

Applying a Christian Worldview to All of Life

You Are What You Think

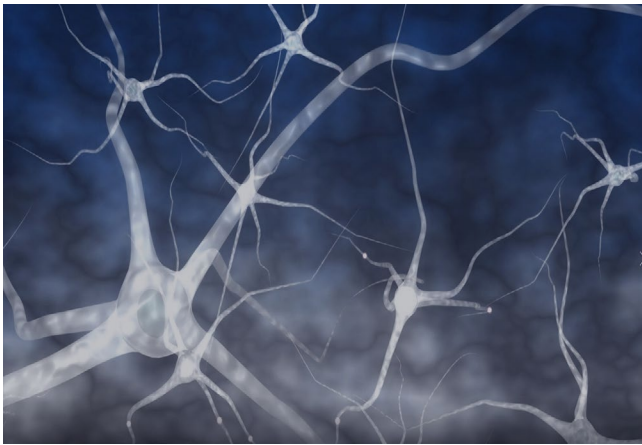
Single-subject booklet series



Psychology and Humanism

The Shaping of the Modern Mind

by Roger Wheelock and B.J. Wheelock



YOU ARE WHAT YOU THINK

Applying a Christian Worldview to All of Life

Psychology and Humanism

CHRISTIAN WORLDVIEW TEXTBOOK

This course has been developed for the purpose of equipping the next generations of Christians to successfully overcome the increasingly godless ideas that are attacking our faith and our society. We believe that God can and will do great things through those who put their trust in Him.

by Roger Wheelock and B.J. Wheelock
Greater Than I Ministries

Edited by Brenda Palmer

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Dedication

This book is dedicated, above all, to the glory of God. HE is our Teacher, our Light, and the Inspiration for anything we do that is good.

Secondly, we dedicate this work to all who have come to saving faith in Jesus Christ, as well as those who may read this book, but have not yet come to trust in Him as the Author and Finisher of faith and life.

We trust that the arguments provided herein will cause all to think deeply upon the ideas and issues discussed; and in the end to come to a greater understanding and clarity regarding the vital role each of our lives plays in the world around us.

As always and forever, a special thank you to my faithful wife, Elaine, who has had to endure the many hours I've spent in my office alone as this book and other GTI resources have been developed. Without you none of these tools would have ever come to be. I love you!

And since this book represents the culmination of the complete 2-book series, I'd like to express my gratitude for many of those who have encouraged me and this ministry over the last several years:

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In particular, we wish to acknowledge the following organizations*

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Townhall.com – News from a conservative perspective

AmericanThinker.com – News from a conservative perspective

*Please note that our acknowledgements do not imply an express endorsement of every position or statement made by these ministries. The reader is responsible to consider all positions through the lens of the Bible

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Chapter Seven: The Christian Worldview of Psychology

Day 1 – “As a man thinks so he is”

(Proverbs 23:7)



Considering the days in which we live, psychology is probably one of the most important and critical topics for Christians to study. Why? Because it is concerned with the health of the *mind* – a subject that the Bible addresses more than twice as often as it does *love*. The Proverb says, “As a man thinks in his heart, so he is.” Romans 12:2 adds, “And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind...” The way we think affects our behavior, therefore we need to be very aware of the ideas we’re taking in so that we aren’t deceived and misled.

Bertrand Russel was a highly revered philosopher, educator, and atheist in the mid-20th century. He wrote: *“I think the subject which will be of most importance politically (over the next 50 years) is **Mass Psychology**. Its importance has been enormously increased by the growth of modern methods of propaganda. It will be used most successfully in the area of public education. Where all children go to school, and all schools are controlled by the government, the authorities can close the minds of the young to everything contrary to official orthodoxy.”*

Continuing, he predicts, *“Education should aim at destroying free will, so that, after pupils have left school, they shall be incapable, throughout the rest of their lives, of thinking or acting otherwise than as their schoolmasters would have wished” -The Impact of Science on Society. (1952)*

You may think this was a carefully selected quote, one that does not truly reflect the general thinking of most educated people in the 1950's, but you would be mistaken. Bertrand Russel won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1952 for his various literary and philosophical works, and he voiced a theory of education that had been steadily gaining momentum among the educational elite since the early 1900s. The results of implementing this philosophy of psychological manipulation in the public education system came to powerful fruition by the 1960s, yet most people are unaware of its existence, and much less aware of its radical purpose and transformational influence.

We are instructed in Colossians 2:8:

“See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ.”

And in 1 Peter 5:8, we are warned:

“Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.”

Knowing the Christian doctrine concerning psychology – the study of the mind – is vastly important in today's world where we are bombarded daily with ideas of all kinds; and it is equally important to be aware of the tactics of the enemy of our souls, who seeks to take us captive by deceiving us through carefully-crafted lies.

In this chapter, it is our goal to equip you with knowledge of both the truth and the lies, so that you will not be seduced into following the crowd over a cliff; but rather, you will be enabled to see through the haze of destructive ideas with which the world is pummeling us, so you can stand strong and confident against them.

With that as our introduction, we'll begin by defining the fundamentals of the Christian worldview of psychology, followed by a look at the contrasting Humanist worldview.

We've All Got Problems

We chose the image on the right because it looks like what could be called a beautiful mind. This is what God wants to see in each of us, figuratively speaking of course. We know that God doesn't judge us by our outside appearance, but rather by the condition of our heart. And as has been stated earlier, we find that most times when the Bible refers to the word *heart*, it is mainly referring to *our minds* - the way that we're thinking. God want us to “have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus” (Phil. 2:5) – to think like Him. But we struggle all the time with this, don't we? One minute we're up, the next minute we're down. Throughout our lives wrestle with ever fluctuating, sometimes intense emotions . And we tend to think, "Boy, have I got big problems."



An Identity Crisis

Everybody has problems. But one of the great things about the Christian worldview is that those who penned the Bible didn't try to paint themselves as perfect or flawless. They were real people who dealt with real problems in their minds just like we do; thus, we can learn from their real-world lives. One of the most revered men of the scriptures, the Apostle Paul, frankly and openly confessed in Romans 7:15-25, that he dealt with these same emotional problems. We see here that Paul is being honest about what he struggles with. He says, *"I find then a law that evil is present within me. Me, the one that wills to do good! For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man."* In other words, *"inside me I love the word of God."*, *"But I see another law in my members inside me, warring against that law of my mind. Bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. O wretched man that I am. Who will deliver me from this body of death?"* Now, that's one way of saying it, but no doubt all of us have said the same thing in our own way many times. "What am I doing? Why am I thinking like this? This isn't how I want to act! But what can I do about it?" Paul then says in the next verse, *"Thanks be to God who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord."* He concludes,



Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde

So then, I myself in my mind am a slave to God's law, but in my sinful nature a slave to the law of sin. (Romans 7:25)

To one extent or another, all men, women, and children struggle with their own built-in emotional roller-coaster. We all must deal with our own identity crisis from time to time. One side of us wants to be good. The other side, no matter how hard we try to be good, keeps thinking thoughts and doing or saying things that we deeply regret. We wonder, "Will God ever forgive me? Will I ever get it right?" As a result, we all struggle with a guilty conscience and we want to know how to deal with it. That is the purpose of the science of psychology. That is what psychology attempts to answer. *Psychology attempts to help people fix the problems that we battle against in our minds.*

Defining Psychology

The word is a composite of two terms: The Greek *psyche*, meaning “soul, spirit, mind, or the heart.” Plus, *logia*, which comes from the Greek *logos*, meaning “speech, word, reason” and refers to the study of a subject using reason and logic. However, today psychology is defined as 1) the science of mind and behavior. 2) the mental or behavioral characteristics of an individual or group. 3) the study of mind and behavior in relation to a particular field of knowledge or activity.

Christianity claims that, as Proverbs 23:7 says, “*What a man thinks in his heart, so he is.*” Now think about that. It sounds like an oxymoron, doesn't it? What a man *thinks* in his *heart*? How can a man think with his heart? That's a reasonable question because one of the problems of the church as a whole over the last hundred years is that we have represented Christianity as more of an emotional, feelings-based faith than a reasonable, rational belief system. Perhaps this is because we've redefined the word *heart* to suit our feelings.

As a result, we've stepped out of the battle of ideas in the world we live in and we are suffering the consequences. For example, how many times do we read the word “heart” in the Scriptures and think the text is referring to emotions? Consider the passage in Numbers 15:39, “...remember all the commandments of the Lord, to do them, not to follow after your own *heart* and your own eyes.” Is it wise to follow our emotions? Should we be living by our emotions? No. Thus, it is important to clarify that when we see the word “heart” in Scripture it is rarely speaking about our emotions. In most instances within the Bible, the word *heart* refers to “The seat of the soul.” The Greek word “psyche” can be translated as “The mind or the seat or organ of thought. The faculty of reason.” And the Greek word for heart is “Kardia” which holds the same meaning as the word “psyche.” Therefore, nearly every time we see the word *heart* in Scripture, it's talking about how we are thinking and believing in the depths of our being.

The Nature of Man – A Critical Point of View

The foundation of any philosophy is the answer to this question - What is the basic nature of man? Is his heart, mind, and makeup fundamentally good or bad? Is man inclined to live righteously or selfishly? Or is he inclined towards a combination of both? Here is where the line divides between Christianity and every other belief system. This is the reason Christianity is singled out and set apart as being different from all other religions. It explains why the world will not tolerate us, while insisting we not only tolerate, but embrace everybody else.



Is the Nature of Man basically good or bad?

According to the Christian worldview, what is basic nature of man? Romans 3:23,

“All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God”

This verse provides the key to understanding the problems of our mind. Without using this key to open the door of understanding, every other method we employ to fix our thinking will be futile.

Day 1 Study Questions

1. What are your thoughts regarding the opening quote from Bertrand Russell?

2. Why are Colossians 2:8 and I Peter 5:8 of importance in the study of psychology?

3. Usually when the Bible uses the word "heart", it is referring to the M ____, or the seat of the S ____.

4. Read Romans 7:15-25. Although Paul was one of the foremost Apostles, what does he confess in these scriptures? _____

5. Do you think we all deal with this problem? _____ Can you give an example in your life? _____

6. According to Paul in Romans 7:23, where is the battle raging? _____

7. What is the purpose of the science of Psychology?

Read the following verses. For every use of the word *heart*, state what the Scripture is referring to. Possible choices: the mind; the reason; the conscience; the emotions; the understanding; the will; the mental process; the memory; the moral character.

8. Mark 2:6 _____

9. Matt. 9:4; Heb. 4:12; Prov. 23:7

10. Gen. 6:5; Gen. 20:5

11. What is the main difference between Christianity and all other religions or worldviews regarding the cause of the problems within man's mind? _____

12. What difference does that make? _____

Day 2 - The Christian Worldview

God is My Psychiatrist!

Clearly, Christianity does not promote the idea that we are to live by our feelings. Rather, we are to take our thoughts captive, thinking through ideas and weighing them before embracing and acting on foreign philosophies. If this were easy for us, surely we wouldn't see so many people struggling with depression or falling into irrational, hurtful behavior. So, what is the answer? How do we "take every thought captive" and behave in a manner that does not lead to guilt and insecurity – which are the causes of most mental health problems? God is the answer and His Word teaches us how to do it. Instead of drugs and psychotherapy we need "Word" therapy, the infusion of truth into our minds that have been so clouded with deceptive ideas and destructive influences. We need the Words from the Author of truth – the Wonderful Counselor (Isaiah 9:6). Where do we start? As always, we need to understand the source of the problem, and here is where Christianity provides uniquely truthful insight that no other worldview considers.



We spoke earlier of the identity crisis we all face. The Christian sees two conflicting parts to our identity. First of all, we are told in Genesis 1:27-31 that we are made in the image of God; and Psalm 8:3-8 states that our Father has made us a little lower than the angels, crowned us with glory and honor, and has made us to have dominion over everything He has made - from land, to beasts, to birds, to fish in the sea. In other words, we are the epitome of God's creation! If we're struggling with self-esteem, these verses should produce an abundance of God-esteem.

The Great Conflict Within

But the conflicting portion of our identity comes from the sin that is in us from birth. In Rom. 3:23 we are told, "*For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God*". Ephesians 2:1-3 says, "*As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath.*" Romans 8:6-8 tells us the result of remaining in this sinful state: "*For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.*" We underlined the word *mind* to emphasize the importance the mind plays in determining the course of our lives.

These scriptures leave us no alternative. Unless we surrender our minds and lives to Christ, the sin in us will always hold the greater influence over our thoughts, minds, and bodies; and thus, over our lives.

Pause and Consider

The Healing of the Mind

...Can effectively be done through the renewing of the mind. This is accomplished by infusing Truth into our minds by the Word of God in conjunction with the Holy Spirit.

"The very essence of the Christian religion is to adjust the mind and soul of a man ... Healing means bringing the person into a right relationship with the physical, mental and spiritual Laws of God." – Charles L. Allen

What Do We Do Now?

The good news according to the Scripture, is that all of us who believe and submit our lives to Christ, become new creations (2 Corinthians 5:17) who are now dead to sin and alive in Christ (Romans 6). However, this speaks of our *spiritual* position (in Christ). Our bodies are still prone to the sinful weaknesses and temptations of this world. Scripture now requires our obedience and self-discipline to control the sinful nature of our body. Whereas before we were saved, we were slaves *forced* to rebel against God, we are now called to offer ourselves *willingly* to be slaves to Christ.

But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. (Romans 6:17-18, ESV)

Thus begins a life-long journey aimed at transforming our minds which have been corrupted by the sin of rejecting God and His truth, and filled with bad ideas, rebellious thoughts, and guilty memories. How can we accomplish this? *We can't!* This transformation will only happen when we allow the words of God – the truths contained in the Bible – along with the power of the Holy Spirit given to us at the moment of our conversion, to change our minds. Again, Romans 12:2 states, *“And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”* 2 Timothy 2:15-16 adds, *“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. But shun profane and idle babblings, for they will increase to more ungodliness.”*

Francis Schaeffer, one of the most profound Christian apologists and thinkers of the twentieth century stated,

*“In fact, man’s sinful nature - his desire to rebel against God and his fellow man - is the source of all psychological problems.
The basic problem is that we are trying to be what we are not and trying to carry what we cannot...We are not willing to simply be subject to the One who created us.”¹*

Personal Responsibility: the key to healing

The great benefit of the doctrine of sin is that it reintroduces personal responsibility for our own behavior. “Sin in us” gives meaning to our condition. We can now understand why there are evil people in the world, and we recognize the source of our own inner struggles. Thus, Christianity alone gives us a real-world understanding of – and a solution to – our problem of guilt.

Dr. Norman Geisler, a prolific contemporary Christian apologist states, “The attempts to excuse immoral behavior will, over a period of time, lead to increased guilt that will cause greater and greater personal instability. The main cause of most character disorders is a person’s refusal to acknowledge and act upon what is morally right, and to reject what is morally wrong; thus, it becomes harder and harder for the individual to get help with his character disorder because of his increased moral depravity.”



Dr. Norman Geisler

We will conclude this section on understanding how to handle our inner conflicts, with the following Scriptures:

1 John 1:8-10 - "If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. If we claim we have not sinned, we make Him out to be a liar and His Word has no place in our lives."

James 5:16 - "Confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed."

James 4:10 - "Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up"

The goal of Christian psychology is not to excuse or conceal sin, but to heal and set free every individual, starting with the mind. If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed! (John 8:36)

Sin: The Cause of Much Suffering

As we saw from several of the Scriptures above, suffering often comes – not from God – but as the direct result of the presence of sin in all of humanity. Remember, sin is defined as not only missing the mark, but as *lawlessness*. As we have pointed out often in this series, physical laws and moral laws must be in place if there is to be order in the universe and among mankind. And violation of those laws – lawlessness - leads to both chaos in society and personal, individual consequences. Thus, blaming God for the catastrophes in life is like aiming at the wrong target and losing the shooting match. The result is continual frustration and failure to be victorious in life's battles. Consider this: if there was no sin (lawlessness) in the universe, there would be no suffering.

God Uses Suffering for Good

- God uses suffering to bring about positive changes in us (if viewed Biblically)
 - God uses suffering to teach us (Heb. 12:7-11)
 - C.S. Lewis stated, "Pain is God's megaphone to arouse a deaf world."²
- We will build further upon this principle in the next day's study.



C.S. Lewis

We'll deal with this subject in greater detail in the next lesson.

Day 2 Study Questions

1. Regarding the identity crisis we all deal with, what are two conflicting parts to our identity? _____

2. Does your awareness of those two conflicting parts of man's identity help you understand yourself or others better? _____ In what way? _____

3. The Healing of the Mind can effectively be accomplished through _____ of the mind.
4. Why is the health of the mind so important to the life of all human beings?

5. The goal of Christian psychology is not to excuse or conceal sin, but to heal and set free every individual, starting with the mind. Read 1 John 1:5-10. Why is it important is to have a clear conscience with God?

6. Read James 5:16. Why is it important is to have a clear conscience with your fellow man? _____

7. According to Dr. Geisler, what is the source of all human problems?

8. And what is the key to the healing of the mind, according to Geisler? _____
9. Why is that important to understand? (What happens when we don't take responsibility for our own actions, compared to when we do?)

10. State an occurrence in your life when one of the three ways God uses suffering for our good taught you something valuable (what happened and what did you learn?).

Day 3 - Providential Suffering

God will sometimes bring suffering into our lives for our benefit. This has been termed *Providential* suffering because it comes from the hand of Providence – a name of God that emphasizes His sovereignty, or His reign over us – and implying that He is providing for us, always doing what is best.



Providential affliction is one of the most efficient ways of producing the fruits of righteousness in a Christian; thus, the sensory world provides an ideal testing ground for the Spirit to accomplish His sanctifying work in a Christian's life. In other words, God teaches us and makes us more like Him through affliction.

"Before I was afflicted, I went astray, but now I keep Your word... It is good for me that I have been afflicted, that I may learn Your statutes." (Psalm 119:67,71)

"But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you." (1 Peter 5:10)

Sensory trials and tribulations, physical persecutions, and provocations, are essential for producing the fruit of the Spirit. For instance, how is the Spirit to produce in the Christian the fruit of longsuffering if the Christian never experiences suffering? How is the Spirit to produce perseverance, hope, patience, meekness, self-control, etc., apart from the means of sensory conflict, apart from the irritating frictions of the world?

My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing. (James 1:2-4)

...but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope. (Romans 5:3-4)

God Shapes Us into His Image

The Lord uses abrasive sensory experiences as a means of exfoliating (causing a material to shed in scales or layers) the Christian's flesh (remaining sin) so that the radiance of the new man might be increasingly brought to the surface. As a skillful sculptor, God uses the chisel of trial to chip away at the Christian's exterior so that the interior image of Christ progressively takes shape and comes into form. As the Master Potter, God uses the hands of affliction to press against the Christian's clay body for the purpose of preparing him for glory as a vessel of mercy. Ultimately, everything that happens in the Christian's life is a test of his faith because every event serves to prove the genuineness of his faith, or else serves to expose the relative strength or weakness of his faith. Unpleasant sensory experiences provide a healthy litmus test for the Christian who can easily become complacent, and unsuspecting of the gaping holes that exist in his faith. As William Jay so aptly puts it, "Afflictions are to the soul, like the rains to the house: we suspected no apertures [openings] in the roof, till the droppings through told the tale."³

God Purifies Us

Peter remarks that the authenticity of the Christian's faith is like gold, and must be tested in the fires of affliction if the impurities are to rise to the surface and the dross be removed:

“In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, 7 that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ...” (1 Peter 1:6-7)

God Prepares Us for Good Works

By putting faith to the test, faith is able to produce works, and the natural byproduct of a faith that produces works is assurance of salvation. Faith without works is dead; therefore, faith with works is alive, and a living faith is a work of God, who is faithful to complete His work. Hence, assurance of salvation is achieved by testing the Christian’s faith.⁴

Implicit in these verses is the notion that the Christian is constantly being tested and tempted to disobey the commandments of Christ. The Christian knows that He knows Christ, i.e., he has assurance of salvation if he desires and attempts to keep Christ’s commandments in the midst of opposition, and if he is persistently and consistently resisting sin and pursuing holiness. The nonbeliever thinks nothing of breaking the commandments of Christ, and actively pursues wickedness. Man’s works in the external world, especially during times of trial and tribulation, reveal the internal propositions that he assents and commits to in the mind, *“for as a man thinks in his heart, so he is”* (Proverbs 23:7), and so he will do.

“Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. He who says, “I know Him,” and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.” (1 John 2:3-6)

God Uses Trials to Reveal Our True Heart

Trials have a unique way of showing a Christian what is truly in his heart – who he really is and what he really believes. Trials slap our faith in the face to see if our faith will give the other cheek. Again, the poignant words of William Jay are highly instructive: *“I little thought I was so proud, till I was required to stoop; or so impatient, till I was required to wait; or so easily provoked, till I met with such an offense; or was so rooted to earth, till so much force was exerted to detach me from it.”*⁵

Being confronted by affliction exposes our weaknesses so that we might grow in the faith and become more useful. Knowledgeable Christians are valuable, but Christians who have had their faith tried and purified are invaluable. Think of Job, David, Daniel, and Paul – how used of God these men were because their faith was so severely tested.

“I waited patiently for the Lord; and He inclined to me, and heard my cry. He also brought me up out of a horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my steps. He has put a new song in my mouth – Praise to our God; many will see it and fear, and will trust in the Lord.” (Psalm 40:1-3)

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, 4 who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.” (2 Corinthians 1:3-4)

Undergoing distressing and trying sensory experiences is a remarkably effective means of the Spirit for working sanctification, and by faithfully enduring hardship, the Christian's usefulness is increased exponentially. During times of affliction, as the Christian exercises his faith, as he works out his own salvation with fear and trembling, his spiritual muscles are built up through the repetition of putting them to work against an opposing resistance. Being thus spiritually stout and able-bodied, the veteran Christian soldier is well-equipped to share in carrying the load of others, and to assist in bearing the heavy burdens of his brethren. Furthermore, there is no sweeter aroma that ascends to please the nostrils of the Lord, than that of the Christian steadfastly abiding though in the belly of the blazing furnace of adversity.

Let us observe the weighty thoughts of William Jay one last time:

Pause and Consider

The Inspiration of Overcomers

The oak scathed with lightning attracts the notice of passengers more than all the other trees of the forest. Trouble awakens the attention, and draws forth inquiry. The Christian is never so well circumstanced, to "glorify the Lord, as in the fires." There he can display the tenderness of his care, the truth of his promise, the excellency of the Gospel, the supports of divine grace. In the review of my own varied intercourse with society, I confess nothing so vividly and powerfully affects me, as what I recollect to have met with from pious individuals exemplifying the spirit and resources of Christianity under bodily disease, and the losses, and bereavements, and disappointments of life.

O When I have visited such a martyr – such a witness for God; when I have found him standing in the evil day like a rock in a raging current with sunshine on its brow: when I have observed him full of tribulation in the world, and of peace in Christ; mourning more for his sins than his sorrows; afraid of dishonoring his profession by impatience and unbelief; more concerned to have his crosses sanctified, than to have them removed; turning a tearful eye towards the inflictor and saying, "I know, O Lord, that thy judgments are right, and that thou in faithfulness hast afflicted me; just and true are all thy ways, O thou King of saints – he hath done all things well;"

–When I have witnessed religion – and I have witnessed it – accomplishing achievements like these, I have said to it, as I withdrew – "I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear, but now mine eye seeth thee." As the sky is only decked with stars in the night, so the Christian shines most in the darkness of affliction.⁶

In summary, Christianity helps us find meaning and comfort in the midst of pain that can't be immediately relieved or understood. With the understanding and faith that "All things work together for the good for those who love God and are called according to His purposes" (Romans 8:28), Christians can live victoriously through pain, disappointment, and apparent failure. Here are a few marvelous modern-day examples:

Joni Erikson Tada had a diving accident in 1967 which left her a quadriplegic in a wheelchair. Today, she is an internationally known mouth artist, a talented Christian vocalist & radio host, and the author of 17 Christian books and an advocate for disabled persons worldwide.



Frank Pastore was a former atheist who, up until his recent death in a car crash, hosted the most-listened-to Christian radio talk show in America. This was his testimony: *"Since the first grade I had been taught to doubt the existence of God: The universe had just popped into existence out of nothing, evolution was a "scientific" fact, miracles can't happen, the Bible's been changed, etc.*

Then on June 4, 1984, in Dodger Stadium, all of that changed. I was cruising to a 3-1 victory with two outs in the eighth inning, when I made the pitch that eternally changed by life. Dodger Steve Sax rocked a 2-2 fastball off my right elbow and my whole worldview shattered in one painful instant. Immediately, I knew my arm would never be the same again, and my career, as I had known it, had come to a tragic end.

It was only about two months after making that pitch in Dodger Stadium that I gave my heart, my mind, and my life to Jesus Christ.

Nine years earlier I had gone into pro ball to get rich and famous. Finally, I was rich - rich with the knowledge that my sins were forgiven and that I would spend eternity with Jesus Christ in glorious fellowship!"

Day 3 Study Questions

The Christian view of the cause of behavioral and psychological problems

Why Does God Allow Suffering?

1. *To bring about positive changes.* Read Prov. 3:11-12. Explain how this might work. _____

2. *God uses suffering to teach us.* Read Heb. 12:7-11. Can you name an example of this in your life? _____

3. *“Pain is God’s megaphone to arouse a deaf world”* - C.S. Lewis. What does this mean and how might this be seen in everyday life? _____

4. *Christianity helps us find meaning and comfort in the midst of pain that can’t be immediately relieved or understood.* In light of Romans 8:28 & 1 Peter 1:6-9, what does this mean? _____

5. *Christians can live victoriously through pain, disappointment, and apparent failure.* How does the story of Joseph, summed up in Genesis 45:4-5 and 50:20, illustrate the principle stated in Prov. 3:5-6?

6. God uses trials to prepare us for good works. According to 1 John 2:3-6, what is the key principle that the Christian is to live by which, when followed, produces assurance of his own faith as well a powerful testimony to the external world? _____

Day 4 - Comparing and Contrasting

We will now view side-by-side, the two worldviews, Christianity and Humanism, that are competing for the minds of those living in America. Both are religions. If you remember, in earlier classes we spoke about the humanistic philosophy that was developed in the 1930s. At that time, they themselves called it the "religion" of Humanism. Today, it is the religion of the media and the education system. One might even say that Humanism is the unofficial government religion reigning now in America.

Let's begin this study with a general overview of how these two worldviews deal with four main struggles common to us all. You'll see that each worldview attacks these struggles from opposite positions, and that it is impossible for both to be true. As with all ideas, they must be judged by their fruit.

Four Main Struggles of the Mind: The Christian Worldview

	The Christian Worldview	The Humanist Worldview
Our Greatest Problem	Sin in us	Others
Our Greatest Need	Forgiveness	Pride
Our Greatest Weakness	Pride	Low Self Esteem
Our Greatest Requirement	Humility	Tolerance

1. Our Greatest Problem

Christianity says that our greatest problem is *sin*. It's sin in us. We are all born with a sinful nature. We have a natural bent toward selfishness. Little children don't need to be taught how to be selfish – they need to be taught to NOT be selfish. This personality flaw is in all humankind and is the cause of all personal struggles. As Founding Father James Madison wisely stated, "If all men were angels, there would be no need for government." This inescapable human trait leads to both factual guilt and feelings of guilt, which points to the second great struggle we all deal with...

2. Our Greatest Need

Because the Bible proclaims clearly that man is *not* essentially good, our greatest need, then, is *forgiveness*. This is made evident in study after study, whether it be a Christian or a secular survey. One main problem that everyone deals with is feelings of guilt between oneself and others, or between oneself and God. Guilt burdens us and we long for, need, forgiveness. Forgiveness soothes the soul and brings peace to the one forgiven, as well as to the one who forgives. "Studies show that people who forgive are happier and healthier than those who hold resentments. One study that looked at how forgiveness improves physical health discovered that when people think about forgiving an offender it leads to improved functioning in their cardiovascular and nervous systems. Another study at the University of Wisconsin found the more forgiving people were, the less they suffered from a wide range of illnesses. The less forgiving people reported a greater number of health problems".⁷

But there is another element in our sin nature that keeps us from enjoying this inner peace...

Pause and Consider

The Four Main Problems of the Mind

1. Our greatest problem: **SIN - Man is NOT essentially GOOD**
2. Our greatest need: **FORGIVENESS**
3. Our greatest weakness: **PRIDE**
4. The greatest requirement: **HUMILITY**

3. Our Greatest Weakness or should we say Greatest Wickedness?

According to the Bible, our greatest weakness is pride. Consider Genesis 3. In the very beginning it was the pride of man that took them down. And in Isaiah 14:12-15, we see Satan himself falling from Heaven because of the pride in him. Notice how many times he uses the word “I”. We live in a culture today where we are constantly encouraged to consider that life “Is all about me.” A simple look around will confirm that this attitude is not leading us in a good direction. If everyone adopted this attitude, what would the end-result be? That’s a thought worthy of a few minutes’ contemplation.

4. Our Greatest Requirement

Our greatest requirement as Christians (and for all mankind) but the most difficult to attain, is *humility*. It is so vital that we are to seek after it as for fine treasure.

Andrew Murray, a profound theologian, missionary, and devotional author of the 19th century, wrote in his short but classic book titled *Humility*, that this was the greatest of all Christ’s attributes. Consider the following quotes from Murray:

“If humility be the first, the all-including grace of the life of Jesus,— if humility be the secret of His atonement,— then the health and strength of our spiritual life will entirely depend upon our putting this grace first too, and making humility the chief thing we admire in Him, the chief thing we ask of Him, the one thing for which we sacrifice all else. Humility is the only soil in which the graces root; the lack of humility is the sufficient explanation of every defect and failure.

“Humility is not so much a grace or virtue along with others; it is the root of all, because it alone takes the right attitude before God, and allows Him as God to do all...”

“Let us, at the very commencement of our meditations, admit that there is nothing so natural to man, nothing so insidious and hidden from our sight, nothing so difficult and dangerous, as pride.”¹⁸

It was this attribute of deepest humility that resulted in Christ’s exaltation to the right hand of God (Phil. 2:6-7). We’re told that if we humble ourselves, we will be lifted up (James 4:10). What if everyone applied this attribute or mindset to his life? What would society look like?

Four Main Struggles of the Mind: The Humanist Worldview

1. Our Greatest Problem

- Humanism states that our greatest problem is not sin, but *others*. We need to find out who's to blame for why we're going wrong. They say man is essentially good and that the presence of evil is the cause of unrealistic, burdensome, and hateful social restraints placed upon us by religion (especially the Christian religion) which have the effect of creating guilty consciences and inhibiting our freedom.⁹



- “Sin is an imaginary disease that was invented to sell you an imaginary cure.” – Richard Dawkins
- “The individual born into a particular culture is largely molded by that culture” – The Humanist Manifesto (4th Principle)
- Humanism asserts that “ the nature of the universe depicted by modern science makes unacceptable any supernatural or cosmic guarantees of human values.” - The Humanist Manifesto (5th Principle -- thus, “right” and “wrong” cannot be defined except by man).

2. Our Greatest Need

According to Humanism, our greatest need is pride. We need to have more pride in who we are because we’ve been beat down by the old-fashioned morals of the Christian religion. Those outdated mores make us feel guilty. Richard Taylor, in the book *Restoring Pride*,¹⁰ states: "The nature of genuine pride is thus clear. It is the love of oneself that rests upon some strength or excellence-some virtue...- something that enables its possessor to stand out among the multitude. Thus, the proud rise above ordinary people, and are quite literally superior to them..."¹¹

3. Our Greatest Weakness

The Humanist sees low self-esteem as our debilitating weakness. To get rid of the guilt that society lays on us, we need to build up our own self- esteem. Thus, everyone who participates on a soccer team must get a trophy. Teachers should not grade tests with red ink because it makes kids feel bad. Universities should create “safe spaces” for students who don’t want to have their feelings hurt by another’s conflicting viewpoint. Wikipedia states,

“The importance of self-esteem has gained endorsement from many governmental and non-governmental groups starting around the 1970s. This movement can be used as an example of promising evidence that psychological research can have an effect on forming public policy. The underlying idea of the movement was that low self-esteem was the root of the problem for individuals, making it the root of societal problems and dysfunctions. A leading figure of the movement was psychologist, Nathaniel Branden who was quoted as saying, ‘[I] cannot think of a single psychological problem – from anxiety and depression, to fear of intimacy or of success, to spouse battery or child molestation – that is not traced back to the problem of low self-esteem.’”¹²

4. Our Greatest Requirement

Humanism’s greatest requirement is, in a word, *Tolerance*. This word has been radically redefined in the last several decades. Fifty years ago, the word "tolerant" was understood by most people to mean: Allowing other people the freedom to hold different ideas and to live their life according to those principles - as long as they didn't cause harm to others, or to society as a whole. However, now this word has been radically redefined:

Tolerance now means that we must not only *accept* the opposing ideas, behaviors, or lifestyles of others, but we must *embrace* those ideas, behaviors, or lifestyles.

Humanists believe that values, morals, and ethics are determined by each person for him or herself. Therefore, to tell someone else that their behavior is “wrong” or “sinful” is considered intolerant. “Intolerance” (defined this way) is not tolerated! Since morality is determined by tolerance, chaos and suffering can only be attributed to different belief systems and the lack of tolerance between them. As such, this leads to what Humanism sees as hatred – or simply *hate speech*. This explains why Humanists often criticize all religions as being intolerant, all the while forgetting that their own worldview is more intolerant than most others – especially Christianity.

The Christian Post writes,

“In Webster’s 1828 dictionary, TOLERANCE was defined as: ‘*The power or capacity of enduring; or the act of enduring. Ability to put up with something harmful or unpleasant.*’ Today the definition of tolerance more closely resembles giving everyone and everything equal space to be right; acceptance of all views and actions as equally true; and lack of any moral judgment toward one another.”¹³

Humanists insist that Christians must no longer be allowed to get away with simply *not* saying anything against these radical ideas, but now they are required to enthusiastically *endorse* them. That’s the new definition of tolerance. That’s what children are being taught in the media and in the school system today.

The Most Important Take-Aways

1. Because Humanists reject the supernatural and thus reject God, they leave man with no authority for determining what is right or wrong. Every person, then, is free to create his or her own version of morality - until someone grabs enough power to command everyone else to submit to *his* version of morality. There can be nothing but tyranny when man makes up his own rules.
2. Neither Humanism nor any other major religion but Christianity, acknowledges the sin nature of man. This is huge! Once we reject the indwelling sin of man’s rebellion against God, we have no way of making sense of the world. The only way, then, to soothe our conscience is by blaming others for the guilt we feel when we defy God’s laws. And this only guarantees that our consciences will become even more burdensome.

As you consider the ideas of both religions – Christianity and Humanism - which worldview makes sense to embrace?



Day 4 Study Questions

What is our Greatest PROBLEM?

1. Christianity says: _____. What is the basic nature of man...is he naturally GOOD? What does the Bible say, according to the following scriptures? Read Gen. 6:5; Romans 3:10-11,23; 5:12

2. Why does this matter? _____

3. Humanism says our greatest problem is O _____. Society is the cause of all personal problems. Fix society and you will fix man.

4. What destructive behaviors might this idea lead to? _____

What is our greatest NEED? (What does each worldview say about man's greatest NEED, and why?)

5. Christianity says: F _____. Read Psalm 32:1, Mark 11:25; Matthew 6:14-15;18:21-35

Your comments _____

6. Humanism says our greatest need is: P _____.

7. What can be some of the consequences for someone who is so prideful? _____

What is our greatest WEAKNESS?

8. Christianity says: P _____. What do the following verses say about pride? Read Prov. 8:13, 11:2, 14:3; 1 John 2:16. What are the consequences of a prideful heart?

9. Humanism says: LOW S _____-E _____.

10. What are your thoughts on the statement above? _____

What is our greatest REQUIREMENT?

11. Christianity says: H _____.

12. Read Psalm 45:4; Prov. 15:33, 18:12, 22:4; Phil. 2:8-9; James 4:10. How important is humility in our lives, and why? _____

13. Humanism says: T_____.

14. Based upon the definitions within today's study, what are your thoughts on the statement above?

15. Which definition of tolerance do you believe makes more sense, and why?

Day 5 - The Problem of Guilt

Why Do We Carry guilt?

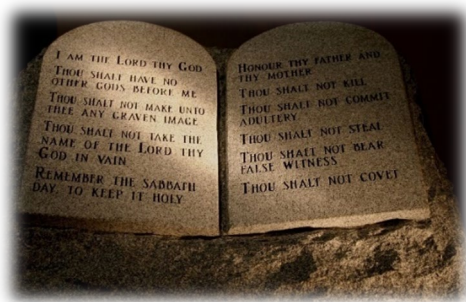
The sense of personal guilt comes from our *conscience*. But what does this word mean?

Con means *with*. Science means *knowledge*. Conscience, then, means "*with knowledge*".

Isn't that interesting? Think about it. Apart from the Word of God, how do people *know* a thing is wrong? Is there something in our hearts that tells us, "This isn't right" and make us feel that we shouldn't do that thing, and then plagues us with guilt if we go ahead and do it? Romans 1 addresses the fact that the conscience is present in all mankind:

Romans 1:18-21a- *"For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, **because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them.** For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful..."*(NKJV, emphasis ours)

Here we see that God has placed knowledge of His moral laws into the heart of all human beings, and this is what fills our conscience. We've been implanted **with the knowledge of God**. As we have stated before, all laws are given to us so that we may have life, and when we reject those laws there will always be consequences. When we violate His moral law, we know it and the consequence of guilt follows.



The Moral Laws of Conscience: What is the Purpose?

As we've mentioned many times before in this worldview series, laws are necessary for life. Without specific limits placed upon the forces of nature in the universe there could be no universe. Laws create order. Without order, the result is chaos. Human actions in this material world must not only submit to, and work within, the parameters of these physical laws; but, because we are not inanimate objects or animals stimulated by instincts only - we are uniquely capable of critically thinking through moral choices – we must additionally submit to, and work within, the parameters of the moral laws which God has created for our good.

The conscience that is present in all humanity can be understood as the remnant of the fullness of God's Holy Spirit in Adam that God graciously allowed to abide within us after the fall.

The Word of God Illuminates the Invisible Messages of the Conscience

The Christian views the conscience somewhat like this: The conscience holds the knowledge of right and wrong, and this knowledge has been written on our hearts; but it's as if it was written with invisible ink. Maybe you saw the movie "National Treasure" where the treasure hunters stole the original Declaration of Independence and, believing that there was a clue written on the back of it, they removed it from its bulletproof case and inspected the back. Since they saw nothing written there, they made the presumption that the message must have been written in invisible ink. So, they carefully applied heat to the paper (making sure they didn't burn up the original!) and, sure enough, the message appeared.

That, in a sense, is what the Word of God does. It is like heat applied to our hearts which illuminates the actual knowledge that God has written on our conscience. Without the Word of God, we would have nothing *authoritative* to tell us clearly what is wrong and what is right. We would have nothing but our “common sense” of conscience – which is only a sense. In Hebrews 4:12 it says,

"For the word of God is living and powerful. Sharper than any two-edged sword. Piercing even to the division of the soul and the spirit and the joints and the marrow and is a discerner that looks into the thoughts and intents of the heart."

That's why the Word of God is so powerful.

Isaiah 55:11 states, *"so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it."*

The Word of God makes perfectly clear what's inside a person's heart, and it puts words behind the feelings of our conscience.

What Happens if We Ignore the Conscience?

Humanism teaches that the conscience is an illusion – a myth of Christianity; thus, they promote its suppression. This is dangerous because the conscience can be seared – or burned into numbness – the more we ignore or rebel against it. And when the conscience is seared, “all hell breaks loose” in society. **Romans 1:21-32** elaborates upon this truth:

"...because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.

Therefore, God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

For this reason, God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. Likewise, also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due. And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful; who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them."

It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God (Hebrews 10:31)!

The conscience exists to warn us, so that we will NOT be harmed. Its presence points us back to our Father who loves us and gave us His Word for our good, so that we can thrive. Human thriving comes by knowing and living within the safe limits of God's moral laws, and our thriving glorifies God.

The Christian Remedy to Sin and Guilt

1. Acknowledge the sin in you
2. Confess your sin to God and repent of (turn from) the sin.
3. Place your full faith and trust in Him. Since God sees the heart, He knows if you're serious and He will forgive you and place a new heart in you. You will be forgiven of all sins - past, present, and future - if you have truly repented and believed.
4. With a new heart, you will now desire to know Him intimately. Start reading the Bible, asking for understanding every time you open it.
5. Find a church that believes that the Word of God is inerrant and our absolute source for a righteous and blessed life. Make sure they teach predominantly verse-by-verse.
6. Obey God because you love Him.
7. Confess your sins regularly to Him, and He will renew your heart every time!

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9

Day 5 Study Questions

1. According to Christianity, why do we carry guilt? _____

2. What is the root meaning of the word “conscience”? _____

3. We spoke of the conscience as the Word written in our hearts, as with invisible ink. Read Heb 4:12 and explain in your own words what this is saying. _____

4. Humanism states that the conscience is an i _____. What would happen to man’s overall morals if everyone believed that? _____

5. Does that idea make logical sense? Why or why not?

6. Read Exodus 34:6-7, Proverbs 3:13 & 6:16-19, and 1 John 4:8. If man is made in God’s image, name some of the characteristics and qualities of God that may also be seen in man.
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
7. Man is also sinful. Read the following scriptures and explain this idea more fully. Rm. 5:12; 3:10; 3:23; 1 John 1:8-9 _____

8. Look up the definition of “repent” at www.merriam-webster.com. What is the 1st definition? _____

9. The 2nd definition of repent simply conveys the meaning of “being sorry”, or “feeling remorse.” But there is a radical difference between “feeling sorry” and “turning away.” In Matthew 27:3-5, we read that Judas felt remorseful. In verse five, what was the result of his “being sorry”? _____

10. Read 2 Corinthians 7:10. What is the difference between *being sorrowful* and *repenting*, and what is the result of true repentance? _____

Day 6 - The Humanist View

For the remainder of this session we are going to investigate the way Humanists have employed the science of Psychology to achieve their purposes. And be forewarned, this is a dark story. But Christians need to be aware of how the enemy thinks and what his goals are. He – Satan - is our enemy, not other people. We don't war against flesh and blood *"but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places"* (Ephesians 6:12). We battle **ideas**, and ideas aren't made of material stuff. They are immaterial, spiritual in nature.



The Cause of Human and behavior problems

According to Humanism, what is the cause of behavioral and psychological problems? It is the carrying of the unnecessary guilt that has been sown into us since we were young by the out-of-date, unenlightened society around us. Let's look at their list of primary problem causers.

1. Restrictive, old-fashioned morals. These out-of-date customs make us feel guilty and they shouldn't. Judeo-Christian morals are the greatest offenders. For example, when we are told that we aren't to have sex before we get married, Humanists say this is overly restrictive and outdated. We must disregard what our parents and church taught us, and instead, simply cast aside our conscience and have fun. And what of the consequences? They are hardly mentioned (we will name several of those real-world consequences in the upcoming chapter on sociology).
2. Parental upbringing. We're told to no longer trust our parents – especially if they hold Christian values. We should listen instead to our teachers and professors, who are experts and know more than parents. To substantiate this point, we will provide several quotes in the next section from prominent educators, psychologists, and philosophers from the last 50 years who have proudly made such statements.
3. The social environment. Again, because we live in a country that has in the past been dominated by the Christian worldview, we're now being taught that we have been poisoned by that worldview and we need to recognize this folly and reject those old traditional ways.
4. Past treatment by others. They say that you are the way you are because somebody mistreated you, either in the recent or distant past. You need to relive those painful moments (through hypnosis or psychiatric sessions) and place blame for your behavior upon those who hurt you. Then you'll be healed.



along much better.

Humanists treatments for behavioral and psychological problems

1. Tolerance - As mentioned earlier, humanists demand tolerance toward things that society had always considered to be crimes. They follow this with a demand to lighten – or remove – punishments for crimes committed against others. This will result, they say, in less guilt, and everyone getting
2. Psychotherapy - There is a focus on ignoring the mind and conscience, and instead acknowledging negative influences. This allows one to cast blame and responsibility for his actions upon others, thereby releasing one from his personal responsibility.

3. Drug therapy - Lots of it. In a 2014 article in Psychology Today subtitled *10 reasons Why Drugs Shouldn't be a Treatment of Choice for Mental Disorders*, Graham Davey, PHD, reported that “the most recent figures tend to suggest that as many as 57% of people with mental health problems are being treated solely with medications without any form of psychotherapy. And that figure is not going down—it’s going up!—up from 44% to 57% between 1998 and 2007. In addition, the pediatric use of SSRIs (the most common antidepressants are called selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors, or SSRIs) has risen significantly between 1994 and 2000, largely to treat childhood anxiety and depression, and has often occurred without regulatory approval. But is drug treatment alone an effective way to treat mental health problems? To be sure, there are at least some people who benefit from some drug treatments—especially if they suffer from acute mental health problems that they are likely to recover from relatively quickly. However, there are numerous good reasons why drugs alone should not be the reflexive treatment of choice for many mental health problems”. Dr. Davey goes on to list ten reasons why he believes that the overprescribing of drugs is doing more harm than good.¹⁴



The History of the Effects of Humanism Upon Society

Humanism is the religion or worldview of Darwinism, Socialism, Marxism, and Communism. History shows that the greatest of crimes have come from those who embraced this ideology. In the 20th century, Adolph Hitler and Joseph Stalin were among the leaders of those with this mindset. As such, they were among the first to truly take advantage of the psychological tools of Humanism. The result was the most evil, murderous, and genocidal century ever recorded.

Chief among the tools of Humanism was the newly developed strategy of propaganda. Psychological manipulation of the younger generation became Hitler’s specialty. As Hitler rose to power, very few stood against him in the battle of ideas. Believing in the Humanist doctrine that man is essentially good, world leaders refused to see Hitler’s deceitful agenda for world domination and failed to stop his aggression early on. Consequently, seventy years ago the Greatest Generation, as we called them, were forced to go to battle with tanks, guns, and bombs in the most devastating war that the world has ever seen. The horrors of World War II that followed starkly revealed the power Humanist ideas have when fused with psychological manipulation and propaganda.

Humanism in the Schools

John Taylor Gatto was a prominent teacher in the New York State public school system for 35 years. He was honored as the New York State Teacher of the Year in 1990, and twice honored as the New York City Teacher of the Year for his exemplary work with students in Harlem. His formal religious affiliation leaned toward Catholicism, and he did not espouse the Protestant views of the Christian faith. His worldview as revealed in his writings would most likely be considered fundamentally secular as opposed to religious. In his acceptance speech for the State Teacher award before the New York State legislature, he made this courageous statement:

“WE LIVE IN A TIME of great school crisis linked to an even greater social crisis. Our nation ranks at the bottom of nineteen industrial nations in reading, writing, and arithmetic. At the very bottom! The world’s narcotic economy is based upon our consumption of this commodity; if we didn’t buy so many powdered dreams, the business would



collapse—and schools are an important sales outlet. Our teenage suicide rate is the highest in the world, and suicidal kids are rich kids for the most part, not the poor. In Manhattan, seventy percent of all new marriages last less than five years. So, something is wrong for sure... The truth is that schools don't really teach anything except how to obey orders.

*It is absurd and anti-life to be part of a system that compels you to sit in confinement with people of exactly the same age and social class. That system effectively cuts you off from the immense diversity of life and the synergy of variety; indeed, it cuts you off from your own past and future, sealing you in a continuous present much the same way television does. It is absurd and anti-life to move from cell to cell at the sound of a gong for every day of your natural youth in an institution that allows you no privacy and even follows you into the sanctuary of your home, demanding that you do its 'homework'."*¹⁵

Those words reveal the grim truth of today's education system, and we should all be compelled to ask, "How did this happen?" The answer is, it didn't *just happen*. It is the result of over a century of dedicated and long-ranged planning by those who hated the Christian worldview - the worldview that promotes individual freedom and personal responsibility along with the fundamental view that all men are created in the image of God. This is the worldview the Humanists set out to destroy and it would be hard not to argue that they have achieved a remarkable degree of success.

Later in the same speech Mr. Gatto stated, "*Schools were designed by Horace Mann and by Sears and Harper of the University of Chicago and by Thorndyke of Columbia Teachers College and by some other men to be instruments for the scientific management of a mass population. Schools are intended to produce, through the application of formulas, formulaic human beings whose behavior can be predicted and controlled.*"¹⁶ (Emphasis ours). It is important to know that these statements quoted by Mr. Gatto were made at the very start of America's state-run schools – around 1820!

This has been the philosophy of the Humanist public school mindset that has been gradually at work in the public schools of our nation since the early 1900s. Today virtually all students are introduced to radical ideas coming from some of the most Godless Humanist minds in history, and they are breeding catastrophic results. And though there are many Christian teachers and administrators laboring diligently to shed the Christian light in public schools, they are greatly outnumbered by those who are simply following the directions of the state and federal bureaucrats and NEA directors in implementing the often disguised Humanist agenda.

Day 6 Study Questions

The Humanist view of the cause of behavioral and psychological problems

1. According to Humanism, why do we carry guilt? _____

2. What effects do you think the following Humanist ideas are having on our society?
 - 1) "Traditional morals are out of date." _____

 - 2) "Parental authority is a problem." _____

 - 3) "The social environment can be blamed for our personal psychological problems." _____

 - 4) "Past treatment by others can be blamed for our personal psychological problems." _____

3. What do you think about the three treatments that Humanism prescribes for handling behavioral and psychological problems? State what you think are the benefits or possible consequences of each.
 - 1) Tolerance _____

 - 2) Psychotherapy _____

 - 3) Drug Therapy _____

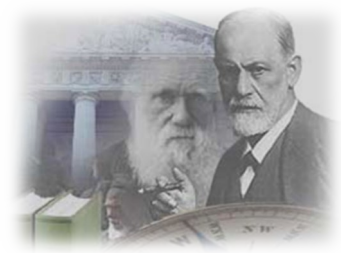
4. From today's study, name three specific consequences which were caused by those who embraced Humanism, and which affected millions of men, women, and children. Describe each in the greatest detail that you are able in the space provided.
 - _____

 - _____

 - _____

Day 7- The Godless Minds of Humanists

The following citations reference a wide array of politicians, psychologists, and prominent educators from the twentieth century who clearly reveal the sordid intentions and devious methods of Humanist thinkers.



Sigmund Freud

Sigmund Freud (1896-1939)

Freud biographer Peter Gay wrote, "Freud's agenda for many years had been to demolish religion with psychoanalytic weapons. Freud hated God and Christianity. He believed that it is the people who reject a Biblical worldview and follow their 'natural' innate desires who are truly sane." Christianity teaches the opposite. We're supposed to control those natural desires.¹⁷

Speaking also of Freud, Benjamin Wiker, author of *Ten Books That Screwed Up the World* said, "His rebellion took the form of baptizing as natural the most hideously unnatural sins. Sins condemned by every society as the most unholy and unthinkable, such as incest, cannibalism, lust for killing, homosexuality, pedophilia, and sex with animals, et cetera." Freud not only condoned those behaviors but promoted them in his writings.¹⁸

Charles Francis Potter (1885-1962)

Rev. Dr. Charles Francis Potter was an American Unitarian minister, theologian, author, Humanist, and educator. He wrote in his book *Humanism: A New Religion (1930)*, "Education is the most powerful ally of Humanism [atheism] and every American public school is a school of Humanism. What can the theistic Sunday schools, meeting for an hour once a week, and teaching only a fraction of the children, do to stem the tide of a five-day program of humanistic teaching?"¹⁹



John Dewey

John Dewey (1859-1952)

Known as the Father of the Modern Progressive Public Educational System, Dewey stated, "There is no God and there is no soul. Hence, there are no needs for the props of traditional religion. With dogma and creed excluded, immutable, unchangeable truth is also dead and buried."²⁰ In other words, he's saying that there's no such thing as absolute truth. "There is no room," he said, "for fixed natural laws or moral absolutes."

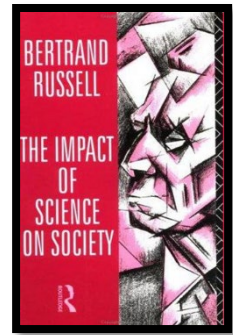
Samuel Blumenfeld and Alex Newman stated in their 2014 best-selling book, *Crimes of the Educators*, "The plan to dumb down America was launched in 1898 by socialist John Dewey, outlined in an essay titled 'The Primary-Education Fetich.'

In it he showed his fellow progressives how to transform America into a collectivist utopia by taking over the public schools and destroying the literacy of millions of Americans. The plan has been so successfully implemented that it is now a fact that half of America's adult population are functionally illiterate.

"In 'The Primary-Education Fetich', Dewey stated that the only way to undermine the capitalist system was to get rid of the emphasis primary schools placed on the development of high literacy and independent intelligence. Why? Because both of these sustained individualism. What was needed, they believed, was a new curriculum that emphasized socialization and taught children to read by a whole-word method that would lower the nation's literacy level and make its children more amenable to collectivist [socialist] values. That the conspirators' utopian fantasy would destroy our constitutional republic did not faze them at all. They considered themselves peerless intellects and socialism a morally superior way of life."²¹

Bertrand Russel (1872-1970)

A well thought of, highly extolled philosopher, educator and atheist, Bertrand Russel was extremely popular in the major colleges in this country in the middle of the 20th century. In 1952, he wrote the book *The Impact of Science on Society*²². We introduced the following quote at the very beginning of this subject, but it bears repeating because of the blatant arrogance and condescension of the statement:



"I think the subject which will be of most importance politically is Mass Psychology. Its importance has been enormously increased by the growth of modern methods of propaganda. Although the science will be diligently studied it will be rigidly confined to the governing class"[the elite]. In other words, these methods of propaganda will only be taught to the brightest minds in the universities so that only they will be aware of the intentional deception.

The result, he predicted, will be that: *"The populace will not be allowed to know how its convictions were generated. When the technique has been perfected, every government that has been in charge of education for a generation will be able to control its subjects securely without the need of armies or policemen."* He continued to write in this book, *"Where all children go to school and all schools are controlled by the government, the authorities can close the minds of the young to everything contrary to what they consider to be official orthodoxy... Education should aim at destroying free will so that after pupils have left school, they shall be incapable throughout the rest of their lives of thinking or acting otherwise than as their schoolmasters would have wished."*

Dr. G. Brock Chisholm (1896-1971)

Being the first Director-General of the World Health Organization of the U.N., Dr. Chisholm held an important, weighty position. He said, *"What basic psychological distortion or perversion can be found in every civilization of which we know anything?"* His answer: *"Morality. The concept of right and wrong... The reinterpretation of and the eventual eradication of the conception of right and wrong are the belated objectives of nearly all psychotherapy."* This is from a speech he gave in California at an education conference in 1954. He continued, *"To achieve world government, it is necessary to remove from the minds of men their individualism, loyalty to family tradition, national patriotism, and religious dogmas."*²³

Dr. Chester M. Pierce

Dr. Pierce was a Professor of Education and Psychology at Harvard. In an address he gave in 1973 to the Childhood International Education Seminar, he stated, *"Every child who enters the school at age five is mentally ill because he enters school with an allegiance toward our elected officials, our founding fathers, our institutions, the preservation of this form of government that we have, patriotism, nationalism, sovereignty. All this proves that the children are sick, because a truly well individual is one who has rejected all these things and is what I would call the international child of the future."*²⁴



Dr. Chester M. Pierce

It appears obvious that these men all have an agenda and are aiming for a one-world, global government. To achieve their goals, they need to get everybody thinking alike.

Ellwood P. Cubberley (1868-1941)

An American educator and a pioneer in the field of educational administration, Mr. Cubberley spent most of his career as a professor and later as dean in the Stanford Graduate School of Education in California. He detailed and praised how the strategy of successive school enlargements (meaning adding more required grade levels) had extended childhood by two to six years already (at this time, forced schooling was still quite new). He had written in his book *Public School Administration* (1922) that *"our schools are...factories in which the raw products*

*(children) are to be shaped and fashioned...And that is the business of the school... to build its pupils according to the specifications laid down."*²⁵

Willard Givens (1886-1971)



Givens was a self-described socialist who served as Executive Secretary of the National Education Association from 1935-1952. He said, *"The major function of the school is the social orientation of the individual. It must seek to give him understanding of his transition to a new social order."*

"Parent's attitudes about what they want for their children represent one of the greatest barriers to the successful implementation of school-to-work policies." In other words, we don't want parental influence here. We want to be able to simply get the kids through school and get them working to support the state.²⁶

We can see how successful these master manipulators of the modern mind have been in fulfilling their dreams. Is it any wonder that because of these psychological exploitations, such a vast number of people today have no apparent ability to think critically? They can only follow the crowd because - through intimidation, threats, and ridicule - they have been thoroughly brainwashed by leaders blinded by their hatred for the Christian worldview and for God Himself.

Day 7 Study Questions

From the quotes given from the Humanists named in today’s study, state the basic views of each and what results they might bring if implemented

1. Sigmund Freud (arguably the most famous name in psychoanalysis):

2. John Dewey (The Father of the Modern Progressive Educational System):

3. Bertrand Russel (Winner of the Nobel Prize in Literature):

4. Dr. Brock Chisholm (First Director-General of the World Health Organization of the U N):

5. Dr. Chester Pierce (Professor of Education and Psychology at Harvard University):

6. Ellwood P. Cubberley (American educator and a “pioneer” in the field of educational administration):

7. Willard Givens (Executive Secretary of the National Education Association from 1935-1952):

Day 8 - The Results of Humanism

Summary of Humanism's Purpose for Society

The goal of humanistic psychology is to control the masses. Humanism hates individualism. The overall objective is to create a "Utopia" where the masses are manipulated into falling in line with the ideas of the Intellectual Elite. This thinking is prominently on display in our public education system and the media where the dominant message is: There is no God. There is no such thing as sin. And there is no such thing as right or wrong. In short they say, "Absolute truth doesn't exist – truth is what we tell you it is."

When Humanism Takes Control

In 1962, the Supreme Court ruled on the Engel v. Vitale case. By majority decision, the Court deemed public school prayer unconstitutional. As we wrote earlier, the simple prayer was: "God bless me. God bless my parents. God bless my school. God bless my country." As we have seen, it took just 20-30 years to descend from our exemplary position in each one of these areas (kids, families, schools, and the nation), to the lowest position in the industrial world. Before, we had always been the nation with the lowest divorce rate in the world, but within 20 years we had the highest. We had always ranked lowest in single parent households, but within 20 years we ranked highest. The same transformation holds true for violent crime, prison population, teen pregnancies and suicides. (see Chapter Nine to view the graphs and sources).

Sexual Activity in Teens – A Major Cause of Depression and Poverty

One frequently addressed subject in the Bible is sexual purity – or the lack thereof. As we read through the Old Testament, we see the lives of two of the most prominent men, King David and his son Solomon, devastated by their lack of sexual control. Both the Old and New Testament list multiple warnings of the consequences of sexual impurity. Remember, moral laws are for our protection – protecting not only spiritual health, but physical and psychological health as well.

It is not hard to see the truth of God's warnings. Since the 1960s, as Humanistic philosophy has become mainstream for the first time in American history, the traditional biblical view of morality has been under increasing attack. Sexual promiscuity has been actively promoted and the results are catastrophic – especially among teens and young adults, as revealed in statistics mainly gathered between 1950 and 2000 as noted below.

Unmarried childbearing. Even though overall teenaged childbearing has declined steeply over the last half-century, the proportion of all nonmarital teen births has *increased* equally dramatically. In 1950, just 13% of teen births were nonmarital; by 2000, that had increased to 79%. Two factors are at play. The first is that teen marriages, which were not uncommon in the 1950s, have by now become quite rare. (By the mid-1990s, in the United States the typical age at first marriage was 25 for women and 27 for men.) The second is that in contrast to the days of the "shotgun marriage," today very few teens who become pregnant marry before their baby is born.²⁷



The problems of pregnancy and out-of-wedlock childbearing are severe. In 2000, some 240,000 children were born to girls aged 18 or younger.²⁸ Nearly all these teenage mothers were unmarried. These mothers and their children have an extremely high probability of long-term poverty and Welfare dependence. Less widely known are the psychological and emotional

problems associated with teenage sexual activity. A present study examines the linkage between teenage sexual activity and emotional health.²⁹

Sexually Transmitted Disease and its Effects upon Mental Health

The negative effects associated with teen sexual activity have been well-known among Humanist leaders, but intentionally suppressed. Every day, 8,000 teenagers in the United States become infected by a sexually transmitted disease.³⁰ In 2020 it is estimated that nearly 3 million teens will become infected. Overall, roughly one-quarter of the nation's sexually active teens have been infected by a sexually transmitted disease (STD).³¹



Teen Suicides

The Heritage Foundation reported,³²

“When compared to teens who are not sexually active, teenage boys and girls who are sexually active are significantly less likely to be happy and more likely to feel depressed. When compared to teens who are not sexually active, teenage boys and girls who are sexually active are significantly more likely to attempt suicide. Thus, in addition to its role in promoting teen pregnancy and the current epidemic of STDs, early sexual activity is a substantial factor in undermining the emotional well-being of American teenagers.

Heritage referred to the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent to Adult Health (Add Health)³³ survey which asked approximately 6,500 middle-school and high school students a variety of questions ranging from sexual activity to depression to whether they had attempted suicide during the past year. They added,

“The link between sexual activity and attempted suicide is clear.

A full 14.3 percent of girls who are sexually active report having attempted suicide. By contrast, only 5.1 percent of sexually inactive girls have attempted suicide. Thus, sexually active girls are nearly three times more likely to attempt suicide than are girls who are not sexually active.



Among boys, 6.0 percent of those who are sexually active have attempted suicide. By contrast, only 0.7 percent of boys who are not sexually active have attempted suicide. Thus, sexually active teenage boys are eight times more likely to attempt suicide than are boys who are not sexually active.”

Depression

“The link between teen sexual activity and depression is supported by clinical experience. Doctor of adolescent medicine Meg Meeker writes, “Teenage sexual activity routinely leads to emotional turmoil and psychological distress.... [Sexual permissiveness leads] to empty relationships, to feelings of self-contempt and worthlessness. All, of course, precursors to depression.”³⁴

A full quarter (25.3 percent) of teenage girls who are sexually active report that they are depressed all, most, or a lot of the time. By contrast, only 7.7 percent of teenage girls who are not sexually active report the same. Thus, sexually active girls are over three times more likely to be depressed than are girls who are not sexually active.

Some 8.3 percent of teenage boys who are sexually active report that they are depressed all, most, or a lot of the time. By contrast, only 3.4 percent of teenage boys who are not sexually active report likewise. Thus, boys who are sexually active are more than twice as likely to be depressed as are those who are not sexually active.³⁵

These statistics vividly demonstrate that our beliefs regarding behavior dramatically affect our lives. The ideas we take into our minds and embrace in our hearts (our souls) will instruct us on matters of right and wrong, good and bad, healthy and unhealthy. This is the reason we are warned to “take every thought captive to the obedience of Christ.”

Conclusion: The War Over Our Minds is Raging

The evidence is clear. Two worldviews, two opposing ideas, are in fierce conflict. They can't both be true, and they don't both lead to success. Christianity says there is a supernatural Mind behind our conscience. He creates all the laws that, when obeyed, lead to wonderful freedom. We've enjoyed freedom in America for so long because it is a nation built upon moral laws and based upon biblical ethics and principles.



Humanism, on the other hand, says that there is no God. There is no supernatural Mind which rules over everything. Therefore, biblical laws are fictional, inhibiting, and outdated. We need to write new laws that free people. Yet, as we've seen, the humanist agenda is based upon rebelling against the inherent common sense of the conscience, and this rebellion has consequences that affect everyone.

In this battle, we must choose a side; there is no neutral ground. Our choice matters greatly because...

As a man thinks, so he is!

Chapter Endnotes

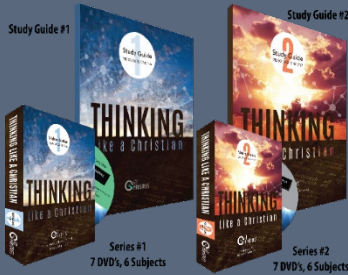
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