

Witnessing to the New Age and Far-Eastern Mystical Un-Christian Cults

Examine yourselves before witnessing to others!!

Witnessing for Jesus Christ requires that we (1) tell that we have *repented* (changed our minds) from trusting ourselves instead of God and have *faith* (trust) in Jesus Christ to save us from our sins and to reconcile us to God, and (2) prove by our lives that we have been born again as new creatures in Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 13:5 *Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reproved?*
Acts 20:21 *Tesifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance to ward God, and faith to ward our Lord Jesus Christ.*
1 Peter 1:23 *Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.*

What is an Un-Christian cult?

An Un-Christian cult is any group claiming to be Christian which differs significantly in one or more respects as to belief or practice from those Christian groups which are regarded as the normal expressions of Christianity in our culture. Typically, a cult is a group of people gathered about a specific person or person's misinterpretation of the Bible and gospel message.

Galatians 1:7-8 ...*There be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.*

Basic Christian theology vs the Cults

Source of authority: the Bible, God's Holy Word.

Jesus identified the totality of God's Word as the ultimate guide to the truth that sets a believer aside unto righteousness (sanctifies).
John 17:17 *Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.*
2 Timothy 2:15 *Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*

The cults usually follow the false teaching of a leader who misinterprets the Bible and/or presents a new errant prophecy.
2 Peter 2:1 *But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.*

The God head: a Trinity of three Persons in one Being.

Most cults deny that our Triune God is One Being comprised of the three persons: God the Father, God the Holy Spirit, and God the Son Jesus Christ. But in the Bible:

(1) Jesus identifies the Trinity in the Great Commission given to His churches. Matthew 28:19 *Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.*

(2) Paul mentions the persons of the Trinity as he describes the mystery of godliness. 1 Timothy 3:16 *And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received into glory.*

(3) Those denying Jesus is Lord are ordained to condemnation.

Jude 3-4 ...*Earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints. For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.*

(4) Lasting joy is in the Lord! No cult member will be truly happy nor have peace in his heart until he knows who Jesus really is and trusts Jesus as Lord and Savior. *Philippians 4:4 Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice.*

Human nature, sin, and salvation: sin entered humanity because of Adam's transgression and all mankind are sinful in need of salvation. Romans 5:12 *Wherefore, as by one man [Adam] sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned... 19 For as by one man's [Adam's] disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one [Jesus] shall many be made righteous. Romans 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God... 6:23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Salvation: salvation is all of grace (unmerited favor), both obtained and maintained by God's grace and not by man's works! Man's good works of faith follow salvation and show that the believer has been born again as a new creature in Christ. *Ephesians 2:8-10 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.*

All cults violate these rect statements of God. All cults teach that a person is saved from God's judgment of hell by doing some form of good works. Each cult differs in description of the good works that a person must do to earn the right to enter God's heaven, but all cults teach salvation by human works. Cults may recognize that Christ initiates or completes the salvation of a believer, but the believer's works are necessary to obtain and maintain this salvation.

No cult member has assurance of salvation. Since all cult members believe that they are working their way to heaven, they have no assurance of salvation and eternal life in Christ. The cults all believe that specific sins will cause a cult member to lose his salvation and die without hope. Cult members financially support their cults, visit frequently and witness regularly due to their fear of losing their salvation if they do not obey their cult leaders. One cult member told Dr. Terrell that he prayed for God to save him every day just in case he had done some thing that day that might have caused him to lose his salvation. No cult member has the peace and joy that the true believer's security in Christ provides!

Romans 8:38-39 *For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Ephesians 1:12-14 That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ. In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.*

New Age and Far-Eastern Mystical Un-Christian Cults

Far-Eastern mystical cults in the U.S. are unified under the umbrella term, *New Age*. The New Age Cults are a large, loosely structured network of organizations and individuals (e.g., Actress Shirley MacLaine) united by common values based in mysticism and monism (the world view that *all is one*). New Agers have a common vision of a coming *new age* of peace and mass enlightenment, the *Age of Aquarius*. This expected *New Age* will expand global peace, mass spiritual enlightenment and spiritual advancement.

The New Age movement is a collection of cults emphasizing spirituality, health, politics, education, and business seeking to direct the path of society. New Age cults share many beliefs in common, but often hold numerous distinctive doctrines and may disagree with each other on significant issues.

Source of authority: Far-eastern mysticism (e.g., Hinduism) blended with Christian terminology and materialism (indulgence) instead of Hindu asceticism (self-denial).

New Age beliefs are based on the mid-1800 teachings of Phineas P. Quimby, termed *New Thought* or *Mind Cult*, and the teachings of Helena Petrovna Blavatsky who founded the Theosophy Cult in 1875. Quimby was also a teacher of Mary Baker Eddy, founder of the Christian Scientist Cult.

The God head: monism/pantheism, being of inclusive oneness.

New Age cults define God as one-ism or monism, i.e., as an impersonal force pervading all creation such that all is one and one is all. New Agers argue that everything is ultimately God (all-God or pantheism). This blend of contradictory monism and pantheism concludes that there is really no you or me distinction. As in the error of Hinduism, there is only one big impersonal "I" which includes every person and everything (trees, rocks, animals, etc.). However, Genesis 1 reveals that God is separate and distinct from His creation. The Bible also reveals that God is an intelligent, compassionate, and personal Being, the only living and true God. *Jeremiah 31:3 The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an ever lasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee. 1 John 3:20 ...God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things. 1 Thessalonians 1:9 ...ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God.*

Human nature, sin, and salvation: Man is really God and sin is an unreal illusion.

New Agers decide for themselves what is right because they claim to be God who is all in all. Evil/sin are misdirected thought originating in the mind. New Agers save themselves by their works of mental/spiritual enlightenment through learning to think correctly, i.e., god-realization.

Astrology

Astrology believe the positions and movements of the stars and planets (cosmos) directly influence human events

and can be read by initiates to provide information for guiding one's life. Astrologers claim that personality and character weaknesses/strengths are affected by astrological movements. U.S. President and Nancy Reagan (once a follower of occultist Jeanne Dixon) scheduled activities based on astrologer Joan Quigley's forecasts. Astrology horoscopes are widely published but are observed to be correct less than 10% of the time.

God condemns involvement with fortune tellers such as *the astrologers, the stargazers, the monthly prognosticators (Isaiah 47:12-15)*. God's people must *learn not the way of the heathen, and be not dismayed at the signs of heaven; for the heathen are dismayed at them (Jeremiah 10:2)*.

Baha'ism

Baha'ism is a non-Christian cult that began in Iran in the nineteenth century with a young religious Iranian businessman known as Mirza' Ali Muhammadi, who came to believe himself to be a divine manifestation projected into the world of time and space as a *Bab* (Gate) leading to a new era for mankind.

The Baha' cult claims that the religious leaders of the world had forgotten their common origin. Baha'ism claims that Moses, Jesus, Mohammed, Zoroaster, Buddha, Confucius, Krishna, and Lao were equal prophets, mirroring God's glory, messengers bearing the imprint of the Great Creator. In addition, Baha'ism claims that Baha'u'llah, whose name literally means *the glory of God*, is the last great manifestation of the Divine Being. The focus of Baha'ism is of ten popularized as *The Oneness of God, The Oneness of Religion, and the Oneness of Humanity*.

Occultism

The New Age methods are not new but are forms of Biblically forbidden ancient occultism (Latin, *hidden/secret things*) including astrology, spiritism, palm reading, and witchcraft. New Age occult tools include Ouija boards, crystals, tarot cards, etc., and are used to gain knowledge that helps them unite with the great One.

New Agers employ numerous occult practices. The following words and phrases serve as warning signs that a particular belief, practice, or group is involved with the New Age movement and incompatible with the Christian faith. These include: monism, pantheism, reincarnation, karma, evolution, personal transformation, unlimited human potential, reality creating, energy alignment, energy healing, energy focusing, attunement, at-one-ment, enlightenment, inner power, goddess within, mother earth, sensory deprivation, intuitive abilities, near-death experiences, chakras, gurus, Tarot, Kabbalah, pyramids, crystal, power, auras, color balancing, psychic centering, UFOs, extraterrestrials, brotherhood of light, higher consciousness, cosmic consciousness, the Christ, ascended masters, spirit guides, meditation, yoga, guided imagery, visualization, astral projection, silver cord, inner light, out-of-body experiences, mystics, metaphysical, holistic healing, therapeutic touch, biofeedback, transpersonal psychology, hypnotherapy, paranormal, parapsychology,

higher self, personal trans for mation, values clarification. *Deu ter on omy 8:10-12 There shall not be found among you any one that ...useth div i na tion, or an ob server of times, or an enchanter, or a witch. 11 Or a charmer, or a consulter with familiarspirits, or a wiz ard, or a nec ro man cer. 12 For all that do these things are an abom i na tion unto the LORD...*

Spiritism

Spiritism, or mediumship attempts to communicate with either departed hu man spirits or other spiri tual en ti ti es (fam i liar spir its). *Channeling* is the modern spir it ist prac tice wherein As cended Masters (persons who have allegedly died and pro gressed to higher levels of knowledge) and other departed in di vid u als trans mit sup posed truths through a phys i cally em bod ied per son to help those search ing for en light en ment. The chan nel is the person re ceiv ing the spir it ist in for ma tion from ei ther the *higher self* [one’s most spir i tual part be yond the con scious mind] or a meta phys i cal en ti ty from a spir i tual re al ity.

Al though these spir i tual en ti ti es chan neled claim widely differ ent iden ti ti es, their teach ings are es sen ti ally the same: (1) God is all; (2) man is God; (3) man cre ates his own re al ity; (4) death is un real; and (5) the self is where all truth re sides.

Most spir it ist chan nels are prob a bly char la tan try ing to make a dish on est dol lar; how ever, a some may par tic i pate in volun tary demon pos session. God tells His people not to prac tice div i na tion of any kind (Le vi ti cus 19:26) and forbade them to consult mediums and spiritists (Leviticus 19:31; 20:6; Deu ter on omy 18:9–12). God equates as trology to idol a try and com manded Is rael to put to death all sor cer ers, me di ums, and spir it ists (Ex o dus 22:18; Le vi ti cus 20:27).

Not the stars, but God is our ruler and guide. Spir it ism is the re jec tion of Christ. *Isa iah 8:19 And when they shall say unto you, Seek unto them that have fa mil iar spir its, and unto wiz ards that peep, and that mut ter: should not a peo ple seek unto their God? for the liv ing to the dead? Deu ter on omy 18:14 -15 For these na tions, which thou shalt pos sess, hear kened unto ob serv ers of times, and unto di vin ers: but as for thee, the LORD thy God hath not suffered thee so to do. 15 The LORD thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy breth ren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hear ken.*

Transcendental Meditation(TM)

Maharishi Mahesh Yogi was founded TM as a religious exercise or philosophy. TM is a yoga, a spiritual practice of Hindu meditation and asceticism which includes performing specific bodily postures. In the 1970’s Maharishi altered his Hindu mys ti cal ter mi nol ogy and pro moted TM in the U.S. as sci en ti fi cally sound, non religious psy cho log ical exercise de signed to re lieve stress, to bring peace to the in ner man with a pos i tive ef fect on so ci ety, and to en able the ad vanced prac ti ti oner to par tic i pate in as tral pro jection (soul leav ing the body) and levitation. Most Westerners are unaware of TM’s far-eastern Hindu mys ti cal re li gious pre sup po si tions and nature.

UFOs

New Agers are ob sessed with UFOs and ex tra ter res tri al life. New Agers have bor rowed the term *channeling* from

the spir it ism and the early fly ing-saucer move ment of the 1950’s when a num ber of peo ple started go ing into trances and let ting the so-called space broth ers talk through them. Numerous *aliens* now be ing chan neled give mes sages very similar to the ones coming from As cended Masters and other de parted spir its. New Agers claim that the UFO mis sion is to raise our con scious ness so we can rec og nize our own in di vid ual God hood.

The tone of UFO mes sages and the link they have with New Age oc cult ism in di cates that UFO’s are prob a bly de mon ic in origin. Dr. Terrell has personally interviewed Chris tians who claimed to have sighted UFO’s con tain ing aliens. Sa tan seems to be the au thor of this con fu sion which may include hypnosis. A Christian should avoid seeking contact with UFO’s, astrologers, witches, palm-readers, etc, since such contact is in viting Sa tan to in flu ence your life. If a per son seeks ad vice from cults that are in flu enced by Sa tan, be as sured that Sa tan will try to in flu ence that per son’s life to draw him into cultic er ror. **Do not in vite Sa tan to in flu ence your life by delv ing into cultic prac tices!**

John 8:44 Ye are of your fa ther the devil, and the lusts of your fa ther ye will do. He was a mur derer from the be gin ning, and abode not in the truth, be cause there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the fa ther of it. 1 Pe ter 5:8 Be so ber, be vig i lant; be cause your ad ver sary the devil, as a roar ing lion, walketh about, seek ing whom he may de vour.

Rosicrucianism

Rosicrucianism is not an or ga nized re li gion and is sim i lar to the fra ter nal fel low ship of Masonic or ders. Named af ter Christian Rosenkreuz (14th or 15th century) and headquartered in Cal i for nia, Rosicrucianism is a mys ti cal broth er hood pro vid ing se cret knowl edge that will re sult in sup posed self-mastery. Sal va tion is pur i fi ca tion of the mind re sulting from multiple reincarnations and spiritual ad vancements.

Theosophy

The os o phy as a cult sys tem de rives its name from the Greek term *theosophia*, mean ing liter ally, *di vine wis dom*. The os o phy claims to be a con tem po rary pre sen ta tion of a per en nial wis dom under lying the world’s religions, sci ences, and phi los o phies.

Actually, Theosophy is a pantheistic form of ancient Gnosticism, which attempts to embrace religious, philo sophical, and scientific truth as it is found in all religio-philosophical sources. Thomas Ed i son, in ven tor of the light bulb, was a The os o phist.

A Rus sian woman, Madam Hel ena Blavatsky, founded the Theol ophical So ci ety in 1875 claim ing that Theosoply was a type of spir it ism. The os o phists claim that *Mahatmas* or *Masters* are highly evolved ex am ples of ad vanced re in car na tions whose dwell ing place is some where in re mote Ti bet. Madam Blavatsky claims that she was pos sessed by these di vine be ings who used her ser vices to teach the re-

stored truths of the great re li gions of the world, which have been perverted by mankind. Theosophists claim there are seven planes of pro gres sion through which the re in car nated souls of men must progress on their way to the Theos o phists’ *heaven* or *Devachan*. Theosophy’s heaven is ac tually the *nirvana* of Bud dhism, where the ab sorp tion of the per son al ity or the soul into a type of world soul eventually ex tinguishes personal identity. Theosophy offers no for give ness for sin ex cept through myr i ads of re in car na tions ever pro gress ing to ward Devachan.

Unification

The Uni fi ca tion Church is one of the best cults at dis guis ing its un usual, non tra di ti onal be liefs from the un sus pecting secular world. The Unification Church, founded and led by the self-proclaimed mes siah, Sun Myung Moon, demonstrates the growing trend toward New Age beliefs world wide. The dis tinc tive fea tures of this kind of cult in clude (1) its habit of conducting business, especially re cruit ing, un der mul ti ple pseud onyms or anon y mously; (2) its Westernization of Eastern religious ideas; and (3) its mis in ter pre ta tions of Scrip ture to per suade out sid ers that its Eastern religious orientation is compatible with and, in deed, is the fulfill ment of Biblical Christianity. Groups such as the Uni fi ca tion Church are fur ther char ac ter ized by wide spread, and force ful psy cho log i cal pres sure on mem bers to con form and re main loyal to the group at all costs. This psy cho log i cal pres sure is pres ent in all the cults, but it more ob vi ous with groups newly ar rived in Amer ica whose con verts are mainly young peo ple from fam i lies who have had lit tle or no pre vi ous ex po sure to the group. The Hare Krishnas, Transcendental Meditation, the Church Universal and Tri um phant, and other sim i lar cult groups share many of same fea tures of the Uni fi ca tion Cult, but each has its own unique ex pres sion of er ror.

Unity School of Christianity

The Unity cult of Lee’s Sum mit, Mis souri, of fers prosper ity, peace, and health to all peo ple of all faiths. Unity has no mem ber ship and fol low ers may re main mem bers of their own churches.

Al though Unity is rooted in the early 1800’s teach ings of Franz Mesmer, fore run ner of Sigmund Freud. His concept of Mesmerism includes hypnosis, and his teachings ini ti ated the mind-healing cults. Phineas P. Quimby learned of hyp notic Mes mer ism and be came wealthy teach ing such fol lowers as Mary Baker Eddy, founder of the Christian Sci ence cult. Charles Fill more, founder of the Unity cult in 1891, followed the mind-healing hypnotic concepts of Mes mer ism. Fill more also fol lowed the writ ings of Amer i can au thors Ralph Waldo Em er son (1803-1882) and Henry David Thoreau (1817-1862) who taught Transcendental ism, a phi los o phy of life stress ing mind-heal ing and re al i ti es tran scend ing (be yond) the world of sense.

Witnessing

to the

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But though we, or an an gel from heaven, preach any other gos pel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be ac cursed. As we said be fore, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gos pel unto you than that ye have re ceived, let him be ac cursed.

Galatians 1:8-9

They are of the world: there fore speak they of the world, and the world heareth them. We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of er ror.

1 John 4:5-6

By Dr. Gail E. Terrell

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