

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

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

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

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.)
2. 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] panentheism maintains a distinction between the divine and non-divine and the significance of both.^[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