

HOW CAN WE SOLVE PEOPLE-PROBLEMS OF THE SOUL?

God's (YHWH's / God the Father's) Way vs. World's Way. God's WAY is NOT a program but a **PERSON**, the person of CHRIST.

God IS love so His Way is LOVE (1 John 4:8), but not the world's type of love. God's love is perfect, unselfish love, even for His enemies.

OT = chesed. NT = agape. The world says, I love my dog, wife, ice cream – not the same. God's agape is sacrificial giving NOT getting.

ALL of God's laws, commandments, and expectations can be summed up and lived out simply by HIS LOVE through us.

(EXAMPLES: Exo 20 = 1-4 love God / 6-10 = love others; Deu 6:5; 7:9; 10:1-13; Lev 19:18; Mat 5:1-10, 17-22; 44, 48; 7:12 Golden rule;

Mat 22:34-40 and Mark 12:28-34; John 3:16; 13:34-35; 14:15-21 he who love Me; 15:10-13; Romans 5:1-10 love = fulfillment of law; Romans 13:8-

10 owe only to love = fulfillment of law; 1 Cor 8:1; Gal 5:14 love is fulfills the law; 2 Tim 1:7 spirit of power, love, wisdom; 1 John 4-5; 2 John 1:6)

PEOPLE-PROBLEMS of the **SOUL (PSYCHE: psychology & relationships)**. **BIOLOGICAL problems need MEDICAL treatment in addition to counsel.**

Christ's counseling **PROVISION** includes: His **Cross, Spirit Word, & Church**

2 Timothy 3:14-17 God's Counsel is all about RELATIONSHIPS and is powerful for

"TEACHING, CONVICTION, CORRECTION, TRAINING" in righteousness.

PEOPLE (Socialization): Discipleship like the contagious **YAWNING** effect – hang out with Christ-like friends vs. bad company) (Gen 1-3)

PURPOSE (Teaching): Reflect God's Image, Christ character, Fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:22-25)

PROBLEM (Conviction): **PROBLEM EXAMPLE = Out of Control Anger, arguing ...**

PLAN (Correction): **Transformation** (Greek = **metamorphosis**, Rom 12:2; 2 Cor 3:18, new creation, born-again) **NOT just education**

PRACTICE (Training): Ongoing application of His principles until they become our habitual character

SYMPTOMS = FRUIT = FEELINGS, WORDS & BEHAVIORS (Gen 4:6 **Cain, "why are you angry?"**)

(Only two kinds. Fruit of Flesh vs. Fruit of the Spirit, Gal. 5) **GOD COMMANDS WE BEAR HIS FRUIT.**

PROBLEM EXAMPLE = hurt, upset, mad, bitter, arguing, critical

* The world offers unstable happiness (happenstance based on changing circumstances).

* Christ offers J.O.Y. that is based on His unchanging character & a relationship with Him.

(John 14:27; 15:11; Philip 4)

Most people and even counselors wrongly think of symptoms & temptations as the causes. Like: "My spouse **MAKES** me miserable, depressed, anxious, or bitter." Other people and circumstances can hurt us, but cannot force us to be bitter or miserable. The **GOOD NEWS** is that we can **CHOOSE** to respond with Christ's counsel and end up with the **FRUIT** of the **SPIRIT**, no matter what.

TEMPTATIONS = ENVIRONMENT (Internal or external **CONDITIONS**)

EXAMPLE = other people taunting, bullying, being picked on, things not going your way

Temptations can hurt us and pressure us to react the World's Way, but we don't have to react in the flesh.

We can **CHOOSE** God's Way. If we keep choosing the World's Way (putting self, not Christ and others first),

then it becomes a habit pattern and eventually our character.



CAUSES = ROOT = HEART (Mat 15:19; 1 John 2:16; Gen 3, Mat 4; Philip 4; Heb 4:12)

Self-focused attitudes, motives, and wrong beliefs like:

"This is not fair, I deserve better", "I can't be happy unless people treat me the way I want."

* *The truth is that we are all sinners who deserve separation from God. So it doesn't matter what our circumstances are now, they are **BETTER** than fair. We have the opportunity & privilege to let Christ's love live through us to others for His honor and their salvation & blessing. Is this your motive?*

CURE is **CHRIST'S PROVISION** (see the top) that focuses on the cause (the root), which are idols of the heart

Mat. 15:19 (motives/desires, attitudes, beliefs) (Luke 9:23-26; Romans 12:1-3).

A.B.C's of J.O.Y. = Attitude → Behavior → Character

Attitude of Gratitude: **J.O.Y.** = Jesus 1st, Others 2nd, Yourself 3rd (Matt 22:36-40)

CHOOSING to let Christ's live His pure agape love through you for others, **EVEN ENEMIES.**

DOING actions that bless, and do good to others, **EVEN ENEMIES** (Mat 5:43-48; Rom 5:8).



HOW can you do it, in practical terms? **HIS** counsel is **profoundly simple**. Nothing magical or mystical.

It's simple enough for a child, yet profound for any PhD's (*except those who think they know better than their Creator Christ*).

Admit - that your natural sinful tendency and pattern is to **REACT** for **SELF**, NOT so that Christ can love others through you.

Submit - (hypotasso = under-rank, Gal 5:25) to Him & let His Way rule over your thoughts, words, and actions. (not my will but His)

Commit - to walk (stoicheo = march) it out moment by moment for His honor & others' blessing. (Philip 2:12 work **OUT** your salvation)

* **Put-Off / Put-On** – put off old attitudes, thoughts, actions; then put on the love of Christ.

GOOD NEWS GUARANTEE: God's **PROMISE** is NOT that others will change, but He guarantees that you **WILL** grow the fruit of His Spirit.

The **FRUIT** of the Holy Spirit is commanded & guaranteed to gradually grow in you, **IF** you continue abiding in Him:

((Gal 5:22-25, LOVE, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, **SELF-CONTROL**)

The Way of Jesus is to draw the infinite pure love that we need from God (Rom 5:5), NOT others, until we are **FILLED** and **OVERFLOWING** with His character, **FRUIT** of His **SPIRIT**, and reflecting His **IMAGE**. This is truly being **SPIRIT-FILLED!** (like a river of living water, John 7:39)

THIS is the most powerful WAY to deeply influence others to change. As they see the fruit of His Spirit in your life, they begin to want it for their own life. When they ask how you have it, then you have the privilege of sharing CHRIST'S COUNSEL for them!