

# MEDICAL ISSUES IN COUNSELING

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## I. REASONS FOR ILLNESS

### A. General

The Fall – Genesis 3.

### B. Specific

#### 1. Personal Sin

- ◆ Natural consequences of sin
- ◆ Unbiblical responses to life.

#### 2. Divine Purposes

The glory of God

John 9:1-4

**God's purposes are more important than getting well.**

## II. RESPONSES TO LIFE

What happens physically?

### A. Controls are created by God.

1. Automatic
2. Reflexes.

### B. Controls may be influenced by responses to life.

1. Physical symptoms can result
2. Diseases already present can be aggravated

Terminology—psychosomatic; mind/body connection

Or...spiritual/physical problem.

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Medical treatment?

- ◆ Medicine
- ◆ Assertiveness Training
- ◆ Stress Management
- ◆ Placebos

The problem is not your problem—it is your response to those problems.

## III. RIGHT RESPONSE TO ILLNESS

- A. Evaluate for reasons
  - a. Just due to living in a fallen world?
  - b. Sin engendered?
  - c. Divine Purpose?
  - d. Glorify God?
  
- B. Ask the right question:

*How can this illness be used to glorify God?*

- ◆ Recognize truth of John 9:3.
- ◆ Evaluate personal goals.
- ◆ 2 Cor. 12:9-10.
- ◆ James 1:2-4.
- ◆ Rom. 8:28-29; Gen. 50:20; Job 2:10
- ◆ 1 Cor. 10:13

**God always promises *victory*...not necessarily *deliverance*.**

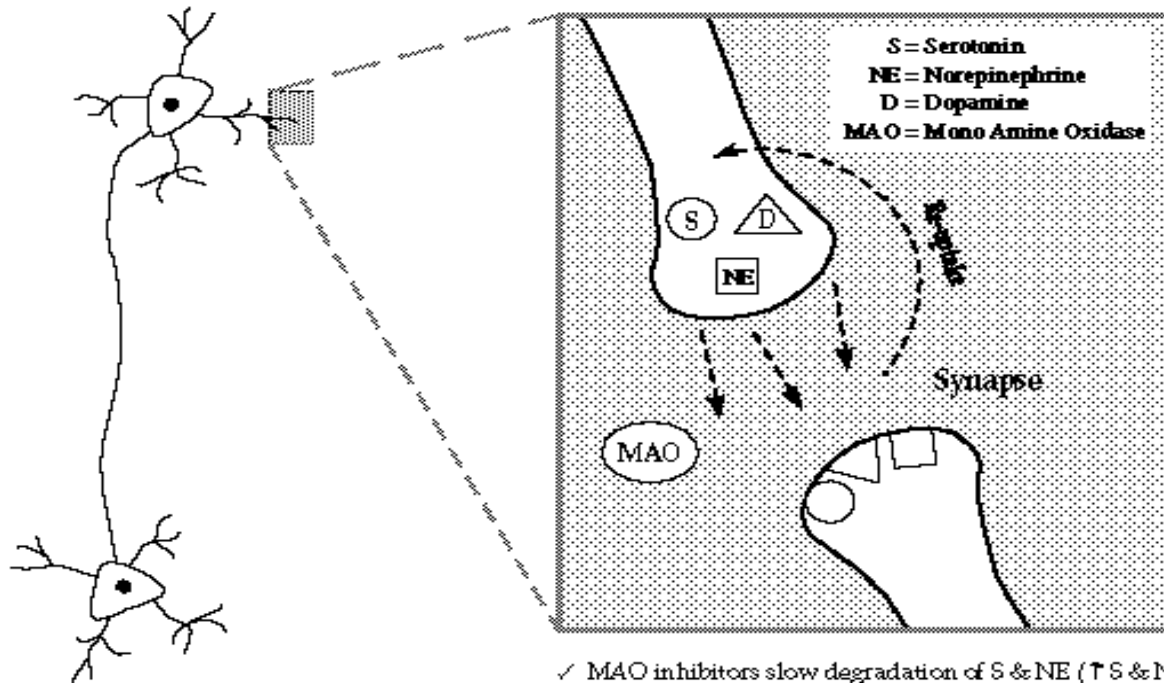
**You must be responsible no matter how you feel.**

What if I have something medicine hasn't discovered?

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## IV. THE THEORY OF CHEMICAL IMBALANCE



- ✓ MAO inhibitors slow degradation of S & NE (↑ S & NE)
- ✓ Tricyclics block re-uptake of S & NE (↑ S & NE)
- ✓ Prozac blocks re-uptake of Serotonin

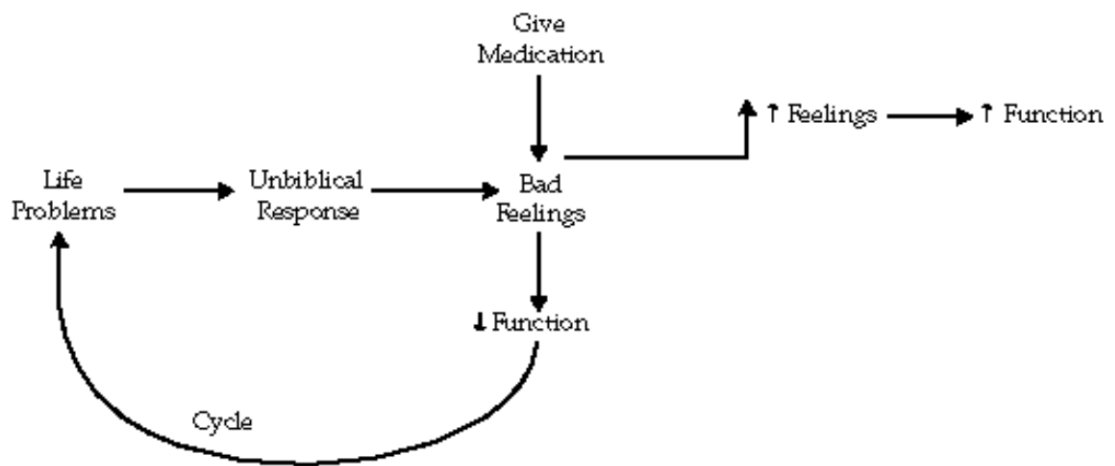
Which comes first: depression or imbalance?

Do drugs work? (Define "work.")

Placebo effect

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Questions to ask physicians who claim a physical problem (like chemical imbalance) is producing emotional or behavioral problems.

1. What tests were run to prove a physical problem is present?

How do those tests prove the presence?

Is the condition a proven, demonstrable fact, or simply a theory?

2. How do you know the diagnosed physical problem is the cause of the emotional or behavioral actions of the person?

Is the link a proven, demonstrable fact, or simply a theory?

3. What proof do you have that the medicine you are recommending corrects the physical problem?