



Statement on Treatment methods can pose a threat to religious faith

Members of the New Apostolic Church are free to choose their own method of treatment with full personal responsibility.

The following explanations are provided by the Church so that its members can choose a method of treatment in harmony with their religious beliefs:

- Body, soul and spirit form a single entity. Some treatment methods seek to heal physical disorders by influencing the spirit; they are frequently labelled "alternative" or "holistic" medicine and may contain esoteric or occult doctrines. Although the members of the New Apostolic Church are free to choose their own method of treatment with full personal responsibility, the Church cannot agree to methods which emphasize cosmic energy and forces as well as forces, in the personal ego, instead of God and Jesus Christ.
- Spiritual healing and esoteric concepts in particular frequently cause people to become dependent on other people and doctrines. In this context, the Church emphasizes the importance of placing God over everything else and accepting the gospel of Jesus Christ as being higher than any other doctrine.
- Answering the following questions may help in identifying treatment methods which could be detrimental to a person's faith:
 - Is this method only effective in combination with a certain doctrine?
 - Is this doctrine compatible with the word of God and the teachings of Jesus Christ? Does this method leave my belief in the triune God untouched?
 - Does this method involve concepts from the realms of esotericism and occultism? Does the therapy involve cosmic energy or forces? Does it aim to bring the person's body and spirit into harmony with Nature, the cosmos and the universe instead of with God?
 - Do self-redemption and dormant forces which must be mobilized within a person play a significant part? Does attention focus solely on the person?
 - Are remote effects or supernatural forces employed? Does the method involve certain rituals?
 - Am I seeking help in faith or in superstition?

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