



Word of God Ministry Church Under The Son

Reverend Bill Inman

Telephone 817-239-8677

Post Office Box 185292 • Fort Worth, Texas 76181-0292

RevBill@WOGM.net • www.WOGM.net

Cults

A cult is a religious group that teaches doctrines or beliefs that deviate from the broad consensus of orthodox Christian doctrine down through the ages. Cults either distort truth or focus on half-truths. Their doctrinal errors are often camouflaged by the small amount of truth which they do proclaim, making their deception especially dangerous. Cults succeed in deceiving many people.

The apostle Paul warned, *“For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine . . . they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables” (2 Timothy 4:3, 4)*. Jesus Himself said, *“For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am He,’ and will deceive many” (Mark 13:6)*. Cults thrive on ignorance and uncertainty. Christians who do not know what they believe or why they believe it are especially vulnerable.

- Traits Of A Cult: Extra-Biblical Or Special Revelation

Galatians 1:9 ⁹*As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed.*

The Bible explicitly defends its own integrity and completeness. Leaders of many cults, however, will claim to have received special revelations from God. They typically add their own revelations to their doctrine, which take precedence over the Bible - the sixty-six books of the Old and New testaments. Or they may use Bible passages out of context, resulting in erroneous interpretations.

Revelation 22:18, 19 says, *“For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; and if anyone takes away from the words of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.”*

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- Traits Of A Cult: Salvation By Works

Ephesians 2:8, 9 ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, ⁹not of works, lest anyone should boast.

Any teaching that encourages people to seek a right relationship with God apart from the Person and work of Jesus Christ is in error. This can take the form of a complete rejection of Christ and His work or a partial rejection that tries to add to His work.

- Traits Of A Cult: Denial Or Diminishing Of Jesus Christ

1 John 2:22, 23 ²²Who is a liar but he denies that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist who denies the Father and the Son. ²³Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father either; he who acknowledges the Son has the Father also.

Cults either totally deny Christ or relegate Him to a lesser place. The Bible is clear about the deity of Jesus Christ: *“He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him” (Colossians 1:15, 16).* Any group who denies that Jesus Christ is God, claiming He was merely a “good teacher” or a “moral leader,” is to be considered a cult and not of God.

- If You Realize You Are In A Cult

Mark 13:21-23 ²¹”Then if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here is the Christ!’ or, ‘Look, He is there!’ do not believe it. ²²For false christs and false prophets will rise and show signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. ²³But take heed; see, I have told you all things beforehand.

Realizing you have been deceived by false teaching can shake the foundation of all you believe and make you question whether you have a relationship with God at all. Know that if you have invited Jesus Christ into your life as Lord and Savior, you are a member of the family of God.

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Reaffirm your faith and commitment constantly by adhering to the teachings of the Bible: *“As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving. Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ” (Colossians 2:6-8).*

- Leaving A Cult

1 John 4:1-3 ¹Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. ²By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, ³and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.

If you are involved in a cult, it is critical for you to take a definite stand for Christ by leaving the cult and your former associations. You must make a complete break with the past. Get involved with the Church where you can begin to study the Bible for what it actually says. *“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth” (2 Timothy 2:15).*

Pray for complete deliverance and for complete commitment to Jesus Christ and to the Word of God, *“that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ, being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God” (Philippians 1:10, 11).*