



# DUPED?

QUESTIONING THE LOGIC  
OF POP SPIRITUALITY



## Part 2: Eckhart & the Logic of God

### INTRODUCTION — A Simple Thesis

Eckhart Tolle's teaching offers practical, helpful psychological principles, but illogical, inconsistent, and unbiblical spirituality. Eckhart is at his best when he is helping people understand how to be more present in the now, and at his worst when he offers his novel interpretations of Scripture and Ultimate Reality.

### DINE IN – Is The Father of Jesus the God of Eckhart?

PROBLEM #1 – Exclusive copyright on exclusive truth

PROBLEM #2 – Claiming to speak for Jesus

- Being “the light of the world” means that we are consciousness?  
**Matthew 5:14-16; 25:31-46; James 1:26**
- Loving neighbour as yourself means recognizing your neighbour IS yourself?  
**Matthew 22:34-40; 1 Corinthians 13:4-7**
- Denying yourself means negating the illusion of self?  
**Luke 9:23-25**
- A branch cut off from the vine is a metaphor for ego and mind?  
**John 15:1-17**
- When Jesus said he was the Way, Truth, and Life, he was demonstrating what we all should be able to say?  
**John 14:6-9**
- The narrow gate is Jesus' image for the Power of Now?  
**Matthew 7:13-14; John 10:7-10**
- Our problem is unconsciousness, therefore increased consciousness will set us free.  
**John 8:31-32**

PROBLEM #3 – An Inadequate Understanding of God

- *God as love...* **John 3:16; 1 John 4:8, 16**
- *God as Triune...* **Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14**

#### THE LOGIC OF THE TRINITY...

- 1) If God is love, then God must be innately relational (i.e., 2 or more).
- 2) Love is best expressed face to face (requiring 2) and shoulder to shoulder toward another (requiring 2 expressing to another).
- 3) The fullness of love, therefore, requires three.
- 4) A fourth adds nothing more and therefore would be redundant.

- *God as Father...* **Matthew 6:9-15; Mark 14:36**
- *God as Son...* **John 1:1-3, 14-18; 20:28**
- *God as Spirit...* **Acts 5:3-4; 1 Cor 12:11; 2 Cor 3:17-18; Ephesians 4:30**

### TAKE OUT – Can I Have That to Go Please?

#### TAKE OUT #1: The Attraction of a Non-Personal Ultimate Reality

Something inside us may be attracted to Eckhart's teaching because morality becomes completely subjective. Eckhart (illogically) looks to “Life” for guidance on some things, but only as he chooses. Nothing is good or bad absolutely because there is no One to judge, therefore everything is open to investigation and experience. This may be appealing, but it may be appealing to the wrong aspect of who we are (our sinful nature, our flesh, our “egoic mind” or “unconscious self”).

#### TAKE OUT #2: Learning Without Embracing

Practising being present in the moment can be a personal psychological benefit as well as an expression of love in an others-centred interaction. But Eckhart's spiritual views are irreconcilable with Christ's. Christians should not be unclear about this with themselves and others.

### CONCLUSION – Unashamed of the Uniqueness of Christ

**Matthew 24:4-5**

### HOME CHURCH QUESTIONS...

#### WARMING UP...

1. Would you be in the “pro-Eckhart”, “anti-Eckhart”, or “Eckhart-who?” camp? Why?
2. After reviewing Sunday's message, talk about what most encourages, challenges, or confuses you.

#### LOOK TO THE BOOK...

3. Read the passage of the Bible that emphasizes God's nature as divine love in **1 John 4:7-21**. A) What verse or idea stands out to you the most? B) How does this passage intertwine our love for God with our love for other people? Talk about specific examples in the text. C) How is the spirituality of this text different to the teaching of Eckhart Tolle? List examples.

#### SO WHAT?...

4. Take time to meditate on **verses 10-11**. When the time feels right, turn your meditation into prayer.

**Bruxy Cavey @ THE MEETING HOUSE – Sunday, April 19, 2009**