



Welcome to Spiritual Formation in Community

*“Learning to live my life the way
Jesus would live my life if he were me.”*

Your daily mantra...

I woke up in the Kingdom this morning

an unceasing spiritual being with an eternal destiny in God's great universe



I breathe Kingdom air (LOVE)
I burn Kingdom fuel (GRACE)
I build Kingdom character
I do Kingdom work



Jesus came to show by example and to teach by principle how to have the best possible life in this physical world and preparation for the life to come at the same time

Check-In



“How did your conversations go in your Circle of 4, and what did God tell you?”

Review

God's Grace
as Fuel

Circles of
Sufficiency and
my Circle of 4

Spiritual
Formation &
Dimensions
of the
Human Self

An underwater photograph showing several divers in silhouette against a bright blue background. The divers are in various poses, some appearing to be in a state of freefall or a specific diving maneuver. The word "Review" is overlaid in large, white, serif font in the center of the image.

Review

God's Grace as Fuel



- Grace (charis) is central to Kingdom life
- Unmerited, unearned expression of kindness gifted to me
- Designed to increase my capacity for obedience
- Fuel I burn that empowers me to live a Kingdom life and daily look more like Jesus

Philippians 2:13

For it is God who works in you, both to will and to act according to his good purpose

(God is at work within you helping you want to obey him and then helping you do what he wants - TLB)

Circle of Four

In the Kingdom of God, relationships are designed to be circles of sufficiency.

4

Evil enters the circle through attack & withdrawal.

The smallest circle a person can have is a Circle of Four.

Identity, purpose, worth & value come from your Circle of Four.

You are never alone and always outnumbered.

Spiritual Formation *in the Kingdom of God*

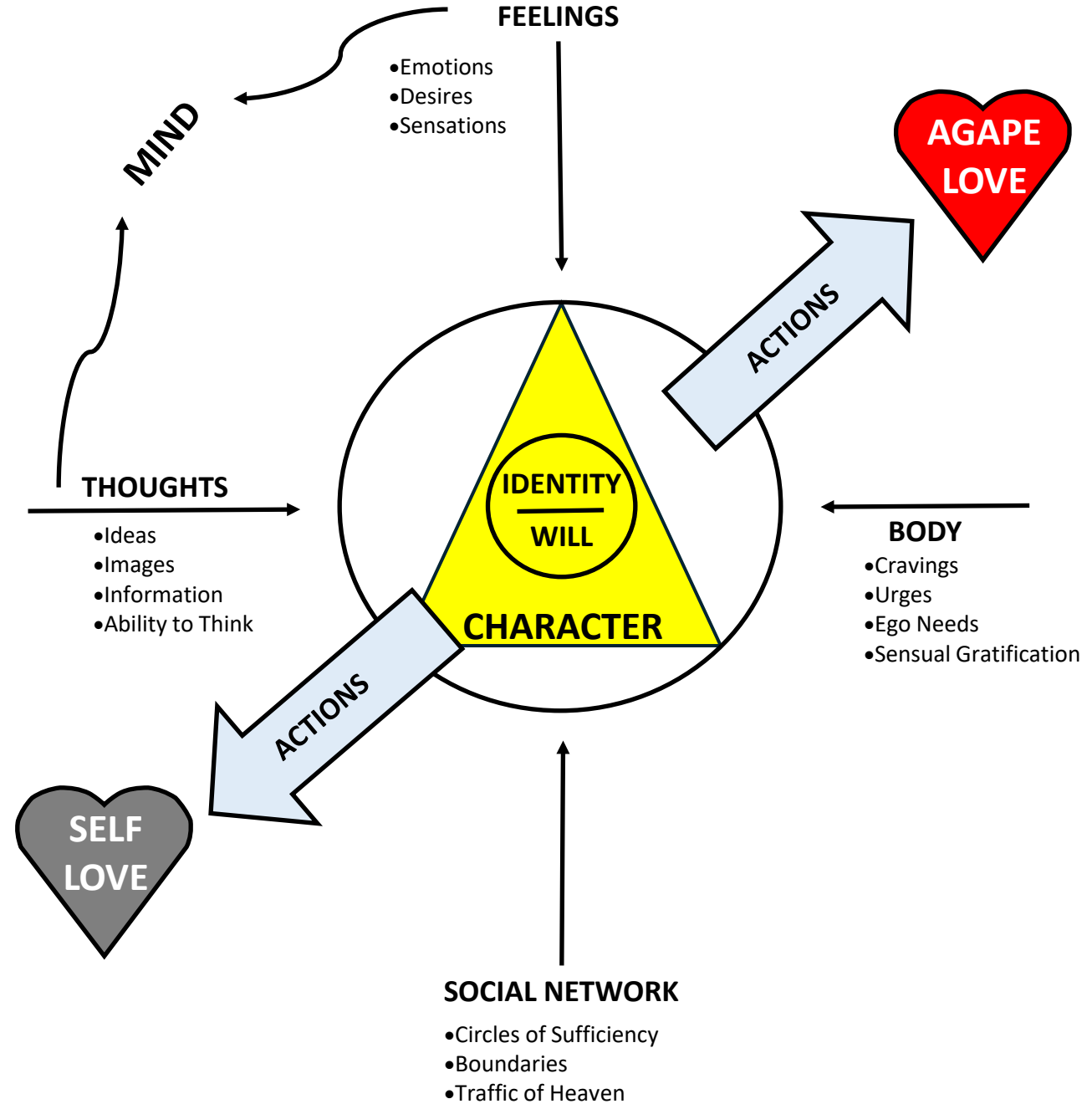


Table Exercise

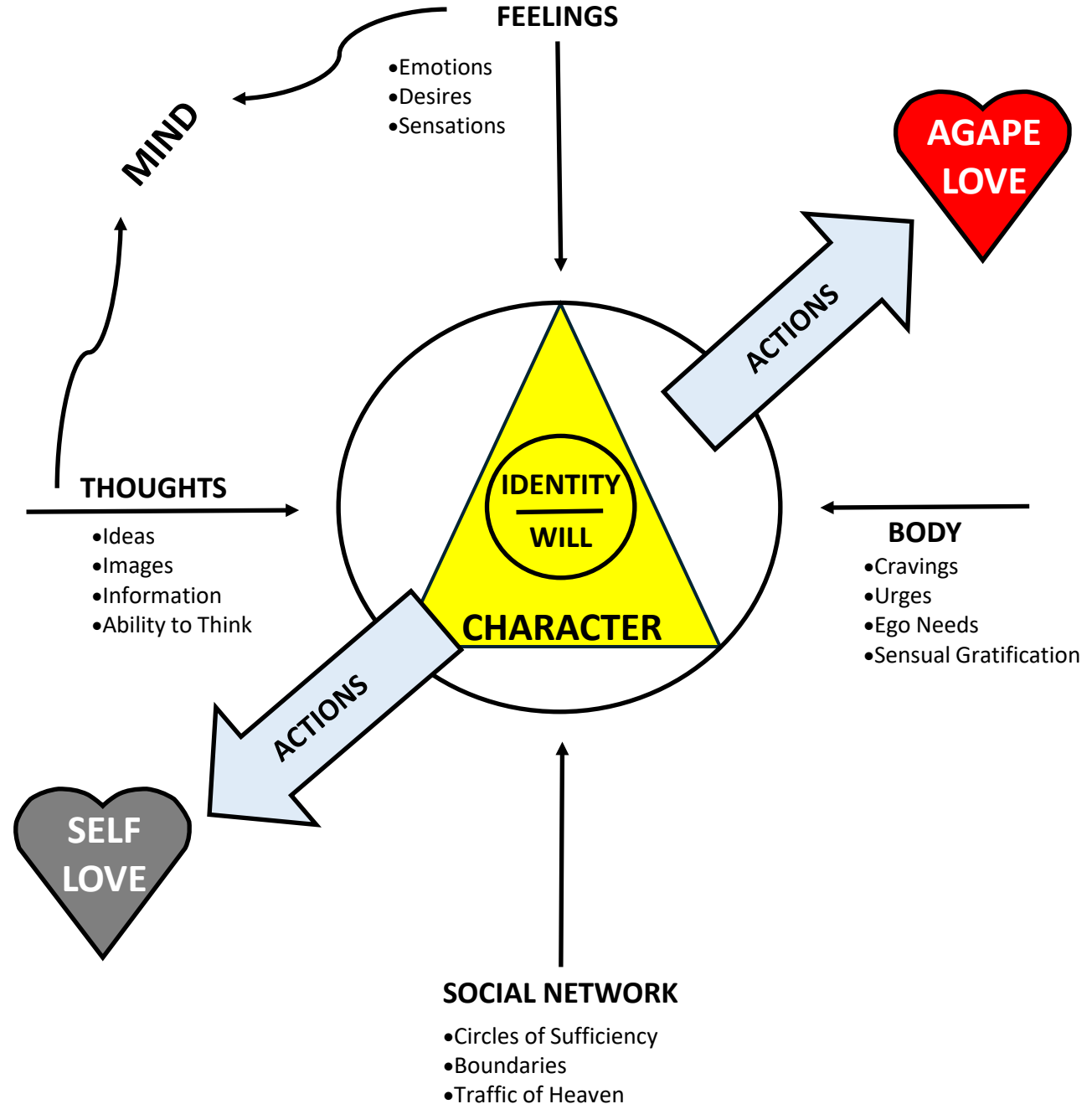


What do these verses all have in common?

Genesis 2:18
Isaiah 7:14
Matthew 28:20
Romans 8:35-39

“God is able to penetrate and intertwine himself within the fibers of the human self in such a way that those who are enveloped in his loving companionship will never be alone.”

- Dallas Willard



Loneliness



1 in 4 people in the world report feeling very or fairly lonely (*Gallup / Meta surveys*)

- 19-29 yr olds – 27%
- More women than men
- Financial stress – 32%
- Brazil 50% / Turkey 46%

A serious public health issue with effects similar to smoking; affects quality of life, longevity, and mental/physical health (WHO)

Exodus 33:13-15

(Moses...)

Remember that this nation is your people.

(God...) My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.

(Moses...) If your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here. How will anyone know that you are pleased with me and with your people unless you go with us? What else will distinguish me and your people from all the other people on the face of the earth?

The Presence of God



How We Experience God's Presence

- **Blind Faith** – even without awareness or evidence; faith of others; past experiences; abstract reasoning
- **Sensing God's Presence** - an imprecise but often powerful sense, feeling, or impression
- **Acts Attributable to God** – events or powerful effects when we act in conjunction with God, not easily attributable, if attributable at all, to merely natural causes
- **Conversational Relationship** – personal, dynamic, interactive, and conversational

- **Mechanical Guidance** – consciously causing something to proceed in a specific way; similar to piloting a drone – Not God's usual way
- **Personal Guidance** – still seeking something to proceed in a specific way, but working with a person in an unforced way, without manipulation (Romans 8:5-14)
- **Communicating with Words** – written and spoken, directly and indirectly
- **Communicating through Shared Activity** – immersing oneself in the work of God, thus we come to know what he is thinking and intending (1 Corinthians 2:15-16)

Failing at Hearing God

Many people who will fail at hearing and following God will fail because they just cannot stay focused on life in the Kingdom.

For them the kingdom of the world will be the primary context of life because it is the one that is visible and around which life revolves.



Succeeding at Hearing God

Spiritual disciplines can help us by creating a context for hearing God and responding positively to his work in our lives.

Christian spirituality is **NOT** found in the outward practice of a set of spiritual activities, but in people who **through spiritual disciplines** find their spiritual life by immersing themselves in a **daily conversational relationship** with God.

They operate in the constant awareness of the life beyond - the Kingdom of God.



Spiritual Disciplines of Engagement

Reading the Bible
Journaling
Prayer
Circle of 4
Scripture Memory
Service
Fellowship
Evangelism

Indirection VS Direct Action

Spiritual Disciplines of Abstinence

Solitude
Silence
Fasting
Simplicity
Chastity
Secrecy
Sacrifice
Technology Fast

The Many Ways the Word of God Comes to Us



■ Creation ■ Dreams & Visions ■ Eternal Logos ■ Still Small Voice ■ Scripture ■ Fellow Believers ■ Circumstances ■ Kingdom Work

Homework

Increase your awareness of your circles of sufficiency.

Journal daily what you notice and hear from God.

An underwater photograph showing several divers in a blue, slightly hazy environment. The divers are silhouetted against the light, and their fins are visible. The word "Homework" is overlaid in a large, white, serif font across the center of the image.

Homework

Circle of 4

Father,
Son,
Spirit,
& You

Being “IN CHRIST”



Kingdom Life on the Rock

Holy Spirit



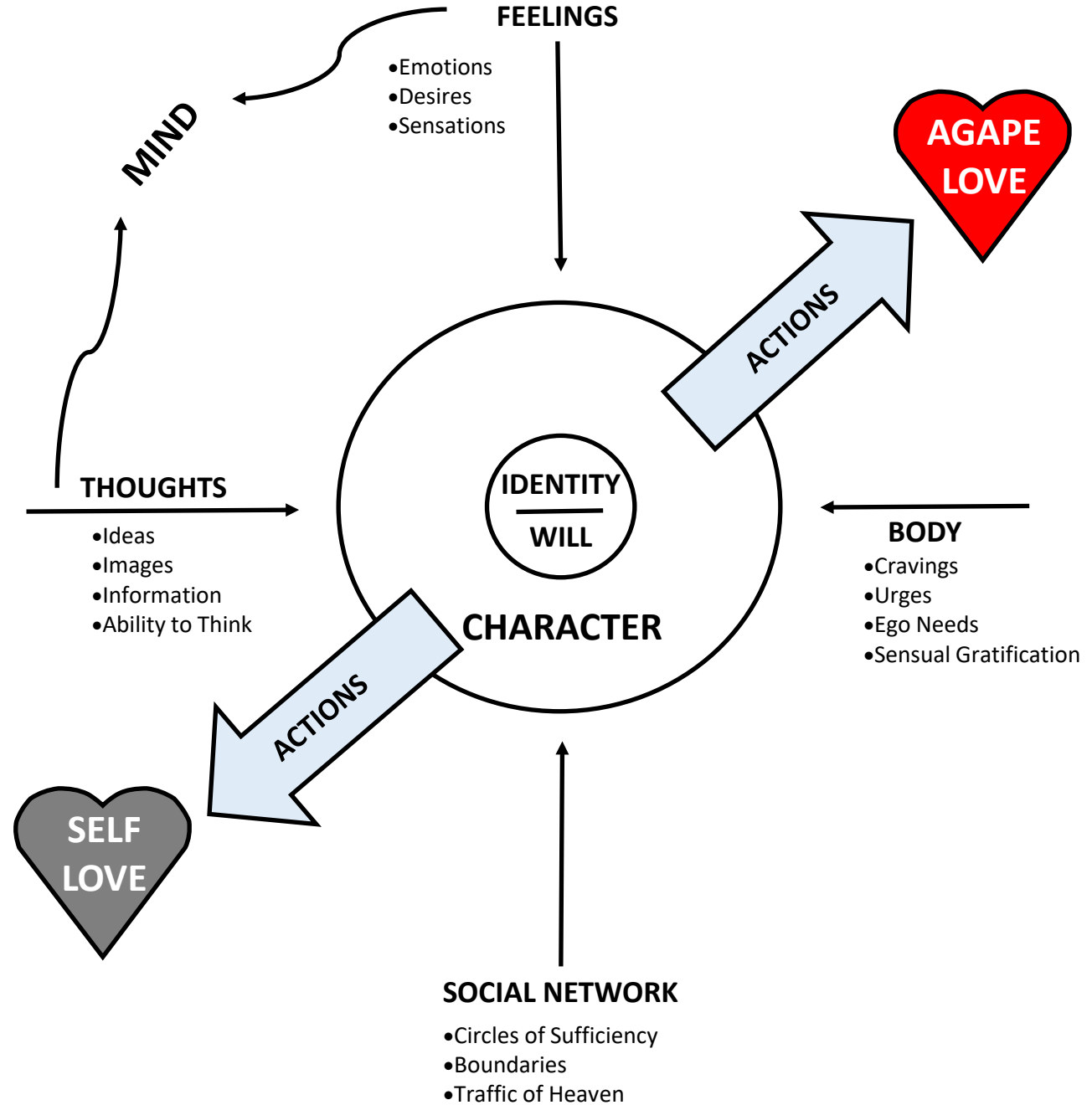
Tasks, Tests &
Temptations

Spiritual
Disciplines

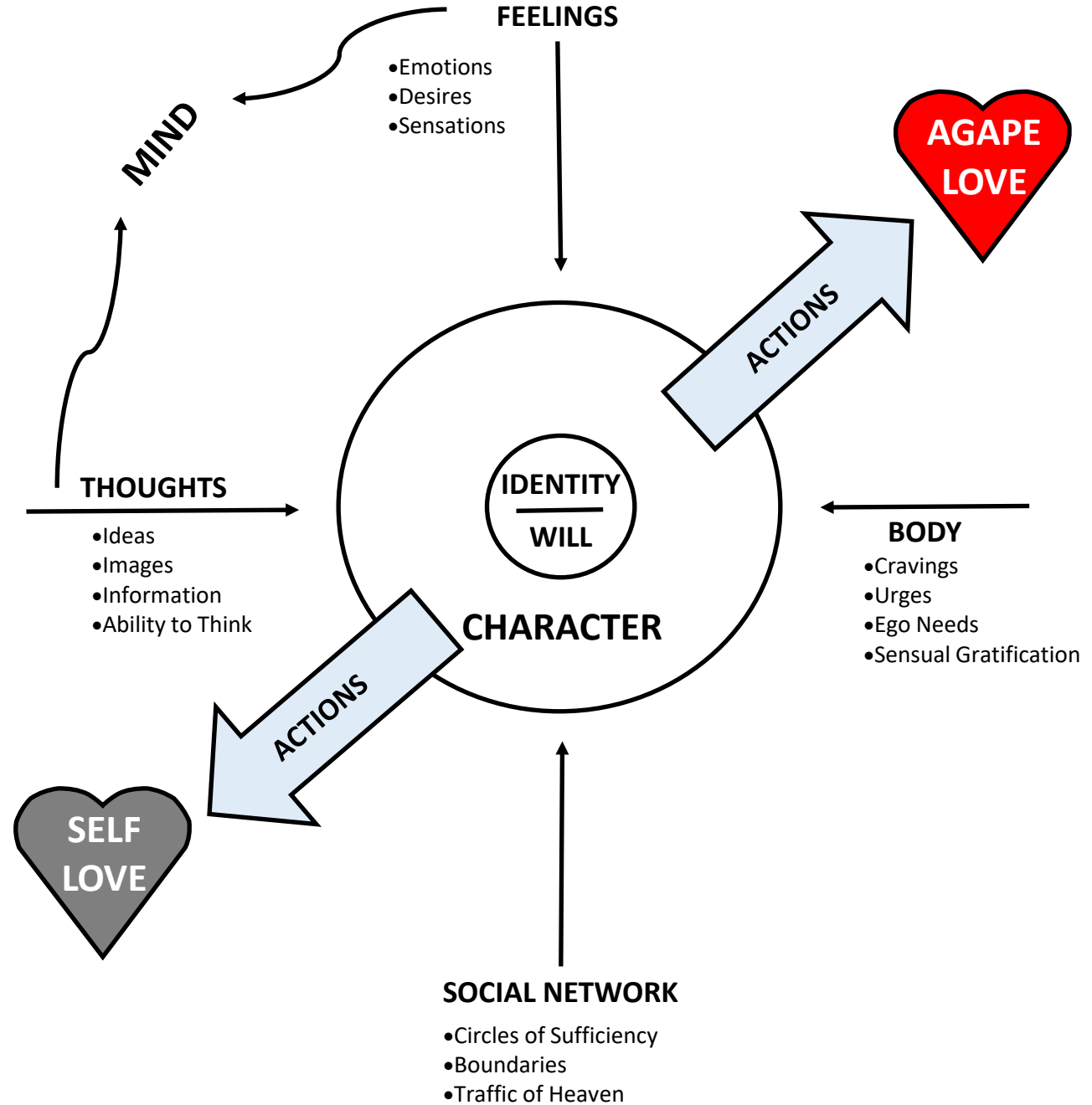


HEAR & DO

Spiritual Formation *in the Kingdom of God*



Spiritual Formation *in the Kingdom of God*



The Entire Human Self

The Whole Picture

Spiritual
Formation
*in the
Kingdom
of God*

