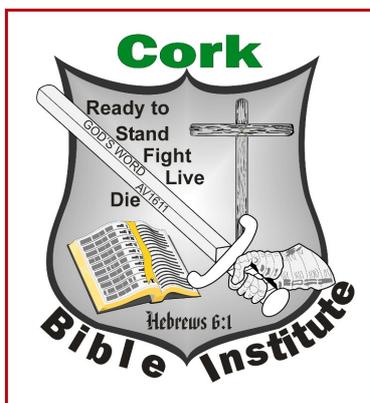


# A Dangerous Devotion... What Cults Believe



Part of the Cork Bible Institute

STUDENT NAME \_\_\_\_\_



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# A Dangerous Devotion What Cults Believe

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### Cork Bible Institute Course Design and Requirements

1. A three page single spaced report on one of the following cults:
2. Mormonism
3. Read the Textbook
4. Attend 80% of the classes
5. Score at least 70% on the Final Exam

## A Dangerous Devotion What Cults Believe

### Introduction – Why Study Cults?

#### I. Introduction

**A. There have always been a multitude of religions and “\_\_\_\_\_” organizations that speak for God / god, drawing disciples after them!**

1. Theudas (Acts 5:36)
2. Judas of Galilee (Acts 5:37)
3. False \_\_\_\_\_ (Rev 2:2)
4. The Pharisees (Matt 23:15; Mark 7:5-9)
5. The Sadducees (Acts 23:8)
6. \_\_\_\_\_ (1Tim 6:5)
7. False Teachers (2Peter 2:1-3)
8. Philosophers (Col 2:8)

**B. We should not be surprised about the religious deception we see happening in the world. The Bible tells us to expect it.**

1. 2Timothy 3:13 **But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.**
2. Even from among \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 20:29-31)!

#### C. What is a Cult?

1. “Cult”, in Latin, means “\_\_\_\_\_”.
2. The world is filled with ‘cults’ – music cults, movie star cults, sports cults, and religious cults
3. The world doesn’t mind anyone being a part of any of those non-religious cults...
4. But deep down, we all know a cult is something that is dangerous, heretical, and wrong compared to what is true and good! We ALL believe that there should be something pure, and true and good, that should not be corrupted
5. The problem arises, what determines TRUE, and GOOD?
  - a. In Roman Catholic countries *any* \_\_\_\_\_ *religious group* is usually considered a cult. Based upon centuries of Traditions
  - b. But among Evangelical (Bible believing) Christians, a cult is understood to be a *false* Christian religious group that \_\_\_\_\_ the Bible, or denies any part of the Bible. Any group, NO MATTER WHO THEY ARE, if they teach any other Gospel than what is given by the New Testament, are considered a cult – a heresy. Thus any group claiming to be Christian, but following the teachings of a man in deviating from the Bible's clear teaching at any fundamental point is a cult, a "false religion." We let the Bible decide what is true!

#### D. Why Study About Cults?

1. Because the majority of the world’s religions are cultic confusions about the true God – some extreme, and some only minor
2. Because it matters \_\_\_\_\_ you believe about Jesus Christ (John 17:3)!
3. Because \_\_\_\_\_ are being deceived by cults

- a. 30% of all Mormons are said to be ex-Baptists
  - b. Most modern cults attract baby Christians who never got disciple, or are just too LAZY to make learning the truths of the Bible a priority – so they constantly float around to churches and religious groups, and lose their sanity, their peace, and their families!
4. Because we are called to win \_\_\_\_\_ to Christ as much as pagans . Religiously lost is just as lost as atheistically lost!
  5. Because Modern Christianity is \_\_\_\_\_ immune to becoming a cult itself, when it abandons the Bible for emotionalism, popular beliefs, and the desire for miracles!

### E. Cults are Not Just Different Teachings, but Different ‘ \_\_\_\_\_

1. Jesus taught that false teachers and even false "Christs" would arise in the world.
  - a. Matt. 24:11 And **many false prophets** shall rise, and shall deceive many. For there shall arise **false Christs, and false prophets**, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.
  - b. Religious organizations that would teach, “*for doctrines the commandments of men*” (Matt. 15:9).
  - c. Every group we will study incorporates the teachings of men or women which are obviously contrary to the clear teachings of the Bible alone.
2. The word of God calls such people, “false prophets,” “false teachers,” “heretics,” and some of them, “antichrists,” “false apostles,” or “false brethren.”
  - a. Matt. 7:15 Beware of **false prophets**, which come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.
  - b. 2Pet. 2:1 But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be **false teachers** among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.
  - c. 1John 4:2 Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of **antichrist**, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world. Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.
  - d. 2John 7 For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a **deceiver** and an **antichrist**.

### F. What Are We Up Against?

1. *We are in a \_\_\_\_\_ warfare.*
  - a. Satan’s hardest work is to keep people blinded to the truth – doesn’t care if anyone believes anything else, as long as it is not the life-changing truths of the Bible! (2Cor 4:3,4)
  - b. We are engaged in, “the good fight of faith” (1Tim. 6:12). Our warfare is not carnal, but spiritual.
  - c. Jesus commanded us to, “Occupy till I come” (Luke 19:13).
    - 1) If we were the occupying forces in a foreign country, what would a soldier be considered if he consorted with the enemy and had fellowship with them? He would be a TRAITOR!

## Introduction to Cults

## Introduction – Why Study Cults?

- 2) Since we are fighting, “the good fight of FAITH,” we need to fight lawfully (Scripturally), with good counsel, according to the scriptures. Prov. 20:18 Every purpose is established by counsel: and with good advice make war.
- d. God’s soldiers are to HATE EVIL, and **EVERY FALSE WAY!** That is a commandment. Don’t play with darkness, and cultic doctrines (Taoist meditations, Yoga, Scientology Auditing with Electropsychometers, Reflexology, Palm Reading, Ouija Boards, Tarot Cards, Dream interpretations, etc).
  - 1) Ps. 119:104 Through thy precepts I get understanding: therefore **I hate every false way.**
  - 2) Ps. 97:10 **Ye that love the LORD, hate evil:** he preserveth the souls of his saints; he delivereth them out of the hand of the wicked.
  - 3) Prov. 8:13 **The fear of the LORD is to hate evil:** pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate.
2. **God \_\_\_\_\_ Cults** – firmly entrenched since the devil entered the Garden of Eden 6,000 years ago! “Yea hath God said...”
  - a. Jesus taught that the devil would be allowed to sow tares (false teachings and false teachers) among the "wheat," or true believers. Matt. 13:30 ***Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn.***
  - b. We see this happening all around us today. These groups believe some truth, and also some error. Their error comes when they accept their leaders' religious distinctives which are not according to the Bible. These religious teachers have travelled the world over, sowing the "seeds" of their false teaching. Africa has proven to be fertile soil for these "seeds" of untruth.
  - c. The Bible clearly warns us to be aware of these cults, and to be able to stand firm against their teachings.
3. **Blatant \_\_\_\_\_!**
  - a. God said, “*My people are destroyed for LACK OF KNOWLEDGE*” (Hos. 4:6).
  - b. Most people are IGNORANT of God’s doctrines and truths. Because of this ignorance, it is easy for the CULT to snare them!
  - c. Ignorant of
    - 1) The depravity of mankind
    - 2) The sovereignty of God
    - 3) The Church
    - 4) The eternal security of the believer
    - 5) The soon second coming of Jesus Christ
    - 6) The rapture
    - 7) The Judgment Seat of Christ
    - 8) The Millennium, Kingdom of Heaven on earth
    - 9) How to rightly divide the word of God
    - 10) How to test the spirits
    - 11) How to be a Christian wife, or husband or mother or father
    - 12) How God wants us to dress
    - 13) Almost completely ignorant of Biblical convictions about life
4. \_\_\_\_\_

## Introduction to Cults

- a. Not interested, not hungry, not burdened about the truth – only about being made to feel better about themselves!
  - b. 2Tim. 4:2 *Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.*
  - c. 2Tim. 3:13 *But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.*
5. Well, THIS shepherd is not going to sit idly by and let the cults snatch baby Christians who WANT to know the truth!

### G. The Purpose of this Class is Two-Fold

1. To \_\_\_\_\_ you and briefly \_\_\_\_\_ every Christian concerning several religious cults who are actively working in not only out in the world, but right here in Ireland, deceiving and being deceived.
  - a. God demands that pastors to protect the flock! Acts 20:27 For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God. Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood. For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. **Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them.** Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears.
2. To help you to be an effective, yet wise, \_\_\_\_\_ of the gospel to these people. You see, God seeks to save people caught up in cults
  - a. We need to believe that there are many who can be convinced of the errors of their ways, if we know the truth and how to convince them of it.
  - b. This is the purpose of this course. God does want to use you as a messenger of His light, and thus to rescue those trapped in the snares of false teachings.