

The Layer Concept

The direction of motivations is the key to deeper understanding

- a. Man is a personal being who longs.
 - i. Verses that support this:
 - John 6 - Hunger;*
 - Ps. 42:1-2 - As the deer pants...so my soul longs for Thee;*
 - Ps: 63:1 - I shall seek Thee earnestly, my soul thirsts, my heart yearns for Thee.*
 - ii. The Bible makes the assumption that people have deep hearts that are thirsty or hungry for something. When working as intended (as dependent beings, not independent), our deep thirst is felt as a longing for God.
 - Deut. 6:5 - Love the Lord with all your heart, soul, strength*
 - Matt.22:36 - Love God & others*

I Cor. 10:31 - Eat, drink to the glory of God

Matt. 5:16 - Let your light shine before men so they may see your good deeds & glorify God.

These passages point out that we are designed to:

(a) Have a deep relationship with God and deep relationships with other people: LOVE.

(b) Make an impact in our world that brings God glory: PURPOSE

We are dependent beings w/o resources within ourselves to live as we were designed to live.

(c) Relationships that don't require God's resources are counterfeit.

(d) Impact that doesn't require God's resources are illegitimate. Reasoning: God created us with the capacity for relationship & impact; but we have no resources to do it on our own; therefore we desire the resources to fulfill those longings. Because we are fallen beings, we will seek resources over which we have some control. In human relationships, it's easier to develop patterns of manipulation than attitudes of vulnerability. The more control we can exercise over the resource we turn to, the more attracted we are to it. When we *do* long for God as He intended, as the One Who alone can satisfy our soul, we do find satisfaction and we glorify Him with satisfied lives. When we cover over our longings in order to resist being vulnerable, then we will feel longings for something other than God.

1) Distorted longings ? illegitimate pleasure ? enslavement (addiction) to whatever it is I think is giving me pleasure

b. Man is a rational being who thinks & evaluates.

Gen. 6:5

Heb. 4:12 - Word living, active, sharper than 2-edged sword

i. Man - a thinking being who moves in a direction. "Heart" = deepest part of man ? ideas & convictions ? direction.

(1) People assess and act according to their evaluations. Because we are dependent beings, we can think accurately only if God enlightens us.

(2) As fallen beings, we are not naturally open to God's instruction since it requires loss of control (i.e. admitting vulnerability). Instead of listening to God, we form our own conclusions about how to live effectively, fulfill our own longings, and make our world work.

ii. There are only 2 ways to think:

(1) Wrong; sinfulness reflects foolishness

(2) Right; righteousness reflects wisdom

Prov. 22:15 - foolishness bound in heart of a child.

Prov. 12:15 - Way of a fool is right in his own eyes

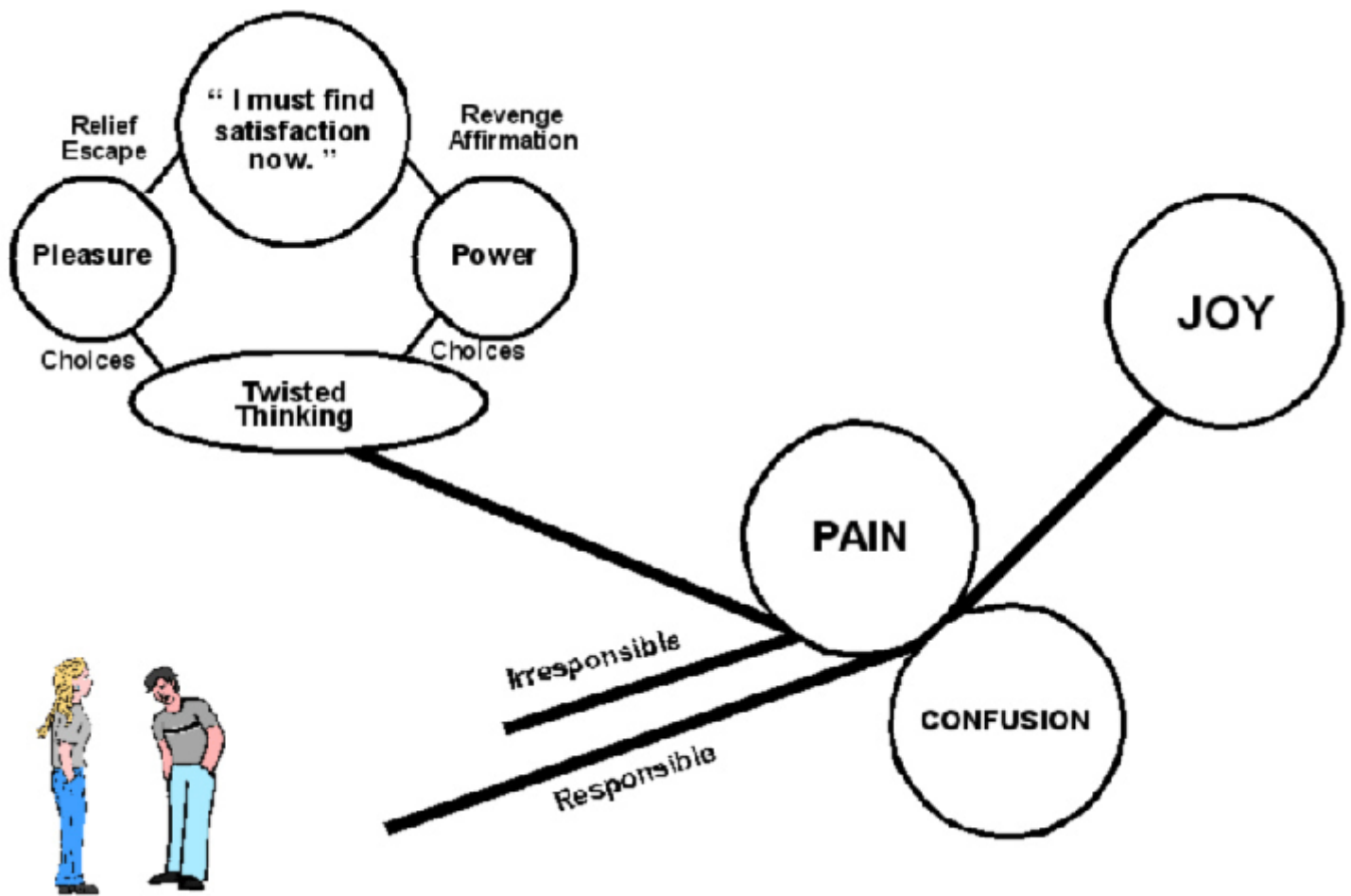
Prov. 14:12 - Way that seems right to man ? death

Jer. 17:9 - Heart is deceitful and wicked.

iii. Our natural foolishness ? choosing wrong thinking ? wrong conclusions about how to live which *we* believe are correct.

- c. Man is a volitional being who chooses
 - Eph. 1:11* - Predestined
 - Phil. 2:12-13* - work out salvation w/ fear & trembling.
 - i. As humans, we move in a direction toward an objective. Goals are set along the line of how we believe our thirst will be satisfied. We choose behaviors which we believe will lead us to our goals. All behavior moves us toward goals.
 - ii. As dependent beings, we can choose right goals and behaviors only as God enlightens our understanding. Because we are fallen, we set foolish goals consistent with foolish understanding and pursue these goals with the purpose of finding fulfillment.
 - iii. Because we are always striving toward some level of fulfillment (feeling okay, acceptable, adequate, etc.), we will tend (with our deceitful hearts) to deny goals which interfere with our good image of ourselves. When our goals are exposed, we deny those goals by saying that they are not our real goals. We generally are not aware of our denied goals, foolish understanding and denied longings.
 - iv. When we deny the goals we are pursuing, we lose the awareness that what we are doing is actually a choice. A lot of behavior looks like it is beyond our control, but *that which feels compulsive is behavior in pursuit of a denied goal.*
- d. Man is an emotional being who experiences
 - Jer. 31:20 & Is:63:15* - God feels
 - Job 30:27* - Man feels
 - John 1:33-35* - Christ feels
 - i. As dependent beings, we will subjectively experience good constructive emotions as we are in right relationship with God and our world.
 - ii. Emotions are evaluated in several ways: constructive vs. destructive; pleasant vs. unpleasant
 - (1) Constructive emotions is consistent with and promotes right relationship with God. Because we are fallen, all constructive emotion is not pleasant. We now experience destructive emotions due to the Fall (*II Cor. 7:8-10*)
 - (2) Destructive emotion (whether pleasant or unpleasant) moves us away from God and is inconsistent with Godly direction.
 - (3) We work very hard at always feeling pleasant emotion as opposed to constructive emotion. This priority weakens our commitment to live in dependence on Christ and it blunts our knowledge of our own sinfulness.
- e. The deceitfulness of our hearts causes us to believe a certain strategy will lead to life when it is leading directly to death. Deceitfulness shows up most clearly in how we relate to people, the most important part of our lives.
- f. This leads to choosing relating to others in a style that we think will protect us from painful emotions or confusion and loss of control. This self-protective style of relating leads to a breakdown and violation of relationships - a failure to love.

Here's a picture of the path to Twisted Thinking:



g) Conclusions:

- i. Everything everyone does has a purpose. Everything we do can and must be evaluated before God in terms of the Direction of our Motivation.
 - ii. Problems people face are a result of wrong directions, wrong motivations.
 - iii. Understanding people's problems advances when the direction of their motivation is exposed.
 - iv. If direction is to be understood two questions must be dealt with:
 - (1) Where has a person been sinned against?
 - (2) How has the person chosen to handle the pain of being sinned against?
 - v. The focus of this class is question #2. As the class unfolds you will understand why our focus is in this area.
- h) The refusal to enter pain and confusion of living in a fallen world leads to a combination of thinking errors, forming patterns that are unhealthy and go counter to responsible thinking.

1) Leading to the following beliefs:

- I can do anything I want. I can make anything right I want.
- I am All Powerful.

- I must be number one.
- I must be in control.
- I must have my expectations met.
- I am a good person, I am not a renegade thinker.
- I must get what I want now or my self image is on the line.
- I must live for the moment.
- I am a loner, I am unique.
- I must never be put down.

2) Results

- Series of choices disregarding others.
- Decisions made on assumptions, unrealistic expectations, prejudgements, no facts.
- Alcohol or drugs are used to facilitate excitement and to expand my view of myself as number one.
- Deception; lies; short cuts by pulling the wool over.
- Rejects responsible living, rejects society.
- Puts on a facade of conformity.
- Refuses to do anything disagreeable. Need for excitement.
- Behavior may be outwardly complying, but thinking is invariably irresponsible.
- Hears but does not listen.
- Does not take stock of self daily. No moral inventory.
- No future goals. Not working towards anything.
- Self-serving lifestyle - "how you should serve me."

3) The facts are:

- Twisted thinkers are extremely fearful of:
 - Not getting their way.
 - Getting caught.
 - Being Put Down
 - Being discovered on the inside.
 - Speaking of fears.
- Twisted thinkers choose their lifestyle and associates.
- Twisted thinkers are responsible for their choices and behavior.
- The behavior(s) resides in the person and is caused by the way he/she thinks.
- Twisted thinkers reject society long before society rejects them. They are the victimizers.

Change:

- Some self-understanding results through identifying thinking errors, but the bulk of self-understanding follows change in behavior.
- Twisted Thinkers require education about the outside world. They need to learn what the restraints in life are and what initiatives are necessary. They need to recognize that life is a series of problems that they have to meet and struggle with in a responsible way. They need repetition. Their change may come when there is a genuine sense of remorse for irresponsible behavior and empathy for the people they have hurt.