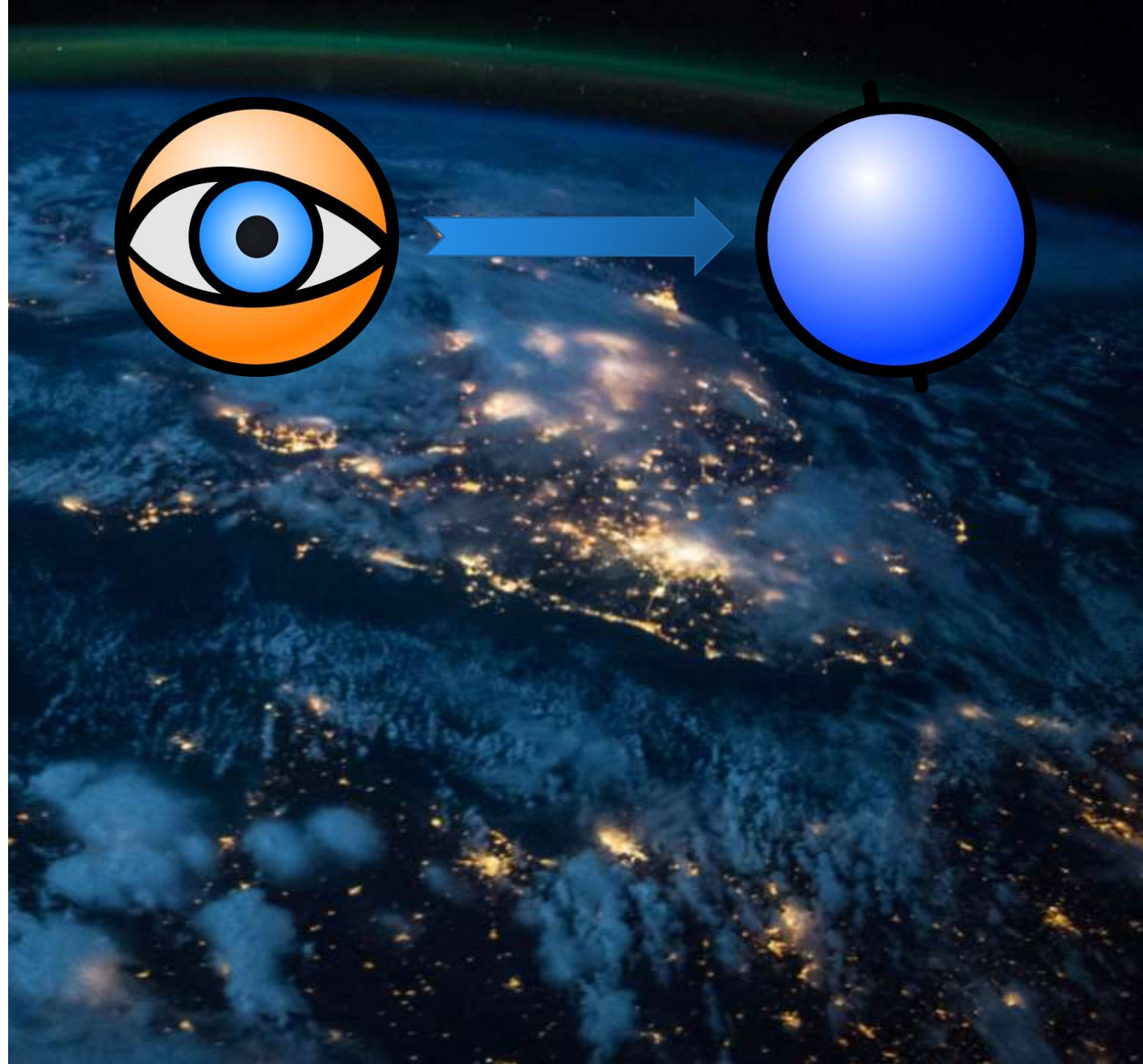

COMMUNICATING THE GOSPEL WITH OTHER WORLDVIEWS

New Age



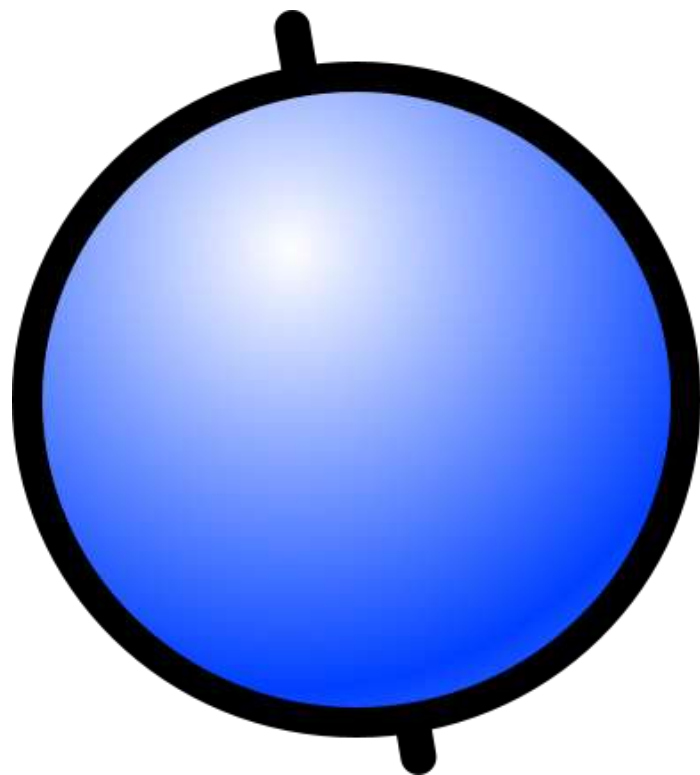
OVERVIEW

- Why we have to think about communication (Worldviews as barriers)
 - Understanding a worldview
 - Exploring an individual's worldview (Kairos Conversations)
 - New Age
 - History
 - OnOrigins
 - On our Problem
 - On the Solution
 - Ideas for engagement
-

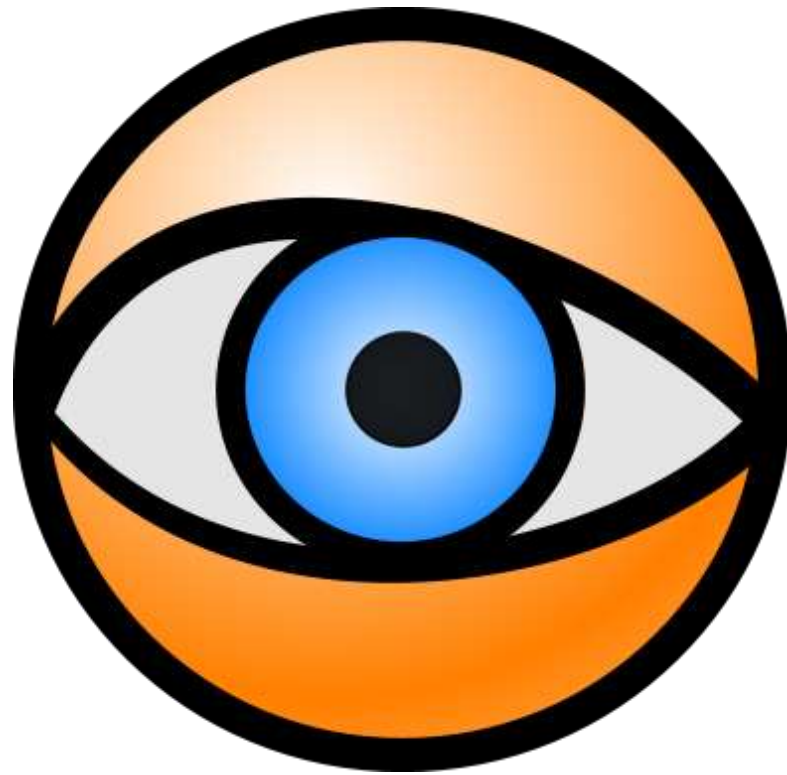
WHY WE HAVE TO THINK ABOUT COMMUNICATION

Worldviews as barriers

WE SHARE THE SAME WORLD



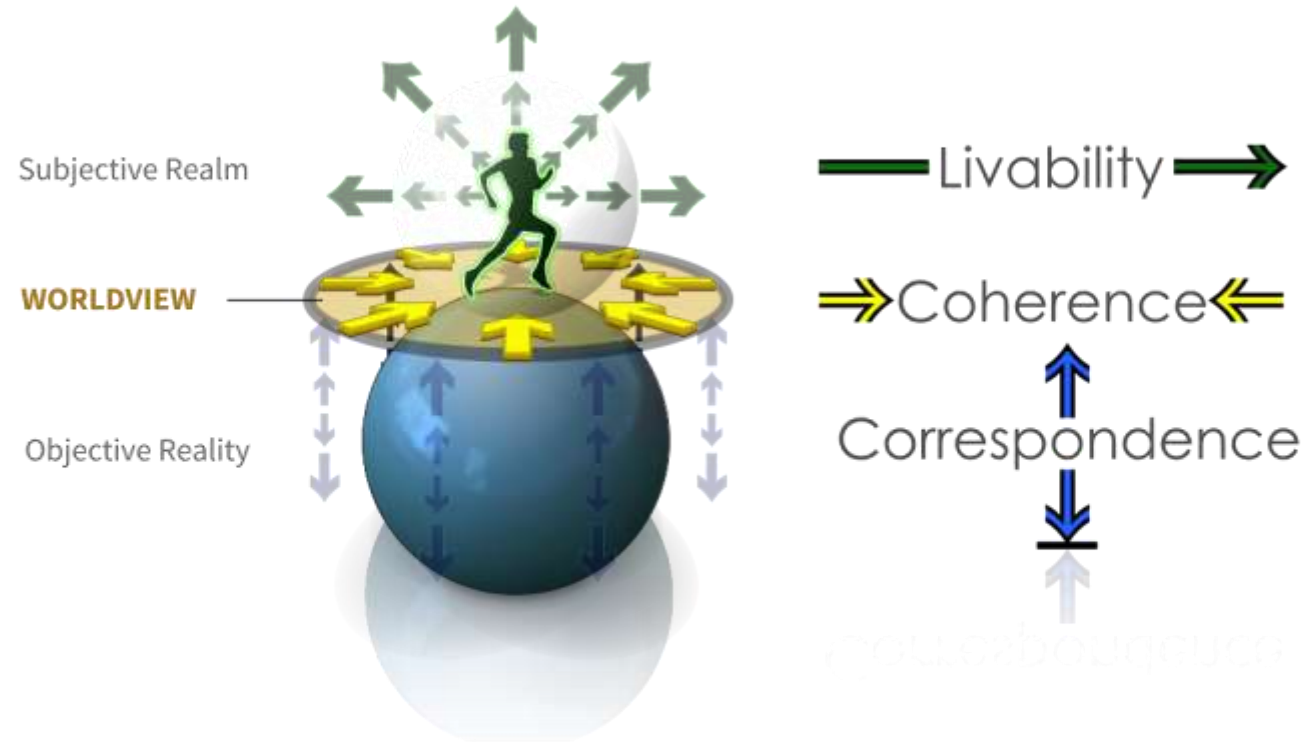
BUT NOT THE SAME VIEW OF IT



UNDERSTANDING A WORLDVIEW

Origins, Problem, Solution

Criteria for evaluating competing belief systems:



Tests for Truth: Coherence, Correspondence, Livability

3 Key Areas: Origins, Problem, Solution

EXPLORING AN INDIVIDUAL'S WORLDVIEW

Kairos Conversations



Existing Conversation

ANY TOPIC/ISSUE

DISCERNMENT, TIMING

CLARIFY

▶ **Focus Question prompted by issue**
What do you think about X? Help me understand your view. Please clarify.

BELIEF / PERSPECTIVE
OPINION

JUSTIFY

▶ **Why do you believe/think that?**
How did you reach that conclusion? Help me understand your reasons.

REASONS / EVIDENCE
JUSTIFICATION

UNIFY

▶ **Have you considered ___?**
Alternative perspective, or challenging evidence/reasons. Worldview criteria.

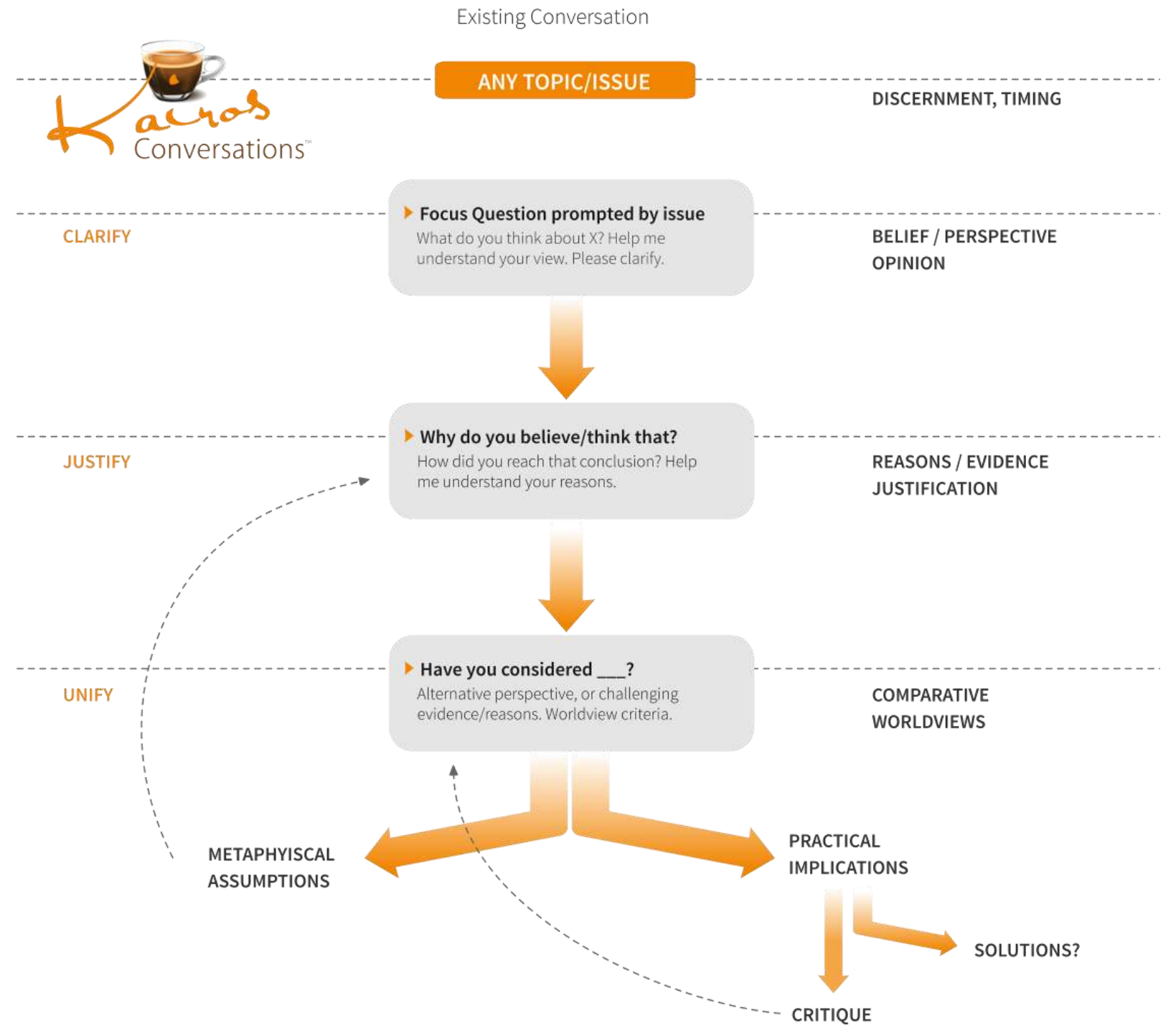
COMPARATIVE
WORLDVIEWS

METAPHYSICAL
ASSUMPTIONS

PRACTICAL
IMPLICATIONS

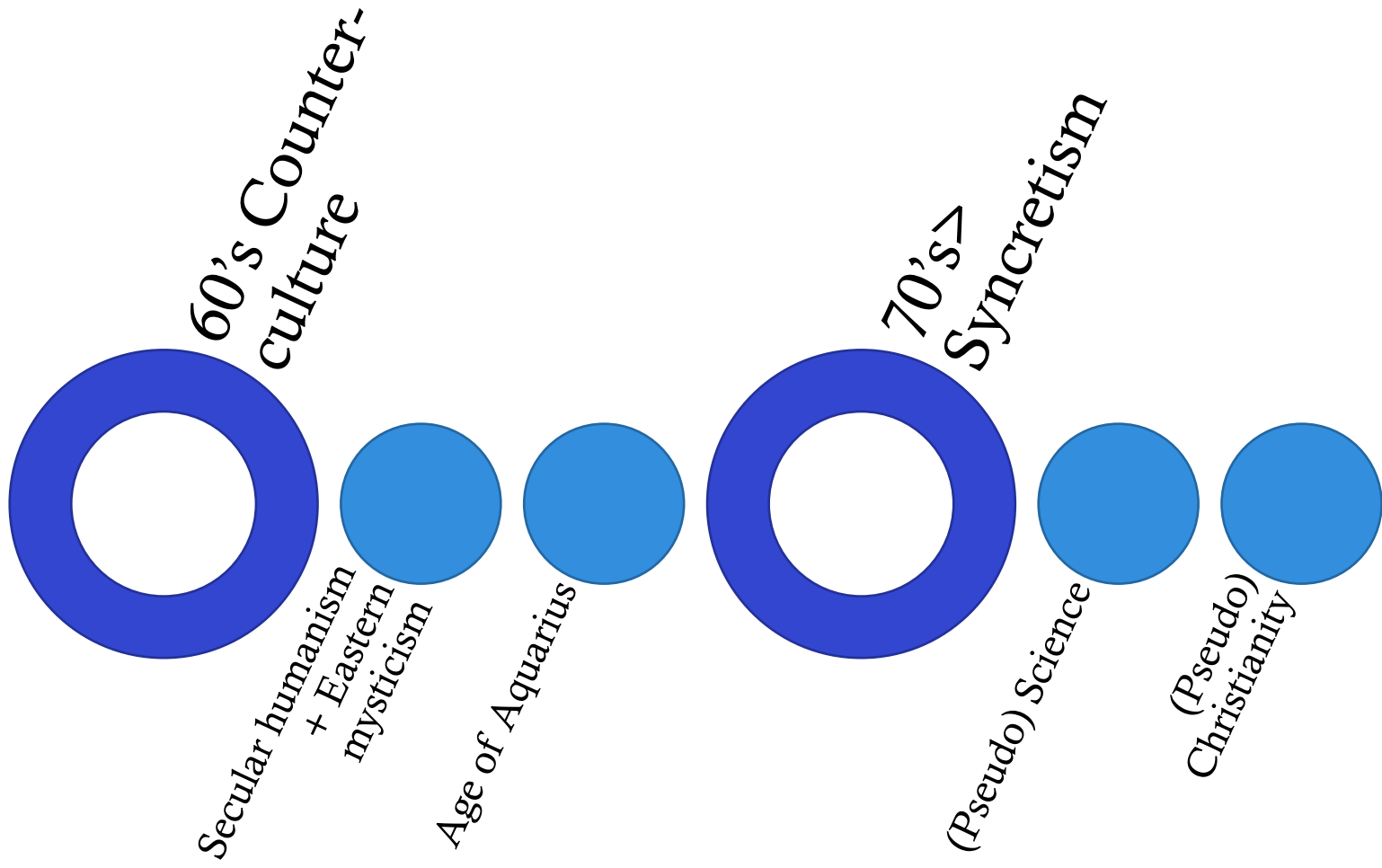
SOLUTIONS?

CRITIQUE



NEW AGE

History



RESULT?

“a spiritual, social, and political movement to transform individuals and society through mystical enlightenment, hoping to bring about a utopian era, a ‘New Age’ of harmony and progress. While it has no central headquarters or agencies, it includes loosely affiliated individuals, activist groups, businesses, professional groups, and spiritual leaders and their followers. It produces countless books, magazines, and tapes reflecting a shared worldview and vision. How that worldview is expressed, what implications are drawn, and what applications are made differ from group to group.”

—Joseph M. Hopkins, *Christianity Today* (Carol Stream, IL: Christianity Today, 1985), 68.



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NEW AGE

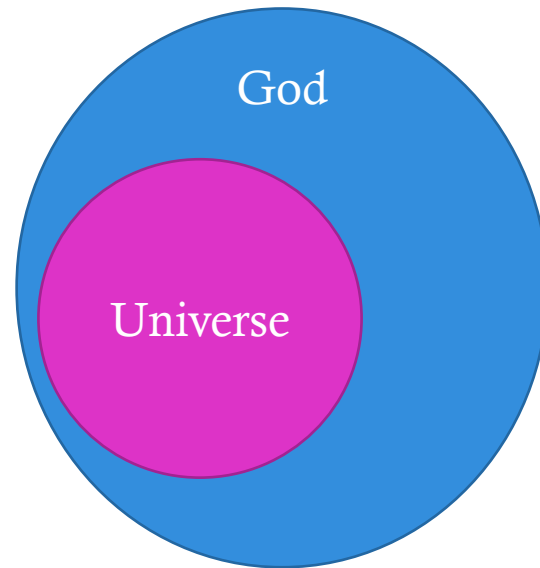
On Origins

PAN(EN)THEISM

- Pantheism:

Universe = God

- Panentheism:



NATURE IS DIVINE

- Humans divine
- Animals divine
- Reincarnation (perhaps to/from animals)
- Precise origins irrelevant if all of nature is God



NEW AGE

On our Problem

DISHARMONY

- Between humans
- Between humans and nature
- Between humans and divine spark



NEW AGE

On the Solution

PATHS TO HARMONY

- Mindfulness
- Transcendental Meditation, Yoga
- Reincarnation (learning from past lives)
- Crystals, chakra, pagan ceremonies (harmony with nature), etc.
- Technology (e.g. Pete Evans's "bio-charger", etc.)
- Secret knowledge (e.g. *The Secret*, etc.)
- Spirit guides



IDEAS FOR ENGAGEMENT

New Age and the Gospel

GENERAL APPROACH

- Every New Ager is different -> ask lots of questions about their beliefs
 - Coherence is not highly valued (as in Buddhism), so don't both trying to point out incoherence
 - Correspondence (with reality) is loosely valued, so use with care
 - Best approach is liveability
-

LIVABILITY

- Are you really in harmony with others and/or nature?
 - Are you really becoming a better person through [New Age practice]?
 - Do you feel like you are merely not in harmony with others, or is it a deeper disconnect (like guilt)?
 - Are you really at peace?
-

PRAY FOR NEW AGERS

Pray for release from the lies of the accuser
