

Northshore Christian Church

Addendum III Spiritualism vs. Christianity

A Biblical position by Northshore Christian Church leadership on Spirituality

One of the most critical issues facing the Christian Church today is the effort to revive, adapt, and utilize unbiblical forms of worship in the church. In the light of the increasing popularity of New Age philosophy, and questions concerning spirituality and Biblical truth, we as believers in Christ who are serving as elders desire to establish a standard or guideline on these subjects for Northshore Christian Church. We are basing our responses on the clear statements of the revealed Word of God. ~ 1Tim 4:1, 2Tim 4:3-4, 2Cor. 4:1-2, 1Pet 4:1.

Our Standards based on the word of God:

I. The God of the Bible is Creator.

As leaders, we believe that God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is personal, eternal, and pre-exists all of creation. God is both the Creator and the Reason for all creation, including the heavens and the earth, plant life, animal life, and man. Life originated from God who is our true heavenly Father. Therefore, we cannot embrace any religious, cultural, or spiritual practices, philosophies, or traditions that do not clearly recognize and promote the God of the Bible as creator. Gen. 1:1, Gen. 1:26, Heb. 4:14, Jn 1:14, 1Tim. 1:17, Jn 1:1-3, Col. 1:16-17, Neh. 9:6, Rom. 1:20, Acts 17:26-30, Gen.2:7, Deut. 32:39, Psa. 104:5, Isa 51:6, Job 12:7-9, Col. 2:8.

II. We should provide a clear witness for Jesus Christ.

We believe that Christ should have preeminence in all aspects of our lives and all aspects of our cultures in order to promote the glory of God. God will not share His glory with anything in creation, and to do so would be idolatry. To combine elements of any religion outside of Christianity and Biblical truth is at a minimum confusing, and probably idolatry. As followers of Christ, it is our highest privilege to clearly and boldly represent Him and His gospel message to a lost world that desperately needs salvation. We must renounce and avoid any form of idolatry, and strive to keep the gospel message as clear as possible. Deut. 32:39, Col. 1:17-19, Eph. 1:6,12,14, Heb. 1:3-4, 1Cor. 10:31, Isa 42:8, Ex. 20:3-6, Rom. 1:23, Col 3:5, 2Ki. 17:40-41, 2Cor. 6:14-7:1, 2Cor 4.2, Acts 19:18-20, 1Cor. 5:11, Isa 42:17, Col 2:8, Gal. 2:20, Mat. 5:16.

III. Our salvation is from Jesus Christ Alone.

- a. We believe our salvation is in the finished work of Christ and that we cannot add anything to that work to improve our relationship with God. As believers, we should not use or attach any spiritual value, to or regard as sacred, any places, items, animals, rituals, or ceremonies. Jn. 19:30, Eph. 2:8-9, 5:8-12, Ex. 20:1-5, Isa. 1:13-16, Deut. 18:9-13, Jn. 4:21-24, Deut. 12:2, 2Chron. 34:4, Thes.1:9
- b. We believe that Christ, the only begotten Son of God, has always been and always will be the one and only mediator between God and man. Man is totally helpless to reach God through any spiritual efforts such as ceremonies, rituals and other forms of worship. Jn.14:6, Acts 4:12, 1Tim. 2:5-6, Josh. 24.14-15, Mark 7:1-9, Rom. 3:9-18,23, Col. 2:20-23.
- c. We believe we are redeemed and purified only through the blood of Christ for forgiveness of sins and eternal salvation. Therefore, we should not teach that a person

can be redeemed, purified, or have their sins forgiven outside of Biblical truths. To do so is to substitute or add rituals or ceremonies to the finished work of Christ. 1Pet. 1:18-19, Eph. 1:7, Heb. 9:12-14, 22, 1Jn. 1:7, Col. 1:14, Tit. 3:5, Eph. 2:8-9, Col. 2:7-10, Col. 2:20 - 3:2.

IV. Freedom in Christ is not a license to sin or compromise our witness.

We believe that Christ has set us free and that the liberty we have in Christ should not be used as a license to introduce anything from religions, cultures, or spiritual belief systems that would hinder our lives in Christ and our witness to others. Gal. 5:1, Jn. 8:32-36, Gal. 5:13-15, 1Cor. 8, 1Cor. 10:31-33, Rom 6:16-18.

V. Christ reigns supreme above all religions and cultures.

We believe that Christ reigns supreme above all religions and cultures. When Christ redeems and transforms us through faith and obedience to His Word, he can then transform or redeem other people in the context of any culture by our witness. (We believe that Christ redeems people individually by His blood; the Bible does not teach redemption of people based on their cultural or religious affiliation). At the same time, we affirm that there are many good traditions and practices within other cultures, which enhance the lives of both Christians and non-Christians. Such examples include: helping the less fortunate; promoting the importance of family; respect for elders; love for children; sharing with others; entertaining strangers; considering others before oneself; honoring the accomplishments of others; etc. These all are outstanding examples of the scriptural "law of love" and are to be encouraged. Eph. 1:20-23, Col. 1:16-18, Phil. 2:9-11, 1Pet. 2:9-12, Gal. 2:20, 2Cor. 5:17, Rom. 12:1-2, Rom. 1:5-6, Tit. 3:5, Gal. 2:16, Eph. 2:8-9, Rev. 5:9, Heb. 9:22, Eph. 1:7-8, Eph. 2:12-13, 1Pet. 1:18- 19, 2Thes. 2:15, Phil. 4:8-9, Gal. 2:20.