

# New Age Movement (NAM)

## WHAT IS THE NEW AGE MOVEMENT?

- No Church
- No Bible
- No single leader
- No list of members
  
- Umbrella movement that embraces a wide range of beliefs and practices
- Grew out of the American countercultural movement of the 60's and 70's {Hippies, Jesus freaks, Woodstock}
- It is like a sponge
  - Collects different ideas from different:
    - ❖ Religions
    - ❖ Cultures
    - ❖ Philosophies
  - WHY??? To bring these different approaches to life into one unified whole

## IS THE NAM A CULT?

- Sects (Christian cults) Sects and so-called Christian cults are groups of people who have broken away from generally accepted orthodox Christianity.
  - ❖ They have at least one major disagreement (heresy) in their teaching which normally centers around the deity of Jesus Christ and the place of the Bible as a rule of faith.
- Cults (non-Christian cults) A religious group which is usually considered to be extreme and heretical by mainstream Christianity.
  - ❖ Often live in unconventional ways

❖ Under the grip of an authoritarian charismatic leader.

### **NEW AGE WORDS**

- Holistic (characterized by the view that a whole system of beliefs must be analyzed rather than simply its individual components)
- Holographic (a method of recording and showing a three-dimensional image of an object using a photographic plate and light from a laser)
- Synergistic (in Christian theology, the doctrine that the human will and the Holy Spirit work together to bring about spiritual regeneration or salvation)
- Unity (the combining or joining of separate things or entities to form one)
- Oneness (the quality of being one as opposed to many)
- Harmony (a situation in which there is friendly agreement or accord)
- At-one-ment (indicating the condition or state that somebody or something is in)
- Transformation (a complete change, usually into something with an improved appearance or usefulness)
- Personal growth
- Human potential
- Awakening (a revival or renewal of interest in something, especially religion)
- Networking (the process or practice of building up or maintaining informal relationships, especially with people whose friendship could bring advantages such as job or business opportunities)
- Consciousness (the state of being awake and aware of what is going on around you)
- Energy (the ability or power to work or make an effort)

## **IDEAS AND PRACTICES WITHIN THE NAM**

- Making the most of one's spiritual dimensions
- Using holistic medicines
- Belief on reincarnation
- Belief that events in the world are influenced by the stars
- Following the general ideas of Eastern religions
- Engaging in occult practices (relating to, involving, or characteristic of magic, witchcraft, or supernatural phenomena)
- Practicing nature worship

## **THE "AGE OF AQUARIUS"**

- Taken from astrology
- New Agers believe that this time has dawned
- "We are about to make a great step forward in consciousness and spiritual discovery"
- This will result in "peace and enlightenment"
- Humankind will be "re-united with God"
- They believe that we must "seek the divine that is within us and in so doing, usher in the new millennium as a revived people"

## **NEW WORLD ORDER**

Various described as:

- New Age Religion
- One world government
- Global socialism
- Characteristics of this NOW is – self realized righteousness
- New Age are still not think that humanity is completely separated from God

- They think that all you need is more understanding about the true nature of God, and reality
- New agers do not believe that humanity is cut off from God because of sin (see Isaiah 59:2)

### **SHARED NON-CHRISTIAN CONCERNS.**

- Care for the environment.
- Criticism of the materialism of the West

### **PANTHEISM**

- everything is a part of God
- humanity is a part of everything
- therefore, men and women are a part of God
- God is said to be the great “ oneness of being”
- these ideas have been taken from Eastern mystical religions
- anything which can be said to have metaphysical roots is labeled as God
- the New Age God is not a moral being or even a supreme being
- they think of God as an impersonal and amoral force
- they teach that we are all (see Isaiah 44:24)

### **NAM VIEW OF SALVATION**

- Salvation means to “be in tune with the divine consciousness”
- Being in harmony with reality & with whatever you perceive to be true
- “Sin” is not in their vocabulary
- They do not acknowledge sin or sinfulness
- Therefore there is no need of a Redeemer
- Jesus as Savior is seen as unnecessary

- They say, “All you need to do is realize your own divine nature”
- Salvation consists in thinking the right way
- WHAT YOU NEED TO BE SAVED FROM IS NOT SIN, BUT IGNORANCE
- If you understand your own godlikeness and goodness you are saved.