

GROW IN GRACE

NEWSLETTER

Volume 39, No.16, April 16, 2013 / Southside Baptist Church & Christian School / P.O. Box 1594 / 1028 South Water Avenue, Gallatin, TN 37066 (615) 452-5951 / **"But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our LORD and Saviour JESUS CHRIST. To Him be glory both now and forever. Amen."** (2 Peter 3:18)

Identity Disorder Edited from Shon Bruellman

In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it. And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, with some of the vessels of the house of God. And he brought them to the land of Shinar, to the house of his god, and placed the vessels in the treasury of his god.

Then the king commanded Ashpenaz, his chief eunuch, to bring some of the people of Israel, both of the royal family and of the nobility, youths without blemish, of good appearance and skillful in all wisdom, endowed with knowledge, understanding learning, and competent to stand in the king's palace, and to teach them the literature and language of the Chaldeans.

The king assigned them a daily portion of the food that the king ate, and of the wine that he drank. They were to be educated for three years, and at the end of that time they were to stand before the king. [Daniel 1:1-5](#)

The book of Daniel isn't simply a story of one man named Daniel, but relates the account of four young Hebrew men from Jerusalem named Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah who were appointed to service in the Babylonian government after Jerusalem was overthrown. In chapter 3, we see that God protected the young men from a fiery furnace and in chapter 6 we see Daniel being protected from the wrath of the lions, **but God was also working from the first verse of chapter 1, protecting them all from the influences of an idolatrous culture.**

Among these were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah of the tribe of Judah. And the chief of the eunuchs gave them names: Daniel he called Belteshazzar, Hananiah he called Shadrach, Mishael he called Meshach, and Azariah he called Abednego. [Daniel 1:6-7](#)

What I find interesting is that the first thing the Babylonians did was change the names of these young men. Now why do you think they did this? I suggest to you that it was in order to convert them to their ways and make them forget about God.

1. Daniel means *"God is my judge,"* and his name was changed to *"Bel* (a god of the Babylonians) *Protect the King."*
2. Hananiah means *"The Lord is gracious,"* and his name was changed to Shadrach, which means *"Command of Aku,"* (another Babylonian god).
3. Mishael means *"Who is Like the Lord?"* and was changed to Meshach, which means: *"Who Is What Aku Is?"*
4. Azariah, which means *"The Lord is my helper"* became Abednego, which means *"Servant of Nebo."* (Nebo was a god of vegetation.)

What a very wise and sneaky way to distance a person from his roots, by giving him a name that reminded him of his new identity and his affiliation with a new god.

Pretty soon, he will start to see himself as that new person, with a new label or identity. You might think "That can't possibly work," but these four Hebrew boys were not the first ones to whom the Babylonians did this. No, this was a tried and true method that had worked for them in the past - and it is one that is alive and well yet today, too.

We live in a culture that takes a follower of God, tries to strip him of his identity in Christ and replaces it with a label like "victim," "schizophrenic," "chemical disorder," "obsessive compulsive," "bipolar," or, the most prevalent one that has crept into so many churches - "addict."

Though the Bible says that believers are "filled with all the fullness of God," "sealed with the Holy Spirit," "heirs of the kingdom of heaven" and "beloved children of the Lord," psychiatrists of all persuasions scoff at these things **and, instead, inform people that they have an illness, disorder, or other problem and that medication and secular counseling are needed.**

My fear is that UNLIKE these four Hebrew boys, who knew who they were regardless of the names or identities they were given, many believers are starting to buy into these types of labels and see themselves not as God

does, but as man would. They are joining hands and hearts with those of the world in 12-step groups that place any "higher power" of one's choosing on equal status with God (or, in some cases, above God).

***But Daniel resolved that he would not defile himself** with the king's food, or with the wine that he drank. Therefore he asked the chief of the eunuchs to allow him not to defile himself. [Daniel 1:8](#)*

Daniel resolved not to defile himself with those things which were offered to idols; and we, too, must have that same resolve when the temptation is there to take our eyes off the Lord, our source for help, and turn to the world and the "experts." One of the first things the world will do is to begin to chip away at our faith and trust in God, and try to make Him appear SMALL and weak; but, the reality is that God is anything BUT small, weak, and in need of the wisdom or power of man to "help" Him.

To whom then will you compare me, that I should be like him? says the Holy One. Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength. Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint. [Isaiah 40:25-31](#)

There was a time in my life that I thought God was not enough for me and that His Son was insufficient to help me with the mess in which I was trapped. Like some of you, I turned to the world's ways of dealing with issues of the heart and I went to the experts in the world, who supposedly knew how to help deal with my struggles and the depression that was crushing me. **At the age of 16, I found myself in a psychiatrist's office listening to the counselor blame my parents for my problems and then I walked out with a couple of bottles of pills to help me with my "clinical depression" and also to help me sleep.**

I was so afraid of death and hell that I would force myself to stay awake at night for fear that someone would come and kill me. I continued to take various types of pills and to talk to therapists on and off for nearly half my life trying to "get healed," only to grow more discouraged and depressed, as a result.

But then something happened that changed everything. God came to me in my sin and drew me to the cross of His Son, where I saw the consequences of my sin and realized that, without Christ taking the penalty of that sin, I would spend an eternity in hell.

I could no longer make excuses and claim the reason I sinned was because I was suffering from "clinical depression" or "bipolar disorder." I now realized I was suffering

because of the SIN in my life and my total lack of faith in the Lord to not only save me from hell, but also save me from the lies that I once believed. It is when I went to the cross, repented of my sin and began to look for Jesus within the pages of Scripture that I no longer saw myself as a habitual sinner, but a saint, made so by God's sovereign grace.

Anxiety in a man's heart weighs him down, but a good word makes him glad.
[Proverbs 12:25](#)

It was when I stopped looking at myself, my will power, my self-esteem and, instead, opened up the "Good Word" and saw Christ that GLADNESS swooped into my heart. I realized I was not someone with any sort of mental illness, but someone whom God created just as He wanted me to be made.

I did not see myself as someone suffering from bipolar disorder, but someone who was chosen from before the foundation of the world to be a recipient of the grace and mercy of God, and as one forgiven through the cross of Jesus Christ.

*But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" **So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.*** [Galatians 4:4-7](#)

"No longer a slave, but a son!" Do you see it?

No longer a debtor or an "addict," **no longer** spiritually bankrupt, **no longer** someone who was perpetually walking any set of steps or in a continuing state of "recovery;" **no longer** someone suffering from any number of "mental illnesses," **and no longer** an object of God's wrath, but now an adopted child of God, an HEIR.

I love those who love me, and those who seek me diligently find me. Riches and honor are with me, enduring wealth and righteousness. My fruit is better than gold, even fine gold, and my yield than choice silver. I walk in the way of righteousness, in the paths of justice, granting an inheritance to those who love me, and filling their treasuries.
[Proverbs 8:17-21](#)

God fills our treasuries according to what He is able to provide but, keep in mind that God is a jealous God Who will not share His glory with another ([Isaiah 48:11](#)).

If you think you can take a little bit of God, add a little bit of will power, a little bit of pop psychology, a few drugs, and have it equal "freedom," then you are in for a rude awakening because

you will never find freedom in this way. The blessing you believe you seek will end up being a curse.

⁵ Thus says the Lord: "Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength, whose heart turns away from the Lord. ⁶ He is like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see any good come. He shall dwell in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land. [Jeremiah 17:5-6](#)

If we trust in something other than God to help us, it is a waste of time and an abomination to God - as much of a stench to Him as our "addiction" is.

*As for these four youths, God gave them learning and skill in all literature and wisdom, and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams. [Daniel 1:17](#) **The Bible says their skill and wisdom increased** and it was because GOD was where they turned for guidance and counsel, and nowhere else. And so it is with us.*

Friend, are you one who has been labeled by the world? Is your "identity" now in question, and are you confused about where to turn for help? May I encourage you to look only to the Creator of all life, the One Who has promised to never leave you or forsake you, to Jesus Christ the Redeemer, Who has promised to forgive all your sin?

Since He was willing to pay such a tremendous price through His death to save you from God's wrath, He does not need the strength of man to help save you from any perceived "disorders" you may be facing. Behold, I am the LORD, the God of all flesh. Is anything too hard for me? [Jeremiah 32:27](#)

Freed by grace, Shon Bruellman

Shon is the Executive Director of Setting Captives Free purity courses **Passages:** [Daniel 1:1-5](#) [Daniel 1:17](#) [Daniel 1:6-7](#) [Daniel 1:8](#) [Galatians 4:4-7](#) [Isaiah 40:25-31](#) [Jeremiah 17:5-6](#) [Jeremiah 32:27](#) [Proverbs 8:17-21](#) [Proverbs 12:25](#)
<http://www.settingcaptivesfree.com/resources/article/identity-disorder/>

NOTE and FYI: Whenever I am dealing with someone who is taking psychotropic drugs— I HAVE ZERO condemnation for them; but if there is an open door, I will encourage them to 'fight their battles' on all fronts— to start feeding faith. I never tell anyone to stop taking the drugs. That is not my place. I focus on encouraging them to start FEEDING FAITH by the Word of God and by fellowship with solid Christians. Sadly, too often I find them already in a 'zombie' state— waiting for the next drug, hoping that one will be found that will work for them; and I find them fully indoctrinated to their NEW PSYCHO IDENTITY.

Dangerous to start and Dangerous to stop!

Most psychiatric drugs can cause withdrawal reactions, sometimes including life-threatening emotional and physical withdrawal problems. **In short, it is not only dangerous to *start* taking psychiatric drugs; it can also be dangerous to *stop* them. Withdrawal from psychiatric drugs should be done carefully under experienced clinical supervision.** Methods for safely withdrawing from psychiatric drugs are discussed in Dr. Breggin's books, *Brain-Disabling Treatments in Psychiatry: Drugs, Electroshock and the Psychopharmaceutical Complex* (New York: Springer Publishing Company, 2008) and *Medication Madness: The Role of Psychiatric Drugs in Cases of Violence, Suicide and Crime* (New York: St. Martin's Press, 2008).

Click here: [PETERBREGGIN.COM](http://www.peterbreggin.com) <http://www.peterbreggin.com/>

The Situation

80% of all Americans have received some form of psychological services at some point in their lives.

Each year in the U.S., **15% of adults and 21% of children** see mental health professionals.

At least 25 million Americans take Prozac for their depression.

10 million children in America take at least one psychiatric drug.

40% of Americans (75 million adults) belong to at least one of **more than 3 million** support groups.

DID YOU KNOW...

1. **Mental disorders are NOT medical/physical conditions like cancer or diabetes?**
2. Every mental disorder is merely a list of observable behaviors given a label and voted into existence by the APA Board.
3. **No one can objectively prove you have a mental disorder?** Even the APA President admits that **no lab test exists** to prove the existence of depression, ADHD, bipolar, and every other mental disorder--no brain scan, no blood test, nothing.
4. **There is no reason to take a pill for a mental disorder, like you would for true medical/physical conditions?** The chemical-imbalance-in-the-brain theory has **never been proven** to cause mental disorders, despite popular belief and drug company marketing.
5. **Psychiatric drugs CAUSE chemical imbalances in the brain by disrupting normal brain chemicals?** Long-term use can cause permanent brain and organ damage.
6. **The FDA now admits antidepressants and ADHD drugs can CAUSE violent and suicidal behavior in children and adults! It is well-documented** that most school shooters and baby killers over the last two decades were on psychiatric drugs.

7. **Mental health screening, labeling and drugging of children is in almost every state in America?** School screening programs like TeenScreen label normal children with mental disorders, leading to dangerous psychiatric drugging.
8. Over time, more people improve **without psychotherapy** than with it.
9. Every major psychological theory is **anti-Christian** at its core.

Why America Needs *Psychology Debunked*

Millions are desperately searching for answers from psychology and psychiatry fields that have delivered nothing more than empty promises, high insurance bills and nasty side effects. Thanks to the massive psychology/psychiatry/pharmaceutical industries, what were **once normal childhood behaviors are now mental disorders** like ADHD. What were **once the normal feelings, sufferings and challenges of life, are now diseases** like depression, anxiety and bipolar.

Criminals with disorder pleas receive **psychological treatment sentences instead of jail time**. Our justice system increasingly rewards blame shifting and shuns personal responsibility, thanks in large part to psychological evaluations. Teachers and parents **dispense dangerous psychiatric drugs to misbehaving children** instead of giving them discipline, training and love. Help-seekers can get **permanent brain damage** from psychiatric medications recommended by their doctors, who are either duped or funded by drug companies. **Most help-seekers have no idea what psychiatric drugs could potentially do to them.**

We will see more school shootings and baby killings if schools and doctors' offices don't stop pushing psychiatric drugs in the name of mental help and suicide prevention. **Families suffer** from the psychological teachings of self-love, blame shifting and calling sinful behavior an uncontrollable disorder, disease or illness.

Churches shelve God, the Bible and prayer for psychologists, support/recovery groups and treatment programs, ignorant of the mental, physical and spiritual harm psychology and psychiatry bring. **Disorders, addictions, treatment and recovery have replaced sin, repentance, forgiveness and obedience**, short-circuiting psychologized Christians from the overcoming power God has for them. Psychologized Christians believe that the Bible and the Holy Spirit do not give them enough tools to live effectively, so they turn to psychology, claiming "all truth is God's truth," when in reality, **psychology is not a science of truth but a philosophy/religion that directly contradicts the Christian faith and contains no spiritual truth!** (from; <http://www.psychologydebunked.com/>)

SOUTHSIDE NEWS NOTES for April!

1. Ladies Bible Study— 'LORD, HEAL MY HURTS!'— Tuesdays @ 10:00AM! Call — 615-452-5951

2. WEDNESDAYS: PRAYER SERVICE at 7:00PM! / YOUTH: Wednesdays, 6-8pm @ Southside Church building!

3. **Thursdays** @ 6:30pm: OUTREACH 4. **Saturdays** @ 8am: Men's Fellowship/Bible Study

Sunday Schedule for April 21; 28, 2013

1. 9:30am- Sunday School

2. 10:45am- Morning Worship / Children's Church

3. Noon Fellowship Meal {Covered Dish}

4. 1:00pm Early Afternoon Service [LORD'S SUPPER, 4/21]

[REMEMBER: 4/28/13 @ 1:00pm in Auditorium → we gather for a Church family CONVERSATION about our facilities and various ministries.]