

DOCTRINE OF GAP **(Grace Apparatus for Perception)**

- I.** Introductory vocabulary and definitions.
- A.** Dichotomous: A technical term to refer to the fact that the unbeliever possesses only a body and soul. Mat.10:28
 - B.** Trichotomous: Another technical term that means that the believer possesses a body, soul and human spirit. 1The.5:23
 - C.** Greek vocabulary:
 - 1.** ψυχικός/psuchikos: used 6x; derivative of ψυχή/psuche; refers to the natural physical life that is possessed by men and animals. Psuchikos is a term used to refer to the unbeliever, who lives like an animal, ruled entirely by the physical realities of life (worldly or natural man). Jud.19
 - 2.** σαρκικός/sarkikos: used 6x; derivative of σάρξ/sarx; means “flesh”. Sarkikos is one that is controlled by the flesh, although he is a believer. It refers to one that is under the influence and domination of the STA. 1Pet.2:11
 - 3.** πνευματικός/pneumatikos: used 28x; derivative of πνεῦμα/pneuma; means spirit/spiritual. Pneumatikos is used to refer to believers that are in fellowship, ruled by the Holy Spirit with the STA isolated. 1Cor.3:1
- II.** Definition and description.
- A.** The acrostic “GAP” is the abbreviation for the grace apparatus for perception.
 - B.** Grace is not only the title of God’s plan, it is the basis for all perception of the realm of BD as recorded in the canon of Scripture.
 - C.** Grace is the method that God has chosen to deal with the human race.
 - D.** Man’s requirement for apprehending grace is positive volition that is expressed by faith.
 - E.** Since grace and faith are the determining factors in apprehending the realm of BD, human systems of perception based on IQ are ruled out.
 - 1.** If human IQ were necessary to a complete understanding of BD, then logically only high IQ types would make it to maturity.
 - 2.** This assumes an IQ based on a normal individual that is able to reach a level of God-consciousness. Rom.1:20
 - F.** The grace apparatus consists of:
 - 1.** The indwelling Holy Spirit, which each believer receives at the point of faith in Christ. Eph.1:13-14; Rom.8:9
 - 2.** The human spirit, which is regenerated in the dichotomous unbeliever at the point of salvation, producing a trichotomous state. Tit.3:5; 1The.5:23
 - 3.** The instantaneous conversion of the indwelling Holy Spirit to the filling of the Holy Spirit, isolating the genetic STA, via R_B. Eph.5:18; 1Joh.1:9
 - G.** God supplies all of this, in order that we might know the things freely given to us by God and come to a complete knowledge of the truth. 1Cor.2:12; 1Tim.2:4

- III.** The documentation for this theological position is found in 1Cor.2:9-13.
- A.** Paul cites Isa.64:4 to make the point that Divine wisdom does not come from human sources. Vs.9
 - B.** He logically moves to the fact that God must choose to reveal what He thinks, or else man would never arrive at God's wisdom. Vs.10
 - C.** He points out that only the real you knows at any given time exactly what you think. Vs.11
 - 1.** This fact should be obvious to any member of the human race.
 - 2.** While men know what they think, no one truly knows what another thinks, unless that man chooses to reveal himself.
 - 3.** Anyone can cover his or her true thoughts with a facade. Pro.26:24-26
 - D.** Therefore, the only one that can truly know God would have to be God. Vs.11b
 - E.** The Third Person of the Godhead is not only qualified to reveal God, but is the One whom God has appointed to this task. Vs.10
 - F.** The anthropathism of "searching" is used to indicate the veracity of the Holy Spirit, Who faithfully communicates the truth of God, including advanced concepts.
 - G.** The spirit of the world refers to human systems of education and wisdom, based solely on human systems of IQ, apart from the ministry of God the Holy Spirit. Vs.12
 - 1.** This is called the NAP (natural apparatus for perception) system, and is common to the entire unregenerate human race.
 - 2.** The NAP system is contaminated with the genetic STA, which distorts and tends to reject the things of God.
 - 3.** A clear and undistorted view of God and His thoughts is not possible for the one that is ruled by the STA. Cp.Rom.8:7
 - 4.** While IQ is not bad in itself, those under this system tend to be arrogant and reject spiritual phenomena, since they cannot discern its existence.
 - 5.** Percentage wise, not many from among high IQ types possess +V. 1Cor.1:26
 - H.** The primary reason we received the Holy Spirit at the point of salvation was to learn the thoughts of God. Vs.12
 - 1.** "We have received" deals with the reality of the indwelling Holy Spirit in the believer.
 - 2.** This Spirit is in complete distinction and antagonism to the NAP system.
 - 3.** The potential "we might know" allows for human volition to either accept or reject God's system and thinking.
 - 4.** God does not force His thinking on anyone.
 - I.** "The things freely given to us by God" refer to the doctrines of the Word of God, and document the principle of grace in His system. Vs.12
 - J.** These doctrines are communicated to the human race through the ministry of the Holy Spirit, but not apart from human communicators. Vs.13
 - K.** These doctrines do not come from the source of human wisdom (human IQ and ingenuity), but from the Holy Spirit.

- L. Since they are spiritual in nature, they must be interpreted and evaluated in that realm. “Vs.13b
- IV.** The mechanisms for the function of GAP.
- A. The apparatus in GAP looks to the system of spiritual perception as a whole.
 - B. However, two distinct spiritual mechanisms operate to facilitate the function of GAP:
 - 1. God the H.S.
 - 2. The human spirit a.k.a. the new man/self or inner man. Rom.7:22; 2Cor.4:16; Eph.3:16; 4:24; Col.3:10;
 - C. The singular perception of GAP recognizes the tandem function of these two entities. Rom.8:16
 - D. The mechanisms are employed at saving faith under the process of regeneration.
 - 1. The H.S. produces the new birth of the human spirit. Joh.3:6
 - 2. The human spirit is created in righteousness and holiness of truth. Eph.4:24
 - E. The believer has thus been endowed with a new spiritual dimension in life and is a new creature in trichotomy. 2Cor.5:17 cp.1The.5:23
 - F. The human spirit has the capacity to be “renewed” after the initial birth. 2Cor.4:16; Col.3:10
 - G. The H.S. is instrumental in the “renewing” process. Cf.Tit.3:5
 - H. The human spirit is designed to enable the thinking of man to comprehend the spiritual realities of God’s plan. Cp.1Cor.2:14-15; Eph.4:23
 - I. It is the spiritual makeup of the believer allowing him/her to interface with God the H.S. under His filling ministry (Eph.5:18) who is the ultimate communicator of BD. Cp.1Joh.2:27
 - J. The believer must empower the human spirit for GAP to work.
 - K. The empowering is dependent upon:
 - 1. Isolation of the STA a.k.a. FHS through the R_B technique of 1Joh.1:9.
 - 2. This is seen in the commands to lay aside the “old man/ISTA” and put on the “new man”. Eph.4:22 cp.vs.24; Col.3:9 cp.vs.10
 - 3. This complies with the nature of the new man as righteous (Eph.4:24) and activates operation GAP. Cp.Jam.1:21
 - 4. The believer must then pursue the intake of BD to complete the GAP process. 1Pet.2:1-2
 - 5. This complies with the nature of the new man as set apart for truth (Eph.4:24).
 - 6. Omission of either of these elements and there is no GAP.
- V.** The psuchikos (natural) man.
- A. The unbeliever in the realm of spiritual death is ruled by the genetic STA at all times. Rom.5:21
 - B. Due to a lack of a human spirit, as well as the lack of the indwelling Holy Spirit, he is completely incapable of discerning anything of a spiritual nature.

- C. The only exception to this occurs at the point of gospel hearing, when the Holy Spirit clearly presents the issues related to salvation under His convicting ministry. Joh.16:7-9
 - D. This is the only doctrine that the unbeliever can understand (GAP).
 - E. Any other spiritual information that comes his way does not receive a welcome reception. 1Cor.2:14
 - F. While he may have any sort of bent or bias; religious, philosophical, scientific, etc., his evaluation of the Divine viewpoint is that it is foolish.
 - G. He may cover his thoughts with polite comments, but he finds the information silly.
 - H. In fact, he is totally unable to understand or grasp the information, since it requires a spiritual apparatus that he does not possess.
 - I. The wisdom of the psuchikos types is linked with the earthly scheme of things and demonic thinking. Jam.3:15
 - 1. Earthly refers to the cosmic system of things as established by men under the STA, in contrast to that, which comes from Heaven.
 - 2. Natural refers to the fact that the soul is under the rule of the ISTA, which has a natural affinity for human viewpoint thinking.
 - 3. Demonic reflects the fact that this is how demons think and operate.
 - J. This sort of person, whether a believer as in James or an unbeliever as in Corinthians (1Cor.2:15), cannot accurately evaluate the positive believer under the GAP system that possesses the viewpoint of Christ.
 - K. He completely lacks the frame of reference and apparatus to do so.
 - L. There is no spiritual dimension within his person for understanding.
- VI.** The grace provision for the Church Age believer.
- A. In order for God to reveal His thoughts to the human race, He chose to record them in written form.
 - B. Therefore, the first provision is the formation and preservation of the canon of Scripture.
 - 1. The Word of God was faithfully recorded by men that were themselves positive. Exo.17:14; Jer.30:2; Rev.1:11
 - 2. This process, known as inspiration, allowed imperfect human authors to record the Divine revelation without any error or imperfection. 2Tim.3:16
 - 3. This process did not preclude or in any way interfere with their own volition or personality.
 - 4. Throughout the course of human history, +V believers gathered the inspired material and rejected that which was spurious (transmission).
 - 5. The final result was the sixty-six books of the OT and NT.
 - 6. This revelation has been preserved as per Mat.24:35
 - C. God provided the only authorized environment for teaching His Word in this dispensation.
 - 1. The local church, not any other organization, is the chosen vehicle through which God articulates His plan. 1Cor.4:17; 1Tim.3:15
 - 2. Face-to-face teaching is the ordained format and is superior to all other forms of communication. 2Joh.12

- a. The apostles recognized that any other form of communication was inferior, including epistles.
 - b. If a written correspondence from an apostle was a less desired form, where does that leave radio, television, books, tapes, etc.?
 - c. Beyond that, apart from active participation in a local church, one cannot effectively fulfill the Royal imperatives of the Word of God. Rom.12:9ff
3. The local, independent, autonomous church is authorized by the NT, while denominations are not.
- a. Denominations undermine the principle of the authority and independence of the P-T.
 - b. They influence the local church to parrot the teachings of the denomination rather than teach the Bible.
 - c. The fear of excommunication has led many to avoid the truth of certain matters and teach only what is accepted by the leadership of the denomination.
4. Those that reject the principle and function of the local church are not only out of step with the entire dispensation (The Church), they are destined for spiritual failure. 2Tim.2:5
5. Spiritual mavericks and loners become a law to themselves and fall under STA delusion. 2Tim.3:13
- D.** God has provided a communicator for each local church as a part of His grace. Eph.4:11-13
- 1. He provides only one per church (at a time) and plurality of teachers is not a part of His plan. Rev.2:1,8,12,18; 3:1,7,14
 - 2. The P-T is appointed and established by God the H.S. and pursuit of a local church is a violation. Act.20:28
 - 3. He is the ultimate authority in the local church, with the deacons provided to aid in administration. 1Pet.5:1-4; Act.6:1ff
 - 4. God supernaturally supports, sustains and guides his chosen man in terms of what and when to teach various things.
 - 5. God has always used human communicators, each of whom possessed an STA (Christ excluded). Jam.5:17
 - a. One man is not only responsible to feed the flock, he is capable of providing sufficient doctrine to get the believer to maturity. 1Tim.4:16
 - b. How can you know that you can trust one man with your spiritual well being? Ask Noah, Moses, Elijah or Paul.
 - c. You evaluate a man based on content, the personality of the communicator is not an issue.
 - 6. People often reject this principle based on the arrogant assumption that one man cannot teach them the truth.
 - 7. They manifest their own arrogance and spiritual inconsistency by their assertion that only they can arrive at the truth.
- E.** Having already provided the indwelling Holy Spirit that is the ultimate teacher of BD, God provided the rapid recovery system of R_B enabling the believer to accurately evaluate the issues. 1Joh.1:9; 1Cor.2:15

- VII.** The framework from which GAP is to function.
- A.** The first stage of GAP begins with the P-T and involves the study-teach routine.
1. The P-T must himself be +V and desire to know the truth. Jam.1:5
 2. He must then apply the correct hermeneutic when dealing with the Word of God.
 3. This has been abbreviated ICE, but more accurately should be EIC (Exegetical, Isagogical and Categorical).
 - a. The first step is the study of the Scripture in the original languages or exegesis.
 - b. This allows the P-T to ascertain the correct translation and meaning of every word.
 - c. The second step, isagogics, refers to the fact that the P-T must understand the historical realities of the particular section with which he is dealing.
 - d. Categories deal with the concept of individual doctrines that must be harmonized, since Scripture does not contradict Scripture.
 4. The P-T must be intellectually honest and not inordinately bound to a theological grid. Act.17:11
 5. After prayer and preparation, the next step is the teaching or communication of the Divine material.
 - a. This is done in the authorized environment, the local church.
 - b. It is done via monologue.
 - c. Only the Word of God advances believers and entertainment, programs, etc. are an ineffective substitute.
- B.** The second step is the intake of the Word of God.
1. This begins with believers assembling together. Heb.10:25
 2. Each believer is under enforced humility with the P-T making certain that poise and good manners are maintained.
 3. While overt humility is maintained, true humility must be supplied by each believer. Jam.1:19-21
 4. This is attained via the filling of the Holy Spirit. Gal.5:22ff
 5. The objective at this stage is to get the information that is taught into the analysis center of the soul and evaluate it apart from STA discoloration.
 6. This step requires positive volition, assembly, concentration, comprehension and reflection.
 7. You cannot be distracted by the STA, other believers or the notion that the P-T is out to get you.
 8. Each believer, in FHS, is responsible to reflect upon the teaching and documentation to determine if this is the truth.
 - a. You should not reject information simply because you have never heard it before.
 - b. You should not reject information based on the notion that some other P-T has not taught it.
 - c. You must evaluate it and see if it harmonizes with other Scripture.

- d. You should certainly not reject it because it goes against you in a particular area.
 - e. You should not reject it simply because you may not fully understand it.
- C. Step three is faith in the doctrine taught.
- 1. The first thing the believer must do is listen to the entire doctrine before passing judgment. Pro.18:13
 - 2. Once you have a clear readout at the intake stage, you must determine if you accept or reject the doctrine.
 - 3. +V accepts it, -V rejects it.
 - 4. Once you exercise faith towards what is taught, you begin the process of reprogramming the brain-computer with the Divine viewpoint of life. Pro.3:3
 - 5. Now the believer begins to establish a new frame of reference (FOR), a new conscience (God's norms and standards) and the new man/human spirit is built up.
 - 6. The ability to understand and appreciate doctrine grows in proportion to one's FOR.
- D. Application of the doctrine follows faith in doctrine.
- 1. BD that you learn will be tested. 1Pet.1:6-7
 - 2. Failure to apply what you have learned short circuits spiritual progress to maturity.
 - 3. Failure to apply is sin. Jam.4:17
 - 4. The application of BD is called justification by works. Jam.2:14-26
 - 5. BD plus the filling of the Holy Spirit plus application yields Divine good.
 - 6. Divine good is rewarded with SG₃. 1Pet.1:7
- E. The final stage of GAP is maturity.
- 1. Maturity is a goal, but not an end for the believer.
 - 2. Completing one's course is the end. 2Tim.4:7
 - 3. Maturity is attained over time as a result of faithfulness in hearing and applying the Word of God. Jam.1:22-25
 - 4. This is the basis for maximum blessing in time and eternity.
 - 5. This is the goal of the adjusted communicator. Eph.4:12-15; Col.1:28

VIII. Types of negative volition.

- A. The first is obviously the -V pastor that for whatever reason(s), fails to fulfill the ministry. Mat.24:45ff
- B. The believer that refuses to assemble. Heb.10:25 – *won't listen*
- C. The believer that assembles but fails to isolate the STA and yields to distraction. Mar.4:19 – *won't concentrate*
- D. The believer that assembles but due to arrogance rejects the doctrine taught. Luk.10:13-16 – *won't believe*
- E. The believer that assembles and believes the doctrine but refuses to apply it. Jam.2:17-20 – *won't apply*
- F. Negative volition at any point in this system effectively shuts down the entire process of spiritual growth and breaks the GAP system.