

PSY 253 UNIT 1

9. I do believe Christian psychology is a useful term although there are many different psychological theories as well as theological perspectives. When I use the term Christian psychology I am referring to the practice of psychology (not devoid of psychological theories) that are infused with a theological perspective influenced by Holy Spirit. The psychologist does not live two separate lives. In their professional life they lock their spiritual/theological beliefs in their desk never allowing what they believe and who they believe to influence their understanding of human beings and nor their work. Do you only believe God and practice the principles of God or allow Holy Spirit speak to you and direct you only when you are in church or a setting that is fit for it? I believe that the Christian psychologist has the advantage they are not only equipped academically but spiritually also thus allowing for the best options for care. I believe people may mean different things when using the term dependent on their perspective of what a Christian is as well as how they believe one should behave. I remember hearing many times in Christian circles things like make sure you don't go in public acting a certain way because you don't want people to look at you strange. Or concerning spiritual warfare you don't need to say anything when a people who are demonically influenced act unseemingly around you, just pray to yourself. The author states that he often asks what they person mean when they use the term and I think this is a good practice because our perspectives are influenced by our experiences.

4. I believe many times in my life my own experiences have stressed Jerusalem. I think early in my Christian conversion I was strict in my thinking and beliefs mostly because of what I experienced prior to becoming a Christian. At one time I was narrow minded not knowing or really understanding how human philosophy or knowledge and Christian theology could co-exist. I thought it had to be one or the other, if I allowed myself to embrace human philosophy it meant I didn't believe God or His word. Allowing myself to embrace human philosophy meant my faith was weak. Maturity in God has allowed me to become open to marrying the two. Honestly when I saw the title of this course my thought was this is an opportunity to be able to allow science and faith to come together in my life. I worked in the medical field for 13 plus years and never have I seen medicine heal anyone and although I believe that God has given those in the medical profession the knowledge and understanding need for their profession I didn't know how to allow the two perspectives to exist in my life. I had to get a blood transfusion in 2015 and it was the worst day of my life. As I sat in the ER waiting for medical team to prepare the blood for my transfusion I cried to God and saying Lord I believe that you are God, that you heal all manner of sickness and disease. I believe your word is true so why am I in this place where I have to have a blood transfusion. If I allow them to give me this blood I feel like may faith in not strong enough. My husband was with me and would not allow me to leave I told the doctor that I was not going to do the transfusion but my husband told the doctor yes she is. So I had the transfusion and they kept me in the hospital for a week and for a while I had to remind myself that he is God over all. This is how I made it through.

6. The statement is true, scripture says all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. Through one man sin entered the world Romans 5:12 but those who have been redeemed

although not perfect can view human behavior through the eyes of God our righteous judge. I will say that the statement does not abolish the validity of psychology but should enhance our understanding of human behavior and even persuade us to exhibit compassion for others. As Christian psychologist or Christians in general if we allow ourselves to live out the word and walk worthy of the call to love the Lord with all our heart, our mind, our body and our soul and love others as we love ourselves then we should react in love in spite of the sinful nature of humans.

5. As a follower of Christ the difference in how psychology is approached in my view is that it should be done as unto God. The psychologist or student of psychology should not separate or compartmentalize their beliefs and their work. Bring before God your professional knowledge all the while asking for his direction. Who better to consult in your pursuit to understand human beings than the one who created the human being. The follower of Christ should be encouraged and reminded that we are saved to serve, to serve God including and through serving others. That as we practice psychology is done in humility and presented as worship unto our God.