

# SPIRITUAL REALITIES

## *An Ellel Ministries Training Course*

### 1. RELIGIOUS SYNCRETISM

#### 1.1 Introduction

- a. Our Western world is subtly slipping into increasing religious syncretism.
  - i. *Syncretism can be defined as the fusion of differing systems of belief.*
  - ii. *Religious Syncretism always results in separation from God. Every time the Israelites intermarry and mix religions they wind up in a religious mess. Isaiah 2:6*
- b. There are only two kinds of spiritual power - the Kingdom of God and the kingdom of Satan.
  - i. *Any spiritual power from any other source that cannot attributed to God is actually in rebellion against God, and belongs to Satan. Matthew 12:30*
- c. Deception is Satan's stock in trade and much of what he dresses up for public consumption in the western world is rooted in false religion and the occult.

### 2. ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE

#### 2.1 New Age Philosophies and Practices

- a. These modalities are called by various names, such as complementary, unconventional, holistic, fringe, or New Age medicine.
- b. Many forms of alternative medicine claim to be based on the manipulation of a non-physical human energy field.
  - i. *This energy goes by various names like life energy, chi, prana, mana, etc*
- c. Belief in the energetic existence is deeply rooted in Eastern mystical religions and occult traditions.
  - i. *Many holistic health modalities pack pantheistic/occultic philosophy and spiritual experience that can beguile and win over the often unwary and vulnerable*
  - ii. *Even many proponents of energetic medicine admit that bioenergy still fails the tests of repeatability and explainability required of an authentic scientific theory.*

- iii. *Many alternative therapists are unaware that they are practicing the physical expression of a religious philosophy known as pantheism.*
  - iv. *Christians are to completely avoid the realm of false religions and the occult.*  
*Deuteronomy 18:9-11; I Corinthians 10:19-21*
  - v. *Just because a particular spiritual technique effects physical healing does not mean that the technique is spiritually healthy.*  
*I Thessalonians 5:21*
- d. Holistic practitioners may claim that Ch'i, yin and yang, meridians and chakras are neutral components of God's creation and available for anyone to use, they ignore the roots of these ideas.

### 3. YOGA

#### 3.1 Eastern Religion

- a. Yoga actually means "union with god" or "to yoke."
  - i. *Yoga has been renamed and 'scientifically' packaged to become acceptable and now commonplace.*
- b. Yoga is often described as "exercises to improve flexibility, muscle tone, coordination, poise and self-confidence."
  - i. *Many practitioners presume that the exercises are harmless if they are not practiced with a spiritual intent.*
  - ii. *The physical postures and breathing exercises of yoga are actually intended to help move the mind in the direction of altered states of consciousness.*
  - iii. *Westerners mistakenly believe that one can practice yoga apart from the philosophical and religious beliefs that undergird it.*
  - iv. *The physical postures and breathing exercises in yoga are inseparably bound up with the philosophical and religious ideas.*
- c. As a general rule, yoga is firmly grounded within a pantheistic worldview which teaches that everything which exists is part of a unitary, all-encompassing divine reality.
- d. Yoga poses are actually animal poses which look to be very normal, harmless, stretching exercises.
  - i. *But the danger is, once a person does such poses, the spirit of Kundalini is aroused.*
  - ii. *Kundalini energy is admittedly an occult energy; it is personal and supernatural.*

- e. Yoga is an idolatrous practice which leads one away from the one true God and into the spiritual realm of false gods and demonic spirits.
  - i. *The apostle John warns, "Do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God" (1 John 4:1).*

## 4. MARTIAL ARTS

### 4.1 The Spiritual Danger

- a. Martial arts is an old Eastern practice that has recently been cleverly disguised and repackaged to make it more palatable to Western society.
- b. The Martial Arts are not merely physical exercise, but in fact are religious meditational practices, both in their sitting and moving forms.
  - i. *Martial Arts are disciplines designed to harmonize the body with the energy forces of the universe.*
  - ii. *Many of the patterns of Martial Arts are rooted in semi-mystical Taoist/Buddhist philosophy and their deeper meaning is said to be far more important than the mere performance of a series of exercises.*
  - iii. *Breathing techniques and the harnessing of Ch'i or Ki are an integral part of Martial Arts practices.*
  - iv. *Supernatural strength and devastating power in combat is brought about by concentrating on the Ch'i, known in the occult arts as the "life-energy or creative force" of the universe.*
  - v. *The special powers are actually at the disposal of a force alien to the Martial Artist himself.*
- c. The Martial Arts instructors who originally brought Martial Arts to the Western world generally accepted the idea that the physical universe somehow overlaps with the "spiritual world"
  - i. *Furthermore, they believed that this "spiritual world" could be channelled through the performance of particular repetitive physical and mental attitudes.*
  - ii. *There is a problem when Christians tries to Christianize or repackage Martial arts but do not understand the spiritual ramifications or realize what they are getting into.*

*Therefore my people are gone into captivity, because they have no knowledge ... Isa 5:13*

# GENERATIONAL INIQUITY & ANCESTRAL WORSHIP

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### 5. GENERATIONAL BLESSING

#### 5.1 The Importance of a Righteous Family

- a. Through Jesus we have entered a complete new family with a completely new spiritual inheritance. Matthew 12:46-50
- b. God intended that there would be blessing that came down our family line from the instruction of the father to the children.
- c. God has put us in family groupings for our protection and he intended that down the generational line would come a covering and protection. Deuteronomy 7:9

### 6. GENERATIONAL INIQUITY

#### 6.1 The Consequences of Unrighteousness

- a. The very route that God intended for the reaping of spiritual blessing has become the route by which the enemy can bring curses into our lives.
- b. The iniquity of our forbearers can be visited down the generational line to the third and fourth generation. Exodus 20:5
  - i. *Where there is sin things get out of line with God and that bent goes down the generational line.*
  - ii. *God is saying that our choosing to disobey His commandments, we run into spiritual law and reap the fruit of disobedience and so will our children possibly as far down as our great grandchildren.*
- c. God intended that godly families would bring protective covering down through the generations, but sin uncovers the family line. Lamentations 5:7,8
  - i. *They are saying life is a struggle, there is a lack of the covering of God that we would have expected upon us, but we know why it is there and that is because our fathers sinned.*
- d. Does Scripture contain examples of families that show that the breaking of God's commandments in a particular area releases the tendency to sin in the same way to the family line ?

- i. *Why did King David fall into sexual sin ? Could there have been an iniquitous pattern of sexual sin operating in David's life ?*

## 7. ANCESTRAL WORSHIP

### 7.1 The Religious Practice

- a. Ancestor worship is a ritual practice that is based on the belief that deceased family members have a continued existence and possess the ability to influence the fortune of the living.
  - i. *Ancestor worship is based on the belief that the spirits of the dead continue to dwell in the natural world.*
  - ii. *There is often the belief that one's ancestors possess supernatural powers to influence the fortune and fate of the living.*
- b. Ancestral worship is at the core of people's religious practices in places such as China, Japan, Korea, tropical Africa, Malaysia, and Polynesia.
  - i. *The worship of the ancestors is inspired by both respect and fear.*
  - ii. *The ritual of ancestor worship may consists of praying, presenting gifts, and making offerings.*

### 7.2 The Biblical Perspective

- a. When a person dies the relationship between the living and the dead is irrevocably severed.
  - i. *Jesus' account of the rich man and Lazarus, recorded in Luke 16: 19-31 provides insight into the condition of the dead and what happens after death.*
  - ii. *From this account it is evident that there is a clear divide between the righteous and the unrighteous dead and that the dead do not have freedom of movement as suggested by the underlying beliefs of ancestor worship*
- b. Both Jewish and Christian scholars agree that it is dangerous to pursue communication with the dead.
  - i. *All contact with the spirit world is expressly forbidden in Scripture irrespective of the nature of the spirits concerned. Leviticus 19:31, 20:6; Deuteronomy 18:10,11*
  - ii. *Spiritism is founded on the idea that the living can communicate with the souls of the dead by means of mediums.*
  - iii. *Mosaic Law equated communication with the dead with a form of idolatry, which is in essence a sin of spiritual prostitution.*

