

## The Occult

The first thing is we need to do is to give a definition of the word *occult*. The word occult comes from the Latin meaning to "cover-up, hide, or conceal".

The problem with the occult is it brings one into contact with the spirit world, which the Bible identifies as the world of demons under the power of Satan. The philosophy and teaching that comes from occult practices are compatible with the teachings of demons.

*1 Timothy 4:1*

*Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons,*

### General Occult Categories

Sorcery, Satanism, Divination, Necromancy, Witchcraft, Voodoo, Spiritism, Astrology, Shamanism

### Philosophy of the occult

The philosophy of the occult is Monism which means that everything consists of or is reducible to one substance.

### What does this mean in the Occult?

- There is no Creator-creature distinction. We are all gods in the making. Man is ignorant of this and needs occult practices to become enlightened about who we are.
- There is no ultimate distinction between good and evil, moral and immoral, right or wrong.
- Salvation is achieved through self-realization, that a person is divine and you are enlightened through occult practices.

There is a movement that tries to make the occult respectable: it is called the New Age Movement.

I want to spend some time studying this movement because it is the umbrella that includes most of what the Occult teaches.

## New Age Movement

The New Age Movement is a new age that is dawning in the universe. The new age is the Age of Aquarius. This new age has a powerful influence on humanity especially in the area of religious beliefs.

According to this teaching of the New Age, for the last 2000 years the earth has been under the influence of Pisces, the fish. The symbol of the fish was one of the marks of Christianity. The sign of the fish was adopted by the early church for identification. Astrologers say that the Piscean age was a watery one in which occult knowledge was undervalued and occult powers were hidden.

But this new age is the age of humanism and we will see that in the beliefs of the New Age.

## Beliefs of the New Age Movement

NAM covers about all of the occult and there are many different beliefs floating around in this movement but there are four things that they agree on:

1. God is impersonal and man is a part of God (pantheism).
2. Man needs to be enlightened to their divinity and this is done through psychic powers and spirit contacts.
3. Evil is an illusion and a belief in an absolute morality is wrong.
4. They want to produce a united world through people who think like them.

## Three practices of the New Age that are very dangerous:

1. Channeling- this is where a person gives their body and mind to an invading spirit. This person then becomes the mouthpiece for that spirit.
2. Crystals- new agers believe that god exists as energy and if one wants to get into harmony with god there are certain objects that will help a person feel that energy. The crystal energy can bring about spiritual guides, psychic healing, and psychic powers.
3. Spiritism- talking with people who have died, and these spirits enlighten us. Their true identity is demons.

## Religious beliefs

**God**- an impersonal energy

**Holy Spirit**-an energy that can be used psychically

**Jesus Christ**- a new age teacher and illustration of an enlightened individual who realized he is a God

**Man**- inwardly good and divine

**Salvation**- development of psychic powers and higher consciousness this is done by practicing the New Age techniques

**Sin**- ignorance of personal divinity

**Death**- the moment one hopes to emerge with God. This only happens if one has been enlightened.

**Satan**- a man existing in his state of unrealized potential

**Heaven or Hell**- good or bad states of consciousness in this life

## Conclusion

The person and work of **Christ** is the **foundation** of Christianity and every one of these cults and the occult redefine who Jesus Christ is.

*2 Corinthians 11: 13-15*

*For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. 14And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. 15So it is no surprise if his servants, also, disguise themselves as servants of righteousness. Their end will correspond to their deeds.*

## Three characteristics of false teachers:

1. **False apostles**-every one of these cults say they have been sent by God. They say true Christianity ran off the rails after the first century and they are here to set it **right**.
2. **Deceitful workers**- the word *deceitful* comes from a term used for a **lure or a snare**. False teachers worked at trapping people into doctrinal error and moral error.
3. **Transforming themselves**- this word means “to change outward appearance only”, they appear to be **spiritual** but are really spiritual exploiters.

## **Their cause**

A spiritual error must counterfeit truth in order to be accepted. Satan knows this; thus he appears as an angel of light.

They were not sent by God but Satan.

Ministers of righteousness- they taught that you could earn salvation through works

All ministers who teach that man can work for their salvation or contribute to it are destined for hell; they are unsaved.