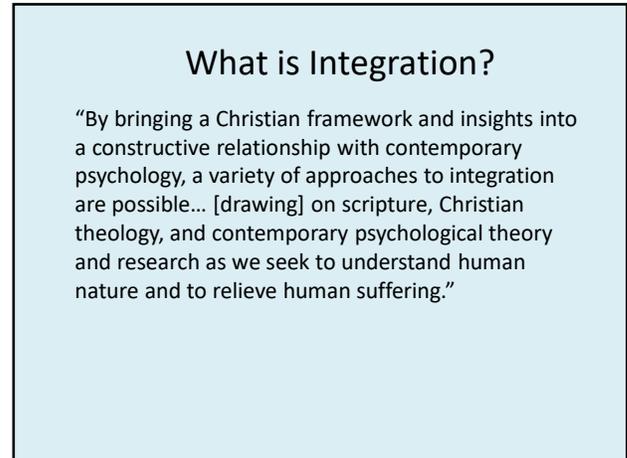
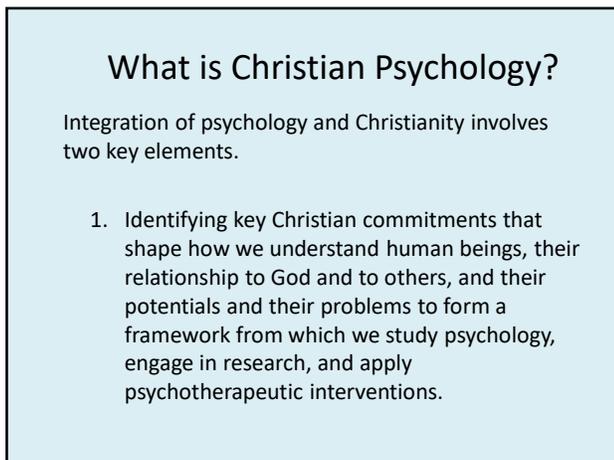


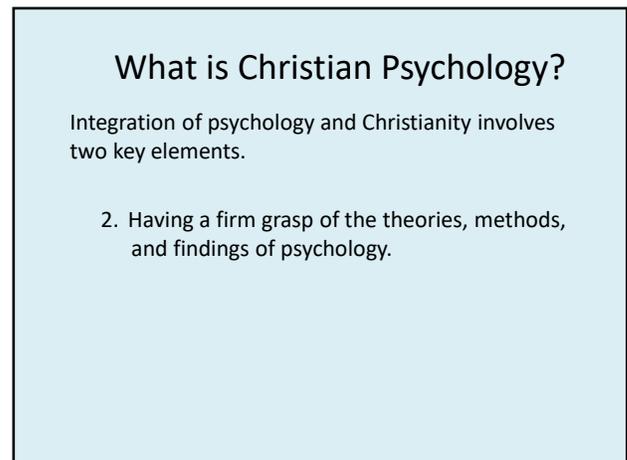
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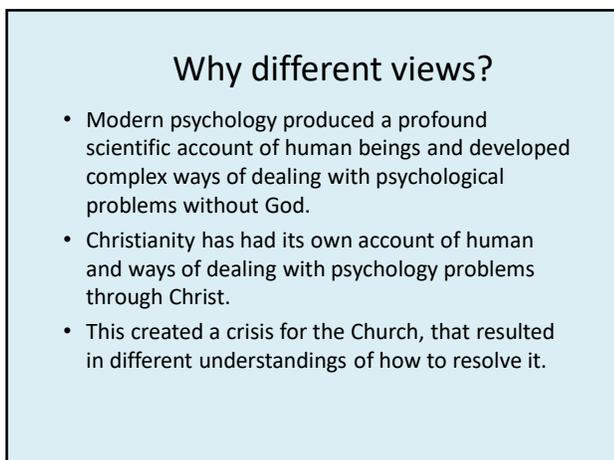
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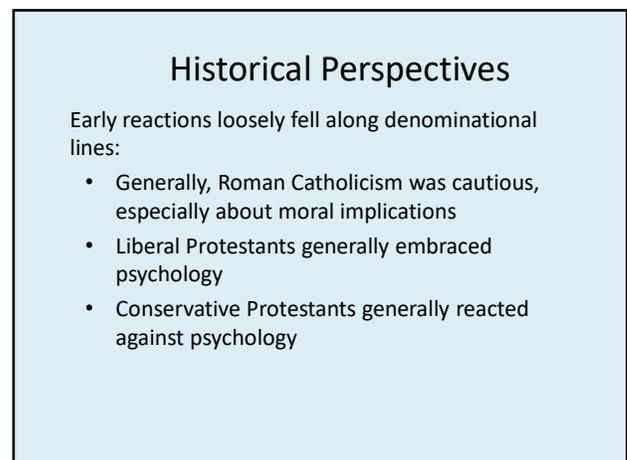
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5



6

The View the Other Way

- Some psychologists rejected religion, much as some Christians rejected psychology. This was particularly true among scientific psychologists who advocated positivism and naturalism, and among many humanistic psychologists.
- Although, as a group, psychologists are less religious than the culture at large, some psychologists remained open to religious experience, either as a topic of study or even as a personal commitment.

7

Worldviews

Four basic worldviews questions:

1. What does it mean to be human?
2. What is the nature of the world?
3. What's wrong with the world, and why do things go wrong? Why does the world contain suffering and evil?
4. How can what is wrong with the world, and what is wrong with my life, be fixed? What gives meaning or hope to human existence?

8

Worldviews

- While psychology and theology are academic disciplines, every psychologist and every theologian makes assumptions that shape their particular psychology and theology.
- We need to think carefully about the assumptions that are being made, and the implications of those assumptions for how we understand human nature and functioning.

9

Worldviews

- Psychology and theology study different variations of the same topic when they look at human nature.
- Rather than being antithetical or irrelevant to each other, psychology and Christian theology can be of use to each other. By using both disciplines, we can gain a more complete view of humanity than we can from just one vantage point.

10

Enemies

General assumption:

- Psychology and Christianity (or religion in general) are fundamentally opposed to and incompatible with each other.

11

Enemies

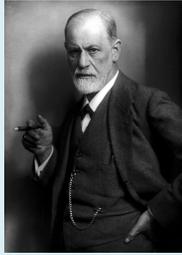
Secular Combatants:

- Psychological health is incompatible with religious practice. Enlightened people cannot believe in religious nonsense.

12

Sigmund Freud

- "... one might venture to regard obsessional neurosis as a pathological counterpart of the formation of a religion, and to describe that neurosis as an individual religiosity and religion as a universal obsessional neurosis."



13

Enemies

Christian Combatants:

- Christians who turn to psychology for help are denying the sufficiency of Christ. Only Christians can fully understand the soul and only Scripture can provide the true remedy to the human condition. Psychologists are misleading people and undermining their faith through their theories, methods, and so-called therapies.

14

Biblical Counseling

Major representatives

- Jay Adams
- David Powlison
- Ed Welch
- Heath Lambert
- Jeremy Lelek



15

Jay Adams

- "The psychiatrist has usurped the work of the physician, but mostly the work of the preacher. And he engages in this work without warrant from God, without the aid of the Scriptures (in almost every case), and without regard to the Holy Spirit..."
- The work of changing men's lives belongs to the Christian ministry in particular and the Christian people in general; not to some self-appointed caste of humanistic priests that has moved into the church's territory..."

16

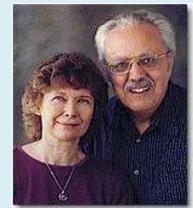
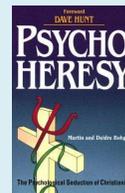
John MacArthur, Jr.

- "Scripture itself claims to be a sufficient resource for meeting emotional and spiritual needs."
- "Every so-called psychological need that is not traceable to physical causes is, in reality, a spiritual problem, and Scripture does indeed claim to be the only sufficient guide in handling spiritual problems."



17

Martin & Deidre Bobgan



18

Biblical Counseling

- Counseling based exclusively on the Bible
- Concern about secularism in modern psychology so Biblical Counseling is skeptical about integration
- Sin is the primary soul-problem in the Bible, so the gospel and repentance are the primary solutions
- The local church is the primary place where Christian soul care should occur

19

Biblical Counseling

- Common Slogan: "The Sufficiency of Scripture"

Key Insight

- Scripture is authoritative and necessary for Christian counseling because it is God's soul-care guidebook

Limitation

- Seems to imply that the Bible has all the knowledge necessary to address counseling problems

20

Biblical Counseling

Strengths

- Bible is God's word for soul care; all pastors should be biblical counselors
- Wary of the influences of secular worldview on modern psychology
- Strives for a theocentric approach to soul care that sees sin as our worst problem and Christ's work as the cure for the sin-sick soul
- Strong emphasis on sin and redemption
- Puts focus for soul care on the local church

21

Biblical Counseling

Weaknesses

- Has not thought much on the relation between God's word in creation as articulated by scientists and God's word in Scripture
- Emphasizes the opposition of the Church and the world/modern psychology so much that it neglects the good there is in modern psychology
- Tends to be skeptical of psychotropic medication, arguing that God uses pain to reorient our lives
- Emphasis on every member ministry can neglect the need for expertise

22

Spies

- Spies have a pragmatic desire to use any means at their disposal to aid human well-being. They may lack deep commitment to a religious system, or they may water down core doctrines as they seek to improve human well-being.

23

Spies

- Foreign Spies are analogous to psychologists who want to study the psychological effects of religious belief or non-belief.
- Domestic Spies are individuals who do not believe in the literal story of the religion that they profess. But the stories, rituals, and relationships of religion are useful. As such, these people are interested in how religious beliefs or practices can help people cope with the problems of life and thrive as persons.

24

Colonialists

- Christianity embodies the true revelation of God to humankind about the human condition and God's plan of salvation. Psychology, to the degree that it correctly understands human problems, can be useful to illustrate what Scripture tells us.
- Colonialists desire to appropriate psychological methods or findings that can illustrate or buttress their theological beliefs.

25

Transformative Spirituality

Major representatives

- David Benner
- Gary Moon
- John Coe
- Todd Hall
- Larry Crabb



26

Transformative Spirituality

- Spiritual formation into the image of Christ
- is the primary goal of human life.
- Spiritual direction provides soul care guidance to others by those further along the path.
- Uses distinctly Christian resources to promote healing and development.

27

Transformative Spirituality

Strengths

- Christ-centered approach to the care of souls
- Takes the Bible and Christian traditions very seriously
- Not limited to increase in knowledge; profound and pervasive focus on changing one's heart and character in Christ

28

Transformative Spirituality

Weaknesses

- Separation between spirituality and psychology; relies on modern psychology/integration for psychological matters
- More oriented to helping well-adjusted people go deeper; tends to rely more on modern methods for those with more serious problems

29

Rebuilders

- Rebuilders are critical of the secular foundations of contemporary psychology, and of its neglect of theological and philosophical reflection on the issue of what it means to be human. Rebuilders believe that the psychological landscape needs to be rebuilt on specifically Christian foundations.
- Christian psychology attempts to recover ideas and practices that existed within the pages of Scripture and the teachings of Christians over the past two-thousand years.

30

Rebuilders

- Like the Domestic Spies and the Colonialists, Rebuilders are Christians who see value in psychology.
- Like the Colonialists and the Allies, they tend to have a high regard for Christian teaching.
- Like the Neutral Parties and the Allies, they tend to be fairly conversant with both disciplines.

31

Rebuilders

- Begin by developing a plan of what psychology should look like.
- Develop a foundation based on Scripture and tradition.
- Interact with contemporary psychology.
- Build a specifically Christian psychology – a branch of psychology with that has a very carefully constructed view of the person based on Christian premises.

32

Rebuilders

- On the clinical side, counseling or psychotherapy is conceived of as soul care – treat the whole person, not just fragmented parts (biological, psychological, social), with a clear understanding of the fundamental spiritual nature of humankind.
- They are not simply content to relieve suffering, but they want to aid people in becoming the kind of people that God desires us to be.

33

Christian Psychology

Major representatives: Classical

- Augustine
- Julian of Norwich
- John Bunyan
- Soren Kierkegaard



34

Christian Psychology

Major representatives: Contemporary

- Robert Roberts
- Paul J. Watson
- Diane Langberg
- Leanne Payne
- Paul Vitz



35

Christian Psychology

Current agenda of Christian Psychology:

- The ongoing development of distinctly Christian psychological theory, research programs, and soul care practice.
- Seeks to offer a Christian alternative to modern psychology, where possible, by beginning with the psychology of the Bible and the Christian traditions.

36

Christian Psychology

Strengths

- Aims to develop a Christian science of psychology
- Challenges the domination of secularism over the contemporary field of psychology through participation and engagement
- Seeks to be peace-making and bring together advocates of the different views and different Christian faith communities

37

Christian Psychology

Weaknesses

- Focus on the past history of Christian psychology.
- Very little distinctively Christian research has been done thus far, currently based more on biblical studies and Christian philosophy.
- Danger of forming a Christian psychology ghetto that doesn't interact and challenge modern psych.

38

Neutral Parties

- Psychology and theology are completely independent disciplines, with their own sources, methodologies, and findings. They need to be carefully segregated to keep either from infecting the other.
- People who follow this model tend to take faith and psychology seriously. They want to keep from injecting their beliefs into psychology, because the scientific method requires objectivity.
- Psychology and theology offer different levels of explanation. Psychology and theology are like railroad tracks – parallel, but distinct.

39

Levels-of-Explanation

Major representatives

- David Myers
- Malcolm Jeeves
- Warren Brown
- Everett Worthington



40

Levels-of-Explanation

- Humans are best understood in terms of a hierarchy of levels or disciplines that should not be combined.
- Therefore, one's theology should not affect the other levels or disciplines
 - Theology
 - Psychology
 - Biology
 - Chemistry

41

Levels-of-Explanation

Strengths

- Takes science and research very seriously.
- Allows all scientists to contribute to their discipline regardless of worldview differences
- Avoids problems with misinterpreting the Bible.
- Has shaped contemporary psychology in areas like psychology of religion, forgiveness, and values in therapy.

42

Levels-of-Explanation

Weaknesses

- Accepts modern psychology uncritically. Secularism dominates the field and prevents Christians from making reference to their worldview values in public mental health.
- Only worldviews allowed are secular.
- Excludes Bible from contributing to psychology.
- Can easily lead to syncretism and the importation of modern values

43

Allies

- God is the author of all truth. Although psychology and theology are separate disciplines, with their own sources, methodologies, and findings, they both express truth about human nature and functioning.
- The Allies model is premised on the belief that God's truths are revealed in the book of God's Word (Scripture) and the book of God's Works (creation).

44

Allies

- Psychology and theology are both dependent, to some degree, on human thinking, and to the degree that human thinking is errant, our psychological and theological conclusions can be wrong.
- Apparent contradictions between psychology and theology suggest that we need to reconsider our reasoning and data to see if we can identify logical, methodological, interpretive, or other errors in our thinking.

45

Integration

Major representatives

- Bruce Narramore
- Mark McMinn
- Stan Jones
- Steve Sandage



46

Integration

- Common Slogan: "All Truth is God's Truth"

Key Insight

- Christians should integrate psychological truth with truth from the Christian faith

Limitation

- Seems to imply that all secular psychology is true

47

Integration

Strengths

- Takes science and research seriously.
- Allows Christian faith to reinterpret psychology
- Recognizes the role of God's "common grace" in culture and science
- Seeks to engage the culture and impact contemporary psychology

48

Integration

Weaknesses

- Assumes a dualistic separation between biblical research and research on human beings.
- Assumes that contemporary psychology is the only legitimate version of psychology.
- May minimize the distorting effects of sin on human understanding.
- Poor integration undermines the lordship of Christ and the impact of redemption

49

So, What is integration?

The integration of psychology and Christianity is a multifaceted attempt to discern the underlying truths about the nature and functioning of human beings from the unique vantage points of psychology (in its various sub-disciplines, utilizing diverse methodologies) and Christianity (in theology, faith, and practice).

50

Handling Conflict

- Enemies – one side is right, one side is wrong
- Spies – focus only on what supports their assumptions and interests, and ignore or downplay the rest
- Colonialists – reform psychology by filtering secular concepts through religious categories
- Rebuilders – reorient the field of psychology by infusing it with Christian values
- Neutral Parties – differences are due to different levels of explanation

51

Handling Conflict

- Allies – there can be no fundamental incompatibility (truth is truth, and God is the author of truth), so and apparent conflicts are the result of errant interpretation.

52

Where Do We Go From Here?

- People who take any issue seriously may end up disagreeing. How can we disagree with charity and humility?
- Each group has something to contribute to the dialogue. Rightly interpreted, there is no necessary incompatibility between the orthodox models we have seen, just difference in calling, focus and location in culture.

53

Tradition and Personal Experience

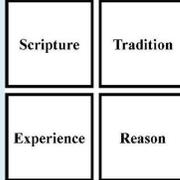
- We are shaped by our personal experiences as well as by our religious traditions.
- Different traditions have led people to think about how faith and psychology interact in a variety of ways.

54

Tradition and Personal Experience

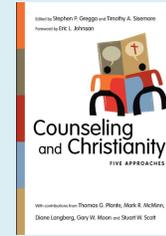
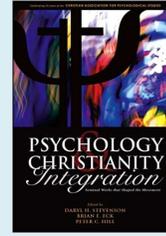
Wesleyan perspectives

- John and Charles Wesley
- Sanctification and reorientation of disordered desires are important themes.
- The Wesleyan Quadrilateral



55

Further Reading



56