

HUMBLEHEART MINISTRIES

QUICK REFERENCE: Spiritism, Spiritualist Church

Essential Differences: Spiritism, The Spiritualist Church and Biblical Christianity

Spiritism: (*The Cult of Antiquity*) “By far the oldest form of religious cult extant today, and certainly one of the deadliest where the certainty of divine judgment is concerned, is that of Spiritism, often erroneously referred to as ‘Spiritualism.’ However, in speaking of this cult, it is sometimes necessary to use that term (Spiritualism) in order to communicate in the vernacular of our day.” (*Walter Martin, CRI*) Spiritism in the strictest sense of the term is the obvious worship of spirit beings. For example: voodoo in Haiti, macumba in Brazil or black magic in Africa. Since any form of contact with spirit beings results in a deep feeling of devotion, obeying and honoring these entities there isn’t much difference between Spiritism and Spiritualism -- especially in modern times.

Modern Spiritualism: The essence of Spiritualism is talking with or receiving information from beings that have departed from this life. Modern Spiritism/Spiritualism had its birth, as far as most church historians are concerned, on March 31, 1948. On that date Mrs. John Fox of Hydesville, NY, heard strange rapping sounds coming from her upstairs rooms and cellar of her home. Margaretta, fifteen-years-old, and Katie, twelve, her two daughters, claimed they were communicating with a spirit entity they called Mr. Splitfoot. Splitfoot informed them he was actually Charles B. Roena, a peddler who had been murdered in the house some years previously. The sisters worked out a code (one tap—no or three taps—yes) with Splitfoot. Through this they became mediums, and their communications became known as “The Rochester Rappings.” This became widely publicized and curiosity seekers came to the Fox home by the hundreds. All across the country other mediums began making similar claims and they flourished during the years 1880 -1920. Spiritualism was introduced to England and Germany during the 1850s.

In 1888 the Fox sisters confessed the rapping sounds were made by cracking their toes. Despite their damaging confession the fox home was still considered a mecca of Spiritualism and it had a shrine marker declaring, “There is no death.” The original Fox Cottage was moved from Hydesville, New York, a gift from Benjamin Bartlett of Cambridge Springs, Pennsylvania and placed at Lily Dale in 1916. The cottage burned to the ground early morning in 1955. However, the Peddler’s trunk containing the Fox family Bible with valuable information about the family was saved and is on display at the Museum.

Spiritualism is the outgrowth of Spiritism, a universal pagan practice of fallen men outside Judeo-Christian tradition and doctrine. The National Spiritualistic Association of Churches (NSAC) is the oldest and largest body of Spiritualism – founded September 27, 1893.

Biblical Response:

(Much of contemporary Spiritism has been exposed by competent professionals as fraudulent. However, not all psychic or spiritistic phenomena can be exposed as fraudulent. There is a spiritual dimension that cannot be ignored.) Authentic spiritists draw their power from the one the Bible calls the “roaring lion” who prowls about seeking someone to devour.

(1 Peter 5:8) – The Devil

Read 1 Samuel 28 -- and learn how King Saul’s encounter with a medium of Endor brought divine condemnation and Saul’s death. (For further Biblical references concerning the practice of Spiritism see verses like Exodus 8:18, Leviticus 19:31, 1 Samuel 15:23, 2 Kings 9:22, 2 Chronicles 33:6, Isaiah 47:13, Daniel 2:2, Micah 5:12 and Nahum 3:4.)

Vibrations from the spirit world, ghosts, powers to see beyond the five senses – search for the secretive things, is a violation of God’s Word. (Deuteronomy 29:29)

(Luke 16:19-31) You cannot crossover and there is no benefit if you could.

(Deuteronomy 18:10-12) Spiritism is detestable to God.

(Ecclesiastes 9:5-6, 12:7, Hebrews 9:27) Cannot communicate with the dead.

See also (Acts 13:6-11) Paul condemned mediumship.

1 Timothy 2:5

“For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.”