

## Issues in Counseling Philosophies

### NATURE OF MAN: Cultural Assumptions vs. God's Truth

Key question--“What is the nature of man?”

To what degree is a person the product of outside influences—nurture?

To what degree is a person the product of genes and biology—nature?

A person's understanding of man's problems and their solutions will be shaped by how he or she answers these questions:

1. Are “nature” and “nurture” sufficient to explain what man is?
2. Where does true knowledge about man come from? (Experience? Intuition? Reason? Science? Revelation?)

Key question—“What defines a person as normal or abnormal?”

1. Abnormal thinking/behavior+personal distress+social impairment=a Psychological Disorder
2. BUT—what is “normal?” What is “distress?” How should a person function in society?
3. Based on the answers to these questions, theories about the causes\_ and cures for deviant behavior, dysfunctional relationships, and troubled emotions are developed.
  - a. What place does the Bible have in answering these questions? (2Cor. 10:3-5)
  - b. What does the advice/counsel I give reveal about my view of human nature, peoples' problems, and their solutions?
  - c. What does the advice/counsel I give reveal about my functional source of truth?
  - d. Does the advice/counsel I give show that man's problems are the result of fallen humanity living in a fallen world?
  - e. Are the solutions I give Gospel-centered, and do they help people move closer to God?

Philosophies Compared