

MAN'S WISDOM

vs. Biblical Truth

SECULAR AND INTEGRATION THEORIES . PART 1

"Be careful that no one takes you captive through philosophy..." — Colossians 2:8

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Wisdom vs. Truth

warns against being misled by **human philosophy and deception**, contrasting it with **Christ's teachings**.

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Three Forces of Psychology

The dominant schools that shaped modern psychological thought



1ST FORCE
Psychoanalytic

Freud · Jung · Adler ·
Erickson



2ND FORCE

Behaviorism

William James • Skinner • Pavlov



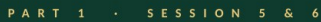
3RD FORCE
Humanism

Rogers • Maslow • Ellis

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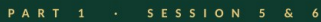
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“Man's religious culture ... [is] the product of a gradual development.” Religion becomes something men manufactured over time. God has spoken (Hebrews 1:1-2), and faith comes from hearing His Word (Romans 10:17).



Beside Scripture

“Religion must formulate its hopes and plans in the light of the scientific spirit and method.” That throws out revelation and puts human investigation in its place. In His prayer Jesus said that God's word is truth (John 17:17).

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“The distinction between the sacred and the secular can no longer be maintained.” God sets things apart for His glory. Not everything carries the same moral weight, and the command to be holy because God is holy assumes a line the Manifesto wants erased (1 Peter 1:16).



“The complete realization of human personality [is] the end of man's life.” The purpose of human existence is the glory of God, and building up the self falls way short of that. Paul says all things are from Him and through Him and to Him (Romans 11:36).

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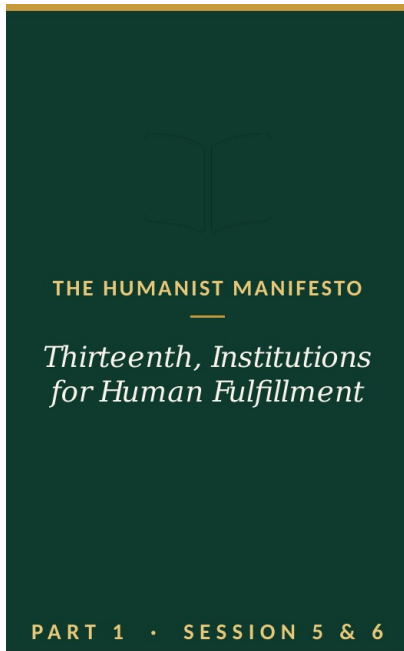
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Beside Scripture

“All associations and institutions exist for the fulfillment of human life ... religious institutions ... must be reconstituted.” The church is included in that sweep. But the church exists for the glory of Christ and for the making of disciples (Matthew 28:18–20).

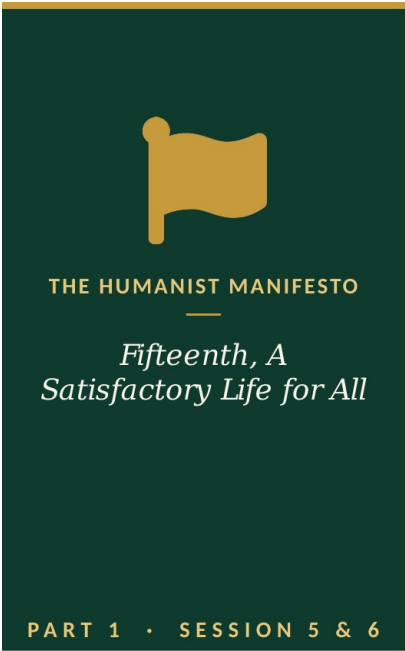
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“Humanism will ... endeavor to establish the conditions of a satisfactory life for all.” The promise is a satisfying life without God’s rule and without the saving work of Christ. Jesus said that apart from Him you can do nothing (John 15:5).

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COMPETING WORLDVIEWS

No Model Is Neutral

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Foundations of Secular and Integration Models

Counseling models are **not neutral**. They reflect core beliefs about human nature, the source of suffering, and the path to change.

While secular systems claim objectivity, and integration models claim balance, **both fail to uphold the authority and sufficiency of God's Word.**

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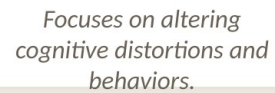
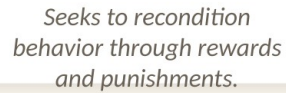
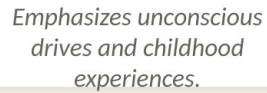
The Secular Counseling Model

Secular counseling is grounded in **humanistic, materialistic, or naturalistic presuppositions.**

It views mankind as an **autonomous being** whose problems stem from **maladjustment, trauma, or environmental failure**.

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Secular frameworks that have shaped mainstream counseling practice



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Secular Counseling Models

Secular approaches, such as **cognitive-behavioral therapy (CBT)**, **person-centered therapy**, and **psychodynamic methods**—rely on human theories and psychological research.

These systems emerge from worldviews that **exclude God's authority** and deny Scripture's role in understanding the human condition.

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Secular Counseling Models

Wisdom Without God · Part 2



PHILOSOPHY

Man-Centered Philosophy

These models presuppose that humans are **essentially good or neutral** and that **personal fulfillment is the ultimate goal**.



TECHNIQUE

Borrowed Truth

While some techniques mirror biblical truths (challenging distorted thinking), they do so **apart from submission to God**. The absence of **repentance, faith, and transformation through Christ** results in methods that fall short of addressing the heart.

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01



**Sin becomes
dysfunction.**

02

**Rebellion
becomes a trauma
response.**



03

**Idolatry becomes
identity
confusion.**





Relief without redemption · Symptom without source

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Goals of Secular Models

Three therapeutic pathways with distinct aims



CBT
**Cognitive-
Behavioral Therapy**

Reframes distorted thinking to reduce anxiety and depression.



HUMANISTIC Humanistic Therapy

Focuses on self-actualization and personal growth.

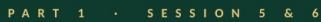


BEHAVIORAL
**Behavioral
Therapy**

Seeks to replace
maladaptive behaviors
with socially acceptable
ones.

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Integration Models

Philosophical Commitments



THE SLOGAN
"All truth is God's
truth"

is the integrationist slogan.



THE ASSUMPTION

Morally Neutral Insights

Secular insights are treated as morally neutral.



THE CLAIM
Beyond Scripture

Psychology is assumed to uncover aspects of human nature not revealed in Scripture.

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Integration Models

Examples in Contemporary Practice



APPROACH I

Christian Psychology

Uses Scripture **devotionally** but leans on **psychology for diagnosis and treatment.**



APPROACH II

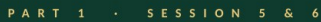
Integrationist Training Programs

Often teach Freud, Rogers, or Skinner alongside Scripture as *equally valuable lenses*.

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D R . H E A T H L A M B E R T

The gospel message becomes diluted · The sufficiency of Scripture is subtly denied · The Lordship of Christ is compromised in the counseling room

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Goals of Integrationist Counseling Models

The dual aims behind integration practice



GOAL 1

Sanctification Plus Symptom Relief

Growth in godliness is emphasized, but **managing emotional pain is often given equal weight.**



GOAL II

Counselor as Dual Steward

The counselor is seen as **stewarding both biblical truth and psychological science.**

Integrationists argue that *refusing to use psychological findings is irresponsible* and portrays the Bible as insufficient for complex disorders.

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A Biblical Reminder

Part 1 · The sufficiency and scope of God's revelation



SUFFICIENCY OF SCRIPTURE

Scripture Does Not Need Help

God has given **everything needed for life and godliness** (2 Peter 1:3). The Word is “*completely sufficient to equip the man of God for every good work*” (2 Timothy 3:16–17).



GENERAL REVELATION

Not Independent Truth

General revelation shows God's existence and attributes but **does not interpret creation itself.**

Only the Bible makes sense of what we see in creation and the conscience.

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C O L O S S I A N S 1 : 2 8

THE TAKEAWAY

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Contrast: Biblical Counseling's God-Centered Goal

Three convictions that shape truly biblical soul care



HEART CHANGE

Focus on Heart Change, Not Symptom Relief

Biblical counseling targets the root of the problem—sin, idolatry, and misplaced worship.



Sufficiency of Scripture

It believes Scripture provides everything necessary for counseling and soul care.



LOCAL CHURCH
Ministry of the Word in
the Local Church

Counseling is not isolated from the church. It is a disciple-making ministry flowing from the body of Christ.

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Counseling that does not address sin and salvation risks giving people **temporary hope while abandoning them to eternal ruin**. True compassion demands **confrontation with truth, not comfort with techniques**.

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