

(Handout)

Anabaptist Divination & Sorcery: User Friendly?

1. **Terms:** “Sorcery” - “Paganism” - “Occultism” – “Divination” – “New Age” – “Magical Arts” - “Eastern Mysticism”
 - a. **Witchcraft:** *The art or power of bringing supernatural power to bear, or the act or practice of attempting to do so*”
2. Three Responses to Warnings About Witchcraft
 - a. **The Skeptic** – “I don’t believe it really works, therefore it’s not witchcraft.”
 - b. **The Practitioner** – “I know that it works, therefore it must not be witchcraft.”
 - c. **The Biblicalist** – “Satan is a real being with real power, and witchcraft really does exist because God warns against it.”
3. The Greatest Hindrance to Effectively Dealing With Witchcraft
 - a. Is it that we don’t *know* what is and what isn’t witchcraft?
 - b. Or is it that we really don’t *care*?
4. Types of Health Care—Are there 2 categories or 3?
 - a. Medical
 - b. Natural
 - c. _____?
5. How to Discern Whether a Remedy is Occultic—3 symptoms
 - a. There is no explanation about its effectiveness that makes sense scientifically.
 - b. The healing power is not dependent on Christ or on His Word.
 - c. Those who promote the therapy tie its effectiveness to some sort of power which, when analyzed, proves to be a *non-physical* (and therefore spiritual) power.
 - i. Vital Energy or Vital Force
 - ii. Universal Energy
 - iii. Innate Intelligence
 - iv. Healing Force or Life Force
 - v. Electricity or Electromagnetic Energy
 - vi. Meridians
 - vii. Chi
6. Practices Having Characteristics of Witchcraft
 - a. Reflexology
 - b. Applied Kinesiology (Muscle-testing)
 - c. Acupuncture & Acupressure
 - d. Homeopathy (with *potentization*)
 - e. Radiesthesia (pendulums, water-witching, etc.)
 - f. Yoga, Meditation, Hypnotherapy
 - g. Powwowing
 - h. Pain-pulling
 - i. Iridology
 - j. Aromatherapy
 - k. Ouija Boards

7. Symptoms of the Use of Witchcraft

- a. Fear
 - Superstition
- b. Depression
 - Suicide
- c. Conflict
 - i. In Churches
 - ii. In Families
- d. Lack of Spiritual Power
 - i. Lack of passion about the things of Christ
 - ii. Lack of vision for the lost
 - iii. Lack of victory over sin (anger, sexual sin, rebellion, etc.)

8. Steps to Freedom

- a. Acknowledge it as SIN before God.
- b. Repent of (turn from) the sin and destroy any objects of witchcraft you possess.
- c. Renounce any powers from occultism you have, as well as any powers (strongholds) that it has over you, asking the blood of Christ to set you free.

9. Questions and Objections

- a. “If it really works, doesn’t that prove that it’s scientific?”
- b. “If it is witchcraft, it won’t work for Christians.”
- c. “Just because you don’t understand something doesn’t mean that it’s witchcraft, does it?”
- d. “But isn’t it true that we all have electricity in our bodies?”
- e. “But what about Richard Culp’s book? Didn’t that prove that these remedies are OK?”
- f. “If we try to address this problem in our church, it will cause unnecessary conflict.”
- g. “But I was given this remedy by a Christian. Shouldn’t that make it OK?”
- h. “But I know godly men, even preachers, who practice this. Doesn’t that make it right?”
- i. “I don’t practice these things myself; I just hire other people to practice them for me.”
- j. “If it is witchcraft, the guilt lies with the practitioner, not with the patient.”
- k. “Even if these remedies are supernatural, couldn’t it be God’s power rather than Satan’s that make them work?”
- l. “But my Grandpa used to do practice this. Are you saying he didn’t make it to Heaven?”
- m. “Since there are so many different opinions about these things, I guess it’s just not possible to really know the truth about them.”
- n. “What if we did it without knowing it was wrong?”
- o. “What if I don’t do it, but others in my church do?”
- p. “What if we simply agree to stop doing it, since there are some people who don’t like it?”
- q. “Let’s be careful that we don’t become witch-hunters.” (“See a devil behind every bush”)
- r. “Aren’t some of these things just quackery?” (They don’t work, so they aren’t witchcraft.)

10. Recommended Resources

- a. *On Alternative Medicine* - Rodney Mast – Lamp & Light
- b. *Dowsing—How Does It Work?* – Ken Miller – Christian Light Publications
- c. *The Terrible Price of Darkness* – Elaine Schrock – Calvary Publications
- d. “The Binding Power of Strongholds” - Paul Weaver – Still Waters Ministries
- e. “Grips of a Dark Hand” – Paul Weaver – (CD available here at AIC)
- f. “Exposing Occult Health Practices” – Dr. Nolan Byler - (CD available here at AIC)

Scriptures About Witchcraft

Deuteronomy 18:9-14 When thou art come into the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not learn to do after the abominations of those nations. There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, Or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer. For all that do these things are an abomination unto the LORD: and because of these abominations the LORD thy God doth drive them out from before thee. Thou shalt be perfect with the LORD thy God. For these nations, which thou shalt possess, hearkened unto observers of times, and unto diviners: but as for thee, the LORD thy God hath not suffered thee so to do.

Exodus 22:18 Thou shalt not suffer a witch to live.

Leviticus 19:31 Regard not them that have familiar spirits, neither seek after wizards, to be defiled by them: I am the LORD your God.

Leviticus 20:6 And the soul that turneth after such as have familiar spirits, and after wizards, to go a whoring after them, I will even set my face against that soul, and will cut him off from among his people.

Isaiah 8:19 And when they shall say unto you, Seek unto them that have familiar spirits, and unto wizards that peep, and that mutter: should not a people seek unto their God?

Hosea 4:12 My people ask counsel at their stocks, and their staff declareth unto them: for the spirit of whoredoms hath caused them to err, and they have gone a whoring from under their God.

Malachi 3:5 And I will come near to you to judgment; and I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers . . . and fear not me, saith the LORD of hosts.

2 Kings 17:17-18 (Israel) And they caused their sons and their daughters to pass through the fire, and used divination and enchantments, and sold themselves to do evil in the sight of the LORD, to provoke him to anger. Therefore the LORD was very angry with Israel, and removed them out of his sight: there was none left but the tribe of Judah only.

2 Kings 21:6 (King Manasseh) And he made his son pass through the fire, and observed times, and used enchantments, and dealt with familiar spirits and wizards: he wrought much wickedness in the sight of the LORD, to provoke him to anger.

2 Kings 23:24 (Josiah) Moreover the workers with familiar spirits, and the wizards, and the images, and the idols, and all the abominations that were spied in the land of Judah and in Jerusalem, did Josiah put away, that he might perform the words of the law which were written in the book that Hilkiah the priest found in the house of the LORD.

Acts 19:18-20 (Ephesians) And many that believed came, and confessed, and shewed their deeds. Many of them also which used curious arts brought their books together, and burned them before all men: and they counted the price of them, and found it fifty thousand pieces of silver. So mightily grew the word of God and prevailed.

Galatians 5:19-21 Now the works of the flesh are . . . witchcraft . . . they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

Revelation 21:8 But the . . . sorcerers . . . shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

Questions written by Ben Hester after publishing his book on dowsing.

There are two basic arguments used by dowsers to contend that dowsing is not witchcraft. One idea is that dowsing is a physical (scientific) phenomenon; the other is that it is a gift from God. These questions address both of these arguments.

If you believe that dowsing is some unknown physical phenomenon:

1. How do you explain that it is not uncommon for water witchers to be visited with unexpected and spontaneous occult abilities such as clairvoyance and clairaudience?
2. How can you explain the dowser's ability to heal with the rod or pendulum? (This is big business in Germany.)
3. How do you explain the fact that the one and most important requirement to learn to dowse or to get the device to work after learning, is BELIEF in it (we call it "faith")? (Remember, if anything shakes the dowser's belief in the act, the device WILL NOT WORK!)
4. Explain the phenomenon of map dowsing: what causes the pendulum to react to your questions? If your answer is "mental programming," would you explain that please?
5. What is the scientific explanation for "remote dowsing"? (Locating objects not close by, or lost, or hidden by asking the device questions.)

If you believe that dowsing is nothing more or less than a gift from God:

1. Have you ever obeyed the biblical command to test the spirits before deciding that this is a gift from God?
2. Have you ever prayed sincerely and in the name of Jesus Christ that the rod's action be stopped if it is not from God?
3. How do you explain the use of the dowsing rod to heal (and it has been proven to) when it is never done in the name of Jesus Christ?
4. Would you explain why dowsing teachers warn their students not to make wrong use of the rod, and that it is up to their conscience how they use it? Could a gift from God allow you to use His power to do evil?
5. How is it that the dowsing device IS used to do harm the same as voodoo at the will of the dowser?
6. How is it that even an evil man can use the dowsing rod successfully?
7. How is it that no repentance, right living, or dedication of the life to God is required to dowse successfully as would be true of getting answers to prayer?
8. How is it that the dowsing rod works at the desire of the user, and prayer CANNOT be used that way?
9. Would you explain the fact that the INTELLIGENT force behind dowsing is amoral?
10. Would you explain how this intelligent force can and does lie to you if it is a gift from God? (One of the oldest historical warnings about dowsing is its lies!)
11. Some of the most expert dowsers in the world claim that an entity is involved in every witching act. If you have not been able to answer the above questions satisfactorily to yourself, are you still certain that the entity is an angel of light, and that dowsing is truly a gift from God?

For a more complete study on the subject of dowsing, go to www.clp.org and order the book Dowsing—How Does It Work?