

Counsel the Word

The Institute of Soteric Counseling

Why Avoid Mental Health Screening?

By J. R. Ensey, President, Institute of Soteric Counseling

There is a drive currently on in most states to offer mental health screening to all citizens of all ages. We suggest Apostolics avoid it and be sure that their child is not subjected to it at school. Why?

First, it is basically a “dragnet” designed to bring people, particularly children and young people, into the government subsidized mental health program.

Second, once children acquire a psychiatric “label” they will probably be branded for life. This can affect their future education, job opportunities and personal relationships.

Third, these screenings are promoted by the drug companies in the hopes they will target a potential clientele of users of their “medications.” Already 60% of foster children in three states (TX, MA, FL) are on psychotropic drugs. Shameless drug manufacturers and their lackeys, operating under a shingle denoting their status as “counselors” or “psychologists,” are contaminating an entire generation with their drug programs.

Dr. Dennis L. Cuddy (www.newswithviews.com/Cuddy/dennis57.htm) reminds us that “[t]he diagnostic criteria upon which men-

tal health screening instruments rest are scientifically invalid, vague and entirely open to subjective interpretation. TeenScreen [one process of offering screening to youth] was tested on 1,729 children in seven New York City schools using passive parental consent and teen active consent, which is legally invalid. TeenScreen is fraught with suggestive insinuations of failure and self-doubt. Such questions can lead vulnerable teenagers to obsess about perceived inadequacies....By raising the possibility that suicide may be an option, and that’s one of the questions, screening might lead to suicidal thinking....TeenScreen promoters fail to disclose that the risk for children who are screened to be falsely labeled as suicidal or mentally ill is 84 percent....AHRP (Alliance for Human Research Protection) opposes psychiatric screening of children without active, informed parental consent. Consent of parents must be documented and given voluntarily without a hint of coercion. TeenScreen has attempted to sidestep parental consent by claiming passive parental consent, which is invalid.”

When these screeners come to your area or to your school district, be sure to express your disapproval

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and provide your written statement requesting that your child be exempted from the program. Without your disapproval, some schools assume your “passive approval” and proceed without your knowledge.

The psychology/pharmaceutical industry will go to any lengths to keep clients flowing into the offices of practitioners. Soteric counselors keep insisting that God’s way, the way of the Word, is the best way. They know the Word provides solutions, not mere palliation. It treats causes, not just symptoms.

Welcome to ISC

Many new enrollees in the course *Christian Counseling From Scripture* have swelled the potential number of soteric counselors that will be available in the near future. We have calls from all across the country for counselors who avoid the psychological way and abide by the scriptural principles provided by Lord Himself. There is such a great need for those who are trained to think scripturally rather than psychologically.

All who have enrolled in the course should plan to attend the training conference in Indianapolis on November 1,2. Please check at soteric.org for details.

Known by the Company They Keep

If you really want to know how much New Age spirituality has permeated the psychology industry, just thumb through an issue of *Psychology Today*, the official publication of the APA. Note not only the articles, but also the ads. They know who their readers are and what their tastes are.

Stop This Nonsense!

While we Apostolics are trying to preach the gospel that will save sinners, many of us seem to be willing to adopt the psychological line of renaming sins so they can be dealt with through “therapy” rather than repentance. If one’s sins can be classified as a “disease” or a “syndrome,” then there is no guilt. Without guilt there is no conviction. Without conviction there is no godly sorrow. Without godly sorrow there is no repentance. Without repentance there is no salvation. If we take salvation out of the picture then there is no need for God; i.e., God is dead.

An interesting publication by Oxford University is titled *From Morality to Mental Health: Virtue and Vice in a Therapeutic Culture* (New York, 2006, p. 3). Here is an excerpt: “Today we blend and blur morality and mental health. Alcoholics are sick, yet they are punished when their disease manifests itself as drunk driving or child abuse. Addicts using illegal drugs are criminals, but their punishment is likely to be therapy supervised by judges. Character faults have become personality disorders, including most of the seven deadly sins: pride and envy are narcissism; gluttony is an eating disorder; sloth is a dependent personality disorder; acting out in anger is an impulse control disorder; greed is acquisitive desire disorder; and although lust is celebrated in our era of [therapy-supported] sexual liberation, mis-directed lust is a psychosexual disorder such as fetishism or voyeurism, and too little lust is hypoactive sexual desire disorder. In addition to pathologizing wrongdoing, we psychologize virtue. Thus, self-respect becomes self-esteem, integrity becomes psychological integration, and responsibility becomes maturity. Health-oriented attitudes permeate schools, workplaces, families, and religions. And moral advice and understanding are sought from psychologists [and] therapists rather than theologians.”

We expect the world’s ways to be sought by those who are of the world. But those of us who know God should seek the ways of truth and righteousness that are extant in the Word.

Why the Articles?

Some want to know why we are publishing anti-psychology/anti-drug articles and taking our stand *for* scriptural counseling. It is because other Apostolics who are “professionals” in the field—meaning they hold university degrees in psychology or counseling—are *not* speaking out against the incursion of psychology into our ranks. The trend is to encourage humanistic therapy and “medication” rather than Jesus and repentance. The latter sounds too simplistic to them. How can the complex problems of our day be addressed by the simple and outdated biblical principles? The fact is that our society’s problems have become complex because we have long ignored the simple answers to God’s Word.

The term “medications” has an appealing ring to many of us. It sounds so, well...*medical*. Ah, now there is a good word. It adds a ring of authority. It conjures up the image of education in the field. It evokes thoughts of *doctor*, people we have come to trust. Medical equals doctor. Doctor suggests disease. Disease calls for medication. Oh, and one other thing: be sure to take these papers and pay on your way out. No guilt, no conviction, no need to mention sin or repentance. No conforming to the principles of Scripture. And for that kind of relief many folks are glad to pay good money.

So that is why we write. That is why we speak out. We are not trying to unpopular, but neither are we trying to conform to what is popular. We just know that “the word of the Lord is right; and all his works are done in truth” (Psalm 33:4).

ISC Conference
Students over the years



2007 Annual ISC Training Conference

You won't want to miss the 2007 Annual ISC Training Conference!

This year's conference will be held in Indianapolis, IN on November 1 - 2, 2007 at the Clarion Hotel & Conference Center (317) 299-8400. There will be airport shuttle and adequate meeting rooms. Make your reservations now.

Make your plans now to be there. We are planning our best one ever—more training topics, fellowship with others of like-minded beliefs—while we do take time for fun, we also work hard. Much is crammed into our short time together.

Whether you are a student, graduate, or returning attendee, you will not want to miss out this year. Check back at www.soteric.org for updates.

The Institute of Soteric
Counseling

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The 6th Annual ISC Training Conference will be
held

November 1–2, 2007

Contact Lynda Doty at
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