

World Religions and False Cults

Part 10 – The New Age Movement

The History of the New Age Movement

New Age thought is not confined to one particular organization, but is a movement that is made up of a variety of individuals and groups. New Age ideas are not “new” in the sense of time, but “new” in the sense they focus on the belief that we are approaching a new age of mankind, in which mankind will soon reach a higher state of enlightenment and spirituality (considered the Age of Aquarius). New Age practices began in America in the 19th century, but really gained momentum during the counter-culture movement of the 1960’s and 70’s. It is essentially a Westernized form of Eastern religious beliefs mixed with astrology, occult practices (channeling, psychics), spiritual healing, holistic health, meditation, belief in the paranormal (UFOs, extraterrestrial life), etc. The movement has influenced the thinking of millions of Americans toward many aspects of life, including science, health, religion, education, psychology, culture, and the environment.

Core Beliefs of the New Age Movement

This movement can be summarized in four main beliefs: 1) all reality is divine, “God is all; all is God”, 2) personal enlightenment is key to understanding our own divinity, 3) the spirit world aids in enlightenment, and 4) a change in consciousness is necessary to reaching our true human (and global) potential. Traditional thinking and absolute truth is abandoned for this new worldview. It is intentionally very anti-Christian. Key views:

- God: There is no personal God over creation. God (at times referred to as “He”) is a principle (essence) that makes up all things. Everything is part of the same essence (i.e. god).
- Mankind: Since everything is divine, so is mankind. God will not judge us, for He is us. Self and global improvement is emphasized through various spiritual means/purposes.
- Salvation: Enlightenment and karma (focus is only on good karma) brings advancement in our consciousness and ends the cycle of reincarnation as we become one with all things.

Keys for Evangelism

- This is a worldview impacting millions (whether they call themselves “New Agers” or not). Be informed and prepared.
- Focus on the relationship with Jesus Christ offered through salvation. Show this truth as being universal & unchanging.