

Entrust – 4/13/23 - Masculinity and Mysticism Appendix: What about the Enneagram?

- I. What about the Enneagram?
 - A. What is the Enneagram?
 - i. It is claimed by many as a way to understand your personality type. It is also said to help you understand why you respond to life that way you do and why you interpret life the way you do.
 - ii. The more you engage and study and live by the principles and guidelines of the enneagram, they claim, you will be more enlightened and grow in spirituality.
 - iii. There are 9 different personalities.
 - B. Where Did it Come From?
 - i. Gurdjieff was a “mystic” world traveler who taught that Enneagram was key to all facets of life.
 - ii. He claimed to attain a level of divine insight and understanding that transcends ordinary human knowledge.
 - iii. He also claimed to communicate directly with the divine and eventually become one with God.
 - iv. Personality typology overlaid onto symbol in 1960s & 70s by Oscar Ichazo and Claudio Naranjo.
 1. Oscar Ichazo was Bolivian born and claimed to learn the symbol from Afghani Sufis *before* reading Gurdjieff. He developed “protoanalysis” to achieve “full enlightenment” through the study of physical organs, astrological signs, and mantras. Characterized 9 psychological types as “ego fixations” to fit with modern psychology of his time.
 2. Claudio Naranjo was a Gestalt psychiatrist who trained at the Esalen Institute. He claimed that personality types came during “*automatic writing*” session. It just so happens that his Personality typing fit well with Gestalt therapy (“awareness”). He taught Ennea-types in Berkeley area to Jesuit priest

Richard Ochs. Told students not to share his teaching with others.

- v. Against Naranjo's directive to not disclose Ennea-type teachings, Richard Ochs taught other Jesuits at Loyola University. Ochs's students taught priests Richard Rohr and Don Riso who both wrote influential books on the Enneagram in the late 80s early 90s. Rohr is seen as the father of the modern enneagram.

C. Who is Teaching it?

- i. Ian Cron – Wrote: *The Road Back to You*
 - 1. Episcopal priest, seminary speaker, Dove Award- winning songwriter
 - 2. Co-authored *The Road Back to You* with Suzanne Stabile (InterVarsity Press, 2016)
 - 3. Influential with evangelical Christian leaders Andy Stanley, Carey Nieuwhof, Russell Moore, and Fuller and Denver Seminaries, and Nashville music scene
 - 4. Developed iEQ9 as an online Enneagram assessment
- ii. Suzanne Stabile – Wrote: *The Path Between Us*
 - 1. Frequent divinity school lecturer (Harvard, SMU, TCU), Enneagram Master in oral tradition
 - 2. Chosen by InterVarsity Press as Enneagram trainer for IVP staff
- iii. Christopher Heuertz – Wrote: *The Sacred Enneagram*
 - 1. Anti-human trafficking activist, speaker, Enneagram coach.
 - 2. Authored *The Sacred Enneagram* (Zondervan, 2017) and *The Enneagram of Belonging* (Zondervan, 2020); frequent speaker on evangelical college campuses

D. What are the Dangers?

- i. “Now all the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there would spend their time in nothing except telling or hearing something new.” Acts 17:21

- ii. “See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elementary spirits of this world, and not according to Christ.” Colossians 2:8
- iii. “But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction.” 2 Peter 2:1
- iv. Views of God
 1. Enneagram - God is in everything but also transcends everything; God entered into all of creation at creation (panentheism); The first of multiple incarnations occurred at the event of creation; Multiple paths exist to the God
 2. Biblical - God alone is holy and distinct from His creation; Only one incarnation has occurred in human history; The only incarnation involved God the Son taking on human flesh *only* in the Person of Jesus; Access to the Father comes only through the God the Son
- v. View of Man
 1. Enneagram – Man is basically good; Man’s good “True Self” is divine by nature; Man has never been separated from God, except in man’s own mind; All of mankind has been “in Christ” since creation
 2. Again, notice that this view of man is not that he is at enmity with God but that he needs to find his true self. How do we see this pop up in modern Christianity?
 3. Biblical - Man is sinful by nature and by choice; Man is created in God’s image, but distinct from man; Man’s sin has separated him from the Creator God; The term “in Christ” refers to the status of redeemed believers who have repented of sin and placed faith in Christ alone
- vi. View of Sin

1. Enneagram – Man is not aware of his good, “True Self”; Man’s “False Self” obstructs his ability to see his good, “True Self”; Original sin and total depravity are burdensome human constructs that exist in man’s mind only
2. Biblical – Original sin and man’s depraved nature are real; All of mankind has rebelled against the holy Creator God; Mankind, along with all of creation, needs redemption and reconciliation with God

vii. View of Salvation

1. Enneagram – Self-knowledge through discovery of one’s good, “True Self”; The Enneagram is the best tool for gaining self-knowledge; Eliminates any claim to know an exclusive means of salvation
2. Biblical - God has made salvation available to man through repentance and faith in Christ alone; Jesus makes the exclusive claim to be the one way of salvation; Peter and Paul confirm that Jesus is the exclusive means of salvation available to man; The Bible is God’s ordained tool for discovering the holiness of God and the sinfulness of man

E. Conclusion

- i. Based on antibiblical doctrines of God and man, is it prudent for Christians to utilize this typology?
- ii. Enneagram promotes a dangerous shift in focus away from the holiness of God and sinfulness of man.
- iii. Enneagram mischaracterizes man’s problem as something other than rebellion against a holy God.
- iv. Enneagram promotes a false gospel of self-knowledge and discovery of a mythical good, True Self.

