

NAME _____
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1. **What is the New age Movement?**

- A. The New Age (NAM) movement has many sub-divisions, but it is generally a collection of Eastern-influenced metaphysical thought systems, a conglomeration of theologies, hopes, and expectations held together with an eclectic teaching of salvation, of “correct thinking,” and “correct knowledge.” It is a theology of feel-goodism,” “universal tolerance,” and “moral relativism.”
- B. In the NAM Man is central. He is viewed as divine, as co-creator, as the hope for future peace and harmony. A representative quote might be: “I am affected only by my thoughts. It needs but this to let salvation come to all the world. For in this single thought is everyone released at last from fear.” (A course in Miracles, The Foundation for Inner Peace, Huntington Station, N.Y. Lesson 228, p 461.)
- C. Unfortunately for the NAM, the fear from which they want to be released might very well be the fear of damnation, of conviction of sin, and it is even, sometimes, fear of Christianity and Christians. Though the NAM is tolerant of almost any theological position, it is opposed to the “narrow-mindedness” of Christianity that teaches Jesus is the only way and that there **are** moral absolutes.
- D. The NAM is difficult to define because “there is no hierarchy, dogma, doctrine, collection plate, or membership.” It is a collection, an assortment of different theologies with the common threads of toleration and divergence weaving through its tapestry of “universal truth.”
- E. The term “New Age” refers to the “Aquarian Age” which, according to New Age followers, is dawning. It is supposed to bring peace and enlightenment and reunite man with God. (Isaiah 59:2), Because of lack the lack of understanding and knowledge concerning the true nature of God and that their sins have separated them from God.
- F. The New Age movement has man, in all of his self-proclaimed glory, at its center. Much of the modern pursuits of the new age movement were derived from experiences gained through mind and consciousness altering drugs, very popular

during the '60's and '70's. Individuals "saw things" and "experienced things" that started them on quests for life's answers. They believe that man is invested and divested with untapped powers and wisdom that can be realized if diligently and purposefully sought after. The infamous atheistic propaganda, "God is dead" grew out of these awakenings; and, since God was now dead, mankind has to search elsewhere for answers and hope.

- G. Where better to search than one's self? Drugs were not the only devices used; philosophy, education, and various forms of religion were also employed by seekers to find the higher planes that they knew existed. Some of these religions became the modern day cults which tickled the fancies and satisfied the longing for mystical and spiritual experiences and self enlightenment. These pursuits have ancient origins in such systems as [Gnosticism](#), alchemy, mesmerism, [freemasonry](#), mysticism, theosophy and spiritualism.

2. The New Age Movement is a religious system with two basic beliefs: *Evolutionary Godhood, and Global Unity.*

A. What is Evolutionary Godhood?

1. It is the next step in evolution. It will not be physical, but spiritual:
 - a. For the most part, the NAM espouses evolution, both of body and spirit. Man is developing and will soon leap forward into new spiritual horizons. Many New age practices are designed to push one ahead into that horizon. Some of them are astral projection which is training your soul to leave your body and travel around; contacting spirits so they may speak through you or guide you; using crystals to purify your body's and mind's energy systems; visualization where you use mental imagery to imagine yourself as an animal, in the presence of a divine being, or being healed of sickness, etc.
 - b. Evolutionary Godhood also means that mankind will soon see itself as god, as the "Christ principle."
 - a. The NAM teaches that Man's basic nature is good and divine. This opposes God's Word which says: That we are sinners: *"Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned. (Romans 5:12)*

b. And that our nature is corrupt: *“among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.”* (Eph. 2:3)

2. It teaches that since man is divine by nature, he then has divine qualities.

a. This is an important part of NAM thinking. Because the average New Ager believes himself to be divine, he can then create his own reality. If, for example, a person believes that reincarnation is true, that's fine because that is his reality. If someone he knows doesn't believe in it, that is alright too because that is someone else's reality. They can each have a reality for themselves that “follows a different path.”

b. In contrast to this, the Bible says that God alone is the creator: *“Thus saith the LORD, thy Redeemer, and he that formed thee from the womb, I am the LORD that maketh all things; that stretcheth forth the heavens alone; that spreadeth abroad the earth by myself;”* (Isaiah 44:24)

c. The New Ager who believes in his own divinity and ability to create, usurps the authority and position of God. He also is still listening to the lie of the devil who spoke to Eve and said she would be like God (Gen. 3:5)

3. Reincarnation

a. Though not all New Agers adhere to reincarnation, most believe in some form or another. And many believe the Bible was changed to remove any verses that might have taught reincarnation. But this accusation only shows the limitation of their knowledge. The Bible never had any references to reincarnation.

b. Reincarnation opposes the Word of God which says that *“it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:”* (Heb. 9:27)

B. The Second major element of the New Age Movement is Global Unity which consists of three major divisions: Man with Man; Man with Nature; and Man with God.

1. Man with man

- a. The NAM teaches that we will all learn our proper divine relationship with one another and achieve harmony and mutual love and acceptance through the realization and acceptance of this divine proper knowledge.
- b. Within this hoped-for harmony is economic unity. The average New Ager is looking for a single world leader who, with New Age principles, will guide the world into a single harmonious economic whole.
- c. It is also hoped that this leader will unite the world into a spiritual unity; that is, a one-world religion.
- d. The New Age hope is reminiscent of the Scriptures that speak of the coming antichrist.

2 Thess. 2:3-4 *“Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshiped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.”* **See also Rev. 13:17**

2. Man with nature

- a. since the NAM says that God is all, and all is God, then nature is also part of God. Man must then get in tune with nature and learn to nurture it and be nurtured by it. In this, all people unite.
- b. American Indian philosophies are popular among New Agers because they focus on the earth, on nature, and man’s relationship to them.
- c. New Age philosophy generally seeks to merge with those philosophies that put man and nature on an equal level. We are no more or less important or different than our “cousin” the animal, bird, or fish. We

must live in harmony with them, understand them, and learn from them, is the general philosophy of the New Age Movement.

This is opposed to the Scriptural teaching of man's superiority over animals (**Genesis 1:26-27**). This does not mean that Man must abuse that which he is over, but Man is given the responsibility of caring for and being stewards of God's creation (**Genesis 2:15**). God will hold Christians responsible for the stewardship that has been entrusted to them.

d. The New Agers have a name for the earth. It is Gaia. Gaia is to be revered and respected. Some New Agers even worship the earth and nature.

This opposes the Scripture that says we are not to have any other Gods before God (**Ex. 20:3**)

5. Man with God

Since the NAM teaches that man is divine by nature, all people, once they see themselves as such, will be helped in their unity of purpose, love and development. The goal is to fully realize our own goodness. It is obvious that this contracts Scripture.

Romans 3:10-12: *"As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: there is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one."*

3. Additional beliefs of the NAM view of God are:

A. He (it) is impersonal, omnipresent, and benevolent – therefore he (it) won't condemn anyone.

1. The New Age god is impersonal. An impersonal God will not reveal himself nor will he have specific requirements as to morality, belief, and behavior. This is why reincarnation appeals so much to them. With it, there is no judgment, there is a second chance, a third chance, and fourth, etc., after death.

2. It should be noted that because the New Ager seeks to elevate himself to godhood, he must lower the majesty and personhood of the true God. In other words, the universe isn't big enough for one true God, but it is big enough for a bunch of "little ones."

B. There are no moral absolutes in the New Age Movement. Therefore, they claim to have a spiritual tolerance for all "truth systems." They call this "harmonization."

1. There is an obvious problem here. To say that there are no moral absolutes is an absolute in itself which is self-contradictory. Also, if morality is relative, then stealing may be right sometimes, along with lying, adultery, cheating, etc. Living in a world of moral relativism would not bring a promising future.

2. It would follow that if reality is relative and truth is too, then driving a car would be difficult. After all, if one New Ager thinks the light is red and another thinks it is green, when they collide, their different realities will come crashing down on them. That is something most interesting about New Agers, they don't live what they believe. That is, because, in reality New Age thinking doesn't work.

3. the New Age Movement does espouse honesty, integrity, love, peace, etc. It just wants to do it without the true God. It wants to do it not on HIS terms, but on its own terms.

IN CONCLUSION:

1. What the New Age Movement does.

- A. It is a sponge that attempts to absorb all religions, cultures, and governments.
- B. It seeks to unify all systems into one spiritual, socio-economic unity.
- C. It uses various means to have mystical experiences with God and/or nature and/or self.

Some of the methods were described in Omni Magazine (*How to Have a Mystical Experience*. Dec. 1988, p. 137-145) as **imagining**, where you are told to imagine your own reality; **transcendence**, going beyond the limits

of time; **sleep deprivation**, with the purpose of inducing a mystical experience; **focusing**, "to experience all of reality as unified and not as a collection of disparate objects"; **avoidance**, where communication with the outside world is stopped in order to reinterpret the world without its influence on you; **identification**, "To trade places mentally with a dog or a cat, canary, or animal in the zoo"; **reflection**, an exercise designed to help you to view the year to come, differently; and **star-gazing**, "to induce a sense of objectivity about your life and a feeling of connectedness to the rest of cosmos."

2. What the New Age Movement does not do:

- A. It does not teach that man is a sinner - [Rom. 5:12](#); [Eph. 2:3](#).
- B. It does not teach that man is dependent upon God for all things - [Isaiah 43:7](#); [James 1:17](#).
- C. It does not teach that punishment is eternal - [Rev. 14:11](#).
- D. It does not teach that the wages of sin is eternal separation from God - [Rom. 6:23](#); [Isaiah 59:2](#).
- E. It does not teach that Jesus is the only way to God - [Matt. 11:27](#); [John 14:6](#).
- F. It does not accept Christianity as the truth - [2 Tim. 3:16](#)

3. New Age Terminology

- A. According to the Bible, Man is the image bearer of God ([Gen. 1:26](#)), and as such, is a creature of speech. Remember, God said, **"...Let there be light"** ([Gen. 1:3](#)).
- B. In the New Age, words are very important. In fact, the New Age has some of its own special words. Some of them are: Holistic, holographic, synergistic, unity, oneness, harmony, at-one-ment, transformation, personal growth, human potential, awakening, networking, energy, and consciousness. These words are prevalent in New Age conversations and writings.

C. In fact, if you were to go to a New Age Bookstore and read the titles or their books, you would see a disproportionate amount of them containing the word "self."

4. The New Age Interpretation of Christianity

- A. God is not a personal heavenly Father but an impersonal force.
- B. God is all and all is God. God is not the "wholly other" creator of all, but part of all that exists.
- C. There is nothing that is not God. (This is pantheism.)
- D. There is no sin, only incorrect understanding of truth. Knowledge is what saves, not Jesus.
- E. Hell is not a place but an experience here on Earth; it is a state of mind.
- F. Jesus was just one of many way showers of divine truth. He exemplified the Christ consciousness probably better than anyone else.
- G. Christ is a consciousness, a form of the higher self. It is possessed by all because everyone is divine. "It is not Christ that can be crucified" (Miracles, Lesson 303, p. 441).
- H. A miracle is a correction...It merely looks on devastation and reminds the mind that what it sees is false. It undoes error (Miracles, p. 164). A miracle to a New Ager is not God's intervention into this world to perform His will but the realization of the true reality that God is all and that you are God.

5. The New Age View of Man

- A. Since all is God, and man is part of all, then man is God. This is pantheism. This is an eastern mystical belief system that has crept into mainstream America.
 - 1. God is not part of creation. He is separate from it and made it ([Isaiah 44:24](#)).
 - 2. Man is not God; he is a creation ([Gen. 1:26](#)).

B. Therefore, man is good by nature.

1. Man is not good by nature (**Eph. 2:3**).

C. Man has infinite potential.

1. This arrogant conclusion based upon false concepts of grandiose self-worth, is a deceptive, self-satisfying indulgence into pride. As Satan wanted to be like God (**Isaiah 14:12-17**) and encouraged Adam and Eve to be like God also (**Gen. 3:1-5**), the New Ager listens to the echo of that Edenic lie and yields to it willingly.

D. Man is one with the universe.

1. Again the difference between man and creation is blurred. Man is made in the image of God (**Gen. 1:26**). The universe is not. Man is different than creation.

6. The New Age View of Salvation

A. Salvation in the NAM. means to be in tune with the divine consciousness. In tune means to be in harmony with reality and whatever is perceived to be true.

B. Since the NAM doesn't acknowledge sin or sinfulness, there is no need for a redeemer like Jesus. Salvation, to them, is simply the realization of our divine nature. "I am not a body. I am free. For I am still as God created me. Salvation of the world depends on me" (Miracles, Lesson 206, p. 380). Such arrogance is mind-boggling. It is a form of knowledge, of achieving correct thought. Therefore, we need to be saved from ignorance, not sin.

C. Salvation, in the New Age sense, is self-achieved through understanding your natural godlikeness and goodness, combined with proper knowledge.

As you can see, the New Age Movement is not a biblical teaching by any means. It is a false religious system authored by the evil one. It contradicts Christianity in almost all of its main tenets. It is to be avoided, to be guarded against, and to be destroyed. And so, it will, on that glorious day when the Lord Jesus returns.