

Faith Style	How Divine Imaged	Nature of relationship with the Divine	How to construct meaning in the world	Sources of spiritual wisdom	Spiritual growth assessed by...	Practices	Advantages	Disadvantages
Traditional Believers	Sovereign of the universe	Hierarchical, child in divine family	Discerning/ acting on divine will	Scripture and tradition	Submission of own will to divine will	Prayer, scripture study, worship	Security and clear answers	Rigidity, spiritual arrogance, blind obedience
Spiritual Eclectics	Spiritual force alive in nature	Pantheistic-creation and divine one	Protecting all creation/ promoting greater consciousness	all traditions, own experience, in body	Realize ones unity with all being, discards separation	meditation, ritual, sacred reading, art, exercise, activism	Diversity, spiritual generosity	Gullibility and lacks groundedness
Ethical Humanists	Life itself	Unity with all life	Compassionate action on behalf of life	Natural world, scientific method	Commitment to biological sustainability	studying sciences, activism, being in nature	No a faith, freedom of thought	Lack of leadership/support intolerance by other faith styles
Liberal Believers	Friend, lover, co-worker	Familial, less conventional	Show mercy, doing justice, walk humbly	Scripture, tradition, reason, experience	Being most authentically oneself	Contemplative prayer, nature, social activism	Spiritual and personal generosity	Lack of consensus, sometimes focus, hard to articulate path
Religious Agnostics	Unknowable mystery	Intellectual pursuit, philanthropic service	Constructed by each individual	Reason and experience	Acceptance of unknowable, commitment to service	Being in nature, meditation, activism	Personal integrity	High level of anxiety is exhausting
Jack Believers	Angry judge	Estrangement	only in negative terms	Same as traditional	By degree of estrangement	none	none	Low self-esteem, self-destructive behavior

The Primary Triangle

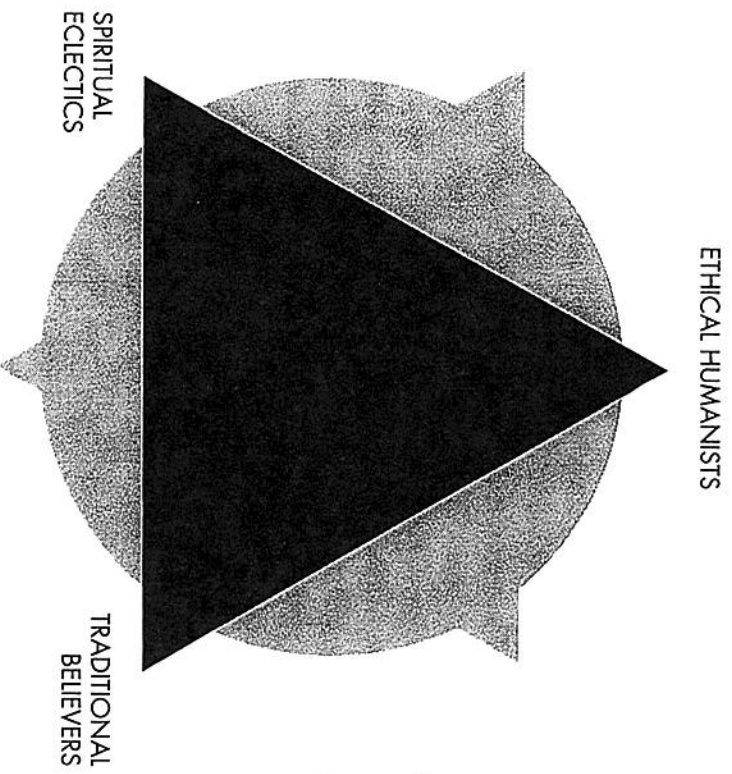


FIGURE 1: THE PRIMARY TRIANGLE

The primary triangle describes what we might consider the most obvious and mutually exclusive of the styles: Traditional Believers, Spiritual Eclectics, and Ethical Humanists.

The Secondary Triangle

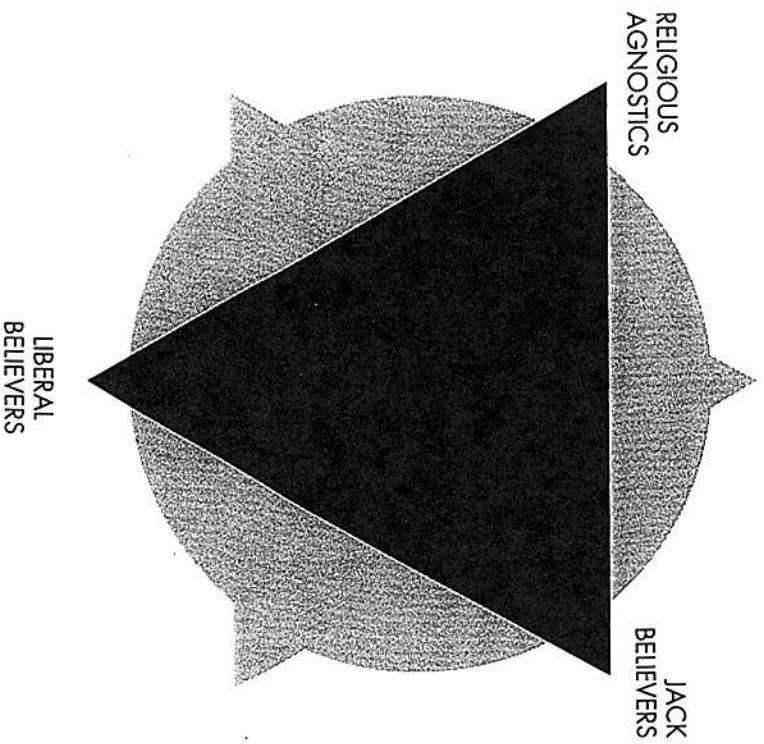


FIGURE 2: THE SECONDARY TRIANGLE

The secondary triangle describes those categories of faith styles that fall in between the points of the primary triangle: Liberal Believers, Religious Agnostics, and Jack Believers. What follows is a description of each of these.

Mabry, John R. Faith Styles: Ways People Believe