

**Topic of Discussion: Evangelism (Witnessing):** Today we will begin to explore the occult and how we might witness to people who are involved in the occult.

Many Christians would be surprised at how much influence the occult has on our society and especially our kids. According to “The Light Vault,” a Christian web site dedicated to warning the public about the dangers of the entertainment industry and the occult, “the entertainment industry saturates society with violence, the occult and supernatural themes which are designed to seductively promote anti-Christian values (Golden Compass, Harry Potter i.e.). Consequently, children and adults become desensitized to violence and more readily accept occult practices that may be harmful.

Specifically, blending pagan and Christian principles together familiarizes viewers with occult themes, symbols and practices. Children progress from “cute ’n’ cuddly” characters filled with magical powers to more blatant evil demonic looking creatures. Transference of values can occur as traditional Christian values are watered down with earth-centered pagan values, beliefs and philosophies. Progression to occult experimentation may no longer seem a big deal or risk as fear and mistrust can be largely removed through the familiarization process (debate over Harry Potter).

Christians have a moral and spiritual responsibility to teach Biblical principles and warn against practices forbidden by God. Many Christians are unaware of the strong occult influence aimed at their children. Education is therefore vital to warn against the dangers of pagan influences that are designed to draw young people away from Jesus Christ. Education and understanding of the occult is also vital if we are to win those practicing the occult to Christ.

#### TEXT

**Act 19:18** And many that believed came, and confessed, and showed their deeds.

**Act 19:19** Many of them also which used curious arts brought their books together, and burned them before all *men*: and they counted the price of them, and found *it* fifty thousand *pieces* of silver.

**Act 19:20** So mightily grew the word of God and prevailed.

**Act 19:23** And the same time there arose no small stir about that way.

**Act 19:24** For a certain *man* named Demetrius, a silversmith, which made silver shrines for Diana, brought no small gain unto the craftsmen;

**Act 19:25** Whom he called together with the workmen of like occupation, and said, Sirs, ye know that by this craft we have our wealth.

**Act 19:26** Moreover ye see and hear, that not alone at Ephesus, but almost throughout all Asia, this Paul hath persuaded and turned away much people, saying that they be no gods, which are made with hands:

**Act 19:27** So that not only this our craft is in danger to be set at naught; but also that the temple of the great goddess Diana should be despised, and her magnificence should be destroyed, whom all Asia and the world worshippeth.

## I. WHAT IS WICCA

**Wicca is:** One of over 80 pagan religions classified as “The Occult.”

a. Pagan religions typically focus on mother nature, the moon, the sun, the stars and the festivals celebrated by many agriculturally dependent society in ancient history. Almost all religions including Judaism, Indian ritual and even Christianity can be either classified as pagan or at least influenced by pagan practices (Christianity has also influenced paganism).

b. The word “occult” (not cult) is generally associated with secret knowledge and practices dealing with the supernatural or “psychic” phenomena often for the purpose of obtaining personal power.

c. Some occult practices rely on demons or spirits to achieve their goals.

d. Interest in the occult is on the rise due primarily to the influence of the New Age movement, the rise of neo-paganism, movies and even some heavy-metal rock bands.

e. Contemporary Wicca typically falls into the neo-paganism group although it is closely related to “Witchcraft,” one of the oldest religions of the world.

**When did it start?** Gerald B. Gardner (1884-1964), a British civil servant and amateur archaeologist, is credited with founding contemporary witchcraft. Having learned magic in Southern Asia, he became involved in the occult upon his return to England in 1939. He met influential witches at a Theosophical group, but evidence suggests he combined Asian magic with Western texts to invent a new religion with worship of the Mother Goddess at its vortex. His ritual, and an offshoot version fashioned by breakaway initiate Alexander Sanders, spread across North America in the 1960s.

**What do Wiccans believe?** Contemporary Wiccans worship the Great Mother Goddess and her partner the Horned God (Pan).

a. But these and a host of other pagan deities are said to represent various aspects of an impersonal creative force called “The One” or “The All”—

b. Wiccans regard all aspects of nature—plants, rocks, planets—as having spirit.

c. Wiccans deny the existence of Satan (Never accuse them of being Satan worshippers).

d. The name “Wicca” means: Wise one or to bend or shape.

**Who is the Great Mother Goddess?**

She is the female aspect of The All and has many names, including Diana, Isis, and Demeter. She is usually seen in threefold form as maiden (Kore), Mother (Diana), and crone (Hecate), representing the fundamental life stages.

**Who is Pan?** Pan is the Greek God of the wild, the inspirer of panic. He is half-human and half-goat, and His name simply means “All”

**Moral Code:** Wiccan Rede: If it harms none, do what you will.

**Symbol:** The pentagram, a symbol of faith used by many Wiccans. The five points represent earth, air, fire, water and spirit. The use of the inverted pentagram by the Church of Satan, has led to the misidentification of Wiccans as Satanists.

**Regular Rituals:** Prayer, casting a circle, Drawing Down the Moon, reciting spells, dancing, singing, sharing cakes and wine or beer.

**Drawing Down The Moon:** Drawing down the Moon (also known as drawing down the Goddess) is a ritual central to many contemporary Wiccan traditions. During the ritual, a coven's High Priestess enters a trance and requests that the Goddess or Triple Goddess, symbolized by the moon, enter her body and speak through her. The High Priestess may be aided by the High Priest, who invokes the spirit of the Goddess. During her trance, the High Priestess speaks and acts as the Goddess.

**Casting a Circle:** Creating a magic circle is known as casting a circle. The Wiccan circle is typically 9 ft in diameter. This would be drawn on the ground, and the operator would stand within the protection of the circle while a spirit was evoked into the triangle.

### **Casting spells?**

Spells are one of many ritual activities Wiccans engage in, although unlike Satanist witchcraft, Wicca forbids harmful or manipulative spells. Wiccan witches practice two kinds of magic. Low magic is invoked to improve everyday life, such as a job or a relationship, while high magic aims to transform the individual personally. Witches convene to worship deities and invoke magic, but pronouncing curses is forbidden: Wiccans believe that curses rebound threefold back onto the one working them.

### **How does a local Wicca group work?**

Autonomous groups of four to 26 people (the ideal is 13) form covens that meet semi-monthly at the new and full moons (13 Esbats (full moons) each year), as well as at eight major solar festivals. Wiccans can attain up to three "degrees" of involvement in the coven—full membership after initiation, accomplished witchhood after reaching a certain knowledge level, and priesthood, which usually requires the "Great Rite" of ritual sexual intercourse. The Great Rite, however, is usually performed symbolically by the thrust of a ritual knife into a chalice of wine.

### **Who are major figures behind Wicca?**

Sybil Leek came to the United States from England in 1966 and established independent covens in Ohio and Massachusetts. Self-described pagans eager to avoid the "witch" designation but equally devoted to the Great Mother Goddess were Fred Adams, Donna Cole, and Ed Fitch, soon dubbed "neopagans." They designed new rituals, and by 1980 a hodgepodge of Wiccan and neopagan groups had emerged. The largest Witchcraft-Pagan organization is the Church of Circle Wicca, based in Mount Horeb, Wisconsin, and founded in 1975 by Selena Fox.

## **II HOW TO WITNESS TO WICCANS**

**Witnessing to Wiccans can be particularly difficult. Wiccans are involved in the occult and there are demonic influences involved. The longer a person has been practicing Wicca the more they dwell in the darkness and the less they will recognize the light. In fact the brightness of the truth often repels them.**

### **1. Pray**

**Wicca is deeply entrenched in occult practices. This means that Wiccans are unwittingly involved and in contact with demonic forces. Wiccans will dismiss this as nonsense, but the Christian needs to understand what he is up against. Therefore, it is absolutely necessary that you pray for the binding of any demonic activity, for the truth to be revealed, and that you would be both protected as well as used while you witness.**

### **2. Be respectful**

**Just because the Wiccan is deceived and involved in the occult, does not mean that he or she should be insulted, maligned, or injured. The truth is that every human is made in the image of God and by default deserves proper treatment. You should show respect to Wiccans, not based upon their theological perspective, not because they are lost, but because they're made in the image of God. Show them respect as you would any other human being.**

### **3. Learn what he/she believes in by asking questions.**

**There are different traditions within Wicca and what you learn from one may not necessarily agree in every aspect with another Wiccan. Therefore, it is absolutely necessary that you ask questions. There's nothing wrong with learning what it is that they do and why they believe what they believe. I find that asking questions is one of the best things you can do when talking to anybody in any different theological system. I ask questions and listened intently to the answers and then ask more questions. Invariably I begin to discover inconsistencies in their answers and I politely ask more questions around those inconsistencies. It does not take long for the person to start seeing that their belief system has serious problems. Remember, anything that is not based upon the Christian faith is false and will have errors which you can discover through asking questions.**

### **4. Don't call them cultists**

**This is equivalent to name-calling. It is one thing to write an article about cults and provide a list of various groups, but it is another thing to look some in the face you trying to witness to call them cultists. It puts up walls and breaks down communication.**

### **5. Don't call them satanists**

**Calling a Wiccan a Satanist is also counterproductive. Since Wiccans did not acknowledge the existence of Satan all you will accomplish is irritating and alienating them.**

### **6. Don't emphasize the male dominated church system and rules since most Wiccans are women.**

**Since most Wiccans are women, it isn't a good idea to bring up the idea of a male dominated hierarchical church system of religious absolutes. It is best to slowly work into the conversation when a person is ready. You don't have to deny it but it is not necessary to bring it up right away in order to "set them straight."**

## 6. Scriptural Basis

a. **Wicca and Witchcraft is an independent spirit:** For rebellion *is as* the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness *is as* iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from *being* king. (1Sa 15:23 KJVR)

b. “All paths lead to God” Jesus saith unto him, **I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.** (Joh 14:6 KJVR)

### CONCLUSION

Col 2:8 Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.

Col 2:9 For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.

Col 2:10 And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:

### OTHER RESOURCES

<http://www.thelightvault.com/>