

GOD'S RENEWAL FOR HOUSEHOLDS

"Part VI: Renewing Household Adults: Addressing Roadblocks - Overcoming Childhood Personality Disorders"

Need: "Aren't we missing a dimension in our lessons on family renewal?! Perhaps a professional counselor is needed to address a PERSONALITY DISORDER begun in a difficult childhood!"

- I. **Even SECULAR authorities inform us that psychology is POOR not only at being a SCIENCE but also at replacing RELIGION!**
 - A. Secular professionals admit that psychology is **destitute** as a **science**:
 1. H. J. Eysenck, a psychologist at the British Inst. of Psychology, Britain's leading postgraduate psychiatric body, in "The Effects of Psychotherapy: An Evaluation," (Jour. of Consulting Psy., 16 (1952), p. 319-324) concluded that people under trained therapists have a **lower** incidence of improvement versus those with custodial or ordinary medical care (Wood, The Myth of Neurosis, p. 275f).
 2. In 1982, London & Klerman wrote: ". . . an enormous private market has been generated . . . for psychotherapeutic services that have **never** been **fully defined** . . . let **alone** been **thoroughly evaluated** in a **scientific** manner." ("Evaluating Psychotherapy," the American Journal of Psychiatry, 139, p. 709-717)
 - B. Secular pros **dispute** trading **religion** for **psychology**: regretting that **pastors** often **trade** their **pastoral** hats for **psychotherapy**, R. J. Neuhaus (Nat. Rev., Feb. 19, '88, p. 46) says R. Coles of Harvard, Philip Rieff, Christopher Lasch, Karl Menninger, W. K. Kilpatrick, Paul Tournier and Ernest Becker "have all . . . begged Christians to reconsider the exchange of their heritage for a mess of psychobabble."
- II. **Now, SOME disorders arise from PHYSICAL problems (Jay Adams, Competent To Counsel, p. xvi) or are so SERIOUS that the afflicted are *suicidal*, legitimately requiring MEDICAL attention; thus, all *strong* disorders should **FIRST** be checked by a **DOCTOR!****
- III. **Nevertheless, ALL behavioral disorders exist BECAUSE of SIN:**
 - A. In creation, man was behaviorally whole, Gen. 1:27-31a.
 - B. After man sinned, all aberrant behaviors arose, Gen. 4-6. Besides physical problems, these came from man's failing to handle the **stress** sin **produced**, The Volume Library, v. 2, p. 2060f; Ibid., Adams!
 - C. **Some** of man's stress is due to **demonic** sources, cf. Mark 5:1-5 et al.
- IV. **So, after seeing a DOCTOR, we face behavior disorders as follows:**
 - A. First, one obtains the spiritual **resources** to begin to address **SIN**:
 1. One **begins** by trusting Christ for salvation from sin. This results in one's receiving a nature to live uprightly, Jn. 3:16; Rom. 7:18-8:3-4.
 2. This salvation also produces immediate, permanent, unconditional liberation from demonic possession, Col. 1:12-13; 1 John 5:18c.
 3. This step also results in the permanent assistance of the Holy Spirit:
 - a. Since the Spirit permanently indwells the believer until the rapture (Ep. 1:13-14; 4:30), a believer controlled by that Spirit counters all external demonic pressures toward wrong behavior!
 - b. A Christian psychologist told AMOC pastors that the fruit(s) of the Spirit in Gal. 5:22-23 **each oppose** known **psychotic** states!
 - c. Hence, confession of sin (1 Jn. 1:9) and a conscious dependence on that Holy Spirit (Gal. 5:16) equips the believer to live without abnormal behavior no matter how bad is his background!
 - B. Next, one needs a steady intake of Scripture for **sustained** vitality:
 1. People **form** behavior disorders by not **facing** their own violations of conscience states **non-theist, humanist** O. H. Mowrer, past Pres. of the Amer. Psychological Assn. (J. Adams, Ibid., p. xv-xvii)
 2. There are 3 reasons they **fail** here according to the **Biblical** view:
 - a. (1) People may simply **rebel** against what they know is right.
 - b. (2) Others have **faced** their sin, but in **doing** so have discovered they **cannot themselves change** (Rom. 7:18-23); the **pain** of this failure yields **misery** (Rom. 7:24), so they adjust their view to **deceive themselves** so as to **shield** their emotions from **pain!**

- c. (3) Others **ignorantly** accept an **errant** ethic (legalism (Gal. 4:21; 3:10-12) or even **demonic** error (1 Tim. 4:1-3) one **cannot** heed only to **deceive themselves** by adopting a maladjustment to **hide** from what they sadly do not realize is thus but a **false** guilt!
3. Scripture intake and application solves each of these 3 problems:
 - a. (1) Scripture **convicts**, making rebels face their sins, John 15:3.
 - b. (2) Scripture supplies insight on **solving** sin's problems, giving hope and **direction** to **face** and **handle** sin in place of one's maladjusting to shield himself from his guilt's pain, Ps. 19:7-12.
 - c. (3) Scripture exposes **errant** legalistic pressure or Satanic codes to rescue the afflicted from **false** guilt, Gal. 2:3-5; 1 Jn. 2:14b.
 - d. Studies verify this input: Christian psychiatrist, Frank B. Minirth reports from testing done on **believers** that those who spent time **daily** reading the Bible were the **one** group of **believers** that showed "no significant pathology," or no significant behavior disorder patterns, You Can Measure Your Mental Health, p 14.

Lesson Application: As psychology itself is bankrupt, aside from physical causes or suicidal cases for which one should first see a doctor, address all behavior disorders via Christ and His Word!

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