

Chapter 1 What is Psychology?

Chapter 1 Learning Objectives

Discuss the importance of worldviews in defining psychology and describe how psychology's definition has changed over time.

Describe the controversy among Christians about psychology.

Describe psychology's influence in academia, the culture, and the Christian Church.

Describe a Christian approach to the study of psychology.

Describe psychology's goals.

Describe psychology's subfields and careers.

Describe modern psychology's major approaches or schools of thought.

Identify possible career alternatives in psychology.

Describe areas of potential psychological research on topics of interest to Christians.

Key Concepts and People

Affect	Freedom	Philosophy
Behavior	Subjective	Agnosticism
Cognition	Objective	Atheism
Psyche	Freedom	Determinism
Dominion	Objective	Empiricism
Popular Psychology	Subjective	
Stigma	Modernism	

Short essay questions

1. Define psychology in your own words.
2. Describe reasons that psychology is controversial among Christians today.
3. Discuss the influence of psychology's theories in the culture and on the Christian Church.
4. Discuss the statement "psychology is not a harmless discipline nor is it inherently anti-Christian?"
5. Describe the impact of Darwin's theory of evolution on the study of the psychology.
6. Name and describe five of psychology subfields.
7. What advice does the text offer about a Christian approach to Psychology?
8. The text named four things psychologists do? Name and describe them.
9. The text named five main approaches to psychology. Name and describe them.

For Further Study

1. Web: Review the Divisions of the American Psychological Association at <http://www.apa.org/about/division/>
2. and visit the homepage for a few of the divisions to explore the extent of psychological topics.
3. Find word #5590 (psuche) in Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible (available at <http://www.elijah.com/lexicon.html>) Review usage of psuche, read verses containing the word, and compare and contrast meanings of psuche.
4. Video: The Discovering Psychology: Updated Edition <http://learner.org/resources/series138.html> is an instructional series on introductory psychology for college and high school classrooms and adult learners comprised of 26 half-hour video programs. The series features demonstrations, classic experiments and simulations, current research, documentary footage, and computer animation and provides students plenty of opportunity to discern the worldview perspectives embedded in Dr. Zimbardo's narration.
5. Read: Christ, the Lord of Psychology, by Eric L. Johnson from the Journal of Psychology and Theology at <https://journals.biola.edu/jpt/assets/9/25-011.pdf>