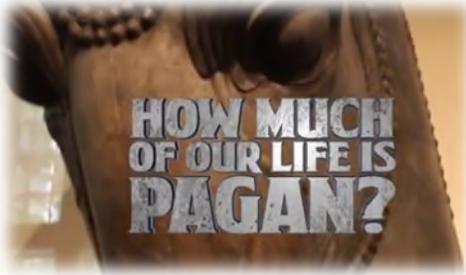


How Much of Our Life is Pagan?

Genesis 1:1: (KJV) *In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.*



Ours is a society of diversity and we as a society have made it that way. Now, there is a great value in diversity for it helps us to focus on, accept and appreciate the contributions given by those who may not be like us. This is good. The problem lies in how our diverse society promotes itself at the expense of some - perhaps at the expense of many - who believe that there is a God and He is our Creator. Our diverse culture does not like this and it is here where that which promotes diversity engages in perversity. What does this have to do with paganism?

We will start (literally!) at the beginning:

Genesis 1:1-5: (KJV) *¹In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. ²And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. ³And God said, let there be light: and there was light. ⁴And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness. ⁵And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day.*



Observations:

- There was a beginning of our heavens (our atmosphere) and our planet. It does not deal with the creation of the universe itself.
- God was there. He engineered and oversaw the development of earth.
- God created methodically and in stages. This implies a purpose for His work.

 **Introduction, popculturepaganism.com**

- *The fear has gone out of the general public. The craft is more and more acceptable.*
- *Paganism has infiltrated the mainstream thought pattern of most Americans today.*
- *There is a pagan revival.*
- *There are more people practicing true paganism than there are practicing true Christianity.*
- *Many people were seeking something apart from Christianity.*
- *The thing that attracts young people is the power and its immediate power.*

Genesis 1:26-28: (KJV) *²⁶And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. ²⁷So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. ²⁸And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.*



Further observations:

- Man was the culmination of God's earthly creation.
- Man was created "in God's likeness" with the ability for dominion and reason.
- God gave His earthly children His blessing.
- God was (and is) intentional.



Neopaganism defined, *Irish Pagan Culture, Jenny Butler*

- *What is "Neopaganism?" It can be defined as a nature religion or earth-based spirituality because characteristically pagans have a very deep spiritual connection to the natural landscape. But there is a problem in strictly defining it as a religion because many followers or practitioners of paganism would view it more as a philosophy or way of life. And also a lot of people have a problem with the term religion itself because they connect that more with institutionalized religion, and they see spirituality as something different to that.*

(Source: <http://www.crystalinks.com/paganism.html>)

The words 'Paganism' and 'Pagan' come from the Latin *paganus*, meaning country dweller. In simplest terms - Paganism is a religion of place, or a native religion, for example the Native American's religion is Pagan, and Hinduism is a form of Paganism. All Pagan religions are characterized by a connection and reverence for nature, and are usually polytheistic i.e. have many Gods and/or Goddesses. Paganism is a religion of nature, in other words Pagans revere Nature. Pagans see the divine as immanent in the whole of life and the universe; in every tree, plant, animal and object, man and woman and in the dark side of life as much as in the light. Pagans live their lives attuned to the cycles of Nature, the seasons, life and death.

Where exactly does God fit within Paganism and how is that different from Christianity?

Romans 1:16-17: (NASB) ¹⁶*For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.* ¹⁷*For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, but the righteous man shall live by faith.*

The Gospel is God-based.

(Source: <http://www.crystalinks.com/paganism.html>)

Unlike the patriarchal religions (Christianity, Islam, Judaism) the divine is female as well as male and therefore there is a goddess as well as a God. These deities are within us as well as without us (immanent); they are us.

Major and fundamental difference: Christians live by faith which means we believe in someone above us who is greater and more powerful. Pagans live by familiarity, meaning their focus on divinity is in that which is tangible.



Human architects, *Paganism in Today's Culture, Peter Jones, truthxchange.com*

- *A statement by Jeremy Rifkin who in 1983 declared this: "We no longer feel ourselves to be guests in someone else's home and therefore obliged to make our behavior conform with a set of pre-existing cosmic rules. It is our creation now. We make the rules. We establish the parameters of reality. We create the world, and because we do, we no longer feel beholden to outside forces."*



We no longer have to justify our behavior for we are now the architects of the universe.”

Romans 1:18-25: (NASB) ¹⁸For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, ¹⁹because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. ²⁰For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.

Mankind should know better just by looking at the miracle of the natural creation.

They are not simply substitutes for the Muslim or Judeo-Christian God. This is because the gods of the major religions tend to be supernatural; i.e., above nature whereas pagan deities are natural, symbolizing aspects of nature or human nature. Having said that, god and goddess are split from the Great Spirit or Akashka, which probably equates to the God of the patriarchal religions.

So, the pagan explanation is that our “view” of God grew out of some spirit; whereas in reality, their gods and their deifying nature grew out of the obvious power and order of God’s intentional creation.

They do not recognize the obvious intelligence behind creation.

²¹For even though they knew God (because they know and honor His creation), they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. ²²Professing to be wise, they became fools, ²³and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures.

There becomes a worship of the created rather than the worship of the Creator. This is the greatest single mistake anyone can make. *Thou shalt have no other gods before Me.*

The goddess represents all that is female and the god represents all that is male. But because nature is seen as female the goddess has a wider meaning. Often called Mother Earth or Gaia she is seen as the creatrix and sustainer of life, the mother of us all, which makes all the creatures on the planet our siblings.

To the pagan, God Almighty is not relevant. This has permeated our society.



Witches, pagans and the devil, Irish Pagan Culture, Jenny Butler

- *Wicca is a modern form of witchcraft that was founded by a man named Gerald Gardner in the 1950’s, and there are other forms of pagan witchcraft as well. It’s important to point out that not all pagans are witches and not all witches are pagans. For example, there are satanic witches, and satanic witches would venerate or use Satan or Lucifer as a figurehead. Pagans look back much further to the old religion or to indigenous religion so it’s prior to Christianity. They don’t recognize the Christian mythology or the Christian pantheon so they wouldn’t be devil worshippers. Among the general public there is a lot of confusion between paganism and devil worship as one because the occult is kind of locked together.*

Paganism is not necessarily based on satanic worship. Paganism is thousands of years older than Christianity.



What is the result of this deviation from the truth that only God is worthy of our worship?

²⁴Therefore God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, so that their bodies would be dishonored among them. ²⁵For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

Without the acknowledgment of a higher source for our being and our guidance, we are left with a perspective that in many ways says everyone is right if they think they are right. In the long run, this can only divide and ruin us.

If God is not relevant, then where does that leave us?

(Source: <http://www.crystalinks.com/paganism.html>)

There are sub-groups of named gods and goddesses called pantheons, drawn from the distant past; for example Isis and Osiris from Egypt or Thor, Odin, Freya and others from Norse religion and mythology.

Christmas was the Winter Solstice
Easter was Ostara (the Spring Equinox)
Halloween was Samhain
Valentine's Day was Imbolc
May Day was Beltane
Tuesday was Tyr's (Tiw's) Day
Wednesday was Woden's (Odin's) Day
Thursday was Thor's Day
Friday was Freya's Day
Saturday was Saturn's Day
Sunday was the sun's day
Monday was the moon's day

YOUR CALENDAR IS PAGAN!

Each culture developed their own versions of gods and goddesses. Paganism embraces them all.

2 Corinthians 10:3-5: (NASB) *³For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, ⁴for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. ⁵We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ.*

God has become irrelevant in so many facets of our culture. The war we are fighting is not just against our own sinfulness and that of those around us, but also against higher powers. Our walk is one of certain focus - we are engaged with spiritual weaponry and must fight against the trend that suggests everyone's belief is good and should be embraced. (That is what "political correctness" is all about!) This very fight provokes us to stand *against* what so many now stand *for*.

How should we stand against things we do not believe are truth? Please see the program from August 16, 2015 called, "*The Gay Marriage Law - How Do We Respond?*" to understand the attitude we should have.



(Source: <http://www.crystalinks.com/paganism.html>)
Ancient Pagans would have worshipped one or a small number of gods and goddesses, while often recognizing the validity of other people's deities.

People have a right to believe what they want, but do we have to embrace it? No. Should we embrace it? No. We should stand up for what we believe is right and true in a Christ-like manner.



A caller from Connecticut suggests Isaiah 5:20: *Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter.* 2 Timothy 3:5: *...having a form of godliness but denying the power thereof.*

Halloween is upon us and it is 100% built upon pagan thinking and ritual. It corresponds in time with a festival called Samhain.

(Source: The Ancient Celtic Fire Festivals www.neopagan.net)

There appear to have been four major holy days celebrated by the Paleopagan Druids, possibly throughout the Celtic territories... These four major holy days have been referred to as "fire festivals."

These four major celebrations had to do with the cyclical changing of the seasons and therefore revolved around the earth as an object of worship.

Psalms 104:19-24: (NASB) ¹⁹He made the moon for the seasons; the sun knows the place of its setting. ²⁰You appoint darkness and it becomes night, in which all the beasts of the forest prowl about. ²¹The young lions roar after their prey and seek their food from God. ²²When the sun rises they withdraw and lie down in their dens. ²³Man goes forth to his work and to his labor until evening. ²⁴O LORD, how many are Your works! In wisdom You have made them all; The earth is full of Your possessions.



Samhain or "Samhuinn" is pronounced "sow-" (as in female pig) "-en"...is often said to have been the most important of the fire festivals, because (according to most Celtic scholars) it may have marked the Celtic New Year. Being "between" seasons or years, Samhain was (and is) considered a very magical time, when the dead walk among the living and the veils between past, present and future may be lifted in prophecy and divination.



We are your neighbors, *There Are Witches Among Us*, FoxNews13, October, 2009

- *We're your friends. We're your neighbors. We're your teachers.*
- *A lot of people who hear the word witch are immediately bothered, maybe even disgusted.*
- *(Narrator) There are witches among us.*
- *Living in Salt Lake City has been extremely supportive to the path that I am following.*
- *(Narrator) They gather in public parks and private places.*
- *This is our temple for our coven.*
- *(Narrator) Witchcraft is a way of life for Rita Morgan.*
- *Sometimes it does contain fire. I really do use a cauldron, yes.*



Witchcraft is mainstream and about taking power for yourself and applying it in ways never authorized by God.

(Source: religioustolerance.org)

Samhain was a fire festival. Sacred bonfires were lit on the tops of hills in honor of the gods. The townspeople would take an ember from the bonfire to their home and re-light the fire in their family hearth. The ember would usually be carried in a holder - often a turnip or gourd. They felt nervous about walking home in the dark; they were afraid of evil spirits. So they dressed up in costumes and carved scary faces in their ember holders. They hoped the spirits would be frightened and not bother them.

Wiccans and some other Neopagans base their religious faith on the religion of the Celts. They continue to celebrate Samhain today.



(Source: Wikipedia)

A traditional Irish Jack-o'-Lantern made from a turnip in the Museum of Country Life, Ireland. Hollowed out turnips to act as lanterns were used in Celtic-speaking regions during the festival of Samhain. These were used to ward off evil spirits, although some said the lanterns represented the evil spirits themselves.

 Introduction continued, popculturepaganism.com

- *We live in kind of a post-Christian era; people moving towards a kind of Neopaganism.*
- *The Neopaganism revival has proceeded so rapidly. They have had the cooperation of the media in getting their message spread.*
- *A lot of what we do has been taken over by the church.*
- *Christians really have married into occult practices. They no longer know the difference because they have become desensitized to the things of evil.*
- *Are you afraid? No.*

We should be afraid! It takes away the honor and respect of the Creator and instead gives that honor and respect to the created. It removes the concepts of higher thinking, ethics, morals and guidance and leaves it to our individual (corrupted) judgment.

Ironically, Christianity started by trying to convert pagans but they did so by watering down the principles of Christianity to make it more acceptable to the new converts. Unfortunately, the effect was to bring paganism into Christianity.



(Source: <http://www.crystalinks.com/paganism.html>)

The concept of an overall, un-named goddess and god, the sum totals of all the others, appears to be a recent one but individual named deities represent particular human qualities or archetypes and are often used as a focus for celebrations and spiritual rites.

What follows is an example of how to properly deal with paganism and a particular focus on an unnamed god:

Acts 17:22-31: (NASB) ²²So Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, Men of Athens, I observe that you are very religious in all respects...

The Apostle is respectful of the people's religious heritage.

Paganism has developed alongside mankind for thousands of years; as cultures have changed so has Paganism, yet it is grounded in deep rooted genetic memories that go back to neolithic times and before. (Hmmm...as determined by whom? As proved by how?) Thus Paganism is not just a nature religion but a natural religion.

²³...For while I was passing through and examining the objects of your worship, I also found an altar with this inscription, TO AN UNKNOWN GOD. Therefore what you worship in ignorance, this I proclaim to you...

The Apostle was clearly focused on understanding the people by studying what they worshiped.

To Pagans the four ancient elements, Earth, Air, Fire and Water have special significance. The importance of these is hard to define because they have so many correspondences; for example they are associated with the four directions, North, East, South and West.

²⁴...The God who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands; ²⁵nor is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all people life and breath and all things;

Paul gently informs them that THE God is above ALL else and has given us life.

 We are the power, *Paganism in Today's Culture*, Peter Jones, truthxchange.com

- *We are responsible for nothing outside ourselves for we are the kingdom, the power and the glory forever and ever. That man is an important thinker in the European Union since 2002. He establishes really the way the present culture thinks, and I felt that last week we got on prime time television a clear statement that this notion of the way we put the world together was given on CNN by the anchor Chris Cuomo who programmatically stated last week (February 2015) that our rights do not come from God; they come from man.*

Paganism is about taking the glory and power of God and replacing it with mankind.

²⁶and He made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times and the boundaries of their habitation, ²⁷that they would seek God, if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us;

Paul affirms the central position of God: God created one man and then the race is born through that one man. Everything comes from God.

²⁸for in Him we live and move and exist, as even some of your own poets have said, for we also are His children. ²⁹Being then the children of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and thought of man.

Again, God is far above all that has been created by Him! He is not in the idols of stone. Everything does NOT have a "spark of divinity" within it.

³⁰Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent, ³¹because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead.

Right and wrong exist and God's righteousness will rule as a result of Jesus' faithfulness. This is God's plan.



A caller from Connecticut has good memories of her children trick-or-treating on Halloween. Is it really "the Devil's holiday?"

We can use the Apostle Paul to get our answer. The texts we just read show a combination of reason, kindness, instruction and firmness. He said, "You are religious and that's good! There are things you do not know; I can help you with those things! I want you to look at their reasonability and I want you to understand you will need to change some things if you want to accept what I am about to tell you. Rise up to something higher. Let me explain the *Unknown God*."



Halloween's origin is a pagan ritual. Paganism was not devil worship. Having said that, it was all about spiritism. We are not against trick-or-treating, but you - knowing its origin - have to decide what to tell your children. For some people it is out of the question based on the principle. For others, it is as simple as children getting candy. We are responsible for what we know.

Clearly over time, more evil and gore has come into Halloween. The devil has been drawn into it, for certain. How can we best glorify God in all we do?

Was paganism always at odds with following the Almighty God?

Paganism in the west takes a number of forms including Wicca - Druidism, and Shamanism.



Change your destiny, *There Are Witches Among Us*, FoxNews13, October 2009

- (Witch) Very specifically what we are trying to accomplish is magic. Magic is altering your fate and having the ability and the means and the courage to do that.
- (Reporter) Magic includes casting spells.
- (Witch) A spell is energy directed.
- (Reporter) Some are used for healing.
- (Witch) You direct your intent toward them to help them recover from their illness, to help them feel better.
- (Reporter) But there's also room for less traditional ideas. Is it possible to cast a spell on somebody to make them fall in love with you?
- (Witch) Yes. Is it a good idea? No.

If magic is used to control your destiny, who is your god?

The very basic seeds of what was done in the ancient pagan societies can be traced back to the history recorded in the Bible - however, there is a vast difference between those seeds and the path the majority of humanity took, leading them away from God.

Exodus 34:12-17: (NASB) ¹²Watch yourself that you make no covenant with the inhabitants of the land into which you are going, or it will become a snare in your midst. ¹³But rather, you are to tear down their altars and smash their sacred pillars and cut down their *Asherim* ¹⁴for you shall not worship any other god.

There was a fundamental difference between their object of worship and the one God. It was only God with the power! God told the people to smash and cut down those objects because they were not to exist within their society.

Why not?

¹⁵otherwise you might make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land and they would play the harlot with their gods and sacrifice to their gods... (because true spirituality will be corrupted) ¹⁶and you might take some of his daughters for your sons, and his daughters might play the harlot with their gods and cause your sons also to play the harlot with their gods. ¹⁷You shall make for yourself no molten gods.

The danger did not stop at worshipping in a pagan way...it only started there. Israel was given strict instruction to NOT mix with others - why? Because of racial prejudice? No! It was for spiritual safety! Anyone could have become a Jew regardless of their background. But they would have to adhere to the rules of God and not of man.

Another example of dealing with ancient paganism:

Deuteronomy 12:2-3: (NASB) ²You shall utterly destroy all the places where the nations whom you shall dispossess serve their gods, on the high mountains and on the hills and under every green tree. ³You shall tear down their altars and smash their sacred pillars and burn their *Asherim* with fire, and you shall cut down the engraved images of their gods and obliterate their name from that place.

It is amazing how often in the Old Testament there was instruction to not merely ignore or avoid pagan ritual, but to completely obliterate it from their midst. God was specific because He understood that sin can draw us away to follow enticing things. Paganism is all about imparting power and destiny to ME!

 **Cosmic New Age, Paganism in Today's Culture, Peter Jones, truthxchange.com**

- *What happened to the New Age? Well, the new age has gone mainline. No one uses the term anymore, but you can tell it's gone mainline because now people say, "I'm spiritual but I'm not religious." You've heard that phrase many times. You see, the New Age has gone cosmic.*



NEW AGE MOVEMENT: a broad movement characterized by alternative approaches to traditional Western culture, with an interest in spirituality, mysticism, holism and environmentalism.

The "New Age" is now! The thought pattern of being "spiritual but not religious" is acceptable, and on the surface this may sound like a good thing. But it removes God from the picture and ends up worshipping self and that which is around self. It includes everything in one big circle of life in which there are no constant/stable morals or ethics.

So, what is *Asherim*?

(Source: *Outside the Camp* Vol. 1, No. 4)
The Old Testament mentions a pagan goddess from which the festival of Easter is derived. This goddess was the goddess of fertility and sexual lust, known as Ashtaroth or Ashtoreth... Each spring, the pagans would set up phallic poles called Asherahs under trees on high hills and celebrate their fertility festival with unbridled sexual perversion. This is how the May Pole originated.



Observations:

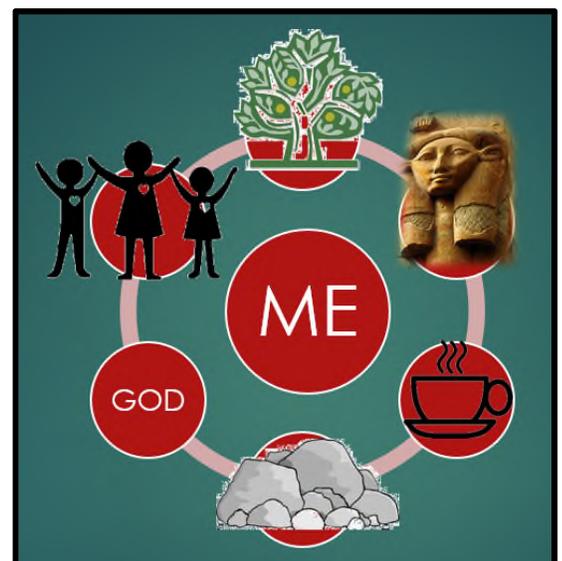
- The pagan beliefs were founded in very real concerns about life and death, harvest cycles, etc.
- These real concerns were expressed through ritual and celebration towards multiple gods. They thanked the "gods" of earth for rain and getting them through another season, etc.
- They had the right concerns but with the wrong execution! It was all based on humans being like the Most High.

The Christian fear of the pagan outlook has damaged the whole consciousness of man.
— D. H. Lawrence

**Is true Christianity a damaging factor for all of mankind?
What should we be doing?**

 **One-ism versus two-ism, *Paganism in Today's Culture*, Peter Jones, truthxchange.com**

- *There are only two religions, I would argue. There is the religion of one-ism or the religion of two-ism. In one-ism everything is one. There are no real distinctions; everything is made of the same stuff. Matter is eternal and it has this spark of divinity within it, so we can worship it. So, that is the basis of nature worship. There is no category for sin, because think of a circle, everything is within the circle - rocks, trees, good and evil, man and God, everything is one. Whereas in biblical two-ism we have the wisdom of God based upon His Being as totally separate from the things He made.*





Paganism and political correctness go hand in hand in the sense that anybody who decides to worship, do, say or think all has to be acceptable. By nature that is a destructive force to humanity. Are we to revolt against political correctness? No. We give people the ability to believe what they want to believe in but take our opportunities to stand for what is right and true. This is what the Apostle Paul did with kindness, firmness, wisdom and Christ-likeness. Be faithful and stand for what we believe.

Any pattern of godlessness ALWAYS produces the same results, though in our day it is accelerated:

2 Timothy 3:1-4: (NASB) ¹But realize this that in the last days difficult times will come. ²For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, ³unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, ⁴treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,

How many of those end time prophecy descriptions describe paganism? All of them. So, what we see around us should not be a surprise.

2 Timothy 3:5-9: (NASB) ⁵holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; Avoid such men as these. ⁶For among them are those who enter into households and captivate weak women weighed down with sins, led on by various impulses, ⁷always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁸Just as Jannes and Jambres (two sorcerers of Pharaoh) opposed Moses, so these men also oppose the truth, men of depraved mind, rejected in regard to the faith. ⁹But they will not make further progress; for their folly will be obvious to all, just as Jannes' and Jambres' folly was also.

Paganism is a form of godliness under the label “spirituality,” but it denies the true power of what godliness is supposed to be. What does it bring? Depravity!

 **Polytheism, Pantheism, Animism, Irish Pagan Culture, Jenny Butler**

- *Neopagan worldview has been called a magical worldview because typically pagans believe in magic and the deities such as the old gods of Europe and also in spirits and fairies and other entities. Paganism can be said to be polytheistic as opposed to monotheism, which is the belief in one god. Poly is many. It has also been described as pantheistic. That's the belief that the sacred is inherent in nature - that the landscape itself is divine. And a similar concept is animism or the belief that everything even inanimate objects have its own soul or spirit and we are all connect on a spiritual plane or connected by energy.*



All of this leaves us with some very specific choices to make:

- Choose the image to which you will conform:

1 Peter 1:14-16: (NASB) ¹⁴As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance, ¹⁵but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior; ¹⁶because it is written, you shall be holy, for I am holy.

Being “spiritual” is not being “holy.” Holiness is being set apart for God’s purpose.



- Know the sources of your belief:

1 John 1:5-6: (NASB) ⁵*This is the message we have heard from him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all. ⁶If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness; we lie and do not practice the truth.*

- You have been delivered - live a delivered life!

Colossians 1:12-14: (KJV) ¹²*Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: ¹³Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of His dear son: ¹⁴In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:*

- Beware the subtlety of sin:

2 Corinthians 11:14-15: (KJV) ¹⁴*And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. ¹⁵Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.*

Sin and righteousness can look the same, but they are not.

- Seek holiness:

1 Peter 1:14-16: (KJV) ¹⁴*As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance: ¹⁵But as He which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; ¹⁶Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.*

We are set apart for God's purpose. God's holy purpose in your life is for you to be a bright shining light of God's truth in the darkness of this world.

Remember, the fallen human mind will always find ways to go from bad to worse, while the enlightened spiritual mind will always find ways to rise above the fray!

*So, how much of our life is pagan?
For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions...
Think about it...!*

*And now even more to think about...
only in the **Full Edition** of CQ Rewind!*



Why do we bring to light such a dark subject?



Our world is overrun by sin. Who speaks out and reveals it? We have that opportunity!

Our society is blinded by politically correct acceptance of so many things that are unrighteous. Who shines a light on these things? We have that opportunity!

Our social morality is dominated by subjective thinking that says, "I decide right and wrong." Who can present objective truth? We have that opportunity!

Our world's "spirituality" now comes from rocks trees gods and "me". Who can reveal the stark contrast of true spiritual holiness? We have that opportunity!



Our present social order focuses on only speaking that which is convenient, even if there is little or no truth behind the words. Who can stand fearless in the face of deception and open up the whole truth? We have that opportunity!

We believe it is important to reveal the fallacy and deception of so much that is now labeled "truth." We can do this with the gentleness of Christ, the strength of the Almighty and the conviction that comes from the real truth of Scripture. The deeper the darkness, the greater the power of light!



Next, a little bit more on pagan background and rituals:

(Source: <http://www.witchway.net/wicca/pledge.html>)

- * I am a Pagan and I dedicate Myself to channeling the Spiritual Energy of my Inner Self to help and to heal myself and others.*
- * I know that I am a part of the Whole of Nature. May I grow in understanding of the Unity of all Nature. May I always walk in Balance.*
- * May I always be mindful of the diversity of Nature as well as its Unity and may I always be tolerant of those whose race, appearance, sex, sexual preference, culture, and other ways differ from my own.*
- * May I use the Force (psychic power) wisely and never use it for aggression nor for malevolent purposes. May I never direct it to curtail the free will of another.*
- * May I always be mindful that I create my own reality and that I have the power within me to create positivity in my life.*
- * May I always act in honorable ways: being honest with myself and others, keeping my word whenever I have given it, fulfilling all responsibilities and commitments I have taken on to the best of my ability.*
- * May I always remember that whatever is sent out always returns magnified to the sender. May the Forces of Karma move swiftly to remind me of these spiritual commitments when I have begun to falter from them, and may I use this Karmic feedback to help myself grow and be more attuned to my Inner Pagan Spirit.*
- * May I always remain strong and committed to my Spiritual ideals in the face of adversity and negativity. May the Force of my Inner Spirit ground out all malevolence directed my way and transform it into positivity. May my Inner Light shine so strongly that malevolent forces can not even approach my sphere of existence.*
- * May I always grow in Inner Wisdom & Understanding. May I see every problem that I face as an opportunity to develop myself spiritually in solving it.*
- * May I always act out of Love to all other beings on this Planet -- to other humans, to plants, to animals, to minerals, to elementals, to spirits, and to other entities.*



** May I always be mindful that the Goddess and God in all their forms dwell within me and that this divinity is reflected through my own Inner Self, my Pagan Spirit.*

** May I always channel Love and Light from my being. May my Inner Spirit, rather than my ego self, guide all my thoughts, feelings, and actions.*

SO MOTE IT BE!

(Source: Wikipedia) "So mote it be" is a ritual phrase used by Freemasons, in Rosicrucianism, and more recently by Neopagans. It means "so may it be" or "so must it be" and may be said at the end of a prayer in a similar way to "amen."

Pagan ritual calendar:

Yule: The date varies from December 20 to December 23 depending on the year in the Gregorian calendar. Yule is also known as the winter solstice in the northern hemisphere and the summer solstice in the southern hemisphere. Yule is when the dark half of the year relinquishes to the light half. Known as Solstice Night, or the longest night of the year, the sun's "rebirth" was celebrated with much joy.

Feb 1 or 2 - Imbolc - means in the belly of the Mother because that is where seeds are beginning to stir as it is spring.

March 21 - Ostara - Spring or the Vernal Equinox: The next full moon (a time of increased births) is called the Ostara and is sacred to Eostre the Saxon Lunar Goddess of fertility (from whence we get the word estrogen, whose two symbols were the egg and the rabbit).

April 30/May 1 - Beltane - The name means fire of Bel; Belinos being one name for the Sun God, whose coronation feast we now celebrate. As summer begins, weather becomes warmer, and the plant world blossoms, an exuberant mood prevails. In old Celtic traditions it was a time of unabashed sexuality and promiscuity.

June 21 - Summer Solstice - Litha - the opposite of Yule. On this longest day of the year, light and life are abundant. At mid-summer, the Sun God has reached the moment of his greatest strength. Seated on his greenwood throne, he is also lord of the forests.

July 31 - August 1 - Lughnasadh/Lammas - At Lammas, sometimes called Lughnasadh, it's time to celebrate the first harvest of the year, and recognize that the hot summer days will soon come to an end. The plants of spring wither and drop seeds to ensure future crops. Grains are ready to be harvested and the fruits are ripe for picking.

September 21 - Mabon - Autumn Equinox, 2nd Harvest - Mabon is the Autumn Equinox. The Autumn Equinox divides the day and night equally, and we all take a moment to pay our respects to the impending dark. We also give thanks to the waning sunlight, as we store our harvest of this year's crops.



Regarding "white" witchcraft, what is the Wiccan Rede all about?

(Source: religioustolerance.org) Wiccan Ethics: Wiccans have ethics which are different in nature than most "one-god" religions, which hand out a list of "do's and don'ts." We have a single, extremely powerful ethical principal, which Initiates are responsible for applying in specific situations according to their best judgment. That principle is called the Wiccan Rede (Old-English for rule) and reads: "An (if) it harm none, do as ye Will." Based on the earlier mention of "True Will", you will understand that the Rede is far more complex than it sounds, and is quite different than saying "Do whatever you want as long as nobody is hurt." Finding out your Will is difficult sometimes, and figuring out what is harmful, rather than just painful or unpleasant is not much easier.

Next, a little more scriptural background on paganism's beginnings...

A biblical example:

Isaiah 14:12-14: (KJV) ¹²How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! ¹³For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: ¹⁴I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. The focus was on his desire to be God.

What damage did Satan do by doing "as ye Will?" In his mighty spiritual mind, would this exercising of his will hurt anyone? NO! Was he out to destroy everything or instead to inappropriately elevate his power and glory? We think most likely the latter. It would simply give him authority as God.

Sorcerers: Strongs #3784 kashaph (kaw-shaf'); properly, to whisper a spell, i.e. to incant or practice magic

The first biblical mention of "witches":

Exodus 7:8-11: (NRSV) ⁸The LORD said to Moses and Aaron, ⁹When Pharaoh says to you, Perform a wonder, then you shall say to Aaron, Take your staff and throw it down before Pharaoh, and it will become a snake. ¹⁰So Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and did as the LORD had commanded; Aaron threw down his staff before Pharaoh and his officials, and it became a snake. ¹¹Then Pharaoh summoned the wise men and the **sorcerers <3784>**; and they also, the magicians of Egypt, did the same by their secret arts.

The use of witchcraft based on the worship of multiple gods (paganism) was rampant in Egypt.

2 Chronicles 33:1-6: (NASB) ¹Manasseh was twelve years old when he became king, and he reigned fifty-five years in Jerusalem. ²He did evil in the sight of the LORD according to the abominations of the nations whom the LORD dispossessed before the sons of Israel. ³For he rebuilt the high places which Hezekiah his father had broken down; he also erected altars for the Baals and made Asherim, and worshiped all the host of heaven and served them... ⁶He made his sons pass through the fire in the valley of Ben-hinnom; and he practiced witchcraft, used divination, practiced sorcery and dealt with mediums and spiritists. He did much evil in the sight of the LORD, provoking Him to anger.

Always remember, God's got this!

Daniel 2:19-22: (NKJV) ¹⁹Then the secret was revealed to Daniel in a night vision. So Daniel blessed the God of heaven. ²⁰Daniel answered and said: "Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, for wisdom and might are His. ²¹And He changes the times and the seasons; He removes kings and raises up kings; He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding. ²²He reveals deep and secret things; He knows what is in the darkness, and light dwells with Him.