



# SHARING JESUS WITH...

## NEW AGE/PROGRESSIVE CHRISTIANS

### Gallop Survey

10 percent of Americans have participated in one of several New Age spiritual movements (including Transcendental Meditation, yoga, Oriental religions, and other forms of mysticism).

**NEW AGE THEOLOGY IS REALLY A ME-OLOGY ABOUT THE INDIVIDUAL SELF.**

“Until mankind realizes that there is, in truth, no good and there is, in truth, no evil, there will be no peace.”

- Shirley MacLaine

### What is Transcendental Meditation

TM is a form of silent mantra meditation advocated in the 1950's. It is taught one on one by a teacher where the student is given a sound that has no meaning to it. It supposedly is used to bring out an awareness below the surface level.

## THE NEW AGE MOVEMENT

The New Age Movement is a range of spiritual or religious practices and beliefs which rapidly grew in Western society during the early 1970s. Its highly eclectic and unsystematic structure makes a precise definition difficult.

### What are some basic New Age Beliefs?

While most New Agers would deny that their beliefs are uniform, they do have a number of shared beliefs in general. Jesus is just one of many wise sages and teachers, but that is it.

#### “All is One.”

This idea of “all is one” comes from a Hindu teaching where everything that exists composes one essential reality. This Ultimate Reality is neither dead matter nor unconscious energy. It is Being, Awareness, & Bliss. This is a **Pantheistic** worldview.

#### All is divine

The belief that all is one, naturally leads to the belief that all is divine. This one essential reality exists as God, and that includes humanity to, humans are divine and separated by their conscience. Humans are the victim of a false sense of separate identity which blinds them to their essential unity with God .

#### The Law of Attraction

Many New Agers believe in the Law of Attraction, where your thoughts can influence the outcomes in your life. So positive thoughts can manifest positive experiences and negative thoughts negative experiences. There are several subcategories of this like that teach things like removing negative things from your life brings good things in and that the present can always be improved upon.

### What are some New Age Practices?

New age practices are many and can include things like yoga, tarot cards, consulting mediums, Transcendental Meditation, collecting crystals for fostering good energy, using astrology, using drugs and other psychedelics, and enjoy practicing natural methods of good health with herbs and spells and potions that are mixed as spells.

PROGRESSIVE CHRISTIANITY IS NOT PROGRESSIVE OR CHRISTIAN, IT IS A FALSE GOSPEL.

## The 10 Commandments of Progressive Christianity

by Michael Kruger

1. Jesus is a model for living more than an person to worship.
2. Affirming people's potential is more important that reminding them of their brokenness.
3. The work of reconciliation should be valued over making judgments.
4. Gracious behavior is more important that right belief.
5. Inviting questions is more valuable than supplying answers.
6. Encouraging a personal search is more important that group unity.
7. Meeting actual needs is more important that maintaining institutions.
8. Peacemaking is more important than power.
9. We should care more about love and less about sex.
10. Life in this world is more important than the afterlife.

Title

Text

## PROGRESSIVE CHRISTIANITY

Progressive Christianity is relatively a new term, but the roots of PC have been around since liberal Christian theology. Beginning with the liberal German Christians in the 1800's it was recently rebranded as the Emergent Church, which dissolved quickly and now has returned in the last decade as progressive Christianity.

### What do Progressive Christians Believe?

Like the New Age Movement, Progressive Christianity is very wide-ranging with beliefs. There is no official set of beliefs that they all hold exactly the same. But they do hold several common beliefs that we can speak of in general.

#### Beliefs about the Bible

Many do not believe the Bible is inerrant. They believe it shows the authors best understanding of who God is during their lifetimes. Therefore much of the OT is dismissed and even much of the NT is also flawed. They always prefer Jesus over Paul. They interpret the Bible through a lens of love that Jesus taught. They dismiss miracles in the Bible as misunderstood experiences they had.

#### Beliefs about Jesus

Many believe that Jesus was an enlightened man who became Christ at his baptism. Some even believe Jesus was not sinless or perfect. Many doubt his physical resurrection from the dead. People can become like Christ also by being enlightened.

#### Beliefs about Humanity

Mankind is basically good. Sin is not really a thing. Human hearts are good and we should trust our own instincts when it comes to right and wrong since the Bible is a human book. How we act is way more important than what we believe. God doesn't really care about our personal lives, especially when it comes to sex.

#### Beliefs about Salvation

The idea that God would kill his own son on the cross is labeled "cosmic child abuse" by many PC's. Many doubt the sacrificial atonement of sin occurred. Salvation becomes a works based faith on love.

#### Beliefs about the Afterlife

Many do not believe in a literal hell. Why would an all loving God send anyone to hell? Pastor and author Rob Bell wrote a book called, *Love wins* in which he dismissed the idea of hell. Heaven is good, but this life on earth is what's most important. Typically they believe everyone goes to heaven or the wicked just cease to exist (annihilation).

## Extra Resources

### BOOKS

Another Gospel,  
Alisa Childers

Live Your Truth and Other  
Lies, Alisa Childers

The Ten Commandments of  
Progressive Christianity,  
Michael Kruger

Revealing the New Age Jesus,  
Douglas Groothuis  
Awake, Not Woke,  
Noelle Mering

### APPS

Stand to Reason

Cross Examined

### WEBSITES

AlisaChilders.com

melissadougherty.co

Str.org

Biblethinker.org

## Upcoming Topics

4/30—Atheism

5/7—Islam (with Guest  
Teacher, Randy Rainwater)

5/14—No Class  
(Mother's Day)

## Beliefs about the Church

Traditional church is a bad influence that has corrupted people's thoughts about God through their authority. People must carefully deconstruct their beliefs from conservative churches to find God.

## SHARING JESUS WITH NEW AGERS

### General helps

Do not assume you know what someone believes without talking to them first and asking questions and listening to their responses. As always be willing to befriend and build a relationship with them.

### Specific helps.

The Bible makes it clear that God created the universe and with this belief comes a purpose and sanity of living in this life. This can be appealing to a New Ager.

The doctrine of sin is viewed a negative concept that brings negative self-esteem on a person so be careful when discussing this topic. At the same time, be ready to show that sin is the cause of suffering.

Many New Agers have a skewed or minimal understanding of Jesus and the Bible. Take time to slowly teach them the truth.

New Agers have a high degree of dissatisfaction from their worldview. We need to point out the failed results of the New Age movement.

## SHARING WITH PROGRESSIVE CHRISTIANS

### Specific Helps

Keep in mind, many people who have turned to progressive Christianity have come from traditional Christianity and one of the biggest reasons is the abuse and corruption that has occurred in the church. They need to be approached carefully and with grace.

Point out that everything they think they know about Jesus is from the Bible and they are picking and choosing what to believe based on what's popular in our culture. Ask specifically why they do not trust the words of Paul or those in the NT. Use the teachings of Jesus on the OT and how Jesus saw it as "the Word of God." (Mt. 19:4-5 > Gn. 2:24)

Talk about what real love is. Love is not accepting people for what they believe, but treating people in light of truth. (1 Cor. 13).

Do not start a debate about the sexual ethics of progressive Christians verses the traditional biblical values unless you feel it will help them come to a better understanding of who Jesus really is. Instead focus on Scriptures that teach obedience to God and Jesus teaching is what counts. (Matthew 7:21-24)