

THE NEW AGE (Neo-paganism)

Part I—Basic Beliefs

Introduction – The New Age Movement (NAM) is a title that refers to a *worldview* or *philosophy of life* that many people today hold. (There are an estimated _____ NAM bookstores and over _____ publishers of NAM books and journals) After decades of scientific method and thought that basically denied the unseen spiritual world, we are now seeing a tsunami of spiritual thought and activity. People today, more than ever, are seeking spiritual answers with a renewed spiritual awareness. Unfortunately, people are not seeking answers in the church due to the weakness of the Christianity.

The church needs a revival. And rushing into this void created by a powerless church is a multitude of new “religious” faces from *Ananda* to *Zen* and these new religions are being embraced by leading people in the culture, from Shirley MacLaine to John Travolta, and by millions of people across our nation.

WHAT ARE THE BASIC BELIEFS OF THE NAM?

You would think that since the NAM includes _____ of differing sects and systems of participation and methods that it would be hard to find any agreement, but there are basic beliefs that describe all of these groups. There are 5 basic beliefs that define the NAM. So whether you are a member of the Fellowship of Isis or the Society of Crystal Skulls, or use “channeling” or “UFO enlightenment,” you will hold to these **Five Basic Beliefs**. Let’s look at these views and compare them to Christian beliefs. We will see that while they are similar they are totally incompatible.

WHY ARE NAM PRACTICES DANGEROUS?

Simple research will reveal the high suicide rate and other serious casualties in the ranks of teachers of TM, channeling, ASC’s, & their faithful participants. Such practices open the door for occult & demonic activity. Here are three reasons:

1. Occult activity rejects _____ for man. (Deut. 18:9-12)
2. Men are inherently _____ for encounters with occult realities.
3. Occult practices introduce people to entities who seek _____.

5 Basic Beliefs Compared

NAM BELIEFS

I. TRUTH IS _____! (RJ, OB1 to Luke)

What is true for me, may not be true for you!

- A. **Nothing is true**----*"That's the truth!"*
- B. **Nothing is knowable**—*"I know that!"*
- C. **Nothing matters**—*"Nothing!"*
All opinions are equal in authority.
Make up your own truth!

II. GOD IS _____! (ESB, Yoda to Luke)

May *the Force* be with you!

A force, life-force, vital force, cosmic energy, chi (ying/yang), universal life forces, vital energy....

The KEY--How do we tap into all that power?

III. ALL IS _____! (ESB, Luke beheads Vadar)

Pantheistic or Panentheistic Monism

- A. **Pantheistic**—*Everything is God, and God is Everything.* (Panentheism, Polytheism)
- B. **Monism**---Everything is ONE,
both physical and spiritual! *God is contained in the universe, not separate from it.*

IV. REINCARNATION--Many

There is no such thing as Death

- A. **No personal God to stand before**
- B. **Reincarnate until you evolve upward**
Karma determines your lot in life.

V. SALVATION IS _____.

Cosmic Consciousness is needed!

- A. **Man is inwardly good, divine**
- B. **All Evil is an illusion of indoctrination**
- C. **Salvation is to find the potential WITHIN**—
Drugs, TM, ECK, psychic practices, ASC's
- D. **Salvation comes from hard work**--
Us working off bad karma.

CHRISTIAN BELIEFS

I. TRUTH IS ABSOLUTE!

God and His Word are absolute truth!

- A. **God is Truth** (Word, Jesus) John 14:6; 17:17
- B. **God's Truth is knowable** (I Tim 3:16)
- C. **God's Truth matters**
All opinions, *except God's*, are irrelevant!
You must obey God's truth! Rom. 3:4

II. GOD IS PERSONAL!

One infinite and personal God!

Father, Son, Holy Spirit... Matthew 28:19, 20
He is holy, just, merciful, love....

The KEY—How do we tap into Him?

III. ALL IS TWO!

Theistic Dualism

- A. **Theistic**—*There is a personal God that created everything and is transcendent over His creation!*
- B. **Dualism**—God is not the creation and the creation is not part of God. He is distinct and separate from it. It is finite, He is infinite.

IV. RESURRECTION-Two

There is death and a final destination. (Heb. 9:27)

- A. **A personal God to stand before.** (Rev. 20, Rom. 14)
- B. **Resurrection will bring you before God**
What you have done with Jesus determines your Destiny. (John 3:36)

V. SALVATION IS FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST

A Saviour is needed!

- A. **Man is inwardly a sinner** Rom. 3:10, 23
- B. **Evil is real, not illusionary.**
- C. **Salvation is to find the potential WITHOUT**—
Jesus Christ.
- D. **Salvation comes freely from God's love and grace**--
Jesus hard work on the Cross!

ANSWERS:

3500, 4000, Hundreds, God's Will, Ill-fitted, Their destruction,
Relative, Impersonal, One, Self- Realization