



**Webinar:**  
**Strengthening churches now  
and beyond Covid-19**

Start: 6:00pm Central European time (Germany)



*Excerpt from a letter to church members,  
April 2020*



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**3 min. breakout time**  
**Meet in groups of 2-3**



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**Which is the #1 benefit  
(for church development)  
that you have personally  
experienced in the context  
of the Corona crisis?**



# Poll



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Have the churches within your area of responsibility suffered from the restrictions due to Covid-19?



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1. Yes, strongly.



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Have the churches within your area of responsibility suffered from the restrictions due to Covid-19?

1. Yes, strongly.

2. Yes, a bit.





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Have the churches within your area of responsibility suffered from the restrictions due to Covid-19?

1. Yes, strongly.

2. Yes, a bit.

3. No, just the opposite.



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# The situation



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1. In this time window, people may not be able to attend physical meetings, such as committees, worship services, small groups, etc.
2. Many people are now more receptive toward revising routines of their lives.
3. It is an ideal time for leaders to strategically invest in the health of people.
4. People can invest in their own qualitative growth.
5. We will be able to see the results of that investment once church life will switch to “normal.”



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# **3 Examples**

*for health-enducing measures without the  
necessity of a single physical contact*



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## **I. Three-Color eTests targeted at personal growth**



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**2. NCD Church Survey**

**3. Study groups on NCD eBooks**



# Goal



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**Not “emergency care,”  
but strategic investment in  
qualitative growth**



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# Spiritual Style Test

**personal** profile

Christian A. Schwarz

May 2020

eTest  
3colorsofyourspirituality.org

Have you ever had experiences where you felt strongly connected with God, while in other situations, those around you seemed to be having a deep spiritual experience that didn't really speak to you?

Would you like to find ways of living out your unique relationship with God in a way that energizes you and increases your level of confidence as you face the challenges of life?

Well, your Spiritual Style Test results reveal that one of the ways you live out your spirituality most naturally, authentically, and fruitfully, is in those moments when you are involved in...



## Expressing the incarnation of God

This may happen particularly when you focus on ceremony and symbolism. This unique antenna to God is called the...

### **sacramental style**

While, throughout your life, you may have discovered other ways of encountering God, your native spiritual style describes your "spiritual mother tongue," so to speak. It is the language with which you most naturally connect with God.

It is essential for you to fully understand the uniqueness of your spiritual style, and to live it out in your personal times with God, in your everyday life, and in community with others.

So, how do you do that?



# Embracing the sacramental style

## Expressing the incarnation of God

The greatest strength of your style is its physical expression of faith. For that reason, people that have been strongly shaped by this style, love to make use of materials such as water, bread, wine, oil, and many other elements, objects and living things. The physical world is not devalued, but seen as a bridge to spiritual secrets.

The sacramental style—as a spiritual style—should not be identified with a particular theological position, i.e. that which different churches teach about the sacraments. It can be found both in “sacramental churches” and in decidedly “non-sacramental churches” (though a little less frequently).

The core of this style is an incarnational approach to spirituality. Incarnation, in essence, means that the invisible becomes visible, the unlimited lets itself be limited. God voluntarily let himself be confined within time and space when he became human through Jesus Christ. For the sacramental style this event is central.

Therefore it is natural for people like you to use the physical world to express nonphysical, spiritual truth. The spiritual and the material are not seen as being in opposition to one another. God reveals himself to us through material means.

Some representatives of the sacramental style show a strong appreciation of traditions, rites, and ceremonies. The focus of this approach to spirituality is not so much on the individual, but on community—including community with, and reverence for, people who have gone before us. It is not ours to decide how we deal with traditions if we want to take the community of the body of Christ seriously. There is a spirit of connectedness to be found in the rhythms and repetitions that bring us in touch with the larger story of our existence. For people with the sacramental style, this is a powerful source of affirmation and confidence.

The Word became flesh  
and made his dwelling among us.  
~John 1:14~

## Questions to consider:

- Which parts of this description of the sacramental style can you best relate to? Can you give examples from your life? Are there parts of the description that you don't feel apply to you? Which ones?
- Who do you know that is a good example of someone with the sacramental style? What is particularly appealing to you about such people's connection with God?
- How do you presently embrace the sacramental style? What does it look like?
- In what ways does your prayer life connect with the sacramental style?
- Do you feel that those you spend most of your time with (e.g. family, friends, colleagues, church family, etc.) help you or hinder you in expressing the sacramental style? How so?
- What do you suspect others may not understand or appreciate about the sacramental style?
- How would you describe the limitations (weaknesses, dangers, dark sides) of the sacramental style?
- What needs to happen for you to more fully embrace the sacramental style?



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# The 9 Spiritual Styles in your life

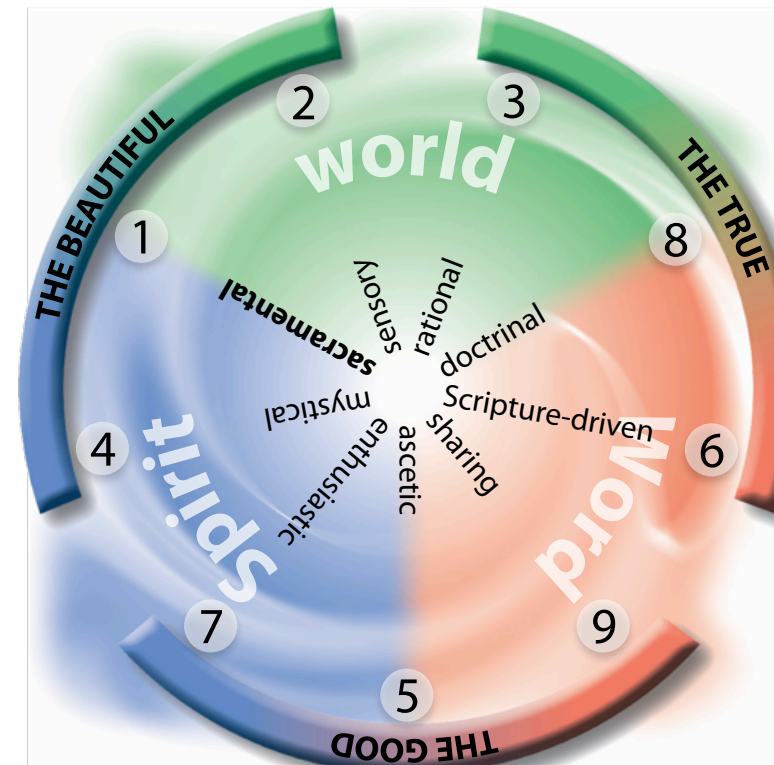
While your highest spiritual style is the sacramental style, you can see from the diagram on the right that there are other styles that have also ranked highly according to your responses. A helpful way to understand the nature of each style is to take note of where it sits on the diagram in relation to the True, the Good, and the Beautiful as well as its connection with God's threefold revelation: Word (red), Spirit (blue), and world (green).

## Antennas for the divine

In order to understand what a spiritual style is all about, it is helpful first to view it as an "antenna for the divine." God "broadcasts," so to speak, on all nine channels, and your spiritual style profile indicates which ones you are best able to tune into at this stage in your life. The reason that you don't receive as clearly (or receive anything at all) on the other channels is not that God doesn't broadcast anything, but simply that you haven't tuned in these channels. This is where our metaphor breaks down: While on a TV set you can switch to the channel of our choice by a simple click on the remote control, a considerable degree of preparation is required on our part in order to improve the reception of any of the nine spiritual channels that are currently not strongly developed.

Each one of the spiritual styles makes it possible to connect with God in different kinds of circumstances. For example: the rational style comes to life if there is a problem to solve or an idea to consider; the enthusiastic style usually thrives when amongst lots of like-minded people; and the sharing style needs something to give. Because your life is made up of all kinds of circumstances, developing a wide variety of spiritual styles makes it possible for you to encounter God in many different situations. As long as you have only developed one or two styles, you are bound to only experience God at certain times and places. This makes it all the more important for you to engage your sacramental style so that you have at least one context in which you can connect with God. But then, having embraced that style, growing in other styles will help you to increasingly know the mind of God, see the work of God, and feel the presence of God no matter what circumstances you find yourself in.

As Jesus walked the earth, he was aware of the thoughts, presence and activity of his Father wherever he went. If you want to increasingly experience the fullness of life that Jesus has, then embracing your native style and learning from other styles about how to be receptive to God must be the goal of your spiritual development.



*Your Spiritual Style Profile. The numbers from 1 (highest) to 9 (lowest) indicate how strongly developed each of the styles are in your life. You will learn a lot about the nature of each style when you consider its exact positioning in the three-color compass where, alongside the True, the Good, and the Beautiful, the three color segments highlight God's threefold revelation: Word (red), Spirit (blue), and world (green).*

## Questions to consider:

- Are you surprised by how high or how low any of these styles have ranked for you? How so?
- Have you ever had any negative experiences with people or groups who tend to emphasize one of these styles? What happened?
- Are there times or places where you feel closer to God? What are they? Can you relate those experiences to one of your higher spiritual styles?
- Do you know anyone, whose awareness of God you admire, who is perhaps quite strong in one of your lower ranking styles? What is it you appreciate about their life? What style/s do you think are strongly developed in their life?



# The 9 Spiritual Styles in your life

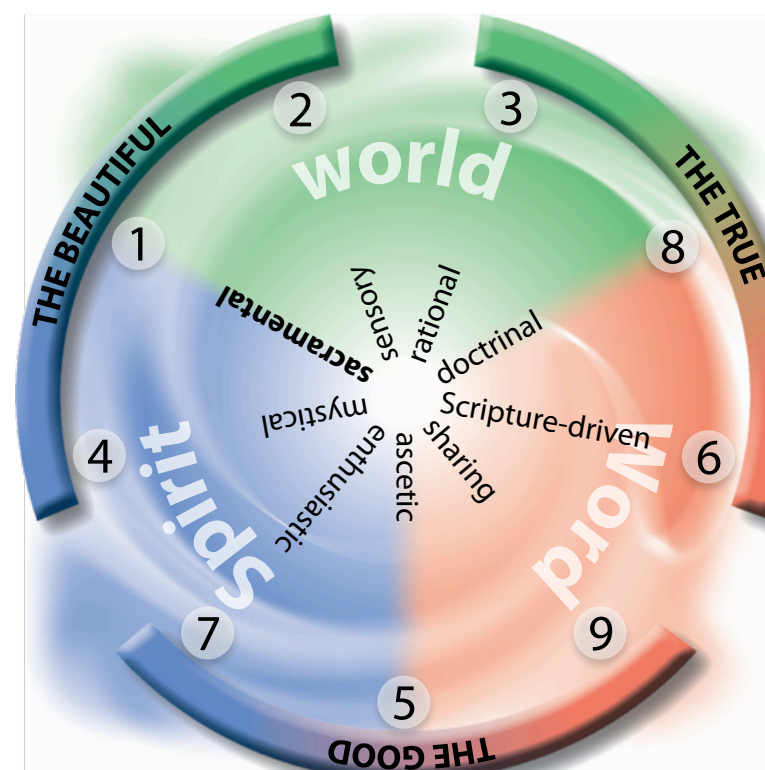
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# Spiritual Style Test

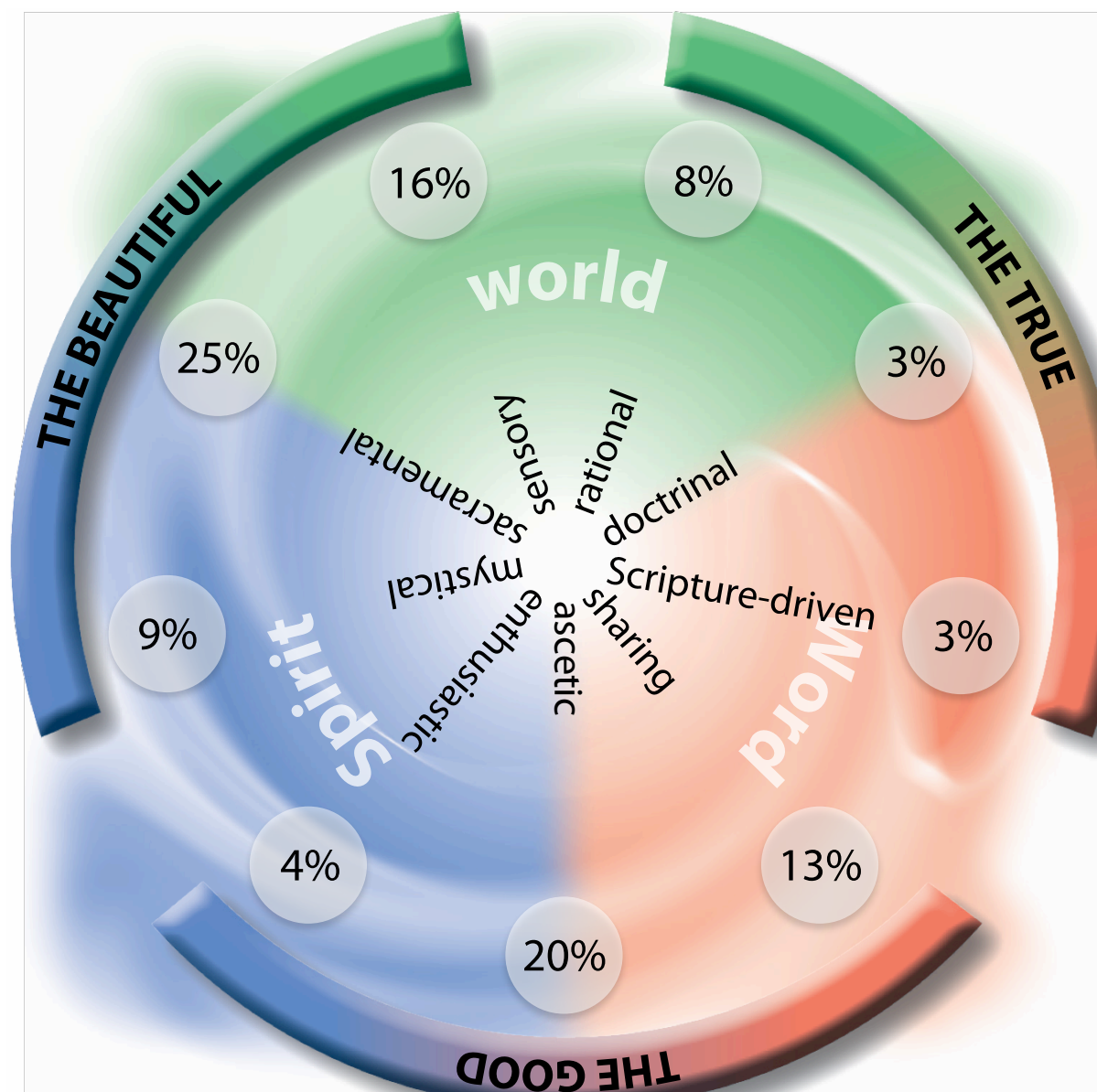
**group** profile

Ncd Conference 2018

September 2018

eTest  
3colorsofyourspirituality.org

This group profile will assist you in discovering how others can help you to be renewed and stretched in your spirituality, and how you can help others to also experience that. It will help you initiate mutual learning that revitalizes the spiritual passion of a group of people, regardless of their present starting point.



The diagram to the left indicates the percentage of people in your group who have a given spiritual style as their native, i.e. highest-scoring, style. At the same time, it shows whether your group is mostly fueled by the True, the Good, or the Beautiful.

These two pieces of information are of immense significance both for you and the group as a whole. They reveal unique insights into spiritual dynamics among the people around you that are key to increasing spiritual passion.

The next few pages of this profile will show you, step by step, how you can utilize this information both for your own spiritual growth and for the growth of the people around you.





# Your group's Spiritual Growth Tracker

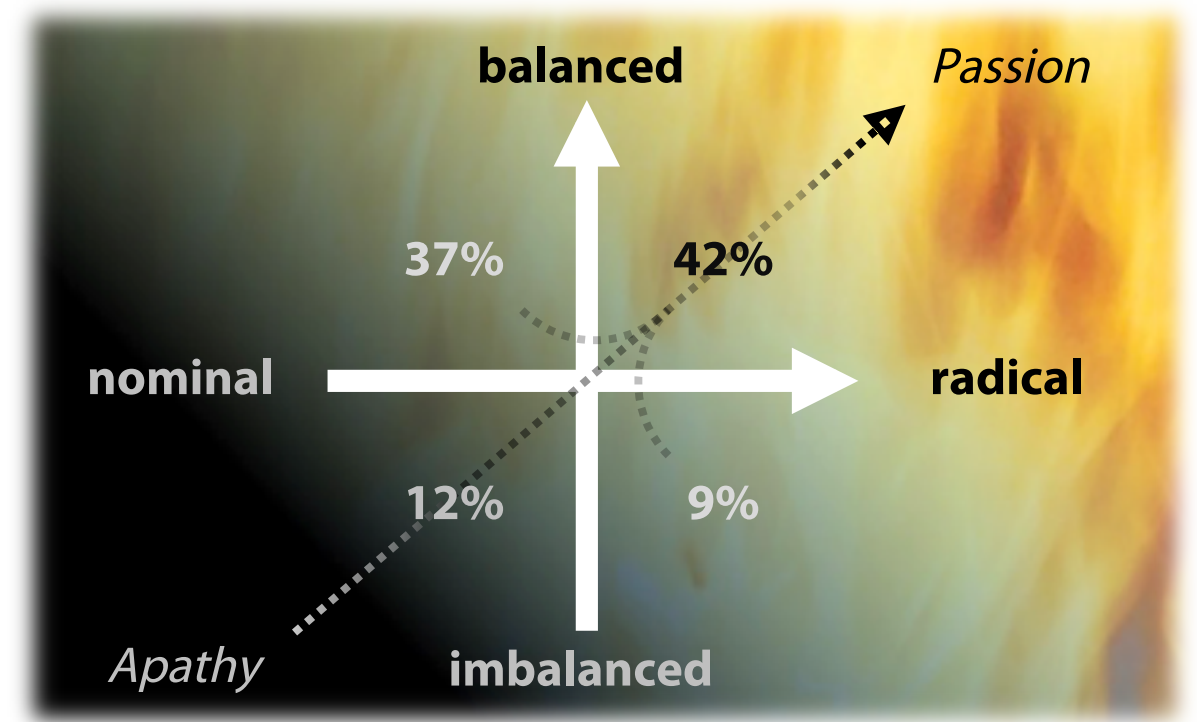
Many churches that have taken the NCD Church Survey are eager to grow in the area of "passionate spirituality." The Spiritual Growth Tracker helps them take the right steps and monitor their progress along the way.

On a personal level, each participant has already learned their present position within the Growth Tracker. This Group Profile displays the percentage of people in your group who are in each quadrant. The higher the percentage in the category "radical/balanced," the more indication of spiritual maturity and passion. By repeating the Group Profile regularly, you can monitor your progress over time.

In their personal profiles, your group members received suggestions as to what to do in order to make progress. At a combined level, you should not make the mistake of treating the group as one homogenous entity, assuming that everyone has to take the same next steps. While there may be certain overall tendencies in your group, each of the members have different growth needs. Through processes of mutual mentoring, you can help each individual person to enter a growth path that is tailor-made for their spiritual needs.

## Questions to consider:

- What is currently the greatest growth direction needed by your group as a whole: toward balance or radicalness? Does that surprise you?
- What can you do practically to help each individual within your group with their unique growth needs in terms of radicalness/balance?
- What could you do to help launch processes of mutual mentoring (see [3colorsofyourspirituality.org](http://3colorsofyourspirituality.org)) to help individuals grow either in radicalness (pursuing their native styles) or balance (exploring their lower styles)?
- If you are part of a church that has taken the NCD Church Survey, how do the results of the Spiritual Growth Tracker relate to the scores for "passionate spirituality" in those survey results? If your church as a whole has not discovered their spiritual styles, could that be of benefit? Who could take the lead on that process?
- How could you help others outside of your group to identify and live out their spiritual styles?



*The Spiritual Growth Tracker reveals what percentage of your group members have each of the four starting points for further growth. This growth aims at moving them on from nominalism and imbalance toward a level of renewal that emerges as life-changing passion.*

- Which other groups that you are connected with would benefit from exploring their spiritual styles? In the interests of helping others grow and in order to discover a higher number of mutual mentoring partners for your own group members, which other groups should your group consider sponsoring to take the Spiritual Style Test?
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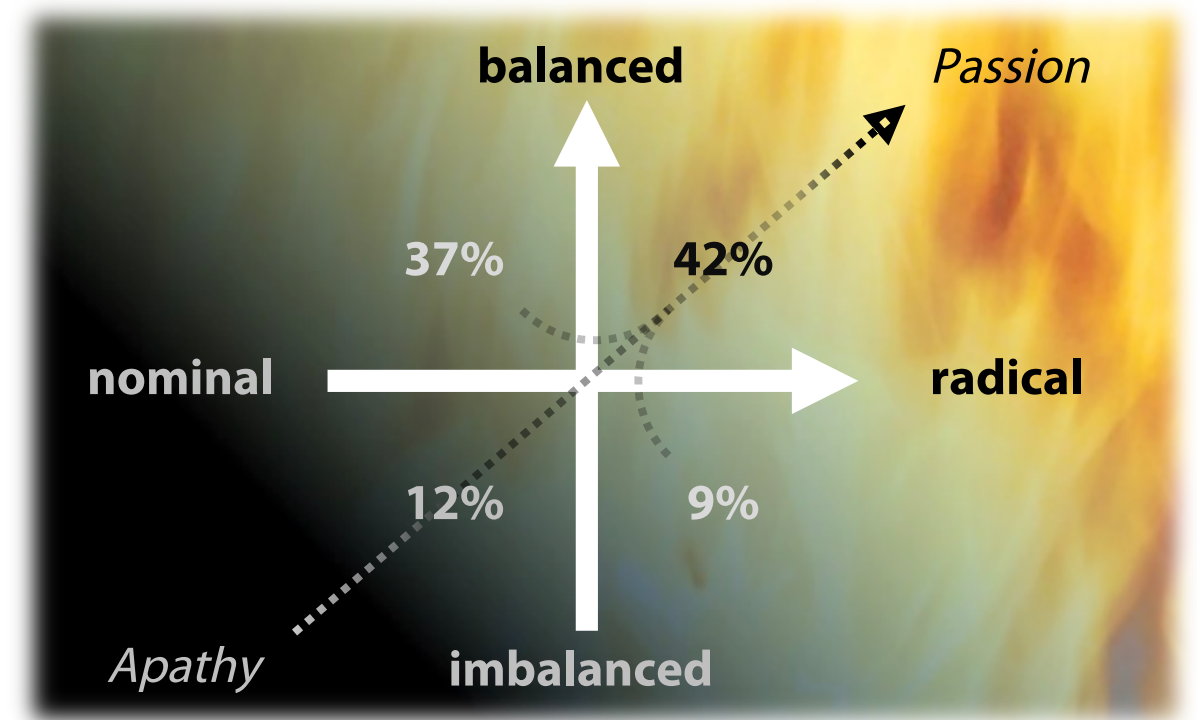
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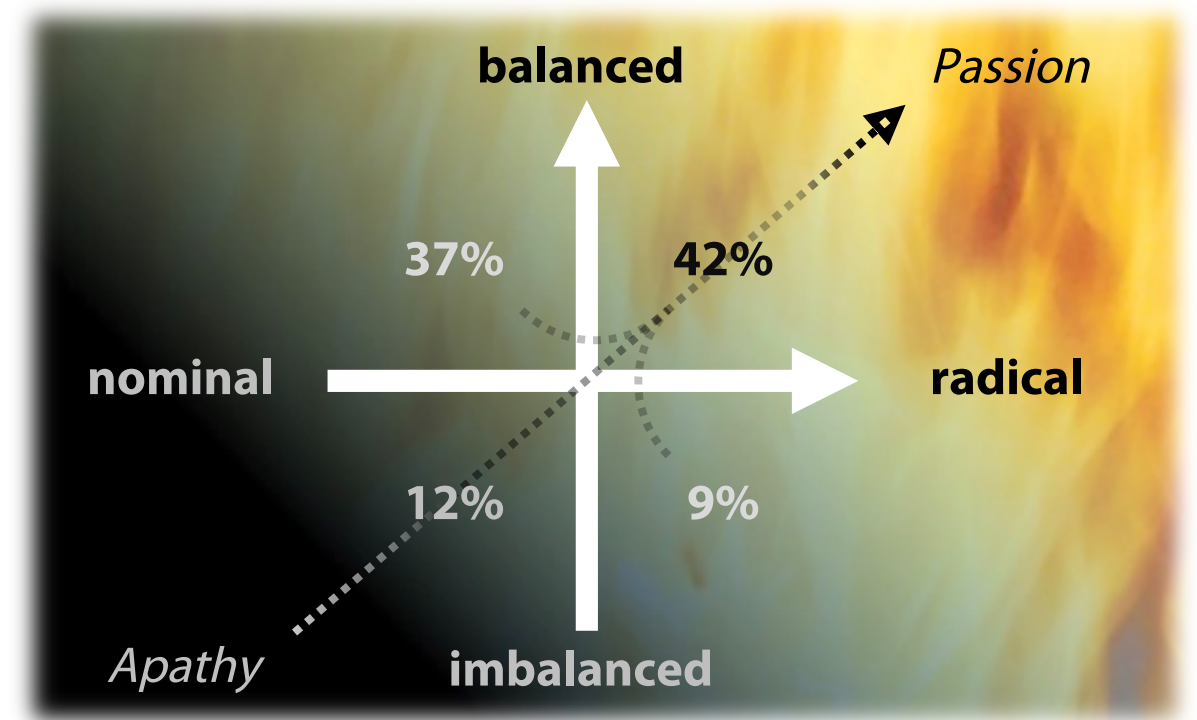
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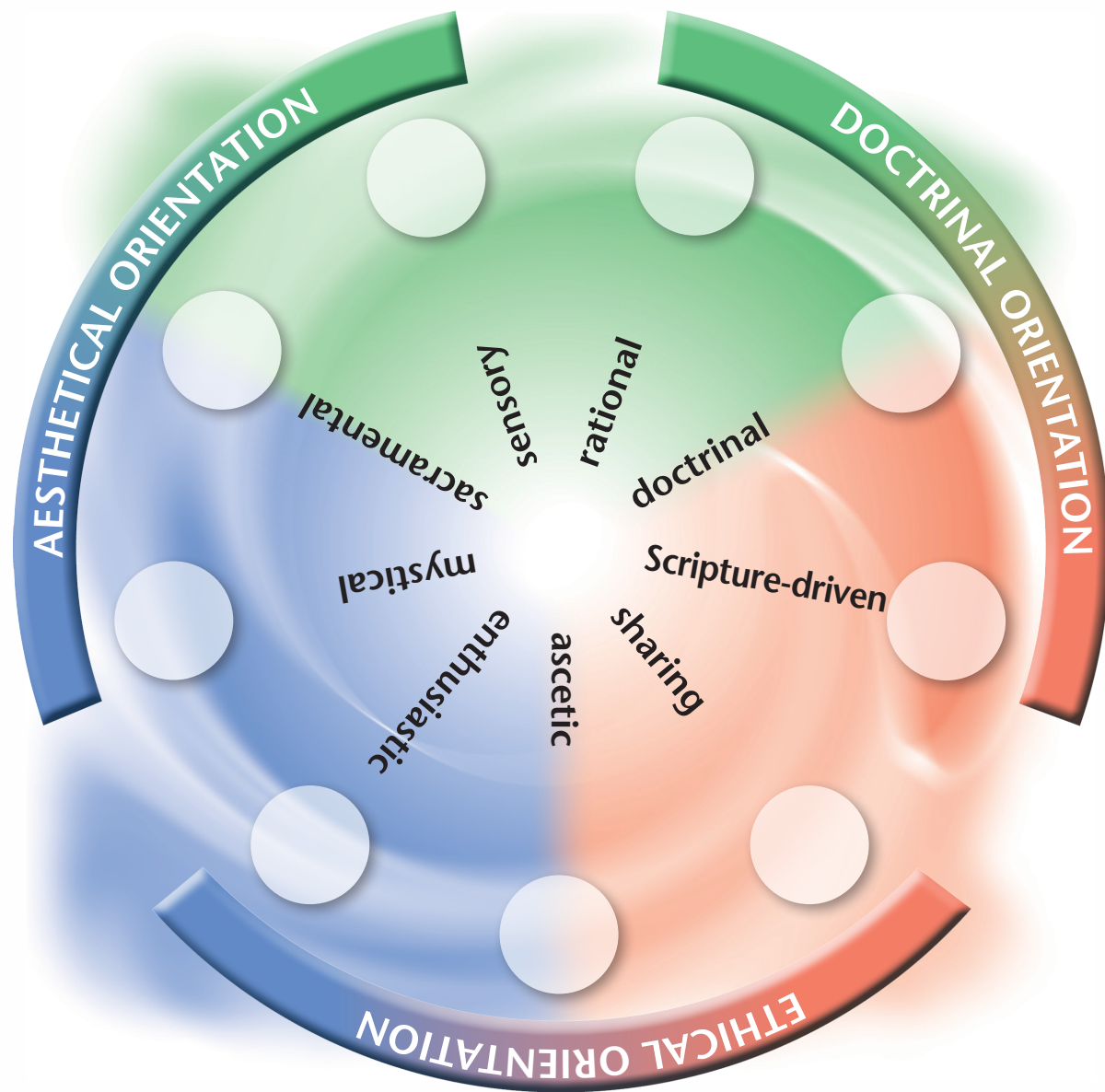
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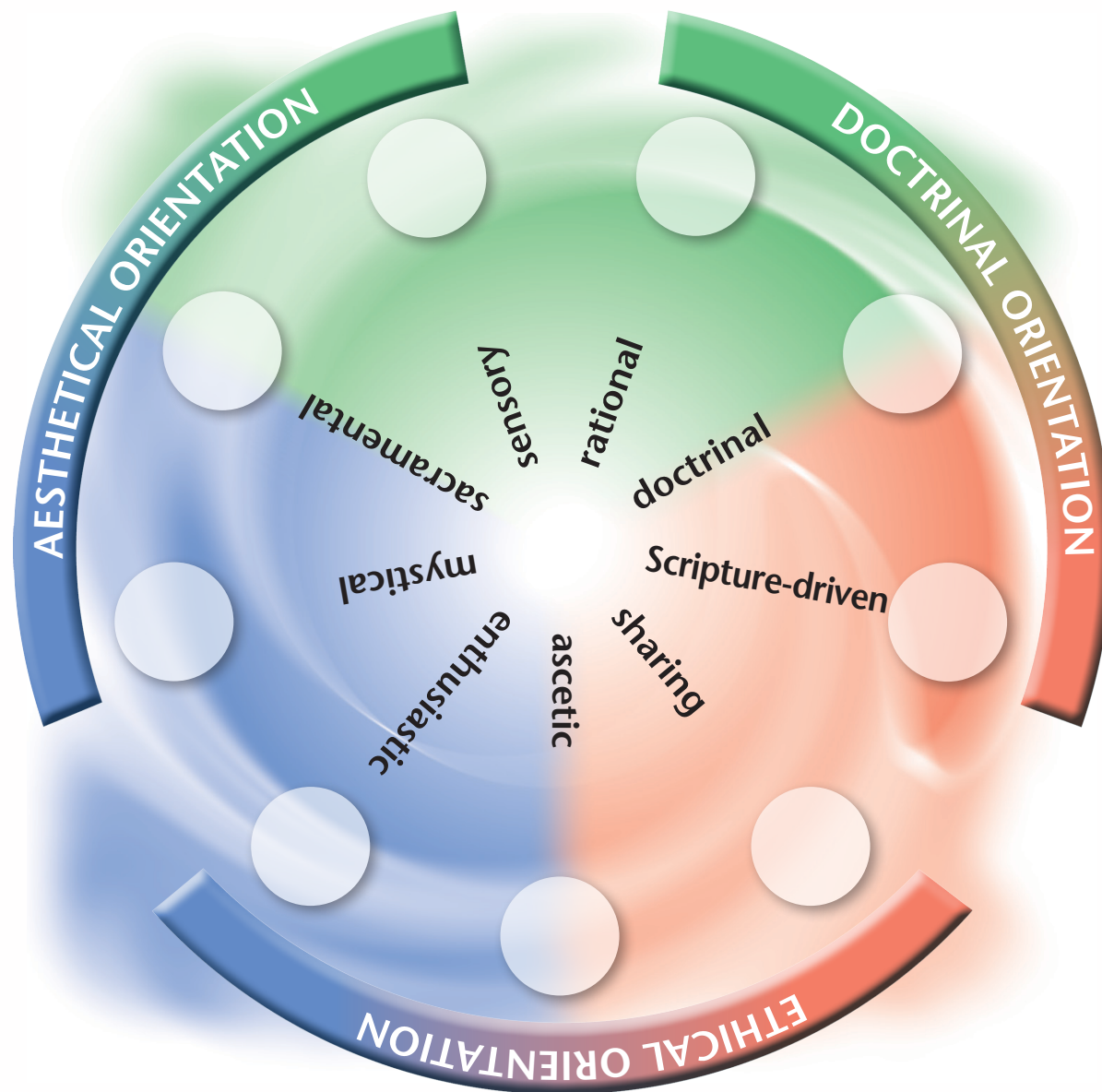
- When will your group repeat the Spiritual Style Test to monitor your progress?

# Spiritual Style Profile: Anglicans

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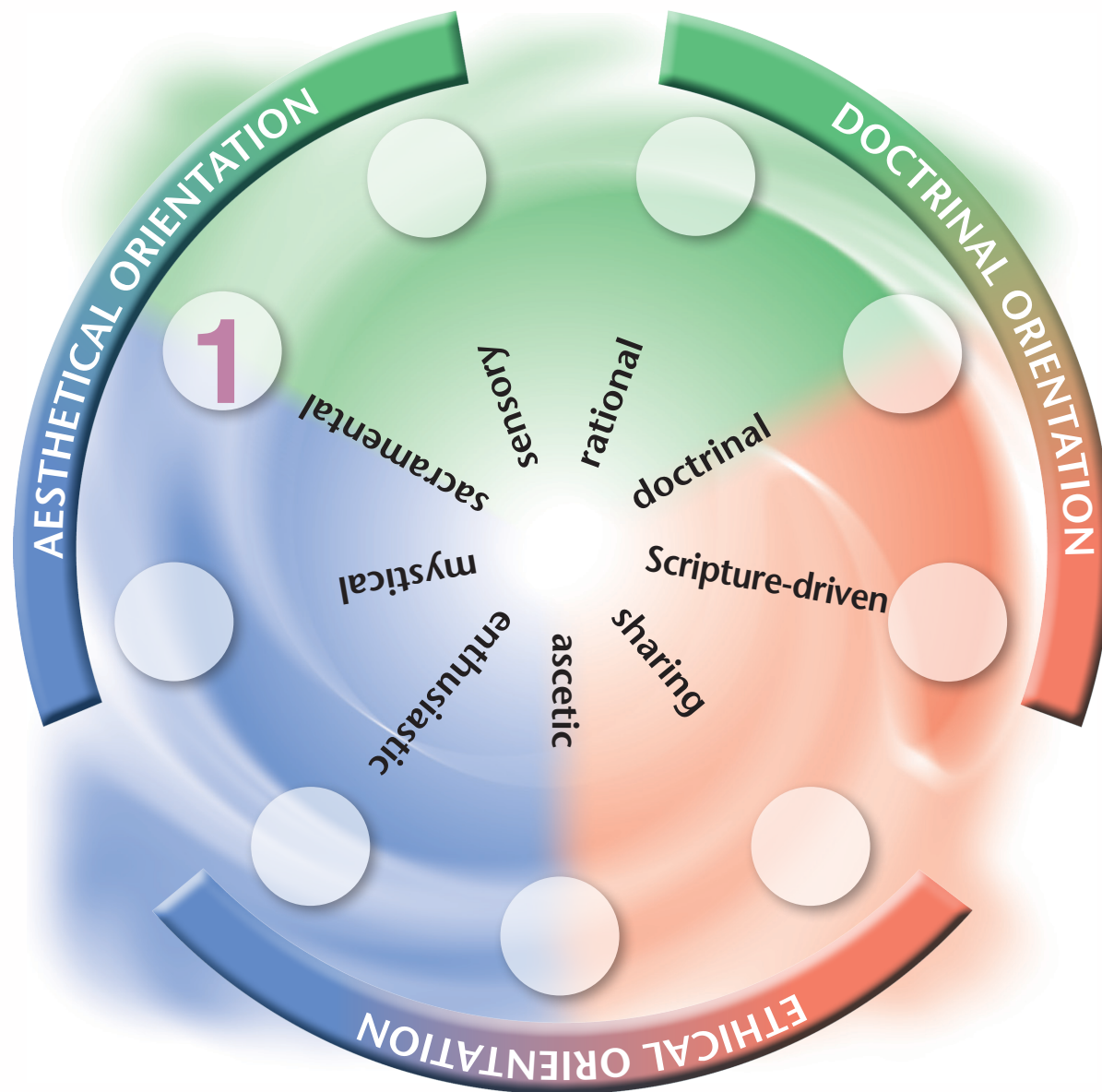
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Purple figures  
= above average

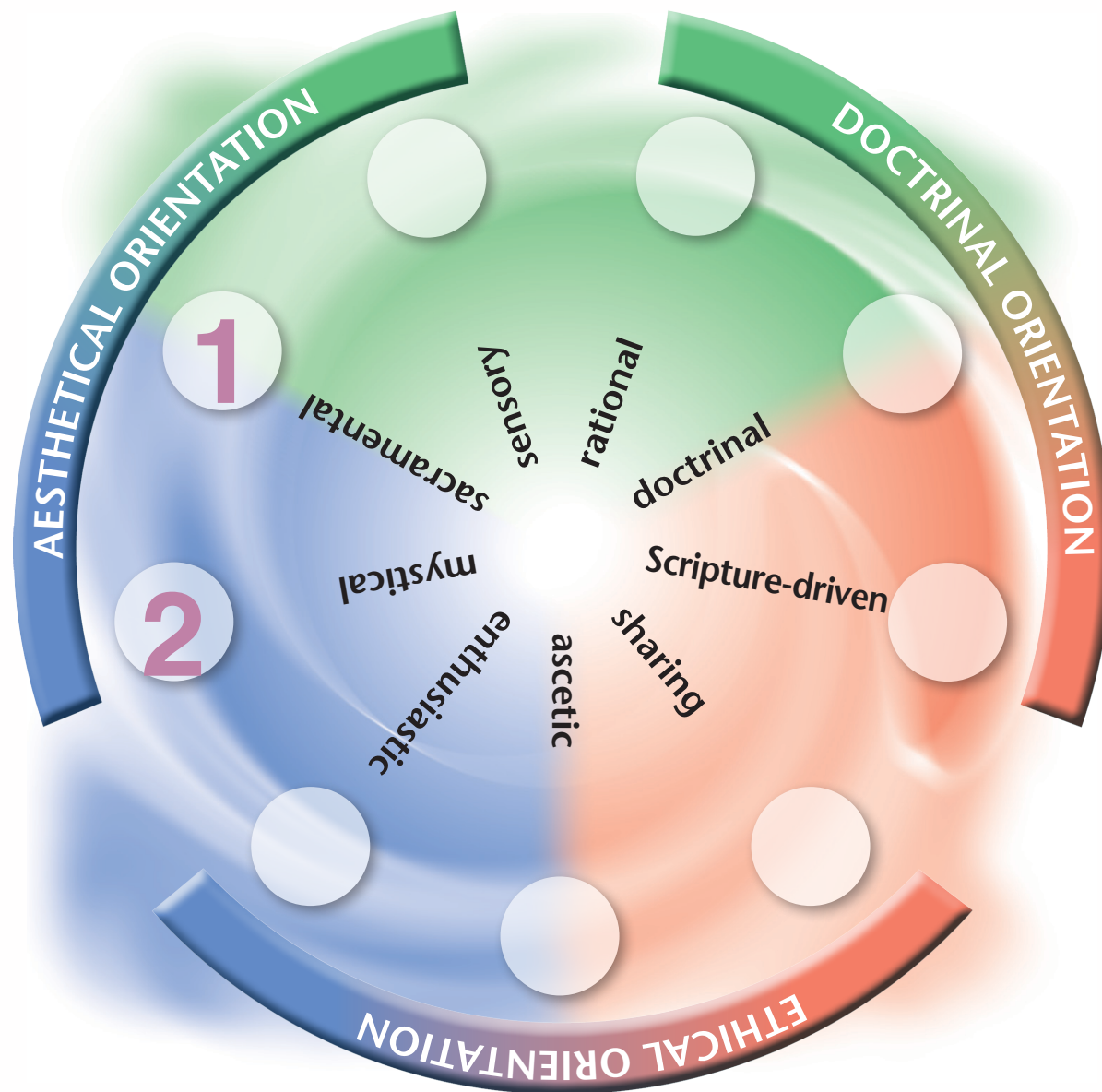


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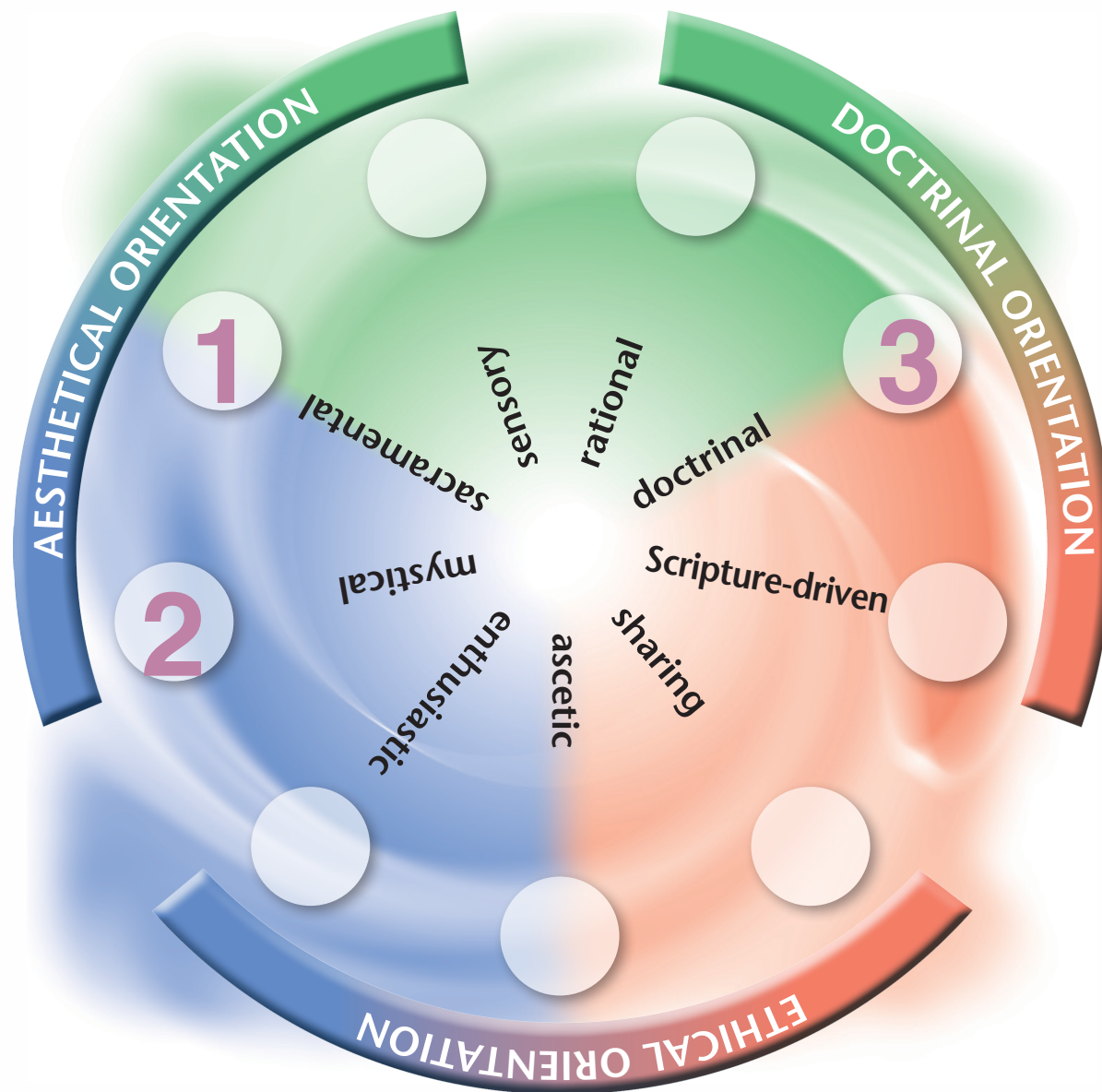
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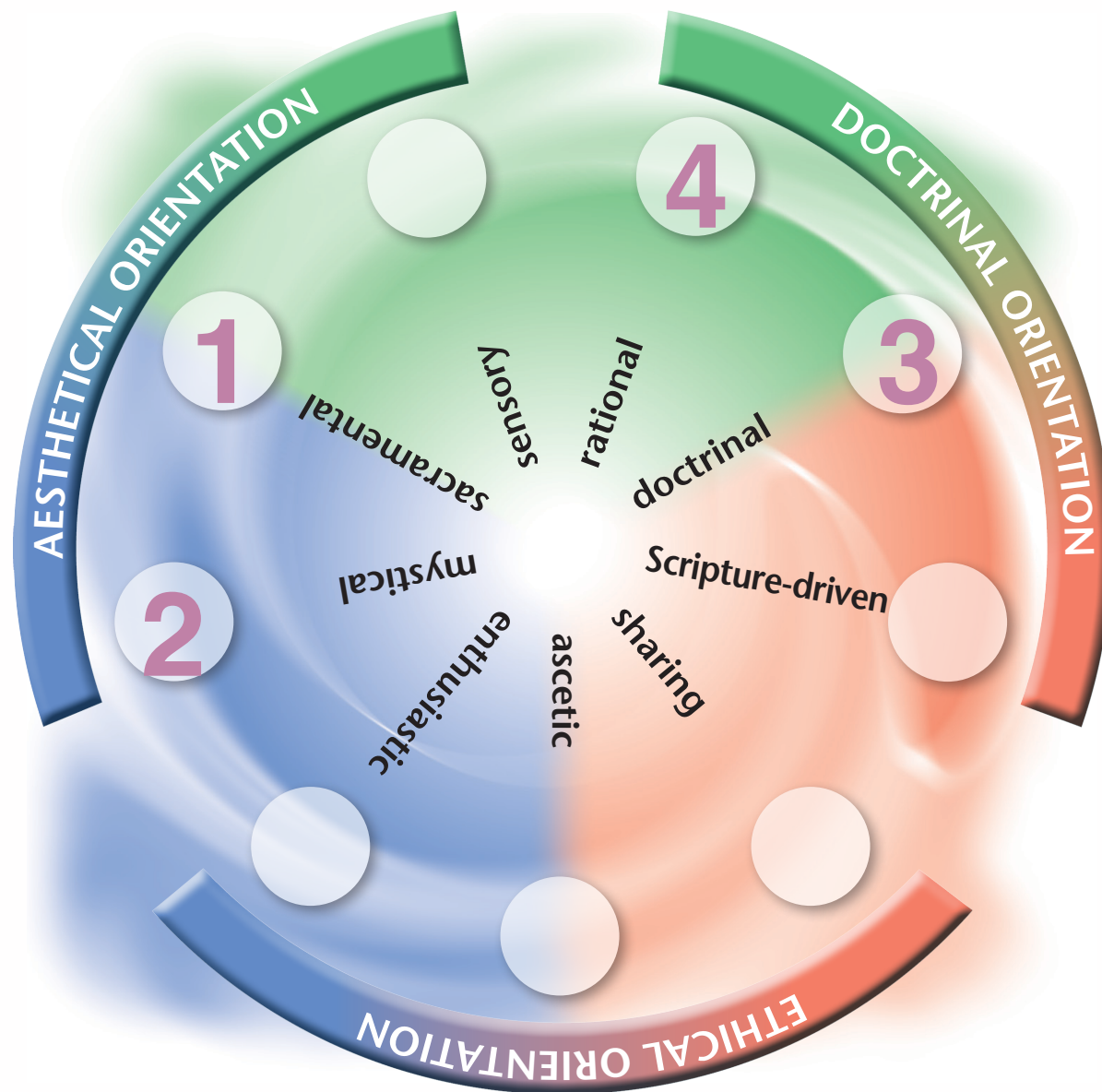
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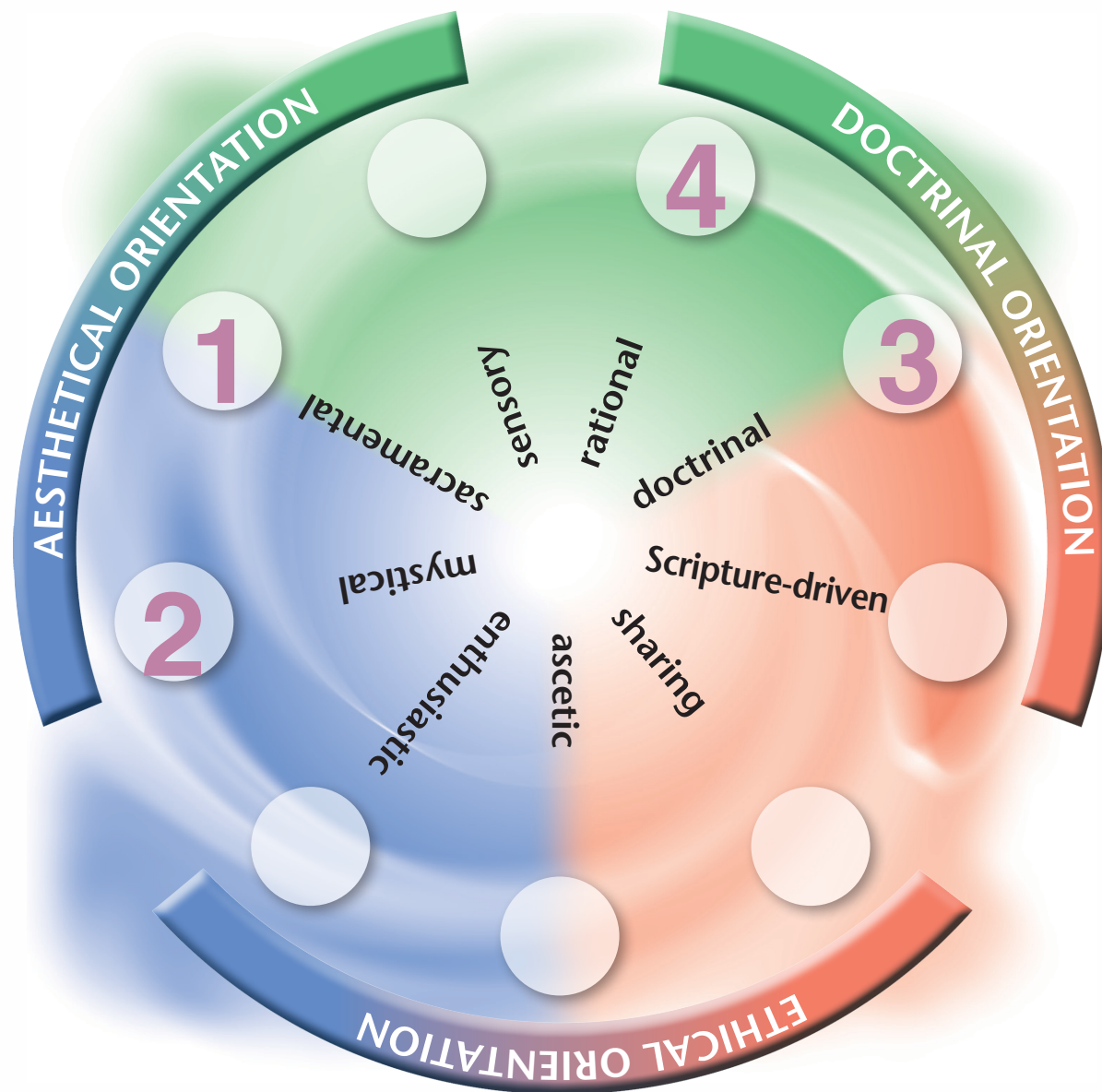


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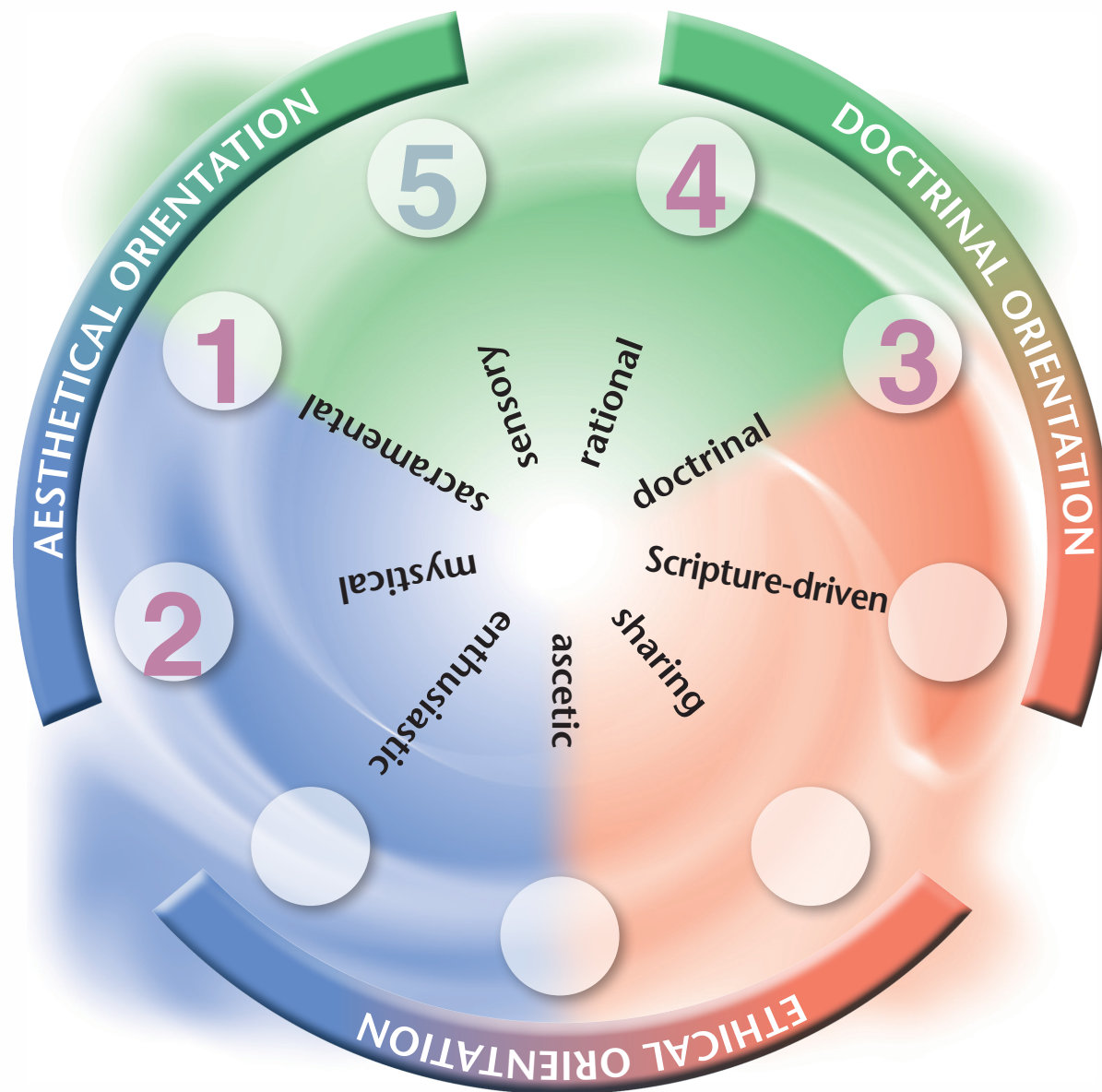
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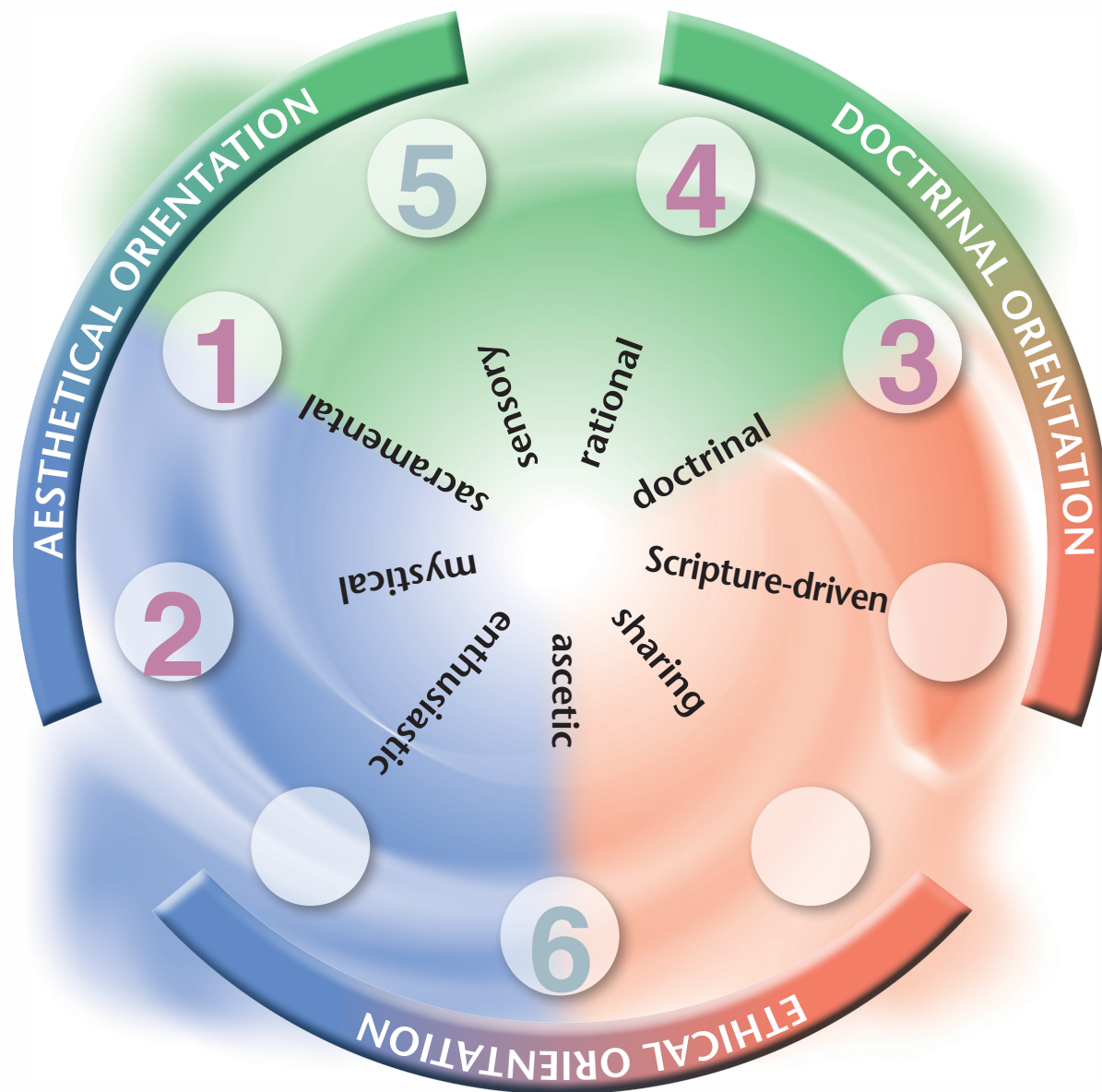
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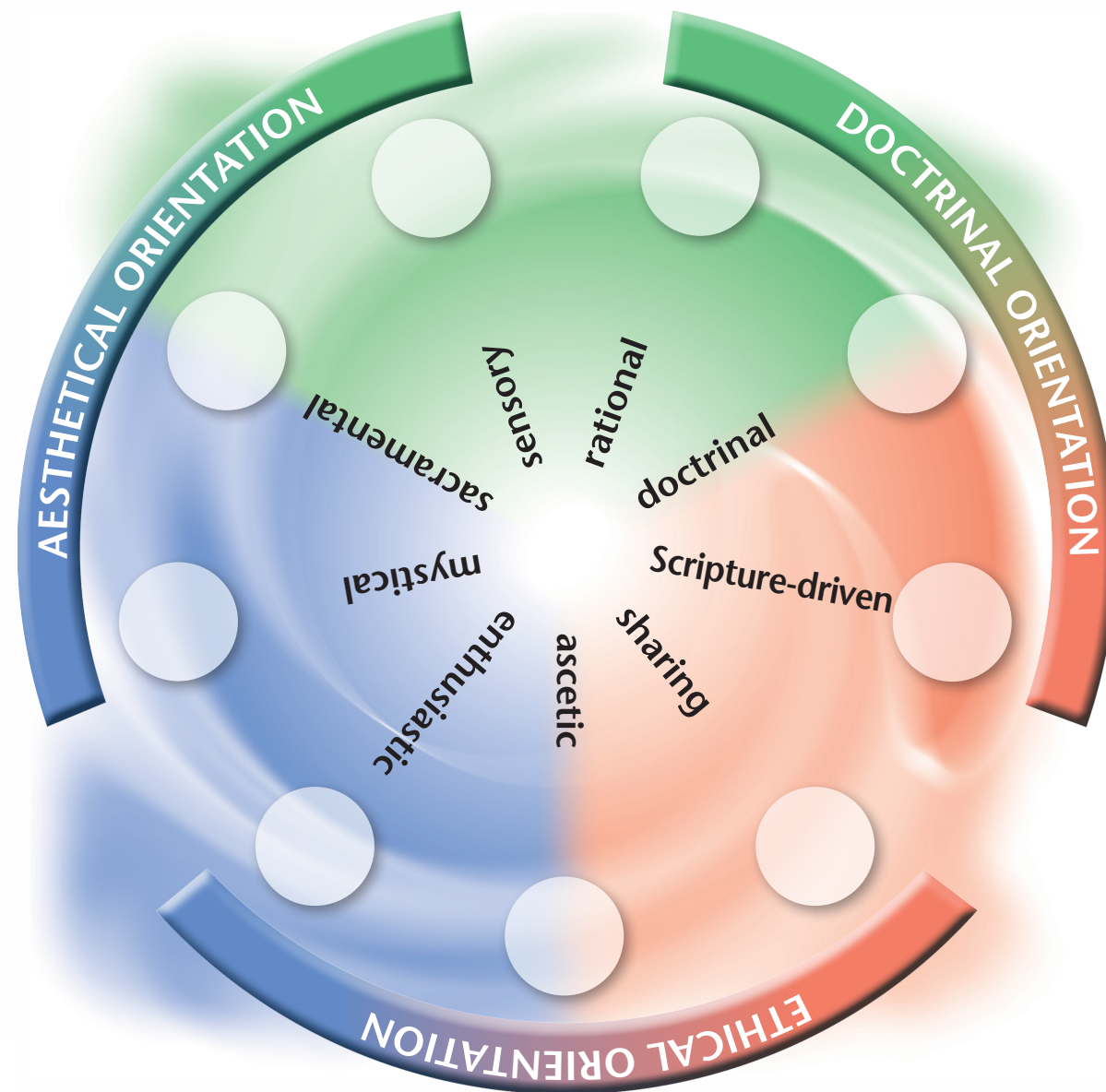
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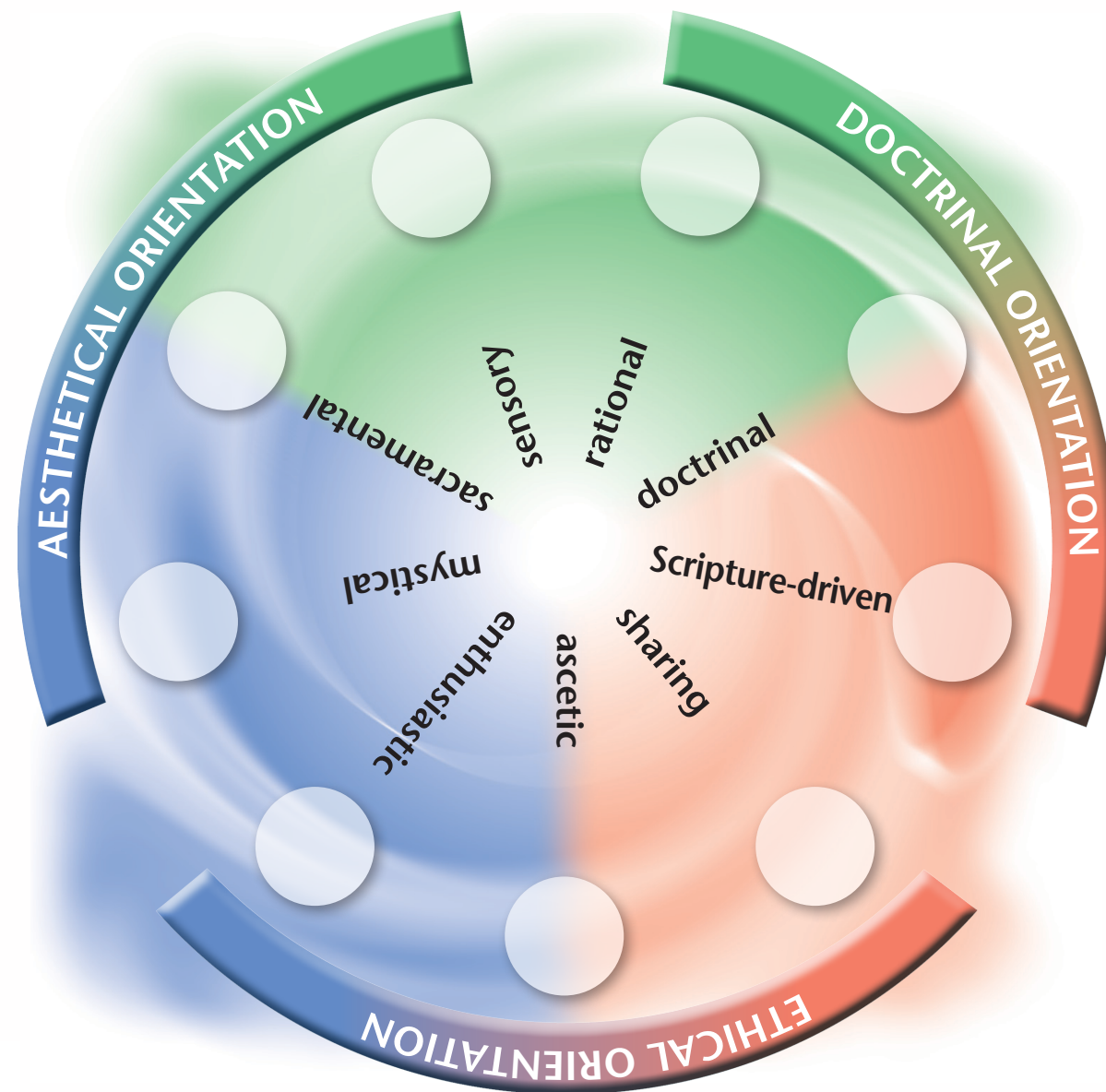
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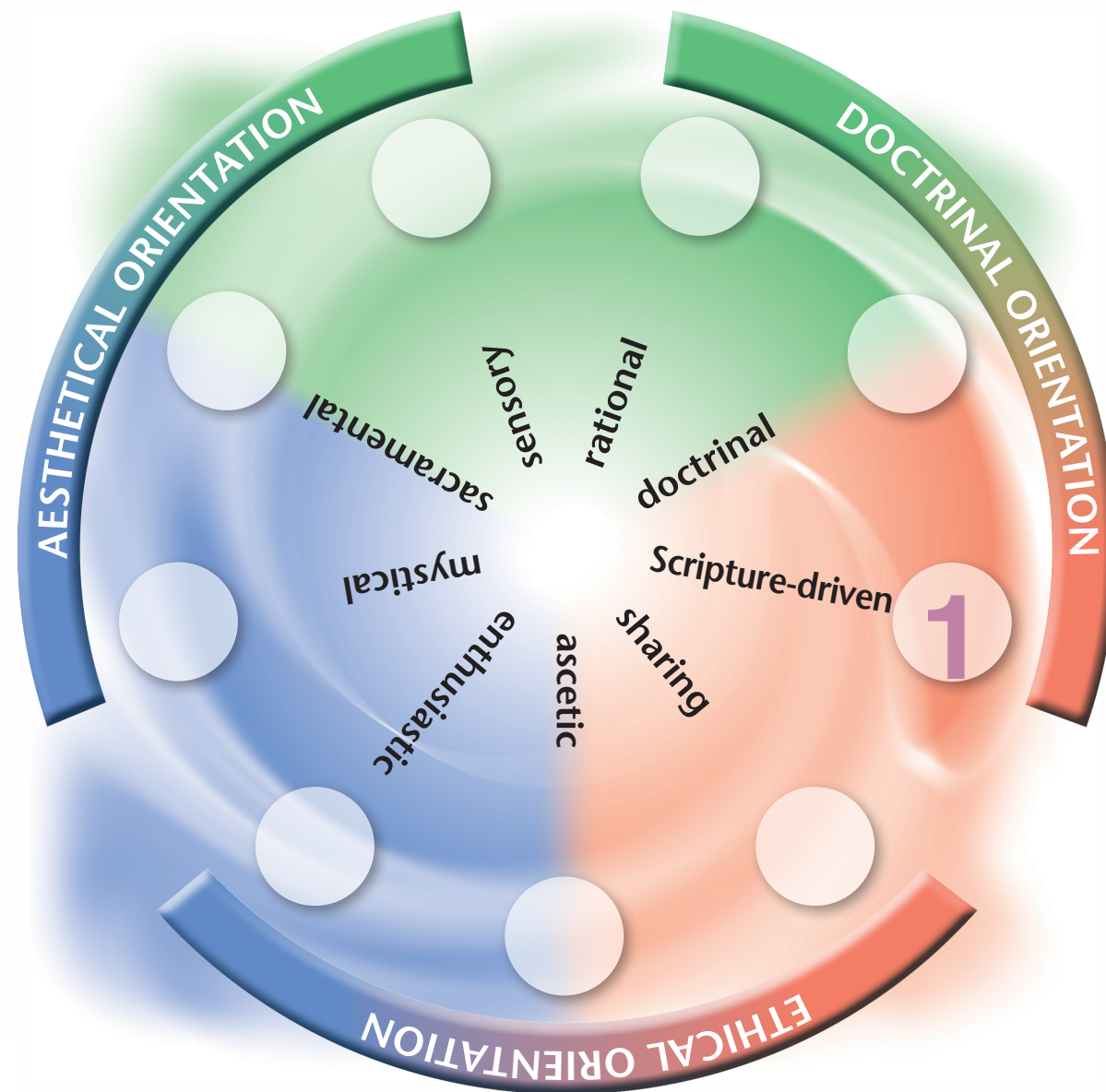


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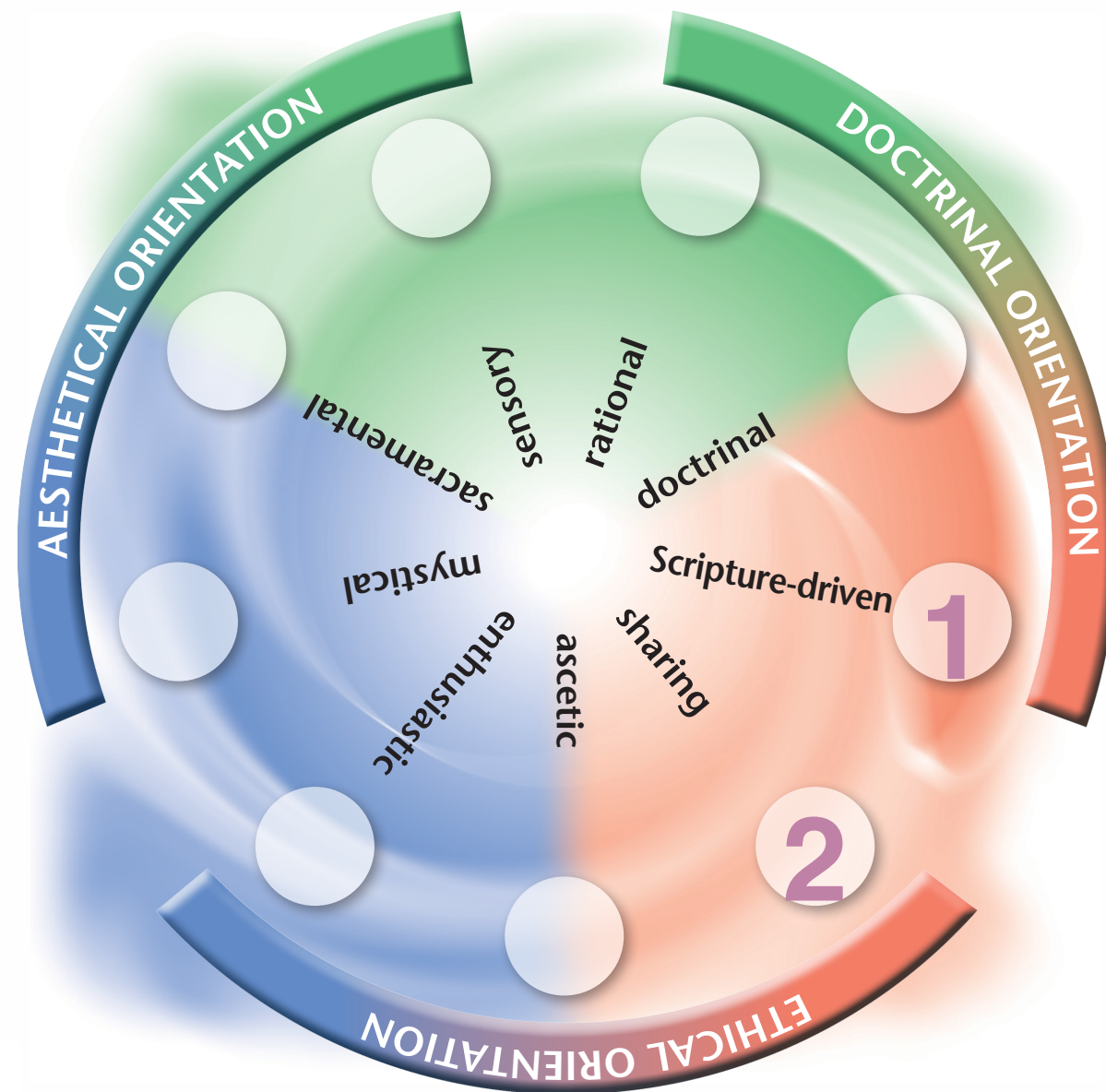
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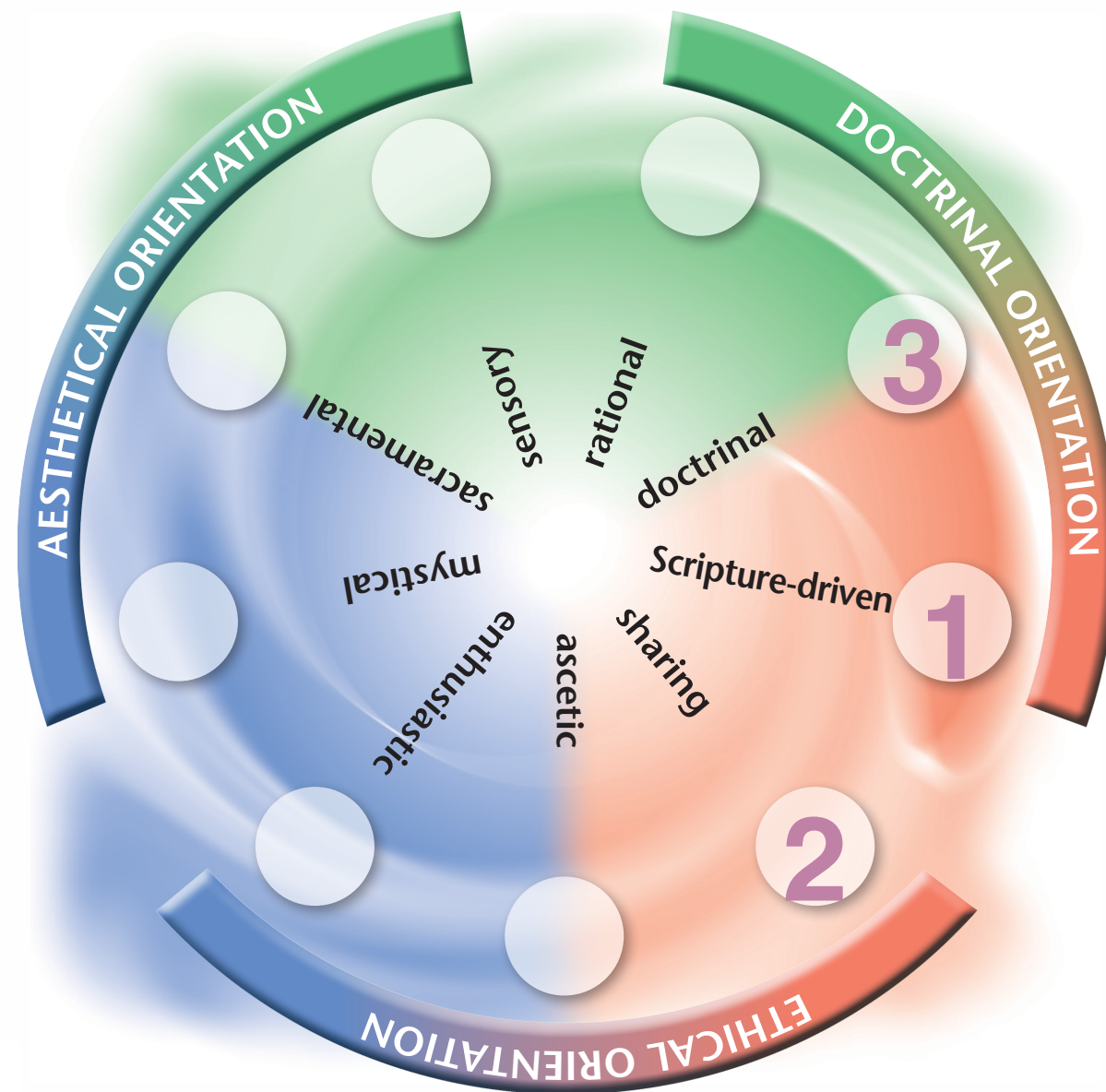
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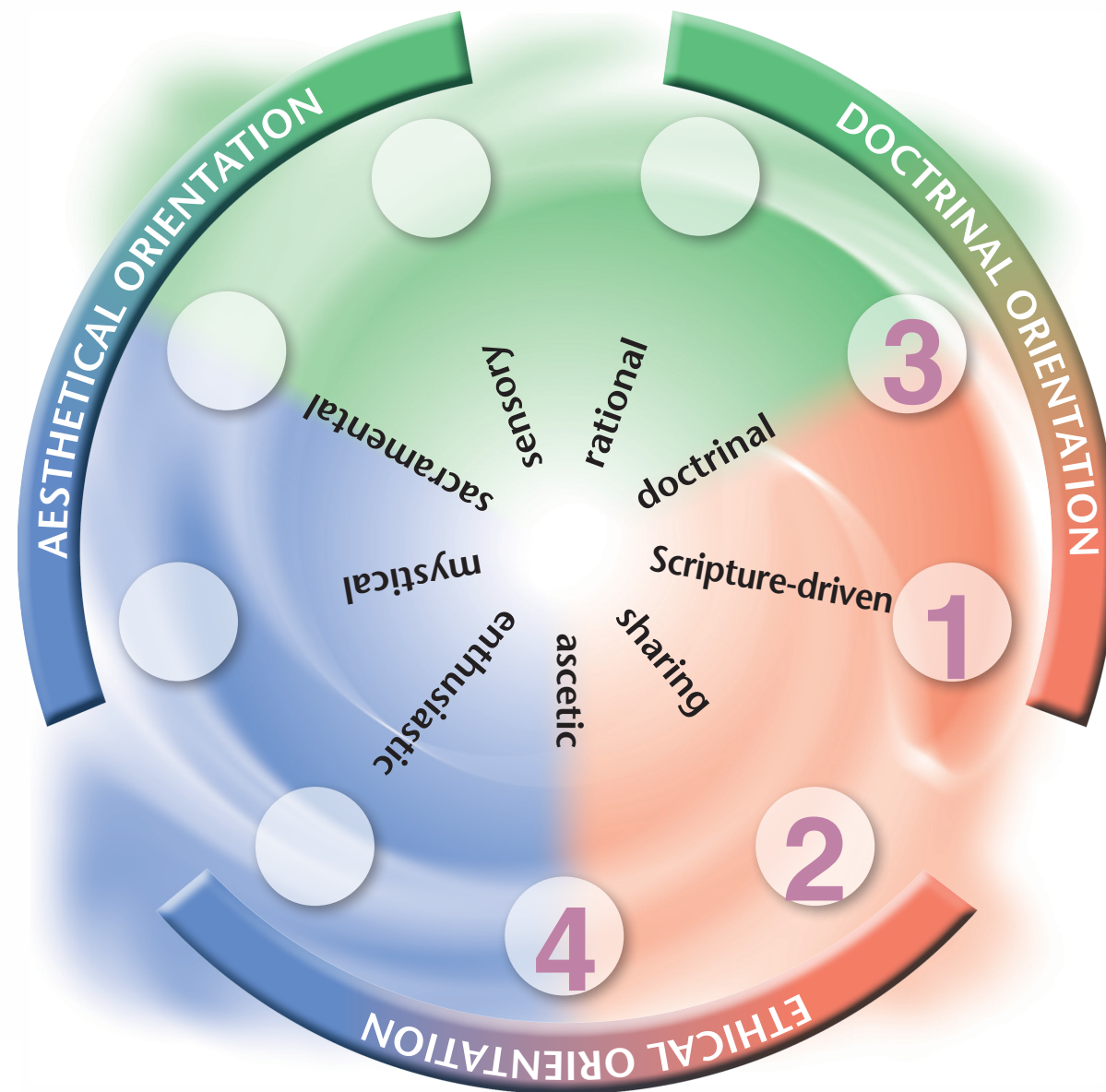


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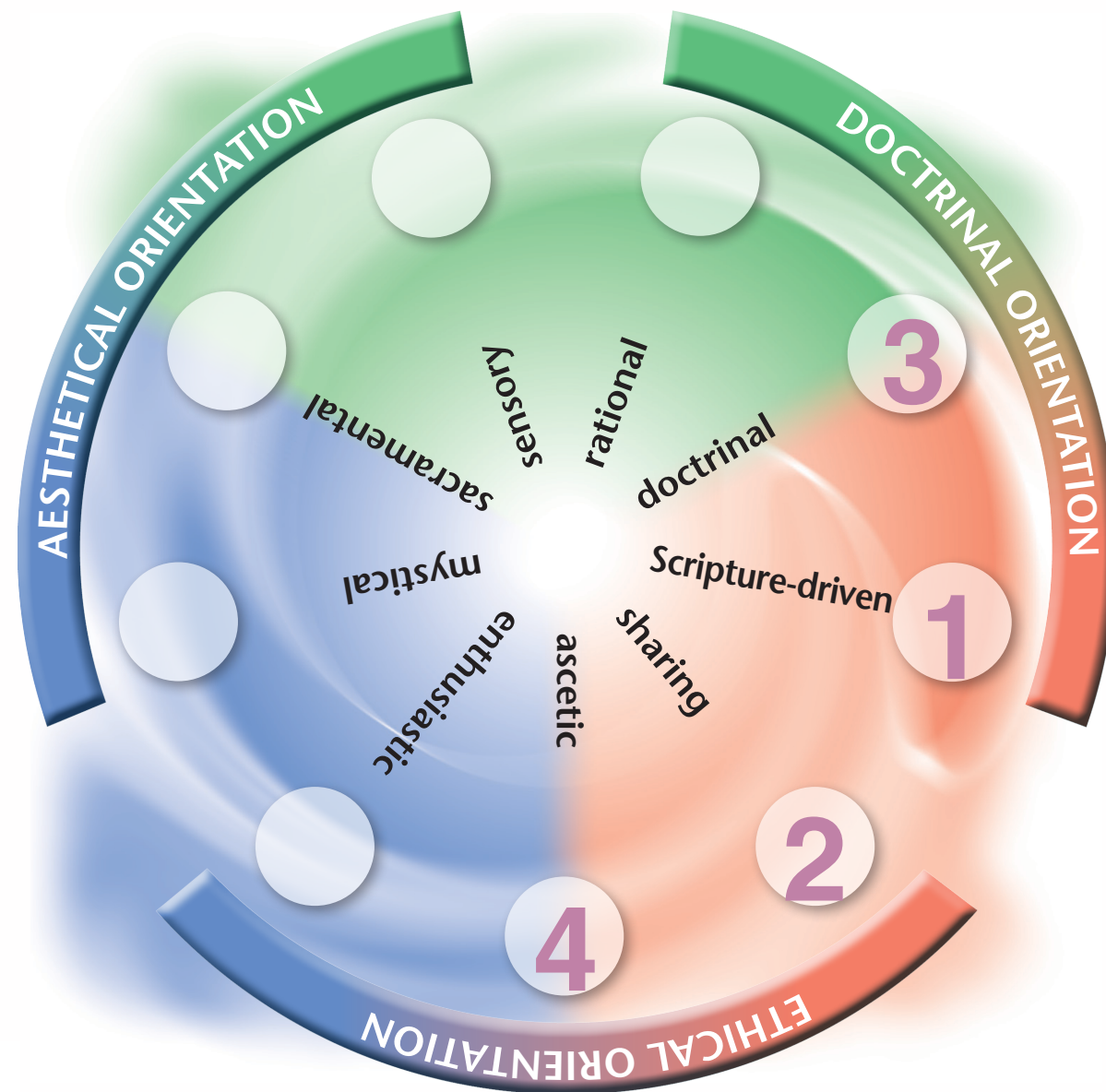
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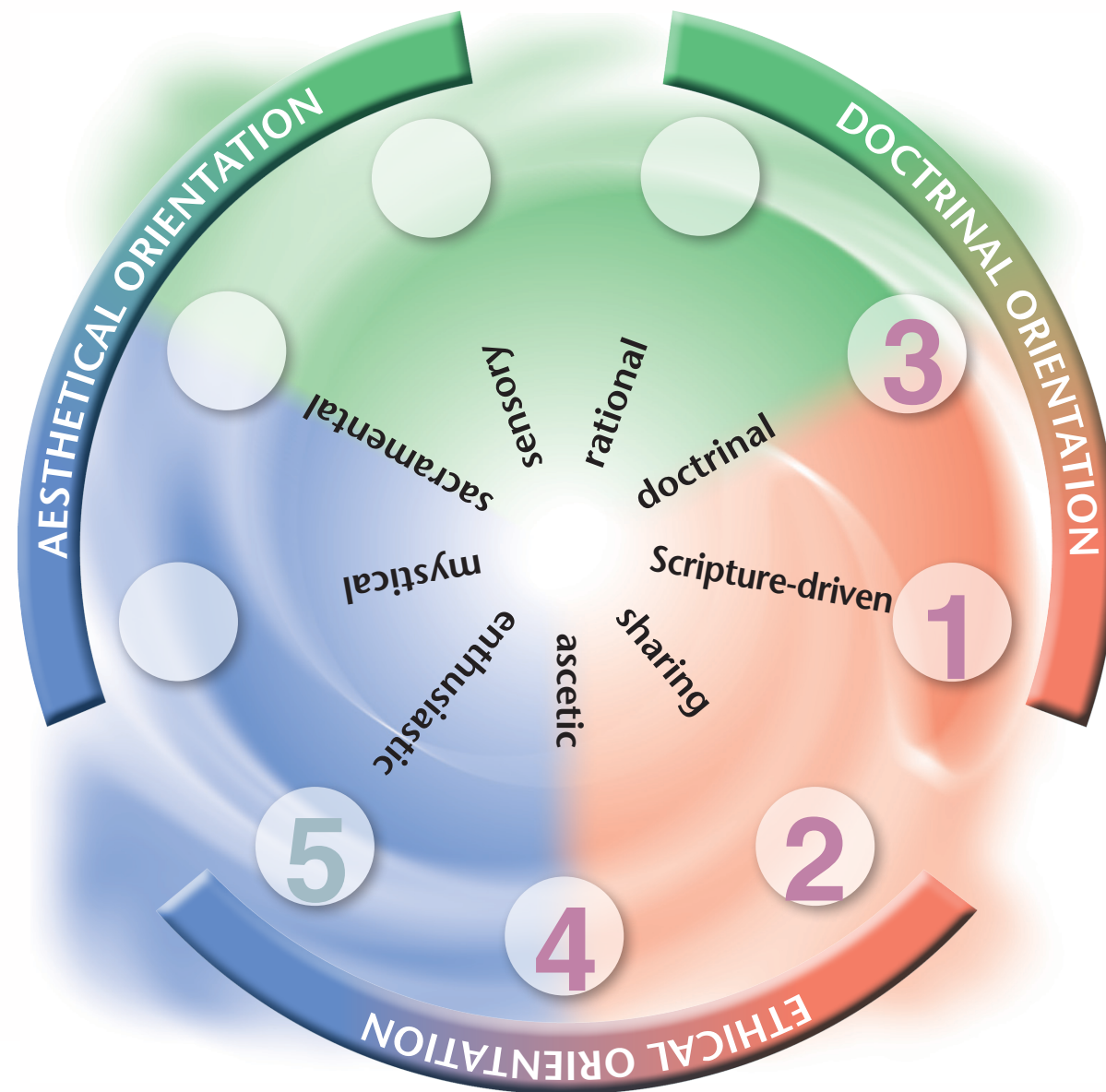
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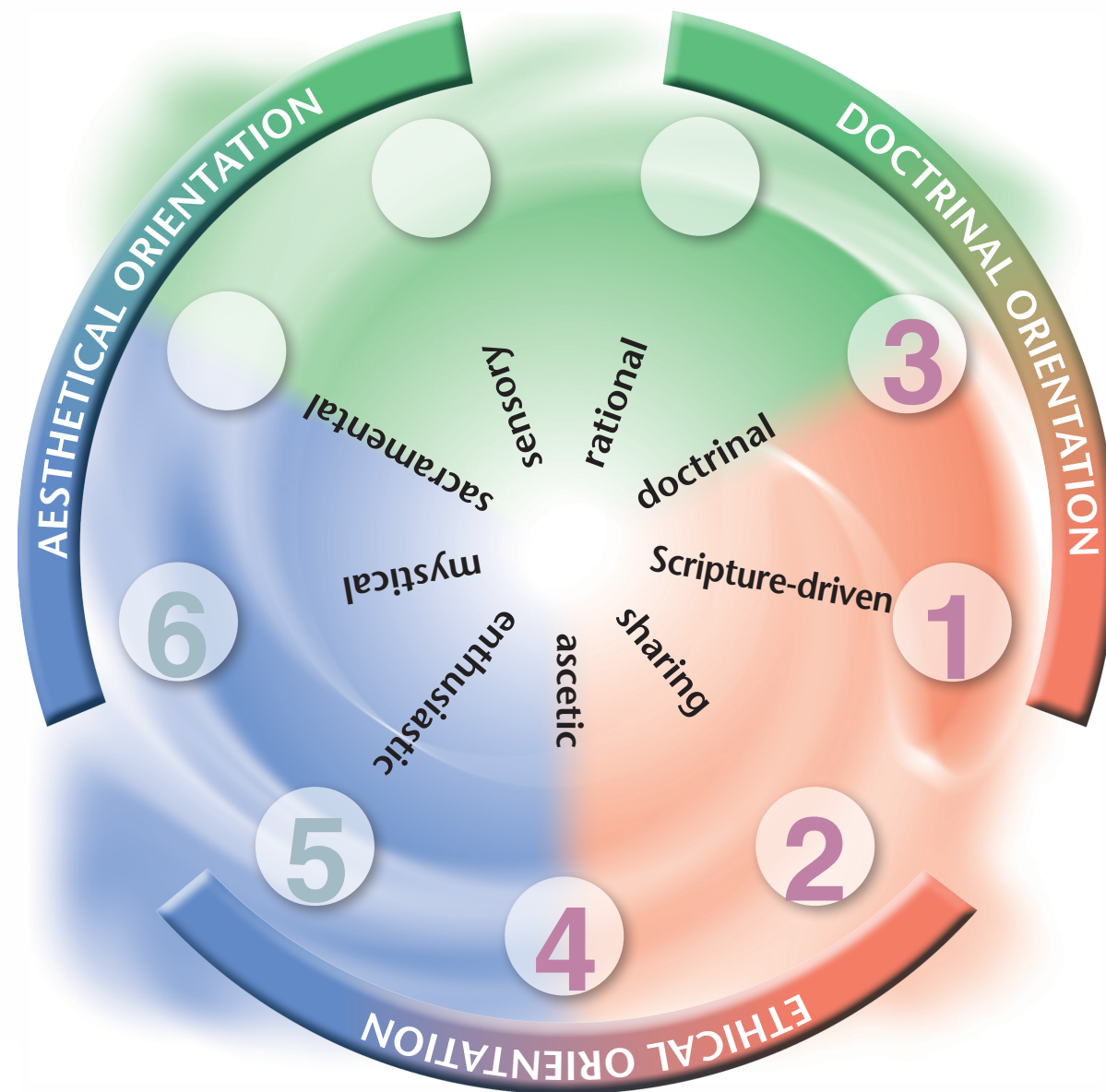


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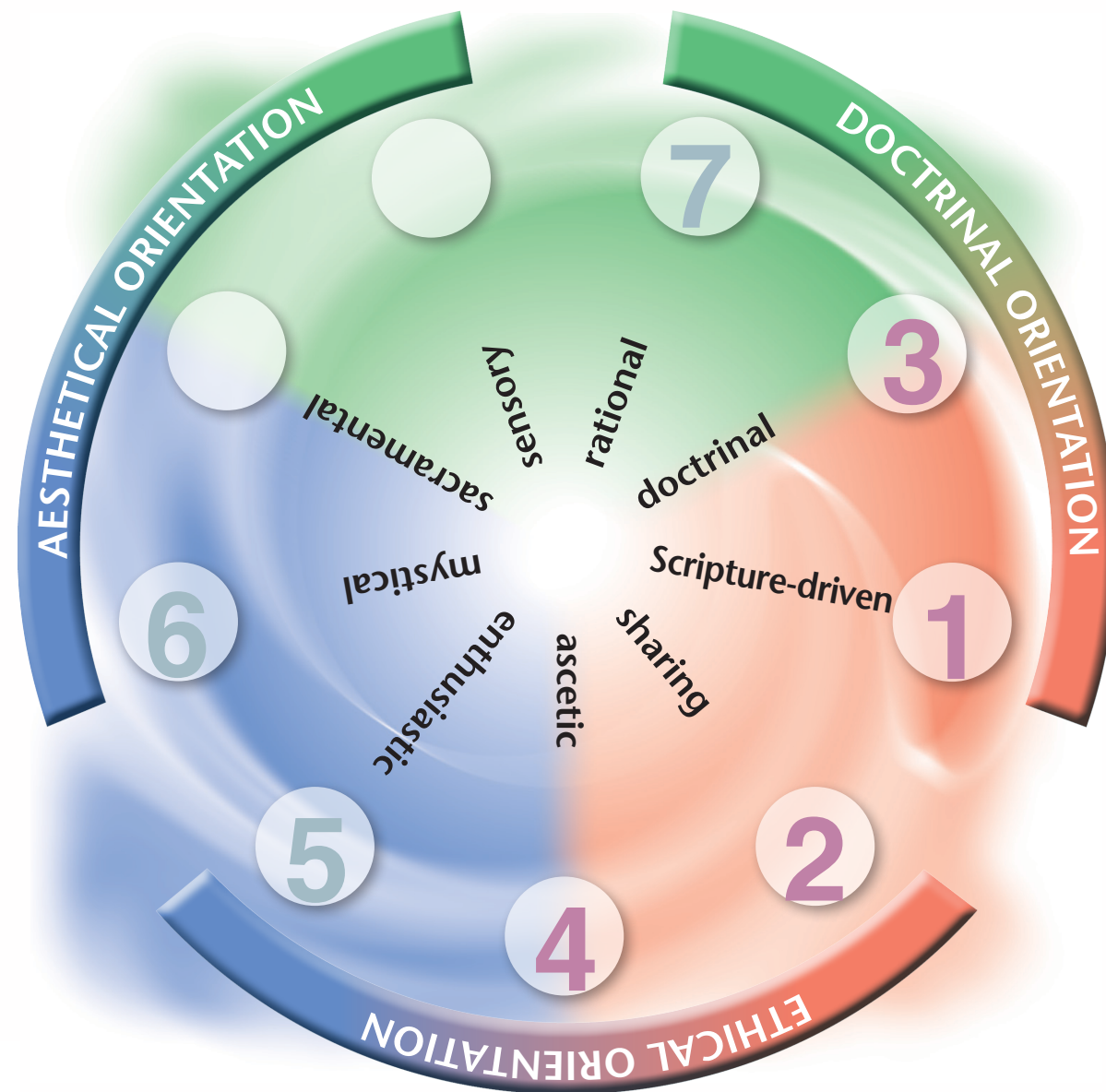
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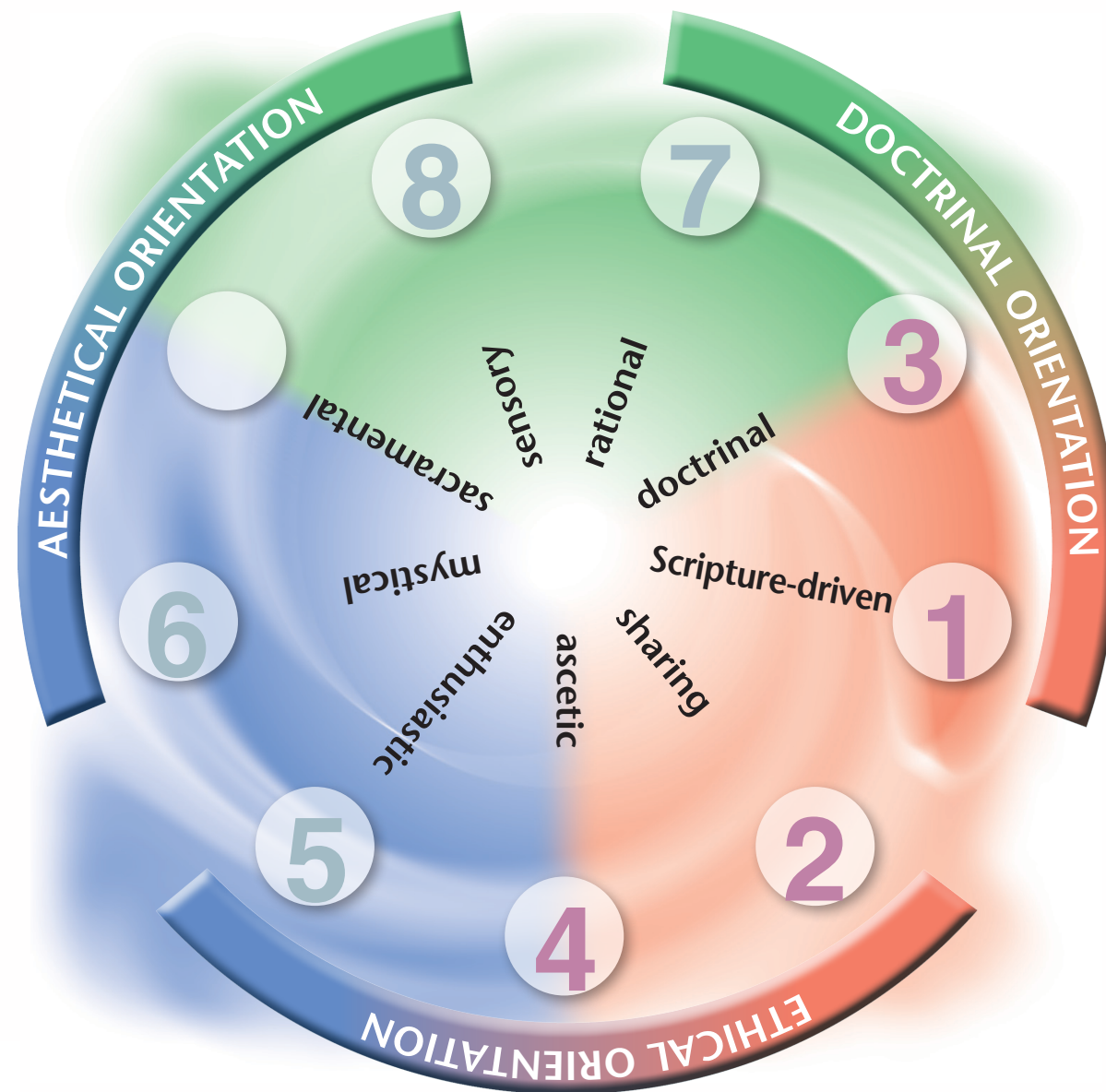
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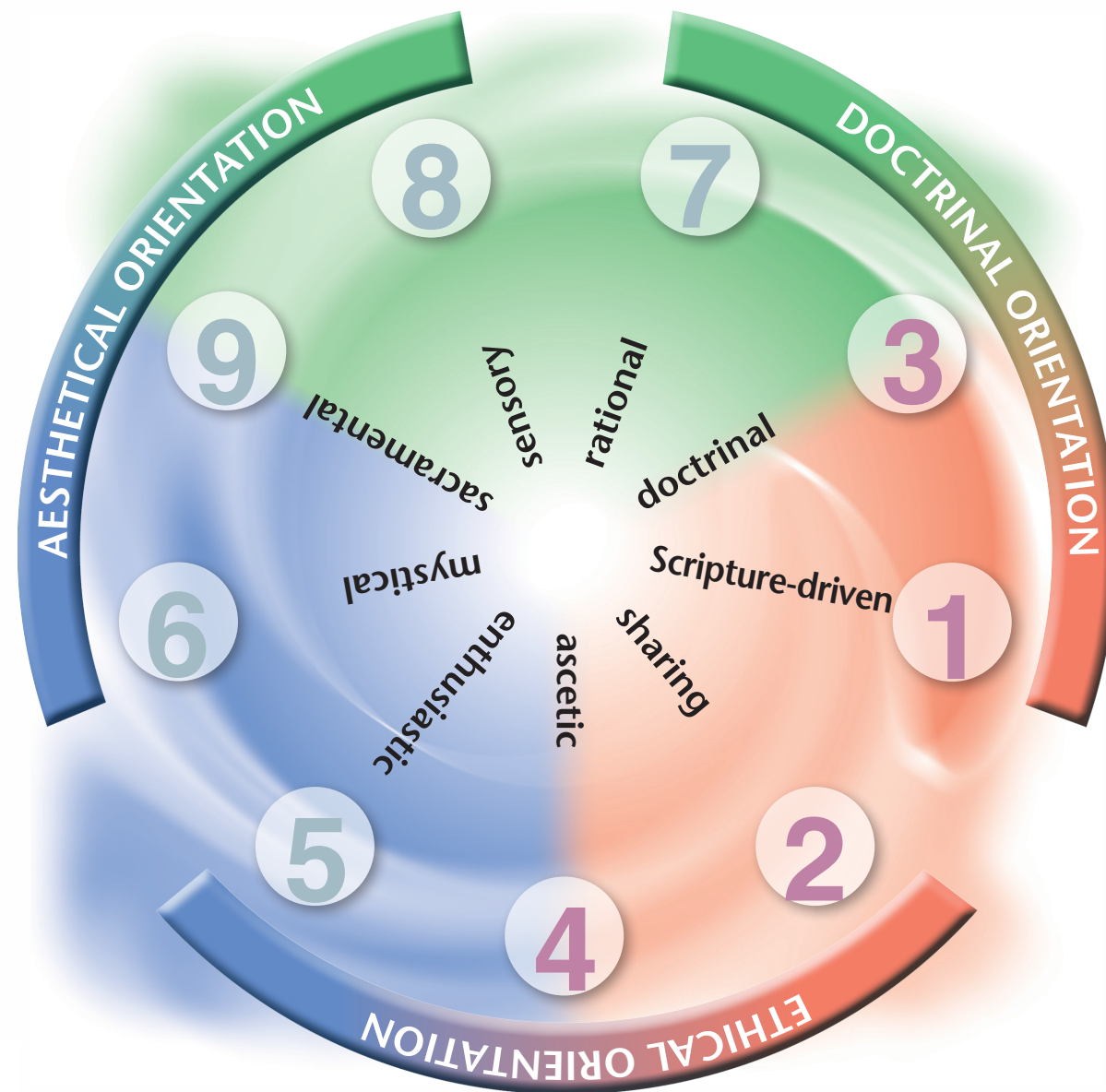
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2. *What explains these one-sidedness (historically, theologically)?*
3. *How do representatives of your denomination tend to speak about groups that have their strengths in the opposite area?*
4. *What is your policy toward your members that have a spiritual style different from your predominant styles?*
5. *Do you believe that you need to grow in the opposite segment, or do you see your predominant styles as superior to the others?*
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# **3 Examples**

*for health-enducing measures without the  
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**1. Three-Color eTests targeted at  
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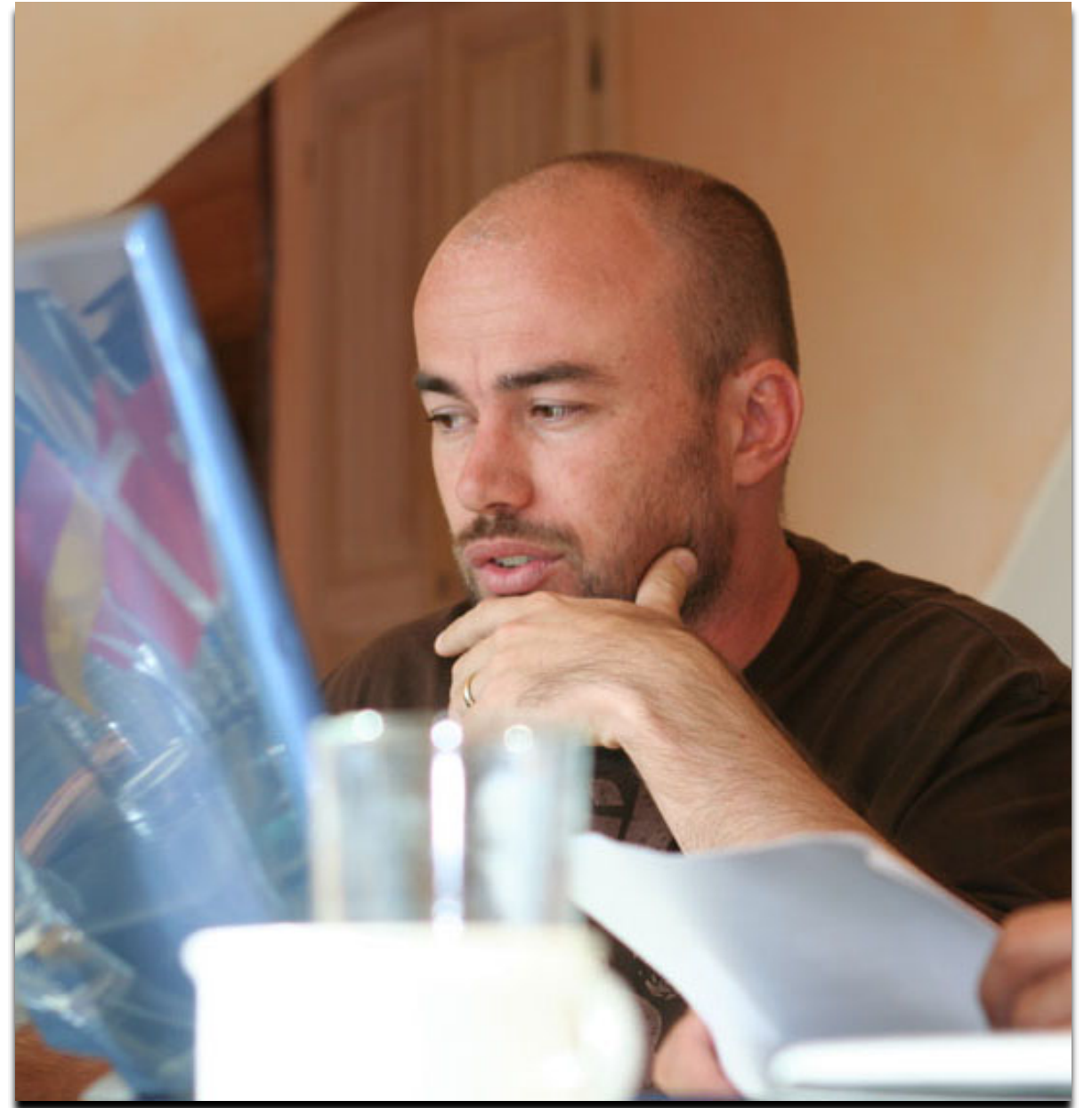
**2. NCD Church Survey**

**3. Study groups on NCD eBooks**





Christian  
Emmelsbüll, Germany



Adam  
Brisbane, Australia





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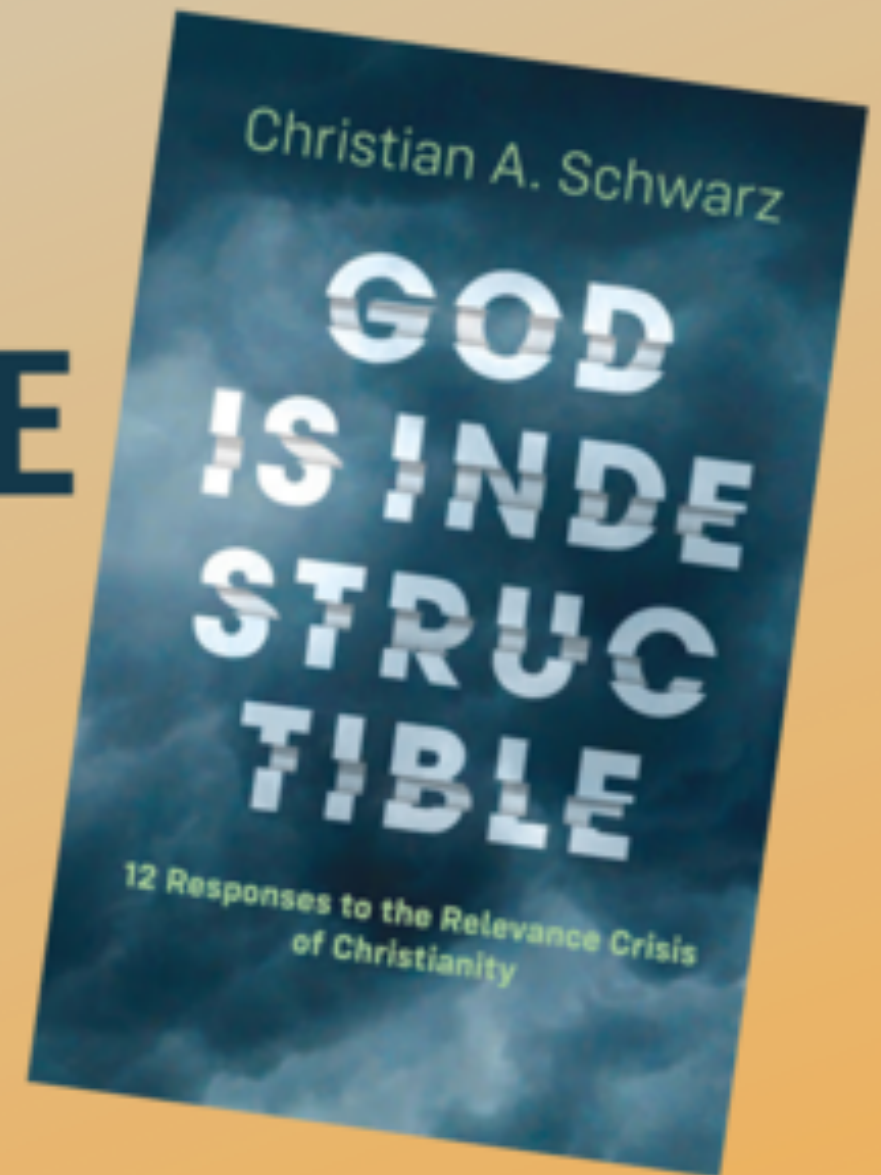
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A DIOCESAN INTENSIVE

# GOD'S INEXTINGUISHABLE CHURCH

What does the future of our church look like?



# **Impulse questions for every chapter of the book:**

1. What in this chapter is new for us?
2. To what areas of our ministry does it apply?
3. What could be done to improve the situation?
4. What resistance can be expected?
5. Which ways are there to potentially harness the energy behind the resistance?





Christian  
Emmelsbüll, Germany



John Paul  
Sackville, New Brunswick,  
Canada

