

Oprah Winfrey Everything Old is New Again

Philippians 1:9-10: "And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ."

THREE LEVELS OF SPIRITUAL DISCERNMENT

Level 1: Tune Spiritual Antennae to Early Warning Signs.

1. What is their goal, mission, central idea or purpose? Is it compatible with the Bible?

"our mission statement . . . is to use television to transform people's lives"

"The [shows] that have mattered the most have been when I've been able to change the way people think for the better."

". . . the root of all the problems in the world [is] lack of self-esteem . . ."

"Every show I do tries to encourage self-esteem. If we've got that we've got it all."

2. Question to Ask: What is their Worldview? Her Worldview has 2 parts.

Part One: New Age Pantheism. Pan: all. Theism: God.

Pan: all.

Theos: God.

New Age: will come when we recognize this.

Part Two: Postmodernism: all is relative - truth, reality, morality.

3. Question to Ask: What beliefs do her guests promote?

Marianne Williamson: Teaches *A Course In Miracles*: "channeled" to an atheistic Jew Helen Schucman by spirit claiming to be "Jesus" automatic writing.

Lesson #61: "I am the light of the world." Lesson #70: "My salvation comes from me."

Lesson #95: I am one Self, united with my Creator. Lesson #124: I am one with God.

Rhonda Byrne: *The Secret*. Offers the secret to life and spiritual power.

She says it is "part of every religion, including Christianity."

1. We are beings of energy, which is power.
2. Our thoughts are real things that have power:

Eckhart Tolle: *A New Earth*: a world-wide promotion of Oprah's on the internet.

4. **Question to Ask: How are they interpreting the Bible?** The Rule of Context.

Level 2: Think Rationally!

Laws of Logic. They are unbreakable laws of reality and rational thinking.

The Law of Non-Contradiction: Two contradictory truth claims cannot both be true at same time and in same sense.

One must be true, the other must be false. Automatically.

The Law of the Excluded Middle: All truth claims are either true or false.

Nothing in Middle. No middle ground.

One must be true, the other must be false. Automatically.

Think About the Power Source. Think about who has the power?

I can use my God-given free will to do 2 things in terms of reality:

I can choose how I react to reality. I can choose how I act on reality.

Level 3: Examine Their Theology.

We are commanded to do this. 1 Thessalonians 5:21: "Test everything. Hold on to the good."

1 John 4:1: "do not believe every spirit; test the spirits to see whether they are from God."

2 Timothy 4:2-4: "correct, [and] rebuke with careful instruction. For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths."

Ask which God?

1. Traditional Christian view: Theism, not pantheism. There is a God and you're not Him.
2. New Age Pantheism: There is a God and you are Him.
3. Santa: There is a God and you'll like Him.

The Laws of Logic do not allow a rational, thinking person to do this.

God is either personal or . . .

God is either knowable or

God is either other than man or

Either God is also Judge or . . .

Question: which God is the true God? Can't all be the true God.

One is right, other automatically wrong.

Her View of Man: the current cultural view: the elevation of self.

1. Accept yourself and all others: "You're OK, I'm OK."
2. Man is not a sinner, we are good:
3. Man is divine, god:

Apply the laws of logic:

Man is either a sinner or not.

Man either limited power or not.

One is right, the other automatically wrong. Which one accurately describes us?

Her View of Jesus – Son of God, or Great Man:

Not unique Son of God. Not the only way to God. Jesus is not unique Savior.

Apply the Laws of Logic:

Uniquely and eternally the Son of God or . . .

Uniquely divine or . . .

Only way to God or . . .

One is right, the other is automatically wrong.

Her view of truth: flows from pantheism.

Personal. It's "truth to you:"

Religious pluralism. Religious truth is "truth to you."

Her moral views. Personal or grounded in external God? Flows from pantheism.

2 amoral God: The pantheistic God and Santa God are both amoral.

Neither one of Oprah's god's judges.

Wrong God? No moral foundation.

Result: we can't judge. If God can't judge, we can't either.

Which Worldview?

Christianity contradicts the Oprah's Worldview.

Christianity is supported by specific teachings that contradict her Worldview.

Christianity rests on unique beliefs about truth, morality, and reality that contradict Oprah's Worldview.

Only question: which Worldview is correct? One is true, the other is automatically false.