

New Age — What Is It?

Why is the subject of New Age versus Christianity a vital one? Because no Christian in our society is immune from exposure to New Age influences. A mixture of high-sounding ideals and motives could make some New Age teachings palatable to Christians. In addition, many people are unclear as to exactly what is unchristian about the New Age and thus ignorantly absorb and impart such influences to others. Our purpose is to alert our students regarding this confusion and warn them of those who are influencing society in the direction of dangerous values and vision.

As we approach a topic of this magnitude and complexity, you are not, as a teacher, expected to be an authority on this ideology or to address all the unanswered questions on this exceptionally broad and varied subject. The focus will be to point out, based on Bible doctrine, the wide divergence between New Age teachings and the message of the Word of God.

Response 1 — The Bible tells us there will be an era of peace when Christ's kingdom is set up on this earth during His Millennial Reign. History is moving according to the sovereign plan of the Creator and Ruler of the universe, who "worketh all things after the counsel of his own will" (Ephesians 1:11). Our hope for the future does not rest in mankind's stepping forward in some sort of evolutionary or spiritual leap but in the promises and power of God who is supreme over all.

According to Revelation 19:14,20,21; 20:1-3, the events immediately preceding Christ's rule on earth begin with His return to earth with His saints and the armies of Heaven. This will be followed by the destruction of the wicked, the Beast, and the false prophet at Armageddon, and then the confinement of Satan to the bottomless pit for a thousand years. Then a time of peace for this world will begin. Christ will rule

Objective

The students will be able to recognize how the beliefs of the New Age movement differ from Christianity, in order to remain established in the Truth.

Key Texts

Genesis 1; Exodus 3:14,15; Job 7:17; Psalms 8:1-4; 51:5; 103:15; Ecclesiastes 5:2; 12:7; Isaiah 35:1-10; John 3:3; 11:25; Acts 4:12; Romans 3:23; 5:8-10; Colossians 1:15-17; 1 Thessalonians 5:21; 1 Timothy 1:17; 2 Timothy 2:15; Hebrews 9:24-28; 11:3; 1 John 1:9; 4:1-3; Revelation 20:1-10; 22:12-14

Other Scriptures Used in This Study

Isaiah 14:13-15; Ezekiel 28:1,2; Zechariah 8:1-8,20-23; Acts 12:21-23; Ephesians 1:11; Revelation 19:14,20,21; 20:1-3

Suggested Verse for Memorization

Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. — 1 John 4:1

in righteousness from the capital city of Jerusalem. (See Zechariah 8:1-8, 20-23.) The saints will judge the earth, after having been awarded cities to rule based on their faithful service. Peace will reign everywhere, to the extent that even the animal kingdom will live in harmony.

Response 2 — The Christian viewpoint holds that God's creation is not an undivided unity but a diversity of objects, events, and individuals. The Genesis record of creation shows God creating particular things in a certain order. God separated the light from darkness, the day from night, the earth from the sky, and the land from the seas. He created plants and animals according to their various kinds. Finally, God created man in His own image. Thus, the world is not a conglomeration of undifferentiated unity but a grouping of created entities. Union exists only through the plan and purpose of God.

Response 3 — Summaries of these verses should bring out that our Creator-God is not an impersonal force, energy, or essence but a living, personal being of infinite intelligence, power, and holiness. He is distinct from His creation. He is not an amoral entity but a moral agent who has set forth standards of holiness and righteousness. He is a loving God who calls His people to repentance and faith.

Response 4 — Using these verses as a basis, your students should conclude that man is a creature formed by God in God's own image. Because of disobedience, however, man fell from a right standing before God. Man is born with a sinful nature and is destined for damnation unless he is spiritually reborn. Broaden your discussion to include the point that man is not infinite, omnipotent, omniscient, nor omnipresent as God is. In addition, the Bible repeatedly condemns human pretenders to the divine throne. See Isaiah 14:13-15; Ezekiel 28:1,2; Acts 12:21-23.

Response 5 — These verses present the Biblical stance, that the problem of humanity is not ignorance of our divinity but the reality of sin and rebellion against a holy God and His moral

law. As Christians, we believe that salvation comes only through belief in Christ's death and resurrection and through repentance for sin. We are then saved from the guilt and power of sin and are given power to go and sin no more. At that point, we are no longer morally estranged from God because of sin, and we are once more in harmony with our Creator and with His law.

Response 6 — The Biblical viewpoint of death is that every man will die unless raptured at Christ's return. After life on earth, each person will stand before God and be judged by Him for his or her actions during life on earth. Heaven or Hell will be their eternal abode, dependent upon how they responded to God's call to salvation.

Response 7 — The key to standing fast is to know what we believe and why. This is done through careful study of the Word of God, and through familiarizing ourselves with Scriptures that confirm our Christian faith. We must hold every thought or doctrine up to the light of the Word of God and reject any teaching that does not align. Finally, we must pray that the Holy Spirit will lead and guide us into all truth and will help us to clearly discern and distance ourselves from any false teaching.