

- [Home](#)
- [ABOUT](#)
- [Contact](#)
- [Music](#)
- [Photography](#)

Search

## The Desk of the Renaissance Man

**John Dierckx**

**Feeds:**

[Posts](#)

[Comments](#)

### **New Age Syncretism from a Christian Perspective: False Teachings**

June 12, 2010 by [johndierckx](#) | [Edit](#)



Going over some of the materials of the past I stumbled upon some of the materials I had been studying and some of the older notes. It is actually quite amazing to see how my conversion last year came with a completely renewed and different understanding of the Bible (if only because there is no longer room for selective reading and use). One of the things in my old journal regarded the New Age claim that:

Christianity can no longer answer the questions to our spiritual quest. Therefore Christianity will need to accept the teachings of other types of spirituality such as Eastern Spiritual teachings (or as can be seen even pagan spirituality is being accepted by some) in order to get a more comprehensive picture of the meaning of life.

I remember well how I once was listening to a comedy artists that was interviewing Jesus. In the interview Jesus allegedly thought that if He would come back and promote his same teachings that he would find many Christians against him. Setting this remark of against the premise above one could of course wonder whether or not Jesus as God in the flesh would agree with the position that we 'need to accept' these different teachings. Does – as is claimed by some (New Age teachers) – Christianity indeed have gaps that can only be filled by other spiritual traditions? Or to say it in other words, is there room to suggest that Biblical teachings allow or even promote New Age [syncretism](#)?

### **The Old Testament**

In Exodus we read how God said Himself:

<sup>3</sup> “You shall have no other gods before me.

<sup>4</sup> “You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. <sup>5</sup> You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, <sup>6</sup> but showing love to a thousand {generations} of those who love me and keep my commandments.

The people of Israel met their disasters exactly because they worshiped other gods. This reaches a climax in 2 Chronicles 33 where we read:

<sup>1</sup> Manasseh was twelve years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem fifty-five years. <sup>2</sup> *He did evil in the eyes of the LORD, following the detestable practices of the nations the LORD had driven out before the Israelites.* <sup>3</sup> *He rebuilt the high places his father Hezekiah had demolished; he also erected altars to the Baals and made Asherah poles. He bowed down to all the starry hosts and worshiped them.* <sup>4</sup> *He built altars in the temple of the LORD, of which the LORD had said, “My Name will remain in Jerusalem forever.”* <sup>5</sup> *In both courts of the temple of the LORD, he built altars to all the starry hosts.* <sup>6</sup> *He sacrificed his sons in the fire in the Valley of Ben Hinnom, practiced sorcery, divination and witchcraft, and consulted mediums and spiritists. He did much evil in the eyes of the LORD, provoking him to anger.*

<sup>7</sup> He took the carved image he had made and put it in God’s temple, of which God had said to David and to his son Solomon, “In this temple and in Jerusalem, which I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel, I will put my Name forever. <sup>8</sup> I will not again make the feet of the Israelites leave the land I assigned to your forefathers, if only they will be careful to do everything I commanded them concerning all the laws, decrees and ordinances given through Moses.” <sup>9</sup> But Manasseh led Judah and the people of Jerusalem astray, so that they did more evil than the nations the LORD had destroyed before the Israelites.

<sup>10</sup> *The LORD spoke to Manasseh and his people, but they paid no attention.*

Manasseh did just the worst thing imaginable, worse than any other king before him by bringing other gods or better yet religions and/ or systems of worship in the God’s temple thus blocking the way to have his nation reconciled with God. Now what Manasseh did could seem the logical thing to do from a human political perspective: Manasseh wanted peace and acceptance for his kingdom. In a spiritual sense however it was completely against God’s will and commands. And similar to how we have been prone to sin ever since Adam and Eve; syncretism has entered the hearts of the people and has been in there ever since despite Manasseh’s later repentance. In fact, a point was reached where repentance was no longer possible, a point where spiritual confusion had grown to be so much that God used the sins of Manasseh as a paradigm for the complete fall of the whole nation

<sup>4</sup> I will make them abhorrent to all the kingdoms of the earth because of what Manasseh son of Hezekiah king of Judah did in Jerusalem. (*Jeremiah 15,4*).

I think we can safely assume that the Old Testament does not promote syncretism whatsoever.

## The New Testament

I guess Paul says it all in his letter to the Colossians:

<sup>8</sup> See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ.

<sup>9</sup> For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, <sup>10</sup> and you have been given fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority. (Colossians 2:8-10)

From the letter it becomes clear that even in his time, people were struggling with this issue. But Paul leaves us no doubt, that we do not need other religions or spiritual traditions to ‘fill the gaps.’ In fact when we see the Old Testament we can only conclude that God opposes such syncretism. So did that perhaps change with the coming of Jesus? Au contraire! Should you still have doubts after reading what Paul says, this is what Jesus said about Himself:

“I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” (John 14:6)

*Jesus did not say he was ‘one of the ways’ but THE way, truth and life.* And he continues to advise is that we will only know God, by going through Him, not some other teacher or prophet, no, through Him exclusively. Anyone that still thinks that syncretism is possible within the Christian New Age framework should now be at least slightly embarrassed for trying to find alternative ways or a syncretic middle of the road. New Age syncretism may seem attractive from a worldly political

perspective; it will not give us spiritual progress and peace as claimed. What it will bring is confusion and spiritual delusion: I know, I have been there. Jesus Christ warned us against such practices:

Watch out that no one deceives you. For many will come in my name, claiming, “I am the Christ”, and will deceive many (Matthew 24,4-5).

Several letters of Paul are at least to some extent written to address false teachings (2 Corinthians, Galatians, Colossians), 2 Peter addresses the matter of false teachers and so do 1 John, 2 John and Jude. In 1 John 4:1-6 John details a way to “Test the Spirits.”

And think of it really: what sense would Jesus death on the cross have had if He had been just one of the many ways to know God, what purpose would his horrible death have served? Why would such a dramatic and horrible course of events have been necessary if we indeed could have reached the same end goal by diligently following one or the other religion? I can hear some thinking: by the salvation that came from Jesus’ death was for the people of Israel only. Again I think Jesus’ own words are the best rebuke to such an argument, as that is in my view certainly not how Jesus saw it:

<sup>18</sup> And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. <sup>19</sup> Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen. (Matthew 28:18-20)

One of the more recent proponents of such syncretism is Bahaism. On the [website](#) we read:

Throughout history, God has revealed Himself to humanity through a series of divine Messengers, whose teachings guide and educate us and provide the basis for the advancement of human society. These Messengers have included Abraham, Krishna, Zoroaster, Moses, Buddha, Jesus, and Muhammad. Their religions come from the same Source and are in essence successive chapters of one religion from God.

Bahá’u’lláh, the latest of these Messengers, brought new spiritual and social teachings for our time. His essential message is of unity. He taught the oneness of God, the oneness of the human family, and the oneness of religion.

Bahá’u’lláh said, “The earth is but one country and mankind its citizens,” and that, as foretold in all the sacred scriptures of the past, now is the time for humanity to live in unity.

Implicitly this appears to be similar to position I read in Eckhart Tolle’s “A New Earth.” In such a perspective Jesus is but one of great teachers in the history of man and analogue to the blind men trying to identify an elephant by being presented with only part of it, such a position claims that all world religions hold a measure of truth, they must be seen as incomplete, valid for the past ages of human history and for a limited group of people. Effectively what is said here is that all these religions have an incomplete perspective but no worries because I have the complete picture. A certain amount of arrogance or self-righteousness can not be denied. Moreover such a syncretic position can only come from a lack of or superficial understanding of the major religions and the underlying teachings of their founders. World religions do not lead to a same finality are not compatible with each other and are not to be seen as alternative paths to the same ultimate truth. As a Christian, I refer back to John 14:6 and note that while this may seem like an attractive proposition in the modern day world, it seems to me as incompatible with the absoluteness of the truth of God. I do agree that the earth is but one country an mankind it’s citizens. It is out of love that Christians go out to “make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you.”

## A final note on religious (in)tolerance

Just so we are very very clear on this. I do not promote in any way whatsoever religious intolerance in any form. At the same time that does not necessarily mean that we cannot disagree on matters. Intolerance or even hatred can in my view only come from a lack of understanding and practice of one’s own religion. As a Christian we will need to be tolerant and caring to all people. Jesus himself taught us to:

“Love your neighbor as yourself” (*Mark* 12,31 and *Luke* 10,27).

From the Parable of the Good Samaritan it follows that according to Jesus’ own teachings ‘your neighbor’ does not necessarily mean someone with the same belief but ALL people. Tolerance doesn’t require us to embrace our neighbor’s religion, but to respect him for what he is, a human being created in the image and likeness of God. Similar teachings can be found in the Quran (2:62) and similar teaching can be found in Hinduism and Buddhism.

So let this article not be read as promoting religious hatred and/or intolerance. Instead, it is my belief that tolerance is not achieved by being ignorance or superficiality, but rather by understanding of the other’s faith. From an apologetic perspective I can add that effective apologetic argumentation comes from an understanding of the other’s perspective. Jesus and Paul are a good examples of how this works: your arguments are within the reality and perspective of the other yet

without compromising and totally consistent with the ultimate truth.



Posted in [RELIGION & SPIRITUALITY](#), [RENAISSANCE AND JOURNEY](#) | Tagged [Jesus](#), [islam](#), [christianity](#), [christ](#), [apologetics](#), [bahaism](#), [syncretism](#), [new age](#), [buddhism](#) | [Leave a Comment](#)

[Comments RSS](#)

**Leave a Reply**

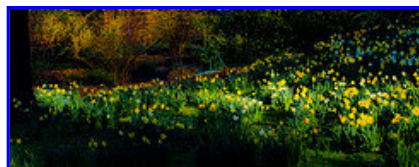
Logged in as [johndierckx](#). [Logout »](#)

Submit Comment

You are the author of this post.

## • Meta

- [Site Admin](#)
- [Log out](#)
- [Entries RSS](#)
- [Comments RSS](#)
- [WordPress.com](#)



## • Email Subscription

You are subscribed to this blog ([manage](#)).

## • Pages

- [ABOUT](#)
- [Contact](#)
- [Music](#)
- [Photography](#)

•



June 2010

**M T W T F S S**

[1](#) [2](#) [3](#) [4](#) 5 6  
7 8 9 10 11 [12](#) 13  
14 15 16 17 18 19 20  
21 22 23 24 25 26 27  
28 29 30

[« May](#)

## • Archives

- [June 2010](#)
- [May 2010](#)
- [April 2010](#)
- [March 2010](#)
- [February 2010](#)
- [January 2010](#)
- [December 2009](#)
- [November 2009](#)
- [October 2009](#)
- [September 2009](#)
- [August 2009](#)
- [July 2009](#)
- [June 2009](#)
- [May 2009](#)
- [April 2009](#)
- [October 2008](#)
- [July 2007](#)
- [May 2007](#)
- [January 2007](#)

## • Top Posts

- [Chad Dedmon Bethel Healing School coming to Christchurch](#)
- [Add2Any Share Button for Wordpress.com blogs](#)

- [University of Oxford Researcher Discover Heaviest Element Known to Science](#)
- [Pat Metheny: The Pat Metheny Interviews](#)
- [Music](#)
- [MAKE THE DIFFERENCE FOR YOUR CHILD'S SAFETY!](#)
- [Christian doctors prescribe 'spiritual healing' for sickness](#)
- [Leaders Of NY Church Plead Guilty To Investment Fraud - wcbstv.com](#)
- [Remembering St Francis and St Clare of Assisi](#)
- [C.S. Lewis: Mere Christianity](#)



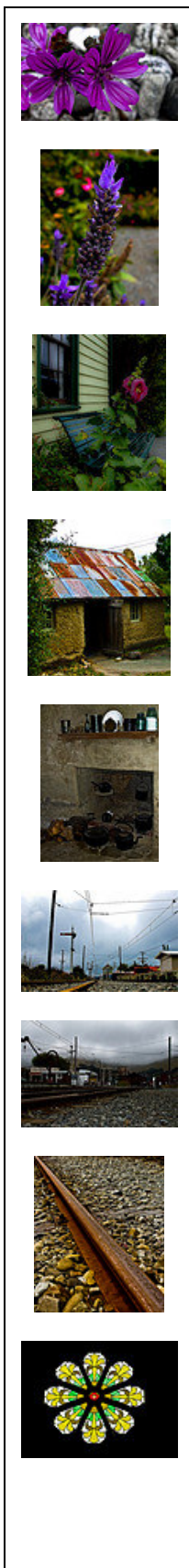
## • Categories

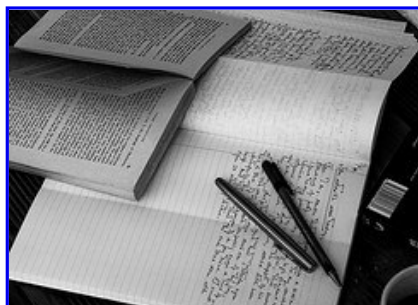
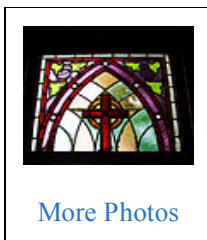
- [ART & CREATIVITY](#)
- [BOOKS, LITERATURE, WRITING](#)
- [BUSINESS](#)
- [COMPUTERS & INTERNET](#)
- [COOKING](#)
- [DESIGN](#)
- [DIERCKX & ASSOCIATES](#)
- [EXPATRIATION AND IMMIGRATION](#)
- [FRAUD AND SCAMS](#)
- [FRAUD, RISK MANAGEMENT, COMPLIANCE](#)
- [Guitar & Lessons](#)
- [INSPIRATIONAL FIGURES AND STORIES](#)
- [INSURANCE](#)
- [INTERNET SECURITY](#)
- [INVESTIGATIONS: METHODOLOGY TECHNIQUES TOOLS](#)
- [JOURNAL](#)
- [LAW](#)
- [LEADERSHIP](#)
- [MANAGEMENT](#)
- [MUSIC](#)
- [OPINION](#)
- [PERSONAL](#)
- [PICTURES](#)
- [PINGS](#)
- [RELIGION & SPIRITUALITY](#)
- [RENAISSANCE AND JOURNEY](#)
- [SCIENCE](#)
- [SMOKE STOP](#)
- [SOCIAL MEDIA](#)
- [SOCIETY](#)
- [THE VAULT](#)
- [THE WORLD THROUGH A MOBILE PHONE](#)
- [UNCATEGORIZED](#)
- [VISUAL ART](#)
- [ZAZZLE PRODUCTS](#)

## • Tags

[anti-smacking law](#) [apologetics](#) [art](#) [bible](#) [Canterbury](#) [Christchurch](#) [christianity](#) [climate change](#) [cross](#) [expat](#) [Facebook](#) [faith](#)  
[Firefox](#) [flickr](#) [flowers](#) [fraud](#) [god](#) [guitar](#) [Harmony Church](#) [healing](#) [holy spirit](#) [jazz](#) [Jesus](#) [john dierckx](#) [LAW](#) [love](#) [Michael Pokocky](#)  
[MUSIC](#) [Netherlands](#) [New Zealand](#) [photo editing](#) [photographs](#) [photography](#) [photos](#) [PICTURES](#)  
[prayer](#) [referendum](#) [section 59](#) [security](#) [sin](#) [smacking](#) [spirituality](#) [Sumner](#) [twitter](#) [writing](#)

## • Photos





## • Recent Comments



[Church Fraud Resourc...](#) on [Leaders Of NY Church Plead Gui...](#)



Lars Berewinkel on [Paulo Coelho on Bitterness: a ...](#)



johndierckx on [Non-smoking the first ten...](#)



Buz on [Non-smoking the first ten...](#)



johndierckx on [Billy Graham: Back for more? –...](#)



johndierckx on [Photo Story: The Sister Evelee...](#)



[dennisfinocchiario](#) on [Photo Story: The Sister Evelee...](#)



[Buffy Register](#) on [Billy Graham: Back for more? –...](#)



[Umeko Borha](#) on [ABOUT](#)

[Renaissance for Guit...](#) on [Power Tab Editor: Great Freewa...](#)

[Tweets that mention ...](#) on [Christian doctors prescribe ‘s...](#)



[michael](#) on [August Rush, Belief, Convictio...](#)

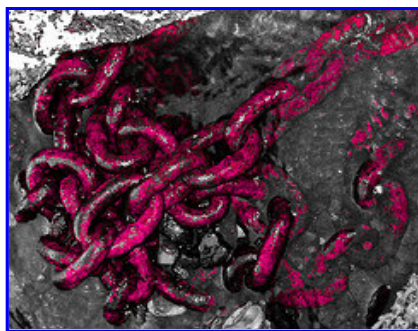


[‘Raising the Dead: A...](#) on [Chad Dedmon Bethel Healing Sch...](#)

[Mark Waugh Q&A: ...](#) on [Did Morton Smith Forge ‘Secret...](#)



[August Rush, Belief...](#) on [Chad Dedmon Bethel Healing Sch...](#)



## • BLOGS I LIKE AND READ

- [Anne Caroline Drake](#)
- [Fiber To The Home & Fixed Wireless/Mobile Access](#)
- [Forensics & Faith](#)
- [Foundation for Sacred Arts](#)
- [Gospel.com Blog](#)
- [Kiwiblog](#)
- [Michael Pokocky's Mike on the Road+](#)
- [on Miller's Blog](#)
- [Paulo Coelho Blog](#)
- [Seth Godin's Blog](#)
- [The Art of Nonconformity](#)
- [The Briefing Room \(TBR.cc\)](#)
- [Today's News Art](#)
- [Why Didn't I Think of That](#)
- [Windrumors](#)
- [WordPress.com](#)
- [WordPress.org](#)

## • CONNECT WITH ME

- [Ecademy](#)
- [Facebook](#)
- [Flickr, my photostream](#)
- [Hi5](#)
- [Hyves](#)
- [Linkedin](#)
- [Myspace](#)
- [Ryze](#)
- [Soundclick, John Dierckx Jazz Guitar](#)
- [Trig](#)
- [Xing](#)

## • DIERCKX & ASSOCIATES

- [ARCIS Insurance](#)
- [DIERCKX & ASSOCIATES LTD](#)
- [DIERCKX & ASSOCIATES LTD \(blog\)](#)

## • FRIENDS & PARTNERS

- [2KLIKZ.COM](#)
- [eTraction](#)
- [Michael Pokocky at RedRoom](#)
- [Neal Lachman](#)
- [Red 5](#)

## • MUSIC: FRIENDS AND FAVS

- [Jason Wilcox](#)
- [Jorge Barnet](#)
- [Mark Kleinout](#)
- [New Zealand Modern School of Music](#)
- [Rene Laanen](#)
- [Ruben Diaz](#)
- [SPECIAL DELIVERY](#)

## • MY FAVORITE SITES

- [Biblegateway.com](#)
- [Bill Johnson Ministries](#)
- [Harmony Church](#)
- [Harmony Church on Facebook](#)
- [Harmony Church Youth Page on Facebook](#)
- [Internetnews.com](#)
- [Jezus aan de Basis](#)
- [Michael Pokocky's Book One More Day](#)
- [MINDFOOd Magazine Online](#)
- [Project Gutenberg](#)
- [Sacred Texts](#)
- [TED](#)
- [The Shack](#)
- [Thinking Matters Journal](#)

## • PERSONAL

- [Flickr, my photostream](#)
- [My Zazzle Store](#)
- [Soundclick, John Dierckx Jazz Guitar](#)
- [The Renaissance Man](#)

•

[Visit All About GOD](#)

## • My Visual CV





•

## • [\*\*DIERCKX & ASSOCIATES LTD\*\*](#)

- [Securities Commission Release: Guidance on boundary between financial planning and advice](#)
- [S.F. lawyer awarded \\$7,000 from e-mail spammer](#)
- [How To Get Banned By Twitter | Business on Twitter](#)
- [MAKE THE DIFFERENCE FOR YOUR CHILD'S SAFETY! « The Desk of the Renaissance Man](#)
- [Phony website targets Madoff fraud victims – From the Regulators – News Investment Executive](#)
- [Online banking fraud surges by 14 percent](#)
- [Adviser guilty of cutting corners | Stuff.co.nz](#)
- [Israeli art scam operating in Christchurch](#)
- [Please Rob Me](#)
- [Facebook, Twitter offer crims rich pickings | Stuff.co.nz](#)

## • [\*\*Twitter Updates\*\*](#)

- New Age Syncretism from a Christian Perspective: False Teachings: <http://wp.me/puogu-pA> 28 minutes ago
- Free Guitar Tuner Software : <http://wp.me/pU9To-2I> 1 day ago
- An Awesome WordPress.com Success Story — Blog — WordPress.com: <http://wp.me/puogu-pv> 1 week ago
- Photo Story: The Sister Eveleen Retreat House and Whitewash Heads: <http://wp.me/puogu-pd> 1 week ago
- Non-smoking the first ten days: <http://wp.me/puogu-pa> 1 week ago
- Vatican reaches out to atheists – but not you, Richard Dawkins - Europe, World - The Independent: <http://wp.me/puogu-p6> 1 week ago
- Billy Graham: Back for more? – Religion - CNN.com Blogs: <http://wp.me/puogu-p3> 1 week ago
- BGEA: Be Filled With the Holy Spirit: <http://wp.me/puogu-oV> 2 weeks ago
- Student Speaks Out « Renaissance Man Music: <http://wp.me/puogu-oN> 2 weeks ago
- Student Speaks Out: <http://wp.me/pU9To-2C> 2 weeks ago

• [John Dierckx](#)

**facebook**



Name:  
John Dierckx

Current City:  
Christchurch, New Zealand

Email:  
john@dierckx.co.nz

[Create Your Badge](#)

## • [Biblical Archeology Review Daily News](#)

- [Many Eras Come to Light in Central Syria](#)
- [3,000-Year-Old Bee Hives Discovered in Israel](#)
- [3,500-Year-Old Cultic Vessels Uncovered in Israel](#)
- [Numerous Archaeological Sites Discovered in North-Eastern Syria](#)
- [Cambridge University Will Digitalize Manuscript Collections](#)
- [Rome's Colosseum to Open Underground Section to Tourists](#)
- [Archaeologist Claims that Mt. Sinai Is in the Negev, Not Egypt](#)
- [International Travelers are Braving the Borders of Iraq](#)
- [The Devil Is Not So Back as He Is Painted](#)
- [Searching for the Better Text](#)
- [Did I Find King David's Palace?](#)
- [Charles Fellows in Aphrodisias](#)
- [Did Morton Smith Forge 'Secret Mark'? A Handwriting Expert Weighs In](#)
- [Jerusalem's Traitor: Josephus, Masada, and the Fall of Judea](#)
- [The First Paul: Reclaiming the Radical Visionary Behind the Church's Conservative Icon](#)

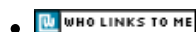
## • NZ Pages



## • NZ Search



## • [Blog Directory](#)



•

NetworkedBlogs

Blog:  
[The Desk of the Renaissance Man](#)

Topics:  
chistianity, arts,  
business

[Follow my blog](#)



[Blog at WordPress.com.](#)

Theme: Mistylook by [Sadish](#).

☺