

A Difficult Past

Week 1

COUNSELING ISSUES: A DIFFICULT PAST

Three counseling cases

A child sinned against

The evil stepfather

The family secret

The present secular view

It began with Freud: The 'unconscious' affects the conscious

The past has huge effects on the present

Victimhood

The unconscious consists of past hindrances (parents, pastors telling children not to do wrong, not to have sex with whoever they desired, and also when authorities sinned against them)

The unconscious must be dredged up and dealt with to become healthy

In this view, the unconscious is not sensed or understood in any way

The 'Christian' version of this: 'healing memories' (David Seamands)

The most powerful force: unavoidable effects

"It's not your fault"

"I'm sick"

Psychotropic drugs

Examples of therapies

Mourning

Reparenting

Rebirthing

Surgery reducing the brain's capacity to remember

A biblical commentary on the secular view (why it is not true)

God is God, therefore He is the more powerful force

Genesis 1:1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

1 Chronicles 16:9 Sing to Him, sing praises to Him; Speak of all His wonders.

2 Peter 3:10-11 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up. Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness,

The 'Hope From God's Word' study

We are not helpless reactors

1 Corinthians 10:13 No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.

2 Peter 1:2-3 Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord; seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.

We are not ruled by the past sins against us

2 Corinthians 12:9-10 And He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong.

Genesis 50:20 As for you, you meant evil against me, *but* God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive.

We are not destined to sin

John 17:17 Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

Ephesians 4:22-24 that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and put on the new self, which in *the likeness of* God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.

We are complete in Christ

John 16:33 These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world.”

James 1:2-4 Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have *its* perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

We are free in Christ

Hebrews 4:15-16 For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as *we are, yet* without sin. Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Galatians 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

Issues of the past

Gathering data

What happened?

*Offer compassion, Christlike love, consolation, hope from the Word

How have you been told to handle this?

What would God think of that?

Sins against the counselee

Biblically address these sins

Choose to forgive (see Week 11 of Syllabus)

The power to love

Sins of the counselee

Sins related to being sinned against

Deal with these sins biblically

Truth and hope about life in God for any believer

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore if anyone is in Christ, *he is* a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

Romans 15:13 Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

John 14:1 Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me.

John 14:27 Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.

John 16:33 These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world.

God's love

Romans 8:28 And we know that [□]God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His* purpose.

Genesis 50:20 As for you, you meant evil against me, *but* God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive.

Hope

What other verses from "Hope From God's Word" especially pertain to this topic?

Three counseling cases: conclusions

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The evil stepfather

The family secret
Resources: Read and study the following...

**SEXUAL: HELPING CHILDREN WHO HAVE BEEN SINNED AGAINST
SEXUALLY AND THEIR PARENTS**

**A Christian Growth and Discipleship Manual, page 62*

**ABUSE: HOW TO HANDLE BEING ABUSED OR REJECTED OR
TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF**

**A Christian Growth and Discipleship Manual, page 79*

Books for further study

Leaving Yesterday Behind – A Victim No More, William Hines

Only God Can Heal the Wounded Heart, Ed Buckley

Glenda's Story, Glenda Revell

The Girl Nobody Loved, Dorie VanStone

Women Helping Women, Elyse Fitzpatrick & Carol Cornish (One chapter)

Handling the Past Biblically, Amy Knicely/Steve Viars

(Tapes: www.fbclafayette.org)

