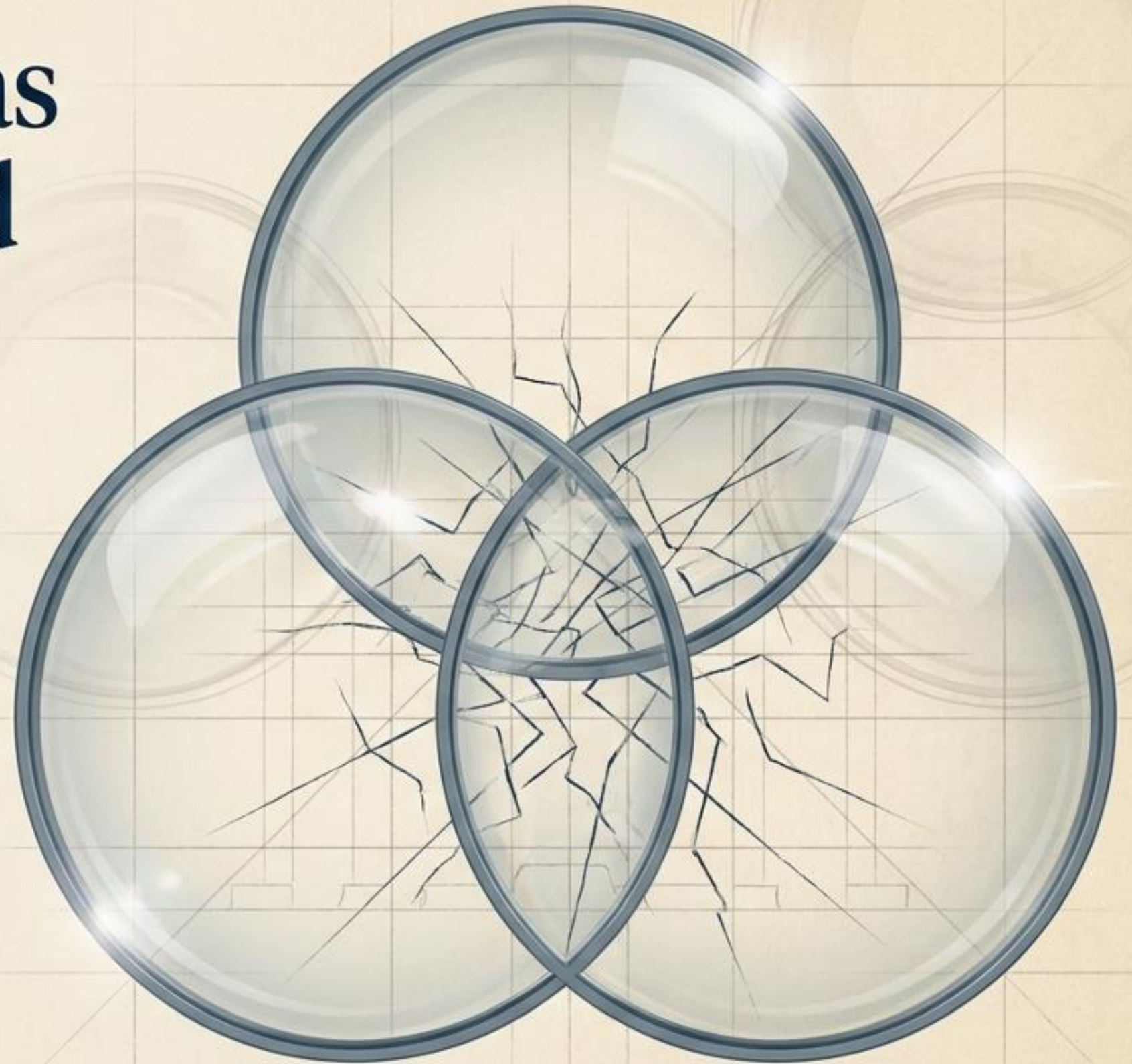


# Worldviews in a Pluralistic Age

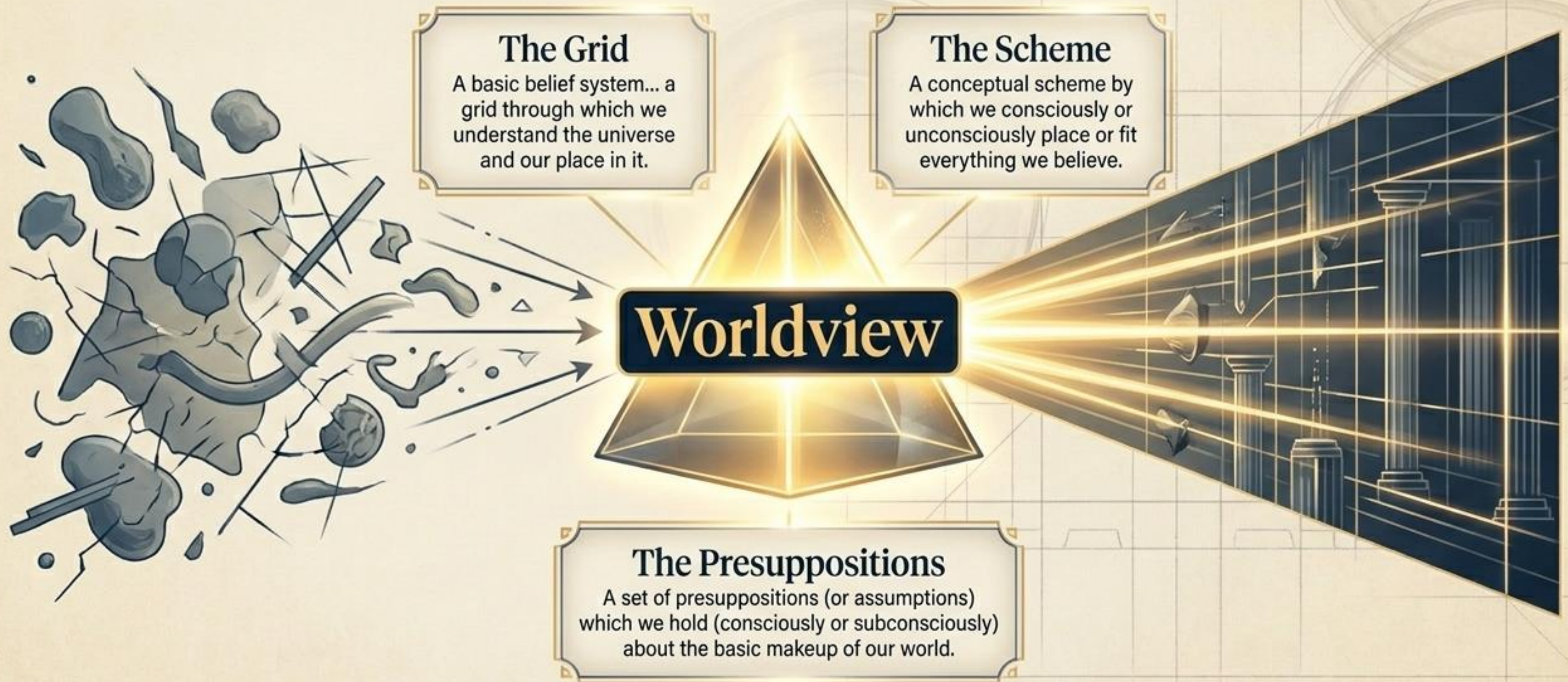


# The Collision of Ideas in a Pluralistic World

Worldviews are in collision in our society. This conflict is even more intense because we live in a pluralistic world that has rejected absolute standards and values.



# Defining the Framework



## The Grid

A basic belief system... a grid through which we understand the universe and our place in it.

## The Scheme

A conceptual scheme by which we consciously or unconsciously place or fit everything we believe.

## Worldview

## The Presuppositions

A set of presuppositions (or assumptions) which we hold (consciously or subconsciously) about the basic makeup of our world.

# The Anatomy of a Worldview: Root to Fruit

## BEHAVIOR

The visible application of this view to daily life, ethics, and choices.



## BELIEFS

The articulated philosophies, religions, and conceptual schemes we claim to hold.

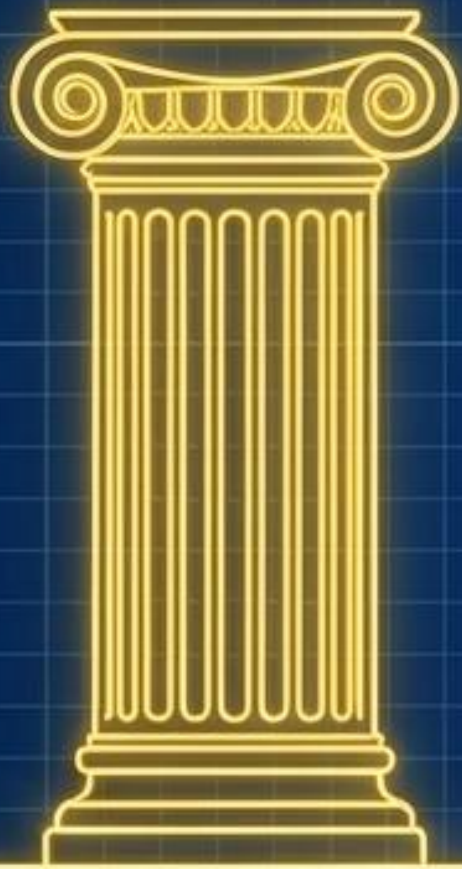
## PRESUPPOSITIONS

The invisible, foundational assumptions one presumes to be true about the universe.



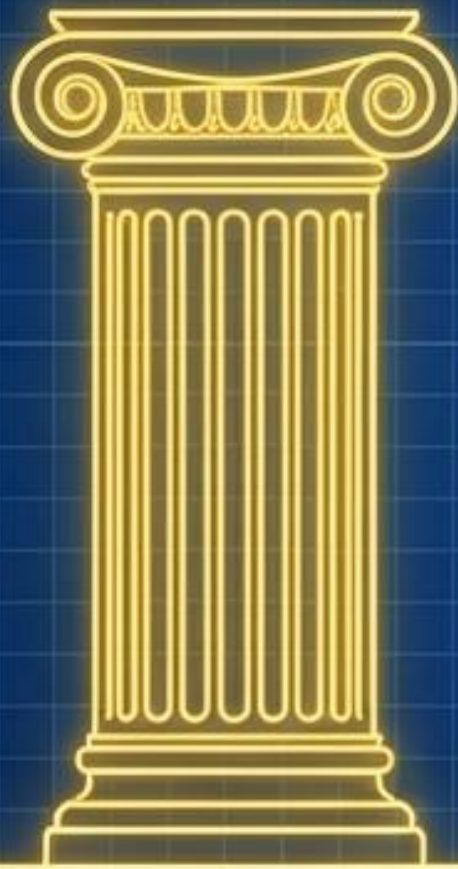
# The 5 Core Human Questions

**Pillar 1**  
**Ontology**  
(Origins)



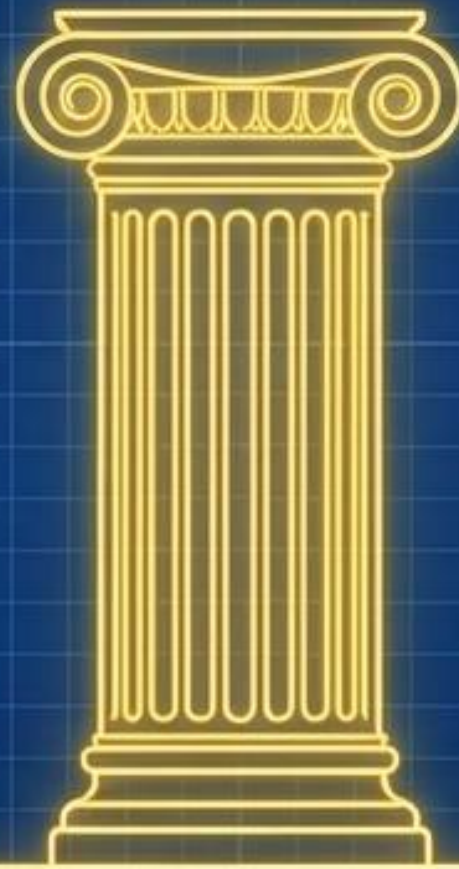
Why is there  
something rather  
than nothing?

**Pillar 2**  
**Epistemology**  
(Knowledge)



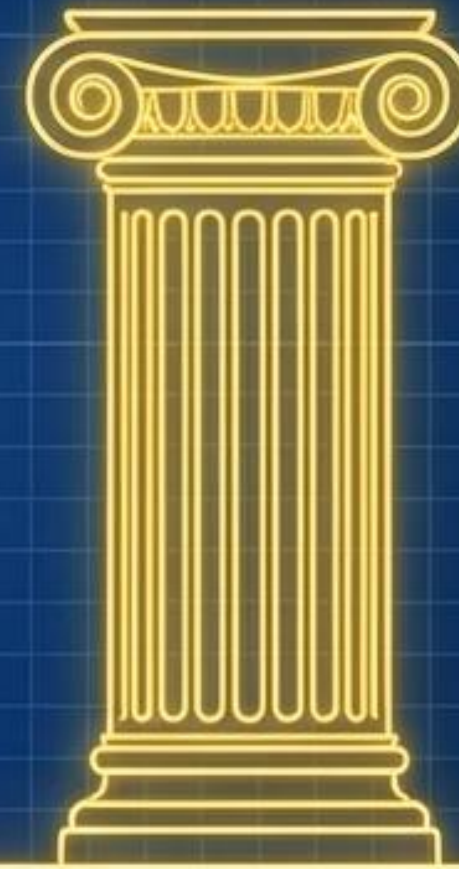
How do you know  
that you know?  
(Rationalism, Empiricism,  
or Revelation?)

**Pillar 3**  
**Anthropology**  
(Humanity)



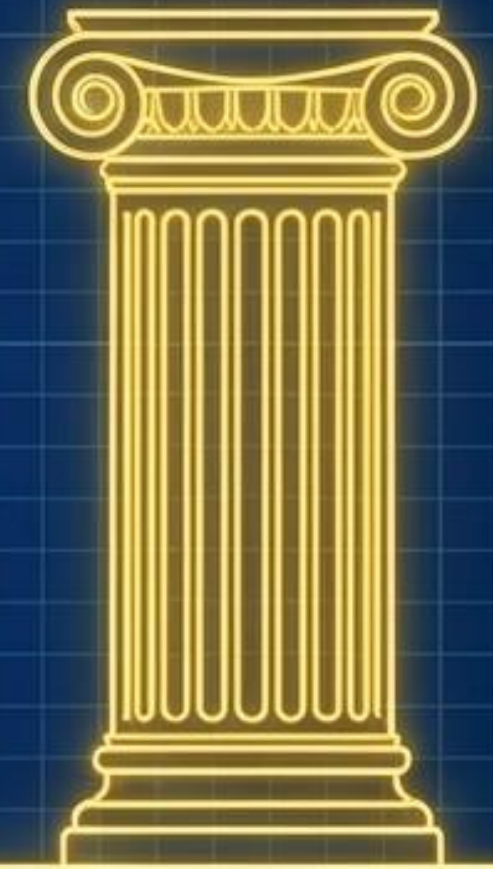
How do you explain  
human nature?  
(Blank slate, inherent  
goodness, social animal,  
or created image-bearer?)

**Pillar 4**  
**Ethics**  
(Morality)



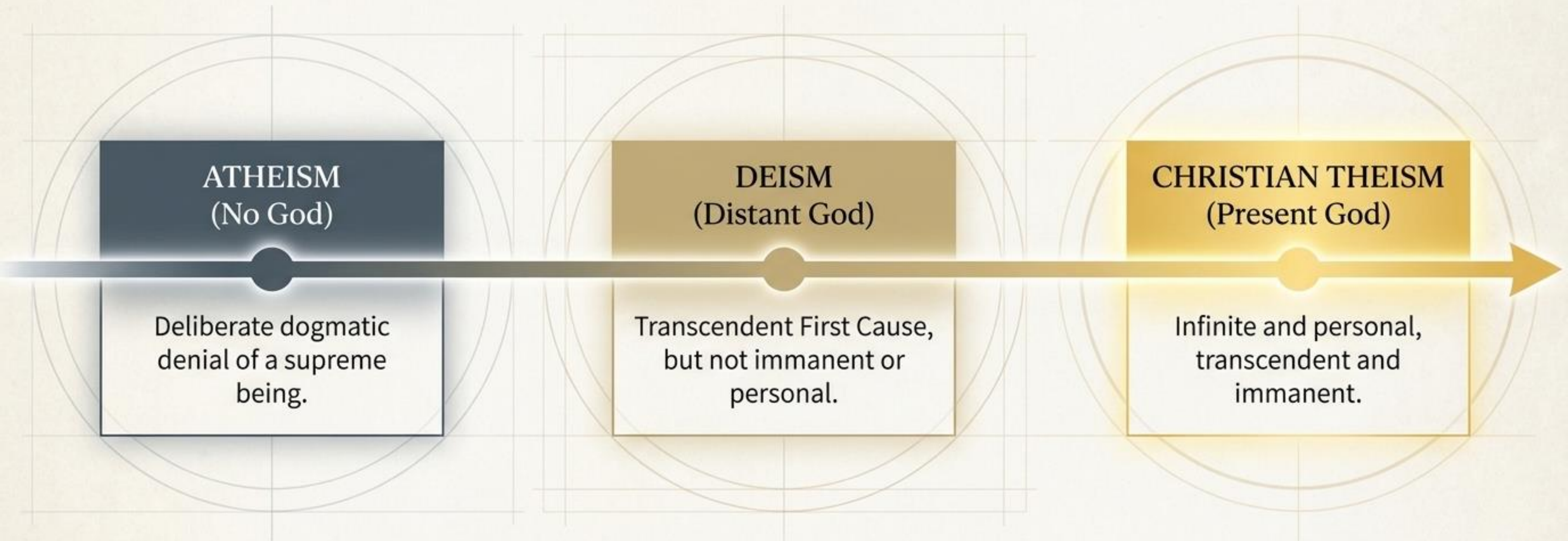
How do you  
determine what is  
right and wrong?

**Pillar 5**  
**Destiny**  
(The End)



What happens to a  
person at death?

# The Spectrum of Divine Involvement



# Atheism: Man as the Measure

Definition:

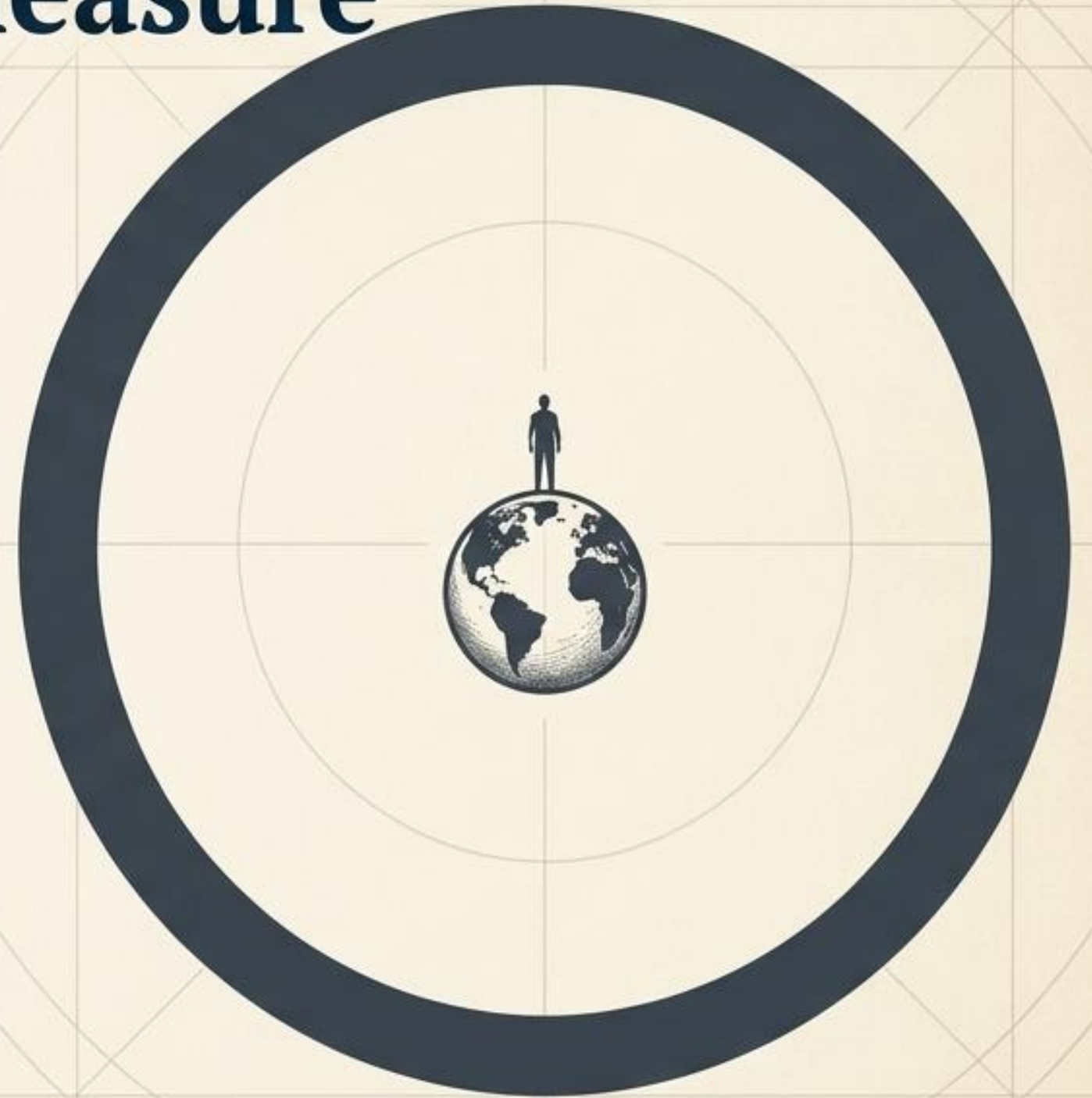
From the Greek *atheos* (without God).  
A deliberate dogmatic denial of a  
supreme being.

The Core Presupposition:

Man is the measure of all things.

“*All the problems of man were created  
by man and can be solved by man.*”

— JFK



# Deism: The Clockwork Universe

## The First Cause

A transcendent God created the universe.



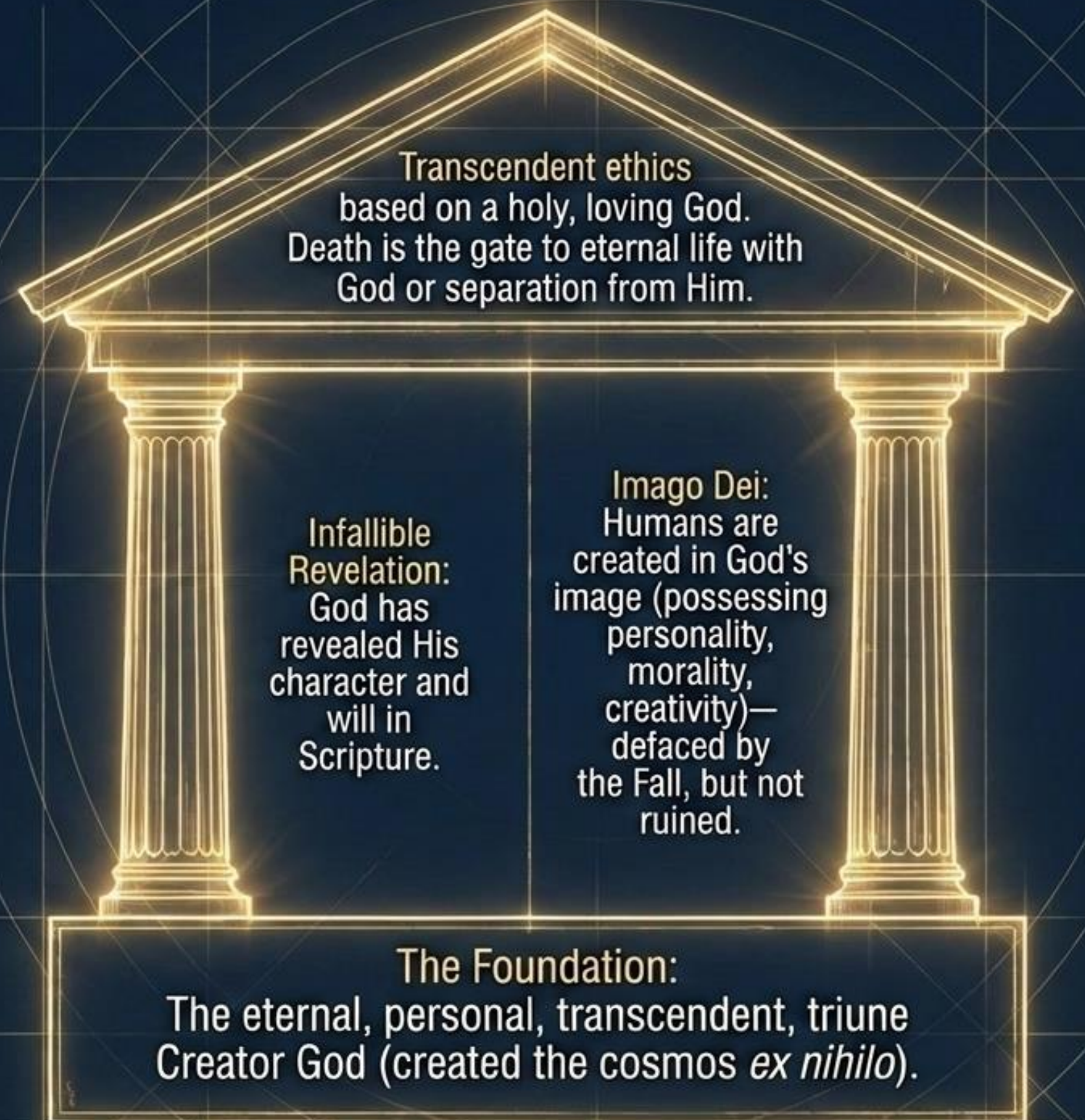
## The Abandonment

God wound it up, but then left it to run entirely on its own.

## The Disconnect

God is not immanent, personal, or sovereign in daily affairs.

# Claims of Christian Theism



# The Clockmaker vs. The Father



Transcendent, but absent. The universe operates on uniformity of cause and effect alone.



Transcendent and Immanent. An infinite, omniscient, sovereign God actively sustaining creation.

# The Worldview Diagnostic Matrix

	Atheism	Deism	Christian Theism
Origins	Impersonal beginning / Matter eternal	First Cause created it	Personal Triune God created ex nihilo
Knowledge	Rationalism / Empiricism / Scientific facts	Rationalism / Empiricism	Divine Revelation + Human capacity given by God
Humanity	Evolved social animal / Blank slate	Created by First Cause	Created in Imago Dei, defaced by Fall
Ethics	Relativism / Determinism / Scientific	Reason-based	Revealed absolutes based on God's character
Destiny	Extinction of personality	Unknown/Varies	Gate to eternal life or separation from God

# The Clash: Living with Significance

Recognizing that God is the unique source of all truth requires us to relate all truth back to His purposes for this life and the next.

## Scholarship

Offering the Christian worldview not as one of many equals, but as the one true view of reality.

## The Christian Call

## Discipleship

Using this framework to understand the world and live according to God's will.

## Evangelism

Using this grid to actively understand and answer the objections of the unbeliever.

# Case Study: Apologetics in a Pluralistic Age

## Athenagoras of Athens (Late 2<sup>nd</sup> Century CE)

### Who:

A professional philosopher and former atheist who came to faith after seriously investigating Christianity.

### What:

Wrote the “Embassy for the Christians” (approx. 177 CE) addressed to Roman Emperor Marcus Aurelius.

### Why:

To defend against cultural slander (accusations of atheism, cannibalism, incest) and plead for religious freedom.

# Athenagoras' Playbook: The Embassy Strategy

## Step 1: Clarify the Rejection

He didn't just try to force conversion; he argued for a correct appropriation of Christianity so the emperors truly understood what they were rejecting.

## Step 2: Find Common Ground

He demonstrated the universality of theism by citing their own trusted poets and philosophers (Euripides, Plato, Aristotle) to show shared principles.

## Step 3: Point to Revelation

He showed that while secular wise men "stumbled" upon the idea of God, Christians possess the inspired testimonies of prophets sent by God Himself.

“ “  
Watch the Christians live  
and die with total  
conviction.”

The most undeniable proof of a worldview is the visible fruit of the lives built upon it (John 15:2).