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Conclusion

The Editors

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Conclusion |

By the forcible imposition of mental infantilism and inducing a mass-delusion—religion succeeds in saving many people from neuroses. But little more.

Sigmund Freud, *Civilization and Its Discontents*

An increasing number of psychotherapists, among them the authors in this volume, reject Freud's (traditional psychology's) marginalization of religion. Rather than ignore religion, they look to Christ's gospel for direction. With a gospel perspective, they have turned upside down some of psychotherapy's standard assumptions. More importantly, they have proposed some of the features that should be found in gospel-based psychotherapy.

To sum up the authors' contributions, Aaron Jackson considers four paradoxes commonly faced by psychotherapists. These paradoxes are revealed by the authors as false dilemmas. Jackson then identifies some of the remaining questions about the interface between morality and mental health—between one's righteousness and one's social or emotional well-being. How, for instance, is counseling within a gospel philosophy different from just being a good Christian in any other role or setting?

Jackson calls on thoughtful readers to consider how they might contribute to answering these questions and thus further reconcile applied psychology with the gospel.