



Bringing the Bible to Life

Biblical Counseling Workshops

Getting to Heart Issues

Track II.9

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The Void of Humanism's Answers to Life's Problems



The Wisdom of Men

- Well meaning people study behaviors & patterns, describe symptoms, theorize causation
- Identify, diagnose, categorize & label
- Offer man-centered solutions - symptom-management, distractions, coping-skills, numbing, minimize mood-episodes, etc.
- Man's wisdom misses the heart of the problem & leaves us with no real hope
- Changes in behavior and symptoms is eternally harmful



The Wisdom of Men compared to the Wisdom of God

⁵Cursed is the man that trusts in man and makes flesh his strength, whose heart turns away from the LORD. ⁶He is like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see any good come. ... ⁹The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it? ¹⁰I the Lord search the heart and test the mind, ... (Jer. 17:5-6;9-10 ESV)



The Wisdom of Men compared to the Wisdom of God

- See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ. (Col. 2:8 ESV)
- For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. (Heb. 4:12 ESV)



The Heart is Spiritually Discerned

¹⁴The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. ¹⁵The spiritual person judges all things, but is himself to be judged by no one. ¹⁶“For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?” But we have the mind of Christ. (1 Cor. 2:14-16 ESV)



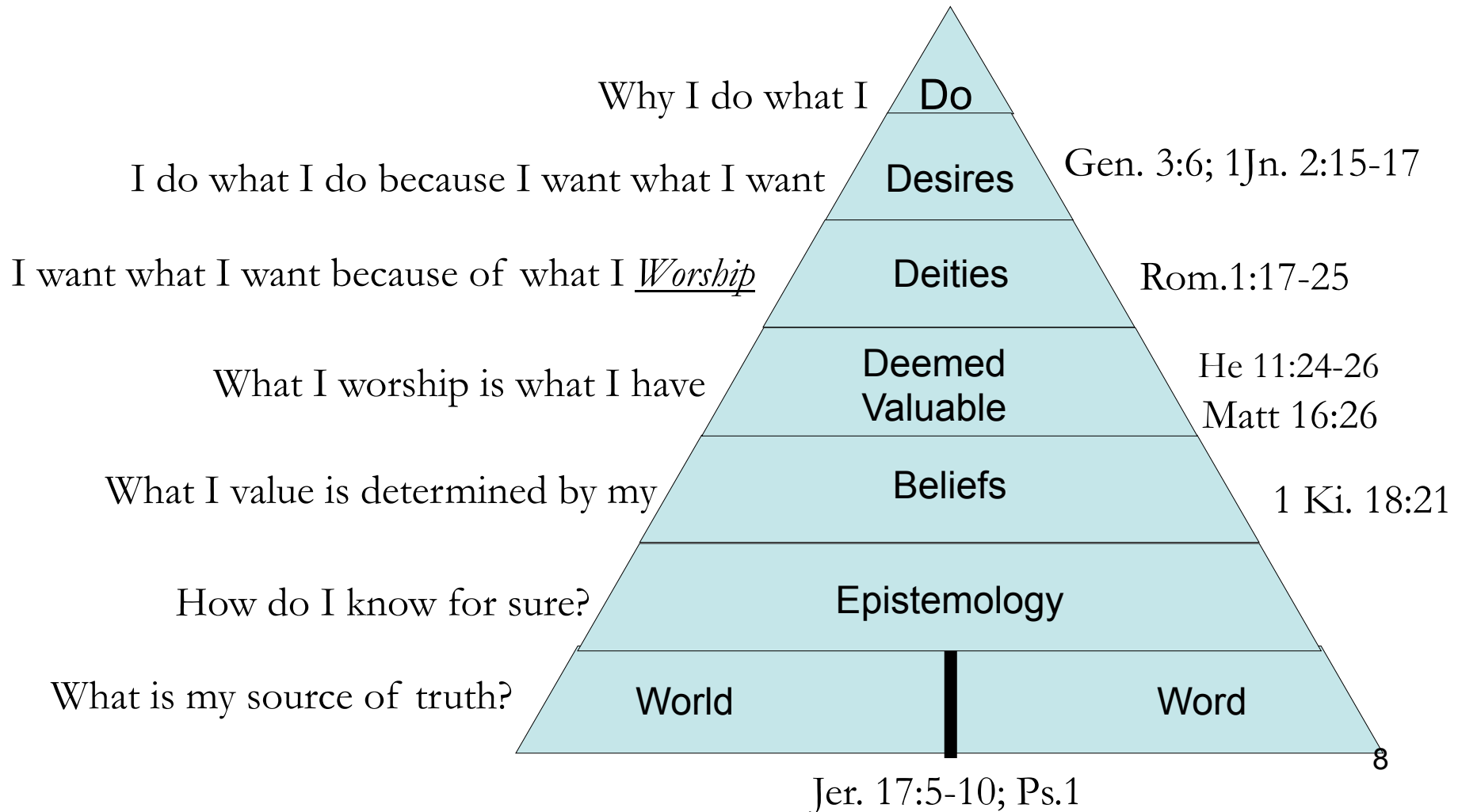
Biblical Worldview - Review of Track I

1. The Bible is Relevant for today
2. Man is a worshipper, but fallen, depraved
3. Man can be redeemed and made righteous
4. Man can know and fulfill his life purpose
5. We do what we do because we want what we want
6. Permanent change via progressive sanctification; *from glory to glory* (2 Cor. 3:18)
7. Biblical change is rooted in repentance
8. Suffering - *Your worst situation is God's greatest sanctifying tool*



Biblical “Hierarchy of Deeds”

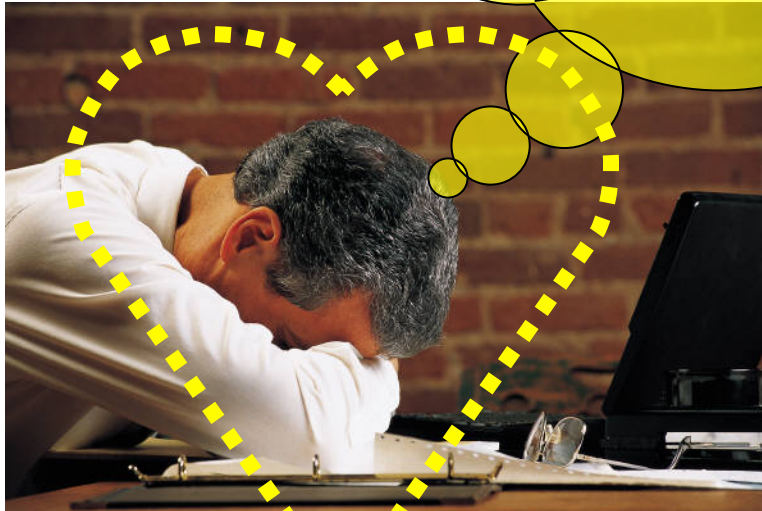
Why do I do what I do?





The Heart is the Heart of the Issue

- Actions
- Words
- Thoughts
- Intentions



For out of the heart...

- Pr. 4:23
- Lu. 6:45
- Matt. 15:18-20
- Jer. 17:9-10



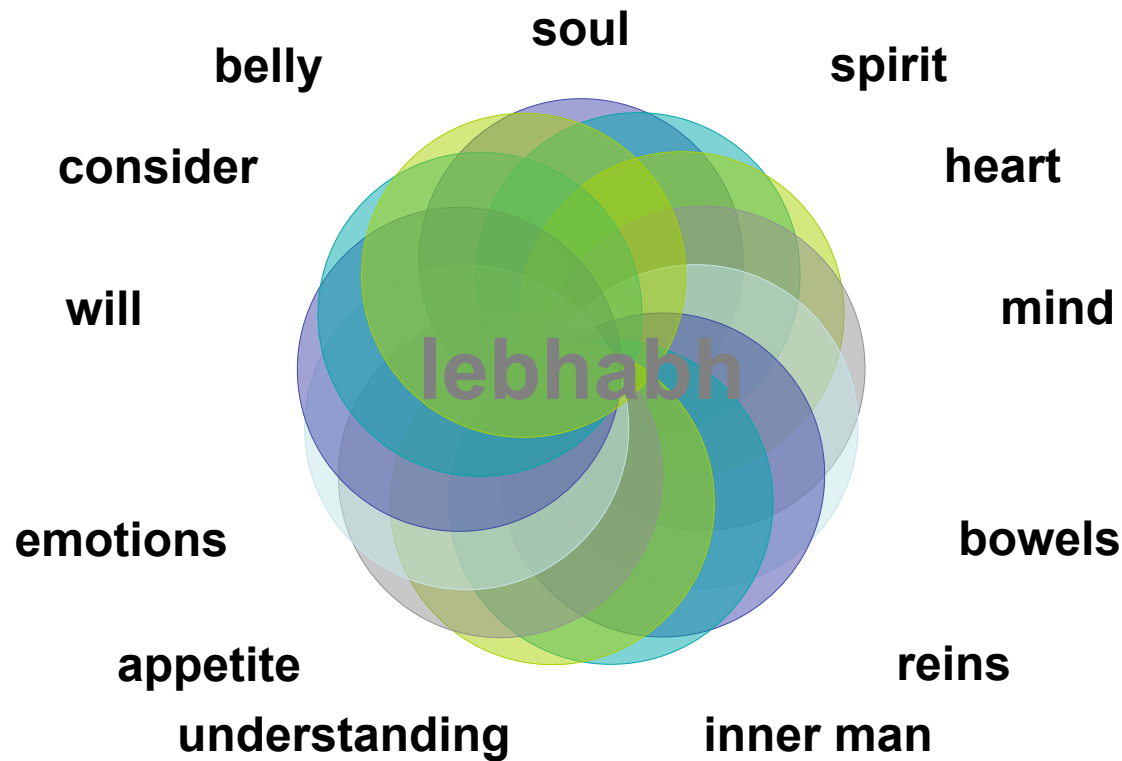
Drawing out the Heart

- God's Word diagnoses and prescribes
- We need to interpret with a biblical perspective and heart-language that is relevant
- The Gospel has lasting Hope
- Only transformation pleases God
- The purposes in a man's heart is like deep water, but a man of understanding will draw it out.
(Prov. 20:5 ESV)



Understanding Man & His Heart

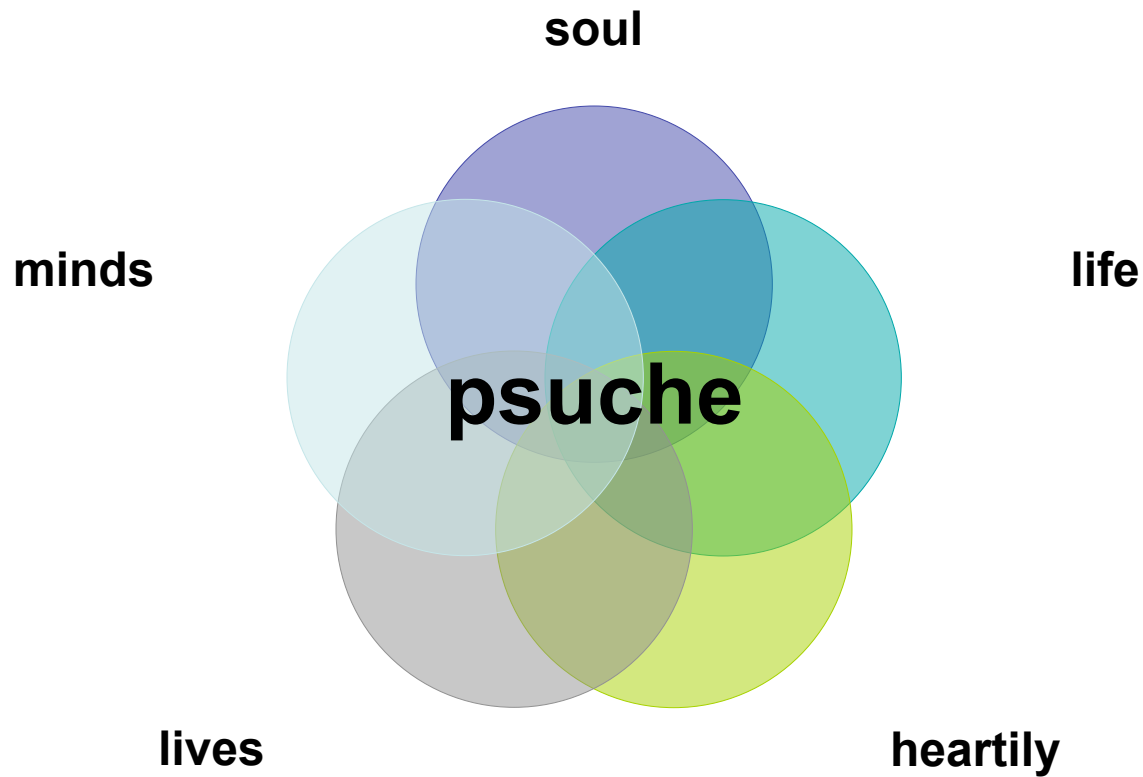
The Hebrew (Old Testament) Heart:





Understanding Man & His Heart

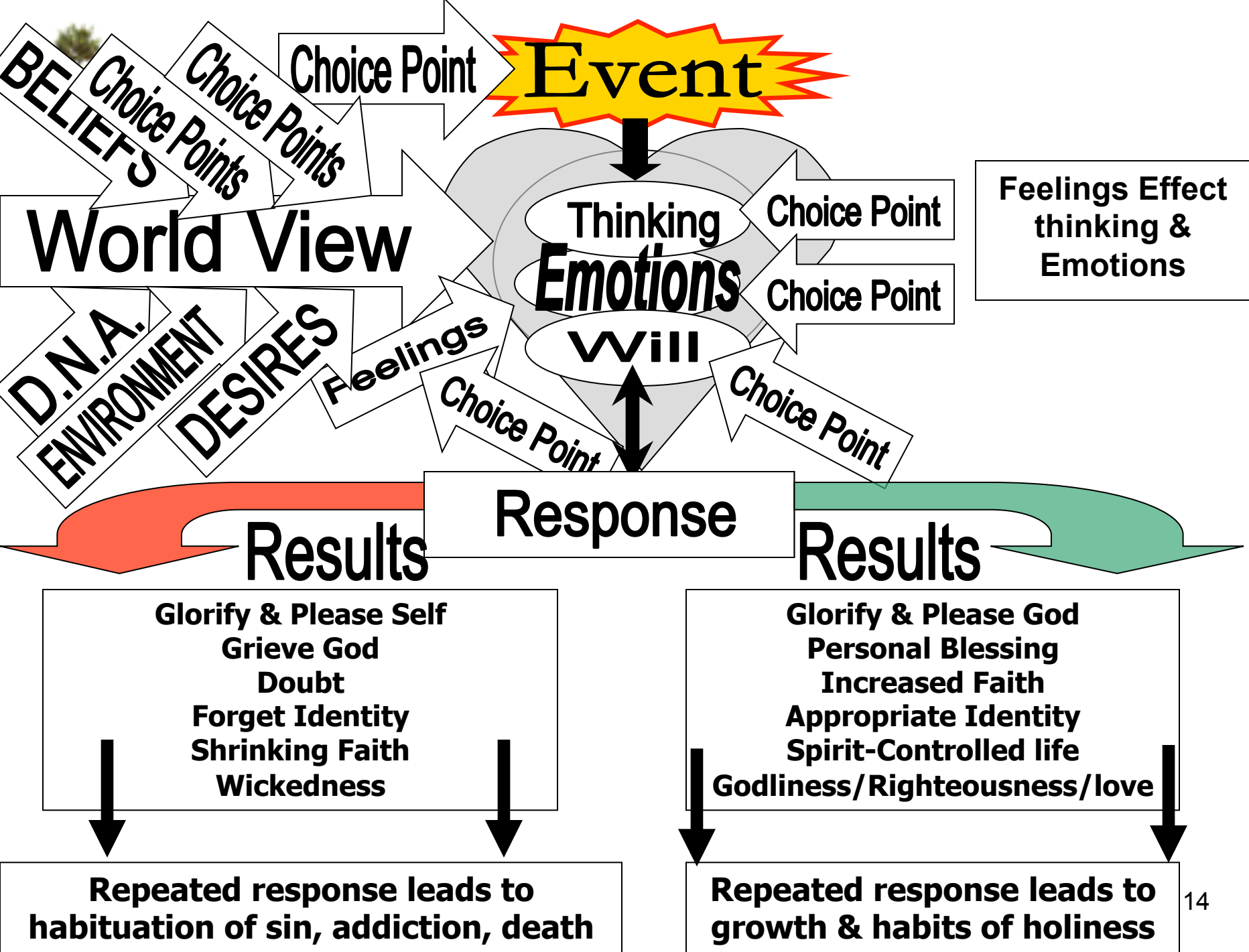
- The Greek (New Testament) Heart:





Getting to the Heart

- Our **worldview**, determines our perception of everything
- We make **choices** based on our perception and **emotions**
- Emotion is normally preceded by **thinking**
- Our choices can reinforce or “burn in” **habits** of thinking and responding that shape our ongoing thinking and feelings
- **Emotional “habits” become affections**
- **Consequences** can teach or harden the heart



World

Flesh

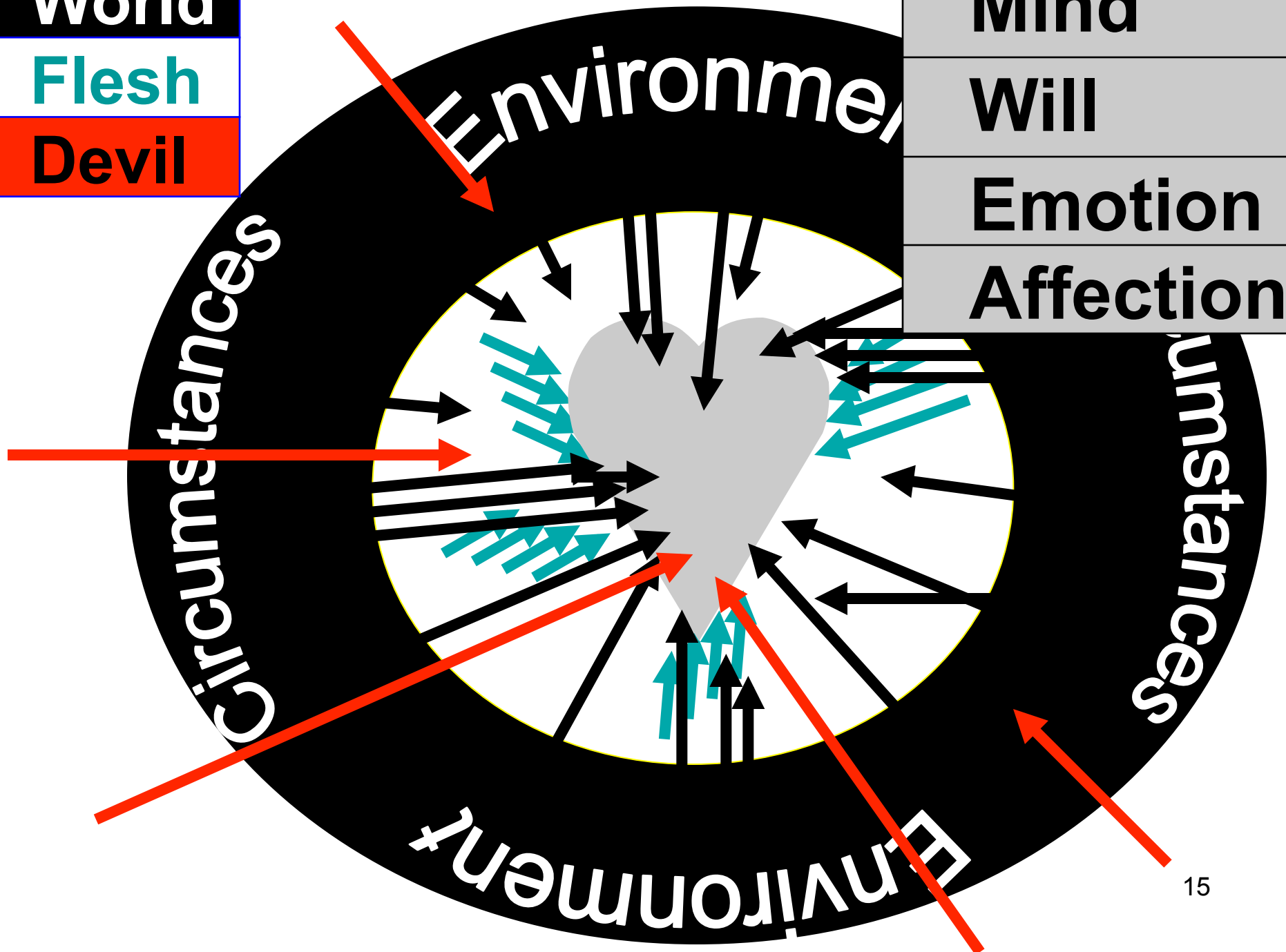
Devil

Mind

Will

Emotion

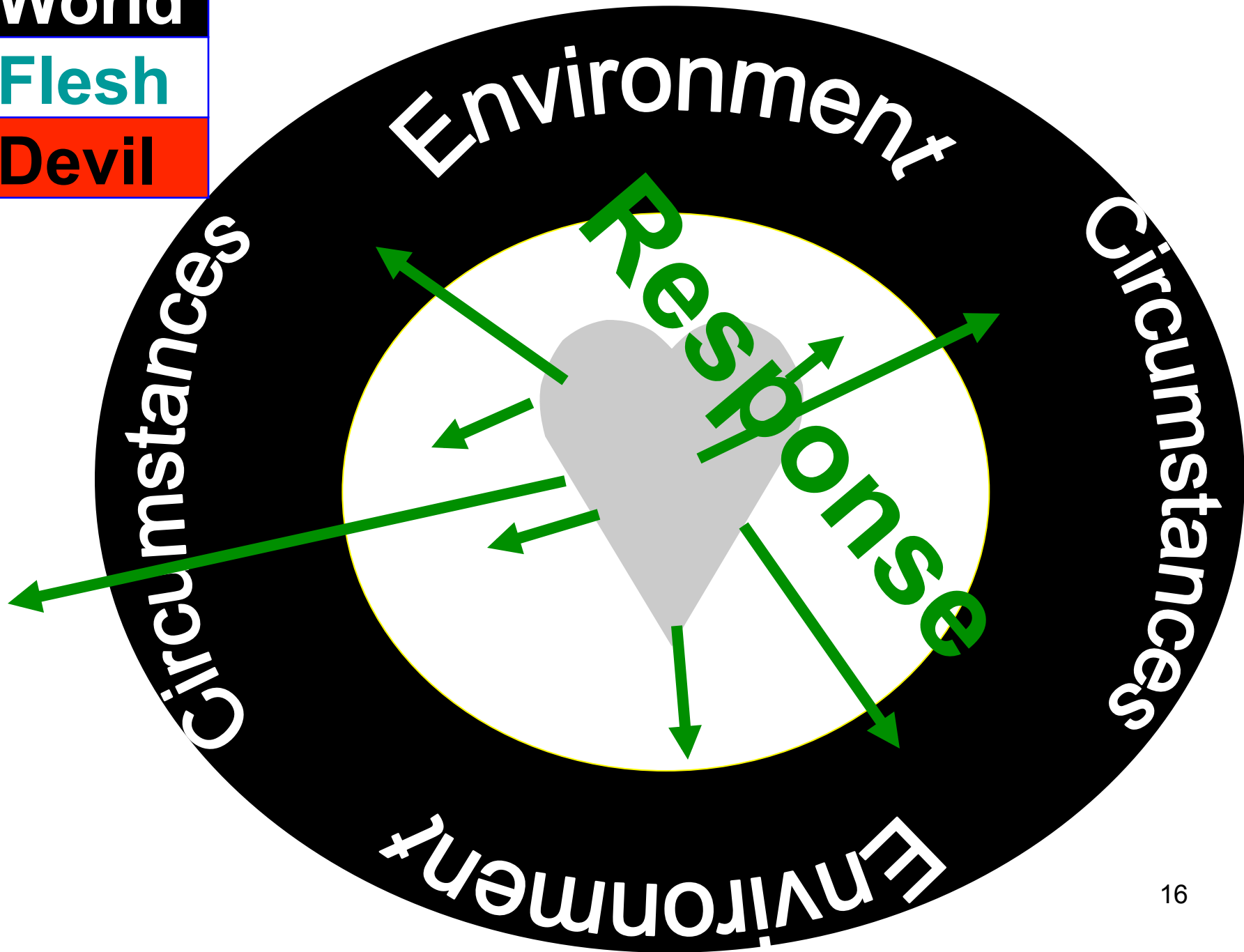
Affection



World

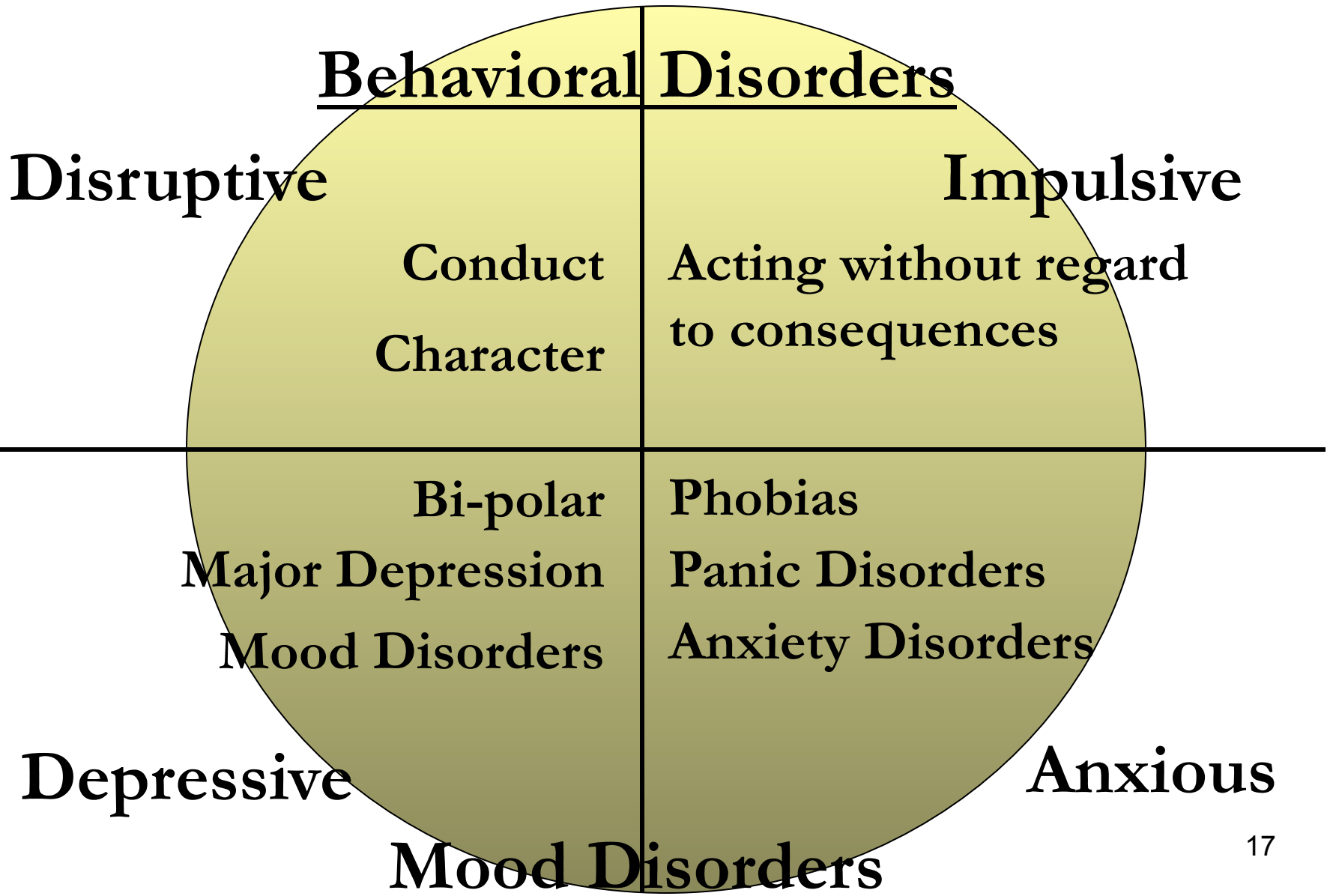
Flesh

Devil





Humanism's Diagnosis





Spiritual Reinterpretation

Anger

Behavioral Disorders

Folly

I Sin to Get What I Want
I Sin When I Get What I
Want

I Sin to Get What I Want
I Sin When I Get What I
Want

I sin when I don't get
what I want

I Sin When I Loose what
I value

I Fear Getting something
I don't want

I Fear Loosing something
I have

Depression

Mood Disorders

Fear

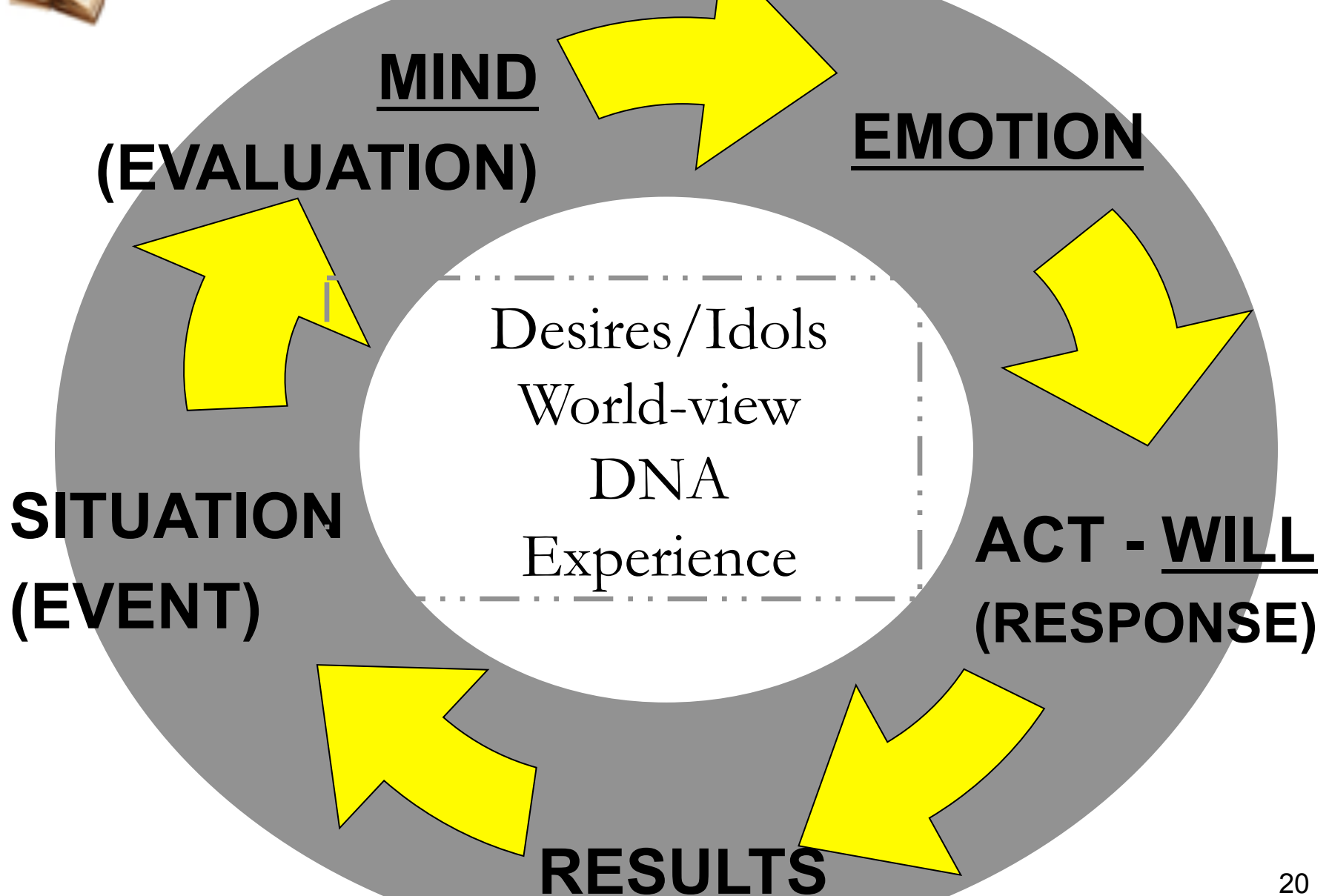


Reinterpreting the Heart-motives... Idolatry

- I sin to get what I want
- I sin when I don't get what I want
- I sin when I get something I don't want
- I sin when I loose something I have
- I sin when I get something I want



Tracing the Heart-path



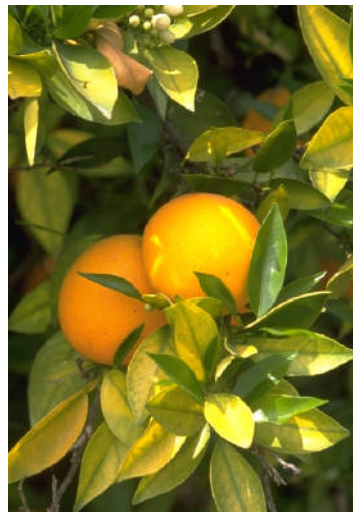


From Idolatry to Worship

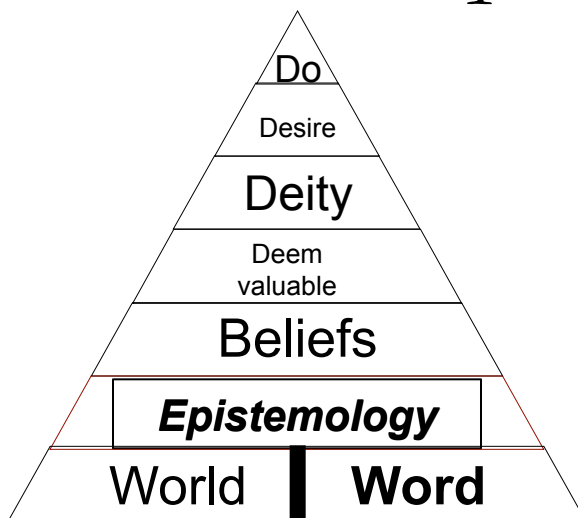
23 “... the
Father is
seeking such
people to
worship him.

24 ... in spirit
and truth.”

Jn. 4:23-24



True Worship



“...doing
the will of
God from
the
heart...”

Eph. 6:6



The Goal – Restoration

- Our goal is the glory of God through relational restoration, becoming more like Christ
- Our method is reinterpreting our environment, relationships and problems with Truth in the context of Grace
- Our target is beyond behavior & emotions to the desire and motivations of the inner man (the worship of the heart - the mind, will, emotions)
- Our tools: the Word of God, the Spirit of God and the community of God



The Goal – Restoration

- ¹Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should **restore** him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. ²Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. (Gal. 6:1-2 ESV)
- A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone when he is fully trained will be like his teacher. (Luke 6:40 ESV)



Suggested Reading

Article: “*Let Me Draw You A Picture*” by Garrett Higbee

Going Deeper

- 1) Chapters 9-11, (written by Wayne Mack Instilling Hope, Collecting Data, and Interpreting Counselee Data), from the book *Counseling*, John MacArthur:
- 2) 2) Chapters 4, 10, and 11, from the book, *Instruments in the Redeemer's Hands*, Paul Tripp



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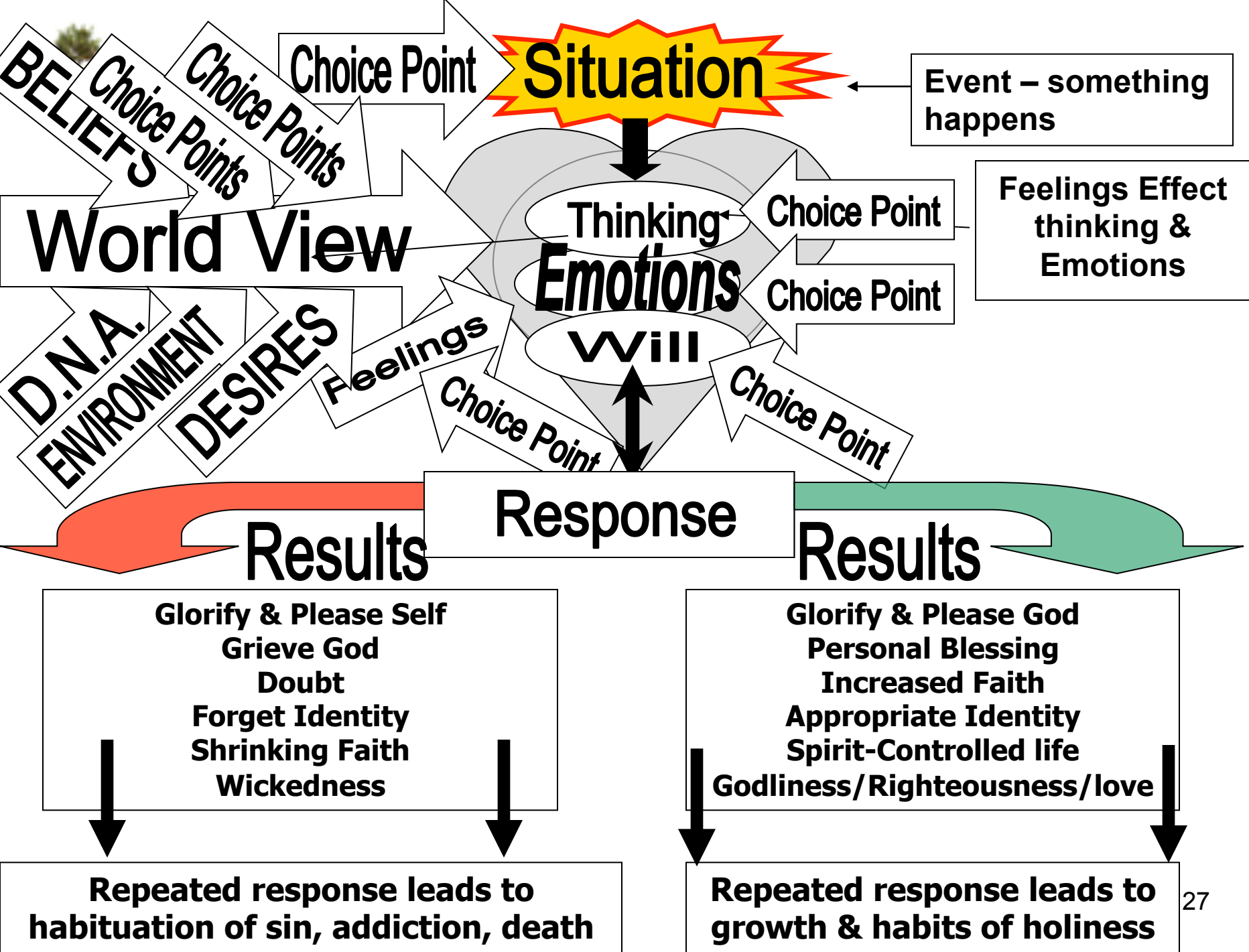
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Image of God is Marred

Reflector (image of God)	Disfigured
Relational (all 4 dimensions)	Disengaged
Receiver (needing God's Word)	Disconnected
Reasoning (Logical, rational, consider)	Deceived (noetic effect)
Responder (worshiper, worker/servant)	Defector
Righteous (pure)	Depraved
Reliant (dependant, <u>NOT AUTONOMOUS</u>)	Destitute
Ruler (Dominion-haver)	Dominated
Representative (Ambassador)	Dissenter





Heart Probing Data Gathering (Proverbs 18:13,17; 20:5)

- Hearing “their story” takes TIME
- Probing questions reveal worldview/pain/idols
- Brings a more accurate and comprehensive ability to speak into their lives
- Establishes a deeper sense of connection and trust (they need to know you care)
- Focusing on **heart-themes** produces rich insights that help you direct towards true heart change




Next Classes

- II.10 *Secular and Integration Theories*, March 12– Kent Kloter
- II.11 *Physical Illness and Biblical Counseling*, March 19– Kent Kloter
- II.12 *Medicine and Biblical Counseling*, March 26th– Kent Kloter



Discerning Heart-themes

Wisdom looks @ 
Biblical World-view
Patience, time – rope
Questions – bucket
Discernment - tubs

