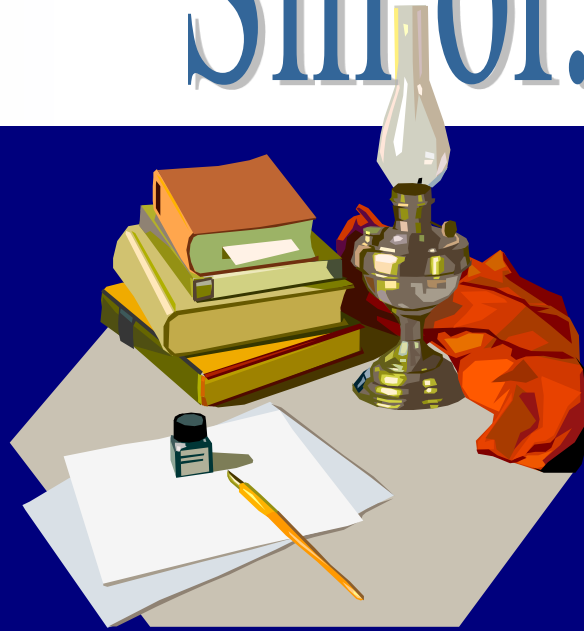


Sin or..Sickness?



Ministering to the Physically Ill

Dr. John D. Street



Physical and Spiritual Aspects of Counseling

A. Reasons for sickness

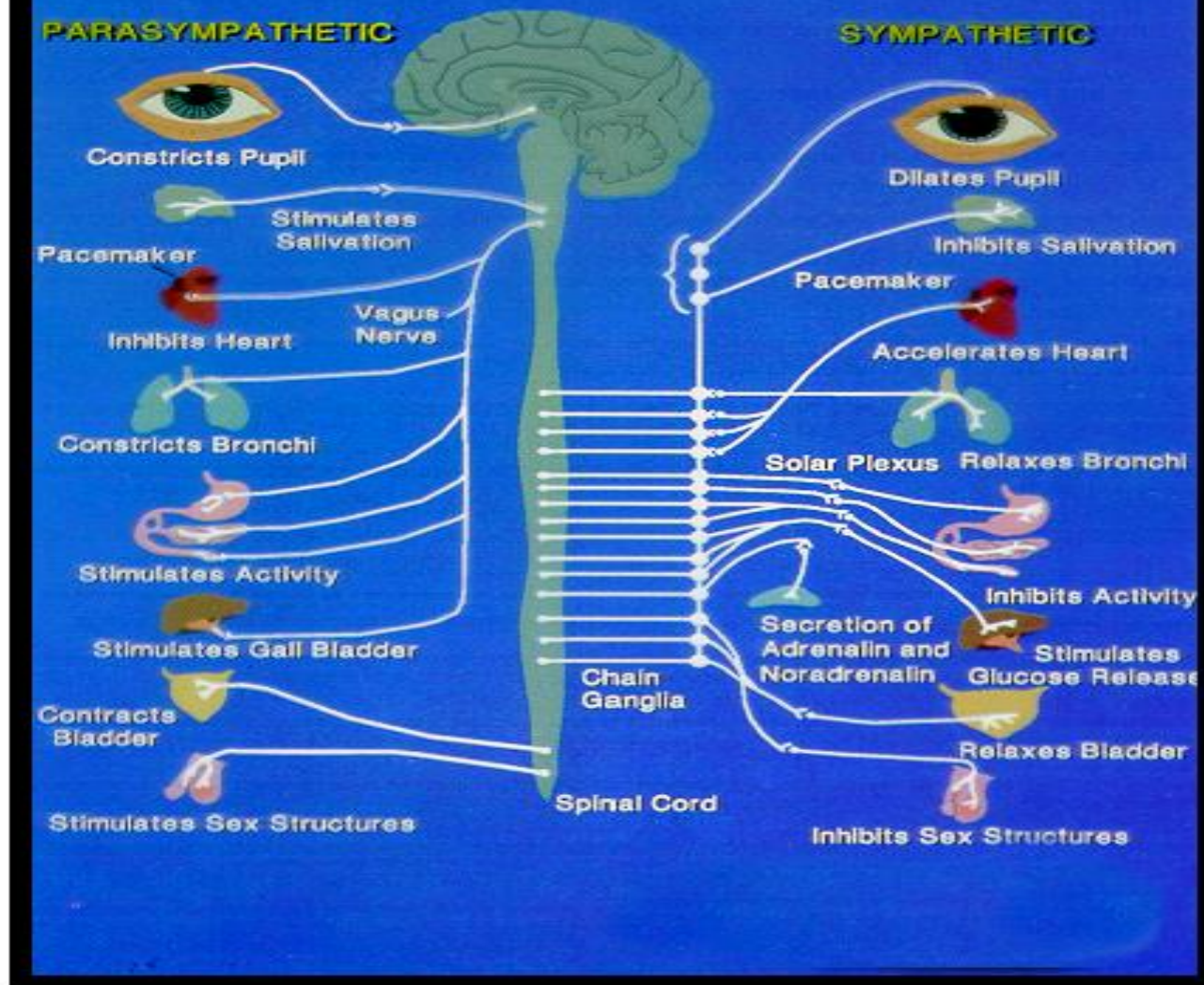
1. Sin (Genesis 3; Romans 5; Hebrews 9:27)
2. Sin engendered (James 5:15-16)
 - a. Natural consequences of sin
 - b. Unbiblical responses to life
3. Prevention of sin (2 Corinthians 12:7)
4. Glorification of God (John 9:1-4)



Physical and Spiritual Aspects of Counseling

- B. Responses to Life May Produce Sickness
 - 1. Controls created by God
 - a. Automatic—hormones (basic supply and demand)
 - b. Reflexes—certain stimulus

The Autonomic Nervous System



Physical and Spiritual Aspects of Counseling

2. Controls may be influenced by responses to life (i.e. problems in life)
 - a. Produces physical symptoms
 - b. Psychosomatic
 - c. Frequency





Physical and Spiritual Aspects of Counseling

3. Responses may aggravate diseases already present
 - a. Frequency—25-30% of patients
 - b. Medical treatment—medicine to slow down brain stimulus to the organ. Placebo affect is very revealing.
4. The problem is not your problem. It is your response to those problems.
 - ✓ You can't necessarily change your circumstances, but you can change responses.

Physical and Spiritual Aspects of Counseling

C. How to Respond to Illness

1. Evaluate from reasons

- a. Sin engendered?
- b. Prevent sin?
- c. Glorify God?

2. How can this illness be used to glorify God?

- a. Recognize the truth of John 9:3
- b. Evaluate personal goals
- c. 2 Corinthians 12:9-10
- d. James 1:2-4
- e. Romans 8:28-29
- f. Job 2:10
- g. Genesis 50:20



Physical and Spiritual Aspects of Counseling

3. You must be responsible no matter how you feel.
 - ✓ You have a disease! What does God want you to do about it? Are you upset? Angry?
4. What if you have something medicine has not discovered?
 - ✓ Then God has a purpose for it too!
 - ✓ Christians still have a responsibility to obey God.
 - ✓ As a good steward, do not spend all your time and money trying to find a cure.