

A cult may use miracles to convince.

Cults sometimes will work unusual miracles to sustain their claims.

11. What did Jesus say about miracles workers at end time?

Matthew 24:24

Note: There are some people who believe the idea: If a miracle is worked it must be of God. Revelation 16:14 tells us that miracles will be a major basis of deception at end time. Isaiah 8:20 tells us how to test these miracles. You never subject God's word to miracles; you subject miracles to God's word.

12. What is the fourth way to identify a cult?

Cults urge group conformity.

Members of cults are not allowed to be themselves. They must follow the rigid rules & regulations of the cult. But the Bible says that we are to give an individual account to God. Revelation 14:12 admonishes us to think individually.



13. What is the fifth way to identify a cult?

Cults isolate members from their family.

Cults often foster a fear or hatred of those outside the group. Most members of the Heaven's Gate cult only contacted their families once or twice in a period of 20 years. One member, David Moore, explained it to his mother. He said that associating with family members would drag down the objectivity of the group and "tug at their vibration level." However, the Bible reveals that God loves individuality. Think of how many thousands of animal species exist. No two snowflakes are alike and the same is true of people.

14. Is the Seventh-day Adventist Church a cult?

Note: Look at the above five identifying points and you will discover that the SDA church is definitely not a cult. It is a mainline protestant denomination with a firm belief in Jesus as savior and the Bible as the word of God.

MY CHOICE: Since I love Jesus, I want to be baptized and become a member of the SDA church because they teach what the Bible actually teaches.



Lesson #23 How to Identify a Cult

Teri O'Shea was a member of the People's Temple Cult, which was led by Jim Jones. In 1971, O'Shea was homeless when a man pulled up alongside her in a van. He told her about the community where he lived, a place where no one had to worry about food or housing. The leader was a visionary who was building a new future. On November 18, 1978, Jones and more than 900 members committed mass suicide in the jungle of Guyana. O'Shea escaped just three weeks before the massacre. One big warning sign to her was that Jones held mass suicide practices, called White Nights.

Here's how she escaped. There were several lawsuits against Jones in America. O'Shea suggested that they shouldn't hire an outside secretary who couldn't be trusted to assist their lawyer. Jim thought it was a good idea and sent her back to San Francisco. She said she was going to the dentist and got on a plane to New York. She changed her name to Kim Jackson until the FBI finally found her.

What are the warning signs of a cult and how do we identify one?

1. How much of the world has Satan deceived? Revelation 12:9

Note: If Satan deceived 1/3 of the angels in heaven who were cast to the earth? Wouldn't you expect Satan to pull off his greatest deception at the end of time by way of a movement that coerces the masses? That was his method in heaven, why should we expect something different here on earth?

2. How much of the world will follow this end time deception?

Revelation 13:3

Note: Satan, the great deceiver, is conditioning the minds of the whole world to follow a false religious leader at end time. Revelation 13 tells us that the devil will try to deceive the whole world with a master cult-like union of church and state. Therefore, it becomes extremely urgent for us to know from the Bible how to identify the exact characteristics of cults today. If you don't understand how to identify a cult, you may be deceived at end time when the Antichrist masquerades as Christ. That is why it is not enough to be sincere. We need to know what we believe from the Bible.

3. What does Jesus want to do for us? John 8:36

Note: Jesus wants us to be free from deception and be liberated by His word.

What is the definition of a cult?

A cult is any group that does not accept Christ as Lord and Savior and make Him absolutely central in faith; and a cult is any group that does not accept the Bible as the foundation of faith.



4. How can we identify a cult?

A cult will substitute Jesus.

Any cult, whether it is a so-called "Christian" cult, or whether it is a New Age cult, any cult will substitute a human teacher for Jesus Christ. In 9/85 Marshall Applewhite referred to himself as a messenger from God. David Koresh was quoted as saying, "I am the Lamb". The New Age movement with followers such as Shirley MacLaine also teaches that you slowly become God as well.

5. What does God say about Himself? Isaiah 43:10-11, 45:22, 46:9-10

Note: The idea that you can become God clearly comes from Satan, who's desire was to be worshiped and to "be like the Most High" (see Isa 14:14).

6. What are the principles of the new age movement?

-The New Age movement says that there is no death.

-If there is no death, the Bible is wrong when it says in Romans 6:23 "The wages of sin is death." If there is no death, you do not need a Savior.

-The New Age movement says that man is God.

-If I am God, there is no moral responsibility, no accountability, and no judgment. If there is no accountability, if there will not be a judgment, and there is no sin, so I don't need a Savior from sin.

-The New Age movement says that knowledge of yourself is salvation.

-For cults and the New Age movement, there is no need of: the cross, a Savior, repentance, and victory over sin.

7. How many ways of salvation are there? John 14:6, 17:3; Acts 4:12

Note: Undoubtedly, scripture declares that salvation is only by knowing Jesus Christ. Jesus left no room for other methods of being saved.

8. What is the second way we can identify a cult?

A cult will substitute the Bible.

Secondly, cults substitute the Bible for human teachings. Many times the leader of the cult will start his teachings from the Bible and then slowly with great sensationalism and enthusiasm deviate from scripture to their own ideas. The word of the cult leader then becomes supreme. The word of the cult leader takes the place of the word of God. Jose Luis de Jesus Miranda is a self-proclaimed Messiah from Puerto Rico who began a movement that spans at least 20 countries called Growing in Grace in the mid 80's. He teaches there is no sin, Satan, and that all other religious systems are false. However, it is interesting that He has become filthy rich off of their tithes and offerings. So these cult leaders accept what benefits them and rejects what crosses their belief system.

9. Where did Jesus and Paul say the source of truth is found?

John 17:17; 2Timothy 3:16; 2Thessalonians 2:10-11

Note: If because God invites us to make changes in our lives, but instead it's easier to do what we've always done and inconvenient to follow the truth, and practice all revealed light from scripture, if we don't receive the love of the truth, we then prepare ourselves for a strong delusion!

10. What is the third way to identify a cult?