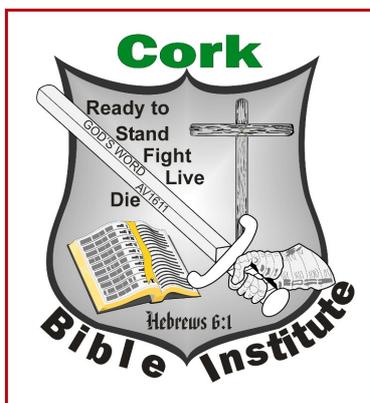


# A Dangerous Devotion... What Cults Believe



Part of the Cork Bible Institute

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



By Pastor Craig Ledbetter  
Bible Baptist Church  
Unit B, Enterprise Park  
Innishmore, Ballincollig, Cork  
[www.biblebc.com](http://www.biblebc.com) [biblebc@gmail.com](mailto:biblebc@gmail.com)

# 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

## How to Decide True Doctrine

Deuteronomy 32:31-37

### I. Introduction (Deuteronomy 32:31-37)

#### A. There IS a difference

1. There is a big difference between Islam and Christianity
2. Mohammed said, "Those that insult prophets \_\_\_\_\_ be killed"
3. Jesus said, "Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you and pray for them which despitefully use you and persecute you!"
4. I am so glad there is a difference!

#### B. But you wouldn't know if what you believe is right or wrong without an authority

1. NOT one that is forced upon you, like Islam is
2. But, one that is proven absolutely true

#### C. How can a person tell?

1. How can you and I know what is authentic faith and what may be a cult? What may be a wrong religion?
2. Our Modern Cultures' View
  - a. Our modern culture accepts only what feels right, or is acceptable by the majority of people.
    - 1) If it is in the majority, it is a valid religious view
    - 2) If it is in the minority, it is a cult
  - b. That is how politics works – but not truth, and not God!
  - c. When asked to give examples of a cult, the average person usually conjures up the names of groups like:
    - 1) Mormonism (15 million)
    - 2) Jehovah's Witnesses (8 million)
    - 3) Other people would mention the Moonies (100,000), Satanists, Scientology (45,000), and the Hare Krishna crowds (500,000,000).
    - 4) All of these are either pseudo-Christian cults, or destructive cults, or both.
  - d. The popular definition of a cult usually reflects what the media portrays - something sensational, weird, bizarre, and usually criminal.
3. Dictionaries basically define a cult as a group of people embracing a \_\_\_\_\_ form of worship.
  - a. A religion is one thing usually very vague and broad
  - b. whereas a cult is very strict and very narrow.
4. Historically though, CHRISTIANS have defined a cult from a better perspective – a doctrinal perspective. From the BIBLE'S viewpoint. The Bible is our source of authority. For all truth!
5. Let's look at why!

## II. Main Message

### A. How Do We Find True Doctrine?

#### 1. *Decide on a True \_\_\_\_\_ for Truth*

- a. Everyone has an opinion
- b. Anyone with a weapon can enforce their opinion on people as the only doctrine
  - 1) Atheists like Stalin
  - 2) Fascists like Hitler
  - 3) Evolutionists like Dawkins
  - 4) Muslims like Mohammed
  - 5) Catholics like Pope Urban II in 1088, who began the crusades against the Muslims AND Jews and was responsible for slaughtering hundreds of thousands. And all the popes enforced their doctrine through the edge of the sword until the Reformation!
- c. There is a Book that claims to be the word of God – the Bible (John 17:17)
  - 1) Unlike every other book in the world
  - 2) A Jewish Book – the nation of Israel proves their God exists
  - 3) A Prophetic Book – over 1,000 prophecies
  - 4) An Historically Accurate Book - accurate history of the world
  - 5) A Scientific Book - advanced science of the Bible! Over 200 MAJOR Scientific facts presented in the pages of the Bible way before anyone could have guessed at any of them! (Gravity, Motion, Laws of Thermodynamics, Genetics, Physics, Germs, Disease, Psychology...)
  - 6) A Book about the Lord Jesus Christ (Luke 24:25-27) – not about YOU, or about making money, or about happiness, but mainly about HIM!

#### 2. \_\_\_\_\_ *Everything Taught and Believed BY that Source (Isaiah 8:20)*

- a. 2Timothy 4:1-4
  - 1) Preach the word
  - 2) Sound doctrine
  - 3) Time will come when people will heap to themselves false teachers, fables
- b. Gal 1:6-9
- c. Jude 1:3
- d. Matthew 4:3,4
- e. Romans 15:4
- f. 2Timothy 3:16,17

#### 3. \_\_\_\_\_ *just with that Source*

- a. The source for truth says all revelation has finished (Rev 22:18,19; 1Cor 13:8)
- b. Dreams, and dreamers are to be rejected
- c. Experiences have no weight compared to thus saith the Lord
- d. Feelings, spiritual experiences, when they contradict what is written, are to be rejected

#### 4. \_\_\_\_\_ *the Bible (2Timothy 2:15) – study the source for all truth*

- a. Don't study yourself, people, the universe – without a basis for what is real and what is imagined! Study the Bible!
- b. Read it yes – cover to cover – but study it: its words, meaning, its application
- c. Rightly divide it – different sections, time periods, dispensations, covenants, and cultures

- d. Allow for transitions between events (i.e., before the cross, and after the resurrection)
- e. Take everything in context – always part of a bigger picture – part of a story. Not like most other “religious books” that just express quips and blurbs.
- f. Allow cross-examination of what you are learning
- g. Accept the simplest truths first – what a child would see
- h. Don’t allow anything to contradict – always give the Author the benefit of the doubt – just keep learning

**5. Ignore \_\_\_\_\_ concepts (1Cor 1:18-21)**

- a. Like
  - 1) Prosperity Gospels,
  - 2) Social Gospels – only helping the poor and needy with physical needs
  - 3) Entertainment-based, hip culture doctrines
- b. Jeremiah 5:31. Even believers will LOVE to have their churches CHANGE to be more progressive and inclusive
- c. Jeremiah 29:8. Most cults exist because the hearers WANT the false doctrines. Don’t become a consumer kind of church!
- d. Micah 2:11. The popular preachers and Christians will be the ones that prophesies and says lies about what God says!
- e. Luke 6:26. Beware about worrying about what people think of what you believe as found in the Bible!

**6. Admit, no one living will ever understand \_\_\_\_\_ doctrine in the Bible**

- a. Everyone struggles to understand things in the Bible (2Peter 3:16)
- b. Peter had a hard time with Gentiles getting saved (Acts 10)
- c. James and John had a hard time with Grace instead of the Law when they were rejected by the Samaritans in Luke 9:54
- d. All the Old Testament prophets struggled with the concept of a suffering Messiah – they only expected a conquering Messiah
- e. There is no way all of us will all believe the same things
  - 1) Because we are all at different levels of maturity
  - 2) Some have more time to study
  - 3) Some make very little effort to know God’s truth
  - 4) Some are not even born again, so no matter what, it will all be seen as foolishness (1Cor 2:12-14)

- f. Different Degrees of Theology and Maturity (Hebrews 13:9) for the Christian

**1) \_\_\_\_\_ – easy to understand**

- a) The love of God for sinners
- b) The wrath of God on sin
- c) God created the heaven and the earth in six days
- d) Adultery is wrong, and so is stealing and lying!
- e) You were made in the image of God
- f) Sin ruined that image in you and needs to be restored by God’s grace
- g) Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved!
- h) Husbands, love your wives as Christ loved the church
- i) Wives, submit you your husband as the church is subject to Christ
- j) Children, obey your parents in the Lord
- k) Israel are God’s people – always have been, and always will be
- l) Jesus is coming again, very soon!

m) These are all easy to understand doctrines

2) \_\_\_\_\_ – *needs time, experience, study*

- a) A baby cannot eat solid food nor meat when it first begins to take nourishment. Instead, milk is the only acceptable food source until the child matures enough to eat more solid food. Even then, baby food must be pureed to a liquid texture. The Scripture is saying the same. New believers in the faith (this includes new brethren in the Messianic Movement) need the “Milk of the Word” initially to grow in strength and faith. The Meat of the Word does not nourish nor strengthen a new believer; they just “choke” on it.
- b) The differences between the seven raptures in the Bible
- c) The mark of the beast, and enduring unto the end!
- d) The kingdom of God versus the Kingdom of heaven
- e) The seven resurrections
- f) The meanings of the seven feasts of the Old Testament
- g) The prophecies of the book of Daniel and the Minor Prophets
- h) Not everyone can handle meat (1Cor 3:1-3; Heb 5:12,13)

3) *Things \_\_\_\_\_ to be Understood (2Peter 3:16)*

- a) Why would God allow man to have free will?
- b) Why does God allow such bad things to happen to innocent people?
- c) What would have happened to Eve if Adam had decided to not disobey God?
- d) Where is the lake of fire that death and hell are cast into?

4) \_\_\_\_\_ *Things (Deut 29:29)*

- a) Things known only to God (Acts 15:18)
- b) Why are there only 118 elements from Hydrogen to Ununoctium?
- c) How big is the universe?
- d) Why are woman so hard to understand?
- e) Why are men so stubborn?

**g. So, Be careful at what level you fight and argue about things**

- 1) There should never be any disagreement with milk subjects
  - a) The Gospel (death burial and resurrection of Jesus – NOT the Millennial kingdom)
  - b) Jesus is the perfect Son of God (not a prophet, or a good teacher, or a spirit)
  - c) Eternal security of the believer
  - d) Literal Heaven, Hell
  - e) The Bible is the very word of God
  - f) Be ready to stand upon, and defend these doctrines!
- 2) Expect some discussion and disagreements about meaty subjects. There is nothing wrong with being strong in faith in the meats too!
- 3) But Stay out of the *hard to be understood* debates, unless you have a lot of grace
- 4) Never debate the unknowable subjects

**h. And, DON'T waste your time on:**

- 1) Only the meats of the Bible, and the hard things, and the unknowable things! Stay overwhelmed by the milk, the grace, the easy to believe parts!
- 2) Jewish customs and legalism (law-keeping for righteousness)
- 3) Perverse things (Act 20:30) twisted, wrested doctrines that are not simple (2Peter 3:16)

## Introduction to Cults

## How to Decide True Doctrine

- 4) Good words and fair speeches that divide Christians (Rom 16:17,18; Col 2:4)
- 5) Every wind of doctrine (Eph 4:14) – constantly changing, and new
- 6) Vain words – words that make you feel better about yourself (Eph 5:6)
- 7) Philosophy (Col 2:8)
- 8) Words that do not promote godliness (1Tim 6:3-5)
- 9) False science (1Tim 6:20) – horoscopes, Reike, energy transfer, evolution, palm reading, etc!
- 10) ALL of the above are what the CULTS spend their time on!

**B. The bottom line is this! A cult is when any group presents any other... (2 Corinthians 11:3-15)**

1. **"*Jesus Christ*" (Messiah)**
2. **or "*another gospel*"**
3. **or "*another spirit*"**
4. **than is presented clearly, and simply in the Bible!**

## III. Next Week, Finding a True Church