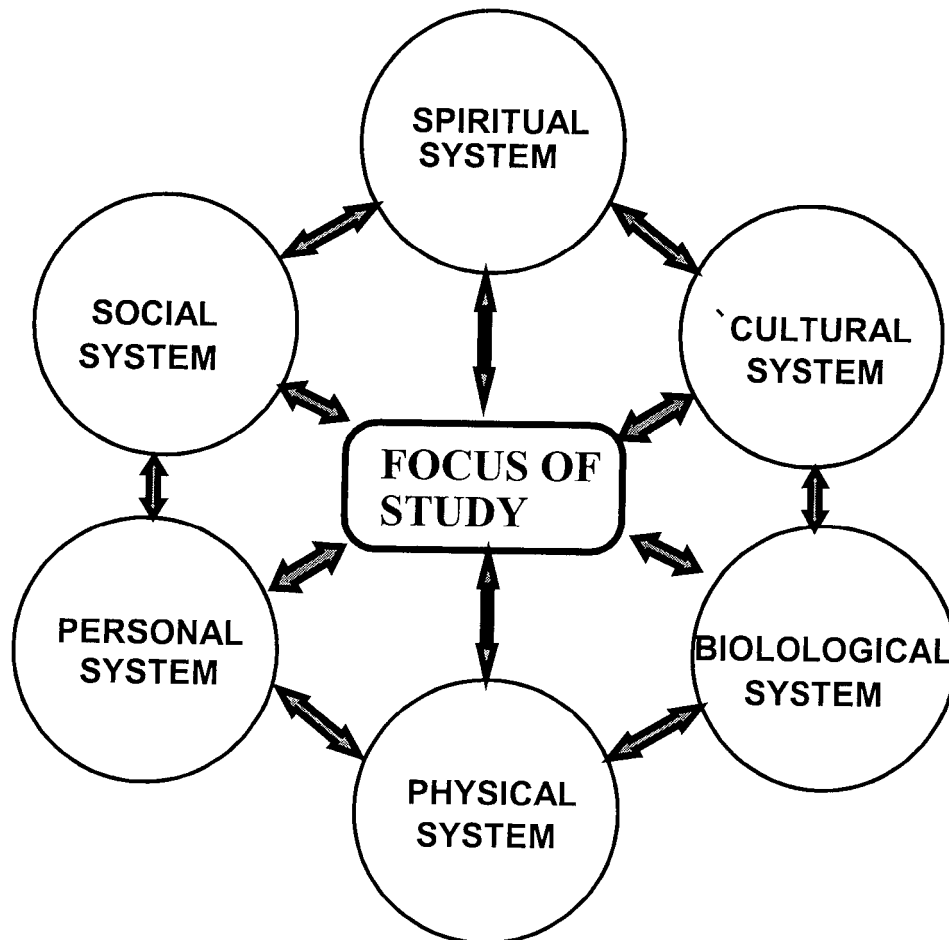
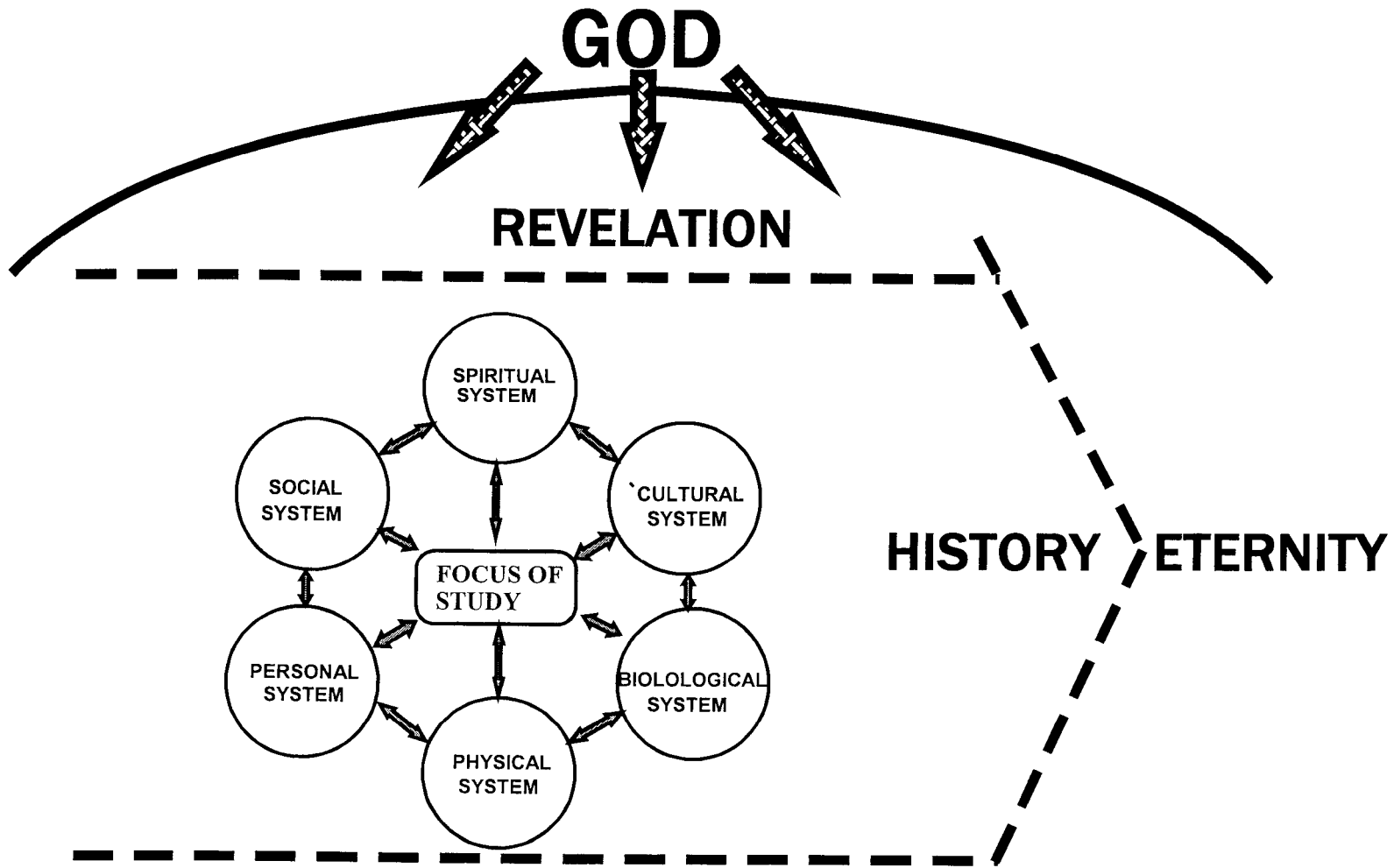


CULTURE

A Systems Approach to the Study of Humans



A Systems Approach to the Study of Humans



CULTURE:

- **The more or less integrated systems**
- **of learned**
- **ideas, feelings and morals**
- **encoded in patterns of behavior, signs and products**
- **created and shared by a community of people.**

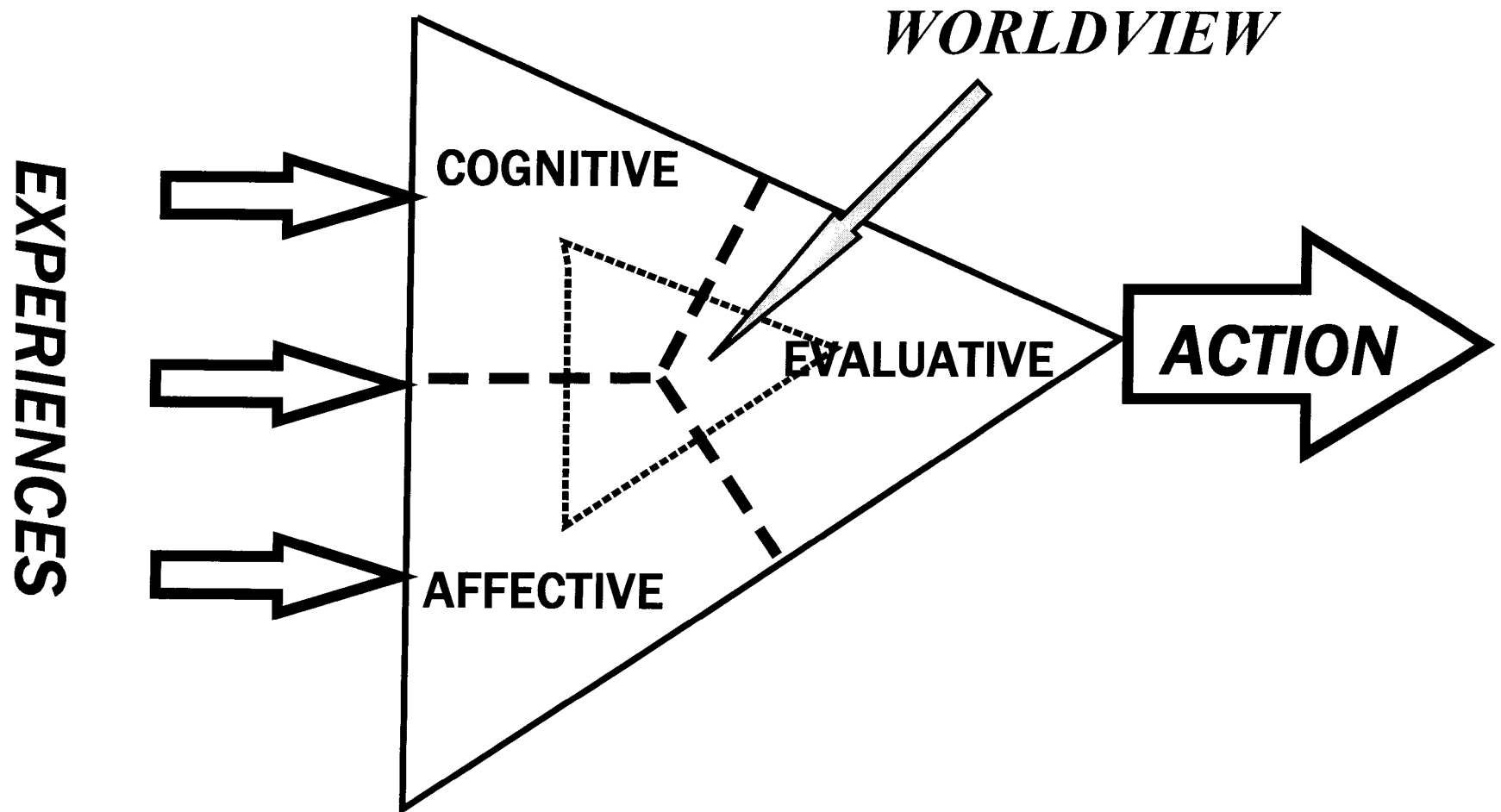
LEVELS OF CULTURE:

- **patterns of learned behavior and cultural products**
- **sign systems**
- **rituals and myths**
- **belief systems**
- **worldview**

DIMENSIONS OF CULTURE:

- ***Cognitive:*** ideas, beliefs
- ***Affective:*** feelings, emotions
- ***Moral:*** values, ethics

DIMENSIONS OF CULTURE AND WORLDVIEW



LEVELS OF CULTURE

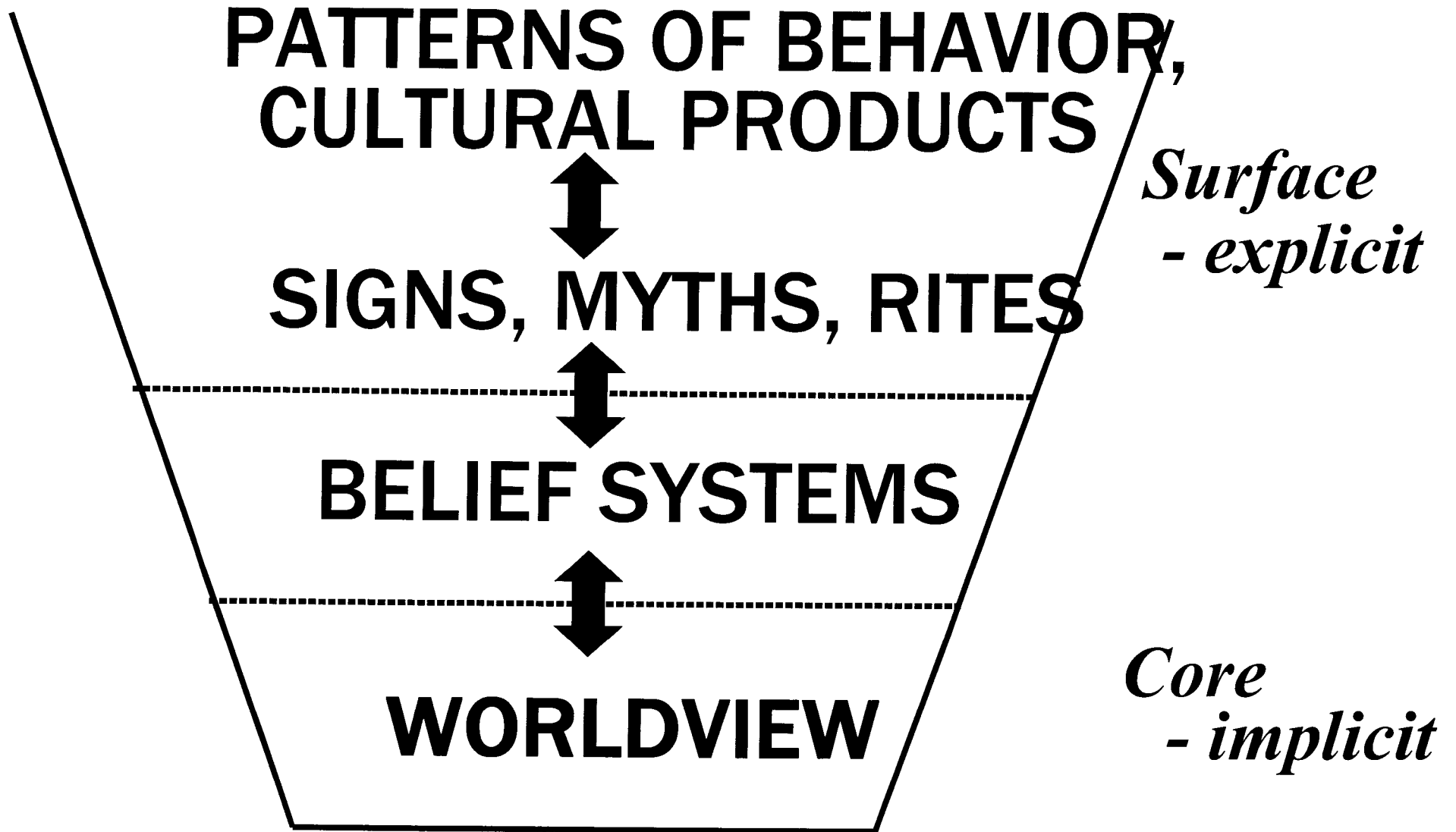
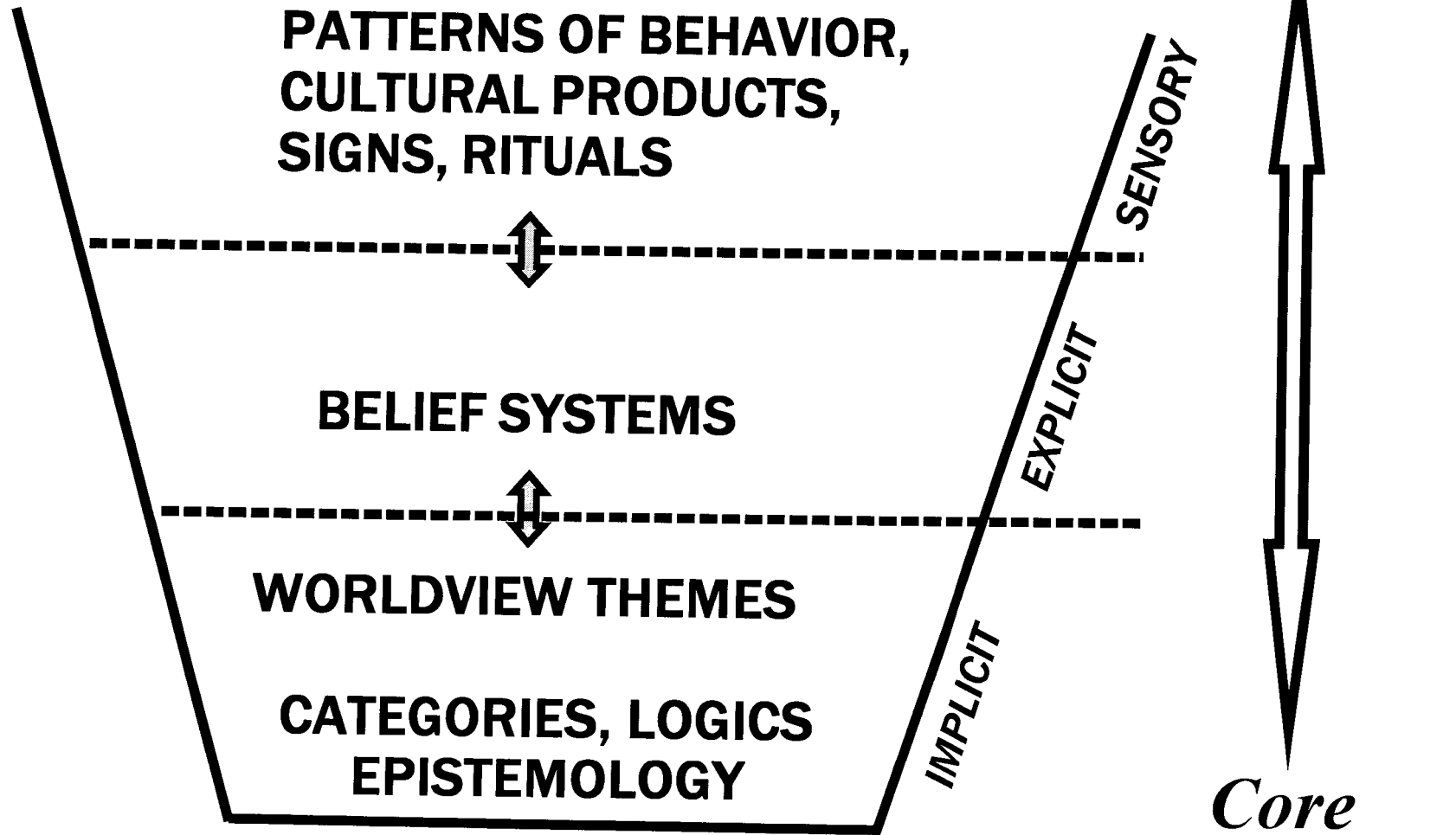


Figure 2.#

LEVELS OF CULTURE



DEPTH IN WORLDVIEWS?

**BEHAVIOR PATTERNS,
PRODUCTS,
MYTHS, RITES**

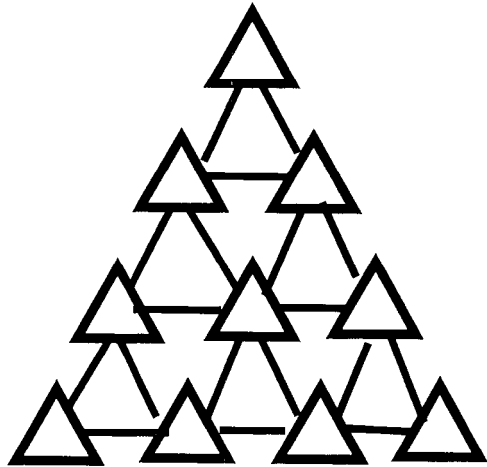
BELIEFS

WORLDVIEW

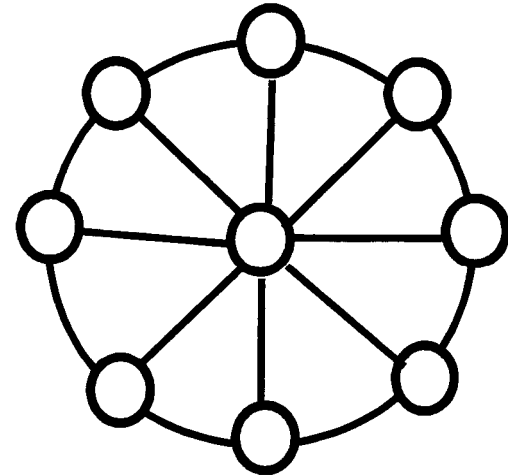
- THEMES — Counter-themes
- EPISTEMOLOGY
- LOGICS
- CATEGORY FORMATION

CULTURES ARE RADICALLY DIFFERENT

CULTURE A

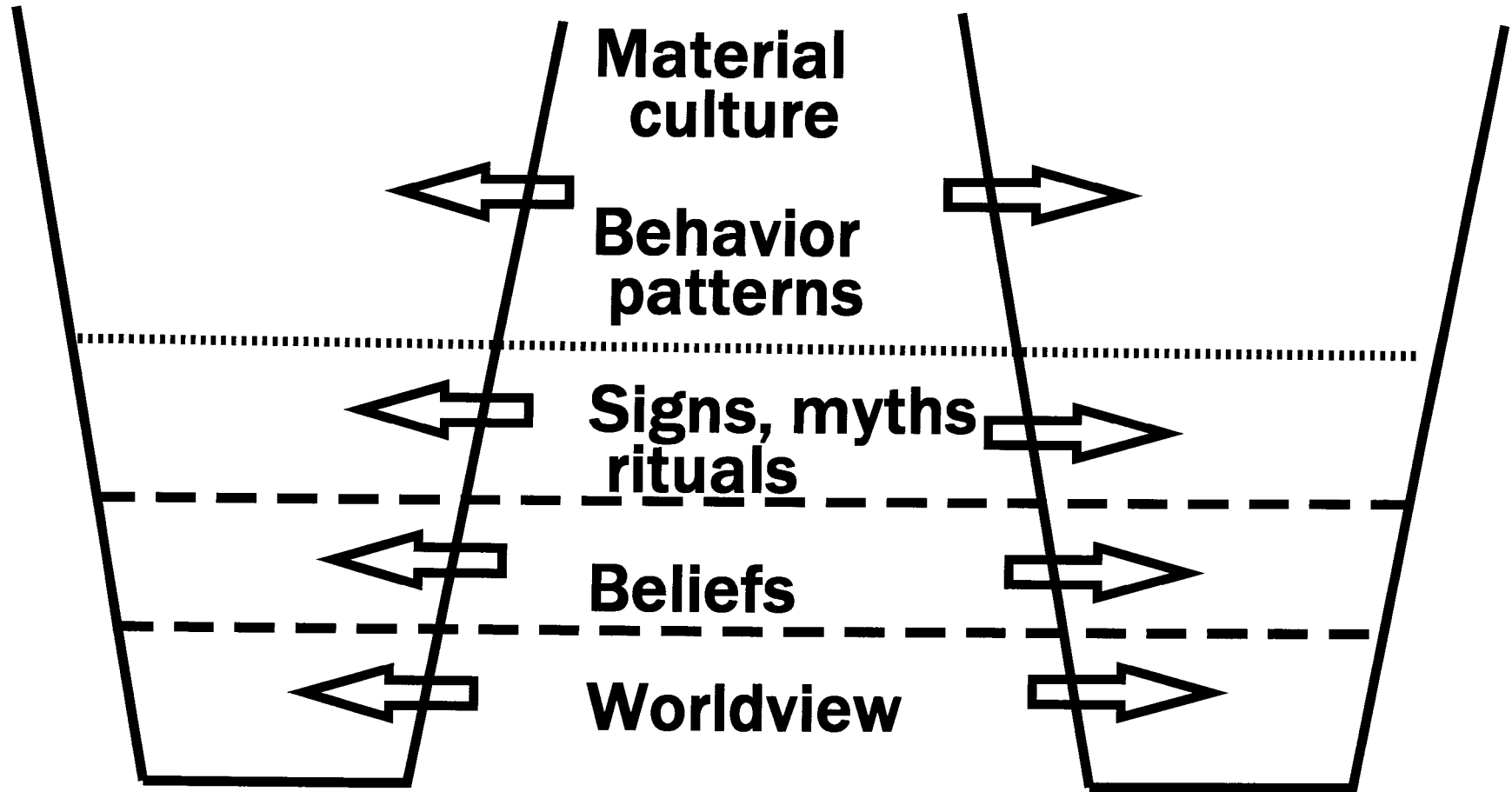


CULTURE B



TRANSFORMING WORLDVIEWS

SURFACE CULTURE

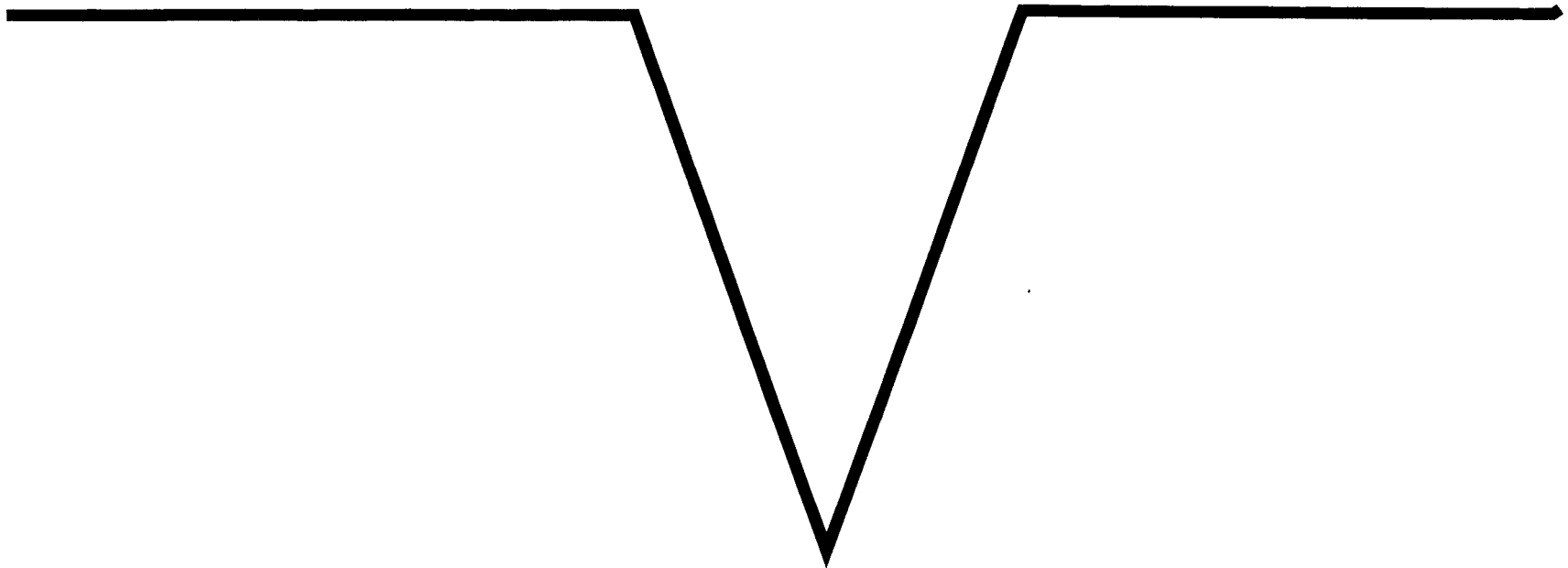


DEEP STRUCTURE

Communicating the Gospel in Human Contexts

**BIBLICAL
REVELATION**

**HUMAN
CONTEXTS**

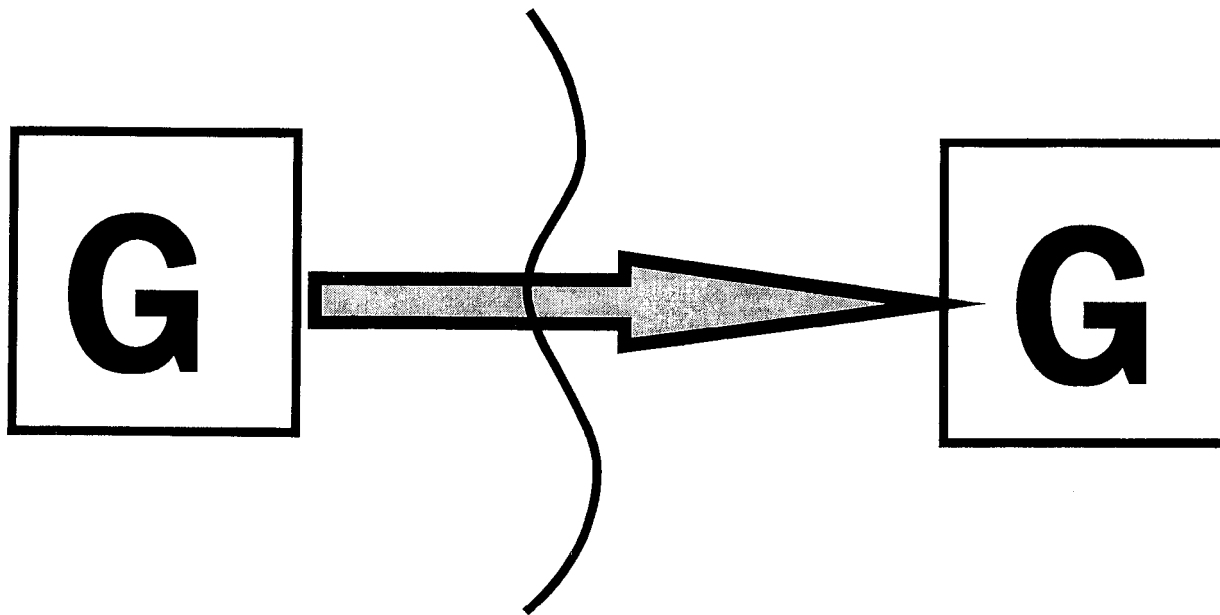


**HOW DO WE DO
CONTEXTUALIZATION?**

**WE MUST COMMUNICATE
THE GOSPEL IN THE
CULTURAL CONTEXTS OF
THE PEOPLE.**

**WE MUST PLANT THE
CHURCH IN THE SOCIAL
CONTEXTS OF THE
PEOPLE.**

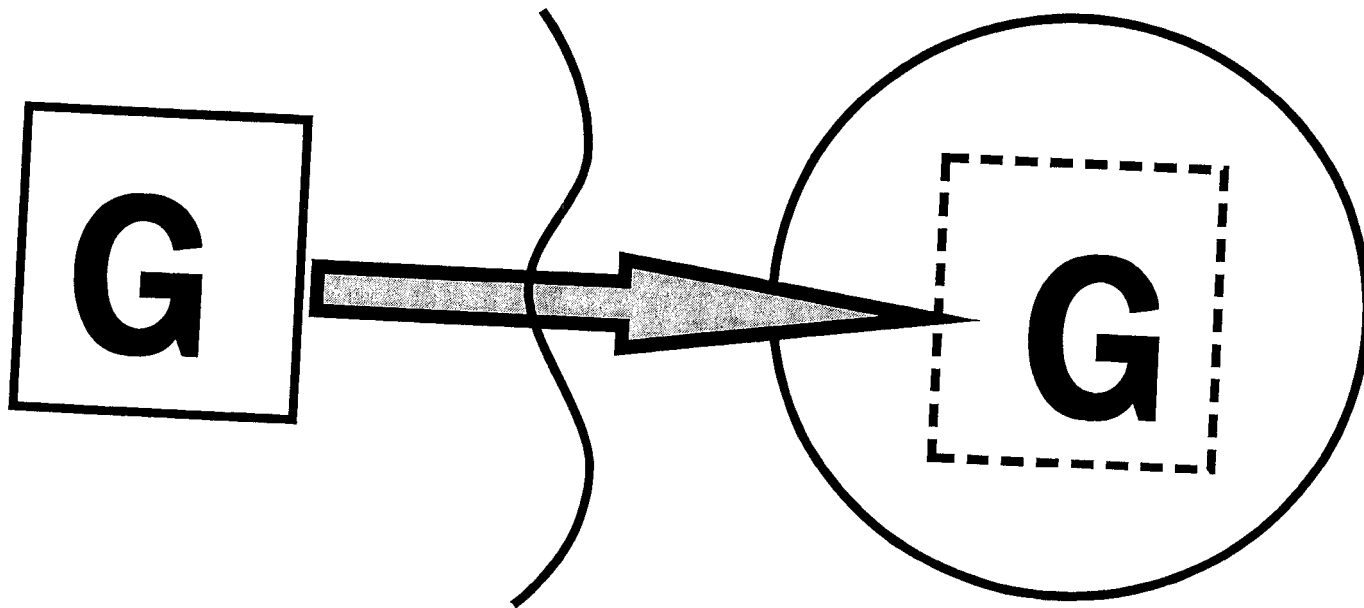
STAGE ONE:



PHASE ONE-B:

Culture A

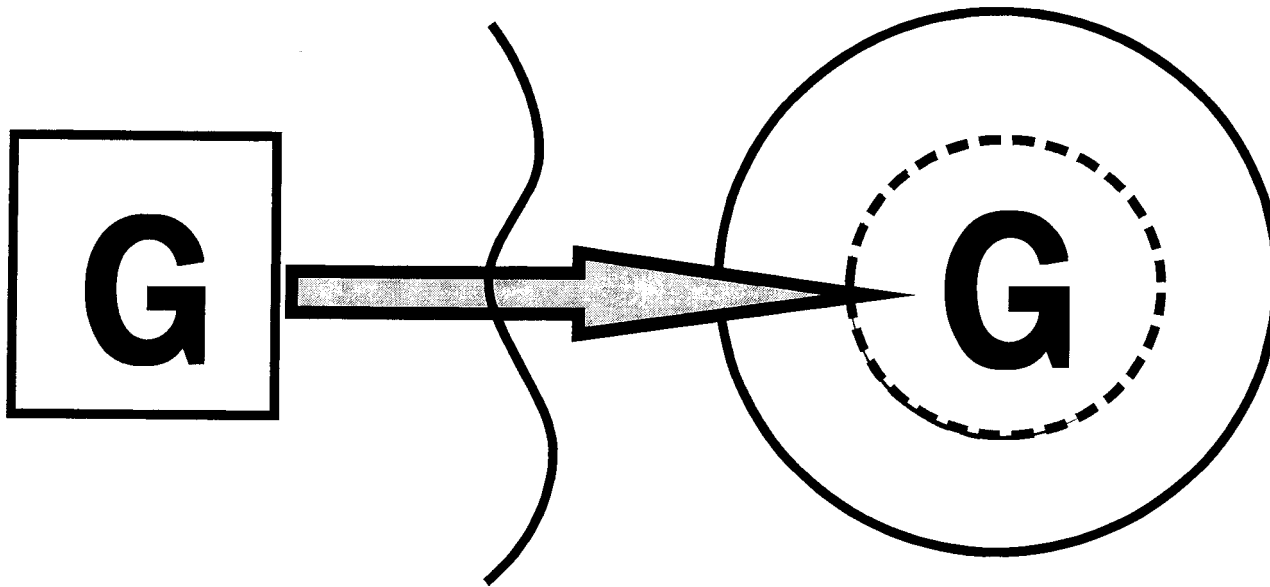
Culture B



STAGE TWO A:

Culture A

Culture B



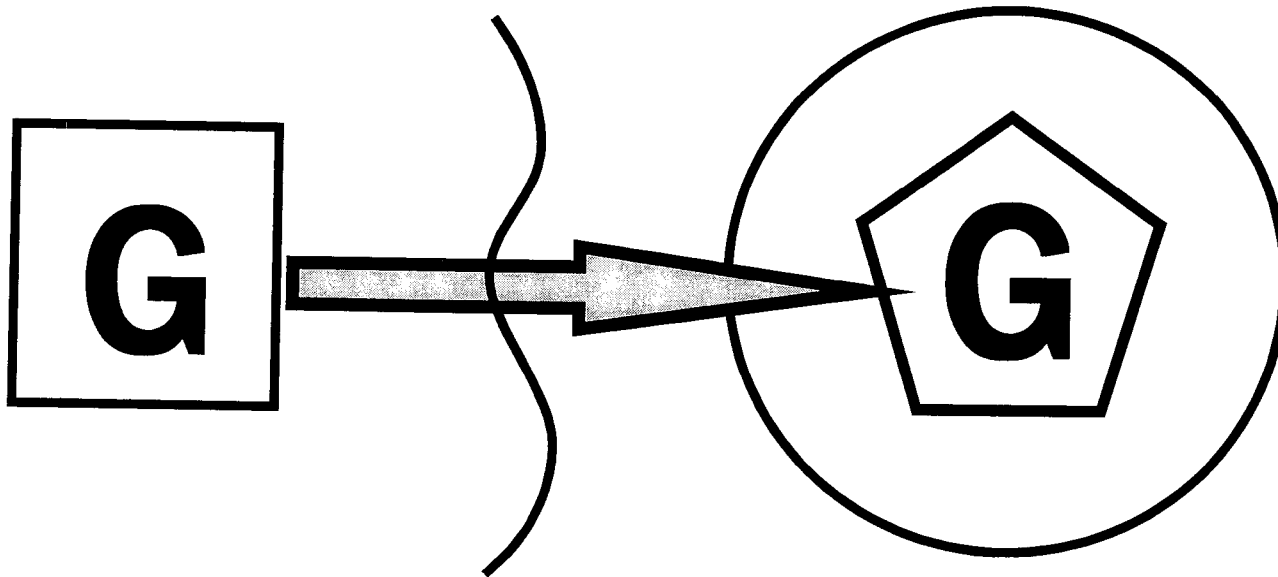
STAGE TWO - A:

- **awareness of deep cultural differences**
- **cultures are neutral or good**
- **dynamic equivalence Bible translations**
- **uncritical contextualization.**
- **instrumentalist epistemology.**
- **come as 'insiders'**

STAGE TWO-B:

Culture A

Culture B



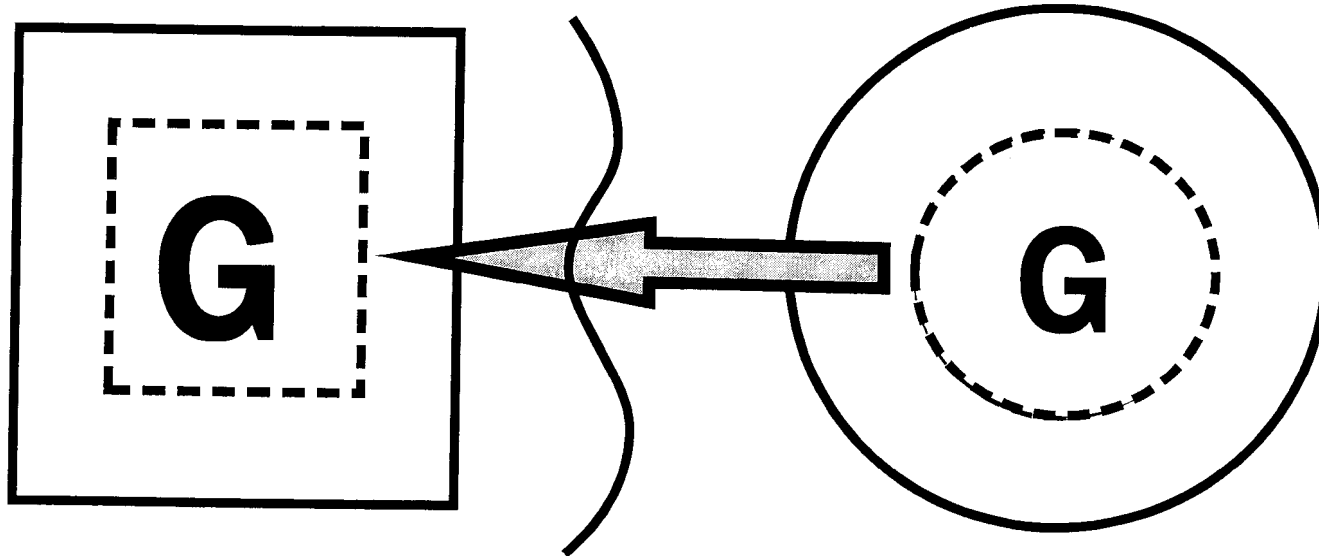
STAGE TWO – B:

- **cultures are good and evil**
- **critical contextualization**
- **double translation**
- **critical realism**
- **come as ‘outsider-insiders’--
sisters and brothers in the Lord.**

STAGE THREE:

Culture A

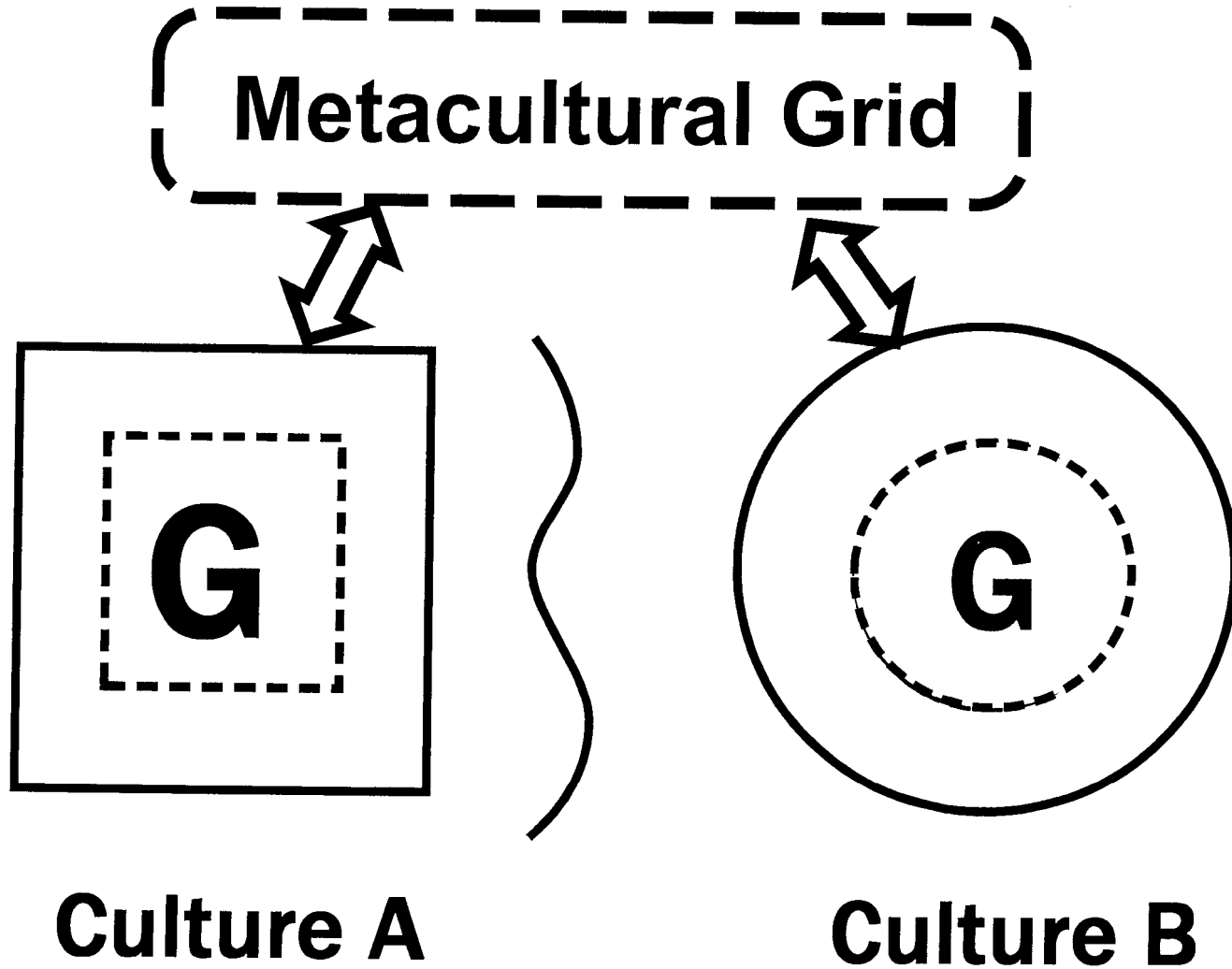
Culture B



STAGE THREE:

- **awareness of one's own cultural context.**
- **cultures are relative to one another.**
- **dialogue for common ground.**
- **development of local theologies.**

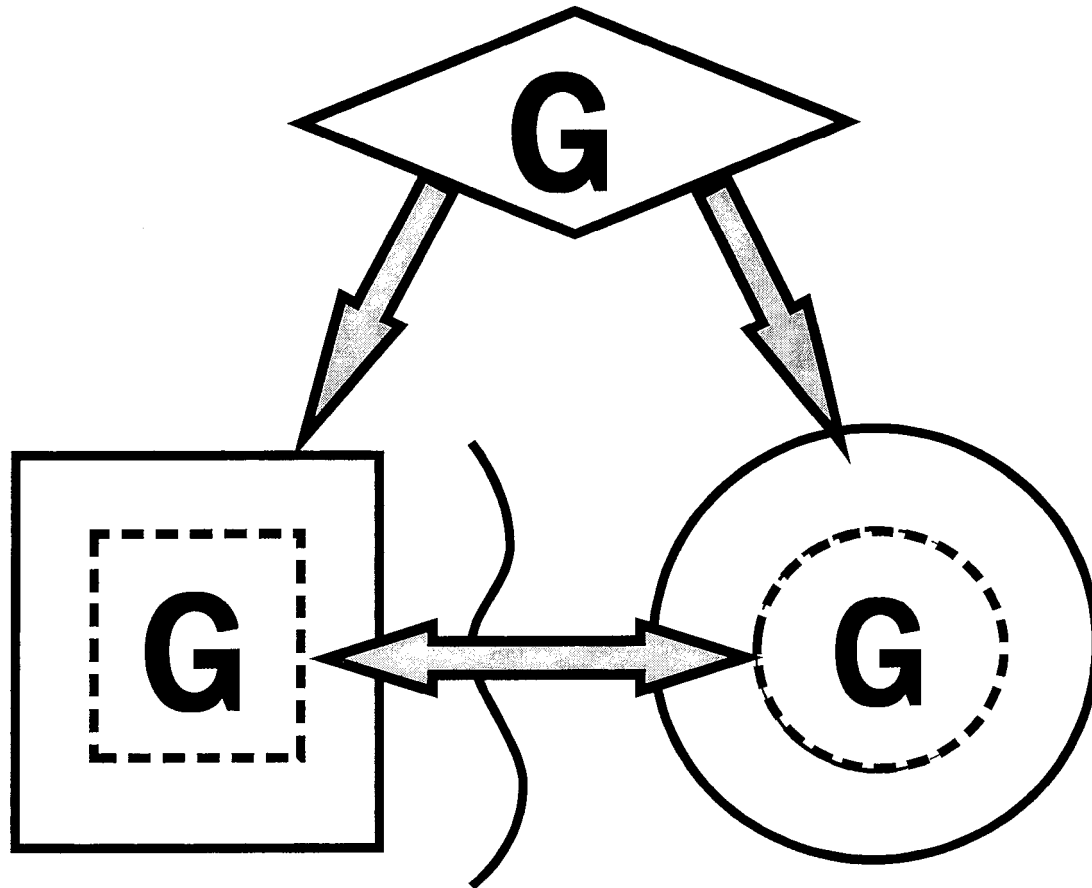
STAGE FOUR:



STAGE FOUR:

- **develop an outside, etic grid to compare and evaluate different cultures.**
- **role of outside catalyst, insided brother and sister.**
- **critcal realist epistemology.**

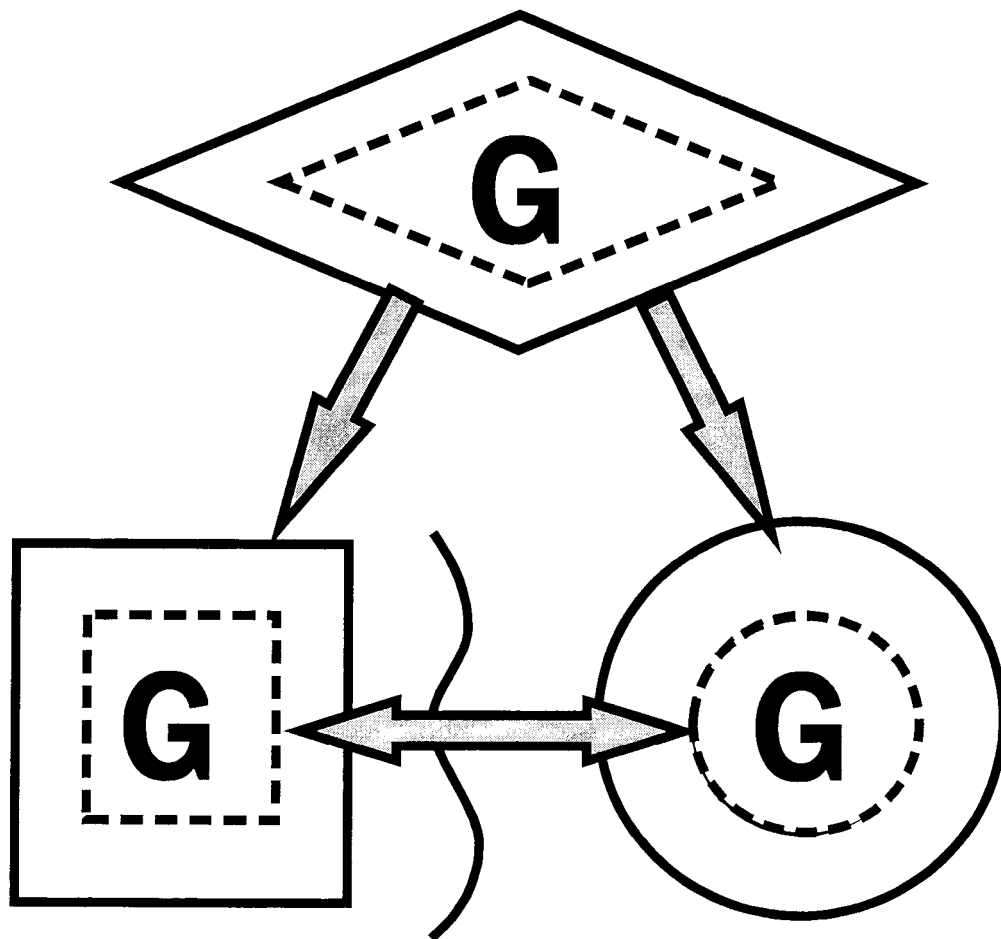
STAGE FIVE:



STAGE FIVE:

- **Bible reaffirmed as revelation.**
- **theology is derivative and can be done in different contexts.**
- **critical realist epistemology.**
- **stress whole gospel: cognitive, affective and evaluative.**
- **Peircian semiotics.**

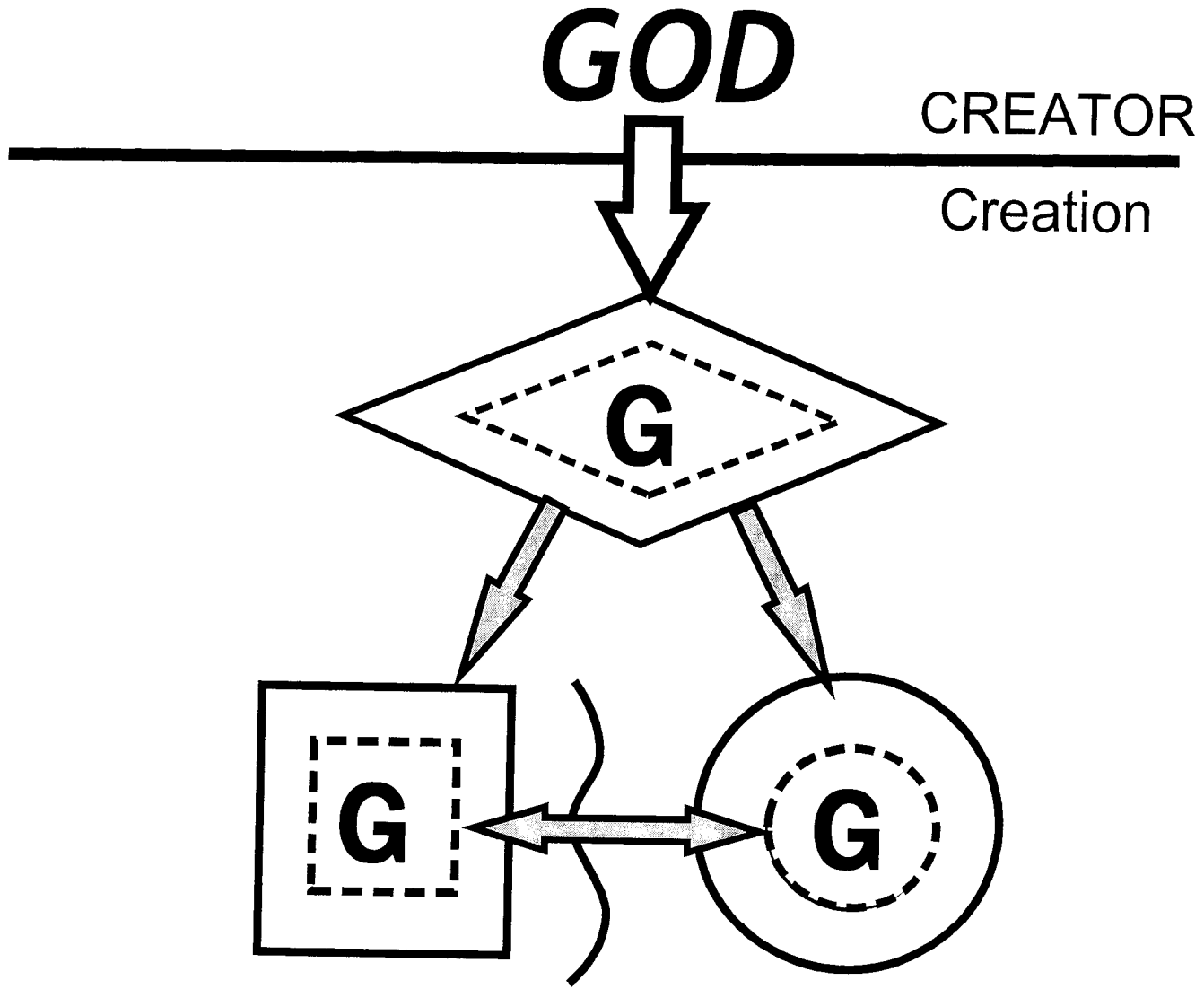
STAGE SIX:



STAGE SIX:

- **Bible affirmed as divine revelation.**
- **recognize that the Bible itself was given in particular contexts.**
- **complimentarity.**
- **critical realist epistemology.**

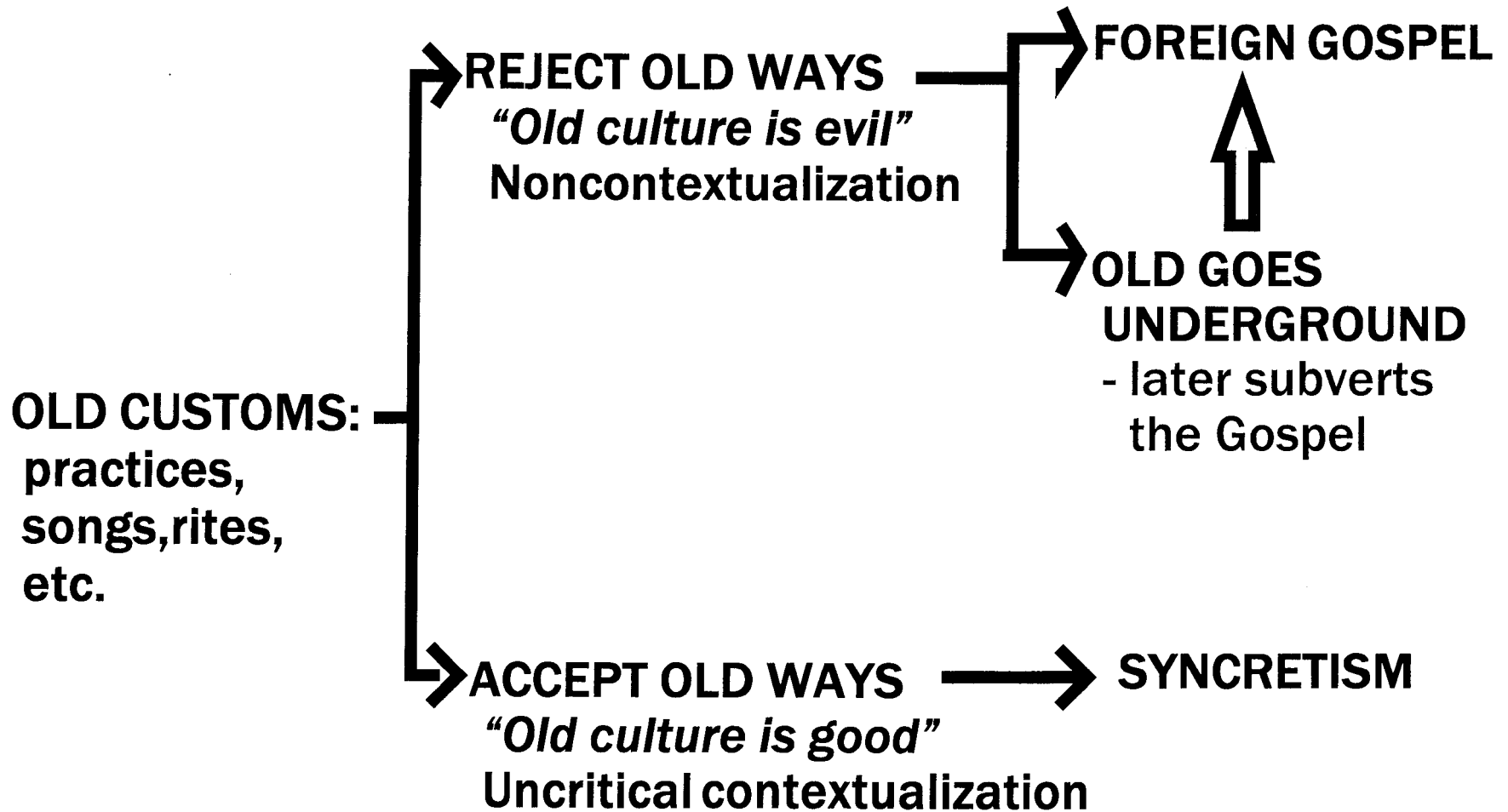
STAGE SIX:



STAGE SEVEN:

- **Bible God's revelation to us.**
- **we must discern the Gospel in the contexts in which it was given.**
- **the Gospel is universal truth.**
- **the biblical contexts are human particularities.**

NONCONTEXTUALIZATION AND UNCRITICAL CONTEXTUALIZATION



STEPS IN CRITICAL CONTEXTUALIZATION

1. PHENOMENOLOGY:

- **study the culture using your own perspectives**
- **learn to see the culture through the eyes of the people (emic grid)**
- **develop a meta-cultural grid to compare and evaluate the perspectives (etic grid)**

2. ONTOLOGY:

- **study biblical teachings on the subject at hand.**
- **do a ‘reality check’ on the situation.**
- **evaluate the findings in the light of ‘reality’ and Biblical teachings.**

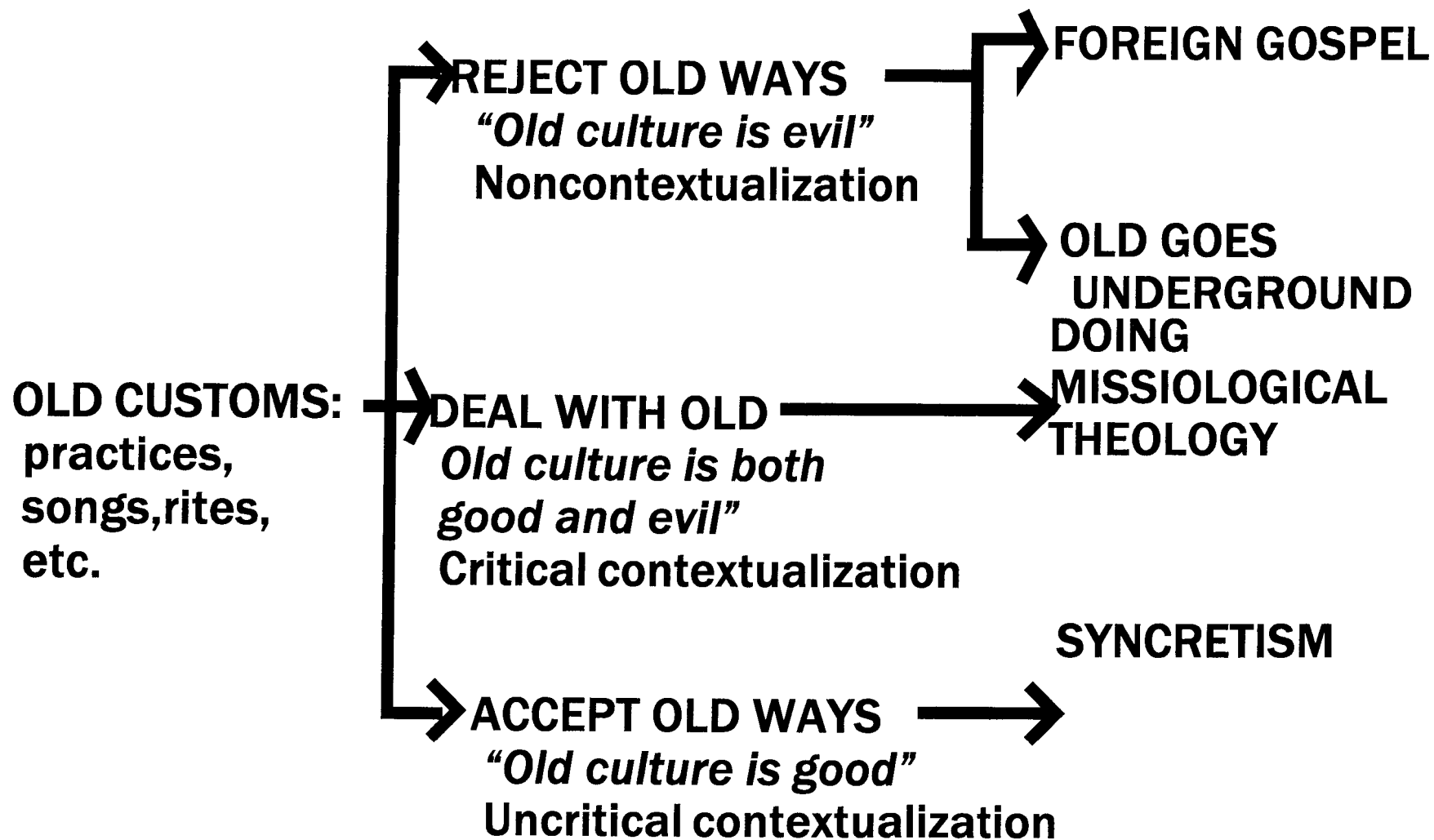
3. MISSIOLOGY:

- **deal with the immediate situation at hand.**
- **start long range study and decision making on the issues that case raises.**

DEALING WITH OLD WAYS

- **keep some**
- **reject some**
- **reinterpret some**
- **functional substitutes**
- **create new**
- **borrow and incorporate**

CRITICAL CONTEXTUALIZATION



THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN GOSPEL AND CULTURE

1. *Gospel versus culture.*

- don't equate the Gospel with any culture

2. *Gospel in culture.*

- the gospel must be put in cultural forms for people to understand it.

3. *Gospel to culture.*

- the Gospel is transformative--it calls us to follow Christ.

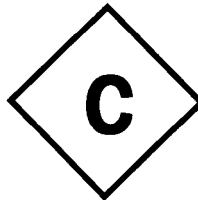
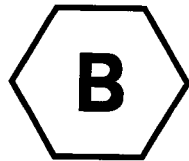
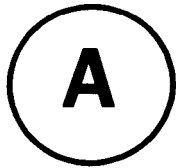
ARE THESE BIBLICAL, OR ARE THEY CULTURAL?

- **greet one another with a holy kiss.**
- **don't take a Christian to court.**
don't eat meat offered to idols.
women should wear veils.
- **don't eat blood.**
- **don't use wine in the Lord's Supper.**

ASSUMPTIONS UNDERLYING CONTEXTUALIZATION

1. GOSPEL versus CULTURE

GOSPEL

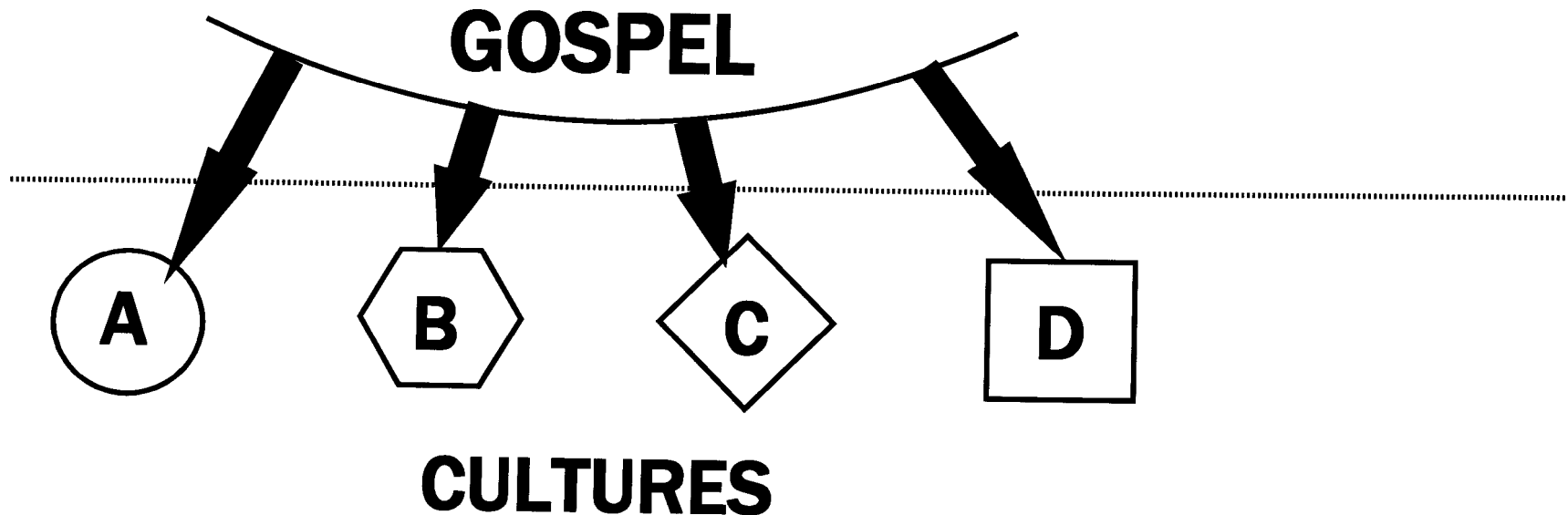


CULTURES

THE GOSPEL IS NOT TIED TO ANY CULTURE

ASSUMPTIONS UNDERLYING CONTEXTUALIZATION

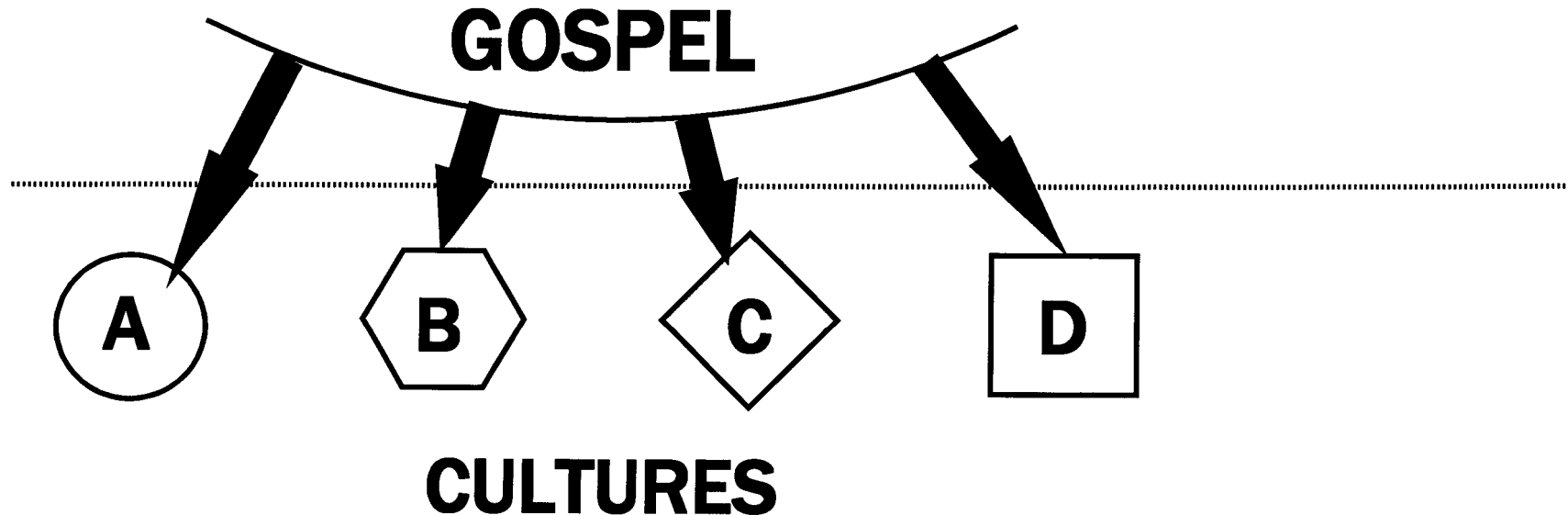
2. GOSPEL **in** CULTURE



THE GOSPEL MUST BE PUT IN CULTURAL FORMS FOR PEOPLE TO UNDERSTAND IT

ASSUMPTIONS UNDERLYING CONTEXTUALIZATION

3. GOSPEL **to** CULTURE



THE GOSPEL IS TRANSFORMATIVE – IT CALLS US TO FOLLOW CHRIST

ARE THESE BIBLICAL, OR ARE THEY CULTURAL?

- **greet one another with a holy kiss.**
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don't eat meat offered to idols.
women should wear veils.
- **don't eat blood.**
- **don't use wine in the Lord's Supper.**

A [TOO] SIMPLE TAXONOMY OF SOCIETIES

- **BAND SOCIETIES**
- **TRIBAL SOCIETIES**
- **PEASANT SOCIETIES**
- **URBAN SOCIETIES**