

THE KINGDOM & THE
UNFAILING LOVE OF GOD

THEOLOGY TOOLKIT



TERRAIN



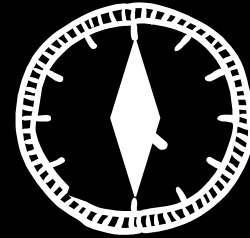
Metaphysics
Reality as
it is

STORIES MAP

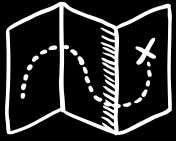


Epistemology
Our approximation
of reality

COMPASS



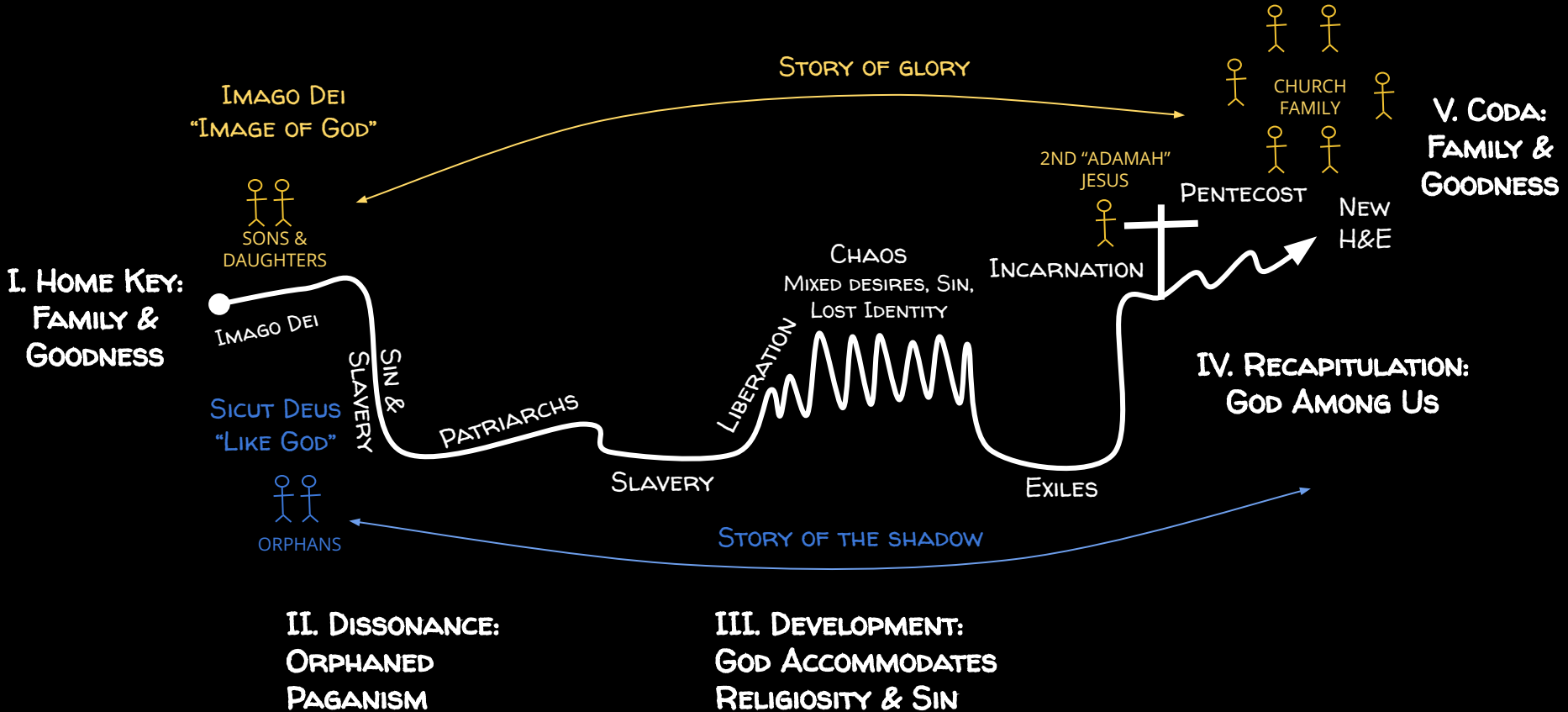
Ethics
Our response
to reality



YOUR STORY IS YOUR MAP

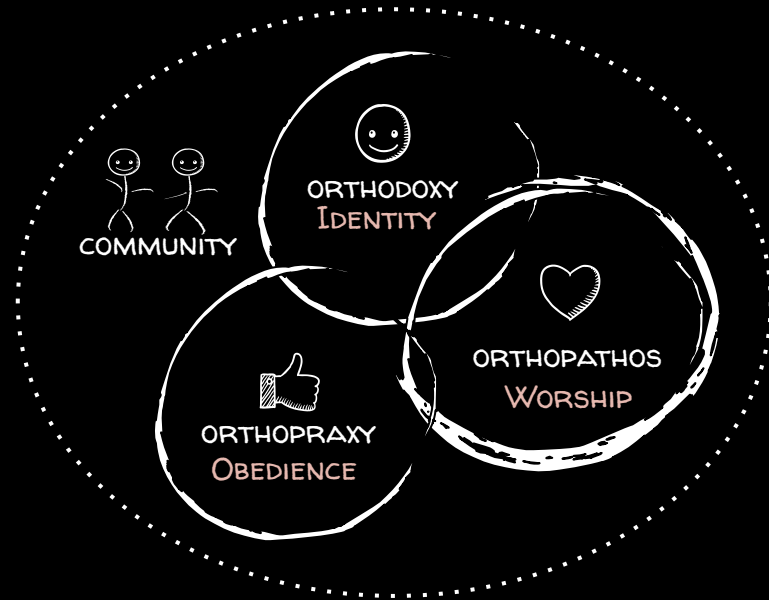
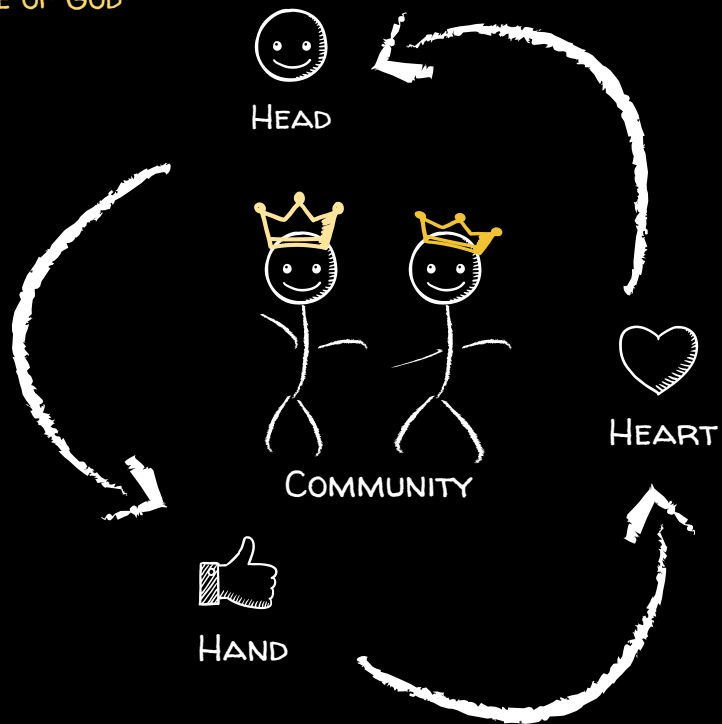


THE GOD STORY



THEOLOGY TOOLKIT

IMAGO DEI
"IMAGE OF GOD"



RESTORING THE IMAGO DEI

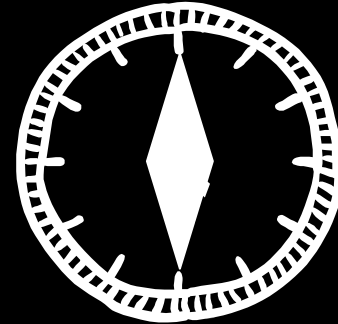


WHAT DO YOU WANT?



WHAT ARE YOU AFRAID OF?

UNFAILING LOVE OF GOD



FEAR OF THE LORD

THE FEAR OF THE LORD



THE UNFAILING LOVE OF GOD

Psalm 143:8

Let the morning bring me word
Of your Unfailing Love,
For I have put my trust in you.
Show me the way I should go,
For to you I entrust my life.

RESTORING THE IMAGO DEI

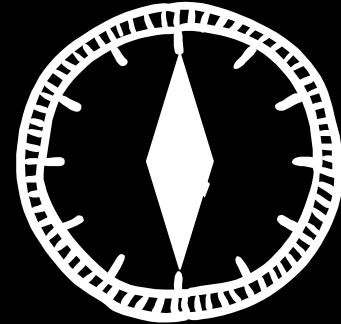


WHAT DO YOU WANT?



WHAT ARE YOU AFRAID OF?

UNFAILING LOVE OF GOD



FEAR OF THE LORD

WHAT DO YOU LOVE MOST?

Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked, "What do you want?"

Jesus (John 1:38)

Spirituality is about what we do with the fire inside of us, about how we channel our Eros. And how we channel it, the disciplines and habits we choose to live by...

Whatever the expression, everyone is ultimately talking about the same thing—an unquenchable fire, a restlessness, a longing, a disquiet, a hunger, loneliness, a gnawing nostalgia, a wildness that cannot be tamed, a congenital all-embracing ache that lies at the center of human experience and is the ultimate force that drives everything else.

This dis-ease is universal. Desire gives no exemptions

Ronald Rolheiser

AN UPSIDE DOWN KINGDOM

What is happening in and through the Cross?

1. Atonement

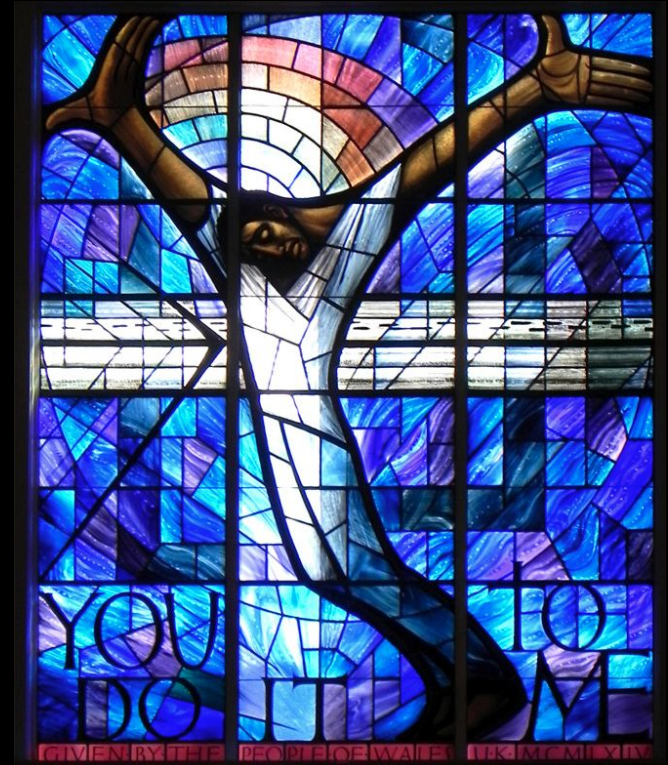
Penal Substitution, imagery, and meaning are from the OT sacrificial system or innocent blood atoning for Sin. Christ takes our place suffering the implications of Sin, namely Death and shedding His blood, not ours so we may receive undeserved forgiveness.

2. Liberation

Christus Victor, less familiar to many, was the dominant early church motif. The logical corollary to atonement, Christ achieves it by resisting the powers of the World, Flesh, and the Devil. It is on the Cross that he proves once and for all that he is the 2nd Adam. He is liberated, as he says to Pilate His Kingdom is not of this world, Christ cosmically conquers the Power of Sin and Death that have enslaved humanity.

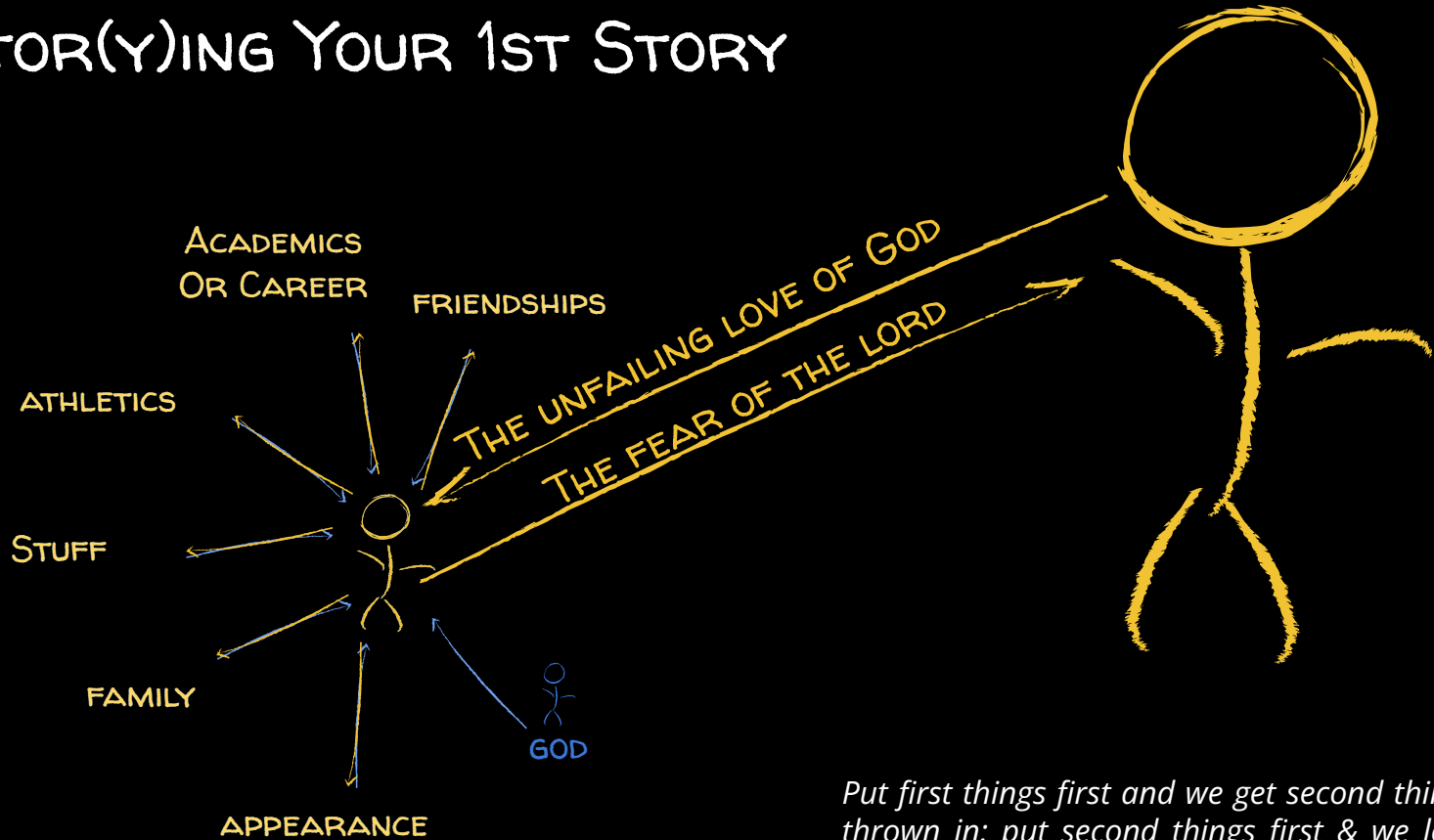
3. Adoption

Perhaps least talked about is the implications or inheritance earned through the first two: We are forgiven and freed not as individuals to do whatever we want, but to be received into the arms of a Family. This takes on both a spiritual and literal embodied form as we receive an identity as Son, Daughter, Brother, Sister, Mother, or Father. This is where our 7 questions get permanently answered by the only one worthy to answer them unfliningly.



Wales Window for Alabama given by the nation of Wales to 16th Street Baptist after Klan members blew up the church killing four little girls and injuring 22 others (September 1963).

RESTOR(Y)ING YOUR 1ST STORY



*Put first things first and we get second things
thrown in: put second things first & we lose
both first and second things.*

CS Lewis

Psalm 143:8

Let the morning bring me word
Of your Unfailing Love,
For I have put my trust in you.
Show me the way I should go,
For to you I entrust my life.