



No. 4

SECULAR PSYCHOLOGY AND THE BIBLE

Secular psychology points man to self, the Bible points man to God.

Psychology is called the science of human behaviour. It is considered a behavioural science in that it looks at the behaviour of human beings. Psychology presents information that is accepted as theory or principle, but is never considered irrefutable or eternal. In fact, psychology as a 'science' is constantly changing. What was considered right 100 years, or even 10 years, ago is considered wrong today. Throughout the ages psychologists have repeatedly contradicted themselves. Man-made theories and philosophies change, however God's creation does not. We need to see mankind as God's creation and study His Word in order to have an understanding of the whole human being.

There is a difference between divine revelation and human discovery.

It is important to remember only Jesus gives Truth, and that all Truth is God's Truth. Anything apart from God's Word is harmful, simply because it conflicts with God's design. The downfall of secular psychology and philosophy is that it aims to change behavior without recognising that human behavior is caused by the intentions of a heart ruled by the sinful nature.

In contrast, Christianity addresses humanity's dilemma and aims to change the heart of man: Jesus came to take our sins away and to give us power over the sinful nature, this is what will change behavior. A change of heart equals a change of behavior. Trying to change behavior by means of reasoning and self-effort will always fail. Christianity is the only cure for our fallen race.

Ezekiel 11:19 (a prophecy about the Holy Spirit in the believer)

"And I will give them one heart, and put a new spirit within them. And I will take the heart of stone out of their flesh and give them a heart of flesh, that they may walk in My statutes and keep My ordinances and do them. Then they will be My people, and I shall be their God..."

The prophecy says: "that they may walk in My statutes and keep My ordinances and do them..."

Once we have received the Holy Spirit within us, the New Testament warns us strongly against loving the world more than God.

James 4:4-7

"O, [spiritual] adulteresses [untrue to God your husband, O.T. relation of Israel to God], do you not know that your friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore would desire after mature consideration to be a friend of the world is [thereby] constituted an enemy of God. Or, do you think that the scripture says in an empty manner and to no purpose, The Spirit [Holy Spirit] who has been caused to make His permanent home in us has a passionate desire [to control us] to the point of envy [of any control indwelling sin may have over us]? Moreover, He [the Holy Spirit] gives greater grace. For this reason [in conformity with this] He [the Holy Spirit] says, God sets himself in battle array against the arrogant and haughty but gives grace to the humble and lowly. Be subject with implicit obedience to God at once and once for all. Stand immovable against the onset of the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you."

1 John 2:15

"Stop considering the world precious with the result that you love it, and the things in the world. If anyone as a habit of life is considering the world precious and is therefore loving it, there does not exist the Father's love [i.e., the love possessed by the Father] in him."

Note that God, in His Word, has already opposed the arrogant and haughty.

Proverbs 21:24

“Proud,” “Haughty,” “Scoffer,” are his names, who acts with insolent pride”.

When we spend more time focussed on the enticements of this world than on our spiritual life in Christ, the Holy Spirit in us is quenched and the flesh becomes the ruling force in our lives. Yes, as believers, we are saved by God’s grace, but if we become “carnal” Christians we will be ineffective in the Kingdom and will not be able to tap into God’s plan for us.

Imagine a powerful river with a strong current flowing downstream to a massive, dangerous waterfall. Living as a carnal Christian is like allowing ourselves to be swept along by this strong current until finally, we are thrown over the edge of the waterfall and battered by the rocks below. God has given us His power to swim against this strong current: the Holy Spirit gives us the power not only to resist the current, but to actually swim upstream far away from the waterfall. In truth, with God living on the inside of us, it is actually easier to be spirit-led than “carnally” minded. The flesh will not produce good fruit.

Romans 12:2

“And stop assuming an outward expression that does not come from within you and is not representative of what you are in your inner being but is patterned after this age; but change your outward expression to one that comes from within and is representative of your inner being, by the renewing of your mind, resulting in your putting to the test what is the will of God, the good and well-pleasing and complete will, and having found that it meets specifications, place your approval upon it”.

The humanistic (the Sadducee) spirit will always entice you to love the world, to be a carnal Christian instead of a Spirit-led faithful believer, i.e. pleasing self instead of pleasing God.

In our times, there is a subtle effort to “diminish” or hide the real impact of this “post-Christian” society, some uncomfortable topics have been patterned after this age, and have infiltrated the church:

A homosexual is called “gay”

Adultery is called an “affair”

Drug addiction is often related to as “substance abuse”

Unmarried couples are now “partners”

Fornication is now called being “sexually active”

Depression (a hurting soul) is now considered an “illness”, like a virus.

Abortion is now “ending the pregnancy” and is the right of the mother

Divorce and remarriage is now everyone’s right regardless of the children’s trauma and God’s Word

A wife is not to submit to her husband, “it’s a 50/50 relationship.” The Bible corrects this approach:

Ephesians 5:22-23

“The wives, be putting yourselves in subjection with implicit obedience to your own husbands as to the Lord, because a husband is head of the wife as the Christ is Head of the Church, He himself being the Saviour of the Body.”

The Bible teaches us the Truth sets us free. God’s truth is freedom, anything else will not bring healing and restoration in our lives.