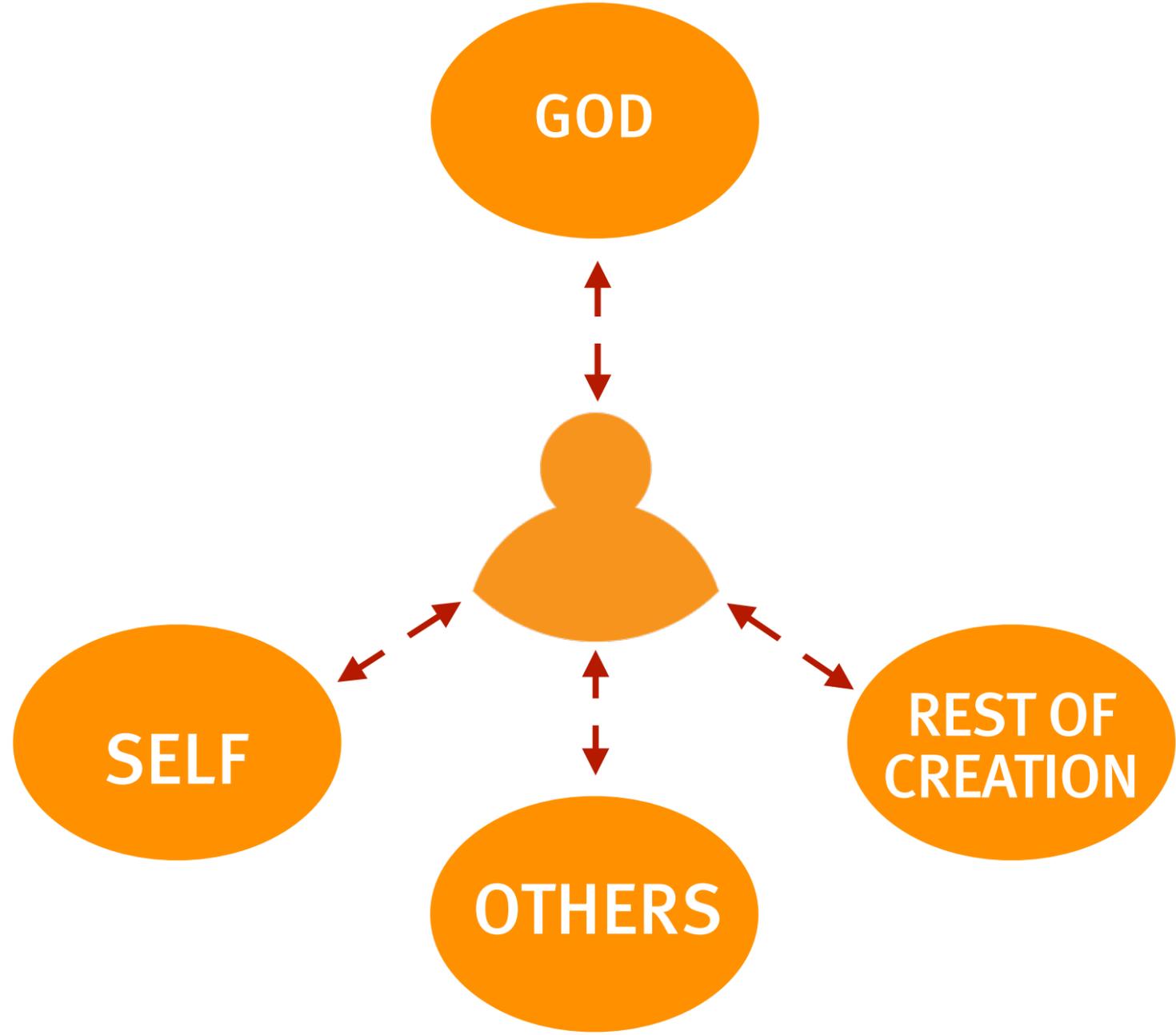


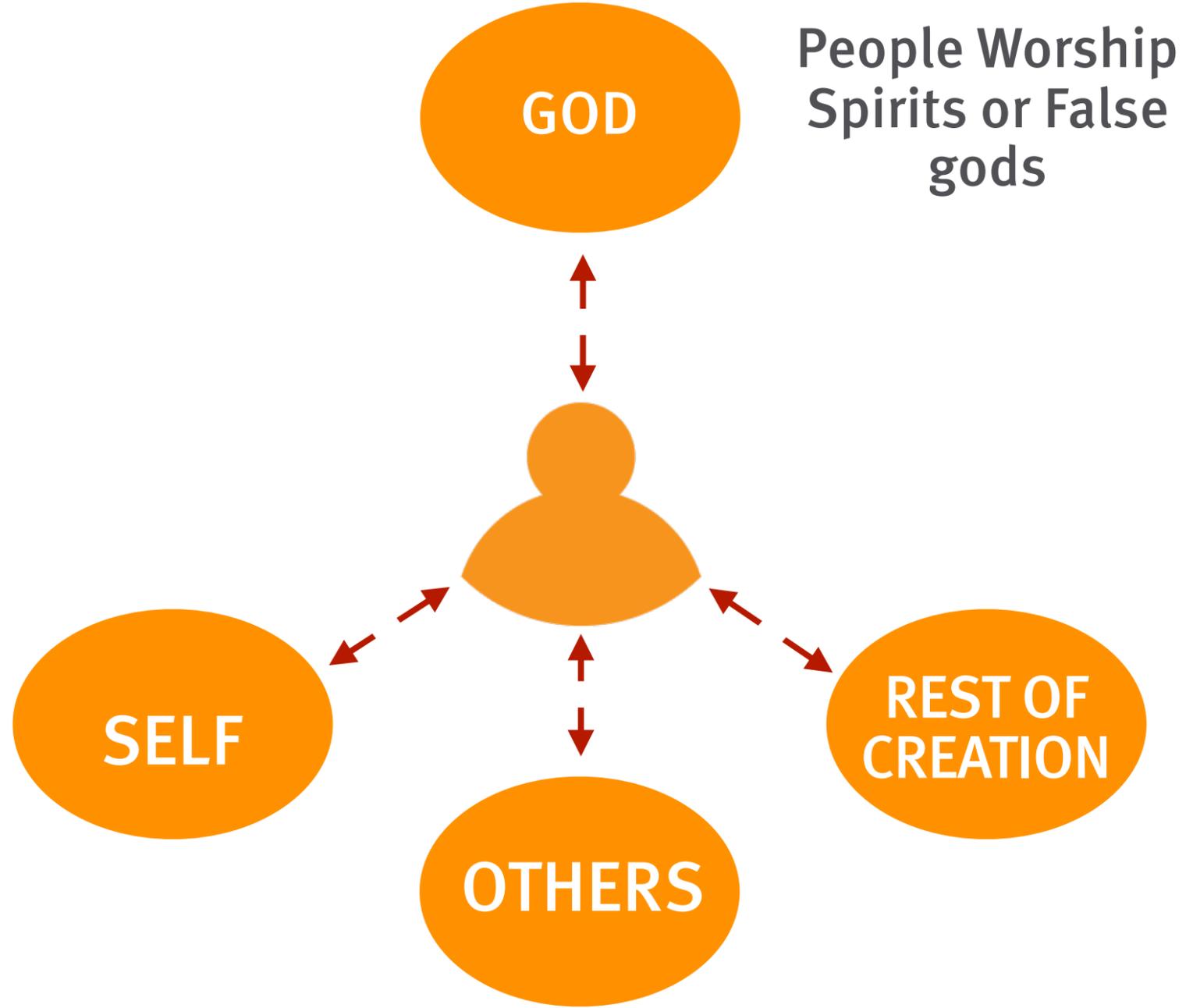


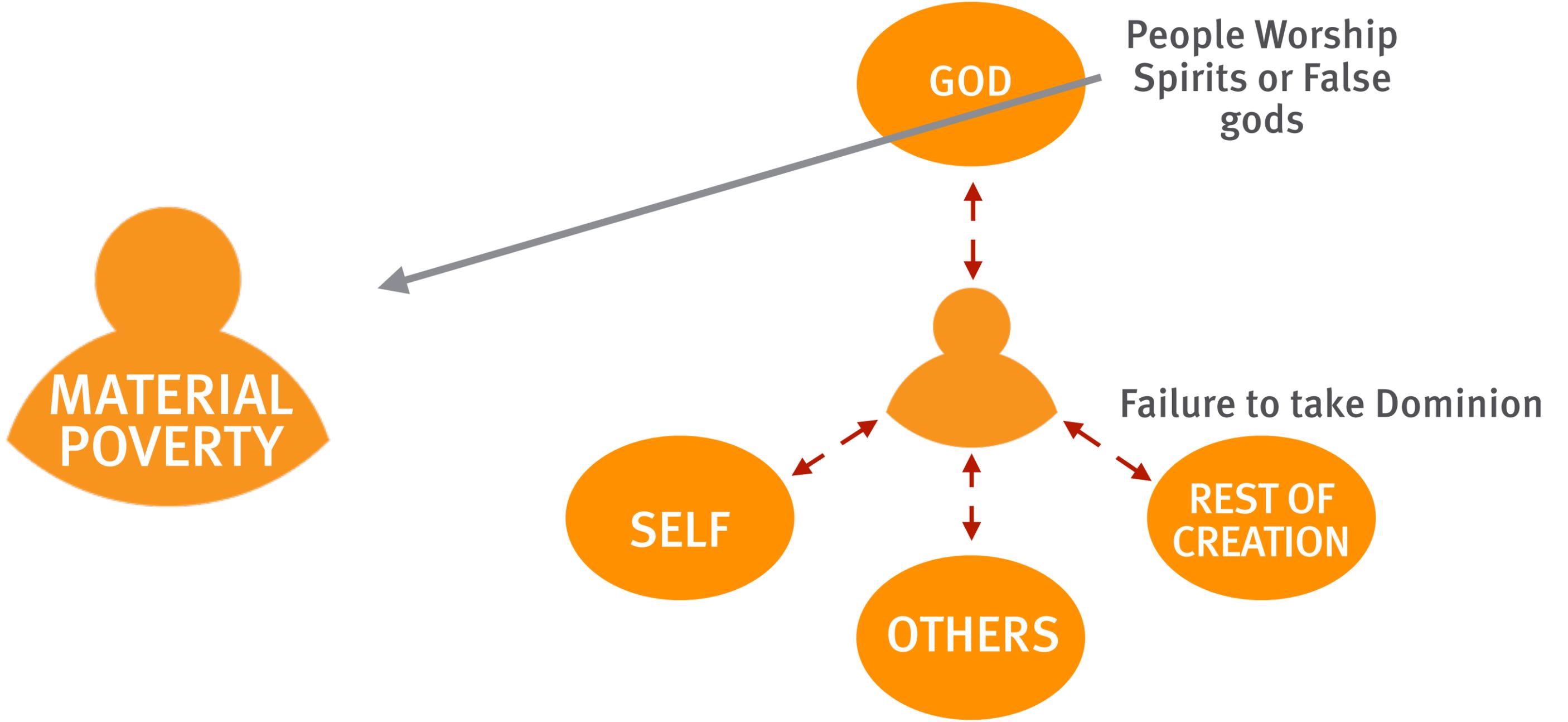


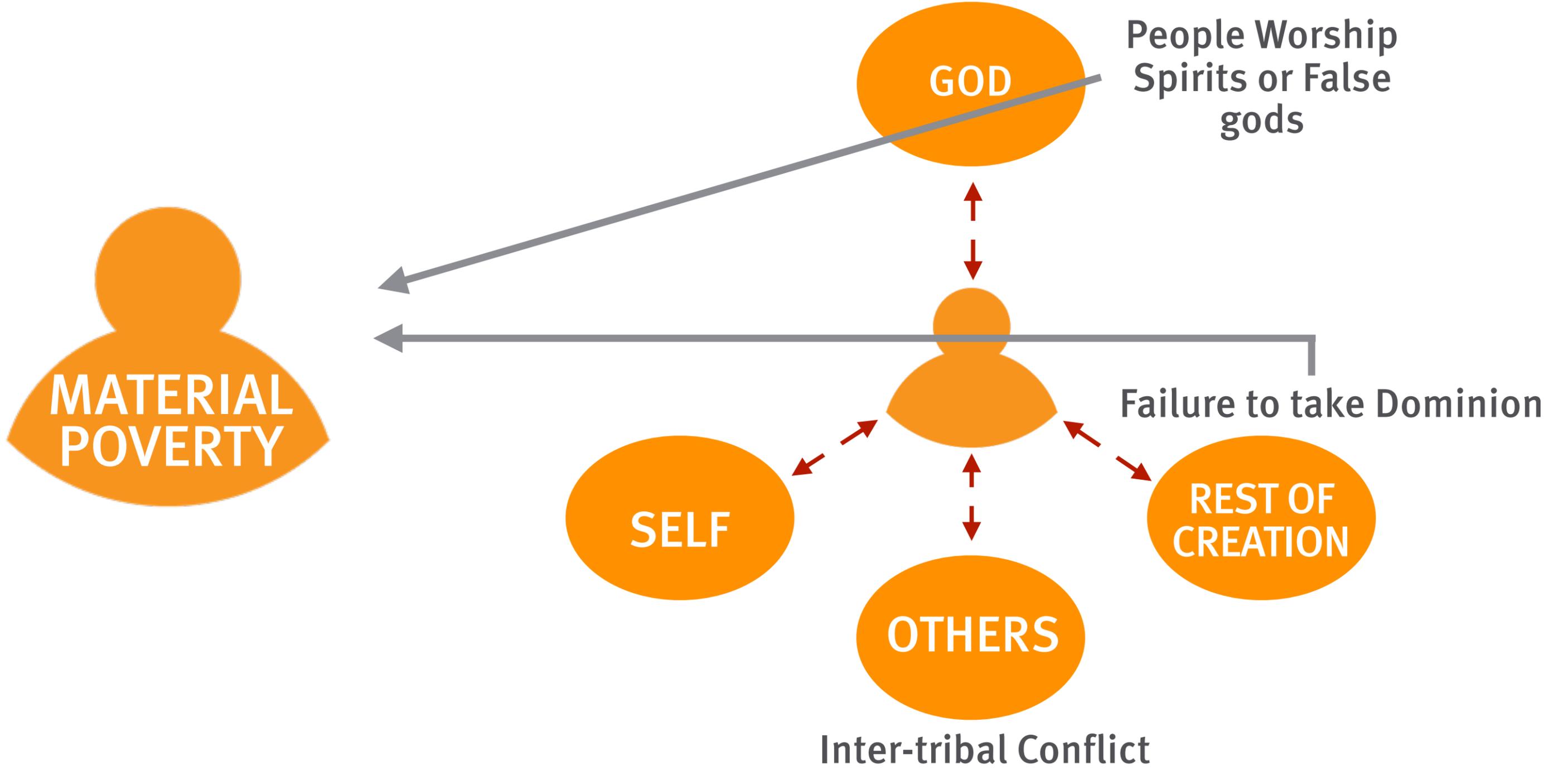


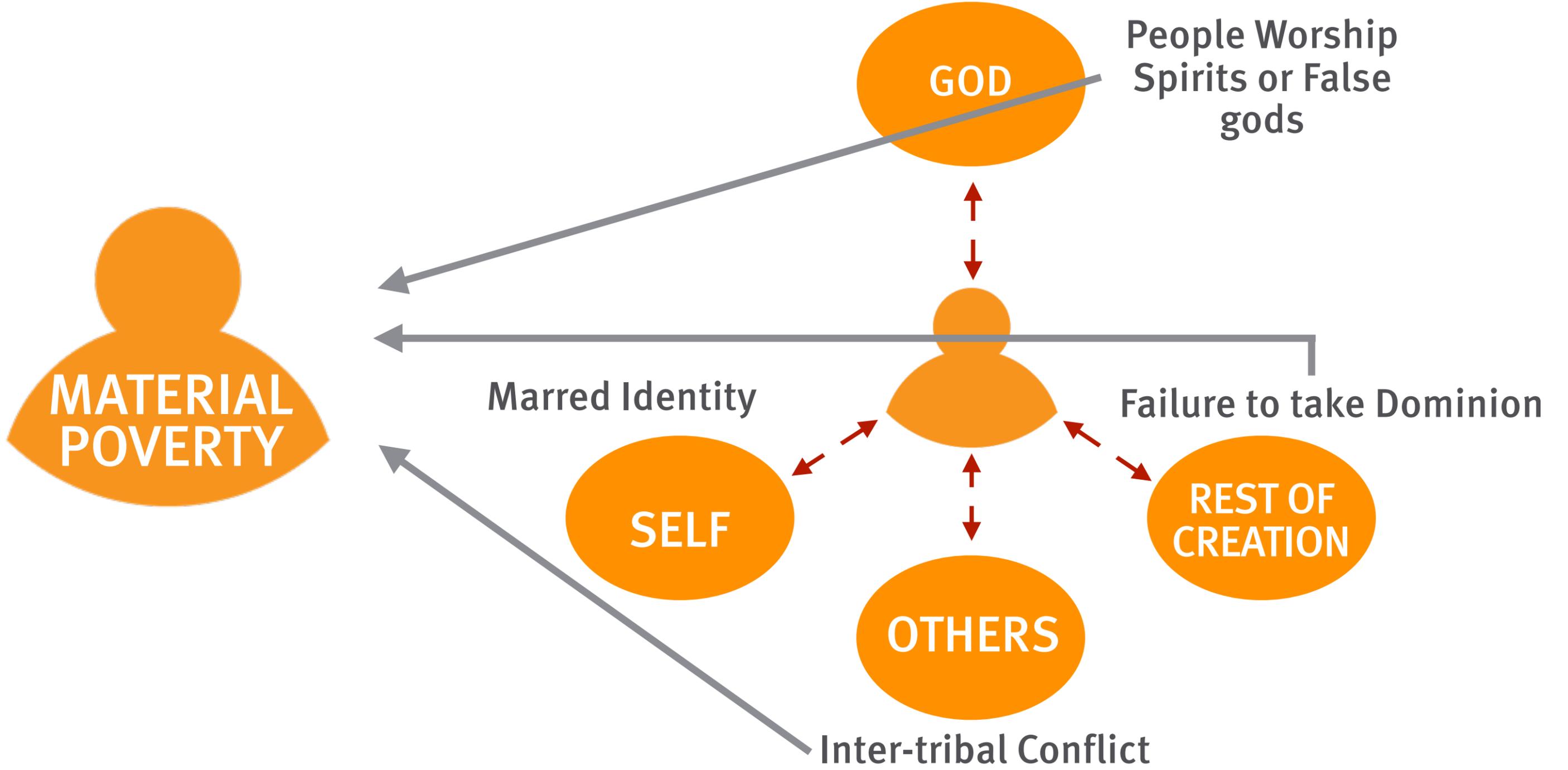


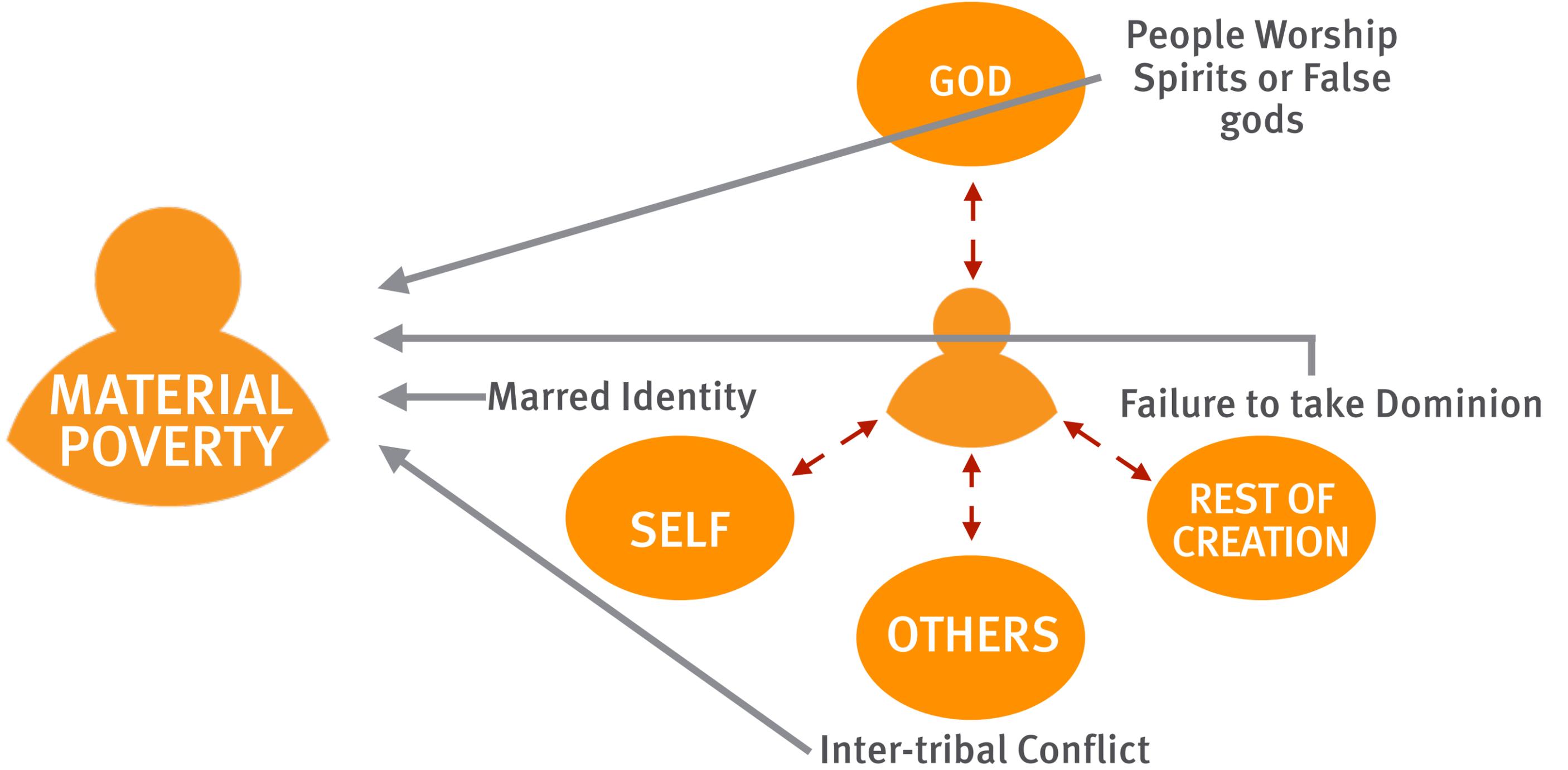












WHAT IS **POVERTY**?

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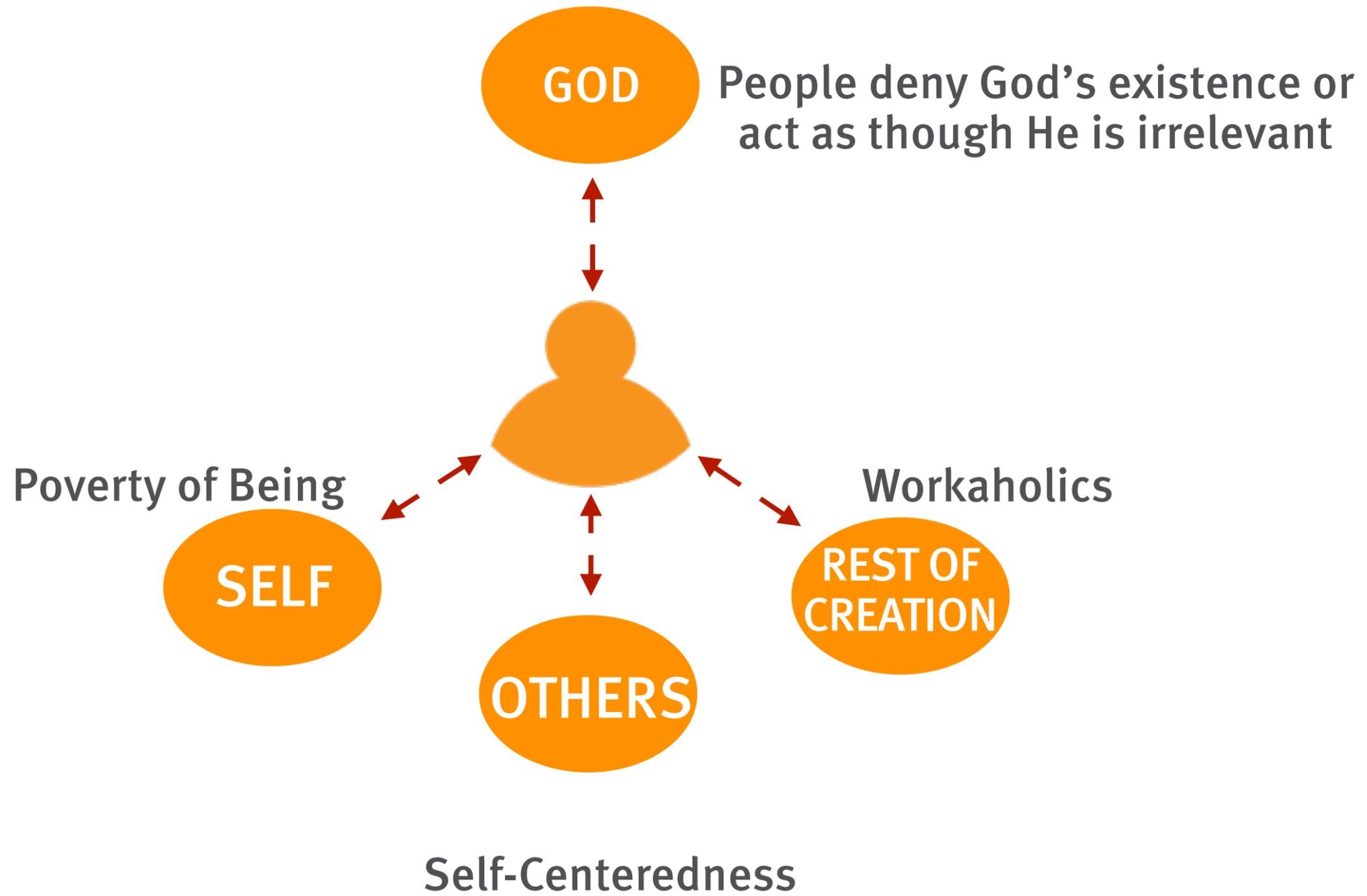
“Poverty is a result of **relationships that do not work**, that are not just, that are not for life, that are not harmonious or enjoyable.”

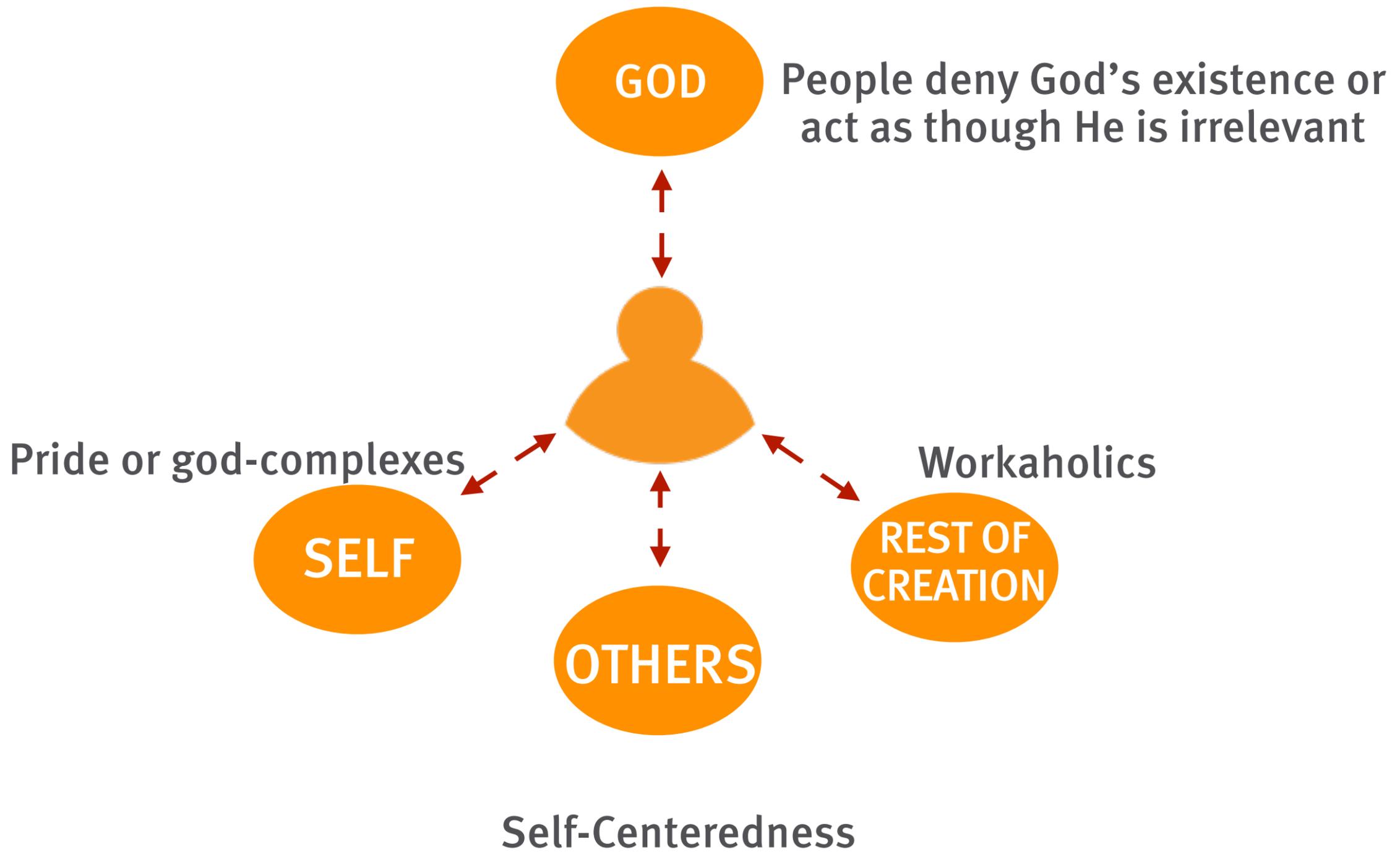
Bryant Myers in *Walking With the Poor*, page 86.



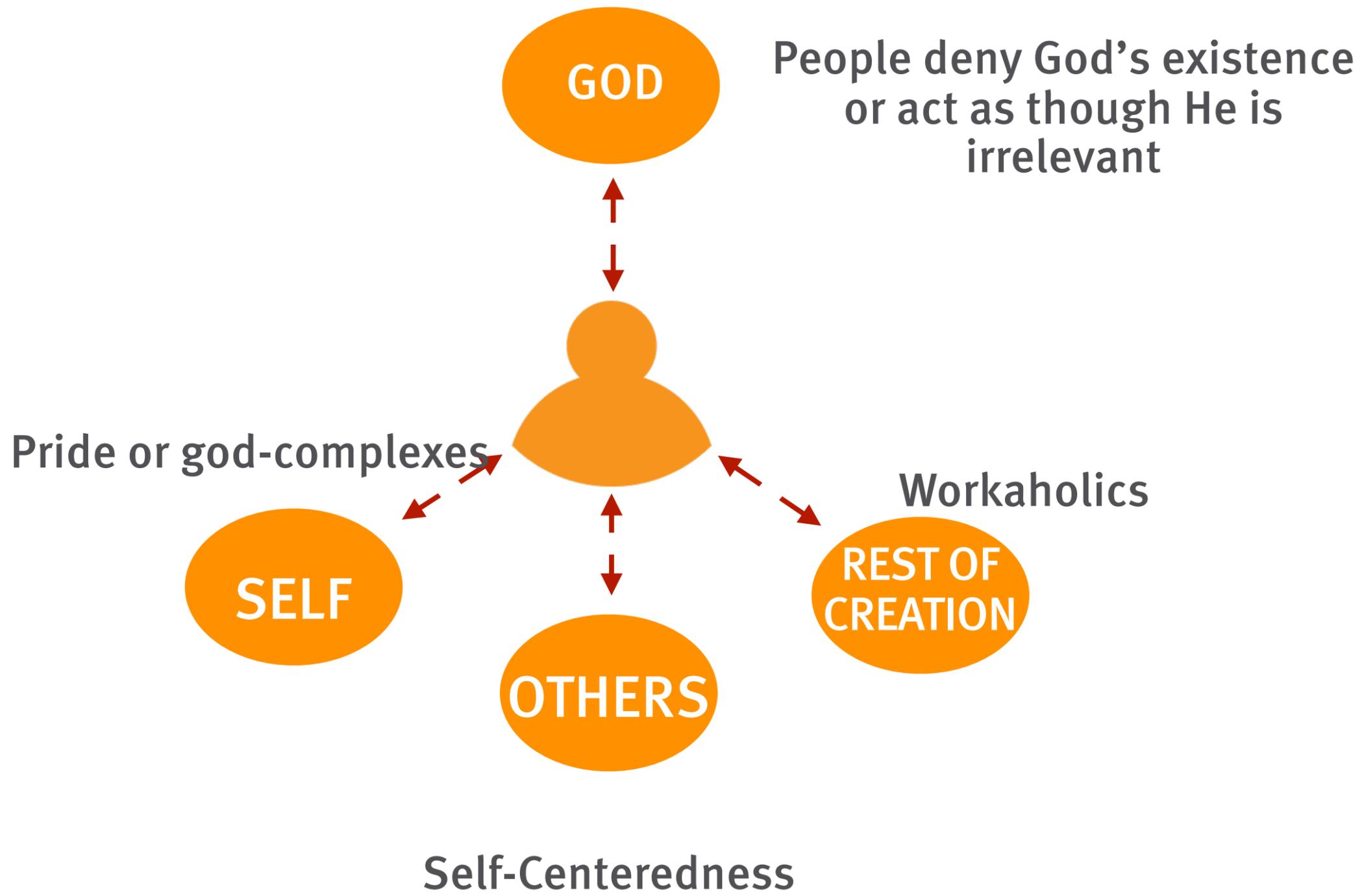


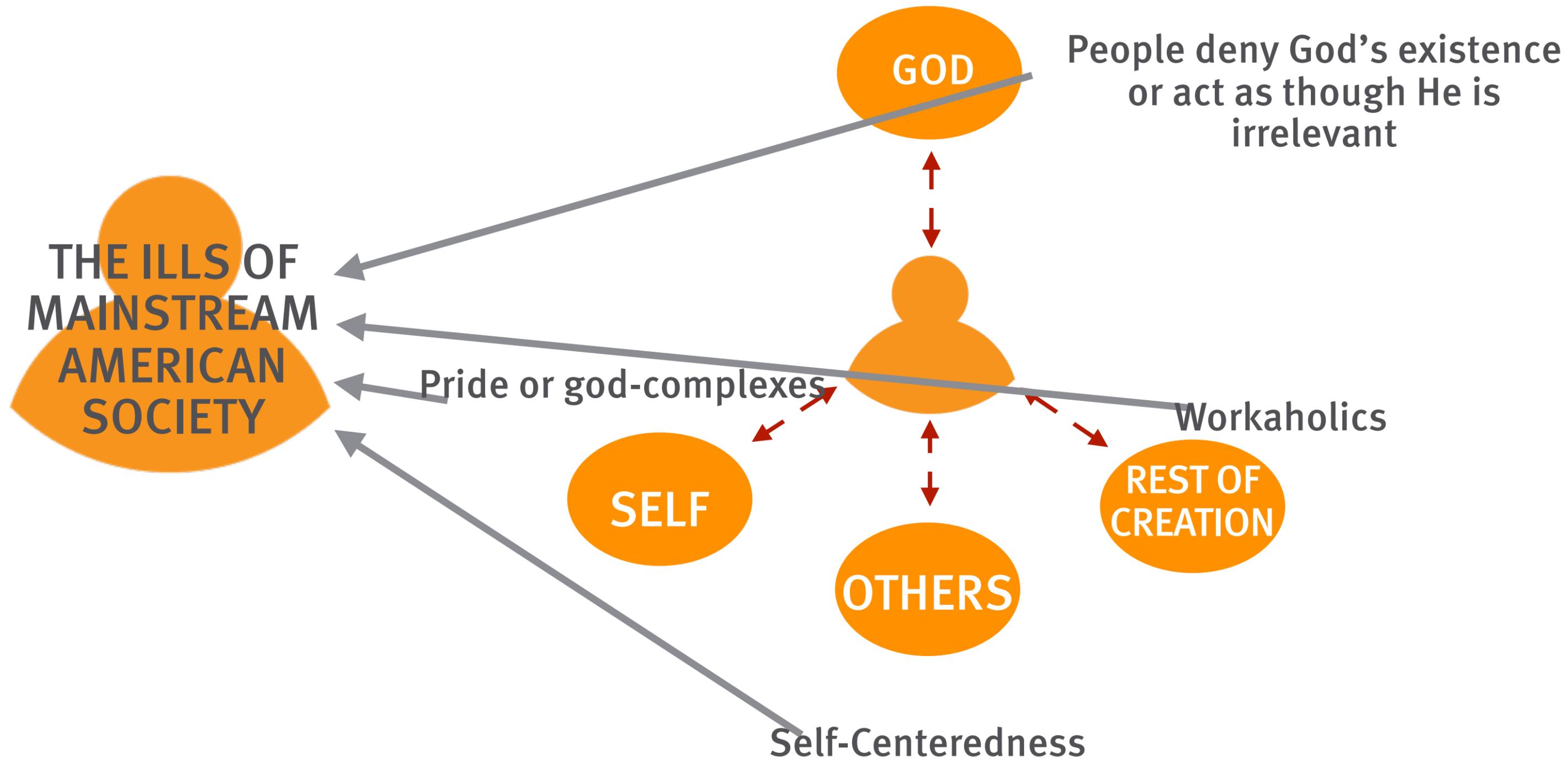






**THE ILLS OF
MAINSTREAM
AMERICAN
SOCIETY**





WHO ARE THE POOR?

ARE THE POOR

WE

ARE THE POOR
WE ARE THE POOR

Until we embrace this, our attempts to help the “materially poor” are likely to hurt them and ourselves.

People Worship
Spirits or False
gods



GOD



People deny
God's existence
or act as though
He is irrelevant

Marred
Identity



SELF



Pride; God
complexes

Inter-tribal
Conflict



OTHERS



Self-centeredness

Failure to take
Dominion



**REST OF
CREATION**



Workaholics

**FUNDAMENTAL EQUATION
FOR HURTING WHEN HELPING**

Material Definition
of Poverty

+

God-Complexes of
Materially Non-Poor

+

Inferiority Feelings of
the Materially Poor

= HARM TO MATERIALLY POOR AND NON-POOR

WHAT'S THE **FIRST STEP** IN POVERTY ALLEVIATION?

CONSIDER REPENTANCE AS A GOOD CANDIDATE.

WHAT'S THE **FIRST STEP** IN POVERTY ALLEVIATION?

CONSIDER REPENTANCE AS A GOOD CANDIDATE.

REPENTANCE of our pride/god-complexes

REPENTANCE of our pride/god-complexes

REPENTANCE of a material understanding of the world

**POVERTY ALLEVIATION IS ABOUT
RECONCILING RELATIONSHIPS.**

POVERTY ALLEVIATION IS ABOUT **RECONCILING** **RELATIONSHIPS...**

A process in which people – both materially poor and non-poor – move closer to living in right relationship with God, self, others, and the rest of creation.

If you are sleeping...

If you are sleeping...

**THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IS JUST
AHEAD**

If you are sleeping...
**THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IS JUST
AHEAD**

It will definitely be on the final exam!

For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him (Jesus), and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

Colossians 1:19-20

IMMEDIATE IMPLICATIONS

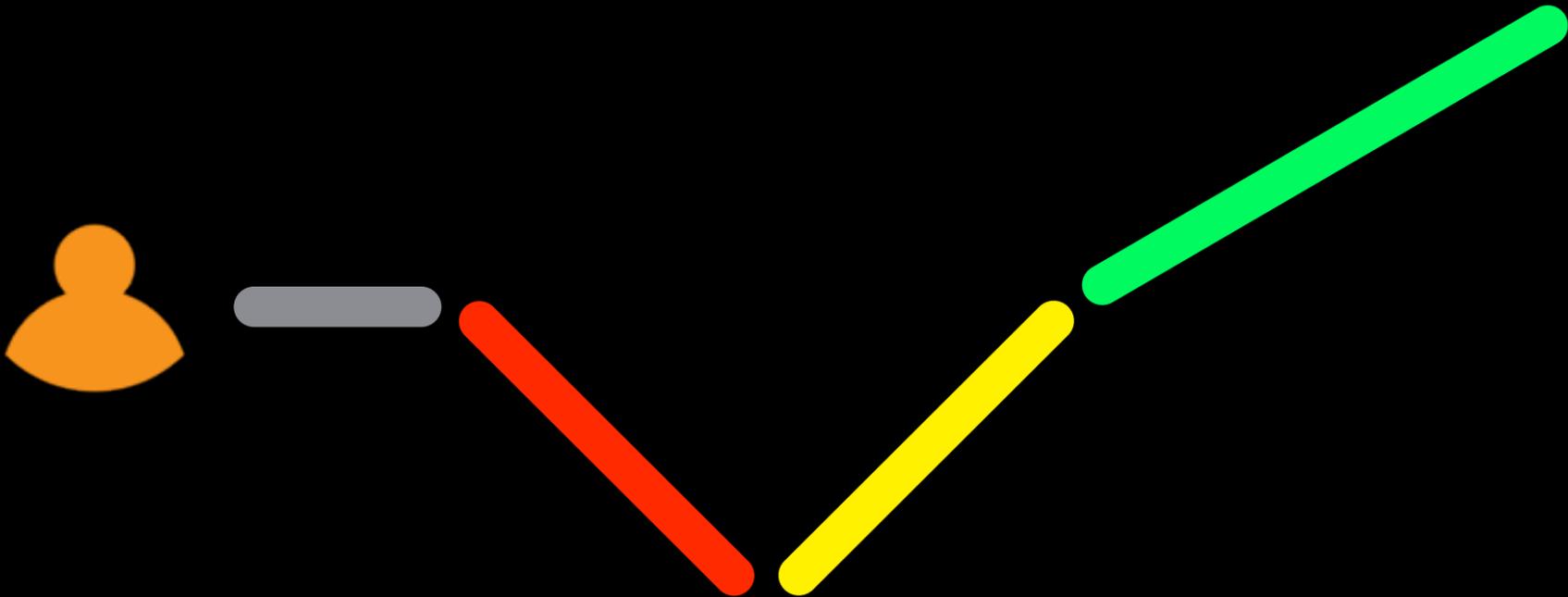
FOR HOW WE WORK WITH THE MATERIALLY POOR

We must **walk humbly** with the materially poor.
Christ is transforming both of us

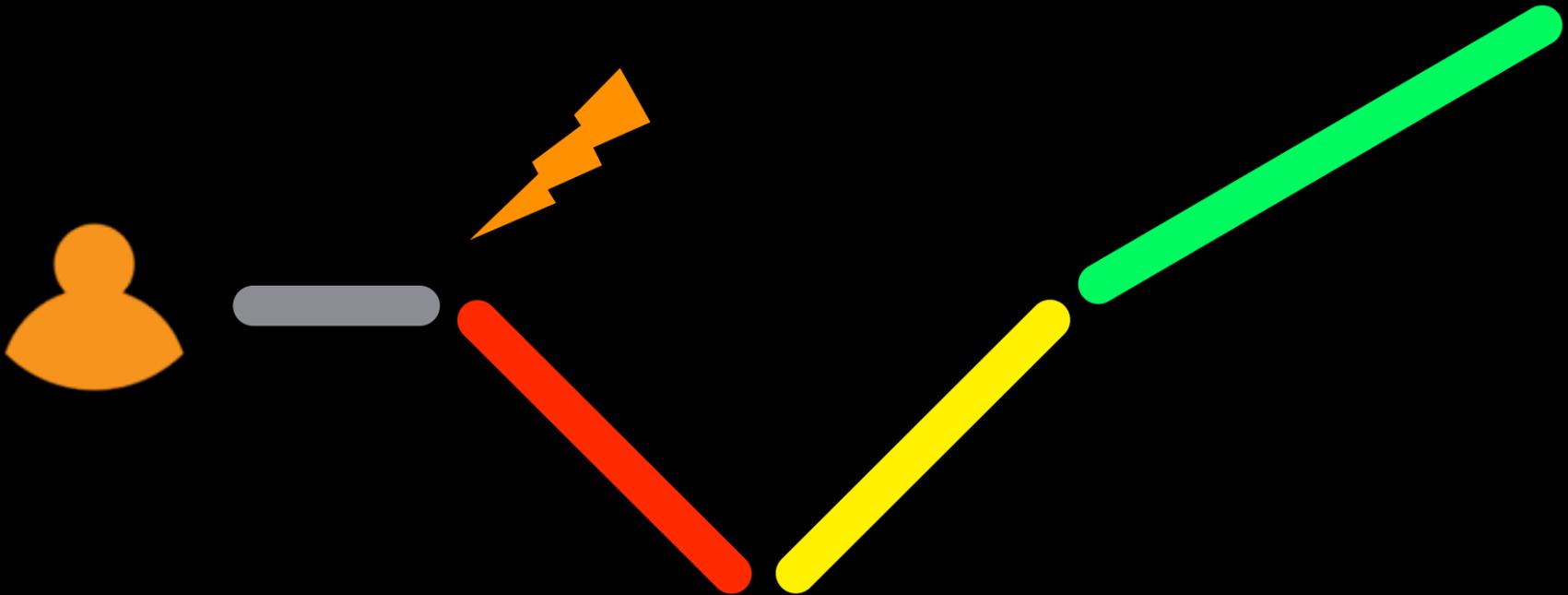
We must address **worldview issues.**

Recognize that most poor people need
“development” not “relief.”

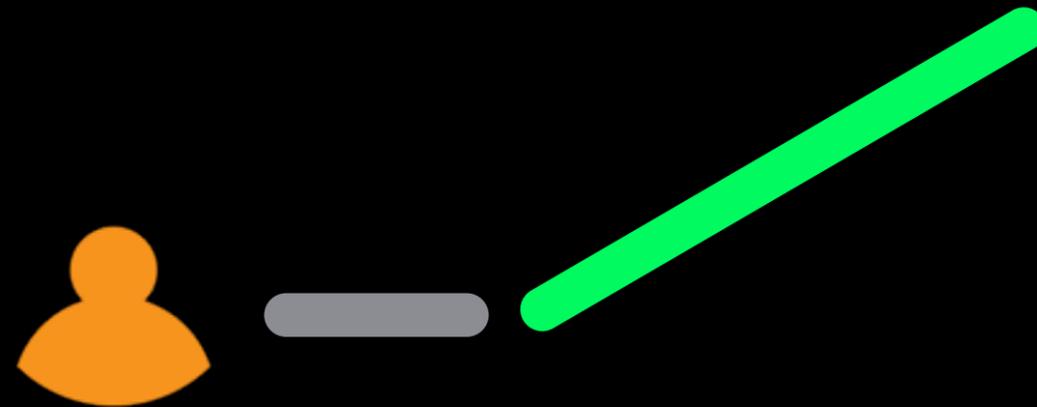
RELIEF, REHABILITATION, & DEVELOPMENT



RELIEF, REHABILITATION, & DEVELOPMENT



DEVELOPMENT



Use “asset-based” not “needs-based” approaches

Use “participatory” rather than “blueprint”
approaches

application:
SHORT-TERM MISSIONS

WE LOVE ALL SHORT-TERM MISSIONARIES

but we have some concerns...



**SHORT-TERM
MISSIONS**

CONCERNS

**SHORT-TERM
MISSIONS**

CONCERNS

They often emanate from a
material understanding of poverty

**SHORT-TERM
MISSIONS**
CONCERNS

They often emanate from a **material understanding** of poverty

They often apply **relief efforts** in contexts that call for **development**

SHORT-TERM MISSIONS

CONCERNS

They often emanate from a **material understanding** of poverty

They often apply **relief efforts** in contexts that call for **development**

They are typically **needs-based**, not **asset-based**

SHORT-TERM MISSIONS

CONCERNS

They often emanate from a **material understanding** of poverty

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They are **rarely participatory**

**SHORT-TERM
MISSIONS**
CONCERNS

They often emanate from a **material understanding** of poverty

They often apply **relief efforts** in contexts that call for **development**

They are typically **needs-based**, not **asset-based**

They are **rarely participatory**

They can easily cause **harm** to **everyone** involved

SHORT-TERM MISSIONS

SUGGESTIONS

**SHORT-TERM
MISSIONS**

SUGGESTIONS

Go as **learners** rather than doers

SHORT-TERM MISSIONS

SUGGESTIONS

Go as **learners** rather than **doers**

Use a **pre and post-trip learning process** lasting approximately one year

SHORT-TERM MISSIONS

SUGGESTIONS

Go as **learners** rather than doers

Use a **pre and post-trip learning process** lasting approximately one year

Go and love the **missionaries**

SHORT-TERM MISSIONS

SUGGESTIONS

Go as **learners** rather than doers

Use a **pre and post-trip learning process** lasting approximately one year

Go and support those who are there for the **long-term**.

Consider **alternative approaches**.

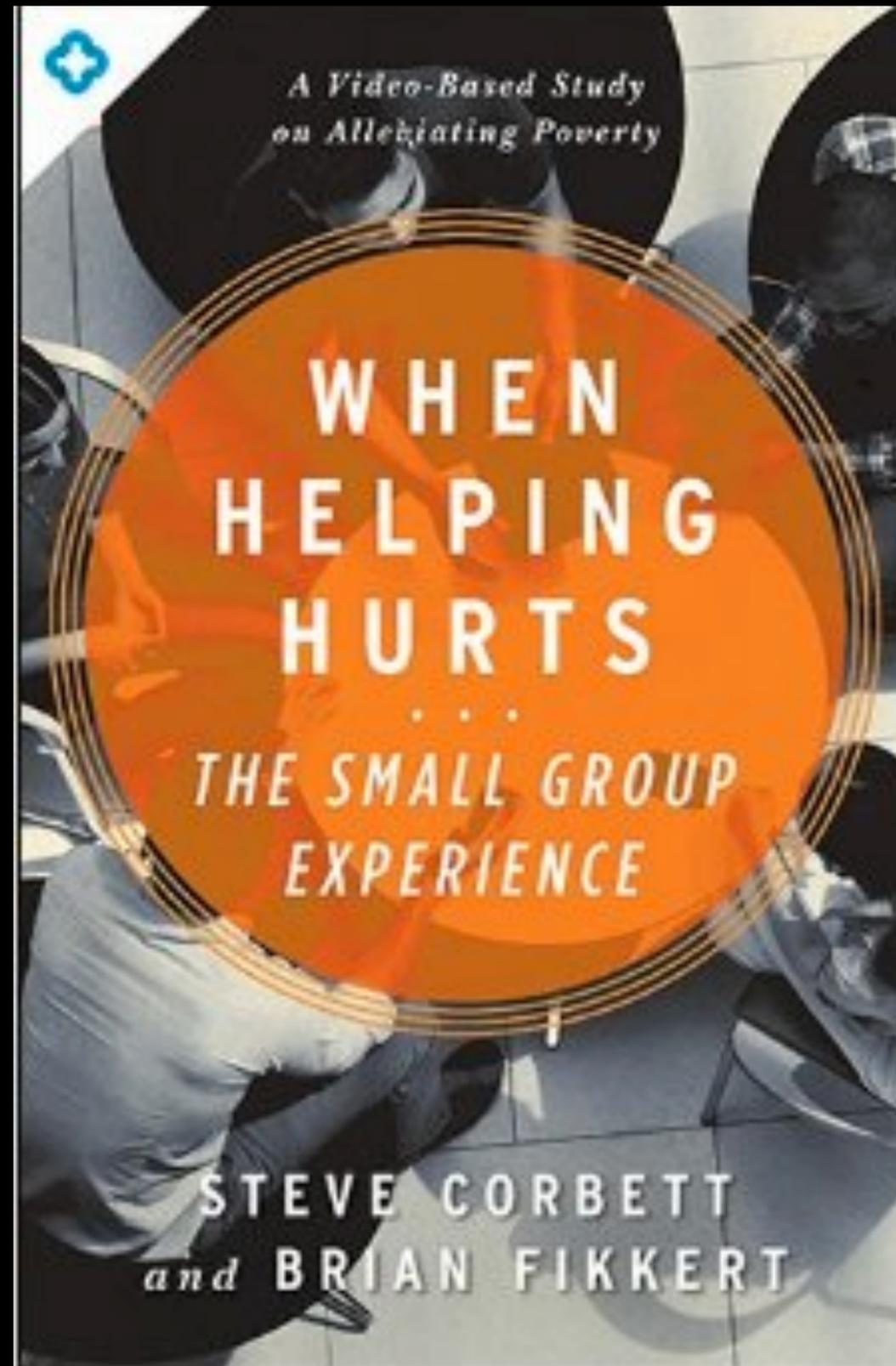
FOREWORD BY DAVID PLATT

EXPANDED
EDITION

WHEN HOW TO ALLEVIATE POVERTY HELPING WITHOUT HURTING THE POOR HURTS ...AND YOURSELF

STEVE CORBETT & BRIAN FIKKERT

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