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The Gnostic Empire Strikes Back: An Old Heresy For The New Age



Synopsis

Book by Peter Jones

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Customer Reviews

Book by Peter Jones

This book is a little dated and narrow in its scope. The book is about the association of Feminism, new age spirituality and the Gnostic Heresy of the early church, which tends to make its scope narrow. I got and read this book, because of having read the book "Disappearing Church." I am afraid that the modern church has ignored the Gnostic heresy to its detriment. I would encourage anyone wanting to see the underbelly of the current "gender identification problem" to read this book. Clearly there is an anger and violence toward God, because the gnostic teaching is that we are gods.

Peter Jones claims in *The Gnostic Empire Strikes Back* that the seemingly divergent modern phenomena/movements are really related. They are related to each other and all have common themes found in one of the first heresies to attack the church from within: gnosticism. The seemingly divergent modern phenomena include: 1. skewing of gender roles (militant feminism, homosexuality, etc), 2. increase of new age religion (eastern religions, mysticism, yoga, goddess worship, all in one, you are god, spirituality), 3. environmentalism (nature worship, deification of mother nature and natural selection, militant environmentalism), and 4. political correctness (tolerance of all

religions/viewpoints except orthodox Christianity). Written in 1992, I am amazed at many of the insights that have proven themselves to be even more true over the last 16 years. The book reads like a call to arms. Jones uses urgent, apocalyptic, the sky-is-falling language that can, I found, at times make the book difficult to get through. However, that language is consistent with his thesis: "[T]he New Age has a coherent agenda, orchestrated from a diabolical center, moving and reproducing ineluctably, like algae in a lake." (p. 97). He cites example after example of how these seemingly disconnected New Age/gnostic positions have begun quietly and subversively to enter the church. He writes to Christians who claim to believe that the Bible is God's true word, to Christians who view Jesus as Creator God who came physically to earth to die for the sins of His people and who rose from the dead. He writes to alert them that this orthodox position is being attacked from within, from multiple disparate groups that when analyzed with an eye to history (understanding long-'dead' gnosticism), we realize are remarkably related. This 112-page book is well-documented with about 200 reference footnotes in six chapters. This book will serve well those who believe in the basic tenets that unite conservative "Christendom," both evangelical and catholic. It will alert those who may have been unaware of just how large and influence the New-Age-culture has had even on their own thinking to the danger. Jones uses the example of frogs who don't jump out of a pot if it is heated slowly to a boil. For those who were unaware of the heating water, this may be the impetus needed to make them jump out and be alert, guarding their heart and doctrine from this threat. This has certainly been the book's effect on me; I have an increased awareness of just how pervasive this new gnosticism has become. However, *The Gnostic Empire Strikes Back* is certainly not an exhaustive treatment of the subject, nor is it designed to persuade those who have already bought into the lies of the New-Age movement to see the error of their ways. It may very well do this, but the tone of the book will probably turn adherents off to Jones, making them unable to hear his words. Nevertheless, for Christians living in the United States, I echo the recommendations from the back cover: "I recommend this work" - RC Sproul. "These findings throw a flood of light on a dark subject" - Jay Adams. "Jones demonstrates in a thorough and engaging way that the New Age is not new at all...the church desperately needs to hear Professor Jones's call for a clearer comprehension of truth."

Every Christian should read this book to better understand the culture we are now encountering. If you just can't figure out where things began to go south this information will help you put the puzzle together. Dr Peter Jones has articulated the cultural indicators that have lead to the "Oneist" mentality so predominant today. And many of our churches are not exempt from participating in this

heresy.

My interest was piqued to read this book after listening to Peter Jones as a speaker at a Ligonier Ministries National Conference in 2009 (live-stream broadcast) this past spring. I was amazed at the depth of knowledge Dr. Jones has but not really surprised since his life has intersected with many of the scholars on this subject. In this book, Dr. Jones answers the questions raised about the commonality of militant feminism, Eastern religions, Homosexual rights, Nature worship and political correction: What do these ideologies have in common? Gay rights are promoted in popular magazines, public radio, and Hollywood. Feminist spirituality is making inroads into Christianity. Christian students are being silenced in the name of religious tolerance. Mystical techniques for achieving well-being and self-knowledge are being adopted in the business world and military. Are these just coincidental trends? Dr. Jones says "NO." This book goes in depth to show that these are expressions of an ancient heresy reasserting itself today called Gnosticism--a heresy of self-deification--returning with a vengeance in the New Age movement. This was an incredible eye-opener for me; however, Dr. Jones did an incredible job of linking these pagan ideologies back to Gnosticism which dominated society in the first three centuries of the Christian church. Dr. Jones makes a brilliant case by answering this question: Are these apparently disconnected issues really part of a coherent pagan ideology pointed to impose its religious belief system on the New World Order (the Age of Aquarius) of the twenty-first century. Dr. Jones "connects the dots" in a masterful presentation, answering this question lucidly and with great knowledge of the material. This is a wake up call to any Christian or Christ follower to contend for the faith and use the sword of God's Word to put pagan Gnosticism to flight in this time as it was from the early true Christian church! The Gnosticism of the 21st century has many threads which are being woven into varying facets of our lives, to the eternal destruction of our souls!

I found the book concise and clear. It gives a basic understanding of Gnosticism and its links with the New Age, however, I felt it could have gone further by linking it with the Word Faith theology/Movement; showing that it has made definite inroads into the Church.

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