

“[The Bereans] . . . searched the scriptures daily,

[to see] whether those things were so.” —Acts 17:11

## Psychology and Psychotherapy (part 1)

Dr. Martin & Deidre Bobgan and T. A. McMahon

ACCORDING TO THE *Merriam-Webster Dictionary*, psychology is “the science of mind and behavior.” Is psychology a science? Well, yes and no, depending on one’s understanding of the term “science.” If one views the study of psychology as simply the pursuit of the knowledge of human behavior, some are satisfied with its definition as a science. Yet that rather vague meaning is far removed from real scientific knowledge gained through a scientific methodology that involves objective observation, evidence, hypotheses testing, induction, repetition, and verification, and ultimately resulting in a commonly accepted cumulative knowledge. Psychology differs greatly, for example, from the sciences of astronomy, physics, chemistry, geology, and biology, the knowledge of which has been amassed through objective means.

Psychology hints at being a science but has failed to produce a significant body of information to prove itself in that way. Its primary emphasis is on human behavior, which can’t be quantified in any meaningful manner. The nature of human choices is extremely subjective, involving emotions, values, and consciousness—none of which can be measured; nor can the mind, being a nonphysical part of the human makeup. The issue of whether or not psychology is a science wouldn’t be worth debating except that just the term “science” carries a great weight of influence. Legitimate or not, the “science” label impresses the masses.

Nearly 100 disciplines of psychology cover a wide spectrum of undertakings, from applied behavior analysis to transpersonal psychology. Psychotherapy, i.e., psychological counseling or clinical psychology, is the most prevalent. Americans spend more than \$200 billion a year attempting to have their mental and emotional disorders cured, usually through psychotherapy.

Psychotherapy, “also called ‘talk therapy’ or just plain ‘therapy,’ is a process whereby psychological problems are treated through communication and relationship factors between an individual and a trained mental health professional.”<sup>1</sup> Psychotherapy is *psychoheresy*. Its subtle deception opens the door to other deceptions, replacing and/or adding unproven, unscientific opinions of men to the Word of God, thus taking away from absolute confidence in the biblical truth about God.

Psychoheresy denies the sufficiency of Scripture for issues of the mind, soul, and will. This intrusion of psychological notions stems from the wisdom of men and reaches into the preaching and practices of Christianity, especially in terms of man’s nature, how he’s to live, and how he changes. It’s imperative that we examine how these psychological ideas can deceive Christians. Turning to psychotherapy for the problems of living undermines a believer’s faith regarding matters of the soul. Once a person moves away from faith in the inerrant, authoritative, sufficient Word of God, he’s open to deceptions from many realms.

Psychotherapy is based on theories of personality that are simply unproved opinions originating from atheists, agnostics, and other non-Christians. These theories aren’t like scientific theories.

They’re simply collections of unscientific, secular, and, in many cases, anti-Christian beliefs that often contradict one another. The therapy itself is simply “talk,” which includes talking about the client and the client’s problems and helping the client to see himself/herself from the perspective of whatever particular theory is being used by the therapist. Psychotherapy (psychological counseling) is the most subjective and therefore the most deceptive branch of psychology.

“Syncretism” is “the combination of different forms of belief or practice.” It’s one of Satan’s most deceptive and appealing techniques, devised to destroy true faith and undermine the Christian’s confidence in God’s Word and dependence on Christ. Psychotherapy and its underlying psychologies are actually religious in nature and practice. They’re like oil and water! The euphemism for this kind of syncretism is “integration,” which occurs when two or more ideas or systems are combined. However, psychotherapeutic beliefs cannot truly be integrated with Scripture. One works with the old man of the flesh (carnal); the other works with the new man in Christ (spiritual). They’re at enmity with each other, just as the flesh and the Spirit are contrary to each other (Gal. 5:17) and just as the carnal man is at enmity with God (Rom. 8:7). They can’t mix, because they’re enemies just as the idols of the nations around Israel were at enmity with God.

Christians who mix psychology and the Bible aren’t practicing and promoting ordinary integration but rather religious syncretism, overlaying their psychology with the Bible. This ultimately disguises the psychological religious systems they’re using, and then this psycho-syncretism subverts and subtracts from the faith. The “integrating” of psychology and Christianity appeals to those Christians who believe that what is being discovered about the mind, the will, and the emotions is *science*—that it’s part of God’s creation yet to be discovered in the same way that discoveries have been made in physics, chemistry, and biology. Since psychology misrepresents itself as a science, and psychotherapeutic ideas are organized into theories, many pastors don’t even realize that these scientific-sounding theories are simply another competing belief system.

Instead of knowledge being added to knowledge with more recent discoveries resting on a body of solid information, in this case, one system contradicts another, one set of opinions is exchanged for another, and one set of techniques replaces another. Psychotherapy changes along with current cultural trends. Just the knowledge that there is an accumulation of about 500 separate psychotherapeutic systems, each claiming superiority, should discourage anyone from thinking that so many diverse opinions could be scientific or even factual. Psychotherapy and its underlying psychologies are amassed in confusion, with their pseudoknowledge and pseudotheories resulting in pseudoscience.

The dream of a scientific study of human nature and a scientific method of treating unacceptable behavior was most alluring. The hoped-for science of behavior promised much to those who had been struggling to unravel the vast complexities of individual personalities in equally complex circumstances. Thus, through study and imagination, psychologists pursued the dream of

discovering scientific methods of observing, explaining, and transforming human behavior.

Clinical psychology and its active arm of psychotherapy have indeed adopted the scientific posture. However, from a strictly scientific point of view they haven't been able to meet the requirements. In attempting to evaluate the status of psychology, the American Psychological Association appointed Sigmund Koch to plan and direct a study that was subsidized by the National Science Foundation. This examination involved eighty eminent scholars in assessing the facts, theories, and methods of psychology. The results of this extensive endeavor were then published in a seven-volume series entitled *Psychology: A Study of a Science*.<sup>2</sup>

Koch describes the delusion of people regarding psychology as a science: "*The hope of a psychological science became indistinguishable from the fact of psychological science. The entire subsequent history of psychology can be seen as a ritualistic endeavor to emulate the forms of science in order to sustain the delusion that it already is a science*"<sup>3</sup> (italics his).

Koch says: "Throughout psychology's history as 'science,' *the hard knowledge it has deposited has been uniformly negative*"<sup>4</sup> (italics his). He contends that much of psychology is not a cumulative or progressive discipline in which knowledge is added to knowledge. Rather, what is discovered by one generation "typically disenfranchises the theoretical fictions of the past." Instead of refining and specifying larger generalizations of the past, psychologists are busy replacing them. He adds, "I think it by this time utterly and finally clear that *psychology cannot be a coherent science*"<sup>5</sup> (italics his). Koch suggests, "As the beginning of a therapeutic humility, we might re-christen *psychology* and speak instead of *the psychological studies*"<sup>6</sup> (italics his). And he would certainly criticize psychotherapy for living under "the delusion that it already is a science" when it is not.<sup>7</sup>

Another reason why psychotherapy cannot legitimately be called a coherent science is because it attempts to deal with deep human complexities that can't be directly observed or consistently predicted. Furthermore, the therapist and client are each individually unique, and their interaction lends an additional dimension of variability. When one adds time and changing circumstances, it's no wonder that the therapeutic relationship escapes the rigors of science. In considering the dilemma between science and personal individuality, Dr. Gordon Allport says: "The Individual, whatever else he may be, is an internally consistent and unique organization of bodily and mental processes. But since he is unique, science finds him an embarrassment. Science, it is said, deals only with broad, preferably universal, laws.... Individuality cannot be studied by science, but only by history, art, or biography."<sup>8</sup>

We could add that the individual not only escapes the formulas of science, but also defies the descriptions of literature. Nevertheless, if one must choose between the two, it appears that literature has more ably revealed human beings. Language describes the complexities of individuality far better than formulas. Language and literature, rather than personality theories and psychotherapy, better portray human nature and provide a glimpse into the depths of the soul, but it is the Bible that best portrays and gives accurate truth about mankind.

There are subtleties and similarities between certain ideas from psychology and Christianity that increase the vulnerability for one to begin thinking and ministering psychologically rather than biblically. The deceitful heart finds its friendliest friend in a psychologized gospel, where the sinful nature of man is given free reign and where sinful speaking can be expressed without restriction, questioning, or proof. That is why Christians must spend time in the Word and in prayer instead of looking for answers to life's dilemmas outside Scripture and the church. Again, psychotherapy and its underlying psychologies *are not science*. They are human speculations about the soul, with a pseudo-scientific façade.

There has been so much searching outside of Scripture to find ways to minister to suffering saints that a whole cadre of psychologically trained (or at least psychologically tainted) professionals and lay counselors are prepared to minister the ways of men and the wisdom of men along with Scriptures that appear to support their practice. This is syncretism. Others guilty of false integration are: (1) Christian schools and seminaries that positively promote the use of counseling psychology and/or prepare individuals to become licensed as psychotherapists, especially Christian schools that have programs accredited by the American Psychological Association (APA), (2) pastors or others who promote and affirm those psychological ideas and/or refer congregants to psychotherapists, (3) authors and organizations that promote a psychological understanding of man, (4) professing Christians who are deeply committed to this "integration," which comes from not believing that Scripture is sufficient for life and godliness (2 Pet 1:3).

The delusion nevertheless continues despite this disclosure by members of the Christian Association for Psychological Studies, a group that includes psychologists and psychological counselors who are professing Christians: "We are often asked if we are 'Christian psychologists' and find it difficult to answer since we don't know what the question implies. We are Christians who are psychologists, but at the present time there is no acceptable Christian psychology that is markedly different from non-Christian psychology. It is difficult to imply that we function in a manner that is fundamentally distinct from our non-Christian colleagues...."<sup>9</sup>

We are not questioning the faith of Christians who, as psychotherapists, pastors, and church leaders, support psychotherapy and clinical psychology. We are critical, however, of their practice and support for these activities that deny the sufficiency of Scripture. The Word is true; the theories and practices of psychotherapy that speak in place of God's written Word and its promises are counterfeits. This *psychologizing of the faith* has come to full flower so that those who know better will not for the sake of the Gospel do better. There are many pastors and church leaders who believe as we do regarding psychotherapy but will not make an issue of this false religious compromise of true faith in God's Word. We have often challenged Christians who believe as we do regarding psychotherapy to ask their pastors if they have any problem with referring those with life issues to a psychotherapist.

Psychoheresy deceives the soul. O. Hobart Mowrer, in his book titled *The Crisis in Psychiatry and Religion*, asks a penetrating question: "Has evangelical religion sold its birthright for a mess of psychological pottage?"<sup>10</sup> Christians need to take an objective, hard look at their birthright and the mess of psychological pottage. Without a firm hold on the Word of God they will be led astray and more so as deception will increase exponentially in the days preceding Christ's return.

When asked about the time of His return, Jesus said: "Take heed that no man deceive you." How deeply deceived might those Christians be after seeking help from psychotherapy and its underlying psychologies? How will they be able to discover how much they are deceived, if they have already mixed deceptive psychological notions and nonsense into their understanding of the Bible? Twice in the book of Proverbs (14:12; 16:25) we're told that there's a way (the world's way) that seems right to a man, but it is separated from God's truth and leads to death.

Nearly all of those who believe they've been helped by psychological counseling eventually recognize that their mental and emotional problems have neither been resolved nor lessened. In part II of this series, we'll address the myth of psychological counseling being efficacious and the value of ministering God's way through the sufficiency of His Word and the enablement of the Holy Spirit (2 Peter 1:3).

TBC

# QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Submit your own questions to: PO Box 7019 • Bend, OR 97708

or e-mail: [editorial@thebereanall.org](mailto:editorial@thebereanall.org)

**QUESTION:** You emphasize that salvation is based on the fact that Christ “paid the penalty for our sins.” *Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance* has no entry for “penalty,” nor did Jesus or the apostles ever mention that a penalty for our sins was paid. If I ask fellow Christians where to find this view in the Bible, either they don’t know the answer or they imply that I’m not saved. I pose that question to you.

**RESPONSE:** Nor is the word “trinity” found in either the Bible or *Strong’s*, yet it’s a basic teaching of Scripture. Was not the casting of Adam and Eve out of the Garden a penalty for their sin? Isn’t the death that came upon Adam and Eve and all of their descendants to this day also a penalty for sin that would continue in eternal separation from God without His pardon? In declaring, “the soul that sinneth, it shall die (Eze 18:13, 20); sin bringeth forth death (Jas 1:15); the strength of sin is the law” (1 Cor 15:56), isn’t Scripture saying that death is the penalty for sin? Does not a penalty have to be paid? Granted, the Bible nowhere uses that exact terminology about Christ paying the penalty for sin. But isn’t that what’s implied when it says, “He was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed” (Is 53:5), or “Christ died for our sins” (1 Cor 15:3), or “that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man” (Heb 2:9), as well as in many similar verses? If death is the penalty for sin and Christ died for all, then surely He paid the penalty in full for all of us, or we would have to pay [it] ourselves. Our salvation is a matter of God’s justice, “that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man” (Heb 2:9), et al. Our salvation is a matter of God’s justice, “that he [God] might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus” (Rom 3:26).

I don’t understand your objection to saying that the penalty was paid. Wasn’t the force of Christ’s triumphant cry from the cross, “It is finished [*tetelestai*]” (Jn 19:30), meaning “paid in full”? I am grateful that Christ paid the full penalty for my sins so that God can be just in pardoning me, the sinner! There is no other means of salvation.

**QUESTION:** We’re told that “one day is with the LORD as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day” (2 Pt 3:8); and that “a thousand years in thy sight are but as yesterday when it is past, and as a watch in the night” (Ps 90:4). Is there any special prophetic significance that might tell us how close we are to the LORD’s return?

**RESPONSE:** There is no prophetic significance. The phrases “with the LORD” and “in thy sight” are the keys to understanding this rather simple and straightforward declaration: God is outside of time and therefore, in relation to Him, time is meaningless. Thus Paul can say that we are already seated “together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus” (Eph 2:6). God, being independent of time, sees not only what to us is past but also our present and future as having already happened. Thus His foreknowledge of what in our experience hasn’t yet occurred would have no effect upon its happening and would leave us free to make genuine choices.

Here is what John Wesley said in a sermon more than 200 years ago: “There is no such thing as either foreknowledge or afterknowledge in God. All time, or rather all eternity (for time is only that small fragment of eternity which is allotted to the children of men), being present to God at once, He does not know one thing from another, or one thing after another; but sees all things in one point of view, from everlasting to everlasting. As all time, with everything that

exists therein, is preset with Him at once, so he sees at once whatever was, is, or will be to the end of time” (John Wesley, *Sermons on Several Occasions*, 1833, p. 39).

**QUESTION:** What did Paul mean when he said that he and the other Apostles were “the last appointed unto death”? Did that mean that no one else after them would ever be martyred for their faith? If so, he was wrong.

**RESPONSE:** Paul wasn’t wrong when he wrote these words: “For I think that God hath set forth us the apostles last, as it were appointed to death: for we are made a spectacle unto the world, and to angels, and to men” (1 Cor 4:9). Some argue that Paul and the other Apostles thought that the Rapture would occur in their day. Not so. Although he taught believers to *expect* the Rapture at any moment (Php 3:20-21; 1 Thess 1:9-10; Titus 2:13, etc.), Paul knew that he would be martyred before it occurred: “For I know...that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in...” (Acts 20:29); “For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand” (2 Tm 4:6). Likewise, Peter wrote, “Knowing that shortly I must put off this my tabernacle...I will endeavor that ye may be able after my decease to have these things always in remembrance” (2 Pt 1:14-15). The Apostles didn’t expect to be raptured but knew they must each die for their LORD.

Christ declared that His disciples in all ages would be hated by the world and would suffer the same as He had at its hands (Jn 15:18-21); Paul implied that Christians would continue to suffer martyrdom (Rom 8:35-37) and warned that “all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution” (2 Tm 3:12). We know that has been the case throughout history, and even greater numbers of believers will be killed by Antichrist (Rv 6:9-11; 13:7, 15; 20:4). Obviously Paul did not mean that the Apostles were the last who would be martyred for Christ. They were the last who were “appointed unto death,” i.e., who must die for Christ. Their lives would have been spared had they denied Christ. No one is fool enough to die for what he knows is a lie. The fact that not one of the disciples retracted anything to save his life is powerful evidence of the validity of the Gospels and the Book of Acts. It was thus essential that they die as martyrs, and they were the last upon whom that necessity was imposed.

**QUESTION:** The Apostles’ Creed says that Jesus “descended into hell.” I’ve read your rejection of the Hagan/Copeland teaching that Jesus was tortured in hell by Satan. Did Jesus descend into hell or not? I searched the Scriptures and have no answer.

**RESPONSE:** The word *sheol*, “place of the dead,” is translated “hell” or sometimes as “grave.” In telling the fate of the rich man and Lazarus, Jesus taught that before the Cross, there were two compartments in sheol: one for the lost, and one for the saved, called “Abraham’s bosom” (Lk 16:22). To the latter Christ went in death, as did the thief crucified with Him to whom He said, “Today shalt thou be with me in paradise” (Lk 23:43). There He proclaimed to the redeemed the good news of His death having paid for their sins. Those in sheol could hear what Jesus said (see Lk 16:23-31); and He may even have addressed a few words to them. Thus Peter writes, “He preached to the spirits in prison [sheol]; which sometime were disobedient...” (1 Pt 3:19-20). After His resurrection, Jesus took the souls and spirits of the redeemed to heaven (“he led captivity captive” [Eph 4:8]). Now the souls and spirits of the redeemed upon death go immediately to be with Christ (“absent from the body, present with the Lord” [2 Cor 5:6-8]), when He will bring them to rejoin their resurrected bodies at the Rapture (1 Thess 4:13-18).

# LETTERS

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## Dear Fellow Bereans,

Thanks for being committed to God's Word. I have wished to defend you from the person who told you to stick with what you know best, i.e., the apostasy, though you probably need no defense. So much of the newsletters' content has spoken to me, whether it was pertaining to the apostasy or not.

Though I know it is time [and space] consuming, I appreciate it when you type out the whole verses. It shines God's light on the subject instantly. It really helps to get His scriptures into my mind and heart even more. "The word shall not depart out of thy mouth..." BH (MT)

## Dear T. A. and Staff,

Thanks for this April newsletter. It's always a blessing to me when I receive your newsletter. They usually support what I have been taught by the Holy Spirit. I especially liked the TBC Notes: "The Cost of Being a Berean." I continue to pray that you stick to the truth... MT (NY)

## Dear TBC,

We preach Christ crucified because it brings believers back to the Cross and the real Lord Jesus Christ. Then the Holy Spirit can work mightily in one's life (Romans 8:2). It wouldn't hurt to wrap your messages around the Gospel. Sometimes you have, but not every time [do you] put the message of the Cross in. It's the Power of God. GB (CA)

## Dear Brethren,

As I see it, there is no greater need than the truth of God's Word and for this reason I want to share my increase with your much needed and appreciated ministry. I don't have internet access and therefore cannot in any manner participate in online programming or live streaming, but I've been receiving *The Berean Call* for a number of years, and I am most grateful for your outreach to us who are looked upon as outcasts by society.

## TBC NOTES

### Many, Clear, and Simple

This month and next month's feature articles address the reasons why psychotherapy (psychological counseling) is not good for biblical Christians—those who have believed the gospel, who have received the gift of salvation, and who are indwelt by the Holy Spirit.

The reasons for rejecting psychotherapy are many, they are very clear, and they are not complex according to the Scriptures. Consider just Psalm one. *Believers are not to walk in the counsel of the ungodly.* Furthermore, we are to study God's Word and apply it to our lives. That is the lifestyle that will yield godly fruit, be a blessing to others, and is pleasing to Jesus, our Lord and Savior. It's not complicated, and requires only our willingness to obey Him.

T. A. McMAHON

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I've not been able to afford to purchase books in years, but in your kindness, your ministry has provided me with these learning materials, which I credit as a great help in giving aid to my understanding of God's Word. RW (IN, prisoner)

## Dear Berean Call,

We have been getting your newsletter for many years and have had the privilege of meeting both Dave and Tom on their visits to Australia. Your newsletters are much appreciated as you print the Truth of God's Word. Keep up the good work, and as you bless others with your newsletter, God will continue to bless you all. AM (Australia)

## QUOTABLE.....

"For thou art my rock and my fortress: therefore for thy name's sake lead me, and guide me" (Psalm 31:3)

When you are wounded and stricken, seek refuge in God's abiding presence. Carry your burdens to Him. Pour your heaped-up troubles on Him. He understands, my precious friend, when the heart is apparently gone out of you. God pities you, as a father does his little child. The gentleness of a mother is harsh compared with the gentleness of God.

When perplexities and troubles come, go to Jesus. Listen as He says, "Let not your heart be troubled..." (John 14:1). He will guide you by His sympathy. He will guide!

The prophet Isaiah shared with us a spiritual secret with these comforting words, "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee" (Isaiah 26:3).

—OSWALD CHAMBERS

## END NOTES.....

- 1 <https://psychcentral.com/lib/what-is-psychotherapy/>.
- 2 Sigmund Koch, ed., *Psychology: A Study of a Science* (New York: McGraw-Hill, 1959-63).
- 3 Sigmund Koch, "The Image of Man in Encounter Groups," *The American Scholar*, Autumn 1973, 636.
- 4 Sigmund Koch, "Psychology Cannot Be a Coherent Science," *Psychology Today*, September 1969, 66.
- 5 Ibid., 66.
- 6 Ibid., 67.
- 7 Koch, "The Image of Man in Encounter Groups," op. cit., 636.
- 8 Gordon Allport, *Pattern and Growth in Personality* (New York: Holt, Rinehart & Winston, Inc., 1961), 8-9.
- 9 Sutherland, P. and P. Poelstra, "Aspects of Integration" (Paper presented at the meeting of the Western Association of Christians for Psychological Studies, Santa Barbara, CA, June 1976).
- 10 O. Hobart Mowrer, *The Crisis in Psychiatry and Religion* (Princeton, NJ: D. Van Nostrand Co., Inc., 1961), 60.

The Bobgans website is: [www.psychoheresy-aware.org](http://www.psychoheresy-aware.org)

# NEWSWATCH

News stories are selected for reader awareness and as an exercise  
in discerning the times from a biblical perspective.

## DOJ HELPS CHRISTIAN WHO FLED CHINA

**ONE NEWS NOW.COM, 11/14/17, "DOJ HELPS CHRISTIAN WHO FLED CHINA" [EXCERPTS]:** A persecuted Christian who fled China is now safe in America after the Trump administration reviewed his case.

Ting Xue, who was beaten and imprisoned by Chinese interrogators, escaped his homeland for America. But a federal appeals court bizarrely ruled that it's not religious persecution when a person has to practice their faith in private to avoid punishment.

In May, Pacific Justice Institute (PJI) filed a friend-of-the-court brief asking the U.S. Supreme Court to review the ruling....But the high court didn't have to rule on the appeal....after Jeff Sessions took over the Department of Justice as attorney general. After re-opening the case, the DOJ remanded it to the Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA), which interprets and applies U.S. immigration laws, and which granted asylum to Xue.

[A] story about Xue...describes how he was arrested as part of an underground church...The story goes on to explain that a federal judge suggested that Xue was not persecuted for his faith—only restricted to certain conditions.

"The whole point of religious freedom is that you're free to practice as publicly or privately as you see fit. You don't have to stay in the closet that so many countries have succeeded in pushing Christians into," says Dacus. "We are thrilled that the BIA made the right decision to not throw Ting back into the lion's den."

(<https://goo.gl/Ei3NsA>)

## POLYGAMY—THE NEW MARRIAGE BATTLE?

**ANSWERS IN GENESIS.ORG, 11/30/17, "POLYGAMY—THE NEW MARRIAGE BATTLE?" [EXCERPTS]:** "Monogamy clearly isn't working as divorce rates are higher than they've ever been. It's time to try something else." And that something else, apparently, is polygamy, as this quote comes from the home page of Polygamy.com, a dating website for men seeking another wife or women seeking a man who is already married. And this isn't the only dating website out there for aspiring polygamists....

A lengthy article re-featured recently by CNN, titled "When Three Isn't a

Crowd," tells the stories of several polyamorous individuals. Polyamory is defined in the article as "having simultaneous close emotional relationships with two or more other individuals," and one of the polyamorists featured in the article claims, "we're trying to promote the fact that everyone has a right to develop a relationship structure that works for them."

[AIG has] been saying for years, along with many Christian leaders, that once you redefine marriage to allow for gay "marriage" (a perversion of God's original design) as many Western countries have done in the past years, you open the door for anything (and everything) else....And for Christians who have already compromised on God's Word and affirmed gay "marriage," how can you say that polygamy or polyamory goes against God's design when you've already rejected God's clear definition of marriage?

Our culture is very confused about the issue of marriage, and it will only continue to become more confused. Once a culture has abandoned God's Word as the foundation, moral chaos ensues as everyone does what's right in their own eyes (Judges 21:25).

But when we start with God's Word, beginning in Genesis, we have answers and the true foundation for our worldview and conduct. There are standards for marriage because God created marriage and defined it as between one man and one woman for life.

(<https://goo.gl/scxHFX>)

## HAMAS: "WE WILL NEVER RECOGNIZE ISRAEL"

**FRIENDS OF ISRAEL.ORG, 11/17/17, "HAMAS REITERATES: WE WILL NEVER RECOGNIZE ISRAEL" [EXCERPTS]:** A spokesman for Hamas reiterated on [November 15] that the terror group that rules the Gaza Strip will never recognize Israel's right to exist, a firm prerequisite for peace.

Sami Abu Zuhri insisted that Hamas would remain true to its principles and work for the realization of national reconciliation and unify the Palestinian people to their agenda of "liberating" every last inch of the Holy Land.

The remarks were made at the opening session of the 26th International Conference of the Association of Islamic Organizations (ESAM) in Istanbul.

(<https://goo.gl/ZwhZu8>)

## THE BEREAN CALL

Founder: Dave Hunt  
Executive Director: T. A. McMahon

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