



Go for God!

CHRISTIAN COUNSELING SERIES (CLASS #13)

Counseling Topic: “PSYCHOLOGY vs. THE BIBLE”

> Definition of PSYCHOLOGY:

- (1) the science of mind and behavior**
- (2) a: the mental or behavioral characteristics of an individual or group
b: the study of mind and behavior in relation to a particular field of knowledge or activity**
- (3) a theory or system of psychology <Freudian *psychology*> <the *psychology* of Jung>**

~ Psychologist and their Psychology:

> Sigmund Freud – Sigmund Freud was one of the founding fathers of contemporary psychiatric thought and therapy. He began as a medical researcher in neurology and almost won the Nobel Prize for his scientific research into pain relief and analgesics. His experiments involved opium, to which he became addicted.

Freud believed that people are ruled by their *unconscious* minds. He believed that human behaviors, responses, and attitudes are governed by primitive urges combined with a vast horde of personal experiences of which they have no knowledge or conscious control. Essentially, Freud saw man as an instinct-ruled beast dominated primarily by the drives of sex and aggression. . . Freud created psychoanalysis, a technique that involves the patient lying on a couch and free-associating (saying whatever comes to mind). The goal of this process is to uncover the patient’s unconscious motivations. The analyst does this by interpreting the patient’s so-called defenses and transferences so that he can decode and reveal to the patient the origins of his attitudes and behavior.

This type of therapy affirms the concept that sinful human beings universally hold dear—they are not responsible for their actions. Someone else is to blame. By placing the responsibility for their behavior on their parents, environment, childhood trauma, the unconscious, or “primitive urges,” patients are permitted—even encouraged—to assume a victim mentality. They are never confronted with their personal responsibility for their behavior but must wade through years of analysis (at horrendous costs!) to discover what in their past makes them behave the way they do.

- What does the Bible say? The blame game is found in Genesis chapter 3 beginning with Adam and Eve; thus we see the same deception throughout the entire Bible regarding the sinfulness of man.

- **Let us understand the sin of man:** It is lawlessness (**1 John 3:4**) or transgression of God's will, either by omitting to do what God's law requires or by doing what it forbids. The transgression can occur in thought (**1 John 3:15**), word (**Matthew 5:22**), or deed (**Romans 1:32**).

Mankind was created without sin, morally upright and inclined to do good (**Ecclesiastes 7:29**). But sin entered into human experience when Adam and Eve violated the direct command of God by eating the forbidden fruit in the Garden of Eden (**Genesis 3:6**). Because Adam was the head and representative of the whole human race, his sin affected all future generations (**Romans 5:12-21**). Associated with this guilt is a corrupted nature passed from Adam to all his descendants. Out of this perverted nature arise all the sins that people commit (**Matthew 15:19**); no person is free from involvement in sin (**Romans 3:23**).

God is holy and cannot sin (**James 1:13**). Jesus Christ, the Son of God who came to earth in human form, is also sinless. His perfection arises from His divine nature, as well as His human nature (**1 Peter 2:22**). Although the history of the Bible focuses on the sin of mankind and God's provision for our redemption, the angels are also described as capable of sinning. Some have fallen away from God's service - Jude 5-7 - *But I want to remind you, though you once knew this, that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed those who did not believe. And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day; as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them in a similar manner to these, having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.*

Animals are not morally responsible creatures; so they cannot sin.

Mankind originally fell into sin at the temptation of Satan. As the tempter, he continues to lure people into sin (**1 Peter 5:8**); nevertheless, people remain fully responsible for what they do. God is not the author of sin, but His plan for world redemption does include His dealing with the reality of sin (**2 Samuel 24:1; 1 Chronicles 21:1**). This truth is dramatically witnessed in the death of Jesus Christ. The crucifixion happened according to God's will; but at the same time, it was the worst crime of human history (**Acts 2:23**). (Nelson's Bible Dictionary)

- **Extra insight to Freud:** It was in the area of personal accountability to the God of the Bible that Freud parted company with his Jewish heritage. Freud hated the idea of God, and especially the God of the Jews and His Son (as Freud saw it) the God of the gentiles. He viewed religious behavior as at best a "neurosis." The noted psychoanalyst, Erich Fromm, a follower of Freud, wrote in *Psychoanalysis and Religion* that psychoanalysis is "the study of the soul of man." This is ironic because Freud was a metaphysical materialist (science and reason was the all and all). He did not believe that man possessed a soul.

> Carl Gustav Jung – A disciple of Freud, combined Freud’s *unconscious* theory with spiritual dimension, which he called the *collective unconscious*. According to this theory, all human beings possess in their unconscious a deeply buried collective history of the race. This commonly shared knowledge is the seat of our identity as persons, represented by hundreds of archetypes, or symbols of universally significant persons (i.e., mother, father, etc.). According to Jung, the collective unconscious is also the dwelling place of God. . . . According to Jungians, Jesus functions symbolically as an archetype for redeemer, meeting the need shared by all people for redemption.

Since Jesus exists as an archetype in the collective unconscious, we can encounter Him via active imagination. This theory of receptive visualization has its ancient roots in Tantric yoga, which deeply affected both Buddhism and Hinduism. Students are taught to visualize the image of the deity and to construct this image on their mental screens by active imagination.

Agnes Sanford popularized both the visualizing techniques and this teaching of Jung’s in the church. In *The Healing Gifts of the Spirit* Sanford claimed that Jesus entered into the collective unconscious of the human race and is by this means available for healing and help. Her basis for these claims is not the Bible, but Carl Jung.

Jung’s Jesus is more like a spirit guide than the Lord of history. Jung believed that the goal of therapy is not healing, but coming into contact with one’s collective unconscious—a process he calls *individuation*. . . . It forms the basis for the contemporary practice of receptive visualization as it is currently being practiced in the church, particularly in “healing ministries.”

- What does the Bible say? 2 Corinthians chapter 11

> B. F. Skinner – Was the creator of the well-known classic behavioral view of human beings. Skinner saw the mind as a black box, a series of circuits, a collection of stimulus-response connections. He rejected the idea that a person has meaning or significance. . . . Like Freud, he denied the existence of the soul, and he also rejected God on a personal level, although he certainly maintained a religious worldview.

Positive reinforcement is not to be confused with the Biblical concept of encouragement. Rather, it is the calculated manipulation of external stimuli designed to mold human response patterns. The alteration of human behavior through these methods is called *behavior modification*. Because it involves attempting to control a person’s destiny controlling his or her behavior, behavior modification is a euphemism for “man as God.” . . . The goal of behavioral therapists is to have clients manipulate their emotional and physical circumstances in such a way as to avoid pain and promote pleasure. This popular line of thinking is reflected in the humanist battle cry, “Look out for Number One!”

- What does the Bible say? Romans chapter 12.

> **Carl Rogers** – Was once a Christian, in his college years at Columbia University he placed his faith in humanism. The young Rogers ate humanism up and never looked back to Christianity, except in dismay and disgust. However, his psychology retained a religious or spiritual character. As Rogers aged, the spiritual nature of his work became more evident, especially as he faced the death of his wife. He looked for answers, not in psychology and certainly not in Christianity, but in the occult—with its mediums, séances, and Ouija boards. He claimed to have communicated with his dead wife, who told him to have a good time in a relationship he had begun with a woman during the final stages of his wife’s illness. Instead of guilt and condemnation, Rogers received his dead wife’s empathy and unconditional positive regard (UPR) toward his adultery.

His growing spiritual interest is recorded in his book *A Way of being*. . . . Thus Rogerians deny the existence of standards and absolutes and the propensity of people toward evil. In Rogerian client-centered therapy a homosexual can come to accept his homosexuality, but he will never receive counsel that declares that homosexuality is sin—the Biblical way out.

- **What does the Bible say? 1 Corinthians 6:9-20 - Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God. All things are lawful for me, but all things are not helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any. Foods for the stomach and the stomach for foods, but God will destroy both it and them. Now the body is not for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God both raised up the Lord and will also raise us up by His power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a harlot? Certainly not! Or do you not know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body with her? For "the two," He says, "shall become one flesh." But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him. Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.**

> **Werner Erhard** – A New Age guru, founder of *est (Erhard Seminar Training)*, who taught that “something experienced is true; the same thing believed is a lie.” In other words, there is nothing beyond that which is experienced. This means, for example, that neither guilt nor love is a reality except as it is experienced. Erhard, along with his New Age counterparts in the media, entertainment industry, and counseling clinics throughout the Western world, seduces millions with ideas such as, “You are god in your own universe. There is no God unless it is self.” These

theorists produce religious pronouncements that sound acceptable even to some Christians. In his *est* newsletter, Erhard even has clergy giving their *est* testimonies!

The New Age Movement that has burst upon the West is a blending of Eastern pantheistic monism, Western psychotherapy, and the occult. . . . The New Age psychiatry is not science; it is sophisticated shamanism (a religion practiced by indigenous peoples of far northern Europe and Siberia that is characterized by belief in an unseen world of gods, demons, and ancestral spirits responsive only to the shamans.)

- What does the Bible say? 2 Thessalonians chapter 2:3-17 - *Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God. Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things? And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time.*

For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way. And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming. The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth, to which He called you by our gospel, for the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Therefore, brethren, stand fast and hold the traditions which you were taught, whether by word or our epistle. Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and our God and Father, who has loved us and given us everlasting consolation and good hope by grace, comfort your hearts and establish you in every good word and work.

(Information on secular psychologists taken from the book *Psychobabble, The Failure of Modern Psychology—and the Biblical Alternative* by Richard Ganz)