

1 John

Recap

Canon, Authorship, Context/Occasion

1. John the Apostle wrote 1 John
2. He wrote to clear up confusing stemming from Greek Philosophy influencing the Christians whom he calls “My Little Children”

Recap

Canon, Authorship, Context/Occasion

3. Canon: 1 John is Canon in the 66 Books
Because It Has:

- Divine Qualities
- Apostolic Origins
- Accepted and recognized early by the Church



1 John

Worldview, Hermeneutics, & Themes



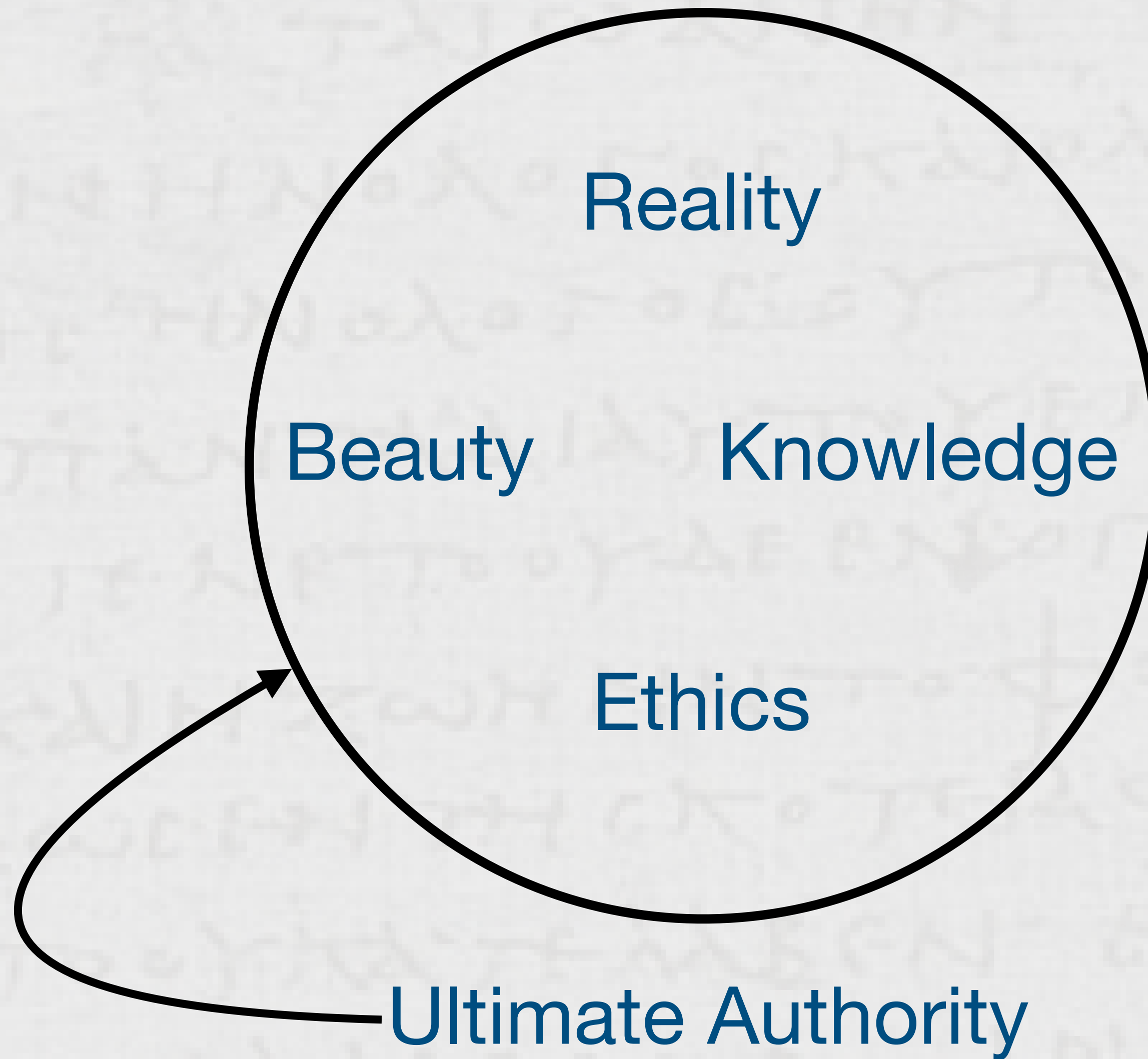
Worldview

What is a Worldview?

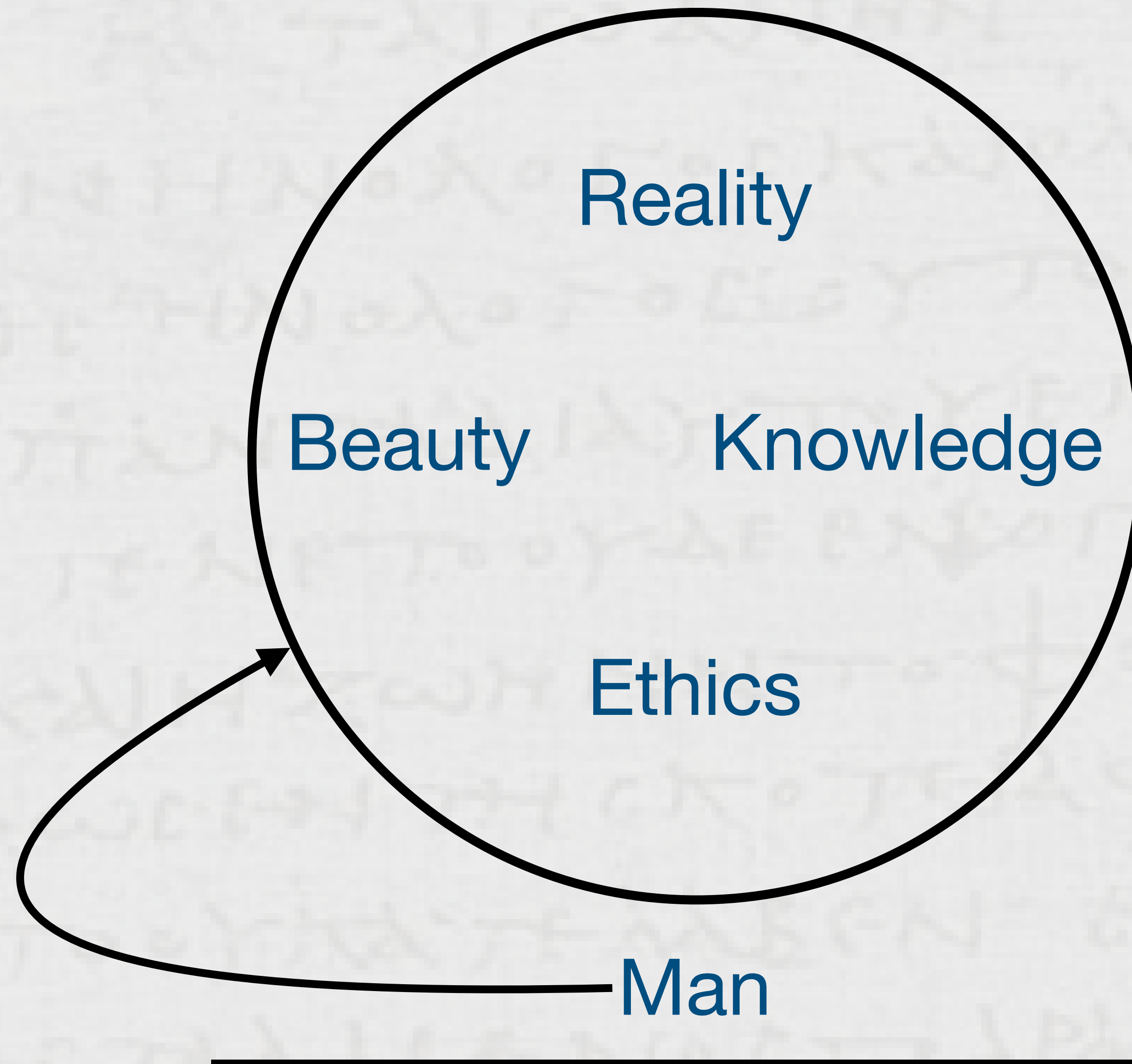
Definition:

A worldview is a way we understand everything—reality, knowledge, ethics, beauty—what we believe about those things, and how we make sense of them.

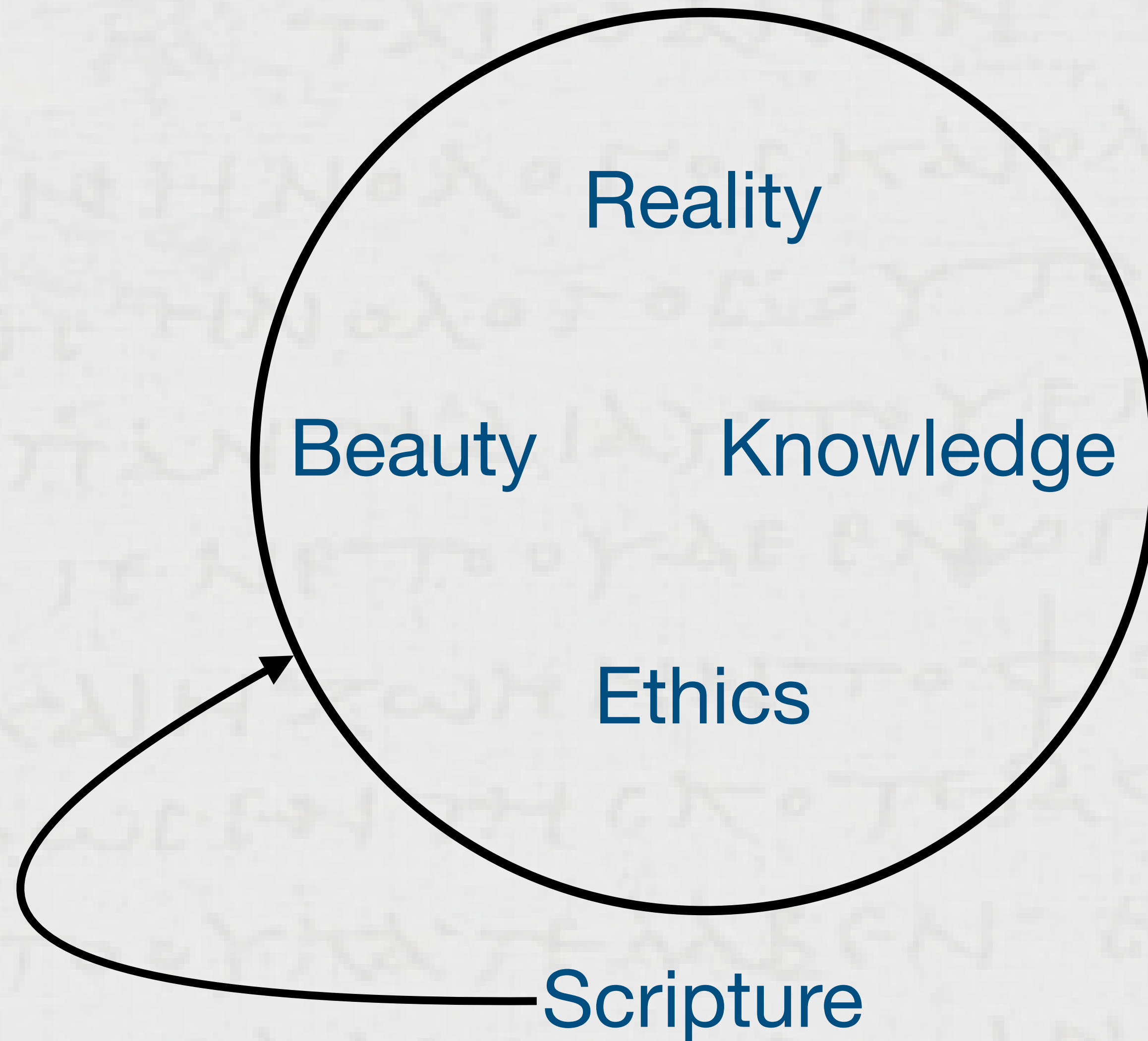
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Because books of Scripture can self-authenticate themselves as God's Word through:

1. Divine qualities
2. Apostolic Origins
3. Early Recognition

We have an authority which can be “ultimate” and not self-contradicting and self-refuting (confidence)

Hermeneutics

Definition

“Hermeneutics is the practice of carefully reading the Bible to discover the author’s original meaning and intent, so we can rightly understand and apply God’s Word.”

What did God say? (observe the text)

What did He mean? (interpret it rightly)

How should we respond? (apply it)

Themes in 1 John

Scripture Interpreting Scripture: John's Gospel informs John's Letters

- John 1:1-3 (the God who *Is*)
- 1 John 1:1-4 (Fellowship with the God who *Is* resulting in JOY!)

John's Gospel lays the foundation of who Jesus is while John's letter informs how we live in light of who Jesus is

Themes in 1 John

Theme 1: Light & Darkness

Gospel: Jesus embodies life that shines as light in darkness (**John 1:4–5**); Jesus declares himself the light of the world, promising that followers will never walk in darkness (**John 8:12**); light has come into the world, yet people loved darkness because their deeds were evil (**John 3:19–21**).

1 John: God is light with absolutely no darkness in him (**1 John 1:5–7**); those who hate their brother remain in darkness, while those who love remain in light (**1 John 2:8–11**).

Themes in 1 John

Theme 2: Love (Central Theme)

Gospel: Jesus commands disciples to love one another as he has loved them, and this love identifies his disciples (**John 13:34–35**); love is demonstrated through laying down one's life for others (**John 15:12–13**).

1 John: Love originates from God, and the one who does not love does not know God, because God is love (**1 John 4:7–8**); Christ laid down his life, and believers should likewise lay down their lives for one another (**1 John 3:16–18**); claiming to love God while hating one's brother is a lie, since one cannot love an unseen God while hating a visible brother (**1 John 4:19–21**).

Themes in 1 John

Theme 3: Truth

Gospel: Jesus is the truth (**John 14:6**).

1 John: Walking in darkness while claiming fellowship with God means lying and not practicing the truth (**1 John 1:5–7**); the Son of God has given understanding to know the true one—Jesus Christ, who is the true God and eternal life (**1 John 5:20**).

Themes in 1 John

Theme 4: Remaining/Abiding in Christ

Gospel: Disciples remain in Christ's love by keeping his commands, as he remains in the Father's love by keeping his commands (**John 15:9–10**).

1 John: The one who remains in love remains in God, and God remains in him (**1 John 4:16**); whoever confesses Jesus as the Son of God has God remaining in them and they in God (**1 John 4:15**).

Themes in 1 John

Theme 5: Eternal Life and Belief

Gospel: The Gospel is written so readers may believe Jesus is the Messiah and have life in his name (**John 20:31**); eternal life consists in knowing the true God and Jesus Christ (**John 17:3**).

1 John: God has given eternal life, which resides in his Son, and the one who has the Son has life (**1 John 5:11–13**); these things are written so believers may know they have eternal life (**1 John 5:11–13**).

Themes in 1 John

- > Altogether, these 5 themes, among others in the Letter, will inform our worldview and show us how God expects us to live in light of our fellowship with Him
- > In other words, this is our Biblical Literacy: How God's Word effects every part of our lives and how well we know it and apply it



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