

CHRISTIANITY VS. EVERYBODY

Christianity vs. The New Age Movement

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Origin of the New Age Movement

1. During the **1960s**, A tidal wave of Eastern ideas swept over the United States; and people became open to new ideas regarding religion. People became interested in transcendental meditation, reincarnation, chanting, channeling, visualization, and the idea that **all reality is divine or sacred**. These ideas have their origins from the Eastern religions of **Hinduism** & **Buddhism**. During the **1970s**, these ideas became even more popular as they became the teachings of several mystics including an American philosopher named **David Spangler**. Consequently, the embrace of these new ideas into western culture led to the **rejection of traditional morality**. This momentum of new ideas served as the groundwork for what is known today as the New Age movement.
2. The New Age Movement gets its name from **Astrology**; and it refers to the coming **Aquarian age**; which is replacing the old age, or the **Pisces age**. An 'age', according to astrology, is defined as a period of **2000 years**. Thus New Agers predict the coming age will be a time of **Utopia**; ie **peace** & **harmony**.

Beliefs/Practices of the New Age Movement

1. The New Age Movement's doctrine on God is based on two terms: **monism** & **pantheism**. The first term means **all is one**. The second term means **All is God & God is All**. From this perspective **God**, **humanity**, & **nature** are viewed as waves made up of the same water in one big cosmic ocean.
2. New Agers refer to God as **Universal Mind/Self** or **Oneness**; which is the **force & energy** from which all things flow. There are no **distinctions within God** & no **separation between God and creation**.
3. Humanity is **divine** with **unlimited potential**; but humanity's most fundamental problem is an **ignorance** of its divinity.
4. Thus the New Age Movement advocates two primary solutions/goals (one immediate and the other ultimate) for this problem: **reincarnation** & **enlightenment**. For New Agers, reincarnation, the idea that our essential selves live from lifetime to lifetime, is a vehicle used for the perfecting of our ability to love. Before we enter each lifetime, we choose the situation we are to enter. So to the New Ager, reincarnation is the **doctrine of a 2nd, 3rd, or 4th chance**. They also view it as a **form of justice**.
5. The New Age Movement is a strong component of **mind over matter**. They believe that we have the power to exert tremendous mental power over our reality.
6. The New Age Movement is also a strong component of **channeling**; contacting the disembodied spirits of ascended masters, animals, angels, & UFOs for guidance that fills the void between humanity and Ultimate Reality.
7. The ultimate goal of the New Age Movement is enlightenment. In enlightenment, each person is to relinquish all attachment & identification with his or her **individual ego** and become identified with and merged into the **Universal Self**.
8. The New Agers believe that Jesus was a **human** who was **inhabited by the cosmic Christ spirit**. Thus some believe that the cosmic Christ spirit will inhabit all humanity. Others believe that a specific individual named **Maitreya** will allegedly take the primary role of leadership in the New Age. This individual is the leader of a group of exalted Ascended Masters called the **planetary hierarchy**; and they guide humankind's spiritual evolution. Maitreya has allegedly

been living incognito among human beings since 1977, when his consciousness entered a specially created human-like body of manifestation, called the **Mayavirupa**. In the near future, Maitreya will allegedly manifest himself to all humanity and usher in a new era of peace and happiness.

CHRISTIAN RESPONSE TO THE NEW AGE MOVEMENT

1. The New Age view of God purports that all in the universe is one; and that all is God & God is all. **Consenting to this belief not only makes no distinction between creation and the Creator, but it also makes no distinction between good and evil. Therefore the New Age movement denies the holiness of God and makes Him consequently unholy. As it promotes creation, it demotes the Creator.** (I Sam 6:20/Is 6:3/II Cor 7:1/I Peter 1:16)
2. The New Age Movement believes that humans are divine as the Oneness is divine; that God, humanity, & nature are all of the same oneness. They also view God as a force or energy; making Him an 'it' and not a 'he'. **If we remain consistent with the monistic/pantheistic perspective, it is a contradiction to view us as moral persons while viewing God as an impersonal 'it'. Forces or energies don't have morality; they do not possess the ability to love, forgive, empathize, etc. Thus it is a contradiction to say we are inseparably one in divine nature with God and have some difference from God at the same time. Case on point: New Agers believe that we are divine yet ignorant of our divinity. Ignorance is inconsistent with the inherent nature of divinity. Another case in point: reincarnation is an impersonal principle functioning as a form of justice; but justice is a moral issue only actuated by persons. You can not get something morally just from something that is not amoral or immoral for that matter.**
3. New Agers contend that, due to the pantheistic/monistic view of Universal Mind, everything and everybody is God. If that's the case, then it would follow that sin does not & can not exist since there's no sin in Universal Mind. Thus there's no need for humanity to be atoned nor forgiven nor reconciled unto God for their sins; and thus there's no need to believe in the atoning work of Jesus Christ. **This New Age perspective stands on an unrealistic view of sin and therefore underestimates the seriousness of sin. If we do not have a realistic view of sin, then we will inevitably be unrealistic about our proclivity to hurt and injure each other. Sin is the label God ascribed to the violations in our relationship with Him, each other, and ourselves. So it is defeating to be serious about the solution when we are not serious about the problem.**

(Gen 1:26-28/Ps 66:18/ I John 1:10,2:1-2)

4. New Age teaches that its adherents can exercise channeling to contact disembodied spirits for guidance that fills the void between ultimate reality and humanity. **In contrast, Christianity teaches that its adherents do not have to contact disembodied spirits for guidance because Christians were indwelt with the Holy Spirit of God Himself at salvation. God's Holy Spirit then empowers Christians with the understanding of His Word, the impartation of particular gifts of Christ's ability, the fruit of Christ's character, the power to witness in the earth, and the guidance needed to live for Him from the inside out. Hence, it follows that there is no void between us & God. Furthermore, it seems more sensible to have the direct spirit of the god for guidance than to be led by a variety of different spirits who are not the god. *Simply put: why be bothered with the middle man when we can go straight to the source?***
5. New Age advocates reincarnation as a means of having multiple chances to improve our ability to love and thus get better at living with each life. On the other hand, Christianity teaches that

everyone has eternal life after this life either in Hell or Heaven with God. **Now here are the options:**

6. **A) keep living lives that, though I'm living to improve love, continue to subject me to the pain and vicissitudes of life until I'm eventually 'enlightened' and absorbed into an impersonal force or 'it', or**
7. **B) live 1 time to live again eternally with God by simply believing in Jesus Christ 1 time and living for Him 1 time, without having to keep living multiple lives to improve my deficiencies from the previous life; for those have been forgiven and washed away by the blood of Christ.**

(I Cor 15:40-57/ II Cor 5:1/I Thess 4:13-18)