

Biblical-Philosophical Psychology 41—The Dynamics of the Will (Volition)

Bible Doctrines (The True-Good-Beautiful)

T/G/B

Eschatology
 Thanatology
 Ecclesiology
 Israelology
 Dispensationalism
 Doxology
 Hodology
 Soteriology
 Hamartiology
 Natural Law
 Anthropology
 Angelology
 Pneumatology
 Christology
 Paterology
 Trinitarianism
 Cosmology
 Theology Proper
 Bibliology

P.R. - 32

Hermeneutics

Linguistics

Epistemology

Metaphysics -28

Reality -Logic 32,
 Truth 32

7/24/2013

1. **Warning:** Colossians 2:8 *See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ.* We have noted over 25 grand truths that human philosophy and empty deception have kept from modern Christians.
2. **The unique opportunities** for believers of FBC for whole truth (PR+SFL+BD). Christianity is not just teaching SL, it is a comprehensive explanation of all reality. .
3. **Ehyeh/Yahweh-Metaphysics 28:** From JR's farm to the whole of reality that is shot through with the distinction between potentiality and actuality, between what is still only able to be and what actually is. The metaphysical argument is not ID.
4. **The spiritual life.** The key issue is the will/volition. Confession of sin does not address the need for the will to gain virtue so as to desire the right things. There is no growth in volitional/moral virtue apart from habitual right decisions of the will.

Stage 3

Stage 2

Stage 1

Stage 3 – Christian metaphysician = life of glory!

- Metaphysical understanding of God.
- Virtuous love for God: Intellective, volitional, emotional love of God. Enduring fellowship.
- Life of “above all you could ever ask or imagine”

Holy Spirit



Bible Doctrine

Stage 2 – Christian doctrinal believer = life of doctrine!

- Nominal understanding of God.
- Through BD this believer has gained a great deal of perinoetic truth about God & the spiritual life.
- However, he continues to have some pagan views about God's *nature* due to lack of metaphysics.
- He has become more stable, but still very dependent on others for confidence in absolute truths.

Holy Spirit



Bible Doctrine

Stage 1 – Christian baby = life of ups and downs.

- Utilitarian understanding of God.
- All baby believers have a great deal of pagan views of God due to pagan horizon of meaning.
- All baby believers are tossed here and there by kosmos diabolicus, Eph. 4:14.
- For baby believers it is primarily about pragmatism. In other words, if it works or feels good, they think it must be true.

Results of establishing 'Ehyeh philosophy (PR) & dismantling human philosophies

Discovery of

1. The nature of God as 'Ehyeh, Exod. 3:14.
2. The nature of man as hylemorphic.
3. Souls in all living things.
4. The imaging nature of animals.
5. The immortal nature of man's mind with a *telos* for Ultimate Truth.
6. The immortal nature of man's volition with a *telos* for ultimate fulfillment in Ultimate Good.
7. The philosophical principle of "be is as be does" in contrast to reductionism and Darwinism.
8. The wonders of *beings* of creation in contrast to Platonic depreciation and gnosticism of sensible world.
9. The distinction between perinoetic truth and dianoetic truth.
10. The beauty of logic as a tool for absolute truth as per the law of non-contradiction.
11. The need for congregation to think philosophically and metaphysically instead of fideistically and mindlessly.
12. The full truth of Christianity rather than just "higher spiritual life."
13. Intellective, volitive, and emotive aspects of man.
14. The nature of intellective virtue in the 3 acts of the mind.
15. The nature of abstraction
16. The nature of volition virtue.
17. The nature and blessings of "emotional" virtue.
18. Emotional life of Jesus Christ.
19. The True, Good, and Beautiful, especially in relation to God and His Word.
20. The ability to move believers into deeper realities beyond the original languages.
21. The act-potential that is shot through all of creation.
22. The timelessness of God.
23. The insufficiency of Dakean and Baconian methodology.
24. The evil of believers always having to trust their pastor-teacher about eternal truths.
25. The nature and evil of spiritual anti-intellectualism.
26. The dynamic *telos* of the Good and God and how they are coterminous with true happiness.
27. The dynamics and blessings of the Beatific Vision—and glimpses of it now.

Is it no wonder that the infinite and majestic wonder of God's nature reflected in creation has been cut off from our limited daily reductionistic "interaction" with the world?

The finite all around us is charged with the Infinite.

Intellect
MIND



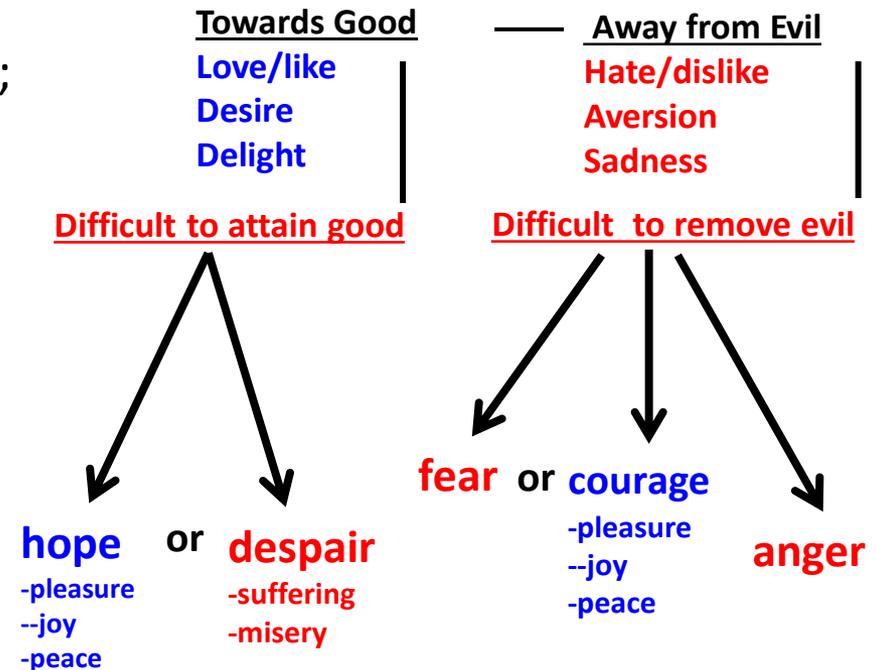
Volition WILL

-Intellective appetite

-Sense appetite

Affections Human
Passions Experiences

1. Overview of passages on the dynamics of the will (volition): Gen. 2:16-17; Exod. 8:15; 9:12, 34; 10:20; Deut. 30:19-20; Josh. 24:15; Psa. 51:12; Matt. 4:1-11; 6:19-24; 26:36-46; Luke 7:29-30; John 3:20-21; Acts 17:24-27; Rom. 1:24-32; 12:1-2; Gal. 5:22-23; Eph. 2:3; James 1:8; 4:8.



Intellect
MIND

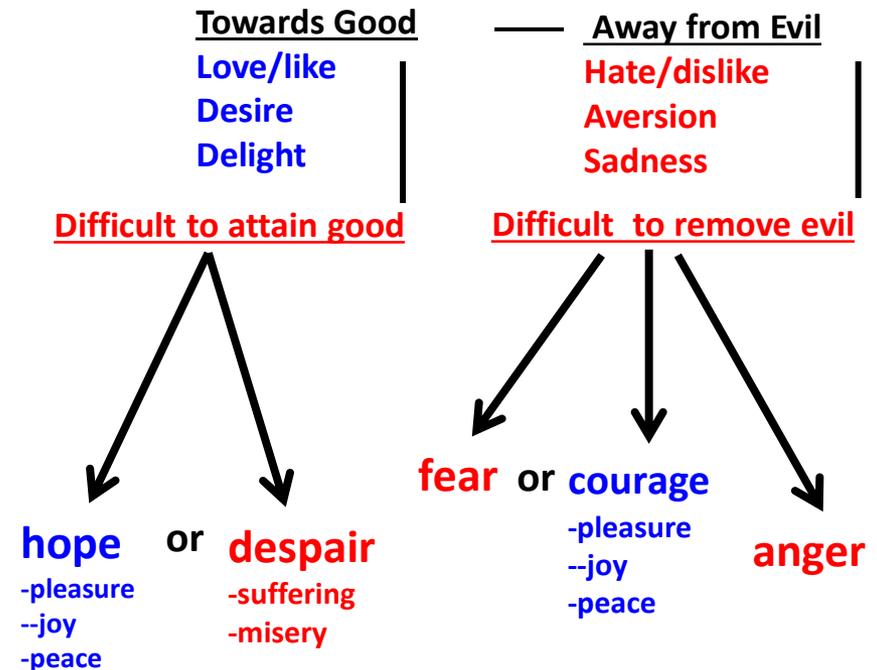


Volition WILL

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2. A word about the problem of “emotions:” the conceptual disparity between the Word of God and the modern mind, between PR and modern psychological framework (courtesy of David Hume and William James).

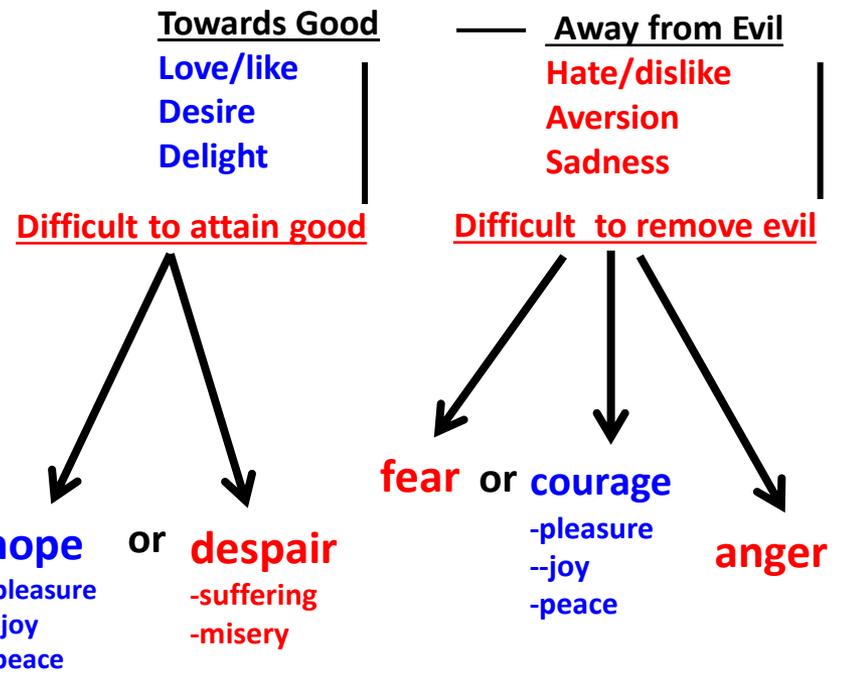


MIND Intellect ←————→ Volition WILL

3. The will (volition) is the greatest issue.
- It is the seat of intention, decision, desire, determination.
 - The critical need for virtue in the will: it is the primary place for sanctification and hardening (vice).
 - Who will develop more virtue in the *will/desire*? a believer who takes in a lot of BD yet indulges the will illicitly or a believer who does not take in as much doctrine, but does not indulge the will illicitly? Say that both understand and use 1 John 1:9. Who will need confession more often? Who will have more love for and joy in God?

↓
-Intellective appetite
-Sense appetite

Affections Human
Passions Experiences



4. The infinite nature of the will and the modern problem of boredom.
 - The modern phenomenon of boredom.
 - The nature of boredom.
 - Boredom and desire.
 - Boredom and mammonism.
 - Why boredom is coextensive with lack of love and joy and peace.
 - The cure for boredom in our reductionistic world.

5. Overview of classical virtue ethics and Christianity.

- Classically, it is Aristotelian ethics which sees happiness in the Good. It parts company with Plato's emphasis on knowledge by seeing the right ordered will (not knowledge) as the key to right ordered intellect and right ordered experiences. The virtuous will regulates the life towards the Good.
- Of course, in Christianity God is Ultimate Good and everything in His Word and Plan is Ultimate Good which brings ultimate happiness.
- In Christianity, God is coextensive with goodness and happiness.
- Without Christian virtue ethics, the believer will never see God and His plan as Ultimate Goodness and Happiness. At best, the person will see God in terms of duty instead of goodness and enjoyment.

6. Apart from virtue, we will remain trapped with our old evil way thinking, wishing, and emoting, constantly having to confess ongoing MAS, SOT, and OS.
 - Doctrinal knowledge, though required, is not enough.
 - We, not circumstances, are responsible for the kind of person we are.
 - We all have plenty of opportunities to actualize potential virtue in our cognitive faculty, volitional faculty, and emotional faculties.

7. The supernatural virtues cannot operate in an immoral context that lacks basic virtue. A person who does not have moral virtues is going to have great difficulty in staying in fellowship and walking with the Lord through the indwelling power of the Holy Spirit.
- Consider the impossibility of cultivating supernatural *intellective* virtues in an immoral context (e.g., indulging in wrong, anti-intellectual, and foolish thinking; rejection of critical thinking skills).
 - Consider the impossibility of cultivating supernatural *volitional/appetitive* virtues in an immoral context (choosing, indulging and activating wrong desires).
 - Consider the impossibility of cultivating supernatural *emotional* virtues in an immoral context (indulging in wrong emotions; failure to mature emotions).

8. A believer without moral virtue is going to have a great deal more difficulty trusting God, hoping in God, and loving God.
- His thoughts and feelings be on evil as a good instead of God as a good and the plan of God as the Good (cf. David and Bathsheba).
 - He may confess regularly, but he still has the wrong desires that make it very difficult to stay in fellowship with God very long.

9. Only the virtuous person has the ability to see God and all of the Word of God as true, good, and beautiful.
- Negative volition picks and chooses and is always looking for a quick fix or a slogan to deal with deep and abiding issues of life.
 - There is not moral/volitional virtue without development of intellectual virtue.
 - There can be no emotional virtue apart from intellectual and volitional virtue.

10. Unless the believer grows in virtue, he will be a spiritual failure.

- Unless the appetites change, he will find God and Christianity unappealing and boring instead of exciting and the source of ultimate happiness.
- Duty is not enough, one must see Christianity as the TGB above all else.

11. The virtuous person sees, lives for, and enjoys the Good—what is truly True, Good, and Beautiful.

- He has developed capacity and thus enthusiasm for the Ultimate Good.
- He truly sees God, Bible doctrine, the spiritual life, the plan of God as coextensive with + Happiness. He has a healthy mind, desires, and emotions which continue to grow throughout his life through the sanctifying power of God.

Pride: The greatest way to destroy the will

1. God fights against the proud will, James 4:6.

James 4:6 But He gives a greater (μείζονα) grace. Therefore it says, "God is opposed (ἀντιτάσσεται) to the proud, but gives grace to the humble."

- God only promotes grace oriented people.
- Pride is the antithesis of grace. The believer who is arrogant is blind to the grace of God.
- God has a perfect grace plan for your life, which cannot be fulfilled apart from His grace.
- Only through grace can any believer thrive.

2. Pride always corrupts the will and mind regardless of a person's IQ or how much they know. There is no such thing as a wise person, one in touch with Ultimate Reality, who is also proud, cf. Rom. 1:18-25; Satan.
- There are approximately 22 Greek words and 27 Hebrew words for pride. The predominant idea is of "going beyond" reality.
 - Pride includes wrong thinking, wrong volition, and wrong emotions.
 - All failure in the POG is a result of the sin of pride.
 - In pride the person moves into jealousy, bitterness, vindictiveness, revenge, conceit, slander, gossip, and maligning.
 - In pride the person becomes occupied with self and moves into self-admiration, and an exaggerated view of his abilities.

3. In pride, by an act of the will, one turns away from God as the True, Good, and Beautiful, Isa. 14:12-14; Ezek. 28:14-17. Pride was the original sin of Satan, “I will be like the Most High.”
- Pride always overflows into motivation, decision making, and into activity.
 - Pride always blinds one to the True, Good, and Beauty of Whole Truth, Total Truth, and nothing but the truth.
 - Pride always destroys love for the Word of God and truth as such.

4. Pride always leads to spiritual ignorance, heresy, and apostasy (1 Tim. 3:6; 6:3-5, 2 Tim 3:1-7; Js 1:21).
- In pride, a person is unteachable.
 - Pride destroys ability to see God as Truly Good.
 - Pride destroys capacity for life, love, and happiness.
 - In pride, a person cuts himself off from the salubrious ministry of the Holy Spirit, which will affect his attitude to truth and all of life, Gal. 5:16-23. Thus, he cannot stay in fellowship with God for long periods of time.

5. The warning against pride in a context of Mammonism, 1 Tim 6:17-19; James 4:13-17.

- The problem with wealth is that it comes with the temptation to think that one is better than others because of wealth or positions of power. This would include one's personal abilities, looks, or achievements.
- The proper attitude is "But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me did not prove vain; but I labored even more than all of them, yet not I, but the grace of God with me," 1 Cor 15:10.
- The bottom line is to be happy with the grace God has given you and use all of the opportunities and potentials He has awarded you. The issue is always activating your potentials—act and potential.

6. The virtuous person is the person who has developed the intellectual, volitional, and emotional distaste for pride. This can only come through BD and God's grace. This is achieving good tastes.

Proverbs 8:13 "The fear of the LORD is to hate evil; Pride and arrogance and the evil way, And the perverted mouth, I hate.

7. For further study of pride, see Dt. 8:3, 11-18; Psa. 10:2-11; 25:8-9; 49:11; 73:6-9; Prov. 3:33-35; 6:16; 8:11, 13; 11:2; 13:10; 15:5, 10-12; 16:2, 18; 23:29; Mark 7:21; Lk. 14:11; Rom. 1:18-25; 3:27; 12:3; 1 Cor. 1:26-31; 10:12; 15:10; 2 Cor 12:7-10; James 3:14-16; 1 Pet. 5:5.