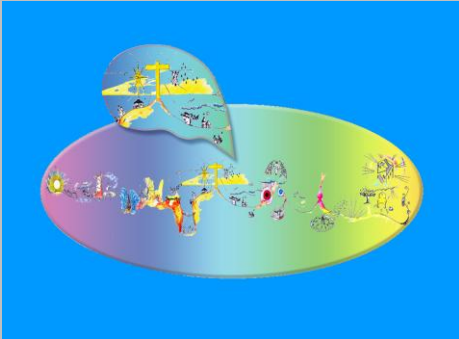


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## Eternal Fellowship News Bulletin

We believe in one GOD, in three persons; FATHER, SON and HOLY SPIRIT. We regard the Bible (both Hebrew Bible and New Testament) as the only infallible authoritative WORD OF GOD.

HULDAH MINISTRY aims to return to the Word Of God, founded on Hebrew background and to interpret it from Hebraic perspective, acknowledging that Jesus is a Jew and the Jewish-ness of His teaching as a continuation from the Hebrew Bible. The Ministry also aims to put His teaching into practice, to have a closer relationship with the Lord, Jesus Christ, and to regularly have a Christian fellowship so that this-worldly kingdom of God will materialise in the midst of the followers of Jesus here and now, as well as earnestly seeking Christ's Return to establish the otherworldly Kingdom of God on earth.

*All activities are free of charge and no obligation whatever. Just enjoy our fellowship!*

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HULDAH MINISTRY

# LETTER TO THE BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST

## 【FALSE CHRISTIAN PSYCHOLOGY】

*I want you to know how much I am struggling for you and for those at Laodicea, and for all who have not met me personally. My purpose is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. I tell you this so that no-one may deceive you with fine-sounding arguments. For though I am absent from you in body, I am present with you in spirit and delight to see how orderly you are and how firm your faith in Christ is.*

*So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.*

*See to it that no-one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than Christ.*

*For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, and you have been given fullness in Christ, who is the Head over every power and authority. In him you were also circumcised, in the putting off of the sinful nature, not with a circumcision done by Christ, having been buried with him in baptism and raised with him through your faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead.*

*When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins,*

***having cancelled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross. And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.***

***Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day. These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ. Do not let anyone who delights in false humility and the worship of angels disqualify you for the prize. Such a person goes into unspiritual mind puffs him up with idle notions. He has lost connection with the Head, from whom the whole body, supported and held together by its ligaments and sinews, grows as God causes it to grow.*** **COLOSSIANS 2:1-19.**

Many Christian counselors are guilty of ignoring the divine Counselor. It's time to rediscover His role. I think it's no exaggeration to say that the Christian counseling scene today is in total shambles. I'm not talking about true Christian counseling.....that which trusts the Bible and the power of the Holy spirit to conform a person to Christ.....that kind of counseling has been successfully changing sinners since the apostolic age. I'm talking about pseudo-counseling.....the attempt to fix people with a blend of secular psychological theory and the Bible. But have integrationist counselors affected any real change among evangelical Christians?

**Are people really fixed?** It has been sad to see so many Christians seek counsel from Christian psychotherapists who fumble around with theories developed by Sigmund Freud, Carl Rogers and B. F. Skinner Psychology and talk therapy are so bankrupt that many are abandoning them to embrace biological psychiatry.

**Psychotropic medicine is the new savior.** Problems that were once blamed on dysfunctional families and Id/Superego conflict are now charged to chemical imbalances and disorders. Yesterday's psychology and today's psychiatry share the same fatal errors.....**they reject the total depravity of man due to sin; they treat the symptoms instead of the heart;** and they aim for change that is not true sanctification. In spite of obvious failure, the notion prevails within the church that psychotherapy and psychiatry are more effective agents of change..... particularly in dealing with the most difficult cases -- than the Holy Spirit who sanctifies.

**But can psychotherapy or psychiatry possibly accomplish something the Holy Spirit cannot?** Can an earthly therapist achieve more than a heavenly Comforter? Is behavior modification more helpful than sanctification? Of course not' (Excerpt from "*The Work of the Spirit and Biblical Counseling*" in Introduction to Biblical Counseling, John MacArthur and Wayne Mack, editors. Emphasis added).

As quoted at the beginning, in the Epistle of the Colossians Paul is very clear to declare the sufficiency of Christ and His Word alone for sinners to be saved, by refuting the Colossian heresy. Although he never explicitly describes the false teaching that he opposes in this letter, its nature could be inferred from his statements against the false teachers, which suggest the inclusion of such elements as "ceremonialism"; religious festivals with restricted food and drink, and circumcision, "asceticism" with many man-made forbidden orders, "angel worship" through which God was believed to be approached, "deprecation of Christ" caused by a falsely established heresy; a defective view of Christ, in which He was believed to be less than deity, "secret knowledge" of which the Gnostics boasted, and "reliance on human wisdom and tradition" characterized by an extreme form of Judaism and an early stage of Gnosticism. The central theme of Colossians is a sharp contrast between the complete adequacy of Christ and the emptiness of mere human philosophy, which Paul argues by exalting Christ as the "very image of God", the "supreme Creator", the "pre-existed sustainer of all things", the "head of the church", the "first to rise from the dead with a resurrection body", the "totality of God with all His power

and attributes”, and the “reconciler between God and man”. He exposed how hollow and deceptive man-made philosophy was and how much it lacks the ability to restrain man’s sinful nature: ***‘These are all destined to perish with use, because they are based on human commands and teachings. Such regulations indeed have an appearance of wisdom, with their self-imposed worship, their false humility and their harsh treatment of the body, but they lack any value in restraining sensual indulgence.’ (Col.2:22-23).***

There has been a trend throughout human history to add to Christ’s original teaching one’s self-imposed regulations of heretical systems in order to find self-fulfillment by deeds or achievements. This may even be conceived as sinful man’s inherent trend to avoid real confrontation with his/her own sin. Christian counseling is one of the more recent, growing therapies which the church has willingly adopted as a means of helping to set free the troubled and the suffering. However, there should be a serious concern as to whether or not it is really biblical. While the majority adopts it, there is yet a few who warns of its potential danger.

Firstly it is significant to acknowledge the Bible’s stance on man. The Scripture is very clear that we are all responsible for our sinful behavior without excuse or exception: ***‘If a person sins and does what is forbidden in any of the Lord’s commands, even though he does not know it, he is guilty and will be held responsible’ (Lev.5:17, Line added).*** God’s law given through Moses required offerings for even unintentional sins. They still needed to be dealt with properly. We are responsible for sin in our hearts and our actions although we are said to be not necessarily responsible for physical disorders such as heart diseases, brain tumors and injuries. Even chemical imbalances, amnesia, and such problems that might potentially make us vulnerable to sinning and undermining our ability of resist temptation cannot provide us with an excuse for our sinful behavior or thought. We have to be always responsible and accountable before God as Paul taught: ***‘For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due to him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad’ (2Cor.5:10).*** We are always morally responsible for our deeds, especially according to the purposes of our hearts, and God is concerned about our violation against His law as manifestations of our hearts.

Second, it is important to know the fact that psychology has been birthed from atheists such as Sigmund Freud and Jung. The idea that we have a subconscious or unconscious mind that determines or influences our behavior is said to have come into Freud while he was under the influence of cocaine. That was his drug of choice for his own depression, which he highly recommended. It is said to be no more than speculation and self-serving that a supposed unconscious region of the mind determines our conscious thoughts and actions. In the book titled *‘Therapy’s Delusions: The myth of the Unconscious and the Explosion of Today’s Walking Worried’* by Richard Ofshe and Ethan Watters, they put it: ‘While it is clear that we all engage in out-of-awareness mental process, the idea of the dynamic unconscious proposes a powerful shadow mind that, unknown to its host, willfully influences the most minor thought and behavior. There is no scientific evidence of this sort of purposeful unconscious, nor is there evidence that psychotherapists have special methods for laying bare our out-of-awareness mental processes. Nevertheless, the therapist’s claim to be able to expose and reshape the unconscious mind continues to be the seductive promise of many talk therapies’.

The Word of God which deals with man on the basis of conscious behavior over which man does have control does not tell us anything about the unconscious or subconscious. Only God knows such areas as man’s heart, mind, will and emotions, and also so-called sin; the “mystery of iniquity”. These are beyond man’s explorations, despite a lot of psychological reasoning. As the prophet Jeremiah observed: ***‘The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?’*** and the Lord declared: ***‘I the LORD search the heart and examine the mind, to reward a man according to his conduct, according to what his deeds***

