

So Close! ...And Yet So Far?

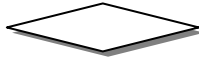


The Teachings Of Jesus In Dialogue With Other Beliefs

Part 8:

“Can We Honour The Earth Without Worshipping Nature?”

WICCA & NEOPAGANISM



Introduction – Consider The Lilies Of The Field

Matthew 6:25-34; 13:3-32; Mark 4:26-29

Beginnings & Beliefs

- i) Clarifying our terms...
 - a) Pagan & Neo-Paganism
 - b) New Age
 - c) Witchcraft
 - d) Wicca
- ii) Something Old, Something New
- iii) God & Goddess worship.
- iv) Progressive Reincarnation
- v) The role of magic

What Can We Learn From Wicca?

- i) Nature is filled with _____.

**Proverbs 6:6
Romans 1:20
Psalm 19:1-2**

- ii) Life is filled with _____.

Galatians 6:7-10

- iii) _____ are the key to sustainable growth.

1 Corinthians 14:26

- iv) Sometimes, Christians can be really _____.

What Can Wiccans Learn From Jesus?

i) Pragmatism is not our _____ calling.

John 17:3

ii) In seeking to harm no one, this should include _____.

Isaiah 53:5-6

iii) Unanswered prayers are not always our _____.

Matthew 26:39

iv) God's people should look only to Him for _____ and _____.

Deuteronomy 18:10-11

v) God is a loving _____ with a _____ heart.

Genesis 1:27; Deuteronomy 32:18; Isaiah 49:13-15; 66:13; Matthew 23:37; John 3:5-6; 1 Peter 2:2-3

Conclusion – Have You Met The Artist?

Genesis 1:1

HOME CHURCH QUESTIONS...

1. After reviewing Sunday's message, share what aspect of Wicca, Neo-paganism, and/or New Age belief you are a) most attracted to? b) most 'turned off' by?
2. Have you known anyone involved in Wicca? If so, what have you observed about their faith and their life?
3. Wiccans and other Neo-Pagans accuse Christians of using **Genesis 1:28** as our excuse to abuse creation, and to some extent they may be right. a) What do you think is the real message of **Genesis 1:28**? b) What additional lessons can you find in **Genesis 2** that support our connection with and responsibility for God's creation? c) Brainstorm – What can you do as an individual, a family, a Home Church to better care for and celebrate God's creation?
4. Jesus uses nature repeatedly to draw out lessons for our spiritual lives (If you have time, read some examples of this in the passages mentioned in the introduction and talk about your favourite verses.) What lessons have you learned *from nature* about life, love, and God? Share some examples.