

Following Jesus or the New Age By Karen Sue Nyquist



Jesus' Path or New Age Path

Many New Agers believe Jesus was enlightened, like the Buddha and other spiritual leaders. (Enlightenment - to have a consciousness of being divine.) **If** Jesus was enlightened, **then** we can trust what He believed and said. Jesus trusted the Jewish scriptures, the Old Testament books of the Bible, and quoted them many times throughout His life. He said “the scriptures cannot be broken” (John 10:35). Jesus’ path followed the Old Testament. The New Testament was written by His disciples who followed Jesus’ path. Let’s look at Jesus’ pathway and where it leads. His way is logical and reasonable. “Come now, and let us reason together,” Says the Lord” (Isaiah 1:18).

Comparing Christian Beliefs and Common New Age Beliefs

1. God and His Bible are the final authority OR Self is the final authority - Jesus was praying to God the Father and said, “Your word is truth” (John 17:17). He also said that we are to “believe all that the prophets have spoken” (Luke 24:25) and to “search the scriptures” (John 5:39). **If** Jesus followed the Bible, **then** we can also. **If** each person’s “self” is to find their “own truth” (they will be depending on their experiences and revelations, which are very limited), **then** they will often be contrary to others’ “truth.” **But truth cannot contradict truth!**

2. God is a loving father OR Pantheism - everything together is god - The Bible tells us, “God so loved the world” (John 3:16) and that we can follow Jesus’ example and call God, “Abba (*Papa*) Father” (Romans 8:15). Pantheism suggests that trees, rocks, everything is god. It eliminates the truth that God is personal, loving, and wants to have a relationship with us. **If** Jesus called upon God using a term of endearment, **then** as Jesus followers, we can too.

3. There’s one God OR Divine humanity - we all are god - God clearly says, “Now see that I, *even I, am He*, And *there is no God besides Me;*” (Deuteronomy 32:39). God said “Me,” not “We.” “Jesus answered him, ‘Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one’ ” (Mark 12:29). **If** we believe that we are god too, that humanity is divine, **then** we are contradicting what Jesus has told us.

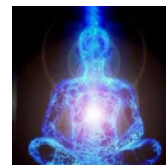


4. There’s one true path OR Religious syncretism - all religions are equally valid paths to one destination - “Jesus said to him, “I am **the way**, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father (*God*) except through Me.” Jesus also said, “*wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, ... narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it*” (Matthew 7:13-14). By following Jesus, we are on the only way to truth, life, and God. At first, we might think that we want more than one way, but different ways are contradictory and disagree. “Make straight the way of the Lord,” (John 1:23). God has given us a straight path to follow. **If** straight paths go different directions and have contrary beliefs, **then** those who follow them cannot end up at the same destination.

5. Objective moral truth OR Moral relativism - right and wrong are abstract and subjective - God gave mankind 10 Commandments (Exodus 20: 1-17) as a basis to help us know what is morally right and wrong. Some paths allow these following behaviors, depending on the situations: wife-beating, lying, stealing, killing of your children. What seems right to one person, seems wrong to another. **If** everyone gets to decide what is moral for themselves, **then** others will be wronged.

6. God helps us improve OR We are left to improve ourselves - We have broken God’s commandments and are guilty of sin (Romans 3:23). Once we follow Jesus’ path, we accept Jesus’ payment for our sins (1 Corinthians 15:3), we are forgiven (Romans 4:7), and His Holy

Spirit enters us to give us a new life (Titus 3:5). **If** we could not live righteously and keep from breaking God's commandments so far in our lives, **then** we will still break them again, no matter how hard we try to improve ourselves.



7. Being born again with God's Holy Spirit OR Rebirthing - removing negative influences from the past

- "Jesus answered, 'Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.

That which is born of the flesh is flesh (*your birth as a baby*), and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit (*when the Holy Spirit enters you*)' " (John 3:5-6). **If** we are on Jesus' path, **then** we have the Holy Spirit living inside of us which is much more powerful than what a "rebirther" could ever try to accomplish.



8. Turning to God OR Turning to the occult: psychics, yoga, channeling, witchcraft , or astrology for enlightenment

- On Jesus' path, we can get God's direction and revelations from reading the Bible, from the Holy Spirit's leading, and from God's miracles and loving help.

God specifically forbids turning to astrology (Isaiah 47:13) and all forms of the occult - seances, palm readings, Tarot Cards, Destiny Cards, Ouija

Boards, fantasy role-playing games with sorcery, divination games, movies with magic or the occult, etc. - (Deuteronomy 18:11; Leviticus 19:31). **If** we are turning to astrology or the occult, **then** we're not firmly on Jesus' path. We can't mix them with true faith in God.

9. Only one life, then judgment and eternity OR Reincarnation - perpetual cycle of life and death with no judgment or afterlife

- "And as it is appointed for men to **die once**, but after this the **judgment**" (Hebrews 9:17). While praying, Jesus said, "And this is **eternal life**, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent" (John 17:3). **If** there is no judgment, **then** there will be no justice. **If** there is no judgment, **then** those who have hurt others will go free and those who've done good, will have no rewards. Do we really want to live in an unjust world? God said, "Yes, I will betroth you (*become engaged*) to Me In **righteousness** and **justice**, In **lovingkindness** and **mercy**;" (Hosea 2:19). God is merciful and just... and romantic!

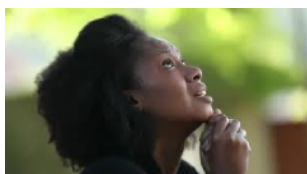
Information was drawn from:

"Witnessing to New Agers," by Beth Hyduke, <https://www.blogos.org/theologyapologetics/witness-new-agers.php>

"How to Witness to New Agers" - Dr. Andrew Jackson, www.drandrewjackson.com › witnessing-to-new-agers

10. Decide to Follow Jesus. He is the only way.

"Jesus said to him, "**I am the way**, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me" (John 14:6). How do we follow Jesus' path? "From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, "**Repent**" (Mathew 4:17). "if you **confess** with your mouth the Lord Jesus and **believe** in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation" (Romans 10:9-10). His Holy Spirit will become your new guide. Then He will lead you on the path to live in a way that's pleasing to God and all the way to eternal life in heaven!



A Suggested Prayer: "Dear God, I repent from trying to live my life my way and ask You to be my Lord and Savior. Forgive me for all my sins and cleanse me from all my sinful ways. Make me the kind of person You want me to be. Right now, Jesus, I open my heart and receive You as my personal Lord and Savior. AMEN!"

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