

DEMONOLOGY
Message 13
Scripture: Mark 1:21-28

INTRO: As I have spent some time in studying the powers of darkness I have mentioned to you that I have learned how clean true Christianity is. It is clean. It is pure. I am talking about true Christianity. As I thought of that I found that demons are called unclean spirits.

Now turn with me to Matthew 10:1. It says, "And when He had called His twelve disciples to *Him*, He gave them power over **unclean** spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease." Note that demons are 'unclean'. There are two kinds of angels; two kinds of spirits, clean and unclean. Note with me that the name of the Spirit of God is the "Holy Spirit". Holy is that which is clean or pure or undefiled. Satan's spirits are all unclean spirits, defiled, and unholy. The NT speaks of the holy angels. That is in contrast to demons which are unholy or unclean spirits.

The Hebrew word translated *clean* is *tahoor*. It occurs 94 times and is usually translated either *clean* or *pure*. The word *unclean* occurs 87 times in the OT and is translated *unclean* or *defiled* in most cases. In the NT the word for *clean* is *katharos*. It is translated as *pure* 17 times and as *clean* 10 times. The word for *unclean* is *akathartos*. It occurs 30 times in the NT and it translated *unclean* 28 times and *foul* 2 times.

One of the major differences that stands between Satan's host and God's host is cleanness and uncleanness. One of the major differences that stands between the saved and the unsaved ought to be that of cleanness and uncleanness. Here is how you can know the difference between that which is godly and that which is not. It is cleanness and uncleanness. One of my sons-in-laws who travels abroad quite regularly and who always turns down the offer of alcohol had an unbeliever say to him, "Wow, you like to live clean hey?" Unbelievers recognize clean and unclean.

In our last message we dealt with clearly occultic practices. Today we want to look at some questionable practices. Ted Rendall of Prairie Bible Institute said that when he was a boy he would sometimes ask his mother on washday, "Is this shirt dirty?" And she would say, "If it's

doubtful it's dirty." Maybe there is a good way of testing whether we should be involved in some practices.

2. Questionable practices

TRICKS

-Sleight of hand

So, let us begin the subject of questionable practices with what is called sleight of hand. Sleight of hand, sometimes called stage magic, are actions that appear to be magic but they have a scientific explanation. You can learn to do these. All the writers I have read do not view sleight of hand as being evil. I would just caution those who practice sleight of hand by saying that if you practice sleight of hand tell the people that what you are doing is a trick and it is not magic. That which is truly magic is from the demonic realm. It may be that if someone does not know that what you are doing is sleight of hand, that they may fall into occultic practices. There are people who do not know that their ancestors have been involved in witchcraft and they may be drawn to this type of thing without knowing it. One of the key things that make people susceptible to demonization is their ancestors. This is one of the areas where the sins of the forefathers may visit their offspring to the third and fourth generation.

The psychic cartomancer I quoted to you earlier recognizes the differences between tricks with cards and seeking information from another realm. In the same article I quoted from before he said this, "There is a big distinction between cartomancy and card magic. Card magic is accomplished with sleight of hand, stacking the deck, and other tricks. Cartomancy is not a trick. It is not a just-for-fun illusion. A cartomancer should never stack the deck before a reading, or use any sort of false shuffles, false cuts, or any other "tricks" to affect the outcome of the

reading. With a little study and practice, you too can learn cartomancy!"

<http://www.theguardedpathcom/josiah/what-is-cartomancy.html>

-Ventrilloquism

Let us now consider another practice, that of ventriloquism. According to Wikipedia, the word 'ventriloquism' comes from Latin meaning 'to speak from the stomach'. Venter means belly and loqui, means 'to speak'. The Greeks called it gastromancy (engastrimuthia). This speaks of the noises produced by the stomach and were thought to be voices of the unloving, who took up residence in the stomach of the ventriloquist. The ventriloquist would then interpret the sounds, as they were thought to be able to speak to the dead, as well as foretell the future. One of the earliest group of prophets to utilize this technique was the Pythia, the priestess at the temple of Apollo in Delphy, acted as a conduit for the Delphic Oracle. Acts 16:16-17 is a reference to this.

Now, this article further says that the first mention of this in ancient times is that of Saul and the witch at Endor. The view is that the woman used ventriloquism to project the voice from elsewhere, claiming that the Hebrew text might indicate this. I do not find that the witch spoke by ventriloquism but that may well have been the normal procedure of making it appear as though the dead were speaking. A demon would answer the witch in her head and she would project her voice as that of the person that she had supposedly made contact with through the demon. In other places I have read that ventrilloquism was called, 'speaking out of the armholes.'

Now, as far as I can tell, there is nothing wrong with ventriloquism itself. But if it is used to mislead people by witches, then of course it is wrong. Ventrilloquism is not

truly magic. It is governed by scientific laws.

MUSIC

Another area is that of music. Some music is clearly occultic like Rock music. I am talking about the music, not the words. When you attach the word "Christian" to Rock, the music is still occultic. To mix the sacred with the Satanic is the worst of practices.

But there is another thing we need to learn about music, which holds true of other practices as well. David Cloud says, "Not all music may be demonic, but it may lead you there. The safest thing is to stay with sound Christian music." It is my observation that present CCM music, that is contemporary Christian music, though it does not have the same evil within it as does rock music, it is the bridge from good to evil music. When a church adopts CCM music, it will want to also change the whole spiritual flavor of the church and become the bridge between solid godly practices and will cause a whole loosening up of standards. And so, if it is doubtful, it is dirty.

GAMES

-Cards

What about the deck of 52 cards? We probably don't have too much question about the occultic nature of the tarot cards, but what of the deck of 52? There is a lot of question about the history of the deck of cards. The history of the playing cards is uncertain. There are claims by some of the demonic significance of the cards. I do not know if any of that can be proved. But I have not read of any historical ideas of good meanings of the cards.

"A man who is a psychic by using cards, cartomancy, and who will give you one free

reading of your future says, Cartomancy is fortune-telling or divination using a deck of cards. Forms of cartomancy appeared soon after playing cards were first introduced into Europe in the 14th century. Practitioners of cartomancy are generally known as cartomancers, card readers or, simply, readers. Cartomancy using standard playing cards was the most popular form of providing "fortune telling" card readings in the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries. A standard deck of Anglo-American bridge/poker playing cards (i.e., 52-card, four suit set) can be used in the cartomancy reading."

Then later, in the same article he says, "The question remains, were the cards made for game play or as tools for divination? We do know that by the sixteenth century cards were used for the means of fortune telling. By the eighteenth century, cartomancy was a hit. Even the Emperor Napoleon was said to have "consulted" the cards on a regular basis.

There is a big distinction between cartomancy and card magic. Card magic is accomplished with sleight of hand, stacking the deck, and other tricks. Cartomancy is not a trick. It is not a just-for-fun illusion. A cartomancer should never stack the deck before a reading, or use any sort of false shuffles, false cuts, or any other "tricks" to affect the outcome of the reading. With a little study and practice, you too can learn cartomancy!"

<http://www.theguardedpath.com/josiah/what-is-cartomancy.html>

So here is my recommendation to you. Go to YouTube and type in "Cartomancy" and then come back and tell me whether you have found them to be "clean" or "unclean".

RELIGIOUS PRACTICES:

-Labyrinths

Now we want to look at some questionable religious practices with regard to the occult. We begin with walking the labyrinth. A labyrinth is like a maze. One follows a path that leads to the centre. According to Carl Teichrib in a booklet called the Labyrinth Journey reaching the centre of the labyrinth is the goal. He writes, "On the mystical journey to spiritual fulfillment, the middle-eye of the labyrinth becomes a place of divine illumination" end quote (8). The labyrinth is of pagan origin and the connection to the occult is clear and according to one article they go back 3500 years.

The Catholic church adopted the practice of the walking the labyrinths in the middle ages (Gotquestions.org). Now in more recent times the prayer walks of the labyrinth have entered evangelicalism. Many churches now have them. I warn about this because it is unbiblical and because of its connections and dangers of the occult.

-Contemplative prayer - Catholic

Another religious matter I must mention is contemplative prayer. Contemplative prayer is a growing phenomena among professing evangelical Christians. As it is used today, it is not prayer at all. It is silence. It is wordless prayer. It is an emptying of the mind, and whenever you have that a red flag should go up in your mind! If you study this, the connections between this so called praying and Eastern religious practices is very clear, and thus its connections with the occult.

Roger Oakland writes regarding contemplative prayer, "Proponents of contemplative prayer say the purpose of contemplative prayer is to tune in with God and hear His voice. However, Richard Foster claims that practitioners must use caution. He admits that in contemplative prayer 'we are entering deeply into the spiritual realm' and that sometimes it is not the realm of God even though it is

'supernatural.' He admits there are spiritual beings and that a prayer of protection should be said beforehand something to the effect of 'All dark and evil spirits must now leave.'"

That is enough information for any discerning Christian to know this is an ungodly practice and that it is a danger for occultic influence. Satan has found a religious way to enter so called Christians.

-Lectio divina - Catholic

Another practice that is growing among so called Evangelicals is the Roman Catholic practice of Lexio Divina. What is lexio divina? According to the gotquestions.org site it is a method of reading prayer and Scripture reading intended to promote communion with God and provide special spiritual insights.

So, if lexio divina is a method of prayer and scripture reading intended to promote communion with God, and to provide special spiritual insights, what is wrong with that? Well, Roman Catholic priest, Thomas Keating explains what lectio divina is not. I am quoting from Lighthouse Trails booklet on lectio divina who write of Keating and they say, "he explains that lectio divina is not traditional Bible study, not reading the Scriptures for understanding and edification, and not praying the Scriptures (though praying the Scriptures can be a form of lectio divina when a word or phrase is taken from the Scriptures to focus on for the purpose of gaining God's presence). Keating says that lectio divina is an introduction into the more intense practices - contemplative prayer and centering prayer" (4).

-Zumba Dancing - New Age

Let me just briefly mention Zumba dancing. I don't want to spend much time on this here. A New Age internet article says this, "Dating back to the 18th and 19th centuries, community

members have been gathering around spiritual, religious and holistic health similarities to experience their shared passions for their beliefs and lifestyles. Through these traditions, the New Age Movement was formed. Today, individuals are taking a serious look into their religious affiliation, spiritual background and health as a form of their lifestyle. Does this mean the New Age Movement has returned? Or has the New Age Movement been taking place since the 18th century?"

The article further says, "Community members have formed Zumba classes to achieve better health through these classes and the support to maintain a healthy balance in other areas of their lives....'I attend three to four Zumba classes a week with different instructors,' said Kathy Woeste." Later the article says, "Zumba is a fun and motivational way to maintain my holistic lifestyle of attending church, eating healthy and keeping my mind, body and spirit on a comfortable level." Later the article says, "Not only does the individual better their body through exercise, but their spiritual/religious and eating habits are taken into account." One person said, "I lost 150 pounds from Zumba!" said instructor Samantha Ward of northern Kentucky." And again, it says, "It's a great energetic hobby that is out of the box and helps every Zumba member live a holistic lifestyle." But last, note this point the article makes, "The classes end with stretching and meditation techniques." And there we are into the occult.

HEALTH ISSUES

The next area in which questionable practices are taking place is health issues. We will begin with iridology.

-Irridology

The best treatment I have found on iridology is by Kurt Koch, who himself is a doctor. He writes about 'Iris Diagnosis' like this: This expression is derived from two Greek words: iris, meaning rainbow; and diagnosis, meaning distinction. Iris diagnosis is the recognition or distinction of diseases by observation of the iris or rainbow membrane of the eye. The principle of this method of diagnosis is the division of the iris into organic fields. These are arranged as on a clock face: sector twelve is supposed to correspond to the brain (cerebrum), sector six to the foot, knee, and leg. Every disease is said to cause an alteration in the corresponding organic field of the iris.

"'There is nothing new under the sun.' This proverbial saying from Ecclesiastes is certainly justified as far as iris diagnosis is concerned. Historically, iris diagnosis, like acupuncture, goes back to ancient Chinese methods of healing. Both methods are associated with astrology. In the case of iris diagnosis, the eye was originally (in ancient China some three thousand years ago) divided into five concentric zones, alterations in which were evaluated in making the diagnosis. The later division into twelve fields corresponds to the astrological signs of the zodiac: aries, taurus, gemini, cancer, leo, virgo, libra, Scorpio, sagittarius, capricorn, aquarius and pisces. In the last century new shoots began to sprout from the primitive, superstitious roots of iris diagnosis. In 1836, an eleven-year-old Hungarian boy named Ignatz von Pezely was seized by an owl. He was only able to free himself from the bird's talons by breaking its leg. At the same moment, the boy noticed a black line in the owl's iris. It is almost unbelievable that this discovery, made by an eleven-year-old fighting for his life, formed the basis for renewed interest in iris diagnosis."

Kurt E. Koch. Occult ABC: Exposing Occult Practices and Ideologies (Kindle Locations 1479-1489). Kindle Edition.

Dr. Byler says, "Dr. Bernard Jensen, a retired Chiropractor, is called the pioneer of iridology in the United States. He is well known for his New Age healing practices and association with such dangers as reincarnation and psychic development. He strongly believes in the correlation between astrology and iridology. He says, 'Iridology is effective only through faith in the intuitive or psychic powers.'" (Byler 37).

-Accupuncture

About acupuncture, let me quote Kock again. He writes, "The other question which I am often asked is, May a Christian believer allow himself to be treated by acupuncture? I cannot speak for anyone else. Everyone must make his own decision. If a Christian has been undergoing ordinary medical treatment for years without success and thinks that acupuncture will help him, he is making a serious decision. But under all circumstances he should pray that he may be under the protection of Christ. Psychic powers are dangerous. Additional note: What are we to make of electro-acupuncture? I have encountered two forms. In the first, the needles are connected to an electric supply at small voltage with a high frequency, with the object of bringing about vibration in the body of the patient. This form deserves the name of electro-acupuncture. The second form has really nothing in common with acupuncture, and it is misleading to call it electro-acupuncture. I have seen the second form used by two fully qualified German doctors. To diagnose the patient's complaint they placed in his left hand the electrode of a meter. With his right hand, the patient, guided by the doctor, tested various medicines. The electric meter gave various readings during the test. The doctor chose the medicine which

had produced the optimum response, and knew at once what was wrong with the patient. How this form of diagnosis and therapy came to be called electro-acupuncture, I am unable to fathom. Methods of healing become stranger every decade" (Kurt E. Koch. Occult ABC: Exposing Occult Practices and Ideologies Kindle Locations 222-230. Kindle Edition.)

Dr. Nolan Byler says that acupressure works on the same principles as acupuncture. It uses the same meridians. He also speaks of Morton Walker and quotes him in his book, "Total Health" where he says, "There is a bio-energy life force in man that in general can be applied to the healing purposes if desired. A psychic healer actually is someone with a more sensitive and better-developed bio energy. He or she is gifted with the ability to touch the energy systems of the patient, as in the meridians of the acupuncturist or chakras of the yogis. Similar are the visions of the religious intuitives, the trances of the mystics, and the enlightenment of the Buddhists. They're all life energy forces". Morton Walker further says, "the energy that flows from acupuncture meridians is free flowing, colorless, non-cellular liquid." Byler says of that, "Non-cellular liquid? Interesting. In other words, it has no color or cells. It's not there, but it's there" (24).

Byler gives a list of practices to be avoided. I'll give that to you: Acupuncture; acupressure; homeopathy; applied kinesiology; iridology; reflexology; therapeutic touch; Palmer theory and technique of chiropractic; Bio magnetic therapy; Chi (Qi) medicine; Aromatherapy; and Raindrop technique.

Let me give you some key words to watch for when it comes to health and the demonic: Energy; holistic; chakras; channeling.

Then let me give you some practices to watch for: Chiropractic; Messaging; Herbal medicines; Reflexology; Physical exercise.

And let me mention a few other common practices to watch for: Reiki; Therapeutic Touch; Hands of Light; Homeopathy;

Now you need to understand that chiropractors and messages, reflexology and physical exercising can all be used in proper ways. But these are fields in which the New Age or demonic practices can be subtly introduced.

Let me add here as well, that herbal medicine, which is fine in itself, is sometimes mixed with the occult. There is a practice among herbal practitioners called applied kinesiology and it is occultic. They will hold a bottle of herbs in one hand and push down the client's extended hand with his other. In this way they claim they can determine which is the best herb. And so, though there is nothing wrong with the herbs, the method of determining the right medicine may be occultic.

OTHER

-Crop circles

I added two matters that did not fit under any other subject; crop circles and UFO's. When we lived in central British Columbia a strange phenomenon took place. In some grain fields what was called 'crop circles' appeared. It was a perfect circle with the grain all lying flat and all the heads were fallen down in the circular fashion. It was reported in the local newspapers. Nobody knew what it was all about.

Wikipedia says, "A **crop circle** is a sizable pattern created by the flattening of a crop such as wheat, barley, rye, maize, or rapeseed. Crop circles are also referred to as **crop formations** because they are not always circular in shape. The documented cases have substantially increased from the 1970s to current times. In 1991, two hoaxers claimed

authorship of many circles throughout England. Twenty-six countries reported approximately 10,000 crop circles in the last third of the 20th century; 90% of those were located in southern England."

(Pictures here.)

Why do I mention these? For our children and young people. Young people, you may see many things in days ahead that may cause you to question the Word of God. Maybe you will start to question whether there are truly aliens out there and maybe you will start to wonder if the Bible is truly the Word of God. Let me tell you this: It is my thorough conviction that the Bible will never truly be shown to be wrong. Things may arise in coming days that will cause you to question all you have ever believed. Check everything out with facts and I am confident you will always find the Bible safe.

Let me give you a verse here. It is Deuteronomy 29:29, "The secret *things* belong to the LORD our God, but those *things* which are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law."

-UFO's

Let me raise another question here: What about UFO's. Well, what is an UFO? I understand that these initials stand for an unidentified flying object. Today, books could be written on sightings of flying objects that are unidentifiable.

David Benoit and Eric Barger say that four views are possible on UFO's. 1 UFO's are a hoax and do not exist. 2 If UFO's exist, they are man-made and merely a part of secret military operations, testing and refining secret technologies around the world. 3 UFO's exist and are piloted by beings from outer space. 4 UFO's are not from another galaxy. To this fourth point Benoit and Barger say, "It

is our personal belief that the UFO/alien phenomenon is one hundred percent inspired and engineered by Satan. They mention that they, along with some others, believe that UFO's may yet play a large part in end time events. They mention that if you wish to study up on UFO's you have to look for books in the 'Occult' section of book stores. This has become a huge thing in our day.

-Cuttings/Piercings/Tattooing

When I began to list these questionable practices, I tried to put them into categories. There were a few that did not fit and I called it "other". Let me begin by mentioning a few of those. First is cuttings in the flesh, piercings of the body and tattooing.

Cutting oneself in the flesh has become a popular practice among young people and maybe others as well. Just like the prophets of Baal in the OT they are trying to get something out of life by mutilating their bodies or cutting themselves. In the OT God's people were forbidden such practices. The heathen practiced such things when someone passed away. The prophets of Baal did so when their god seemed unwilling to answer their requests.

Leviticus 19:28 says, 'You shall not make any cuttings in your flesh for the dead, nor tattoo any marks on you: I *am* the LORD.'" And 21:5 says, "They shall not make any bald *place* on their heads, nor shall they shave the edges of their beards nor make any cuttings in their flesh."

So I ask you, if you were to categorize cuttings, piercings and tattooing as clean or unclean, what would you say? I think the answer is clear.

CONCL: Well, we will conclude there for today. Let me ask, is it your desire to live a clean, godly life? It is by far the safest to take this approach to it: If it's doubtful it is dirty. Sleight of hand, if used right, I think is clean.

Ventrilloquism as well. But what about certain cards, or certain kinds of music? What about certain health techniques?

I needed to spend more time on holistic health methods. Instead I want to recommend a small but very helpful book that has been brought to my attention called, "The High Cost of Holistic Healing." It is written by an old order Mennonite Bishop, who is also a doctor. It is in my estimation very well written and can be obtained from Canadian Family Resources. I have a sign-up sheet in the back and you may wish to sign up for the book. It is only about \$7.00. If you have family members you would like to order for, just write down a number by your name and we will know how many copies to order.