

Singapore Senior Pastors' Retreat

“Triangulating Faith & Ministry”

Thistle Hotel, Johor Bahru
18-20, November 2009

West meets East

These icons were designed by Liu Young who was born in China and educated in Germany...

Blue --> Westerner

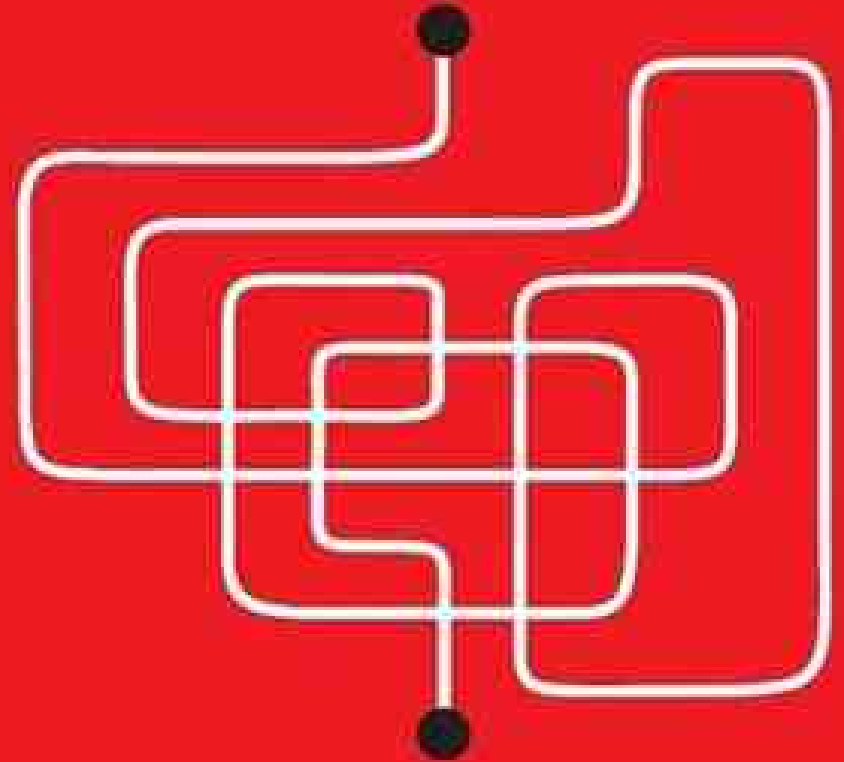
Red --> Asian/Chinese

Opinion

Meinung



Opinion



Way of life

Lebensstil

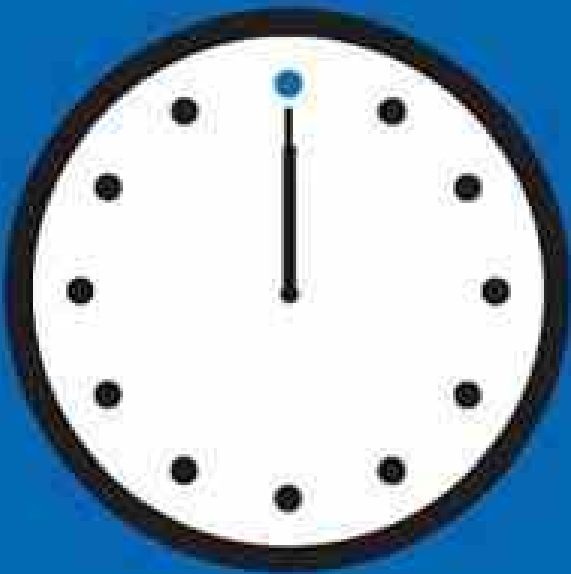


生活方式



Punctuality

Pünktlichkeit

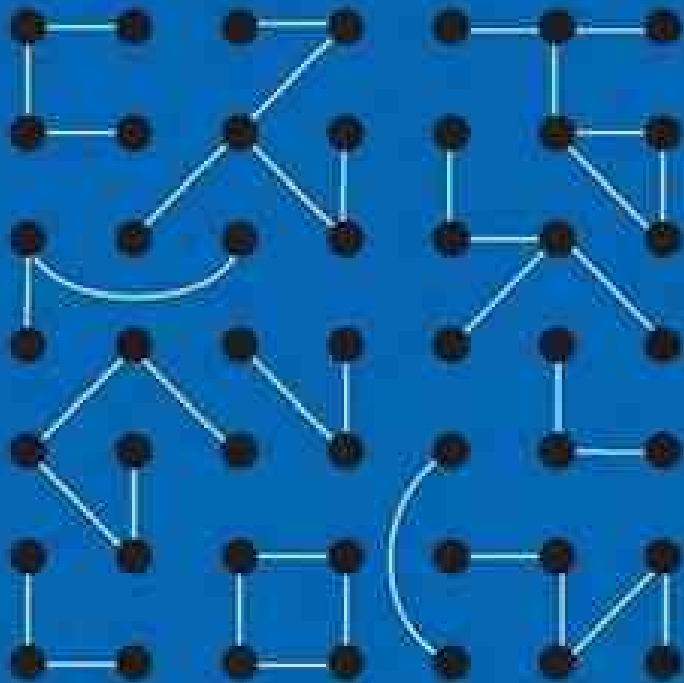


准时

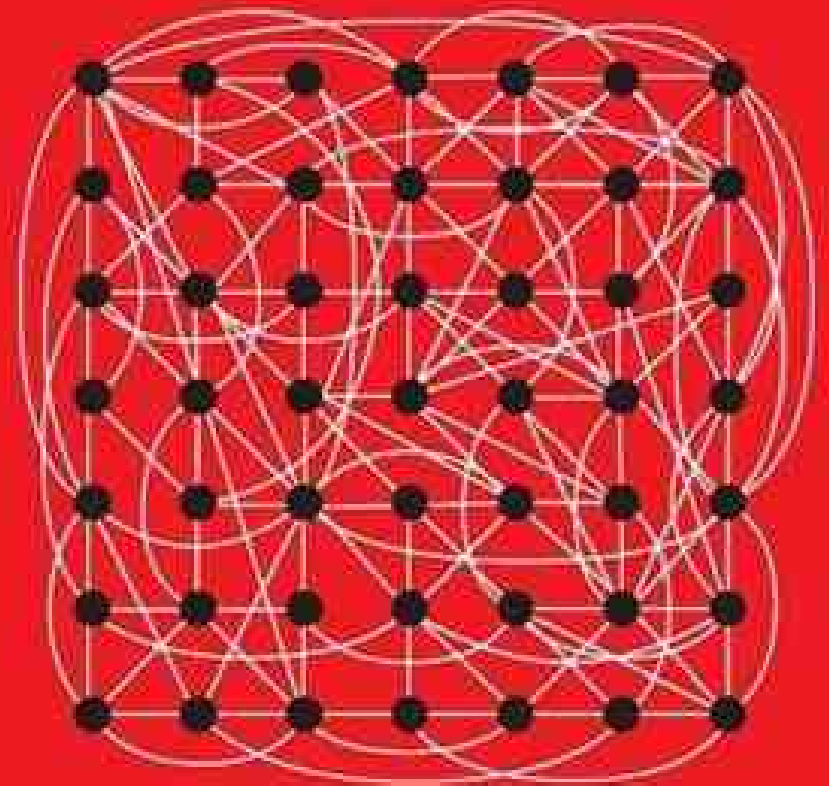


Contacts

Kontakte



人际关系



Anger

Anger



对愤怒的

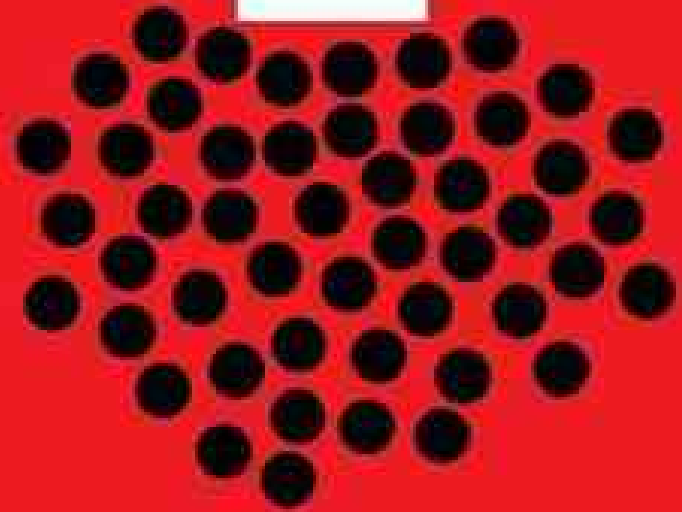


Queue when waiting

Warteschlange



排队



Sundays on the road

Sonntags auf der Straße

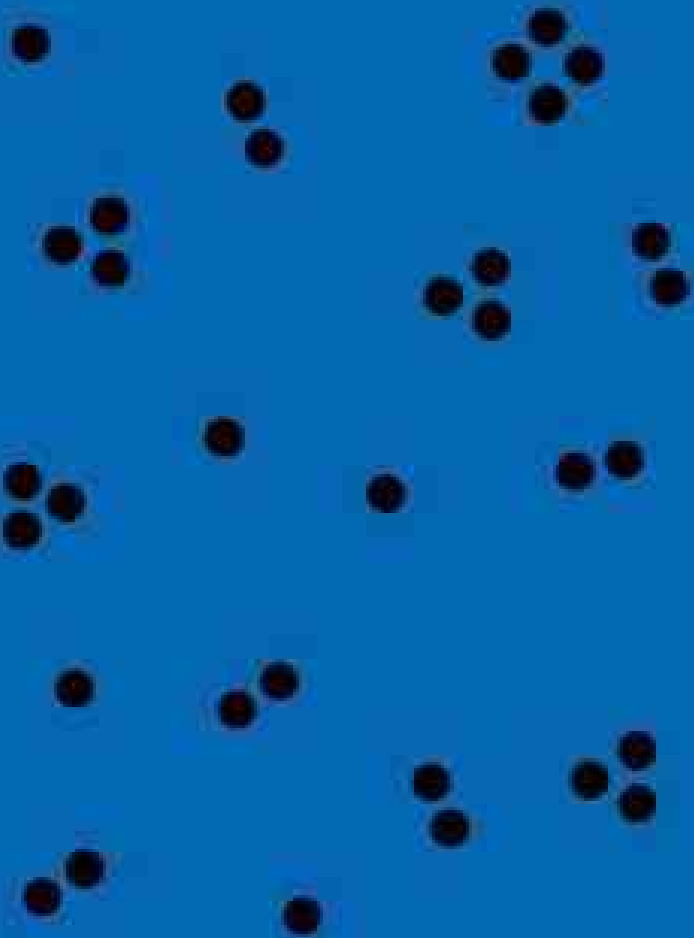


周日的街景

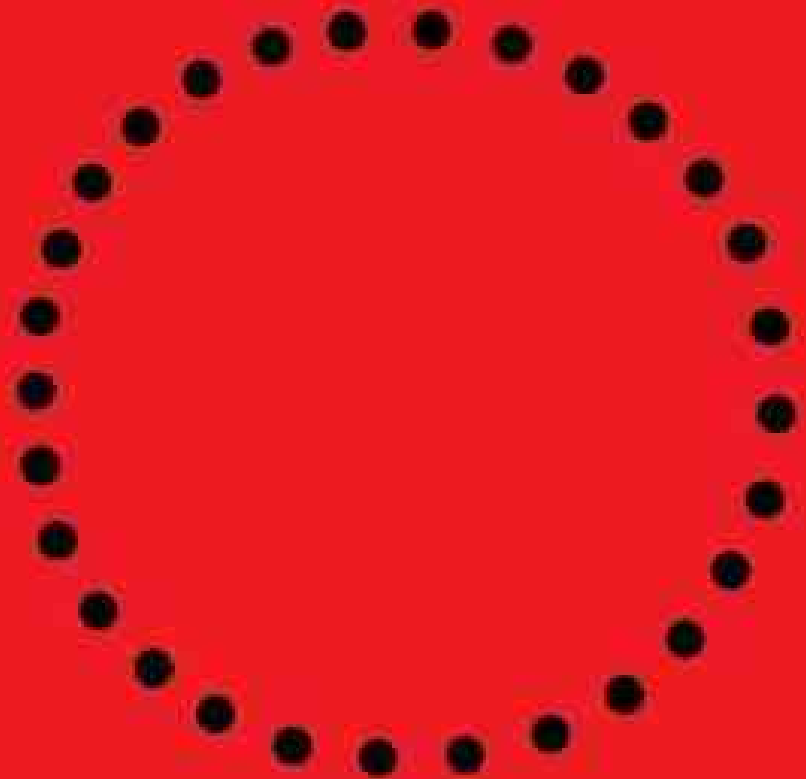


Party

Party



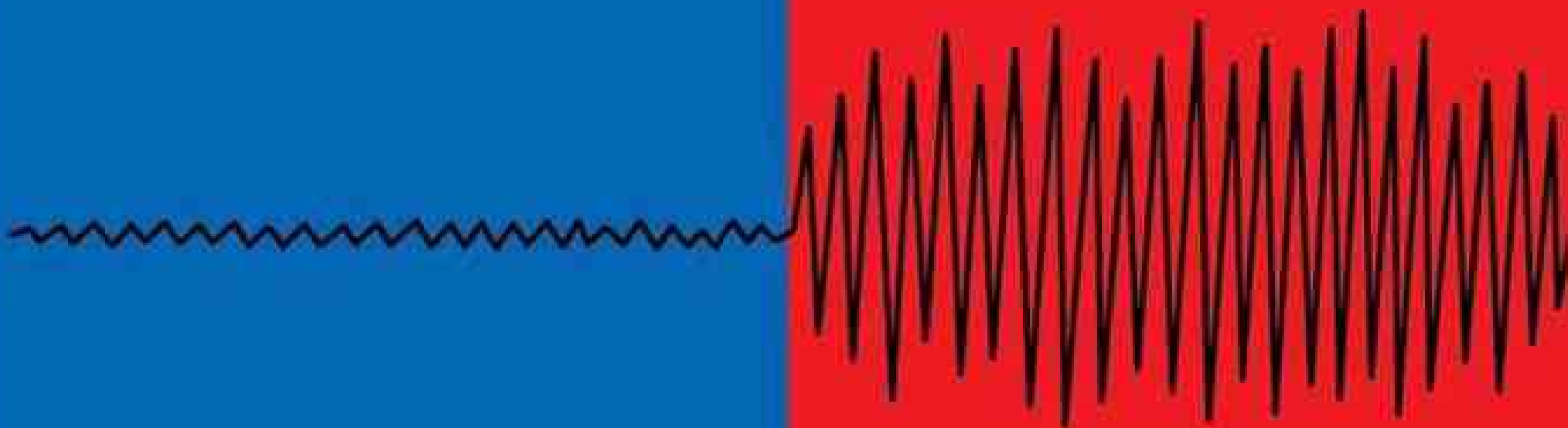
NS



In the restaurant

In Restaurant

在餐厅



Travelling

Reisen



Reisen



Handling of problems

Umgang mit Problemen



处理问题



Three meals a day

Drei Mahlzeiten



三餐



Transportation

Transport



1970



2006

交通工具



1970



2006

Elderly in day to day life

Senioren im Alltag



老人的日常生活



Moods and weather

Laune und Wetter



心情与天气



The boss

Chef



99



What's trendy

In Trend



时尚



The child

Das Kind



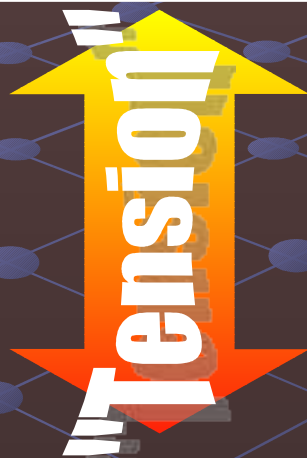
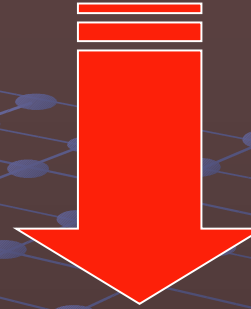
孩子



A Mathematical Model/Presentation

Sovereignty of God

**“Theology
from above”**



**Co-existent Issues
Like Mathematical Theory of
Parallel Lines**

Freewill of Man

**“Theology
from below”**



**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our debts,

as we also have forgiven our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from the evil one.

**For yours is the kingdom, and the power, and
the glory forever. Amen**



Some “Heaven & Earth” Texts

- Gen. 1:1
- Gen. 28:12
- Deut. 10:14
- Isa. 42:5
- Mat. 6:10
- Mat. 18:19
- Acts 17:24
- Eph. 1:10
- 2Pet. 3:10, 13
- Rev. 21:1

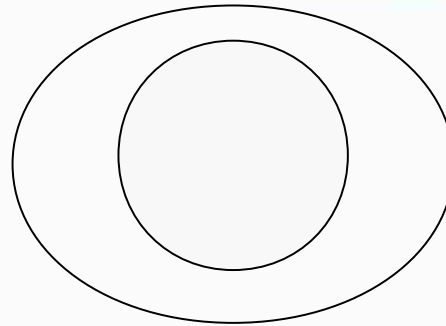
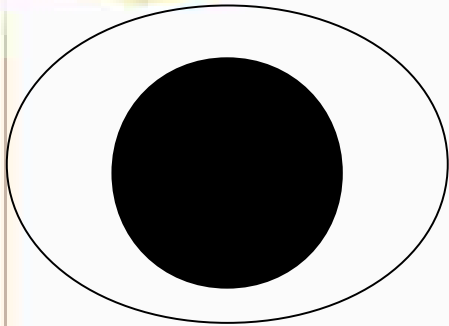
SIGNIFICANCE:

1. Extreme Poles of Reality
2. Comprehensiveness
3. Christ as Mediator
4. Ministry of Reconciliation
5. Theological task:



Dualism, Monism, Holism:

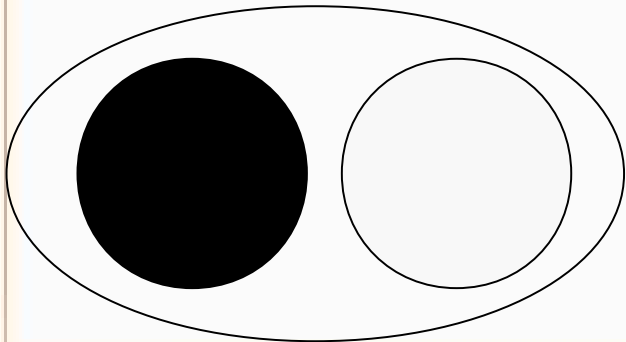
A Simplistic Diagrammatic Representation



DUALISM: Separated Categories. "Either/Or"
Greek/Western
"Neglected Middle"



MONISM: Confused Categories. "Neither/Nor"
Eastern Mysticism
"Finding the Balance"



HOLISM: Separated but Together. "Both/And"
Biblical Holism
"Holding the Tension"

Dualistic, Monistic, HOLISTIC

- Western **dualistic** thinking: principle of contradiction; “either/or”
- Eastern **monistic** thinking: “neither/nor” – danger of black and white becoming grey . . . Think about postmodernism . . .
- **Holistic** thinking: maintaining both dualistic & monistic thinking . . .

“Tension” vs “Balance”

- **Bipolarity** of Truth
- **Dialectics** of Truth

Contradiction? Paradox? Antinomy? Tension? Mystery?

- E.g. Incarnation, Immanence-Transcendence, Immutable-Dynamic, Love and Judgment, etc.
- It often needs more maturity to hold **tension** than to maintain the **balance**
- If we want to deal with both the theories and pragmatics at the same time, we will often need to **HOLD TENSIONS.**
- **INCARNATIONAL PRINCIPLE**

“Jesus” & “Christ”

- Acts 2:36 *“Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this **Jesus**, whom you crucified, both **Lord** and **Christ**.”*
- Acts 5:42 *“... they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that **Jesus** is the **Christ**.”*

Mystery of **Incarnation**

- Jesus (Grk) = Joshua (Heb)
- Christ (Grk) = Messiah (Heb)
- “Jesus of History”
- “Christ of Faith”

100% Human; 100% Divine

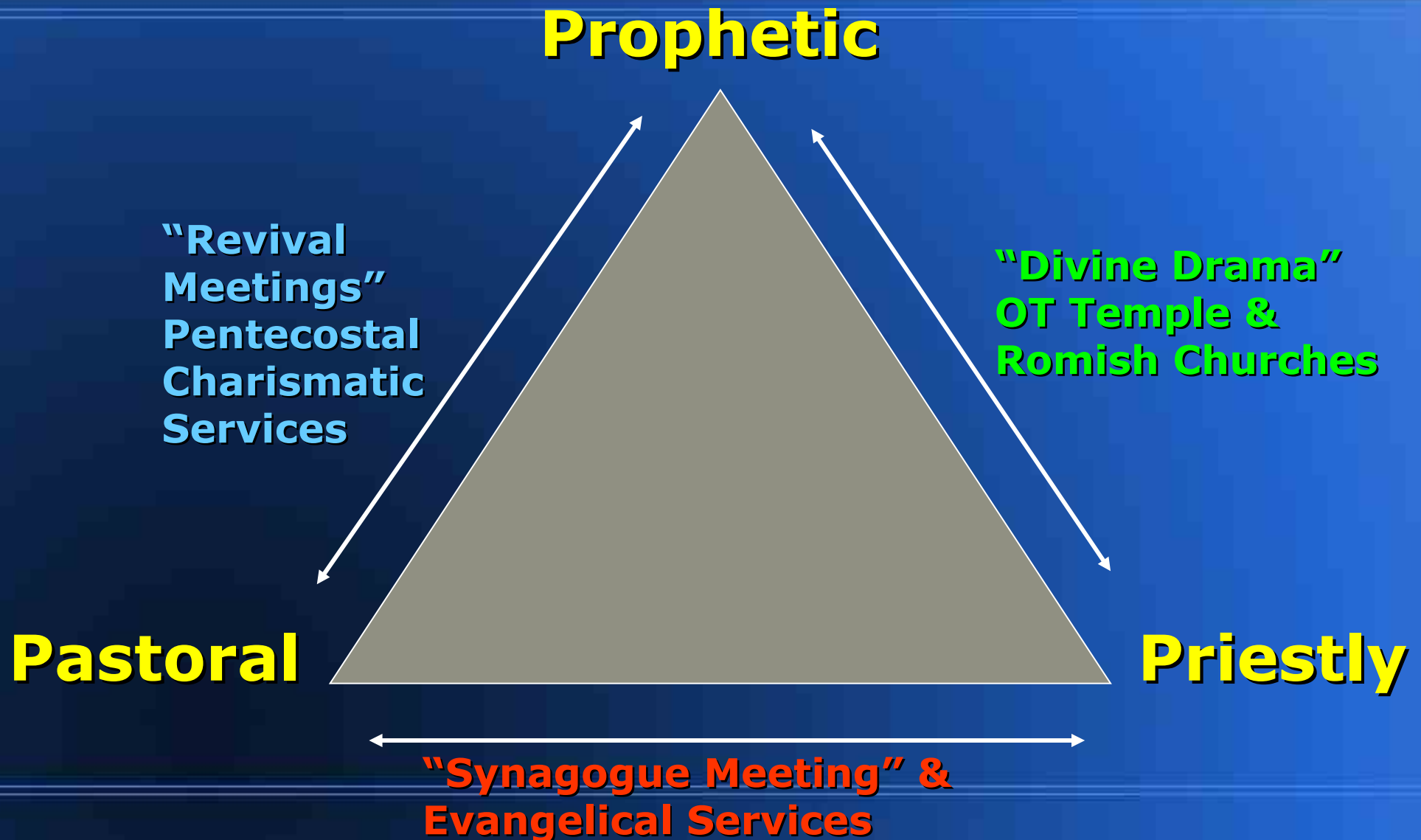
Word Study: “Anointing”

- Greek: *Christos*; Hebrew: *Meshech*
- Gives us the Anglicized words, “Christ” and “Messiah”
- NT test of orthodoxy: “Jesus is the Christ” (Acts 2:36, 3:20, 5:42, 9:22, 1Cor 12:3, 1Jn 4:1-3)
- Israel’s leaderships (priests, kings, prophets) were “anointed”
- In tracing the development of Israel’s leadership, we can see the development of the Messianic Persona; with the gradual investment of the entire leadership structure on **ONE** anointed (Acts 4:25-26)
- Even the use of the word, “anointing” among Pentecostal and Charismatic circles suggests a Christocentric pneumatology
- Therefore, Pentecostal/Charismatic theology of the charismata is still strongly Christocentric.
- **ANOINTING takes place when the divine is applied to the human**

TRIANGULATING MINISTRY

- Thesis-Antithesis dialectics
- Tri-Perspectivalism
- Triangulation as a philosophical device for a holistic approach – marrying the best of Western (linear) and Eastern (circular) approaches

The 3 Roles and Worship Styles



The 3 Roles and the Ministry Focus

PROPHETIC	PASTORAL	PRIESTLY
God	People	Message
Authority	Significance	Truth
Gift-based	Need-based	Word-based
Inspiration	Influence	Instruction
Passionate	Purposeful	Perseverant
Faith	Feeling	Fact

CONVERGENCE



When the
CALL,
CAREER
and
COMMITMENT
converge with
your
GIFTINGS.

What is your job to you?

- **COMMITMENT** – The Christian as an **Employee**
 - *To our word*
 - *To our family*
 - *To God*
- **CAREER** – The Christian as a **Professional**
 - *Challenge to be the best*
 - *Challenge to use giftings*
 - *Challenge to apply Christian principles*
- **CALL** – The Christian as a **Prophet**
 - *Every job is a calling*
 - *Every Christian is “called”*

*You are
important to
God in the
marketplace!*

Convergence of our Ministry Roles



TRINITARIAN CHRISTIANITY

Creation

Catholics
Liberals



Easter

Evangelicals

Pentecost

Pentecostals
Charismatics

Trinitarian Triangulation: 1Cor 12

12 Now about spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be ignorant. ² You know that when you were pagans, somehow or other you were influenced and led astray to mute idols. ³ Therefore I tell you that no one who is speaking by the Spirit of God says, “Jesus be cursed,” and no one can say, “Jesus is Lord,” except by the Holy Spirit.

⁴ There are different kinds of **GIFTS**, but the *same* Spirit. ⁵ There are different kinds of **SERVICE**, but the *same* Lord. ⁶ There are different kinds of **WORKING**, but the *same* God works all of them in all men.

Schwarz's Trinitarian Approach

<http://www.coloryourworld.org/en/3-colors-of-ministry>

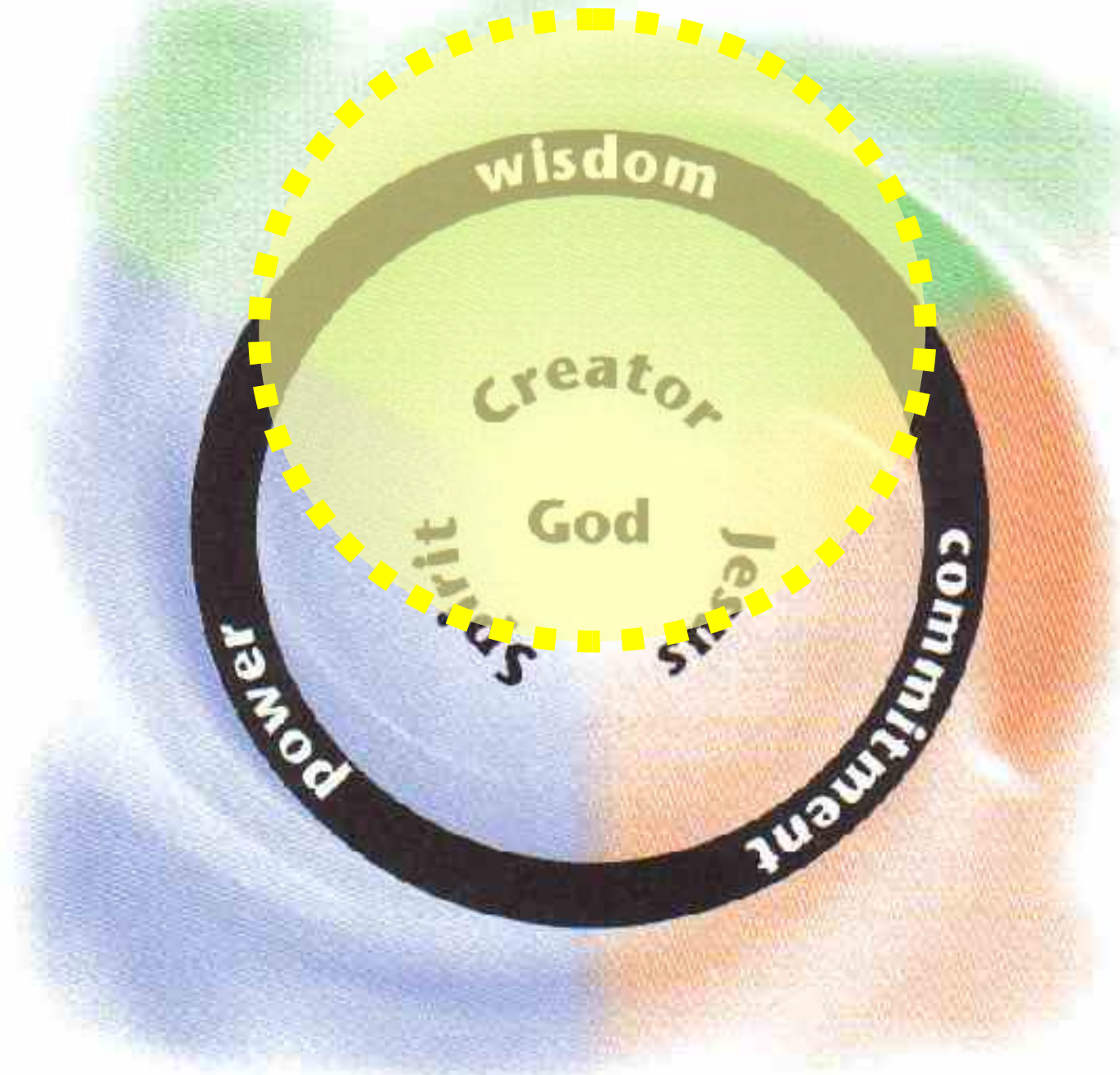
**Father, Creator, Body,
World, Science,
Liberal, Syncretism,
Rainbow**

**Spirit, Pentecost,
Spirit, Church,
Experience,
Charismatic,
Spiritualism, Dove**

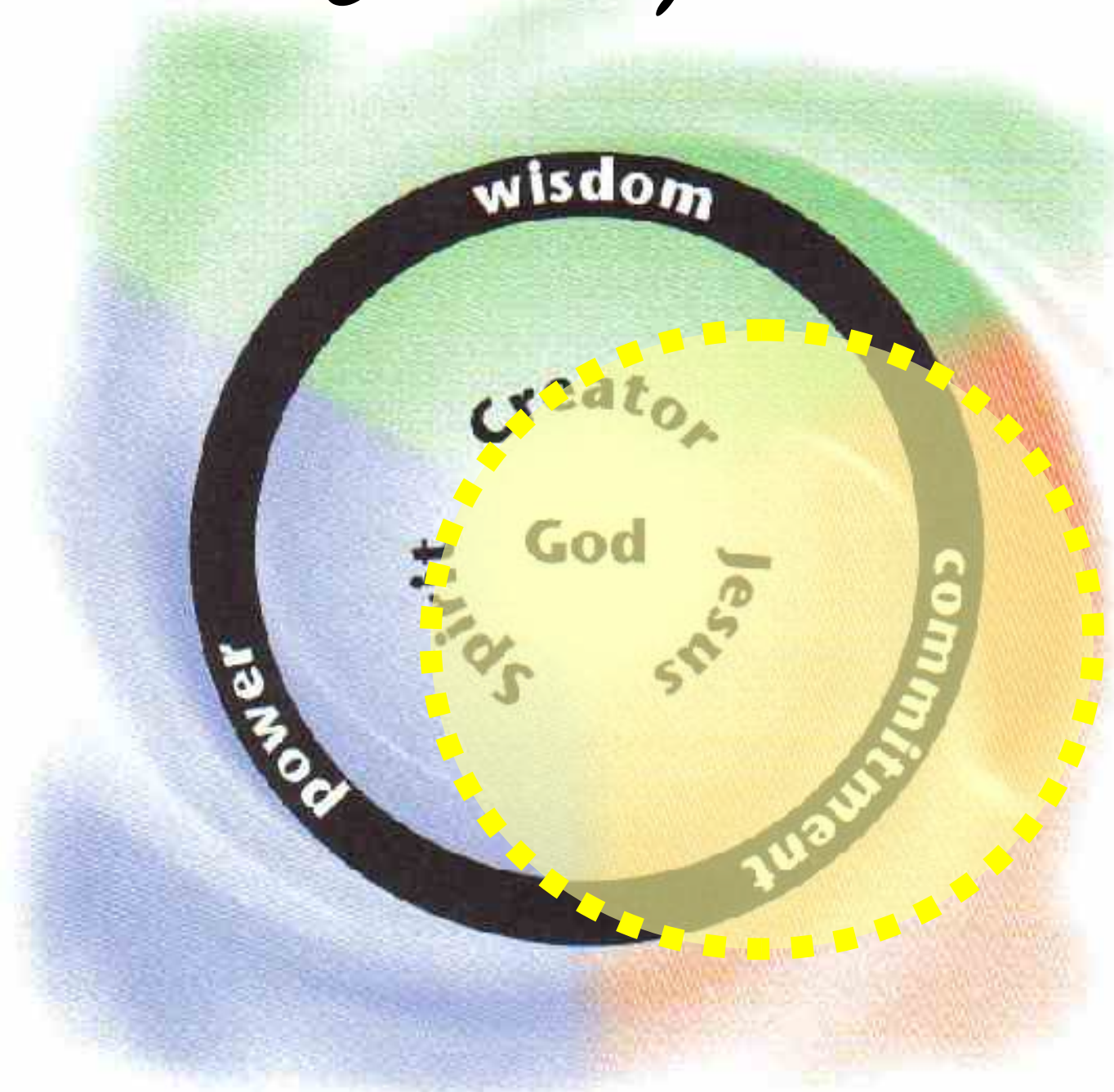
**Son, Calvary, Soul,
Christ, Scripture,
Evangelical,
Dogmatism, Cross**

According to Schwarz, this is based on our experiences of the Godhead. Therefore, this is not an abstract conception but a description of practical realities.

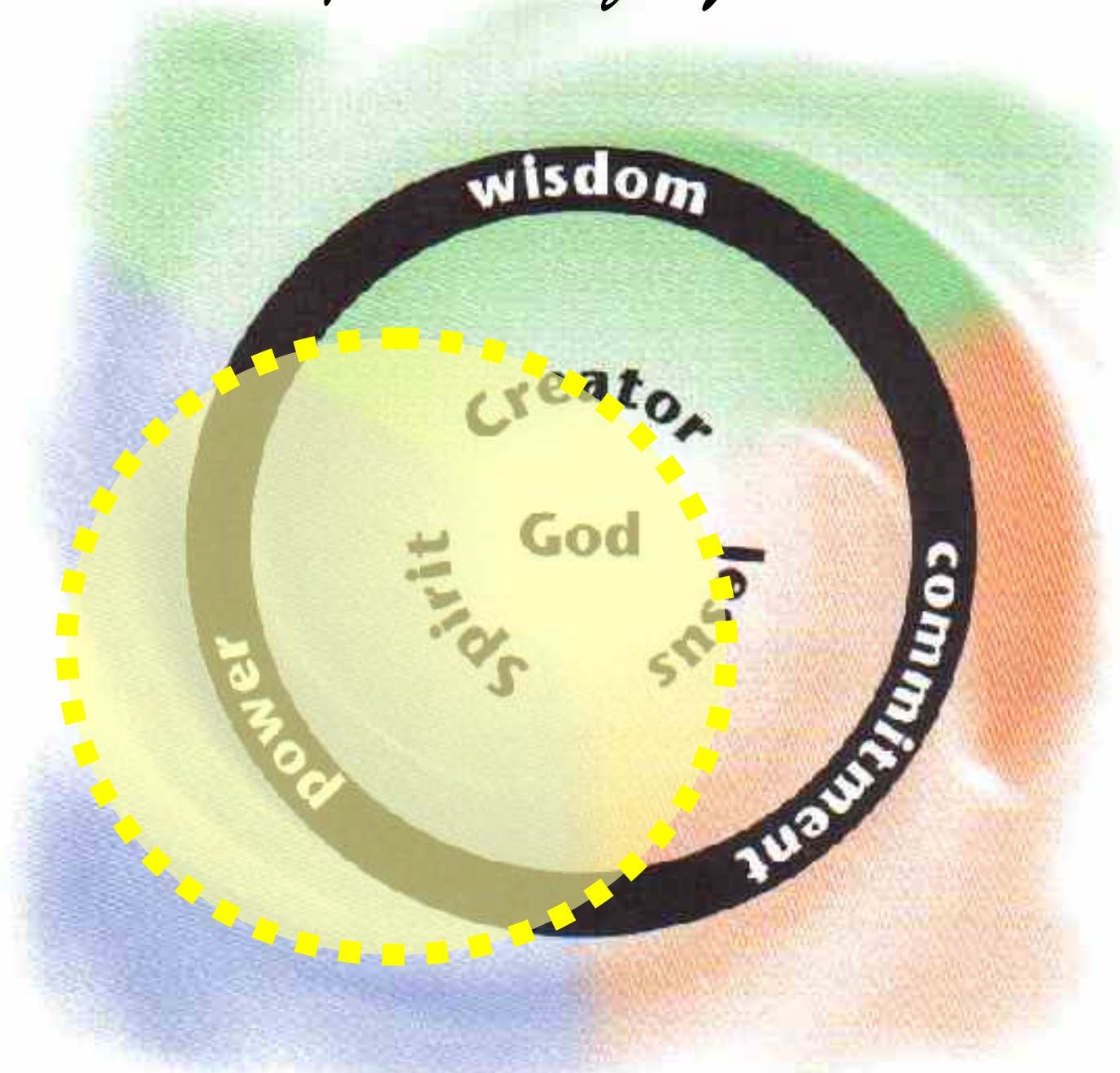
The Skeptical Believer



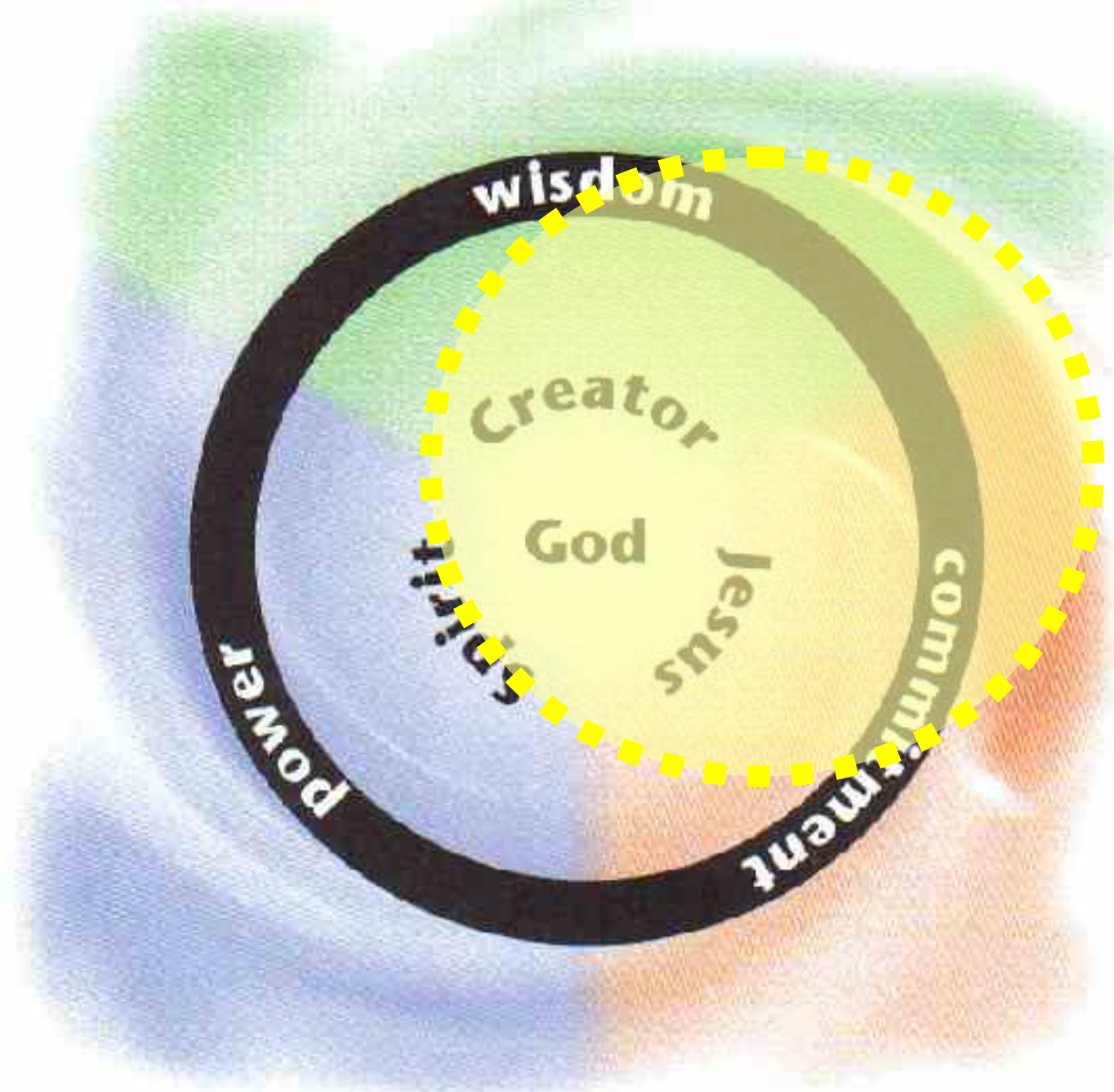
The Controlling Believer



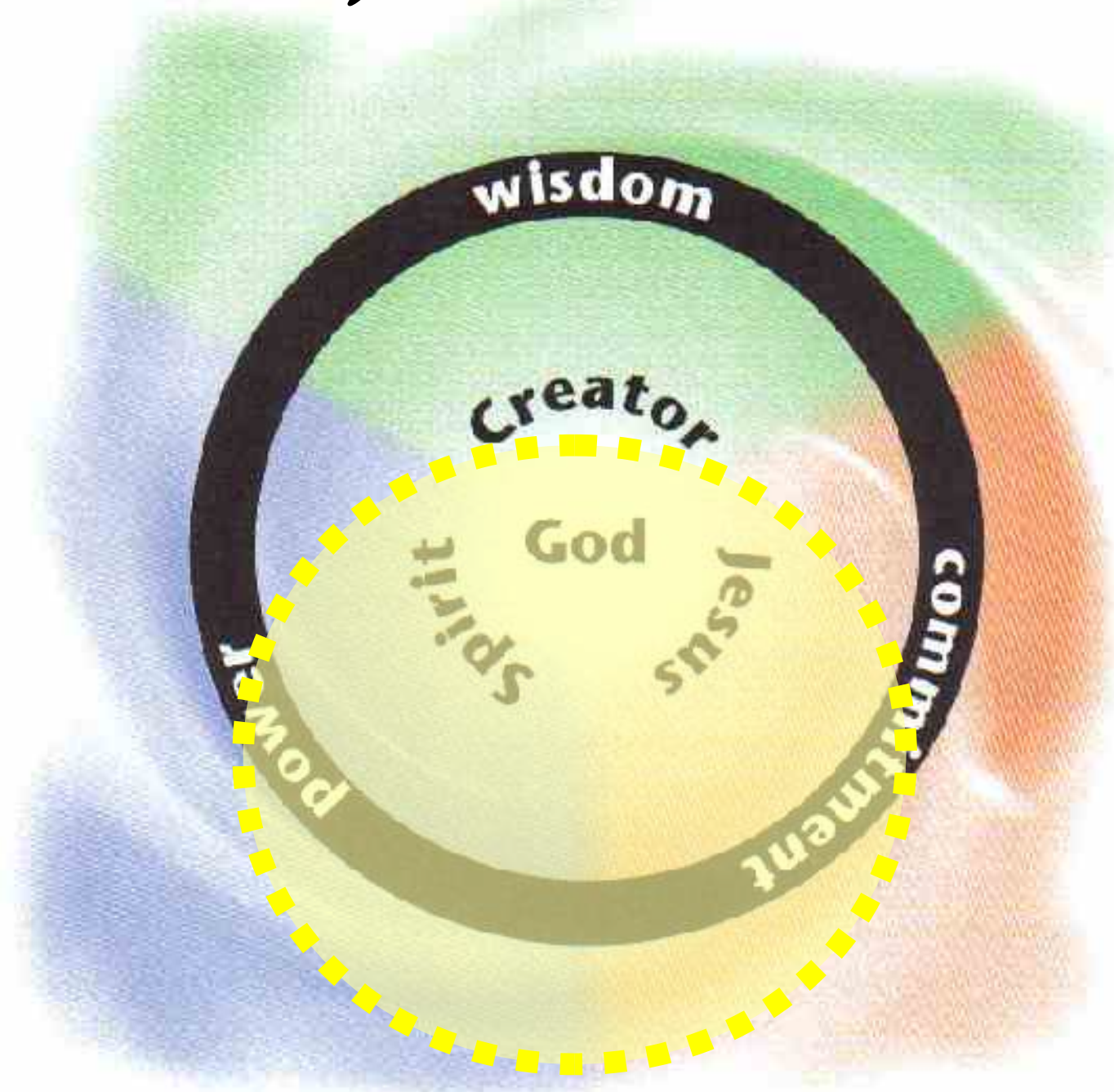
The Spiritualizing Believer



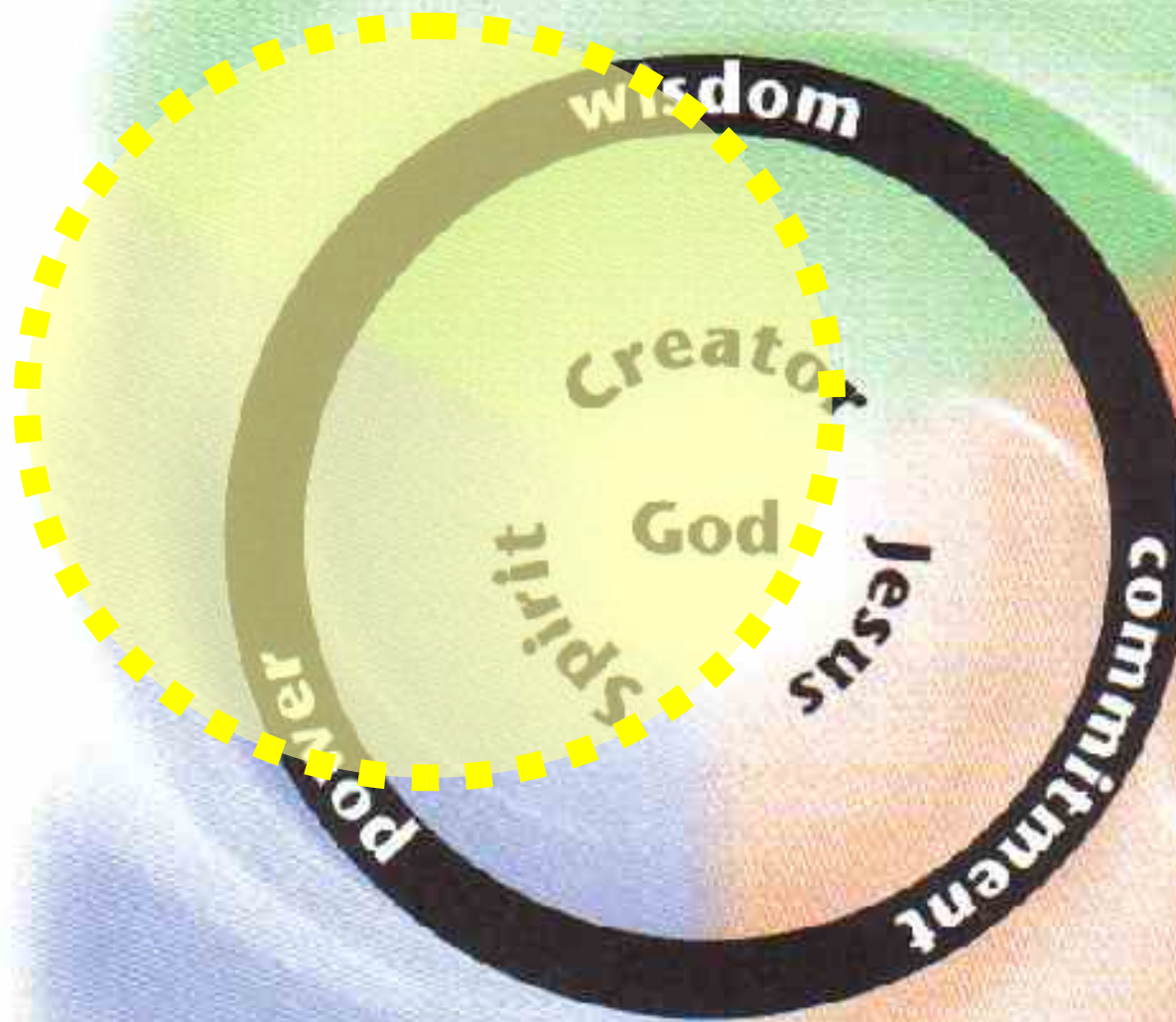
The Burned-out Believer



The Fanatical Believer

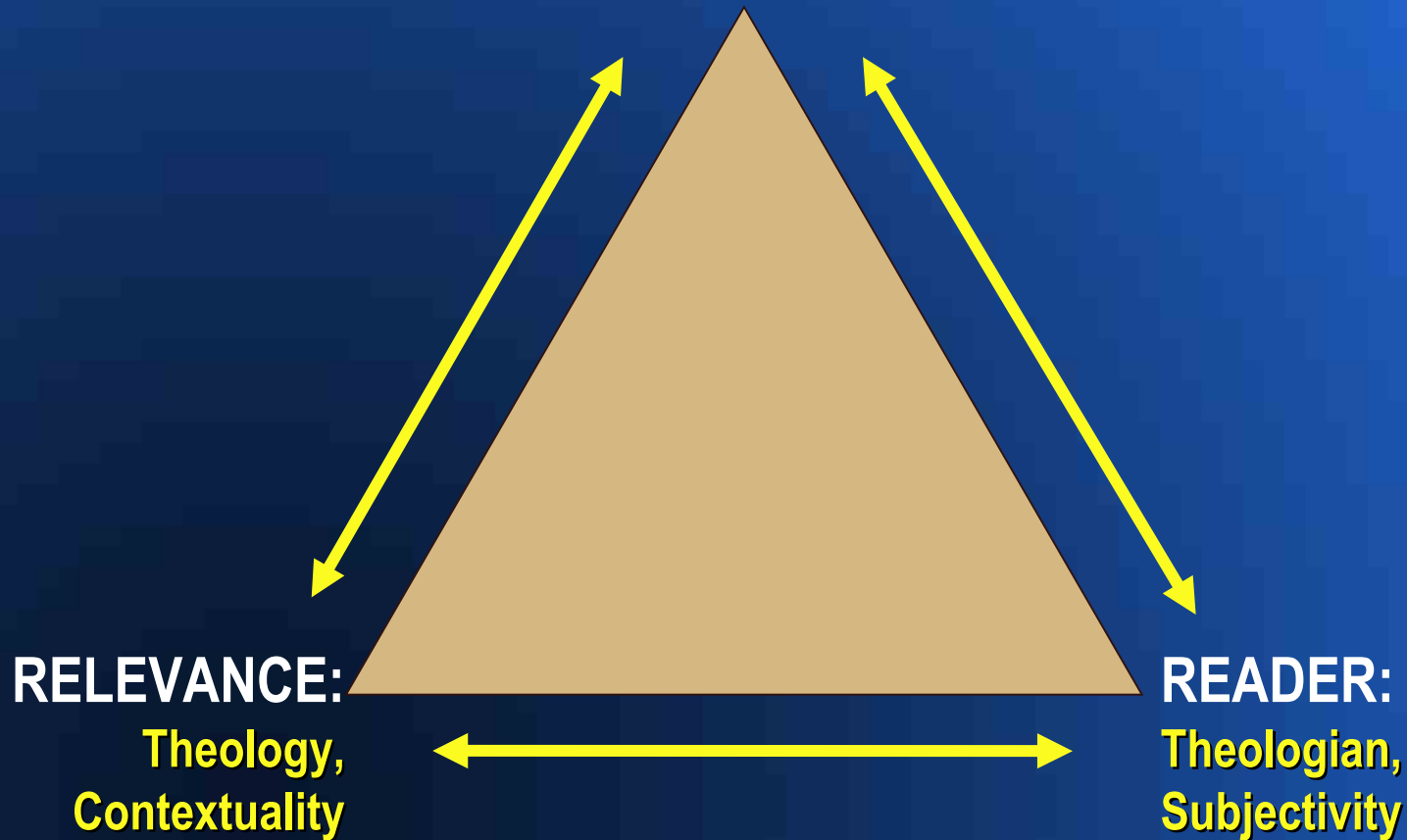


The Detached Believer



Triangulation in Hermeneutics

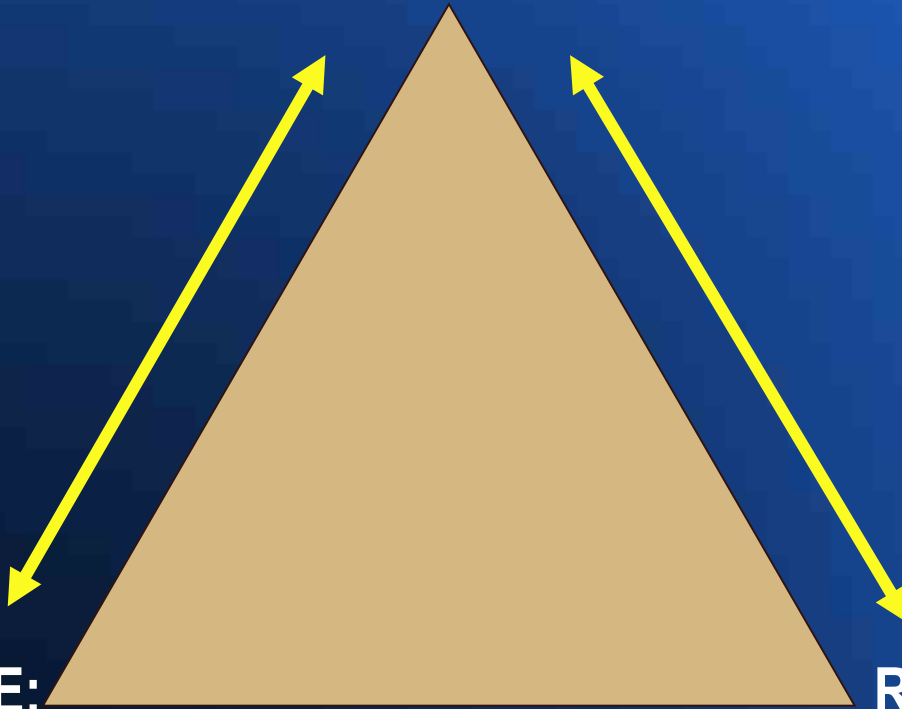
REVELATION:
Text, Subjectivity



To further clarify the picture . . .

REVELATION:

**ORTHODOXY,
HEAD, FACT**



RELEVANCE:

**ORTHOPRAXIS,
HAND, REALITY**

READER:

**ORTHOPATHY,
HEART, TRUTH**

Triangulation in Sermonizing

- Linear _____ . _____ . _____
- Circular
- Triangular
 - Example: “Triangulating Abraham's Faith”
 - Text: Rom. 4:18-21

Triangulating Abraham's Faith

