

Rooted and Built up in Christ or What?

At the School of Healing Prayer in Toronto where we teach people how to pray for others for Christian healing and how to handle different issues that may crop up in prayer sessions (such as addictions, mental disorders, depression, sexual abuse, deliverance etc), we find that many New Age issues crop up in the participants themselves at the School. Many Christians seem to be involved in New Age practices thinking that this is quite acceptable. We even hear that New Age practices can be ‘baptized’ into Christian practice!

If I read my scripture correctly it would seem to me that every time God’s people come into contact with pagan worship, they are strictly commanded to either shun it or destroy all of its artifacts. I have yet to read in scripture where God tells His people to incorporate either the artifacts or the practice in their worship. In our modern language we have a word for this – it is ‘syncretism’ and it’s abhorrent to our God.

We are called to be ‘rooted and built up in Christ’*, to stand firm on the rock which is Christ, to be ‘a people holy to the Lord your God’** and to trust in the inerrant word of scripture. With this in mind I always recommend to our participants that there are two guidelines which are helpful in deciding whether one should be involved in a practice or not:

1. The first is to go to the root of the practice. What is it rooted in; is it rooted in scripture, rooted in Jesus Christ? If it is not rooted in the word of God then there is no doubt that a follower of Jesus should most definitely stay away from it.
2. The second thing that I suggest is that one check to see whether one is uncomfortable (however slightly) with the practice – this may be a warning from the Holy Spirit. We have to remind ourselves that this is a life or death matter – the life or death of our eternal soul – and if we suspect that God may not want us to be involved in something, it is far better to err on the safe side and stay away from it.

You will find that the saying ‘everything old is new again’ applies in many of the so-called New Age practices.

With this in mind, after doing a considerable amount of research, I have put together a simple fact sheet on some of the more prevalent New Age practices so that you may judge for yourselves. Some of this has been taken from critiques, from my own experience and from the literature written by the founders and proponents of some of the practices.

“Show yourselves guileless and above reproach, faultless children of God in a warped and crooked generation, in which you shine like stars in a dark world and proffer the word of life.” Philippians 2:15

May God bless you as you seek to be ‘a people holy to the Lord your God’**.

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* Colossians 2:6

** Deuteronomy 7:6

REIKI

- X Reiki in Japanese means spirit, ki means life force energy - Universal Life-Force-Energy
- X Begun by a former Buddhist, Usui Sensei, a teacher in Japan (about 1822). His students asked him if he could perform the same miracles as Jesus - he said that he couldn't and consequently resigned and began seeking. He studied the principles of Hinduism, Buddhism and Zoroasterism. He went to India/Tibet to learn Sanskrit where he was attracted to certain symbols. He went up onto a mountain and meditated, and he claims that on the final day of his meditation he saw a light coming towards him which struck him on the forehead and he conversed with the so-called 'old masters' who showed him the meaning of the Sanskrit symbols which he memorized. On the way down from the mountain he hurt his toe on a rock and he held on to it and then, he claims, found that he had healed himself.
- X He then worked for three/seven years with beggars bringing them his new-found gift, but found that they had no gratitude so he proceeded to teach gratitude or payment in exchange for energy.
- X He taught the principles of how to behave, not to worry for today, to show no anger for today and to earn a living honestly.
- X Sensei believed that there is an unlimited supply of energy available in the universe. One can transfer the Reiki energy into another person by laying on of hands. Channeling of Reiki energy from teacher to pupil he called 'attunement'. After attunement the practitioner is able to channel the energy through their hands into other people. There are three levels of attunement.
- X Reiki claims to deal with four levels of human condition - physical, mental, emotional and spiritual.
- X The Reiki practitioner is taught to lay hands in specific positions on certain area of the body, namely, the major organs which are the energy centres. The energy passes through the practitioner to the supplicant. The 'higher self' of the supplicant takes the energy and directs it to the sick part of the body.
- X Reiki practitioners believe that this method was developed thousands of years ago, long before Jesus, and they claim that they teach the same principles that Jesus taught (i.e. work for your salvation through your behaviour) and that Jesus healed by laying on of hands.
- X To ensure that people put a value on the 'gift' of Reiki, Reiki practitioners charge for their services

THE LABYRINTH

- X Also called 'Dromenon' (ancient Greek - a ritual pattern of dynamic expression, a therapeutic dance rhythm in which participants experience second birth into a higher order of consciousness and community), participants also called 'Dancers of the Dromenon' -source www.jeanhouston.org.
- X Consists of a single winding path in large concentric circles that leads to the centre. It is not a maze.

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- X Origins lie in ancient mythology and pagan rituals - palace of Knossos (in ancient Crete) where the Minotaur is said to have lived. Theseus traveled through the Labyrinth to kill the Minotaur with his double-headed

axe called a labrys . This labrys has now come to symbolize feminine power and creativity. Other labyrinths in ancient culture were tied to fertility rites and goddess worship.

- X A labyrinth is an occultic mandala - a Hindu meditation process in which the symbol is usually a circular picture with a sun or star at the centre. Also found in Hopi medicine wheels and Tibetan sand paintings. It is a sacred geometry based on ancient, sacred knowledge that is universal - Lauren Artress, an advocate of the concept.
- X Labyrinth movement was given prominence by Jean Houston - past president of the Association for Humanistic Psychology; has a Doctorate in Philosophy of Religion; a spiritualist medium or channeler (was consultant to Hilary Clinton and channeled the spirit of Eleanor Roosevelt for her); runs Mystery School where she teaches her students how to speak in occult glossolalia (tongues)
- X Taught to Lauren Artress, canon of Grace Cathedral in San Francisco, by Jean Houston at her Mystery School in 1985. Lauren Artress was instrumental in popularizing the labyrinth and was instrumental in persuading the officials of Chartres Cathedral to join with Grace Cathedral in opening up their labyrinth. The emphasis of the labyrinth is on the mystical powers of the inner self - the Source , the Sacred , the God within, which has been destroyed through centuries of patriarchal domination, through fears of creativity and of the traits associated with the feminine . Artress summons us to The Greening Power of God, the Holy Spirit in all Her mystery who is found in the power of the divine within , in her publication Walking a Sacred Path: Rediscovering the Labyrinth as a Sacred Tool .
- X Regrettably a number of churches have adopted the labyrinth as a meditation tool not having fully examined its source or the occultic teachings of its main advocate.

YOGA

- X Yoga - from the Sanskrit word to yoke/join (to join mind, body and breath) - to yoke with Brahman (the Infinite, the Universal Spirit) via the realization of an altered state of consciousness, thereby supposedly releasing oneself from the bondage of endless reincarnation. Can be traced back to Shiva, the Hindu god called the Destroyer and Yogi Swara or the Lord of Yoga .
- X Goal - self-realization - to look within to discover the higher self .
- X Hatha-yoga - one of the ten forms of Yoga. It is in actuality one of the six recognized systems of orthodox Hinduism and is spiritually one of the most potentially dangerous forms of yoga. Hatha - means to oppress . It is designed to suppress the flow of psychic energies (passages on either side of the spinal column), thereby forcing the serpent power or the kundalini force to rise through the central psychic channel in the spine (the subhuman) and up through the chakras (the supposed psychic centres of human personality and power).
- X In Hindu mythology and occult anatomy, the goddess Kundalini is thought of as a female serpent lying dormant at the base of the spine. Kundalini is separated from Shiva, her divine lover and masculine
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counterpart who resides in the brain. When aroused by yoga practices, she uncoils, travels up the spine opening the alleged psychic centres called chakras in the process. When the crown or top chakra is reached the union of Shiva/Shakti occurs, supposedly leading the practitioner to divine enlightenment and a union with Brahman (1). The person who experiences kundalini arousal is expected to experience spirit

possession (2).

- X Physical exercise positions come out of Hindu scriptures - the positions are named after Hindu animal gods e.g. the cobra

Read:

1. Gopi Krishna, *The Awakening of Kundalini* , P. Dutton
2. *Play of Consciousness* , Swami Muktananda
3. *Yoga - Relaxation or Occult?* , Biblical Discernment Ministries

THERAPEUTIC TOUCH

- X Founder: Dolores Krieger, Ph.D, R.N.
- X Mentor: Dora van Gelder Kunz, clairvoyant (possessing second sight) and psychic healer (spiritualist). Also past president of the Theosophical Society in America. Kunz's tutor was C.W. Leadbeater, leader in the Theosophical movement in India.
- X Theosophy founded by Helena Petrovna Blavatsky, a Russian psychic. It is a syncretistic blending of Hinduism, Buddhism, Taoism, Kabbalism, Rosicrucianism, Freemasonry and spiritualism.
- X It is an occult practice that teaches practitioners to contact spirit guides for psychic diagnosis and treatment.
- X Based on New Age premise of universal energy (prana - Sanskrit/Hindu word meaning vitality or vital force) and the key to healing is the supposed manipulation of energy. Healthy people are supposed to have an excess of prana whereas sick are supposed to have a shortage of it.
- X The Therapeutic Touch practitioner 'channels' the excess 'energy' to the sick person through a four step process - centering (meditation), assessment, unruffling and modulation. Occult healing involves the manipulation of prana . "Pranic healing is done by sending prana (the 'vital force') from your body to the diseased or affected parts, stimulating the cells and tissues to normal activity and allowing the waste material to leave the system. It involves the use of passes and the laying on of hands." (1) In his book called 'Psychic Healing', Ramacharaka says "When the pass is completed, swing the fingers sideways, as if you were throwing water from them" - identical motions as used in Therapeutic Touch.
- X This process is identical to the spiritual healing that was, and is, practiced by spiritualist healers and in no way duplicates Jesus' model of laying on hands, nor of the laying on of hands and invocation of the Holy Spirit as practiced by Jesus' apostles.
1. Buckland's *Complete Book of Witchcraft* , Raymond Buckland, p. 194.

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DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS

- an interactive fantasy story-telling game
- players cast spells and interact with demons
- the 'Monster Manual' handbook lists titles of the demons e.g. *Jubilex* – the faceless Lord who is the 'most disgusting and loathsome of all demons'.

- This ‘game’ bleeds into a person’s real life and gives a feeling of empowerment to the people who delve in this.

OUIJA BOARD

- “oui” and “ja” both words for ‘yes’
- the players place fingers on game piece called a planchette and ask questions. They await answers that will come through the planchette moving from letter to letter to spell out words.
- Answers come through demons moving the planchette
- This practice opens the door to Satan and his demons. It is, in essence, ‘channeling’ of demons.