

DEFINING— THE CONNECTION



Three blind men came upon an elephant one day. As they bumped into this massive beast, each tried to explain what it was they had encountered. The first man grabbed the elephant's leg. "I think this is a tree," he commented. The second pinched the elephant's trunk. "This is surely a hose," he decided. The third grasped the huge animal's tail. "No, indeed," he replied, "without a doubt this is a rope." So it goes with defining the New Age connection. Within this movement are hundreds of smaller networks and movements, and it touches nearly every aspect of life, from entertainment to health to business to education. Perhaps simply stated it is a resurgence of paganism or the occult going public.

To get a grasp on the real definition of the New Age connection, we must take a look at six areas in which all New Agers seem to agree. Note that all six links are connected like a chain. Each link leads to the next point.

1. ALL IS ONE

The cornerstone of the New Age is that everything is part of everything else (*Monism*). The entire universe is interrelated to share in this oneness. This philosophy is traced back to Hinduism and can be clearly seen in New Age ideas such as holistic health.

2. ALL IS GOD

If one believes that "all is one" it makes clear sense

that God must be a part of that "oneness". Now God is no longer a supreme being but rather a thing which is a piece of everything else (*Pantheism*). There is no more a creator/creation for all are one.

3. MAN IS GOD

The next step is shocking. If God is part of everything, the logical conclusion would be that God is therefore man and man is God. Now all that is left is to convince everyone of this revelation.

4. MAN MUST CHANGE HIS WAY OF THINKING

Man can find this newly discovered god by simply searching deep within himself. It has been there all the time. He can now reach this new reality by changing his way of thinking thereby discovering this newfound consciousness. This can be done through meditation, Yoga, self-hypnosis, chanting mantras, altered states of consciousness, contacting a personal

angel or even through an out-of-body experience. This new thinking may be called enlightenment, cosmic consciousness, self-realization, illumination, nirvana (Buddhist term), or satori (Zen term).

"New age practices come from a different way of seeing life, they are markedly dissimilar from the religious and spiritual practices that one finds in Christianity."

#6 p XIII.

5. ALL RELIGIONS ARE ONE

All religions are part of this "oneness" whether Christian, Buddhist, Hindu or Jew, and all great prophets like Jesus, Buddha, Mohammed, and Krishna are part of this religion.

6. A NEW WORLD

The end result of this New Age connection is that at some point we will reach a new world order. When a substantial number of humans do this, we will have ushered in the New Age, the Age of Aquarius. Though reincarnation is necessary for man to continue to reach these new heights, he will have evolved to a state of suprahuman.

Why is it so popular at this present point in history? Elliot Miller stated that its popularity is based on five points. 1) It offers a spiritual basis to life. 2) While Christianity also gives a spiritual basis for life, the New Age seems so much more scientifically correct. 3) The New Age claims to have the answers for all of life's problems. 4) It

tolerates unchristian behavior like drugs and sex. In New Age there are no morals and there is no accountability. 5) It appeals to man's sinful desire to be God. #3 p184

As we take a closer look at the definition of the New Age connection, we are drawn quickly to a very important section of Scripture. If we turn back to the book of Genesis 3:4,5 we see a remarkable similarity between the philosophy of the New Age and Satan's attack on Eve in the Garden of Eden. *"You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman. 'For God knows that when you eat of it (the forbidden fruit) your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.'"*

You will not surely die? This is what reincarnation is all about—never dying. *Your eyes will be opened?* That's enlightenment, illumination, self-realization! *You will be like God?* Through pantheism we are God and he is us. The New Age

spirituality preaches that all is God. *Knowing good and evil?* You now make the rules. There are no morals and no right from wrong. We can live in a society of gross sinfulness and never be accountable for our actions to anyone—after all, we are God and we make our own rules. That's why guru Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh has said, "I don't believe in morality...and I am bent on destroying it. To emphasize morality is mean, degrading; it is inhuman." #6

So we discover that the New Age is not really new at all. In fact, it is as old as civilization itself, just a repackaging of Satan's old lie that was tried already in the Garden of Eden. For the Christian this all takes on a special significance when we read repeatedly in New Age literature that the New Age movement is not a religion and one can continue to live as a Christian while practicing New Age spirituality. Can this be? God says no!

MAN SPEAKS

Respond to the following written by Dave Hunt in his book *"America: The Sorcerer's New Apprentice"* #1p45 *"Everything known as "New Age" is simply a revival of ancient religious practices now being passed off as new advancements in science, medicine, and psychology."*

Respond to this statement from an article titled *"Buddhism in America"* from the October 13, 1997 issue of *"Time"* magazine.

"Buddhist practice can be maintained without leaving one's faith of birth."

GOD SPEAKS

Read Genesis 1. How does this speak to the belief that "All is One"?

Read Ecclesiastes 5:2. How does this respond to "All Is God?"

Read Acts 12:21-23. What does this have to say of man wanting to be god? _____

Read Mark 7:21-23. What comes from man's ways of thinking? _____

Read Acts 4:12. Can all religions be one? _____

Read Hebrews 9:27. Will there ever be a new world due to reincarnations? _____

WE SPEAK

Why is it so difficult to define the New Age Spirituality?

What is the significance to you in Genesis 3:4,5?

Can we be a New Age adherent and yet retain our Christianity?

Why would a person want to follow the six definitions of the New Age Spirituality?