



PATTERNS OF THE GOD IMAGE FUNCTIONING

Victor Counted

ATTACHMENT



- A parent-child relationship
- Internal working models (mental representation of self and others)
- Attachment figures / relational partners
- Insecure attachment (Early abandonment; attachment Abuse; emotional unavailability)
- Substitute Attachment figures (SAF)
- God is represented or imaged as a Divine Attachment Figure (DAF) or SAF
- God as a DAF

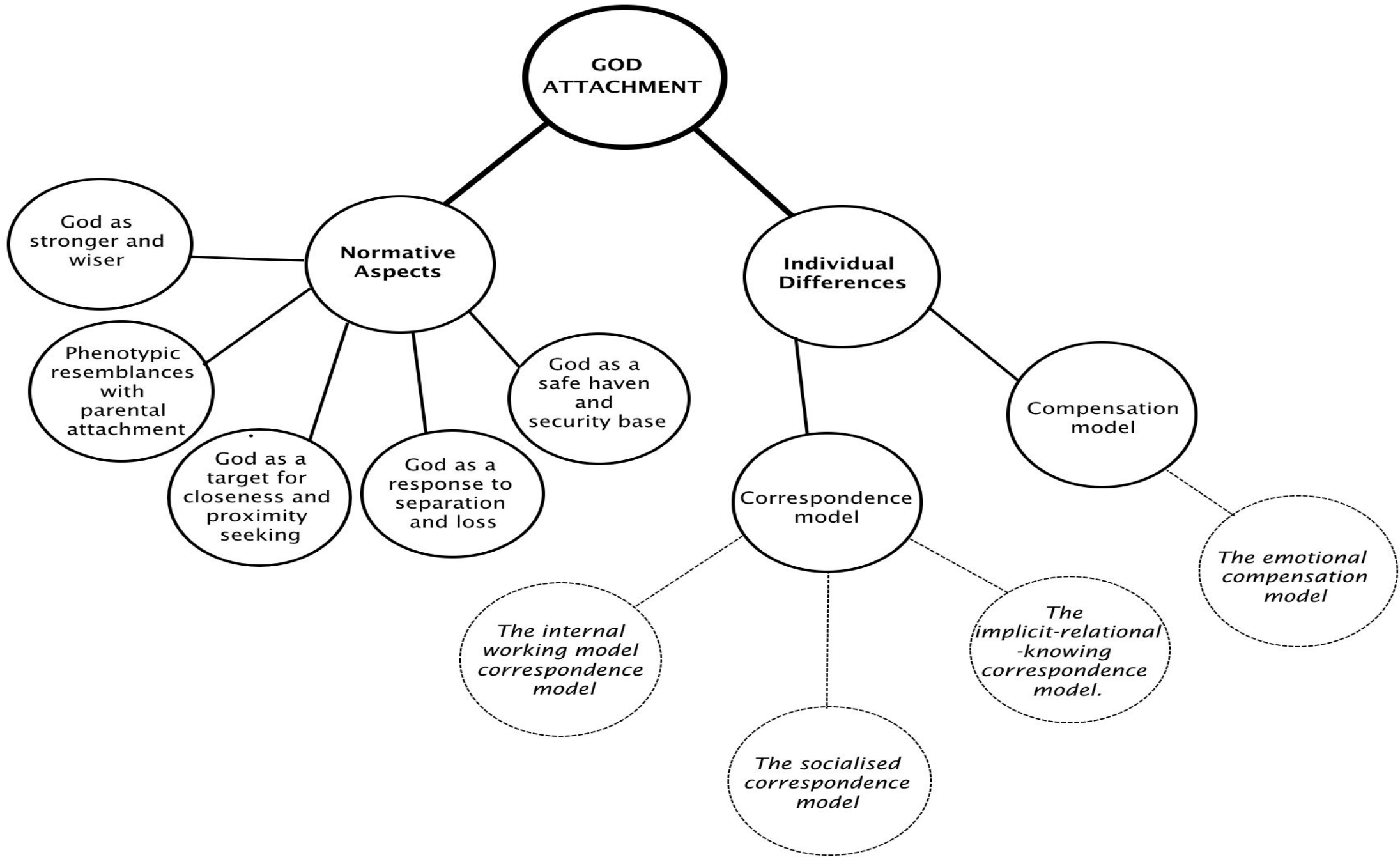


Attachment and the God Image

- God becomes a Divine Attachment Figure because He is...
 - Safe haven
 - Security base
 - Response for separation and loss
 - Stronger and Wiser
- This is operationalised through 2 models of functionality
 - - Compensation
 - - Correspondence (or Modelling)



**THE GOD IMAGE
AS AN
ATTACHMENT
EXPERIENCE**





The God-image Functioning

- Compensation?
- Correspondence?



EMOTIONAL COMPENSATION FUNCTIONING

Jerome's father alcohol addiction and Jerome's abandonment

"...was big on me...because both of my brothers weren't there and lot of times i didn't know what to do when i did get home and then i would always ask my dad for help and you know he was not that father figure because i did get home and my dad will be drunk and sleepy and when he wakes up he doesn't say much – he just carries on drinking and sleeping and in that way."

Jerome now relates with God as an attachment Figure and compensates himself for the emotional absence of his earthly father figure

June's abandonment and anxiety

EMOTIONAL COMPENSATION FUNCTIONING

June is forming a new relationship
With God as a way of compensating
For the relationship she did not
Have with her mum through
Praying to God

June laments about mum
leaving her since grade 1

*: " ...and she is still working
there...so...yeah she is distant from me.
But we communicate and we talk but it is
not enough. And that is why i say i have
been praying to God...when is the time
going to come when....? I feel sort of
abandoned, and because of that i don't
want people to get close to me."*

EMOTIONAL COMPENSATION FUNCTIONING

Adam lost his father (his AF) and now he is looking for a SAF

"I was looking for a "father" and that was part of the thing that led me to become a Christian, because at that time my mother use to raise us alone. There was time when my grandmother said to us in midnight that we need to go [out of her house]. After that I sought after love from a father. There came a time it was too heavy for us. God sent so many people to minister to me and I said Lord I am going to try and see if this is the way. And really I found that...He is the perfect Father. The perfect example of what a father should be."



ADAM



JUNE

By distancing herself from her mum, June is doing the same with God...

The internal working model correspondence functioning

“When I feel disappointment...I feel disappointed in myself....I distant myself from people and withdraw myself. When I distant myself from people I feel like I can stand on my own feet. I don't have to rely on somebody else, they can disappoint me in the future or like abandon me again.”

CHRIS'

Secure IWMs due to attachment experience with mum...now reflecting in his relationship and representing of God

"The same way i do with my mum where i feel a connection in the things we share so i would feel a connection with God doing His work, being part of what he is doing at the moment. And also with the counselling and receiving counselling from God the same way i would have gone to my mother for counsel."

**The internal working model
correspondence functioning**



A socialized correspondence functioning

“I trust my mum; she's been feeding me for 21 years now. Now I have to see certain stuffs that she told me and adopt standards of the kingdom of God. But sometimes the relationship with my mother affects my relationship with God positively and sometimes it can be negative. The first time when I got saved, and gave my life to the Lord it was just like...I was like asking myself ‘where am I going when I die?’ My mum is sure of where she is going when she dies. I don't want to be without her. I don't want to be in a place where she is not. That brought me closer to God and closer to acknowledge Him as my Lord and saviour.” - Yebo

“May be when I was a child...my mother made it a point that we go to church” - Sipho

A young man with dark, curly hair is shown from the chest up, covering his eyes with both hands. The background is a solid teal color. Overlaid on the right side of the image is the text 'SIPHO & YEBO' in a bold, yellow, sans-serif font.

**SIPHO
&
YEBO**



**The implicit-relational-knowing
correspondence functioning**

MADDIE

“I want to get close to God and have a perfect relationship - now - I realized how much I need him. Both of my parents are Christians so they motivated me to also be a Christian. They don't force me to have a relationship with God.”