

The Cults Exposed

Course Introduction:



Basic Questions:

What is a cult? What do cults believe? Why do people start cults? Why do people join cults? Why are people reluctant to leave cults? Why have cults proliferated recently? How do I become prepared to respond to cult members?

1 Peter 3:15 -- ... but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence...

A Biblical Case Study: Micah's Cult [Judges 17&18]

Scene One: Micah Manufactures a Religion (17:1-13)

A. Idols Obtained (1-5)

Cast: MICAH
MICAH'S MOM
MICAH'S SON



What's wrong with this picture?

B. "Priest" Obtained (7-12)

Cast: LEVITE



What is Micah's motivation?

What is the Levite's motivation?

Two Evaluations:

Micah (17:13)
God (17:6)

Scene Two: Micah's Religion Gets Hijacked (18:18-26)

- A. Religious Articles Stolen by Danites (18)
- B. Priest Get's Better Deal (19-21)
- C. Micah is Left Empty Handed (22-26)



A Historical Pattern & Admonition

The Pattern:

- [1] People ignore, reject or neglect God's Word.
- [2] People instead to their own thing morally.
- [3] Chaos and confusion escalate.
- [4] People look for a quick fix without moral demands.
- [5] Cults arise with easy answers to felt needs.

The 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 and end."



Isn't anyone here a real sheep?

Who said this? _____ When was it said? _____

Matthew 28:18-20

And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

2 Timothy 2:2

And the things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, these entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.

"Cults are the _____ of the church." – Walter Martin



Response: Paying Our Bills

1st Priority = G _____ C _____

2nd Priority = A _____