

SPIRIT OF LIFE MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL
MINISTRY SCHOOL
SESSION 27 CULTS PART 16
WICCA

Wicca is an eclectic religious belief system centering around gods, goddesses, and nature worship. Gary Cantrell, a well-known Wiccan author says Wicca is based on "harmony with nature and all aspects of the god and goddess divinity."¹

Wiccan practice involves the manipulation of nature through various rituals in attempts to gain power, prestige, love, or whatever else a Wiccan wants. It uses symbols in its ceremonies and follows the calendar in reference to Wiccan festivals. Its roots are in ancient agrarian Celtic Society. It is considered Neo-Pagan (based on old European and pre-Christian belief systems). Wicca does not have a structure of clergy and/or congregations. But it does have priests and priestesses which are in leadership positions within covens that have witches.

The varying traditions of Wicca have different requirements for attaining the level of priest and priestess. Some of the more common varieties of Wicca are 1734, Alexandrian, Celtic, Dianic, Dicordian, Eclectic, Gardnerian, and Georgian. Wicca is even recognized as a religion in the military.

One of the most common aspects of working theology is the teaching of reincarnation and karma. The purpose of reincarnation is to learn lessons through the various lives. "This process of reincarnation is repeated for numerous lifetimes until a development of the Spirit is reached where the Spirit can truly merge with the male and female balanced creator/creatix entity. We are returned to the God and to the Goddess." [Ibid., p. 27.] Karma is the law of cause and effect that "does not punish nor reward. It is simply a universal law that reacts to causation until disharmony is illuminated."²

Wicca does not claim to be the only way but says that all spiritual traditions and paths are valid to those who practice them.³ It accepts "the fact that all life is sacred, including plant, animal, and human."⁴

Generally, Wiccans do not believe in the existence of a devil (they are not Satan worshippers). They have no orgies or public displays of sexuality in their rituals (though some Wiccan traditions practice nudity and sexuality, not open to the public), no bestiality, and no blood sacrifices. They do not practice spells with the intention to harm people. They deny that there are moral absolutes, believe that nature is divine, and seek to be in harmony with the earth/nature.

^{1, 2, 3, 4, 5} <https://carm.org/wicca/what-is-wicca/>

⁶ <https://carm.org/wicca/my-involvement-in-the-occult/>

Is it recognized as a religion by the government? Absolutely.

"Wicca is a bona fide religion, Mr. Barr. It has been recognized by the courts, and legal Wiccan clergy can be found in every state in the United States. We have chaplains in many American and Canadian prisons. Our guiding principle, the Wiccan Rede, admonishes us to harm none."⁵

History and Origins of Wicca

There is no exhaustive or authoritative source that traces Wicca back through ancient times. Wicca is mainly a 20th-century manifestation of ancient nature worship systems based out of northern Europe that existed thousands of years ago.

"Wicca is a religion rooted in the mists of Neolithic history... it is basically a fertility and agrarian society. It is a religion of nature worship and the subsequent interaction with nature that is dissented from that practice by the Celtic clans of Western Europe and the indigenous peoples of the British Isles, the builders of such monuments as Stonehenge."¹

"Wicca originated among the Celts and other peoples who lived in the area now known as Great Britain. Wiccans celebrate the Earth and believe all living things have a spirit. They espouse pantheism and claim to see the divine in everyone. Most celebrate monthly rituals, or "esbats," centered on the lunar cycles, and eight annual Wiccan holy days, or "sabbats," centered around the solar cycles, solstices and equinoxes."²

These pagan oriented nature worship systems filtered down through history in countless ways but were mainly practiced in secret (and still are today). The secrecy was especially necessary during the European dominance of the Roman Catholic Church.

Basically, these pagan traditions developed out of agrarian societies where the environment had a profound effect on survival. Those who studied the seasons and the stars sought to predict and understand the influences of the environment upon crops, cattle, rain, etc. and in so doing also desired to be able to influence these factors. It was the desire to understand and control nature that gave rise to the various pagan and earth-based worship systems. Therefore, we can see when we study ancient European pagan writings, that there are countless deities.

Additionally, an important aspect of nature worship deals with the woman. It is the woman who was able to give birth to continue the race. In cultures where offspring were needed to work the land, to hunt, and to care for the elderly, women were, of course, vitally necessary. Therefore, the female became, in some cultures, mystically endowed with special powers and this mystical endowment was transferred into the various theological pagan worship systems.

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At first, there were a great number of cultures located all over the ancient European landscape. Since Europe is a large area and since weather patterns, terrain, water supplies, temperature variations, animal types, etc., varied in those areas, the development of nature worship (Druids, Celts,) also took on aspects that reflected those variables. Therefore, the ancient systems could be polytheistic, monotheistic, feminine focused, masculine focused, ritualistic, calendar based, hunter based, etc.

Because of the multifaceted and varied background, the nature-based worship systems were not codified and there is no "official" pagan tradition. Nevertheless, today's Wicca is based on these ancient and pagan roots.

The Burning Times

The Burning Times is roughly from the year 1000 to around the 1700s, where countless numbers of witches were killed through the misapplication of biblical texts. Perhaps the most commonly cited biblical verse supporting the killing of witches is found in **Exodus 22:18**, "**You shall not allow a sorceress to live.**" The Roman Catholic Church, which was in power in the Middle Ages in Europe, was often very oppressive. Wiccans today often identify themselves with the time of the witch burnings and judge Christianity based on the atrocities committed by the Roman Catholic Church. Unfortunately, many Wiccans did not realize that the Roman Catholic Church also persecuted Christians, torturing many of them for not submitting to the authority and rule of Roman Catholicism. In Christianity, particularly in the Protestant Reformation, we refer to this time as "the Inquisition" which was begun by Pope Innocent VIII in 1484. The point is that the Roman Catholic Church does not represent Christianity, and its atrocities committed upon both pagans and Christians is not the true representation of Christianity.

Wicca Today

Allister Crowley, an evil man involved in the occult, claimed to have channeled a book called "the book of the law." It focused on a new era of spirituality governed by the Egyptian God Horus. From this work, Crowley established the first group of modern witches.

It wasn't until recently that Wicca took formation as a loosely based system, mainly from the works of Gerald Gardner who formed the Wiccan tradition known as Gardnerian Wicca. Through Gardner the idea of the God and goddess were "solidified," and Wicca became a religious movement.

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Wicca is now growing: “scholars have estimated that Wicca is the second-fastest-growing religion in the United States (after Islam).”³

The Wiccan Rede and the Threefold Law

There are two basic codes by which the Wiccans live. First is the Wiccan Rede which states, "An Ye Harm None, Do What Ye Will." This means that a Wiccan is free to use his or her magic as long as it doesn't harm anyone. The second is the Threefold Law which says that all the good you do will return to you threefold in this life. Likewise, all the harm you do will return to threefold as well.

The God and Goddess

There is an ultimate life force called "The One," or "The All" from which the male and female aspects of life emerged, i.e., the god and goddess. The divine, god, or goddess, depending on to whom you are talking, can have different names. There can even be references to different gods from other theological systems: Hinduism, Egyptian, Buddhism, ancient Greece, Sumerian, Christian, etc. In Wicca, it doesn't really matter what name is given to a person's concept of God as long as you have one, or two, or more.

One Wiccan might consider God to be self-aware, another may not. It all depends on the angle that an individual Wiccan takes in his or her theological construction of what best works. It is a religion of self-design. In Wiccan theology because God can show different characteristics in different ways to different people, Wiccans can have different and even contradictory conceptions of God. This is not a problem to them because they maintain that it is only the limited aspects of individual perceptions of God that appear contradictory.

“As Wiccans, we acknowledge and worshipped the old gods and goddesses in the form both pleasing to Them and meaningful to us...”⁶

Why is Wicca attractive?

Wicca is attractive for many people who do not desire or appreciate absolute truths. In Wicca, a person is free to discover his or her own "path." In other words, he or she is free to invent a religious system that suits his or her desires.

“If you are just beginning a study of paganism, you may need to evaluate many different traditions or paths before finding the one for which you are looking. Your chosen path in the old religion must be one that is uniquely suited to you as an individual and one that lets you speak to the Lord and Lady in your own fashion.”⁷

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It should be obvious that Wicca is a religion of personal preference. In other words, you are free to invent, devise, and develop a religion that suits your personal wants and interests.

Furthermore, in Wicca you may attempt to manipulate your surroundings and other individuals through spells and incantations. This combination of developing a religion that suits your personal preferences and trying to influence others is very appealing to a lot of people.

Beliefs and Teachings in Wicca

The following list of affirmations and denials are held by most Wiccans. But because there are differences among Wiccan traditions, not everyone can or will affirm or deny every statement listed here. Nevertheless, the list is accepted by almost all Wiccans:

1. Affirms

- A. The existence of a supreme divine power known as "The One," or "The All."
- B. "The All" is not separate from the universe, but part of it.
- C. That from "The All" came the god and goddess.
- D. That the god and goddess are manifested in various forms in the universe.
- E. Nature worship and, therefore, environmental concerns are high.
- F. Divinity is within.
- G. Biological evolution.
- H. That there are different and valid paths to finding the truth about God.
- I. That all creatures have a life force, a soul.
- J. The male and female principles are in balance throughout the universe.
- K. The equality of the sexes.
- L. That each person has male and female aspects that need to be balanced.
- M. Multiple reincarnations.
- N. The teaching of karma.
- O. The practice of rituals designed to attune Wiccans to the natural life forces.
- P. That upon death a person is released back to a place called Summerland.
- Q. That different paths to spirituality are acceptable as long as they don't hurt anyone.
- R. Personal responsibility for ones' actions.

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2. Denies

- A. The concept of Heaven and Hell ([Matt. 25:46](#)).
- B. The existence of the Devil and the worship of the devil, Lucifer, etc. ([Matt. 4:1](#)).
- C. The existence of absolute evil ([Psalm 34:14](#)).
- D. The inspiration and authority of the Bible ([2 Tim. 3:16](#)).
- E. A need for salvation ([Rom. 3:23](#)).
- F. Moral absolutes ([Exodus 20](#)).
- G. That Jesus is the only way to salvation ([John 14:6](#)).
- H. The male headship presented by Christianity ([Eph. 5:22-33](#)).
- I. A religious authoritative hierarchy ([Eph. 4:11](#)).
- J. The concept that humanity is to subdue the earth ([Gen. 1:28](#)).

A testimony from someone that delved into the occult:⁶

(Matt Slick) “As a Christian researcher and defender of the faith, I delve into many areas of the occult, world religions, and Christian-based cults. From the Christian perspective, all non-Christian religions are false and are ultimately demonically inspired. But being false does not mean that they have no power. The devil is active and powerful, and he uses people to accomplish his desires. So, the problem is knowing whether the power that comes from various religious systems is good or bad. Of course, as Christians, we would state that all things that are filtered through a false system are ultimately bad.



The reason I am divulging this information about my past is that I know that there is a spiritual world out there. The question is whether or not what we contact is good or bad. I present the following as my experience in the occult before I was saved. It is verification that those who seek to contact that which is unholy will ultimately find it.

When I was a teenager, before I was a Christian, I was intrigued by spiritual issues. Christianity meant nothing to me. In fact, my younger brother, who had been a Christian for a number of years, was constantly witnessing to me. I distinctly remember threatening him physically if he did not stop bothering me with this Christianity stuff. I was more interested in my attempts to contact the dead and to see things in the spiritual realm. I wanted results and the perceived droning of Christianity “morality and rules” did nothing but get in the way of my personal desires regarding spiritual pursuits. So, into the darkness I went.

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My high school friends and I began to dabble with necromancy (contacting the dead), séances, Ouija boards, pendulums, table tilting, astral projection, and other such practices. We got results. What I'm going to tell you is true. I am not exaggerating anything nor making any of this up.

The reason I'm disclosing my involvement is not to draw attention to it, but to convince people that it is real and that it is dangerous. You see, with success in the occult comes darkness. And I am forced to ask a question. What does Wicca come in contact with, the God and goddess manifestations or something else?

Before I was born, my mother would have dreams about a man coming to her. He would be dressed in a white long-sleeved shirt with the sleeves rolled up to about his elbows. He wore black pants and black shoes and sometimes a short-brimmed hat. This dream would be so upsetting to my mother, that she would wake up. She then would sit in bed and look at the wall across from her and watch as the man materialized through the wall, approached the bed, and stared at her. She was so disturbed by this that she would wake up my father who could never see him but would go turn the light on at which time this figure would disappear.

Now, you might conclude that my mother was seeing things, or on medication, or something like that. The problem with this is that the dreams occurred over a two-year period. My mother's IQ was genius level, and she was extremely rational in everything she tackled (She passed away in 2004). This figure would follow her from house to house since my father was in the military and had moved several times during the two-year period.

After I was born, my mother said that one night she had the dream again. As usual, the dream woke her up and she waited in bed for him to materialize. He did. At this time, he went over to where I was lying in the crib and stood half in the wall and half out of it, looking down at me. My mother told me that there was something different about that visitation, but she did not know what it was. She nudged my father who got up and turned on the light. The figure disappeared. Soon after that, he stopped appearing altogether. As a young man, I never told anyone about these "visions" my mother had because I thought it would be too "weird" and embarrassing and that my friends might think my mother was strange.

Later, when I was 17 years old and just beginning my involvement in the occult, I was trying astral projection. This is a practice where a person attempts to have his spirit leave his body and travel around. Now, I was never able to achieve that, but I was able to get various results including very strong sensations of movement, lifting, floating, and sometimes vertigo. Nevertheless, I was never able to fully succeed, and when I told one of my occult-delving

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buddies about it, he said that he was able to do it regularly. My doubts were increasing so I offered him a challenge. I asked him to astral project over to my bedroom that evening and to take a look at my desk. On the desk, I would arrange a series of pencils and pens and books in a certain pattern and then the next day when we were going to high school, he could tell me what he had seen after he astral projected over to my house. He said it wouldn't be a problem at all.

That night I arranged my desk and went to bed. The next morning my friend and I were heading off to school and I asked him if he was able to astral project over to my place and look at my desk. He told me he could not do it. Initially, I scoffed. But then he told the reason why. He said that as he was astral projecting towards my house a man dressed in a white long-sleeved shirt with rolled-up sleeves, black pants, black shoes, and a black hat would not let them enter. To say the least, since I had not told him about my mother's visitations I was dumbfounded.

Deeper into the Occult

The fact that my friend told me something he could not have known about was very intriguing. We were encouraged, and he and I and two other friends began to delve further into the occult. I remember very clearly one night when all of us were together in a room, waiting for the spirits to manifest (I will not disclose how we did this). My three friends and I would see lights moving around in the air. This got me further interested, and so I tried to invite spirits to come in contact with me. At first, nothing happened. But I began to notice things like seeing a blue aura around someone, dreaming the same thing one of my friends would dream, hearing voices in the night when no one was around, etc. I also remember very clearly the more we got involved, the more I was interested in dark things. I distinctly remember getting posters of demonic creatures and hanging them up in my room and thinking that they were "cool." Skulls became interesting as well. Then, I started listening to heavy metal music that was definitely "dark" in its overtones. I also found more and more resistance to things of Christianity.

Finally, one night a friend of mine and I were in my room trying to contact the dead. We both watched as a ball of blue light materialized in a corner near the floor and began to grow in size. We watched it change its form and took the shape of a man in a crouching position. This man had a cape on, and his back was to us. He stood and as he began to rise, he turned to face us. Right when he had fully faced us, he disappeared, and in place of him, a yellow cross materialized in midair. Even as I write this now, I can still see it in my mind's eye. It was beautiful. It glowed and lit the room up and had that same blue color emanating as an aura around it that had comprised the color of the "man." Then the cross moved. It did not

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accelerate. Instead, from a non-moving position, it was suddenly moving at a constant velocity until it was right in front of us where it immediately stopped without decelerating. It then hovered right before us, glowing, and lighting up my entire room. This manifestation was so profound that it scared my friend and me, and we immediately left. We did not know what to do. We talked to some people who were involved in the occult and even they said that it was bad. We needed to stop.

That experience and the others spooked me enough for me to begin reconsidering everything that I was doing. After all, my friend and I had seen something very profound and very real. We were not drinking and weren't doing drugs (to this day I have never done any drugs at all). But the good news is that shortly after that time, the Lord saved me in a very real and dramatic way, and I turned from all my occult activities.

Some people will not believe that these things occurred. If you don't believe me, that's up to you. But as the Lord is my witness, it happened. I bring this up because I know that there is a spiritual world out there and the people in Wicca will be able to contact spiritual forces. The question is, what are they? How do they know if they are good or bad?

Those in Wicca are unwittingly contacting demonic forces and because of that, they gain a form of power. But that power has a cost. The cost is darkness. I remember very clearly the anti-Christian attitude that gradually grew in me the further into the darkness I went. I also remember the fascination with things of darkness such as skulls, pentagrams, the darkness of night, and a general defiant attitude. The more I got involved with that, the more these things increased. There is definitely a spiritual connection with the author of the power behind the occult. Likewise, there is definitely a power that comes from the true and living God, Jesus Christ. He has far more strength, clarity, and truth than anything Wicca can offer. Though the occult is real, God is, too, and the only safeguard against the enemy is salvation in Jesus Christ."

Is Wicca compatible with Christianity? Absolutely not. You must choose which way to go as you can't serve two masters. [Joshua 24:15; Matthew 6:24](#)

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