




Can you mix *ancestral* worship with *Christianity*?

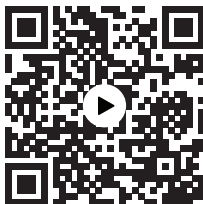
Ex-sangomas explain why doing this is dangerous.

 **We overcome by the *blood of the lamb* and the word of our testimony.**

Revelation 12.11



How to be delivered from ancestral spirits and remain free.



A former sangoma testifies about an encounter with Jesus.



Testimony of a converted Sangoma



What a sangoma won't tell you.



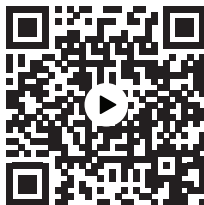
How I overcame ANCESTRAL SPIRITS and GENERATIONAL CURSES| Revealing SECRETS| Pakisi Patmore Machaba



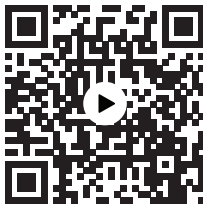
"ANCESTORS
DON'T EXIST"
Mkhulu
Radebes visit
in hell.



Afrika
Mhlophe -
Christianity
and the
Veneration of
Ancestors



Initiated by a
Witch Doctor
but I Repented
after taken
to Hell and saw
my sibling
tortured by
Demons



What Is The
Difference
Between The
Holy Spirit
& Isithunywa? A
former Sangoma
Testifies about
Jesus



The Truth
about
Ancestral
Worship



Afrika
Mhlophe -
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Ancestral Worship and the Christian Faith: A Biblical Perspective

There is a significant issue within Christianity in Africa: a large portion of believers have integrated certain cultural practices – many of them heretical – into what they believe is biblical Christianity. One of the most prominent of these is ancestral worship.

Ancestral worship involves religious practices and beliefs that include praying to and making offerings for the spirits of deceased relatives. It is believed that these spirits continue to exist in the natural world and can influence the lives, futures, and fortunes of their living descendants. Ancestors are also thought to act as intermediaries between the living and the Creator.

Not just anyone qualifies for ancestral worship. The deceased must have lived a morally upright life and earned social distinction in order to be venerated. In this belief system, ancestors are thought to bless or curse the living – essentially functioning as lesser gods. People pray to them, offer gifts, and perform rituals to appease them and gain their favor.

But what does the Bible say about this?

1. The Dead Do Not Remain in the Natural World

Scripture teaches that once a person dies, their spirit goes either to heaven or to hell – not to linger among the living.



“So it was that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels to Abraham’s bosom. The rich man also died and was buried. And being in torments in Hades, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.”

Luke 16:22–23 (NKJV)



“So we are always confident, knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord. For we walk by faith, not by sight. We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.”

2 Corinthians 5:6–8 (NKJV)



“And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment.”

Hebrews 9:27 (NKJV)



“And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened... And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books.”

Revelation 20:12–13 (NKJV)

2. Jesus Christ Is the Only Mediator Between God and Man

Nowhere in Scripture are we told that the dead can act as intermediaries between God and people. That role belongs to Jesus Christ alone. He was born, lived a sinless life, was crucified for our sins, buried, raised from the dead, witnessed by many, ascended into heaven, and now sits at the right hand of God interceding for believers.



“For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus.”

1 Timothy 2:5 (NKJV)

3. Worship Belongs to God Alone

The Bible clearly forbids worshipping any being other than the Lord.



“You shall have no other gods before Me. You shall not make for yourself a carved image... you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God...”

Exodus 20:3–6 (NKJV)

Those who claimed to speak to the dead – including diviners and sorcerers – were also condemned in Scripture.



“Give no regard to mediums and familiar spirits; do not seek after them, to be defiled by them: I am the Lord your God.”

Leviticus 19:31 (NKJV)

The Enemy's Deception

Satan has always tried to diminish the truth of God by introducing lies – including the worship of other gods and even ancestors – to lead people away from Christ.

Ancestral worship is not just unbiblical; it directly violates God's commands and attempts to replace Christ as the one true mediator between God and humanity.

The Call to Truth

Follow Jesus Christ – and Him alone. He is the Messiah, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. He alone is worthy of your worship.

Ancestral Worship and the Cost of Biblical Faith in Africa By Lucky Mokagane, writing for *The Gospel Coalition, Africa Edition*

Africa is a continent rich in culture, tradition, and heritage. But within many African traditions lies a deep-rooted belief that the dead possess power over the living – a belief that has merged with Christian faith in problematic ways. For many, ancestral worship isn't just a cultural practice; it's seen as a vital part of their identity. This makes separating faith in Jesus Christ from traditional ancestor reverence a painful and complicated process.

Yet, according to Scripture, this blending of ancestral worship with Christianity is not compatible with the gospel. No matter how it's explained – whether “honouring,” “consulting,” or “acknowledging” ancestors – ancestral worship often functions in ways that clearly contradict God's commands and elevate the dead to divine status.

In many African languages, the words used for ancestors also mean “gods.” For example, in Xitsonga, the term “swikwembu” is used, which literally translates to “the gods.” In Northern Sotho, the term is “bademo,” also meaning gods. These linguistic realities highlight that what is being practiced isn’t cultural remembrance – it’s functional idolatry.

According to the Bible, there is one God, and He alone is to be worshipped. He does not share His glory with another – not with idols, and not with ancestors. The first and second commandments make this crystal clear:



“You shall have no other gods before Me,” and “You shall not make for yourself a carved image... You shall not bow down to them nor serve them”

| (Exodus 20:3-5, NKJV)

The challenge for many African Christians is that ancestral worship has been rebranded as cultural respect. But Scripture does not allow for spiritual compromise. Christianity does not ask us to deny our heritage – only to surrender anything in it that contradicts God’s revealed truth. Cultural expressions that align with biblical values can be celebrated; those that promote spiritual error must be abandoned.

Turning from ancestor worship is not just theologically necessary – it’s also personally costly. Jesus said so.



He warned: “If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple. And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple.”

| Luke 14:26-27

Following Jesus may mean choosing Him over family traditions, cultural expectations, and long-held beliefs.

This decision often comes with social pressure, family rejection, and even emotional turmoil. But true discipleship has always required sacrifice. The narrow road is not comfortable, but it leads to life. The cost of forsaking ancestor worship may be high – but the cost of spiritual compromise is far greater.

Christianity calls us to worship the living God through Jesus Christ, our sole mediator. We are not to speak to the dead or make offerings in their name. Christ alone intercedes on our behalf. To add anything or anyone else to that role is to undermine the sufficiency of the gospel and the authority of Scripture.

In short, ancestral worship is not a harmless cultural expression. It is, as Scripture defines it, idolatry. And turning away from it is not optional for the follower of Christ – it is essential.



1 CROSS + 3 NAILS = 4 GIVEN

The Good News: A Broken Relationship Restored

God made us to know and love Him. But we chose our own way, breaking that relationship. In love, Christ came, died for our sins, and rose again – to bring us back to God. Jesus presents himself as the only path to God and eternal life, implying that there is no other way to reach the Father. In John 14:6, Jesus states, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me," emphasising that he is the sole path to God and eternal life. Call on Christ today – only He can restore what's broken.



Neither is there salvation in any other:

for there is none other name under heaven given among men, [apart from Jesus Christ of Nazareth] whereby we must be saved.

Acts 4:12

A broken world is healed by a broken Christ, on a broken tree.

