

**SCIENTOLOGY** BETRAY PRETEND EXAMINE DUPE DECEPTION  
 TWO-FACED **FICTION** THE FACTS LIES MOHAMMAD  
**ISLAM** ARTIFICIAL **BOGUS** CORRUPTION CHEAT FORGE COPY  
 "DESERTING THE ONE WHO CALLED YOU" ~ GALATIANS 1:6 WOLF IN SHEEP'S CLOTHING L RON HUBBARD **MISLEADING** JOSEPH SMITH BLUFF FEIGN FRAUD  
 "WATCH OUT THAT NO ONE DECEIVES YOU" ~ MATTHEW 24:4  
 CHEAP POOR REFLECTION OF THE TRUTH **COUNTERFEIT** DULCIOUS FACSIMILE  
**COUNTERFEIT** "THEY WILL SECRETLY INTRODUCE DESTRUCTIVE HERESIES" ~ 2 Peter 2:1  
 HERESIES DESTRUCTION **MORMONISM** IMITATION UNSOUND IMPOSTER SHAM FALSE TEACHER DEVIL IN DISGUISE  
 "THEY WILL TURN THEIR EARS AWAY FROM THE TRUTH AND TURN ASIDE TO MYTHS" ~ 2 TIMOTHY 4:6 **FAKE** SHAM "EXPLOIT WITH STORIES THEY HAVE MADE UP" ~ 2 PETER 2:3  
**MIMIC** MYTH **CHURCH OF OPRAH** "YOU HAVE BELIEVED IN VAIN" ~ 1 PETER 1:23  
**EXPLOIT** **NEW AGE** ILLUSIONIST  
 "TRYING TO PERVERT THE GOSPEL" ~ GALATIANS 1:7 **PHONY**

# The Church of Oprah: Responding as Christians



# The Church of Oprah

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The Church of Oprah has become the fastest growing church in America due to the belief system that is promoted by the most popular television personality in the world. Oprah Winfrey is one of the most powerful individuals in the world and has begun indoctrinating millions of people with false Christian beliefs.

## What is the Church of Oprah?

The Church of Oprah is not an actual organization but it is the belief system of New Age religion that is promoted by Oprah Winfrey and other celebrities. It has become one of the most popular religions in the United States by utilizing webcast, websites, magazine articles, and television network broadcasting.

Christianity Today published an article entitled: *The Church of O* in 2002 in which they made this observation about Oprah:

Since 1994, when she abandoned traditional talk-show fare for more edifying content, and 1998, when she began "Change Your Life TV," Oprah's most significant role has become that of spiritual leader. To her audience of more than 22 million mostly female viewers, she has become a postmodern priestess — an icon of church-free spirituality.<sup>1</sup>

## What Makes the Church of Oprah Dangerous?

The Church of Oprah is dangerous because it leads millions of people astray from the truth as proclaimed in the Word of God. It is an unsuspecting religion due to the fact that you will not find a building or a congregation that claims to be the Church of Oprah. It simply does not exist yet the religious beliefs of Oprah are promoted and accepted worldwide every single week. People that embrace the New Age religious beliefs of Oprah find themselves growing distant from the Living God and closer to a false sense of intellectual and spiritual *enlightenment*.

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<sup>1</sup> Christianity Today, April 01, 2002. *The Church of O*.

**2 Peter 2:1-2** - <sup>1</sup>But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them--bringing swift destruction on themselves. <sup>2</sup>Many will follow their shameful ways and will bring the way of truth into disrepute.

The greatest danger that we witness with the Church of Oprah is that it leads each individual to the ultimate outcome of an eternal destruction as each person rejects the truth of God and exchanges it for the lies professed by this New Age religion.

## **What is New Age religion?**

The term “New Age” religion has been around for at least 50 years and refers to a utopian vision describing a new era of peace, harmony, and human progress where the entire world is joined together as one unit and one existent being. New Age religion claims that you are divine and there is no need for a Savior because there is no such thing as sin.

### **Fast Facts about New Age religion<sup>2</sup>**

- There are no definitive statements of New Age beliefs, no founder, no central church or headquarters, and no formal structure.
- About 12 million Americans are active New Age participants.
- About 30 million Americans are interested in New Age religion.
- It is a smorgasbord of religious beliefs taking parts of different religions and combines them together.
- It is a hybrid mix of the spiritual, social, and political forces and it encompasses sociology, theology, physical sciences, medicine, anthropology, history, human potential movement, sports, and science fiction. (p. 216)

The term “New Age” implies that this religion has something new to offer but there is nothing new in New Age religion. Observe these six foundational beliefs that have been offered by philosophies and false religions for centuries.

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<sup>2</sup> Bruce Bickel, Stan Jantz. World Religions and Cults 101. Harvest House Publishers, 2002.

## Six New Age Religious Beliefs

- **All is One** - This is an eastern religious belief called "monism" which states all of creation is one with each other. There is no Creator because god is one with his creation meaning that he is equal in every way everyone and everything.
- **All is God** - This is a belief that comes from Hinduism. It is called pantheism which states that god is an impersonal life force, consciousness, or energy rather than a Person. The belief states that every person and thing is "intertwined" with God evolving spiritually to the state of "the Christ" being.
- **Humanity is God** - This is the belief that we are equal with god and that each one of us has a divine spark inside of us that leads us to the enlightened understanding that we are all gods because we are one with each other and god.
- **All religions are one** - This is the belief that all religions lead to the same outcome because they are all one, leading to a utopian peace.
- **Christ Consciousness** - A major idea in New Age thinking is that of the "Christ Consciousness." In other words, Christ is an office rather than an individual or a Savior. This idea of "Christ Consciousness" implies that Jesus was not the only Christ, but that He equipped Himself to receive the "Christ Consciousness." New Age religion will state that Jesus was a great "spiritual master" who attained Christ Consciousness just like Buddha, Krishna, and Mohammed.
- **No Sin** - There is no place for the concept of sin in the New Age religion. There is no sin because there is no transcendent God to rebel against therefore there is no need for a "Savior." There are no rules or absolute moral imperatives. New Age religion teaches that man's true essence is divine and perfect. Sin is merely ignorance of one's "inner divinity."

**2 Timothy 4:3-4** - For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.

## Four Characteristics of New Age Religion

There are also four characteristics of the New Age religion showing that it is a counterfeit religion. These characteristics help us observe how the truth of God is being exchanged for a lie in New Age religion.

- **Religious Syncretism** – The New Age religion combines many different religions and religious beliefs to create their own perfect version of religion.
  - **Hinduism** – Teaches the concept of reincarnation, karma, and the spiritual unity of all mankind.
  - **Buddhism** – Teaches that meditation will help achieve spiritual enlightenment where you become one with the universe and are at peace with the universe.
  - **Taoism** – Teaches that ultimate reality is beyond measure and that everything is relative. There are no absolute truths which is a foundational New Age belief.
  - **Gnosticism** – Teaches that salvation can only be found through the knowledge of gnosis which is a mystical spiritual enlightenment.
- **Pantheism** – The New Age religion teaches that God is in everything and therefore God is an impersonal life force, consciousness, or energy rather than a Person.
- **Deification of Humanity** – The New Age religion teaches that since God is in everything and you are one with everything then you are like god. You are divine.
- **Belief in a New World Order** – The New Age religion seeks a new one world government that unifies mankind under one global society where mankind can become at peace and unified under their common spiritual beliefs and consciousness.

## Comparison between New Religion and Christianity<sup>1</sup>

We have been warned through the Word of God that false teachers and false prophets would arise in the last of days to lead many astray. We must arm ourselves with the truth in order to be able to respond to these false prophets. Observe the following comparison chart and arm yourself with the Word of God.

<sup>1</sup>Ankerberg Theological Research Institute. A Contrast Between Biblical Christianity and New Age/Spiritistic Theology and Philosophy.

	<b>Biblical Christianity</b>	<b>New Age Religion</b>
God	<p>An infinite-personal true God exists (Jn. 17:3).</p> <p>God is Creator (Gen. 1:1).</p> <p>God is holy and righteous (Ps. 11:3; 145:17)</p> <p>God is transcendent over creation &amp; within His creation by omnipresence.</p>	<p>An infinite-impersonal force. God is a universal law, an impersonal principle, or a universal consciousness.</p> <p>God is the creation. Monism/pantheism (God as the essence of all existence).</p> <p>God is amoral and evil in his ultimate nature.</p> <p>God is immanent, not transcendent.</p>
Jesus Christ	<p>The only incarnation of God, (Jn. 3:16,18) undiminished deity and full humanity in one person, the unique God-man (cf., Col. 2:9; Phil 2:5-9). Jesus was born the Christ (Lk. 2:11) and to deny that Jesus was born the Christ is to be “anti-christ” (1 Jn. 4:2-3).</p> <p>Jesus rose from the dead on the third day, conquering death (1 Cor. 15:3-7)</p> <p>Jesus is alone is the way to God and the Lord and Savior of His children. (Jn. 14:6; Acts 4:12).</p>	<p>Jesus is often seen as one of many manifestations of the impersonal God or the gods. Most New Age teachings view all people as the literal sons of God. Jesus is only an example of a man who realized his divine nature and became enlightened through <i>gnosis</i></p> <p>Jesus did not resurrect from the dead but reincarnated as a higher spiritual entity. Therefore Jesus did not conquer death, since in his new manifestation he would die again.</p>
Sin	<p>A willful violation of God’s moral law and character (1 Jn. 5:17).</p>	<p>Ignorance of one’s personal divinity and consequences from this.</p>

	<p>The basic problem of mankind originates in his alienation from God produced through his morally fallen nature and rebellion against God (Isa. 59:2).</p>	<p>The major problem of mankind originates from his ignorance of his divinity and corresponding lack of use of his divine potential.</p>
Salvation	<p>Men are saved from their sins only by a personal faith in Jesus Christ.</p> <p>Christ's death on the cross was an atonement for God's wrath against sin so that God could freely forgive those who trust His son (1 Jn. 2:2; Jn. 3:16).</p>	<p>Salvation involves enlightenment, the release from one's ignorance in thinking one is a limited creature rather than one in nature with the impersonal God.</p> <p>No forgiveness from God is needed because sin is only ignorance, not a moral violation of God's law. Man will finally perfect himself.</p>
Creation	<p>Real, fallen, to be eternally redeemed in a new heaven and earth (Rev. 21:1). Rational thought, doctrine, language, etc., are rooted in God and reality since they reflect the nature of God. Jesus Himself is described as "the Word made flesh" (Jn. 1:1-14, cf., Matt. 22:37; Rom. 3:2; 12:2; 14:5; Acts 17:11; Titus 2:1).</p>	<p>An illusion or dream of the Absolute, periodically destroyed. Rational thought, language, doctrine, written revelation, etc., are inadequate and finally meaningless since they are part of the illusion. They are a positive barrier to the experience of spiritual enlightenment which is why they must be "transcended" or eliminated.</p>
Final Outcome of Mankind	<p>The rule of Jesus Christ over the earth and in eternity for the redeemed in Christ (Rev. 21-22).</p>	<p>The arrival of the New Age millennium, the ultimate absorption into the impersonal God (personal extinction).</p>

# How Now Shall We Respond?

We have exposed and responded to the false claims made by the Church of Oprah and New Age religion by bringing these beliefs into the light of God's Word. It is important for us to understand that there are many more false religions, false prophets, and false teachers all around us. We conclude this booklet by asking this question:

## How will you respond to New Age religion as a Christian?

**1 Peter 3:15** – But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect...

Now is the time for Christians to rise up and respond to the false religions that we are encountering in this world. Prepare your heart and mind by implementing the following steps.

- **Step #1** – Study and memorize the Word of God.
- **Step #2** – Apply the Word of God in your life.
- **Step #3** – Guard your heart and mind through prayer and the Word of God.
- **Step #4** – Always be ready to give a response for the Hope that you have through Christ alone!

Scripture quotations are New International Version, taken from the Holy Bible, NIV Version, Copyright 1973, 1978 & 1984 by IBS.

