

III. Orientation & Adjustment to Neurology as Theology

Matthew 13:14b - You will keep on hearing but you will not understand; and you will keep on seeing but will not perceive.

III. Orientation & Adjustment to Neurology as Theology

There could possibly be some here today who feel that our Lord's comments describe you with regard to this study of neurology. In fact, you may be asking the question, "Where's the theology here?"

In order to reassure you that we are indeed still studying the Bible, I am going to, once again, take you through the verses which legitimize a serious look at the science of neurology. These verses indicate that there is a biological system within which our souls are forced to function and, while divinely designed, it is tragically flawed by original sin and a sinful nature. These two contaminants can be found in the cell structure of the body and neuron is the name assigned by science to the cells of the human brain.

Although all cells may have over 100,000 genes, they are not all functional, the brain using the most at around 50,000. All cells however are structurally the same but the body activates only certain genes in each cell dependent upon its function in the body.

A certain combination of activated genes causes a cell to become a part of the liver, another combination a part of the heart, while another may be part of a fingernail. The genetic code of these body parts does not cause temptation to sin. Sin nature genes, although present, are not activated in these cells.

It is volition which gets credit for committing sin and volition makes decisions based on information processed by the brain.

Encyclopedia Britannica, 15th ed., s.v. "Lashley, Karl S.":

There is no mental operation that in principle is not accounted for by brain mechanism.

Therefore, it is within the neurons of the brain where we find the sin nature gene activated and indications are that its base of operations is in the limbic system where emotions are centered.

The sin nature gene is a genetic mutation which resulted from Adam's original sin. But Adam was created perfect by Jesus Christ who fashioned him out of the dust of the earth.

Genesis 2:7 - The Lord God [Jesus Christ] formed man [yasar: mold or fashion] of the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life and man became a living soul.

We are forced at this point to remember that Adam acquired the sinful nature at the moment he violated the imperative of:

Genesis 2:17 - From the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it, dying, you shall surely die.

Even though permanently contaminated by the sinful nature, human biological life is a machine of intricate balance and order as observed by David in:

Psalms 139:14 - I will give thanks to You for I am astonishingly and wonderfully made.

This phenomenal biological asset thus becomes a conundrum. It is at once a source of blessing and cursing. It is capable of being transformed into a vessel of honor or to remain a vessel of dishonor.

Romans 9:21 - Does not the Potter possess authority over the clay, from the same lump to make, on the one hand, a vessel for the purpose of honor and, on the other hand, another vessel for the purpose of dishonor?

The thing that distinguishes between the two is the type of wheel-tracks the individual chooses to establish in his soul.

Proverbs 4:26 - Watch the path of your feet and all your ways will be established.

Recall that paths, or wheel-tracks, may take one of two courses: righteous or wicked. David's objective was to establish in his soul the wheel-tracks of the former.

Psalms 23:3 - He leads and guides me in the wheel-tracks of righteousness ...

The writer of Hebrews issues this objective as a mandate to the recovering reversionist in:

Hebrews 12:13a - Be making straight wheel-tracks with your feet [volition] ...

The new believer is faced with a similar dilemma. Although saved, he brings into the Christian life an inventory of cosmic ideas which cause him to think and do things he knows he shouldn't.