

Old Wine in New Wineskins!

Genesis 3:1-7, Colossians 2:8; 1 Timothy 4:1; 1 John 4:1

East Berlin Community Church

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Introduction:

- Game of "Let's Suppose"
- Definition of the "New Age Movement": the belief that true spirituality can be found in the return to the ancient wisdom of eastern religions, especially Hinduism with its emphasis on quiet contemplation.
- "New Age" is not new, but the old lie of Satan in new form. IT's the old wine in new wineskins.

Old Wine in New Wineskins!

A. The Four "Spiritual Flaws" of New Age Thinking—Genesis 3:1-7

- Genesis 3:1-7-- *"Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, 'Has God indeed said, "You shall not eat of every tree in the garden"?' And the woman said to the serpent, 'We may eat of every tree of the garden; but the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, "You shall not eat of it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die."?' Then the serpent said to the woman, 'You shall not surely die. For God knows that the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.' So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave some to her husband with her and he ate. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings."*
1. *"You will be like God"*—takes the form of Pantheism
 2. *"You will not surely die"*—reincarnation and karma
 3. *"You will know good and evil"*—moral relativism
 4. *"Your eyes will be opened"*—enlightenment through occultic practices

B. Flaw #1—"You will be like God"

1. **Explanation of Pantheism : "God is everything and everything is God."**
 - a. We believe in a material world that is real, as well as a real, unseen spiritual realm where God dwells. And these two are separate. Pantheism teaches that only the spiritual realm is real; matter is an illusion.
 - b. We believe in a personal God, distinct from us, who has revealed Himself in His Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior. New Agers believe is an impersonal force as in the *Star Wars Trilogy*.
2. **Three Practical Implication of "God is everything and everything is god."**
 - a. Man doesn't need a savior, but God does.
 - b. There's no such thing as sin or evil in this world.
 - c. Human life has not intrinsic value.
3. **Two 21st Century movements based on "God is everything and everything is god." thinking.**
 - a. **The "Animal Rights" Movement**
 - 1) God made man a *"little lower than the angels"*
 - Hebrews 2:6-8-- *"What is man that You are mindful of him, or the son of man that You take care of him? You have made him a little lower than the angels; You have crowned him with glory and*

honor, and set him over the works of Your hands. You have put all things in subjection under his feet."

- 2) Man was given dominion over creation including the animals,
 - Genesis 1:28-29-- *"then God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth. And God said, 'See, I have given you every herb that yields seed which is on the face of the earth, and every tree whose fruit yields seeds, to you it shall be for food."*
 - Genesis 9:3 -- *"Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you. I have given you all things, even as the green herbs."*
- 3) We are not to abuse animals, nor indiscriminately slaughter them.
 - Proverbs 12:10 -- *"A righteous man regards the life of his animal, but the tender mercies of the wicked are cruel."*
- 4) But animals and humans are NOT equal.

b. **The Extreme "Environmental" Movement**

- Sierra Club "Well Body, Well Earth"-- *"You are now in a deeply relaxed state, a level of consciousness at which your mind feels at peaceful and open. At this level you can be touched with those forces of the universe that stabilize systems and encourage health and well-being. You can now experience the visualization vividly and pleasantly . . .When you are done with your conversation with the spirit of the living earth, say goodbye to it, just as you would say goodbye to a friend . . .The more you contact the voice of the living earth, and evaluate what it says, the easier it will become for you to contact it and trust what it provides. "*

4. **Take Home for you and I?**

a. **Beware of the false philosophies lest we be seduced by them.**

- Colossians 2:8 -- *"Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the traditions of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ."*
- Colossians 2:8 (NIV)-- *" See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ!"*

b. **More than ever, we need to "test the spirits to see whether they be of God"**

- 1 Timothy 4:1-2 --*"Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron."*
- 1 John 4:1-- *"Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world."*