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SWITCHING OFF  
YOUR MOBILE PHONES

# INFORMATION ETHICS AND CULTURE FORMATION IN TROPICAL AFRICA

Prof. J.N.K. Mugambi, Ph.D., MKNAS,  
Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies,  
University of Nairobi.

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# CONCEPTUAL CLARIFICATIONS: KNOWLEDGE AND INFORMATION

- The word “information” refers to a collection of “data” about a specific topic.
- The compiler of “information” decides what data to put together.
- Criteria for compilation of “data” into “information” are arbitrary.
- A piece of “Information” becomes “knowledge” when it is incorporated and related with other pieces of information leading someone to an opinion or a perspective.
- “Information” does not become “knowledge” until it is processed in within a person’s consciousness.

# CONCEPTUAL CLARIFICATIONS: KNOWLEDGE AS PROCESSED INFORMATION

- “Knowing” means interpreting the “information” which someone has received through the senses or through other channels.
- Deriving “knowledge” from “information” is a cultural process.
- Knowledge accumulation is a cultural process, consisting of cognitive, affective and practical functions.
- The ability to accumulate knowledge has to be cultivated in the process of upbringing of children.
- The nurture of children determines how they process information into knowledge.
- The information to which children are exposed determines the kind of knowledge they begin to accumulate, and the attitudes they develop as they grow up.
- Parenthood includes the responsibility to provide an environment for the offspring to develop conceptual tools for the processing of information into knowledge.
- The State has interest in the way parents bring up their children. Hence the interest of states in the character formation of youth.

# WHAT IS A CONSTITUTION?

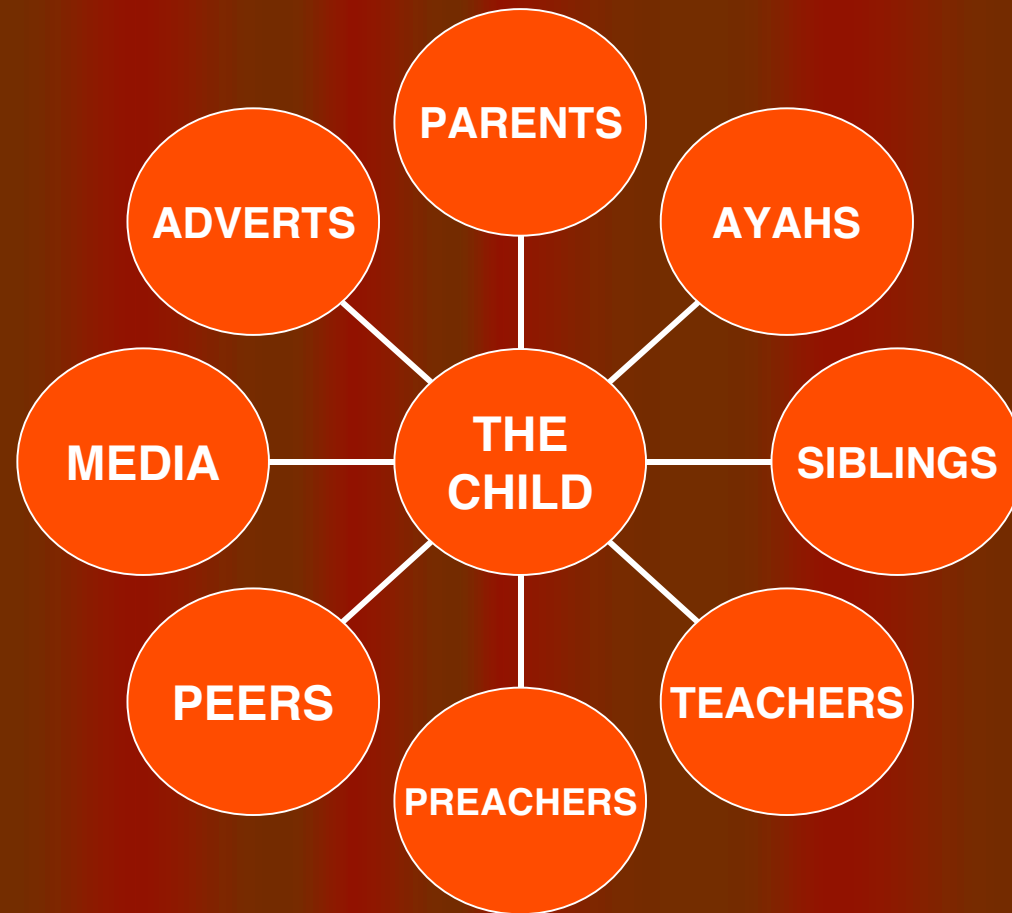
- It is much, much more than a “document”.
- It is a summary of the cultural consensus of a community.
- It may be written, as in the USA.
- It may be unwritten, as in the UK.
- It may be imposed, as in colonies.
- It may evolve, as in many nations today.
- The cultural consensus precedes the Constitution, not vice versa.
- Without Cultural consensus a workable Constitution (written or otherwise) is impossible.

# SYMBOLS OF NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY?

- Sovereignty is expressed in four interrelated symbols:
  - a) National Anthem – The national Prayer
  - b) National Flag – The national Colours
  - c) National Seal – The national Emblem
  - d) National Constitution – The Covenant

A national Constitution ought to be a **Covenant** rather than a **Contract**.

# WHO SHAPES OUR VALUES?



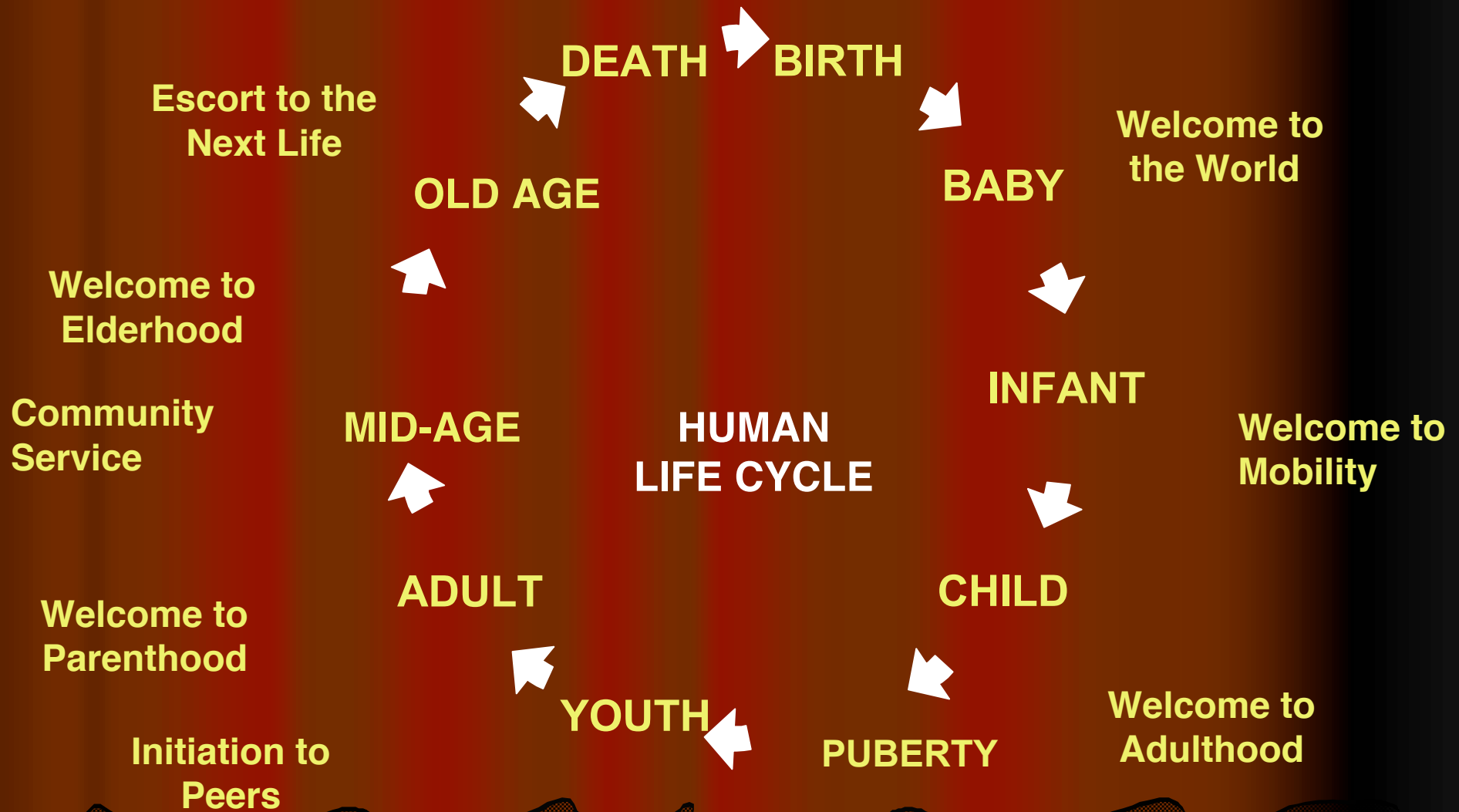
# THE CULTURAL FOUNDATIONS OF APPLIED ETHICS



# WORLD-VIEWS AND PERSONAL DISPOSITIONS

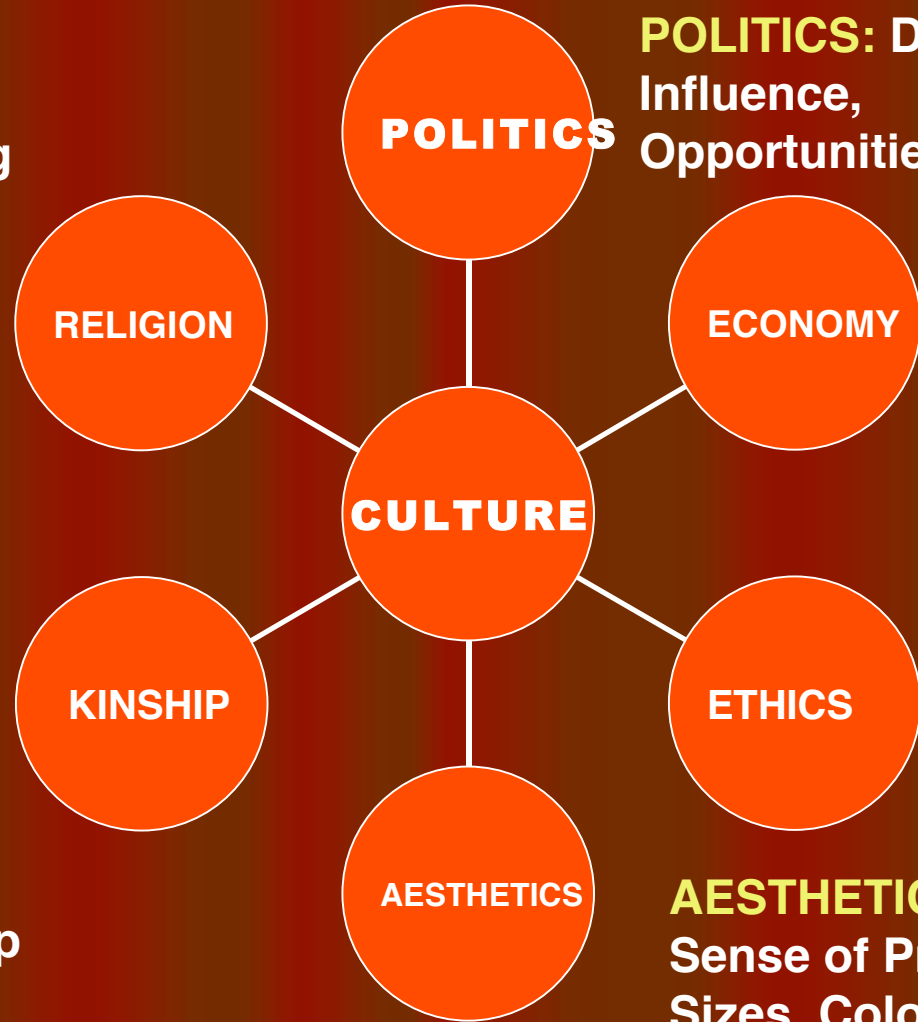
- Our World-view determines our self-understanding.
- What is our worldview?
- Our World-View informs our Ethos. So, what is our Ethos?
- Our Ethos informs our Ethic. So, what is our Ethic?
- Our Ethic informs our values. So what are our values?
- Our Values inform our Virtues and our Vices. So what is Virtue and Vice?
- Our Virtues and Vices shape our Principles. So What are our principles?
- Our Principles determine our Norms. So what Norms do we cherish?
- Our Norms determine our Attitudes. So what Attitudes do we encourage?
- Our Attitudes condition our Daily Practices.
- So how do we rationalize our daily practices?
- If we wish to reform our Daily Practices,
- We must review our World-view
- And go the full circle back to our Virtues and Vices
- Back to our Norms and Attitudes,
- Back to me and you,
- Back to God who makes all things new.

# THE TEN AGES OF A PERSON



# MAIN ASPECTS OF SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

**RELIGION:**  
Sense of Belonging  
and Self-Definition



**POLITICS:** Distribution of Social Influence, Opportunities & Prerogatives

**ECONOMICS:**  
Distribution of Resources and Facilities

**ETHICS:**  
Sense of Values, Virtues & Vices

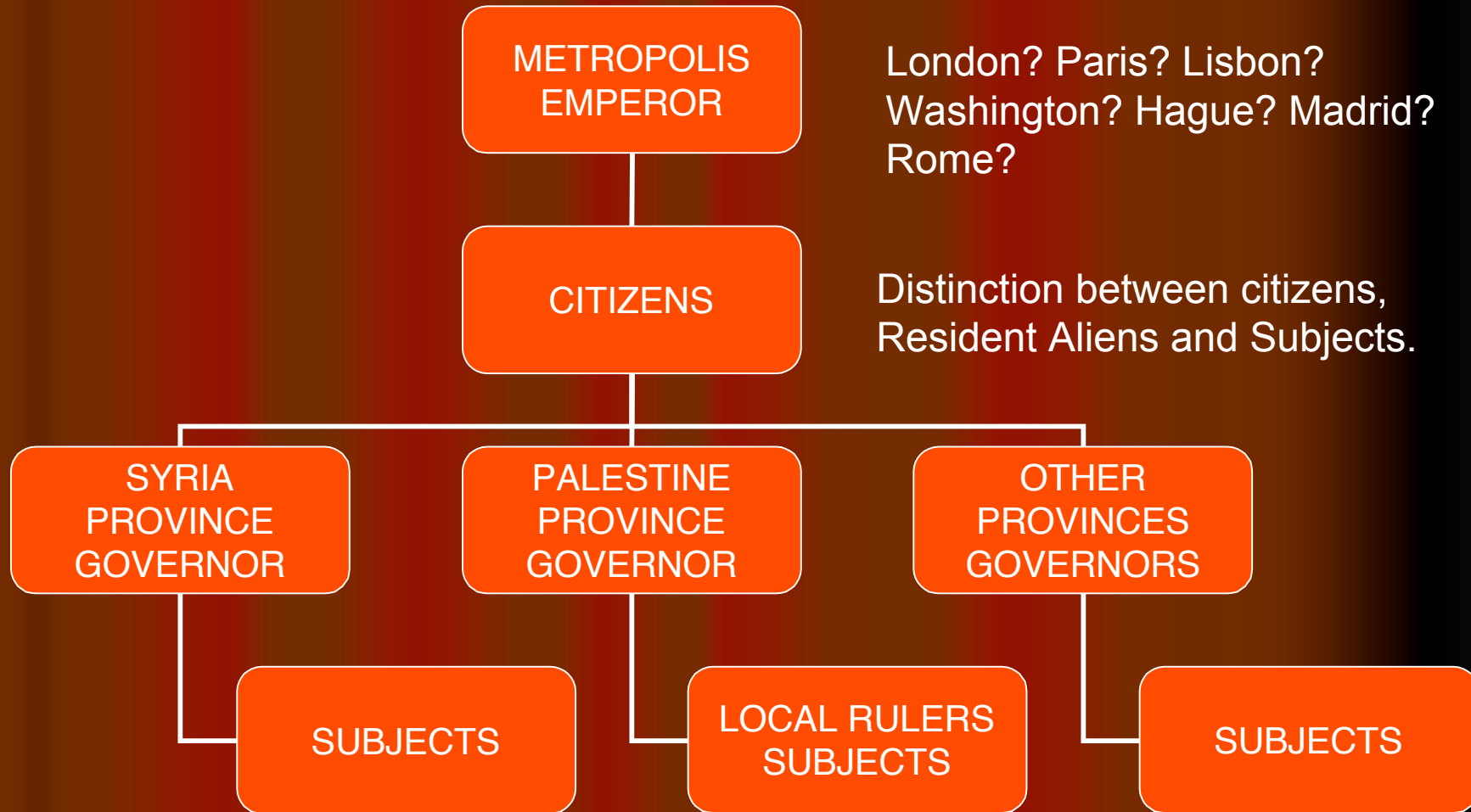
**KINSHIP:**  
Proper Relationship in Primary Groups

**AESTHETICS:**  
Sense of Proportion in Shapes, Sizes, Colours & Sounds

# RESPONSIBLE CITIZENSHIP

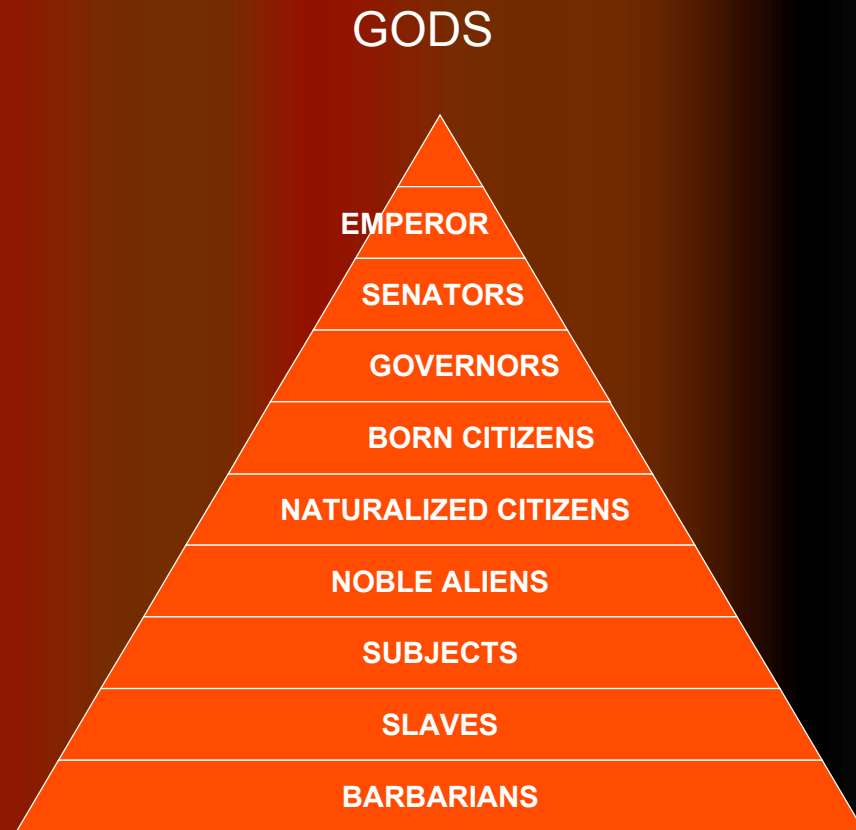


# POWER RELATIONS IN THE ROMAN EMPIRE

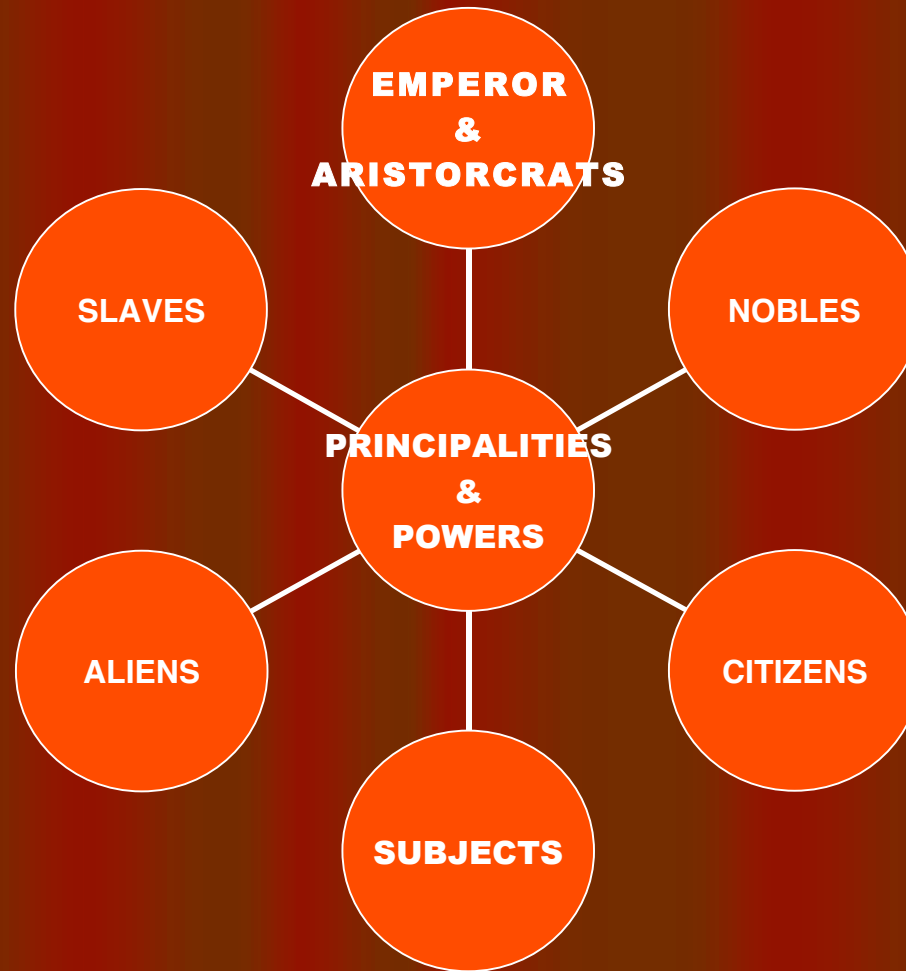


# IMPERIAL PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT ACCORDING TO STATUS

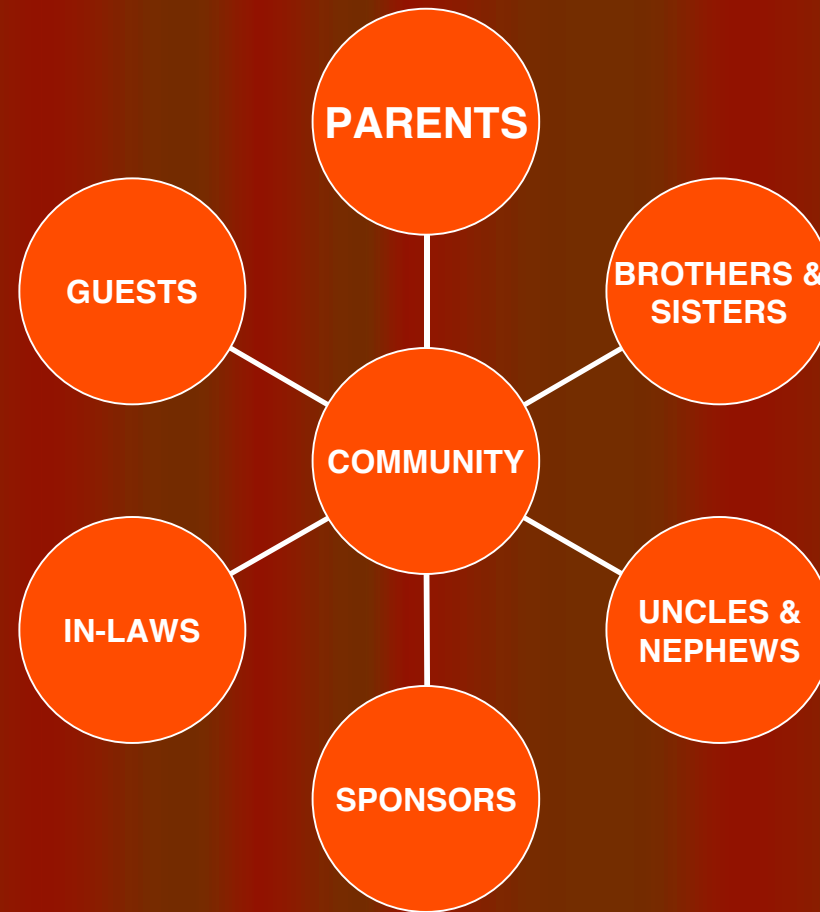
- The Gods: Polytheistic Religion
- The Emperor: To be worshipped like a god
- The Senators: To be revered for access to Emperor.
- The Governors: Representatives of Emperor in colonies
- Born Citizens: They can appeal directly to Caesar
- Naturalized Citizens: They can appeal to Caesar through the Governor.
- Noble aliens: They can be respected for their seniority
- Subjects: They are under the Governor and local rulers
- Slaves: They are the property of their masters
- Barbarians: They are outside the Roman social hierarchy



# ROMAN IMPERIAL POLITICAL STRUCTURE



# POLITICAL STRUCTURE OF ASCEPHALOUS AFRICAN COMMUNITIES



# ST. PAUL'S ROLE ASSIGNMENT

- Emperor and Aristocrats: Rule with justice, wisdom, and mercy.
- Nobles: Treat inferiors kindly and with compassion.
- Citizens: Consider fellow citizens, subjects, aliens and slaves as equals. (Ephesians 6: 1-9).
- Aliens: Obey the laws and respect the values of the Empire
- Subjects: Obey and respect the imperial laws
- Slaves: Perform your duties with self-confidence.

# ST. PAUL'S DISTINCTION ON EQUALITY AND EQUITY

- St. Paul made a very clear conceptual distinction between Equality and Equity. Equality is impossible in human society
- Equity is not only possible, but it is a moral necessity.
- Those who are advantaged ought to relate with the disadvantaged as if they had no advantage.
- The disadvantaged ought to affirm their dignity irrespective of any odds against them.

# IMPLICATIONS

- Human beings are not only social beings; they are cultural beings.
- Culture is made possible by communal traditions through which nature is modified for the comfort of particular communities.
- These traditions include Politics, Economics, Ethics, Aesthetics, Kinship and Religion.
- It is the responsibility of religious leaders to remind the community

# CONCLUDING REMARKS

- Finally brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, do, and the God of peace will be with you. (Philippians 4: 8)

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