

HEALING THROUGH THE LIFE STAGES

At each stage of life a tension exists, and a conflict must be resolved. If we meet the challenge, we grow. If we shrink from the challenge, damage results that is both psychological and spiritual. The failure to thrive continues and possibly compounds through each successive stage. But God wants us healed. We must lay this damaged part at the Cross, and with it the false shame and guilt that have been a part of our lives. Then we must open the naked heart to Jesus, allowing Him to heal it.

CAUSE

SYMPTOMS

LAY AT CROSS

JESUS

RECEPTIVITY VS RESISTANCE

(Conception to Birth)

A child who does not accomplish the challenge of birth resists intimacy, affection, and discipline, meeting all challenges in these areas, as an infant, with stiffening and resistance. Later this turns to with petulance and disrespectful behavior.

1. Perception, perhaps accurate, of being not wanted by parents. "I'm a burden. I'm an intrusion."

1. Performance orientation. "I'll earn the right to be here." Inordinate desire to please. Or refusal of affection. "You don't mean it."

1. Guilt for being born, for causing pain. Desire to strike back, get even, reject the ones who rejected you.

1. Jesus searches for and frees imprisoned spirit. Psalm 139:13 *Thou has covered me in my mother's womb. I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.*

2. Parents resent the child's gender, subconsciously blaming him or her for it. "I was wrong from the beginning."

2. Sexual confusion; perhaps manifesting in hormonal imbalance, transvestite or homosexual urges. Defeatist attitude from striving to be what parents want; futility.

2. Desire to thwart God's will for your life; need to go against nature to earn approval; guilt for being what you aren't.

2. Moves, in the spirit, beyond the earthly gender. Jesus holds parents and child; frees them to express their true love for the child just as he/she is.

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| <p>3a. Mother is grieving loss of loved one, especially father or a child who died in the past.</p> <p>3b. Mother is trapped by trauma and guilt of an abortion.</p> | <p>3a. Depression, death wish or fear of death, loneliness. "No support for me." Need to seek negative attention to be noticed.</p> <p>3b. Guilt at being there, loneliness, resentment, maybe a death wish, a desire for negative attention.</p> | <p>3a.. Self-blame; blame of mother (and father) for deserting you; hatred for person who caused mother pain, perhaps jealousy of an older sibling who died.</p> <p>3b. Guilt at being alive. Jealousy, blame, resentment.</p> | <p>3. The spirit of a child who comes into a family mourning a loss, whether acknowledged, or in the case of abortion, denied, often never wakes up, because the spirits of the parents do not nourish it. Thus as Jesus awakens the slumbering spirit, holds and affirms the child, He allows both parents to spiritually reunite with child, who is thereby assured of their love despite circumstances that kept them apart.</p> |
| <p>4. Birth trauma</p> | <p>4. Fear of and flight from life; terror of open spaces; condition of "non-being" possible; suppression of masculinity (or of masculine traits in a female) likely as child fights against separation from mother.</p> | <p>4. Pain that birth caused mother; fear to leave womb; desire to die instead of going through pain.</p> | <p>4. Relives birth trauma, with the Lord there to assist, to comfort, to wrap the baby in warm blanket, hold, and welcome it into life.</p> |

TRUST VS MISTRUST

(0 - 1 Year)

A child who does not accomplish this stage does not know how to trust and, therefore, is inhibited in finding true intimacy in a relationship with man, woman, or God; often indulges in false intimacy brought on by sex, alcohol, drugs.

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| <p>1. Deprivation and loss from too early weaning.</p> | <p>1. Childish and self-centered behavior. "I've been robbed. I won't get what's mine." Oral gratification.</p> | <p>1. Resentment of mother for taking source of comfort and nourishment away.</p> | <p>1. Brings satisfaction, comfort, release from bondage to childish structures; gives milk and honey from unending source; meat of the Rhema Word.</p> |
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| <p>2. Quarrelling in room with infant.</p> | <p>2. Compulsive need to control. Feeling of needing to escape when conflicts arise. "I feel trapped. I want to run but I can't.</p> | <p>2. Fear, fear of loss, tendency to control, running from conflicts instead of solving them.</p> | <p>2. Identifies and roots out seeds of fears. Gives love that never threatens or is threatened. Gives protection for the heart. Allows spirit to experience true love of both parents.</p> |
| <p>3. Love deprivation due to anger or resentment by parents who feel trapped by child. The baby lacked sensory contact, rocking, cuddling, being picked up, rocked; was not talked to; fed resentfully, quite possibly according to rigid schedule.</p> | <p>3. "No one loves me." Codependency; codependent behavior, chemical dependency. Need for love to be expressed in material goods and services. Rigid in behaviors and beliefs.</p> | <p>3. Codependency, need to have love expressed in things. Inability to receive love; need to reject to protect.</p> | <p>3. Holds the baby, lets His Spirit flow into child, giving child the fullness of life.</p> |

AUTONOMY VS SHAME AND DOUBT

(2 - 3 Years)

The child who does not accomplish this phase is rarely happy with himself. He frequently adopts habits that contribute to his negative concept of himself, is insecure and certain of failure in tasks; shame, denial, and blame get in the way of learning from mistakes. Frequently child is unable to separate his behavior from the control of his mother; in the case of an absent mother, child needs both to find her love and separate from it. Often the father is missing, and limits are not established.

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| <p>1. Too early toilet training, overly fussy or neat parents (especially mother), who pushed child into what he wasn't ready for.</p> | <p>1. Fastidiousness, rigidity, inability to admit mistakes. Irresolvable demands: "I can't; I must."</p> | <p>1. Hatred and repressed anger for parents (especially mother) for pushing him to be what he isn't naturally; seriousness, perfectionism.</p> | <p>1. Allows child to tell parents (especially mother) "no" to unreasonable demands; helps him to see the purity of their motives behind their controlling fussiness.</p> |
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| <p>2. Shamed for childish mistakes in controlling bodily functions and feeding self; mother never showed sensitivity to child's need to fail.</p> | <p>2. Confusion of love with performance; retreats from intimacy with women; suppressed anger for other's imperfections; will not take responsibility for mistakes. "Don't tell me I'm not doing it right!"</p> | <p>2. Hatred for parents, suppressed anger, seriousness, demands of self and others for perfectionism; failure to love others when they don't perform well, burden of performing for others.</p> | <p>2. Frees child from concept of self as body. Allows child to experience unconditional love, that child is loved "no more if he does it right, no less if he does it wrong."</p> |
| <p>3. Absent father or overly stern father, from whom the mother strives to protect the child.</p> | <p>3. Limits not clearly set or held to; child learns to be false and to manipulate. May have a compulsive perfectionist desire to please, which masks deceit; may manifest in homosexuality, promiscuity, inordinate need to please but also resistance to it.</p> | <p>3. All falseness. All shame at not being or knowing who he/she is supposed to be. Sexual sin.</p> | <p>3. Frees child from compulsion to perform by unconditional love. Allows child to experience parents' love free from expectations.</p> |
| <p>4. Absent or distant mother.</p> | <p>4. Compulsive seeking and rejecting love from women; promiscuity or lesbianism.</p> | <p>4. Sexual sin.</p> | <p>4. Brings mother or mother substitute to give child the love that was missing; enables complete, loving separation of identity to take place.</p> |

INITIATIVE VS GUILT

(3 - 6 Years)

A child who does not accomplish this phase has not been trained up in the way he should go. He feels guilt because of the gap he perceives between what seems to be expected of him and what he sees he is. He tries overly hard to please. He frequently blames himself for whatever is wrong with the family. Father's presence does not affirm identity. Because the child has not learned to give genuine love to or receive genuine love from the father, separation from the mother's identity is difficult.

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| <p>1. Parents did not care to or were not able to find out who child really was.</p> <p>2. Child may have been raised by all adults.</p> <p>3. Often limits have not been clear, consistent or age appropriate.</p> <p>4. Transgressions met with guilt producing discourse rather than firmness.</p> <p>5. Child's real talents and desires are met with non-acceptance; is compelled to do things he/she hates.</p> | <p>Lack of focus, diffused identity, buried talents; fear of positive confrontation; manipulation.</p> <p>If the child was the victim of sexual abuse at this age, self-abuse may be a big problem, whether eroticized or manifested in self destructive behaviors. (These experiences are often not remembered.)</p> | <p>Dishonest anger and manipulative purposes. Sexual sin (divorcing self from perpetrators).</p> | <p>Gives the child the freedom to be whoever he really is; buried talents are dug up and exercised; mistakes are permitted without over-reaction or scorn. Jesus may form a wall of protection if there has been abuse. Often He simply plays with the child who has never been allowed to just have fun.</p> |
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INDUSTRY VS INFERIORITY

(6 - 12 Years)

At this phase the destructive patterns of the first 6 years are either overcome or cemented into the character. A child who does not accomplish this phase has judged his parents, has made inner vows to seal himself off from further hurt, has built walls around who he really is, with the result that who he is is always in question. Because praise, acceptance, and affirmation of efforts by both parents are necessary to complete bonding/separation process at this phase, failure to receive them results in low self-esteem and struggle.

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| <p>1. The adult child has taken on the destructive characteristics or habits of the parents.</p> <p>2. He/she is severely limited in some facet of relationship with spouse.</p> | <p>Varied compulsions of codependency.</p> | <p>Break and repent of inner vows brought on by relationships in childhood. Repent of early judgments of parents. Break power of addictions that result from sowing judgement.</p> | <p>Gives child strength to function without protection of inner vows. Allows child to approach parents, restores right relationship with parents. Fills child with fullness of God within family.</p> |
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IDENTITY VS ROLE CONFUSION

(12 - 18 Years)

The person who does not accomplish this phase is not affirmed by a father figure in identity as a man or woman; during this phase, if the masculine cannot be brought into proper balance with the feminine in the person, the person will not become whole. He or she will be cut off spiritually from that missing part of the self and will, as a result, continually be seeking it through relationships. Sexual sin, a form of identity cannibalism, is frequently but not always the result. Even if there is not sexual sin, the lack of a clearly formed identity is damaging; there is a continual pull into non-being which the unaffirmed spirit cannot bear. A tremendous anxiety is always present. Self-destructive behaviors often triumph.

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| <p>1. Overbearing macho father, submissive mother.</p> | <p>There is often a problem with drugs or alcohol; perhaps recklessness.</p> <p>1a. Man: shuns masculine harshness, seeks gentleness in men.</p> <p>2. Woman: seeks love from other men; rejects them while expecting rejection from them; or sees self as extension of father, seeks the love of missing mother, while at the same time rejecting what mother stood for.</p> | <p>1a. Man: Inner vows to never be like father.</p> <p>1b. Woman: Inner vows to never let a man get control over her again.</p> <p>Both need to repent of judgements against father; atone for sins of father passed down into person. Sexual sin must be laid at the Cross, and with it the impulse to see personal fulfillment through another's identity. Addictions and self-destructive compulsions must also be disavowed.</p> | <p>Jesus heals relationship with father or masculine role model; blesses the father's existence within the person's body. Jesus then affirms the child as a man or woman or brings that person into a right relationship with father.</p> <p>Jesus then heals relationship with mother in the same way.</p> |
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| <p>3. Controlling mother/ absent father.</p> | <p>Frequent addictive behaviors, suicide attempts, depression, anxiety.</p> <p>3a. Man: frequently homosexuality; as a boy he cannot effectively separate from mother's identity; as he develops sexually, he yearns for the missing masculine and uses it in sexual fantasies; often man has used mother as role model, has adopted her voice or expressions.</p> <p>3b. Woman: becomes promiscuous in attempt to be affirmed as woman by the loving man. Craves masculine love.</p> | <p>Sexual sin; idolatry. Desire for death (the affirmation of non-being).</p> | <p>Jesus facilitates separation from mother, frequently using images; with masculine presence, He affirms what has been missing in child's life. Where possible, He brings father into the circle of His love.</p> |
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