

“ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY” – PANTHEIST IDOLATRY

2 Corinthians 6:14-18

INTRODUCTION

- In Australia we are seeing an ever-increasing promotion and glorification of Aboriginal culture and religion, while at the same time a demonization of our British heritage
 - ✓ The banning of non-Aboriginals from landmarks such as Ayers Rock
 - ✓ Constitutional recognition – dividing Australians by race
 - ✓ Australia day banned in certain regions
 - ✓ “Smoking ceremonies” are held every year at our Federal Parliament House to drive away “evil spirits”
- The so-called “Welcome to Country” and “Acknowledgement of Country” (AOC) rituals were invented in the 1970s to be performed at public events, and in recent years have become ubiquitous, even mandatory in certain jurisdictions
- These rituals are sometimes accompanied by “smoke ceremonies”, music and dancing
- Now there are churches incorporating these “Indigenous Protocols” into their services—Uniting Church, Anglican, Hillsong and others
- Is this ceremony, as they say, a harmless paying of respect to “elders” and a means of “reconciliation”?
- Or is it a heathenish, blasphemous act of idolatry that robs God of his glory and attempts to unite light with darkness?

- No religious ritual (including AOC) is amoral or neutral—it is either true worship of the true God or idolatrous worship of devils
- “Prove all things; hold fast that which is good” (1 Thessalonians 5:21)
- “Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world” (1 John 4:1)

I. IT IS DIABOLICAL IDOLATRY

- A. Idolatry is to worship false gods (Exodus 20:3), or to worship the true God falsely (Exodus 20:4-6)
 1. The AOC is a confession that the false gods, teachings and religion of Aboriginal tradition are valid
 2. It removes God as Creator and Lord of the earth (Psalm 24:1-2) and replaces him with false deities, ancestral spirits and “elders”
- B. It confuses the creation with the Creator
 1. The “Dreamtime” was when creator-beings with supernatural powers formed the topography of the land
 - a. These beings were in the form of animals or plants, yet were part human
 - b. Certain land features are said to be the marks or remains of these gods
 - c. Modern day Aborigines are claimed to descend from these beings
 - d. This is a form of ancestor worship
 2. The term “Country” is a broad religious term that includes creation spirits

- a. The AOC acknowledges, pays respect to, and honours devils
3. It is *pantheism* which blends god with the created universe
 - a. Pantheists direct their worship to created things, rather than a transcendent Creator
 - b. This is a demonstration of the depravity of man, worshipping and serving the creature more than the Creator (Romans 1:23-25)
4. The eternal God is distinct from his creation
5. The creation declares God's glory, eternal power and Godhead (Psalm 19:1; Romans 1:20)
- C. There are powerful demonic forces operating in Aboriginal pantheism
 1. All these false gods and spirits are not merely imaginary concepts, but real demons (Deuteronomy 32:17; 1 Corinthians 10:20)
 2. "Smoking ceremonies" are demonic rituals, giving devils access to those who participate in them
- D. Churches who adopt these protocols are engaging in *syncretism*
 1. Syncretism is the blending of multiple religious beliefs
 2. As the Israelites incorporated Baal and Ashtoreth into their worship of Jehovah, so do apostate churches incorporate the worship of Aboriginal pantheism into their worship of Christ
 3. This will only increase as the end of the age approaches and the global one-world ecumenical religion is manifest

II. IT HAS A DIVISIVE INFLUENCE

- A. It produces enmity, not reconciliation
 - 1. These gestures are said to be done in the name of “reconciliation”
 - 2. The socialist’s “reconciliation” makes one group perpetual *victims* whose grievances can never be satisfied, and the other group perpetual *oppressors* whose guilt can never be atoned for, so that the two can never actually be reconciled
 - a. They do not want equal laws and rights for all
 - b. The term “intersectionality” describes the dividing of people according to their “identity” and ranking their “privilege”
 - 3. True reconciliation comes only through the atonement of Jesus Christ
 - a. Reconciliation between man and God (Romans 5:10; 2 Corinthians 5:18-21)
 - b. Reconciliation between men (Ephesians 2:14-18)
- B. It promotes racism, not cohesion
 - 1. The Aboriginal “industry” seeks to encourage racial distinctions
 - a. Theses protocols, apologies, constitutional recognition, etc, only make the division greater
 - b. They want people to be “judged by the colour of their skin, not by the content of their character”
 - 2. The Bible teaches only one “race”

- a. We all descend from Adam, and are “made of one blood” (Acts 17:26)
 - b. The ethnicity of a people-group has no bearing on their morality
 - c. Some of the most evil and barbaric acts in history were committed by whites (eg. Stalinist Russia, Nazi Germany)
 - d. It is not skin colour that drives man to evil and barbarism, but his rejection of God (Romans 1:28-32)
 - e. In Christ, “there is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female” (Galatians 3:28)
3. Partiality and “respecting of persons” is a sin, and forbidden in Scripture (Proverbs 24:23; 1 Timothy 5:21; Jude 16)

C. It propagates lies, not truth

1. The claim of being “First Australians” is not based on historical fact
 - a. Modern day Aborigines are not the first people to inhabit this land
 - b. There is thought to have been multiple “waves” of migration to this continent, each new wave conquering the former and colonising them
2. Aborigines have not inhabited this land for 40,000+ years
 - a. The earth is only about 6,000 years old
 - b. The flood was about 4,400 years ago
3. The idealisation of Aboriginal history, society and culture is deception

- a. Aboriginal existence pre-colonisation was a continual struggle for survival in a hostile environment
 - b. Tribal warfare was a continual threat
 - c. Women, particularly, were the constant victims of violence
 - d. Initiation ceremonies involve brutalisation and molestation of children
4. Many people do not realise that around 73% of Aborigines identify as Christian, rather than with native paganism

III. IT IS A DAMNABLE IDEOLOGY

- A. Those who follow Aboriginal religion will perish in hell
1. This is true for every belief system outside of biblical Christianity
 2. There is no salvation apart from the Lord Jesus Christ (John 14:6; Acts 4:12)
- B. Aboriginal religion teaches a continual cycle of reincarnation
1. When an Aborigine dies, his or her spirit will return through the birth of another Aboriginal child
 2. The AOC references “elders past, present and *emerging*”—that is, emerging through reincarnation
 3. This denies the Biblical truth that man dies once, then faces the judgment of God (Hebrews 9:27)
- C. It is the duty of Christians, not to promote this damnable religion, but to reprove it and point people to Jesus Christ

1. The ecumenists, by sanctioning their idolatry, mythology, pantheism and reincarnation as legitimate and acceptable, are complicit in their damnation
2. Idolaters must be turned from vanities unto the living God (Acts 14:15; 1 Thessalonians 1:9)
3. We are commanded to “have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them” (Ephesians 5:11)

CONCLUSION

1. Acknowledgment of Country is “tokenism”, as are things like the national apology, or constitutional recognition, which do nothing to heal the real social problems in many Aboriginal communities
2. Ironically, the “progressives” wish to take us from light to darkness, from truth to error, from God to idols
3. If Christians truly love Aborigines, they will give them the one thing that will truly help them—the gospel of Jesus Christ
4. The widespread acceptance and use of these pagan rituals in Australian society is a result of a general rejection of the Bible and Christianity
5. Contemporary revolutionary movements under the various guises of environmentalism, anti-fascism, anti-racism etc, are increasingly adopting religious practices such as bowing the knee, martyrology
6. It is a manifestation of Mystery Babylon idolatry which is presently at work, and will hold global dominance in the first 3½ years of the tribulation (Revelation 17)
7. Their incorporation into churches is an indication of the apostasy of the last days (1 Timothy 4:1)
8. Today, the idolatrous, antichristian Acknowledgment of Country is an optional ritual at civil or church meetings

9. One day it will be mandatory for churches to render homage to heathen gods, just as the ancient Christians were required to confess the Roman Emperor as lord, or be killed
10. Acknowledge means to “recognize the importance or quality of”
11. If it is wrong to acknowledge Aboriginal idols, what *should* we acknowledge?
 - ✓ We must acknowledge Jesus Christ (1 John 2:23)
 - ✓ We must acknowledge the might of God (Isaiah 33:13)
 - ✓ We must acknowledge the truth (2 Timothy 2:25; Titus 1:1)
 - ✓ We must acknowledge our sin (Psalm 32:5; Jeremiah 3:13)
 - ✓ We must acknowledge God in all our ways (Proverbs 3:6)
12. God is a jealous God (Exodus 34:14) and he will not give his glory to another (Isaiah 42:8)
13. If you claim to be a Christian, you must be jealous for the LORD God of hosts (1 Kings 19:10), and stand against the apostasy of our time, regardless of the cost

We acknowledge the traditional and original Owner of this land—past, present and future. We respect and honour the traditions, teachings and customs of the traditional Owner. Furthermore, we acknowledge that the traditional Owner is the Creator of this land we are in, and the Creator of all things; that he alone is worthy of honour and adoration and glory, and that we will bow before none other. He is King of kings and Lord of lords. His Name is Jehovah, the one true God: the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; the Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God and Saviour of the world; and the Holy Ghost, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. To this God alone be glory throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.