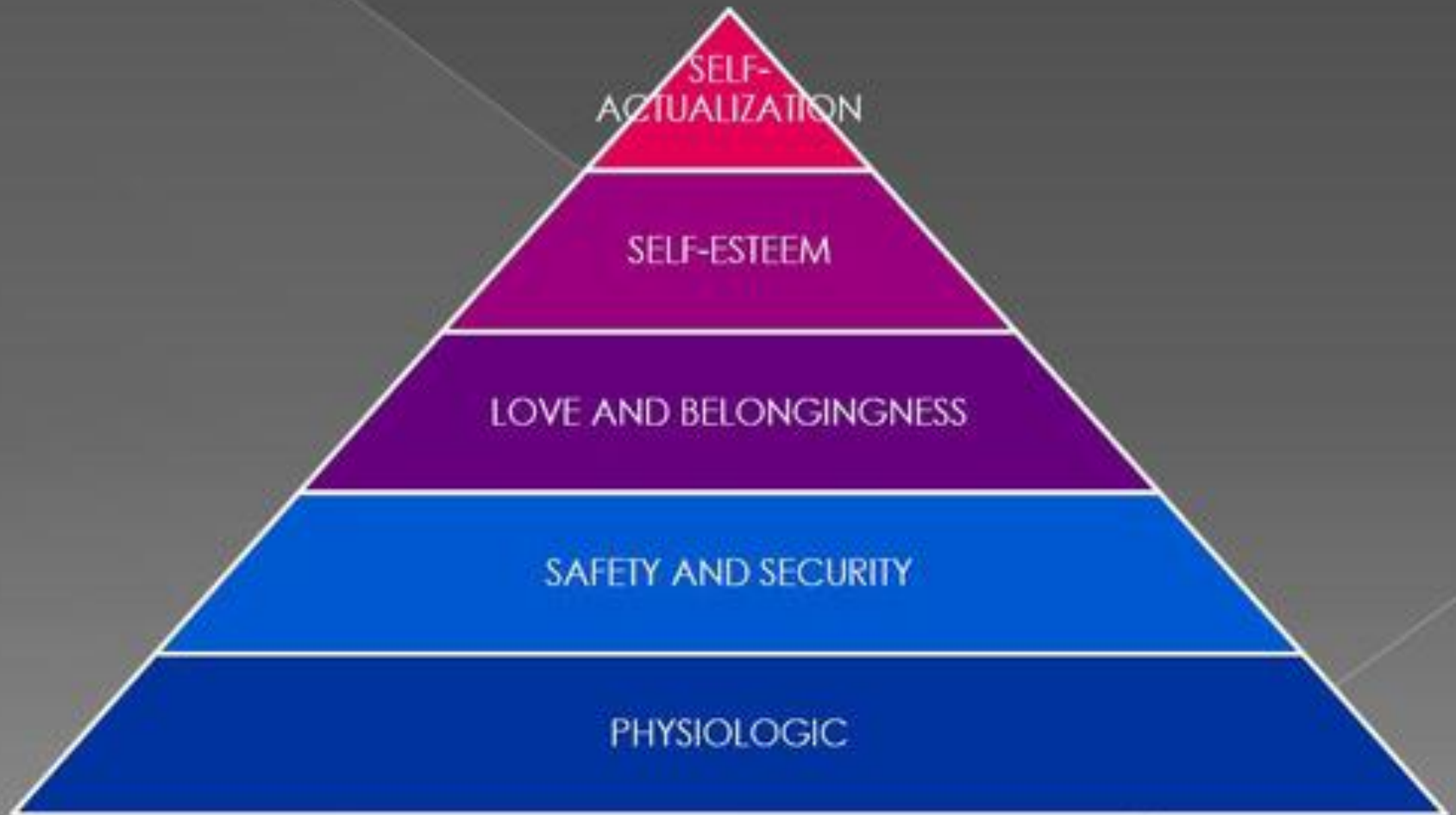


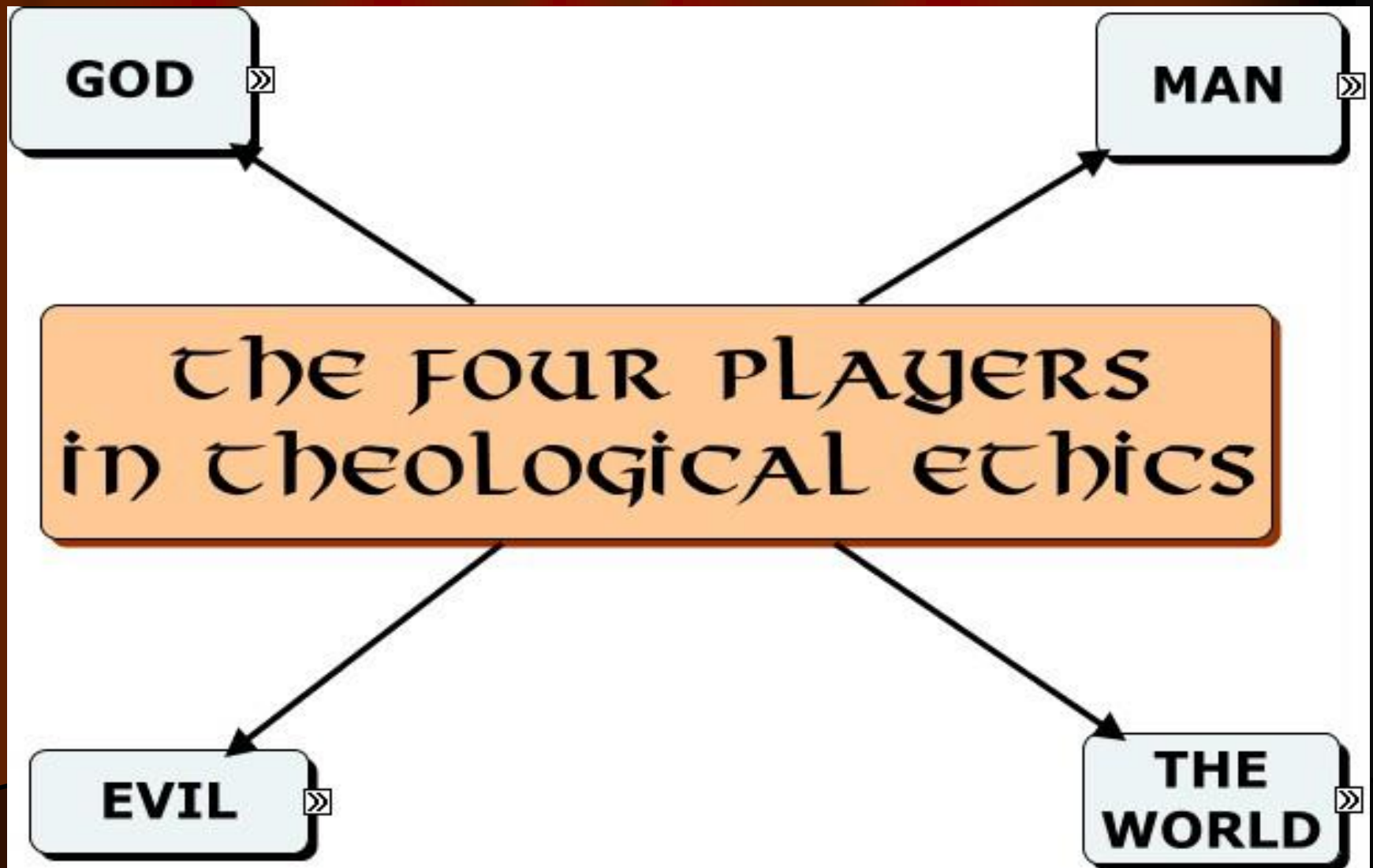
WEALTH AND POVERTY IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

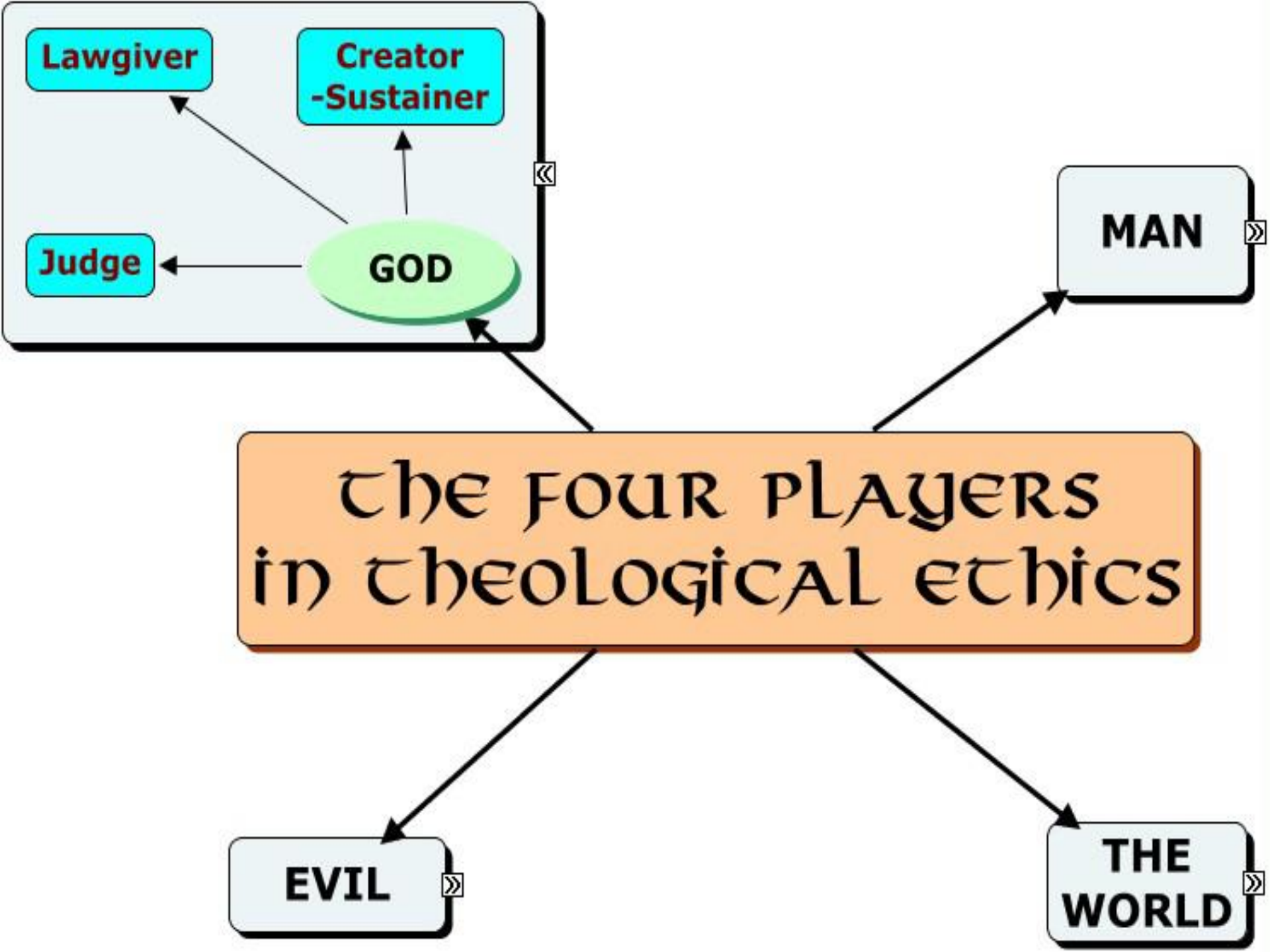
- Introduction
 1. Ethics and Ontology
 - Ethics without Ontology (Hilary Putnam)
 - Philosophy without Ontology – impossible (Hartmann)
 2. The Ontological Commitment of Theology
 - God – the determinative reality
 - “public privileged knowledge”
 - Whoever mocks the poor insults his Maker (Pro 17:5)

MASLOW'S HIERARCHY OF NEEDS



THINK ONTOLOGICALLY





**THE FOUR PLAYERS
in THEOLOGICAL ethics**

Lawgiver

**Creator
-Sustainer**

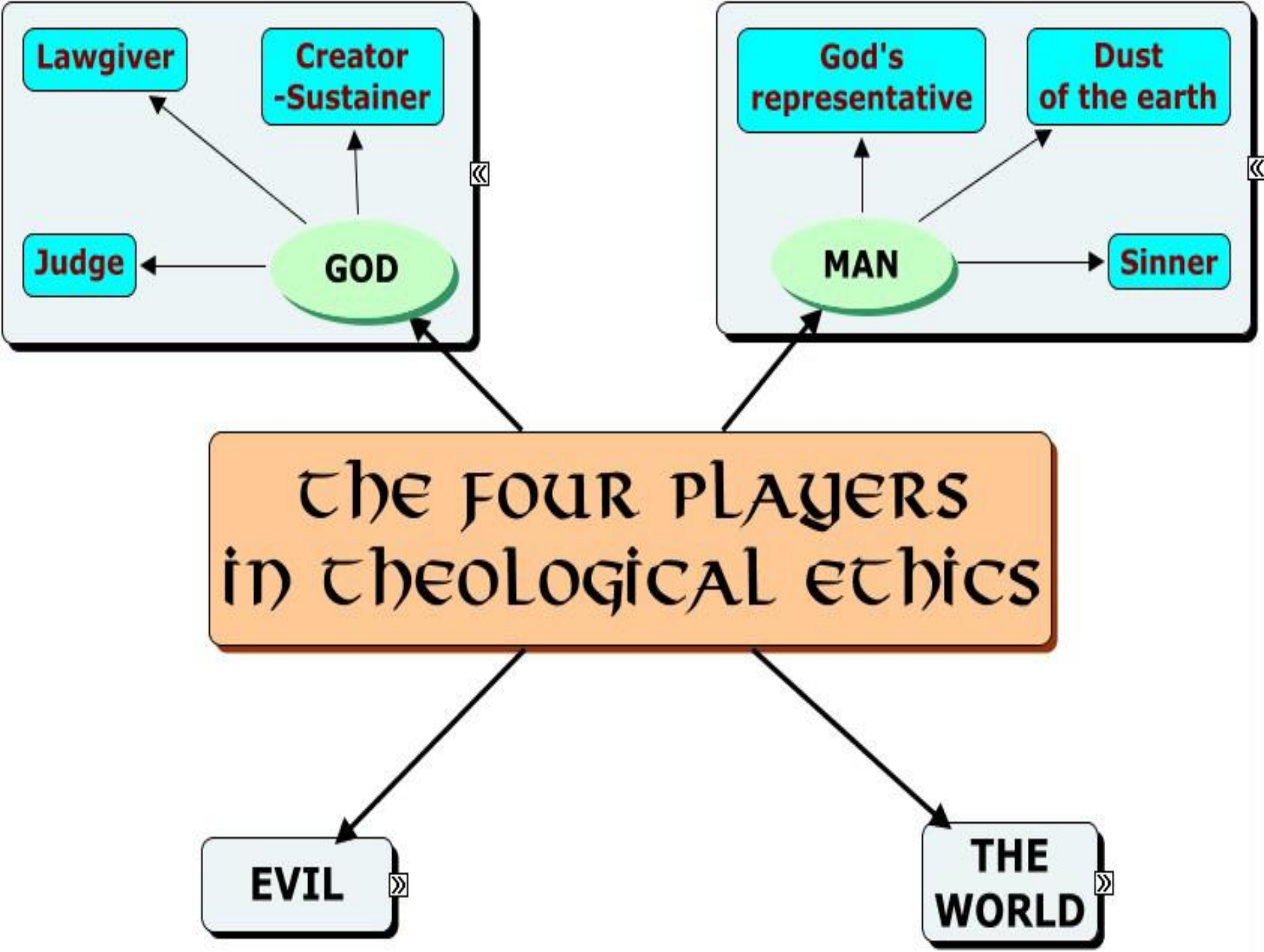
Judge

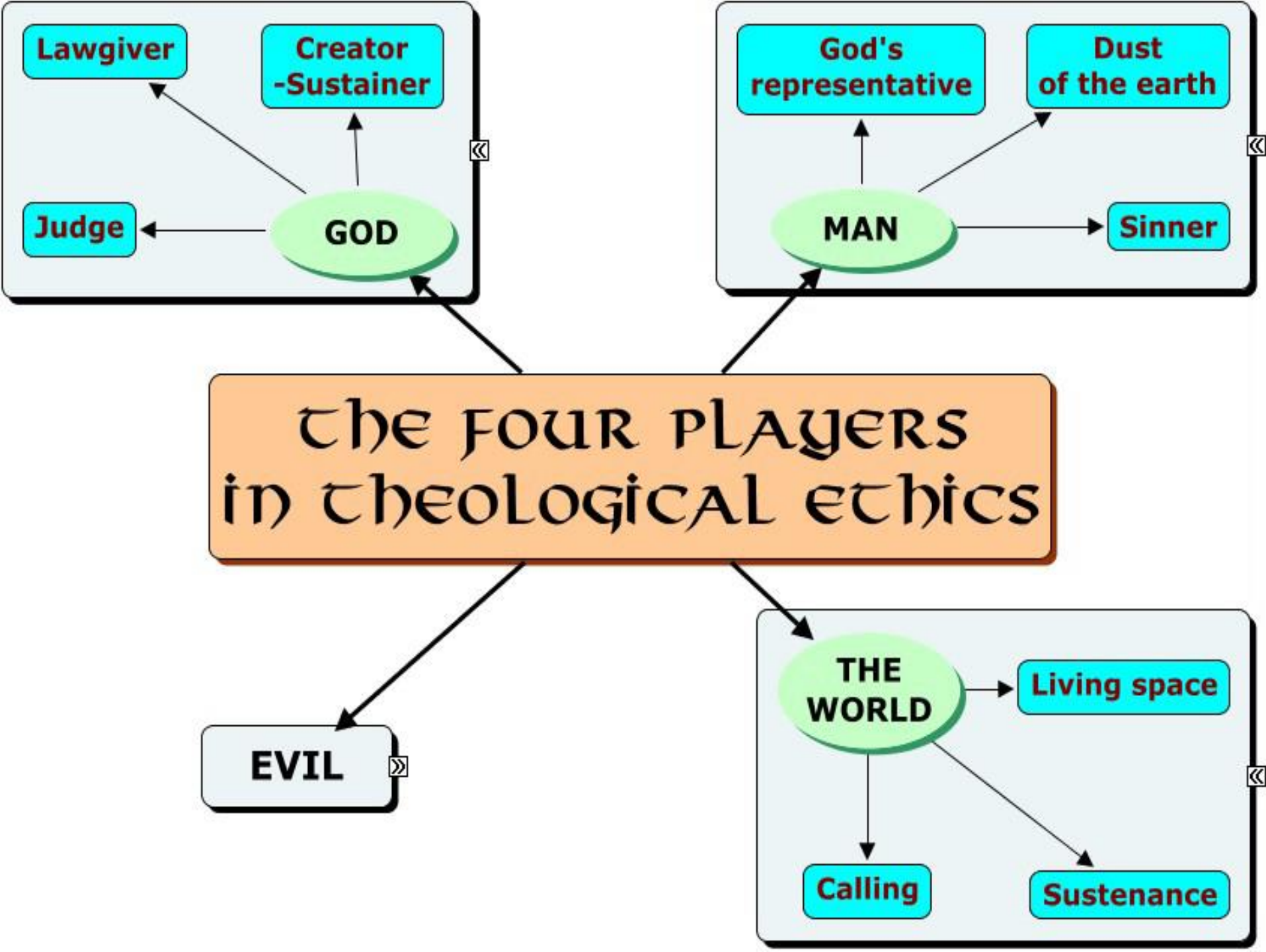
GOD

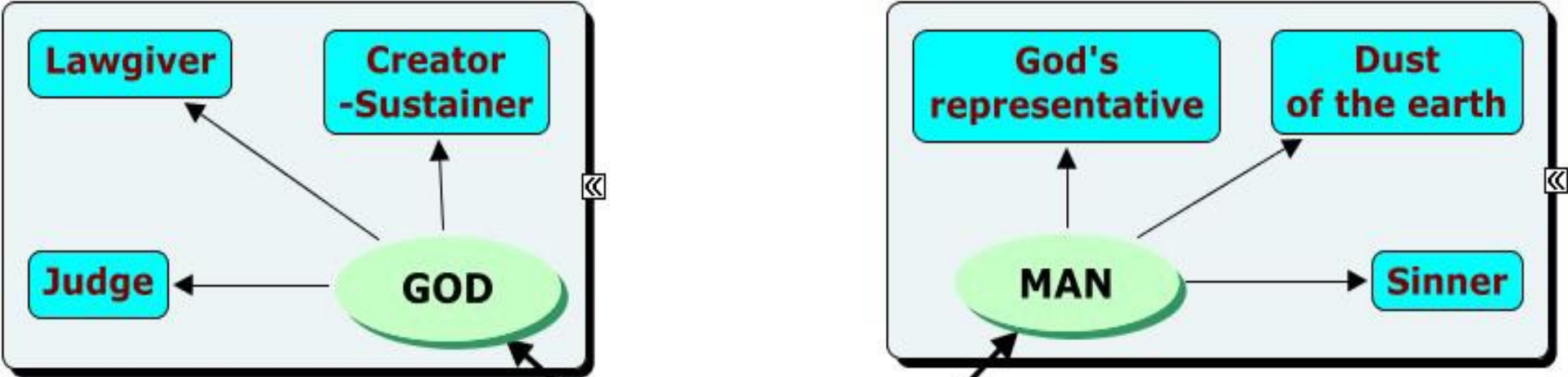
MAN

EVIL

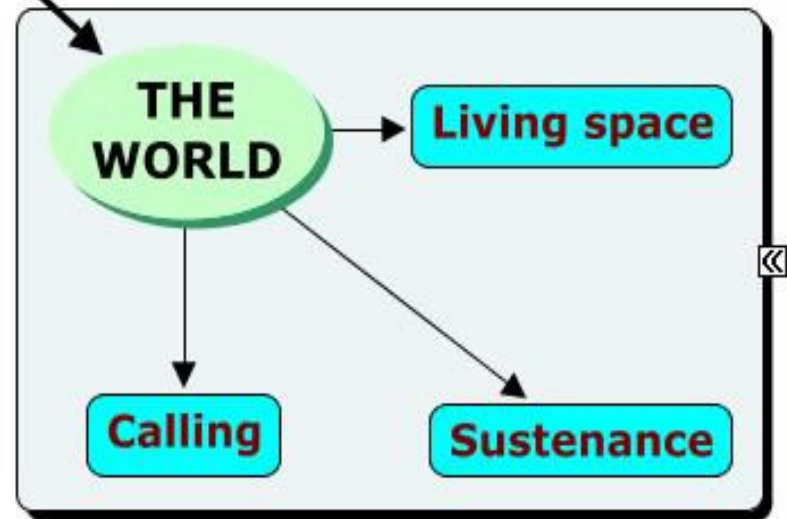
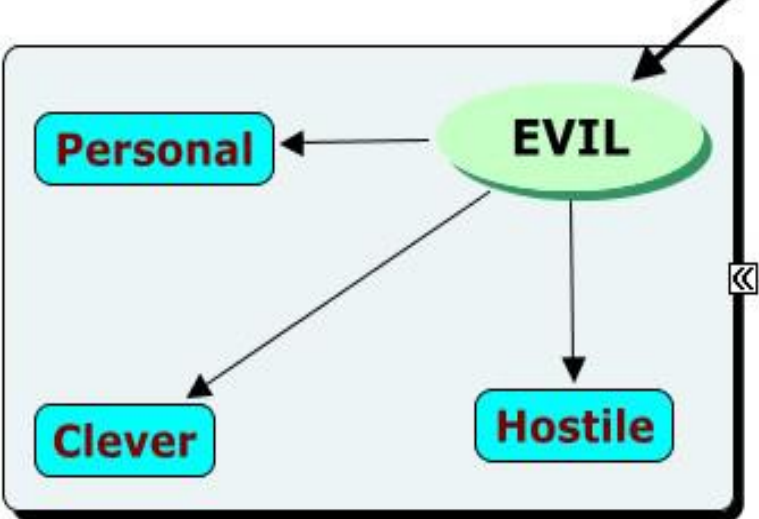
**THE
WORLD**







THE FOUR PLAYERS in THEOLOGICAL ethics



POVERTY: WORD STUDY

- Frequent Hebrew words for "poor" & "poverty"
 - "in want" רֹשׁ (a general word for poverty)
 - "dependent" אֲבִיוֹן (in need of help; afflicted)
 - "low", "insignificant" דָּל (reduced social status)
 - "humble", "meek" עָנָו (oppressed; pious)
- Poverty-related problems
 - material deprivation; alienation; dependence; lack of freedom; vulnerability;

POVERTY: THE NEGATIVES AND POSITIVES

1. The negatives: Poverty is...
 1. ...life threatening (Pro 6:11, 10:15)
 2. ...dishonouring (Ps 14:6)
 3. ...oppressing (Amo 5:12)
 4. ...tempting to sin (Pro 30:8-9)
 5. ...a punishment for sin (Dt 28:15ff)
 6. ...a consequence of sin (laziness, Pro 10:4)
2. The "positives of poverty" (paradox)
 1. God's special attention (Ps 12:5; Pro 19:17)
 2. Dependence on God, humility, faith (Ps 14:6)

THE NEGATIVES AND THE POSITIVES OF WEALTH

1. Wealth – the positives

1. Blessing (Dt 28:1ff)
2. Sign of faith and righteousness (Abraham, Salomon)

2. Wealth – the negatives

1. Independence from God (Pro 30:8-9)
2. Temptation to greed (Ps 52:7[9])
3. Abuse of power (Ps 10:2; Pro 18:23)

SUMMARY

1. Theological thinking about poverty has to begin with ontology – God and the 'big picture'.
2. The 'big picture' helps to see things in perspective.
3. Results of this approach should be seen in the practical application of the theological principles to everyday life.