

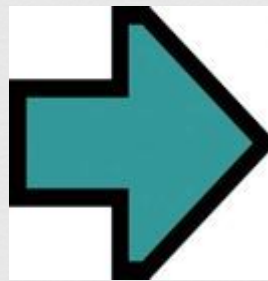
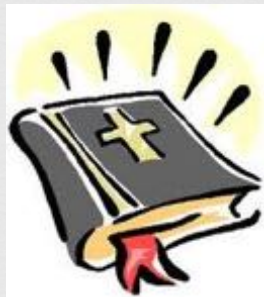
Christian Psychology



Why are there different Christian approaches to psychology and counseling?



- Over the past 200 years Western culture has undergone a massive conversion from a Christian worldview to a naturalistic worldview as a majority of Western intellectuals have embraced naturalism



Why are there different Christian approaches to psychology and counseling?



Over 3000 years followers of the God of the Bible developed a rich and sophisticated version of psychology—based on theological and philosophical understandings of human beings—and a God-centered way of dealing with many common psychospiritual problems in monasteries and churches

Since the late 1800's, modern psychology—a version of psychology based on naturalism and empirical observation—has produced a vast literature on human beings and developed complex ways of dealing with psychological problems *without God*, identifying and addressing many biological and psychosocial phenomena never recognized before and taking over public mental health

This created an intellectual and soul-care crisis for the Church that resulted in different understandings of how to deal with it

Why are there different Christian approaches to psychology and counseling?



One of these approaches has been focused primarily on the Bible—God’s special revelation about the most important psychological and spiritual matters. This approach has been located primarily in local churches and seminaries and practiced by pastors : *biblical counseling*

Another approach has been focused primarily on engaging modern psychology and participating in public mental health and subtly influencing both, but in order to do so, it has had to play by its rules. This approach has been located primarily in Christian universities and practiced by academics and mental health professionals: *integration*

What is Christian psychology?



An approach responding to modern psychology by seeking to develop a distinctly Christian version of psychology and soul care, based primarily on the Bible and theological study, Christian philosophy, and spiritual formation, and informed by the enormous contributions of modern psychology, *interpreted from a Christian worldview*

The goal is to produce a psychology and set of psychotherapies based on Christian beliefs, norms, and practices, that are just as sophisticated as modern psychology and that can compete and engage with it. As an academic and professional endeavor the project of a Christian psychology is ideally suited for Christian universities and seminaries, but it should eventually be allowed to participate in mainstream psychology and public mental health

Training Christian Mental Health Professionals



Christian psychotherapy and counseling training entails a two-track approach based on the kind of counselee one is working with

Track one: Working with non-Christians and using creation grace resources that all people have in common

Track two: Working with Christians and using both creation grace and redemptive grace resources, the latter of which is only available to Christians

Christian Psychology Based on the Work of Two Saints



- There are fundamentally Two Cities or Communities in the world and the Christian scholar's community of identity is the City of God



- Two Cities lead to "Two Sciences," that is, there will be *two fundamentally different versions* of all the human sciences, with the Christian version based on divine regeneration



Christian Psychology Inspired by the Success of Christian Philosophy



Alvin Plantinga



C. Stephen Evans



Robert Roberts

A synopsis of my professional story



Scientism → Paganism → Conversion





www.Christianpsych.org



www.ICPconnect.org