

STUDY PACK 1

MODERN CULTS

What Is A Cult?

“Founders of the more popular cults are by no means all finished scholars; _____ they are bunglers who stumble upon an idea, and afterward bolster it with pickings from many fields.”

~~ J. K. Van Baalen ~~

I. DEFINITION

- A. The definition of a cult should be made by individuals based on their own personal Bible study, _____.
- B. A cult is a group of people gathered around _____.
- C. They claim a special, personal revelation from God or spirits.
- D. They are very secretive about their doctrine, practice, and people.
- E. They require a total commitment on the part of their followers.
- F. They often make their public appeal about points they are right about:
 - 1. “Advocates of error delight to clothe their evil systems in most attractive phraseology in an attempt to entrap the souls of the unwary.
~~ Harry A. Ironside ~~
 - 2. Acts 20:29-30.
 - 3. II Corinthians 11:13-15.

II. WHERE DO CULTS COME FROM?

- A. There are a variety of sources, although the father of all cults is Satan.
- B. Cults come from _____, _____, and even _____ (I Timothy 4:1-4; I John 4:1-4).
- C. Cults are the result of man’s _____ and _____.
- D. “Cults are the unpaid bills of the church” (Van Baalen).
- E. Division is the fruit of heresy. Heresy is the *root*, while schism is the *fruit*.

III. FOUR BASIC TYPES OF CULTS

- A. _____ : They claim to represent true Christianity (e.g. Jehovah's Witness, Mormons).
- B. _____ : Revivals of old-time religions (e.g. American Indian, Druids, New-Age Movement).
- C. _____ : Comes from the Orient to the U.S. (e.g. Hindu, Muslim, Buddhist).
- D. _____ : Refers to anything that involves manipulating natural forces (witchcraft).

IV. TWO TYPES OF CULTIC TEACHINGS ABOUT SALVATION

- A. Inclusivists – _____.
- B. Exclusivists – _____.

V. THE MATHEMATICS OF THE CULTS

- A. Addition.
 - 1. The cults always _____.
 - 2. The Mormons have the writings of Joseph Smith.
 - 3. Catholics have their church councils, papal bulls, and their apocryphal writings.
 - 4. Jehovah Witnesses have the writings of their leaders.
- B. Subtraction.
 - 1. The cults always take away _____.
 - 2. That is why so many have to have their own translation of the Bible.
- C. Multiplication.
 - 1. The cults always multiply the means of salvation.
 - 2. Salvation by grace as a free gift of God is never enough for them.
 - 3. An overwhelming majority of them teach works-based salvation.

4. Catholics have the sacraments.

5. Mormons have their rituals.

D. Division.

1. Cults always try to divide the member from family and friends.

2. They discourage contacts outside the group.

3. Cults do not want the member exposed to positions which do not agree with their doctrine.

VI. THE TEST FOR FALSE RELIGION

A. What is _____ that the teaching is based on?
(I John 4:1-4)

B. Why do you believe the spirit that your movement got its information from?

1. How do you know it's the Holy Spirit?

2. You must try every Spirit (I John 4:2).