



BECOMING **WHOLE** CONFERENCE

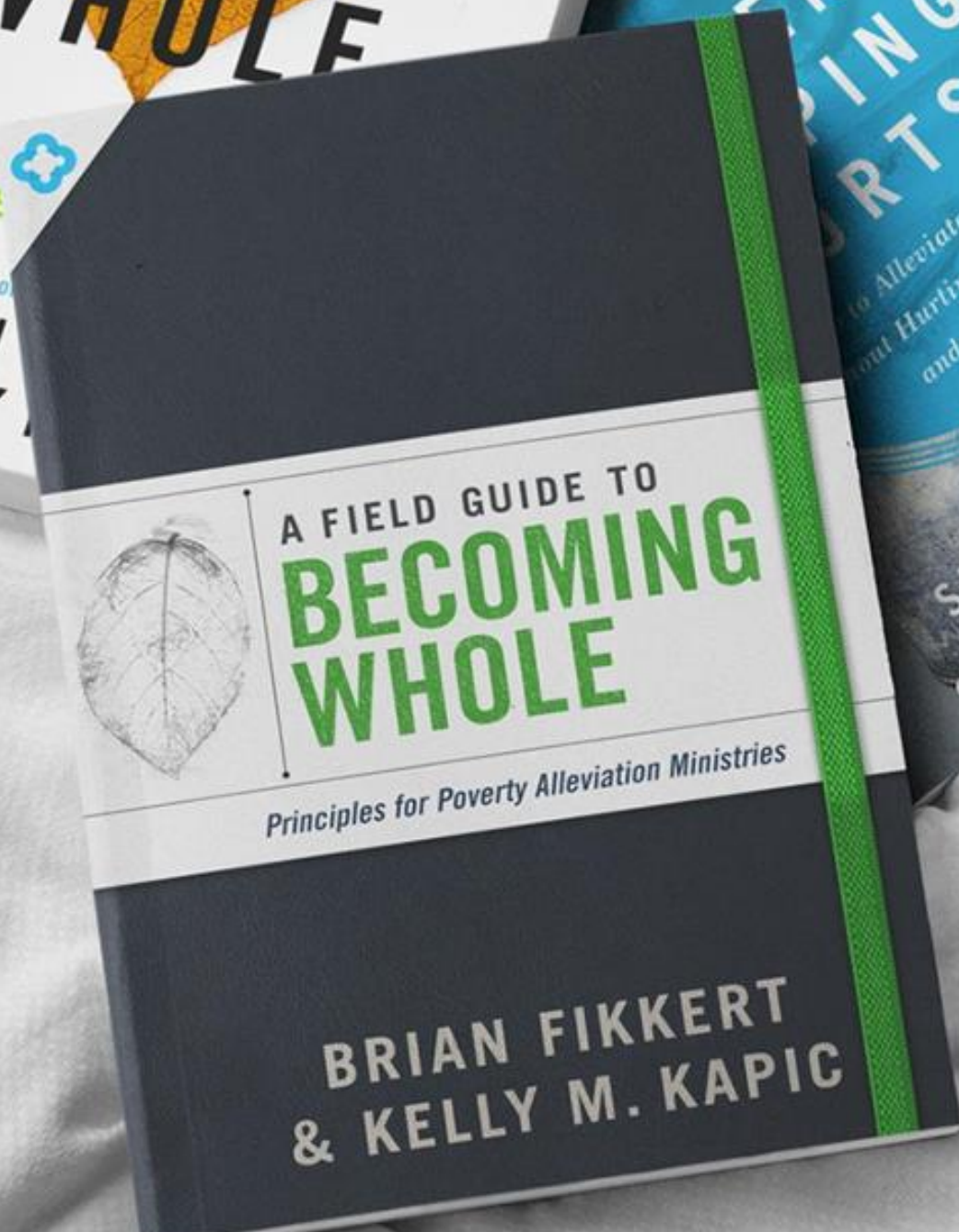
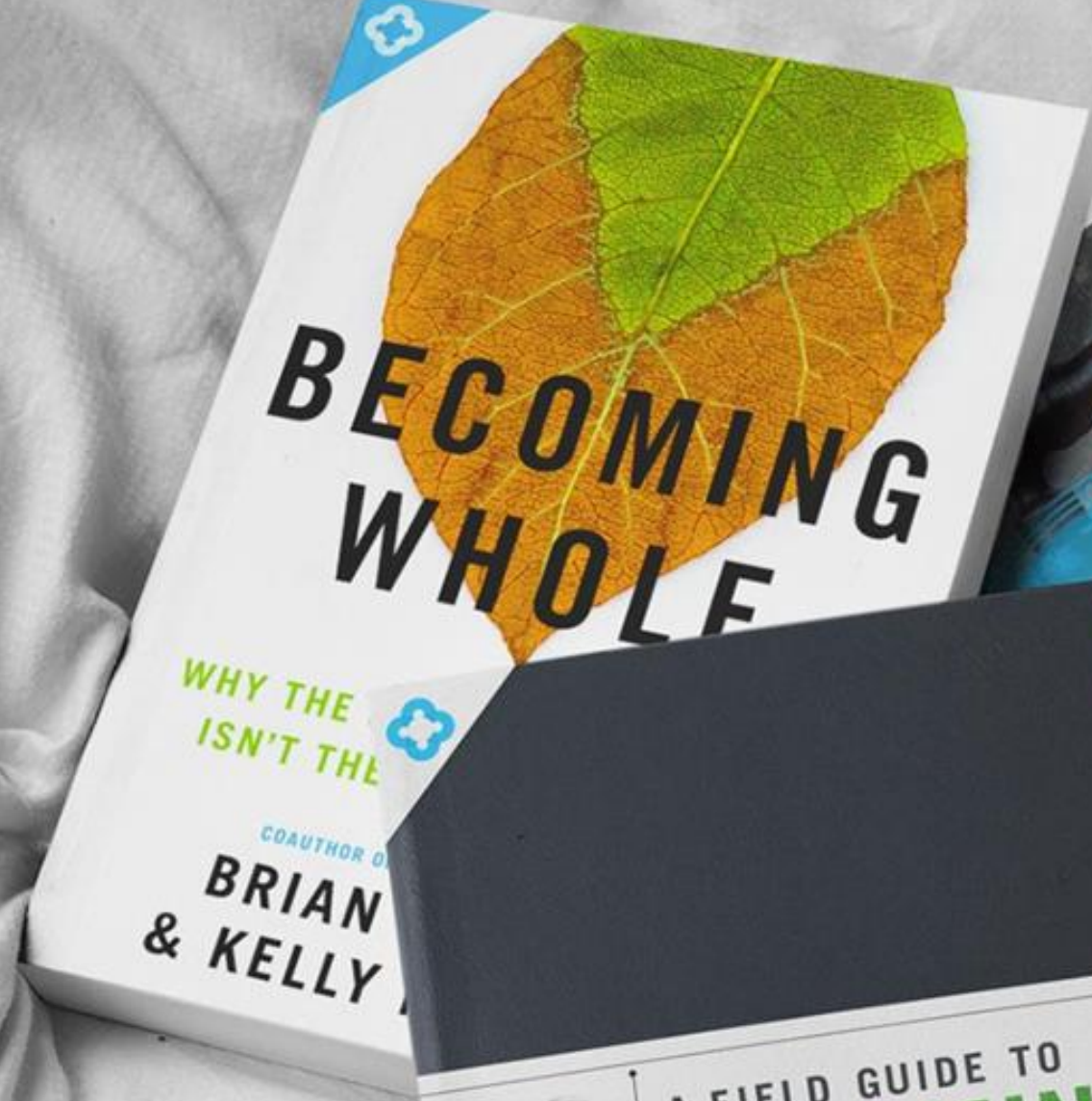
Becoming Whole: Sharing God's Heart for the Poor

*An Evening with Dr. Brian Fikkert,
Author of "When Helping Hurts"*





Opening Grant Exercise









Do you have more hope for Nadiya or for Komi?





Do you have more hope for Nadiya or for Komi?

WHY?



Poverty alleviation is about promoting
positive change.



How do individuals and communities change?



Human beings are transformed into the image of
whatever god we worship.

(Psalm 115:1-8; 2 Cor. 3:18)



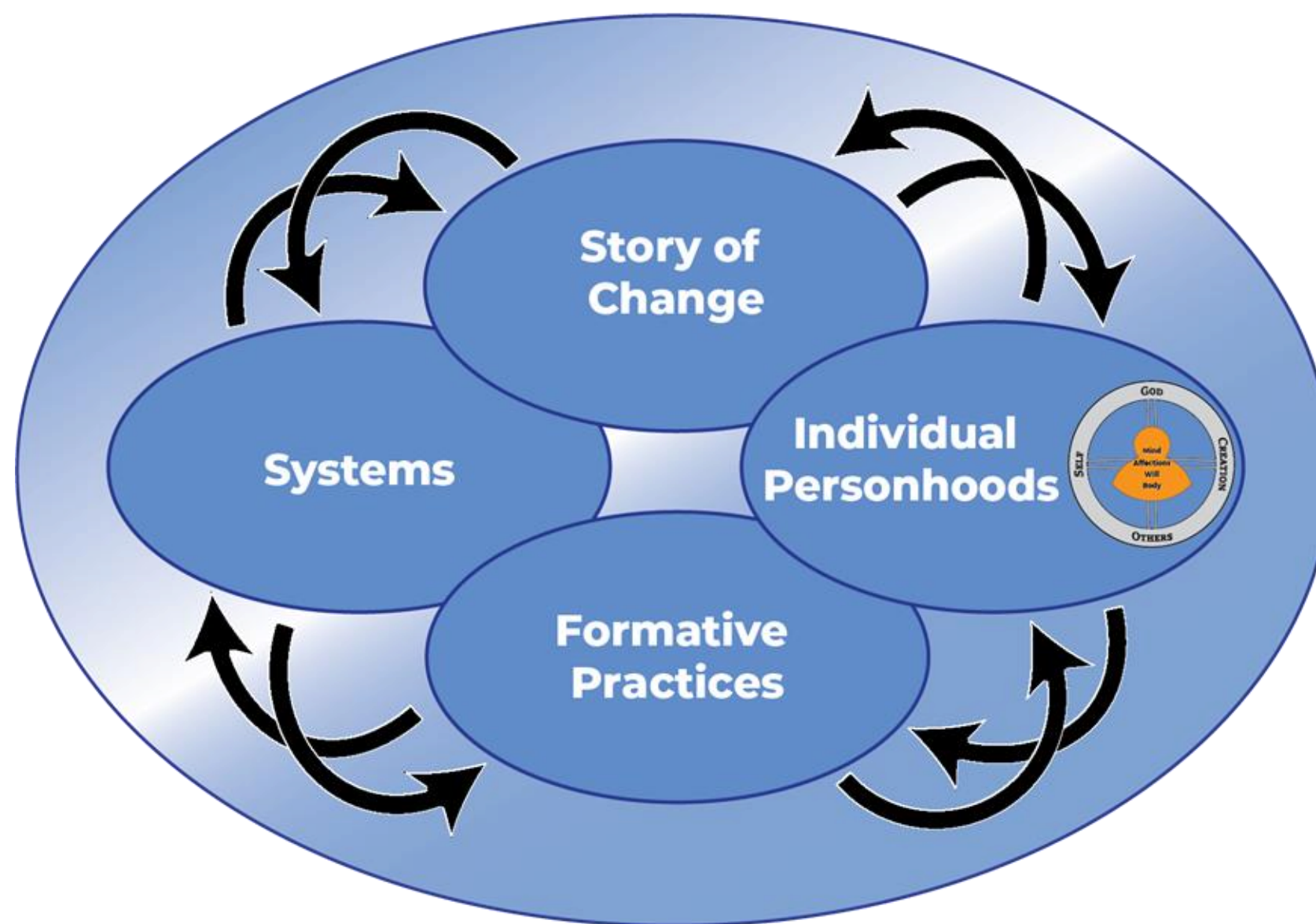
How Does this Work?

The **god** that a community is worshiping leads to its **story** (theory) of change:

1. What is the goal of life?
2. How can this goal be achieved?



Natural Process of Individual and Cultural Change





We *unconsciously* and *automatically* impose
our story of change onto poor people.



Exercise Results for American Christian Donors

	Poverty Alleviation Workshop in 2017 (n = 18)	Poverty Alleviation Workshop in 2024 (n = 18)
<u>MicOrg</u>	\$45K	\$41K
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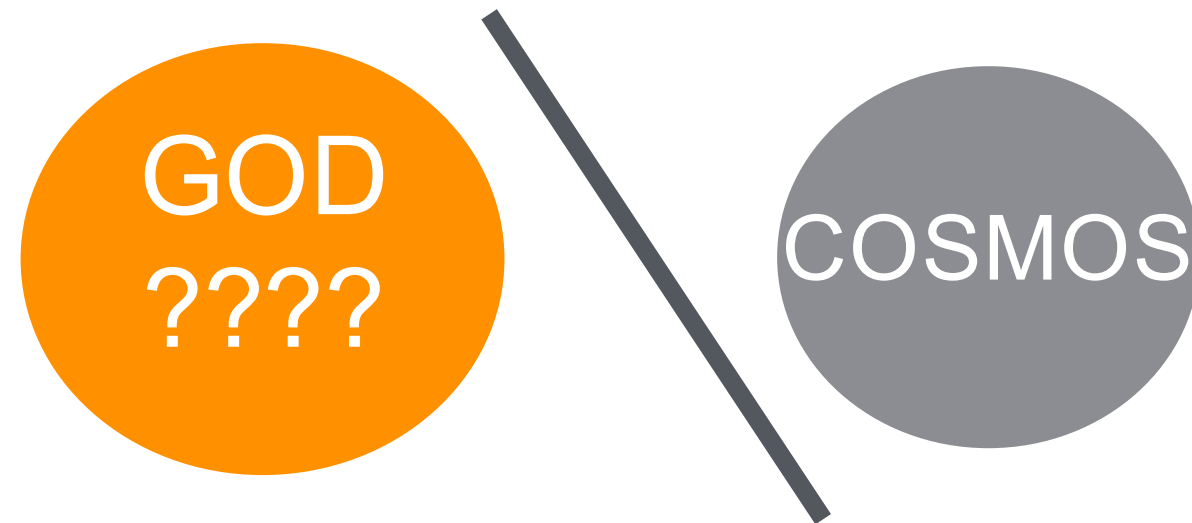
Two false stories of change dominate
poverty alleviation efforts.



False Story #1: American Dream

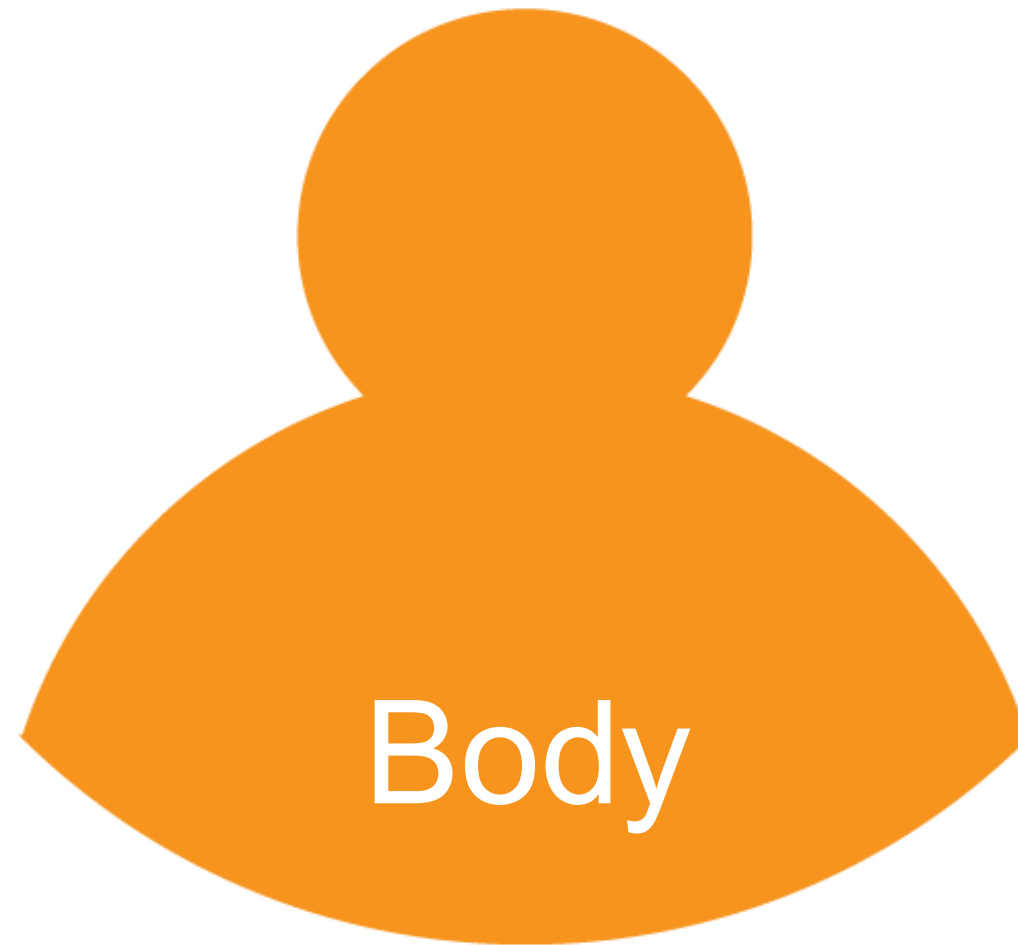


Nature of God in American Dream





Nature of Humanity in American Dream





Story of Change in American Dream

<u>What is the Goal?</u>	<u>How is the Goal Achieved?</u>



Story of Change in American Dream

<u>What is the Goal?</u>	<u>How is the Goal Achieved?</u>
More Consumption	



Story of Change in American Dream

<u>What is the Goal?</u>	<u>How is the Goal Achieved?</u>
More Consumption	1. Handouts

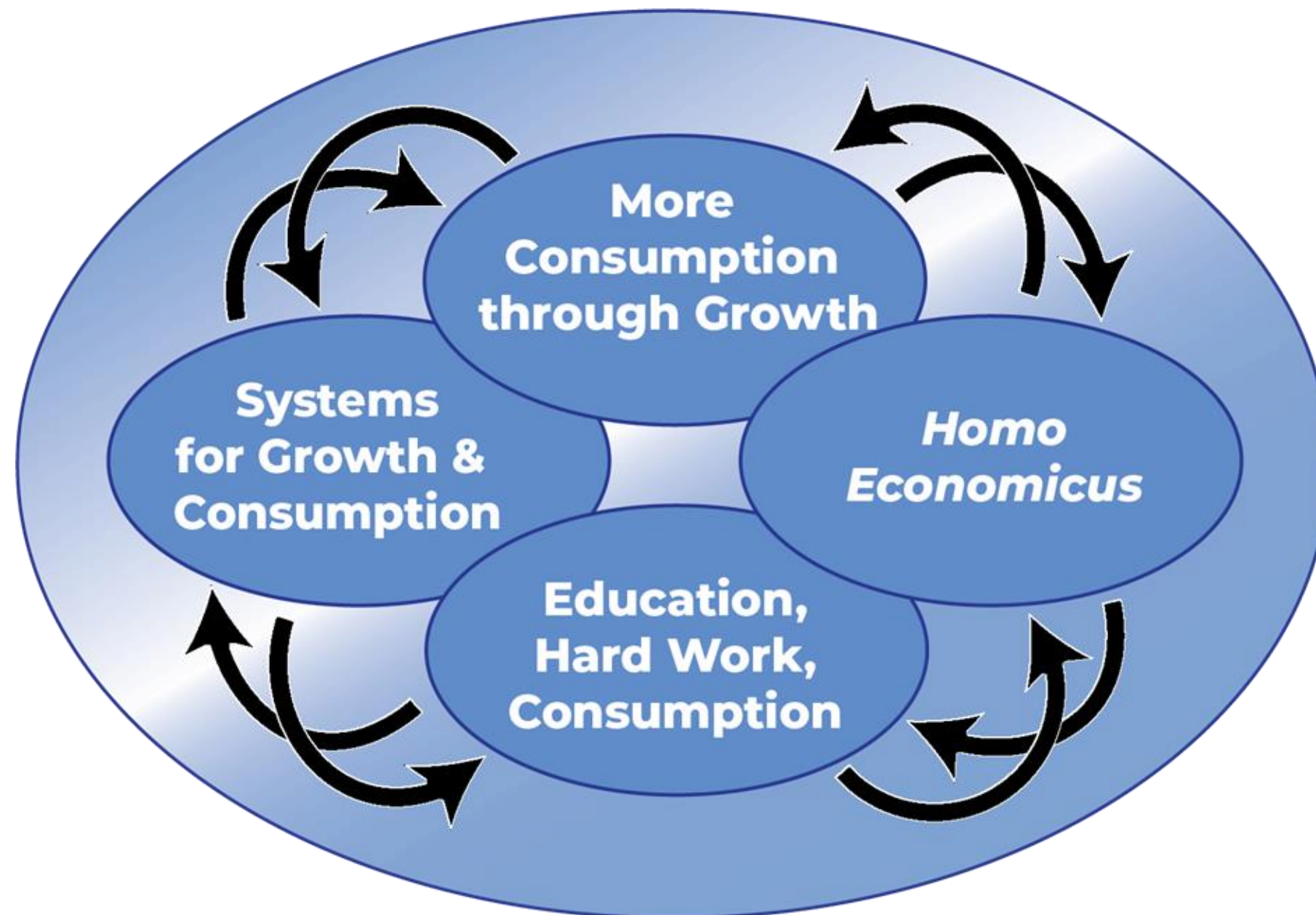


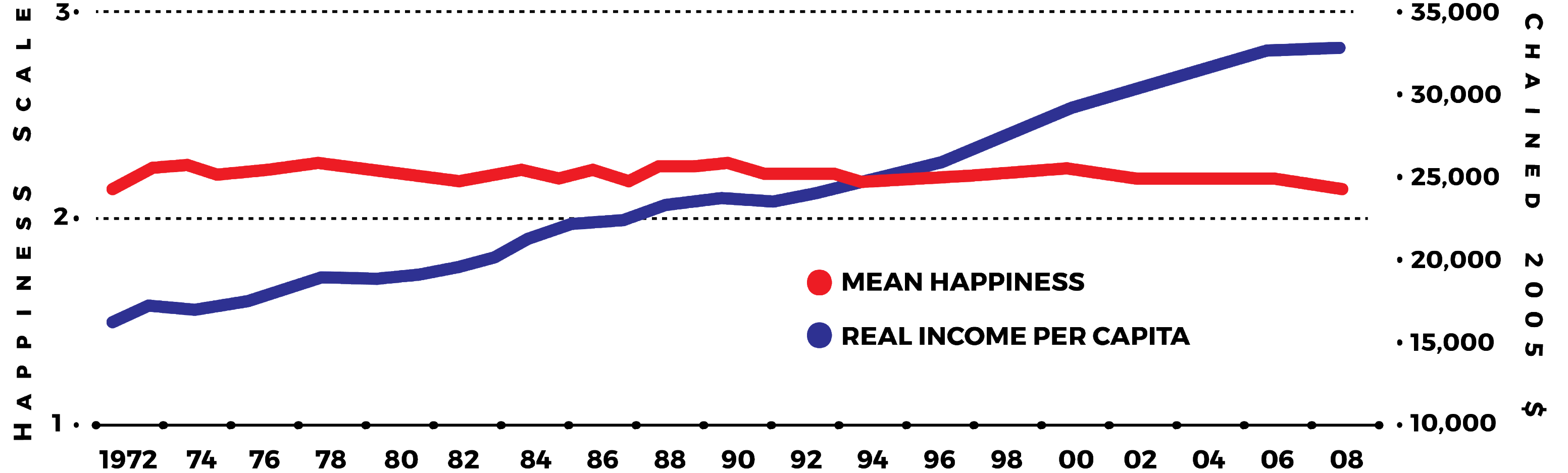
Story of Change in American Dream

<u>What is the Goal?</u>	<u>How is the Goal Achieved?</u>
More Consumption	1. Handouts 2. Economic Empowerment



Individual and Cultural Formation in American Dream

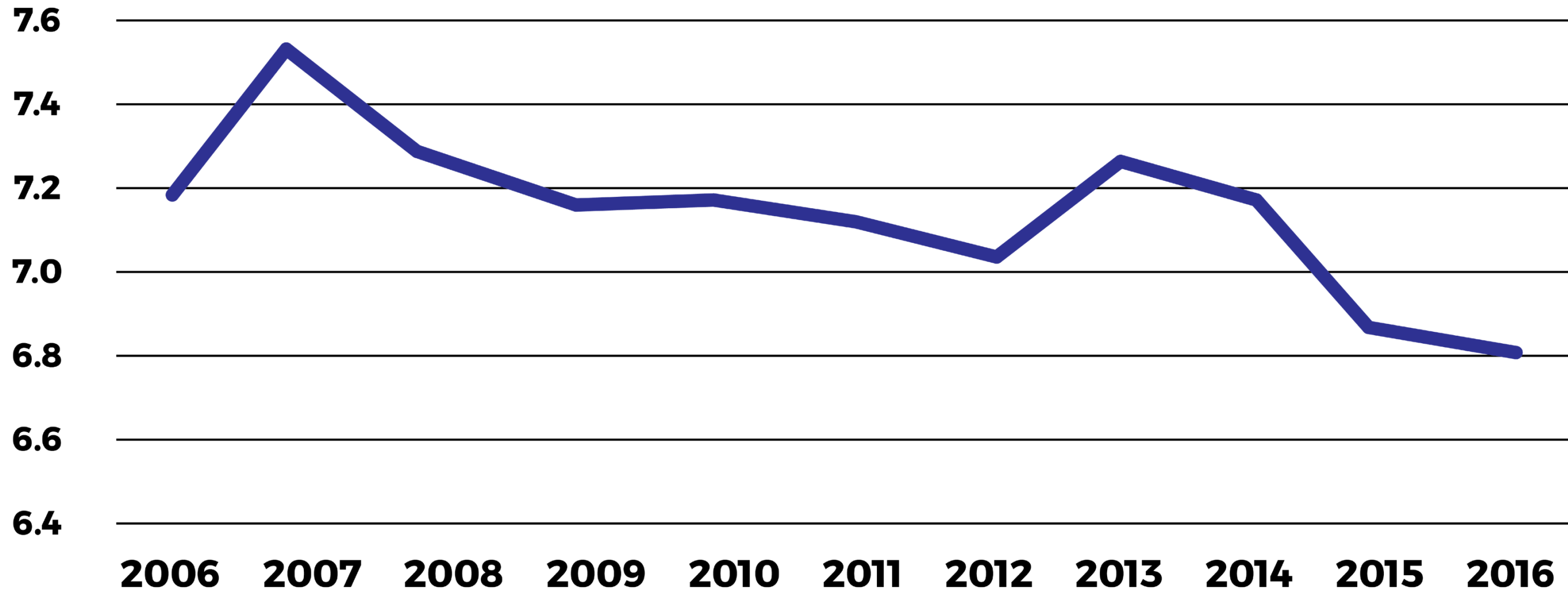




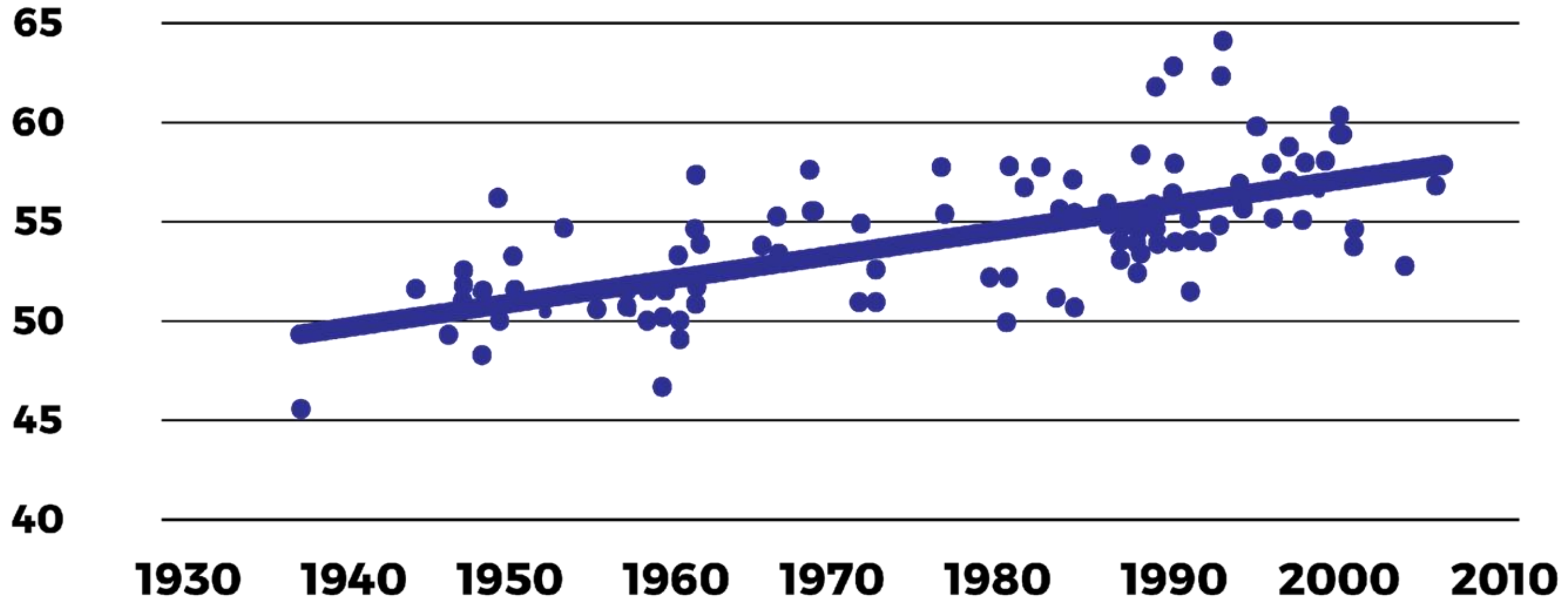
Adapted from Rubén Hernández-Murillo , Christopher J. Martinek, “Dismal Science Tackles Happiness Data”,
The Regional Economist (Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, Vol. 18, Issue 1, January 2010), 15.



U.S. Cantril Ladder



U.S. Happiness Score, 2006-2016



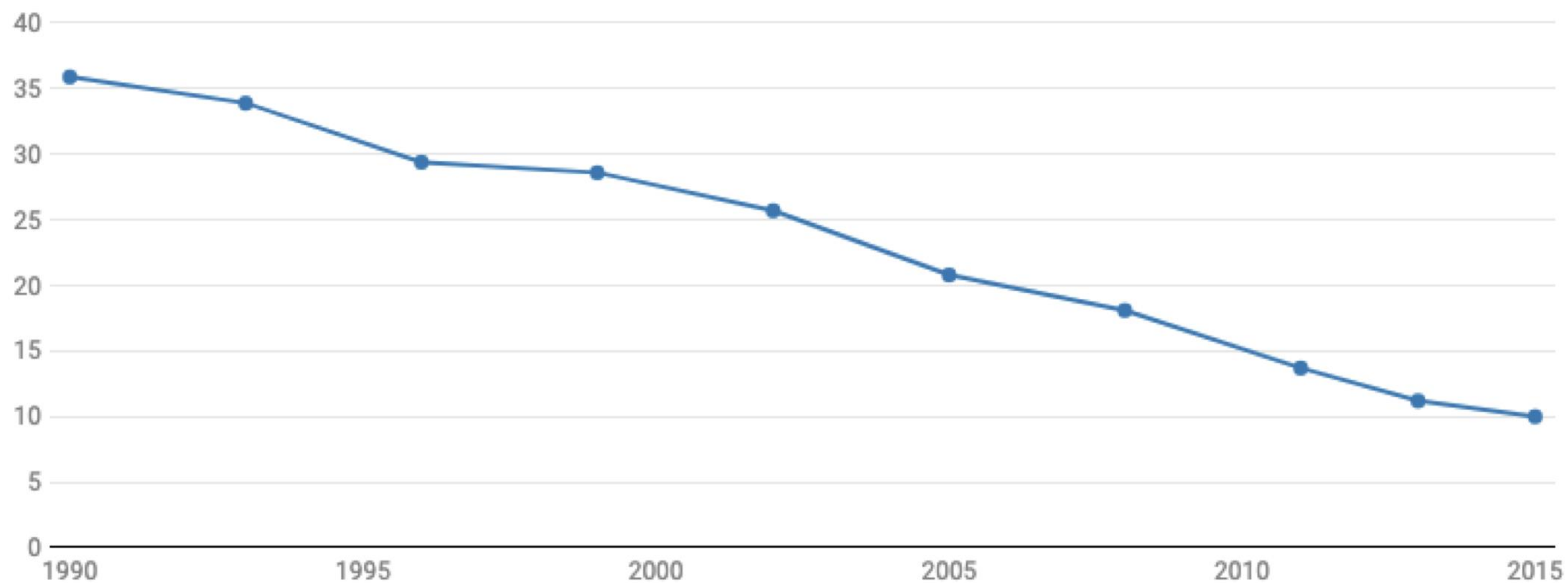
MMPI Depression (D) scale scores of college students, 1938-2007

Adapted from Jean M. Twenge, Brittany Gentile, C. Nathan DeWall, Debbie Ma, Katharine Lacefield, David R. Schurtz,
“Birth Cohort Increases in Psychopathology among Young Americans, 1938-2007: A Cross-Temporal Meta-Analysis of the MMPI”,
Clinical Psychology Review, Vol. 30, #8 (Elsevier, Amsterdam, 2010), 151.



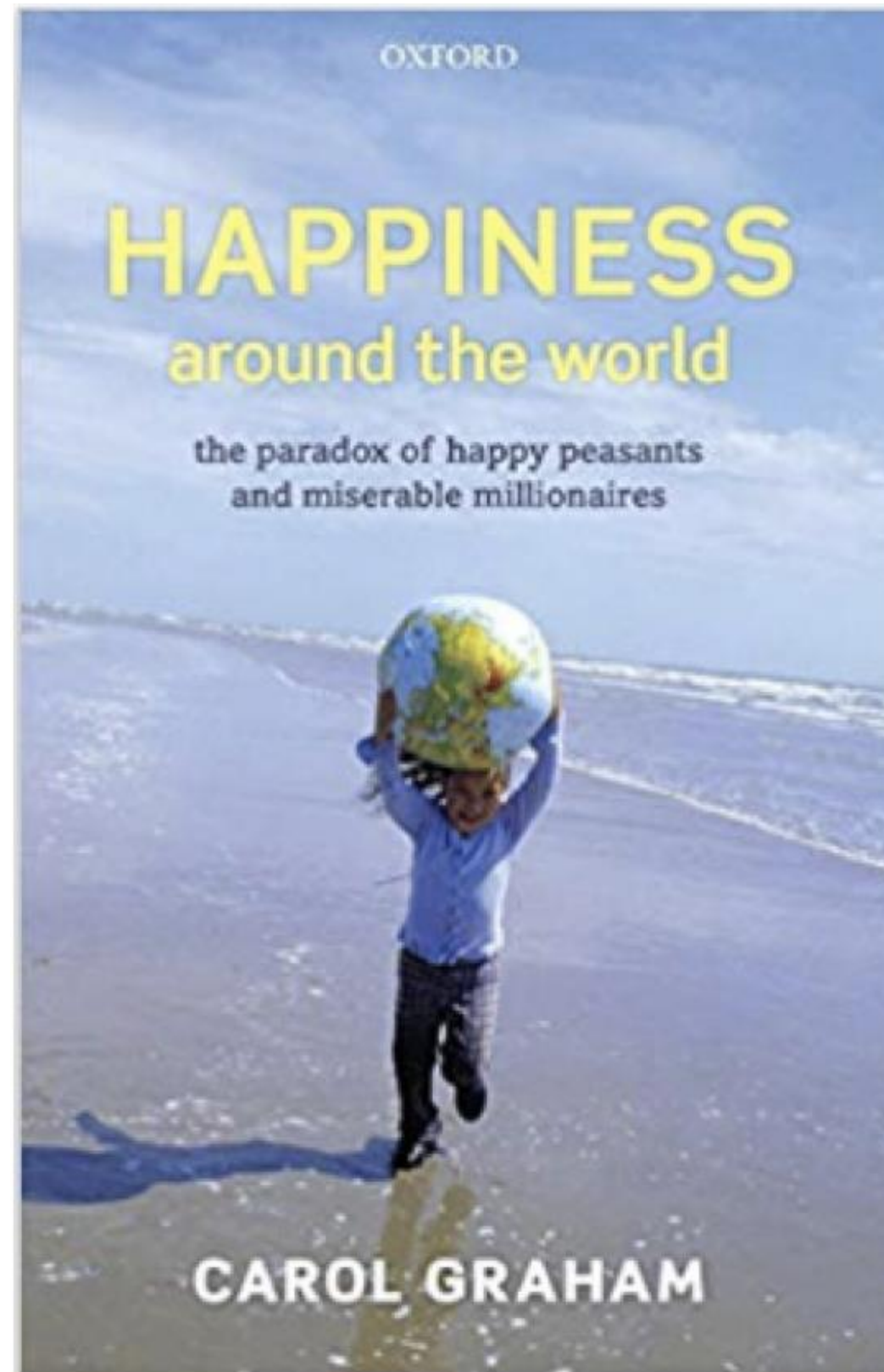
Global poverty rate, 1990-2015

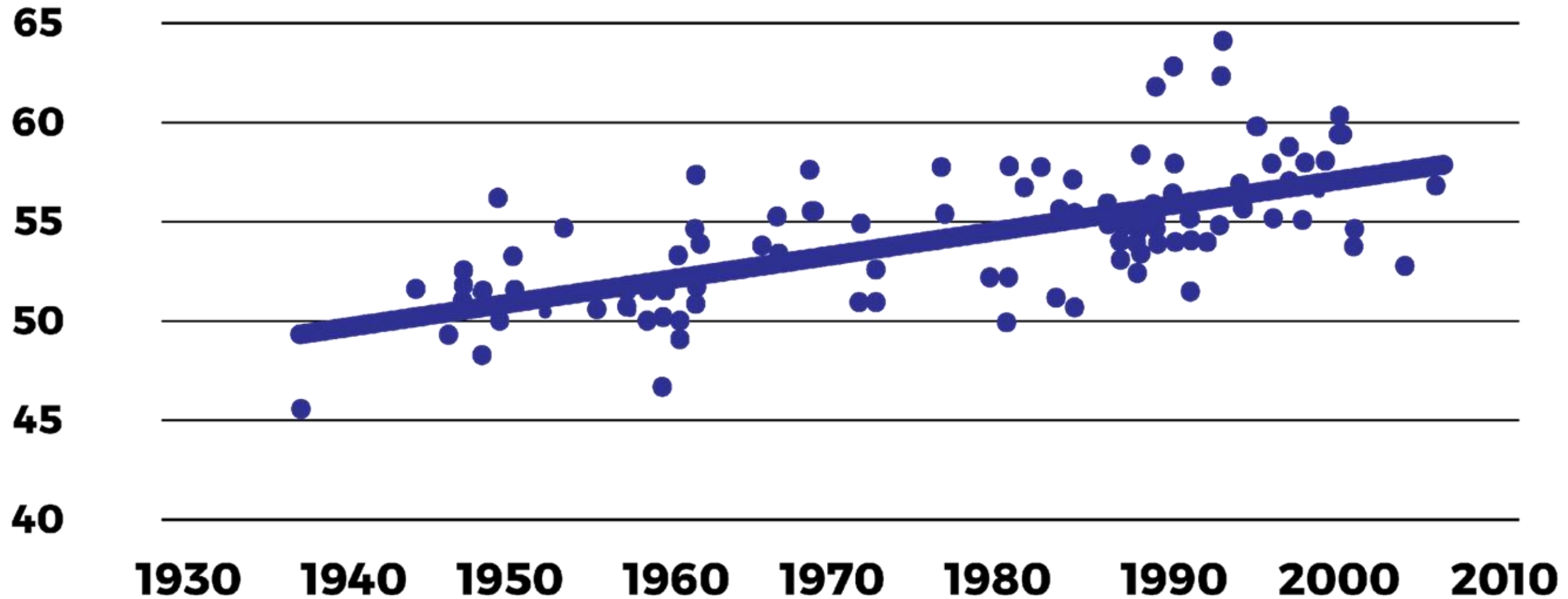
Share of people who live below \$1.90 a day (%), 2011 PPP



Note: PPP = Purchasing Power Parity

Source: [Most recent estimates, based on 2015 data using PovcalNet](#)





MMPI Depression (D) scale scores of college students, 1938-2007

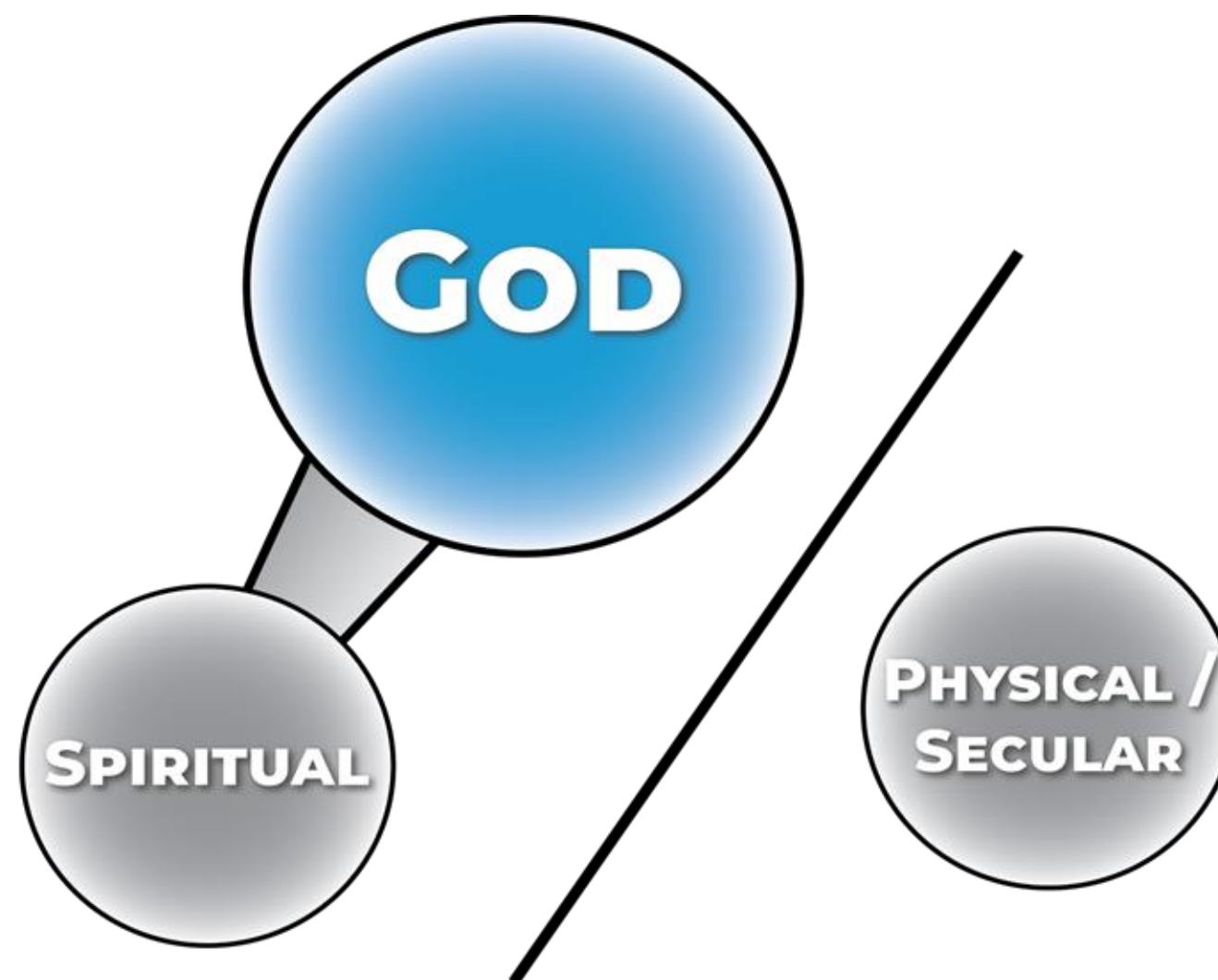
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False Story #2: Baptized American Dream

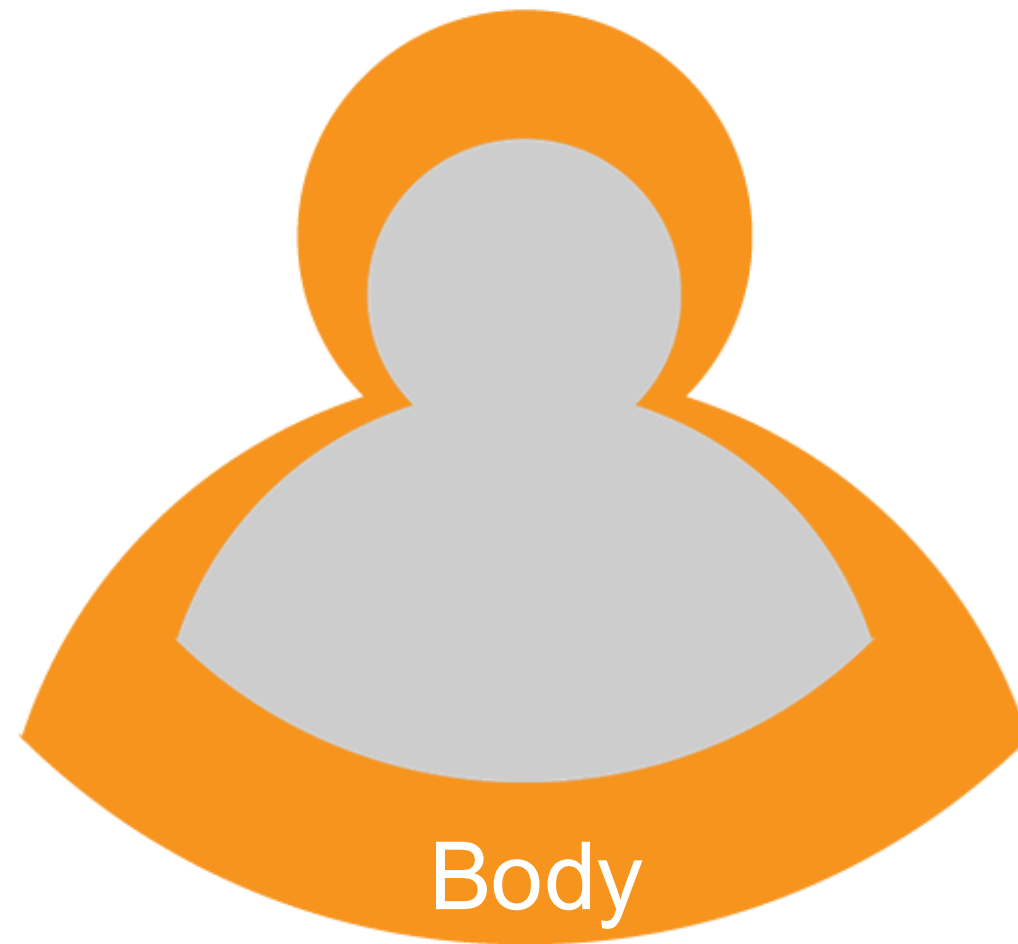


Nature of God in Baptized American Dream



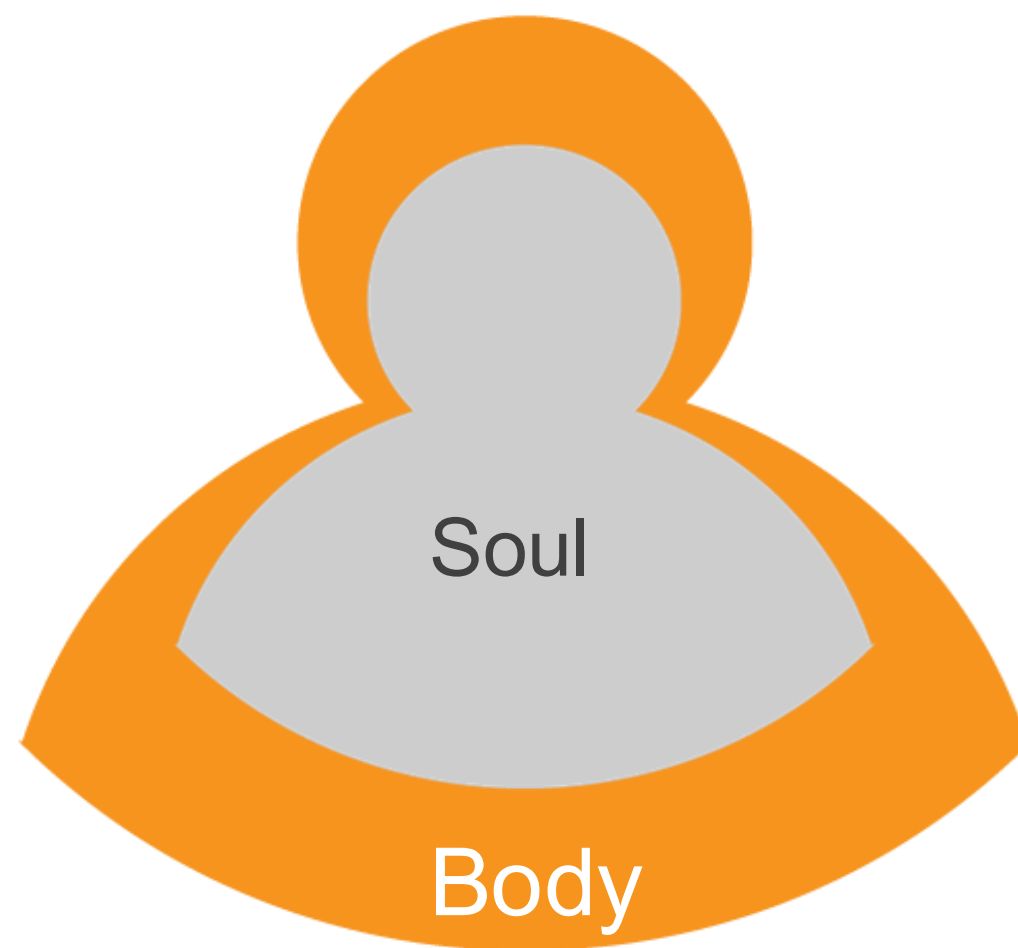


Nature of Humanity in Baptized American Dream



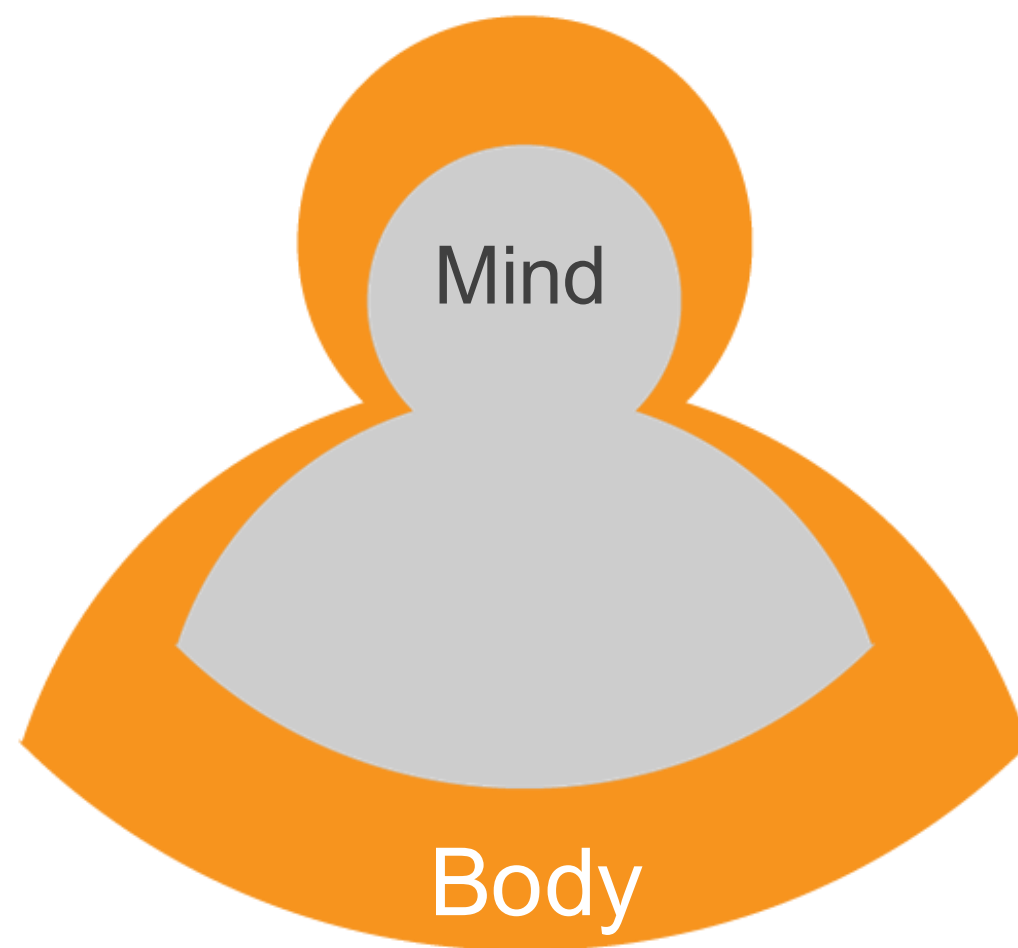


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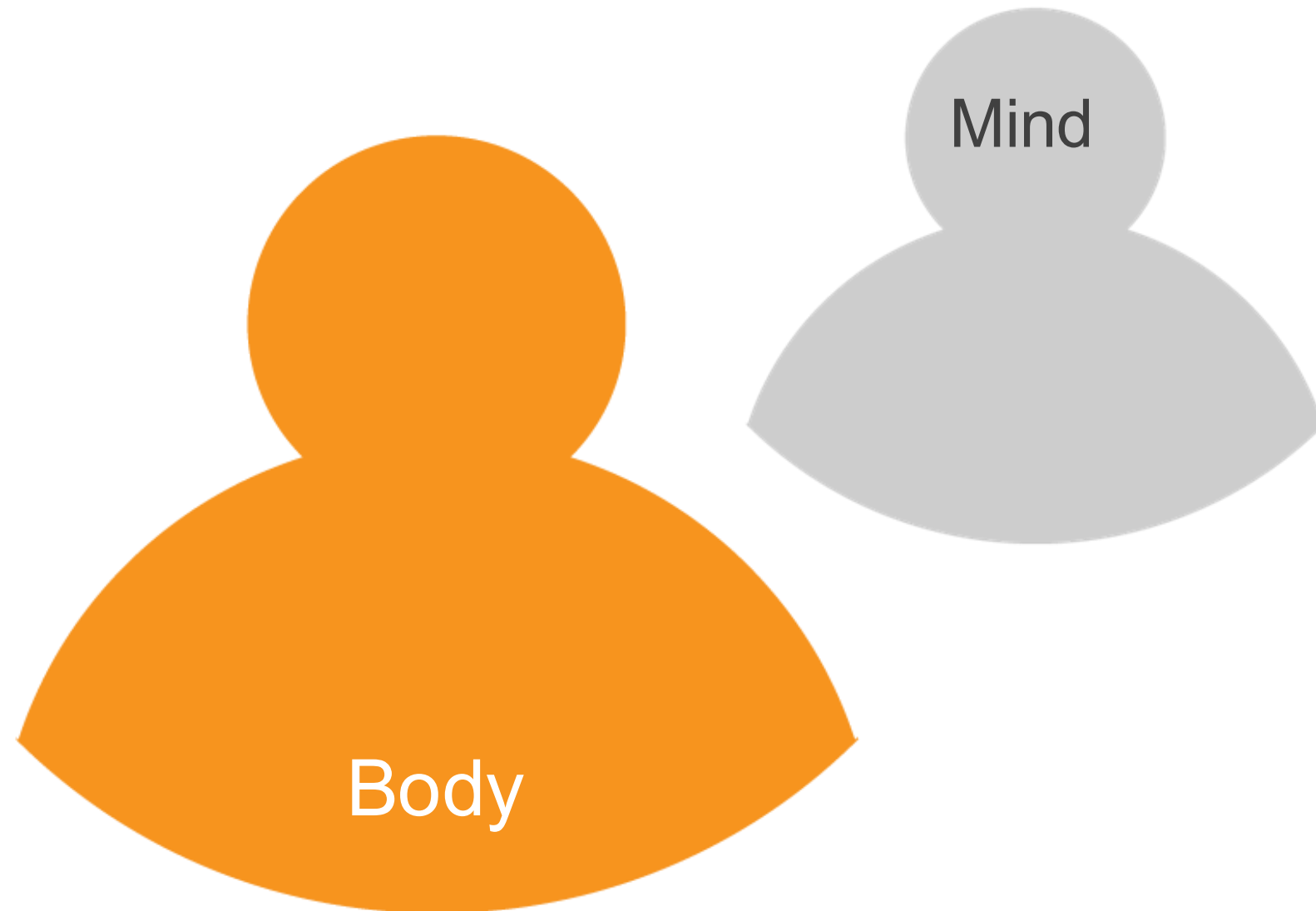


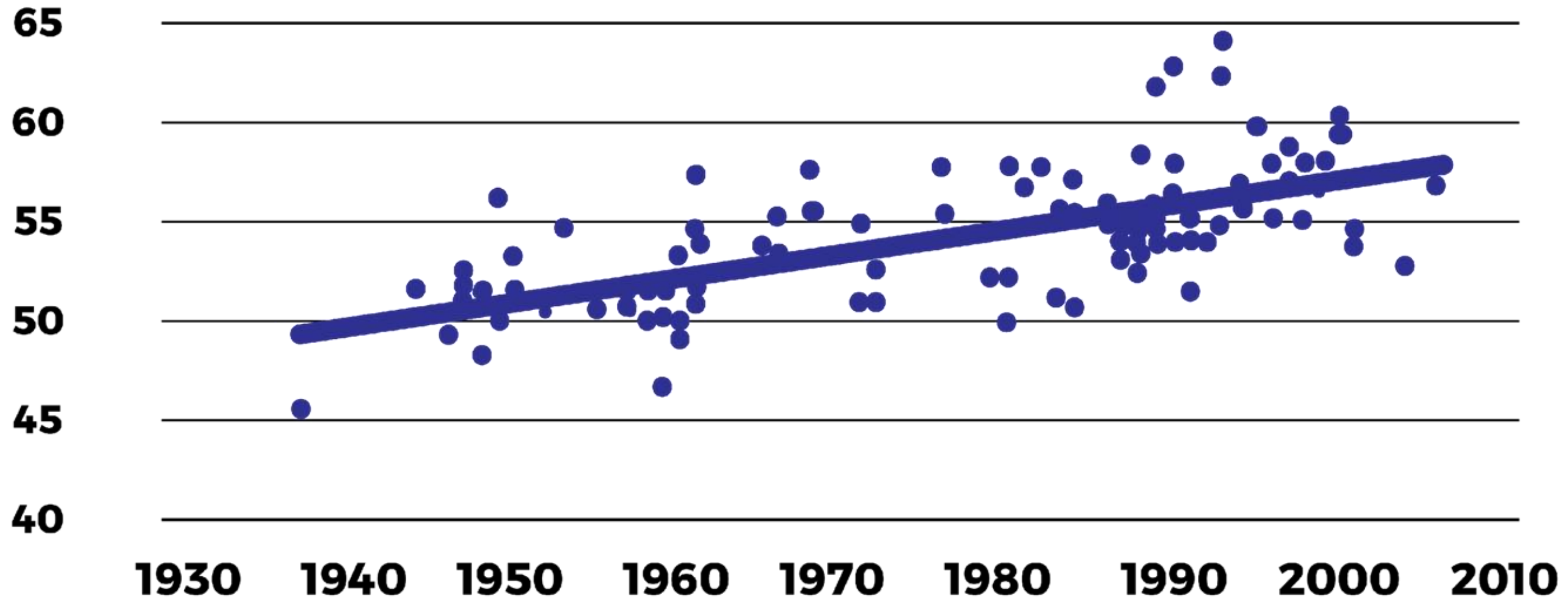
Nature of Humanity in Baptized American Dream





Nature of Humanity in Baptized American Dream





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We *unconsciously* and *automatically* impose
our story of change onto poor people.



Story of Change in Baptized American Dream

	<u>What is the Goal?</u>	<u>How is the Goal Achieved?</u>
Soul		
Body		



Story of Change in Baptized American Dream

	<u>What is the Goal?</u>	<u>How is the Goal Achieved?</u>
Soul	Get the Soul to Heaven	
Body		



Story of Change in Baptized American Dream

	<u>What is the Goal?</u>	<u>How is the Goal Achieved?</u>
Soul	Get the Soul to Heaven	Evangelism
Body		



Story of Change in Baptized American Dream

	<u>What is the Goal?</u>	<u>How is the Goal Achieved?</u>
Soul	Get the Soul to Heaven	Evangelism
Body	More Consumption	



Story of Change in Baptized American Dream

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Body	More Consumption	1. Handouts



Story of Change in Baptized American Dream

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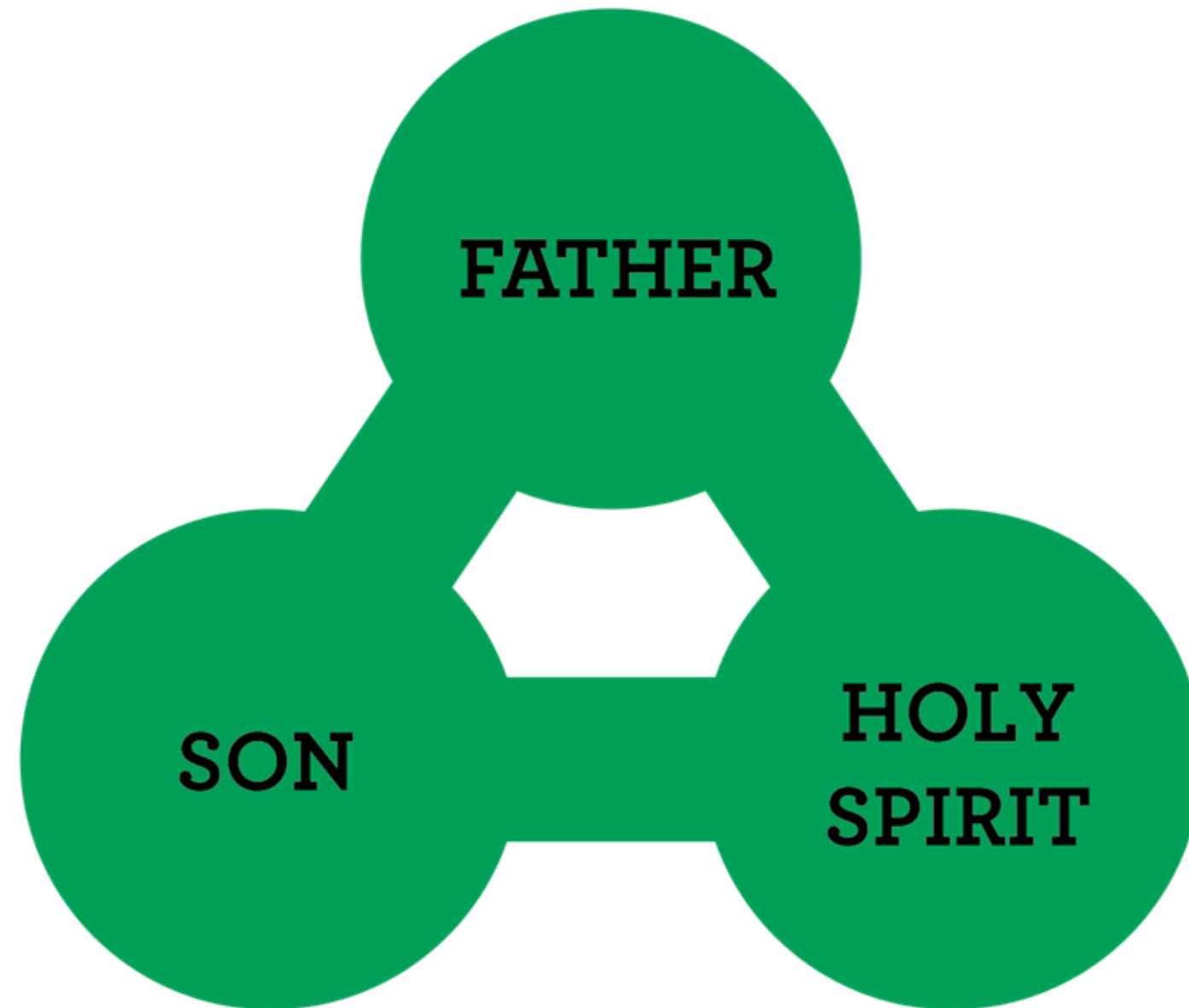
Living into God's Story of Change



Creation

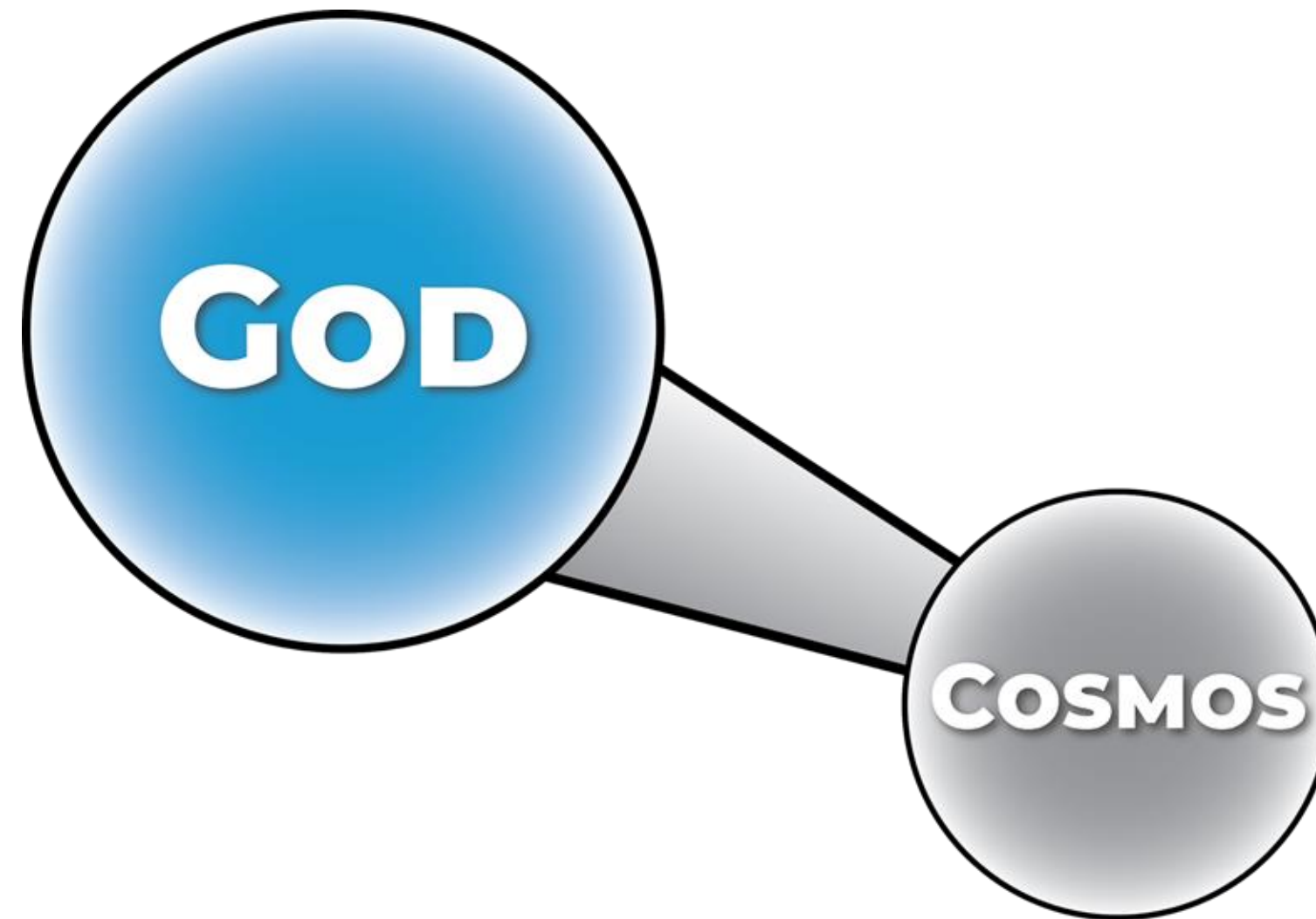


The True Nature of God



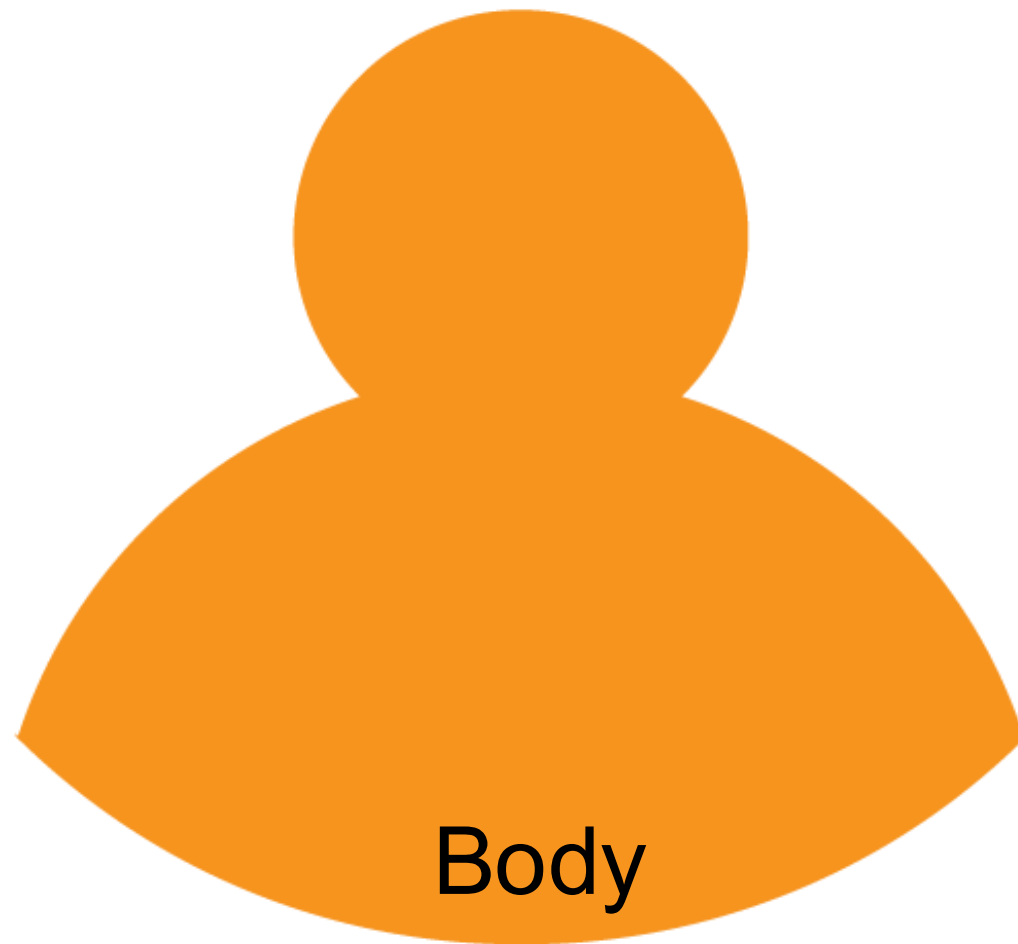


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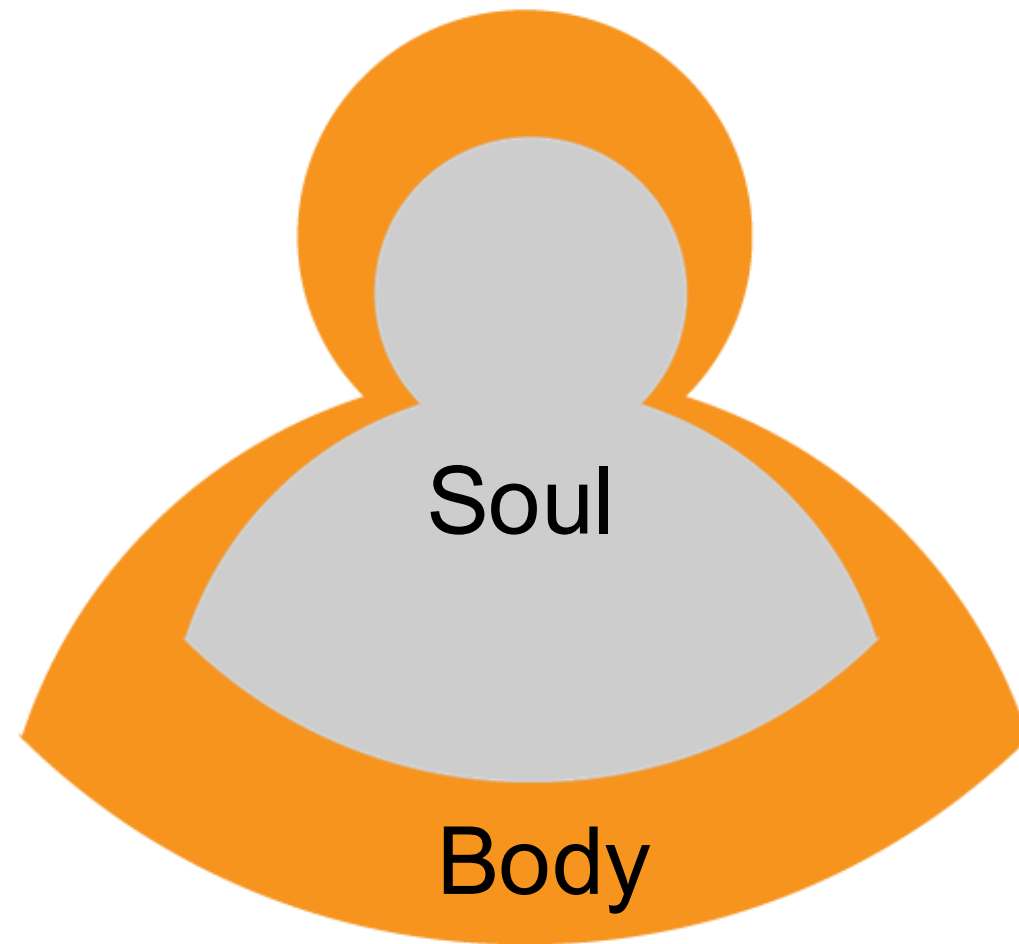


The True Nature of Humanity



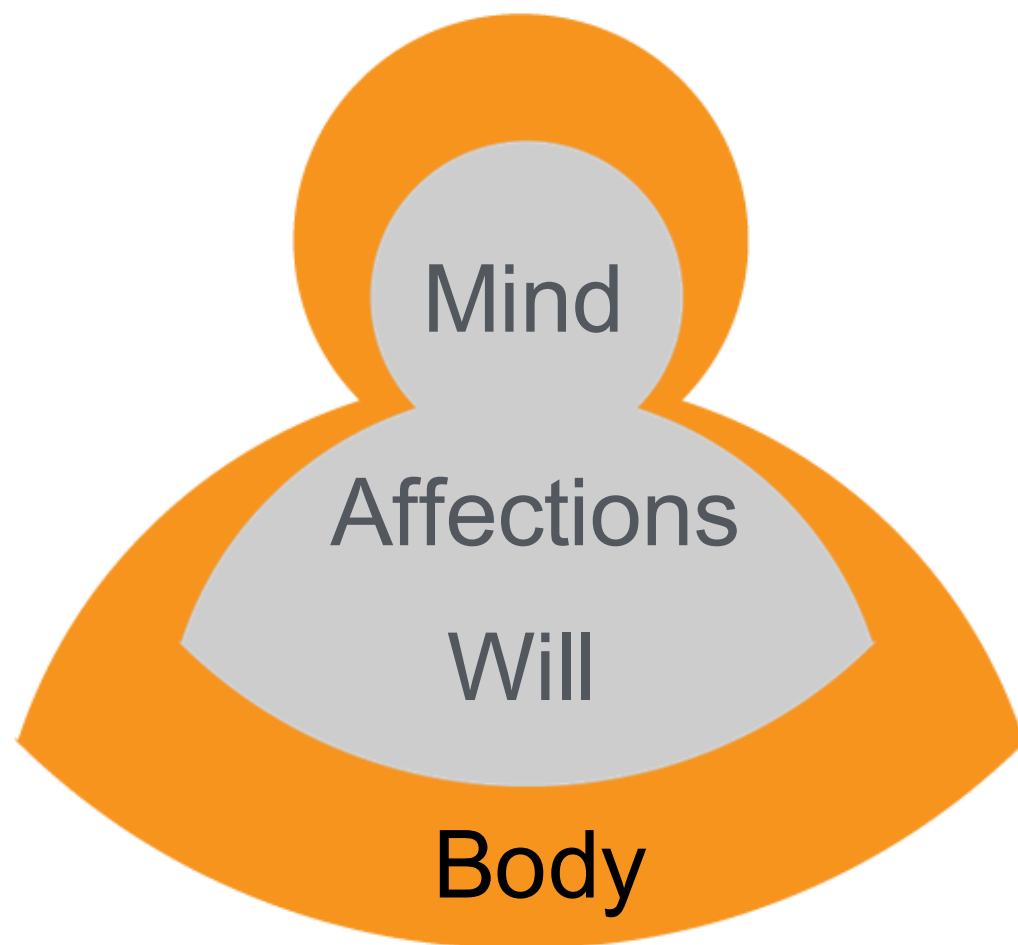


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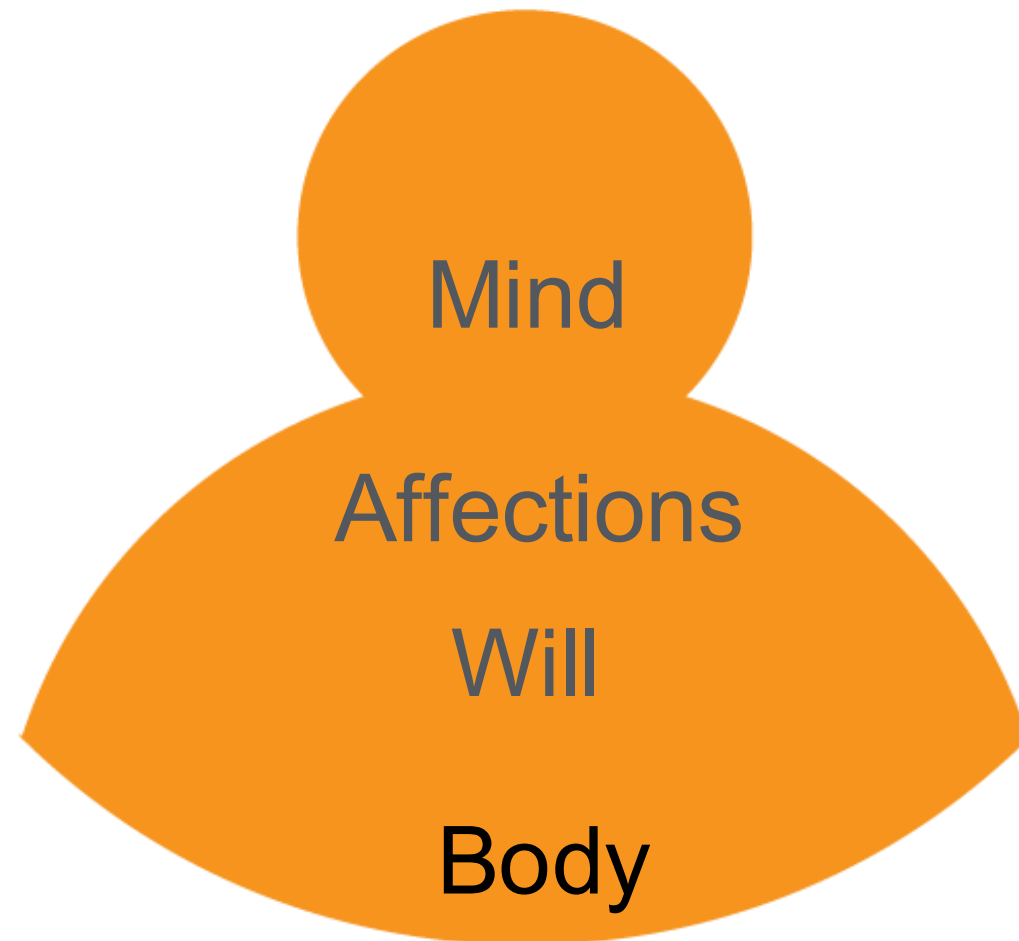


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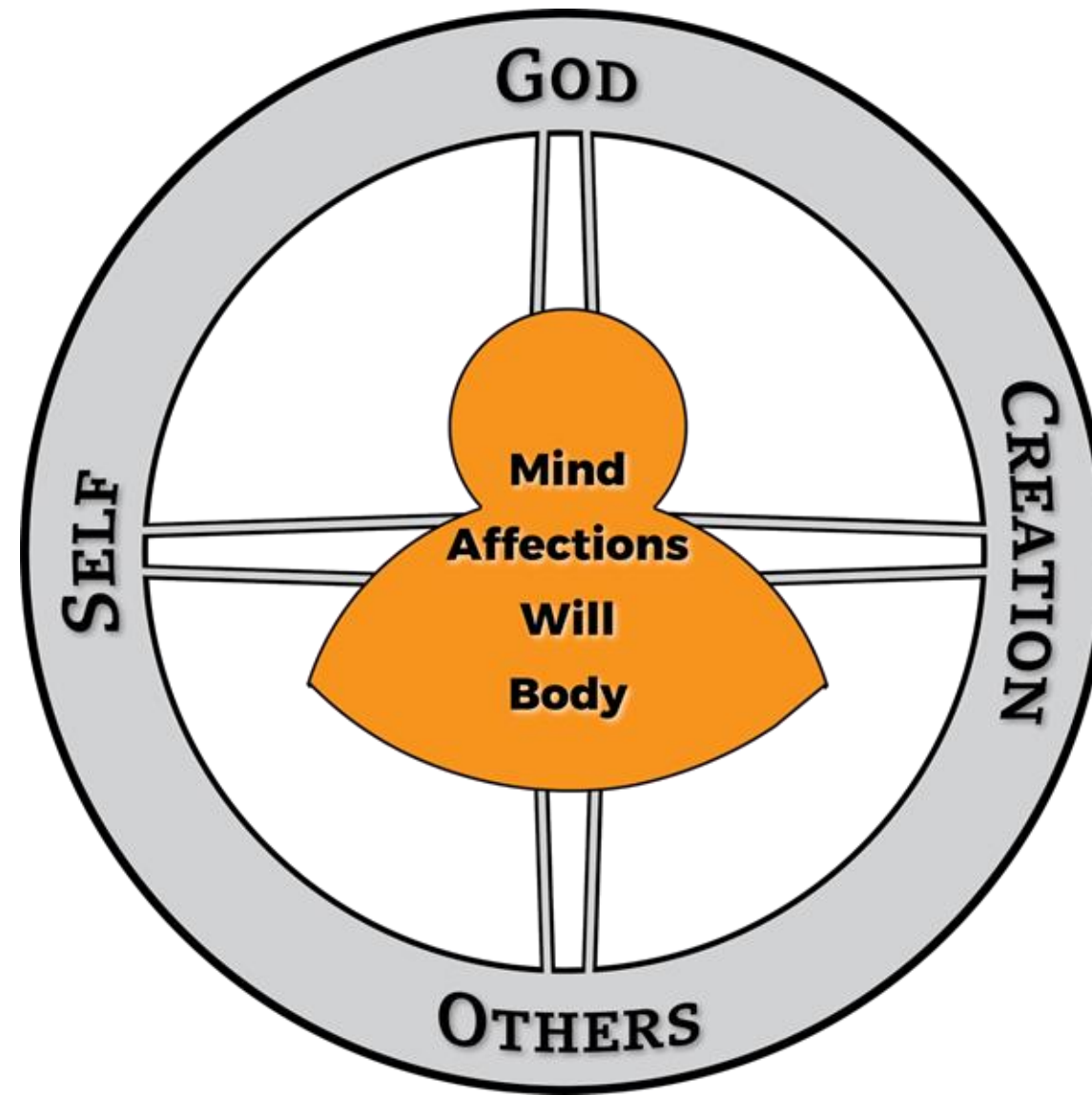


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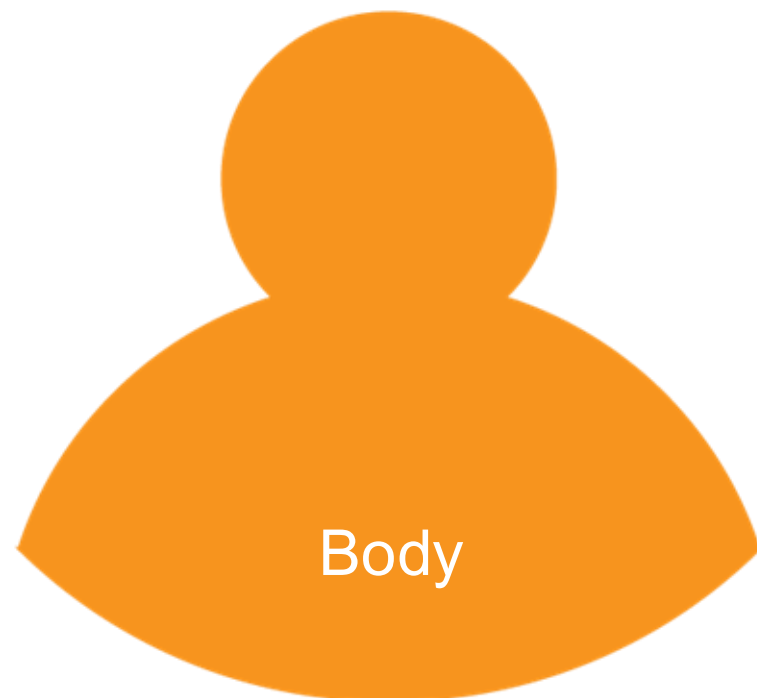


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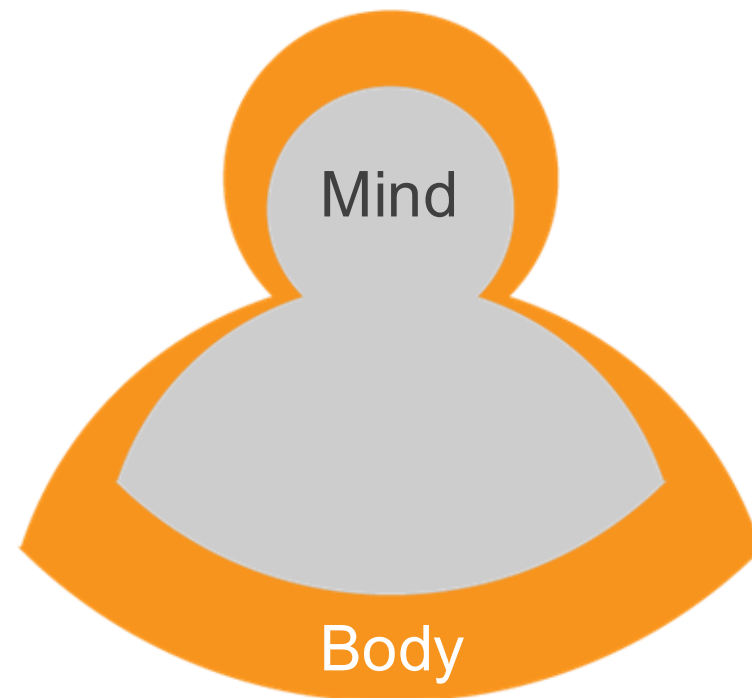


Competing Stories about Human Beings & Human Flourishing

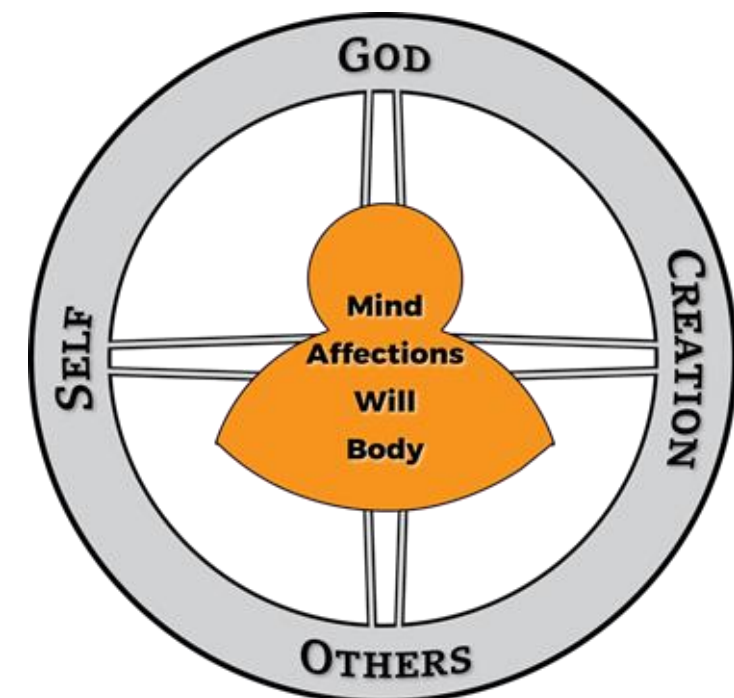
American Dream



Baptized American Dream



Biblical Christianity



2025



World Happiness Report

GALLUP



OXFORD LIBRARY O



BONTWELL
AMANDA
CONLEY
AYERS

The Oxford Handbook of
HAPPINESS

HARVARD UNIVERSITY

The Human Flourishing Program

at Harvard's Institute for Quantitative Social Science

A lush tropical forest scene featuring a waterfall cascading into a dark pool of water. The surrounding vegetation is dense and vibrant green, with some trees showing hints of yellow and orange, suggesting a tropical or subtropical environment. The text "Eden is the Habitat for Human Flourishing" is overlaid in white, centered on the image.

Eden is the Habitat for Human
Flourishing

A lush green forest with a waterfall cascading into a pool. The waterfall is the central focus, with water falling from a rocky ledge into a dark, still pool below. The surrounding forest is dense with various shades of green, including some yellowish-green foliage on the left. The overall scene is serene and natural.

Eden is the Habitat for Human
Flourishing

God

A lush green forest with a waterfall cascading into a pool. The waterfall is the central focus, with water falling from a rocky ledge into a dark, still pool below. The surrounding forest is dense with various shades of green, including some yellowish-green foliage on the left. The overall scene is serene and natural.

Eden is the Habitat for Human Flourishing

God + Dignity

A photograph of a waterfall in a dense, lush forest. The water is white and frothy as it falls into a dark pool below. The surrounding trees are green with some yellowing leaves, suggesting a tropical or subtropical environment. The text is overlaid on the image in a white, sans-serif font.

Eden is the Habitat for Human Flourishing

God + Dignity + Community

A lush green forest with a waterfall cascading into a pool of water. The waterfall is the central focus, with water falling from a rocky ledge into a dark, still pool below. The surrounding forest is dense with various shades of green, including some yellowish-green foliage on the left side. The overall scene is serene and natural.

Eden is the Habitat for Human Flourishing

God + Dignity + Community + Work as Worship/Service

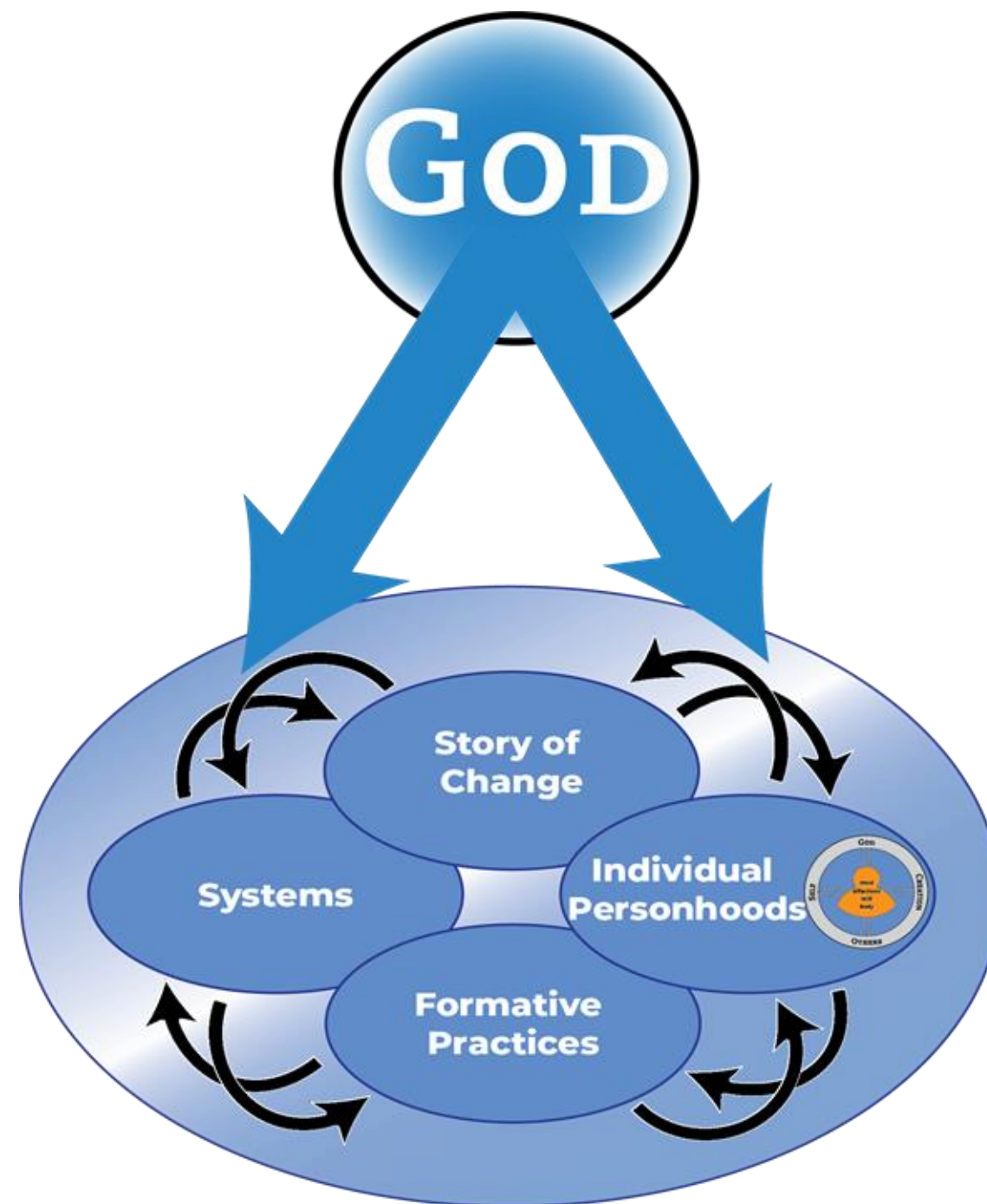


The Goal in God's Story of Change:

People experience human flourishing when they serve as **priest-rulers**, using their mind, affections, will, and bodies to enjoy loving relationships with God, self, others, and the rest of creation.



The Active Presence of God in Individual and Cultural Formation





We *unconsciously* and *automatically* impose
our story of change onto poor people.

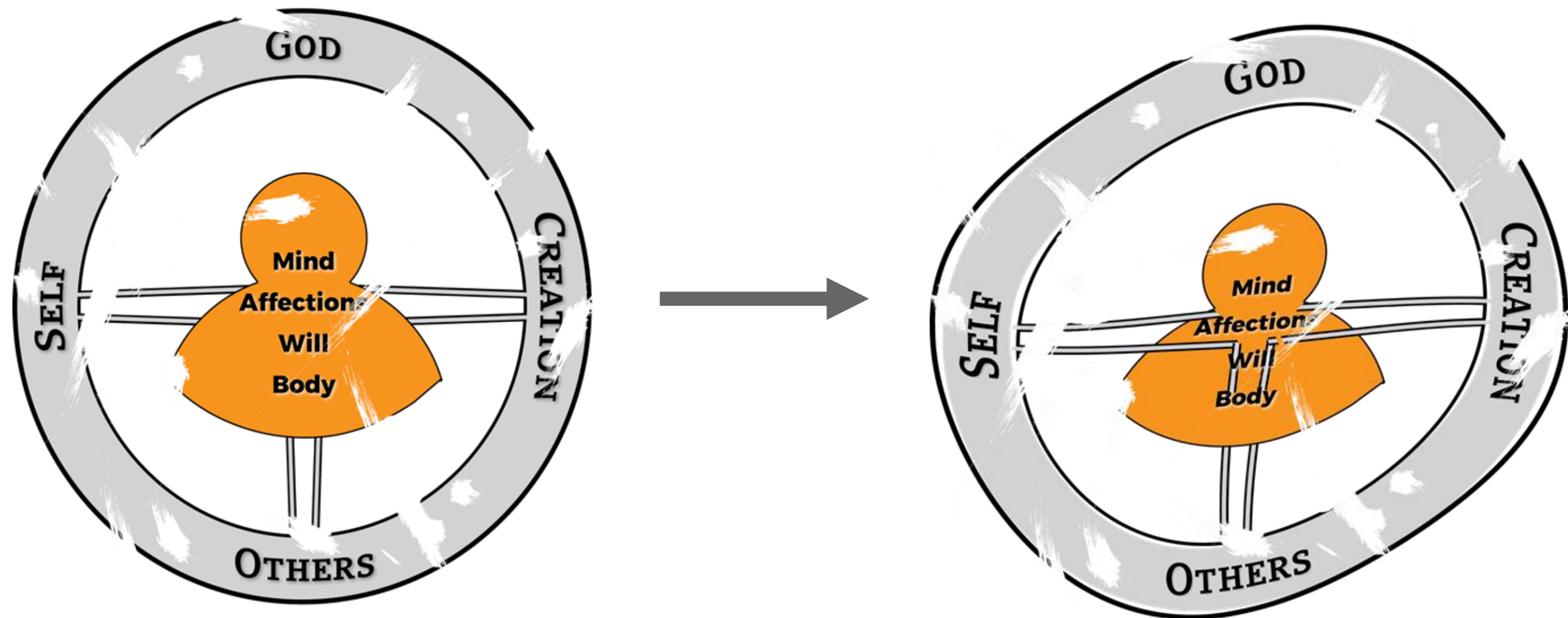
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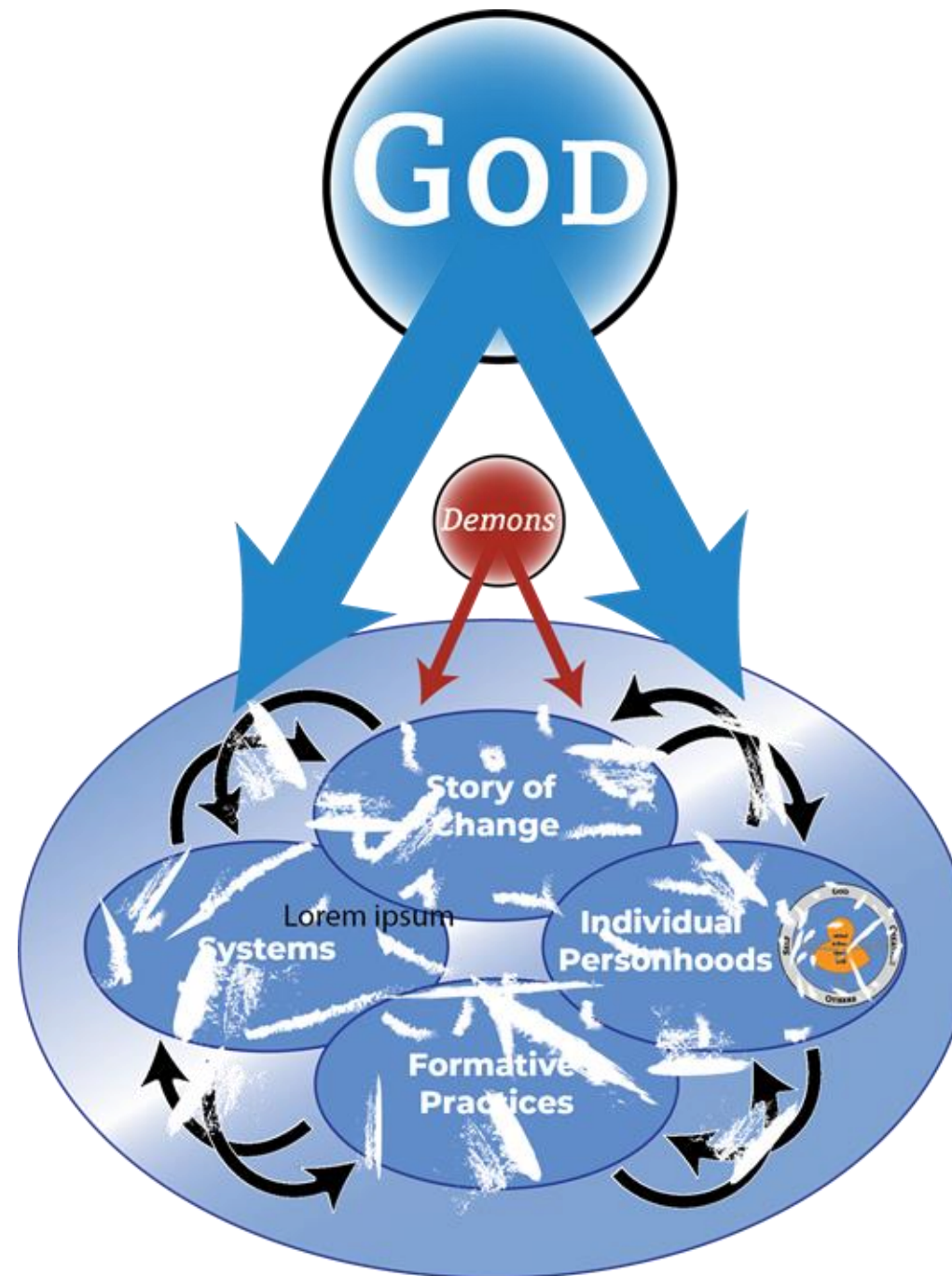


Fall

Impacts of the Fall on the Human Being



The Model of Individual and Cultural Change in a Fallen World





Poverty is Caused by:

1. False gods & erroneous stories of change.
2. Broken individuals
3. Destructive formative practices
4. Broken systems
5. Demonic Forces



We *unconsciously* and **automatically** impose
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Redemption



Why did Jesus come to earth?



I have come to preach the good news of the
kingdom of God, because that is why I was sent.

Luke 4:43



Poverty Alleviation is about applying the power of Christ's death and resurrection to address:

1. False gods & erroneous stories of change.
2. Broken individuals
3. Destructive formative practices
4. Broken systems
5. Demonic Forces

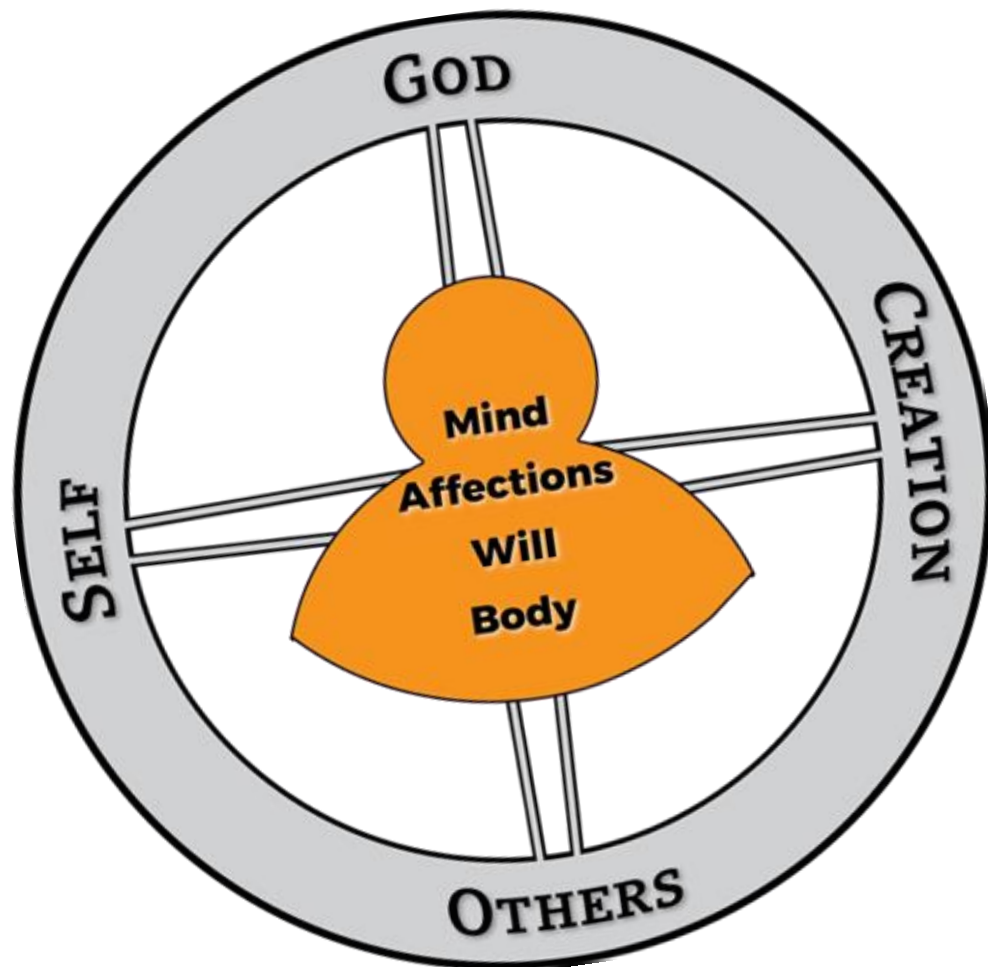
And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God.”

Revelation 21:3



You have made them to be a **kingdom and priests** to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth.

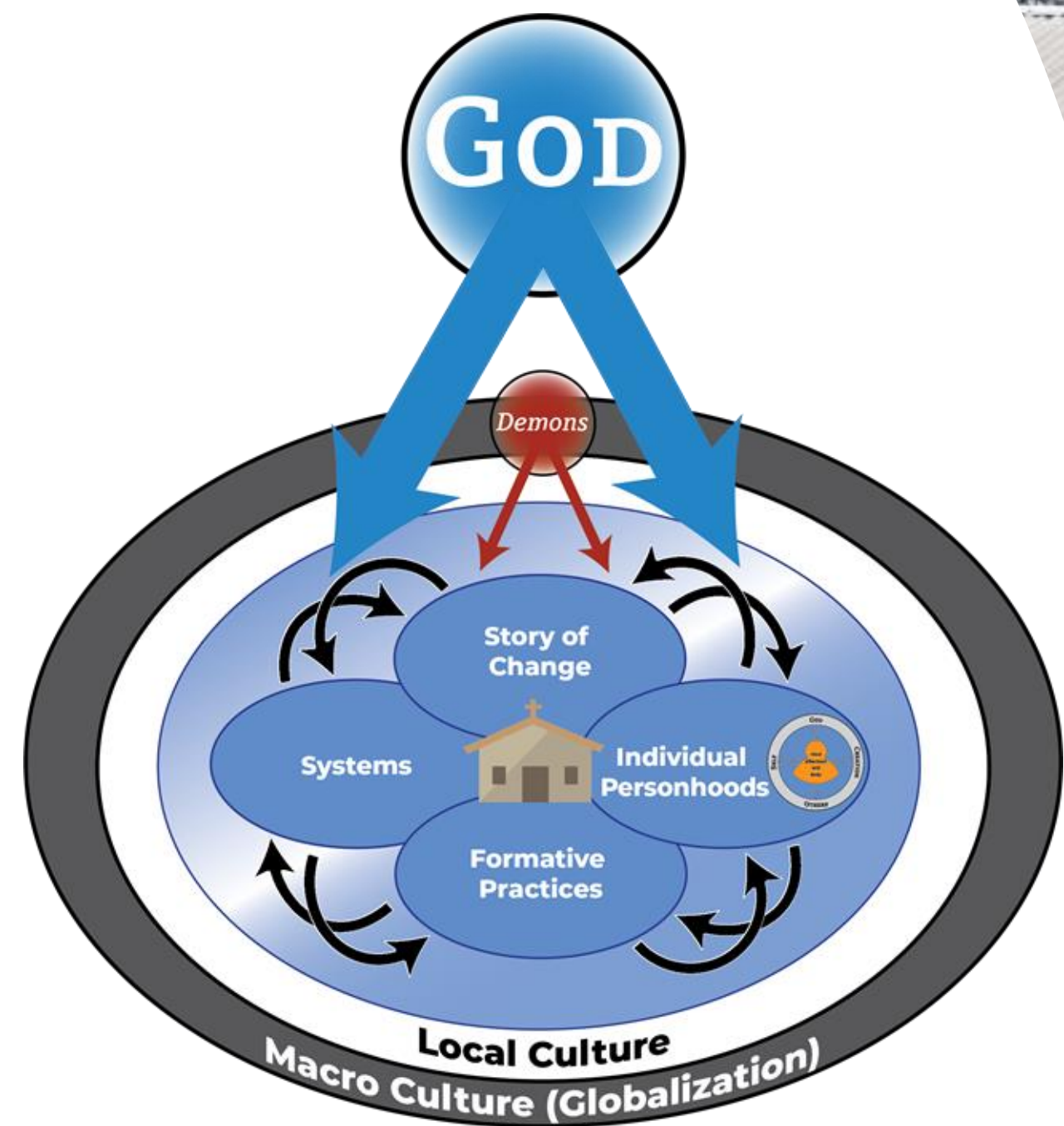
Revelation 5:10



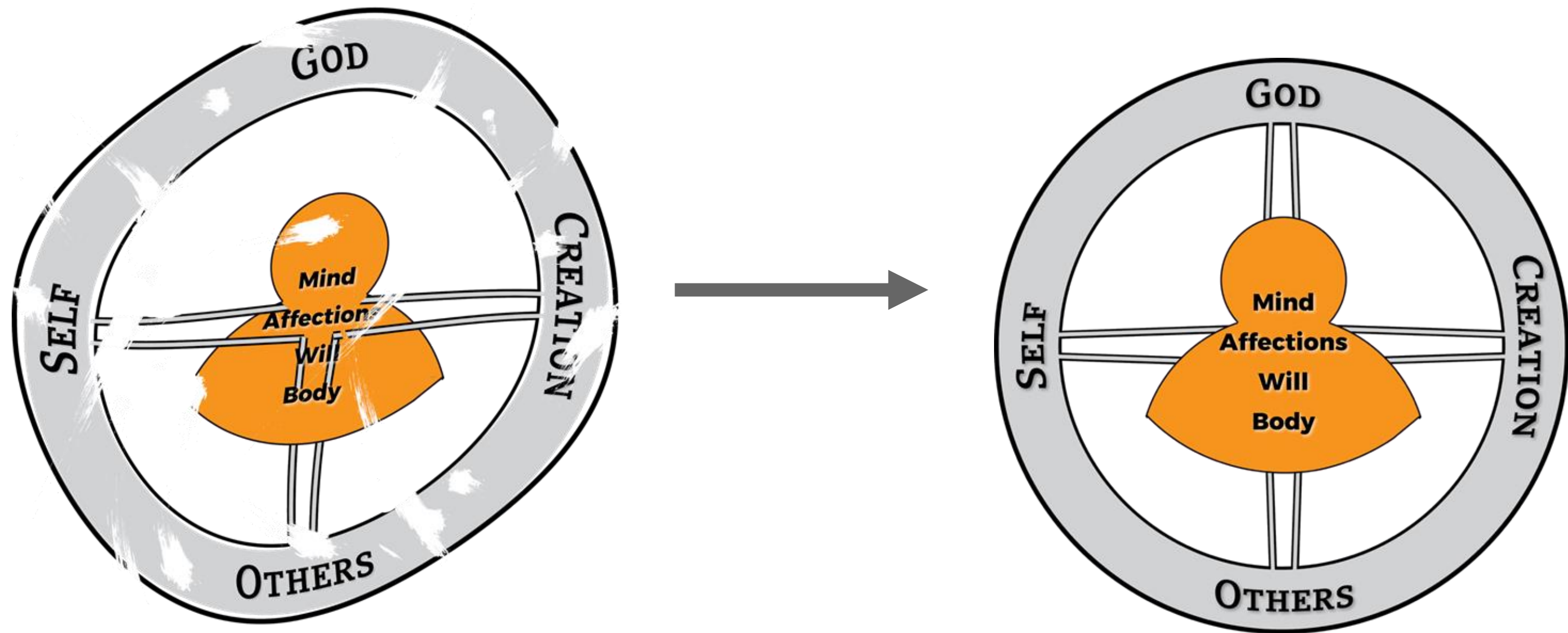
“The church ...is **the place where the Spirit of God dwells**. The church is the place where God’s new world is breaking in, where God’s future is beginning to be visible in the present.”

NT Wright: *Paul: In Fresh Perspective*. Fortress Press, 2005, p. 108.





In Christ, We Become Whole





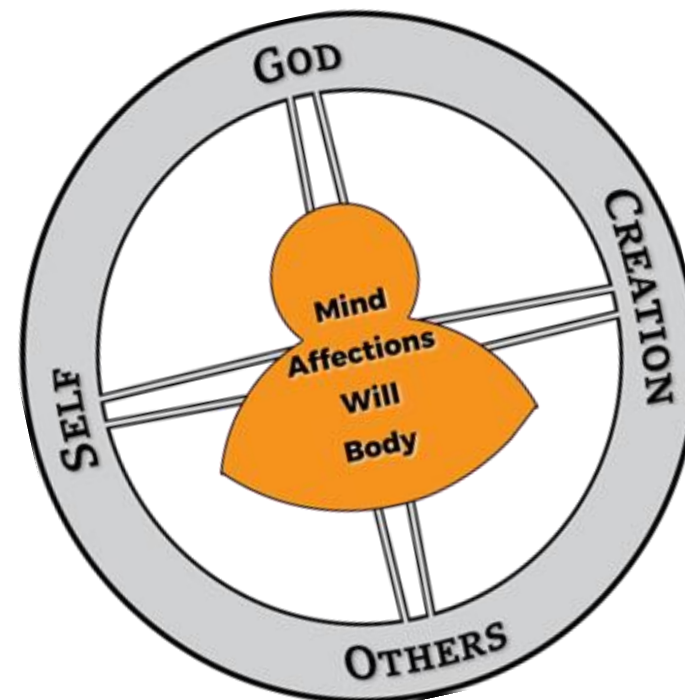
Therefore if anyone is in Christ **he is a new creation,** the old has gone and the new has come.

II Corinthians 5:7



But you are a **chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation,** God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light.

I Peter 2:9





The Goal in God's Story of Change

People experience human flourishing when they serve as **priest-rulers**, using their mind, affections, will, and bodies to enjoy loving relationships with God, self, others, and the rest of creation.



How the Goal is Achieved in God's Story of Change

By the Triune God dwelling in the local church as it fosters a community that mimics the habitat of the restored Garden-City of Eden.



How the Goal is Achieved in God's Story of Change

God



How the Goal is Achieved in God's Story of Change

God + Dignity



How the Goal is Achieved in God's Story of Change

God + Dignity + Community



How the Goal is Achieved in God's Story of Change

God + Dignity + Community + Work as Worship/Service



How the Goal is Achieved in God's Story of Change

God + Dignity + Community + Work as Worship/Service + **TIME**



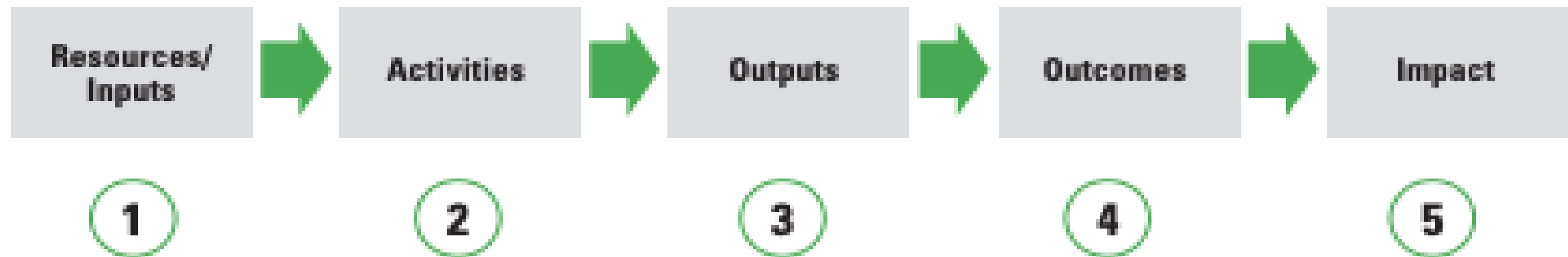
How the Goal is Achieved in God's Story of Change

God + Dignity + Community + Work as Worship/Service + **TIME**
= **Transformation**



It's NOT Just Abstract Theory

The Logic Model



Use Chalmers' Ministry Design Principles



COMMUNITY:

1. Christian work must be “rooted in and flow back into” the local church.
2. Use supportive, gospel-centered groups as much as possible.



Story

Conquering false gods and false stories of change

STORY:

3. All ministry stakeholders should “pray without ceasing.”
4. Narrate God’s story of change throughout life.
5. Integrate God’s story of change into technical training.
6. Use funding sources that permit God’s story of change to be integrated into technical training.

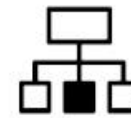


Practices

Replacing Destructive Formative Practices

PRACTICES:

7. All stakeholders should treat each other as members of a community that is jointly stewarding the King’s gifts to advance His kingdom.
8. The ministry’s marketing and communications should use images and messages that communicate God’s story of change.
9. Learn from existing “best practices.”



Systems

Addressing broken systems

10. Use relief, rehabilitation, and development appropriately.
11. Start by focusing on assets, not needs.
12. Use participatory rather than blueprint approaches.
13. All interventions should be pro-work.
14. Encourage all stakeholders to give sacrificially.
15. Foster whole-person discipleship using adult education training techniques.

SYSTEMS:

16. Address broken systems by navigating existing ones, creating alternatives, and/c reforming them altogether.



People

Addressing broken people

PEOPLE:

17. Help people access physical and mental healthcare.
18. Verbally invite unbelievers to saving faith in Jesus Christ.
19. Invite materially poor people into the church’s administration of the “ordinary means of grace.”



Spirits

Resisting demonic forces

SPIRITS:

20. All the ministry’s stakeholders need to resist demonic forces by putting on the whole armor of God.







After the genocide I was a lonely person. I belonged nowhere. I started going to church and heard about the savings groups. The group helped me to build my farm from a small plot into a bigger farm and profitable business. I can now buy health insurance for my family. This group has become my family and has resurrected me.

—Beatrice, a genocide survivor



Do you have more hope for Nadiya or for Komi?

WHY?







