

Beware of Cults!

Jesus warned that in the last days that many false Christ' and prophets would emerge. Matthew 7:15-16 Jesus calls believers to be aware of, take heed, and guard against false prophets who come in sheep's clothing, appearing righteous but inwardly corrupt. Jesus describes false prophets as ravenous wolves who operate by self-promotion or deceit and cause great spiritual harm to the sheep. [2 Cor 11:4; 2 Cor 11:13] Usually these false prophets or teachers would reveal themselves in what we term in theological circles as a cult.

Question: "What is the definition of a cult?"

Answer: When people hear the word cult, they often think of a group that worships Satan, sacrifices animals, or takes part in evil, bizarre, and pagan rituals. However, in reality, a cult rarely involves such things. In fact, a cult, in the broadest sense of the word, is simply a religious system with particular rites and customs.

Usually, though, a cult is more narrowly defined, and the word refers to an unorthodox sect whose members distort the original doctrines of the religion. **In a Christian context, the definition of a cult is, specifically, "a religious group that denies one or more of the fundamentals of biblical truth."** **A cult is a group that teaches doctrines that, if believed, will cause a person to remain unsaved.** A cult claims to be part of a religion, yet it denies essential truth(s) of that religion. Therefore, a Christian cult will deny one or more of the fundamental truths of Christianity while still claiming to be Christian.

The two most common teachings of Christian cults are that Jesus was not God and that salvation is not by faith alone. A denial of the deity of Christ results in the view that Jesus' death was insufficient to pay for our sins. A denial of salvation by faith alone results in the teaching that salvation is achieved by our own works. The apostles dealt with cults in the early years of the church: for example, John addresses the teaching of Gnosticism in 1 John 4:1-3. John's litmus test for godly doctrine was "Jesus Christ has come in the flesh" (verse 2)—a direct contradiction of the Gnostic heresy (cf. 2 John 1:7).

The two most well-known examples of cults today are the Jehovah's Witnesses and Mormons. Both groups claim to be Christian, yet both deny the deity of Christ and salvation by faith alone. Jehovah's Witnesses and Mormons believe many things that are in agreement with or similar to what the Bible teaches. However, the fact that they deny the deity of Christ and preach a salvation by works qualifies them as cults. Many Jehovah's Witnesses, Mormons, and members of other cults are moral people who genuinely believe they hold the truth. **As Christians, our hope and prayer must be that many people involved in cults will see through the lies and will be drawn to the truth of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ alone.**

Until the trumpet sounds, 1 Thess. 4:13-18

Pastor George



The Witness of the Spirit

“And it is the Spirit who bears witness, because the Spirit is truth” (1 John 5:6)

There are times when the Holy Spirit’s inner witness will not allow me to keep quiet. The Spirit rises within me and I am compelled to speak up.

The Holy Spirit abides in us to reveal what is true and what is false. He speaks with a still, small voice, deep within the heart. Many of our holy forefathers preached much about “having the witness,” but I do not hear this truth being preached anymore. In fact, the witness of the Spirit is virtually unheard of in most churches today.

Believers need the Spirit’s witness as never before, and we are going to need it more as the day of the Lord draws near. Satan has come brazenly as an angel of light to deceive, if it were possible, the very elect of God. His evil seductions are going to flourish: false doctrines, false teachers, false gospels.

The Spirit’s inner witness operates on the “principle of peace.” The peace of God is the greatest thing you can have—so when your peace is disturbed, you can be sure the Holy Spirit is speaking to you. When there is a troubling in your spirit—a shaking and turmoil deep inside—God is telling you that something is false. You will feel His embarrassment, grief or anger.

“And let the peace of God rule in your hearts” (Colossians 3:15). Any hidden sin will rob a believer of peace. His heart will be torn by guilt, condemnation and fear—and the Spirit will only speak two words to him: “Repent! Flee!”

Yes, the Spirit will speak to you to correct you; He will deal with you about sin, righteousness and judgment. Listen to His inner witness, for it is life.

David Wilkerson
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September Calendar

2 Wed	Begin Ladies Bible Study	
	The book of Joshua	10:30 am
2 Wed	Begin Share Your Faith	
	Workshop	7 pm
6 Sun	Communion Service	11 am
7 Mon	Labor Day	
12 Sat	Men’s Breakfast	8 am
22 Tue	First Day of Autumn	
26 Sat	Evangelism Outreach	9-11 am
	Weather Permitting	



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