
The Essentials of the Occult

What is the occult? How does the occult differ from orthodox Christianity? Are there common beliefs and practices that unite those who engage in occultism? What is the relationship between demons and occultism? Is the occult on the rise? This lecture examines these and other occult related issues.

Kevin Lewis is a Professor of Theology and Law at Biola University. He has degrees in Religious Studies (B.A., CSULB), Systematic & Historical Theology (M.Div. & Th.M., Talbot School of Theology), and Law (J.D., Whittier law School). He has taught at Biola University for two decades both in the Theology Department at Talbot School of Theology and in the M.A. Christian Apologetics Program, focusing on the fields of Polemical & Elenctic Theology, Systematic Theology, Christian Apologetics, Theology and Law integration, and Jurisprudence & Public Policy. He is the Founder and President of the Institute for Theology & Law, a practicing attorney and a partner at the Law Office of Lewis & Lewis, and an affiliate attorney with the Pacific Justice Institute. He is an active lecturer and seminar speaker at churches, colleges, and conferences and has appeared on many radio programs and television shows addressing a variety of theological, legal, political, and apologetics topics.

I. Introduction to the Occult

A. Christian Guidelines the Study of the Occult

B. Definition of the Occult & Related Terms

1. Occult

2. Pagan

3. Satanism

4. Cult

5. New Age

C. Biblical Data Regarding Demonology & The Occult

1. Scriptures Connecting Demons with Occultism

a. Deut. 32:17

b. I Cor. 10:19-20

2. Scriptural Prohibitions of the Occult

a. Deut. 18:9-14

b. Isaiah 47:8-15

II. General Occult Practices

A. The Essence of Occult Practice

B. Basic Classification of Occult Practices

1. Divination

a. The Concept of Divination

Divination is an attempt to acquire information about the past, present or future in a supernatural, biblically prohibited manner.

b. Examples of Types of Divination

(1) Astrology

(2) Cartomancy

(3) Palmistry

(4) Divining (Rod & Pendulum)

(5) Mirror Mantic

2. Magic(k) & Sorcery

a. The Concept of Magic(k)

Magic is the attempt to know and control and cause changes in both the physical and spiritual world in accordance with one's will or desires by invoking or employing spirits, hidden powers, or hidden rules of the universe.

b. Areas of Applied Magic(k)

(1) Disease & Healing Magic

(2) Hate & Love Magic

(3) Persecution & Defense Magic

(4) Death Magic

3. Spiritism & Necromancy

a. The Concept of Spiritism

Spiritism occurs when one contacts and interacts with personal spirits. These “spirits” include: angels, demons, higher life forces, ghosts, spirit guides, avatars, or any other personal, non-corporeal (non-physical) entity.

b. Associated Practices and Phenomena

(1) Visions

(2) Table-Lifting & Glass Moving

(3) Automatic Writing & Trance speaking

(4) Materializations

(5) Telekinesis & Levitation

(6) Ghosts & Poltergeists

III. Perspectives on How Occult Practices Work

A. Latent (Human) Psychic Power

B. Forces & Powers (Non-personal)

C. Idealism & Monistic Power

D. A Hierarchy of Entities

E. Atheist-Materialist