

A FORMULA FOR UNDERSTANDING HOW THE PAST INFLUENCES THE PRESENT

Prov 23:7; Mk, 7:20-23; Rom, 12:1-3; 2 Cor, 10:4-5; Gal, 5:19-23, 6:7; Eph, 4:17-32; Phil, 2:1-5; 2Tim, 1:7

CAUSATION

"INFLUENCES" of relationships & circumstances

- whatever happens to us
- what affects us deeply
- information we hear*
- what we're told/ taught*
- whatever is "modeled" to us *
- relationships with "sinners"
- life involvements in a fallen world
- things out of our control

"EXPERIENCES"

- childhood
- past hurts/ traumatic events/ stress
- suffering, pain, illness, hardships
- being "sinned against"
- separation, loss, rejection, abuse
- my own failure, sin, foolish decisions
- internal/ external influences

TRIALS- temptation, testing

-any situation I find myself in whereby I am responsible to obey the Word of God and make the right decision

"PERSONAL HISTORY"

- ways I've learned to deal with
- "pre-conditioning"
- patterns

*parents, siblings, family, relatives, teachers, pastors, counselors, doctors, economic status, education, T.V., church, friends, social status, job/ vocational experiences

THINKING

My way of personally processing
How I try to make "sense" of it all

Evaluations

"INTERPETATIONS"

- my spin/ slant/perspective
- perceptions are formed
- concepts are developed about God, life, self, and others
- (I am not the standard by which accurate conclusions can be reached)
- Unless the wrong thinking is changed we'll continue to be controlled by it.

CONCLUSIONS of "my" heart

"Beliefs" that which I live out

Reinforces

- | | |
|---------------|-------------------|
| -motivations | -habit patterns |
| -values | -attitudes |
| -expectations | -responses |
| -emotions | -deceptions |
| • fear | • depression |
| • anxiety | • insecurity |
| • anger | • unhappiness |
| • guilt | • frustration |
| • confusion | • purposelessness |
| • hatred | • emptiness |

leads to conclusions

BEHAVIORS

"The Roots Determine the Fruits"

What do I do and or don't do.
How I feel today (emotions are reinforced further)

"FRUIT" the outward expression of the inward nature (observable results) Mt. 7:16-20

ACTIONS, WORDS, & RESPONSES

- strategies to make life work
- attempts to make things manageable
- control techniques
- manipulations
- "power" plays -having it my way
- styles of relating
- striving to accomplish
- energies and efforts directed toward goals
- self protections/ defenses

- | | | |
|-----------|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| withdraw | denial | blame shifting |
| avoidance | rationalizing | minimizing |
| work | justifying | smoke screening |
| deception | excuses | entertainment |
| pleasure | accusing/ attacking others | |
| hiding | "aesthetic" - "to dull the pain" | |
| | shifting the focus | |

IDOLATRIES substitutes for God

- that which I'm "committed" to
- what I organize my life around
- "Life for me is _____ (power, money, desires, pleasure, success, acceptance, control, love, security, significance, satisfaction)

All this leads to motivated behaviors/ decisions/ choices/ responses

Our concepts of God affect the way we live. All behavior is motivated. We do what we do because of what we get out of it. The way I have viewed and responded to past experiences greatly shapes and affects our present perceptions and choices. What's happening now in my life was previously conceived/ "birthed" in my own heart. If my thinking remains void of Biblical truth there will be no lasting change to the glory of God.