

	<b>Secular Psychology</b>	<b>“Christian” Psychology</b>	<b>Biblical Anthropology</b>
<b>Nature</b>	Basically good and innocent. Given proper environment and education he will flower into a well-adjusted adult.	Basically infected with the sin of low self-esteem. He sins because he believes he is bad.	Basically sinful. Given the chance will choose the selfish, easy & foolish way instead of God’s way. Without godly intervention life-long sinful attitudes & actions will dominate him. (Pro. 22:6; 29:15)
<b>Character</b>	Fragile and extremely impressionistic. Negative events can damage “psyches” for life.	Same as secular. Negative events mark a child with permanent damage. “Children Are Wet Cement.”	Stubborn, willful & resilient. Negative events not beyond God’s graces or help for righteous living. Man controlled by sinful desires. (Ps. 51:5, 58:3; Ek. 18:20)
<b>Maturity</b>	Inhibited by feelings of inadequacy. These feelings may also cause abnormal or anti-social behavior.	Same as secular. Maturity is when a child learns to love himself, God and others in that order. Self-affirmation is a sign of maturity.	Inhibited by sin. Maturity is achieved when a child is practicing godliness through self-discipline. Proper self-denial is a sign of maturity. (Mt. 16:24; Heb. 5:13-14)
<b>Confidence</b>	Self-confidence is the goal. The child must learn to tap all of his inner potential and feel good about himself.	Confidence comes from realizing that Jesus died for him because God saw he was worth dying for. A child has infinite worth because he is born in the image of God.	A child must be taught that self cannot be trusted. Confidence comes from testing every thought and attitude with God’s Word to bring him into obedience to Jesus Christ (Ps. 71:5-6; 2 Cor. 10:5b)
<b>Freedom</b>	Is the absence of restraint of rules. Giving the child permission to express himself as he wishes and without consequence. He must be free to find himself.	Is found in realizing he is a child of God. Because he is a child of God he deserves only the best. We live under grace, not law.	Is found in living by God’s standards and laws. These laws of living are fundamental to be all God created us to be. God’s commands are always liberating because they teach self-control. (Jn. 8:32; Tit. 2:4-6)
<b>Discipline</b>	Spanking teaches violence. Teach a child to love himself. Affirm him, stroke him. The goal is a well-behaved child. Wants the child to feel good about himself. He did a bad thing, but he is not bad.	Affirm him; stroke him to build the child’s self esteem. Negative discipline is suspect and potentially harmful. Spank only when other forms of punishment do not work. Goal is a well-behaved child. Also wants the child to feel good about himself.	The proper use of the rod is an act of love to teach self-control & consequences for wrong decisions in life. You want the child to acknowledge he is bad. Then minister the gospel of grace. Other forms of discipline can be used with verbal & physical rewards. Never to build self-esteem. Goal is to be a God-pleasing parent. (Pr. 13:24; Ep. 6:4; He. 12:11)
<b>Chores</b>	Are assigned to develop feelings of competence, pride, self-satisfaction, and to build a better self-image.	Same as the secular. The more a child is pleased with himself the more he will do for God.	Are assigned to learn responsibility, obedience and satisfaction in pleasing God. (Pro. 18:9; Col. 3:20; 2 Thess. 3:10)