

Is the Bible Sufficient?

**The Rise and Spread
of Psychoheresy**

“That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.”

(1 Corinthians 2:5)

So the spiritual battle ground is between the wisdom of God and the wisdom from the world, the flesh, or the devil.

Psychotherapy is conducted by psychotherapists, such as psychiatrists, psychologists, marriage & family therapists, and social workers.

(1) The Bible is sufficient to minister to the personal, marital, and family problems of living normally taken to a psychotherapist.

(2) Psychotherapy with its underlying psychologies is a worldly, fleshly, or demonic counterfeit for what God has already provided in His Word.

(3) Psychotherapy with its underlying psychologies is one of the biggest and most demonic deceptions in the church today!

What is psychoheresy?

When it comes to problems of living normally taken to a psychotherapist the Bible is sufficient. Psychoheresy is adding psychological theories and therapies to the Bible.

**The wisdom of God in His
Word is sufficient for godly
living and for dealing with
the trials of life.**

“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.”

(2 Timothy 3:16-17)

“According as his divine power hath given unto us **all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue.”**

(2 Peter 1:3)

**“For the word of God is quick,
and powerful, and sharper than
any two-edged sword, piercing
even to the dividing asunder of
soul and spirit, and of the joints
and marrow, and is a discerner
of the thoughts and intents of
the heart.”**

(Hebrews 4:12)

**“The heart is deceitful
above all things, and
desperately wicked: who
can know it? I the LORD
search the heart.”**

Jeremiah 17:9-10

**“And he gave some, apostles;
and some, prophets; and some,
evangelists; and some, pastors
and teachers; **for the perfecting
of the saints**, for the work of
the ministry, for the edifying of
the body of Christ.”**

(Ephesians 4: 11,12)

“The cure of souls” was “the sustaining and curative treatment of persons in those matters that reach beyond the requirements of the animal life.”

John T. McNeill —

A History of the Cure of Souls

**“There is only one
illness and one healing.”**

Franz Anton Mesmer, 1779

“Since there was only one cause of illness, it followed that there was only one truly effective mode of healing — the restoration of equilibrium to the body’s supply of animal magnetism.”

Robert Fuller — *Mesmerism and the American Cure of Souls*

Mesmerism

Europe

America

Body

Mind

Bodily
Manipulation

Conversation

“mind is the gateway to the body”

“Phineas P. Quimby (1802-1866) is the rightful father of the many self-help psychologies.”

Robert Fuller — *Mesmerism and the American Cure of Souls*

Mesmerism

Hypnosis

Psychotherapy

Positive Thinking

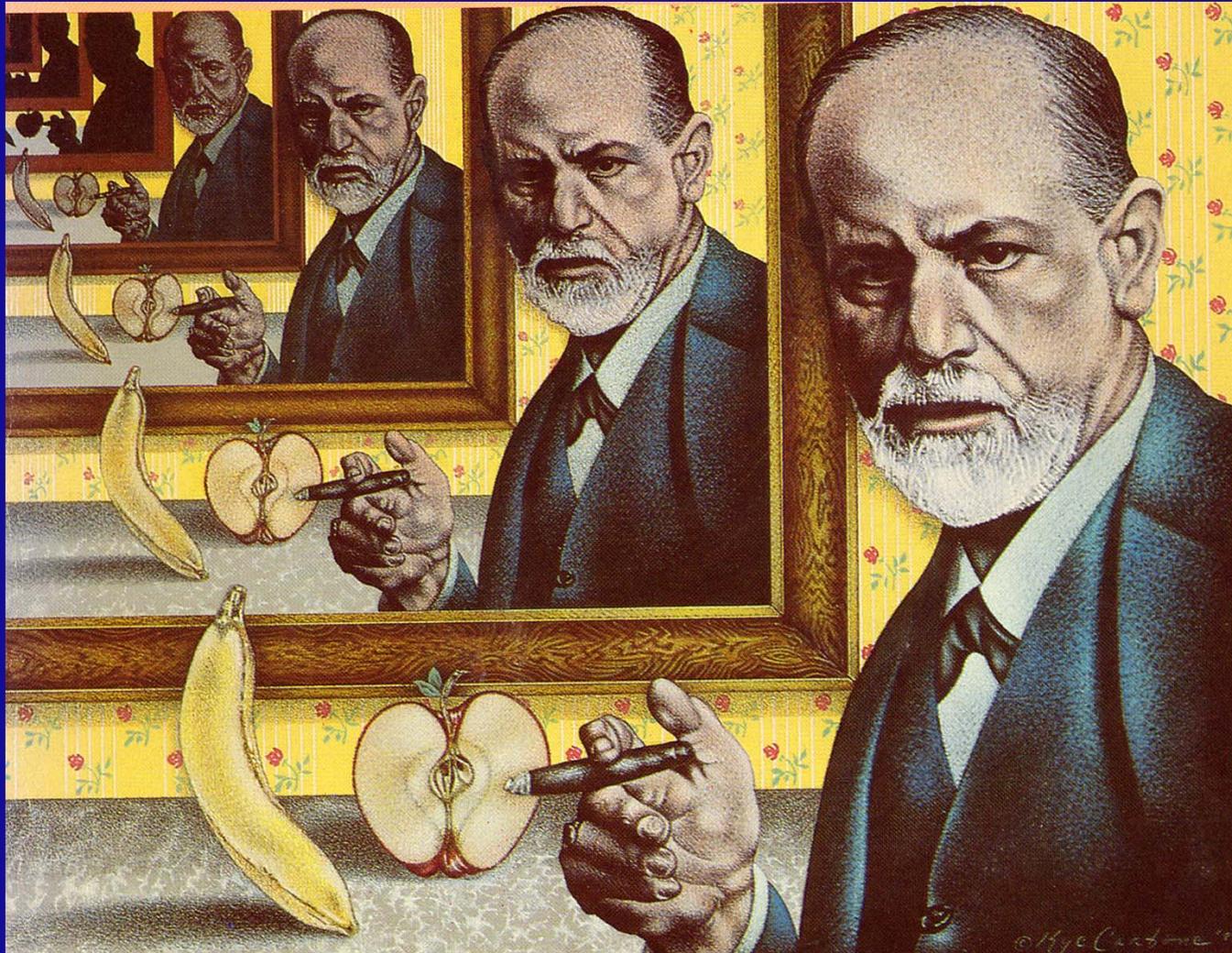
“The first psychological system to provide individuals with curative services that have traditionally been classified under the rubric cure of souls.”

Robert Fuller — *Mesmerism and the American Cure of Souls*

“With the decline of religion and the growth of science in the eighteenth century, the cure of (sinful) souls, which had been an integral part of the Christian religions, was recast as the cure of (sick) minds, and became an integral part of medical science.”

Dr. Thomas Szasz—

The Myth of Psychotherapy



Sigmund Freud (1856-1939)

“Probably no single individual has had a more profound effect on twentieth-century thought than Sigmund Freud. His works have influenced psychiatry, anthropology, social work, penology, and education and provided a seemingly limitless source of material for novelists and dramatists.... for better or worse he has changed the face of society.”

E.M. Thornton—*The Freudian Fallacy*



Darwinian evolution

**Freudian theories of a powerful
unconscious driving behavior**

**Seeming contradictions
between science and the Bible**

(1) Freudian psychoanalysis in the hands of psychiatrists.

(2) The development of the field of clinical psychology in colleges and universities around 1950.

“Throughout the entire postwar era, the United States has trained and employed more psychological experts, per capita, than any other country in the world.”

Ellen Herman — *The Romance of American Psychology*

The Practice of Psychology



Edited by
Rogers H. Wright & Nicholas A. Cummings



The Battle for Professionalism

“The independent provision of psychological services was virtually nonexistent prior to and during World War II.”

“Most psychology departments tended to look down on applied practitioners, feeling that the ‘true psychologist’ was the one functioning in an academic setting.”

The Practice of Psychology: The Battle for Professionalism

As long as they could convince the public of the need for their professional expertise and keep the **facade of science**, the psychological practitioners were able to **divorce themselves from the results of research** and sell their talk therapy to as many people as possible.

Uniform educational program

State licensing

Insurance reimbursements

1950

No state licensing.

No insurance reimbursements.

No uniform graduate programs.

**No Bible college, Christian
university, or seminary
programs promoting
psychotherapy.**

This shift occurred as people increasingly began looking to psychology for answers about all facets of life—who we are, why we are here, how we are to behave, how we are to relate to one another, how we change, and how we should live.

“The propriety of imposing on the clergy a duty to refer leads to the question of whether the courts should create a reciprocal legal duty on the part of the mental health professionals, such as psychiatrists and psychologists, to refer to clergymen *all* spiritual cases—the simple as well as the serious—with a consequent liability for failing to refer their patients to the ‘proper’ clergyman in the event of suicide?”

Samuel E. Ericsson

“We are often asked if we are ‘Christian psychologists’ and find it difficult to answer since we don’t know what the question implies. We are Christians who are psychologists but at the present time there is no acceptable Christian psychology that is markedly different from non-Christian psychology....

“It is difficult to imply that we function in a manner that is fundamentally distinct from our non-Christian colleagues ... as yet there is not an acceptable theory, mode of research or treatment methodology that is distinctly Christian.”

“So-called Christian psychology is secular psychology clothed in pious platitudes and religious rhetoric.”

J. Vernon McGee

“Theories of human nature reflect the theorist’s personality as he or she externalizes it or projects it onto humanity at large.”

“The theory of human nature is a **self-portrait of the theorist.**”

Dr. Linda Riebel — *“Theory as Self-Portrait and the Ideal of Objectivity*

“It is my intention to show how the leaders of the field portray humanity **in their own image and how each one’s theories and techniques are a means of validating his own identity.... Their outlooks are shaped by who they are. There is no shame in that, but it is a crime against truth to deny it.”**

Dr. Harvey Mindess — *Makers of Psychology: The Personal Factor*

Sir Karl Popper says that these theories, “though posing as sciences had in fact more in common with primitive myths than with science; that they resembled astrology rather than astronomy.... These theories describe some facts but in the manner of myths. They contain most interesting psychological suggestions, but not in testable form.”

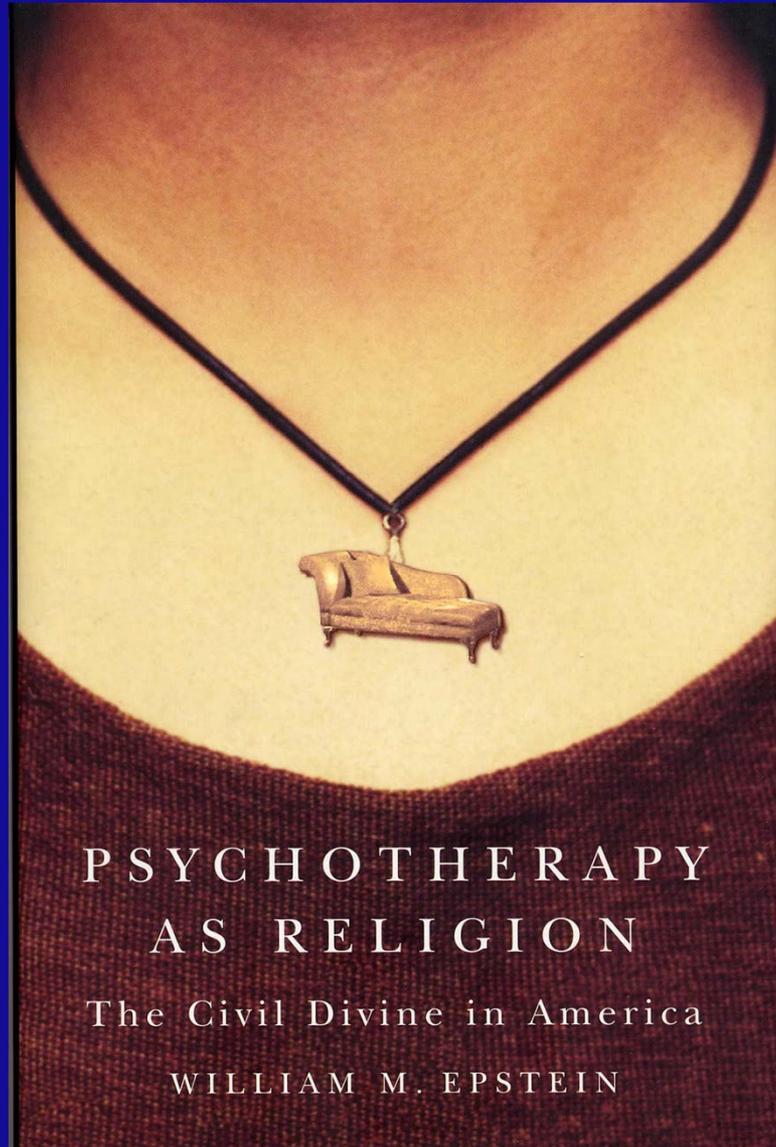
They are “profane and vain babblings, and **oppositions of science falsely so called:** which some professing have erred concerning the faith.”

(1 Timothy 6:20-21)

“Religion has been defined in a variety of ways.”

“One’s primary worldview and how that dictates one’s thoughts and actions.”

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PSYCHOTHERAPY
AS RELIGION

The Civil Divine in America

WILLIAM M. EPSTEIN

“The human relations we now call ‘psychotherapy,’ are, in fact, matters of religion and we mislabel them as ‘therapeutic’ at great risk to our spiritual well-being.”

Dr. Thomas Szasz —

The Myth of Psychotherapy

“Herein lies one of the supreme ironies of modern psychotherapy: it is not merely a religion that pretends to be a science, it is actually a fake religion that seeks to destroy true religion.”

Dr. Thomas Szasz —

The Myth of Psychotherapy

**Szasz warns of “the implacable
resolve of psychotherapy to rob
religion of as much as it can,
and to destroy what it cannot.”**

Dr. Thomas Szasz —

The Myth of Psychotherapy

“Psychological insight is the creed of our time. In the name of enlightenment, experts promise help and faith, knowledge and comfort. They devise confident formulas for happy living and ambitious plans for dissolving the knots of conflict.....”

Ellen Herman

The Romance of American Psychology

“Psychology, according to its boosters, possesses worthwhile answers to our most difficult personal questions and practical solutions for our most intractable social problems.”

Ellen Herman

The Romance of American Psychology

“In the late twentieth-century United States, we are likely to believe what psychological experts tell us. They speak with authority to a vast audience and have become familiar figures in most communities, in the media, and in virtually every corner of popular culture. Their advice is a big business.”

Ellen Herman —

The Romance of American Psychology

The movement from the cure of souls to the cure of minds is now complete. Most Christians have moved from a sufficiency-of-Scripture position to an insufficiency-of-Scripture position.

“I see that this matter of psychologizing Christianity will absolutely destroy Bible teaching and Bible churches.”

J. Vernon McGee

Therapeutic Language

- Self-esteem
- Low self-esteem
- Emotional wounds
- The Unconscious
- Felt needs
- Rejection
- Emotional healing
- Positive self-regard
- Negative emotions
- Addiction
- Codependence
- Compulsion
- Mid-life crisis
- Syndrome
- Trauma
- Stress
- Post Traumatic Stress Disorder

What we have is:

- **a psychological gospel**
- **a priesthood of mental health professionals**
- **a psychological belief system**
- **churches filled with potential mental health consumers.**

“For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;

And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.”

(2 Timothy 4:3-4)

- **A false view of the human condition.**
- **A false justification for putting one's own mental-emotional well-being as the top priority rather than the Great Commandment.**
- **A false view of God that places personal happiness over Christ's call to follow Him.**

“That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.”

(Ephesians 4:22-24)

The psychological wisdom of men only nurtures the flesh, which Jesus tells us to deny.

“If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.”

(Matthew 16:24)

“Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.”

(Colossians 2:8)

Integrating psychotherapy and its underlying psychologies with Christianity:

- Dishonors God**
- Denies His promises**
- Demotes God's Word to a lesser place**
- Interferes with the work of the Holy Spirit**
- Ends up being a form of spiritual harlotry.**

**“Trust in the Lord with all
thine heart and lean not on
thine own understanding. In
all thy ways acknowledge
Him and He shall direct thy
paths.”**

Proverbs 3:5-6

“In trying to adapt their religious beliefs to socioeconomic change, to new moral challenges, to novel problems of knowledge, to the tightening standards of science, the defenders of God slowly strangled Him.”

James Turner —

Without God, Without Creed

It is paradoxical and oxymoronic that, as more and more atheists and secularists are rejecting psychotherapy, more and more Christians are embracing it.

For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water.

(Jeremiah 2:13)

Do we believe God's Word and all the promises that it contains for believers?

Do we believe that He "hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness"?

Do we believe that His Word is sufficient and that it does what it says it does?