

Culture Wars #6
The Occult Culture

Word

Scripture Reference

Deuteronomy 18:9-12

Discussion Questions

1. The word *occult* means *hidden* and it describes any practices and beliefs that deal with supernatural powers and the spiritual realm whose power and authority do not come from the one true God. This “once-hidden” occult culture has now made its way into the mainstream and is influencing the environment, including those of Christians. What are some examples of occult practices today? Why do you think today’s generation is so fascinated and intrigued with the occult? If occult “powers” do not come from God, where do you think it comes from?
2. Deuteronomy 18:9-12 describes three general categories of occult practices: *divination* or the practice of attempting to predict the future; *magick* or the practice of using charms, spells, chants/sayings, and rituals to change the future or manipulate the events or circumstances of one’s life; and *spiritism* or the attempt to contact spirits (or the dead) for some special revelation or knowledge.
 - (a) How does God view these practices? Discuss.
 - (b) What are some examples/manifestations of these practices?
 - (c) If God were disgusted and repulsed by these practices, why do Christians accept them?
3. As detestable as it is to God, the lure of the occult is very strong. Why do you think occult practices are so alluring? Read and discuss Romans 1:25.
4. The great danger of occultism is when a person begins to substitute God, giving Satan a foothold in his/her life. What does Isaiah 8:19-20 warn us against? What are some possible ways a Christian can replace God instead of putting his/her trust in Him? How do you think Satan takes advantage of it? What does the Bible teach us about how to resist the devil (1 Peter 5:8-9)?
5. An obviously ungodly, “satanic bad” practice is easily rejected by people, and so Satan masks it (1 Timothy 4:1). How are occult practices being masked in today’s culture? Give examples and discuss these practices that obviously do

not come from God yet are culturally acceptable even in Christian circles today. As a Christian parent, how can you protect your children from these practices? As a follower of Christ, are you guilty of practicing occultism—knowingly or unknowingly?

6. Because of the sensationalism of the occult, even Christians get frightened by “dark powers.” But the Bible clearly teaches victory over Satan is centered on Jesus Christ. Read Ephesians 6:11-12. How does Jesus protect you from the power of darkness? Discuss how your Christian testimony is important in engaging the occult culture (Revelations 12:10-11).
7. As a follower of Jesus Christ seeking to engage the culture, your response to the occultism permeating this generation should be to repent, renounce and remove. Read Acts 19:18-19 and describe what the early Christians did with occult practices after being convicted by the Holy Spirit. How can this be manifested in your life? How should James 4:7-8 give you courage to get rid of your sin and live a victorious life in Christ?

Walk

*There is strength in the Name of the Lord
There is power in the Name of the Lord
There is hope in the Name of the Lord
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.*

As a Christian, what should you do with anything that depicts and celebrates evil and is not glorifying to God? Examine what you are reading, listening to and feeding your minds. Claim God’s promise that you can overcome the occult culture because you are His child and there is strength, power and hope in Jesus’ Name.

Worship & Prayer

Pray for...

- Wisdom to recognize and reject all forms of occultism propagating our culture;
- Safety for the PTPM Holy Land Study Tour group;
- Blessings for Dr. Ken Shigematsu as he prepares for the Spiritual Life Conference this November;
- Healing and recovery for Steve who suffered massive stroke;
- Grace and healing for cancer patients: LG, IB, Segundo Yu, Teresita Tan;
- Spiritual growth of DJD and salvation of his family and friends.