**Edward Christian Church- “*God: Who is He?”* -pt7a Jan 10, 2017**

**Causes of Confusion About God**

*"Without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him"* -**Heb 11:6**

**Seven Major World Views about God**

An **atheist** does **not find** God for reason a **thief** does not **find** a policeman. He is **not** looking

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| **World view** | **Belief** | **Advocates** | **They say:** |
| ***Agnosticism*** | It is **not** **possible** to **know** if God **exists** | French Philoso.Voltaire | *"I do not know* ***if there is*** *a God."* |
| ***Atheism*** | There is **no need** for a **universal** /**personal** God. | Madalyn O'Hare | *"I know* ***there is no*** *God."* |
| ***Deism*** | God **set** the **universe** in **motion**/ **left** it to its own results. God **no longer** **interacts** with man. | Benjamin Franklin Thomas Jefferson | "The **world** is like a clock **wound** by God, **running** on its **own**." |
| ***Pantheism*** | **God** is the **universe**. God is **only** the **physical** world we see. | New Age Movement | "That **tree** is **God**. **If** the **world** were to **disappear**, **God** would too." |
| ***Panentheism*** | **All things** are a **part** of **God**. **God** has a **body** and a **mind**. | New Age Spirituality | "That **tree** is **part** of **God**. **If** the **world** **disappeared**, God's **body** would **disappear**, but He would **still** have a **mind**." |
| ***Theism*** | There is **only one** God. He **created** the **universe**. We **can know** Him. | Christianity (Trinitarian Theism) Judaism, Islam—(Unitarianism) | "That **tree** was **created** by God and is **sustained** by God. **If** the world **disappeared**, God would **remain intact**." |
| ***Polytheism*** | There are **many** gods. | Contemporary Hinduism | "The **tree** was **created** by the **god** of the **forest**. **Rain** comes from the **rain god**." |

**Wrong Belief:** *"I am not willing to surrender my will to a personal God for whom I have no tangible evidence of existence."*

*"The fool says in his heart, 'There is no God.' They are corrupt, their deeds are vile; there is no one who does good." -***Psalm 14:1**

**Right Belief: God** in **3 persons** has **revealed** Himself through His **creation**/ His **Word** as revealed to me by the **Holy Spirit**. I am **accountable** for my **response** to the **light** I have **received**.

*"Since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities*—*his eternal power and divine nature*—*have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse." -***Romans 1:19-20**

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**What is the New Age Movement?**

* 1. 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."
  2. 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.)

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

**Panentheism** (meaning "all-in-God", from the Ancient Greek πᾶν *pân*, "all", ἐν *en*, "in" and Θεός *Theós*, "God") is the belief that the divine interpenetrates every part of the universe and also extends beyond time and space. Unlike pantheism, which holds that the divine and the universe are identical,[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Panentheism#cite_note-Erwin_Fahlbusch.2C_Geoffrey_William_Bromiley.2C_David_B._Barrett_1999-1) panentheism maintains a distinction between the divine and non-divine and the significance of both.[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Panentheism#cite_note-2)

In pantheism, the universe and everything included in it is equal to the Divine. In panentheism, the universe and the divine are not ontologically equivalent. God is instead viewed as the soul of the universe, the universal spirit present everywhere, in everything and everyone, at all times. Some versions suggest that the universe is nothing more than the manifestation of God. In some forms of panentheism, the cosmos exists within God, who in turn "transcends", "pervades" or is "in" the cosmos. While pantheism asserts that 'All is God', panentheism goes further to claim that God is greater than the universe