

A Short History of the Enneagram

by Diane Haupt

What is the Enneagram?

In simple terms, it is a personality assessment with occultist roots. It contains nine points on a diagram with line from each point connecting to two other points on the diagram. It is being promoted as a psychological tool in the mainstream (without any actual scientific proof) while more recently being touted as a tool for ministry in progressive Christianity.

Origins

There is a common myth that the enneagram has ancient roots in Christianity. Nothing could be further from the truth. The enneagram was founded by mystic George Gurdjieff (1866?-1949) and by his followers, P. D. Ouspensky (1878-1947) and Oscar Ichazo (b. 1931).

Personality types

The modern enneagram entered America through psychologist Claudio Naranjo. Claudio was a student/follower of Oscar Ichazo from Chile, who rediscovered the Enneagram in the 1970's. Claudio used "inspired" automatic writing to draft the nine personality types and sub types.

au-to-mat-ic writ-ing : noun automatic writing: writing said to be produced by a spiritual, occult, or subconscious agency, channeling spirit rather than by the conscious intention of the writer.

Popularity

The enneagram has gained enormous popularity in recent years through Fr. Richard Rohr. Rohr is a former Franciscan Friar and panentheist who authored the book "The Enneagram: A Christian Perspective" . He participates in countless New Age/Occult practices. He has been featured on OWN (The Oprah Winfrey Network) and is highly revered in celebrity and non- celebrity circles as a "religious" guru of sorts.

Infiltration of the Church

Since Rohr has a far reaching influence, some of his teachings have also helped to shape the worldview other progressives within the Christian faith. However, I do use this term loosely as we can clearly see from the scriptures that as followers of Christ we are commanded to have nothing to do with such things.

What is most concerning is the fact that as believers we know that our identity is found only in and through Christ. This approach to "knowing oneself" shifts our focus back on to ourselves. It labels people into a specific, unchangeable category where one accepts "This is just how I am" pardoning sinful behavior while not allowing the true transformation from the old sinful nature into the new creations that we become in Christ.

"The enneagram has crept into the Christian church in recent years. This is even more disturbing than seeing it taught in the secular world, where one might naturally expect it to be. But not only is the enneagram being used and promoted by some Christians, it is also being defended as a tool based on biblical principles." -Marcia Montenegro

There are many arguments for usage in evangelical settings such as, "But that's not how I believe or use it" or "We can use it in light of scripture", etc. NO YOU CAN'T. Scripture is extremely clear on this topic. You cannot sanitize an occultist practice and call it Christian. It is a very dangerous and slippery slope.

*****This is an extremely short synopsis and incomplete history on the enneagram. For further information, I HIGHLY recommend checking out the links below. Marcia Montenegro is a former New Age practitioner who found Christ. She has beautiful testimony and now helps to inform followers of Christ on the dangers of the New Age infiltrating the Church. You can see her work at [Sola Sisters: What Is The Enneagram?](#), at [CANA - Christian Answers for the New Age](#) and on YouTube.**