



# Transforming Discipleship: New Opportunities in Following the Master in a Post-Christian World (Part II)

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A group of business professionals in a meeting, with a green overlay and a hashtag symbol.

#

a choice





## **#** Matthew 4:19

“Come follow me [...] and I will  
make you fishers of men.”



# # what are we missing?

- 
- Membership vs Discipleship
  - Where should be our primary goal?
  - How can we be meaningful and relevant?
  - How can we impact post-Christian generations with the transforming power of the Eternal Gospel?



What people can see...

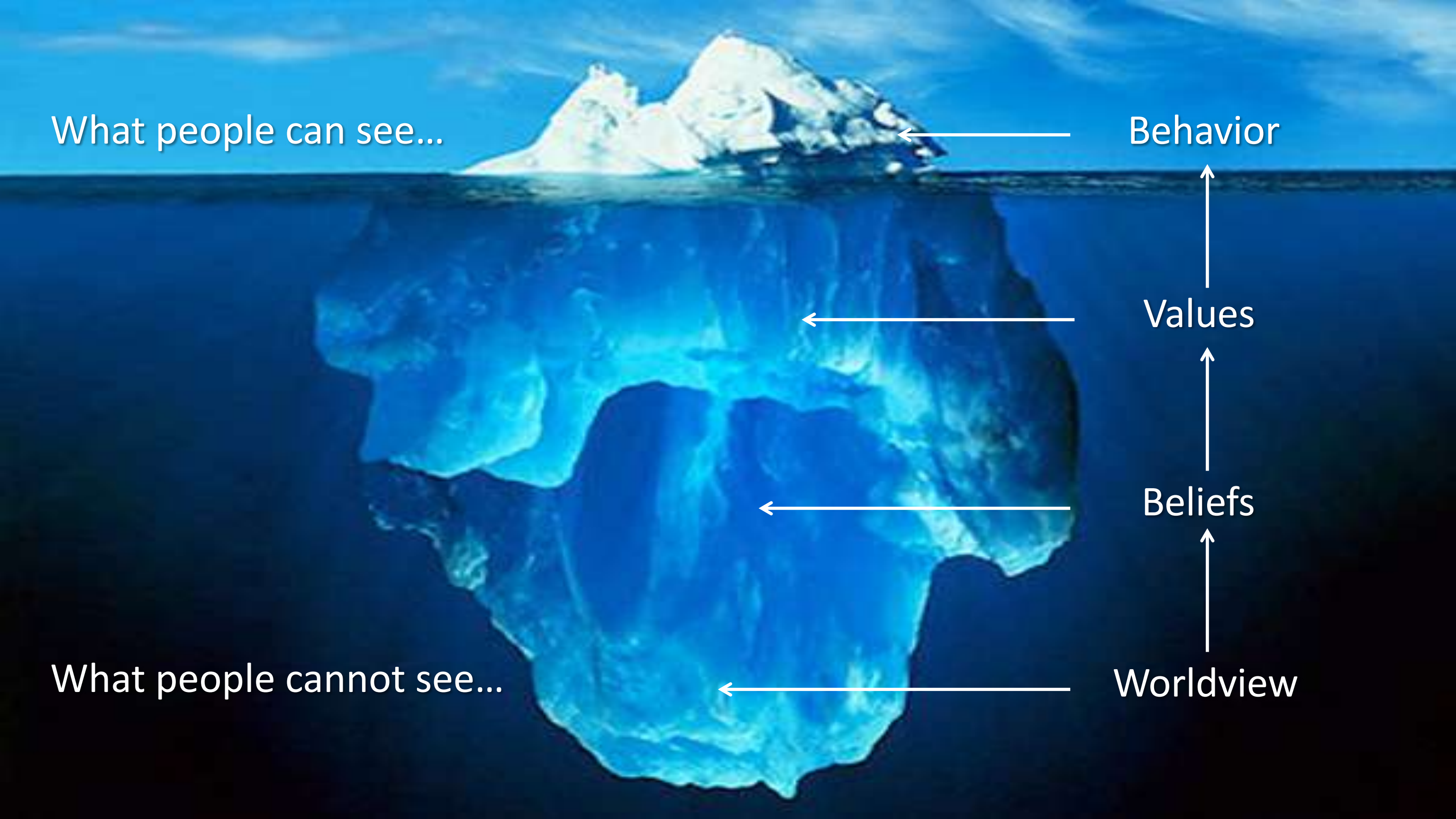
Behavior

Values

Beliefs

What people cannot see...

Worldview





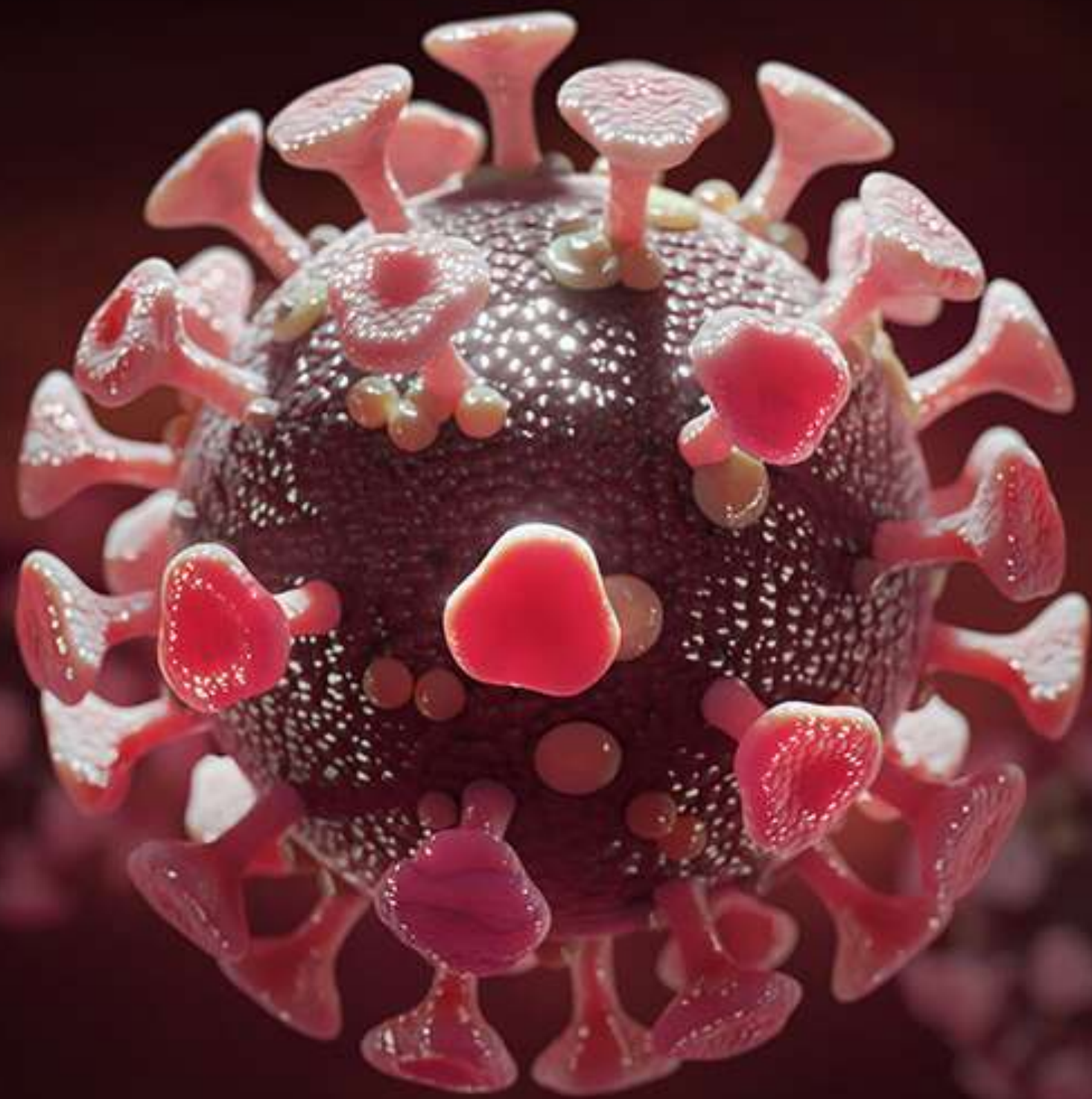
the post-Christian world:  
a dangerous opportunity to  
discipleship



# # a dangerous opportunity

- Moment of crisis
- Worldwide pandemic





# # a dangerous opportunity

- Moment of crisis
- Worldwide pandemic
- Social/political issues



















# # a dangerous opportunity

- Moment of crisis
- Worldwide pandemic
- Social/political issues
- Secularism
- De-Christianization of the West
- Religiously unaffiliated
- “[C]risis is . . . not the end of opportunity but in reality only its beginning, the point where danger and opportunity meet” (David Bosch, TM, 3)

# # 21<sup>st</sup> century challenges to discipleship

- Consumerism

- Shift from a culture based on production to a culture based on consumption
- Active process to create pleasure and meaning as a new source in finding one's personal identity through a personal experience with the product
- Core value: personal choice
- Spiritual dimension
- Result: "hummingbird" Christianity
- Personal choices are above God's purposes



# # 21<sup>st</sup> century challenges to discipleship

- Religious pluralism
  - Diversity in urban contexts
  - People try to fulfill their spiritual needs through any kind of “religion” and/or spiritual development
  - Result: postmodern secularization of religion
  - Many are not willing to believe in what they do not appreciate
  - Openness to any type of spiritual experiences
  - The Christian call: to follow the only Way, the True Master (John 14:6; Luke 9:23).

# # 21<sup>st</sup> century opportunities to discipleship

- Search for real spiritual experiences
  - It has its own contours
  - They may be looking for spiritual experiences but the last place they expect this to happen is the church!
- Experiential spirituality
- Authentic spirituality



# # 21<sup>st</sup> century opportunities to discipleship

- Search for real community experiences
  - The importance of meaningful relationships
  - Fear of exclusion, loneliness
- Social Media revolution and its implications
- Many are looking for a community to belong to, before they find a message to believe in.



# discipleship: the path to transformation



# # the importance of discipleship

- Greatest problem: Christianity/Adventism without discipleship
- Main difficulties related with discipleship:
  - Nature
  - Scope
  - Development

# # the meaning of discipleship

- Discipleship today is a concept much broader than what it was in the past.
- Result of the integration of three movements:
  - Classical discipleship
  - Biblical spirituality
  - Relational/communitarian discipleship





## # Testimonies, Vol 3, p. 381

“The mission of the church of Christ is to save perishing sinners. It is to make known the love of God to men and to win them to Christ by the efficacy of that love.”





## # John 13:34-35

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”