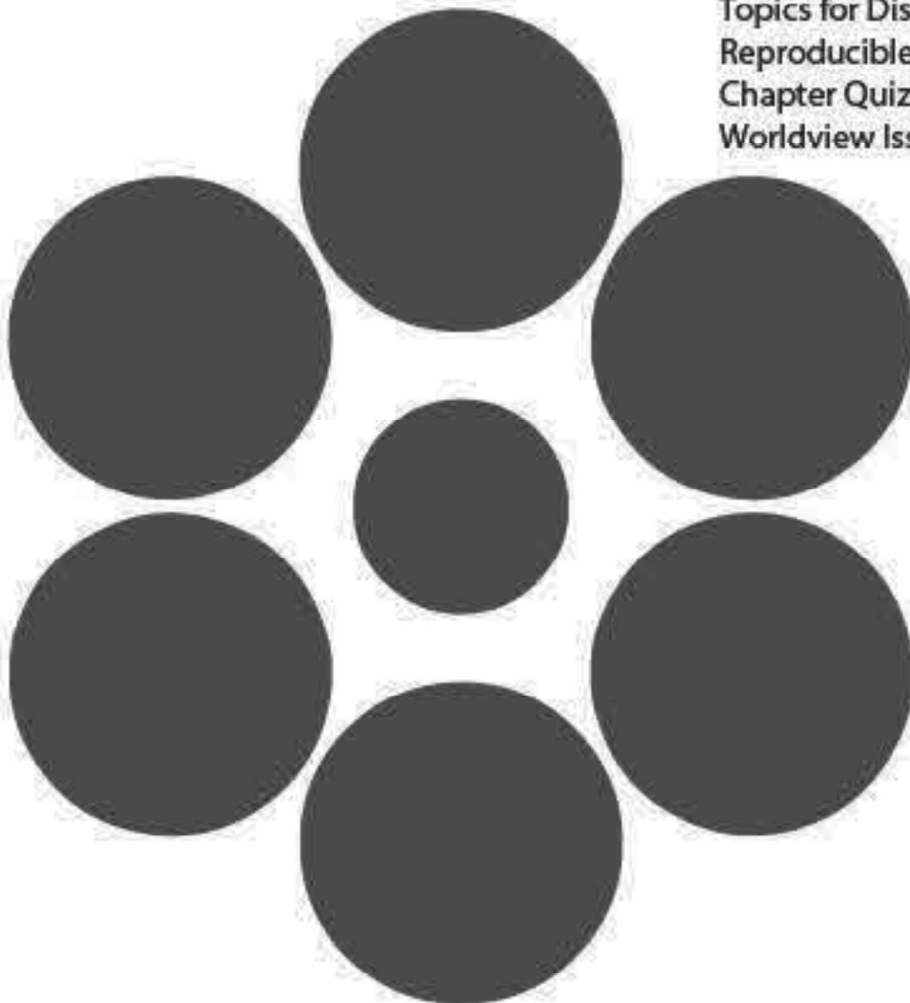


Psychology:  
A Christian Perspective  
High School Ed.

***Dr. Tim Rice***

### ***Teachers' Guide***

Revised and expanded.  
Chapter Learning Objectives  
Key Concepts and People  
For Further Study  
Topics for Discussion  
Reproducible Study Guides and  
Chapter Quizzes (new)  
Worldview Issues (new)



# Psychology: A Christian Perspective High School Edition

## Teachers' Guide

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## Introduction

There are many resources available to help teach psychology. But there are few resources to help teach psychology from a Christian worldview perspective -- few that provide teachers with ideas for incorporating the Christian worldview into every lesson.

It's important. In college, Christian students may encounter professors and peers who do not believe in the Christian worldview. Students may encounter psychology professors who believe that the Christian worldview has no place in psychology -- who ridicule Christianity as unscientific, irrational, and silly. This guide is about explaining why the Christian worldview is not silly -- that instead, it provides the most logical and meaningful framework for understanding psychology. Students need not fear psychology professors. Psychology class should strengthen students' faith.

In every psychology class students learn about psychology's major school-of-thought -- behaviorism, Freudian psychodynamic psychology, humanistic psychology, and evolutionary psychology. Each makes specific claims about human nature -- what it means to be human. This guide is about understanding those claims and contrasting them with what the Bible says about human nature and what it means to be human.

In every psychology class students learn about the brain and nervous system, sensation and perception, motivation and emotion, abnormal and treatment psychology, and the rest of the 'fundamentals of psychology.' This guide is about how each topic points toward God. This guide is about positively asserting a Christian psychological apologetic so that students can boldly bring their Christian worldview to psychology class.

This guide is divided into fifteen chapters. Each includes:

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES** The textbook and this guide are intended to help prepare students for the psychology CLEP test.

### KEY CONCEPTS AND PEOPLE

**STUDY GUIDE** Fill-in-the-blank statements intended for student to complete as they read the material. When completed, the study guide becomes -- a study guide -- to review before the quizzes.

**SHORT ESSAY QUESTIONS** The short essay questions are an opportunity for students to demonstrate understanding at a deeper level. They are opportunities for students to demonstrate that they can write clearly and use the critical thinking skills that they've only recently acquired.

**OPPORTUNITIES FOR FURTHER STUDY** There are countless resources for studying Psychology on the Internet. Many are included in this section.

**TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION** Psychology class provides many opportunities to talk about important issues. Here are just a few.

**WORLDVIEW ISSUES** Lecture ideas. This section is intended to help teachers bring important worldview issues to their lectures.

### MULTIPLE CHOICE QUIZZES

# Chapter 1 What is Psychology?

## ***Chapter 1 Learning Objectives***

Discuss the importance of worldviews in defining psychology and describe how psychology's definition has changed over time.

Describe the controversy among Christians about psychology.

Describe psychology's influence in academia, the culture, and the Christian Church.

Describe a Christian approach to the study of psychology.

Describe psychology's goals.

Describe psychology's subfields and careers.

Describe modern psychology's major approaches or schools of thought.

Identify possible career alternatives in psychology.

Describe areas of potential psychological research on topics of interest to Christians.

## ***Key Concepts and People***

Affect	Freedom	Philosophy
Behavior	Subjective	Agnosticism
Cognition	Objective	Atheism
Psyche	Freedom	Determinism
Dominion	Objective	Empiricism
Popular Psychology	Subjective	
Stigma	Modernism	

## ***Short essay questions***

1. Define psychology in your own words.
2. Describe reasons that psychology is controversial among Christians today.
3. Discuss the influence of psychology's theories in the culture and on the Christian Church.
4. Discuss the statement "psychology is not a harmless discipline nor is it inherently anti-Christian?"
5. Describe the impact of Darwin's theory of evolution on the study of the psychology.
6. Name and describe five of psychology subfields.
7. What advice does the text offer about a Christian approach to Psychology?
8. The text named four things psychologists do? Name and describe them.
9. The text named five main approaches to psychology. Name and describe them.

## ***For Further Study***

1. Web: Review the Divisions of the American Psychological Association at <http://www.apa.org/about/division/>
2. and visit the homepage for a few of the divisions to explore the extent of psychological topics.
3. Find word #5590 (psuche) in Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible (available at <http://www.eliyah.com/lexicon.html>) Review usage of psuche, read verses containing the word, and compare and contrast meanings of psuche.
4. Video: The Discovering Psychology: Updated Edition <http://learner.org/resources/series138.html> is an instructional series on introductory psychology for college and high school classrooms and adult learners comprised of 26 half-hour video programs. The series features demonstrations, classic experiments and simulations,

- current research, documentary footage, and computer animation and provides students plenty of opportunity to discern the worldview perspectives embedded in Dr. Zimbardo's narration.
5. Read: Christ, the Lord of Psychology, by Eric L. Johnson from the Journal of Psychology and Theology at <https://journals.biola.edu/jpt/assets/9/25-011.pdf>
  6. Read: Select articles from the Neuroscience & Christianity section of the American Scientific Affiliation at <http://www.asa3.org/ASA/topics/PsychologyNeuroscience/index.html> where there are a number of resources for further study on neuroscience and the Christian worldview.
  7. Read: The End of Christian Psychology at [www.psychoheresy-aware.org/endofcp.html](http://www.psychoheresy-aware.org/endofcp.html) by Martin & Deidre Bobgan
  8. Read: All Truth God's Truth? At [www.psychoheresy-aware.org/truth92.html](http://www.psychoheresy-aware.org/truth92.html) by Martin & Deidre Bobgan.
  9. Read: Christian Psychology - Part I by Dave Hunt at [www.thebereanall.org/node/5949](http://www.thebereanall.org/node/5949). Hunt describes psychology as a dangerous, and, at the same time, an appealing and popular form of modernism.
  10. Read: Christian Psychology - Part II by Dave Hunt at [www.thebereanall.org/node/5950](http://www.thebereanall.org/node/5950). Hunt describes Christian psychology as cult-like and calls desperately for a return to biblical Christianity.
  11. Read: Biola University's Journal of Psychology & Theology. Free articles at <http://journals.biola.edu/jpt/free-articles/>
  12. Read: Psychology and Faith, by David G. Myers at [www.davidmyers.org/davidmyers/assets/Psych.and.Faith.pdf](http://www.davidmyers.org/davidmyers/assets/Psych.and.Faith.pdf).

### ***Topics for Discussion***

1. What does it mean to love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and mind?
2. Why is it especially important to wear the full armor of God while studying psychology?
3. How could failing to recognize the worldview assumptions embedded in psychology's theories lead Christian students to inadvertently compromise their Christian worldview?
4. Why do many Christian students walk away from their faith after the first year of college?

### ***Chapter 1 Worldview Issues***

To bring the Christian worldview to psychology class, we need to accomplish several tasks.

- We need to have an expansive definition of psychology.
- We need to understand worldviews and to recognize the worldview beliefs underlying modern psychology's major theories.
- We need to understand what the Bible has to say about psychology's subject matter – the human mind.

Psychology is often defined narrowly – the scientific study of the human brain and behavior. Some people think psychology is all about mental illness, counseling, and psychiatric medications. We need an expansive definition because psychology is so much more. It is the study of God's grandest creation. You. Psychology is the study of your joys and your sorrows, your memories and your ambitions, your sense of personal identity and your free will. Psychology is the scientific study of every mental power and capacity you possess. But that is not all.

The origin of the prefix 'psych,' or more accurately, 'psyche' (pronounced sy-key) is the Greek word 'psuche.' Psuche had two meanings. In the first, psuche is defined as the 'life

force’ – that which animates all life on earth. It differentiates life from non-life. All life, at least all animal life, has psuche.

But psuche had a second meaning. Psuche also describes something uniquely human, something special, and something spiritual and uniquely human. A full definition of psuche recognizes that humans are unique on earth and it makes room for the human heart, soul, and mind. With a big definition, it becomes clear that psychology is interested in topics dear to a Christian worldview – topics dealt with extensively in the Bible.

### ***Psychology Is Old***

Who was the first person to wonder about the human mind? It may have been King David when he wrote in Psalm 8:4, "What is man that thou art mindful of him, and the son of man that thou dost care for him?" Job was very interested in the causes of and cures for mental pain and suffering. Moses himself struggled with fear and self-doubt.

It wasn't called psychology and it wasn't scientific, but there is a rich history of Christian theologians writing about psychology from the Christian perspective. The early church fathers wrote about, human nature, the mind, the soul, perceptions, emotions, and mental pain and suffering. Augustine wrote about love, sin, grace, memory, mental illumination, wisdom, volition, and the experience of time. Thomas Aquinas wrote about motivation, free-will, habits, virtues and vices, emotions, memory, and the intellect. Soren Kierkegaard, the most significant Christian psychologist since the Middle Ages, contributed profound psychological works. Jonathan Edwards and John of the Cross described spiritual development, sin, grace, knowledge, faith, and the nature of the Christian life.

The history of a Christian approach to psychology continues through the Protestant Reformation. Prior to Martin Luther nailing his theses to the door of the Wittenberg Castle church, the Catholic church had been the 'authority' on all matters. Prior to the reformation, the Bible, Church scholars were the astronomers, physicists, doctors, and psychologists. After the reformation, the fathers of science (the grandfathers of modern psychology) had rejected Church authority and used reason, logic, careful observation, and experimentation to discover truths about the world, and eventually, the human mind.

### ***Psychology is Young***

Psychology is an old interest, but a young science. Students learn that the birth of modern psychology dates to 1879 when Wilhelm Wundt established his laboratory at Leipzig University in Germany. It was a time when scientific methods were producing great discoveries and advancements in other disciplines. Wundt and the fathers of modern psychology employed scientific methods to study psychological phenomenon. That was new. Psychology, once a field for philosophers and theologians, became a science. As modern psychology developed, psychologists emphasized that it was a natural science – a 'hard' science like physics and chemistry. This occurred at a time when Charles Darwin's Origin of Species was changing each of the natural sciences. As we'll see, Darwin changed psychology, too.



## ***Study Guide Chapter 1***

1. Many Christians see psychology as a harmless academic discipline, not at all \_\_\_\_\_ with a Christian worldview.
2. Many Christians have serious objections to psychology and claim that psychology is a \_\_\_\_\_.
3. In the Greek language the word psyche meant \_\_\_\_\_.
4. The concepts of the \_\_\_\_\_ are absent from most modern definitions of psychology.
5. Psychology is the scientific study of the ABCs \_\_\_\_\_.
6. Psychology and the Bible both deal with \_\_\_\_\_.
7. You need to recognize when worldview assumptions are \_\_\_\_\_ by sprinkling in a few Bible verses and mentioning Jesus.
8. You must evaluate psychology at the \_\_\_\_\_.
9. It is essential that Christians studying psychology respect the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Bible.
10. We must not underestimate the corrupting, distorting, and destructive influence of \_\_\_\_\_ on human thinking.
11. Christians studying and working in psychology \_\_\_\_\_.
12. Christians studying and working in psychology can also help reduce the Church's misunderstanding and fear of psychology and help remove the \_\_\_\_\_ of seeking help for emotional problems.
13. Christians studying psychology must have excellent preparation in \_\_\_\_\_.
14. In addition to exemplary scholarship, Christians in every field must strive to \_\_\_\_\_.
15. Our goal is to have the \_\_\_\_\_, so we must reclaim psychology for Christ.
16. Many Christians believe that there is a \_\_\_\_\_, similar to the Great Commission that requires Christians to reclaim the culture, education, and by extension, psychology.
17. The Church risks \_\_\_\_\_ if Christians ignore their responsibility to reclaim the whole culture (including psychology).
18. As we study psychology, we must also distinguish fact from \_\_\_\_\_.

## Chapter 1 Quiz

- 1) Which is not a main purpose for psychological research?
  - a) Psychologists observe and describe psychological phenomena.
  - b) Psychologists test theories and hypotheses explaining the phenomena.
  - c) Psychologists attempt to identify ways to control people's thoughts and read their minds.
  - d) Psychologists develop and implement techniques to predict and change thoughts, feelings, and behavior.
- 2) Cognitive psychologists study:
  - a) the mental processes involved in perception, decision-making, problem solving, and the ways we construct meaning.
  - b) study the brain, how nerve cells communicate and transmit information, and the role of genetics in psychology.
  - c) unconscious mental activity
  - d) study the way that people interact with other people and in groups.
- 3) Neuroscientists \_\_\_\_\_
  - a) study the brain and the ways neurons communicate and transmit information.
  - b) measure and compare people according to personality characteristics.
  - c) develop strategies to improve teaching and learning.
  - d) study the way that people interact with other people and in groups.
- 4) Personality psychologists study:
  - a) study the causes of mental and behavioral disorders
  - b) the unique characteristics of people.
  - c) the brain, how nerve cells communicate and transmit information
  - d) the mental processes involved in sensation and perception, learning and memory, decision-making, and problem solving.
- 5) What psychology specialty studies changes in behavior and mental processes across the life span?
  - a) Social Psychology
  - b) Developmental psychology
  - c) Biologic psychology
  - d) Cognitive psychology
- 6) What psychology specialty studies the way that people interact with other people and in groups?
  - a) Social Psychology
  - b) Developmental psychology
  - c) Cognitive psychology
  - d) Biologic psychology
- 7) Which approach focuses on biological structures and electro-chemical processes?
  - a) Biologic approach
  - b) Cognitive approach
  - c) Behavioral approach
  - d) Developmental psychology
- 8) Which approach to psychology emphasizes the relationship between environmental influences and behavior?
  - a) Behavioral approach
  - b) Biologic approach
  - c) Cognitive approach
  - d) Humanistic approach
- 9) Which approach to psychology emphasizes thoughts, feelings, and innate human goodness and potential?
  - a) Humanistic approach
  - b) Psychodynamic approach
  - c) Behavioral approach
  - d) Behavioral approach
- 10) Which of psychology's perspectives/schools of thought sees all human behavior is determined by the environment in a closed cause and effect system?
  - a) Humanism
  - b) Behaviorism
  - c) Scientism
  - d) Mechanism

## Answer Key Chapter 1

### Chapter 1 Study Guide (Answers)

1. Many Christians see psychology as a harmless academic discipline, not at all **inconsistent** with a Christian worldview.
2. Many Christians have serious objections to psychology and claim that psychology is **a dangerous, idolatrous, and ungodly rival religion**.
3. In the Greek language the word psyche meant **soul and mind**.
4. The concepts of the **soul and mind** are absent from most modern definitions of psychology.
5. Psychology is the scientific study of the ABCs – **affect (emotions), behavior, and cognition (mental processes)**.
6. Psychology and the Bible both deal **with human nature and the human condition**.
7. You need to recognize when worldview assumptions are **Christianized** by sprinkling in a few Bible verses and mentioning Jesus.
8. You must evaluate psychology at the **worldview level**.
9. It is essential that Christians studying psychology respect the **inspiration and authority** of the Bible.
10. We must not underestimate the corrupting, distorting, and destructive influence of **sin** on human thinking.
11. Christians studying and working in psychology **must be faithful to Scripture, not compromise their Christian worldview assumptions, and must understand modern psychology's historical roots, philosophical assumptions, and empirical methods**.
12. Christians studying and working in psychology can also help reduce the Church's misunderstanding and fear of psychology and help remove the **stigma** of seeking help for emotional problems.
13. Christians studying psychology must have excellent preparation in **theology, biblical interpretation, and the principles of Christian discipleship**.
14. In addition to exemplary scholarship, Christians in every field must strive to **live exemplary lives**.
15. Our goal is to have the **mind of Christ**, so we must reclaim psychology for Christ.
16. Many Christians believe that there is a **cultural commission**, similar to the Great Commission that requires Christians to reclaim the culture, education, and by extension, psychology.
17. The Church risks **marginalization** if Christians ignore their responsibility to reclaim the whole culture (including psychology).
18. As we study psychology, we must also distinguish fact from **philosophy**.

### Chapter 1 Short Essay Questions (Answers)

1. The scientific study of the brain and behavior. The science of human affect, behavior, and cognition. The study of the soul, the mind, and the relationship of mind to the brain and the body.
2. Some Christians see psychology as a harmless academic discipline and other Christians believe that psychology (especially counseling psychology) represents a secular, humanistic, and idolatrous replacement for Biblical anthropology and Biblical models of caring for problems of living.
3. Psychological theories influence sermons across the country. Some pastors leave the pulpit for jobs in pastoral counseling or social work. Christian authors and speakers sometimes take popular secular self-help books, theories, and speaker and "Christianize" them by mentioning the Bible and Jesus.
4. Modern psychology's worldview assumptions are not harmless, but they do not define or limit psychology.
5. Beginning with Charles Darwin's Origin of Species psychology, underwent a transformation. Data was interpreted in ways that excluded supernatural beliefs and assumptions. Psychology, once the study of the soul, became the study of the brain and behavior Darwinian macro-evolution is now imposing itself on the Christian understanding of Man (psychology) and trying to exclude anything Christian.
6. Cognitive psychologists study mental processes. Physiological psychologists study the brain, how nerve cells communicate and transmit information, and the role of genetics in mental disorders. Personality psychologists study the unique characteristics of people. Developmental psychologists study changes in behavior and mental processes across the life span. Counseling, clinical, and community psychologists study the causes of mental and behavioral disorders and devise techniques to help people recover from those problems. Educational psychologists study teaching and learning and develop strategies to improve teaching and learning. School psychologists testing for, diagnose, and treat learning and academic problems. Social psychologists study the way that people interact with other people and in groups.

7. Christians studying psychology must; Respect the inspiration and authority of the Bible. Not underestimate the distorting, and destructive influence of sin on human thinking. Remember that there will be no conflict between true psychology and a Christian worldview. Not compromise their Christian worldview assumptions
8. Psychologists observe and describe psychological phenomena. Psychologist test theories and hypotheses explaining the phenomena. Psychologists attempt to identify the factors that influence our thoughts, feelings, and behaviors. Psychologist develop and implement techniques to predict and change thoughts, feelings, behavior.
9. The biological approach views mental processes and behaviors in terms of biological structures and electro-chemical processes. The behavioral approach emphasizes the relationship between environmental influences and behavior. The cognitive approach emphasizes conscious thought processes. Cognition refers to perception, problem solving, memory, thinking, and any mental process that transforms sensory input. The psychoanalytic approach emphasizes unconscious processes. The humanistic approach emphasizes the influence of our thoughts, feelings, and experiences on the environment and emphasizes innate goodness and potential.

## ***Chapter 1 Quiz Answers***

1. Which is not a main purpose for psychological research? c) Psychologists attempt to identify ways to control people's thoughts and read their minds.
2. Cognitive psychologists study: a) the mental processes involved in perception, decision-making, problem solving, and the ways
3. Neuroscientists a) study the brain and the ways neurons communicate and transmit information.
4. Personality psychologists study: b) the unique characteristics of people.
5. What psychology specialty studies changes in behavior and mental processes across the life span? b) Developmental psychology
6. What psychology specialty studies the way that people interact with other people and in groups? a) Social Psychology
7. Which approach to psychology focuses on mental processes and behaviors in terms of biological structures and electro-chemical processes? a) Biologic approach
8. Which approach to psychology emphasizes the relationship between environmental influences and behavior? a) Behavioral approach
9. 9) Which approach to psychology emphasizes the influence of our thoughts, feelings, and experiences on the environment and innate human goodness and potential? a) Humanistic approach
10. 10) Which of psychology's perspectives/schools of thought sees all human behavior is determined by the environment in a closed cause and effect system? b) Behaviorism