



The Things I Do? Understanding People & Breaking Bondages

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Love God. Love Others. Make Disciples.

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Crossroads Christian Fellowship

Theology Café

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Session 2

Worldview

How We Came To Be This Way

I believe the Scripture provides the necessary answers for life and does lay the basic framework for understanding the human personality, revealing the why's of our behavior and the reasons for our emotional problems

Matthew 6:21; Isaiah 50:10-11

Review

Shame Hides, Denies and Blames

- We cover our shame by creating fig leaves
- We speak to God from behind our coverings
- God's presence fosters fear
- We do not take responsibility

We are restless and searching:

“Our soul is restless until it finds rest in You, O Lord.
For You have made us for Yourself.” (Augustine)

“But my sin was this, that I looked for pleasure, beauty, and truth not in him but in myself and his other creatures, and the search led me instead to pain, confusion, and error.” (Augustine)



Exercise (10 minutes)

Share what mask(s) you are?

Close your discussion by having someone pray over your table and the evening.

Worldview Formation

- Worldview is what we live by – the values of our lives. It is the control center of our lives (Matt. 6:21).
 - Worldview is best expressed by the Hebrew understanding of “heart”.
 - Our heart is the place where our longings, wounds, dreams, etc., are housed.
- Our worldview is how we perceive the self, others, and our world. It governs our lives.

Worldview Defined

World View >

Preconceptions >

Thought Patterns >

Attitudes >

Behaviors

Worldview Formation

“Our opinion of people depends less upon what we see in them than upon what they make us see in ourselves.” (Sara Grand)

The Sequential Logic

- The Past: It happened – the act or sin committed against us.
- The Present: It is still happening to us – the confirmation that verifies the lie. Although we don't really know why.
- The Future: It will always happen – we water the lie helping it grow and take root in our lives.

How It Began & How It Continues

- Genesis 12:10-20: Abram lies to Pharaoh about Sarai being his sister out of fear for his life.
- Genesis 20:1-18: Abraham lies to Abimelech regarding Sarah for fear of his life.
- Genesis 26:1-11: Isaac lies to Abimelech about Rebekah being his sister for fear of his life.
- Genesis 27:1-46: Jacob steals Esau's blessing from Isaac, deceives his father by dressing up as Esau.
- Genesis: 37:12-36: Joseph is nearly murdered by his brothers – sold into slavery to the Ishmaelites by his brothers. The 11 lie to Jacob and tell him Joseph was killed.

Result: Sin Passed On

- Hell plays us as he works in our family lines to continue the pain of our lives.
- If we do not wrestle with the issues of our soul, the pain of our yesterdays, then we will pass them (environment) on to our children and the mess continues while hell laughs.
- It's time we stop his laughter!!! Break the chain, own your stuff and let God change you and your family!!

Understanding The Shame Process



Our Choices Are...

Like Adam, we have 3 responses to life.

1. Cover (suppress-flight) it.
2. Smash (express-fight) deny it and blame, vent, get it off your chest.
3. Respond (acknowledge & admit) which is to take personal responsibility for it. "Own it. No more. No less."

Fight or Flight

Another way of saying express or suppress is...

Fight _____ **Flight**
Self-Protection (Masks)

Emotion: Anger

Assumes **all** responsibility

Is Judge & jury

Judgmental of others

Emotion: Despair/Sadness

Assumes **no** responsibility

Verdict: Guilty without hope

Judgmental of self

Result: Self-Doubt & Self Rejection

- Samuel said, “Although you were once small in your own eyes, did you not become the head of the tribes of Israel? The LORD anointed you king over Israel. (I Samuel 15:17)
- “But Lord,” Gideon asked, “how can I save Israel? My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my family.” (Judges 6:15)

Sin Fosters a Life of Illusion

- **Life of Illusion:** We live a life of illusion, doing all that we can to get people to see what we believe they want and hiding what we believe is bad – our heart or real self.
- There are 2 primary ways of living a life of illusion.
 - **Life of Shoulds:** We live by behaving correctly – life is about how we act and think not about how we feel.
 - **Life of Needs:** Here we deny our feelings and then have to find ways to satisfy their thirst through activity, sexual fantasies, gaining more knowledge, food, drugs & alcohol, etc.

Reality is Perceived

- Reality is not always what is happening but what one perceives is happening.
- “As a man thinks in his heart, so is he.” (Prov. 23:7, NKJV)
- “Self is the only prison that can bind the soul.” Henry Van Dyke

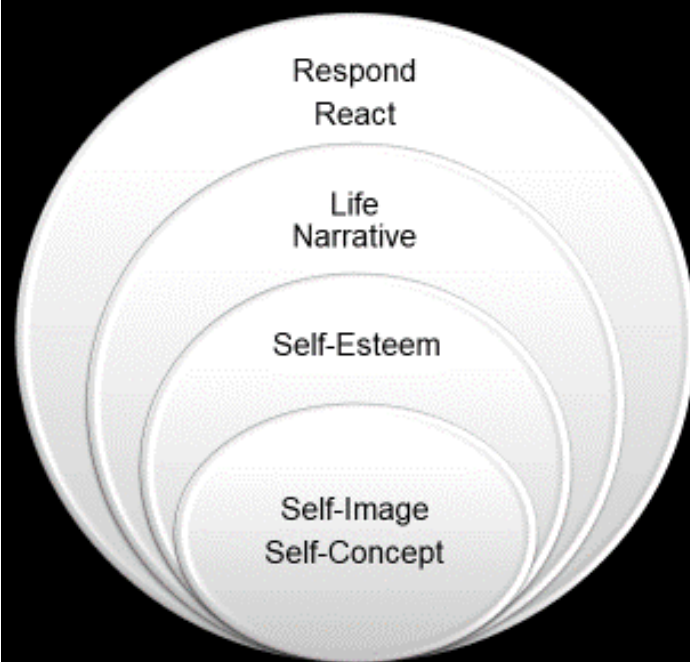
See The Fallen Self/Core Belief Chart

We Live By a Life Grid

- Life grids are shaped by our worldview.
- Worldviews are shaped by culture, clan or family unit, religion, and personal interpretation.
- S.I.R. How life is interpreted
 - S = Situation: What happens to you.
 - I = *INTERPRETATION*: How you perceive the event which is determined by your worldview.
 - R = Response: Emotional outcome experienced.
 - “Men are not moved by things but the views which they take of them.” (Epictetus)



Self Perception Grid



Moses Reacts

- “Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?” (3:11)
 - The **“I can’t do it”** syndrome.
- “Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ Then what shall I tell them.” (3:14)
 - The **“I don’t know what I’m doing”** or **“I have no authority”** syndrome.
- “What if they do not believe me or listen to me and say, ‘The Lord did not appear to you.’” (4:1)
 - The **“I’m afraid it won’t work out”** or **“They won’t believe me”** syndrome. Often, we do not believe in what God has given us. It’s hard to have faith in God for things that involve us.
- “O Lord, I have never been eloquent, neither in the past nor since you have spoken to your servant. I am slow of speech and tongue.” (4:10)
 - The **“I’m not smart or gifted enough”** syndrome.
- “O Lord, please send someone else to do it.” (4:13)
 - The **“Lord, I really don’t want to do this”** syndrome. There is nothing like fear to cause people to hesitate or not want to do something for Christ.

Worldview Formation Explained

There are four sets of worldviews that shape our values and framework (e.g. The Matrix). Simply, it is how we see (lens or glasses = values) the world:

- (1) **Socio-cultural**, e.g. Western – U.S. An example of this cultural worldview system is our need for information, comfort, beauty, intelligence, individualism – the one above the many, rights, etc.
- (2) **Clan or Family Unit** : Each family deciphers the cultural values within its own framework. For example, your interpretation of communication, definition of love, affection, how a father and mother love each other, etc.
- (3) **Religious**: Each religion and even sub-group within Christianity has their own set of value structures that set the basis for one's worldview. Our religious worldview is based in fear, faith, rules, or love.
 - Fear Based: Numbers 13:33
 - Faith Based: Numbers 13:30
 - Rule Based: Mark 7:18-19; Acts 10:9-16, 28-29, 44-48; Acts 1:6
 - Love Based: John 3:16

- How we relate to one another is then based in fear, faith, rules, and/or love of our faith tradition, our family unit and the culture we were born in.
 - Keep in mind that love is fully expressed when there is justice, grace, and truth.

(4) **Personal:** From each of the above mentioned frameworks, we interpret the self, understanding our world through the values we have come to embrace which informs the lens or filter we use to see the world and create our version (narrative) of reality.

Worldview Formation Explained:

Personal cont...

- It is where our identity and self-image is most strongly formed.
- A person is a “we” before and “I.”
 - In other words, identity is shaped by relationships: our parents and our culture.
 - It is from these that we learn to interpret and understand our world, e.g., our view of God is often based in our experience of our earthly fathers and mothers.

Attitudes: The Interpretive Lens

- Many people experience the deadly effects of toxic attitudes (pre-conscious or unconscious).
- Our attitude is then the lens by which we interpret our lives and circumstances. When our lens is warped, so is reality – which is why deception is the key weapon of Satan.
- Hard to change attitudes because it is how we view life – hard to change what you believe to be real.
- Like viruses, we catch these attitudes from various people and influences in our lives – we can pass them on as well.

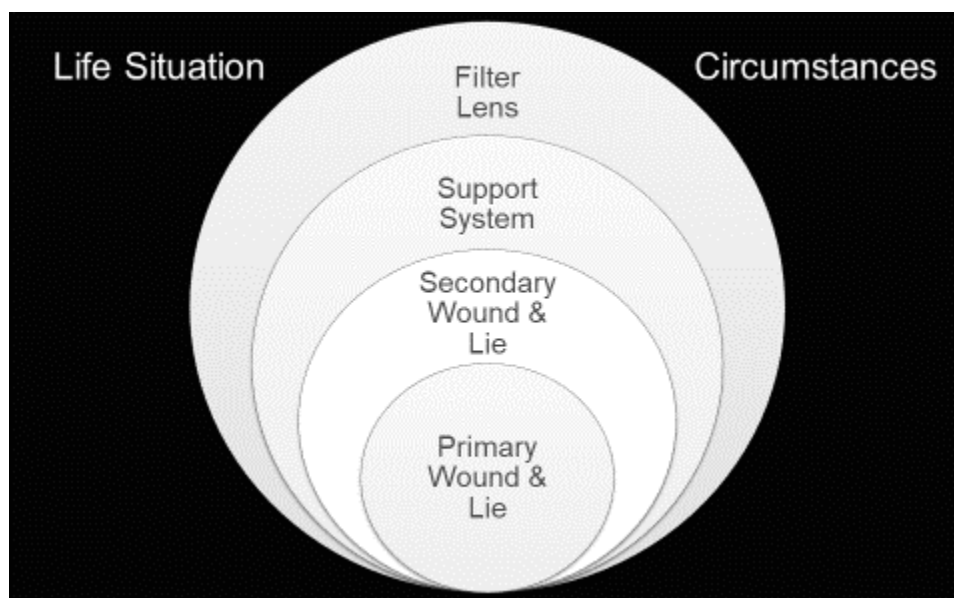
How A Belief/Attitude Forms

- **The Wound:** My parents were too busy for me – “I’m not important.”
 - What was done to you.
- **The Lie/Agreement:** Because my family and friends are too busy for me – “I’m not important.”
 - The lie that you agree with, which is the energy the lie needs to survive.
 - In order for the lie to be empowered you must believe it. Hell brings a contract and we must sign it and then believe the lie which is the fuel that keeps it going.

- **The Relational Style or Lifestyle:** We adopt a relational style that helps us deal with life. It is our response to the life we have been dealt, the way we protect the self and get our needs met.
 - However, the relational style is also what reinforces the pain, keeping the wound open. It is how we keep ourselves in bondage.
 - This is why the pain remains the same and the names and faces change. We then are left with concluding that this how life will always be and we sink into despair or harden the walls, living self-protected and lonely lives.

The Process Summarized

- **The Wound:** Is what happened to us or the atmosphere we were raised in – the basis of our emotional and spiritual development.
- **The Lie/Agreement:** How we interpret the self, our past, present, and future.
 - This is the grid by which we see ourselves and life.
- **The Relational Style or Lifestyle:** Protective measures taken to survive our past. Helpful in the past but ironically becomes the fuel that keeps the past alive in the present.
 - See Graph on Structure of Self Esteem





Exercise (10 minutes)

What is your Wound?

What are your triggers?



What is the lie you have embraced?

How do you keep the lie reinforced? – Masks?
