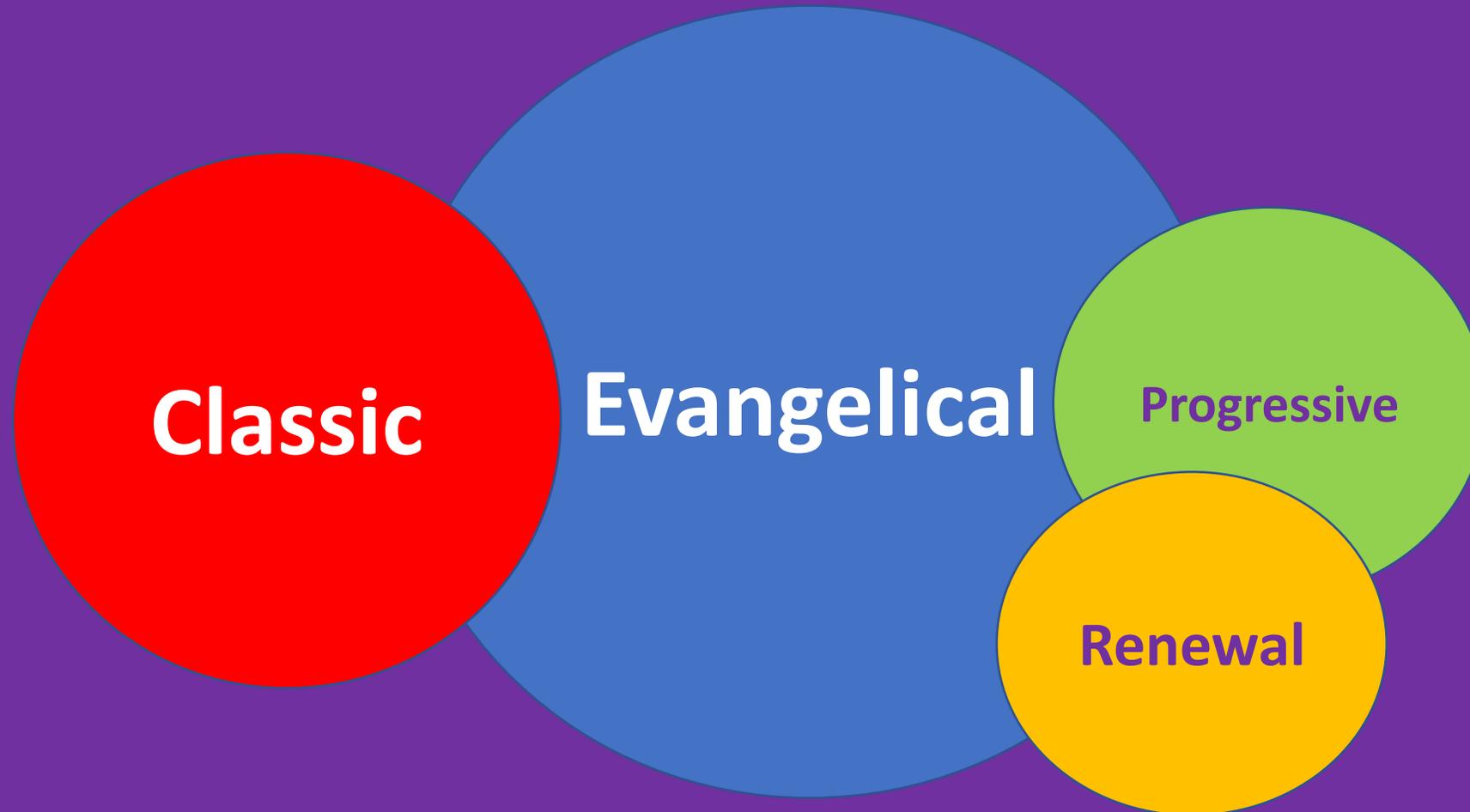


Pentecostal Cultures



Pentecostal Cultures

I am writing about counseling and psychotherapy with Pentecostal-Charismatic Christians for an audience of clinicians, pastoral counselors, and students in counseling or psychology programs.

I believe that what people believe about mental health and the treatment about mental disorders affects the quality of their lives. And in rare cases, beliefs might be a matter of life and death.

I am concerned that clinicians avoid stereotyping Pentecostal-Charismatic Christians, so I am looking for ways to form metagroups based on relevant beliefs, practices, and values.

Pentecostal Cultures

I am looking at research describing the beliefs, practices, values, and experiences of Pentecostal-Charismatic Christians. The four overlapping groups on the first slide represent my attempt to group people by cultural norms based on expressed values represented in doctrinal beliefs, statements about sociomoral values and mental health, and extant data.

The overlap represents my observation that people share common features with more than one group.

Some people remain in a group for reasons of family, friends, or career although they may spiritually identify with a different group.

Classic Pentecostal Cultures

Classic Pentecostals are passionate about

- **The importance of conversion plus Spirit Baptism with tongues**
- **Seeking Spirit empowerment & gifts for witnessing**
- **Practicing and believing in Divine Healing**
- **Reminding others of Jesus' second coming & end times**
- **Defending the inerrancy & all sufficiency of Scripture**
- **Guarding moral purity based on a biblical morality**
- **Avoiding sin and demonic influence**
- **Trusting Biblical wisdom rather than man's wisdom**

Evangelicalized Pentecostal - Charismatic Cultures

- Evangelicalized Pentecostal-Charismatic Christians are strongly influenced by the evolving evangelical movement. Their beliefs can vary between classic and progressive but, they tend to be enthusiastic about:
- Experiencing God's presence and Jesus as a close friend
- Building a Christian worldview on a biblical foundation
- Supporting missions that win souls and meet holistic needs
- Enjoying life within biblically sourced moral boundaries
- Embracing science and humanities believing "all truth is God's truth"

Progressive Christians with a Pentecostal Heritage

Progressive Christians include those who retain their Pentecostal heritage as a part of their spiritual identity. Features of their spirituality may overlap with evangelicals and charismatics in mainline and Catholic traditions. They tend to appreciate:

- Expressing God's love toward all persons by meeting practical needs
- Promoting justice and equality for all through programs and political activity
- Promoting efforts leading to the holistic healing of people and nature
- Learning about the diverse voices and interpretations of Scripture
- Behaving ethically with a focus on principles of love, caring, and equality
- Promoting wellness based on scientific evidence

Charismatic Renewal Cultures

Charismatic Renewal Christians include people who embrace charismatic spirituality while maintaining a primary spiritual identity within their mainline protestant or Catholic traditions.

Their faith is a blend of their specific tradition, charismatic experiences, and sociomoral values, which they may share with progressive Christians.

Some more conservative members may have more in common with the Evangelicalized Pentecostal-charismatic Christians.

Pentecostal Mental Health Perspectives

- Theories of causation (e.g., sin, biology, environment) influence framing of impaired functioning and choice of treatments
- Theories of cure influence range of acceptable treatments (e.g., prayer types, deliverance, psychotherapy, psychopharmacology)
- Clergy influence n understanding mental health conditions and treatment options declines inversely with acceptance of scientific explanations for mental health
- Evangelicalized groups work to integrate faith and science in pragmatic and theoretical models that include spirituality: A Theobiopsychosocial model
- Pneumatology, demonology, and hamartiology are significant influences on theories of causation and cure. Other aspects of theology can also contextualize ideas e.g., theological anthropology and epistemology

Pentecostal Mental Health Perspectives

- In the following slides, I attempt to provide examples of possible ways three groups of Pentecostal-Charismatic Christians might approach helping a person cope with, or recover from, impaired functioning in thinking, mood, behavior, or relationships.
- Within any group, people may draw upon unsystematized beliefs about the cause and best treatments for their condition. People also vary in how much they trust clergy, psychologists, and physicians regarding what is wrong and how to treat what is wrong.
- In some cases, beliefs can be a matter of life or death or significantly affect the quality of life.

Pentecostal Mental Health Perspectives

Classic

- Sin & Demonic influence
- Treat: Confess & Repent;
- Prayer, Bible study
- Deliverance

Evangelical

- Theobiopsychosocial condition
- Treat: Assess & Diagnose
- Christian Counseling
- Medication

Progressive

- Biopsychosocial disorders
- Treat: Assess & diagnose
- Psychotherapy
- Psychopharmacology

Demons & Mental Illness-Possibilities

Classic

- Satan & demons real beings influence / possess/ oppress
- Treat: Prayer, Plead blood, Deliverance

Evangelical

- Satanic influence & temptation
- Treat: Prayer,
- Pastoral or Christian Counseling
- Possible Deliverance

Progressive

- Demons as metaphor
- Treat: Assess & diagnose
- Psychotherapy

Depression

Classic

- Sin & Demonic influence
- Treat: Confess & Repent;
- Prayer, Bible study, Deliverance

Evangelical

- Theobiopsychosocial condition
- Treat: Assess & Diagnose
- Christian Counseling
- Medication

Progressive

- Biopsychosocial disorder
- Treat: Assess & diagnose
- Psychotherapy
- Psychopharmacology

Substance Dependence-Possibilities

Classic

- Confess & Repent sins;
- Detox cold; Abstain
- Prayer, Bible study
- Bible-based program
- Possible demonic deliverance

Evangelical

- Christian Counseling
- Medical detox;
- Abstain
- Christian Treatment Program
- Medication for comorbid disorders

Progressive

- Abstain
- Targeted Evidence-based pharmacotherapy & Behavioral therapies

Marriage & Couples Counseling

Classic

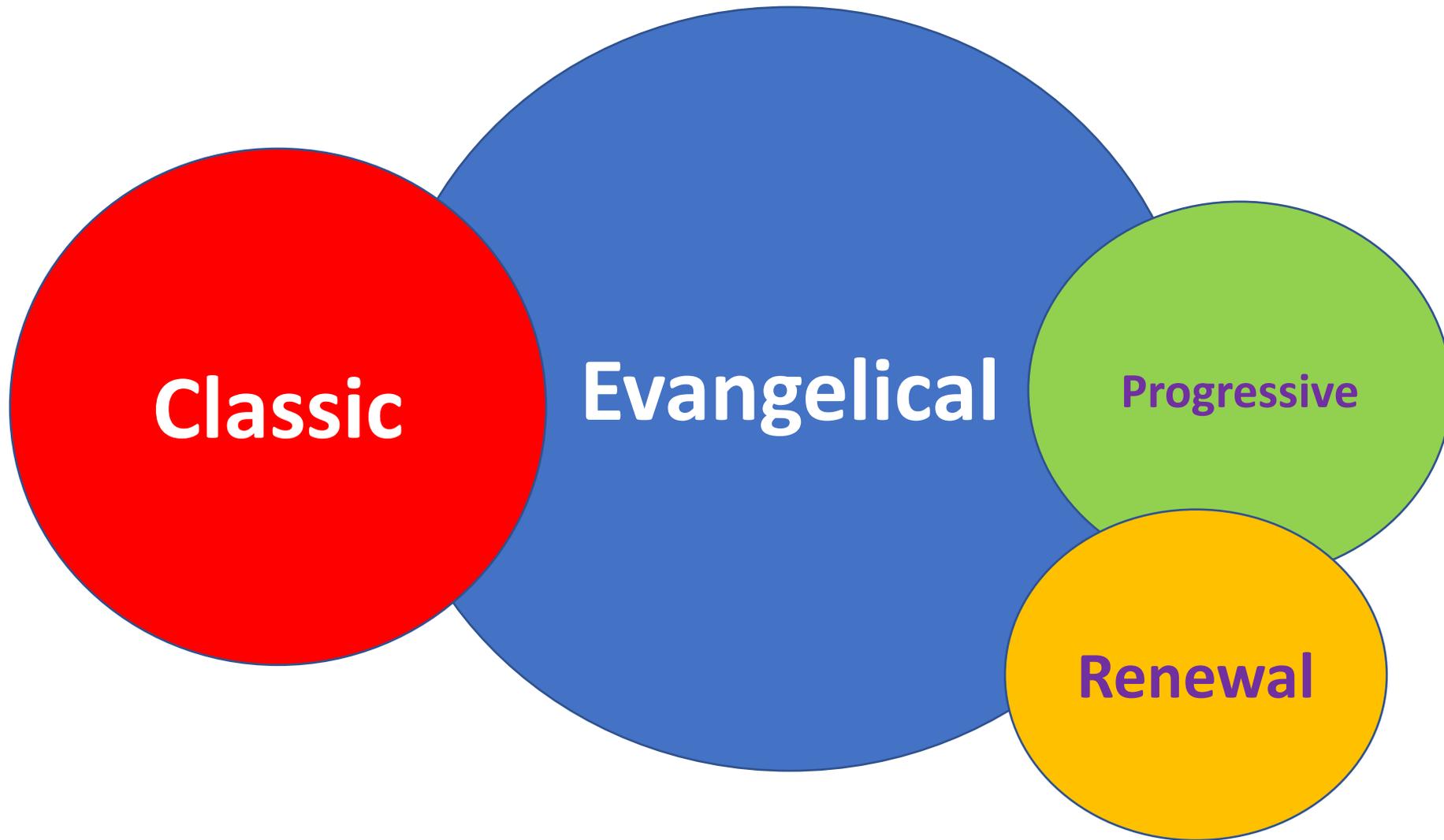
- Husband & Wife
- Treat: Confess & Repent sins; Forgive & reconcile;
- Avoid divorce
- Prayer, Bible study, Biblical counseling

Evangelical

- Husband & Wife
- Treat: Christian Counseling; Forgive; Reconcile?
- Limited Christian divorce options

Progressive

- Partners
- Treat: Evidence-based Couple's Therapy
- Separation-Divorce options



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