

CHAPTER 1



Enneagram 101: The Road Map

Why is it that you have this particular book? Is it because, even though you have never heard of the Enneagram (pronounced like any-a-gram), the title and cover caught your interest? Perhaps you have heard the term from friends or family who have become involved with it, but you know very little and are looking for information. Possibly your church or a church you know of has introduced it to their congregation. They assumed it is a personality profile of sorts or a spiritual tool designed to bring someone closer to God. It is all the rage in certain segments of the church; but you have never really heard of it before. For those who are just beginning investigation, we are starting with basic information—a sort of Enneagram 101 with particular points of interest like markers on a road map.

The starting point is the Enneagram itself. It is a geometric design consisting of a circle with an equilateral triangle and an irregular hexagram inside which touch the circle at nine points. The current version has numbers added at the touch points around the circle as can be seen in the following diagram.

wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land.

“Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, whose trust is the LORD. He is like a tree planted by water, that sends out its roots by the stream, and does not fear when heat comes, for its leaves remain green, and is not anxious in the year of drought, for it does not cease to bear fruit.

“The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?” (Jeremiah 17:5-10)

There are two spiritual guides compared and contrasted this passage. One whose focus and trust is in him or herself:

Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength.

The other whose focus is on God. The LORD also describes how the first took a wrong turn:

The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?

As we read through the books, literature, and teachings by the “Enneagram masters,” coaches, and guides and compare them with Scripture, we find they hold unbiblical views regarding the human condition, God, and salvation.

In an effort to establish the Enneagram as a valid tool, the current popular authors claim the Enneagram is very ancient, used in a number of cultures, civilizations, and religions since near the earliest times in recorded human history. In their claims about history, they include some of the church’s “Desert Fathers.”⁴ We will briefly touch on this with a few road markers in this chapter. We will observe the spiritual landscape at greater depth in the following chapters as we explore the claims, evidence, and where the teachings, lead.

We believe many in church leadership who have integrated the Enneagram into their church and introduced it to those who attend their churches have done so with the best of intentions. It is being marketed by mainstream evangelical publishers and promoted by high-profile evangelical leaders. However, pastors and church

leadership are charged with guarding the flock (Acts 20:28-20). We must ask: Have they done their due diligence?

Basic Facts⁵

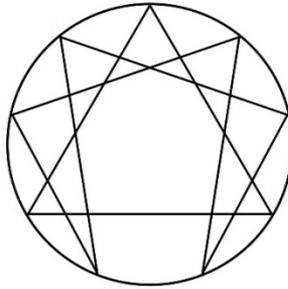
The following is a brief, seventeen-point overview of the history, claims, and known facts about the Enneagram:

1. Fictional claim: The Enneagram is ancient, going back to the Desert Fathers, Evagrius Ponticus, or Ramón Llull.

The claim is false. The Enneagram originated with esoteric teacher **GEORGE I. GURDJIEFF**⁶ (1866?-1949). Scholars have verified this, and we will look at this more in-depth in chapter 4.

2. Fictional claim: Gurdjieff's followers claimed he got the Enneagram from a secret Sufi brotherhood.

This is a false claim: This was not factually supported originally and was later debunked.



The Original Enneagram by George I. Gurdjieff

3. George Gurdjieff's original Enneagram had no numbers or "types" (see image above) and had nothing whatsoever to do with personality. According to Gurdjieff, it was a diagram of "cosmic reality." He believed one could see the universe in it, and he ascribed mystical meaning to it.

4. Gurdjieff's pupil, **P.D. OUSPENSKY** (1878-1947), wrote about Gurdjieff's ideas and called those teachings "The Fourth Way." (These beliefs influenced the New Age).

5. Gurdjieff’s teachings were adopted by **OSCAR ICHAZO** (1931-2020) who ran an occult school in Arica, Chile (founded 1968). He added various ideas to the Enneagram, but he did not use it for personality typing. It should be known that Ichazo had contact with two spirits—Metatron and the Green Q’tub.⁷

6. **CLAUDIO NARANJO** (1932-2019), a New Age psychiatrist and spiritual seeker, learned about the Enneagram from Ichazo. Naranjo claimed to add the personality types partly from his “observations” but “mostly” via automatic writing. (He makes these claim on video.⁸)

7. Fiction acknowledged: Naranjo stated that he and Ichazo fabricated the idea that the Enneagram was ancient, and he admits it was not. He pointed to Oscar Wilde as justification. Naranjo claimed Wilde said, “If you want your idea to become famous, attribute it to a famous person.”⁹

8. Naranjo took the Enneagram ideas to **ESALEN** (founded 1962), an edgy, humanistic/New Age think tank in Big Sur, California in the 1960s. Esalen is characterized by Dr. Ronald V. Huggins, formerly of Moody Bible Institute (Spokane), Salt Lake Theological Seminary, and Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, as “a place where people were likely to get naked, take LSD, and beat on native drums.” (See note chapter 4, note 24.)

9. The Enneagram was introduced into the New Age from Esalen as were other New Age ideas. The Enneagram became big business in the New Age starting in the 1980s. New Agers, New Age psychotherapists, and psychics began giving interpretations to the “types” initially with the idea that the Enneagram uncovers a true “divine self.” One of the main New Age psychic/intuitive writers and teachers is Helen Palmer.

10. Roman Catholic Jesuit Priest Bob Ochs (1930-2018) was at Esalen and learned the Enneagram from Naranjo. In turn, Ochs introduced it into the Roman Catholic Church where it mainly spread to New Age thinking priests. (The Roman Catholic Church never endorsed it.)

11. **RICHARD ROHR** (1943-), who learned the Enneagram as a Catholic priest, wrote a book on it in the early 1990s. Richard Rohr mentions that Helen Palmer became involved with the Enneagram because, being a psychic/intuitive, she believes she can train people to be psychic/intuitive. Richard Rohr states, “that’s what

this was about initially. I mean, we didn't use that kind of word in the early centuries."¹⁰

12. In 1992, another Roman Catholic Jesuit Priest, **MITCH PACWA** (1949-), wrote the book *Catholics and the New Age: How Good People are Being Drawn into Jungian Psychology, the Enneagram, and the Age of Aquarius* to warn Roman Catholics about the heresy which was being promoted.

13. In the beginning of the twenty-first century, as Emergent and Progressive Christianity grew, Richard Rohr's influence on the Emergent/Progressive Movement sparked interest in the Enneagram as the next step after Contemplative Prayer.¹¹ The Enneagram was presented at their churches and conferences.

14. In the Fall 1991 issue, the Christian Research Institute published an article in their *CRI Journal* by Fr. Mitch Pacwa, SJ, "Tell Me Who I Am, O Enneagram," in an attempt to warn evangelicals of the origins and occult nature of the Enneagram.¹²

15. In March of 2011, Christian researcher and former New Ager/Astrologer Marcia Montenegro posted an article, "The Enneagram GPS: Gnostic Path to Self" on her Christian Answers for the New Age website (<http://www.christiananswersforthenewage.org>) as a warning to evangelicals.¹³

16. The Enneagram's popularity led to two books on the Enneagram, both of which are now widely used in the church. Both books were written by students and followers of Rohr. Episcopal Priest and psychotherapist **IAN CRON** (1960-) with co-author **SUZANNE STABLE** (1954-), who was mentored by Rohr for many years, wrote *The Road Back to You* (IVP, 2016). **CHRISTOPHER HEUERTZ** (1971-) wrote the book entitled *The Sacred Enneagram* (Zondervan, 2017). Richard Rohr wrote the foreword of this book, and Heuertz thanks his Enneagram teachers: Richard Rohr and three New Agers.

17. One cannot disconnect the Enneagram from Richard Rohr, which is why it is essential to know his beliefs, especially since the writers of the two main books in use among evangelicals are his students and have taught at his Center for Action and Contemplation (CAC). One needs to know that Rohr denies the biblical doctrines on man, sin, creation, salvation, and God. Richard Rohr also teaches a false Jesus/Christ. Rohr makes a distinction between Jesus and Christ by saying Jesus was not the "Universal Christ" who is

“bigger” than Jesus. To Richard Rohr, the *creation is* Christ.

In summary, the origins of the Enneagram are in mysticism, occultism, and New Age. It has no origins in history prior to the early twentieth century. In fact, it is not based on empirically validated psychological theories or psychometric studies. It is based on the intuitive and occult-based mystical experiences of one man: Claudio Naranjo.

The Enneagram is no more valid than Astrology and, as we shall see, may be more dangerous. If validation for the Enneagram is based on how people are “helped,” it should be noted that many more people believe in Astrology as describing, guiding, and helping them; but their belief does not make it valid, true, or *actually* useful. *Belief* in something or thinking something “works” validates nothing. The claims about the Enneagram crumble once the facts are known.

Unfortunately, pastors, ministry leaders, counselors, and others are either relying on false information or on others who, themselves, are relying on false information concerning the Enneagram. As belief in and use of the Enneagram spreads, the myths upon which it is based continue to go largely unchallenged. The content and resources provided in this book are for those who desire to know the origins and history of the Enneagram including the worldviews, spiritual beliefs, and claims of its originators and architects. Equipped with this information, readers will be better prepared to guard themselves and others against deception. It is our prayer that our Lord Jesus Christ uses it to that end.