

HUMAN BEHAVIOR

- I. Inadequate attempts to evaluate or explain human behavior
 - A. Physiological explanations
 - 1. Hippocrates - 5th century B.C., predominate body fluids (humours)
 - 2. Genetic determinism of DNA chemicals
 - B. Psychological explanations
 - 1. Neuroses and psychoses within the psyche
 - 2. Development of addictive, compulsive tendencies
 - C. Spiritual explanations
 - 1. "Devil made me do it; I'm not responsible"
 - 2. Demonology explanation of aberrant behavior
 - D. Nature/nurture dichotomy; biology vs. sociology
 - 1. complicated by ambiguity of "nature"
 - a. condition of birth
 - b. inherence of essence or constitution
 - c. naturalistic world-view of "Mother Nature" as creative and controlling force
 - d. Biblical usage of *phusis* - spiritual nature of spiritual personage - cf. Eph. 2:3; II Pet. 1:4
 - 2. suggested clarification
 - a. congenital - condition one is born with - born that way!
 - b. conjunctive - joined together with - developed that way!
- II. A more comprehensive evaluation of human behavior
 - A. Spiritual
 - 1. Spirituo-congenital behavioral explanations
 - a. inherent spiritual potential for good or evil
 - b. diabolic spiritual source; spiritual depravity
 - 2. Spirituo-conjunctive behavioral explanations
 - a. demonic possession or oppression
 - b. assistance of the gods
 - B. Psychological
 - 1. Psycho-congenital behavioral explanations
 - a. hereditary psychological proclivities
 - b. religious explanation of "sin-nature" or "flesh"
 - 2. Psycho-conjunctive behavioral explanations
 - a. victimization by the circumstances
 - b. family dynamics of dysfunction
 - C. Physiological
 - 1. Physio-congenital behavioral explanations
 - a. disease, defect, deficiency - chemical, neurological
 - b. genetic proclivity in DNA
 - 2. Physio-conjunctive behavioral explanations
 - a. acquired diseases or medical conditions
 - b. developed cravings, dependencies, addictions
 - D. Behavioral determinism and human responsibility
 - 1. Are these explanations behaviorally determinative?
 - 2. Is there human responsibility within freedom of choice?

- III. Developing a Biblical explanation of human behavior
- A. Spirituo-congenital condition of spiritual depravity
 - 1. diabolic spirit works in sons of disobedience - Eph. 2:2,3
 - 2. all men "made sinners" in spiritual identity - Rom. 5:19
 - 3. spiritually dead - Eph. 2:1,5
 - 4. determinism of evil character, but not specific behaviors
 - a. "slaves of sin" - Jn. 8:34,35; Rom. 6:6; Gal. 4:8
 - b. "bondage of iniquity" - Acts 8:23
 - 5. possibility of spirituo-conjunctive demonism
 - B. Psycho-configuration of behavior patterns
 - 1. question of psycho-congenital behavioral proclivities
 - 2. acceptance of psycho-conjunctive social and environmental factors
 - 3. God-given desires patterned in selfishness and sinfulness
 - a. Biblical usage of "flesh" - Gal. 5:16, 19-21, 24; Eph. 2:3; Rom. 13:14; I Pet. 2:11
 - b. development of personality patterns - S.E.L.F.
 - C. Physio-conveyance of character within behavior
 - 1. acceptance of physio-congenital conditions
 - 2. acceptance of physio-conjunctive conditions
 - 3. derivation of spiritual character in human behavior
 - a. behavioral acts are amoral in themselves
 - b. man does not self-generate character - good or evil
 - 4. "all have sinned, and come short of glory of God" - Rom. 3:23
 - 5. "deeds of the flesh" - Gal. 5:19-21
 - 6. external patterns of behavior reinforce internal patterns
 - D. Spirituo-conversion of mankind made available by God in Jesus Christ
 - 1. spiritual exchange - Acts 26:18; I Cor. 2:12; I Jn. 4:6
 - 2. spiritual regeneration - Jn. 3:1-6; Titus 3:5
 - E. Psycho-configuration of behavior patterns
 - 1. "flesh" is not eradicated or instantaneously removed
 - a. no divine determinism of behavioral perfectionism
 - b. constant inner behavioral conflict - Gal. 5:17; Rom. 7:14-25
 - c. genuine freedom - Jn 8:32,36; Gal. 5:1,13
 - 2. reconfiguration of behavioral patterns
 - a. Spirit can overcome and supersede "flesh" - Rom. 8:1-11; Gal. 5:16; I Jn. 4:4
 - b. lifetime process of sanctification
 - F. Physio-conveyance of character within human behavior
 - 1. no behavioral perfectionism - I Jn. 1:8
 - 2. "fruit of the Spirit" - Gal. 5:22,23
- IV. Correlation of I Corinthians 6:9-11
- A. "Such were some of you"
 - 1. designated by such repetitive and recurrent behavior patterns
 - 2. not deterministically, but personally responsible
 - B. "but you were..."
 - 1. "washed" - spiritual washing of regeneration - Titus 3:5
 - 2. "sanctified" - made holy by presence of Holy One
 - 3. "justified" - made righteous by presence of Righteous One
 - C. changed behavior attributed to
 - 1. spiritual conversion and exchange
 - 2. spiritual character of God conveyed in behavior