

Jesus and Freud

Psychologist, Dr Larry Crabb, recognizes areas where Jesus and psychoanalyst, Sigmund Freud, can agree!

First, Jesus agrees with Freud that we should look beneath surface problems to hidden internal causes.

Jesus denounced people who were scrupulous about visible, outward concerns but failed to look inside their hearts where the real problems lay. Matthew 23.23-28

Second, Jesus understood that “counsel in the heart of man is like deep water, but a man of understanding will draw it out.” Proverbs 20.5.

So like Freud, He knew that to deal effectively and thoroughly with people, one must have a rather clear understanding of how human nature functions on the inside, where it is not possible to observe directly. See John 2.24-25.

Third, Jesus agrees with Freud that one necessary means of understanding other people’s dynamics is first to understand your own.

He spoke of seeing a speck of sawdust in a brother’s eye while ignoring the plank in our own eye. Jesus said, “First take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye.” Matthew 7.3-5 (NIV).

Unfortunately, Freud didn’t accept the Bible’s other teachings about how to live balanced, well-adjusted lives.

That’s why psychologists like Dr Crabb give Jesus priority over Freud.

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GOOD NEWS IN BRIEF

Love – incomparably the world’s greatest psychotherapeutic agent – finds its source in God, for “God is love.” 1John 4.8.

Ken Packer