

## *Ethics*

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## **§1    *Abortion — Yea or Nay***

When a pregnancy is terminated without well founded motives, it is sin. There indeed are circumstances, as set out below, when concessions are made so that an abortion may take place. Our position on this matter is as follows:

In a certain sense abortion is akin to murder, because a life is ended. God alone calls life into being — thus only He can dispose to end it. No man may (for what –human– reason so ever) interfere with God’s right.

Where God called life into being in a woman, man may not interfere, unless it jeopardises the mother’s and eventually the child’s life.

The principle being that the foetus, at the moment of conception, already exists as a complete human before God. We find a clear reference to this in Psalm 51:5 where David confesses that he was “conceived” in sin. Conception is the moment of fertilisation. To perform an abortion is thus to commit murder.

NB. Yet, the Lord allows the legislator performance of abortions under certain conditions. When two specialists jointly judge that it is inevitable, the necessary permission may be granted.

Psychological factors may permit abortion, e.g. in cases of rape, or when it is confirmed with medical tests that the foetus is abnormal. All these factors are statutorily regulated and may not be based on personal whim.

Deuteronomy 32:39

See now that I, even I, am he, and there is no god with me: I kill, and I make alive; I wound, and I heal: neither is there any that can deliver out of my hand.

1 Samuel 2:6

The Lord killeth, and maketh alive: he bringeth down to the grave, and bringeth up.

Psalm 51:5

Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.

Exodus 21:23

And if any mischief follow, then thou shalt give life for life,

Leviticus 24:18

And he that killeth a beast shall make it good; beast for beast.

Psalm 66:9

Which holdeth our soul in life, and suffereth not our feet to be moved.

John 6:33

For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world.

1 Timothy 6:13

I give thee charge in the sight of God, who quickeneth all things, and before Christ Jesus, who before Pontius Pilate witnessed a good confession;

1 John 5:16

If any man see his brother sin a sin which is not unto death, he shall ask, and he shall give him life for them that sin not unto death. There is a sin unto death: I do not say that he shall pray for it.

Revelation 2:10

Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.

## **§2    *Attestate***

An ecclesiastical witness of one's doctrine and life as member of a particular congregation. When I move from one congregation to another, it is necessary that I will report with a 'testimonial' to the next. From it they may infer whether I was supportive, active and devoted as a member. Such an attestate, on the soundness of my doctrine (I believe what the church believes as the Word of God) and life (a sober life style), affords me the privilege to enjoy the sacraments –baptism and Lord's Supper– in the next congregation.

As soon as I misbehave in doctrine or life, the church council will pass along, with my attestate, an accompanying letter: explaining why I am under church council censure (in process of discipline).

If I depart I must, personally, request my attestate from the church council. This is not merely a certificate of membership that I must hand in at the next congregation, to be filed in an office somewhere. I am a member of only one particular congregation, therefore only that church council can bear witness about me. Which is the reason why I may not merely partake of the Lord's Supper at any Reformed Church. Should I neglect to request my attestate, as soon as I depart, the church council may, after six months, refuse to provide me with a reference, because they then, of course, no longer know what the nature of my life as member is like. In this case the church council only confirms, to the next, that I was a member of that particular congregation up to a certain date. Whereupon the next congregation receives me, with the understanding of my negligence, and after proof of fellowship with them.

Suppose I go on vacation or temporarily work outside of the congregation, for about a year, the church council would then issues a travel attestate –without another congregation's address on it– which I hand in at a congregation(s) where I can join in fellowship with them, that Reformed Church in turn grants me permission to celebrate the Lord's Supper with them, on grounds of the travel attestate. Before I depart from the latter, that church council must sign my travel attestate, confirming my fellowship with them. When I return to my congregation of origin, I must hand back the travel attestate.

Should I join another denomination –or as we say, another ‘church’– I do not receive an attestate, but only confirmation of membership. Should I, as a minor who leaves the congregation, before I profess Faith, I would then receive an attestate of a baptised member, which is essentially the same as an attestate.

### **§3 *Belonging to a church?***

Must I really belong to a church, go to church every Sunday and contribute to the church? As long as I am a born again Christian, it is not really necessary, and I can manage on my own without the church.

Scripture provides clear guidelines on this issue. We must be careful to award greater authority to our own ideas, but should rather ask: what does the Word say?

After Jesus Christ’s ascension He is present here on earth by His Spirit. This does, however, not mean that He is proportionally dispersed in the air like oxygen. He is not equally present everywhere, *e.g.* He is more present in the midst of the faithful in conversation, than in the noise of a club.

He decided to be more present at some places than others. In Ephesians 2:20 Paul teaches that as the faithful we are a building of God with Jesus Christ as its cornerstone. He took up residence with us in the congregation.

When He saves people, He adds them to the congregation (Acts 2:47). When we are saved, we are, as it were, built into the building (1 Pet. 2:4-5). Thus your being Christian is never separate from your church membership. You are not Christian on your own.

You cannot be a brother but at the same time want nothing to do with your family. It’s not possible to be your father’s child while not wanting to belong to the family. It’s abnormal.

When you withdraw yourself from God’s children, from the body –his church– you are then constantly busy with only yourself. Other believers become a threat to you, because you do not have that vital encouragement, admonition and comfort that keeps you on your toes (‘of Faith’).

In the body of the Lord each one serves as a member — eye, ear or hand. We cannot do without each other, otherwise the body would be crippled and not able to function aright (1 Cor. 12:12-31).

Loveless criticism that church folk are hypocrites and false, only demonstrates that you think, you can do it better on your own, but that’s not what Scripture says. God’s guideline is to be a child of the Lord, as a member in the body.

### **§4 *Capital punishment***

The principle is very simple. God alone disposes of life (see §17 Suicide, p. 218-219).

Therefore God also protects life with life. When someone offends God by taking a life, he is cursed of God and removed from society (*cf.* Cain's history, Gen. 4).

However, not everyone can decide and act on God's behalf with regards to life and death. Therefore God regulates this through the authorities (*cf.* Rom. 13). The Lord, even in the New Testament, gives the principle that the authorities may apply the death penalty to protect life.

## **§5 Euthanasia — Yea or Nay**

Severe suffering and illness sometimes raises the question whether it would actually not be sin to release a loved one from his/her suffering. What sense and meaning does such a person's life have in any case?

However, the Bible teaches that the sense and meaning of human life is not measured according to social and productive usefulness.

When God still allows man to draw breath of his own strength, man still has inherent worth in God's kingdom.

Therefore we answer 'no' to active euthanasia — giving of an injection or handing over of a pistol.

When life is, however, sustained by sophisticated medical apparatus, without which the patient's lungs and heart cannot function, it becomes a question whether the machine should remain switched on indefinitely, because then life is sustained artificially. Switching off of the apparatus is called passive euthanasia. This may, indeed, take place if there is absolute certainty that without it the body will immediately die.

The principle being that God and God alone disposes of life. He brought it into being and He alone ends it in this dispensation.

## **§6 Holism**

### **6.1 Definition**

Holism is a philosophical movement that busies itself with the relationship in which things stand to each other. Every human being and every social structure forms a particular component of the greater whole. In this whole no person has an own and separate identity — every human or instance, or what ever, finds its own meaning in its relationship to all other things in the totality of creation (see §12 New Age Movement, p. 203-205).

### **6.2 Divinity — entirety of parts**

Holism teaches that God is comprised of the totality of all that exist, and that every human and every thing that exists, comprises one small component thereof, *e.g.*: each human being

is thus part of the divinity because he/she is a component thereof.

- Divinity

Although holism claims that there is “a godhead” or “intelligence” in the supernatural realm, it is no divine worship in the true sense of the word. It is an ideology that deprives all people of their own identity, because it sets facelessness and equal identification with all that exist as its highest goal.

Man must not view himself as an own identity but merely as a co-worker in a developmental process which determines the final destination of earth. In this process goalposts can often be shifted under the banner that nothing is fixed and certain and that all truth can change.

- Christianity and the occult

To demonstrate this statement, the symbol of the fish is used. Stuart Hope wrote a doctoral dissertation on holism wherein he claims that this symbol was established for the Christians. The Greek word for fish is ICHTHUS. The letters ICHTHUS form the first letters of Iesous Christos Theou Huios Soter, which means Jesus Christ God’s Son — our Redeemer. According to Hope it blends with the last sign of the Zodiac, namely the fish (Pisces), which is the sign of cyclical recreation.

In this holistic idea Christianity is identified and also expounded with the symbols and practice of the occult religions. Even the boundary between true and false faith must eventually disappear, according to the holists, so that a new unity can be created from the chaos.

### 6.3 Distinction between societal spheres removed!

This philosophical concept has a very wide impact in modern society. Therefore those who practice holism, appeal so strenuously to every person that he must, in his own sphere, exhibit greater flexibility towards, and unification with others.

Modern man must bring forth something new. Hope defines it thus: “... presenting another stage in the long procession towards human wholeness ... This happens through a process of personal transformation, and can be seen in an earnest quest for the sacred.”

The philosophy of holism teaches that man in this process transcends reality and that he escapes time and space. The practice of holism is a process which man undergoes wherein he grows and becomes spiritually greater and better.

### 6.4 Danger

The danger of this philosophy already becomes apparent in that it demands of one to abandon oneself: “This striving to achieve intellectual control is at the expense of personal knowledge. Feelings and intuition are avoided; ... the situation demands that we have the courage of our convictions to break down these self-created obstacles in order to unleash the latent powers of the human psyche.”

Notice that this philosophy creeps up on you and robs you of your entire identity and then locks you as a non-entity into the so called whole of things that exists. You must surrender your history and also all things in which you believe: “In other words, the tapes have to be wiped clean.”

Man is confronted by this demand, because holism believes that no man can merge with

other people and groups unless his entire concept of life is first emptied. Otherwise those things will again influence and disadvantage his view of future things. As with the New Age Movement it teaches that every man must abandon and disavow all that he is. He must acquire the identity of the group. This identity is determined by the principles of holism.

#### 6.5 Education system

In our time Holism directs itself towards the education system (Hope, 1987). It attempts to present curricula in such a way that pupils must always be focused thereon that nothing is “fixed”. Everything can change at any time. In this educational process the divide between teachers and pupils must lapse. Pupils must not view teachers as their superiors but merely as another person (egalitarian). The teacher is as much a pupil as the pupil himself — he must learn as much from the pupils as they from him. On the other hand the child is just as much a teacher as the teacher himself.

The same principle must be applied to all disciplines, amongst others also the defence force, the police and the church. All boundaries must be removed, so that there may be a mutual flow from one into the other. The boundary between troop and commander must be removed. Together all concerned must simply form the defence force, without distinction or enforcing discipline.

The idea must then progress so that the boundaries between all the different institutions, as we know it, are removed. The boundaries between Faith/religion and politics, between university and school, and between military/police and nation must all fall away.

#### 6.6 Method

The manner in which it is accomplished, is to attack and to so dismantle the military and police –and any other institution which is tardy to accept and implement this ideology– that the members who are ‘not supple enough to change’ must make way, and be replaced with persons who do, indeed, accept and apply the notion of holism.

Just so the boundaries between church and politics and between religion and science must also be removed. Faith must identify with politics, in the sense that the two must integrate. Likewise religion and science must integrate. These things are viewed as cells which exist distinctly from each other and of which the boundaries must be dissolved, so that the idea of one great component of the godhead is establish. In this process of evolution there is a “divine, guiding Intelligence which is unfolding the involuted [involved] design of a higher reality” (Hope, 1987:221).

#### 6.7 Extensiveness

The goal that holism strives toward, is stability, order, peace and uniformity. How this ideal will be achieved –with al the structures which it must establish, broken down– remains an open question. The fact is simply that holism as an ideology has, with al its dangers and weaknesses, firmly established itself in our South-African society. We must guard and fight against it.

### §7 *Homosexuality — Yea or Nay*

This phenomenon occurs evermore in modern times. In certain churches it is already

“legitimated”, e.g. in the Reformed Churches of the Netherlands (Gereformeerde Kerken Nederland). Consequently the Reformed Churches in South Africa broke all ties with that denomination. Our stance on the matter of homosexuality and lesbianism is the following:

This “symptom of disease” is rooted in the Fall.

The Bible pronounces itself very clearly against any form of unnatural sexual intercourse (Rom. 1:26-27; Lev. 20:13). In sum: It is a serious sin when men have intercourse with each other or women have intercourse with each other.

God made man and woman different, so that a man’s manhood is revealed as truly different from that of a woman only when he has intercourse with her in holy matrimony. The mutual complementarity between man and woman exhibits how God created the sexual encounter *into* us.

Who notices this unnatural attraction to his/her own gender in him-/herself, must seek pastoral guidance.

God forgives also this sin when we confess and fight it.

Those who do not fight it, are punished by God (Rom. 1:18 *ff.*).

#### 7.1 What is homosexuality?

It is when people of the same sex have intercourse with each other. Look at the following pronouncements in Scripture:

Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: *it is* abomination. (Lev. 18:22)

If a man also lie with mankind, as he lieth with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination: they shall surely be put to death; their blood *shall be* upon them. (Lev. 20:13)

*Now* as they were making their hearts merry, behold, the men of the city, certain sons of Belial, beset the house round about, *and* beat at the door, and spake to the master of the house, the old man, saying, Bring forth the man that came into thine house, that we may know him. (Judg. 19:22)

<sup>26</sup>For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: <sup>27</sup>And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompense of their error which was meet. (Rom. 1:26-27)

#### 7.2 Where does this cross our path?

The first time in history that we come across this phenomenon is in the town of Sodom, in Abraham’s time. Of the three men (angels) who were with Abraham, two arrived in Sodom (the Angel of the LORD went away). They boarded with Lot. We read the following:

<sup>4</sup>But before they lay down, the men of the city, *even* the men of Sodom, compassed the house round, both old and young, all the people from every quarter: <sup>5</sup>And they called unto

Lot, and said unto him, Where *are* the men which came in to thee this night? bring them out unto us, that we may know them. (Gen. 19:4-5)

Subsequent to the events at Sodom, where we first came across this habit, this sinful habit started to appear among many nations' men. Each time the Lord makes it known that He has a total aversion to it.

The deed of homosexuality is known as sodomy.

7.3 Why is sexual relations between people of the same gender wrong?  
Let's start at the beginning — with the creation of man. We investigate what the Lord had in mind with the creation of man. We look to the Lord's revelation and bow before it:

#### 7.3.1 Creation of man

From Genesis 1:26 and 2:18, 21 & 23 it is clear that God did not plan to make only one of man.

And 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. (Gen. 1:26)

And the LORD God said, *It is* not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him. (Gen. 2:18)

And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; (Gen. 2:21)

And Adam said, This *is* now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. (Gen. 2:23)

The words: "Let Us make man [plural] ...", is abundant proof thereof..

- But the Lord's intention is clearly revealed: He did not want to make many men and many women.
- Here "man" (plural) means one single married couple!
- The purpose of the Lord is very clear:
  - He makes two people.
  - He makes them of different sexes
  - He does not bind the same sex together in matrimony. He binds in matrimony one from each of the different sexes: man and woman.

God created man in His own image (read: Gen. 1:26-27).

- Man alone possesses true knowledge, true righteousness and true holiness.
- Read: Catechism Lord's Day 3.

#### 7.3.2 Man bears the image of God in two respects

- The image of God in broader sense  
Which is what distinguishes us from the rest of creation, for instance: reasonableness; personality; abilities; gifts, etc. (cf. Prov. 4:23).

- The image of God in narrower sense  
Compare Leviticus 19:2; Deuteronomy 6:5; Matthew 5:48; 22:37; Ephesians 5:1; 1 Peter 1:15-16.
  - True knowledge: To know God and his Word.
  - True righteousness: To be able to distinguish what God wants and what He does not want; to be able to distinguish between right and wrong; obedience and disobedience.
  - True holiness: To be able to truly become holy. No animal or plant possesses the requisite holiness to live with God and to worship Him in complete holiness, in the Hereafter. Only man possesses this — because God grants it to him.

Man with his true knowledge and true holiness and true righteousness must, thus from the start of history up to its conclusion, with the Second Coming of the Lord, have the ability to possess right insights as to:

- the reason for their existence,
- how the Lord bound them together in matrimony
- what the purpose of marriage is.

#### 7.3.4 The nature of man

- Man is created immortal. That we now die, is because God punished us with the death penalty: “for dust thou *art*, and unto dust shalt thou return.” (Gen. 3:19).
- We know that the first human is a man (male).
  - The Lord takes dust and therewith makes man’s body.
  - Immediately a very conspicuous difference between this creature and the rest of creation is apparent.
    - When all other things were made, God said only a word and the matter was immediately completed. Things such as earth, plants, light and animals were!
    - Man’s existence starts differently. God first says that He will make man, He then takes of the earth that He created and makes thereof a man’s body.
- Another thing happens which removes man further away from the rest of creation: God breathes breath –that is: life– into man.
  - God shapes man’s life completely different to that of the animals.
- God created man for the purpose of honouring Him (BC, Art. 12-17).
- God creates man in two genders — man and woman.
  - Initially there was only one human and he was created with a gender — male.
  - Thereafter God executed the rest of His counsel to make people.
  - When Adam slept, the Lord took of his rib and made the second human.
- The difference in material used, is indeed noticeable.
  - In Adam’s case ‘raw material’ is used and in that of Eve ‘refined material’.
  - Thus in this alone, the woman is already the ‘finishing off’ of God’s creation — the most beautiful and delicate made by God’s hand.
- God brought this woman to the man and with that the first marriage took place. *NB*: This is no contract, it is a creational ordinance.
- In this marriage the man will have to live as one who is first, ought to live.
  - He will have to live before God in such a manner that by his conduct towards his wife and children it is evident that God created him to rule.
  - *NB*: Not bombastic and foolishly, nor violently and dishonestly.
  - God’s honour must shine forth from his conduct!

- The woman will also have to reflect the refinement and delicacy which God created into her.
  - She cannot be married as if she is disconnected from that first day when God created her and brought her to Adam.
  - Also in her household and in her relationship with her husband her tenderness and refinement must extend God's honour and glory.

Thus there are essential differences between the two — and yet both are God's image bearers:

- Adam was created first — Eve second
- Adam is made of dust — Eve of Adam's body
- Adam is the head — Eve is his help (in his service towards God!)
- Adam is male — Eve is female

Different marriages are known:

- Monogamy — where one man and one woman are married one to another, such as Adam and Eve.
- Polygamy — where one man has more than one wife.
- The matriarchal marriage — where the woman is the head of the house.
- The collective/group marriage — the kind of marriage which occurred among the “hippies” (known in the fifties and sixties), where each in the group is married to all.
- In modern time there is also the so called gay-marriage — the kind which is entered into by two persons of the same sex.

Which one of these marriages is instituted by God?

Did God bind man to only one type of marriage?

God bound us to one marriage, as He sought a generation of God!

And did not he make one? Yet had he the residue of the spirit. And wherefore one? That he might seek a godly seed. Therefore take heed to your spirit, and let none deal treacherously against the wife of his youth. (Mal. 2:15)

Homosexual relations in no way satisfy this.

- The Lord bound us to only one type of marriage, namely: monogamy, where one man is bound to one woman.
- Homosexual marriage (and deeds) is thus diametrically opposed to the revelation of God where He instituted the first marriage!
- It is evident from the fact that God makes one man and for him only one woman.
- What now develops out of homosexual practices, that these people form even larger cohabiting groups, is an even worse distortion of the Lord's purpose in the beginning.
- God makes a particular institution:
  - Henceforth all marriages must look like this one.
  - To such a married couple the Lord gives the commission to be fruitful and to multiply until the earth is filled.

#### 7.3.4 Marriage as symbol

Marriage is especially a symbol of God's dealing and relationship with us.

- The man is head of the house and therein he is symbol of God. The woman is the submissive one and therein she is symbol of the church.
- This intimate relationship between God and his church (the elect) is called the covenantal relationship.

Compare the Formulary for Marriage Solemnising (IBP 2:3, pp. 321-325):

*What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder* (Matt. 19:4-6).

Therefore He had also honoured the marriage so highly by His presence and miracles at the wedding in Cana (John 2:1-11). And Paul says with Christ and the congregation in mind that the marriage is a great mystery. From this we learn that the marriage, which is grounded in the goodwill of God, is very virtuous, because it is a representation of the relationship between Christ and the congregation (Eph. 5:32).

And then you, man, must realise that God had placed you as head of the woman, as Christ is the head of the congregation (Eph. 5:23-24). You must love and sensibly lead, teach, console and protect and honour her as woman. You must not become embittered towards her but live sensibly together with her. You must also zealously and faithfully practice your occupation, so that you can honourably support your family and to also give something to the needy.

And you, woman, must love your husband, honour and obey him (Eph. 5:24) in all that is right and fair, as the congregation is obedient to Christ.

The moment when people of the same sex enter into a matrimonial relationship (wow!) with one another,

- the image which God Himself imposed on marriage, is broken;
- the fact that something other than what God would have, comes to expression, is sin.

## 7.4 Obligations of marriage

### 7.4.1 Obligations to God

- The first commission to the newly wed couple is found in Genesis 1:26 — even before they were created.
  - Man is created in the image of God — they must therefore mirror God's image and likeness in their existence.
  - A homosexual 'marriage' relationship distorts this image of God.
- The second commission is also in Genesis 1:26.
  - The Lord decided that these people whom He would make, must rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the heaven and the cattle and over the whole earth and over all the animals that move upon the earth. The command concerns man and woman, because it involves both of the people whom God made.
  - A homosexual 'marriage' relationship does not meet the requirements of God's command to rule — in this regard man descends lower than the level of an animal, because they sully themselves thus. Thereby he is enslaved to sin — and cannot rule over it.
- The next commission is in Genesis 1:28:

And God blessed them and God said to them: Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth, subdue it and rule ...

Two instructions are distinguished:
  - The instruction to be fruitful  
Man must multiply, but not without limit. There is a distinct limit: until the earth is filled. The command thus entails that man must produce more image bearers of

- God.
  - The instruction of stewardship
  - The second instruction is to exercise the royal image of God — rule/govern over. (see above)
  - A homosexual ‘marriage’ relationship violates these instructions of God because there is no possibility of being fruitful with the purpose to multiply. The homosexual relationships becomes a sinful platform for the abuse of man’s lechery.
  - And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation; (Acts 17:26)creation.

Homosexual communion cannot meet this.

#### 7.4.2 Obligations toward each other

- In Ephesians 5:22 ff. the Lord regulates the relationship between man and woman in marriage.
- To the woman the instruction is given to submit to their own husband.
- NB: verse 22b: “... as unto the Lord.”
  - The wife submits to her husband’s leadership as the church is subject to the Lord.
  - The submission does not mean slavishness, but unity.
- The husband must love his own wife.
  - This is not sensual or lecherous love.
  - This is the type of love that God has for His church.
- NB: as Christ has for His congregation.
  - Christ loved His church so much that He died for it

#### 7.5 Conclusion

Homosexual relationships (and even legalised homosexual ‘marriages’) increasingly occur in modern times.

- In some churches it is already “legalised”, e.g. in the Reformed Churches of the Netherlands (Gereformeerde Kerken Nederland). (Consequently the Reformed Churches in South Africa severed all ties with those churches.)

Our position on the matter of homosexuality and lesbianism is the following:

- This “symptom of disease” is rooted in man’s Fall in Paradise.
- The Bible clearly pronounces itself against any form of unnatural sexual intercourse (Rom. 1:26-27; Lev. 20:13).

<sup>26</sup>For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: <sup>27</sup>And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompense of their error which was meet. (Rom. 1:26-27)

If a man also lie with mankind, as he lieth with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination: they shall surely be put to death; their blood *shall be* upon them. (Lev. 20:13)

In sum: It is a serious sin when men have sex with each other or when woman have sex with each other.

- God made man and woman different, so that a man’s manhood is revealed as truly different from that of a woman only when he has intercourse with her in holy

matrimony.

- The mutual complementarity between man and woman exhibits how God created the sexual encounter into us.
- Who notices this unnatural attraction to his/her own gender in him-/herself, must seek pastoral guidance.
- God forgives also this sin when we confess and fight it.
- Those who do not fight it, and do not want to repent, are punished by God: Even as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire. (Jude 1:7)

<sup>22</sup>Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, <sup>23</sup>And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things. <sup>24</sup>Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: <sup>25</sup>Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen. <sup>26</sup>For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: <sup>27</sup>And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompense of their error which was meet. <sup>28</sup>And even as they did not like to retain God in *their* knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; <sup>29</sup>Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, <sup>30</sup>Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, <sup>31</sup>Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: <sup>32</sup>Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them. (Rom. 1:22-32).

## §8 *Yoga — and other heathen influences*

Influence of heathenism on some of our modern practices.

### 8.1 Zen-Buddhism

Over the past 5 000 years Buddhists have developed a very refined spiritual discipline in their religion. This part of their religion concerns a very delicate harmony which they developed between body and spirit. In this body-spirit relationship they include higher forces, which they call the energy-giving forces of the universe.

The essence of the Zen-Buddhist doctrine is that every human is subject to never ending suffering. The suffering can be broken only when one is able to liberate oneself from emotion and the will to live. You must escape all science –mere letters– and look into your own nature. You must seek the spirit within. One Zen-Buddhist author writes that one obtains the highest insight into reality by allowing the stream of consciousness to flow unhindered.

They believe that they experience liberation from all limits which are placed upon them by means of meditation. Meditation liberates them, which means that they transcended into universal forces and they are then able to apply the powers, which the universal forces places at their disposal, in their bodies, e.g. health — yoga; combat — Kung Fu; world dominion — New Age Movement.

What final destination does this ancient heathen religion offer its practitioner? It teaches that one can develop into a perfect human being if one infuses these supernatural forces with one's own philosophical and physical strengths (*cf.* §12 New Age Movement, p. 203-205). Upon death one eventually experiences the enlightenment of becoming part of the universe or creation. During your earthly life it has to do with regulating the forces of the “Ki of the universe” to your advantage.

The notion that man must train himself into self perfection to therein actualise his humanity, is a very ancient heathen objective.

These “universal forces” are not unknown to us. From the Bible we know it as the “spiritual wickedness in high *places*” (Eph. 6:12 [*ESV, NKJV, NIV*]). Buddhism is not a Christian religion and in no respect worships the Lord. Therefore it is a heathen religion in which the power and force of Satan is deployed. Buddhism worships –under what ever guise– the “the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places” (Eph. 6:12 [*ESV*]) of which the Bible speaks. That is the Devil and his angels with all the strength at their disposal.

The entire life of an oriental has links which mutually link up all over. Therefore it is not strange that their religions and martial arts have a common basis which they call “noi cun”. Within “noi cun” there is a power they worship. This they call “ki”.

The powers bound together in “ki”, are the universal forces or “forces of the universe”. The forces and powers of “ki” are amongst others used in common things such as yoga, acupuncture, karate and judo.

Hinduism teaches that there must be a balance between the positive and negative forces. This is for instance why they often punish themselves severely, to thereby restore the balance in their lives, so that it may go well with them. The same principle applies to for instance acupuncture.

The so called “ki” is used by the Hindus as a force to combat depression and impotence, and to impart inner peace. The sign which expresses this harmony between good and evil, is the sign of the double tadpoles — which we know is at the same time a sign of Satan worship.

What is “ki”? We know it as the occult religions. This is the dark religion.

- In the occult religions it is called the “life- and energy generating force of the universe”.
- The Bible knows the supernatural powers and abilities, which this “Ki” imparts to people, as demonic powers or - arts. This is clearly evident in certain karate- and kung fu shows, mostly seen in the orient only.

What all is done when Zen-Buddhism is practiced? This idolatry is practiced by certain bowing movements, breathing exercises, sitting and meditating and also by intense concentration — in order to master this art of the spirit. In this manner the practitioner

deifies himself internally.

## 8.2 Buddhism and Satanic signs and symbols

Because Buddhism is non-Christian in character, it can be classified in only one way: it is Satanic religion.

Looking at all the signs and symbols used by Satanists, it is staggering to see that the sign of transcendental meditation appears there, which is used in Buddhism as well as in yoga.

The sitting (lotus) meditation pose of the yoga practitioner also appears there.

The sign of balance between good and evil –double fish used by karate practitioners– is also among them.

Could signs, symbols and methods which were developed for their own purposes by heathens and Satan worshippers, ever be applied under a new definition, to the honour of God? Makes one think, doesn't it?

## 8.3 Karate as part of the Zen-Buddhism-religion

A highly advance karate practitioner –called a “ghi”– will assume a certain pose with closed eyes and concentrate in front of a master. This master is called a “sensei” and he possesses many supernatural demonic abilities, *e.g.* that can press his fists against an enemy's chest and send something akin to an electrical charge through the person. Or he possesses such hypnotic powers that he, by pointing his finger at someone and concentrating on that person –of course with accompanying demonic scream– causes that person to fall to the ground.

The ghi will concentrate with his eyes closed until he is ready and then, with a strange expression in his eyes, walks to a stack of planks –six of them, each 2.2 cm thick– (B. Larson, *in* *Speaks Out*). He then concentrates on it, suddenly breaths quickly, lifts his hand up high, screams loudly and shatters all those planks with just one hand, sending pieces to the floor.

Spectators usually think that these types of supernatural exhibitions are merely a case of “mind over matter”. The truth is that it is a “spiritual discipline” (spiritual power) which was developed over a period of 5 000 years to, as they put it, connect the body with universal energy giving forces to thereby be able to give “religious enlightenment” (occult religious expression).

Thus, what happens physically is that the abilities of the Devil himself together with the physical abilities of a human being are combined. Let's immediately admit that most people who practice these things –here with us, just as in the orient– usually do not penetrate to the full depth of the ki-worship, because they are not really interested in the full potential of the spiritual abilities which they can attain with ki. For most it's merely about self defence and a 'hero image'.

The unassailable fact is that here we have to do with an Oriental –heathen– religion which involves one with higher and darker forces. Those who accept those forces –worship– are swallowed up thereby because those peoples' entire lives are spent dedicated to it. The fact is that the essential principles of heathendom can never be purified from those types of sports because something born of heathendom for heathendom, can never be applied in

service of Christ.

An example of someone in our own time in who's life one can see and measure these things, is the famous Bruce Lee, who eventually died in a very mysterious way.

#### 8.4 Yoga

Notice how this deeply rooted and ancient heathen (Satanic-) religion entwines with yoga. Yoga means yoke. At first glance the word does not seem so terrible. Whatever is wrong with bearing a yoke? In fact, Christians themselves often speak of being under the 'yoke' of sin and of the Law. However if one looks at the proper noun from which it is formed, the word yoga, namely yogi, or plural yogi's, yoga then gains a totally different meaning, because yogi's are divines (holy men) within Hinduism. Hinduism is an Oriental religion which is syncretistic wherein many gods are worshiped.

Yoga is not only a form of physical training. The physical - and breathing exercises, meditation, concentration and sounding, which have symbolic meaning, are precisely adopted from Buddhism. All these things are used in an inter-linked system of spiritual and physical liberation.

What makes the matter more disturbing is the fact that all leaders of yoga movements in South Africa have ties with Hinduism. These leaders, among whom there are also whites, go to India, to Hindu-institutions, for further training. All these leaders are vocal that the yoga-discipline is based on teachings found in Hindu writings, *e.g.* the Bhagavad Gita.

Just for a moment, pay attention to one trait that appears in both Hinduism and yoga: re-birth or "samsara", which eventually results in a higher or lower life. We normally call that reincarnation — to be able to live again and again. Adherents of this idolatry believe that the merit of one's life — karma — determines to which order of life one will belong upon completion of one's current life order.

Yoga leaders in our country also clearly state that the physical exercise — which is viewed by so many as quite innocent — is merely the first phase of yoga-practice. They emphasise that within yoga the physical exercises cannot be divorced from the spiritual disciplines of liberation.

Listen to the words of one such yoga leader in his *Talks* (p.10): "Yoga is not merely a set of gymnastics. It is a pity that the most vital elements of yoga are forgotten, neglected and people get the impression that by merely standing on one's head, or sitting in the lotus posture, one can attain self-knowledge."

With this matter, it is very clear that one has to do with a religion that attempts to falsify the true faith — as the Devil does in all instances. Just remember the fact that yoga is the system of liberation — doctrine of salvation — of Hinduist doctrine. Therefore yoga teaches that you can undergo a 're-birth' by meditation and self discovery. In the Christian faith we call re-birth, being born again (re-generation).

The re-generate naturally die in Christ, to live in the kingdom of God after this life. Undoubtedly this is comparable to the higher order of life of Hinduism/yoga and the existence of the unrepentant in hell to that of a lower order of life. The similarity ends there. Yoga exhibits traits, even though falsified, which also appear in the Christian religion.

Yoga also proclaims the Hinduist concept, that there must be a harmonising interlude between opposites — also in the training of your body. This is obtained by meditation and certain hand and body movements.

When the yoga practitioner reached the point of inner quiet, this harmony or balance enables him/her to become part of the universal consciousness. For all practical purposes universal consciousness is the same as ki.

Here we of course have to do with a falsifying of the true revelation that the Christian shares in salvation in Christ. In heathendom it is presented as a self attainable goal which one actualises by making oneself one with the godhead.

There is a whole bunch of yoga types: the yoga style physical exercises are known as hatya-yoga. Concentration and meditation yoga is known as ynana-yoga. Then there is another form of yoga where all sorts of symbolic noises are made — mantra-yoga. There are still a whole bunch of other types of yoga.

Of course there are attempts to Christianise yoga. Remarkably these people speak of Jesus as the greatest “yogi”. Seen from yoga’s side Christians are heartily welcome. They believe that there are many ways to reach the godhead and Christianity is at best one of them. They also do not acknowledge sin. Sin is mere “illusion”. There are indeed wrong things, but it has to be. Every man must merely maintain the balance between good and bad. They of course are so disposed because they do not know God and place in His stead absolute “universal forces”.

#### 8.5 Conclusion

Buddhism seeped into numerous mundane things — things we normally view as innocent, such as yoga and with that, the whole series of martial arts. In the whole matter of Buddhism one encounters the issue of escaping from sin, because they deny that sin exists. This heresy proclaims the following:

- You have no guilt of wrongdoing.
- You can at best overcome suffering.
- Suffering can, with meditation and self liberation, be conquered by man himself.

This is a total falsification of the revelation of God because man himself becomes a god who handles his own salvation.

Concerning this dangerous piece of modern heathendom: the true Christian will have to hone his knowledge and application of those principles which God holds valid. If not, he/she will very easily be swallowed up by it.

### §9 *Artificial insemination — Yea or Nay?*

Artificial insemination as such is a sin because the rule created by God is thereby broken. It is wrong to inseminate a woman with any/an unknown man’s semen when her own husband is infertile. Equally so it is wrong to use a man’s semen to inseminate any woman, other

than his own wife, in order to bring a child to life for him –them (?)– in cases where the woman is infertile.

On the other hand it is also true that the Lord gave us particular gifts, which by His grace are already highly advanced, such as medical science. Parents who cannot have children by themselves, may indeed seek to have children in this manner, but with the express understanding that it may take place only when the seed and egg cells of a particular married couple is at issue, in other words that of a man and woman who are lawfully married to each other. Otherwise adultery is implied.

## §10 *Lottery*

Lottery comprises numerous matters deserving of the faithful's attention:

- Guessing how many beans in a bottle, the weight of a sheep, etc.
- Betting on the ponies.
- Gambling at establishments such as casinos, touts and tattersalls.
- War bonds.
- State lotteries.

What must the attitude of the faithful be?

### 10.1 The labour motive

Since the beginning God called man to labour in no uncertain terms. Labour results in a certain reward. He who does not work, is not rewarded and can eventually also not live.

After the Fall God decided that man will with sweat in his face (which is to say: with difficulty) earn his bread (Gen. 3:19). Therefore I must still earn my keep by my own ingenuity, and contribution, and the use of my talents, and opportunities. With lotteries and games of chance I obtain a reward outside of God's command to labour.

We can say: 'oh, but I'm clever; now I work less than the other guy who did not want to take a chance'. But this practice rouses an aversion to hard work, doing your part, using your talents.

This practice teaches you the habit of taking risks in all areas, with the hope of being rewarded *or* that the matter will end well for you.

This practice conditions you to get away with the least effort. The result is that you become a slack, spineless person who must eventually be carried by others.

"If a man be [is] willing or indifferent to lose his own money and not at all desirous to get another's, to what purpose is it that he plays for it? If he be [is] not indifferent, then he is covetous or a fool: he covets that which is not his own, or unreasonably ventures that which is."

Jeremy Taylor, 1660

1. Glorifies chance (which opposes man's reliance on God's orderly provision, *cf.* 1 Cor. 14:33)

2. Disregards the stewardship principle (man is caretaker not owner).
3. Attempts to profit from another's loss (it is the antithesis of neighbourly love).
4. Appeals to human covetousness (which is a selfish approach to life).

William Temple, 1927

“If you say you are a Christian when you are a dice-player, you say you are something what you are not, for you are a partner of the world” — Tertulian  
(*De Spectaculis*, xvi, 1, Clem. Alex. [Charle's tr., 325 i])

## 10.2 The revelation motive

With regards to the casting of lots the Bible teaches that it has always been a grave matter where everything indicates that man can no longer discern which way to go. God's help is then called upon and He decides, *e.g.* with the election of ecclesiastical office bearers where there is a tie in the voting (*e.g.* 1 Chr. 24:5; Acts 1:26).

In other instances in the Old Testament the casting of the lot was aimed at revealing God's will, where man could in no other way come by it. Compare the history of Achan (Josh. 7:14 [*ESV*]) or David's attack on Jebus (*cf.*: 2 Sam. 2:1 & 2 Sam. 5:6; 1 Chr. 11:4).

Indeed the high priest also wore two dice in a purse upon his chest. The two stones had names, the Urim and the Thummim.

Since ancient times gambling or lottery was thus intended to be part of our worship of the Lord.

May we then use this holy and unique means of revelation for al manner of frivolous games?

## §11 *Burning the dead — Incineration (Cremation)*

Since the earliest times heathen nations burned their dead, for mainly two reasons:

- Anxiety motive — they wanted to annihilate the dead, to no more receive ominous visitations.
- To them the body was worth nothing and after death a mere piece of meat.

### 11.1 Arguments for burning the dead

Today many recommend this, and for the following reasons:

- Materialistic considerations. There is no longer enough room, and cemeteries take up too much space.
- Hygiene considerations. There is a possibility of underground pollution.
- Labour saving consideration. Just think of large cemetery maintenance.
- Anti-hypocrisy consideration. We will see less lies –homilies– on gravestones.
- Pragmatic consideration. Cemeteries in cities are in any case demolished after about twenty years and used for other purposes.
- Economic consideration. Cremation is much cheaper. Why incur more expense than when one entered into this world?
- Efficiency consideration. It happens quickly. Within a short space of time approximately three kilograms remains of the body, whereas natural decay takes much longer.

- Fear consideration. The danger exists that one might revive after burial, but one can, with difficulty, afterward say I woke up in an oven!

## 11.2 What does the Bible say?

- Old Testament
  - The rule was that the people of the covenant buried their dead (Gen. 23:6).
  - In Israel we find many family graves.
  - With them funerals were acts of love and piety.
  - It is significant that God Himself buried Moses.
  - Criminals' bodies were burned — Achan (Josh. 7:15 & 25), or in cases of incest (Lev. 20:14), or during great wars.
  - In the Old Testament burning the dead signified being damned (Amos 2:1-3).
  - There is one example of the burning of bodies which were thereafter buried. That of Saul and his sons. After having hung on the wall of Bethshan for a couple of days, David and his men took the bodies down, burned them and then buried them (1 Sam. 31:10-13 & 2 Sam. 21:12-14). Because the bodies were probably already decayed so much, there was no other way to work with it. Therefore this example may not be appropriated as a proof for the justification of cremation.
- New Testament
  - Jesus neither explicitly commands nor does any text prohibit this practice. It is however wrong to approach the Bible as if it were a reference book. The Bible speaks with a general mind and inclination, there are, therefore, many ethical actions –such as the burning of bodies or not– which we must infer from the general design of Biblical witness.
  - In the New Testament this matter is determined by the fact, and point of departure that man is the crown of God's creation. We already encounter this in Genesis 1:26. Spirit, soul and body we are created in true righteousness, holiness and immortality.
  - Although the body returns to dust, we value it, for it is the body and soul that will one day rise, fully restored. Therefore Jesus himself was also buried as a symbolic deed with an eye toward resurrection.
  - For us, who believe in the resurrection and Second Coming, a funeral has the symbolic significance that the deceased's body is committed to the earth, similarly to that of a kernel of grain planted, to then come up (rise) and grow. Surely one cannot burn a kernel of grain before it is planted, with the hope that it will then grow! For us the grave remains the place where dishonour is sown, but from whence someone, at the sounding of the trumpet, will later rise, glorified and rejoicing. What meaning would 1 Corinthians 15 have for us in the absence of a burial? Read it and say why.
  - The RCSA's national Synods of 1933 and 1952 explicitly pronounced itself against cremation.

The view of P. Lok is very important:

- The Bible recognises burial as the normal custom in the Old - as well as the New Testament. Particular significance is awarded to the 'family grave' and the 'gathering unto his people'.
- Compare: Genesis 25:8-9 — Abraham; Genesis 49:29 & 33 — Jacob.
- The death and resurrection of Jesus Christ remains central. The sowing of a natural body and the resurrection of a spiritual body is derived there from, as well as the 'being buried and quickened' with Christ, of the faithful.

- To be buried was a Jewish custom but is also found among the heathen nations, the Egyptian and the Hittite (Gen. 23:4-6).
- On Good Friday “a natural body” was sown and on Easter morning “a spiritual body” arose (1 Cor. 15:44).
- The martyrs who were burned at the stake, were comforted in the knowledge that burning was no hindrance for God to resurrect a spiritual body. This however does not mean that there is no continuity between the natural and the spiritual body. Christ with his resurrected body, is the example of this continuity, wherein not only continuity but even identity is confirmed.
- Cremation is propagated from aesthetic considerations. It is an attempt to camouflage the fury and enmity of death. If something could be said for euthanasia –mercy killing– then it is here: death is called “good”. That death is the last enemy, and that God’s sentence on sin exists herein –that man is dust and shall return unto dust (Gen. 3:19)– is camouflaged.
- Cremation is of heathen origin, non Jewish nor founded on the Scriptures, but is indeed entwined with all manner of anti-religious motives, although it is propagated on grounds of all manner of matter-of-fact arguments — economy, aesthetics, spatial ordering, hygiene, etc.
- A more powerful witness, on the Christian Faith in the resurrection of the dead, proceeds from burial than does from cremation (1 Cor. 15).
- Wherever the gospel is accepted and the Christianising of nations occur, burial replaces cremation; on the other hand where de-Christianisation occurs cremation replaces burial.
- This development is also advanced by the theory on ‘reappraisal of death’, that death would belong to life, which is contrary to numerous Scripture passages (inter alia: Gen. 2:17; Rom. 5:12; 1 Cor. 15:26).
- It is the calling of the faithful to prefer the burial –above cremation– of God’s children. It is likewise their calling to rid and keep burial free from all manner of disbelief and superstition and to arrange a burial Christianlike.
- Cremation can only be accepted in emergency situations, e.g. conditions of war, or in instances of epidemics, but this must remain an exception and may never become the rule (Amos 6).
- Attendance of a cremation ceremony cannot be branded impermissible, but practically it must be placed on a par with attendance of an unbeliever’s funeral. And our privilege above those who are not of Christ will become more evident.
- Death-by-burning is mentioned in Holy Scripture either as a particular punishment due to extra ordinary sins, or to protect an already maimed body from further mutilation (1 Sam. 31:12-13), or as an emergency measure in times of epidemics.
- It also belongs to the official ministry of the congregation of Christ, to extol the Scriptural significance of Christian burial to the congregation — preaching, catechism, pastoral visits.

## **§12 *New Age Movement***

### 12.1 Definition

One of the branches of holism is the so called New Age Movement. This movement wants to establish an alternative culture in society. It is a specific way of thinking (religion), because it transplants Hindu-philosophy on Western culture. It is indeed Eastern occultism, with a tendency toward the pretence that any religion –also Christianity– can find itself therein. Essentially it is an onslaught aimed at de-Christianising the West and supplanting it with Eastern occultism.

#### 12.2 What are the purposes of the New Age Movement?

Universal fraternity

- All religions are equal — integrated within the New Age Movement.
- Aims to “explore man’s dormant psychic and spiritual powers”.

#### 12.3 Characteristics of this movement

- It focuses on the mystical.
- It practices the occult.
- It is the banner for rising feminism.

#### 12.4 Life view of the New Age Movement

- It teaches that everything in the whole of creation is essentially one (see: entire §7 Holism, p. 168-171).
- It teaches that there is not one God — the Triune God. Pantheism –there are many gods– is taught. God is neither a Person nor a Being. It is a universal spirit which is present in every thing — expressed especially in yoga, meditation and reincarnation.
- Creation, as taught in the Bible, and Jesus Christ, as Saviour, as well as the gospel of Jesus Christ, is totally rejected.
- Everything is in a constant process of change/evolution. In this process man can change and better himself.
- Astrology –horoscopy– plays a major role in determining mankind’s history. They teach that human existence proceeds from the likeness of Pisces (fish) and into that of Aquarius (water bearer). Pisces was the period of Christianity which was unsuccessful. Now we are moving into the period of the Water-bearer where the mystical and occult is emphasised. It will establish a striving toward unity and peace amongst men.
- It teaches that everything in the whole of creation is essentially one (see: entire §7 Holism, p. 168-171).
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#### 12.5 Propaganda

All conceivable resources are used as a means of propaganda to brain-wash people, such as: television; art; music; games; signs and symbols and even politics.

## 12.6 Critique

This doctrine makes of man his own god. It also severs man from the eternal and almighty God. Ultimately it is a piece of raw Heathenism which rejects God. All adherents of this doctrine are ultimately left without redemption. There is no new kingdom of God ahead of them. For the New Age Movement the hereafter exists in a return to a higher form of life by means of reincarnation.

## §13 *Occultism*

This lecture was prepared, recognising a debt to books and articles authored by prof. P.J. de Bruyn, as well as numerous articles and sources obtained from the *HSRC* (read: Deut. 18:9-14 & Acts 19:11-17).

### 13.1 What is occultism?

Occultism and Satanism are not the same thing — although many think so. Satanism is the overt worship of Satan. Occultism is not such an overt and blatant manner of Satan worship; it is much more subtle. Occultism is a science which uses and studies hidden/secret forces (powers). It is practiced by people who do not believe in the Lord, although there are those among them who claim to belong to a church.

Occultism can never be practiced ‘innocently’ or ‘neutrally’. It can only be practiced by people who do not know the Lord.

Sorcery is a very old and an actual practice. The Bible acknowledges also these occult phenomena:

- The sorcerers of Pharaoh (Exod. 7:10-12, 22; 8:7, 18-19)
- Simon the sorcerer (Acts 8:1-25)
- Elymas the sorcerer (Acts 13:6-12)
- The Lord forbids the faithful from participating in magic and soothsaying (Lev. 19:31; 20:6; Deut. 13:1-3; Isa. 8:19-20).

### 13.2 Who is susceptible to occultism?

Who are the people usually most susceptible to occultism and who are recruited by occultists? People who have paranormal abilities. Paranormal abilities are abilities which deviate from the norm. Mainly three of these abilities come into play.

- Clairvoyance  
Clairvoyance is the ability –by means of dreams, visions, sound and more things– to feel or know that something happened in another place or will happen; where it could not have been perceived or figured out by the normal functioning of your brain and senses. In common vernacular such persons are usually referred to as ‘people who are born with a “caul”’. It is not sin to have this gift. These people are simply more prone to practice occultism than the average person is.
- Telepathy  
These people have the ability to know what others think, without someone else having told them, or without it having been transferred to them in any physical manner.
- Psychokinesis  
These people bend spoons or cause objects to move or fly about by simply concentrating on it.

Please note that having these gifts, does not imply occult practice. There are people who possess these gifts who use it rightly and in honour of the Lord.

The point is: people who possess these gifts are more susceptible to occultism than other people are. Then there are also those, who do not naturally possess these gifts, but when they crossover to Satanism the Devil equips them with such gifts. There are more examples where Satan supplies his servants with competencies, which they then use to lure more people away from the Lord or with which they do damage to the kingdom of the Lord.

In Satan's service clairvoyance is employed in soothsaying (divination). Just think of the fortune teller's caravan by the roadside. There are more shades of this type of occultism, such as those who use the position of the stars to predict what will happen to people in future.

Don't think that these powers do not exist, and that it cannot predict accurately: the Devil leads his servants powerfully. Think of what is written in Deuteronomy 13:1-3 and 18:9-14 (*cf.* Eph. 6:12).

When they 'play' so called 'glassy-glass' (Weegee board game) spiritists use telepathy. He knows what is going on in the mind (thoughts) of the person who consults him, therefore it is easy for him to pretend as if he has consulted the dead.

Demonic influences can be come by in the following manner:

- Inherited
- Laying on of hands — one agent of the occult can transfer abilities to another through a ritual of the lay-on-of-hands
- blood covenant with the Devil
- loud drum music
- drugs
- reading occult books and by playing such games
- transcendental meditation

The coveting of paranormal abilities reveals man's desire to imitate, with knowledge and abilities, God's omnipotence and omniscience, contrary to His will. In essence it is therefore nothing other than revolt against God.

### 13.3 Alchemy

Alchemy investigates and utilises the relationship between man and cosmos, to the advantage of man. Some of the consulted sources claim that certain medical practices such as acupuncture form part of alchemy.

The aim of alchemy is transmutation. Transmutation can be interpreted variously: on the one hand it is viewed as, chemical changes brought about in a person; on the other hand it is understood as, psychological changes effected in a person.

These changes include things such as going from sickness to health; also going from agedness –back (?)– into youth. It even includes going over from an earthly existence into a supernatural form of existence.

For many centuries –since 8 *b.c.e.*– the Chinese believe in such things as supernatural powers and an ultimate supernatural existence. Since the fourth century *c.e.* they believe that the supernatural can be contacted by using drugs. They use a particular drug called elixir of life or drinkable gold.

For many centuries alchemy has been practised by various nations, namely Chinese, Indians, Ancient Greeks, Arabs and in the Latin world.

Notice that all these things have to do with, or exhibit an appearance of, the true revelation of God, but the occult employs the revelation of the Lord in a perverted form in the service of man. In the occult there is no place for God and His honour.

#### 13.4 Colours

In the occult ten colours or colour combinations are identified as points of departure. The colour exposition is called a cabala.

- White — kether, the crown
- Black — binah, comprehension
- Grey — chokmah, wisdom
- Red — geburah, strength
- Blue — chesed, mercy
- Yellow — tiphered, beauty
- Orange — hod, honour/glory
- Green — netzach, victory
- Purple — jesod, the foundation
- Four quarters: citron-yellow, rust-brown, olive and black — malkuth, the kingdom

Young people, who in Satanism are known as witches, appear to mostly wear only black clothing. Sometimes, however, it could be red and at other times a combination of black and red. It depending on what it represents.

In sorcery the Devil is represented by red, as it would depict that he alone has power. Black is the colour of witchcraft and sorcery: think of well known terms such as: black wizardry — black magic; black arts — satanic arts; the black book, *etc.*

#### 13.5 Astrology

There are movements which view astrology as science. Christians however view it as pseudoscience — false/imitation science. It is that part of the occult which predicts peoples' future lives and things that will happen on earth, according to the position of the stars.

They believe that the way in which the sun, moon and stars –stellar constellations– move, exercises particular influence on people and their lives.

#### 13.6 Prediction

This occult movement is related to astrology. What makes it very dangerous is that it is so terribly idolatrous that even sacrifices are brought and the entrails (livers, cauls, *etc.*) of the offered objects, analysed in order to determine the course of the supernatural.

Gypsies use tealeaves or palmistry. Others monitor the bird flight to thereby predict.

### 13.7 Magic/Sorcery/Wizardry

So called “white” and “black” magical forces are distinguished. The forces of black magic would be those focused on Satan and his things, while white magic would be completely neutral. The fact is that neither one of the two serve the honour of God.

Magic is to effect things by means of supernatural forces (which are beyond the rule of the normal or the natural). Magic and witchcraft go hand in hand. Sorcery, and the accompanying pronouncement of curses or the breaking of such bonds are today still actively practiced by, amongst others, sangomas. Often times the Voodoo-cult is incorporated herewith.

### 13.8 Satan and Satanism

There are all sorts of movements which deny the personal existence of Satan. The Bible, however, clearly teaches that he is a actual creature (read: 1 Pet. 5:8-9).

Satan is very impudent and he tackles anyone. He does not have the ability to distinguish between who his superiors are and who isn't. Therefore he even tried to tempt the Lord Jesus after His baptism.

Satanism is a movement that worships Satan as their god. We know that these people will not survive the resurrection in the kingdom of God, because at the Second Coming they will die the second death. Against this background it is remarkable that the Lord calls Satan the “god of this world” (cf.: John 12:31; 2 Cor. 4:4 & Eph. 2:2). His power and his future extends no further than the existence of this earth. Thereafter he and everyone who belongs to him, are hell bound.

Modern Satanism was founded by dr. Anton Szander la Vey. It is a very recent movement, established only on 30 April 1966 — in the last days! He lived in San Francisco — remarkably this sect comes from America (U.S.A.), like also all others! He was a fortune teller or mind reader at a circus.

Because of his telepathic and spiritist abilities, he realised that many spectators, looked at the almost naked girls in the arena with lust. He also entertained many lustful thoughts about the girls. He was initially himself a churchgoer. He then noticed the same men, who lusted after woman, sitting in church each Sunday as if they never entertained any wrong thought.

La Vey then decided to plant a “church” for honest folk. It had to be a church in which everyone could honestly express their lusts, without having to beg anyone's forgiveness for doing so. A tremendously lavish orgy, between men and woman and homosexuals, saw the founding of the organisation. Even today the event is still celebrated annually by Satanists and known as Walpurgis eve or night of the cross.

Satanists also have an own bible. The content of this so called bible is that self-gratification and assertiveness are the most important matters in life and that Satan is thereby best served.

Someone can only become a Satanist if he/she enters into a covenant with the Devil. In this covenant they promise to give free reign to their lusts, desires and ideals.

When someone is initiated into Satanism, he must swear an oath that he will break all ties with the Triune God and will devote himself to Satan hence forth. Of course this is sin against the Holy Spirit — the only sin which God does not forgive in this life nor the next.

The exact words the Satanist uses when he ‘professes his faith’ is: “I here swear before Satan and his loyal servants that I reject Christ and all His teachings; that I accept Satan as my only saviour and will remain devoted to him for all eternity. Amen.”

On this occasion the baptism of the confessor also takes place. The blood of a goat is caught up in a skull and a cross is made in blood on the forehead of the new initiate. Thereafter a mockery of the ‘Lord’s Supper’ is celebrated with the words: “This is my blood! Drink it in the name of Satan, the false prophet and the antichrist.” The entire ritual is finished with a sex orgy.

Besides this initiatory communion celebration the Satanist has an own communion celebration. The high priest of Satan then gives a piece of communion bread to each member. Then they are instructed to chew it and spit it out. They must then trample it under foot and damned the Lord Jesus Christ.

Satanist gatherings usually take place at night. It starts with all manner of sensual dance accompanied by drug use. Dress code is aimed at stimulating sex. At midnight a blood offering takes place and thereafter the feast of fertility — a sex orgy lasting several hours.

#### 13.9 Main elements during Satan worship

The primary elements in Satanism are sex and drugs. Drugs are used largely to entice participants into abandoning all inhibition. The properties in those drugs break down all unwillingness to commit evil.

Satanist leaders receive a decade’s training in modern art, “underground” music, poisonous substances and drugs extracted from plants. They use these means to ensnare especially young people.

It is already proven that tremendously loud, pulsating music diminishes one’s resistance. Drugs also have the effect that it erases all inhibition and resistance to, for instance, sex. This combination creates a climate wherein a young person is moulded into someone who challenges any forbidden thing.

#### 13.10 How our children become involved

Children and teens are more susceptible to be religiously influenced than older people. Those behind the occult curtain know this and exploit it. Which is why leaders of Satanic movements must be so thoroughly instructed in occult music — “underground, metal and heavy metal”.

These people combine bad music with a thoroughly superficial religion, so that young people are ensnared by the so called religion. The real content of the gatherings, namely that they must be caught up in the music and drugs, they do not discern until it is too late.

“Heavy metal” music definitely influences the youth’s choices and actions. A message of utter rejection of all forms of authority is directly and zealously proclaimed by the music and people who make it. However much our youth would like to deny it, they are contradicted by the high priestess of the Church of Satan in California, 1984:

“Heavy metal groups are influencing the kids to come to Satan. The groups are into Satanism, even though they may deny it.”

Compare the words of a song by the band Wasp: “The gods you worship are steel at the altar of rock and roll you kneel.”

Young people’s and children’s friends are usually the trap they fall into. Bad friends are usually already trapped by one or another drug dealer who established a cell of Satan worshipers for himself.

That’s what its al about — money! Music and drugs must bring in the money for those behind it. Therefore music and drugs are linked symbiotically.

This “friend” of the young person will one evening invite him to a party — birthday, *etc.* of his own or of that of a friend. At first glance it seems innocent enough. The youngster is then unwittingly slipped drugs. He just feels funny, and with the help of the loud music and a provocative friend, his values crumble momentarily.

A well planned occasion is orchestrated and the youngster is seduced into having sexual relations with a fellow party-goer.

During the course of the following week the friend –or one of his cohorts– confronts the child at school or on the street with drugs of one or another sort. Obviously the child resists and refuses, because he is still raw, being filled with guilt about his sexual encounter the evening of the party.

The friend then produces a photo, because as planned, someone had taken a photo of that event. The child is then blackmailed with this photo. Coerced into taking the drugs, he hands over money. Which explains why, in some households, money often disappears inexplicably.

Often times the youngster is brutally instructed to be at such and such an address this afternoon — if he knows what’s good for him. There the youngster gets the shock of his life, because an entire video of his orgy with the girl is shown.

Henceforth the youngster’s path is hellish and the organisation’s easy. The youngster is scared and feels he cannot speak with his parents, because he is fearful. He is forced deeper and deeper still, into this thing, until he surrenders to drugs, as it releases him from guilt and allows him to carry on.

In the mean time, the head of the cell laughs, because he has gained another customer, and his wallet grows thicker.

### 13.11 Such a child’s behaviour

Children don’t all act alike. But whatever his behaviour, parents will immediately realise that his behaviour has changed from what it was previously. Sullenness or curtness is often characteristic. Girls especially have the tendency to want to bath continually, because they feel dirty as a result of the sex orgy into which they were coerced. Boys become oppositional and flee from close/personal conversation with their parents. They become

deviant and excessively cocky.

Pay attention to eyes that are sometimes excessively bright. Pay attention to prick marks — needle marks around the ankles, or even under the finger- or toenails. Sometimes there is excessive sleepiness and other times listlessness. Irresponsibility becomes ever more noticeable. All these things could indicate drug abuse.

#### 13.12 The road ahead

The best way to protect children is to prevent problems. Their choice of friends must be supervised. Parents must live so near to their children that they, and their friends, are candid with them as parents.

Avoid excessive exposure to the occult and Satanism. Satanism overtly relies on knowledge and reading matter about them, through which they seize upon people.

Parents must live near to the Lord and teach their children to do the same. Parents' conduct toward their children must be such, that they have the candour to go to their parents when entangled in problems. They must know that their parents will always welcome them and that they may rely on their support — even if the blackmailer arrives at their parents' home with his photos and videos.

### §14 *Organ donation — Yea or Nay*

The first hart transplant in the world was done here in South-Africa in 1967. We must not expect that Scripture will reply “yes” or “no” to transplant, with a Bible verse. Since a couple of decades ago, organ transplant has been a concern.

#### 14.1 Arguments against

People have all sorts of arguments against the matter. Some carry more weight than others:

- It is against God's will, because you change that person and make of him what God did not intend.
- It is God's will if you have a defective kidney and you must accept it.
- Man's identity is thereby altered and you should bury someone with all of his/her organs.

#### 14.2 Arguments in favour

- We thereby serve our neighbour. With our bodies we serve God and our neighbours. Jesus Christ as the First gave His body as sacrifice for us (Heb. 10:9-10).
- Our body will one day rise glorified, which is to say, without blemish. That which is now donated, for the renewal of another's life, will one day not lack in the givers body.
- Cornea transplants are performed successfully for many years now. Nobody complained about that. Only when organs such as hearts and livers were implicated, people got worried.
- If we use other means such as medicine to improve our quality of life, we can also do so with organs which improve direct functioning.
- The body is not holier than other gifts which the Lord gave, compare for example blood transfusion.
- It is no argument that a person may not be buried without all of his organs. What about those who lost an arm, a leg, *etc.*?

### 14.3 Conditions to be met

- When donating an organ, *e.g.* a kidney, you may not jeopardise your own health for the betterment of another's life. God gives to you the responsibility to retain your own quality of health as best you can.
- You must discuss it with your loved ones in advance so that, should it happen, they know of, and are not shocked by your intentions. If you as donor did not grant prior consent, then your loved ones have the final say with regards to your body and not the medical personnel.
- An organ may indeed be removed from a living - as well as from a dead person, because whether the person lives or has just died, the organ remains unaltered — if it is suitable. The physician who forms part of the transplant team may not be the one who determines whether the donor is dead yet.
- Suppose science progresses, so that a brain can be transplanted, it may not be done, because thereby the person's entire personality and character would be changed. Currently it is not possible. The body's antigens reject an organ which is foreign to the tissue or other characteristics of the recipient's body.
- The purpose of transplants must thus always be restoration but never to change the recipient. For the sake of avoiding potential emotional distress it is advisable that the recipient's identity is kept from the donor's family.
- If suitable even an animal's organs may be used. He who ingests the flesh of an animal to satisfy his appetite, may also use its organs to strengthen his body. The church does not object to organ transplants when the above conditions are met.

### **§15 *Memorial service or funeral***

There is a marked difference between a memorial service and a burial service. During a memorial service the deceased's praises and achievements are sung. Essentially it is nothing other than the glorification of a man.

Over against that, the funeral service is merely the gathering of the affected faithful, around God's Word. No hero-worship occurs. Comfort from God's Word is offered to those who remain, so that they can await the coming of the Lord Jesus with courage and true faith.

Our position is the following:

- According to Church Order, art 65, it is a simple family affair.
- We do not speak of a memorial service, because it glorifies a human.
- A funeral emphasizes comfort for survivors, not the glory of the deceased.
- Therefore, the coffin is also not brought into the church building.
- It is not a worship service, and because the elders are not present, the blessing is not pronounced as is done during a regular worship service. It is simply a word of comfort extended to the next of kin to strengthen them.
- Such a service can be held anywhere — in a church building, hall or even outside at the grave site.

## **§16 Cohabitation — Yea or Nay**

A number of arguments are prevalent among those who cohabit. These points of view are weighed and in faith tested against God's Word.

- If we love one another, why may we not live together (cohabit)?
- God gave marriage, and only therein can man and woman reveal their mutual love and grow to the full potential of their lives (Gen. 2:24; Matt. 19:4-6 & Eph. 5:31).
- It is our own lives after all and we may do with it as we please!
- It is not true, that you may do as you please. We belong to the Lord and must arrange also our adult lives in such a manner that He is thereby honoured. A girl must be won by a man in holiness and honour, not by lust as with the infidel (1 Thess. 4:3-6).
- Financially –or for any other reason– we are in no position to marry and now we merely live together.
- Which goes to show that for all practical purposes you are not yet mature enough/ready for marriage? A man, who reasons thus, will never be in a position to give his wife what she needs. To cohabit while the two are not yet able to be independent proves that they are irresponsible. They ought to humble themselves before God with the necessary remorse and repent of their ways.
- It is not necessary that I must appear before a minister and say 'yes', for the sake of a mere piece of paper (certificate of marriage). My own conscience is sufficient.
- The promises and commitment expressed by that piece of paper, says a lot. You thereby say to all that you permanently want to accept full responsibility before God and society.

Faithful men/women consider the following aspects from which it is evident that two people who cohabit, create problems for themselves:

- They are unnecessarily exposed to demands which belong only within marriage.
- Conflict with loved ones.
- Feelings of guilt which lead to emotional instability.
- No future security, because there is a backdoor of 'no responsibility' when I tire of the relationship.
- When this cohabitation fails, who is left behind with the baby? The girl who must then handle everything on her own so that the father can move in with the next girlfriend?
- The basic needs of woman- and manhood can never be satisfied in such a casual relationship.
- A Christian must exercise self-control.
- A Christian may not circumvent his responsibilities for any reason whatsoever.

## **§17 Suicide — Yea or Nay**

Suicide is a transgression of the sixth commandment. Therefore one may not end one's life of own volition.

The principle being that God, and God alone, disposes of life. He brought it into being. And in this dispensation He alone ends it.

Suicide is thus a human intervention in life, while God alone disposes of it. Therefore suicide is sin.

No man may of his own volition abandon and desert his own position in God's counsel, in spite of factors such as anxiety and fear, failure, shock and depression. Suicide has never been an answer. If you take your own life, you deprive yourself of the opportunity to mend matters with your neighbour and with God.

You go to meet your God, while your last deed was an act of sin and wilfulness against Him.

Can a person who committed suicide be saved? A couple of principles are brought to bear on this matter:

- The Lord Jesus Christ died for our sins. The Bible does not reveal that suicide is excluded. It is indeed so that Cain and Judas were not of the elect and that they committed suicides.
- In principle suicide and homicide/murder are the same. A life is taken — either yours or another's. It transgresses the sixth commandment. The Lord Jesus died to atone for also our transgression of the sixth commandment and reconcile us with God.
- Ultimately forgiveness is a matter for God and for Him alone. We therefore may not judge a person who committed suicide.

## **§18 *Sunday Labour***

When one works on Sunday, he/she transgresses the fourth commandment. Work may not be done on the Lord's Day. Indeed there are certain emergency services which must be attended to. But it is also true that there are many things in our modern life which ought to again enjoy the attention and reflection of Christians.

The following are examples:

- Sunday trade  
You may not do your monthly grocery shopping on a Sunday. 'Refined' forms of Sunday trade must be guarded against, such as restaurant dining, purchase of Sunday papers, bread and milk. So much the more when these products could have been purchased the day before, but it was inconvenient to have done so then.
- Sunday sport  
It contains elements of trade and worldly pleasure, while the Lord reserved this day exclusively for worship of - and communion with Him. Where does TV fit in with celebration of the Sabbath?