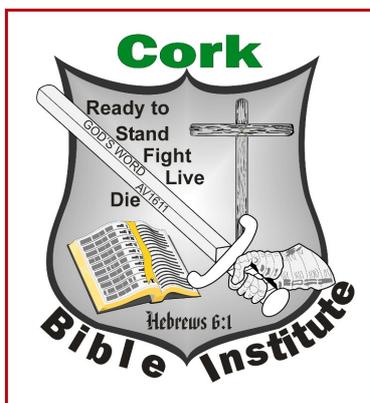


A Dangerous Devotion... What Cults Believe



Part of the Cork Bible Institute

STUDENT NAME _____



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A Dangerous Devotion What Cults Believe

Contents

Introduction – Why Study Cults?..... 3
 How to Decide True Doctrine..... 7
 How to Find and BE a True Church 12
 How to Find and BE a True Church Continued..... 15
 How to Judge Cults 18
 Jesus Christ Is The Only Way To Heaven—True or False?..... 26
 Mormons 30
 Jehovah’s Witnesses..... 31
 Seventh Day Adventists 32
 Roman Catholicism..... 33
 Church of Christ..... 34
 Christian Science – Scientology 35
 Conclusions About Cults 36
 Extended Studies 38

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, Continued

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.
 - 3. Judge righteous judgment. John 7:24 Judge not according to the appearance, but **judge righteous judgment.**
 - 4. 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 to Find and BE a True Church – Part 1

- A. **A True Church Must Be Primarily About _____** (Col 1:18)
 - 1. Not the Holy Spirit, Not Jehovah, Not Abraham, Not Moses, Not the people attending, or about the church leaders (John 3:30)
 - 2. But about Jesus Christ
- 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
- C. **It Must Be A _____ Kind of Church** (Mt 7:24,26; 2Cor 3:3-6)
 - 1. A Church, as defined by the New Testament, is a group of converted PEOPLE
 - 2. Committed to obeying primarily the New Testament
 - 3. Meeting anywhere they can, as often as they can
 - 4. And Obeying primarily the doctrines of the New Testament
- D. **It Must Be An _____ Church** (2Cor 4:2)
 - 1. Accountable to each other (Mt 23:8)
 - 2. Accountable to mature leaders (Heb 13:7, 17)
 - 3. Accountable to the local government (Mt 23:1-3; Rom 13:1-3; Act 25:11)
 - 4. Even the leaders are accountable (1Tim 5:19-21)!

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

- A. **It will be a _____ Church** (2 Cor 6:14-17)

1. That means they will be different from the world (1 John 2:15; Tit 2:11-14). Not only just in beliefs, but in their LIVES (clean, godly, unspotted, different and separated).
2. That means they will be a Conservative Church – Limited by what they can and cannot do as Christians!
 - a. Limited music – NOT like the world’s cultures
 - b. Limited freedoms – not able to do what we always did before salvation
 - c. Limited style – not seeking to constantly adapt and be more like the culture we are in, but actually setting the pace, and defining the right style FOR the culture we are in!
That means Very conservative music and worship styles
3. Preach Godliness, holiness, the fear of God, righteousness, and purity!

B. A _____ Church (2Cor 1:12)

1. VERY Imperfect – not polished perfect like performers
 - a. Full of imperfect people
 - b. Full of different levels of maturity and immaturity
 - c. Full of problems
 - d. Full of confusion
 - e. But built upon the words of the Bible
2. No need for buildings, websites, headquarters, etc
3. Just people committed to following Jesus together
4. That means they only have Three kinds of leaders
 - a. Evangelists – church starters
 - b. Pastors – ordained elders
 - c. Teachers
 - d. No apostles, prophets, popes, cardinals, priests, abbots, monks, mullahs, imams, presidents, or sheiks
5. That means a Men only leadership (1Tim 3:2)
 - a. No women preachers
6. Only Three Ordinances / Commandments by Christ to every church
 - a. The church meeting is a time to remember the three main "_____ " (1Cor 11:2), which are not “sacraments,” but *commandments* that the Lord left specifically for the church to remember Him by. These ordinances are:
 - b. **Baptism** (Acts 2:41) - Baptism is vital to mark the commitment of a new believer to Christ, and to living separated from the old life and religions of their past.
 - c. The **Lord's supper** (“*the breaking of _____*,” Acts 2:42) – is meant to remind us of the high price Christ had to pay for our forgiveness! A church can remember this event as often as they want, but usually it happens about every one or two months.
 - d. **Loving _____** (Jn 15:17). This may sound a bit unusual, but Christ commanded the people of a church to love the people of that church. By doing this, God keeps us humble, and godly as a people!

C. A _____ Church (Mark 16:15; Matt 28:19; 1Cor 1:17)

1. Not entertaining
2. Not popular
3. Not hiding away behind building walls
4. But out in the open, for all to see!
5. Preaching the whole counsel of God from Genesis to Revelation

Introduction to Cults

6. Demanding holiness, and godliness
7. Plain speaking, even rude sometimes, and mainly foolish
8. Not fair speeches
9. Not money making enterprises!

D. A _____ **Church** (Acts 20:20,21)

1. Burdened for the lost around them – never getting hard and uncaring
2. Actually going into the highways and hedges to preach the Gospel to people
3. Reasoning, showing and proving from the Scriptures their need
4. Winning, the Discipling, and Baptizing new converts

E. A _____ **Church** (Acts 13:1-5)

1. Never content with themselves
2. Always going into the next towns to start more churches

F. A _____ **Church** (Acts 2:45; 2Cor 5:15) – live no longer for themselves

1. Everyone Serving each other
2. Even Serving our enemies
3. Having PAID and ordained Deacons so that they can serve people full time!

G. A _____ **Church** – a true church stays the course (Rev 2:8-10)

1. Never changing her doctrines
2. Never changing her purpose/missions
3. Always keeping tabs on their direction, and their drift, and quickly repenting and getting back right, when shown to be wrong!

IV. Conclusion

- A. When you HAVE those markers, clearly laid out, and a church matches those things, then you have a good church
- B. 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!
- C. Next Week, What To Do With False Teachers, and False Doctrines!