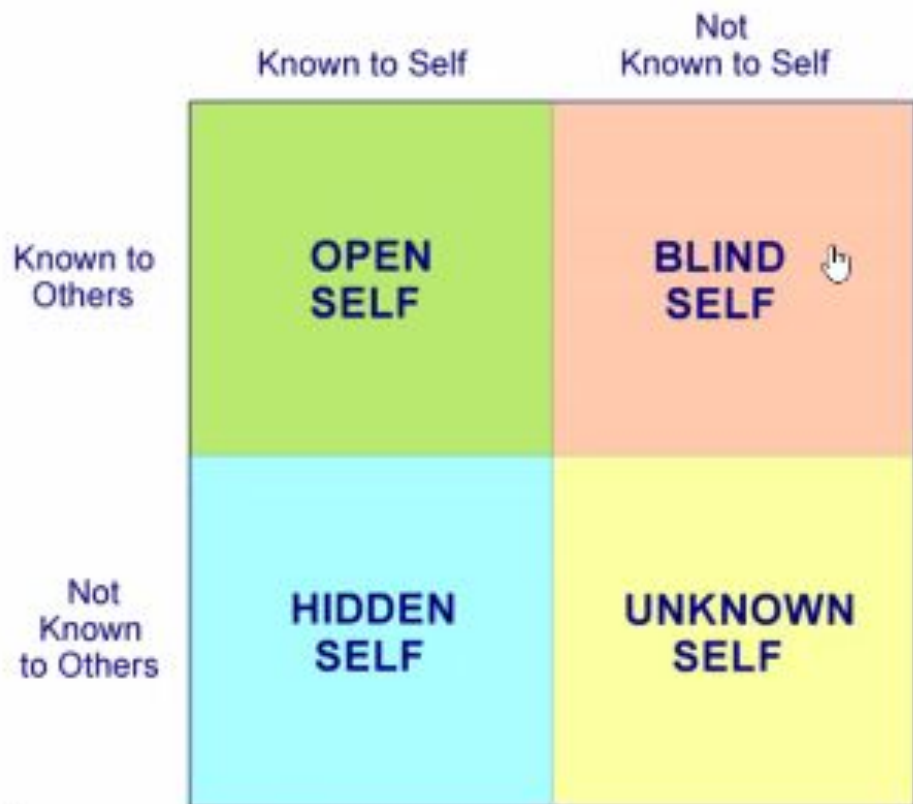
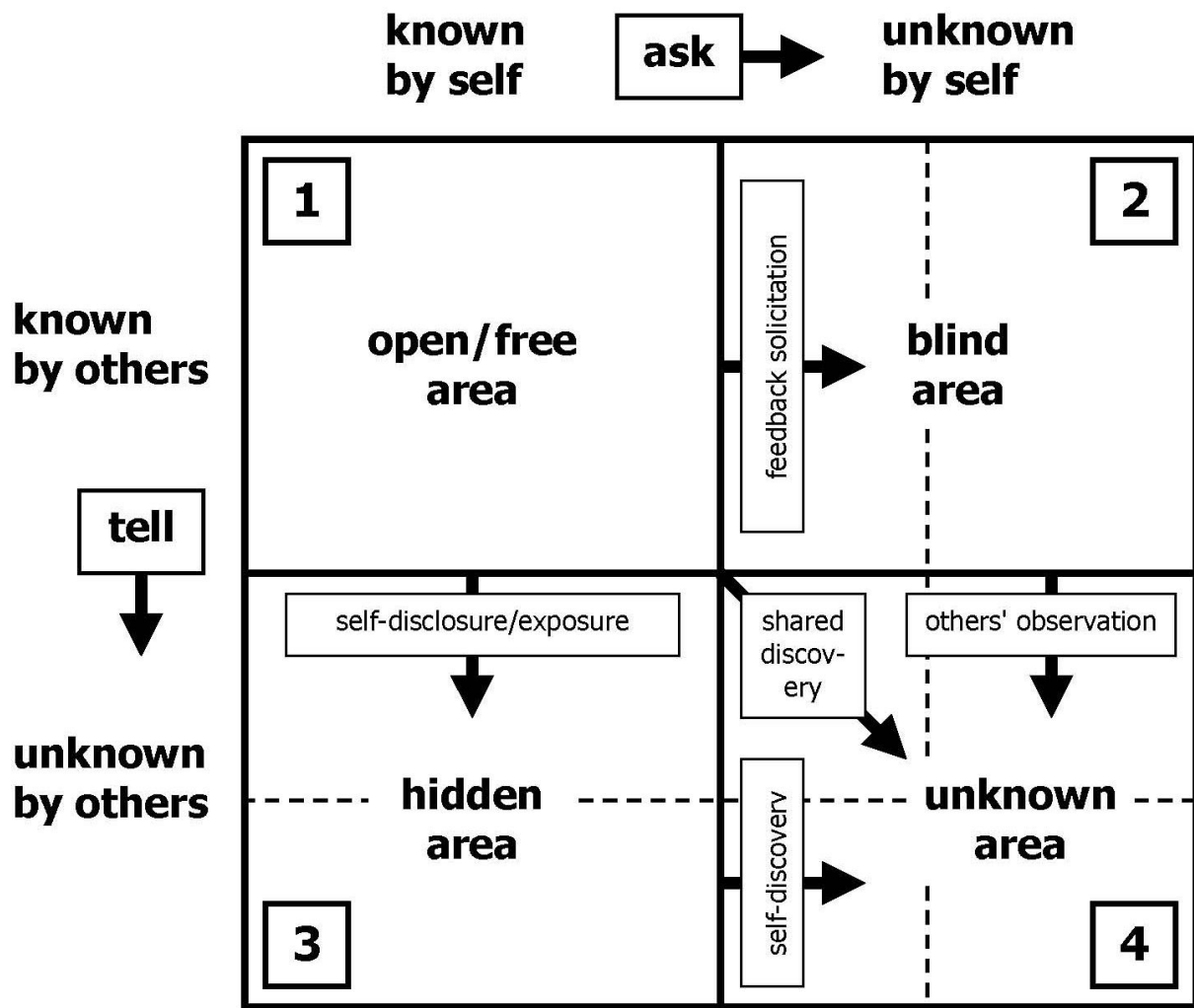


When was the last time
you were “wrong”?

Johari Window



| | Known to self | Not known to self |
|---------------------|--|---|
| Known to Others | The areas of your life that are the so-called open book. | The blind spots – we all have them. |
| Not Known to Others | The things you know about yourself but will not share with others. | The things about you that no one knows, not even you. |



Squaring with History

Selections from Isaiah 30, mostly, w a bit of 33 + 35

Isaiah 30 (ESV/NIV)

8 And now, go, **write it before them on a tablet**

and inscribe it in a book,

that it may be for the time to come

as a witness forever.

9 For these are rebellious people, deceitful children, children unwilling to hear the instruction of the Lord;

10 who say to the seers, “**Do not see,**” and to the prophets,

“Give us no more visions of what is right!

**Tell us pleasant things,
prophecy illusions.**

11 Leave this way, get off this path,

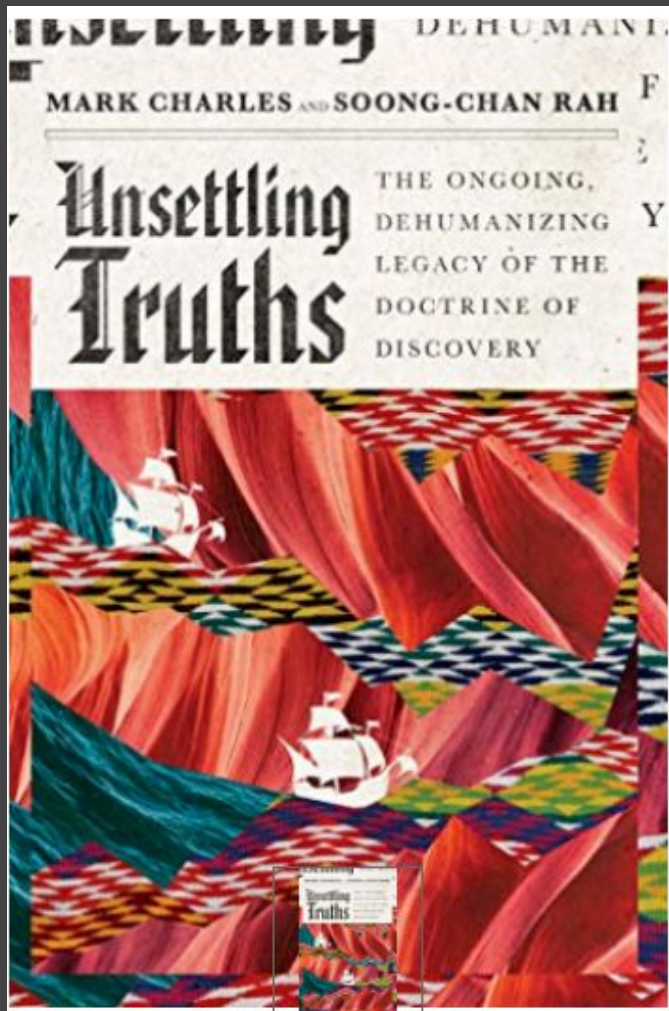
and stop confronting us with the Holy One of Israel!”

Belfast, Northern Ireland

Micky Docherty finishes his mural at Belfast's International Wall on the Falls Road. Belfast is a city with its own powerful tradition of angry and harrowing street art. Now Floyd has joined the city's mural gallery of heroes and martyrs. A strongly and bleakly painted depiction of a white police officer looking at us while he kneels on the suffocating Floyd engages us directly. Above is Floyd's face, painted sensitively and simply, without any angel wings or other distractions. This is outstanding street art - they know how to nurse a memory in Belfast.

Photograph: Brian Lawless/PA





A Starting Point



Chap 1 - The Doctrine of Discovery and Why It Matters

Dum Diversas 1452

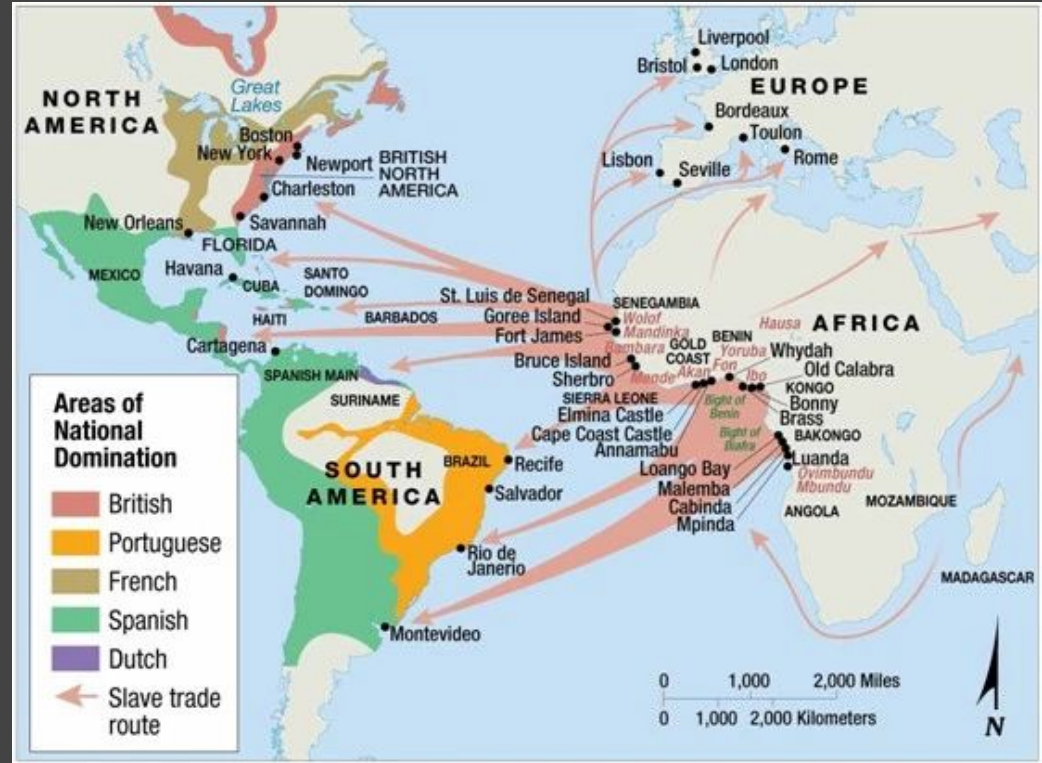
(it's okay to capture and enslave Muslims and pagans)

Romanus Pontifex 1455

(it's okay to expand dominion over 'discovered' lands for defense and increase of the faith)

Inter Caetera 1493

(gave spiritual validation for European conquest, 'spread of Christian rule,' 'barbarous nations be overthrown and brought to the faith itself')



“the Doctrine of Christian European ~~Discovery~~ Arrival-*Invasion*”

“Prince Henry [uncle to king of Portugal] following his deepest Christian instincts, **ordered a tithe be given to God through the church.**

Two black boys were given.’

So, the **slave trade becomes an act of worship** in the diseased imagination of the European explorers engaged in it.” (18)



Aquinas in the 13th century elevated **heresy** to an action **punishable by death**. So the “infidel” -- anyone outside the Christian faith -- could be enslaved and killed. → this allowed for genocidal action.



Augustine: just war theory → sets the stage for the Crusades in the 11th century

It justified the right of Christendom to use violent means to defend the faith

Chap 4 - Rise and Defense of CHRISTENDOM



Formerly persecuted Christians relieved, but this establishes, for the first time, the existence of a “Christian Empire” -- and its leader as “God’s chosen ruler”

312 AD - Constantine (emperor of Rome) consolidates power by winning a civil war. He sees a vision of the cross and converts to Christianity.

313 AD - signs Edict of Milan, proclaiming religious tolerance throughout Roman Empire.

325 AD - calls the Council of Nicaea, producing the Nicene Creed.

330 AD - consolidates entire Roman Empire under his rule

→ Christianity becomes official religion of Roman Empire ⇒ **Christendom** is born

Kingdom
of
God



earthly
Christian
empire

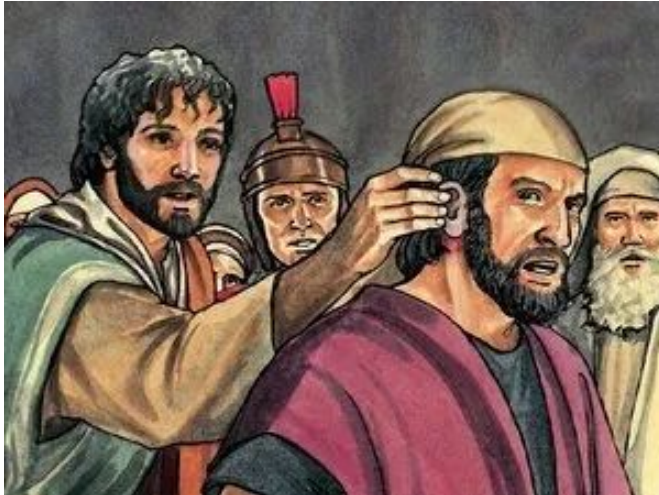
What's wrong with "Christendom"?

"Instead of joining the church *intentionally, sacrificially, and in opposition to empire*, membership in the church now **depended upon** citizenship in, and allegiance to, one of the most powerful and historically oppressive empires in the world." 58

The teachings of Jesus, his disciples, and the apostle Paul do not gesture towards Christendom. Central to Christianity is sacrificial love and the laying down of one's life. Empires are concerned with self-preservation, conquest, and expansion...Jesus' disciples left everything -- their livelihoods and their security -- to follow him. 58

Jesus' kingship: nonviolent; he trusted God. c 33 CE

John 18:10 Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant, cutting off his right ear. (The servant's name was Malchus.)**11** Jesus commanded Peter, **“Put your sword away! Shall I not drink the cup the Father has given me?”**



36 Jesus said, “My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place.”



Peaceable Kingdom

**6 The wolf shall dwell with the
lamb,
and the leopard shall lie
down with the young goat,
and the calf and the lion and
the fattened calf together;
and a little child shall lead
them.**

A photograph of a ruined church tower and walls, likely a castle or abbey, standing in a grassy field under a dramatic, cloudy sky. The tower is tall and narrow, with a small arched window near the top. To its right, the remains of a larger building with several arched windows are visible. The sky is filled with large, white and grey clouds, with some blue patches. The foreground is a lush green field.

Church
Regnant

different
visions
of what
could be

Church
Remnant

Tim Dalrymple, [Why Evangelicals Disagree on the President](https://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2020/november-web-only/trump-election-politics-church-kingdom.html) | Christianity Today

www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2020/november-web-only/trump-election-politics-church-kingdom.html

Isaiah 30 (ESV/NIV)

“Ah, **stubborn children**,” declares the LORD,
“who carry out a plan, but not mine,
and who make an alliance, but not of my Spirit,
that they may add sin to sin;

Isaiah 30 (ESV/NIV)

9 For these are **rebellious people,**
deceitful children,
children unwilling to hear the instruction of the Lord;

10 who say to the seers, “**Do not see,**”
and to the prophets, “Give us no more visions of what is right!

Tell us pleasant things, prophesy illusions.

11 Leave this way, get off this path,

and **stop confronting us** with the Holy One of Israel!”

Isaiah 30

15 For thus said the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel,
“In returning [repentance] and rest you shall be saved;
in quietness and in trust shall be your strength.”

But you were **unwilling**, 16 and you said,

“**No!** We will flee upon horses”;

therefore you shall flee away;

and, “We will ride upon swift steeds”;

therefore your pursuers shall be swift.

Even When You Are Left All Alone

Isaiah 30

17 A thousand shall flee at the threat of one;
at the threat of five you shall flee,
till you are left like a flagstaff on the top of a mountain,
like a signal on a hill.

18 Yet the Lord **longs** to be gracious to you; (waits)
therefore he will rise up to show you compassion.

For the Lord is a God of justice.

Blessed are all who **wait** for him!



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TODDLERS HUG GOES VIRAL



Isaiah 30, continued

20 Although the Lord gives you the bread of adversity and the water of affliction, your teachers will be hidden no more; with your own eyes you will see them.

21 Whether you turn to the right or to the left, **your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, “This is the way; walk in it.”**





Isaiah 33

2 O Lord, be gracious to us; we wait for you.

Be our arm every morning,

our salvation in the time of trouble.

Isaiah 35

3 Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.

4 Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
“Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you.”



Closing Thoughts

1) Confess prejudice in your convictions

in light of a gospel of grace

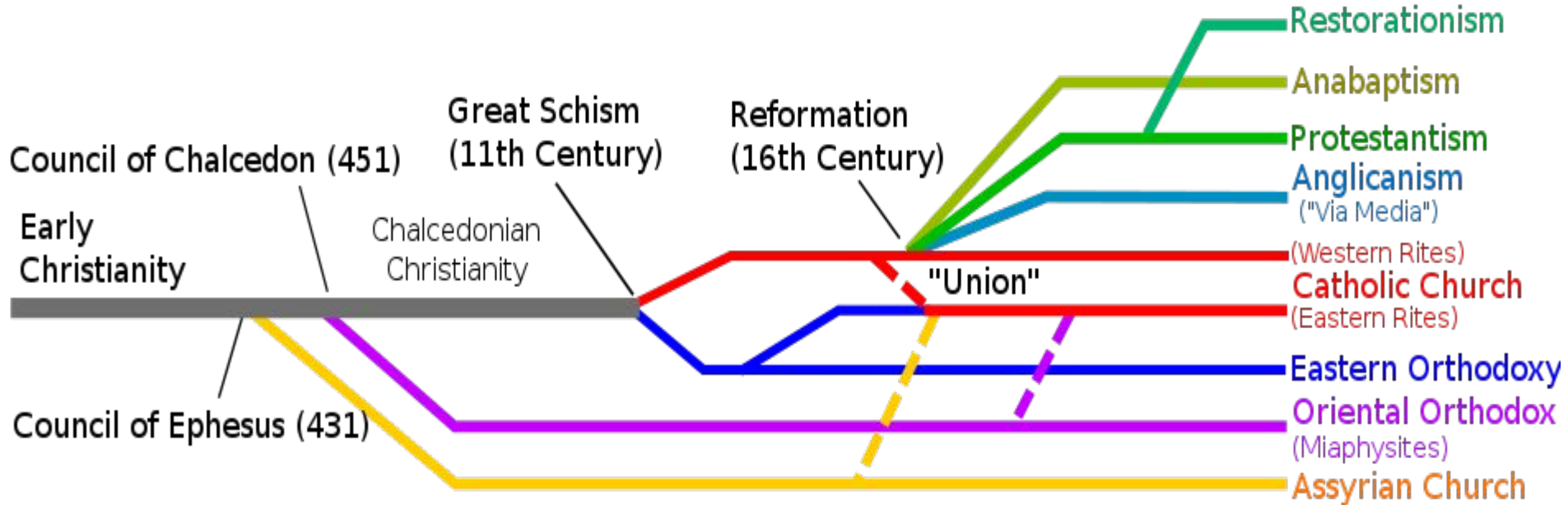
- Ask for forgiveness when wrong
- Extend forgiveness when asked



2) Keep learning history

Ex: Thurs Bible Study - spring curriculum

Major branches within Christianity



3) Let your growth shape future action

Could OVCC become ever more

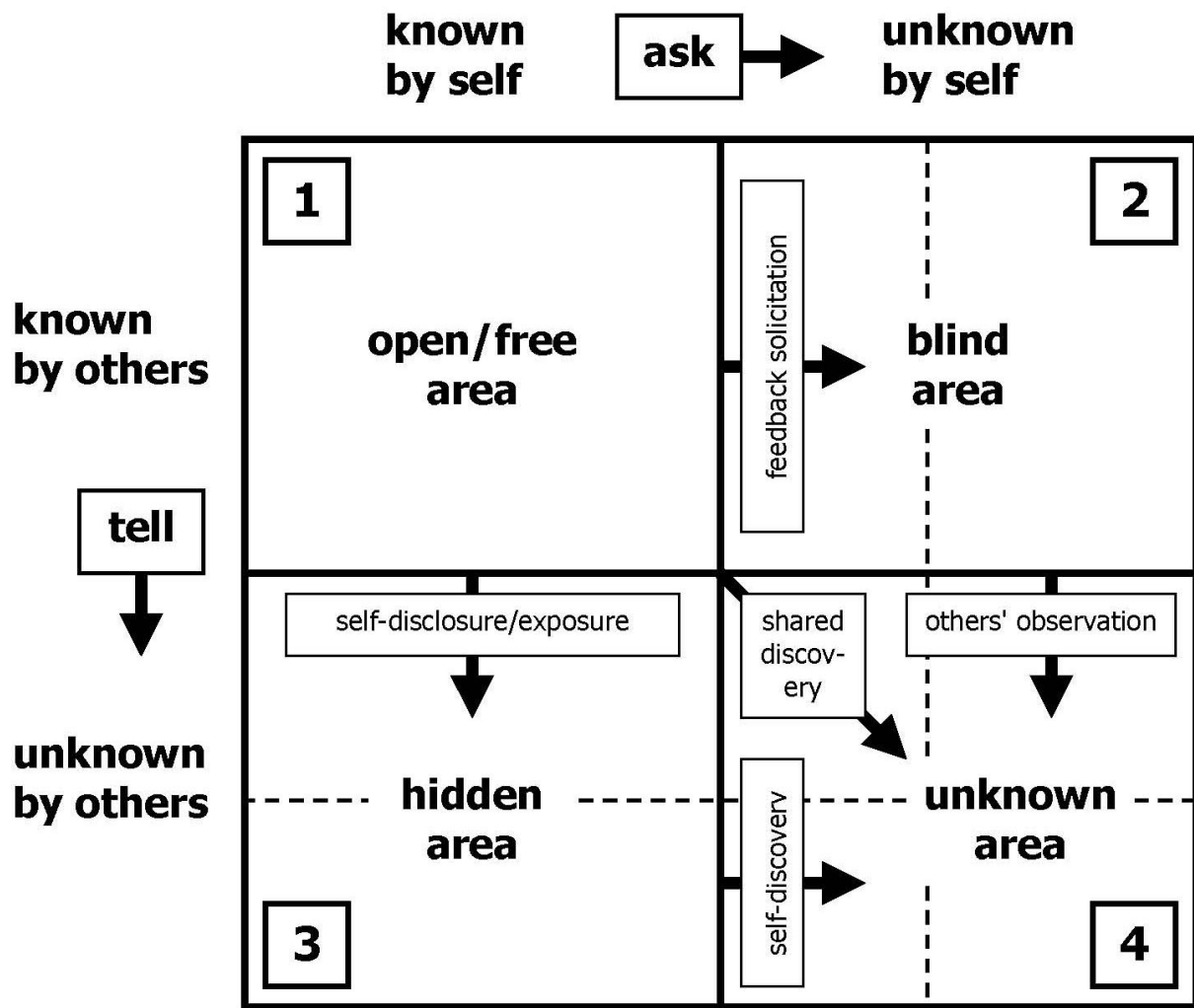
Vibrant: creative with outreach, deep in discipleship

Multi-ethnic: appealing to a broad array of folk reminds us

our future home will have people from “every nation, tribe, people and language” (Rev. 7)

Age-diverse: young and old, middle-aged, from the moment of birth, until the time we get to go be with the Lord in glory -- welcome of all. [*challenges of inter-generationality]

Christ-loving. I miss meeting new people who don't know Jesus. Do you?



Squaring with History

Selections from Isaiah 30, mostly, w a bit of 33 + 35