

Ten guidelines regarding alternative medicine in the Christian context (Dr. Samuel Pfeifer)

1. WE AFFIRM a holistic view of the human existence in all its dimensions – however on the foundation of the word of God and the Biblical image of the person.
WE REJECT a syncretistic pantheistic view of life which has its roots in esoteric assumptions.
2. WE AFFIRM responsibility and discretion in the use of medical technology.
WE REJECT the unscientific substitution of proven medical treatments by alternative „natural“ or magical-spiritual therapies without sufficient base of evidence.
3. WE AFFIRM the desire to view illness and healing within a context which includes spiritual aspects.
WE REJECT a cosmic view of disease on the background of Eastern and mystical spirituality.
4. WE AFFIRM the supporting of God-given self-healing processes of our bodies.
WE REJECT a psychological ideology of self realization and mystical techniques to enhance self-healing by Eastern meditation or energetic channelling.
5. WE AFFIRM Biblical meditation, meaning the study of the Word of God and meditative prayers within the Christian context.
WE REJECT spiritual techniques which lead a person to draw upon inner energies, autosuggestion or contacting spiritual forces.
6. WE AFFIRM the laying of hands and healing prayer over a sick person, following the instruction in James 5.
WE REJECT the laying of hands and massage with the goal to transfer „healing energies“ on a patient.
7. WE AFFIRM an openness for supernatural healing and miracles through the ministry of the Holy Spirit in the community of a Christian church and the context of the Gospel.
WE REJECT „spirit healing“ with the help of occult powers and spiritual energies.
8. WE AFFIRM the necessity to confess and to turn from occult practices. If the spiritual background of a healing method is unclear, rather advise to do without it.
WE REJECT a premature and ill-founded explanation of mental and physical symptoms as a sign of „occult bondage“ caused by alternative treatment.
9. WE AFFIRM the reality of human frailty, temptation and weakness.
WE REJECT the notion that good health is an expression of harmony with God.
10. WE AFFIRM that God may use suffering to help a person to grow in faith or that he may show his strength in weakness. The Christian church has a substantial calling to care in a holistic way for suffering members, including not only healing but also supporting the weak (1. Thessalonians 5:14).