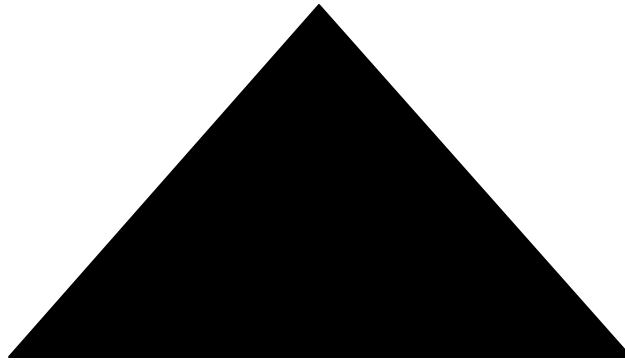


The Drama Triangle

Persecutor (Villain)

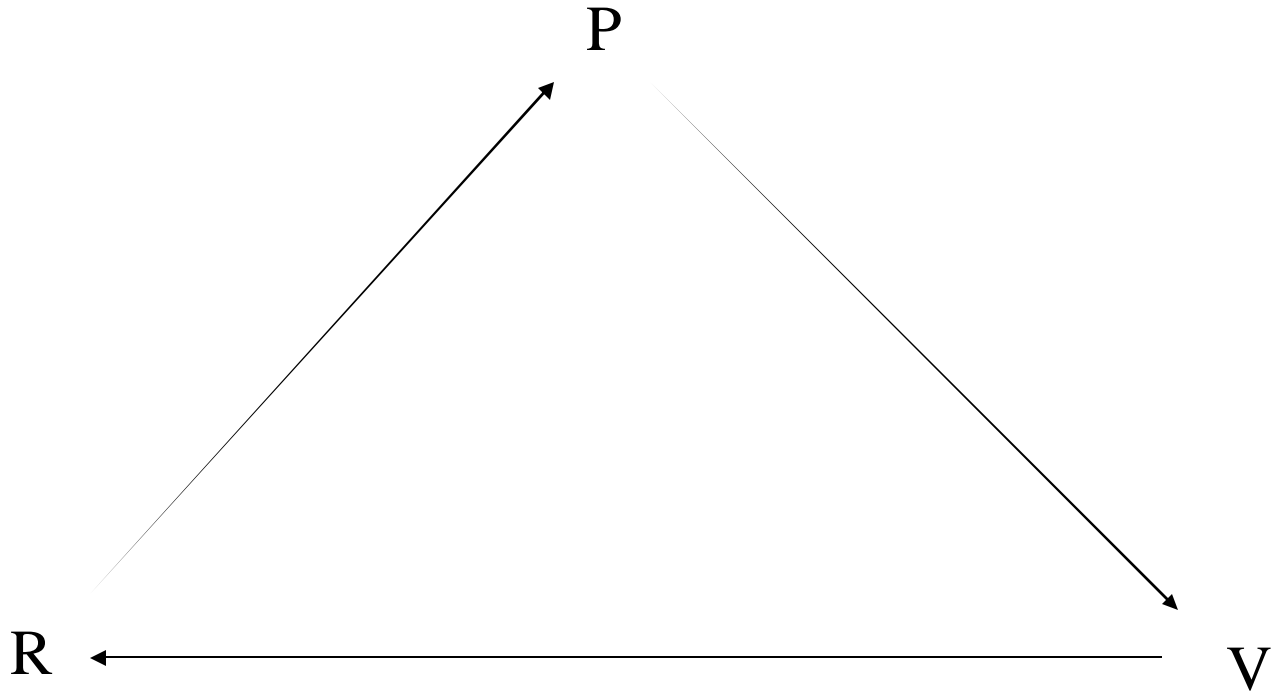
Rescuer



Victim

The Standard Roles

- The persecutor or villain victimizes the victim
- The victim struggles in the persecution and seeks to be rescued
- The rescuer enters, defeats the villain and saves the victim



The Persecutor

- Has a great need to be dominant, recognized as superior; fears loss of control, prestige, image, etc.
- Believes himself to have been a victim and protects himself from ever being one again
- You can find a persecutor by tracking his victims

The Victim

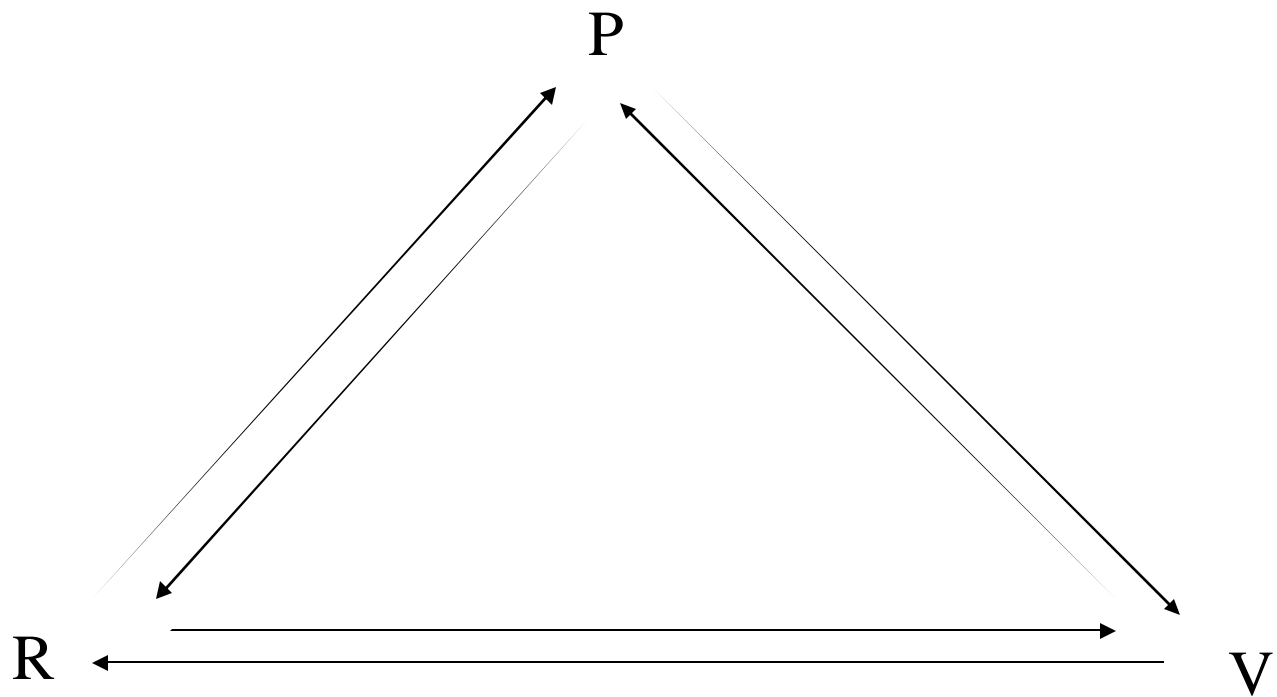
- Needs validation and affirmation; a great need to be rescued by someone or something
- Avoids taking responsibility; everything is out of his control
- Postures himself to be rescued, but then turns on the rescuer and sees him as another persecutor
- The cycle of abuse; victim becomes persecutor

The Rescuer

- The Messiah complex; the downside of being “Christ like”
- Has a character weakness: a great need to be needed; may feel insignificant without a victim to rescue; adrenalin junkie
- Can get out of his depth or ability and can drown, becoming a victim himself
- Direct the victims to the real rescuer: Christ

Enhancing the Drama

- Role reversals create more drama
- The victim becomes the persecutor
- The rescuer becomes the victim
- The persecutor becomes the rescuer



Victim to Persecutor

- The victim becomes the villain and persecutes the rescuer
- The victim's need for deliverance is too great and the rescuer fails
- The victim judges the failed rescuer as being another persecutor, and begins persecuting him
- The essence of evil is scapegoating others

Rescuer to Victim

- He fails just like all the rest
- He must now bear the brunt of all the past failures as if they were his fault also
- This is a very subtle trap for ministers

Persecutor to Rescuer

- The hardest to accept
- Paul is the classic case
- Forgiving abusive people is a long, slow process with many small victories to restore trust

How to Diminish the Drama

- That may be impossible in a fallen world; we hate to be bored
- Learn to deal
- Hold the victim responsible as much as possible
- Forgive the persecutor/villain; the failed rescuer; this defuses the drama
- Avoid being too much of a persecutor, victim, or rescuer; the 50% line