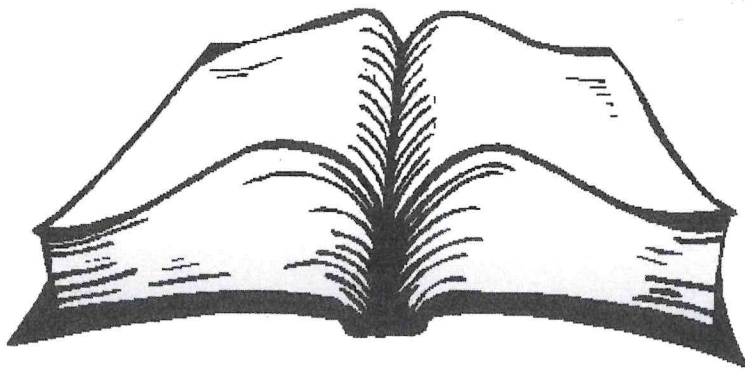


Cult Evangelism

Witnessing to the **CULTS**



LAY MINISTRIES
TRAINING SERIES
LECTURE NOTEBOOK

**A
LECTURE
NOTEBOOK
— to the —
CULT
EVANGELISM
PROGRAM**

**A seminar that teaches a Biblical approach to witnessing to
CULTISTS that will enable any Christian to share his faith.**

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- Today you will spend seven hours studying a Biblical approach of witnessing to the cults. As you study, you will become so familiar with the great foundation of the faith that you will be able to immediately spot a counterfeit cult.
- You will learn to share your faith with a cultist. You will be able to share Bible-centered information which will enable you to present the claims of the gospel of Christ.
- You will have answers for the questions that cultists ask.
- You will win cultists to Christ! Today, millions are trapped in cultic organizations. You can be God's instrument to help them see the light of Christ.

It's all here for you. Turn the page to begin your spiritual journey.

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Section 1

Overview of the Cults

Includes

**Introduction to the Cults
Tricks of the Cultists**

SECTION 1

INTRODUCTION TO THE CULTS

I. WHERE DOES ALL FALSE DOCTRINE BEGIN?

A. Matthew 22:23-29

B. The Sadducees had a false doctrine

1. They did not believe in the resurrection.
2. They tried to prove to Jesus, through logic, that they were right.
3. Jesus gave two reasons for their error
 - a. They did not know the Scriptures.
 - b. They did not understand the power of God.
4. This incident shows that all false doctrine starts in the minds of unscripturally-taught people.

***Eighty-two Million Americans
Do Not
Even Own A Bible!***

II. DEFINITION OF A CULT

- A. The word *cult* is from the Latin *cultus*, and means *care* or *cultivation*. It is not to be confused with "occult," which means "hidden" or "secret." Occult has to do with the mystic arts such as astrology and witchcraft.

B. Walter Martin gives us a good definition of a cult when he says:

A cult, then, is a group of people polarized around someone's interpretation of the Bible and is characterized by major deviations from orthodox Christianity relative to the cardinal doctrines of the Christian faith, particularly the fact that God became man in Jesus Christ (Walter Martin, *The Rise of the Cults*, p. 12).

III. HOW TO RECOGNIZE A CULT**A. Every non-Christian cultic system denies that Jesus Christ is God in human form.**

1. Ask the cultist, "What do you think of Jesus?"
2. If he says, "I believe He is the Son of God," then ask, "Do you believe He is God the Son, God in human flesh, the Savior of the world and the *only* way to eternal life?"

B. All cultic systems have some Bible truth but have some perversion of historic Christian doctrine and theology.**C. The doctrine of the cults is the key issue.**

1. The cults have attacked Christian doctrine.
 - a. Jehovah's Witnesses (JW's) say that all other religions, faiths, etc., are false, that only JW's are saved.
 - b. Brigham Young of the Mormons said, "Will all the people be damned who are not Latter Day Saints? Yes, and a great many of them, except they repent speedily" (*Journal of Discourses*).
 - c. Also, Joseph Smith, the founder of Mormonism, said he inquired of an angel he saw in a vision which church he should join. He was told to join none, as all the ministers were corrupt and their creeds an abomination.
 - d. "Thus, polytheism (the Trinity) is a form of ignorance that cannot stand rational scrutiny. It is a practical impossibility."
2. Our responsibility is to give an answer in rebuttal (I Peter 3:15).

***Every cultic organization
denies that Jesus Christ
is God in the flesh.***

IV. WHAT DOES A FALSE CULT LOOK LIKE?

A. Read Matthew 7:15-23

Fruit of lifestyle and fruit of doctrine

B. False cults have the wrong Jesus.

1. Read II Corinthians 11:3-4.
2. There is another Jesus, another Spirit and another gospel.

V. WHY DO THE CULTS GROW SO RAPIDLY?

A. Pat Robertson of the 700 Club said that there have been 1300 cultic and occultic groups to spring up in the past few years.

B. They provide answers.

In uncertain times, they provide authoritative answers to man's basic questions:
Who am I? Why am I here? Where am I going?

C. They meet human needs.

On the surface, they offer love, acceptance and fellowship.

D. They grow because they use a Biblical method, but they don't have a Biblical message.

1. They do not witness to lost sinners as a rule. The cults win their converts from among people who have some sort of Christian background.
2. I John 4:5-6 reads, "They are of the world: therefore 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 error." There is such a thing as the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

- The Mormons cannot be right—
- The Christian Scientists cannot be right—
- The Unitarians cannot be right—
- The JW's cannot be right—
- The New Agers cannot be right—
- The Muslims cannot be right—

and the Christian church cannot be right all at the same time.

Somebody has to be wrong.

VI. WHERE DO THE CULTS GET THEIR POWER?

A. Read II Corinthians 11:13-15.

B. The energy to do their works comes from the devil.

***Learn what to say to the cultist
at your door instead of
"Sorry, we're not interested!"***

TRICKS OF THE CULTISTS

NINE DEADLY SIGNS

Do you think a cultist looks like a cultist? You know the answer, don't you? Nobody will ever come up to you and say, "I am a cultist; I have a false doctrine, and my purpose is to deceive you!" No, a cultist looks, talks, and acts like you and me. In Matthew 7:15, Jesus said, "Beware of false prophets (cultists), which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravening wolves."

The cultist always mixes his false doctrine with a lot of Bible truth. It's never all false; it always contains enough of basic Bible truth to make it palatable to the unsuspecting Christian.

There are several common methods of the cults that act as a contributing force of any cultist. The following is a list of some of the tricks that are employed by the various cultic groups:

■ Fascination

People are fascinated with the subtle "brotherhood of man" philosophies of the cults. People have paid only sporadic attention to their brainwashing techniques.

■ Initiation

The cultists actually reach out to people and try to get them to join. They look for people with some religious background and then proselyte. They hold "free flowing" informal meetings and teach love, fellowship, good deeds, etc.

■ Indoctrination

This is where the real brainwashing takes place. In long meetings, they pour their philosophies into the minds of the new "convert." All major cults deny the deity of Jesus Christ. Not all of their doctrine is false, but they take a morsel of truth to make false doctrine more palatable. They say, "This is what the Bible says but let me tell you . . . God has given us a 'new' revelation . . ." But God NEVER violates His Word. Indoctrination comes so frequently that the person begins to accept it and believe it.

■ Isolation

The organizational leaders structure their beliefs and interpret the facts to fit their own standards. They fanatically deny church history: "There is no hell," etc. They mentally isolate their people.

■ Fragmentation

Once individual identities are lost, values and properties are not important to any cult member. Sons are alienated from their fathers and daughters leave mothers weeping in disbelief. Somewhere along the road to broad-mindedness and permissiveness, the last remains of innocence and family togetherness are stamped to death.

■ Intimidation

Although our families have been fragmented, we feel intimidated and powerless to do anything about it. Intimidated against attempting anything positive, people tend to reject automatically anything that disturbs the status quo.

■ Subjugation

Their own will, sold on the auction block of the cult leader's ego, they no longer think for themselves. At times, their speech patterns sound like programmed recordings, because at times they are programmed and subjected to the will of the group.



■ Spiritual Self-Assassination

Cultists are oftentimes victims of that master propagandist of all ages described by our Lord as "the prince of this world," and by the apostle Paul as "the god of this age." They are trapped in blinding darkness; and although the killer cults promise much, they produce little.

Born-again Christians must exercise caution that they do not overreact and castigate all unusual religious groups as cultic. It requires effort to prevent a soul from being lost.

The epitaph of a cult is not written on this earth by people of this earth, but was written centuries ago by God: "There is a way that seemeth right unto man, but the end thereof are the ways of death" (Proverbs 16:25). God wants to show you and me which are the right ways through His Word. He will give us strength to help us walk in it.

***Only 2% of unsaved
people will attend
church on Sunday.***



Section 2

Witnessing to the Cults

Includes

Mormonism
Jehovah's Witnesses
Muslims
New Age Movement

SECTION 2

MORMONISM

I. MORMON BEGINNINGS

A. History of Mormonism—As They Tell It

1. Mormonism grew out of a vision which 14-year-old Joseph Smith had in 1820.
 - a. He prayed for direction in choosing a church.
 - b. Two personages, whom he never identified in his testimony, appeared and told him to join none because they were all corrupt.
 - c. Later, an angel named Moroni appeared and directed him to some hidden plates.
 - 1) The plates were golden.
 - 2) The writing on them was in Egyptian hieroglyphics.
 - 3) They contained the history of America before Columbus.
 - d. Smith translated the writings into English.
 - 1) He translated them by means of a seer stone.
 - 2) The translation became the *Book of Mormon*.
 - e. In 1830, he published the book and organized the Latter Day Saints (LDS) Church.
2. Smith was martyred (they say) for his faith in 1844. Brigham Young was chosen as the new leader and led the group to Salt Lake City, Utah.

***Every day, 700 people
join the Mormon Church!***

B. History of Mormonism—As Seen in Evidence

1. No real angelic visitation from God
2. No revival in 1820 in Palmyra, New York
3. *Book of Mormon* is not the Word of God.
 - a. No record of the cities
 - b. Contains grammatical errors
 - c. Contains prophetical errors
 - d. *Book of Mormon* changed 3,913 times since the first edition
 - e. Contains plagiarism from King James Version
 - f. *Book of Mormon* is not of divine origin.

Additional Notes:

***Presently, there are over
60,000 Mormon
missionaries in the world.***

II. THE THEOLOGY OF MORMONISM

A. Concept of Man

1. He is a pre-existent soul.

In a Mormon publication titled *Evidences and Reconciliations*, on page 393, a prominent Mormon writer, John Widtsoe, says, "In the Spirit World are countless numbers of Spirits waiting for their descent into mortality, to secure earth bodies as a means of further progress. These unborn spirits desired the best possible parentage. Those assuming plural marriage almost invariably were the finest types in the community."

2. All mankind will be saved—no hell.

Apostle John Widtsoe in *Evidences and Reconciliations*, page 216, declares, "In the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints, there is no hell. All will find a measure of salvation."

3. Man has to shed his own blood for his sins.

President Joseph Fielding Smith in *Doctrines of Salvation*, Vol. I, Page 135, says, "Joseph Smith taught that there were certain sins so grievous that man may commit, that they will place the transgression beyond the power of atonement of Christ. If these offenses are committed, then the blood of Christ will not cleanse them from their sins even though they repent. Therefore, their only hope is to have their own blood shed to atone as far as possible in their behalf."

4. Man can become a god.

In the *Millennial Star*, Vol. 54, Lorenzo Snow, former president of the Mormon Church, said, "As man is, God once was; as God is, man may become."

B. Concept of God

1. God was once a man.

Joseph Smith said, “God himself was once as we are now, and is an exalted man, and sits enthroned in yonder heavens” (*Journal of Discourses*, Vol. VI, p. 3).

2. God is flesh and bone.

“The Father has a body of flesh and bone as tangible as man’s . . .” *Doctrine and Covenants*, 130:22.

3. There are many gods.

Joseph Smith said, “In the beginning, the head of the gods called together a council of the gods and they came together and concocted a plan to create the world and people in it” (*Journal of Discourses*, Vol. VI, p. 5).

4. Adam is God.

Brigham Young in *Journal of Discourses*, Vol. I, p. 50: “When our father Adam came into the Garden of Eden (they deny he was created), he came into it with a celestial body and brought Eve, one of his wives (he was a polygamist—had many wives—maybe 1,000!) with him . . . He is our Father and our God and the only God with whom we have to do.”

5. There is a mother god.

In *Gospel Through the Ages*, p. 98, Milton Hunter said, “The stupendous truth of the existence of a heavenly mother as well as a heavenly father, became established facts in Mormon theology.”

C. Concept of Christ

1. Spiritual brother of the devil

In *Gospel Through the Ages*, p. 15, Milton Hunter writes, “The appointment was contested by one of the other Sons of God. He was called Lucifer, son of the morning. Haughty, ambitious, and covetous of power and glory, this Spirit-brother of Jesus desperately tried to become the Savior of mankind.”

2. Not begotten of the Holy Ghost

Journal of Discourses, Vol. I, p. 51, Brigham Young said, “Now remember from this time forth and forever, that Jesus Christ was not begotten by the Holy Ghost.”

3. Jesus begat by Adam

“Jesus, our elder brother, was begotten in the flesh, by the same character that was in the Garden of Eden, and who is our Father in Heaven” (*Journal of Discourses*, Vol. I, p. 51).

4. Jesus had many wives—He was a polygamist.

Orson Pratt in *The Seer*, p. 159, says, “If all the acts of Jesus were written, we no doubt should learn that these beloved women (Mary, Martha and Mary Magdalene) were his wives.”

D. Where is the faith of the Mormons

The LDS Garments

**John Taylor, a former Mormon president, said,
“Man is a god in embryo.”**

III. HOW TO WITNESS TO MORMONS

A. Terminology

For centuries, the Christian church has been in agreement on the meaning of the following terms. The Mormon Church uses *our* (Christian) terms with *their* (cultic) meaning.

Christianity: sectarianism; a false and damnable apostate religion.

God: "Elohim;" one of innumerable self-progressing bodily deities; formerly a man, a finite creature. In early Mormon theology, Adam (of the Garden of Eden) was considered by many Mormons as the true earthly deity.

Jesus Christ: a self-progressing deity ("Jehovah" of the Old Testament) and the first spirit child of "Elohim" and his wife.

Holy Ghost: a man with a spiritual body of matter.

Trinity: tritheistic; coordinated under general Mormon polytheism; thus the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost are separate deities.

The Gospel: Mormon theology.

The Church: The Mormon Church headquartered in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Born-again: water baptism into Mormonism.

Gentile: a non-Mormon.

Immortality: salvation by grace (the universal resurrection of all men).

Atonement: provision God has supplied for an individual to earn their own salvation "by obedience to the laws and ordinances of the Gospel" (*Articles of Faith*, 3).

The Fall: a spiritual step upward; a blessing permitting the production of physical bodies for preexistent spirits to inhabit and thus have the possibility of attaining their own "exaltation" or Godhood.

True salvation/eternal life/redemption: Exaltation to Godhood in the highest part of the celestial kingdom based upon individual good works and personal merit; exaltation incorporates ruling a new world and sexual procreation in order to produce spirit children who will eventually be embodied and inhabit that world, each then having the opportunity to be exalted or deified.

Death: generally a step upward; death represents the possibility of a form of salvation (if not exaltation) for those who have never heard of Mormonism.

Heaven: three "kingdoms of glory" comprising various spiritual gradations.

Hell: generally purgatorial; possibly eternal for a very few (primarily apostate Mormons).

Virgin birth: birth of Christ through a physical sex act between God the Father (the Mormon earth god "Elohim") and Mary (hence, not a *virgin* birth).

Man: a preexistent spirit with the potential to earn Godhood by obedience to Mormon dictates.

Creation: the reorganization of eternal matter.

The Scriptures: Book of Mormon; *Doctrine and Covenants*; *The Pearl of Great Price*; and Bible "as far as it is translated correctly" (*Articles of Faith*, 8).

The Bible: an erring and often unreliable inspired record, properly interpreted only by Mormons and only in light of Mormon theology.

B. Witnessing Approach for Mormons



Step One Pointers for the Christian

Begin where he is—he thinks *you* are lost.

Don't be defensive—don't be put into a corner with vague passages in the Bible.

Take the initiative—*you* ask the questions!

Begin with their concept of God.

Ask two questions.



Step Two Questions for the Mormon



What do you believe about God?

- ? “Do you accept the statement ‘As man is, God once was; as God is, man may become’?” This is not found in any standard works. (It will surprise him, and he will be especially amazed that you know this.)
- ? “Does God have a body, fingers, toes, etc.?” (Pause between each question for an affirmative answer.)
- ? “Is He married?”
- ? “Does He have parents?”
- ? “Is He changing?”
- ? “Is there more than one God?”



Could you show me your concept of God in the Book of Mormon (It is not there!)

- ? “What if I could show you that the *Book of Mormon* does not teach these things?”

? “Would it disturb you?”

? “Do you want the truth?”

? “Would you accept it if I showed it to you?”



Step Three Quotes from the *Book of Mormon*

There is only one God—Alma 11:22, 28-29

Jesus was God incarnate—Mosiah 15:2-5

God is unchanging, eternally omniscient—Mormon 9:9-10

God *is* (not *has*) Spirit—Alma 18:24-28



Step Four Transition to the Bible (Use King James Version)

Say, “It is evident that there is something wrong! Mormonism and the *Book of Mormon* do not agree!”

Ask, “Have you been born again? When? Not through water baptism, laying on of hands, or joining the church—but a spiritual rebirth, a genuine change of heart. What age, where, how, what change took place? When? When? When?”

Jesus said “I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man cometh unto the Father, but by me” (John 14:6).

**The prophet is not the way.
Mormonism is not the way.
The priesthood is not the way.
Jesus said, I AM THE WAY!**

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

I. HISTORY OF THE WATCHTOWER MOVEMENT

A. Who are the Jehovah's Witnesses?

1. Foundations and Beginnings

a. Charles Taze Russell

- Born in Allegheny, Pennsylvania, on February 16, 1852. Troubled by various church doctrines, such as teachings on hell, he became a skeptic at age 17.
- Legal separation from his wife in 1906
- Failed prophecies
- Died on October 31, 1916

b. Influence of William Miller and Second Adventist

- Miller had originally taught that Christ would return in October 1843. When this event failed, his followers continued to set new dates, each a complete failure as a prophecy of "things to come."
- Russell exposed to teachings in 1870
- From the Millerites, Russell gained
 - 1) a religious denial of hell
 - 2) stimulating studies in end-of-the-age prophecies

c. Organizational Development and Publications

- International Bible Students Association - founded by Russell
- Zion's Watch Tower Tract Society

- On December 18, 1884, it became a publishing subsidiary of the Association, extending Russell's influence through works like *Millenial Dawn and Studies in the Scriptures*.

- *The Divine Plan of the Ages*

Published by Russell by 1886, projected that 1914 would witness Armageddon and the dawn of Christ's thousand year rule on earth. He also taught that the "end times" started in 1799 and that Christ had returned in 1874. These dates were later changed when Armageddon failed to occur in 1914.

- Joseph ("Judge") Rutherford

Became the new head following the death of Russell in 1916. Reworked Russell's chronologies and falsely predicted Armageddon would be in 1918 and then in 1925.

- Beth Sarim

House erected by the Society in San Diego, California, in 1929. Name "House of Princes"; it was built to shelter the coming "princes of the earth," among whom would be King David, Samson, and Joseph. Again, this prophecy also failed.

- Title "Jehovah's Witnesses" adopted in 1931.

B. What Do They Believe

THAT all religions except the Jehovah's Witnesses are of Satan, and your pastor or priest is under the devil's control.

THAT the Watchtower Society is the only source of truth on earth today, and all churches teach error and will be destroyed at Armageddon.

THAT the cross is a pagan symbol of sex worship, and so all buildings or persons displaying the cross are likewise pagan. Jehovah's Witnesses deny that Jesus died on the cross.

THAT no one goes to heaven but the 144,000 Jehovah's Witnesses and your soul is destroyed if you refuse to join with their organization.

THAT the Watchtower Bible calls the Christ child "it" not "He."

THAT the Jehovah's Witnesses believe Christ was not Messiah until age 30.

THAT after Jesus was buried in the tomb, Jehovah dissolved his body into gases and it disappeared forever.

THAT when Jesus rose invisibly in three days, Jehovah had to "materialize" a fake body for him complete with fake nailprints so His disciples would believe it was really Jesus risen.

THAT Armageddon and Christ's second coming were foretold to happen in 1874, 1914, 1925, and 1975 by this "non-prophet" organization.

THAT when Christ didn't show up in 1914, the Watchtower claimed in later years that He had come—invisibly, of course—and all Jehovah Witnesses believe this today.

THAT Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, etc., were to be back on earth as perfect humans in 1925. The Society built a palatial home for them BUT when the patriarchs failed to show up, the President of the Society moved in.

THAT their light get "brighter and brighter," allowing for many changes and "about-faces" on their doctrines. Yesterday's error is today's "truth."

THAT the Watchtower Society is the Prophet of God today and they have angelic direction over their headquarters in Brooklyn, New York.

THAT salvation for Society members consists in doing the good works of selling Watchtower books and magazines and winning converts.

*The Watchtower Magazine is published
twice a month in 110 languages with
a circulation of 15,290,000 (each issue).*

II. WATCHTOWER DOCTRINE

- A. There is one solitary being from all eternity, Jehovah God, the Creator and Preserver of the Universe and of all things visible and invisible.
- B. The Word for Logos is "a god," "a mighty god," the "beginning of the creation" of Jehovah, and His active agent in the creation of all things. The Logos was made human as the man, Jesus, and suffered death to produce the ransom or redemptive price for obedient men.
- C. Man was created in the image of Jehovah but willfully sinned, hence all men are born sinners and are "of the earth." Those who follow Jesus Christ faithfully to the death will inherit the heavenly Kingdom with Him. Men of goodwill who accept Jehovah and His Theocratic Rule will enjoy the "new earth"; all others who reject Jehovah will be annihilated.
- D. The man, Christ Jesus, was resurrected a divine spirit creature after offering the ransom for obedient man.
- E. The soul of man is not eternal but mortal, and it can die. Animals likewise have souls, though man has the pre-eminence by special creation.
- F. Hell, meaning a place of "fiery torment" where sinners remain after death until the resurrection, does not exist. This is a doctrine of "Organized Religion," not the Bible. Hell is the common grave of mankind, literally *sheol* (Hebrew), "a place of rest in hope" where the departed sleep until the resurrection by Jehovah God.
- G. Jesus Christ has returned to earth A.D. 1914, has expelled Satan from Heaven and is proceeding to overthrow Satan's organization, establish the Theocratic Millennial Kingdom, and vindicate the name of Jehovah God. He did not return in a physical form and is invisible as the Logos.

TERMINOLOGY

AWAKE!—a Watchtower periodical used to introduce Jehovah's Witnesses to the public and arouse interest in the organization's local meetings.

GOATS—refers to all outside the Jehovah's Witnesses, those who will be judged by God as in Matthew 25:31-46.

GREAT CROWD—also "sheep," refers to the majority of the Jehovah's Witnesses who will not live in heaven but rather will inhabit restored Paradise Earth after Christ's return.

JEHOVAH—said to be the only correct name for Almighty God.

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES—a term coined from Isaiah 43:10 in 1931 as the official title of Zion's Watch Tower Tract Society.

KINGDOM HALL—a local meeting place of Jehovah's Witnesses used for instruction of its members.

LITTLE FLOCK—also the "144,000" and the "anointed class," this refers to the elite group of Jehovah's Witnesses who will live in heaven after this life and reign with Christ.

MICHAEL—the archangel who was supposedly Jehovah's first creation and who later became the man Jesus.

NEW WORLD TRANSLATION—the official Watchtower Bible characterized by mistranslations and deliberately designed to support Watchtower theology.

THE WATCHTOWER—a Jehovah's Witness' publication for instruction of its members.

III. VIEWS ON MAJOR CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY

A. Holy Trinity

B. Deity of Christ

C. Holy Spirit

D. Virgin Birth

E. The Resurrection of Christ

F. The Return of Christ and Human Government

G. The Existence of Hell and Eternal Punishment

H. The Soul of Man

I. The Kingdom of Heaven (Heavenly One)

*Every 2 1/2 minutes
someone, somewhere
becomes a Jehovah's Witness!*

IV. HOW TO WITNESS TO JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

Step One—Introduction

1. Greeting at the Door
 - a. Smile
 - b. Come in
2. I have been reading your bibles!
3. I believe just like you that Jesus was a man.
 - a. He was hungry.
 - b. He was thirsty.
 - c. He got tired, etc.
4. But I believe He was also God.
5. Get the Jehovah's Witness to pray with you.

Step Two—The Deity of Christ

1. Matthew 1:22-23
2. John 20:28
3. Isaiah 9:6; Isaiah 10:20-21; Jeremiah 32:18
4. John 1:1; Revelation 19:13
5. John 1:1—show the Greek “KIT”; Isaiah 43:10-11
6. Mark 12:27-28; Luke 20:37-38
7. Hebrews 1:8
8. Revelation 1:8; 22:7, 12, 13, 16

***Over 1 million members have
left the Watchtower Society
in the last 10 years!***

9. Revelation 1:17-18; Isaiah 44:6

10. John 8:58; John 8:24b

11. Philippians 2:10-11; Isaiah 45:23

12. Others

a. Genesis 19:24—two Jehovahs

b. I Thessalonians 4:16-17—Jehovah shall abound.

c. On Hell

1) Revelation 20:10—the beast (a man) was thrown into the lake of fire and was there 1,000 years and was not destroyed; devil also thrown in.

2) Revelation 20:14—death and hell cast into the lake of fire.

d. Jesus is eternal—Micah 5:2.

e. John 10:30, 34—I and the Father are one.

f. Trinity—Jehovah's Witnesses think it means "three Gods in one."

- 1) **Definition:** Within the nature of the one God, there are three persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; and these three share the same attributes. The three persons are one God.
- 2) Now, if we can demonstrate from the New Testament that there are really three persons and they are called God, and if we can demonstrate that there is only one God, then we are driven to only one possible conclusion:

“Things equal to the same thing are equal to each other.”

- 1) Is there a person called the Father in the New Testament, and is He called God?
- 1) Is there a person called the Son?
- 3) Is there a third person?
- 4) Trinity—all three members raised Jesus bodily from the dead.
 - Jesus raised Himself—John 2:19
 - Holy Spirit raised Jesus—Romans 8:11a
 - Father raised Jesus—Romans 6:4

C. Two Methods

IF CHRIST IS NOT GOD, but only a created being . . .

how can all the fullness of God bodily dwell in Him? (Colossians 2:9)

why *must* Christ have the preeminence in all things? (Exodus 20:3 with Col. 1:18; Philippians 2:10 with Isaiah 45:23)

why is He the Creator? (Colossians 1:16; John 1:3; cf. Nehemiah 9:6; Isaiah 44:24, 45:12)

how could He create all things FOR HIMSELF? (Colossians 1:16)

why will He subdue all things UNTO HIMSELF? (Philippians 3:21)

why does He draw all men UNTO HIMSELF, and the Father draw all men to the Son? (John 12:32; 6:37,44)

why will He present His purchased church UNTO HIMSELF? (Ephesians 5:27)

how can believers be complete (made full) IN HIM? (Colossians 2:10)

why the command for believers to grow in grace and in the KNOWLEDGE OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST? (2 Peter 3:18; see Jeremiah 9:24)

how can believers count all things for loss for the EXCELLENCY OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF CHRIST JESUS THE LORD? (Philippians 3:8)

how can He be everywhere—know everything—foretell the future—have all authority? (Matthew 18:20; 1 Peter 1:11; John 16:30; 14:29; Matthew 28:18; Revelation 2:23b)

how could His riches be *unsearchable*? (Ephesians 3:8)

how could His be a love which *passeth* knowledge? (Ephesians 3:19)

how can God and Christ jointly receive the same honor, glory, praise? (Revelation 5:12, 13 with Isaiah 42:8; John 5:23)

how could the Son's person be equal to the Father's? (John 14:9, 23; Matthew 11:27).

how could He baptize believers with the Holy Spirit? (Matthew 3:11)

HOW MANY GODS ARE THERE?

The next time the Jehovah's Witnesses come to your door, you may ask them, "Does your organization teach more than one true God?"

Almost without fail the sharp Witness will reply, "We only believe in one true God, Jehovah."

Explain that you agree with this statement saying, "I also believe in only one true God and all other gods are false gods."

Then ask, "How do you understand John 1:1 that teaches the Word (Jesus) was God?"

Usually they will quote their own New World Translation saying that the "original Greek" states the Word was "a god."

Rather than debating the proper Greek translation you can simply respond, "Well, if Jesus is 'a god,' is He a true God or a false god?"

From this discussion, the Jehovah's Witness can be shown that the Watchtower theology forces them to have two true Gods in John 1:1 or teach that Jesus is a false god.

The Witness cannot say that Jesus is a false God, and because the Watchtower's well-known stance against Polytheism (the belief in more than one God), they cannot say that Jesus is also a true God.

They may try to answer this problem by showing you others in the Bible who were *called* God or by saying that Jesus is a *lesser* God.

Their book, *Reasoning From the Scriptures* teaches that Jehovah is the "Almighty God" while Jesus is simply a "mighty god" (p. 413-14).

Simply point out that while some are *called* gods (i.e., Satan, wicked Judges, etc.), they were certainly *false* gods, not true Gods.

Also, if Jesus is a "lesser god," is He a lesser True God or a lesser false god?

This dialogue can be used by itself to quickly plant a seed at the front door or as a springboard for further discussion on the deity of Christ, other problems with the *New World Translation*, or additional reasons you do not follow the Watchtower Society.

MUSLIMS

I. WHAT CHRISTIANS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT MUSLIMS

A. Introduction

1. Four thousand years ago, Abraham cried out to God, “If only Ishmael might live under your blessing!” This heartrending plea of a father for his son touched God’s heart, and He replied, “And as for Ishmael, I have heard you: I will surely bless him . . . I will make him into a great nation, and my covenant I will establish with Isaac” (Genesis 17:20-21).
2. Today, the spiritual sons of Ishmael are called Muslims—the people of Islam. Over 950 million Muslims are scattered around the world, and they are still outside the covenant. They have been blessed in a material sense, but they have not been saved. They have submitted to God, but not to His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.
 - a. *Islam* definition: Submission to God
 - b. *Muslim* definition: An active part of Islam; one who submits.
 - c. Muslims comprise 35% of all unevangelized peoples of the world.
3. Instead of being evangelized, Muslims are evangelizing. They are sending out thousands of missionaries to preach the message of their prophet, Muhammad.
4. New Mexico is the site of America’s first all-Muslim community, called *Dar al Islam*, centered on 1,280 acres purchased by the orthodox Sunni Muslims.

***In England, more than 1000
closed churches have been
converted into Muslim mosques.***

5. Muslims expect their religion to have the highest number of adherents worldwide because they say Islam is “best suited to solve the problems of all areas.”
6. The number of Muslims has passed the 50-million mark in each of these six countries: Bangladesh, Turkey, India, Indonesia, Pakistan, and Russia. Muslims are now in a majority in 37 countries of the world.
7. Less than 20% of the total Muslim population is found in the Middle East. The largest concentration of Muslims is in Southern Asia—where nearly 300 million live in Pakistan, India, and Bangladesh. Indonesia has the largest concentration of any one country in the world, with approximately 100 million Muslims. One-half of Africa claims allegiance to Islam; about 50 million Muslims live in Russia. Most Muslims are not of Arabic origin but are scattered throughout the world.
8. Islam is more than just a religion. It is a “law” which governs their culture and touches every facet of life—personal, social, economic, religious, and political.
9. A Muslim belongs to a community in which he functions as a member. From birth to death, he lives a life related to other members of his community. This is one reason why it is so difficult for a Muslim to become a Christian.
10. According to Islamic law, the penalty for defecting from the faith is death; and this is sometimes for those who choose Christ.

How Islam Began

Muhammad, the originator of Islam, was born into the pagan Quraish tribe after 570 A.D. in the city of Mecca, in what is now Saudi Arabia. The Quraish claimed direct descent from Abraham through Ishmael.

What Muslims Believe

The Muslim Creed Has Six Articles

1. God
2. The angels of God
3. The books of God
4. The prophets of God
5. The day of resurrection and judgment
6. The predestination to do good and evil

1. What Muslims believe about God
2. What Muslims believe about angels
3. What Muslims believe about the God's Book
4. What Muslims believe about the prophets of God
5. What Muslims believe about the Day of Judgment and Resurrection
6. What Muslims believe about predestination

***Muslims are now a majority
in 37 countries of the world.***

D. What Muslims Practice

There are five or six pillars on which the Islamic religion is founded. Each of these “foundations” shows the tremendous dedication, the zealous attitudes, and the deep religious convictions these people hold dear.

Pillar No. 1: FAITH

Pillar No. 2: **PRAYER**

Pillar No. 3: **FASTING**

Pillar No. 4: **GIVING OF ALMS**

Pillar No. 5: **PILGRIMAGE TO MECCA**

Pillar No. 6: **HOLY WAR JIHAD**

Muslim Beliefs About Christ and Christianity

 **Several basic issues dominate a Muslim's attitude about Christianity**

1. He believes that Jews and Christians have deliberately distorted the Old and New Testaments to hide the predictions of the coming of Muhammad.
2. The Muslim assumes that the Christian believes in three gods.
 - a. The *Koran* teaches that the Christian Trinity is composed of God, Mary and Jesus.
 - b. It rejects Jesus as the Son of God.
3. The Muslim believe that Jesus did not die on the cross, but another, such as Judas Iscariot or Simon of Cyrene, was crucified in His place.
4. The Muslim believes that God saved Jesus from the cross in order to spare God's honor.
5. The Muslim concept of sin and salvation is radically different from that of the New Testament.
 - a. A great deal of confusion exists in Islam about what constitutes sin.
 - b. The only exception is the sin of associating another god with *Allah* (*shirk*) which cannot be forgiven.

6. Sin, to the average Muslim, is failure to live up to the Islamic moral code and failure to perform the requirement of the five or six pillars of Islam.
7. The Muslim mystic fears hell fire, or purgatory.
8. He believes that since no man can pay for another's sins, he must suffer for his own, but that he will eventually be rescued from purgatory by the intercession of Muhammad.

***Muslims accept Christ
as a prophet only!***

II. OVERVIEW OF THE TEACHINGS OF ISLAM

A. Introduction

In the seventh century, Muhammad, thought to be the last prophet in a line that includes Abraham, Moses, the Biblical prophets, and Jesus, found a strict, monotheistic religion in reaction to the polytheism and lawlessness of the existing Arab culture. Within a century, Islam had conquered an area greater than the Roman Empire at its height. Today, Islam is almost the sole religion of all Arab countries and has major communities in Africa.

Muslims reject the title "Muhammadanism," for Muhammad is thought to be only the carrier of the truth and not divine in any way.

The *Koran*, for the most part a series of short teachings, is intensely revered by Muslims as the final Word of God, the culmination of what was only begun in the Bible. The word *Islam* refers to the peace that comes from surrender to God.

Shi ites believe that religious leaders should also be political rulers, whereas the majority of Muslims, the *Sunnites*, believe in a separation of the two realms. *Sufis* form the mystical branch of Islam, teaching an arduous path of self-denial culminating in union with God.

B. God

Allah means “the God,” indicating the radical monotheism of Islam. “We shall not serve anyone but God, and we shall associate none with Him” (*Koran* 3.64). Any division of God is rejected, including the Christian doctrines of the Trinity and the divinity of Christ. (“It is not meant for God to have children” {19.921}).

The majesty and might of Allah is often portrayed in the *Koran*, and it is emphasized that his purposes are always serious. Justice is Allah’s most important feature for Muslims.

Allah is also merciful and compassionate, but that mercy is shown mainly in his sending messengers who proclaim the truth of man’s responsibility to live according to Allah’s dictates.

C. Man and the Universe

Muslims see the universe as created by the deliberate act of a personal, omnipresent God. The universe is often considered an illusion in any way and is basically good, being given for the benefit of man. Muslim respect for the world order led to the development of sciences in Arab countries long before developments in Europe.

Muhammad did not produce miracles but simply proclaimed the message of Allah. Thus, the presence of God in the world is seen not through supernatural signs but through the wonderful order of nature and the one great miracle, the *Koran*. Muslims generally do not expect miraculous deliverance from suffering in this life but believe that good deeds will be rewarded in the next life.

Man is considered a sort of vice-regent, in charge of creation under the authority of God. His purpose—and the goal of Islam—is to make a moral order in the world.

Man is endowed with *taqwa*, a sort of divine spark manifested in his conscience that enables him to perceive the truth and to act on it. Conscience is thus of the greatest value in Islam, much as love is the greatest value to Christians.

But Islam is in no way pantheism. Man may cultivate his *taqwa* and so live according to the way of Allah, or he may suppress it. Thus man deserves or is undeserving of God’s guidance.

D. Salvation and the Afterlife

The *Koran* rejects the notion of redemption; salvation depends on a man’s actions and attitudes. However, *tauba* (repentance) can quickly turn an evil man toward the virtue that will save him. So Islam does not hold out the possibility of salvation through the work of God but invites man to accept God’s guidance.

The final day of reckoning is described in awesome terms. On that last day, every man will account for what he has done, and his eternal existence will be determined on that basis: "Every man's actions have we hung around his neck, and on the last day shall be laid before him a wide-open book" (17.13).

E. Morals

Islam presents a "straight path" of clear-cut duties and commands. Islamic morals are a combination of genuine acts of love and justice on the one hand and legalistic performance on the other.

Muhammad is pictured in the *Koran* as a loving person, helping the poor and slow to take revenge. Nevertheless, the firm belief that Muslims possess the one truth has led to much violence on the behalf of Allah through the ages.

F. Worship

Muhammad is not worshiped; only God is. Because of strict rules against depictions of human forms in art, there is a strong impetus against idolatry or saint-worshiping in Islam. Allah is extolled in hymns that depict his power and majesty. But even Allah cannot be ultimately leaned on for salvation, because salvation is man's responsibility. Thus, his guidance, in the form of words rather than persons, is emphasized.

For that reason, the *Koran* is revered as perhaps no other book. It is probably the most memorized book in the world.

III. HOW TO WITNESS TO MUSLIMS

Those who anticipate dialogue with Muslims must consider a method of approach. No other faith, not even Judaism, is so resistant to the "soul-winning" or "plan of salvation" approach to witnessing.

- A. When discussing the Bible with a Muslim, it is important that verses be read in context.
- B. The Muslim will be impressed with a Christian's words only if he experiences genuine friendship from the Christian and sees him living a moral life.
- C. In most Muslim countries, physical contact with persons of the opposite sex is forbidden until after engagement and marriage.
- D. Pray for discernment, love, and patience in trying to understand a Muslim friend and his culture.
- E. Christians witnessing to Muslims have discovered that friendship accompanied by a study of the Gospels constitutes the most powerful witness.
- F. Americans are finding that the "mission field" has been brought to their neighborhood. There are more Muslims in the United States than there are Assemblies of God and Church of God church members combined!
- G. Give a reason for the hope that is within you

IV. WHEN A MUSLIM DECIDES TO FOLLOW JESUS CHRIST

- A. A growing number of Muslims, after exposure to the Bible and Christian witnesses, are indicating a desire to become followers of Christ. They are discovering that Christ alone fills the void in their hearts and brings them into relationship with God as a loving heavenly Father.
 - 1. The Church is not always ready to receive and nurture them.
 - 2. The fear of false motives and the open hostility and persecution of the Muslim community are two reasons that Christian churches have not welcomed Muslim converts. However, the Muslim is easily attracted to *spiritual vitality*.

- B. When a Muslim begins seriously considering following Christ, a period of testing motives is usual.**
1. If he finds that the Christian will yield to using money or any other enticement to get him to convert, he will lose respect for him.
 2. If he finds the Christian to be sincere in his trust in Christ, he will have more confidence in trusting him with his spiritual nurture.
- C. Suspicion is an integral part of the fear motive governing Islamic society, and the Muslim will need to be sure he can trust Christians. Information he shares in private should not be repeated unless he gives permission.**
- D. Conversion to Christianity has very grave consequences for most Muslims.**
1. In an Islamic society, there is no separation of church and state. The law of the *Koran* is the rule of all citizens and to convert is an act of treason.
 2. For a Muslim to become a Christian may cause a life-threatening situation. Christians must be aware of the price that many Muslims pay to identify with Jesus Christ.
- E. The Muslim who accepts Christ will have a need for personal Bible study.**
- F. You will want to know the convert's family situation.**
1. Encourage him to witness discreetly to his family by sharing his new discoveries in the Bible.
 2. Visit in his home and make friends with his family.
- G. At every opportunity, pray with and for the new convert. Teach him to pray using the Lord's Prayer as a model.**
- H. Muslims often receive insights through dreams and visions. Help him understand these, using Scripture as the basis for your interpretation.**
- I. Islam has incorporated elements of the occult from pre-Islamic paganism in Arabia. You will learn to take seriously what the Bible says about the spirit world as you share the thoughts of the Muslim.**

- J. Encourage the new convert to become a part of a fellowship that will nurture his spiritual growth.**
- K. Let the convert make his own decision about believer's baptism. Because of the threatened loss of family, job, and even his life, he may request private baptism.**
- L. Equally important, he needs the daily presence of the Holy Spirit operating in his life, teaching him the meaning of the Scriptures.**
- M. It is of utmost importance that the new believer senses the unity of the Holy Spirit between various churches. Denominationalism is not our message.**

NEW AGE MOVEMENT

I. BACKGROUND

The New Age Movement (NAM) is an off mixture of spiritualism, globalism, and human potential themes that has created its own subculture of books, periodicals, and seminars. This movement is also referred to as New Consciousness, or Cosmic Humanism. It is very difficult to define because it encompasses so many teachings and takes various forms in different parts of our culture.

A. Definition

In his book, *A Crash Course on the New Age Movement*, Elliot Miller describes it as “an extremely large, loosely structured network of organization and individuals bound together by common values (based on mysticism and monism, the worldview that ‘all is one’) and a common vision (a coming ‘New Age’) of peace and enlightenment, the ‘Age of Aquarius’ ”(p. 15).

New Agers say that Jesus spent 18 years in India, absorbing Hinduism and the teachings of Buddha.

B. History

1. The New Age Movement traces its modern roots to the Theosophical Society, founded in 1875 in New York by Russian-born Helen Petrovna Blavatsky. A basic teaching of this organization is that all world religions have “common truths” that transcended potential differences.

2. One of the main figures to emerge from the Theosophical Society was Alice A. Bailey (1880-1949), an Englishwoman who emigrated to America.

C. Is There a New Age Conspiracy?

The presence of New Age ideas in so many different levels of society could make a person wonder if there isn't some sort of organized plot behind it all. But if the term *conspiracy* refers to a well-organized, centrally administered, secret plan that has been humanly devised to overthrow Christianity and establish a one-world government and religion, the answer is "no"—at least not one that can be proven. But the answer is "yes" if the term refers to loosely organized movement that has become increasingly networked for cooperation between a wide variety of New Age groups.

D. New Age Books

1. With its vast range of offers, the New Age Movement draws from other sources too. Particularly in the fields of education and counselling, methods are to be found that are rooted in Rudolf Steiner's writings.
2. The New Age Movement is successfully popularizing and then utilizing one concern after the other systematically. Even children and teenagers are being influenced by New Age ideas through a barrage of fantasy games, videos, films, audiocassettes, comic books, literature, party games, and toys.
3. Fantasy books are best-sellers, with editions running into millions. Hundreds of titles are already on the market, almost always presenting some form of occultism (such as communicating with the dead, conjuring spirits, clairvoyance, telepathy, and levitating objects by the power of thought) and featuring sorcerers, witches and magicians.

***The principal aim of the New Age
plan is to establish a one-world
New Age religion as a one-
world political and social order***

E. New Age Believers

The wide variety of people and interests in the New Age Movement shows how it offers something for everyone. For example, well-known spokespersons for the New Age include futurists *Alvin Toffler*, *Barbara Marx Hubbard*, and *Hazel Henderson*, the late economist *E.F. Schumacher*, historian *William Irwin Thompson*, biologist *Jonas Salk*, psychologist *Jean Houston*, consciousness researcher *Ken Wilber*, physicist *Fritjof Capra*, the late anthropologist *Margaret Mead*, the late futurist *Buckminster Fuller*, retired U.N. Assistant Secretary General *Robert Muller*, death-and-dying researcher *Elisabeth Kubler-Ross*, actress *Shirley MacLaine*.

***Sales of New Age books
are reported to be over
\$1 billion per year.***

II. CURRENT BELIEFS

The New Age Movement does not have a formal creedal statement, nor does it have a central headquarters. And yet there is something that holds it all together and makes it a movement. This appears to be a network of individuals and organizations who share the same basic worldview.

☞ Here are the basic teachings of the movement with a brief contrast to Biblical teaching.

- A. All the world is one.
- B. God is in everything, and everything is in God.
- C. Humanity is divine.

- D. Man needs to be educated to a higher consciousness
- E. Global transformation
- F. Unity in all religions
- G. Radical moral relativity
- H. Contact with the spirit world

***To the New Ager, God can be referred
to either as she or he, mother
or father, god or goddess.***

III. EVANGELIZATION—PROCLAIMING THE REAL NEW AGE

IDENTIFY THE NEW AGER

- **Names** The New Age Movement comes under many different names, like the Aquarian Conspiracy, New Consciousness, New Orientalism, Cosmic Humanism, Cosmic Consciousness, Mystical Humanism, Human Potential Movement, and Holistic Health Movement.
- **Buzz Words** Warning signals should flare up whenever New Age “buzz” words are used, words like: Awakening, enlightenment, centering, consciousness, cosmic energy, force of life, global village, holistic, human potential, self-actualization, networking, planetary vision, spaceship earth, synergistic, transcendental, transformational, and transpersonal. Obviously, not everyone who uses these words is a New Ager. But the New Age significance of these words in our present culture should alert us to the possibility of an underlying New Age system.
- **Symbols** New Age symbols like the rainbow, pyramid, triangle, eye in a triangle, pegasus, concentric circles, rays of light, swastika, yin-yang, goathead on a pentagram, the numerals 666, and the unicorn should cause us to closer evaluate the person, organization, or activity they might represent. (Again, the use of these symbols does not necessarily signify a New Ager, just as the wearing of a cross does not necessarily indicate its wearer is a Christian.)
- **Impersonal Force** If God is spoken of in terms of an impersonal entity or identified with the world or energy in any way, then you have probably stumbled upon New Age ground.
- **Human Potential** Beware of movies, songs, lectures, literature, or even business seminars which claim that humans possess “unlimited potential.” Carried to its logical conclusion, this is just another way of saying that we are God.
- **Sorcery** When seminars or books attempt to talk to us about our potential at all, be attentive for modernized forms of sorcery. Sorcery may be defined as the ability to manipulate objects, people, or events by one’s will or perception. “Visualizing” or “imaging” an event to occur is essentially an occultic practice.
- **Human Goodness** Remember that the New Age Movement is essentially a mystical form of humanism. New Agers carry the humanistic belief in the essential goodness of man to the point of godhood. So be careful of any teaching that emphasizes the goodness of man or ignores the reality of sin in the world.
- **Christ-Consciousness** We should be particularly wary when someone refers to Jesus Christ as “the Christ-spirit” or “Christ-consciousness.”
- **Mystical Feeling** New Age thought is also permeated with the use of feelings to determine the truth. MacLaine admitted that she had no proof for reincarnation, but she *felt* it was true. Mysticism is appealing when one ignores his or her rational faculties. But the Scriptures command us to “test the spirits to see whether they are from God” and to discern the difference between the spirit of truth and error (1 John 4:1,6). The New Age god would have us put our logic aside—but the God of the Bible encourages us to love Him with all our heart, soul, and **mind** (Matt. 22:37-38).
- **World Unit** The New Age Movement believes in the unity of all religions and the eventual cooperation of all governments. Thus they are a strong force behind both the world peace and ecumenical movements.
 - a. If we discover any one of these warning signs in a movie, song, book, seminar, or organization then our “spiritual detectors” should be on the alert for a possible New Age influence.
 - b. Of course, like the warning signs of cancer, no single symptom is a sure sign of disease. But if the symptoms persist over a period of time, those who have been exposed should consult the Great Physician.

B. Prepare Yourself

1. First, we must show others that the New Age thinking is diametrically opposed to Biblical Christianity. Its teachings are not theistic. Its various forms of reaching the “spiritual force” can open the door to demonic influences. Its concept of a united world, if achieved, would set the stage for antichrist.
2. Second, we and other believers should insist that government authorities view the New Age phenomenon as a religion. Its teachings are religious—just as much as those found in the Bible. Therefore, we can protest when we find New Age thinking in the textbooks of our children and grandchildren. We can justly and legally refuse to attend seminars sponsored by our employers if they are infused with New Age theology.
3. Third, we must band together to supplement our preaching of the gospel with practical holiness by ministering to the spiritual, physical, and emotional needs of people. We must demonstrate that the Holy Spirit produces a greater degree of genuine compassion in the Lord’s people than is possible among those who do not know Him.

C. Learn Biblical Responses to New Age Thought

Basic Assumptions of New Age Philosophy

1. God is an impersonal undifferentiated Oneness, not separate from creation.
2. Humanity, like all creation, is an extension of this divine Oneness, and therefore shares its essential being. Humanity is divine.
3. Humanity’s crises stem from a fragmented vision blind to this essential Oneness and to humanity’s innate divinity.
4. Humanity needs to be transformed—each individual actualizing his/her divine nature, becoming aware of the One.
5. Transformation is brought about through a myriad of techniques which can be applied to mind, body, and spirit. Such techniques, used variously by New Age groups, include yoga, chanting, creative visualization, hypnosis, and submission to a guru.
6. Personal transformation is the basis for global transformation and the spiritual evolution of humankind, characterized by mass enlightenment and social unity. This unity will transcend the individual and social self-centeredness which has created the present crises in environment, world hunger, international relations, racism, etc.

Biblical Response to New Age Assumptions

1. God is distinct from creation.
2. Humanity is not God.
3. Humanity's crises stem from alienation from God brought about by sinful rebellion.
4. Humanity needs to be transformed through the renewing of the Holy Spirit, made possible by the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, which reconciles us to God.
5. Humanity does not acquire God's forgiveness through the application of any technique. It is a free gift to be humbly received by faith.
6. Although personal rebirth through Jesus Christ will result in some transformation of social institutions, permanent global transformation will not occur until after the physical return of Jesus Christ in judgment.

D. Preach Christ

1. Christians and others need to recognize that the differences between the New Age and the Christian worldview are great and deep. Without this understanding, communication is ruled out.
2. Although New Age enthusiasts may use words like "Christ-consciousness," they are not referring to Jesus of Nazareth in the Biblical sense but rather to a kind of mystical consciousness in which people think that they are God. Because of such semantic differences, Christians need to press those interested in the New Age on the meaning of their terms, with an eye toward showing the distinctives of the gospel. Although the New Age endlessly repeats its motto of "all is one," the New Age is not one with Christianity.
3. Because those interested in the New Age may be very interested in spiritual realities, Christians should point out the reality of lying and seductive spirits. As John said, "Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world" (I John. 4:1).
4. The touchstone of spiritual discernment is Jesus Christ. Any philosophy, religion or experience that denies his unique lordship and saving work is a spiritual counterfeit (I John. 4:2-3).



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