



Reincarnation

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In my last article about movie actresses, we found out that Shirley MacLaine is known for her New Age Religion and reincarnation beliefs. I found this an interesting subject and decided to research it more and report my findings. Yes, Shirley MacLaine is an accomplished actress, the star of such movies as *Steel Magnolias* and *Terms of Endearment*, an outspoken advocate for certain political causes, a celebrated entertainer, and a rather free spirit. An Internet biography calls her “a dancer, singer, highly regarded actress and a metaphysical time traveler.” A what?



Shirley MacLaine

Quantum Physics provides a philosophical view of metaphysical time travel. It says, “It is a fourth dimension essentially constitutive of reality together with space. All times, past, present and future, are actual times just like all points distributed in space are actual points in space. One cannot privilege any one moment in the dimension of time as “more” real than any other moment just like one cannot privilege any point in space as “more” real than any other point.” This is way too deep for me. Let’s just point out that Shirley MacLaine claims to have gone back in time and saw herself in other lives.

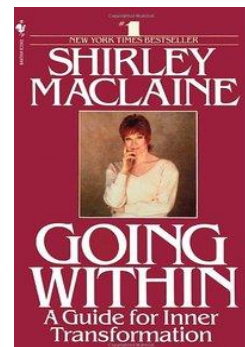
MacLaine has written 21 books but these five best describe her spiritual journey into New Age Religion and her belief in reincarnation. They include:

Out on a Limb—1983: This book details MacLaine's journeys through New Age spirituality. The book follows her from southern California to various locations including New York City, Europe, and Hawaii, culminating in a life-changing trip to the Andes Mountains in Peru.

Dancing in the Light—1986: In 1984, she won an Oscar, starred on Broadway, and turned fifty years old. At this special time, she was now ready to resume the spiritual journey she had begun in her early forties. In *Dancing in the Light*, Shirley MacLaine bares her innermost self and explores the lives, both past and present, which touched and affected her own. She sheds new light on her loves, her losses, her childhood, her passions, and her inner drives and ambitions. She challenges her beliefs and confronts her conflicts. Ultimately, she takes us with her through a life-altering experience that provides a stunning new vision of herself, her future... and the fate of our world.

It's All in the Playing—1988: This book retraces her personal odyssey and earlier investigations into the metaphysical world in order to come to terms with what she has learned, understand how her quest has changed her life, and determine her future path.

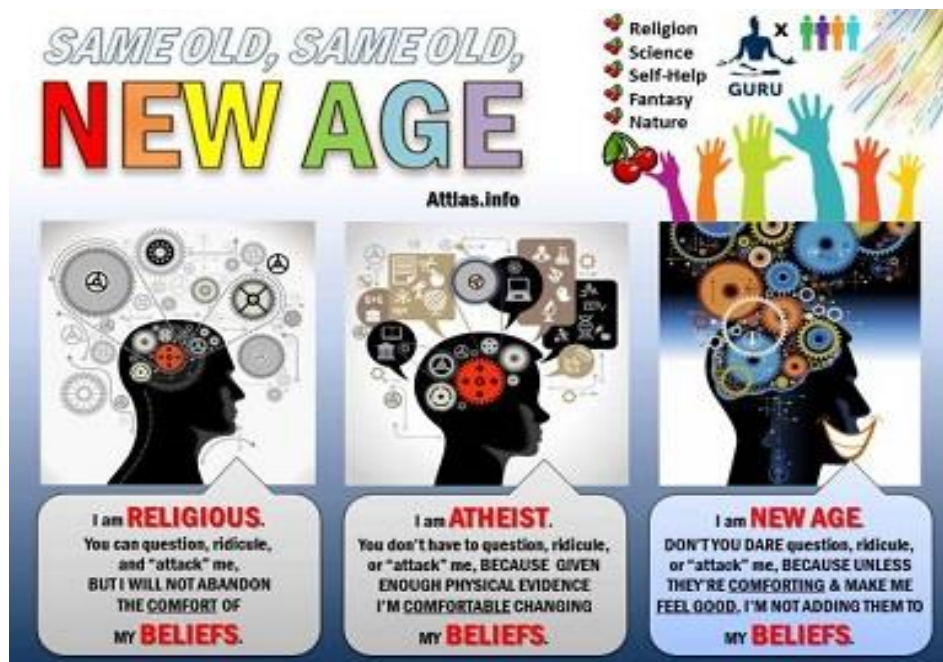
Going Within—1990: By going within, she shows us how to reach a new level of love and harmony, reduce stress, release fear, and discover the joys of a new-and better-way of living. Use light, sound, crystals, and visualizations to increase your personal energy. Explore the power of meditation to align body, mind, and spirit. Understand and communicate with your hidden self. Learn the secrets of sexual fulfillment in a new age of commitment. Experience the stunning mysteries of psychic surgery!



The Camino—2000: In 1994, at age 60, Shirley MacLaine embarked on a solo trek along what is known as El Camino de Santiago, a 500-mile trail that crosses from France into northern Spain. The pilgrimage can take as long as eight weeks to complete as travelers make their way on foot to their final destination: the cathedral where the remains of Saint James are said to be buried. Shirley walked the trail alone in 30 days in an effort to reconnect with her most elemental humanity.

If you are interested in this stuff, I recommend that you read all five of these books in order by date.

Okay, I guess I'm old fashion and just old but I didn't know what these New Age Religions were all about until now.



New Age Religions or New Age Movement are terms applied to a range of spiritual or religious beliefs and practices that were developed in Western nations during the 1970s. It is a compilation of metaphysical and Eastern-influenced thought systems. These thought systems unite theology, nature, and philosophy. This movement comprises countless "theologies" that often center on religious tolerance and moral diversity. The main phrases (or "isms") that reveal the focal point of New Age thought are "feel-goodism" (do whatever feels good, as long as you are not hurting someone else), "moral relativism" (situational ethics), and "pluralism" (universal tolerance). The phrase "New Age" refers to the "Aquarian Age" which, according to New Age supporters, is now beginning. This Age is expected to bring in peace and enlightenment, as well as reunite humans with "God."

New Age doctrine says that humans are currently estranged from God due to a lack of insight concerning God's real nature and reality. In New Age understanding, mankind is central. Humans are considered to be divine, as co-creators, and as the ultimate hope for the future of the world. Although New Age is generally tolerant of almost any world religion or philosophy, it is opposed to the "narrow-mindedness" of Christianity that teaches Jesus Christ is the only way to eternal salvation. New Age philosophy is complicated to define because there is no centralized hierarchy,

doctrine, or membership. At its foundation, the New Age movement is a religious system with two main doctrines: Evolutionary Godhood and Global Unity.



The question of death and afterlife is not a "pressing problem requiring an answer" in the New Age movement. A belief in reincarnation is very common, and is viewed as being part of an individual's progressive spiritual evolution toward realization of their own divinity. In New Age, the reality of reincarnation is usually treated as self-evident, with no explanation as to why practitioners embrace this

afterlife belief over others, although New Agers endorse it in the belief that it ensures cosmic justice. Many New Agers adopt a belief in karma, treating it as a law of cause and effect which assures cosmic balance, although in some cases they stress that it is not a system that enforces punishment for past actions. Most New Age Religions believe that part of the human soul, that which carries the personality, perishes with the death of the body, while the Higher Self – that which connects with divinity – survives in order to be reborn into another body.

What religions believe in reincarnation?



The major religions that hold a belief in reincarnation are Asian religions, especially Hinduism, Jainism, Buddhism, and Sikhism, all of which arose in India.

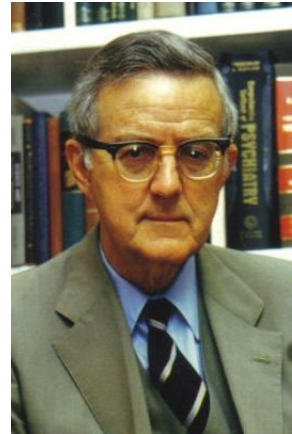
Arguments for Reincarnation

Over the past 25 years, a number of pollsters have surveyed the religious mood of America. When the results of various surveys are compared, it appears that approximately 25% of all Americans believe in reincarnation.

Wow, that is much higher than I would have guessed.

Reincarnation Studies and What They Found

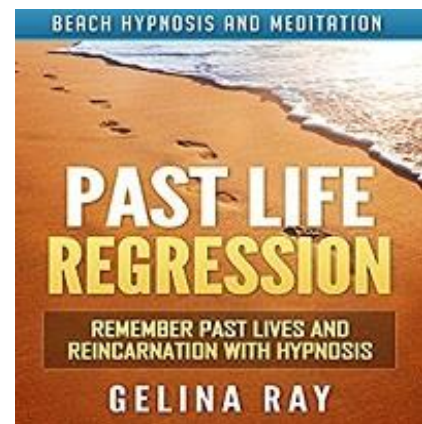
Canadian biochemist and professor of psychiatry Ian Stevenson dedicated much of his life to science, and especially to reincarnation studies. For more than 40 years, Stevenson studied more than 3000 cases of **children who seemed to recall experiences of past lives**, documenting what they said and comparing data with the lives of people who they claimed to have been. Unlike those who use hypnosis as a method of obtaining information on alleged past lives, Stevenson based his studies in children from 2 to 4 years old who apparently could remember episodes from their past lives and provide data that could be checked. Many cases that Stevenson researched seem to have ended in a violent death. In several cases, he collected testimony and medical records related to birthmarks and birth defects that appeared to correspond to the type of death described by children and reported in autopsies of the people who they claimed to be.



Ian Stevenson

Comment: I can't even remember what happened in my current life when I was 2 to 4 years old. How in the world could I possibly remember what happened in previous lives?

Past-life regression practitioners use **hypnosis and suggestion** to promote recall in their patients, using a series of questions designed to elicit statements and memories about the past life's history and identity. Some practitioners also use bridging techniques from a client's current-life problems to bring "past-life stories" to conscious awareness. The memories are experienced as vivid as those based on events experienced in one's life, impossible to differentiate from true memories of actual events, and accordingly any damage can be difficult to undo. However, with psychotherapy clients who believe in past lives, the use of hypnosis is an important tool in past life regression research.



People under hypnosis are not dreaming or hallucinating— and in this state they are not capable of lying. They report whatever they see and hear in their subconscious minds as if everything is a literal observation. While under hypnosis, it is possible for

them to misinterpret something they are seeing, but they will not report on anything they do not feel to be the literal truth.

Finally, the phenomenon of **being able to speak one or more languages fluently without any exposure to them in the present lifetime**. Researchers relate the story of Dr. Marshall McDuffie, a prominent New York physician, and his wife Wilhelmina, whose twin baby boys were found to be conversing among themselves in some unknown vernacular. The children were eventually taken to the foreign language department of Columbia University, but none of the professors present could identify their speech. However, a professor of ancient languages happened to pass by and was amazed to discover that the babies were speaking Aramaic, a language current at the time of Christ. There are hundreds of cases like this one on record.

Comment: I have no explanation for this one and other similar events.

Near-Death Experiences (NDE)

A near-death experience is a personal experience associated with death or impending death. Such experiences may encompass a variety of sensations including detachment from the body, feelings of levitation, total serenity, security, warmth, the experience of absolute dissolution, and the presence of a light.



Soul leaving body after death



Light at the end of the tunnel

One of the largest **“Near-Death” hospital-based studies** was conducted by Dr. Pim van Lommel, a cardiologist in the Netherlands, that consisted of 344 consecutive survivors of cardiac arrest in ten Dutch hospitals. Here are the results: 62 patients (18%) reported some recollection of the time of clinical death. About 50% of the patients with an NDE reported awareness of being dead. 30% reported moving through a tunnel into the light, had an observation of a celestial landscape, or had a

meeting with deceased relatives. About 25% of the patients with an NDE had an out-of-body experience, had communication with 'the light' or observed bright colors. 13% experienced a life review, and one patient had a conventional out of body experience where he reported being able to watch and recall events during the time of his cardiac arrest. His claims were confirmed by hospital personnel.

Patients with a NDE did not show any fear of death, they strongly believed in an afterlife, and their insight in what is important in life had changed. Love and compassion for oneself, for others, and for nature become more important.



The Reincarnation Process

Here is the process that our soul goes through from the moment we 'die' to the moment we are 'reborn' according to reincarnation experts:

1.) Death and departure – Many people recall looking down at their body and seeing people mourning over their death. Some people reported staying around their loved ones until after their funeral. During this time, they could feel a pull towards a light, and described a tunnel of sorts to get there.

2.) Gateway to the spirit world – This is the stage where NDE patients report moving through the tunnel and reaching the light at the end. Location of the tunnel varies, as some say it appears right above their bodies and others say they have to travel above the Earth to reach it. After reaching the end of the tunnel, patients almost always describe in varying ways beautiful visions, music, and scenery. These images are beloved memories from their lives, to help give a feeling of familiarity during such an overwhelming process. Younger souls may feel sad or confused during this time, and it's reported that their guides will come to assist and comfort.

3.) Homecoming – Here we are greeted by souls who are close to us. They appear as luminous beings who sometimes project faces of people who are still 'alive' in a

physicality because our souls only project a certain percentage of itself into the physical body, so there will always be a part of the soul existing in the spirit realm. During this stage the soul begins to remember more about the afterlife and also their previous lives, feeling more at ease with the process.

4.) Orientation – During the orientation stage, a soul will shed any regret / doubt / sadness / traumatic memories from its previous life by going through what is described as a ‘shower of light’. This renews the soul’s vibrancy and restores it to its original vibration. Afterwards, we discuss with our guide everything that has happened in our life and decide whether or not we lived up to our expectations about how we dealt with those incidents and if the lessons need to be repeated in the next life.

5.) Transition – After we have completed our light shower and have worked through our previous life, we then move onto what most describe as the most breathtaking visions of the entire journey. Here we see a mega-hub of souls at the same stage, all moving through beautiful tunnels of light to their destination. People describe this moment as exciting because there is no darkness, just pure light, and we are also on our way to meet up with our soul family, souls who are at a similar stage in their evolution and who we shared lives with. Once we meet up with these souls, we usually compare experiences and learn from each other. These are souls that we keep reincarnating with over and over again, playing various roles with each other such as partners, brothers/sisters, parents, children, etc. Sometimes souls will be present but dimmer and quieter than others, and that is because they are still projecting a physicality at that moment. Another crucial aspect of this stage is to meet a grand counsel that oversees our previous life, going into more detail about the experiences and lessons learned.

6.) Placement – This stage is almost like a school where larger groups of soul families (up to thousands) who incarnate around each other in cycles learn about their previous experiences. Here we report projecting into specific scenes from their previous life and into other people’s minds to gain a full understanding of the larger picture. Here we feel what others felt to learn how we hurt people in certain situations. This stage can also see the larger soul groups connecting in circles, sharing more ideas, singing, and experiencing other joyful events.

7.) Life selection – During this stage we move to a large sphere of light where we then choose our next life path. We are able to see multiple paths and are able to temporarily project into these lives to feel which one would be most appropriate. We also have the ability to fast forward through the timelines to see critical events that will happen. Some souls will choose greater challenges to experience such as a disability or premature death.

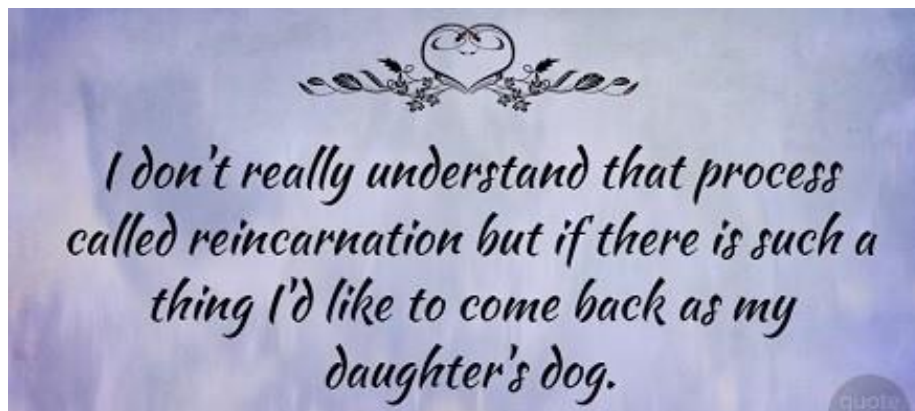
8.) Choosing a new body – This process is a part of the previous life selection stage, but has a separate categorization because it focuses on the physical appearance that

we will possess in the next life. This choice vastly affects our experience, so it usually takes much thought as to what it will be. If you were obese in one life, chances are you will choose to be skinny the next, etc.

9.) Preparation and embarkation – After choosing our life path, next we meet up with our soul group, the people who will play roles in the next life, to do extensive planning and to create synchronicities and cues that will guide us throughout our life. Higher-level guides also help to plan out specific symbols we will see or hear that will trigger certain thoughts and actions at specific times. After the synchronicities are decided, we once again meet with a counsel to go over our goals and plans for the next life. This meeting is also to encourage us to have patience, to hold true to our values, to trust ourselves in the midst of difficult situations, and to avoid indulging in anger and negativity.

10.) Rebirth – Reincarnated people report traveling back to Earth through the same tunnel they left in, entering the mother's womb. Until the age of 5, the soul is able to leave the baby's body to travel and meet up with other souls if it wishes, but will snap back to the body if the baby is in any turmoil. During the first few years the soul will work to integrate its energy with the brain.

Well, there you have it – The Reincarnation Process in a nutshell. What do you think?



Which brings us to this burning question – Can humans Reincarnate as Animals?

New Age Religions say, “No.... But animals do reincarnate.” In fact, just like humans, animals reincarnate in our soul family groups. This means the animals in your life now, have very likely been in your life before, as an animal (not as a human).

However, other religions that include the Buddhist and Hindu religions, Jainism, and Taoism say, “Yes.... It is possible.” Belief in reincarnation requires as a prerequisite the belief in an immortal soul, for it is the soul that returns again and again to life on earth in one form or another. The form the reincarnated soul inhabits is based on the

soul's karma, a philosophy that can be summed up by the saying "you reap what you sow." In other words, people that have led a good life will reincarnate into a better form than ones who have led an evil life. This can include reincarnation as an animal, or animal reincarnation.



Reincarnation: Dr. Brian Weiss And Oprah Winfrey Discuss Angels, Animals and The Afterlife

Past-life regression expert and former skeptic Dr. Brian Weiss has devoted the last several decades of his career as an Ivy League-trained psychiatrist to exploring reincarnation and the afterlife. Now a believer, Dr. Weiss says that the people who have loved you on this earth are called master teachers — and can be viewed as angels after they pass. This is a sentiment that resonates with Oprah, who recently spoke with Dr. Weiss about everyday angels on an episode of “Super Soul Sunday.”

“I always say to people when they lose someone, ‘Now you have an angel you can call by name,’” Oprah says.

The comment sparks Dr. Weiss to share a story from his book *Miracles Happen* about a grieving woman whose late husband sent her and her two sons a message about the other side. “[The deceased man] had become their angel or their spiritual guide,” Dr. Weiss says.

Humans aren’t the only ones who cross over, Dr. Weiss says. Our pets do, too. For Oprah, who lost her beloved dog Sophie, the spiritual connection to a pet is something she understands profoundly.

“I was really deeply grieving the loss of Sophie,” Oprah says of her dog’s passing. “I allowed myself to do that for a period of time and then moved into the space of knowing that, just like all other beings, she was a spirit. A sweet little spirit.”

This understanding elevated Oprah’s already deep connection with Sophie to a surprising new level. “When I allowed the sweet spirit of her to be present with me, I actually moved into a space where I am closer to her — makes me want to cry — I am closer to her now than I could have been when she was still in the body,” Oprah says.

“Love and life never stops. It never ends,” Dr. Weiss says. “It doesn’t end with the death of the physical body.”

“When you lose someone... the essence of that person, the heart, the love of that person... I find, become more powerful because you are infused with that energy and that spirit in a way that you couldn’t haven’t been before,” Oprah says.

“Energy doesn’t have boundaries the way we think,” Dr. Weiss agrees. “These spiritual contacts are very real, very important. And that should be nurturing to everybody, to heal hearts, to heal grief... We’re always going to be reunited, but even before that, they’re still with us.”



Sophie and Oprah

One more Animal Reincarnate Story

“The Universe is quite marvelous!” That’s what past life regression expert, Dr. Bruce Goldberg responded with when a lady relayed to him the following story...

It was late last month when I had been casually perusing a cat breeder's web site – something I would occasionally do as I inched closer to the idea of getting a new kitty after our beloved Persian, “Paws” passed away last February. On this particular visit to the site, I noticed an offering I had not seen before; an 8-month old male, doll faced, copper eyed white Persian named “Clover” who had been available for months. I could hardly believe my eyes (or his) – he looked identical to my Paws. I had been to the breeder's site several times before. Why hadn't I noticed him?



Clover is shown here with a picture of Paws (inset)

After showing my husband Clover's picture, his astonishment at first glance mirrored mine. We'd looked at perhaps hundreds of pictures of white Persian kittens with the same general attributes but no kitten looked so much like our departed pet. In no time, we were on the phone to the breeder to ask a few pertinent questions. Could this be our new – or re-newed kitty? It was then that she conveyed some facts about this kitten that nearly knocked me out of my seat!

Clover had been born with a little gray birthmark on the top of his head that has slowly faded as he's gotten older. Paws had the same mark in the same spot, slowly fading at about 9 months! Clearly, there are some breeds of white Persians that do have this characteristic but I had never seen any kittens with this feature since Paws'. She then said that he was the only male in his litter...so was Paws! And then the kicker: Clover was born merely hours within the time that Paws passed away last February, taking his last breath in the arms of a loving caretaker, while I was on assignment, 3,000 miles away in California to interview, none other than Dr. Goldberg about the subject of conscious dying and past lives!

At this point, the similarities to me and to my husband had far surpassed the notion of chance! Could the soul of my precious Paws have jumped from his frail little body into a brand new one, just waiting for us to find him?

Animal reincarnation is a subject that has been discussed within the larger subject of past lives and has increased in interest in recent years. Due, in part to the burgeoning trend of animal companionship as a central part of the modern social framework, pets have increasingly taken center stage in millions of people's lives.

Although we don't fully understand how reincarnation works, the re-entrance of the soul into physical form seems to be a consistent part of the framework of reality. Why would animals be precluded from this process?

Comment: I don't know about animal reincarnation but it would be nice to see all of my deceased pets again once I get to Heaven.

You have got to admit that those New Age and Reincarnation Religions have some pretty good ideas and some good arguments and selling points for "young people" and maybe a few older people to believe in. Right?

But, just in case you thought I was going to run out and join one of these groups, YOU WOULD BE DEAD WRONG. In the rest of this article, I will tell you how I really feel about Reincarnation, New Age Religions, and Shirley MacLaine.

Reincarnation and the Christian Faith

When you boil it all down, there are many good reasons Christians have always opposed reincarnation. Here are a few of them:

Reincarnation teaches that my only hope is to save myself through successive lives.

Christianity teaches that God forgives and extends mercy in the face of human sins and shortcomings.

Reincarnation teaches we will live and die many times.

Christianity teaches the doctrine of eternal judgment following one life and one death. You live, you die, and then you face God. Reincarnation isn't mentioned in the Bible because it doesn't exist. Here is what the Holy Bible says:



Hebrews 9:27 says "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, and after this the judgment". You live once, you die once, and then you face God in judgment. Jesus said the same thing in John 5:28-29: "Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice and come out—those who have done good will rise to live, and those who have done evil will rise to be condemned."

Reincarnation devalues this present life. After all, if you blow it, there's always next time. Maybe you'll get it right in the next life. "Reincarnation is like show business. You just keep on doing it until you get it right". The whole focus of biblical faith is on the brevity of this life. The Psalmist said, "So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom" (Psalm 90:12). And James 4:14 says, "What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes."

This life is the only life we have. We only get one chance to serve the Lord. If we reject Jesus Christ, we will regret it for all eternity.

The New Age and reincarnation followers are right about two things:

- 1) All men (and women) are sinners and
- 2) No man (or women) can save themselves in one lifetime.

But they are wrong about the biggest thing! No one can save himself in a thousand lifetimes. There aren't enough lifetimes in all the rolling eons of eternity to purge a man of his sins. Yes, all men and women have sinned and done bad things. Yet, providing that none of these sins are too bad, God will forgive us and we will be allowed into Heaven. At least I'm hoping this is true.

How could God forgive us if we can do nothing in a million lifetimes to be forgiven? This is the question which Shirley MacLaine cannot answer. Let the Bible give its own answer: "We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all" (Isaiah 53:6). "But God demonstrates his love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8). "God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God" (II Corinthians 5:21). "In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace" (Ephesians 1:7). "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast" (Ephesians 2:8-9).

Unlike the reincarnation teachings, we don't have to pretend the answer is in us. We know it isn't. But we know where the answer is. It is in Jesus Christ. And through him we have come to know God and through him we have found forgiveness.

Reincarnation teaches that after this life we are doomed to return again and again in hope of attaining perfection someday.

Christianity teaches that we are given eternal life here and now and when we die, we go into the presence of the Lord.

How sad it would be to lay our loved ones to rest and our only hope be that sometime, somewhere, somehow, they will be reincarnated in some other body, in some other personality, in some other place, in some other time. What kind of hope is that? And what would it be to think that this life was just the latest in a long series of lives, a brief, nearly-meaningless stopover in the dreary march toward an elusive perfection?

Thank God for hope in Christ which gives meaning to this life and rock-solid security for the future! We do not rest our souls on the flimsy testimony of strange voices, spirit guides, astrologers, mediums, or misguided actresses. As II Peter 1:16, 19 puts it, "We did not follow cleverly invented stories...and we have the word of the prophets made more certain, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place."

No wonder the Christian church has always rejected reincarnation. There's nothing there we need.

The "ME...ME...ME..." Generation



The "Me" generation in the United States is a term referring to the baby boomer generation and the self-involved qualities of people associated with it. The 1970s were dubbed the "Me" decade and the rise of a culture of narcissism among the younger generation. The phrase caught on with the general public at a time when "self-realization" and "self-fulfillment" were becoming cultural aspirations to which young people supposedly ascribed higher importance than social responsibility. Health and exercise fads, New Age spirituality, discos and hot tub parties, self-help programs, and the growth of the self-help book industry became identified with the baby boomers during 1970s. Human potential, emotional honesty, finding yourself, and new therapies became hallmarks of the culture.

The satirization of the Me generation's me-first attitude perhaps reached its peak with the television sitcom Seinfeld, which did not include conscious moral development for its baby boomer characters, rather the opposite. Nor did it have plots with lessons to teach its audience. It was a "show about nothing"!



However, you must understand that there is a vast spiritual hunger in our generation. If the people of this generation do not find God's truth, they will believe Satan's lie. A starving dog will eat whatever you put in front of him. No place on earth is that hunger more evident than in America. There is a reason why New Age books sell in the millions and why Oprah Winfrey loves Deepak Chopra and Shirley MacLaine. They have tapped into the deep desire inside every human heart to understand who we are, where we came from, and where we are going. Ecclesiastes 3:11 reminds us that God has put a longing for eternity in every heart. The popularity of New Age teaching means that many people are truly searching for spiritual reality. The fact that many have bought into a false system doesn't make their desire any less real.

Don't be taken in!

Shirley MacLaine says she was once a Buddhist monk, a court jester to King Louis XIV, a Moorish girl who lived along The Camino in northern Spain, and a mistress to Charlemagne. She also believes her daughter was once her mother in a previous life. **What?**

In the end, we can say many positive things about Shirley MacLaine. She is gifted, talented, persuasive, and very open about her own spiritual journey. She is profoundly committed to the New Age views she espouses. And I believe the people who follow her are equally sincere and many of them are genuine spiritual seekers. But that makes the bottom line even more tragic.

Shirley MacLaine is a spiritually blind loony nutcase who has lost all sense of reality.