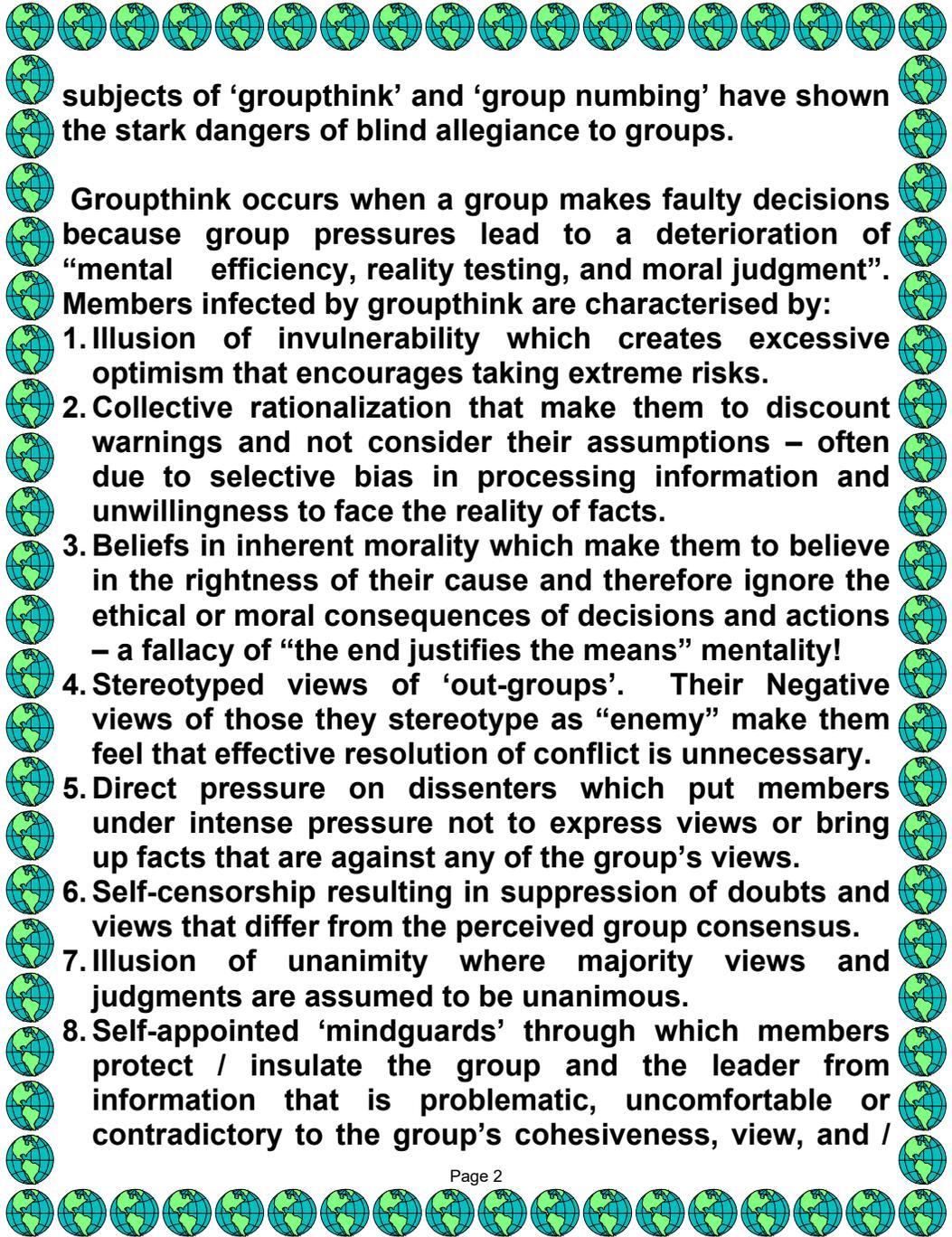


# Master Of Destiny

You have probably heard some people say that they are the masters and architects of their destiny. This could be true in the sense that they are personally responsible and individually accountable to God for their decisions and actions with the associated consequences which seals their destinies in time and eternity in either heaven or hell.

Both Job and King Solomon discovered this powerful truth when they wrote "... Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return..." (Job 1:21); "As he came forth of his mother's womb, naked shall he return to go as he came..." (Ecclesiastes 5:15). These scriptures point out that you came into this world ALONE, and that you will leave this world ALONE, to face your judgement with God ALONE – the outcome of which will determine your personal and individual destiny!

Through the discovery of the potentials and power of unity and group action, which could be beneficial if rightly used, many have unfortunately forgotten this fundamental principle of personal responsibility and individual accountability to God. Many people now live as if their destiny will be decided by popular opinion or conformity to the norms of the groups they belong, regardless of whether their personal decisions and actions meet Bible standards on which they will be judged. Publicly available research materials (e.g. on the internet) on the



subjects of 'groupthink' and 'group numbing' have shown the stark dangers of blind allegiance to groups.

Groupthink occurs when a group makes faulty decisions because group pressures lead to a deterioration of "mental efficiency, reality testing, and moral judgment".

Members infected by groupthink are characterised by:

1. Illusion of invulnerability which creates excessive optimism that encourages taking extreme risks.
2. Collective rationalization that make them to discount warnings and not consider their assumptions – often due to selective bias in processing information and unwillingness to face the reality of facts.
3. Beliefs in inherent morality which make them to believe in the rightness of their cause and therefore ignore the ethical or moral consequences of decisions and actions – a fallacy of "the end justifies the means" mentality!
4. Stereotyped views of 'out-groups'. Their Negative views of those they stereotype as "enemy" make them feel that effective resolution of conflict is unnecessary.
5. Direct pressure on dissenters which put members under intense pressure not to express views or bring up facts that are against any of the group's views.
6. Self-censorship resulting in suppression of doubts and views that differ from the perceived group consensus.
7. Illusion of unanimity where majority views and judgments are assumed to be unanimous.
8. Self-appointed 'mindguards' through which members protect / insulate the group and the leader from information that is problematic, uncomfortable or contradictory to the group's cohesiveness, view, and /

