

Cult Study

A Guide to Recognizing Cults

The Cult Test

- 1) What are some of the identifying features of a cult?
 - a) It has a dominant leader
 - b) It follows “holy” writings in addition to the Bible
 - c) It isolates its members from society
 - d) Its members have the letter “C” tattooed on their foreheads
- 2) Which of the following is true about Mormonism?
 - a) It should be considered a cult because it has unbiblical teachings about Jesus
 - b) It should be considered a Christian denomination because its members believe the Bible
 - c) It should be accepted because its members are nice people
 - d) It has a great tabernacle choir
- 3) Which of the following are cults that exist today?
 - a) Mormonism, Jehovah’s Witness, Christian Science
 - b) Scientology, the Unification Church, Christadelphians
 - c) Gnosticism, Donatism, Pelagianism
 - d) Madonna wannabees, sports fans, youth groups
- 4) What’s the difference between “a cult” and “the occult”?
 - a) A few letters of the alphabet
 - b) A cult is a group that strays from Christian teaching, while the occult is the pursuit of mysterious power, often from Satan
 - c) The differences are very minor, except that the occult is worse.
 - d) Cults usually claim to worship God in some form, while the occult focuses on the devil.
- 5) If someone says to you, “Only Reverend Elmer knows the true meaning of Scripture,” what should you do?
 - a) Argue
 - b) Run Away
 - c) Check his teachings out with the Bible and with Christians you know
 - d) Insist that only *your* pastor know the true meaning of Scripture
- 6) What should you do if someone gives you a book that claims to be the “revealed truth of God”—but is not the Bible?
 - a) Get rid of the book without reading it
 - b) Take the book, but punch the person who gives it to you
 - c) Read the book to check out its claims
 - d) Send it to Reverend Elmer
- 7) Why are people attracted to cults?
 - a) Cults offer easy answers to modern problems
 - b) Cults provide an atmosphere of love and acceptance
 - c) People are tired of traditional religion
 - d) Many cults often give you a free mug with your first visit
- 8) What is the most important question you should ask of any cult?
 - a) What do you believe about Jesus
 - b) Who started this group and what is their history

- c) What kind of people follow this teaching
- d) Where's my free mug

How To Recognize Cults

Colossians 2:1-3:1

What To Watch For

- A _____ or _____ who claims to have unique authority
- Claims that truth can be found in a _____ or some " _____ " that is not the Bible.
- The _____ of its members from society
- Group members who are not allowed to _____ their leader or the group's teachings
- Differences from Christianity concerning key _____ like the _____ of _____, the _____, _____, and _____

Questions To Consider

- What does this group believe about _____
- Do the beliefs of this group agree with the _____
- Do these beliefs make any sense to other _____ I know and respect
- Does this group encourage me to _____ for myself
- Do these teachings try to _____ me as an individual