

Virtuous Freedom: Freedom from
SUBSTANCE

Discernment - You have to be able to see



Matthew 6:19-24

The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are good, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eyes are bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness! "No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Mammon..."

Sanctification - You can't become like 2 opposite masters



SET APART FOR MAMMOM	
I'M GETTING	FLESH
MY TRUTH	ATTENTION
MY GOOD	PRACTICAL
MY DELIGHT	PLEASURE
MY JUSTICE	POWER
MAMMOM WILL GIVE ME THESE IF I SERVE HIM	

SET APART FOR CHRIST	
SPIRIT	WHAT I'M SERVING
TRUE	WHAT GOD AFFIRMS
GOOD	GOD'S PRACTICE
BEAUTIFUL	GOD'S DELIGHT
RIGHT	GOD'S JUSTICE
GOD WILL INCLUDE ME IN THESE IF IT TRUST HIM	

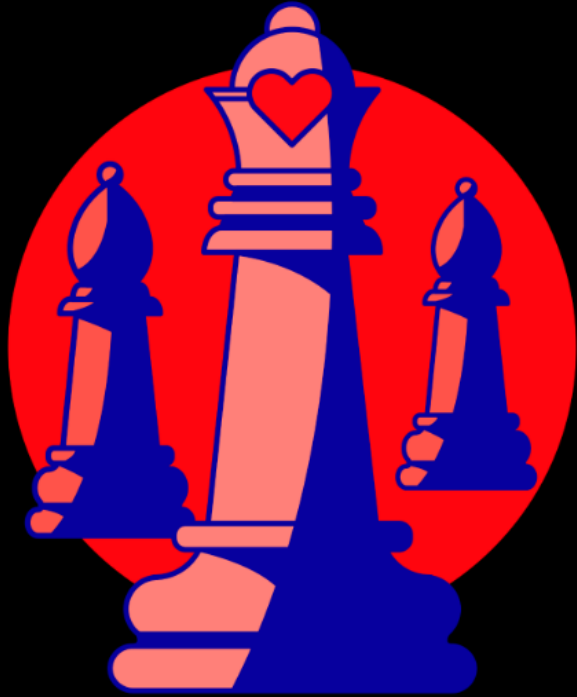
Substance

4 Marks:

- Self-Sacrificial Love
- The Mind of Christ
- **Virtuous Freedom**
- In Step with the Spirit

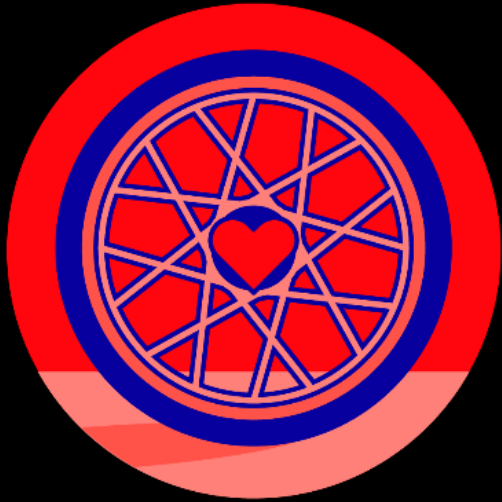
4 Practices/Mindsets:

- Welcoming the Ordinary
- Escaping Diversion
- Embracing Discipline
- Belonging to the
Formational Community



Self- Sacrificial Love is the
fulfillment of the Law and
the Queen of the Virtues

(FYI- Courage/fortitude is the king of the virtues)

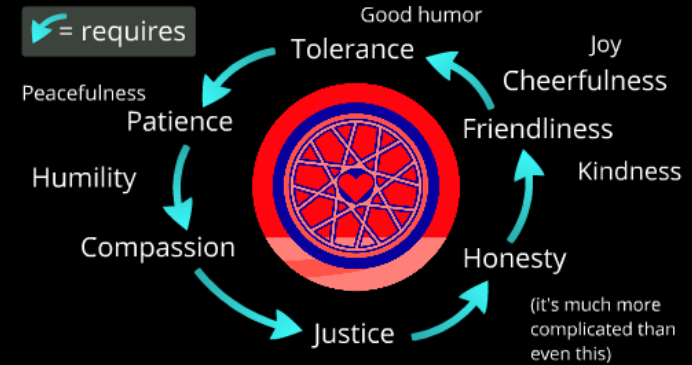


Pattern of worldliness

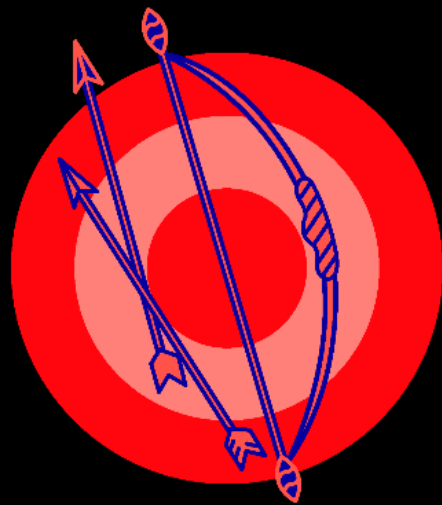


The Old Self

Pattern of Christ



The New Self



Romans 12:1-2

Therefore, I urge you, brothers [and sisters], in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—***this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.*** Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

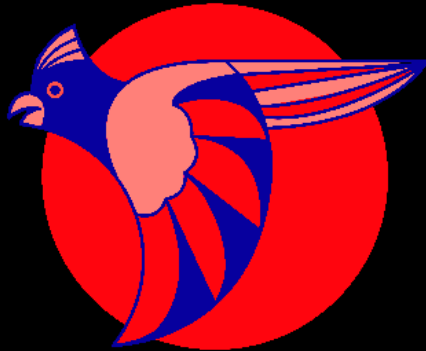
(not God's *mind*)

Mark Three:

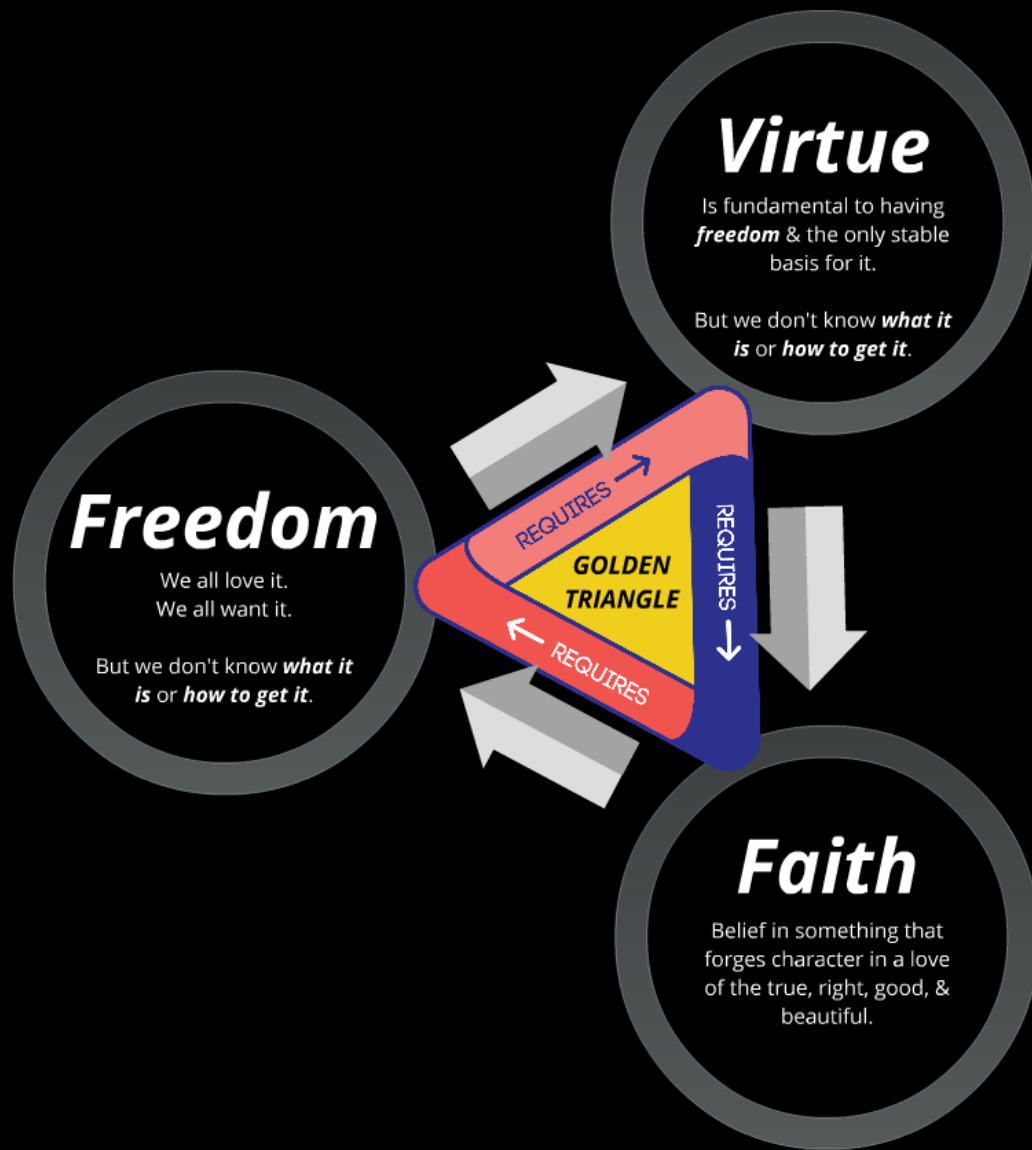
Virtuous Freedom



How Christ makes us free of
our foundational slavery



How Christ maximizes the
good through freedom



Freedom

We all love it.
We all want it.

But we don't know ***what it***
is or ***how to get it.***

What is it?

Freedom is the ability to do the good.

What does Freedom Require?

Self: Self-restraint

Civil: Trust

Freedom requires
virtue

"**Men** are qualified for liberty in exact proportion to their disposition to put moral chains upon their own appetites...**Society** cannot exist unless ***a controlling power*** upon will and appetite ***be placed somewhere***, and the less there is within, the more there must be without. It is ordained in the eternal constitution of things, that **men of intemperate minds cannot be free. Their passions forge their fetters.**"

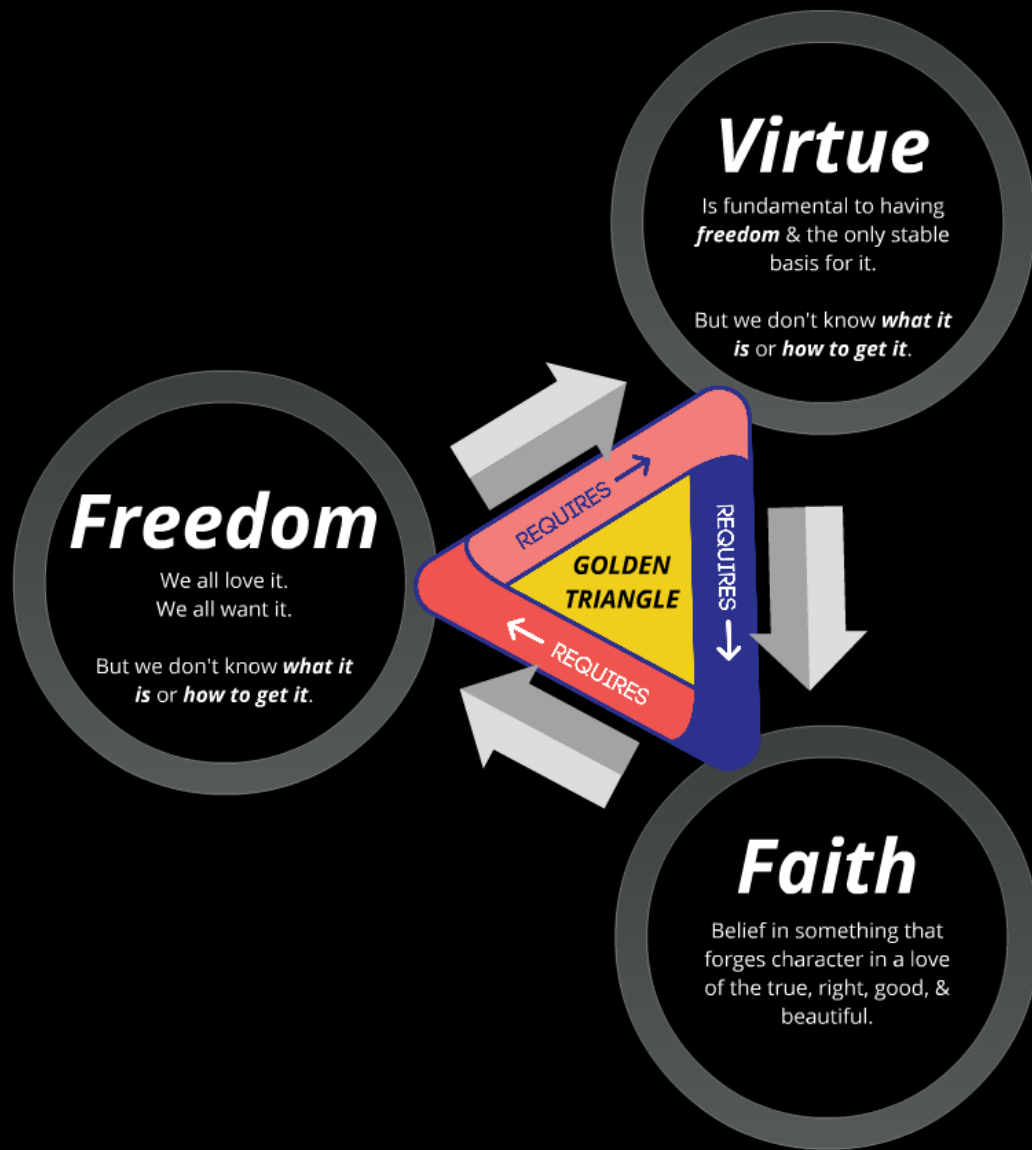
- Edmund Burke

Freedom includes both:

Freedom from- external restraints

Freedom for- capacity to do good

Virtue is the capacity for freedom.



Virtue

Is fundamental to having
freedom & the only stable
basis for it.

But we don't know *what it*
is or *how to get it*.

What is it?

Virtue is the ***strength*** to restrain the flesh and act out of ***love*** for the good.

(courage or moral strength is needed for the execution of any good)

How do we get it?

From where does this ***strength*** and
love come?

Question:

What is our Foundational Slavery?
What keeps us from doing the good?

2 Peter 2:19

They promise them freedom, while they themselves are slaves of depravity—for a man is a slave to whatever has mastered him.

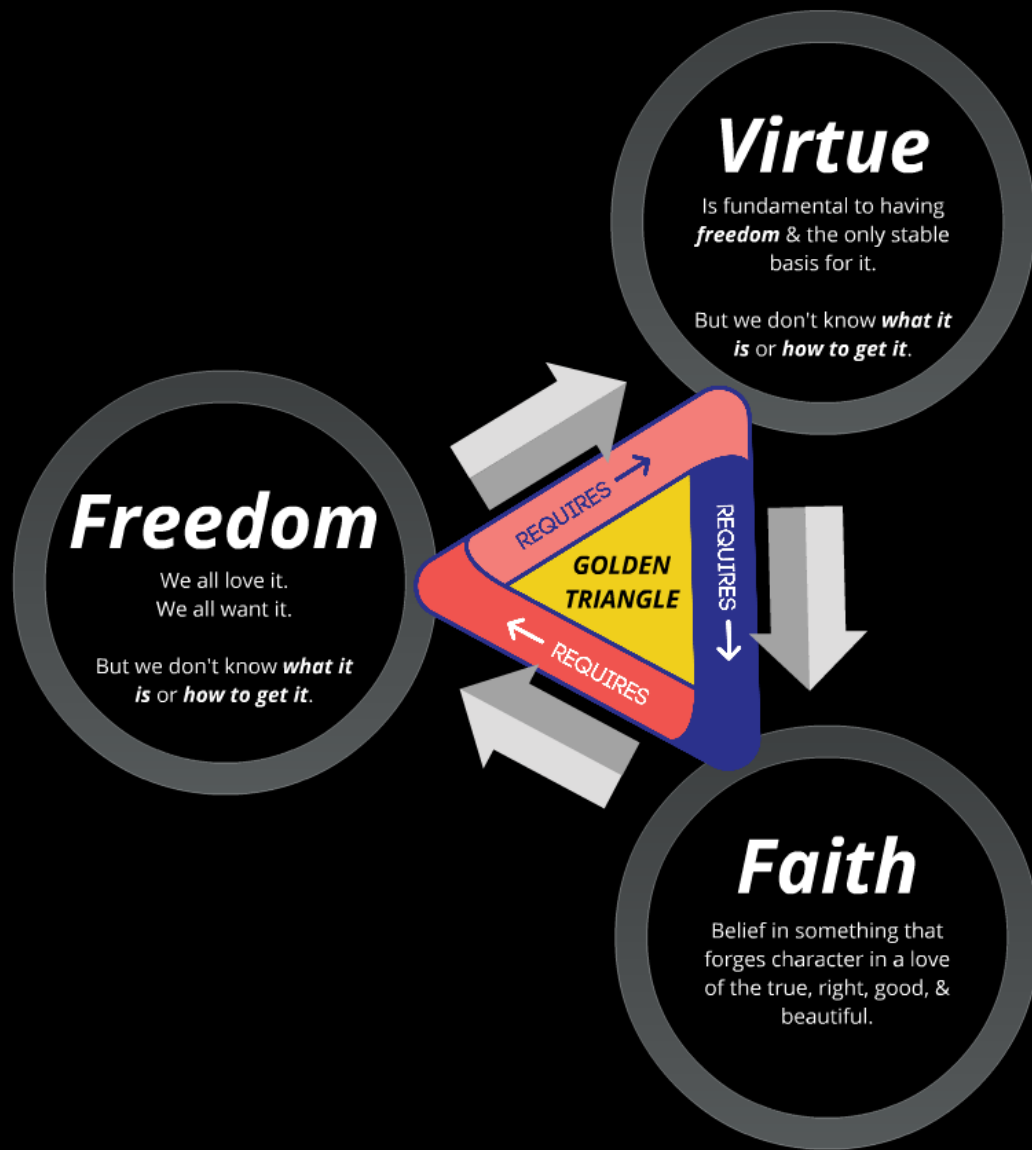
Freedom & virtue require one another,
but freedom can't create virtue.

Virtue can overcome vice (depraved habit) but it
can't create itself

Burke "...to the extent they ***have
a disposition*** to put moral chains
upon their appetites..."

What's the missing piece?

Faith.



Faith

Belief in something that
forges character in a love
of the true, right, good, &
beautiful.

Does faith have to mean *faith in God*?

Without faith in a "moral God of judgment" and reward
John Adams wrote,

"Human reason and human conscience...
are not a match for human passions,
human imaginations, and human
enthusiasm."

We need to settle the question of *allegiance* to be *free*.



Whatever has our full devotion is what shapes us

"The humans become like what they imitate." -C.S. Lewis

Ironically:

Freedom rides on a question of devotion and service.

Ephesians 2:1-5

“As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, **gratifying the cravings of our Flesh and following its desires and thoughts.** Like the rest, we were by **nature objects of wrath.** But because of his great love for us, **God**, who is rich in mercy, **made us alive with Christ** even when we were dead in transgressions-- it is by grace you have been saved.”

Ephesians 4:22-24

You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is ***being corrupted*** by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

(Discerning Sanctification)

Creation:

Creature - Creator

Stewards:

Dependent,
subordinate
& contingent

Imago dei:

In true
righteousness
& holiness

Object of Allegiance

Result of Allegiance

Creator (God)



Conviction

Human



Coercion

Creation



Compulsion

Freedom:

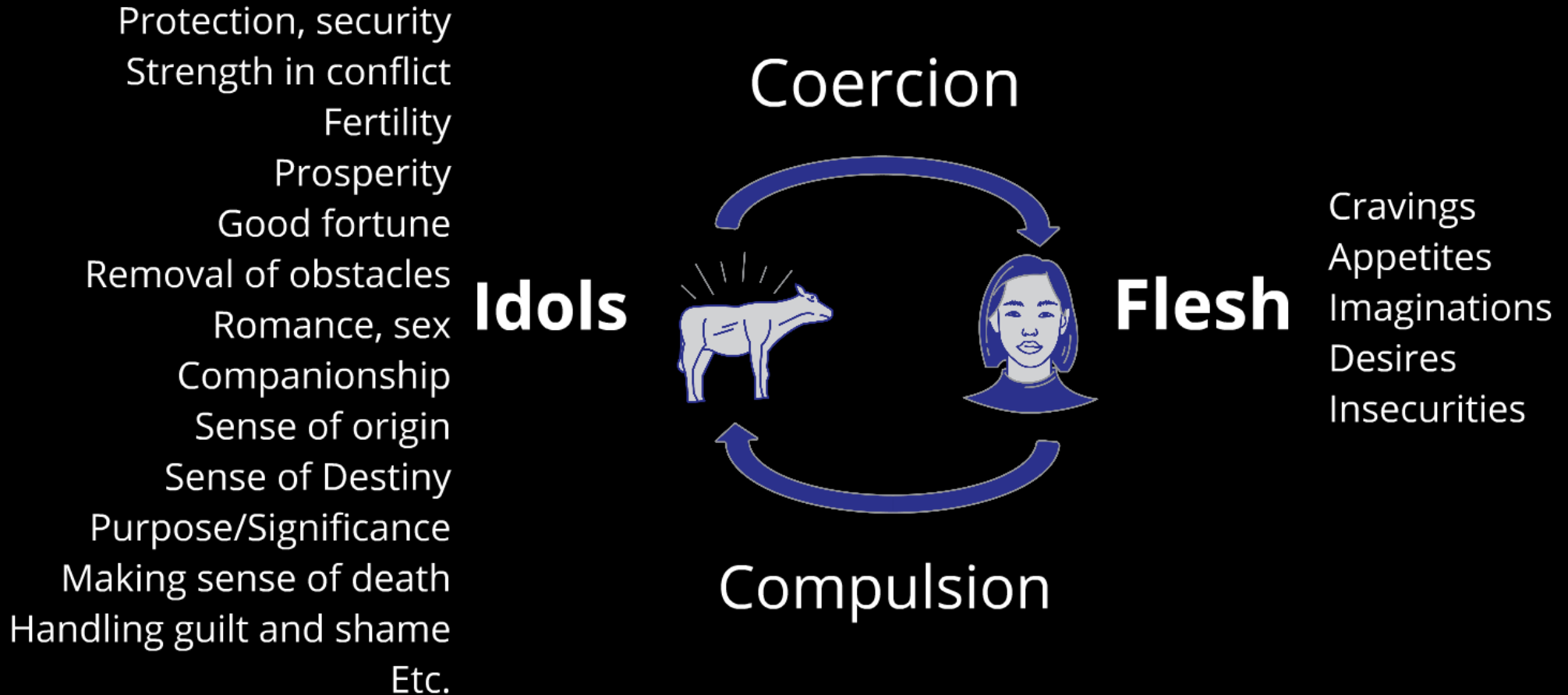
It ***is not*** total independence. (meaning and self-definition)

It ***is not*** giving allegiance to anything in the created order over which we have governance.

It ***is*** being subordinate & dependent on that which is greater than ourselves.

It ***is*** found only in allegiance to (dependence on) God.

Cycle of slavery:



Allegiance: Faith that leads to virtuous freedom

Creator (God)



Conviction

Human

~~Coe~~ ~~ion~~



Love

Right authority and
submission

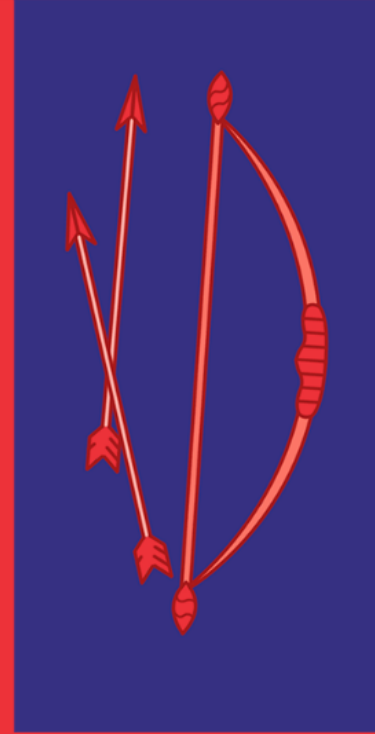
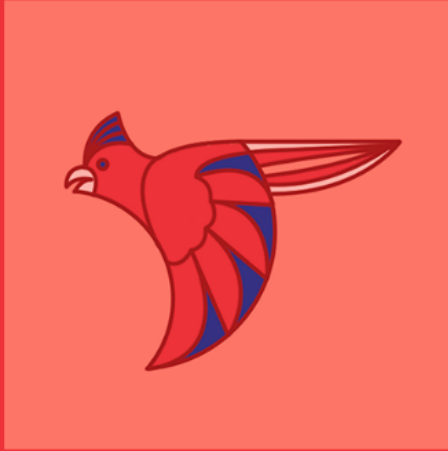
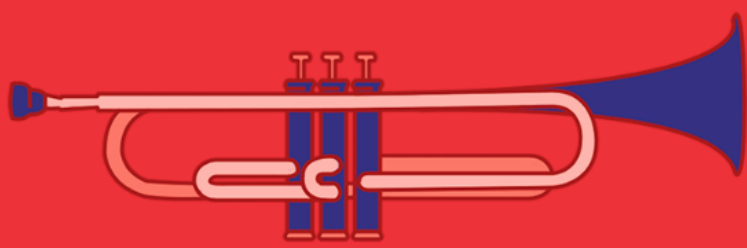
Creation

~~Com~~ ~~ulsion~~



Stewardship

Right care and enjoyment



Virtuous Freedom: Freedom from
SUBSTANCE