

Reimagining Work

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Trinitarian Invitation



1

Creation or Culture Mandate

Gen 1:

- ✦ Fill the earth
- ✦ Subdue it
- ✦ Rule over

Kingly Mandate

Gen 2:

- ✦ Work it
- ✦ Take care of it

Priestly Mandate

Flourish: Yielding fruit... do not wither... prosper
(Psalm 1)

Truth • Goodness • Beauty

2

Redemption Mandate

Why did Jesus come? Reversing the effects of Fall.

Relationships

Diseases, Violence, Injustice, Alienation

Exploiting Created world

3

Eschatological Mandate

Meaning of Resurrection for Work

Work infused with hope

No situation irremediable

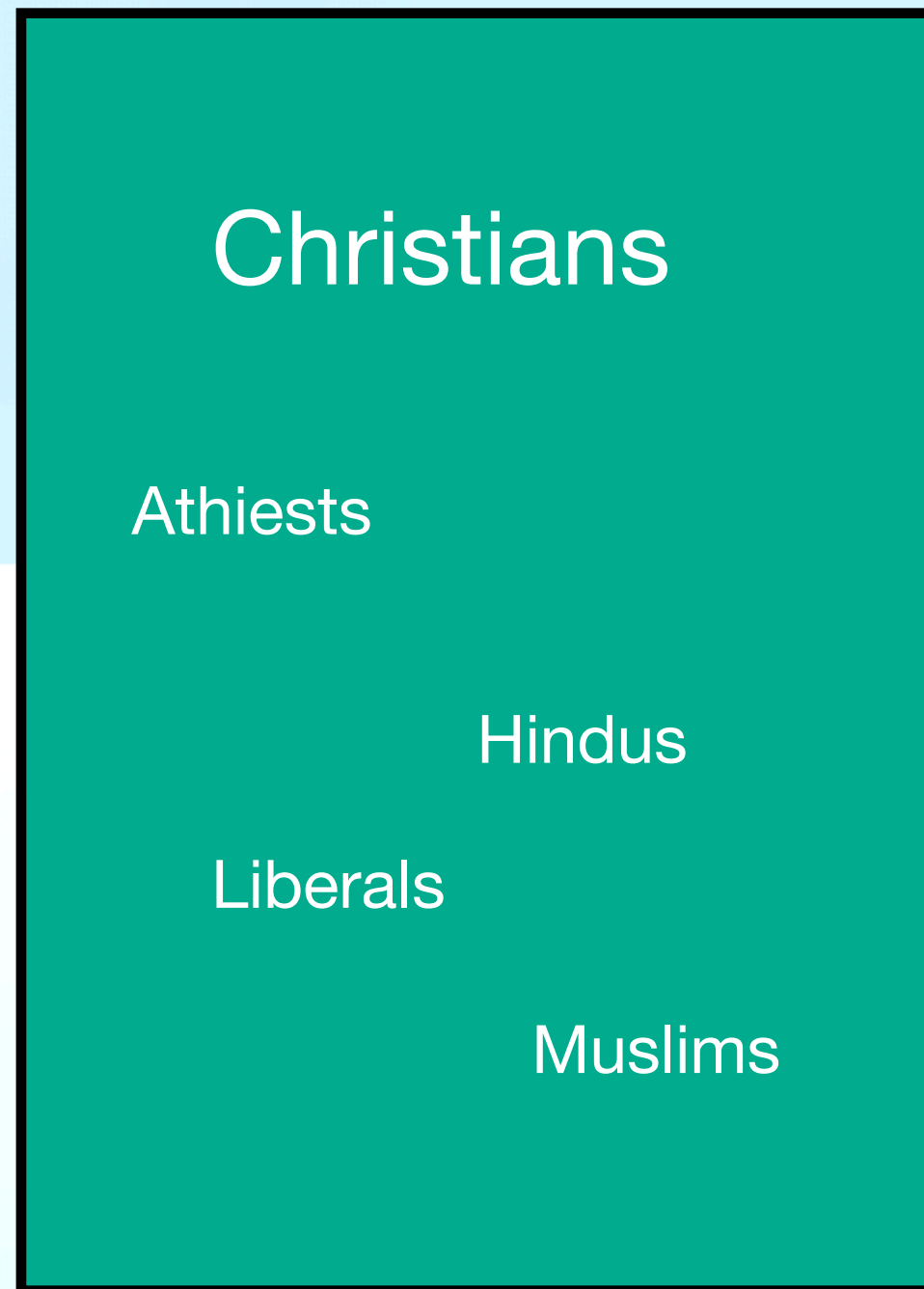
Possibility of new life and transformation amidst hopelessness

Fear cannot be allowed to dominate

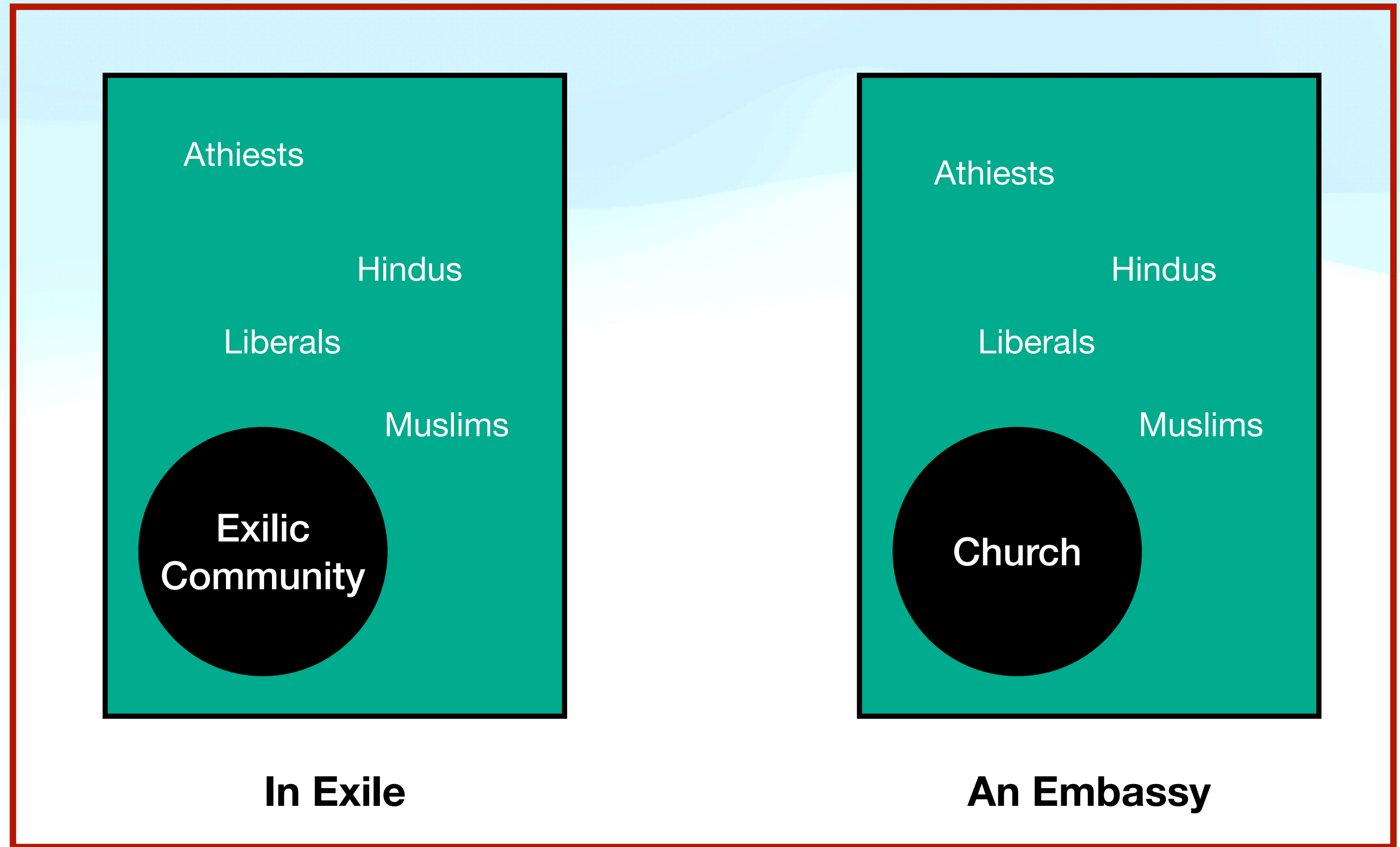
5 Frames

1

Location



Promised Land



In Exile

An Embassy

2

Materiality

Material Universe Matters!

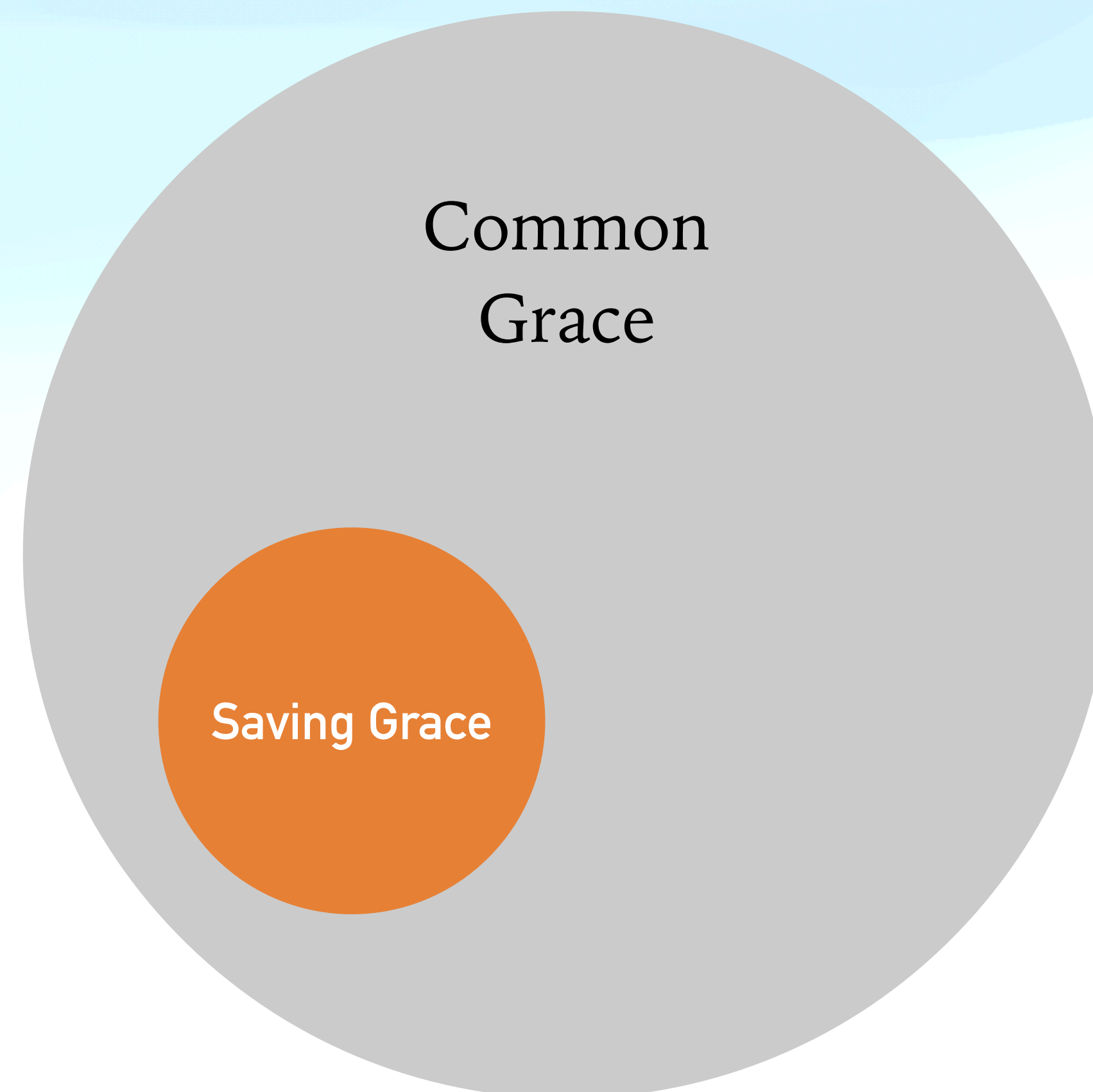
“Our final state is not some disembodied spiritual state where pure souls have escaped materiality. Instead, Scripture teaches us that the final goal of God’s redemptive work is a renewed creation, depicted as the New Jerusalem. It is a material existence. We will live our eternal lives in real bodies as we were meant to live in the garden of Eden, yet transformed by God’s redeeming work.”

- NIV Faith and Work Bible

3

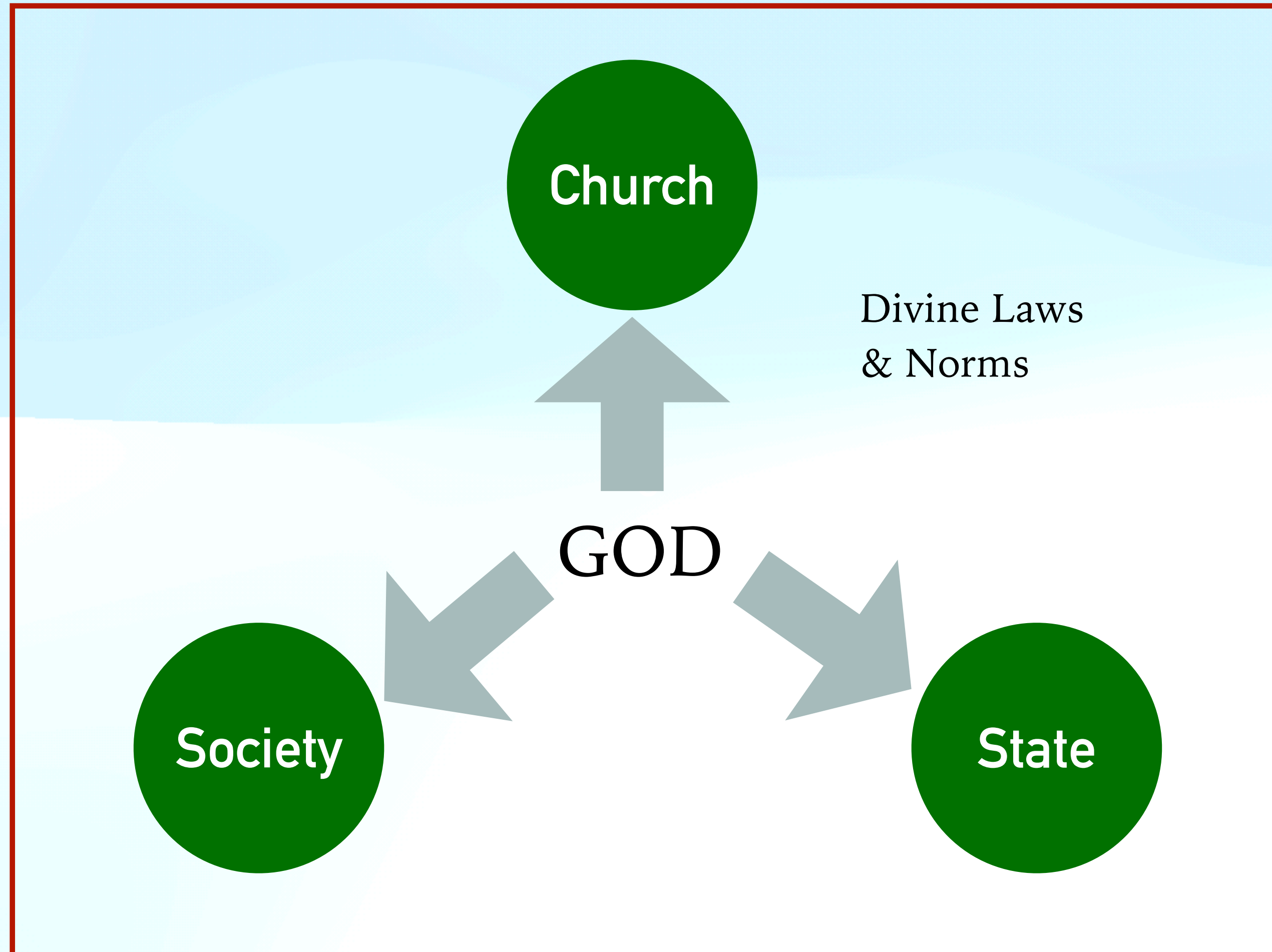
Common Grace

God's grace to the whole world - an attribute of God



4

Sphere Sovereignty



“God has ordained that these diverse spheres have their own places in the creation because they fulfill different creational purposes...”

- Abraham Kuyper

5

Eternal Value of Work

Will there be annihilation or transformation between the present order and the future order? (Miroslav Volf)

- ◆ If the world is annihilated and a new one created ex-nihilo then work has no ultimate significance - except in purification of our souls in preparation for heaven.
- ◆ if the world is not annihilated but renewed, then human work has eternal significance.
 - ◆ Jesus' resurrection and final bodily resurrection of the dead
 - ◆ Coming Kingdom (Mat 6:10); Creation liberated from its bondage and brought into freedom & glory (Rom 8:21)
 - ◆ Rev 21:25 - Kings will bring their glory and valuables into it

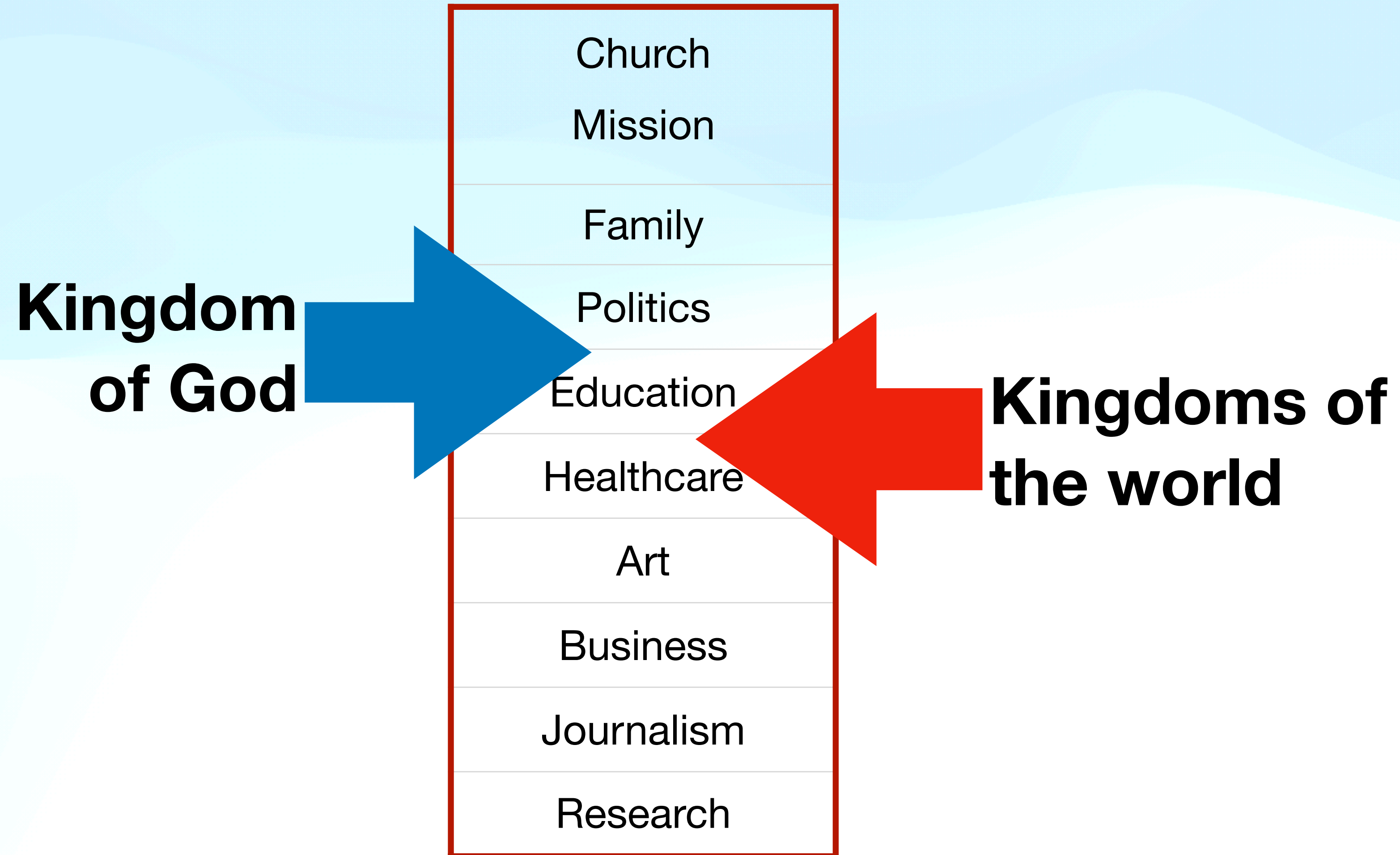


A destructive force

Kingdom of God	Secular
Church	Family
Mission	Politics
	Education
	Healthcare
	Art
	Business
	Journalism
	Research



A destructive force - Alternate View



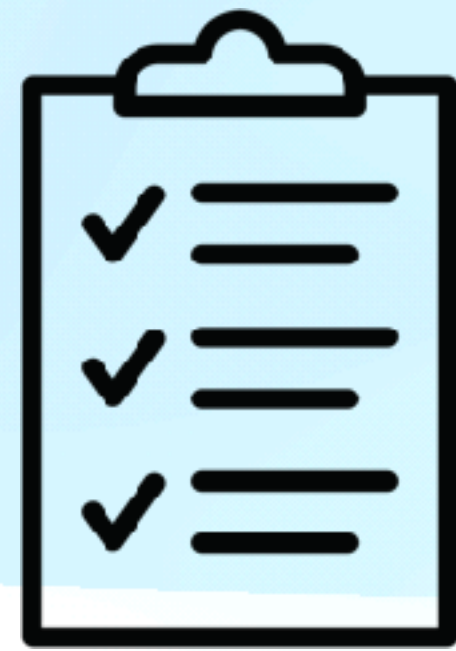
Spirituality & Work

Noise, Hurry & Crowds

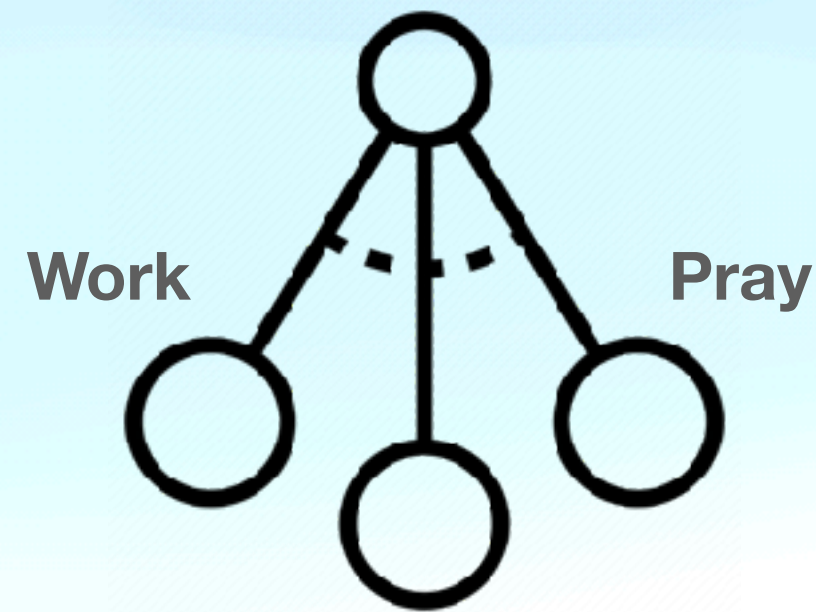
“In contemporary society, our adversary majors in three things: noise, hurry and crowds. If he can keep us engaged in “muchness” and “manyness” he will rest satisfied.”

- Richard Foster, *Celebration of Discipline*

Noise, Hurry & Crowds - 4 Practices



Rule of Life



Ora et labora



Examen



Sabbath

Summary

Work is God's idea and it is a gift

Our idea of work is often distorted. Develop a biblical understanding

Be aware of the Platonic dichotomy in our work and life

We offer work as a gift to God as we integrate spirituality and work

**“May the favor of the Lord our God rest on us;
establish the work of our hands for us -
Yes, establish the work of our hands”.**

- Psalm 90:17