



There's nothing wrong with Ouija boards is there?

Many young people get exposed to these things - and have for years. Are they harmless fun or things to stay away from? Depending on who you listen to you could get either answer.

Curiosity about supernatural things is pretty natural. God has not only created us as physical beings, He has made us spiritual beings as well. There is a physical world that we can see, but the spiritual side of us also wants to know about the unseen spiritual world.

God's people in Old Testament times were no different. As the Israelites entered the land of Canaan they would be exposed to many occult practices like sorcery, witchcraft, fortune-telling. They would have a natural curiosity about these things, so God told them in advance how to respond: (Deuteronomy 18:9-15)

When you enter the land the Lord your God is giving you, do not learn to imitate the detestable ways of the nations there. [10] Let no one be found among you who sacrifices his son or daughter in the fire, who practices divination or sorcery, interprets omens, engages in witchcraft, [11] or casts spells, or who is a medium or spiritist or who consults the dead. [12] Anyone who does these things is detestable to the Lord, and because of these detestable practices the Lord your God will drive out those nations before you. [13] You must be blameless before the Lord your God.

[14] The nations you will dispossess listen to those who practice sorcery or divination. But as for you, the Lord your God has not permitted you to do so. [15] The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own brothers. You must listen to him.

The prophet God promised to raise up for us to listen to is Jesus. God is very clear that we should seek spiritual information and guidance only from Him. All the occult practices are "detestable" to Him. I'm pretty sure that if Ouija boards would have been around at the time, God would have included them in His list.

We would do well to learn a lesson from the people in Ephesus in Acts 19:18-19 (The apostles, just prior to this passage, demonstrated Jesus' power over Satan by driving an evil spirit out of a person.)

[18] Many of those who believed now came and openly confessed their evil deeds. [19] A number who had practiced sorcery brought their scrolls together and burned them publicly. When they calculated the value of the scrolls, the total came to fifty thousand drachmas. (About 4-5 million dollars in today's economy)

Those people now realized that Jesus was the most powerful supernatural force. As a result they were willing to throw away a literal fortune in occult books they had used in an effort to tap into Satan's power.

To sum it up, I think something we talked about recently in our Tuesday study is important to remember:

Satan is very powerful, but he can't force his way into your life. He is, however, ready and willing to "make himself at home" in your life if you give him an invitation. In fact he'll do all sorts of things to get you to issue an invitation.

I would definitely say that using a Ouija board (or any other way of trying to contact the spirit world for answers) is kind of like opening the door and putting out the "Welcome" mat inviting Satan to come into your life. Don't do it.

Thanks for asking,
Pastor David

Send your questions to pastor@livingwordlutheran.net