

Dealing With CULTS and Other Dangerous Perversions of Truth

CULT: A system of worship or great devotion to some person, idea, or thing. A religious group that claims the backing of the Bible and Christ, but misses the Gospel's saving grace.

Characteristics: Exclusivity, elitism, misplaced authority, and eschatological (end times) error. They ignore or purposely omit central apostolic doctrines and hold beliefs which are distinctly opposite to orthodox ("correct") Christianity.

Test areas: 1) Attributes of God, 2) Person of Christ, 3) Nature of man, 4) Requirements of atonement, and 5) source of revelation. Cults generally: demote God, devalue Christ, deify man, and deny sin & Scripture.

Questions for cultists:

- 1) Do you base your teachings on revelations or sacred writings other than the Bible?
- 2) Is your primary task the spread of the Gospel of Christ?
- 3) Do you believe Jesus is the eternal Word of God who became flesh?
- 4) Do you believe Christ's shed blood is the only basis for the forgiveness of sins?
- 5) Do you believe Jesus rose bodily from the grave?
- 6) Are you personally trusting Jesus Christ as your Redeemer and Lord?
- 7) Do you depend on your own achievements for your justification (or God's grace)?

Terminology: The cultist will generally know his terminology well, and will avoid terms concerning central Christian doctrines such as the Trinity, the Deity of Christ, the Atonement, justification, etc. If pressed, he will normally parrot "orthodox" views, unless explicitly asked to enumerate in his own terms.

Basic Christian Doctrines

1. The one and only God is a Trinity. Gen 1:26, Mat 3:16-17, Mat 28:16-20, Mark 1:9-11, Luke 3:21-22, John 14:8-17&26, II Cor 13:14
 - A. Jesus is true God and true man. Is 9:6-7, John 1:1-18, John 8:48-59, Acts 2:22-36, Phil 2:5-11, Col 1:15-20, I Tim 3:16, I John 4:1-3
 - B. The Holy Spirit is true God. Gen 1:2, Gen 41:37-41, I Sam 10:9-10, II Chr 15:1-2, Ezek 8:1-4, Luke 1:15, John 14:15-18&26, Acts 1:8, Rom 8:11, I Cor 6:19-20, I Cor 3:16-17, Eph 3:16
2. All have sinned and need salvation. Rom 3:10&23, Rom 14:23, I John 1:8-10
3. Salvation is through Jesus alone. John 3:14-18&36, 5:24, 6:47, 10:28, & 14:6, Acts 2:37-39, Acts 4:12 & 16:30-34, Rom 3:21-26, Col 1:21-23, Eph 2:8-9, Heb 9:22, I John 5:13
4. The Bible is true and complete. I Pet 3:15-16, II Tim 3:14-17, Heb 4:12, Eph 6:10-18, Gal 1:11-12, Rev 22:18-19

Warnings Against False Teachings

Mat 7:15-23, Mat 24:4-14&23-25, Mark 13:5-6&21-23, II Cor 11:1-15, Gal 1:6-9, I Tim 4:1-3 & 6:3-5, Tit 2:1, II Pet 2:1-3 & 3:15-16, I John 4:1-6, Jude 3-13

Cults Claiming to be "Christian"

1. Mormon (The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints). Founded by Joseph Smith, Jr. in 1830, after receiving "golden plates" in 1827 from which the "Book of Mormon" came.
2. Jehovah's Witness. Founded by Charles Russell, starting the "Watch Tower" in 1879.
3. Christian Science. Founded by Mary Baker Eddy after publishing "Science and Health" in 1875.
4. The Unity School of Christianity. Founded by Charles and Myrtle Fillmore in 1889 as an outgrowth of Christian Science.
5. The Unification Church (Moonies). Founded by Sun Myung Moon in 1948 after excommunication from Presbyterian Church, based on vision of God in 1936.
6. The World Church of God (Anglo-Israelism or Armstrongism). Founded by Herbert W. Armstrong, who started publishing "The Plain Truth" in 1934. (*changed to mainline in 2009*)
7. The Way. Founded by Victor Paul Wierwille, who authored "Jesus is Not God".
8. Others: People's Temple, Children of God, Freemasonry, Scientology

Other Dangerous Perversions of Truth

1. Unitarian, Scientology, Synanon, EST, etc.
2. Eastern mysticism: TM, Yoga, astrology, etc.
3. The occult and spiritism
4. Humanism: the religion of our educational system.

Latter-Day Saints (Mormons)

Founder: Joseph Smith, Jr. was born 12/23/1805. J. S., Sr. & Jr. were treasure hunters using "peep-stones" (occult). Vision of angel (early version) or God-Father/Son in 1820: "all sects were wrong...all of their creeds were an abomination". Angel Moroni appeared in 1823 and led Smith to golden plates with "reformed Egyptian hieroglyphic" inscriptions. Smith translated plates using "Urim and Thummin" in the form of spectacles (other accounts have Smith with face buried in hat containing stones) to yield the "Book of Mormon" (originally published 1830, subsequent editions have had over 3900 changes). Was baptized by "John the Baptist" 5/15/1829, restoring the Aaronic Priesthood. Organized "Church" in 1830, which was persecuted and driven out of NY to Ohio (increased from 30 to 1600 in 6 years). Had 135 "revelations" from 1831 to 1844, including polygamy. Murdered 6/27/1844 after being arrested for destroying an unsympathetic printer's press.

LDS Church: After Smith's death, most followed Brigham Young to Utah, while a few followed Smith's son to Missouri (Reformed branch is largest of 95 splinter groups). Vast political/economic organization with assets in the billions of dollars. About 5 million members (93% in Utah branch), with over 8 million projected by 2000. Currently, over 30,000 missionaries (2-year terms) produce over 211,000 converts per year.

Scripture: "The Book of Mormon" (mostly a plagiarization of a Solomon Spaulding tale) depicts the history of ancient peoples who moved to this continent; Mormon was a great prophet/historian who wrote and "abridged" the writings of earlier prophets, and was in turn "abridged" by his son Moroni, the last prophet. "Doctrines and Covenants" contains a compilation of Smith's revelations (over 65,000 changes from originals). "The Pearl of Great Price" is a compilation of different types of literature: books of Abraham & Moses, History of Joseph Smith the Prophet, Articles of faith. "The Bible" also is scripture "in so far as it is correctly translated".

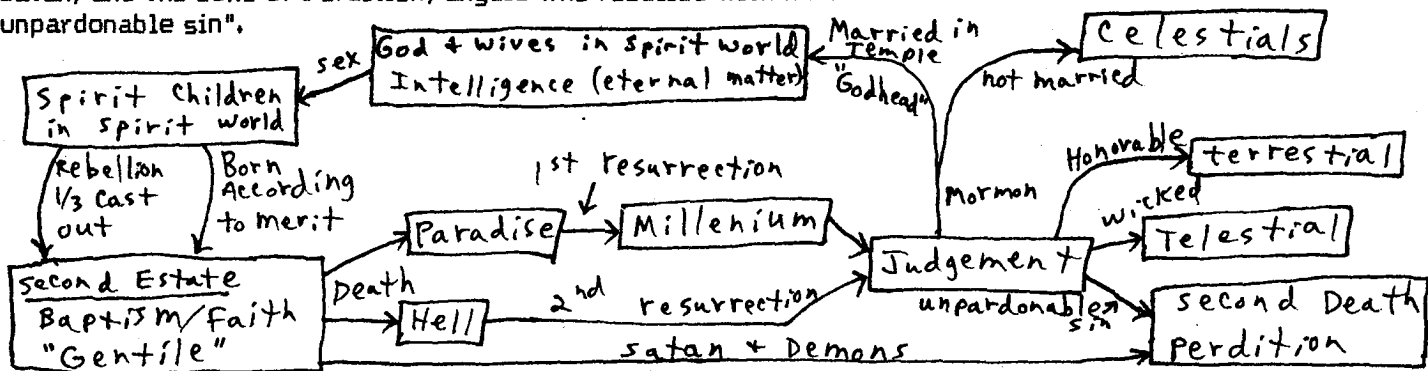
Doctrines of Utah LDS Church

GOD: "God himself was once as we are now, and is an exalted man". "Jesus Christ...God the Father...and the Holy Ghost...constitute three distinct personages and three Gods". "The Father has a body of flesh and bone". "Adam...was the first man on the earth, and its framer and maker. He with the help of his brethren, brought it into existence." "The hope of all Saints...through their faithfulness, become Gods".

Jesus: "When the Virgin Mary conceived Jesus, the Father had begotten him in his own likeness. He was not begotten by the Holy Ghost. And who was the Father? He is the first of the human family". "among the spirit children of Elohim, the firstborn was and is Jehovah or Jesus Christ". "Jesus was the executive in the work of creation, aided by Michael (or Adam), Enock, Noah, Abraham, Moses, Peter, James, John, Joseph Smith, and others".

The Holy Ghost is 'a personage of Spirit'. He does not have a body of flesh and bones, like the Father and the Son".

Sin and Salvation: "We ought to consider the fall of our first parents as one of the great steps to external exaltation and happiness". "We believe that men will be punished for their own sins, and not for Adam's transgression". "There is not a man or woman, who violates the covenants made with their God, that will not be required to pay the debt. The blood of Christ will never wipe that out, your own blood must atone for it." "Salvation is two-fold: General -- that which comes to all men irrespective of belief (in this life) in Christ -- and, individual -- that which man merits through his own acts". "There will be a dissolution of the natural body and of the spirit....This is what is called the second death". "Baptism by proxy for the dead...redeeming their (unbaptized) dead from the grasp of Satan". Those who attain the highest sphere, the Celestial, will "have spirit children in the ressurection, in relation to which offspring they stand in the same position that Gos our Father stands to us". The second sphere, the Terrestrial, will be inhabited by "accountable persons who die without law...did not accept the Gospel...were not valiant". "Perdition is for Satan, and the Sons of Perdition, angels who rebelled with him. also for men who commit the unpardonable sin".



Jehovah's Witness

Founded by Charles Taze Russell (1852 - 1916) who started a Bible class in 1870 and became their "Pastor" in 1876. Russell founded "Zion's Watch Tower" in 1879 with a circulation of 6,000 (180,000,000 today). Russell's group split in 1917 into Dawn Bible Student's Association and Jehovah's Witnesses (under J. F. Rutherford). The Watchtower Bible and Tract Society (founded 1896) publishes approximately a billion pieces of literature each year.

Organization: "Kingdom Halls" with no clergy; governed from Brooklyn headquarters. Over 2 million witnesses in 43,000 congregations. Over 307 million hours spent witnessing per year (100,000 converts).

Scripture: New World Translation of the Bible (published 1950). Note: of the 5 known members of NWT committee, only one attended college (dropped out in second year), and none knew Hebrew, Greek, or Aramaic. HIGHLY VALUE "Watchtower" and "Awake" as well as other writings of leaders. Russell's "Studies in Scripture" are "indispensable".

Doctrines of Jehovah's Witnesses

God: "There is one solitary being from all eternity, Jehovah God". "Satan is the originator of the trinity doctrine."

Jesus: "God's first creation", "Jesus was the 'Son of God', not God himself". "At baptism Jesus was anointed to become the Messiah, or Jesus the Christ". "Christ was not raised in flesh, but with a spiritual body".

Holy Spirit: "The 'Holy Ghost' or Holy Spirit is God's active force...There is no basis for concluding that the Holy Spirit is a Person". "God's Holy Spirit is not a God, not a member of a trinity, not coequal, and is not even a person". "The truth about the Holy Spirit has been beclouded by the prejudices of Bible translators".

Salvation: "The atonement is a ransom paid to Jehovah God by Christ Jesus and is applicable to all who accept it in righteousness...The death of Jesus removed the effect of Adam's sin on his offspring and laid the foundation of the New World of righteousness". "Those who follow Jesus Christ faithful to the death will inherit the heavenly kingdom with him. Men of good will who reject Jehovah, and His Theocratic Rule will enjoy the 'new earth'; all others who reject Jehovah will be annihilated". "The claim of religionists that man has an immortal soul, and therefore differs from the beasts, is not Scriptural". "The Bible plainly shows that 144,000 will share in heavenly glory, while the others will enjoy blessings of life down here on earth". "Hell is the tomb, the grave".

Other interesting beliefs: " Earth will never be destroyed or depopulated". "144,000 are born again". "A Christian must have no part in interfaith movements". "Taking blood into body through mouth or veins violates God's laws". "A clergy class and special titles are improper". "Baptism by complete immersion symbolizes dedication". "1914...marked the end of the Gentile Times and the beginning of the transition period from human rule to the 1,000-year (millennial) reign of Christ" (Jesus returned spiritually in 1914). Witnesses are conscientious objectors and won't salute the flag or pledge allegiance to a country.

Note on Jehovah

Hebrew Scripture uses the four consonants "YHWH" (or "JHVH") in place of God's name (too holy to pronounce); this is known as the tetragrammaton. "Adonai" or "Elohim" were substituted when speaking and when translated to Greek. Vowels were arbitrarily inserted to produce "Yahweh" or "Jehovah", which appears over 6,500 times in the Old Testament.

Jesus is Jehovah: Rock (2 Sam 22:2-3, Ps 18:2&31, 1 Cor 10:4, 1 Pet 2:5-8)

Shepard (Ps 23:1, Ezek 34, John 10:11&14)

Savior (Is 43:11, Acts 4:10-12)

King (ps 10:16, Rev 17:14)

Modern Gnosticism

Christian Science, Unity, and New Thought

Gnosticism: Belief that matter is evil (or even non-existent) and spirit is good. God couldn't have created the world out of matter, nor could His Son become incarnate. Man can possess the knowledge (Greek = gnosis) of his heavenly origins and thus be set free and redeemed (see 1 John 4:1-3).

Modern History: Phineas P. Quimby published "Science of Man", "Science of Christ", and "Christian Science" in 1850. Mary Baker Eddy was Quimby's patient and was "cured" in 1862. She published "Science and Health" in 1875, mostly plagiarizing writings of Quimby and Lieber. Coined "Christian Science" as her own term. Rev. Warren Evans and Julius Dresser split to follow Quimby (vs. Eddy) in 1880 to establish NEW THOUGHT. Charles (agnostic turned spiritist turned Hindu) and Myrtle (Methodist) Fillmore joined Christian Science in 1887. They began publishing "Modern Thought" in 1889 (became "Christian Science Thought" in 1890 and "Thought" in 1891). UNITY was adopted as a name in 1895.

Doctrines: C = Christian Science, U = Unity, N = New Thought

The Bible: "manifest mistakes in the ancient versions" (C), "has been abused through superficial interpretation... New Thought teaches that in the last analysis spiritual authority must be within, -- the divine element in man" (N), "Scripture may be a satisfactory authority for those who are not themselves in direct communion with the Lord" (U). (See Acts 17:11)

God: "The theory of three persons in one God suggests heathen gods" (C), "Jesus is not God" (C), "The life of God and the life of man are identically the same... they differ not in essence, in quality, they differ in degree" (N), "The Father is Principle, the Son is that Principle revealed in the creative plan, the Holy Spirit is the executive power of both the Father and Son" (U), "God is not a ...person, having life, intelligence, love, power. God is that invisible, intangible, but very real, something we call life" (U)

Jesus: "Jesus is the human man and Christ is the divine idea" (C), "Jesus... was born of the virgin Mary's spiritual thoughts of life and its manifestations" (C), "The Christ represents the universal and eternal divine sonship, -- the highest possible inner consciousness" (N), "The difference between Jesus and us is not one of inherent spiritual capacity, but in difference of demonstration of it". (U) (See John 1:14 & Heb 4:15)

Holy Spirit: "the Universal Spirit of Wholeness" (N), "The Holy Ghost is Divine Science" (C), "the very spirit of truth lying latent within us, each and every one" (U) (See Rom 8:9)

Sin and Death: "Being destroyed, sin needs no other form of forgiveness" (C), "Death. An illusion, for there is no death" (C), "To put down the claim of sin you must detect it, remove the mask, point out the illusion, and thus get victory over sin, and prove its unreality" (C), "Illness, disorder, ...sin...are man-made perversions" (N), "Man is made in the image of God, and evil and pain are but tests and correctives that appear when his thoughts do not reflect the full glory of the image" (N), "Pain, sickness, poverty, old age, and death are not real" (U), "I deny that I am a child of the flesh. I deny all belief in evil" (U)

Atonement and Salvation: "The material blood of Jesus was no more efficacious to cleanse from sin when it was shed upon 'the accursed tree', than when it was flowing in His veins" (C), "The efficacy of the crucifixion lay in the practical perfection and goodness it demonstrated for mankind" (C), "Heavenly and hellish conditions are veritable products, and there is no way of escape through proxy or by means of a 'Scapegoat'" (N), "In the degree that we open ourselves to this divine inflow are we changed from mere men into God-men" (N), "The atonement is At-one-ment or agreement or reconciliation of man's mind with divine Mind, through the superconsciousness of Christ-mind" (U), "Being 'born-again' ... is not a miraculous change that takes place in a man; it is the establishment of that which has always existed as the perfect man idea of divine Mind" (U)

Differences between Unity and Christian Science

1. Unity admits that matter expresses God as well as spirit. Matter is an illusion to Christian Science.
2. Unity teaches reincarnation: "Unity teaches that the eternal life taught and demonstrated by Jesus is not gained by dying, but by purifying the body until it becomes the undying habitation of the soul." "We believe the dissolution of spirit, soul, and body, caused by death, is annulled by rebirth of the same spirit and soul in another body here on earth. We believe the repeated reincarnations of man are the merciful provisions of our loving Father to the end that all may come to obtain immortality through regeneration, as did Jesus." (see 2 Cor 5:8 & Heb 9:27)

Unification Church (Moonies)

Founder: Sun Myung Moon (born 1920) saw a vision of God in 1936 and later became Presbyterian minister. He was excommunicated in 1948 for pentacostalism. He moved to the U. S. in 1973, and set up the Freedom Leadership Foundation. Moon has discovered the "Divine Principle", God has withdrawn support from all other churches, and sent a new Messiah in Moon, who is a reincarnation of Jesus, to fulfill the task in which Jesus failed (when he was prematurely executed) in marrying and creating a new perfect race of humans.

Basic tenets: Followers must reject all, be adopted into Moon's perfect family, and pray to Moon (who alone can forgive sins and is Lord and God). All religions must be united under Moon by whatever means, working on 3 fronts: religious, family, and political. The goal of Moonies is to raise money for Moon so that he may dominate the world.

Doctrines of the Unification Church

God: "Man is the visible form of God, and God is the invisible form of man. Subject and object are one in essence. God and man are one".

Jesus: "Christianity made Jesus into God...Jesus is a man in whom God is incarnate. But he is not God himself".

Holy Spirit: "A father alone cannot give birth to children. There must be a True Mother with the True Father, in order to give rebirth to fallen children as children of goodness. She is the Holy Spirit...the second Eve".

Sin and salvation: "Lucifer, who felt a decrease of love, tried to tempt Eve to submit to him...this was the motivation of the spiritual fall...Eve then seduced Adam...this was the motivation behind the physical fall". If Jesus had not been crucified...he would have accomplished the providence of salvation both spiritually and physically". "Crucifixion brought only spiritual salvation". "When you become God's champion for world salvation, your own salvation is guaranteed". "Hell on earth is transformed into the kingdom of heaven on earth".

Armstrongism (Anglo-Israelism) 1930s-2009

Founding: The Seventh Day Adventists spawned the Church of God (Adventist) (1866), which spawned the Church of God (7th day) (1889), from which the World Church of God split (1934) led by Herbert W. Armstrong. "The Plain Truth" was published and "The World Tomorrow" broadcast in 1934 (Ambassador College was formed, also). Note: The SDA church, while holding unorthodox teachings on non-core doctrines (such as Sabbath and soul sleep), espouses the basic Christian doctrines which qualify it as a denomination, rather than a cult. In 2009, leader rejected unbiblical teachings, and changed denomination to "Grace Communion International".

Basic tenets: 10 tribes were "lost" during Assyrian captivity, and these migrated to England and later to America; these are the "covenant people" (first proposed by Richard Brothers ~1800). Emphasis is on keeping Jewish Law and festivals and against orthodox Christianity, which Armstrong claims "was deceived into accepting a false gospel".

See www.gci.org/aboutus/history For more info (now rejected)

God: "God is a Family, a Kingdom, not a limited trinity". "Man was created to literally become God". "At the present time there are only two beings in the God Family, 1) God the Father, Father of Jesus Christ, 2) God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the one who became Jesus Christ, God the Son".

Jesus: "The Word -- the Eternal -- was made flesh...Now he was flesh and blood, exactly as you and I". "Jesus Christ was born a Son of God by a resurrection from the dead". "Christ's body disappeared. Christ was raised as a divine spirit being".

Holy Spirit: "The Holy Spirit is divine, spiritual love". "Theologians and 'Higher Critics' have blindly accepted the heretical and false doctrine introduced by pagan false prophets who crept in, that the Holy Spirit is a Third Person -- the heresy of the 'trinity'".

Sin and Retribution: "It is not only possible -- but obligatory -- that we obey God's spiritual law, the Ten Commandments". "We must repent of sin...turning from disobedience as a prior condition to receiving God's free gift". "When a human being dies, he is DEAD...he simply stops being". "The wicked will be resurrected...to be annihilated". Hell's fire "will not burn forever".

Salvation: "The blood of Christ does not finally save any man". "We are still only heirs -- not yet inheritors -- not until we are born again". "It is only those who, during this Christian, Spirit-begotten life, have grown in knowledge and grace, have overcome, have developed spiritually, done the works of Christ, and endured unto the end, who shall finally be given immortality". "Water baptism is a required condition to receiving the Holy Spirit". "The purpose of your being alive is that finally you will be born into the kingdom of God when you will actually be God even as Jesus was and is God".

Other Cults Claiming to be Christian

The Way: Founded by Victor P. Wierwille. "Jesus Christ is not God". "The gift from the Holy Spirit, the Giver, is...holy spirit, power from on high". "The moment a person confesses with his mouth Jesus as Lord that person is converted, saved, born again".

Children of God: Founded by David (Moses) Berg. "We have a Sexy God and a Sexy Religion". "Love is God!" "God Himself had to have intercourse with Mother Mary in order to have Jesus". "His Holy Spirit is the Goddess of Love". "Salvation sets us free from the curse of clothing and the shame of nakedness".

People's Temple: Founded by Jim Jones, who said of the Bible (1961) "Too many people are looking at this instead of me". He claimed that he himself was Jesus Christ, and performed many fake "miracles". Everyone in this cult was expected to recognize "Father" Jones as the only meaningful source of guidance, discipline, and sex. Jones often shouted "I am the alpha and the omega".

Freemasonry: "We tell the sincere Christian that Jesus of Nazareth was but a man like us".

Other Organizations

Unitarian (Universalism): "Unitarians...do not require a supernatural Being for their inspiration or fulfillment". "Jesus is not the Messiah either of Jewish hope or of Christian fantasy". "Unitarians and Universalists reject the doctrine of the Trinity". "Man is not fundamentally sinful. No man stands condemned". "Hell is man's failure to be and live up to his best".

Scientology: Founded by L. Ron Hubbard. "The Supreme Being is Survive". "Jesus was a member of the cult of Essenes, who believed in reincarnation". "Good, bluntly, is survival. Evil is non-survival". "Personal salvation...is freedom from the cycle of birth and death". "Hell is a total myth". (Before one can "know the Supreme Being", his "engrams" and "overts" (sins) must be removed by an "auditor".)

Synanon: Founded by Charles Dederich as a drug and alcohol rehabilitation center. Dederich sees himself as "Savior" and demands unquestioning obedience from his followers (including shaving heads and swapping spouses).

EST (Erhard Seminars Training): Founded by Werner Erhard as a sure-fire method of "transforming your life". "What is, is" (religion and other meanings imposed from outside oneself are illusions). "I am the cause of my own world". "You are perfect the way you are--now".

Silva Mind Control: Founded by Jose Silva. This relies on self-hypnosis, meditation, and guided fantasy to expand consciousness (including the diagnosis and healing of ailments). The solution to personal problems is to get rid of "negative thoughts".

Eastern Mysticism (Hindu Cults)

These groups believe that God is all there is (man and nature are divine). Jesus was a divine master (he was God, but certainly not unique). Reincarnation takes place until a person becomes at unity with Brahma (Absolute God). Various gurus (gu=darkness, ru=light) have followers.

Bhaqwan Shree Raineesh: Has political, free-love commune in Oregon (recruit street people).

Bahai: Baha'u'llah supercedes Jesus as a prophet. Obediance is most important.

Hare Krishna (ISKCON): Lord Sri Krishna (~3000 B. C.) was God incarnate (had four hands, >16,000 wives, and beyond good and evil). To experience God, abandon senses (especially enjoyment) and chant "Hare Krishna" 1,728 times per day.

Divine Light Mission: Guru Maharaj Ji is the Perfect Master, the Lord and Ruler of the universe. There is no sin or moral rules. It is important to see divine light and hear divine music.

Zen Buddhism: Gautama Buddha (enlightened one) (born 566 B. C.) was a Hindu Guru. Alan Watts (died 1973) popularized Zen Buddhism in the U. S. They teach no sinful nature and that enlightenment comes by revelation after clearing your mind of all thoughts.

Transcendental Meditation: Copywrited by Maharishi Mahesh Yogi as a method of becoming at-one with God. TM instructors learn the Puja (a Hindu hymn of worship in Sanskrit), in which Brahma, Yogi's master (Brahmananda Sarasvati -- Guru Dev), and others are worshipped. Practitioners are given a mantra (usually the name of a Hindu god) to concentrate on as they meditate.

Yoga: Hatha Yoga emphasizes physical and Raja Yoga the spiritual aspects of Hindu meditation, but the two are closely intertwined. "The aim of all Yoga practice is to achieve truth wherein the individual soul identifies itself with the supreme soul or God". "The whole Yoga and Vedanta philosophy is based upon the theory of oneness, which can be attained by gradual perfection through reincarnation".

Occult Practices

Spiritism: Spiritism is the belief that the dead live in the spirit world, and that communication is possible through a medium (seance). Jesus was a medium of the highest order (not divine). There are progressions of spirit worlds, but no heaven or hell. (see Lev. 19:31, 20:16, & 20:27, Is. 8:19-20)

Astrology: Astrology is the belief that the stars and planets greatly influence our individual lives. The Zodiac (circle of animals) determines the 12 gross "signs", and can be further detailed to produce an individual's horoscope.

Witchcraft: Using demonic/Satanic powers to heal, cast spells, tell fortunes, or perform other acts of "black magic". The Church of Wicca has over 40,000 witches and warlocks (male witches). Coven ceremonies include animal (sometimes human) sacrifices, bizarre sex, and Satan worship.

Devil worship: Several Churches of Satan (some with hundreds of members) have been formed. Most have worship services patterned after Christian services, including familiar hymn tunes (obviously many words have been changed).

Extra Sensory Perception (ESP): Many forms of ESP, such as clairvoyance (knowing other's thoughts) and precognition (knowing something in advance) are occultic in nature. (Caution: we don't yet know ALL of the God-given power of the brain!)

Other occultic practices: These include ouija boards, charms (such as rabbit's foot), fortune telling, divining for water, real (as opposed to illusionary) magic, and anything else which derives its power from demonic or Satanic sources (see Ex. 22:18, Dan. 2, 27-28, Acts 16:16 & 19:18-19.)

CAUTION: The occult is VERY powerful! Acts 19:13-16, Mk. 5:2-5&16:17, Eph. 6:10-18, Mt. 12:43-4

Humanism

Humanism is the godless religion which seeks to solve man's problems and shape society apart from God. Humanism underlies the warped and dangerous philosophies taught in public schools and promoted by most politicians. It's origin is Satan-induced rebellion (Adam/Eve), and it has had proponents throughout history (Socrates, Plato, Voltaire, Huxley, Dewey, etc.). The Humanist Manifesto (I - 1933 & II - 1973) is the "bible" of humanism (quoted below). Humanists believe "We have an obligation to expose and attack the world of religious miracles, magic, Bible-worship, salvationism, heaven, hell, and all the mystical deities".

God & Creation: "Humanists regard the universe as self-existing and not created...We find insufficient evidence for belief in the existence of a supernatural...As nontheists, we begin with humans not God...No deity will save us; we must save ourselves...The human species is an emergence from natural evolutionary forces." See Is. 55:8 & Rom 1:18-32.

Morality, Sin, & Responsibility: "We affirm that moral values derive their source from human experience. Ethics is autonomous and situational." Humanist of 1974: "The adolescent years are, among other things, for learning how to integrate sex usefully and creatively into daily living...Adolescent sexual experimentation is not just inevitable, but actually necessary for normal development." Abortion, suicide, euthanasia, homosexuality, pornography, and prostitution are among our "rights" as humans.

One-world View: "We deplore the division of humankind on nationalistic grounds...We look to the development of a system of world law and world order based upon transnational federal government...This world community must renounce the resort to violence...It is a planetary imperative to reduce the level of military expenditures...Society should provide means to satisfy basic economic, health, and cultural needs". (Humanists already control UNICEF, UNESCO, & WHO and greatly affect the UN. Big government should control all, including children.) See James 4:1-2.

Dealing with Cultists & Other Error

1. Become informed of origins, terminology, and major doctrines (and Biblical rebuttals).
2. Be able to identify cultists and their literature (know TRUTH, other=error). See 1 John 4:1-6.
3. Treat cultists with respect and love -- put at ease (don't offer coffee to Mormons or JW's).
4. Open discussion with prayer and immediately lay ground-rules for discussion.
5. Stick to basics, e. g.- Trinity (especially Jesus), salvation, etc.
6. Use as much common terminology (relate to cultist) as possible (Jehovah, etc.).
7. Sow Gospel seeds: define, apply, and defend orthodox terms.
8. Ask for personal testimony of relationship with the Lord (and give yours).
9. Close with prayer (pray continuously during meeting also!): present Gospel again.