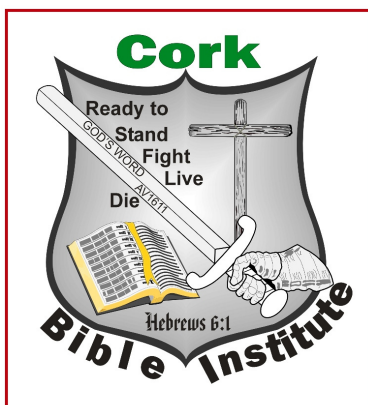


A Dangerous Devotion... What Cults Believe



Part of the Cork Bible Institute

STUDENT NAME _____



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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 Find and BE a True Church

Matthew 16:18

I. Introduction (Matthew 16:18)

- A. Did you know that EVERY book in the New Testament except for Philemon (and many books in the Old Testament), has something to say about false teachers, false prophets, false gospels, and heresies?
- B. Anything that is not the genuine article, as defined by God's own words, is simply a counterfeit and should be ignored!
 - 1. Not burned, stoned, hanged
 - 2. Just exposed, and then ignored! (Titus 3:10; Rom 16:17)
- C. Churches would do well to self-evaluate whether they are staying true to God's pattern for a Church as defined in the Bible, or straying away, and ultimately just joining with Satan's crowd (Mt 12:30).
- D. Because, before we begin to judge other churches and religions, we need to discover just what is a true church! Settle what is THE pattern to follow and judge by.
 - 1. Judge righteous judgment. John 7:24 Judge not according to the appearance, but **judge righteous judgment.**
 - 2. But you must Judge yourself, your own beliefs, and your own church first (Luke 6:41,42)
 - a. Notice that if we judge the teachings of others by the same standard that we judge ourselves, THEN we can judge righteous judgment.
 - b. The only perfect standard of judgment is the word of God.

II. Review – Last week, How Do We Find True Doctrine?

A. *Decide on a True _____ for Truth*

- 1. Either opinions...
- 2. Or, a Book that claims to be the word of God – the Bible (John 17:17)

B. _____ *Everything Taught and Believed BY that Source (Isaiah 8:20)*C. _____ *just with that Source*D. _____ *the Bible (2Timothy 2:15) – study the source for all truth*E. *Ignore _____ concepts (1Cor 1:18-21) Like*

- 1. Prosperity Gospels,
- 2. Social Gospels – only helping the poor and needy with physical needs
- 3. Entertainment-based, hip culture doctrines

F. *Admit, no one living will ever understand _____ doctrine in the Bible*

- 1. Different Degrees of Theology and Maturity (Hebrews 13:9) for the Christian
 - a. _____ – *easy to understand*
 - b. _____ – *needs time, experience, study*
 - c. *Things _____ to be Understood (2Peter 3:16)*
 - d. _____ *Things (Deut 29:29)*
- 2. *So, Be careful at what level you fight and argue about things*
 - a. There should never be any disagreement with milk subjects
 - b. Expect some discussion and disagreements about meaty subjects. There is nothing wrong with being strong in faith in the meats too!
 - c. But Stay out of the *hard to be understood* debates, unless you have a lot of grace

- d. Never debate the unknowable subjects

G. Guess where all cults focus their attention on?

1. The MEAT subjects, and the things hard to be understood!
2. New doctrines, new revelations!
3. They ignore the simple, plain, obvious, milk of the Bible
4. They don't start GOSPEL CHURCHES, they start
 - a. Christian CENTRES
 - b. Kingdom Halls
 - c. Tabernacles (Mormon)
5. And to make the meat subjects out to be their way, they have to change all the milk subjects, perverting the Gospel, and damning the hearers

H. 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!**

I. Let's line up our lives, our doctrines, with the Bible

III. Main Lesson - How to Find and BE a True Church. What are the marks of Christ's Church?

A. A True Church Must Be Primarily About _____ (Col 1:18)

1. Our songs, our preaching, our worship, our talk, will mainly be about HIM!
2. Not the Holy Spirit, Not Jehovah, Not Abraham, Not Moses, Not the people attending, or about the church leaders (John 3:30)
3. But about Jesus Christ!
4. A Church is made up of HIS body – it's His Church – it's not our church!
5. A true church is not all about US, it is about HIM!
6. When any organization that claims to be a church, changes its focus from honouring Jesus Christ, to honouring anything else more, then they are on their way to becoming a false church, a cult!

B. It Must Be A _____ Church (Eph 2:19,20; Acts 5:29)

1. Dependent upon the words of the Bible (Acts 20:29-32) for all doctrine
2. And careful to understand doctrine and not just accept whatever you feel like (Titus 1:9; 2 John 1:9,10).
3. What do most cults and false religions rely on for their truths?
 - a. Visions, dreams, feelings, other revelations than what has already been given
 - b. Traditions passed down – like with the Catholic and Protestant churches
 - c. Popular opinions – ie., no more hell, women can pastor, God used evolution, etc

C. It Must Be A _____ Kind of Church (Mt 7:24,26; 2Cor 3:3-6)

1. What a church is NOT
 - a. It is NOT like a Jewish synagogue – which was only for Jews
 - b. It is not a Temple, or holy site, or a basilica
 - c. Not a kingdom hall, or a mosque
 - d. No pagoda, or shrine

- e. It has no headquarters
 - f. And it has no boundry
2. But a Church, as defined by the New Testament, is a group of PEOPLE
 - a. Not just religious, or curious, but converted!
 - b. Regenerated people – born again!
 - c. Made up of Jews, Gentiles, educated, ignorant, men, women, people – all nationalities
 3. Committed to obeying primarily the New Testament
 4. Meeting anywhere they can, as often as they can
 5. And Obeying primarily the doctrines of the New Testament
 - a. Matthew 5-7 – a HIGHER law
 - b. John 3 “Born again”
 - c. John 13, 15 “serve one another” “love one another”
 - d. The entire books of Romans, Ephesians, Colossians, etc, etc!
 - e. Are just a few examples
 - f. All of the above truths are found in the Old Testament, but the New Testament is what makes us Christian... not the Old Testament Law.

D. It Must Be An _____ Church (2Cor 4:2)

1. Accountable to each other (Mt 23:8)
 - a. All are brethren – no hierarchy
 - b. All members can be corrected by each other – and should be (1Cor 6:1-5)
2. Accountable to mature leaders (Heb 13:7, 17)
 - a. You HAVE to have guides, leaders, people who instruct and make critical decisions that need to be followed
 - b. Follow your leaders as they follow Christ and the Bible (1Cor 11:1)
3. Accountable to the local government (Mt 23:1-3; Rom 13:1-3; Act 25:11)
 - a. Obedient to the government they are under
 - b. Christians are not rebels, not dangerous (Philp 2:15)
4. Even the leaders are accountable (1Tim 5:19-21!)
 - a. Checks and balances – all men are LIARS (Rom 3:4)
 - b. None of the Church Leaders are ‘God’ or untouchable. They are servants, not lords – accountable to the people they lead.
 - c. As men, they need to be subject to the same expectations on all believers!
 - d. A church elects their leaders, and must hold them accountable! THAT is a New Testament concept.

IV. Conclusion

- A. Next Week, There are a few more marks to look for, but these will be enough to learn about tonight!**
- B. You see, When you HAVE those markers, clearly laid out, and a church matches those things, then you have a good church!**
- C. If a church had broken down the walls laid down by God’s word, and started going in their own direction, you have the makings of a future cult, if it is not already one!**
- D. Will you ever find a PERFECT church? One day in heaven yes! Not here! No way!**
- E. But you should be able, and be interested in finding and having a true church!**