WHAT IS BIBLICAL COUNSELING? part 1

Introduction and Review

A. A breakdown in society- the religion of secular humanism.

B. The failure of the church.


Harmful Errors of Modern Psychology

A. Is psychology a science in the same way that medicine is?
   1. Should the pastor deal with the spiritual problems while the “mental health professional”
      deals with emotional and mental problems?

   2. Psychology and theology both deal with the same fundamental issues of meaning and value,
      from widely differing perspectives.

B. Unscriptural presuppositions and practices of certain schools of psychology.
   1. A faulty view of man.
      • Man is only an advanced animal: naturalism/materialism. Gen 1:26-27

      • Man is basically good, or at worst a blank slate. Rom 3:10-18, 23; Ps 51:5
• Man is autonomous: able to solve his problems without God’s help. *John 15:5; 2 Tim 3:2*

2. Excuses sin and denies personal responsibility.
   • Blame shifting: parents, teachers, society, etc. *1 John 1:8-10; Js 1:13-15; Ps 32:3ff*

• The medical model: calling sin sickness. “Mental illness”

• Is there such a thing as “mental illness”?

• Biology is the hot topic in psychology right now.

3. No fixed moral values: relativism. *2 Tim 3:16-17*
   • Non-directive counseling (Rogers). *Prov 14:12; Col 1:28; Js 5:19-20*

• Sinful behaviors and desires legitimizted.

• Promotion of “socially acceptable” behaviors: gratification of carnal appetites, ventilation, etc.
• Often attempts to relieve God-given guilt by destroying conscience.

4. No place for God.

C. Secular psychology is powerless to bring about meaningful change. *Jer 17:9; Rom 8:5-8*

D. What about those cases in which people seem to get better?

1. Often symptoms (i.e. bizarre behavior) go away with or without treatment.

2. The most serious (spiritual) problems remain. *Luke 11:24-26*