

The Cults Exposed

Conclusion and Evangelism:

Introduction: Your Questions?



Exposing the Cults

I. The Psychology of the Cults

A. What makes a cult?

- ✓ Authoritarian Leader
- ✓ Additional Revelation
- ✓ Defective Gospel
- ✓ Novelty and Exclusivity
- ✓ Loyalty Mechanisms
- ✓ Historical Revisionism

B. Why are they flourishing now?

SMJ Thesis

Today

- ① Reject / Ignore God's Word
- ② Relativistic Ethics
- ③ Confusion / Moral Uncertainty
- ④ Opportunist Constructs a Religion
- ⑤ Naive and Opportunists Taken In



C. What motivates cult leaders?

But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them--bringing swift destruction on themselves. Many will follow their shameful ways and will bring the way of truth into disrepute. In their greed these teachers will exploit you with stories they have made up.

With eyes full of adultery, they never stop sinning; they seduce the unstable; they are experts in greed--an accursed brood! – 2 Peter 2:1-3, 14

Greed

Lust

Power

D. What motivates a cult member?

“they seduce the unstable...”

Motivation to JOIN

- ❖ Family background
- ❖ Unmet emotional needs
(Love, Acceptance, Belonging, Recognition, Attention, Meaning, Family)
- ❖ Need for an integration point
- ❖ Influence of a significant person
(Boyfriend, Spouse, Co-worker, Room mate, Teacher, etc.)

Motivation to REMAIN

- ❖ Met emotional needs
- ❖ Loyalty mechanisms
- ❖ Psychological brainwashing
- ❖ Effect of outside ridicule

Motivation to LEAVE

- ❖ Veneer removed
- ❖ Veil removed
- ❖ Recovery fellowship

II The Evangelization of Cult Members

Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone. -- Colossians 4:5-6

But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. -- 1 Peter 3:15-16



And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. -- 2 Corinthians 4:3-4.

Witnessing to a cult member who is a...

A. Casual Acquaintance or Stranger

If you are a novice...

- ❖ Be cordial and be brief
- ❖ Share the gospel through your personal testimony
- ❖ Leave them with something to think about
- ❖ Extend your education

If you aren't a novice...

- ❖ Show them love
 - Love and honesty
 - Love and hospitality
- ❖ Focus the issues and set the parameters
- ❖ Leave them with something to think about
- ❖ Extend your education
 - The cult and it's doctrines
 - The Bible's response

B. Close Acquaintance or Relative

❖ Pray that the Holy Spirit will manifest His fruit in your life

♥ Love
♥ Joy
♥ Peace

♥ Patience
♥ Kindness
♥ Goodness

♥ Faithfulness
♥ Gentleness
♥ Self control

❖ Minimize arguments and maximize intercession

❖ Pray for their contact with other believers as well

❖ Become well informed on the cults message and methods

Conclusion: What to do when they turn to Christ...

Need a Solid Biblical Foundation

Need a Healthy Church Fellowship

Need some Patient Mentors

Need some Faithful Intercessors



A Final Admonition

“If religious books are not widely circulated among the masses, I do not know what is going to become of us as a nation. If truth be not diffused, error will be; if God and His Word are not known and received, the devil and his works will gain ascendancy; if the evangelical volume does not reach every hamlet, the pages of a corrupt and licentious literature will; if the power of the gospel is not felt throughout the length and breadth of the land, anarchy and misrule, degradation and misery, corruption and darkness, will reign without mitigation or end.”

– Daniel Webster (1823)