

# **SHOULD A BELIEVER BE INVOLVED WITH CHIROPRACTIC CARE?**

## **Helpful information along with biblical principles to guide believers in making choices that glorify God - DRAFT**

By Greg Lundstedt 2/2020

Now if you're reading this paper, you're probably already involved or are considering chiropractic care. It is also my assumption you are a believer who desires to align your life with biblical principles as you follow the Lord.

On the onset. I want to reassure you that it is not my view that being involved in chiropractic care is a grievous sin. Yet, as I will attempt to share, I do believe there are spiritual dangers that must be addressed so that one can make a biblical choice that will glorify God.

Also, I have found over time, as I have addressed this issue, that some who are heavily involved and vested in chiropractic care can be tempted to become quite defensive and even angered at those who might have a different view. Please know that it is not my desire to cause conflict, lord over, offend anyone or step on anyone's toes regarding this issue. It is simply my loving desire to share the truth of God considering what I've observed, so that you can make a biblical choice that will glorify God.

Lastly before I begin, I believe it is important to realize that if we are involved with chiropractic care, we have probably already formed a bias towards this issue. So then, before you continue reading this paper, I would encourage you to humbly come before the Lord in prayer and ask Him to reveal the truth to you, regardless of the potential implications and possible conflicts with your current choices. Indeed, if we are not willing to humble ourselves before the Lord, seeking His wisdom and will above all and apart from our own understanding and preconceptions, then we will never gain a biblical view.

*"Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight. Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the LORD and turn away from evil. It will be healing to your body, And refreshment to your bones."* Proverbs 3:5-8

Now there are many issues which are not addressed in Scripture, yet God's Word is sufficient to address every area of life and godliness (2Peter 1:3-4, 2Tim. 3:16-17).

### **MY INTRODUCTION TO THE PROLIFERATION OF CHIROPRACTIC CARE AMONGST CHRISTIANS and thus MY BIAS**

When we came to the Northwest in 2000, we were amazed at the number of people who were receiving chiropractic care. I've heard it said that about 7% of Americans have received such care. Yet, in the Northwest and within our church body I have found that it is much greater than 7%. And lately, it is as though there is a chiropractic clinic popping up in every other strip mall. We even have Chiropractors who regularly advertise on Christian radio.

Now from the beginning as a pastor, with the spiritual gift of discerning of spirits (1Cor. 12), I felt there was something just not right with chiropractic care. It was the same uneasiness I have with other falsehoods that have arisen within the church that have later proven to be false. Remember, I'm charged with watching over souls, and equipping the saints. Yet this alone does not validate or confirm any opinions or concerns concerning Chiropractic care or anything else. It was simply the yellow flag that led me to investigate further for the sake of His precious sheep.

It might also be good to know, before pastoring and receiving my master's degree, I received a Bachelor of Science degree and am well aware of the sciences, so I can speak to this on a rational reasonable level also.

Now again, I don't have an ax to grind with chiropractic care, but I have a deep desire to protect God's flock, and that is why I am writing this.

As I looked into chiropractic care there are a few things I learned that I desire to share with you in light of the Word of God (see appendix).

- First of all, we need to be aware of the undeniable **Occult Origins of Chiropractic Care** in light of Scripture **and how these origins effect chiropractic care today.**
- Secondly, **we need to determine whether chiropractic care operates upon verifiable truth or falsehood and deception.**
- Thirdly, we need to be fully aware of any **potential physical, psychological and emotional and spiritual dangers of involving oneself in such practice.**
- Lastly, we need to understand **how a believer is to relate to chiropractic care in light of such information.**

### **BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE OCCULT ORIGINS OF CURRENT CHIROPRACTIC PHILOSOPHY**

Now as we will see, a proper understanding of **chiropractic care** begins with an **understanding of its occult founding and founder DD Palmer.** Indeed, even the world understands and acknowledges the occult beginning and influence of chiropractic philosophy and care.

In an excerpt of Wikipedia's portion on DD "**Palmer's mysticism**" which is verified by the original documents (easily obtained), we see very clearly that DD Palmer received chiropractic from a demonic origin and **went so far to equate his reception of information from the "other world" as likened to the inspiration of Scripture and himself as the "fountain head" of this religion.**

From [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Daniel\\_David\\_Palmer](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Daniel_David_Palmer) 2/7/2011

D.D. Palmer was a man with subjective and personal religious beliefs. **As an active spiritist**, he said he "**received chiropractic from the other world**"<sup>[4]</sup> from a deceased medical physician named **Dr. Jim Atkinson**.<sup>[7]</sup>

According to B.J. Palmer, "Father often attended the annual Mississippi Valley Spiritualists Camp Meeting at Clinton, Iowa... **That is where he first received messages from Dr. Jim Atkinson on the principles of chiropractic**."<sup>[8]</sup> Such messages were **normally received during seances**, but Palmer claimed to have received them through "**inspiration**".<sup>[9]</sup>

In his book, *The Chiropractor* (published posthumously, 1914), Palmer described the situation:

*"The knowledge and philosophy given me by Dr. Jim Atkinson, an intelligent spiritual being, together with explanations of phenomena, principles resolved from causes, effects, powers, laws and utility, **appealed to my reason. The method by which I obtained an explanation of certain physical phenomena, from an intelligence in the spiritual world, is known in biblical language as inspiration. In a great measure The Chiropractor's Adjuster was written under such spiritual promptings.**" (p. 5)"<sup>[9]</sup>*

He regarded chiropractic as partly religious in nature. In a letter of May 4, 1911 he said:

*"... **we must have a religious head**, one who is the founder, as did Christ, Mohamed, Jo. Smith, Mrs. Eddy, Martin Luther and other who have founded religions. **I am the fountain head. I am the founder of chiropractic in its science, in its art, in its philosophy and in its religious phase.**"<sup>[4]</sup>*

In his 1914 book, the first chapter expanded on his religious views of chiropractic: "The Moral and Religious Duty of a Chiropractor".<sup>[9]</sup> In it he dealt with religious liberty and stated:

*"... **nor interfere with the religious duty of chiropractors**, a privilege already conferred upon them. It now becomes us as chiropractors to assert our religious rights." (p. 1) "The practice of chiropractic involves a moral obligation and a religious duty." (p. 2)*

Later in the book he distanced himself from actually renaming the profession to the "**religion of chiropractic**" and discussed the differences between a formal, objective religion and a personal, subjective ethical religious belief. (p. 6) He reaffirmed that chiropractors have a religious and moral duty, and ended the first chapter by stating:

*"By correcting these displacements of osseous tissue, the tension frame of the nervous system, I claim that I am rendering obedience, adoration and honor to the All-Wise **Spiritual Intelligence**, as well as a service to the segmented, individual portions thereof -- a duty I owe to both God and mankind. In accordance with this aim and end, the Constitution of the United States and the statutes personal of California confer upon me and all persons of chiropractic faith the inalienable right to practice our religion without restraint or interference." (p. 12)*

In a letter from D.D. Palmer to PW Johnson May 4<sup>th</sup> 1911 we gain more insight into the demonic background of Chiropractic:

*“I occupy in chiropractic a similar position as did Mrs. Eddy in Christian Science. Mrs. Eddy **claimed to receive her ideas from the other world and so do I. She founded thereon a religion, so may I. I am THE ONLY ONE IN CHIROPRACTIC WHO CAN DO SO.**”*

*“**I have received chiropractic from the other world, similar as did Mrs. Eddy. No other one has had claim to that, NOT EVEN B.J. Exemption clauses instead of chiro laws by all means, and LET THAT EXEMPTION BE THE RIGHT TO PRACTICE OUR RELIGION.** But we must have a religious head, one who is the founder, as did Christ, Mohamed, Jo. Smith, Mrs. Eddy, Martin Luther and other who have founded religions. **I am the fountain head. I am the founder of chiropractic in its science, in its art, in its philosophy and in its religious phase.**”*  
*“but we must incorporate under the man who received the principles of chiropractic from the other world, who wrote the book of all chiropractic books, who today has much new matter, valuable, which is not contained in that book. **If you will watch my book closely as you read, you will find it has a religion contained in it,** although I do not so name it. If either of the Davenport schools would take advantage of **practicing our religion founded by D.D. Palmer**”*

After reading this and what was shared previously, if you're a true believer, you ought to be disturbed concerning the origins of chiropractic philosophy and care. And you **ought to be wondering “am I now involved in anything that could be occult related”**, no matter how seemingly innocent it appears or no matter how well it works?

Now some of you **may be saying to yourself ‘chiropractic has nothing to do with this anymore.’** I would say to you that premise is not accurate. [The basic model of chiropractic care that DD Palmer introduced, and its philosophy is still the underlying reality of all chiropractic care.](#)

### **NOW WHAT WAS THIS FUNDAMENTAL PREMISE THAT DD PALMER RECEIVED FROM DEMONIC ORIGIN?**

D D Palmer states himself his basic philosophy, **which we know he received from demonic origin** in his book Palmer D.D., “The Science, Art and Philosophy of Chiropractic.” Portland, Oregon: Portland Printing House Company, 1910:

***A subluxated vertebra... is the cause of 95 percent of all diseases... The other five percent is caused by displaced joints other than those of the vertebral column***

Now at this point one needs to ask oneself **“what is the philosophy behind chiropractic care today?”** Is it related to DD Palmer's demonically inspired philosophy?

You will find there are basically [two lines of chiropractic philosophy found today](#). There are those who are called “straights” and those who are called “mixers.” Straights, now

in the minority, are those **who believe that the majority of all disease is caused by subluxations and are resolved by spinal adjustments**, holding very clearly and strictly to DD Palmer's metaphysical paradigm. **Mixers are all who hold to the same false subluxation and spinal adjustment theory which came from DD Palmer's metaphysically demonic paradigm**, yet may also see other mainstream or alternative medicine as maybe beneficial.

If you do your research, you will find it is very clear that DD Palmer's **demonically influenced paradigm of health care based on addressing subluxations is still prominent in all chiropractic care**. This demonically inspired paradigm and philosophy instituted by DD Palmer **is still the foundation of all chiropractic care**.

It is very clear that **DD Palmer felt chiropractic was a religion**, that it based on and involved a metaphysical element, and it is very clear that this metaphysical element still encompasses the basis of chiropractic care today.

Now what's interesting in the Christian community, is that it used to be very willing to **identify new-age medical philosophies** such as acupuncture, **and avoid** them, even though there are many testimonials to their medical benefit, so too chiropractic care receives many testimonials of its medical benefit. So why the difference in opinion?

**Now some might say “but it works”?** Yet as a Christian, is this a valid reason for us to enter such care, now knowing its origins and that it is still based on those origins? After examining the facts more clearly, I hope we would all say no.

Yet, you might be saying I'm suffering greatly, and **this is the only care that works for me**. I empathize with your suffering and am sure God does too. Yet, again does that line of thought justify receiving such care? Let me illustrate by what I have seen in third world countries. If you were to ask those who see witch doctors if their care works and they will say 'yes' and I would agree. Indeed, the demonic sphere is powerful. Yet, I would surmise you would agree that it would not be right to attempt to receive care from a witch doctor (even if it worked) as a Christian. And why would this be the case? Because of the false demonic philosophy that is at its core.

So then, I believe if you are truly desiring to follow the Lord, having been instructed and enlightened concerning chiropractic care, you would be willing to suffer rather than compromise and mix with the demonic for temporary relief.

We are told by the Lord through His Word; *“Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight. Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the LORD and turn away from evil. It will be healing to your body, And refreshment to your bones.”* Proverbs 3:5-8

## WHAT SHOULD I DO NOW?

**DD Palmer was a spiritist and he received Chiropractic from the demonic sphere** and today's Chiropractic is still based on the same original demonic false paradigm of adjustments to address subluxations.

**"Wow I truly didn't know this, so what should I do?"** I believe every Christian who has been involved in Chiropractic care **that involves adjustments because of subluxations** most likely had no clue to its origin and basis. Indeed, there are many times when we as Christians with the best of motives can err without being aware. It is in these times, when the Lord graciously illumines our hearts, we must simply confess to the Lord we didn't know and be forgiven and turn away from it.

This is not an area of grievous sin, just an area that we need to be aware of so that we can avoid it, so that God would be glorified in every area of our lives.

**In conclusion**, as I stated in the beginning of this paper, it is not my desire to lord over, offend anyone or step on anyone's toes regarding this issue. It is simply my desire to share the truth of God in light of what I've observed, so that you can make a biblical choice that will glorify God.

## AN APPENDIX

### WE ARE NOT TO BE INVOLVED IN ANY SPIRITISM

(WHETHER WE REALIZE IT OR NOT) OR TO LISTEN TO THOSE WHO ARE.

Moses warned the Israelites not to absorb the wicked paradigm and practices of the Canaanites especially in relation to the spiritual sphere.

<sup>9</sup> *"When you enter the land which the LORD your God gives you, you shall not learn to imitate the detestable things of those nations. <sup>10</sup> "There shall not be found among you anyone who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, one who uses divination, one who practices witchcraft, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer, <sup>11</sup> or one who casts a spell, **or a medium, or a spiritist, or one who calls up the dead.** <sup>12</sup> **"For whoever does these things is detestable to the LORD; and because of these detestable things the LORD your God will drive them out before you.** <sup>13</sup> **"You shall be blameless before the LORD your God. <sup>14</sup> "For those nations, which you shall dispossess, **listen to those who practice witchcraft and to diviners, but as for you, the LORD your God has not allowed you to do so.*****  
Duet. 18:9-14

We see throughout Scripture **the danger of associating with philosophies related to the world and spiritism.** And it is God, through the Scripture, who warns us and illumines our hearts to these dangers for our good and His glory. Indeed, Israel continually took upon itself the practices of the surrounding Canaanite nations and it is only when God's Word was laid upon the hearts of His true children that there was a repudiation of such wickedness.

For example, take the case of Josiah in 2Kings 22-23. Here we find, after the Book of the Law was found (2Kings 22:8-9), Josiah heard God's Word and had a tender,

repentant and responsive heart to what was shared and then actively went about tearing down the wicked influences of the nations that had arisen in Judah.

Notice Josiah's heart response in 2Kings 22:18-19:

*<sup>18</sup> "But to the king of Judah who sent you to inquire of the LORD thus shall you say to him, 'Thus says the LORD God of Israel, "Regarding the words which you have heard, <sup>19</sup> because your heart was tender and you humbled yourself before the LORD when you heard what I spoke against this place and against its inhabitants that they should become a desolation and a curse, and you have torn your clothes and wept before Me, I truly have heard you," declares the LORD.*

Notice his repentance was genuine as we see he acted and responded rightly by sharing His Word and then acting upon it:

*Then the king sent, and they gathered to him all the elders of Judah and of Jerusalem. <sup>2</sup> And the king went up to the house of the LORD and all the men of Judah and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem with him, and the priests and the prophets and all the people, both small and great; and he read in their hearing all the words of the book of the covenant, which was found in the house of the LORD. <sup>3</sup> And the king stood by the pillar and **made a covenant before the LORD, to walk after the LORD, and to keep His commandments and His testimonies and His statutes with all his heart and all his soul, to carry out the words of this covenant** that were written in this book. And all the people entered into the covenant. 2 Kings 23:1-3*

Indeed in 2 Kings 23:4-23 we see all the righteous action Josiah took in response to His Word and we have in 2 Kings 23:24-25 somewhat of an addendum to what he did:

*<sup>24</sup> Moreover, **Josiah removed the mediums and the spiritists** and the teraphim and the idols and all the abominations that were seen in the land of Judah and in Jerusalem, that he might confirm the words of the law which were written in the book that Hilkiah the priest found in the house of the LORD. <sup>25</sup> And before him there was no king like him who turned to the LORD with all his heart and with all his soul and with all his might, according to all the law of Moses; nor did any like him arise after him.*

### **SOME VERSES TO MEDITATE ON**

*"Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight. Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the LORD and turn away from evil. <sup>8</sup> It will be healing to your body, And refreshment to your bones." Proverbs 3:5-8*

(Eph 4:25 NAS) Therefore, laying aside falsehood, speak truth, each one of you, with his neighbor, for we are members of one another.

Phil 4:8-9 <sup>8</sup> Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, let your mind dwell on these things.

<sup>9</sup> The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things; and the God of peace shall be with you.

**1John 2:15-17** <sup>15</sup> Do not love the world, nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. <sup>16</sup> For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. <sup>17</sup> And the world is passing away, and *also* its lusts; but the one who does the will of God abides forever.

Jam. 3:15 NAS <sup>15</sup> This wisdom is not that which comes down from above, but is earthly, natural, demonic.

**Jam. 4:4-10** NAS <sup>4</sup> You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. <sup>5</sup> Or do you think that the Scripture speaks to no purpose: "He jealously desires the Spirit which He has made to dwell in us"? <sup>6</sup> But He gives a greater grace. Therefore *it* says, "God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble." <sup>7</sup> Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. <sup>8</sup> Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. <sup>9</sup> Be miserable and mourn and weep; let your laughter be turned into mourning, and your joy to gloom. <sup>10</sup> Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you.

2Co 10:3-6 NAS <sup>3</sup> For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, <sup>4</sup> for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. <sup>5</sup> *We are* destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and *we are* taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ, <sup>6</sup> and we are ready to punish all disobedience, whenever your obedience is complete.

**Duet. 18:10-14** NAS <sup>10</sup> "There shall not be found among you anyone who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, one who uses divination, one who practices witchcraft, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer, <sup>11</sup> or one who casts a spell, or a medium, or a spiritist, or one who calls up the dead. <sup>12</sup> "For whoever does these things is detestable to the LORD; and because of these detestable things the LORD your God will drive them out before you. <sup>13</sup> "You shall be blameless before the LORD your God. <sup>14</sup> "For those nations, which you shall dispossess, listen to those who practice witchcraft and to diviners, but as for you, the LORD your God has not allowed you *to do so*.

**1 Timothy 4:1** But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons, <sup>2</sup> by means of the hypocrisy of liars seared in their own conscience as with a branding iron, <sup>3</sup> *men* who forbid marriage *and* *advocate* abstaining from foods, which God has created to be gratefully shared in by those who believe and know the truth. <sup>4</sup> **For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected, if it is received with gratitude;** <sup>5</sup> for it is sanctified by means of the word of God and prayer. <sup>6</sup> In pointing out these things to the

brethren, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, *constantly nourished* on the words of the faith and of the sound doctrine which you have been following. <sup>7</sup> **But have nothing to do with worldly fables fit only for old women.** On the other hand, discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness; <sup>8</sup> for bodily discipline is only of little profit, but godliness is profitable for all things, since it holds promise for the present life and *also* for the *life* to come.

2Cor 6:14-7:2 <sup>14</sup> Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness?

<sup>15</sup> Or what harmony has Christ with Belial, or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever? <sup>16</sup> Or what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; just as God said, "I will dwell in them and walk among them; And I will be their God, and they shall be My people." <sup>17</sup> "Therefore, come out from their midst and be separate," says the Lord. "And do not touch what is unclean; And I will welcome you. <sup>18</sup> "And I will be a father to you, And you shall be sons and daughters to Me," Says the Lord Almighty. **7:1** Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God. <sup>2</sup> Make room for us *in your hearts*; we wronged no one, we corrupted no one, we took advantage of no one.

**Romans 12:1** I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, *which is* your spiritual service of worship. <sup>2</sup> And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

**Col 2:8 NAS** <sup>8</sup> See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ.

Psa 106:32-41 NAS <sup>32</sup> They also provoked *Him* to wrath at the waters of Meribah, So that it went hard with Moses on their account;<sup>33</sup> Because they were rebellious against His Spirit, He spoke rashly with his lips.<sup>34</sup> They did not destroy the peoples, As the LORD commanded them,<sup>35</sup> **But they mingled with the nations, And learned their practices,**<sup>36</sup> **And served their idols, Which became a snare to them.**<sup>37</sup> They even sacrificed their sons and their daughters to the demons,<sup>38</sup> And shed innocent blood, The blood of their sons and their daughters, Whom they sacrificed to the idols of Canaan; And the land was polluted with the blood.<sup>39</sup> Thus they became unclean in their practices, And played the harlot in their deeds.<sup>40</sup> Therefore the anger of the LORD was kindled against His people, And He abhorred His inheritance. <sup>41</sup> Then He gave them into the hand of the nations; And those who hated them ruled over them.

**Heb 13:9 NAS** <sup>9</sup> Do not be carried away by varied and strange teachings; for it is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace, not by foods, through which those who were thus occupied were not benefited.