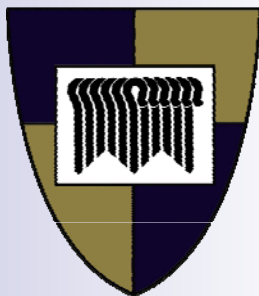


# How did psychology become so important to the Church?

THE MASTER'S  
COLLEGE



est. 1927

Dr. John D. Street

Chair, Graduate Program in Biblical Counseling

Master of Arts in Biblical Counseling

(MABC)



# Integration Psychology defined

- Any time a biblical treatment (diagnosis, etiology and remedy) of soul-problems is supplemented (or supplanted) with humanistic psychological constructs, whether overtly or inadvertently.



# introduction

## A. Development of “Christian” Psychology

- ◆ University curricula in the 19<sup>th</sup> century
- ◆ There was an innate hostility with classical Christianity at the advent of modern psychology.
- ◆ Christians and university “Enlightenment”
- ◆ Christian colleges and psychology



# introduction

## B. Definition of Psychology

- ◆ **An Introduction to Psychology: An Evangelical Approach, Hildreth Cross (1952)**
- ◆ **Robert Feldman defines psychology as: “the scientific study of behavior and mental processes... ‘behavior’ encompasses not just what people do, but their thoughts feelings, perceptions, reasoning, memory, and biological activities.”**
- ◆ **Is psychology a scientific discipline?**



# introduction

- ◆ **According to B. R. Hergenhahn, “At various times in history, psychology has been defined as the study of the psyche or the mind, of the spirit, of consciousness, and more recently as the study of, or the science of behavior...It seems best to say simply that psychology is defined by the professional activities of psychologists.”** (An Introduction to the History of Psychology, fifth edition)



# introduction

- ◆ **Because of its diversity psychology has been able to disperse itself throughout society, and especially in the church.**
- ◆ **There are over 230-300 distinct schools of psychotherapy and counseling in the United States alone.**
- ◆ **What does this suggest about the prescriptive nature of psychology?**



# roots of psychology

## I. History of Psychology and Christianity

- ◆ “From its beginnings in supernatural beliefs, magic and taboo, psychology has matured to a science of such broad proportions that professional psychologists today must specialize on narrow fragments of the broader discipline.”

*(History of Psychology)*

# modern psychology

## II. Prevalent Theorists In Psychology

### A. Sigmund Freud (1856-1939)

- ◆ Founder of psychoanalysis of the psyche (soul)
- ◆ Developed “free association” to allow material repressed in the unconscious to emerge to conscious recognition.
- ◆ Believed all religion to be a neurosis.



# modern psychology

## B. Carl Gustav Jung (1875-1961)

- ◆ **Founder of analytical psychology**
- ◆ **Unconscious mind shares a collective unconsciousness of wisdom and ancestral experience passed down from prior generations.**
- ◆ **“Religious mythology can be a solution for mental problems.”**



# modern psychology

## C. Carl Rogers (1902-1987)

- ◆ Best known for his client-centered therapy



- ◆ Was a secular humanist and later became involved in the occult and practiced necromancy.

- ◆ “I could not work in a field where I would be required to believe in some specified religious doctrine.”



# modern psychology

## III. Is Psychology A Genuine Science?

- A. What do some leading psychologists and philosophers say?
  - ◆ Listen carefully to these quotes!
  - ◆ Whether psychotherapy or psychology is a science or not is at best debatable.
  - ◆ It would be better viewed as a philosophical system of thought disseminated as a world view--behaviorism, humanism, determinism, existentialism and simple pragmatic utilitarianism.



# modern psychology

## **B. Three Myths About Psychotherapy**

- 1. Psychotherapy is a pure science.**
  - ◆ **Confusion reigns among most psychologists.**
- 2. People who experience problems, whether mental-emotional-behavior, are mentally ill.**
  - ◆ **“Mental illness” is an oxymoron.**
- 3. Psychotherapy has a high rate of success.**
  - ◆ **It does have a high rate of diagnosis.**



# modern psychology

## C. Can Research Psychology offer the Pastor anything?

Psychology should be a legitimate and very useful neighbor to the pastor. Psychologists may make many helpful studies of man (e.g. on the effects of sleep loss). But psychologists--with neither warrant nor standard from God by which to do so--should get out of the business of trying to change persons. It can tell us many things about what man does, but not about what he should do.”

(Jay E. Adams, *Competent to Counsel*, p. 12)



# modern psychology

## C. Can Research Psychology offer the Pastor anything? Continuing...

I am concerned here to make but two observations only: 1) the psychiatrist should return to the practice of medicine, which is his only legitimate sphere of activity; 2) the minister should return to the God-given work from which he was ousted (and which, in many instances, too willingly abandoned).

(Jay E. Adams, *The Christian Counselor's Manual*, p. 10)

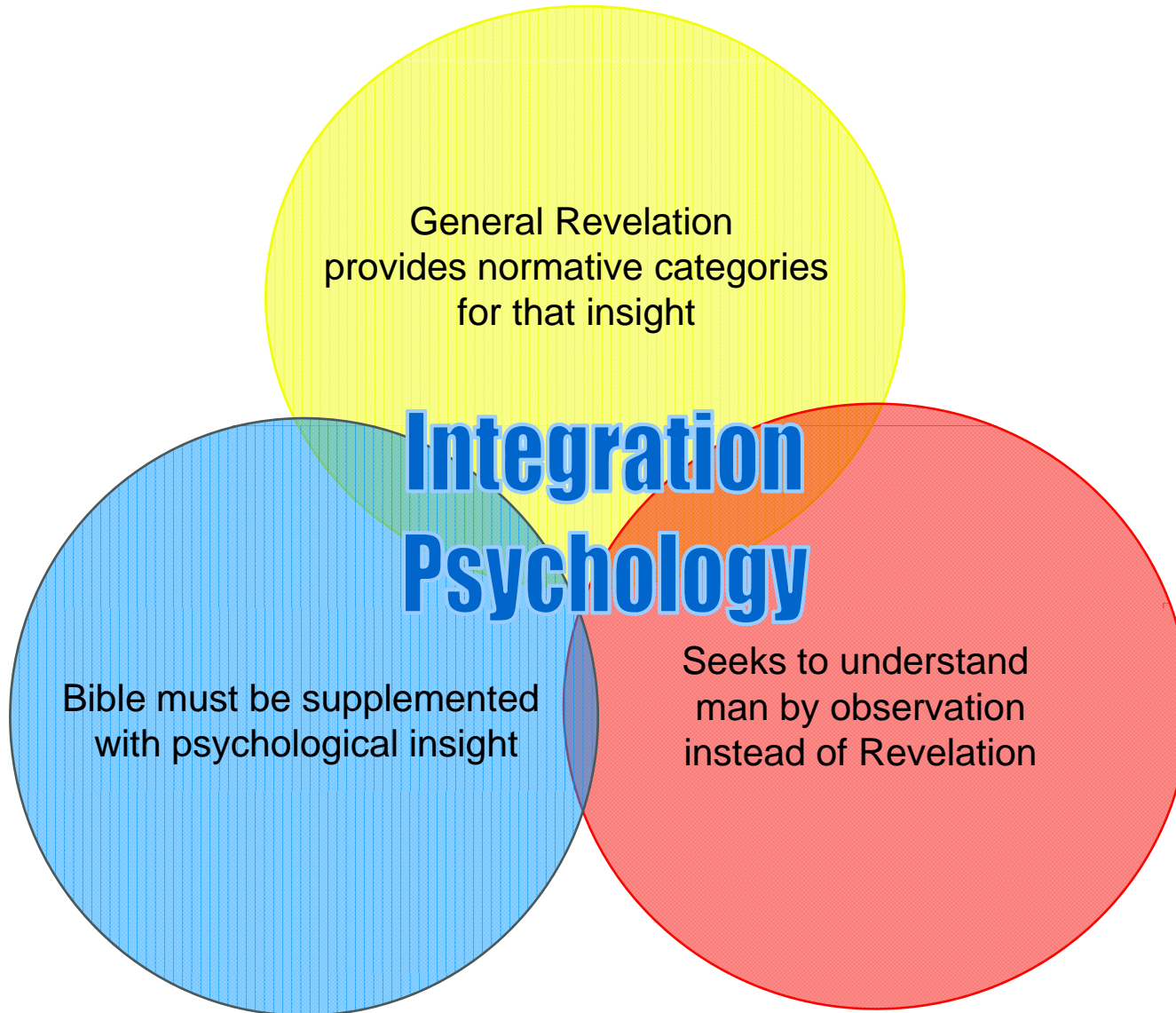


# modern psychology

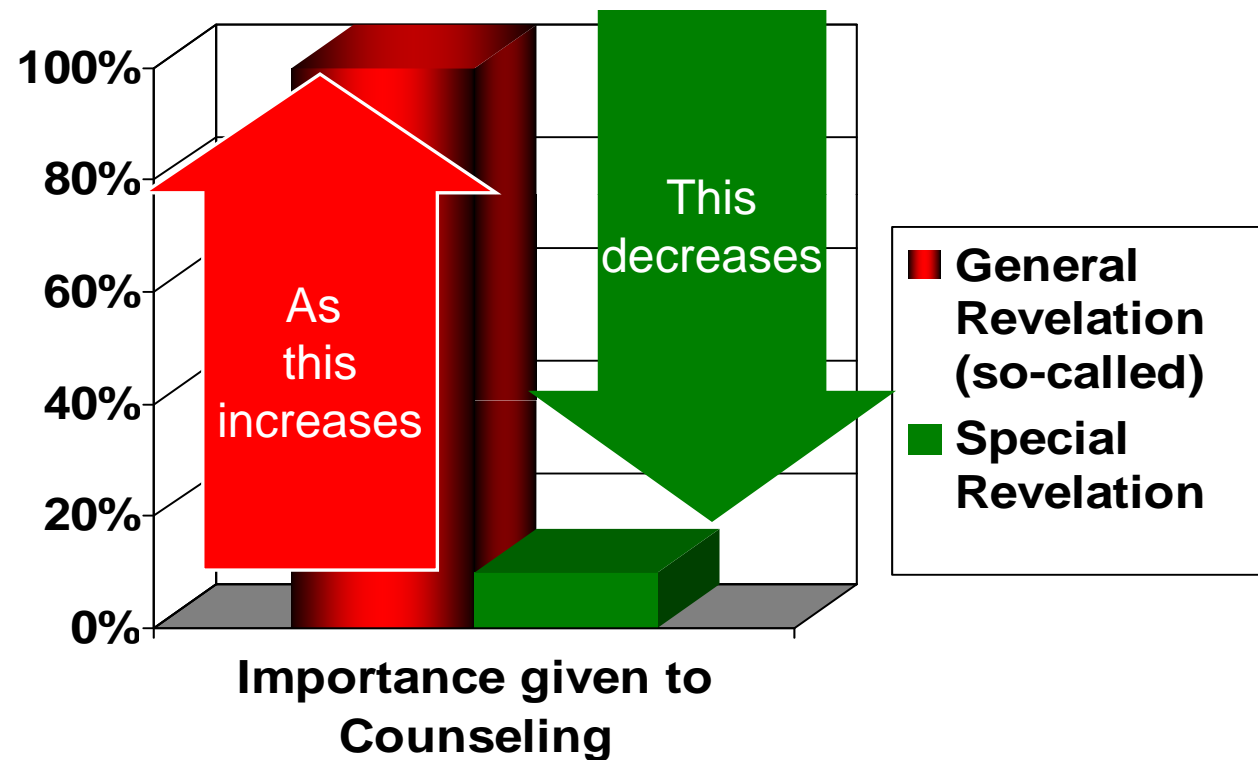
## **IV. Psychology and Christianity in Conflict**

### **A. Why has the church abandon the Bible for counseling soul troubles?**

- 1. Its been misinterpreted.**
- 2. Its been truncated.**
- 3. Its been neglected.**
- 4. Its been ignored.**



# Overall effect on the psychologist



# modern psychology

## B. Ten troubles with integrational psychology

1. Property rights of the soul
2. Medical metaphors—the redefined rhetoric of soul care
3. Environmental determinism
4. Psychological determinism
5. Professionalism



# modern psychology

6. Hedonistic teleology
7. Insight Gnosticism
8. Evolutionary science
9. Self-reliance
10. Self-determinism

## C. Conclusion

