THE CULTS

(Religions and Sects
which differ significantly from Biblical Christianity)

Course Taught By:

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The CULTS

Weekly Homework

READING: Correcting the Cults: Expert Responses to Their Scripture Twisting
Ron Rhodes & Norman Geisler

Other Recommended Reading:
Kingdom of the Cults by Walter Martin

BIBLE MEMORY VERSES:(related to Answering the Cults)
Note: All verses are to be memorized from the KJV or NKJV.

Date	Reading from "Correcting the Cults"			Memory Verses
2/22/10	9-18			2 Cor. 11:13-14
3/1/10	19-30			Mt. 7:22-23
3/8/10	39-46			Rev. 22:18-19
3/15/10	64-73			Col. 2:9-10
3/22/10	93-106			John 1:1-3
3/29/10	111-121			John 10:27-30
4/5/10	134-158			Is. 44:6
4/12/10	159-172			Is. 45:22
4/19/10	173-184			2 Pet. 2:2
4/26/10	194-197b;	210-214		2 Th. 1:8-9
5/3/10	222-236			Heb. 10:12
5/10/10	256-267			Mt. 23:9
5/17/10	268-269;	288-291;	304-312	1 Tim. 2:5

TERM PAPER: A five-page, double-spaced, end-noted typed paper is required
PAPER TOPICS:
(Pick one; or ask permission to write on a topic of your choosing)

- What are the Primary Marks of a Cult?
- What is the Authority of a typical cult? Is it really the Bible?
- What kind of Christ do cults propagate?
- What type of "Gospel" do cults typically promote
- Write a 5 page paper on one cult (you pick one)

THE CULTS

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THE CULTS



INTRODUCTION:

I. THE CHARACTERISTICS OF CULTS

A series of messages on the cults is appropriate (fitting) in light of world events and the warning of Jesus concerning the last days (Mt. 24:4-5, 11, 24) (Lk. 21:8; Mk. 13:21-22)

Cults thrive in a societal climate where people have the following problems:

Loneliness - They "approach the unwary with an excessively friendly invitation to a lecture, free meal, weekend workshop, or other activity offering instant solutions to overwhelming problems (most often without identifying themselves) (Bob Larson, Cults, p.15)
They then, offer a "family" and employ a "love-bombing" technique to people who are longing for acceptance, approval, and a belonging relationship.

Indecision - They thrive on people who are totally dependent on strong leadership

Disappointment - With organized religion and denominations that had a form of religion but did not meet the people's inner-most needs. The bitter taste of dead orthodoxy created a thirst for fresh enthusiasm and a new spiritual experience.

Mental & emotional disorders - People who lack the ability to think rationally, and analytically are prime victims.

Doctrinal confusion - The cult will offer dogmatic answers

Pride - They believe God has raised them up to accomplish what others have failed to do. Their vision is to recover the lost purpose of the "apostate" church. With exclusivistic arrogance they delude themselves into thinking that they alone have been entrusted with the truth. The opportunity to be a part of a select group of God's chosen servants is attractive.

Beware: Cults are seductive!

1. They <u>look</u> good - Mt. 7:15; II Cor. 11:13-14)

II Tim. 3:1, 5 *- "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. . . Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away."*

II Pet. 2:1, 17-19 *- ""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. . . These are wells without water, [The thirsty world goes to them to drink, but they do not satisfy.] clouds that are carried with a tempest; to whom the mist of darkness is reserved for ever. For when they speak great swelling words of vanity, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through much wantonness, those that were clean escaped from them who live in error. While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage."*

2. They <u>sound</u> good - Rom. 16:17-18

3. They minister in the "name of Jesus" - Mt. 7:22-23

(The cultist will be zealous, confident, claim to be sole repositories of truth, and apparently "religious")

"Cursed be he that doeth the work of the LORD deceitfully" (Jer. 48:10).

What Satan says is false; therefore, God's people must be able to detect error. Satan's co-workers are:

<u>F</u> ake
<u>A</u> ppealing
<u>L</u> iars
<u>S</u> eductive
<u>E</u> nticing

God gave you a pastor (Eph. 4:11-12) to equip you so that you will not sway in the winds of Satan's false teachings (Eph.4:14)

What is a religious cult?

Definition: *A religious cult is a unified, organized group of people who differ significantly from Biblical Christianity; rally around and dogmatically support a man or the unquestioned teachings of a man or men; claim sole possession of the truth; either deny cardinal doctrines of Scripture and/or twist Scripture to make minor issues major dogma and dividing issues; emphasizes external conformity to man made rules; erodes Christian liberty & individuality; and promotes an arrogant, exclusivistic, isolationist, spirit.*

What is a Cult in simple terms?

In a nutshell, the definition of a cult can be summarized by a concise *"mathematical"* formula:

"A cult is any religious group which:

(+) **ADDS** to the Scriptures
(-) **SUBTRACTS** from Christ
(x) **MULTIPLIES** salvation requirements
(÷) **DIVIDES** the church"

(Author unknown)

The marks of a cult!

A. Cults Preach Another JESUS (II Cor. 11:3-4)
(They deny Christ's person and work)

"Unethical businesses often advertise low-priced products to get consumers in the door. Once in, customers are subjected to manipulative sales tactics designed to get them to leave with something other than what they came in for. This "bait and switch" tactic is also characteristic of dangerous religious groups" (Martin R. De Haan II, "How to identify a dangerous religious group", Radio Bible Class, p.16)

Cults will preach about Jesus; but not the Jesus of the Bible. They will use much Biblical terminology but slip in gross errors about the nature of Christ or redefine their terminology so that the result is heresy.

1. They deny His Person (I Jn. 4:1-6; II Jn. 7-11)

   His deity is explained away.

2. They deny His Work (Gal. 2:4, 21, 6:14 cp. Heb. 10:14)

   His atonement is minimized.

   The efficacy of the cross is nullified.

B. Cults Believe Another AUTHORITY
(They undermine the Bible)

The cult, its leaders, and its doctrine are the authority-- claim of "special discoveries"--"You need us to know the 'real' truth."

False authorities added to Holy Scripture:

- Jehovah's Witnesses: The Writings of Charles T. Russell and Joseph F. Rutherford
- Mormons: The Doctrines and Covenants; The Pearl of a Great Price; The Book of Mormon
- Christian Science: Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures
- Seventh Day Adventists: The Writings of Ellen G. White
- Unification Church: The Writings of Moon
- Roman Catholic Church: The decrees of the Vatican

God warns about adding or deleting from His Word -

Revelation 22:18-19
For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

Deut. 4:2, 12:32 *- "Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you. . . What thing soever I command you, observe to do it: thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it."*

Prov. 30:6 *- "Add thou not unto His words, lest He reprove thee, and thou be found a liar."*

Titus 1:14 *- "Not giving heed to Jewish fables, and commandments of men, that turn from the truth."*

1. New revelations (Deut. 13:1-5, 18:20-22)

Ex. Joseph Smith - Book of Mormon

Charles T. Russell - dimensions of pyramids gave him the date 1914 for the return of Christ

2. The traditions of men (Mt. 15:8-9, 13-14)

They show a "token" respect for the Bible.

Independent research is not encouraged; rather it's often discouraged!

They appeal much to reason, logic, "good sense," rather than the clear statements of Scripture.

3. Faulty Interpretation (II Pet. 3:16; II Tim. 2:14-18)

Acts 20:29-30 - "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."

*They allegorize the Bible - EX: II Tim. 2:14-18.

Hymenaeus and Philetus allegorized the Resurrection.

Gnostics taught that a "spiritual" resurrection occurred at baptism or when one was cognizant of truth.

*They segment the Bible - they build doctrine on proof text without context.
(They explain away everything that contradicts their presupposed system of doctrine)

In all cults, critical thinking is discouraged. Questioning the cults dogma is anathema. In order to manipulate the minds of the members or inquirers many cult coercion techniques are used to neutralize the person's mind and to begin an period of intensive indoctrination: (See Larson, p. 16-18 for a list)

C. Cults Teach Another GOSPEL (Gal. 1:6-10)
(They peddle a works salvation)
(Not the Gospel of grace)

Salvation to a cult is inseparably linked to your faithfulness and membership in their "church." They are the only true "church."

*Legalism - Col. 2:8, 16-23; I Tim. 4:1-3

A religious cult will major on a peculiar set of "doctrinal insights" which no other group has been privy to, thus instilling a "we" verses "they" complex.

"In a society that is biblically illiterate, the deception of a cult is particularly enticing if it claims to have "restored" certain truths that have been lost or undiscovered." (Bob Larson, Cults p. 15)

They major on the minors and minor on the majors.

Salvation to a Christian Scientist is in ridding the mind of the error that there is anything from which to be saved.

D. Cults Follow Another LEADER (Mt. 20:25-27)
(They are devoted to a man)
(Not the Lord Jesus Christ)

Herbert W. Armstrong -	The World Today
Victor Paul Wierwille -	The Way
Russell T. Rutherford -	Jehovah's Witnesses
Joseph Smith/Brigham Young -	Mormonism
Mary Baker Eddy -	Christian Science
The Pope -	Roman Catholicism
Muhammad -	Islam
Harold Camping -	The Campingites

"In the beginning many groups (may) display sincere expressions of a humble desire to better society and follow God's will. At some point the founder's teachings are codified into an organized system of revelational authority. Allegiance to the founder's ideals becomes an absolute requirement...What then develops is a "type of institutional dogmatism and a pronounced intolerance for any position but their own" (Bob Larson citing Walter Martin, p.15)

Their leaders demand total allegiance and dedication to their cause. People become a slave to the cult, not to Christ.

In doing so they lay heavy burdens on people (Mt. 23:3-4, 13).

Their human leaders represent God, and their word must not be violated.

Their human leaders are the final authority. All alternative views are denounced as Satanic counterfeits.

They are super organizers. The less truth, the more necessary to be highly organized.

All cults have in common a "centralized authority" that tightly structures both philosophy and life-style" (Larson, p.14)

How do you detect a false spiritual leader? (See Dehaan, p.9-10)

E. Cults Utilize Another MOTIVE
(They manipulate by fear and intimidation)
(Not love for Christ)

1. The fear of man

   Cp. the often repeated phrase - "For fear of the Jews"

   Since "salvation" is tied to one's relationship to the cult, to leave the cult is in the minds of many, to leave Christ, the Bible, & Eternal life.

2. The praise of man

   The motivation for many cult members is generated be rewards for excessive zeal.

3. The love of money & success

   The motivation of all cult leaders is not love for Christ, but is to have more of the 3 B's:

   Bodies, Buildings, and Bucks.

   Financial exploitation - I Tim. 6:5

In all cults:

C hrist is dethroned
U nity is forced
L aws become salvation
T ruth is twisted
S criptures are nullified

What is Satan's goal for his cults to accomplish? Answer: To turn men away from the truth (Ex: Elymas - Acts 13:6-11)

II. The Jehovah's Witnesses



Their founders:

1. Charles Taze Russell (1852-1916)

The founder of the Jehovah Witnesses born in Pittsburgh PA on Feb. 16, 1852, was raised a Congregationalist but at the age of 16 found himself losing faith in Churches, Church Creeds, the Bible and God. He then heard the preaching of Mr. Jonas Wendell of the Second Adventist Movement and had his faith strenthened. In 1879, Russell started and financed his own magazine called the Zion's Watch Tower and Herald of Christ's Presence magazine. The "Zion's Watch Tower Tract Society" in Pittsburgh would move to Brooklyn, NY in 1908. Russell would be divorced by his wife, Maria Ackley after 17 years of marriage. In 1886, Charles Russell would publish "the Divine Plan of the Ages" and predicted that Christ would return and the world would come to an end in 1914. Russell's blueprint to end-times chronology would come to him by his study of the dimensions of the Great Pyramid of Gaza.







2. Joseph Franklin Rutherford (1869-1942)

After Russell's death, there was a contentious battle for control of the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society. Joseph F. Rutherford, the legal counsel for Russell and the society would take over the organization. Rutherford credited the Pyramid teaching to Satan. He would predict the Resurrection of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and the faithful prophets of old to happen in 1925. He therefore had a mansion built for them in San Diego, CA called "Beth Sarim" (House of Princes). When the prophets did not rise from the dead and occupy their house, Judge Rutherford moved into the mansion, while his wife lived in another part of the country. In 1942 after the death of Rutherford, the house was sold. After his death Nathan H. Knorr (1944-1977) would be elected president. During his tenure, the New World Translation was created and Armageddon was to happen in 1975. He would be followed by Frederick W. Franz (1977-1992), and today the Organization is controlled by the Governing Body of the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society presided over by Milton Henschel.



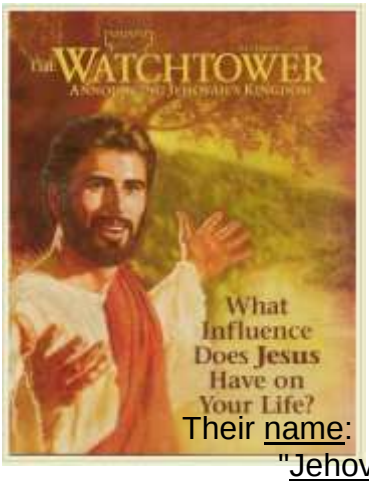




Their ministry:

1. Statistics for 2008
   - Total Lands 236
   - Peak Witnesses 7,124,443
   - Number of Congregations 103,267
   - Number of Baptisms 289,678
   - Total Hours Preaching 1,488,658,249

   http://www.watchtower.org/e/statistics/worldwide_report.htm
2. Meet in "Kingdom Halls"
3. Publish "Watch Tower" and "Awake"
4. Headquarters at 124 Columbia Heights, Brooklyn, NY 11201



Their name:

"Jehovah's Witnesses" - They say this is the only true name for God.

***"Jehovah's Witnesses" are not witnesses of Jehovah!**

Five reasons:

A. "Jehovah's Witnesses" preach another JESUS (II Cor. 11:3-4)

1. J.W.'s deny Christ's deity
(They say he is "a god," not Jehovah God)

"...The Bible shows that there is only one God...greater than His Son. ... And that the Son, as the First-born, Only-begotten and 'the creation by God,' had a beginning. That the Father is greater and older than the Son is reasonable, easy to understand and is what the Bible teaches." ("Paradise Lost to Paradise Regained" - p. 164)

THE DEITY OF CHRIST

The Bible teaches that Christ is divine, equal with the Father, God very God, and Lord of Lords!

The Father is believed to be of greater essence than the Son.

J.W. proof: Jn. 14:28 - "Greater than I." The word translated "greater" is "meizon" (μειζων - from "megas"), which compares extent, not essence; degree, not quality. Note: Jesus did not say the Father was "better" than the Son (πλειων - Mt. 5:20; 12:41).

God "the Father," being Spirit (Jn. 4:24) had a more extensive influence on the world than the Son, who was limited to a physical body while on earth. In other words, Jesus being incarnate could only be at one place at one time while on earth (He surrendered the use of His omnipresence for a time - Heb. 2:9). This is why He said that His disciples should "rejoice" when He spoke of His ascension to the Father (v. 28).

After Jesus received a glorified body following the resurrection and after He ascended to Heaven, He was restored to His former greatness (Jn. 17:5; Mt. 18:19; Phil. 2:9). He can now work on a larger scale geographically (cp. v. 12; SEE Eph. 1:20-23, 4:10; Col. 3:11 - "Christ now fills all things").

Though this is not the point in John 14:28, it is also important to note that the Father is greater than the Son in position (headship) in the Trinity (I Cor. 11:3). What the Father DOES, He does THROUGH the Son, BY the Spirit. There is "subordination" in the modes of operation or function, but never any difference in essence mentioned in Scripture.

1. Jesus is Directly Called "God."

"Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us" (Mt. 1:23).

a. He is called God by John.

John 1:1 - "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." (the "Word" refers to Jesus - v. 14).

I Jn. 5:20 - "And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life."

Rev. 21:7 - "He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son."

b. He is called God by Thomas.

Jn. 20:27-29 - "...and be not faithless, but believing. And Thomas answered and said unto Him, My Lord and my God. Jesus said, Because ye have seen me, thou hast believed..."

If Thomas erred so seriously in addressing Jesus as God, why was there no correction by Jesus? And why did Jesus commend his faith?

c. Jesus refers to Himself as God.

John 5:17-18 - "But Jesus answered them, My Father worketh hitherto, and I work. Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill him, because he not only had broken the sabbath, but said also that God was his Father, making himself equal with God."

John 10:30 - "I and my Father are one." [Note the reaction of the Jews (v. 33) - "...Thou, being a man, makest thyself God." jesus shortly after this said, "...that ye may know and believe that the Father is in me,a nd I in him. Therefore they sought again to take him: but he escaped out of their hand" (v. 38, 39).
John 14:9 - "...he that hath seen me hath seen the Father..."

d. He is called God by the writer of Hebrews.

Heb. 1:3 - "His Son...who being the brightness of His glory, and the express image of His person..."

e. He is called God by God the Father.

Heb. 1:8 - "But unto the Son He saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of Thy kingdom." (quoting Ps. 45:6, 7)

f. He is called God by the Apostle Paul.

"Israelites...whose are the fathers, and of whom as concerning the flesh Christ came, Who is over all God blessed for ever. Amen."

Acts 20:28 (Luke quoting Paul) - "...Feed the church of God, which He hath purchased with His own blood."

Phil. 2:6 - "Who being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God."

Col. 1:15 - "Who is the image of the invisible God."
Col. 2:9 - "For in Him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily." ("fullness" = completeness or perfection; "Godhead" = to have the same essence as God)

I Tim. 3:16 - "And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory."

Titus 2:13 - "Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ." (cp. I Jn. 5:20; Rev. 21:7; Is. 9:6)

2. Jesus has the Divine Titles of God.

a. "Son of God" -

The word "Son" refers to identity (See pages 30-31 in the notes).

Christ is identified with God because He has the same nature.

To be the "only begotten Son" (Jn. 3:16) means to have a unique relationship to the Father that no one else has or ever will have.

b. "God"
Jn. 1:1, 20:27-29; Rom. 9:5; I Tim. 3:16; Titus 2:13, Heb. 1:8; I Jn. 5:20; etc.

c. "Lord"
Such a title identifies Christ with Adonai and Yahweh of the Old Testament (Jn. 13:13, 20:28; Acts 4:33; Rom. 10:9; Rev. 17:14; cp. Jn. 12:41 with Is. 6:5).

d. "God with us" Mt. 1:23; Is. 7:14.

e. "The Holy One" Acts 3:14; Is. 6:1-3, 10:20.

f. **"First and Last"** Is. 44:6; Rev. 22:13.

g. **"Savior"** Is. 43:11; Titus 2:13.

3. **Jesus Claimed and Exercised the <u>Prerogatives</u> of God.**
(Christ had the <u>rights</u> of God, and did the <u>works</u> of God.)

a. **Forgives sins** (Mk. 2:10; Lk. 7:48)

b. **Raises the dead** (Lk. 7:12-15; Jn. 5:25, 29; 6:39-44; 11:24, 25).

c. **Controls nature** (Mt. 8:26).

d. **Judges motives** (Mt. 7:22-27).

e. **Receives worship** (Ps. 2:8, 12; Mt. 8:2, 9:18; 14:33; 15:25; 28:9, 17; Jn. 9:35, 38; 20:28, 29; Lk. 24:51, 52; by angels - Heb. 1:6; by all men - Phil. 2:10.
[Note: Peter (Acts 10:25, 26), Paul (Acts 14:11-18) and angels (Rev. 19:10 refused to be worshipped.]

f. **Taught with independent authority** (Mt. 7:29).

Jesus did not say, "Thus saith the Lord" as the prophets did, but boldly states, "I say unto you" (cp. Mt. 5).

g. **Sends the Holy Spirit** (Jn. 15:26).

h. **Creates** (Gen. 1:26; Jn. 1:3; Col. 1:15, 16).
Note: "Firstborn" (Col. 1:15) is a Jewish concept which refers to <u>preeminence</u> or <u>authority</u>, not origin (cp. Col. 1:18 - EX: Jacob & Esau). Jesus had the rights of the firstborn. Cp. Jn. 3:16 - "only begotten" - lit. "one of a kind"; "unique"; not referring to origin. Cp. Heb. 11:17 - Isaac was not Abraham's only son. Cp. Acts 13:33 - reference to the resurrection.

i. **Sustains** (He preserves creation) (Col. 1:17; Heb. 1:3).

j. **He is the only Judge** (cp. Jn. 5:22 with Rev. 20:11).

k. **He is to receive equal honor with the Father**
(Jn. 5:23).

l. **The only Savior** (cp. Is. 43:11 with Jude 25; I Pet. 3:18).

m. **He grants eternal life** (Jn. 10:28).

n. **He answers prayer** (Jn. 14:14).

4. **Jesus Christ has the Same <u>Attributes</u> as God.**

a. **Self-existence** (Jn. 8:58 - "I am"; Jn. 1:14, 14:6).

b. **Immutability** (Heb. 13:8 - "The same...for ever")

c. **Eternal** (Rev. 22:13 - "Alpha & Omega"; cp. Is. 44:6; Jn. 8:35).

d. **Omnipresent** (Mt. 28:20 - "I am with you always"; cp. 18:20).

e. **Omniscient** (Jn. 21:17 - "Lord, thou knowest all things"; cp. Jn. 1:48, 2:24, 4:18, 29).

f. **Omnipotent** (Rev. 1:8 - "Almighty"; cp. Jn. 1:12, 4:19-21; Phil. 3:21, 21).

g. **Life** (Jn. 1:4 - "In Him was life").

h. **Truth** (Jn. 14:6 - "I am the truth").

i. **Infinity** (meaning no limits or boundaries except those that are self-imposed) (Eph. 3:8 - "unsearchable"; cp. Col. 2:3).

j. **Perfection** (Col. 2:9 - "<u>fulness</u> of the Godhead"; Eph. 4:13).

k. **Omnisapience** (I Cor. 1:24 - "the wisdom of God").

[NOTE: References to Trinity in Scripture: I Cor. 6:11, 12:4-6; II Cor. 1:21, 22; 13:14; Gal. 3:11-14; I Th. 5:18-19; I Pet. 1:2.]

5. **Jesus Christ <u>Fulfills Old Testament Scriptures</u> which Apply to Jehovah God.**

The following parallels between the Old Testament and New Testament prove that Jesus is Jehovah:

1. **"Creator"**

Jehovah is Creator (Is. 44:24; Prov. 16:4; cp. Gen. 1:26, 27).
Jesus is Creator (Jn. 1:3; Col. 1:16).

2. "First and Last"

Jehovah is the First and the Last (Is. 44:6).
Jesus is the First and the Last (Rev. 1:8, 17, 18; 22:12, 13).

3. "Highest Glory"

Jehovah has the highest glory (Is. 42:8).
Jesus has the highest glory (Jn. 17:5; II Pet. 3:18).

4. "Forgiver"

Jehovah alone can forgive sin (Is. 43:25).
Jesus forgives sin (Mk. 2:7-10).

5. "Holy One"

Jehovah is the Holy One (Is. 43:3, 14).
Jesus is the Holy One (Acts 3:14).

6. "The One coming"

Jehovah is coming with His reward (Is. 40:10).
Jesus is coming with His reward (Rev. 22:12).

7. "Shepherd"

Jehovah is the Shepherd (Ps. 23:1).
Jesus is the Shepherd (Jn. 10; Heb. 13:20, 21; II Pet. 5:4).

8. "King"

Jehovah is King (Zech. 14:9).
Jesus is King (Rev. 19:16).

9. "I Am"

Jehovah is the "I Am" (Ex. 3:14).
Jesus is the "I Am" (Jn. 8:58, 59; 18:5-8).

10. "Worshipped and Served"

Jehovah is the One to be worshipped and served (Deut. 6:5).
Jesus is the One to be worshipped and served (Mt. 14:33; Jn. 9:38; Heb. 1:6; Ro. 1:1; Ja. 1:1).

11. "One God"

Jehovah is the only true god (Is. 43:10).
Jesus is the true God (I Jn. 5:20).

12. "The only Savior"

Jehovah is the only Savior (Is. 43:11).
Jesus is the only Savior (Mt. 1:21; Acts 4:12; Titus 1:3, 4).

13. "The Changeless One"

Jehovah is the Changeless One (Mal. 3:6).
Jesus is the Changeless One (Heb. 13:8).

14. "The One to be loved"

Jehovah is the One to be loved (Deut. 6:5).
Jesus is the One to be loved (I Cor. 16:22).

15. "The One Lord"

Jehovah is the one Lord (Zech. 14:9).
Jesus is the one Lord (I Cor. 8:6; Eph. 4:5).

16. "The Redeemer"

Jehovah is the Redeemer (Is. 49:26).
Jesus is the Redeemer (Titus 2:13, 14).

17. "The Fountain of life and light"

Jehovah is the Fountain of life and light (Ps. 36:9).
Jesus is the Fountain of life and light (Jn. 1:4; 4:14).

18. "The One who refreshes the thirsty"

Jehovah is the One who refreshes the thirsty (Is. 44:3).
Jesus is the One who refreshes the thirsty (Jn. 7:37, 38).

19. "The One who swallows up death"

Jehovah is the One who swallows up death (Is. 25:8).
Jesus is the One who swallows up death (II Tim. 1:10).

20. "The One to be looked to for salvation"

Jehovah is the One to be looked to for salvation (Is. 45:22).
Jesus is the One to be looked to for salvation (Jn. 6:40, 1:29).

21. "The Holy Lord of <u>Glory</u>"

Jehovah is the Holy Lord of Glory (Is. 6:1, 3, 10).
Jesus is the Holy Lord of Glory (Jn. 12:37-41 *v.41).

22. "The Light of New Jerusalem"

Jehovah is the Light of New Jerusalem (Is. 60:19).
Jesus is the Light of New Jerusalem (Rev. 21:23).

23. "The only One to be prayed to"

Jehovah is the One to be prayed to (Mt. 6:9; cp. Is. 45:20; 44:17, 18).
Jesus is the One to be prayed to (Jn. 14:14; Acts 7:59-60).

24. "The One who calms the sea"

Jehovah is the One who calms the Sea (Ps. 107:29).
Jesus is the One who calms the Sea (Mt. 8:26).

25. "The One who cleanses sin"

Jehovah is the One who cleanses sin (Is. 43:25).
Jesus is the One who cleanses sin (I Jn. 1:7).

26. "The One who chastens (disciplines)"

Jehovah is the One who chastens (Prov. 3:12).
Jesus is the One who chastens (Rev. 3:19).

27. "The Rock"

Jehovah is the Rock (Deut. 32:4; Ps. 78:19, 20, 35).
Jesus is the Rock (I Pet. 2:6-8; Acts 4:11, 12; I Cor. 10:4).

28. "The Judge of the Earth"

Jehovah is the Judge of the earth (Gen. 18:25).
Jesus is the Judge of the earth (II Cor. 5:10).

29. "The One whom Israel tested in the wilderness"

Jehovah was tested in the wilderness (Num.21:5-7)
Jesus was tested in the wilderness (I Cor. 10:9)

The list of parallels on the previous pages is by no means exhaustive. Many more can be discovered. The parallels between Jehovah of the Old Testament and Jesus of the New Testament clearly identify Jesus with Jehovah! Jesus is Jehovah! No wonder He will one day be called "The LORD (Jehovah) our Righteousness" (Jer. 23:6).

NOTE: By calling Jesus Jehovah, we are not denying the fact that the Father is Jehovah and that the Holy Spirit is Jehovah. The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are together the eternal Jehovah God, as the Scriptures clearly teach.

If Jesus were not Jehovah, the Bible would be the most contradictory Book ever written. But the truth is, the Bible is not a contradictory Book, because Jesus is Jehovah God! The evidence for Jesus' deity is conclusive. Those who deny it dishonor the Father (Jn. 5:23) and face eternal tragedy (Jn. 8:24).

"Thus saith the Lord:

You call me Light and
You see me not.
You call me the Way and
You follow me not.
You call me Truth and
You believe me not.
You call me Just and
You trust me not.
You call me Mighty and
You fear me not.

You call me Salvation and
You honor me not.
You call me Rich and
You ask me not.
You call me Worthy and
You praise me not.
You call me eternal and
You seek me not.
You call me Master and
You obey me not.

When you force me to condemn you,
blame me not.

Jesus is God Almighty!"

2. J.W.'s deny Christ's <u>pre-existence</u>
(they say He was originally <u>Michael the Archangel</u>)

"Being the only begotten Son of God,...the Word would be a prince among all other creatures. In this office he [Christ] bore another name in heaven, which name is "Michael" ... Other names were given to the Son in course of time." (<u>The Truth Shall Make You Free</u>, p. 49)

Christ is believed to be Michael in "pre-human" state.

The name Michael means "who is like God?" Note: In Jude 9, Michael wasn't even equal tot he status of Satan. In this verse, he is called the "archangel." Note how the archangel is CONTRASTED with Christ in I Thes. 4:16.

The Son is said to have existed "<u>before</u> <u>all</u> things" (Col.1:17)

"Alpha & Omega...beginning and the end"
Jesus could not be Michael because He created Michael! (Col.1:16)

3. J.W.'s deny Christ's eternality
(they say He was created by Jehovah God)

"Being God's first creation, He was with the Father in heaven from the beginning of all creation. Jehovah God used him in the creating of all other things that have been created." (From Paradise Lost to Paradise Regained, p. 126, 127).

They say: Christ was created by Jehovah God. J.W. proof:

a. Col. 1:15 - "firstborn." Note: Interpreter must understand historical setting and Hebrew (Jewish) thought, and word usage (idiomatic expressions). "Firstborn" (πρωτοτοκος) has nothing to do with creation. Paul should have used πρωτοκτιστος if this is what he meant.

"Firstborn" (πρωτοτοκος) in the Jewish mind refers to the one with the birthright (EX: Jacob - Gen. 27). The word refers to rights to property or possessions, to authority, and to right to rule. See Gen. 49:3 for this definition (cp. Deut. 21:17). Note also that "Israel" is called "firstborn" by God (Ex. 4:22). Therefore, "firstborn" is a title of pre-eminence as specifically stated in Colossians 1:18. Being called the "firstborn" meant to have a position of honor and privilege (Ps. 89:27). Follow the flow of thought between Col. 1:15, 16 ff, and you will find that honor (pre=eminence) is in view, not origin.

In the context of Colossians, the Apostle Paul is arguing AGAINST what the J.W.'s are asserting: namely, the Gnostic heresy that Jesus Christ was the first of many other created intermediaries between God and men.

b. Rev. 3:14 –
"Beginning of the creation of God." The Greek term for "beginning" is αρχη, which can be translated "origin" or "source" and also "authority" or "rulership," which is the most likely intended meaning in view of the context. Note usage in Luke 12:11, 20:20; and Col. 2:10.

c. John 3:15 –
"Only begotten" - μονογενης. "Mono" = one; "genea" = generation, clan, race, or kind. Jesus is the "one of a kind" Son, or in other words, the "unique" Son of God the Father. (cp. Heb. 11:17, where Isaac is called the "only begotten" son, yet Abraham had Ishmael before Isaac!).

4. J.W.'s deny Christ's bodily resurrection
(they say He was resurrected with an "immaterial" body)

"This firstborn from the dead was raised from the grave, not a human creature, but a spirit (Let God Be True, p. 276).

"...Jehovah God raised him from the dead, not as a human Son, but as a mighty immortal spirit Son ... For forty days after that he materialized, as angels before him had done, to show himself alive to his disciples..." (Let God Be True, p. 40)

Christ is believed to have NOT risen bodily. Note, however, Lk. 24:36; Jn. 20:27-28, 21:12-14; I Pet. 3:18; Rev. 1:7; Acts 1:3, 5:30-32.

B. "Jehovah's Witnesses" believe another AUTHORITY (Rev. 22:18-19; Deut. 4:2, 12:32; Prov. 30:6)

1. J.W.'s have translated their own Bible

PERVERSIONS OF THE JEHOVAH WITNESS BIBLE ("New World Translation")

a. Insertion of "other" - Col. 1:15-17; Phil. 2:6; Rev. 3:4).

b. Insertion of the name "Jehovah" every time "Lord" (κυριος) is mentioned in the N.T. (237 times). EXCEPT when in reference to Christ.

c. John 1:1 - "a god."
Note: Jn. 1:6, 12, 13, 18 are also without the article. Greek rule: Whenever the predicate nominative precedes the verb, it never takes the article. Note: Heb. 10:31 is without the article, but the word "the" is still added in the N.W.T.

Also note in Jn. 1:1, "In the beginning" - the N.W.T. has "in a beginning" in the footnotes.

If the translation was "a god," then Scripture would teach polytheism! The N.W.T. footnote also lists 35 references where the predicate noun takes the article; however, all are with the pred. noun coming AFTER the verb. (the same goes for their LXX references).

d. Mistranslation of Phil. 2:6, which should read:
"Who, while existing in the form of God, did not consider [it] robbery (stealing) to be equal to God."

e. Titus 2:13 –
"When `kai' (και) connects two nouns of the same case, if the article precedes only the first noun, the latter always refers to the same person or object" - Granville Sharp (cp. II Pet. 1:1).

f. Rev. 3:14 –
N.W.T. - "The beginning of the creation BY God." However, the Greek is του θεου = "of God" - not "by" (**υπο**).

2. J.W.'s blindly believe their own interpreters

When going door to door: "But what if the householder raises a question that you cannot answer?" "Then do some research in the Watch Tower Society's Publications to determine the best way to share the good news with the individual the next time you call." (The Watch Tower, Nov. 15, 1989, p. 13-14)

C. "Jehovah's Witnesses" teach another GOSPEL (Gal. 1:6-10)

1. J.W.'s peddle a "works salvation"

"Immortality is a reward for faithfulness" (Let God Be True, p. 74)

"But the Bible also offers a ray of hope ... If a man turns to God through Jesus Christ and seeks meekness and righteousness that man can gain

eternal life - Zeph. 2:3" (Let God Be True, p. 67)

Regarding: SALVATION

Christ's death is believed to have only the potential of saving man from annihilation, but not from the justice of God. Note however: Rom. 3:21, 22, 26; 8:1.

2. J.W.'s deny the sufficiency of Christ (II Pet. 2:1-3)

"The atonement is a ransom paid to Jehovah God by Christ Jesus and is applicable to all who accept it in righteousness. In brief, the death of Jesus removed the effects of Adam's sin on his offspring and laid the foundation of the New World of righteousness including the Millennium of Christ's reign." (Jehovah of the Watch Tower, p. 30).

"That which is redeemed or bought back is what was lost; namely, perfect human life, with its rights and earthly prospects." (Let God be True, p. 114)

3. J.W.'s living today have no hope of heaven

"Who, and how many, are able to enter the Kingdom? Revelation limits the number to 144,000 that become a part of the Kingdom and stand on Mount Zion - Rev. 14:1, 3; 7:4-8 (Let God be True, p. 121)

D. "Jehovah's Witnesses" teach another DOCTRINE (Rom. 16:17-18; II Jn. 9-11)

J.W.'s do not have a doctrinal statement so as to keep their doctrine elusive and alterable. Their doctrine, however, can be discerned by the materials they publish: "Awake"; "The Watch Tower"; and other anonymous publications by the Watch Tower Society.

They twist Scripture and teach heresy:

1. They are in error concerning the nature of God
(the Trinity is denied)

Concerning the Trinity, J.W.'s claim: "...Such doctrine is not of God" (Let God Be True, p. 100)

"The obvious conclusion is . . . that Satan is the originator of the Trinity doctrine" (Let God be True, p. 101)

"The Trinity doctrine was not conceived by Jesus or the early Christians" (Let God Be True, p. 111)

2. They are in error concerning the nature of the Holy Spirit

Regarding: THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit is believed to be an "invisible active force." Note, however: Jn. 14:16-18, 26; 15:26, 27; 16:7-14. These verses reveal the personality of the Spirit. Note also the personal pronouns used in reference to Him! The Holy Spirit is described in Scripture as having an ability to: know (I Cor. 2:11), love (Rom. 15:39), will (I Cor. 12:11), be grieved (Eph. 4:30), be offended (Mt. 12:3), and lied to (Acts 5:3, 4; Note - lying to the Holy Spirit is lying to God).

3. They are in error concerning the nature of man

"Thus we see that the claim of religionists that man has an immortal soul, and therefore differs from the beast, is not Scriptural." (Let God be True, p. 59, 60)

""Thus it is seen that the serpent (the Devil) is the one who originated the doctrine of the inherent immortality of the soul" (Let God Be True, p. 66)

Regarding: MAN

Man's soul (spirit) is believed to be only mortal. See: I Cor. 15:47-49; II Cor. 5:6-8, 12:2; Ja. 2:26; II Pet. 1:13-15; Mt. 10:28; II Cor. 4:16.

4. They are in error concerning the length of creation
Creation took 42,000 years, because 1 day = 1,000 years in II Peter 3:8 (which actually says "as" 1,000 years, and vice-versa!). (cp. Ps. 90:4, which must mean 1,000 years = yesterday)

5. They are in error concerning blood transfusions
No blood transfusions allowed because of command in Lev. 17:24.

6. They are in error concerning the visible return of Christ

"Christ Jesus came, not as a human, but as a glorious spirit creature" (Let God be true, p. 185)

"Some wrongfully expect a literal fulfillment of the symbolic statements of the Bible. Such hope to see the glorified Jesus coming seated on a white cloud where every human eye will see him... Since no earth men have ever seen the Father ... neither will they see the glorified Son" (Let God

Be True, p. 186).

"It does not mean that he [Christ] is on the way or has promises to come, but that he has already arrived" (Let God Be True, p. 187, 188)

"Since no earthly men have ever seen the Father ... neither will they see the glorified Son..." (Let God be True, p. 186)

"It is a settled Scriptural truth, therefore, that human eyes will not see him at his second coming, neither will he come in a fleshy body." (The Truth Shall Make You Free, p. 295)

"...Christ Jesus came to the Kingdom in A.D. 1914, but unseen to men." (The Truth Shall Make You Free, p. 300)

7. They are in error concerning hell and the lake of fire

"...God dishonoring religious doctrine..." (Let God Be True, p. 68)

"It is so plain that the Bible Hell is the tomb, the grave, that even an honest little child can understand it, but not the religious theologians." (Let God Be True, p. 68)

"The doctrine of a burning hell where the wicked are tortured eternally after death cannot be true, mainly for four reasons: 1) Because it is wholly unscriptural; 2) Because it is unreasonable; 3) Because it is contrary to God's love; and 4) Because it is repugnant to justice." (Let God be true , p. 80).

Regarding: HELL

Luke 16 is believed to be merely a "picture of life on earth today." See: Rev. 14:11, 20:5, 6, 11-13; Dan. 12:2; Is. 26:19. J.W.'s teach that "unbelievers are annihilated." Note references to soul - Mt. 10:28; Rev. 6:9, 10; spirit -Acts 7:59; Lk. 23:46; Heb. 12:22, 23. "Destruction"

("destruction") does not mean annihilation in Mt. 9:17, 10:42, 26:52; Lk. 9:24 (cp. I Cor. 1:18, 19). Note reference to torture in Mt. 25:46, and judgment in I Th. 5:3 (cp. I Cor. 5:5).

E. "Jehovah's Witnesses" follow another LEADER (Mt. 20:25-27; 23:3-4, 13)

1. They are devoted to their society, not Christ

2. They are manipulated by fear, not love

III. Mormonism



“The history of Mormonism began in 1820 near Palmyra, New York. Joseph Smith Jr., the founder of Mormonism, claimed to have received a series of visions in which he was told by God that all the churches were "wrong", their "creeds were an abomination in his sight", and all their "professors were corrupt". He was told that God would restore the true New Testament church using him as a mouthpiece. Consequently, Mormons believe that the Christian Church went into apostasy after the death of the Apostles. Joseph Smith Jr. came to restore the church as it was before the Apostles died, thus, the Mormon church consider Smith the first prophet of a new dispensation.

In the course of his visions, an angel named Moroni is said to have visited Joseph to disclose the location of a book "written upon gold plates, giving an account of the former inhabitants of this [American] continent, and the source from whence they sprang". Moroni also said that "the fulness of the everlasting Gospel was contained in it, as delivered by the Savior to the ancient inhabitants". Joseph was instructed to retrieve the plates and translate them with God's assistance. The result, called the Book of Mormon, was first published on March 26, 1830. Smith referred to the Book of Mormon as "the most correct of any book on earth, and the keystone of our religion". Following these first visions came a series of additional revelations that were later published in the Doctrine and Covenants. The Pearl of Great Price houses the Book of Abraham. Joseph Smith supposedly translated this from "old manuscripts".





Today there are many churches that claim to be the true successor of the church Joseph Smith originally founded. The largest of these is The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Headquartered in Salt Lake City, Utah). The second largest is the Community of Christ headquartered in Independance, Missouri." (http://www.mormonwiki.org/History)

11 Reasons Why MORMONISM is <u>Not</u> a Christian Religion

A. Mormonism teaches that God is an <u>exalted man</u> and has a <u>physical body</u>

"God himself was once as we are now, and is an exalted man" (<u>Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith</u>, p. 345). "The Father has a body of flesh and bones as tangible as man's..." (<u>Doc. & Cov.</u>, Sec. 131:22).

The Bible says: *"God is not a man..."* (Num. 23:19). *"God is a Spirit; and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth"* (Jn. 4:24). *"A spirit hath not flesh and bones..."* (Lk. 24:39).

B. Mormonism teaches that Christ and the devil are <u>brothers</u>

"...that Lucifer, the son of the morning, is our elder brother and the brother of Jesus Christ" (Mormon Doctrine, by Bruce McConkie, pp. 163-4).



The Bible says that the devil is a created being, created by God. *"Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee"* (Ezek. 28:15). *"For by Him* (Christ) *were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers; all things were created by Him and for Him..."* (Col. 1:15-17).

Mormon Thought about Jesus Christ

1. God the Father + God's Wife gave birth to the "Spirit Child" Jesus (and his brother Lucifer)
2 Jesus came to Earth to be tested & he passed the test
3. He went to Heaven with many wives and as creator is producing other spirit beings

Mormon Thought about You

1. You were a spirit being preexisting with other procreated spirit beings
2. You came to Earth upon conception
3. If you pass the test by being a Baptized and obedient Mormon and by having a marriage sealed in the Mormon Temple you can go to Heaven and become a creator "God" and with your wife or wives produce other spirit beings.

C. Mormonism teaches that the Bible (Old Testament & New Testament) is <u>not complete</u> or <u>trustworthy</u>

The <u>Book of Mormon</u> states that the "great and abominable church...have <u>taken away</u> from the gospel of the Lamb many parts which are plain and most precious, and also many covenants of the Lord have they taken away" (I Nephi 13:26).

The Bible teaches: *"His truth endureth to <u>all generations</u>" (Psalm 100:5).*
"...*the word of God...lliveth and abideth <u>forever</u>"* (I Pet. 1:23). *"Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away"* (Mt. 24:35).

D. Mormonism has <u>added</u> to God's Word

1. The Book of Mormon

--**Full of plagiarism** (25,000 words are plagiarized) (for example, one whole chapter is Isaiah 53, verbatim, in Mosiah 14).

--**KJV English** (no Greek or Hebrew or Aramaic foundation)

--**A rehash of Bible facts and statements** taken from all over the Old Testament and New Testament and strewn together.

--**Poor literary quality** (many re-statements and repetitious cliches; thoughts don't flow).



(In 1841, Joseph Smith declared the *Book of Mormon* to be "the most correct of any book on earth, and the keystone of our religion," and suggested that "a man would get nearer to God by abiding by its precepts, than by any other book" (History of the Church, 4:461). It must be noted, however, that the original edition of the Book of Mormon contained dozens of misspelled words, errors in grammar, redundant phrases and words, fabricated words, fraudulent language describing people, places and things that never existed when and where the *Book of Mormon* claims they did, changes in context, absurdities, and contradictions of the Bible. (See: **THE *BOOK OF MORMON*: A BOOK OF MISTAKES, ERROR, AND FRAUD** By **Jon Gary Williams, Apologetics Press, Inc.)**

--**Doctrinal heresies and errors** –

baptismal regeneration;
Nephi has orthodox Jews eating swine;
Alma 7:9 has Christ born at Jerusalem

--**Historical errors** - People, places, and other archeological fabrications

Many specific names and places (locations) occur in the book of Mormon which have never been discovered by Archaeology. Contrast this with the Bible which has hundreds of ancient places (locations) which have been discovered by archaeologists.

The Book of Mormon is of NO HISTORICAL OR ARCHAEOLOGICAL VALUE

"In the areas of history and archaeology, the accuracy of the Bible is flawless—so flawless, in fact, that for years researchers of the ancient middle east used it as a standard. Its record of cities, mountains, rivers, seas, and other locations is completely accurate. Likewise, its references to various nations are precise. Many biblical places and people, which for centuries were unknown to secular history (such as the great Hittite nation), now have been discovered. Archaeology consistently has verified the Bible record.

Yet the same cannot be said of the Book of Mormon. It records people

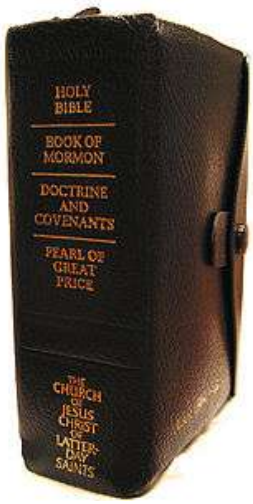
and places that never have been authenticated. In fact, when questioned about its historical and archaeological reliability, major research institutions (such as the Smithsonian) have stated that it has none. The Book of Mormon contains numerous references to unverifiable people and places. For example, the following groups of people are unverifiable: Nephites, Lamanites, Jaredites, Amulonites, Zoromites, and Amlicites. The following places likewise are unverifiable: Shazer, Jershon, Jashon, Helam, Heshlon, Manti, Middoni, and many more. All of these names apparently are fabricated and, hence, are unknown to history and archaeology. How could the many great cities and vast numbers of people portrayed in the Book of Mormon have gone completely undetected during millennia of research?

The simple fact is, such people and places cannot be documented to have ever existed—a problem with which modern-day Mormons have struggled, and one that they have attempted to solve in a variety of ways. For example, a brochure published by the Mormon-sponsored Brigham Young University suggested:
"Though we cannot speak authoritatively or precisely about the location of Book of Mormon sites, we can—by a visit to Mesoamerica—create a mental tapestry resembling the land and circumstances in which the story actually happened" (Travel Study Update, 1990). In other words, the events described within the pages of the Book of Mormon cannot be documented historically or archaeologically, but they can be imagined."

THE *BOOK OF MORMON*: A BOOK OF MISTAKES, ERROR, AND FRAUD
By **Jon Gary Williams, Apologetics Press, Inc.**

--**Contradictions** - Book of Mormon denounces polygamy (Jacob 2:24, 27) whereas the Doctrine & Covenants (by J. Smith) teaches it in Section 132.

--**Changes** - Since the first edition in 1830, some 3,913 changes, corrections, additions, and deletions have been made.



2. **The Pearl of Great Price** (containing extra-Biblical materials about Biblical figures, the history of Joseph Smith, and the articles of faith)

3. **Doctrines and Covenants** (1876) (it contains 136 sections and deals with the nature of the church, priesthood, Millennium, resurrection and state of man after death)

4. **Further new revelation** (the president of the church is said [in Doc. & Cove.] to be seer, prophet, revealer, translator, and head of the church. He is able to give new revelation)

Jesus said to His original disciples, *"When He, the Spirit of truth, is come, He will guide you into ALL truth*" (Jn. 16:13, cp. Jn. 17:17; II Tim. 3:16-17).

"The faith (God's body of Truth) *was <u>once</u> delivered unto the saints"* (Jude 3).

God forbids that anyone add to or take away from His Word (Dt. 4:2, 12:32; Prov. 30:6; Rev. 22:18, 19).

- *Deut.4:2 Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.*
- *Deut.12:32 What thing soever I command you, observe to do it: thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it.*
- *Prov.30:6 Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar.*
- *Rev.22:18-19 For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.*

E. Mormonism uses Bible words but <u>without Bible definitions</u>

1. "Trinity" -

Mormonism: The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are three distinct Gods (<u>Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith</u>, p. 370, 372)

Bible: There is only one God, three distinct Persons in the Godhead (Dt. 6:4; Is. 48:12-13, 16; Mt. 3:16-17)

Deut.6:4 ¶ Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD:
Is.48:12 Hearken unto me, O Jacob and Israel, my called; I am he; I am the first, I also am the last. 13 Mine hand also hath laid the foundation of the earth, and my right hand hath spanned the heavens: when I call unto them, they stand up together.

2. "Gospel" -

Mormonism: The Good News of a new life provided by adherence to the Mormon church system and doctrines (Mormon Doctrine, p. 331)

Bible: The Good News of eternal life provided by the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ (I Cor. 15:1, 4; Gal. 1:8)

Gal.1:8 But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.

3. "Salvation by grace" -

Mormonism: Deliverance from physical death by physical resurrection based on one's compliance to certain commandments and laws. The Third Article of Faith says, "We believe that through the atonement of Christ, all mankind may be saved, by obedience to the laws and ordinances of the Gospel." II Nephi 25:23 - "...it is by grace that we are saved, after all we can do."

Bible: Deliverance from spiritual, physical, and eternal death based on the finished, substitutionary work of Jesus Christ on the cross (Eph. 2:5, 8, 9)

4. "New Birth" -

Mormonism: Received by water baptism (immersion) through a Mormon priest

Bible: Adoption into the family of God through the work of the Holy Spirit (Jn. 3:3-6)

5. "Eternal Life" -

Mormonism: Endless celestial powers of procreation as a "god."

Bible: To be delivered from eternal damnation and to exist in the presence of the One true God forever (Jn. 3:16, 10:28; Rom. 5:21, 6:23; Ti. 3:7).

6. "The True Church" -

Mormonism: Only the Mormon church, which was taken from the earth until Joseph Smith restored it

Bible: All those who have become born again by faith in Christ, who assemble together to be edified by the Word of God (Mt. 16:18, 18:19-20; I Cor. 12:12-14; I & II Timothy; Titus)

7. "Faith and works" -

Mormonism: Salvation is received by faith plus works

Bible: Salvation is received by a faith that works
(Ja. 2:20; Eph. 2:10; Ti. 3:8)

F. Mormonism teaches that they are the only religion with authority to baptize, ordain, etc.

They have a two-part priesthood: Melchizedek & Aaronic.

The Bible teaches that Christ brought an end to the Aaronic priesthood and He is the ONLY High Priest after the manner of Melchizedek (Heb. 5:9; II Tim. 2:2).

Christ is the only authority (Mt. 28:19) who has commissioned baptism (Mt. 28:20). The baptism places the emphasis on belief before baptism and not on a priesthood authority (Acts 2:41; 8:12; 8:37; 9:18; 10:44, 48; 16:14-15, 31, 33).

G. Mormonism teaches that forgiveness of sins is achieved by the work of baptism into the L.D.S. church

Mormon key passage: Acts 2:38

The Bible's answer:
*People are damned to hell for not believing, rather than for not being baptized (Mk. 16:15, 16)
*Forgiveness of sins is granted based on faith (Acts 10:43) in the truth gospel (I Cor. 1:17), not by any works (Ti. 3:5; Eph. 2:8; Jn. 6:28-29; Rom. 4:2-6)

H. Mormonism teaches baptism for the dead

Doctrines and Covenants, p. 124-128. Those who died before the church was restored under Joseph Smith can be saved through this vicarious baptism. This kind of baptism (which they say is taught in I Cor. 15:29) is a "welding link" between the fathers (the dead) and the children (the living). (Joseph Smith became "Elijah" - Mal. 4:5,6).

*This explains the Mormon preoccupation with genealogical records.

The Bible refutation: I Corinthians 15:29 is misunderstood. There is no opportunity for salvation after death (Lk. 16; Jn. 11:26; Heb. 9:27).

1 Cor.15:29

"Baptized for the dead" - Paul is not teaching vicarious baptism for dead people so as to save them from sin. (He could be speaking hypothetically; note the *"they"* not "we"). One implied point is this: Why be identified with Christ and others who have died in Christ, if the dead are not raised? Baptism, which

pictures death and resurrection (Rom. 6), is pointless if there is no resurrection.

The word translated "for" is *huper*, which means "because of" or "on behalf of" or "in the place of." Every time someone is baptized, that person is showing that he is willing to step into the ranks of those who have gone on before us (whose faith we are following - Heb. 13:7). Why is it that new converts would be willing to take the place of older ones who had died through the last 20 centuries of there was no resurrection to look forward to?

V. 30
Paul says: "If there is no resurrection, why should I jeopardize (risk, endanger) my life for a dead Savior and a dead religion?" Every day Paul's life was threatened as people hated him for his hour-by-hour testimony for Christ.

I. Mormonism teaches that everyone <u>pre-existed</u> eternally (in a spirit body) **before coming into the world**

The Bible teaches that only Christ pre-existed - not man (Jn. 8:58; Col. 1:17). We did not have a spiritual existence prior to earth (I Cor. 15:46).

1 Cor.15:46 Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual.

J. Mormonism places <u>Joseph Smith</u> on par with Jesus Christ

"...Joseph Smith...has done more, save Jesus only, for the salvation of men in this world, than any other man that ever lived in it" (<u>Doctrines & Covenants</u>, 135:3).



K. Mormonism teaches that man can become a <u>God</u>

1. They have a plurality of Gods - along with God, Christ and the Holy Spirit, there are many other gods. An infinite succession of gods have come into being through a process of generations.

Gods = Angels = Men . . . all at varying degrees of development.

2. Men becoming gods: God existed first as spirit, then he came to earth to receive a body - then he went to his exalted position in heaven. Such is the case with many others, such as Abraham. "As man is, God once was; as God is, man may become."

Men may become gods by having their marriage sealed for both time and eternity in a temple ceremony. Plurality of wives is held as an eminent means of grace. The more wives and children you have, the more of a blessing it is.

Bible refutation: Marriage belongs to this world only (Mt. 22:30; Mk. 12:25; Lk. 20:34-36).

Luke20:34-36 And Jesus answering said unto them, The children of this world marry, and are given in marriage: But they which shall be accounted worthy to obtain that world, and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry, nor are given in marriage: Neither can they die any more: for they are equal unto the angels; and are the children of God, being the children of the resurrection.

God's Word has never sanctioned plurality of wives (Gen. 2:23, 24; Deut. 17:17; Mt. 19:4-6; Eph. 5:31-33; I Tim. 3:2-12).

IV. THE UNIFICATION CHURCH
(The Cult of Rev. Sun Myung Moon)



INTRODUCTION:

Matthew 24:4 - *"And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you."*

Founder: Sun Myung Moon
Born January 6, 1920
In Kwangju Sangsa Ru, Korea (now communist North Korea)

Born into a Presbyterian family, he came under Pentecostal influence, and in 1936 (at the age of 16) while in prayer on Easter morning, he supposedly had a vision of Jesus, who commissioned him to "carry out my unfinished task" to "physically" save humanity.

According to Mose Durst, the president of the Unification Church of America, "Rev. Moon spent the next nine years praying and desperately studying the Bible. Through this search, he received the revelation that is now recorded in

The Divine Principle" (Mose Durst, Word and Deed, p. 10).

After marrying his first wife in 1944, he began to gather a following. He then met a self-proclaimed messiah named Park Moon Kim, who influenced and helped Moon to write his major book: The Divine Principle.

At this time his name was changed from Yong Myung Moon (Dragon Shining Moon) to Sun Myung Moon (Sun Shining Moon).

Between 1946-50, Moon was in prison in North Korea, not for being an anti-Communist (as he alleges); but rather (as his contemporary critics claim), he was accused of multiple ritual sex practices.

Interestingly enough, in 1954 right after he officially organized the Unification Church, his first wife divorced him.

Three years later, in 1957, Moon published The Divine Principle in the Korean language.

In 1959, a forerunner associate of Moon named Young Oon Kim brought Moon's message to the USA. Young Oom Kim also wrote a commentary called Divine Principle and Its Application.

In an attempt to draw the interest of mystic seekers in America, this book on p. IX describes a group formed by Moon in Korea like this, "In this group many have spiritual gifts such as clairvoyance, or perception of spiritual fire, electricity, or odor. Some hear exquisite heavenly music in trance, and some do automatic writing in languages they have never learned. Among this group several communicate with the highest realms of spirit world, and some converse with Jesus and God under any conditions . . . The blessed Mother Mary, Gautama Buddha, and Confucius are among those in the spirit world who are directing certain of their followers to this group."



In 1960, Moon supposedly fulfilled the prophecy of the Marriage of the Lamb (Rev. 19) by marrying his fourth wife Hak Ja Ham.

In 1972, Moon, with an estimated worth of $20 million in big business ventures, headed to the shores of the USA to build his empire and to spread his "new revelation" to a "new age."

Moon's theological scheme is based on a scope of history divided into an:

1 - Old Testament age (which started with Adam)

2 - New Testament age (which started with Christ)

3 - "Completed Testament Age" (which started with Moon)

Moon teaches that there are three locations of "Israel":

1 - The first Israel = The Garden of Eden

2 - The second Israel = Palestine

3 - The third Israel = Korea

Moon also teaches three Adams:

1 - The first Adam (the first created man)

2 - The second Adam (Jesus Christ)

3 - The third Adam ("The Lord of the second advent" - i.e. Rev. Moon)

Moon's teaching on the Trinity:

--Adam failed to form a Trinity (Adam + Eve + God)

--Christ provided a spiritual Trinity (Christ + Holy Spirit + Believer)

--Moon formed the first Trinity (Moon + his wife + God)

Through "blessed" marriage, men and women can form a Trinity with God.

The central doctrine of Sun Myung Moon is called "blood cleansing."

Adam: produced a corrupt physical seed
(because of Eve's seduced defilement by a sexual encounter with Satan)

Jesus: Failed to begin a perfect physical seed
(because His unfortunate crucifixion ruined His opportunity to marry and bear perfect children)

Moon: Succeeded to become the "true parent"
(because all born of his physical bond or entering a marriage union chosen and blessed by him are cleansed and produced a cleansed

race)

Moon goes to great length in the Divine Principle in interpreting what occurred in the Garden of Eden. His view is that God had intended Adam and Eve to be perfect and thus begin a perfect family. But, before Adam and Eve had spiritual matured from a brother/sister relationship to a husband/wife relationship, Lucifer fell in love with the beautiful Eve and physically seduced her. By this act she became impure - her blood forever tainted. This taint she passed on to Adam through their union and also to their descendants.

In His desire to redeem humanity from this impurity, God sent Jesus, the second Adam, to fulfill the role that Adam failed to complete. It was God's plan for Jesus to marry the perfect mate, thereby creating the perfect family as the beginning of God's kingdom on earth, but once again God's will was thwarted by the now-fallen Satan. (Spiritual Counterfeits Project, "Sun Myung Moon and the Unification Church")

Before He could find the Eve He searched for, the Jews killed Him.

"Since then, God has searched for 2,000 years to find someone who would redeem the human race by becoming the True Parent - the third Adam, who must have a sinless life and be completely dedicated to God's will. If he qualifies, he will succeed where the first Adam (in Eden) and the second Adam (Christ) have failed" (Larson, p. 438).
This third Adam would be Sun Myung Moon.



Moon believes himself to have the power to “cleanse” the world of its evil by solemnizing marriages (along with his wife Hak Ja Han). Prior marriages are ended and resolemnized by Moon Those who are single must wait until after seven years of service to Moon before he chooses a mate for them Some do not meet their future marriage partner until the day of the wedding and are not allowed to consummate the union until 40 days thereafter. To conserve Moon’s time and energy, mass wedding ceremonies are held where as many as 1,800 are joined in matrimony at one time. Mass marriages have been conducted in Yankee Stadium, Bronx, NY (13,000 people married) and RFK stadium in Washington, DC. SEE: Larson, p. 441.



It is claimed that there are 35,000 or more Moonies in the USA and 3 million in 122 countries world-wide (big turn-over rate). The average

member is in his 20's, clean-cut and very friendly. Prospects are approached and invited to a dinner with a lecture. (The real name of the organized religion is concealed under a "heavenly deception doctrine" so as to avoid any suspicions). A "love bombing" and "family atmosphere" helps persuade the newcomer to commit.
Those interested are invited to a concentrated workshop lasting 3 - 12 days. Here prospects are never permitted to ask questions, be alone, or even talk casually. At the end one is begged to join. If one joins, he must sell all within two weeks, desert his family and join the commune. Moon is then called "Master" and the convert spends all his time in fund-raising (selling roses, candles, etc.).

Within three years one achieves perfection and is permitted to marry as part of his salvation.

Recently Rev. Moon celebrated his 90th birthday and has passed on the torch of the Unification Church and financial empire he founded to a daughter and three sons. His youngest son, Rev. Hyung Jin Moon is now the president of the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification and is in line to be the church's religious director. This youngest son had defected from his dad's church and became a Buddhist, but has returned to the fold.

Moon's website is: www.reverendsunmyungmoon.org

Whose light is "Moon" reflecting?

***Rev. Moon does <u>not</u> reflect true Christianity in any way, shape, or form.**

A. THE BIBLE

1. The Bible's <u>Authority</u>

<u>Rev. Moon says:</u> "The Bible, however, is not the truth itself, but a textbook teaching the truth. Naturally, the quality of teaching and the method and extent of giving the truth must vary according to each age. . . . Therefore, we must not regard the textbook as absolute in every detail."(<u>D.P.</u>, p. 99, from Berry, <u>What They Believe: Unification Church</u>, p. 11)

<u>Rev. Moon says:</u> "<u>The Divine Principle</u>, along with the Old and New Testaments serve as the scriptures of the Unification faith" (Durst, <u>Word and Deeds</u>, p. 7; from Berry, <u>What They Believe: Unification Church</u> , p. 11).

<u>The Bible says:</u>

II Timothy 3:16 - *"All Scripture is giving by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness."*

John 17:17 - *"Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth."*

Prov. 30:5 - *"Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him."*

2. The Bible's Interpretation

Rev. Moon says: "Moon often allegorizes statements to make them fit his unusual teachings. For instance, note Moon's interpretation of Christ's crucifixion: 'The thief crucified on Jesus' right side foreshadowed the democratic world, and the thief crucified on Jesus' left side represented the Communist world'." (Berry, p. 12)
"Sun M. Moon must be the world's top allegorizer. It turns out that Adam is the tree of life, and Eve, the tree of knowledge of good and evil. The fruit is Eve's love and the fall consisted of Eve having sexual relations with Satan, thereby producing Cain. Moon writes, 'Cain and Abel were the fruits of Eve's illicit love.' Abel, he says, was the result of Eve's illicit affair with Adam. Therefore, 'the root of sin is not that the first human ancestors ate a fruit, but that they had an illicit blood relationship with an angel symbolized by a serpent.' In case this teaching surprises you, just remember, 'until the present era, not a single man has known the root of sin'." (Noebel, p. 6)

The Bible says:
II Timothy 2:15 - *"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needed not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."*
Prov. 30:6 - *"Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar."*

B. JESUS CHRIST

1. Christ's Deity

Rev. Moon says: "Jesus, on earth, was a man no different from us except for the fact that he was without original sin; (D.P., p. 212)... he can by no means be God Himself." (D.P., p. 211)
The Bible says: Col. 1:16-17, 2:9 - *"...all things were created through Him [Christ] and for him. He is before all things and in him all things hold together. . . for in Him all the fullness of deity dwells bodily." "He reflects the glory of God and bears the very stamp of His nature, upholding the universe by His word of power."* (Heb. 1:3)

Rev. Moon says: that we must look for a "third Adam," who will marry and produce the sinless race (God's Warning to the World, p. 43).
The Bible says: that Jesus Christ was the *"last Adam"* (I Cor. 15:45), who gave His life to acquire His bride (Eph. 5:25).

Rev. Moon says: "We revere four great religious men: Jesus, Confucius, Buddha and Mohammed. These four saints are the founders of the major

religions." (New Hope, p. 65).
The Bible says: John 14:6 - *"I am the way and the truth and the life; no one comes to the Father but by me."* Acts 4:12 - *"Neither is there salvation in any other; for there is no other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."*

2. Christ's Death

Rev. Moon says: "The crucifixion of Jesus did not take place according to God's will"

The Bible says: The Law of Moses demanded and foreshadowed it (lev. 17:11); the prophets foretold it (is. 53); Jesus Christ fulfilled it *"...being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God..."* (Acts 2:23; Acts 3:18).

3. Christ's Return

Rev. Moon says: Christ would "suffer" at His second coming (D.P. pp. 502, 521; Moon's text: Luke 17:25 – "But first must he suffer many things, and be rejected of this generation").

The Bible says: Rev. 11:15, 19:11ff

Rev. 11:15
And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.

Rev. 19:11-13
And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. [12] His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. [13] And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God.

Rev. Moon says: "To meet the Lord in the air signifies that the saints will receive the Lord in the world of good sovereignty" (D.P., p. 117)
The Bible says:
1 Thes. 4:17
Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

Rev. Moon says: that the Messiah will come from the east (Korea) (D.P., p. 519).
The Bible says: that an angel comes from the east (Rev. 7:2) but that Jesus comes from Heaven (I Th. 4:16) to rapture His Church (v. 17), and He comes to the Mount of Olives at His return (Zech. 14:1ff; Acts 1:11, 12).

Rev. Moon says: Another Christ "must come again in the flesh," (D.P., p. 510) with a new name (D.P., p. 183).
The Bible says: that the exact *"same Jesus"* who ascended to Heaven is coming back (Acts 1:11).

C. SALVATION

Rev. Moon says: In his doctrine of the "Law of Indemnity" - that God's children must pay the debt for their sins (Divine Principle, [1968], p. 48).

The Bible says:
Titus 3:5
Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;
Ephes. 2:8
For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

Rev. Moon says: that without his marriage blessing no one is saved or qualified for the kingdom of Heaven. Everything prior is mere preparation.
The Bible says: that without faith in Jesus Christ no one will ever see eternal life (Jn. 3:36).

John 3:36
He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

CONCLUSION:
2 Peter 2:1-2
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. [2] And many shall

follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.

V. SEVENTH DAY ADVENTISTS

(Modern Day Judaizers)



The Development of the Movement:

Founder: William Miller (1782-1849)

Prediction: Based on Daniel 8:14, Miller predicted that Christ would return to this world between March 21, 1843, and March 21, 1844

His reasoning - In Daniel 8:14, the "*2,300 evenings and mornings"* mean 2,300 years. Fixing this 2,300 years from 457 B.C. (when the 70 weeks began to be fulfilled), he found that the year the "cleansing" of Christ's return would be between 1843 and 1844.

2,300
- 457
1,843 or 1,844



His followers were called "Millerites".

When Christ did not return as predicted, Miller confessed his error, stopped all chronological speculation, and left the Seventh Day Adventist movement.

After Miller's departure, three segments of Millerites fused to produce the Seventh Day denomination:

1) Hiram Edson and O.R.L. Crozier received "revelation the day after "the great Disappointment" (October 23, 1844) that Miller was correct about the date but wrong about the place. The sanctuary was not on earth but in Heaven ("Investigative Judgment").

2) Joseph Bates - an early convert to Millerism taught that Sabbath worship must be practiced.

3) Ellen G. White became the pillar of the movement by means of "revelations" she received on Bible interpretation.


Ellen White

Is Seventh Day Adventism a cult?

Yes, for the following reasons:

A. Adventism holds the writings of E.G. White as authoritative.

Ellen G. White's writings are placed on par with the Scriptures (MacGregor citing: Ministry magazine, October, 1981, p. 8).

Strange prophecies and teachings of Ellen G. White:

1. She is claimed to have been a "prophet" and to have to "gift of prophecy" ("Seventh Day Adventists believe . . . A Biblical Exposition of 27 Fundamental Doctrines" [March, 1989], p. 224-228)

2. She had a "vision" and taught what she called the "shut door" doctrine

   (The door of salvation was closed by the Bridegroom [Jesus Christ], based on the parable of Matthew 25:1-13 on October 22, 1844. Only the *"wise virgins"* [obedient Seventh Day Adventists] would be raptured.)

   When Christ did not return in 1844, she attempted to cover up and excuse her false prophecy (Selected Messages, Vol. 1, p. 63).

How to Detect a False Prophet:

a. Is his message consistent with Scripture? (Deut. 12:32 - 13:5)
Deut. 12:32-13:5
What thing soever I command you, observe to do it: thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it.
[13:1] If there arise among you a prophet, or a dreamer of dreams, and giveth thee a sign or a wonder, [2] And the sign or the wonder come to pass, whereof he spake unto thee, saying, Let us go after other gods, which thou hast not known, and let us serve them; [3] Thou shalt not hearken unto the words of that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams: for the Lord your God proveth you, to know whether ye love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul. [4] Ye shall walk after the Lord your God, and fear him, and keep his commandments, and obey his voice, and ye shall serve him, and cleave unto him. [5] And that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams, shall be put to death; because he hath spoken to turn you away from the Lord your God, which brought you out of the land of Egypt, and redeemed you out of the house of bondage, to thrust thee out of the way which the Lord thy God commanded thee to walk in. So shalt thou put the evil away from the midst of thee.

b. Is his life consistent with Biblical Godliness? (Jer. 23:14)
Jeremiah 23:14
I have seen also in the prophets of Jerusalem an horrible thing: they commit adultery, and walk in lies: they strengthen also the hands of evildoers, that none doth return from his wickedness: they are all of them unto me as Sodom, and the inhabitants thereof as Gomorrah.

c. Does he claim to have received unique revelation from Heaven? (Jer. 23:16, 21, 25-26)
Jeremiah 23:16
Thus saith the Lord of hosts, Hearken not unto the words of the prophets that prophesy unto you: they make you vain: they speak a vision of their own heart, and not out of the mouth of the Lord.
Jeremiah 23:21
I have not sent these prophets, yet they ran: I have not spoken to them, yet they prophesied.
Jeremiah 23:25-26
I have heard what the prophets said, that prophesy lies in my name, saying, I have dreamed, I have dreamed. [26] How long shall this be in the heart of the prophets that prophesy lies? yea, they are prophets of the deceit of their own heart;

c. Does he preach a message of peace and safety to the wicked? (Jer. 23:17)
Jeremiah 23:17
They say still unto them that despise me, The Lord hath said, Ye shall have peace; and they say unto every one that walketh after the imagination of his own heart, No evil shall come upon you.

d. What is the fruit of the "prophet's" ministry? (Jer. 23:28-32)
Jeremiah 23:28-32
The prophet that hath a dream, let him tell a dream; and he that hath my word, let him speak my word faithfully. What is the chaff to the wheat? saith the Lord. [29] Is not my word like as a fire? saith the Lord; and like a hammer that breaketh the rock

in pieces? [30] Therefore, behold, I am against the prophets, saith the Lord, that steal my words every one from his neighbour. [31] Behold, I am against the prophets, saith the Lord, that use their tongues, and say, He saith. [32] Behold, I am against them that prophesy false dreams, saith the Lord, and do tell them, and cause my people to err by their lies, and by their lightness; yet I sent them not, nor commanded them: therefore they shall not profit this people at all, saith the Lord.

e. Does he draw disciples to Christ? Or to himself or his religion? (Acts 20:30)
Acts 20:30
Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them.

3. She taught a "Health Reform" gospel



--"The Gospel includes health reform in all its phases" (Selected Messages, Vol. 3, p. 75)

--"If we subsist largely upon the flesh of dead animals, we shall partake of their nature" (Counsels on Diet and Foods, p. 390)

Other strange doctrines:

"He (Adam) was more than twice as tall as men now living upon the earth" (Spiritual Gifts, Vol. 3, p. 34).

"All the angels that are commissioned to visit the earth hold a golden card, which they present to the angel at the gates of the city as they pass in and out" (Early Writings, first edition, p. 30, 32).

While affirming that Jesus is divine, they say that "Jesus is Michael the Archangel."


the first Seventh-day Adventist church in Washington New Hampshire

Note: Daniel 10:13 says Michael is *"one of the chief princes"* (Jesus is not "one of" any group!) (MacGregor, p. 63).

B. Adventism claims exclusivity

They alone avoid the "mark of the Beast" by observing the Sabbath. They alone are the

"remnant church."

White accused all other churches of being corrupt, apostate, and Satanic (Spiritual Gifts, Vol. 1, p. 189) (SEE: MacGregor, p. 62).

C. Adventism teaches the doctrine of "Soul Sleep"

(that believers exist in a state of unconsciousness until Resurrection Day.)

Samuel's soul did not sleep (I Sam. 28:18-19).

Moses' and Elijah's souls did not sleep (Mt. 17:1-8).

The thief on the cross's soul did not sleep (Luke 23:43).

When the believer dies, he is:

present with the Lord (II Cor. 5:1-8)
2 Cor. 5:1-8
For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. [2] For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven: [3] If so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked. [4] For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life. [5] Now he that hath wrought us for the selfsame thing is God, who also hath given unto us the earnest of the Spirit. [6] Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord: [7] (For we walk by faith, not by sight:) [8] We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.
departed and with Christ (Phil. 1:21-24)
Philip. 1:21-24
For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. [22] But if I live in the flesh, this is the fruit of my labour: yet what I shall choose I wot not. [23] For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better: [24] Nevertheless to abide in the flesh is more needful for you.

with Christ at His return (I Th. 4:14)
1 Thes. 4:14
For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

a soul in Heaven (Rev. 6:9, 10)

NOTE: When the Bible uses the euphemism of "sleep" in connection with death, it is the language of appearance (our dead physical body has the appearance of sleep, and as it lies in the ground, becomes as a sleeping person, unconscious to the environment and world around it). (Cp. Dan. 12:2; I Th. 4:14).

D. Adventism denies Hell and teaches the doctrine of "Conditional Immortality"

Only believers will exist forever; unbelievers will be annihilated (Questions on Doctrine, p. 543).

The Bible teaches that:

--Unbelievers will endure everlasting punishment as long as the righteous enjoy eternal life (Mt. 25:46).

Matthew 25:46
And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.
--See: Mark 9:43, 44, 47, 48

Mark 9:43
And if thy hand offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched:

Mark 9:44
Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.

Mark 9:47-48
And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out: it is better for thee to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire: [48] Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.

--See: II Thes. 1:8, 9
2 Thes. 1:8-9
In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: [9] Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power; --See: Rev. 14:10, 11 (cp. Rev. 19:20 & 20:10)

Rev. 14:10-11
The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: [11] And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.

E. Adventism teaches the doctrine of Investigative Judgment

Since Christ did not return in 1844 as predicted, Adventism declared that in a sense He partially came (He entered into the second compartment of Heaven's Holy of Holies in 1844), so as to begin what is called "Investigative Judgment."

This "investigation" by Christ is to see who is worthy of eternal life.

Adventists teach that 1844 came to be the date when a work of "final atonement" began which would blot out a believers' sin (MacGregor, p. 71).

However, the Bible teaches that atonement is complete.

Jn. 19:30 - *"It is finished"*
Heb. 10:12 - *"But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God."*
Rom. 5:11 - *"And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement."*

Christ already knows all (what need does He have to start an investigation?) (Heb. 4:13). *"There is therefore now <u>no condemnation</u> to them which are in Christ Jesus"* (Rom. 8:1).

We <u>already have</u> eternal life (Jn. 5:24).
John 5:24
Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.

F. Adventism teaches that our sins were laid on <u>Satan</u>, who, as the "scapegoat," will bear them (The Great Controversy)

The Bible teaches that our sins were laid on Christ (Is. 53:6, 12; I Pet. 2:24; II Cor. 5:21).
Isaiah 53:6
All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.
Isaiah 53:12
Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

Christ is the Lamb of God who <u>takes away</u> the sins of the world (Jn. 1:29).



G. Adventists view themselves as bound to keep "<u>The Law</u>" of the Old Testament

They restrict the Old Testament Law to the Ten Commandments, but God nowhere restricts His Law to ten.

The civil and ceremonial Laws were restricted to the nation of Israel.

<u>Reasons why we cannot be saved by the Law</u>:

1) None has ever kept the Law (Rom. 3:10, 23; Ja. 2:10)

Romans 3:10
As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:
Romans 3:23
For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

James 2:10
For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.

2) The New Covenant <u>replaced</u> the Old Covenant (Jer. 31:31; I Cor. 11:25; Rom. 10:4)

Jeremiah 31:31
Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah:
1 Cor. 11:25
After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me.
Romans 10:4
For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.

3) The Law was given to condemn, not save (Rom. 3:20; Ga. 3:19)
Romans 3:20
Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.
Galatians 3:19
Wherefore then serveth the law? It was added because of transgressions, till the seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was ordained by angels in the hand of a mediator.

H. Adventists teach total abstinence from *"unclean meats"*

(Such meats as pork, ham, shrimp, lobster, and clams, etc., are forbidden based on Lev. 11.)

Note: Christ ate fish and lamb. Jesus taught that *"meat"* does not defile, but what comes out of the heart does (Mk. 7:18-23).

Paul taught that we could eat any meat (I Cor. 10:25).

--Forbidding the eating of meat would be a doctrine of demons in the Last Days (I Thes. 4:1ff)

--The Old Testament Jewish dietary laws are no longer binding on the church (Acts 10:15).

I. Adventists make the <u>Saturday Sabbath</u> of extreme importance in their plan of salvation



Their name "Seventh Day" shows the importance of this command to their religion.

--The Sabbath was only for the nation of Israel (**Ex. 31:12-18**; Deut. 5:15; Ezek. 20:12).

--The Sabbath was only a shadow of the reality which is in Christ (Col. 2:16, 17).
Col. 2:16-17
Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days: [17] Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ.

--The Sabbath was not an issue over which Christians should judge one another (Rom. 14:4-5).

Romans 14:4-5
Who art thou that judgest another man's servant? to his own master he standeth or falleth. Yea, he shall be holden up: for God is able to make him stand. [5] One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind.

--Paul seriously questioned the salvation of those who depended on keeping of Sabbaths and holidays for salvation (Ga. 4:9-11).
Galatians 4:9-11
But now, after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage? [10] Ye observe days, and months, and times, and years. [11] I am afraid of you, lest I have bestowed upon you labour in vain.

--The early church met on Sunday, evidently in commemoration of the Lord's resurrection (Acts 20:7; I Cor. 16:2).

--There is <u>no</u> command for New Testament Christians to keep the Saturday Sabbath. (See: Romans 13:9)

Romans 13:9
For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

If we are required to keep the Sabbath, then we must keep it exactly as God commanded -

--no fire kindled in your house (Exod. 35:3)
--no baking or boiling done (Exod. 16:23)
--no burden to be borne (Jer. 17:21)
--no work at all (Exod. 31:14)
--no departure from your house (Exod. 16:29)

--<u>stoning</u> for violation (Num. 15:32-36)

If Adventists keep the seventh day, why not also keep the seventh year (the Year of Jubilee)? (Lev. 25:1-22).

Christians would all have to live in warm climates if we strictly kept the Sabbath (Exod.

35:3).

A Christian should not look down upon someone whose ignorant conscience is bound on Sabbath observation.

The problem comes when the Sabbath observer makes keeping the Sabbath a requirement for salvation or an evidence of salvation.

J. Adventism has contaminated grace with extreme legalism and works.

Seventh Day Adventists are Judaizers in modern clothing. The book of Galatians is best in dealing with them.

See: Galatians

1) We are saved by grace not works of the Law (Gal. 2:16, 21: 3:10-13)

2) Our works of the flesh cannot save us or even help keep us saved (Gal. 3:1-3)

3) We are liberated from legalism in Christ (Gal. 2:4; 5:1)

   Legalism is the addition of rules to produce spirituality or salvation. We are free from the civil and ceremonial Law's binding restrictions and condemnation (NOTE: Gal. 5:13).

4) Let us glory only in the cross (Gal. 6:14)

CONCLUSION:

How to Witness to Seventh Day Adventists:

1) Know their doctrine
   (their deviations are subtle)

2) Give them the Gospel
   (emphasize the finished work of Christ)

   They don't have any assurance of salvation.

3) Stress their need to separate from the S.D.A. church (Rom. 16:17)

VI. CHRISTIAN SCIENCE



(Church of Christ, Scientist;
Not to be confused with Hubbard's Scientology)

Founder:Mary Baker Glover Patterson Eddy (1821 - 1910)
(Glover & Eddy died; Patterson divorced her)

Training: The Massachusetts Metaphysical College, Boston
Writing: Science and Health With Key to the Scriptures

Claimed direct revelation from God, but her writings actually originated with Dr. Phineas P. Quimby (died 1866)

Founded: 1879 in Boston, Massachusetts, USA
The church, headquartered in Boston, with branches around the world, currently has a membership estimated at 100,000 to 400,000.

In February 1866, Mary Baker Eddy (known at the time as Mary Glover) was healed of an injury "that neither medicine nor surgery could reach..." (Ret 24:12). According to her personal accounts, when she appeared to be near death, she called out for her Bible. She turned it to Matthew 9:2, which tells the story of Jesus healing a man who was sick with palsy, and after pondering the meaning of the passage, found herself suddenly well and able to get up. In her autobiography, Retrospection and Introspection, she wrote:

> *Even to the homeopathic physician who attended me, and rejoiced in my recovery, I could not then explain the modus of my relief. I could only assure him that the divine Spirit had wrought the miracle—a miracle which later I found to be in perfect scientific accord with divine law. (Retrospection and Introspection, page 24)*

She referred to this event as her "Great Discovery", the "falling apple" that led to her "discovery how to be well" herself (Later, she gave it the name of "Christian Science" stating that she "...named it Christian, because it is compassionate, helpful, and spiritual.") Not knowing how it had occurred, she spent the next three years studying the Bible, experimenting and praying to discover if the experience was repeatable and if there were knowable laws that governed it. She claimed that she was able to heal

others and began to be called out to the bedsides of those whom the medical faculty had not been able to help. A doctor attending a severe case in New Hampshire is said to have witnessed her healing one of his patients and asked if she could explain her system. At the time, she said only that God did it. But he urged her to write about it and soon she began her main work explaining her system of Christian healing, Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures.

Soon others began to ask her to teach her healing method and she claimed that her students were able to approximate her ability to heal. The readers of her book gathered into an organization and gradually developed into a church, with Mary Baker Eddy as its pastor. (wikipedia.org/wiki/Christian_Science)

The "Divine Principle" (the basis of Christian Science) is summarized by four propositions:

1. God is All in all

2. God is good, good is mind

3. Spirit being all, nothing is matter

4. Therefore, there is NO death, evil, sin, or disease



The Mother Church in Boston, MA

Put very simply, M.B. Eddy's religion says:

1. Since God is good and "in all", all is good (sin and evil do not exist)

2. Since God is Spirit and "in all", all is spirit (physical matter does not exist)

3. Therefore, salvation (experiencing the "Christ Consciousness") is gaining victory over sin, sickness, and death by denying its existence (sin, sickness, and death are an illusion of the mind)

Eddy's Philosophies:

--Since man was made in the "image of God," he is immortal and incapable of sin, sickness, and death

--Truth is reality; untruth is unreality. Sin, sickness, and death are contrary to God's truth; therefore, they are unreal.

Eddy's Reasoning:

All reality comes from God,
Sin cannot come from God,
Therefore, sin is not reality



(Science & Health, 1963 edition, p. 474:15)

Eddy's False Premises:

1. God is "in all" - This is pantheism

2. All reality comes from God - God created realities (EX: Satan) which spawned other realities (EX: sin)

Another way to illustrate the foundations of the theology of Christian Science is to consider the problems involved in the philosophy of dualism. Many belief systems posit a "god versus something else" or "spirit versus matter". Eddy in a sense followed the reductionism of her time, but instead of reducing all things to the material, she reduced all things to the spiritual. (wikipedia.org/wiki/Christian_Science)

The Cultic Marks of "Christian Science":

1. The "Healings" of Christian Science

Are not the results of God answering prayer, but the results of "mind over matter"

In Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures, Eddy argues that given the absolute goodness and perfection of God, sin, disease, and death were not created by Him, and therefore cannot be truly real. She bases this reading on Genesis 1, calling that the true record of creation in contrast to Genesis 2, the false record of creation obscuring the true (which occurred when "a mist went up from the face of the ground")…It is encapsulated in Science and Health as "The Scientific Statement of Being". It is read aloud in churches and Sunday schools at the end of every Sunday service:

> *There is no life, truth, intelligence, nor substance in matter. All is infinite Mind and its infinite manifestation, for God is All-in-all. Spirit is immortal Truth; matter is mortal error. Spirit is the real and eternal; matter is the unreal and temporal. Spirit is God, and man is His image and likeness. Therefore man is not material; he is spiritual.* (wikipedia.org/wiki/Christian_Science)

2. The "Book" of Christian Science

Is not the Bible only, but the Bible plus Science & Health With Key to the Scriptures

Mary Baker Eddy's book includes a "Key to Scriptures" (p. 498) which is supposedly the key to truly understanding the book of Genesis, Psalm 23, and Revelation (actually it is a spiritualization of Genesis 1 - 4, Psalm 23, and Revelation 10, 12, & 21).

A Sunday sermon consists of "citations from the Bible and Science & Health" ("Facts About Christian Science", p. 18).

Christian Scientists are neither creationists nor biblical literalists. They regard the story of the creation in the Book of Genesis as having symbolic rather than literal meaning.

3. The Origination of Christian Science

Is not God, but man (Mary Baker Eddy and Dr. Phineas Quimby)

Christian Science claims exclusivity ("Facts about Christian Science," p. 1, 20-21). Eddy believed she was the "Woman of Revelation 12"

Mary Baker Eddy also holds that Christian Science is the Divine Comforter mentioned in the gospel of John. (wikipedia.org/wiki/Christian_Science)

4. The "God" of Christian Science

Is not a personal, self-existent God, but a cold "principle" of pantheism

Christian Scientists are trinitarian, but in an unorthodox way. One plank of the platform of Christian Science says:

> *Life, Truth, and Love constitute the triune Person called God, — that is, the triply divine Principle, Love. They represent a trinity in unity, three in one, — the same in essence, though multi-form in office: God the Father-Mother; Christ the spiritual idea of sonship; divine Science or the Holy Comforter. These three express in divine Science the threefold, essential nature of the infinite. They also indicate the divine Principle of scientific being, the intelligent relation of God to man and the universe. (Science and Health, page 331)*

5. "Sin" or “evil” to a Christian Scientist

Is not a real lack of conformity to the moral Law of God, but is a belief that sin exists

"Christ came to destroy the belief of sin" (Science & Health, p. 473:6)

The Christian Science position on the nature of evil may be stated as follows: "Evil is a negation, because it is the absence of truth. It is nothing, because it is the absence of something. It is unreal, because it presupposes the absence of God, the omnipotent and omnipresent. Every mortal must learn that there is neither power nor reality in evil". Evil is not fundamentally "real" because it is not part of God's being or his creation. But it may appear to be real as a mistaken concept of God and man, and consequently must be "seen through" rather than ignored. Christian Scientists believe God and his creation to be wholly and only good.

6. The "Christ" of Christian Science

Is not a divine personal Savior, but a "Way-Shower" to the Divine Principle (Science & Health, p. 497:15)

The invisible Christ was imperceptible to the so-called personal senses, whereas Jesus appeared as a bodily existence. This dual personality of the unseen and the seen, the spiritual and material, the eternal Christ and the corporeal Jesus manifest in flesh, continued until the Master's ascension, when the human, material concept, or Jesus, disappeared, while the spiritual self, or Christ, continues to exist in the eternal order of divine Science, taking away the sins of the world, as the Christ has always done, even before the human Jesus was incarnate to mortal eyes." (Science and Health, page 334)

7. "Satan" to a Christian Scientist

Is not a personal devil, but a lie that man believes

8. "Prayer" to a Christian Scientist

Traditional prayer is viewed as a "hindrance"

Prayer, from the Christian Science perspective, does not ask God to intervene but is rather a process of learning more of God's spiritual reality – "awakening mortal thought," by degrees, to spiritual truth. (wikipedia.org/wiki/Christian_Science)

Prayer can heal the distortion, bringing spiritual reality (the Kingdom of Heaven in biblical terms) into clearer focus in the human scene—not changing the spiritual creation but giving a clearer view of it. (An analogy would be adjusting the lens of a telescope or microscope until a clear image appears.) The result is healing. According to Christian Science there are not two creations, a spiritual one and a material one, but only a spiritual creation which is incorrectly perceived as material. (wikipedia.org/wiki/Christian_Science)

9. "Healing" to a Christian Scientist

Accounts of healing through prayer are common within the church and adherents traditionally refuse medical treatment.

While church members point out that followers are free to choose to seek conventional medical treatment, most rely exclusively on healing by prayer. Christian Scientists distinguish their method from “faith healing.” To a Christian Scientist, “faith healing” is something that relies merely on blind faith in miraculous cures. Christian Scientists see themselves as practicing a well-defined process with a proven track record by means of the spiritualization of thought through prayer aimed at shedding the false beliefs of the mortal mind that manifest themselves as physical ailments. (wikipedia.org/wiki/Christian_Science)

Christian Scientists believe that sickness is the result of fear, ignorance, or sin, and that when the erroneous belief is corrected, the sickness will disappear.
Christian Scientists regard the material world as a kind of consensual illusion which is due to a misperception of the true spiritual world. Such a misperception can, they believe, be changed by reorientation of thought, or prayer in Christian Science terms. Thus the illusion can be dispelled, revealing the present spiritual reality. The result is perceived as healing. (wikipedia.org/wiki/Christian_Science)

10. "Hell" to a Christian Scientist

Is not a place of punishment, but a present condition of a mind plagued by the belief of sin, suffering, and death

Christian Science teaches that the after-death state consists of a form of "probation" and spiritual development or progress whereby the experience of the deceased is in proportion to their ability to avail of the unlimited love of God. Consequently, a person dying in a state of sin would experience God's love as suffering (like a person used to darkness whose eyes are hurt by the light) while someone who passed on in a state of spiritualized consciousness would experience a corresponding level of happiness. There is no concept of eternal punishment in Christian Science: hell and heaven are both states of thought that correspond to the presence, or absence, of self-centredness that characterise the individual undergoing the experience of death. A person who seems to die does not "go" anywhere: he/she simply adjusts to another level of consciousness which is inaccessible to those they have left behind. (wikipedia.org/wiki/Christian_Science)

To answer the question whether God punishes evil-doers, Christian Science teaches that any thought or action contrary to a person's God-given goodness results in some kind of suffering, just as the misunderstanding of a mathematical principle results in incorrect answers. The principles of mathematics do not cause the mistakes; rather, the mistakes are the result of a misconception of the principle. From God's perspective, evil does not exist because he/she has created all and it is good.
(wikipedia.org/wiki/Christian_Science)

11. Christ's death and resurrection to a Christian Scientist

Was an illusion in the minds of the disciples, who later discovered He never did die

12. Christ's second coming to a Christian Scientist

is the "spiritual advent of the advancing idea of God"

VII. ROMAN CATHOLICISM

(A Religion of Substitutes & Counterfeits)



Introduction:

We must love Catholics. We cannot love the error they teach & practice.

Catholicism began with Emperor Constantine who allegedly saw a "sign" of the cross in the sky and was told "By this sign conquer."

"Christianity" then was to be forced upon the consciences of the whole world ("Catholic" = Universal)

Christianity was merged with paganism into a state religion around 315 A.D.

True Bible believing christians had no part in this pagan church-state religion.
Because of their refusal to be identified with Catholicism, they became persecuted and many martyred by the Catholic inquisitions.

Why are many evangelical christians reluctant to call the Roman Catholic Church a Cult?

Catholicism is often NOT called a cult because...

1) Roman Catholicism is a large religion

   980 million Catholics worldwide.
   Smallness or largeness does not determine whether a religious group is cultic; Doctrine & practice does!
   To be in the majority is to be on the road to destruction (Matt.7:13)

2) Roman Catholicism officially affirms some major Bible Doctrines.

   a. The Trinity (Yet Mary & the saints are practically deified by their veneration)
   b. The deity of Christ (Yet Mary is a "co-mediatrix" & "co-redemptrix")
   c. The virgin Birth (Yet they add that Mary was also of "immaculate conception")
   d. The death & resurrection of Christ (Yet Catholicism fails to see Christ's work as finished & sufficient for salvation)

3) Roman Catholicism is wealthy, powerful, & intimidating

   Many fear to call her what she is because of the power & influence she wields.

4) Roman Catholicism claims to be a Christian religion
   (Yet so do the Mormons, Moonies, JW's and Christian science etc.)

5) Roman Catholicism takes a similar position on some moral issues

   (Ex. Anti-Abortion; Euthanasia etc. However, many, many unbelievers recognize the sanctity of human life. For such social causes we stand with them; when it comes to Bible Doctrine & practice we must separate)

6) Roman Catholicism has existed for many centuries.

   (The age of a religion does not determine its genuineness or truthfulness; ex. Buddhism, Islam, Hinduism have been around for a long time also)

   a. Catholicism's pagan rituals had no part in 1st century christianity.

   b. Catholicism's doctrines & practices have changed with time & location (This religion changes color like the chameleon)

*** Catholicism is the largest, most dangerous & deceptive cult to ever exist!**

It bears all the marks of a cult.
"No cult demands surrender of mind and conscience more arrogantly than Roman Catholicism." Dave Hunt

A Substitute/Counterfeit

AUTHORITY

ROMAN CATHOLICISM	*BIBLE CHRISTIANITY*
The Bible (with added Books); **Church Tradition;** **The Decrees of the Pope;** **New Revelations;** The Apocryphal Books were added to the Bible by the Council of Trent (1546 A.D.) (Note: Prov. 30:6; Rev.22:18,19) Tradition is declared of equal authority with the Bible by the Council of Trent (1545 A.D.) (Note: Matthew 15:8,9) Infallibility of the pope in matters of faith and morals proclaimed by the First Vatican Council (1870 A.D.)	**The BIBLE only** II Timothy 3:16 - *"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness"* (Compare Isaiah 8:20; II Jn.10) The Bible Alone... is absolute truth (Jn.17:17) is living, powerful & sharp (Heb 4:12) gives the New Birth (I Peter 1:23) give faith (Rom.10:17) will last forever (Mt.24:35)

A Substitute/Counterfeit

CHURCH FOUNDATION

ROMAN CATHOLICISM	*BIBLE CHRISTIANITY*
Peter A succession of Popes was said to begin with Peter, upon whom the true Holy Roman Catholic Church was built. The first Catholic to be named "Pope" was Boniface III in 610 A.D.	**Jesus Christ** Christ, not Peter (*Petros*), is the Rock (*Petra*) upon which the true church is built. (Matthew 16:18) Peter never calls himself a "Pope" but an Apostle (I Peter 1:1) and an Elder (I Peter 5:1-4) I Cor.3:11 - No other Foundation than Christ I Cor.10:4 - The Rock was Christ Eph.2:20 - Jesus...the chief corner stone

A Substitute/Counterfeit

FATHER

ROMAN CATHOLICISM	BIBLE CHRISTIANITY
Pope & Priests The Pope (Father) and Priests are referred to as "Father" (identifying him as an authoritative teacher of truth)	**God alone** Matthew 23:9 - *"And call no man your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven."* (Compare Isaiah 9:6)

A Substitute/Counterfeit

TEACHER

ROMAN CATHOLICISM	BIBLE CHRISTIANITY
The Pope via the Catholic Church The Roman Catholic Church alone has the ability and authority to teach God's Word. The Pope is the Vicar (substitute) for Christ Vatican II (1962-65) states repeatedly that only Catholicism's hierarchy can interpret the Bible, and that Papal pronouncements must be obeyed without question.	**The Holy Spirit** The Holy Spirit alone has the ability and authority to teach God's Word. He is best qualified since He is the Author of it! (II Pet.1:21) The Holy Spirit has been sent In Christ's place (John 16:7-11) The Spirit guides us into all truth (John 16:13-15) The Bible is the "sword" of the Spirit (Eph.6:17) One must be illuminated by the Spirit (Eph.1:17-18; I Cor.2:12-16)

A Substitute/Counterfeit

PRIESTHOOD

ROMAN CATHOLICISM	BIBLE CHRISTIANITY
Ordained sinners Jesus Christ ordained the twelve apostles to the priesthood at the Last Supper and the powers of the priesthood were handed down during the past two thousand years.	**The sinless Jesus Christ** The Old Testament Priesthood has been done away with by Christ. Christ alone is our sinless Highpriest (Heb.7:26) Hebrews 2:17 - *"Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people."* Hebrews 7:24-25 - *"But this man, because he continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood. Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them."*

A Substitute/Counterfeit

SACRIFICE

ROMAN CATHOLICISM	BIBLE CHRISTIANITY
Daily Mass & Holy Eucharist The Mass as a daily celebration was adopted in 394 A.D. It developed gradually as a sacrifice and attendance was made obligatory in the 11th. century. The dogma of transubstantiation was decreed by Pope Innocent III in 1215 A.D. and the adoration of the wafer (host) was decreed by Pope Honorius III in 1220 A.D. According to the Catholic Catechism the Daily Mass is "the unbloody sacrifice of the body and blood of Christ."	**Christ's once for all crucifixion** Heb.9:12 - *"By his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us."* Heb.9:26,28 - *"But now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself...so Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many"* Heb.10:10,12,14 - *"We are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all...After he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God;...For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified."* The "Lord's Supper" is a Picture of Christ's death and shed blood, and is to be done in memory of Him (I Cor.11:23-26), not to partake of Him.

A Substitute/Counterfeit

MEDIATOR

ROMAN CATHOLICISM	BIBLE CHRISTIANITY
Mary & Saints & Angels Prayers began to be offered to Mary, dead saints, and angels in 600 A.D. Pope Pius IX on September 30, 1852, granted 300 days Indulgence each time this prayer was repeated: "Sweet heart of Mary be my salvation." Mary is called "co-mediatrix" Vatican II credits Mary with a perpetual "Salvific role; she continues to obtain by her constant intercession the graces we need for eternal salvation" Different "saints" are prayed to depending on what one needs.	**Jesus Christ** I Timothy 2:5- *"For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus"* Heb.7:25 - *"He ever liveth to make intercession for them"* I John 2:1 - *"We have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous"* Rom.8:34 - Christ *"maketh intercession for us"* Rom.10:13 - *"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved"*

A Substitute/Counterfeit

NEW BIRTH

ROMAN CATHOLICISM	BIBLE CHRISTIANITY
Born Again through the WATERS of INFANT BAPTISM Being born again (John 3) is Baptism (Council of Trent) "By the Sacrament of Baptism into the crucified and risen Christ, man is reborn to a sharing of the divine life" (Vatican II)	**Born Again through the HOLY SPIRIT & SCRIPTURES** The reference to "water" in John 3:5 is NOT to Baptism but to the womb from which one experiences the first birth (a physical birth) The New Birth is a sovereign work of the Holy Spirit accomplished through His Word - the Bible, whereby one is adopted into God's family by grace through faith. *"...He saved us by the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Ghost"* (Titus 3:5) *"Being born again...by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever."* (I Peter 1:23) *"But as many as received Him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God...born not of...the will of man, but of God"* (John 1:12,13)

A Substitute/Counterfeit

BAPTISM

ROMAN CATHOLICISM	BIBLE CHRISTIANITY
Infants by sprinkling Through this baptism the infant is initiated into the Catholic Church and has his/her original sin washed away. "The validity of infant baptism is a truth of faith, <u>not revealed in Scripture, but in tradition</u>." (Catholic Dictionary)	**Believers by immersion** Baptism is for Believers only: *"He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved"* (Mark 16:16) *"They that gladly received his word were baptized"* (Acts 2:41) *"When they believed...they were baptized, both men and women"* (Acts 8:12) *"If you believe with all your heart, you may (be baptized)"* (Acts 8:37) Baptism is by immersion only: The word "Baptizo" means to dip, or submerge (Luke 16:24 "dip") *"they went down both <u>into</u> the water...(and) were come up <u>out of</u> the water"* (Acts 8:38,39) Baptism is a step of obedience, not to gain salvation, but to publicly show one's salvation (cp.I Cor. 1:17; Acts 10:47)

A Substitute/Counterfeit

WORSHIP

ROMAN CATHOLICISM	BIBLE CHRISTIANITY
Rituals, Relics, and Statues Veneration of the cross, images, and relics authorized in 788 A.D.	**Worship in spirit and truth** Worship is not according to man's tradition (Matt.15:8,9), nor confined to certain places but in "spirit and in truth" (John 4:21,24; cp.Acts 7:48-50; 17:24-26) *"Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image...Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them"* (Ex.20:4,5) *"I am the LORD: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images"* (Is.42:8, cp. Dt.4:16,23)

A Substitute/Counterfeit

PRAYER

ROMAN CATHOLICISM	BIBLE CHRISTIANITY
Memorized Vain Repetitions "Our Fathers" & "Hail Marys" are repeated over and over again. The rosary, or prayer beads (copied from Hindus and Mohammadans) was introduced by Peter the Hermit in 1090 A.D. Collecting fees for Prayers for the Dead (Indulgences 1190 A.D. & Masses for the dead)	**Petitions from the heart** *"But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do"* (Matt.6:7) *"But Peter said unto him, Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money"* (Acts 8:20)

A Substitute/Counterfeit

DEVOTION

ROMAN CATHOLICISM	*BIBLE CHRISTIANITY*
MARY first, then other saints The beginning of the exaltation of Mary, and the first use of the term "Mother of God" by the Council of Ephesus (431 A.D.) and reaffirmed by Pope Pius XI in 1931. Mary was proclaimed the "Mother of the Church" by Pope Paul VI in 1965. Mary is attributed with an immaculate conception, eternal virginity, and bodily assumption to Heaven; and is prayed to, worshipped, and adored.	**Jesus Christ** *"I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel which shewed my these things. Then saith he unto me, see thou do it not: for I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren...worship God"* (Rev.22:8,9) *"And as Peter was coming in, Cornelius met him, and fell down at his feet, and worshipped him. But Peter took him up, saying, Stand up; I myself also am a man"* (Acts 10:25,26) *"Then one said unto him, Behold, thy mother and thy brethren stand without, desiring to speak with thee. But he answered and said unto him that told him, Who is my mother? and who are my brethren? And he stretched forth his hand toward his disciples, and said, Behold my mother and my brethren!"* (Matthew 12:47-50) The seeds of Maryolotry began when *"a certain woman of the company lifted up her voice, and said unto him, Blessed is the womb that bare thee, and the paps which thou hast sucked. But he said, Yea rather, blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it."* (Luke 11:27-28) Mary's one command was: *"Whatsoever He (Jesus) saith to you, do it."* (John 2:5)

A Substitute/Counterfeit

SALVATION

ROMAN CATHOLICISM	BIBLE CHRISTIANITY
WORKS (via 7 sacraments) Baptism — Original sin cleansed Confirmation — The Holy Spirit is received Communion — Christ's body & blood received Marriage — A blessed union of 2 Catholics Penance — Confession to a Priest Holy Orders — Priests are ordained to consecrate the Host and give absolution Extreme Unction — The Last Rites are administered to prepare one for death	**GRACE (via Christ's sacrifice)** Christ's one sacrifice paid it all. *"Christ also hath <u>once</u> suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit"* (I Peter 3:18) *"It is finished"* (John 19:30) *"For by one offering he hat <u>perfected for ever</u> them that are sanctified."* (Hebrews 10:14) *"For by <u>grace</u> are ye saved though faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: <u>not of works</u>, lest any man should boast."* (Ephesians 2:8,9)

A Substitute/Counterfeit

CONFESSION

ROMAN CATHOLICISM	BIBLE CHRISTIANITY
A Confessional Booth **to receive a priest's absolution** Confession of sins to the priest at least once a year was instituted by Pope Innocent III in the Lateran Council in 1215 A.D. The Roman Catholic Church teaches that her priests exercise the power of forgiving sins by hearing the confession of sins and granting pardon for them as ministers of God and in His name.	**The throne of grace** **to receive God's forgiveness** *"We have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession...Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need."* (Hebrews 4:14,16) *"Who can forgive sins, but God only"* (Mark 2:7) *"Repent...and pray to God"* (Acts 8:22) *"He is faithful and just to forgive"* (I John 1:9; cp.2:1 -"advocate")

A Substitute/Counterfeit

CLEANSING FROM SIN

ROMAN CATHOLICISM	BIBLE CHRISTIANITY
PURGATORY The doctrine of "Purgatory" (to be purged from sin) was first established by Gregory the Great in 593 A.D. This doctrine was proclaimed a dogma by the Council of Florence in 1439 A.D. "Purgatory is a state in which those suffer for a time who die guilty of venial sins, or without having satisfied for the punishment due to their sins." (Catholic Catechism)	**CHRIST'S BLOOD** *"And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission"* (Hebrews 9:22) *"How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?"* (Hebrews 9:14) *"...the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin"* (I John 1:7) *"...purifying their hearts by faith"* (Acts 15:9) *"Now no condemnation"* (Rom.8:1) *"He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life."* (John 5:24)

A Substitute/Counterfeit

Virgin Birth/Sinless life/Ascension

ROMAN CATHOLICISM	BIBLE CHRISTIANITY
Mary & Jesus Immaculate Conception of Mary This doctrine maintains that the Virgin Mary was in the first instance of her conception, preserved from all stain of original sin and was proclaimed by Pope Pius IX in 1854 The Catholic Church teaches that Mary remained sinless all her life. The dogma of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary (the belief that Mary ascended bodily into heaven without dying) was proclaimed by Pope Pius XII in 1950.	**Jesus only** Only Jesus was born of a virgin (Isaiah 7:14; Mt.1:23) and immaculately conceived. Only Jesus was sinless (I John 3:5; II Cor.6:21; Heb.7:26; I Pet.1:19) Mary was a sinner who needed a "Savior" (Luke 1:47); required the ceremony of purification like all Hebrew women (Luke 2:22) and was corrected by Jesus on several occasions (John 2:4; Lk. 11:27-28; 8:19-21). Jesus ascended to heaven (Acts 1:9); Mary was last mentioned in the upper room waiting for the Holy Spirit like the rest of the disciples (Acts 1:14)

A Substitute/Counterfeit

REVELATION

ROMAN CATHOLICISM	*BIBLE CHRISTIANITY*
Mary gives revelation at Fatima	**The Bible is God's only source of Revelation. The last one who saw a Revelation was John who wrote the book - Revelation** **II Tim.4:3-4**

A Substitute/Counterfeit

CLERGY

ROMAN CATHOLICISM	*BIBLE CHRISTIANITY*
Pope/Cardinals/Bishops/Priest	**Evangelists/Pastor-teachers** (Eph.4:11-12)

A Substitute/Counterfeit

Fund Raising Technique

ROMAN CATHOLICISM	*BIBLE CHRISTIANITY*
Bingo; "Las Vegas Night"; Lotteries; etc.	**Only Free-will offerings support God's work** John 2:15-16

Can we join Catholics in ecumenical efforts?

ex. Billy Graham
ex. The charismatic movement; tongues a unifying factor
ex. Evangelicals and Catholics Together; by Chuck Colson

God says: *"Come out from among them"*

How should we witness to catholics?

1. Be Loving
   (Catholics are not our enemy; they are victims of the enemy)
   Build a bridge; A relationship.

2. Be Personal
   (Share your testimony)

3. Be Enthusiastic

4. Be Focused
   (Emphasize the "finished" substitutionary death of Christ)

   Show your catholic friend that:
   Salvation is completely paid for by Christ
   Salvation is a free gift
   Salvation is only through a personal relationship with Christ

5. Be Patient
   (Don't force a decision; They have prayed prayers all their lives)

VIII. The Cult of Harold Camping





Harold Camping's Kingdom Hall

Introduction By: Jason Wallace (Jason Wallace is pastor of Christ OPC in Salt Lake City, Utah. Reprinted from *New Horizons*, February 2002)

In 1843, people sold their homes and businesses in anticipation of the imminent return of Christ. They were the followers of William Miller, a self-taught Bible student from New York. Miller understood the 2,300 days of Daniel 8:14 to refer to the number of years until the return of Christ. Previously, scholars had agreed that this prophecy was fulfilled in the time of Antiochus Epiphanes. But Miller insisted that it would be fulfilled in his day.

In 168 B.C., just as God had prophesied through Daniel, the Seleucid king Antiochus Epiphanes entered Jerusalem to punish the Jews. He put an end to sacrifices at the temple, and rededicated the temple to Zeus. Daniel 8:14 does not literally refer to 2,300 "days" (KJV, NKJV), but to 2,300 "evenings and mornings" (NASB, NIV, ESV). From the time that Antiochus entered Jerusalem until the temple was cleansed and proper sacrifices were reinstituted, roughly 2,300 days passed. The number of evening and morning sacrifices that were prevented totaled roughly 2,300 (of each). Either reading of the text, then, finds fulfillment in history.

Miller: 1844

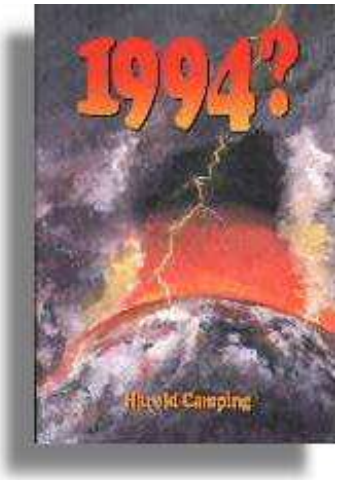
Nonetheless, William Miller believed that the cleansing of the temple mentioned in Daniel 8 was the purification of the earth by fire at Christ's second coming. Miller assumed that all prophecies referring to "days" must mean "years." Adding 2,300 years to the time of Daniel's prophecy gave Miller a date for Christ's return between March 21, 1843, and March 21, 1844. He began to teach this view and gained a wide following in the northeastern United States.

Despite the great excitement that Miller generated, March 21, 1844, came and went without the return of Christ. Miller was devastated, but one of his followers went back through the calculations and found what he believed to be an error. A new date was set: October 22, 1844.

When October 1844 did not pan out, either, some of Miller's followers abandoned the movement. Many, however, tried to find a new explanation. They were too embarrassed to admit their error. They had invested too much to be wrong. Ellen G. White eventually founded the Seventh-day Adventists, leading them to the conclusion that Jesus had returned *invisibly* in 1844, and that he would soon make his presence known *visibly.* Another group that tried to hold to the 1844 date was led by Jonas Swendahl; they were known as the Second Adventists. They believed that 1844 marked the date, not of Jesus' return, but of the beginning of the last generation. Swendahl taught that Jesus would return in 1874.

One of Swendahl's followers was a former Presbyterian named Charles Taze Russell. When 1874 came and went, Russell concluded that thirty years was not long enough for a generation. So he added seventy years to 1844 and concluded that Jesus would return in 1914. This and other differences led him to split from the Second Adventists and to launch Zion's Watchtower and Herald of Christ's Presence. His followers became known as the International Bible Students, and they went about the country with the message, "Millions now living will never die!" His followers were to leave their churches and fellowship together. All churches were considered apostate, but God had supposedly provided a new channel for their instruction, Zion's Watchtower Tract Society. What began as the International Bible Students has become the Jehovah's Witnesses. The date of 1914 was changed to 1925, then to 1941, and then to 1975. What began as calling Christians out of their churches to prepare for Christ's return became an anti-Christian cult. I believe we are seeing something very similar happening today.

Camping: 1994



In 1992, Harold Camping published the book *1994?* Like Miller, he rejected the historic understanding of Daniel 8. The prophecy clearly describes the rise of the kingdom of Greece under Alexander the Great and the division of his empire among four successors. But instead of seeing the prophecy as fulfilled then, Camping transported its fulfillment to our own day. Like the Adventists and the Jehovah's Witnesses, he focused on the "hidden" meanings of texts, seeing pointers toward 1994 in the number of swine drowned in the Sea of Galilee and in the number of servants in Abraham's house. Camping introduced *1994?* with the following statement: "No book ever written is as audacious or bold as one that claims to predict the timing of the end of the world, and that is precisely what this book presumes to do." No matter how audacious or bold, it was wrong. September 6, 1994, came and went. Camping seemed to back away from his false prophecy, but he has now decided that he was right all along. It was too bitter a pill to swallow to be wrong. Like the Jehovah's Witnesses, he says that 1994 wasn't the wrong date. We just have to add seven years to it! Like Russell, he is now telling Christians to leave their churches. All the churches are apostate. You should no longer trust your pastors and elders. You should abandon them and turn to the true channel of God's Word, Family Radio. Like Jehovah's Witnesses, you should simply fellowship together and await word from Oakland.

New Fellowships

In these new fellowships, there is to be no discipline, no baptism, no communion, and no authority apart from Family Radio's interpretation of the Bible. Mr. Camping rejects 1 Corinthians 11:26, which says that we are to proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. He rejects Christ's clear teaching that the gates of Hades will not prevail against his church (Matt. 16:18). With even greater certainty than he had in 1994, Mr. Camping now tells us to abandon the elders whom Christ has provided to watch over our souls (Heb. 13:17), to shepherd his flock (1 Peter 5:1-3), and to feed his sheep (Acts 20:28-31). Do we no longer need shepherds other than Mr. Camping? Do we no longer need men to watch over our souls? Do we no longer need to be reconciled to our brothers (Matt. 18:15-17)? If we do, which church is to do the judging? Is Mr. Camping our pope, who will judge for us?

Harold Camping may not be the Watchtower Tract and Bible Society, but he builds on the same wrongheaded interpretations of Scripture, the same date-setting, the same recalculations, the same accusations of universal apostasy, and the same claim to be the last true channel of God's Word. Despite the differences, both are heretical and schismatic, tearing apart Christ's church.

We *do* live in a day of great apostasy. Churches do more often than not resemble circuses and stage shows, but the church has *always* had these troubles. The church has also always had predators—incited by the ancient predator (Rev. 12-13)—who point out these problems in order to pry people away from the body of Christ and into their groups. The Jehovah's Witnesses rightly point out the pagan origins of Christmas and Easter celebrations, only to lead people into much greater error. Now is the time to earnestly pursue faithfulness, not to opt for just another form of apostasy.

Like the Jehovah's Witnesses, Mr. Camping accuses anyone who disagrees with him of not really believing the Bible. He accuses them of making an idol of their church. The true idol here is Mr. Camping. Will Christians read the Bible for themselves and search the Scriptures to know if these things are true, or will they blindly follow Mr. Camping into yet another false prophecy? And what will be the result for them if they do?



A Brief Biography: Harold Camping is President and cofounder of Family Stations, Inc., a Christian educational network. He serves full-time as a volunteer. Harold Camping was born in Colorado and moved at an early age to California. He earned a B.S. degree in Civil Engineering from the University of California at Berkeley (1942). Harold Camping was raised in the Christian Reformed Church and attended and served as Sunday school teacher in the Alameda Bible Fellowship. In 1958, he helped found Family Stations and some years later, he gave up a successful construction company, Camping Construction, to devote full time to the Family Radio ministry, which now broadcasts worldwide and has a School of the Bible with an enrollment of over 30,000 students. In addition to serving as president and general manager of Family Radio, Mr. Camping participates in the broadcasts by teaching on the Family Bible Study program and as host of the Open Forum: a live weeknight call-in program. The Open Forum telephone number is: 1-800-322-5385.

Just a few years ago Harold Camping believed in the churches existence until the very end of the age: Harold Camping in his book called "*Sunday the Sabbath*" said: "In the New Testament, God has organized the external body called the church. He has given us rules for the church; the church is not appointed by man, it is not a manmade organization. It is a divine organization, created by Christ going to the cross**.** He has laid out the qualifications for elders and deacons and said how they are to oversee the congregation. He has ordained that believers are not to forsake "the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching" (Hebrews 10:25), **which means the congregation is to continue all the way to the end of time**."

To be fair with Mr. Camping. I must say that, while he believes that God is through with the organizational church (the Local assembly), he does not believe that God is finished with the spiritual church (the bride of Christ).

There are two aspects of the Church taught in the N.T.: Universal/Local

Two Aspects of the New Testament Church

NOTE: Upon careful study of the word ekklesia in the New Testament, it must be noticed that there are two basic concepts which may be accepted as valid expressions of the "Church." The context of each usage of ekklesia will determine which of the two legitimate concepts is to be understood.

1. The primary sense of the word - "the local church"

A body of Christ; often called the visible church; a microcosm, a smaller body of believers.

Definition:

a. An assembly of immersed believers, meeting together regularly in a particular location to fulfill God's program.

b. Scripture:

Mt. 18:17 - "Tell it unto the church"
Acts 15:41 - "Confirming the churches"
I Cor. 4:17 -"I teach everywhere in every church"
Rom. 16:1 - "A servant of the church"
Rom. 16:5 - "The church that is in their house"
I Thes. 1:1 -"The church of the Thessalonians"
Rev. 2:1 - "The church of Ephesus"

c. NOTE: This is the most ordinary, natural meaning of the word ekklesia in the New Testament. Unless some compelling reason is present to reject this meaning, the first rule of hermeneutics asserts that it ought to be accepted.

d. The local church of the New Testament is composed of those who are:

1) Saved (Acts 2:41, 47)
2) Baptized (Acts 2:41; Matthew 28:19)
3) Assembled (Particularly on the first day of the week - Heb. 10:25; John.20:19; Acts 20:7; I Cor.16:2)
4) United for fellowship and exhortation (Acts 2:42-47; Heb.10:24,25)
5) With Bishops (Pastors) and Deacons (Philippians 1:1; I Timothy 3:1-13)
6) Fulfilling the ordinance of the Lord's Supper (Mt.26:26-f; Acts 2:42; I Cor.11)
7) Carrying out the Great Commission (Making Disciples- Matthew 28:18-20)

2. The generic (general) sense of the word - "the church" (the universal church)

The Body of Christ; often called the invisible church; a macrocosm, a greater body of believers which will be in heaven.

a. Definition: All of the redeemed of this age who will one day be assembled in heaven (hence, "the Church in prospect"). This general (non-specific) use of the word "church" does not refer to an actual assembly, such as "The Church at Corinth" (I Cor. 1:2), but to all who are redeemed during this present age (from Pentecost to the Rapture).

b. Scripture:

Mt. 16:18 -	"I will build my Church"
I Cor. 12:28 -	"God hath set some in the Church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers..."
I Cor. 15:9 -	"I persecuted the Church of God"
Gal. 1:13 -	"I persecuted the Church of God"
Eph. 1:22, 23-	"Gave Him to be head over all things to the Church"
Eph. 3:10 -	"Be made known through the Church"
Eph. 3:21 -	"Might be glory in the Church"
Eph. 5:23-32 -	"...Christ also loved the Church and gave Himself for her..."
Phil. 3:6 -	"Concerning zeal, persecuting the Church"
Col. 1:18 -	"He is the Head of the Body, the Church..."
Col. 1:24 -	"For His body's sake, which is the Church."
Heb. 12:23 -	"To the general assembly and Church of the firstborn (ones), which are written in Heaven..."

NOTE: The general (generic) usage of the word "Church" is often described as:

"The Church" (Eph. 3:10, 21)
"The Church of God" (I Cor. 15:9)

Camping does not believe that God is finished with the greater body of believers, but that God is finished with the local bodies; He has judged the institution of the church as an organization, not the greater body of believers, the church at large. He is done with local congregations with pastors & deacons.

Camping's reasoning is as follows:

The Church has changed from 50 years ago. The KJV has been replaced; Divorce has been accepted; The Sunday "Sabbath" is no longer observed; The Charismatic Movement with it's signs & wonders has grown (Tongues/Slain in the Spirit/New Revelations) The Churches teach a "Works" Gospel. There is not one church left that doesn't have at least some of these "High Places" in it. Therefore God has judged His church as He did to O.T. Israel. Camping says Sennacherib is a picture of Satan. Just as Sennacherib destroyed Israel and Judah, so Satan has been "loosed" to destroy the Church. Just as He destroyed Jerusalem through Nebuchadnezzar and had the Jews leave that City, so He has destroyed the Apostate Church through Satan and wants all true believers to leave the Church.

Satan is making war with the saints and God has brought judgment on all churches. His holy spirit is no longer working through the churches. The Gospel is no longer going out through the churches. And no one is being saved through the churches.

According to Harold Camping the Great Tribulation began around 1988.

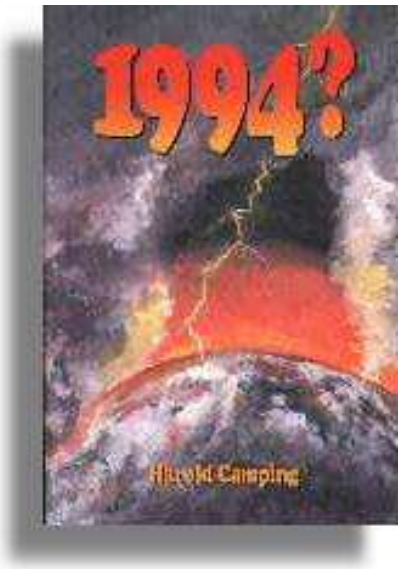
Camping says: "We could speculate, I don't say this dogmatically, but in all likelihood that would identify with the year 1988. And I have various reasons for saying that. At that time, if the gospel, if the churches had now become overrun with Satan and if the Holy Spirit is not operating, so that missionaries that have been sent out by the church, they are still under the unction, under the authority of the church, no one is becoming saved, and that brings a tribulation to the world that is terrible, it's an intense tribulation, there's no possibility of salvation, because the churches have come under the judgment of God and the Holy Spirit is not operating in them anymore to save people." (Audio Cassette Tape: "God Tests N.T. Corp. Church # 3, 2002)

Why 1988? Because 1988 is 2,300 days before 1994 (a date Camping predicted would end the world with the return of Christ)

"I said some time ago and I still believe it's true, that we can understand these 2300 days to be literal days, in all likelihood, I still say in all likelihood. I am not going to be absolute this at all, but I still say 2300 days. 2300 days would be six years and four months. And that, if indeed the great tribulation began in 1988, which is very well possible, then six years, four months brings us to 1994, which coincides with some other things that have to do with the timing of the great Tribulation." (Audio Cassette Tape: "God Tests N.T. Corp. Church # 3, 2002)

Camping says that the Anti-Christ (or Satan) has set himself up in the Church

"In Matthew 24, verse 15, it says in that context, that the abomination of desolation will be standing in that holy place, and that holy place, the only holy place is where the churches and congregations are, that's where the gospel has been holding forth from, and now the abomination of desolation is there. And that has a reference to Satan, that he now stands in the churches and congregations."



When Harold Camping proved to be in error about his 1994 prediction, he had to say something to justify himself. Rather than apologizing for his false prediction, he did what the founders of the Seventh Day Adventist Movement and the Jehovah's Witnesses did. He said that 1994 was the time (not of the end of the World) but of "the latter rain" (a final time period of an unknown duration, to pour out the Gospel via a ministry like family Radio).

"But then a few years ago -- 1994 did not end with the world -- but a few years ago as we continued to read the Bible, we discovered this matter of latter rain, latter rain. And discovered that God has one more season of sending out the Gospel." (Audio Cassette Tape: "God Tests N.T. Corp. Church # 3, 2002)

The Latter Rain falls via Family Radio

"It is a major sign of the fact that we're in great tribulation. Because it comes coincidentally with the latter rain, and the anomaly of us sending the gospel out by a ministry like Family Radio and how God is blessing and blessing, we are crystal clear in knowing that we are there, we are in that time of great tribulation."

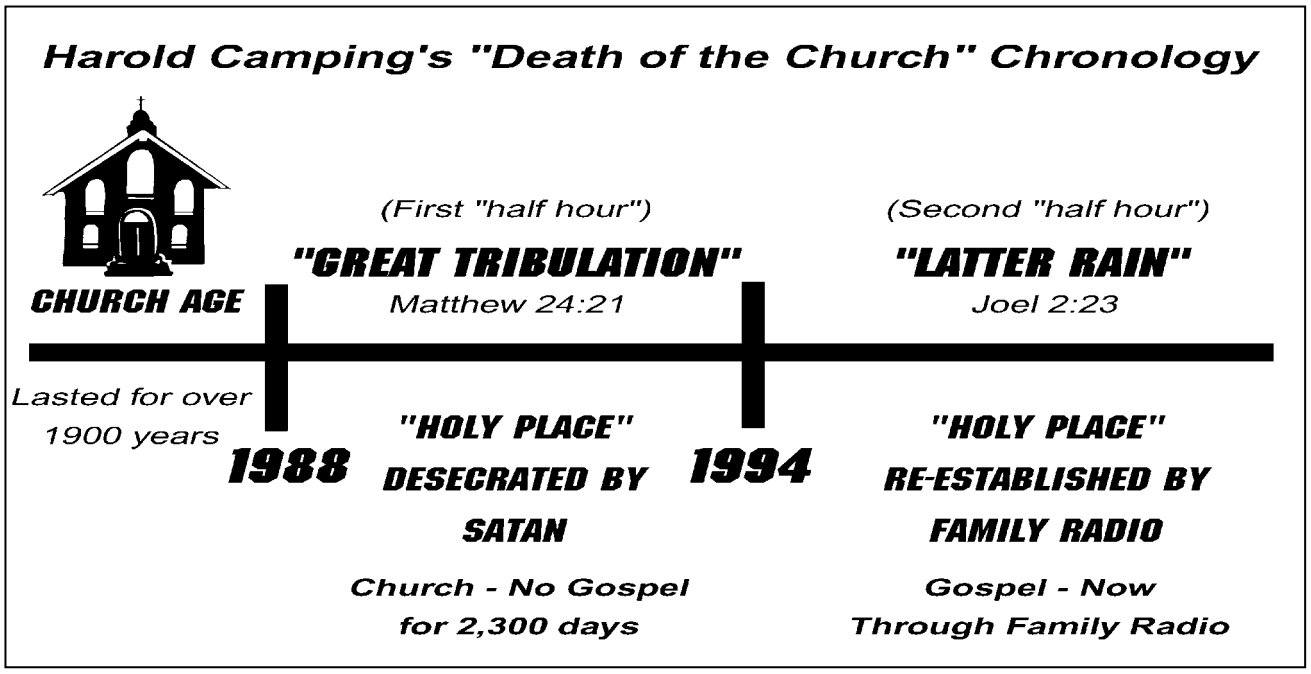
If God is finished with the N.T. Church, how will he spread His Gospel message? Not through the organizational church, but through the new "holy place" – Family Radio.

"Now in so far as the world is concerned, while they were in great tribulation for the first half-hour-- that is for the period of the 2300 evening/mornings-- now God has re-established the Holy Place, but in a different fashion all together. It's the era of the latter rain, it's the era where there is no organization that is used as to interface between, the uh, heaven and men, as the churches have been used. As I said earlier in one of the studies, the churches were the methodology, the local congregations were the methodology that God utilized for over 1900 years, because for the major part of that time there was no printing press, people were illiterate, and the only way that the Gospel could go out was by establishing these little groups here and there and give them authority to teach and have oversight of the congregation, and then to send out others and so on, that was God's methodology. But once we have come to the end of that half hour, now God has another methodology, and he has prepared for this by giving all this modern means of communications and raising up a ministry, for example, like Family Radio, which is outside of the church. And it's outside of the church now that is the Holy Place, that is where righteousness has been established." (Audio Cassette Tape: "God Tests N.T. Corp. Church # 3, 2002)

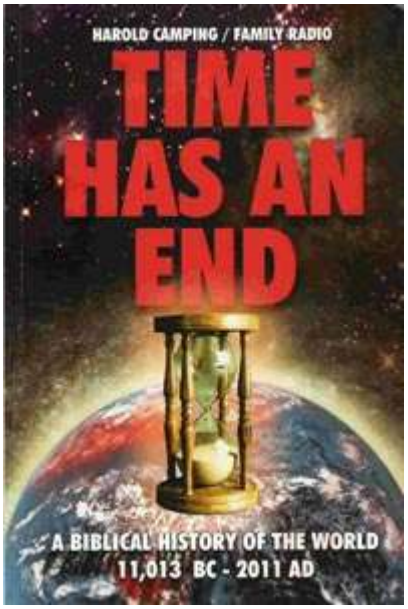
Although Camping puts a question mark at 1988 (as to the beginning point of the Great Tribulation and the end of the church age), he is dogmatic about his conclusion (and there is no question mark as to whether or not it is time to leave the churches).

"But when we read it in the Bible and have done our home work and we understand what the Bible is saying and we teach that, we're saying, "Thus saith the Lord", yes, "Thus saith the Lord," this is what God is saying, because it comes right from the Bible. [caller asks] "Thus saith the Lord, it is time to leave the church, is that what you're saying?" That's what I'm saying, because that's what God has commanded."

According to Camping Everyone must Leave the Church Now!



Harold Camping is now claiming the end of the world on October 20th, 2011!



Either Harold Camping is right or he is wrong. Either he is telling the truth or he is telling a lie. If what he is saying is true he speaks for God; If what he is saying is a lie, he speaks (at least as far as this doctrine is concerned) for Satan. Either he is right and every other pastor in the world is wrong, or he is wrong and they are right.

Harold Camping is in error for the following reasons:
Evidences of Heresy:

1. Camping's <u>Reasons</u> for God's Completion of the Church Age are simply not true and accurate.

<u>Defective Reasoning</u>.

Every church in the world has NOT left the Faith

"Many" is not "ALL." The doctrinal and moral apostasy of many churches world-wide does not mean that all are apostate. (You don't throw the baby out with the dirty bath water).

A study of Scripture shows that God has always had a faithful remnant.

The Lord promised to be with His Church (as they fulfill the Great Commission) "until <u>the end of</u> the Age."

"Israel" is not the Church. (the two are distinguished)

Every reference to Israel in the Bible refers to either Jacob or National Israel. Never in the word Israel used of the Church.

The only reference to Israel that some might argue refers to the church is Galatians 6:16 where Paul speaks of "the Israel of God." Here Paul speaks of Believing Jews (and not a Gentile church). He speaks of true Israelites which are Jews who do not believe in a works Gospel.

The "Holy Place" is not the Church.

All 59 references to the "holy place" in the Bible (only 5 N.T. references) refer to either the O.T. Temple or to God's Holy Place in Heaven. Not one reference is to the N.T. Church!

Physical "Jerusalem" is not the Church.

Camping says: "Jerusalem. And God uses that destruction upon Jerusalem as a dramatic picture of the destruction that finally comes on the churches and congregations."

All 767 references to "Jerusalem" in the Bible refer to the capital city of Israel; ie. To literal, physical, earthly Jerusalem. The only exceptions are 5 references to the "new Jerusalem" or "Heavenly Jerusalem." Not one time does God use the word Jerusalem to refer to the organized church!

The Anti-Christ is <u>not</u> Satan.

He is called "the <u>man</u> of sin." And he is called the "Beast" He is empowered by Satan (Revelation 13:2). He only continues his powerful rule for 42 months (or 3 ½ Years) (Rev.13:5). After this 3 ½ years he is thrown alive into the lake of fire (Rev. 19:20; cp. Dan. 7:11). Satan later joins him 1,000 years later in the lake of fire (Rev. 20:10).

Rev. 20:10
And the **devil** that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the **beast** and the false prophet *are,* and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

In the above verse, the beast and the devil are clearly distinguished. They are not one & the same.

The 2,300 days of Daniel 8:14 are not Fulfilled Today (in 1988)

They were fulfilled historically in the Days of Greece (Daniel 8:21) by one of Greece's rulers, named Antiochus Epiphanes.

"Antiochus' persecution of the Jews would last for 2,300 days, the period from 171 BC. (when peaceful relations between Antiochus and the Jews came t an end) t Dec. 25, 165 B.C. (when Judas Maccabeus restored the Temple for its proper worship). (Ryrie Study Bible Note). (Compare I Maccabees 1:59 with 6:1, 3-8,16);

The Jewish celebration of Hanukkah is a reminder of God's faithfulness to cleanse the Jewish sanctuary (temple). Which he did on December 25, 165 B.C, exactly 3 years after the pig (swine) was slain on the altar and the image of Zeus was erected In the second Jewish temple.

The Great Tribulation does not refer to the Spiritual problems some churches have today.
Camping says "Speaking here about Satan being loosed and that we have understood through the years pretty well, that Satan would be loosed at the beginning of the great Tribulation, and that's why the churches were going bad so very rapidly. And it was given unto him to make war with the saints and power was given him over all kindred and tongues and nations." (Audio Cassette Tape: "God Tests N.T. Corp. Church # 3, 2002)

Camping is citing Daniel 7:21 & Revelation 13:7

Daniel 7:21
I beheld, and the same horn made war with the saints, and prevailed against them;
Rev. 13:7
And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations.

Is that "war" (described in Daniel 7:21) spiritual or physical persecution?
Answer: **Physical**
Rev. 13:15
And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed.

Rev. 20:4
And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and *I saw* the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received *his* mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

The ½ hour of silence does not refer to God no longer speaking through churches
Rev. 8:1
And when he had opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour.

(It is a silence in "Heaven" not on earth!)

2. Camping has No <u>Accountability</u>

Harold Camping and his radio ministry is not under any earthly authority. He answers to no one; He has no accountability; No checks & balances; He has free reign. Whereas Elders (Pastors) who fall into sin (or false doctrine) were to be rebuked by the church (I Timothy 5:20), Camping (because he part of no church) has no official, organized group who might reprimand him or hold him in check. Camping is not subject to any other recognized godly group of men. So he does what he wants and teaches what he wants with no regard for any other servant of God who might sharpen or reprimand him.

Proverbs 27:17 Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend.
Proverbs 24:6 "…in multitude of counsellors there is safety."

Not one reputable Bible teacher in the world agrees with him.

No one in <u>history</u> ever taught that God would finish the Church Age prior to the Rapture.

God warns us against trusting individuals, no matter how spiritual they may seem, if they separate themselves from God's organization. ("they went out from us…")

--He must be tremendously <u>arrogant</u> (to assume that God revealed this doctrine of the death of the church age to him & him alone; No one who hasn't been taught by Camping believes this doctrine.

--He stands alone.
Apart from those who received direct revelation from God [ex: Noah], no one has ever stood alone on a major doctrine.

3. Camping has <u>added</u> to <u>Scripture</u>

Not by adding pages to the Text, but by twisting the meaning of the Text, thus adding concepts not supported by sound exegesis.

Camping, in fact, does what he condemns the Charismatics for doing—namely, coming up with new messages. They do so by dreams and visions. He does so by twisting Scripture. In the final analysis, there is no difference.

Camping says. . . "We are learning things that <u>no one ever understood before</u>." Just as God promised Abraham that he would be the "father of many nations, and it wasn't until thousands of years later that Paul's understanding was enlightened to what that Genesis text meant, so it is today! God is revealing things today never revealed before.

Some people are always looking for something <u>new</u>. Camping is very appealing to them. This is Gnosticism reborn!
"If a doctrine is new, it's not true; and if it's true, it's not new."
Camping's hermeneutic is Satanic!

His allegorical approach and numerology is a similar style of hermeneutic employed by cults. There are no checks & balances. Words have no literal meaning, if everything is figurative.
An example of Camping's numerology:

Does the number 37 really signify judgment?
185,000 = 5x<u>37</u>

Seven years after, after Isaac was born. What does the 37 signify? Well, I didn't, I never realized this before, but I had learned a long time ago that the number 37 is a number that signifies judgment, judgment. For example if we look at the armies of the Assyrians that were destroyed during the days of Hezekiah, how many people, how many soldiers died in one night? Do you remember? 185,000. And 185,000 breaks up into two numbers, 5 x 37, Both 5 and 37 signify judgment, although at times the number 5 can also signify the other side of the coin of judgment, salvation, But in this setting of 185,000 it signifies judgment. What is the number of man? 666. Remember that? And that breaks down into 6x3x37. Six signifies the work that is being done, three – purpose, 37 - judgment. So we have a sentence here. We could say that 666 signifies those who are working for their salvation, and God's purpose is that they're going to come into judgment.

When I was thinking about this message, I was thinking, you know she was 90 years old when she gave birth to Isaac. Now, 90. Spiritually, if we break that down, that's 3x3x10. Uh, 3x3x10. If a number 10 has any spiritual significance, what does it signify? Completeness. Completeness. Remember that. 10 hundred times 10 thousand, It's always completeness. The number 3, if that signifies anything, that signifies purpose. Purpose. In other words, in the completeness of God's plan, his purpose,, Isaac was born. I think that's what we look at when we look at that 90 years.

John 21 is Harold Camping's favorite place to justify his teachings on the death of the Church.

--The apostles are fishing (seven of them)
--It's night (this is significant)
--Two boats (number 2 represents the Church)
(the boats can sink; therefore the Church can sink)
--v. 7 – Peter is naked and throws himself into the sea
--"Sea" = hell
--Peter becomes a picture of Jesus
"Girding the cloak" = Psalm 18
"Boat" = church
"Fish" = those getting saved
The fish cannot be taken into the boat = people cannot be taken into the church.

"Theological play dough"!! You can shape the Scripture any way you want.

If you wrote a letter to a friend and someone were to read that letter 2,000 years from now, how would you want to be understood? Interpreted? (the historical context, the grammar, etc.)

What if I interpret Camping with the same method (allegorical) in which he interprets the Bible?

4. Camping has No <u>Proof Text</u>

There is <u>not one text of Scripture</u> or <u>passage</u> that hints at a close of the Church Age. (no direct statement suggesting that God would ever stop working through churches in this Age)

When Camping attempts to defend his position, he never addresses passages that directly deal with the Church (EX: Pastoral Epistles [1 and 2 Timothy, Titus], the book of Acts]).

5. Camping is <u>Dividing God's People</u> from each other

God loves the unity of true believers

Psalms 133:1 <<A Song of degrees of David.>> Behold, how good and how pleasant *it is* for brethren to dwell together in unity!

Proverbs 6:16-19
"These six *things* doth the Lord hate: yea, seven *are* an abomination unto him: 17A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, 18An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, 19A false witness *that* speaketh lies, and he that **<u>soweth discord among brethren</u>**."

Mr. Camping is fracturing relationships (under the guise of obedience to God).

According to Camping, failure to get out of the churches is just as serious a sin as the disobedience of Adam & Eve:

"And now, this really is the final test, the final, final test. What are you gonna do? Are you gonna obey God and get out? Or are you gonna argue with God about this whole matter? And , every test is very serious business because when we saw Adam and Eve fail the test, we saw how terrible it was for the whole human race and the whole world. When we saw the people in Noah's day fail the test, what happened to them? They were destroyed in the flood. When we see anybody fail the test, there is a terrible, terrible consequence to that. And so we want to make sure that we don't fail the test."

John's words in **3 John 1:9-10** apply to Mr. Camping:
"I wrote unto the church: but Diotrephes, who loveth to have the preeminence among them, receiveth us not. Wherefore, if I come, I will remember his deeds which he doeth, prating against us with malicious words: and not content therewith, neither doth he himself receive the brethren, and forbiddeth them that would, and ***casteth them <u>out of the church</u>****."*

Many people are blindly following Camping.

The newest cult leader, Harold Camping has intentionally or unintentionally has successfully drawn away disciples after himself.

Acts 20:28-30

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. 29For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. 30Also of your own selves shall men arise, ***speaking perverse (distorted) things, to draw away disciples after them****.*

7. Camping is a Heretic for saying that "Faith" is a "Work."

"What they didn't recognize was, and as a matter of fact, in fairness, I didn't recognize this either until just a few years ago, that faith is a work, the Bible clearly indicates, that faith is work, and if it's a work, then obviously it cannot tie into our salvation. In fact, if you'd like to make a note of that, in case you haven't done that already, and maybe most of you have done that, but if you look at 1 Thes. 1 verse 3, 1 Thes. 1, verse 3, "Remembering without ceasing you work of faith." Your work of faith. Without question, faith is work."

1 Thes. 1:3

Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father;

I Thessalonians 1:3 is not calling Faith a Work. Rather Paul is talking about Good Works which flow out of Faith. In the same way as Labour flows out of Love and Patience comes out of our hope. Note: Paul in Context is commending them for their work of faith. If faith was a work and therefore was not the means to salvation, Paul should have corrected them, not remember them in praise.

Faith and works are distinguished in Paul's epistles.

Romans 3:28 Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law.

Romans 9:32 Wherefore? Because they sought it not by faith, but as it were by the works of the law. For they stumbled at that stumblingstone;

Galatians 2:16 Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.

Ephes. 2:8-9 *For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9Not of works, lest any man should boast.*

Salvation comes to us by faith (yes a faith from God and His Word, but faith none-the-less)

Romans 3:22 Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:

Romans 3:30 Seeing it is one God, which shall justify the circumcision by faith, and uncircumcision through faith.

Romans 5:1 Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

Romans 5:2 By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

Romans 11:20 Well; because of unbelief they were broken off, and thou standest by faith. Be not highminded, but fear:

Galatians 3:22 But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe.

Galatians 3:24 Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.

Galatians 3:26 For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.

Camping believes that although Churches have historically taught a false Gospel (preaching Faith or Believe on Christ) God, despite this false teaching or "high place," has saved people through this false teaching.

But Camping says: "The thing is that, and I am astounded at this, and yet this is the fact, that while throughout the history of the church age, there has been a violation in almost every denomination that I know of --and maybe all of the denominations that I'm aware of --of this principle that we're saved by grace alone, that in every denomination there have been uh, at least some doctrines that-- like for example, faith is an instrument, or water baptism is a seal, or you must accept Christ, or if you pray the sinner's prayer, or if you do this or if you do that, then God will save you. And we would think, based on what we're reading here, nobody throughout the church age became saved. But it's a testimony to the absolute mercy of God and, oh my, the Bible again and again talks about the mercy of God, and the patience of God, the long-suffering character of God, that God has tolerated this kind of a high place. And it is the significant high place that God has tolerated this for over 1900 years. This has been present in the churches to some degree, so that in spite of this violation God has, has evangelized the world."

"Not to have , to have any kind of a high place, where our work has something to do with salvation. In spite of that, God has been patient, God has allowed the churches to continue to send the gospel into the world, and as long as they were using the Bible alone and in its entirety, and as long as they had that high place, that wrong doctrine, as well as many other wrong doctrines, nevertheless, God in spite of that, would bless people with salvation. So that I'm sure, I dare to say this, I am sure, that there are a great many people who think they have become saved because they reached out and accepted Christ, and a portion of them, a remnant of them undoubtedly are saved, not because they reached out and accepted Christ, but that Christ in spite of that dreadful wrong doctrine of adding some of our own works-- because that's work that I do if I'm reaching out to accept Christ-- in spite of that, God still has saved."

Can God save people by means of a false Gospel? According to Paul they should be accursed to Hell.
Galatians 1:8 But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.

8. If there is no Church, there is no Biblical Polity and no Guidelines for organized Leadership roles.

Who qualifies to lead, speak at, teach at "Fellowships"?

--Can females organize and lead?

--What about new converts ("novices")?

No Church = No rules for Christian fellowship (assembly).

The commands given in I Timothy 3 and Titus 1 which describe the qualifications for "bishop" (Pastors/Elders) and Deacons have no application outside of the Church.
Paul gave the standards for leadership to that churches would know how they are to conduct themselves when gathered.

1 Timothy 3:15
But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.

1 Timothy 2:11-12
Let the woman learn in silence with all subjection. But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence.

There is no more authority for baptism, Lord's Supper and mission work (churches send out missionaries).

Sheep need Shepherds.

(1 Peter 5; Acts 20)

Camping's heresy is dangerous to weak Christian people. His lie fits right in with human depravity because people naturally look for reasons not to come to church, to avoid accountability.

The need for proper, Biblical guidance is greater now than ever before. Is God using any Bible teacher today? Camping obviously believes God is using *his* teaching ministry; if his, why not someone else's?

Fellowships need Structure.

The local church structure is the only structure given in Scripture.

Someone called Camping and asked, "If there is no church. . .

"What about funerals?"
"What about weddings?"
"What about the Lord's Supper and baptism?"
(which we are commanded to do until He returns)

Camping says that the ordinances of the Church (baptism and Lord's Supper) were ceremonial laws (signs and shadows) (not sacraments) but they have no spiritual substance in them. They were given to the Church.

9. Camping's Real Enemy/Target of Attack is Pastors (elders).

Why? Perhaps due to his insubordination to pastor leadership in his past. Perhaps due to the fact that not one pastor agreed with his 1994 return of Christ theory.

10. Camping has several Marks of a Cult.
(--Exclusivity—addition to Scripture—division in the Body—No accountability & dialogue—disobedience & distrust of pastor authority—)

--He assumes exclusive exclusivity (he's the only one; he knows who is standing up for the truth of God). He has been successful to draw away disciples after himself.
--He adds to Scripture (not additional ink but additional ideas, private interpretations).
--He causes division in the Body
--He avoids accountability and dialogue.
--He leads people into disobedience to and distrust of pastoral authority. ("It's too late to trust your pastor")
"It's not a stretch to say that those who have been influenced are inundated with similar methods employed by the major cults:
(1) there is the general distrust of anyone outside the circle.
(2) The visible church majority is in the process of falling away or has completely fallen away.
(3) No accountability in organizational structure.
(4) A single charismatic leader who his followers tout as being very unique and an instrument that God is greatly using to bring the Gospel.
(5) Scripture is filtered through the interpretation of this one man. Members only find it natural to "see" the same things while studying the Scriptures for themselves.

(6) A constant focus on the apparent huge doctrinal antithesis between them and others." (from:www.FamilyRadioIsWrong.org)
The thought of yourself having superior knowledge over others is clearly a cultic mark. And they are taught to feel sorry for others who don't see things their way.

Camping says: "You meet people who are very upset and who are very, um, belligerent in their attitudes. They're just like, "Oh, you believe that it's the end of the church age, now that can't be." And they almost want to assault you. Bear in mind, except for the grace of God, that's where you and I would be. Just bear that in mind. None of us can take any credit if we have any understanding, and anyone who doesn't understand and they even may become _____ and belligerent and may begin to engage in reviling or character assassination, or whatever, just have pity and love for those individuals, because God hasn't opened their eyes, and we can't take any credit because God has opened our eyes, Just pray for them. But whatever you do, don't lash back, don't call names, don't look down your long noses at them, because they are people who we have to feel sorry for and we could hope that they too might come to truth."

He further states: ". . .That separation and the second coming of Christ, isn't he the one who is supposed to separate the wheat?" [caller asks] Well, ya see, that's what I would have said that would be the way it would be 5 or 10 years ago, I would have said what you are saying, but we're learning that the final judgment is already in process. It begins with judgment in the house of God. It will have begun in the house of God, and then it will transition into the final judgment. Judgment begins where the gospel has been proclaimed for the last couple thousand years, and it'll transition to judgment day on everything. But it's during this period that there already is a separation, and that's what makes this a time of great tribulation. I, for example, have loved ones who are, can't see this end of the church age at all, they just believe that they have to stay where they are, and I worry, and I can't judge their hearts, maybe the Lord is just slow in opening their minds to this, but if they remain there, it means that they're gonna be proving to themselves that they are part of the weeds or the tares rather than part of the wheat, because those who are the true believers, they have a desire to do the will of God and if God has commanded to come out, to depart out, then a true believer is going to move on that."

11. The Bible Teaches that God is <u>not</u> Finished with the Church (as an institution)

Although God is certainly finished with many local churches which have gone apostate, he is not finished with Biblical Local Churches that seek to honor Him and His Word.

a. We are commanded to not forsake the assembling of ourselves together. When this was written, it was written to Hebrew Christians who assembled in local congregations during the "church age." What this passage meant then is what it means now! That same Scripture says to assemble and exhort one another and especially so "as ye see the day approaching" That "day" is the "day of the Lord" or the rapture. (note: the context of Hebrews 10:37, makes mention of the Lord's return; and every reference to the phrase "the day" refers to "the day of the Lord") Therefore churches are to exist until that day of the rapture occurs.

Hebrews 10:24-25

*And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: 25Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see **<u>the day approaching</u>**.*

b. The Lord's Supper (which is a "church" ordinance – I Cor. 11:18, 22) is to be practiced until the day the Lord Jesus returns, therefore the church must be in existence until Jesus comes.

*1 Corinthians 11:26 For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death **<u>till he come.</u>***

c. The Biblical Local church was the Pillar and Ground of the Truth in Paul's day (as he wrote his pastoral epistles of 1 & 2 Timothy & Titus); and The Biblical Local Church IS still the Pillar and Ground of the Truth. God never promises to change his program before Christ's return.

1 Tim. 3:15

*But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which **<u>is</u> the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth**.*

On this point, Harold Camping says that It is <u>God</u> and not the Church which is being described as "the pillar and ground of the truth" (He admits that both "church" or "God" being the pillar and ground are legitimate possibilities.
Although he is dogmatic that it is "God" who is the right interpretation. And in fact if a anyone teaches that the "Church" is the pillar & ground of the truth, they are idolaters who have a "high place" in their doctrine.

"You see, if a church holds that the church is the pillar and ground of truth, it means they have a high place. Right in that statement, because that means that the doctrines of men are being taught rather than the doctrine of the Bible that GOD is the pillar and ground of truth. Just in that very one statement." (Audio Cassette Tape: "God Tests N.T. Corp. Church # 1, 2002)

Several reasons can be given to show that Paul here is describing the "church" as the pillar and ground of the truth.

1) The subject of the sentence is the church (not God).

2) In the Bible, God is not merely a "pillar & ground" of truth; HE IS TRUTH itself!

Camping appeals to Ephesians 2:20 and I Cor. 3:10 to try to show that Christ and the Apostles are the foundation upon which truth is built. However, the greek word translated "foundation" there is "themelios" whereas the word translated "ground" in I Tim. 3:15 is "hedraioma." Two totally different words.

3) The words "pillar" and "ground" match with "Church" in the nominative case and not with the genitive word "God" The words "pillar and ground of the truth" are in appostion to ekklesia and oikos (Robertson's Word Pictures in the N.T. Vol. IV, P. 576). To make grammatical sense the appositional phrase here must refer to the subject and not the genitive phrase.

The Biblical Church has the God-given task of **holding up** the truth (as a Pillar holds up the roof of a building) and the church is to be as a buttress or bulwark and firmly **support** the truth.

d. The revelation that Jesus Christ gave to the Church of Thyatira is given to be helpful to churches like the church of Thyatira until the return of Christ. This fact proves that churches like Thyatira will exist until Jesus comes again.

Listen to what Jesus says to the church of Thyatira:

Rev. 2:25-29

*But that which ye have already hold fast **till I come**. 26And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations: 27And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father. 28And I will give him the morning star. 29He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the **churches**.*

This same principle is found in Christ's revelation to **the Church of Philadelphia**.

Rev. 3:10-11

*Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth. 11**Behold, I come quickly**: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.*

e. The Church Age has not ended; The church age will not end until Christ returns.

There is absolutely NO Scriptural Support to prove otherwise.

The work of Discipling "all Nations" through the local church will continue as long as Jesus is with us as we disciple people. And this will continue "unto the end of the world (age)"

Matthew 28:19-20

*Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, **even unto the end of the world**. Amen.*

f. Regarding the church that Christ builds; Not all the rulers of Hell will prevail against it. (as long as it remains a Biblical church founded upon the Lord Jesus Christ)

Matthew 16:18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; **and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.**

g. Without the Local Church, we do not have a Biblical Context through which to fulfill the following imperatives. Note the following imperatives were given to the church in Rome, Italy:

***We need to genuinely take care of each other in the family of God!**

How should we take care of each other?

I. BE MEMBERS with one another (Rom.12:4-5)
(A plea to contribute our gift to each other)

II. HONOR one another (12:10)
(A plea to show family honor to each other)

III. LOVE one another (13:8)
(A plea to pay the dept of love to each other)

IV. EDIFY one another (14:13,19)
(A plea to be a stepping stone, not a stumbling block to each other)

V. BEAR with one another (15:1)
(A plea for patience toward each other)

VI. PLEASE one another (15:2-4)
(A plea for unselfishness toward each other)

VII. UNITE with one another (15:5-6)
(A plea for oneness with each other)

VIII. ACCEPT one another (15:7)
(A plea for impartiality toward each other)

IX. ADMONISH one another (15:14)
(A plea for loving confrontation with each other)

X. Warmly Greet one another (16:16)
(A plea to show loving affection to each other)

h. The Church is an <u>Equipping Station</u> for Preparation for Service (See: Ephesians 4:11-13)

Ephesians 4:11-14
*"And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, **pastors and teachers**; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: **<u>Till we all come in the unity of the faith</u>**, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ**:** That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive"*

The word **"till"** (v. 13) is a word describing the time duration of an activity and means that the activity of Pastors-teachers equipping the saints is to occur **until there is total maturity** in God's people. Has this been fulfilled? No. Therefore the ministry of Church officials ministering to God's people is still in operation today!

CONCLUSION:

Harold Camping's teaching must be abandoned <u>not your church</u>.

1 Cor. 3:16-17
Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? [17] If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye (plural) are.

One heresy leads to another!

In addition to Campings heresy regarding the church, he now teaches the following:
* the annihilation of the unsaved
* there will not be a visible return of Christ
* there will be no resurrection and final judgement of the unsaved
* the "eternal" wrath of God on the unsaved will last just 5 months
* Christ became the Son of God after He rose from the dead before the foundation of the world. Quoting Mr Camping directly, "*Thus when Jesus went to the cross, He was not there to pay for our sins*."

IX. The International Churches of Christ

(Formerly called: The Boston Movement)

Introduction: A typical Senario:

MAKING DISCIPLES, BOSTON STYLE

“Lisa is at work, sitting alone one day and eating her lunch. Mary comes along, introduces herself, and asks if she can join her. During the conversation they discover that they have a number of things in common: they are both of Scandinavian descent; they grew up in the same part of the country; they both work in the nursing profession; and both claim to have a relationship with Jesus Christ.

With a budding friendship initiated, Mary invites Lisa to a "Bible Talk" on Thursday night, one that she is attending. Lisa asks, "Who's teaching it? Who's involved?" Mary laughs and says, "It's just a group of believers meeting together to study the Bible. It's nondenominational." Lisa attends with Mary and there meets many wonderful people. These people are not only friendly but appear to be genuinely loving and caring. Lisa listens carefully to the lesson and finds nothing contrary to her knowledge of the Bible.

In the days following the Bible Talk, the people Lisa met there call her to talk with her and see how she's doing. She really appreciates their interest and concern. As she gets to know them she observes that these are people who really try to live out their faith -- not only on Sunday mornings, but throughout the week. Encouraged by these people and especially by Mary, she begins to attend their church service and to participate in other activities.

Mary and Lisa (at Mary's suggestion) begin to meet together for a weekly Bible study. Since Lisa already believes the Bible, Mary skips the usual first lesson, The Word Study, and instead focuses on the subject of discipleship. Mary obviously knows more
about this subject (having notes and other materials), and so she leads and teaches Lisa. (At this point Mary becomes Lisa's spiritual mentor, her discipler.) In addition to studying the Bible, they pray together and confess sins (most of these being
Lisa's). Mary calls Lisa every day, showing great interest in Lisa's life. She is always available to give help and always ready to provide some guidance and advice.

Though Lisa is attending this church and enjoying its life and fellowship, she has this feeling that she is not really a part of it. Perhaps this resulted from her observation that other women in the group are called "sisters," and she is not. She isn't sure. Then one day she hears a Bible Talk on baptism in which the teacher says, "Unless one is baptized as a disciple, one is not saved." He goes on to say that true baptism is a "conscious baptism in which one believes in that baptism for the forgiveness
of sins." The wheels in her mind begin to turn. She had been baptized shortly after she put her trust in Jesus Christ, but that was not a "conscious baptism" (as the Bible teacher had described it). Furthermore, she was not a disciple at the time of
her baptism, at least as this church defines a disciple. Was her baptism valid? She begins to think that it wasn't. Then the thought crosses her mind: If it wasn't valid, was she really saved?

Lisa immediately calls Mary. Mary comes over as soon as she can and takes her through certain passages in the Bible regarding baptism, verse by verse. Lisa concludes, from all that was shown to her, that her baptism was not a true baptism and she was not saved. She really loves Jesus and wants to serve Him. She wants
to be saved, and tells Mary so. That Sunday afternoon she is baptized again and "becomes a Christian." As she comes out of the water, she is ecstatic. Tears of joy stream down Mary's face. All Lisa's new friends from the Bible Talk and the church are there, and so happy for her.

Feeling like a new person after her baptism, Lisa reflects a bit afterwards and starts to realize that if she was not saved prior to her baptism, neither are the people in her former church, nor are her family and friends. They are all lost and on their way to hell. This bothers her and she tells Mary. Encouraged by Mary and other new friends to evangelize these people from her past, Lisa begins to introduce them to her new friends and invite them to the Bible Talk, a church service, or some other special event. When her former pastor, her parents, and former friends try to speak to her about her new beliefs and church, Lisa is advised by Mary not to talk with them. "Instead," Mary says, "give them the telephone number of [her new pastor] and have them call him." (At this point a clear separation is occurring between the old and the new, and Lisa's life will become increasingly wrapped up in her new church.)..."

by James Bjornstad.
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HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT

The ICC or Boston Movement is actually a more extreme version of the Church of Christ Movement.

In 1823, Alexander Campbell (the most influential man to the Church of Christ movement's position on Baptism) said:

"I know it will be said that I have affirmed that baptism "saves us," that it "washes away sins." Well, Peter and Paul have said so before me. . . . The blood of Jesus Christ then really cleanses us who believe from all sin. Behold the goodness of God in giving us a formal proof and token of it, by ordaining a baptism expressly "for the remission of sins". . . . Paul's sins were really pardoned when he believed, yet he had no solemn pledge of the fact, no formal acquittal, no formal purgation of his sins, until he had washed them away in the water of baptism. To every believer, therefore, baptism is a formal and personal remission, or purgation of sins. The believer never has his sins formally washed away or remitted until he is baptized. (Allen and Hughes, Discovering Our roots, p.106)

Campbell's doctrine of baptism for the remission of sins became the cornerstone of his movement and later the cornerstone of the entire Restoration Movement, the Churches of Christ, and, eventually, the Boston Movement."

From the Churches of Christ to the Boston Movement: A Comparative Study by Russell R. Paden B.G.S., University of Kansas, 1992



"In the early 1970s Kip McKean, the founding evangelist and pastor of the Boston movement, was a student at the University of Florida in Gainesville. There he met Chuck Lucas, pastor of the Crossroads Church of Christ. Lucas was active in a campus outreach program for the Churches of Christ, developing "Campus Advance" principles. He recruited McKean and trained him in what was then and is now a radical version of discipleship developed primarily from Robert Coleman's book, _The Master Plan of Evangelism._ Lucas understood Coleman to teach that Jesus controlled the lives of His apostles and then taught His apostles to disciple others by controlling their lives. Therefore Christians today should use the same process Jesus taught His apostles when bringing people to Christ. Lucas put this teaching into practice in a discipleship process which he taught to McKean and others.

In 1976 a number of Lucas's trainees, including McKean, were sent out to affiliate with Church of Christ congregations located near college campuses. The plan was that each would start a campus outreach using the local church for a base. McKean went to Heritage Chapel Church of Christ in Charleston, Illinois and initiated a campus outreach at Eastern Illinois University. Though he was successful, it wasn't long before some church members questioned his discipleship process and made charges regarding manipulation and control. In fact, several congregational splits occurred over the new discipling process being implemented on these campuses.



In 1979 McKean moved to the Boston suburb of Lexington where he became involved in the Lexington Church of Christ. Meeting on June 1 with thirty people -- each committing themselves to the Lord and His work -- McKean established an aggressive program of evangelism and discipleship. The result was phenomenal. The church went from 30 to 1,000 members in just a few years and outgrew its facilities. By 1983 the church had to rent the Boston Opera House for its meeting on Sunday and meet in homes ("house churches") for midweek services. Later that year the Lexington Church of Christ changed its name to the Boston Church of Christ.

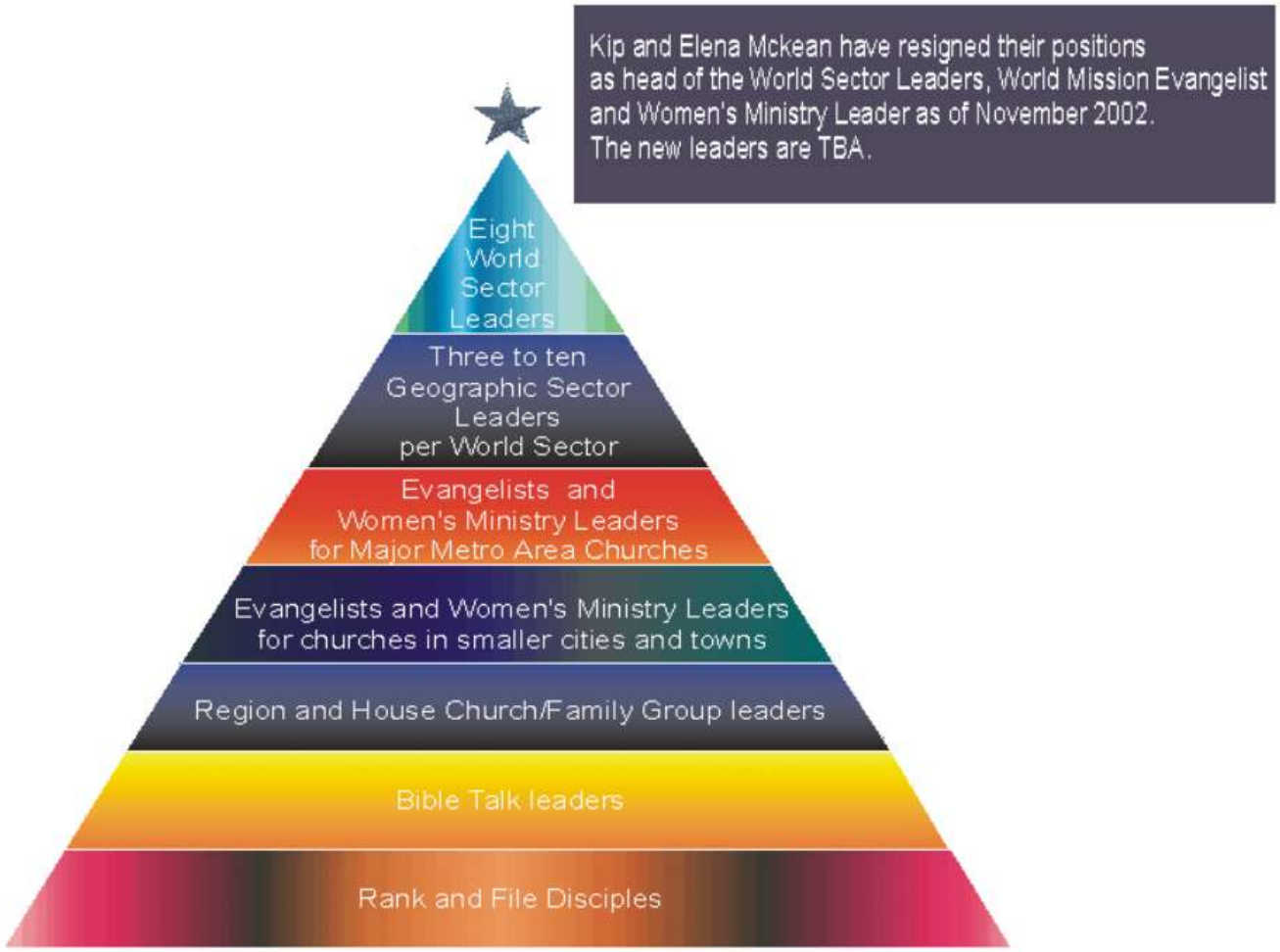
In 1981 the Boston movement launched an aggressive missions program, sending out teams of people to establish churches throughout America and the world. These churches would be part of the Boston family of churches, under the authority and control of the Boston Church of Christ, and using the same discipling methods as the Boston church. As Jerusalem was the center from which Christianity spread throughout the world, so the Boston movement sees Boston as the modern-day center for "multiplying" worldwide ministry.

Churches were established in many major cities, including London (1981), Chicago (1982), New York City (1983), Toronto and Providence (1985), Johannesburg, Paris, and Stockholm (1986), and Mexico City, Hong Kong, Bombay, and Cairo (1987-88). Each church in the Boston movement places the name of their city in front of "Church of Christ" -- for example, "Los Angeles Church of Christ" -- because they believe churches in the Bible were called by the names of their cities.

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# in ICC (approx.)*	Position
1	Founder: Kip McKean
11	World Sector Leaders
50	Geographic Sector Leaders
90	Region/Super-Region Leaders
200	Sector Leaders
350	Evangelists
hundreds	Interns
thousands	Bible Talk Leaders
tens of thousands	Disciplers
total membership: 130,000+	Disciples

* Note: much of the ICC's leadership structure was disbanded by early 2003



Church Polity of the Boston Movement:

“The "pyramid of relationships" that Yeakley stated exists in discipling churches created a hierarchy in the Boston Movement that was completely foreign to the Churches of Christ. While individual congregations within the mainline Churches of Christ practice strict autonomy and have no outside headquarters, boards, or individuals to whom they answer, the Boston Movement operates quite differently. There is a definite hierarchy of churches and church leaders based on McKean's plan of pillar churches. In 1988, McKean appointed nine World Sector Leaders, each responsible for a different sector of the world. In 1989, a World Sector Administrator was appointed to oversee the finances of each sector. The World Sector Leader is typically the Lead Evangelist (this is the Boston Movement's term for a pastor or minister) of the pillar congregation, and other congregations in that sector are accountable to the pillar church and the World Sector Leader. The nine World Sector Leaders are in turn accountable to Kip McKean who, since 1990, has overseen the Los Angeles Church of Christ and has served as World Missions Evangelist for the entire Movement.
(Kip McKean’s church in LA is presently called the International Christian Church and he calls his movement the “Sold Out Discipling Movement”)

Based on its interpretation of the second and third chapters of the book of Revelation, the Movement adheres to a "one church, one city" model.

They believe it is unscriptural to have more than one congregation per city. Typically, but not always, a church affiliated with the Boston Movement will simply take the name of the city as its name, as the Los Angeles Church of Christ and the Chicago Church of Christ have done.

The polity within each congregation is also organized in a hierarchical fashion. Each congregation is divided geographically into sectors or quadrants with a Sector or Quadrant Leader (the terminology varies from congregation to congregation). The sectors are further subdivided into zones, and the Sector Leader oversees the Zone Leaders. Zone Leaders oversee individual Bible talks (what were called "soul talks" at Crossroads) and the Bible Talk Leaders. The Bible Talk Leader oversees the individual members of his Bible talk. This form of church government is in sharp contrast to the mainline Churches of Christ, which typically have a minister and often elders who serve as the leaders of a single congregation, with no other church hierarchy above them."

From the Churches of Christ to the Boston Movement: A Comparative Study by Russell R. Paden B.G.S., University of Kansas, 1992

Beware of a fast growing Wolf in Sheep's Clothing!

3 Cultic Marks of the International Churches of Christ:

1. Arrogant Exclusivity:

(We alone are the true church)

"The Movement assumes that it is the only true movement of God in existence today. Members who consider leaving the Movement are told that they would be leaving God and that they cannot be a faithful disciple in another church. College-age members are urged not to go home for the summer if no Boston Movement church exists in their hometown, as no other church is suitable even on a temporary basis. An evangelism manual for the Movement states that candidates for baptism should be made to understand "that it is not God's will for him to attend any other church." A certain level of spiritual arrogance exists among the membership, for they believe they are the only true Christians, the only ones serious about their devotion to God, and members of the only true movement of God." (Russell R. Paden)

The following quotes are from an article titled: "3 Questions About the International Churches of Christ (Boston Movement)" New Covenant Publications (www.newcovpub.com)

"In an article entitled "Revolution Through Restoration II" (a sequel), written by Kip McKean (lead Evangelist and founder of the I.C.C.), Kip states that perhaps the most often asked question of the I.C.C. is "Are the people in the International Churches of Christ the only ones who are saved?" Kip avoids answering this question out right, but comments that the Bible's answer comes from understanding the nature of God's movements.

"To initiate his movement, God, in his grace, always works through a man. He puts his message on this man's heart. As God's man preaches God's message, God moves in other men's hearts. Kip McKean, (In his article, Revolution Through Restoration II, 1994) states: "I believe with all my heart that the Boston Movement is God's modern-day movement."

“According to the I.C.C. "a true disciple" or "true Christians" are those who are members of their movement.

"This is the true movement of God. There's no other group, no other church, that can touch this. The Boston Church is not any church, it is the Jerusalem of God's modern day movement." (Kip McKean, Boston Congregational Meeting, 5/6/90)

> "When you say we're the only true church...that's gonna tick the religious people off." (Kip McKean, Preach the Word, Johannesberg Leadership Conference, Aug. 1995)
>
> "Today, we are calling out of the world, calling out of the denominations, out of the mainline churches, out of the campus ministries all of the people who desire to be a part of God's restored true church and movement." (Kip McKean, Revolution Through Restoration II, 1994)
>
> According to I.C.C. doctrine, any church that is not a part of the I.C.C. is a false church.
>
> "This is not just a church among churches. This is not just the best thing going in Tulsa. This is the movement of God, and we're calling all who will be true disciples to align themselves with this movement of God. You think this is a church among churches, you can't be a disciple. If you think there's other churches out there you can go and be a part of and be just as good and just as saved...you can't be a disciple." (Nick Young, Lead Evangelist for Dallas-Ft. Worth, Friday evening message for the Tulsa Reconstruction, Sept 1992)
>
> "As Dr. Donald McGavran (considered the father of church growth by the denominational world) told me many years ago, 'You are the only church with a plan to plant churches in every nation of the world in one generation.' Once more, I believe this marks us as God's true and only modern movement." (Kip McKean, Revolution Through Restoration II, 1994)

"Revolution was and is in each step and breath of those who dare to embrace the true church of Jesus." (Kip McKean, Revolution Through Restoration II, 1994)

"This was and still is the true church of Jesus." (Evangelization Proclamation, 2/4/1994)

> "However, the Holy Spirit led the few good hearted individuals--the remnant--to the Boston churches." (Kip McKean, Revolution Through Restoration II, 1994)
>
> "The Spirit then gave us a deep conviction that only these baptized disciples comprise God's kingdom on earth." (Evangelization Proclamation, 2/4/1994)
>
> **This claim by the I.C.C. is plain arrogance. Paul rebuked a similar attitude in the believers at Corinth, asking them, "Did the word of God originate with you? Or are you the only people it has reached?" (1Cor 14:36)**

Do the leaders of the I.C.C. believe and teach that leaving the membership of the I.C.C. is actually leaving God?

"Certainly to leave the family of God, the true church, is to leave God." (Kip McKean, Revolution Through Restoration II, 1994)

"This is an issue of salvation. There are not two churches of God in this town. There is but one, and there will always be but one." (from a speech by Kip McKean, Indianapolis, 3/17/94)

"Your salvation is hanging in the balance. You're about to walk away from the movement of God. When you walk away from the movement of God, there is no where else to walk to. Walking out of the light into the darkness. There is nobody else, there is nobody else in this country that has the true gospel,...This is the movement of God." (from a speech by Nick Young, lead evangelist for the Dallas Ft. Worth church, Aug 1992)

Now the I.C.C.
claims that their church is exclusively the Kingdom of God, as "only these baptized disciples comprise God's kingdom on earth." (Evangelization Proclamation, 2/4/94) So, according to the I.C.C., to be baptized into their church or movement is to be born again into the Kingdom of God. It logically follows, then, that to be outside their membership is to be outside the Kingdom of God. This would mean that anyone not baptized into the I.C.C. (born again into the kingdom) is not a part of the body of Christ, not born again, thus not "saved".

According to a statement by Ed Powers, former Lead Evangelist for the Indianapolis church (I.C.C.), Ed says, "I personally was in Los Angeles and was sitting in the audience while I heard Kip McKean state very emphatically to the cheers of leaders from nearly fifty churches in Marty Fuqua's Sector,...I heard Kip say definitively, 'If you are not a member of the International Churches of Christ then you are not saved.' ...I remember feeling extremely uncomfortable with that..."

The previous quotes are from an article titled: "3 Questions About the International Churches of Christ (Boston Movement)" New Covenant Publications (www.newcovpub.com)

Does SIZE & growth rate prove this movement to be of God?

"In just 15 years, the Bible revolution, which began in 1979...has multiplied by the power of God into 156 churches with a collective attendance of almost 90,000 in 60 of the approximately 200 nations of the world! The parallels to the book of Acts unmistakably mark this movement to be of God." (Kip McKean, Revolution Through Restoration II, UpsideDown Magazine, 94)

What did Jesus say about the size of movements? Mt 7:13 Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:

The Boston Movement is losing members about as fast as it is gaining:

"You look at 1994, there were 30,000 baptisms in the Kingdom of God. I praise God for 30,000 baptisms...but I look below that, in addition to 30,000 baptisms, there were almost 20,000 fall aways. You heard it right, 30,000 baptisms, 20,000 fall aways." (Al Baird, Shepherding the Flock, Johannesburg Leadership Conference, Aug 95)

2. Baptismal Regeneration:

(You must be water baptized to be “born again”)

A “Proof-text” Hermeneutic is characteristic of the ICC, often with little regard for context, historical background, or intention of the writer.

Order: 1) Become a DISCIPLE, 2) Get BAPTIZED, and then you 3) Get SAVED

"Since the blood of Christ is contacted at baptism, then let us stand firm on teaching that to become a Christian, according to the Bible, one must have faith in Christ and respond by repentance and baptism..." (Kip McKean, Boston Bulletin, June 16, 1985)

The I.C.C. teaches that a person cannot be saved before they are baptized in water. In fact, in one of the Equipping Classes, prepared by G. Steve Kinnard, it is taught that: "Whenever faith, baptism and salvation occur together in the Bible, salvation always follows baptism. No reference can be found to place salvation before baptism." (Lesson Eight, "Denominationalism")

3 Primary passages used by the ICC to prove baptismal regeneration:

Mark 16:15 – Note People are condemned for not believing, not for not being baptized in verse 16.

John 3:5 – The reference to "water" is not to baptism, but to the womb from which a child enters the world in the first birth.

Proof: **Context is contrasting the first birth with the second**

Nicodemus was thinking about a new physical birth, so Jesus in context speaks to address his misunderstanding

The greek grammar means "born <u>out of</u> (ek) water"

The parallel statement by Jesus in verse 6 indicates that he was using the word water to refer to the "flesh" not to baptism.

Acts 2:38 – Salvation comes via repentance, not baptism. (Baptism is simply the sign that repentance is being professed)

"Repent" = Have a <u>change of mind</u> about <u>Jesus Christ</u>. In context he is saying: "Accept Christ's authority (v. 22), death (v. 23), resurrection (v. 24-32), ascension and exaltation (v. 33-35), Lordship and Messiahship (v. 36).

NOTE: It is the repentance, <u>not</u> the baptism that brings forgiveness of sins.

(See Acts 3:19; Acts 10:43; Mk. 16:16 - Condemnation is for not believing)

Baptism can't wash away sins because Jesus was baptized, yet the Bible says he never sinned!

Acts 2:38 - "for" (eis) can be used in the sense of "because of" (Mt.12:41; Lk.11:32; Mt.3:11; Rom.4:20 -- We use the word "for" in the sense of "because."

For example, we can say "Jose went to jail <u>for</u> (because) stealing cars" By this statement we are <u>not</u> led to believe that Jose went to jail in order <u>to</u> steal cars, but <u>because</u> he had stolen cars.

You go to heaven <u>for</u> believing, you do not go to Heaven to believe. You get baptized <u>because</u> you have remission of sins, not in order to have remission.

If Peter means to say: "Get baptized <u>so that</u> you will have the remission of sins," he would have used the Greek word "hina" or "hoti" along with the subjunctive mood.

Why the close connection between belief (repentance) and baptism?

1. Baptism always occurred immediately after belief (Acts 8:37)

2. Baptism was an outward expression of an inward change ("For [because of] the remission of sins")

3. Baptism was the distinguishing mark that showed your new identification with Christ.

4. Baptism followed reception of the Holy Spirit (See: Acts 10:43-48)

If Baptism saved people, what happened to the thief on the cross?

If Baptism saved people, why didn't Paul baptize more people?

If Baptism saved people, why didn't Paul state this when asked: "What must I do to be saved?" (Acts 16:30)

If Baptism saved people, wouldn't this make salvation a gift attained by works?

3. High Pressure, Manipulative Discipleship:

(God is with you only, if you are "cranking" out numbers)

A. Authoritative "Discipling Partners"

In the conversion account of Paul (Gal 1:13-24), was he assigned a "discipling partner" after he was baptized? In the conversion of the eunuch in Acts 8, and the baptism of Cornelius' household in Acts 10, were they commanded to have a "discipling partner"? Paul describes the Biblical authorities in the Church set by God in Eph 4:11-12. There is no mention of "discipling partners", Bible talk leaders, or zone leaders. Being "partners", friends or brothers and sisters to help one another is good, and needed. (Eph 4:15-16) But by assigning to each new convert a person to be in a position of spiritual authority directly over their fellow disciple (which the I.C.C. calls "discipling partners") and to have them operating the way in which these so-called "discipling partners" function, the I.C.C. has added a totally new and anti-Biblical office of spiritual authority to their group. (Consider the International Churches of Christ - www.newcovpub.com)

B. Coerced Confession of Sin

According to a former member of the I.C.C., the I.C.C. teaches that the confessing of one's sins to another person, a person which the leadership has assigned as a "discipling partner", is an ordinary and expected part of the Christian life. During the time I spent in this movement, one was expected to call his or her "discipling partner" on a daily basis and discuss how one's day was spent, how many people one had invited to church or Bible talk, how many phone numbers one had obtained, and what were the sins one had committed that day. Many times I was asked if there were any sins that I needed to confess. At times I was taken through a short verbal check list of sins. My "discipling partner" would ask if I had committed a particular sin, I would answer yes or no, and then we would move on to the next sin. I was expected to confess all of my sins to my "discipling partner". On one occasion I was told by my "discipling partner" that after my giving into a temptation to sin, the first thing I should've done was to have called him and confessed it to him. (www.newcovpub.com)

The idea of confessing one's sins to another is derived from the text in James 5 which states: **"Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."** James 5:16

"Confess" = be open. Admit specific areas of sin (ex. thought life, tongue, attitude, sinful habits)

It does not only mean to confess to one you have sinned <u>against</u>; but admit to those you can share confidences with. Share the areas you stumble in so that you can be prayed for!

This does <u>not</u> mean confession in a public worship service. He says it is to be to "one another" privately.

We don't do this because we are <u>proud</u>.
IF we would do this, we would have:
1) specific prayer support
2) encouragement and accountability
3) a powerful deterrent to sin

However, this confession of faults is a matter that should be:
1. Private (Not for public knowledge)
2. Spontaneous (Not orchestrated)
3. Voluntary (Not Forced)
4. Reciprocal (Mutual, not one-sided and not limited to one person)
5. For Prayer Support

It is not supported anywhere in these verses (or anywhere else in Scripture) that confession to a specified person, such as a discipling partner (or to any other person for that matter), is expected or necessary (especially on a daily basis) in order to have "purity of heart" before God or to be forgiven by God. And if a believer does choose to confess a sin to another (in addition to his or her confessing to God), then it should be kept confidential. The person hearing the confessed sin has no Scriptural warrant for going to anyone else with this information, unless the person confessing is asked and permission is granted. The one hearing the confession has but one responsibility, to pray for the one confessing the sin.

Many former members of the I.C.C. have claimed that confidentiality of members' confessed sins has been routinely violated by the leaders of the I.C.C. (e.g. See television reports WCVB/Boston "Evening News" 04/18/93; BBC/London "Newsnight" 10/05/93; ABC TV "20/20" 10/15/93; CBC/Canada "The 5th Estate" 12/15/93; King World "Inside Edition" 05/19/94) Many have alleged that leaders' knowledge of confessed sins (which were supposed to have been forgiven and forgotten) were later used against them to exploit, dominate, control or even publicly humiliate them. (www.newcovpub.com)

It must be remembered that the Bible teaches that we have but "One Mediator" (Jesus Christ – I Timothy 3:5); and that our confession is to be ultimately made to God (I John 1:9; Psalm 32; Psalm 51)

C. Competitive Spiritual Ambition

"Some of you have lost your competitiveness...Some of you have so little competitive ambition...You're dragging your sorry little butt around with five baptisms a month...Listen brother, you're a man of God. You better get your head up, and you better start being something, and get some competitive fire. Nice guys finish last...You're a wimp, you're a sissy." ((Marty Fuqua, The Cutting Edge, Boston Leadership Conference, Aug 92)

"Every member of the church is in a Bible Talk. They are expected to bring visitors every week. Everybody's expected to bring visitors every week! They don't bring a visitor, we ask why. Not pressure, I'm concerned about the soul, you're not fruitful, you're going to be sawed off the vine." (Kip McKean, The Super Church, Boston Leadership Conference, Aug 92)

"God put you there in Boston, He put you there in New York, He put you there in Charlotte, He put you there in Atlanta, He put you there in L.A., now crank!" (Kip McKean, ibid)

"I think it's a sin to let any denomination church be bigger than us." (Kip McKean, ibid)

Here again is the pressure placed on members by the leadership. Where in the Bible does it teach that it is a "sin" not to be the biggest church, or that you are in sin because you "let" another church be bigger than yours?

"We're talking raw ambition, here! I'm talking about the attitude of ambition! Some of you, you've lost your competitiveness! You say, 'Well, I don't want to be competitive with anybody.' HOGWASH!!! I spent my whole life as a child of God being competitive! As a student, I wanted to have the most fruitful Bible Talk. I didn't want anybody's Bible Talk to out-baptize mine! NO MAN!! NO WOMAN!! I remember one time one of the sisters was out-baptizing me. I said this is not acceptable. And we sat down and I said, 'I want to know everything you're doing.' And she told me everything she was doing. And I did it better and out-baptized her." (Marty Fuqua, The Cutting Edge, Boston Leadership Conference, Aug 92)

The apostle Paul even spoke against similar kinds of behavior in his epistle to the Church at Corinth (1Cor 3:5-7, 1Cor 1:26-31), and in his epistle to the Philippians (Php 2:3). Paul also wrote, "If anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself. Each one should test his own actions. Then he can take pride in himself, without comparing himself to somebody else, for each should carry his own load." (Gal 6:3-5)

"Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other." (Gal 5:26)

"We do not dare to classify or compare ourselves with some who commend themselves. When they measure themselves by themselves and compare themselves with themselves, they are not wise." (2 Cor 10:12)

"Some of you have so little competitive ambition. You're willing to go three and five all your life. You're willing to be middle of the road, middle of the pack. Some of you young guys out there in those...those young church plantings in America, you ought to...you ought to hang your head in SHAME! YOU OUGHT TO BE CRANKING LIKE WILD MEN OUT THERE!!! YOU OUGHT TO BE SO GLAD YOU GOT YOUR SHOT, YOU GOT YOUR CHURCH!!! IT'S YOUR TIME!!! And you're draggin' your little sorry butt around with five baptisms a month." (Marty Fuqua, The Cutting Edge, Boston Leadership Conference, Aug 92)

The phrase "...three and five all your life." is referring to the number of baptisms per month.

The only person of those Paul mentions in 1 Corinthians 1:14 that he actually baptized in Corinth was Crispus, the synogogue ruler. (read page 3 of the article Bring Forth Fruit) After Paul's vision, he remained in Corinth for an additional year and a half. (Acts 18:11) The King James Version states that Paul "...continued there for a year and six months..." And during that year and a half, Paul baptized nobody. He wasn't even doing one a month, much less "three and five". According to Marty Fuqua, Paul should've been hanging his head in "shame". (Additional Quotes, www.newcovpub.com)

"Satan rose up against Israel and incited David to take a census of Israel..." (1Ch 21:1-7)
David focused on (became consumed with) numbers. And God punished him, and all of Israel, for it.

We do need to be disciplers:

Matthew 28:19-20
Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

God's people should be Disciple-Makers!

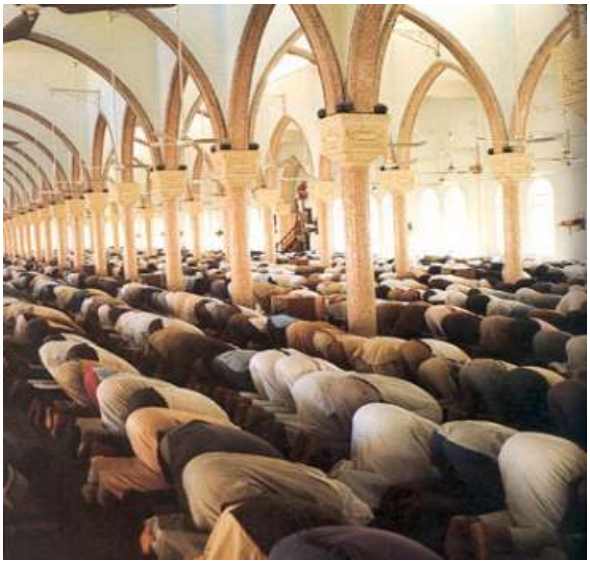
1. **Jesus Christ Gives Us the <u>AUTHORITY</u> to Disciple Others** (v. 18-19a)
2. **Jesus Christ Gives Us the <u>ACTIVITY</u> to Disciple Others** (v. 19-20a)
   - A. Discipling involves <u>going</u>
   - B. Discipling involves <u>baptizing</u>
   - C. Discipling involves <u>teaching</u>
3. **Jesus Christ Gives Us the <u>ABILITY</u> to Disciple Others** (v. 20b)

Conclusion:

"Woe to you leaders of the International Churches of Christ! In the name of "bearing fruit" you have neglected the fruits of justice, mercy and the love of God. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former! Many leaders have sought to dominate, manipulate and control personal areas of peoples lives, things that are supposed to be only between a person and God. In your pride, you have separated yourself from the rest of the body of Christ; thus, you have hindered your people from growing and learning from other members of the body, and hindered your people from sharing their talents and knowledge with other Christians. You practice a form of information control instilling fear in people's minds to even visit other churches or consider other points of view. You forbid them to talk to ex-members, many of whom left because, in seeking to be a true disciple of Christ, they could no longer go along with many of the unethical and abusive practices that you are fostering. In your harshness you have caused many people to leave God altogether. Repent of these injustices or you will be cut down and thrown in the fire!" (Ezek 34, Jer 23:1-4, Jer 22:3-7, 13-16) (Consider the ICC, www.newcovpub.com)

X. The Cult of ISLAM

(The Muslim Religion)



Introduction:

Islam is a large religion.

Islam is a quickly growing religion.
(Funded in large part by Arab Oil money)

It is estimated that there are between 3-4 million Muslims in the USA.

Muslims believe that they are the Savior from drug abuse, crime, lack of respect to parents, abortion, alcohol abuse etc.

The origins of Islam:

"Islam" = An ancient Arabic word meaning "manliness" (heroic and brave in battle); later the meaning was altered to mean "submission" (Morey, p. 36-37).

Muslim belief: Islam came down from Heaven.
Historical evidence: Islam stems from pre-Islamic tribal Arabian culture.

Muhammad was born in A.D. 570 in Mecca to Abdullah (Abd-Allah) and Aminah. He was born into the Quraysh tribe, which was in control of the city of Mecca and which acted as the custodian of the Kabah and of the religious worship centered about it (Morey, p. 69).

At age 40 Muhammad claimed that Allah called him to be a "prophet" and an "apostle."

The source of Muhammad's revelations: epileptic seizures or demonic possession?

"Early Muslim tradition records the fact that when Muhammad was about to receive a revelation from Allah, he would often fall down on the ground; his body would begin to jerk; his eyes would roll backward; and he would perspire profusely." (Morey, p. 71).

Muhammad himself, suffering from deep depression, initially worried about the possibility that he was demon-possessed. He attempted suicide, but his wife prevented him (Morey, p. 72).

"Allah" - from the pre-Muhammad Arabic word - *Al* = "the"; *Ilah* = "god." Although ignorant Muslims would deny this, the Arabic moon god was called "Allah" (note: the crescent moon symbol associated with the Muslim mosques and flag).

To appease pagan mobs in Mecca (Sura 53:19), Muhammad wrote the famous "Satanic Verses," which stated that it was perfectly proper to pray to and worship the three daughters of Allah: Al-Lot, Al-Uzza, and Manat (after Muhammad's death, the "Satanic Verses" were not included in the text of the Koran) (Morey, p. 79).

"The cult of the moon god which worshipped Allah was transformed by Muhammad into a monotheistic faith" (Morey, p. 62).

"Muhammad took the Arab culture around him, with all its secular and sacred customs, and made it into the religion of Islam" (Morey, p. 22).



Aspects of the Arabian culture

--The Sabeans - An astral religion which worshipped the Heavenly bodies.

The moon = male deity
The sun = female deity
Together, they produced the stars.

Religious rites and fastings are regulated by the phases of the moon.

--A Bloody Culture
(vengeance and violence justified)
(Morey, p. 37, 39)

--Tribal Loyalty
(It was wrong to kill a member of your kin-group or allied group; all other cases were justifiable; in many cases, it was a sacred duty)

--The Kabah in Mecca
("Kabah" = Arabic for cube, a square stone temple in Mecca was a focal place for worshipping idols from all over the world. (Morey, p. 40-41)

"Islam is a 'deification' of seventh-century Arabian culture" (Morey, p. 20) -- A mixing of seventh-century Arab culture and religion raised to a status of divine law.

In Islamic countries (which do not have freedom of religion), an criticism of the Koran or Muhammad is considered a criminal offense punishable by death by Islamic law.

Islam cannot handle negative criticism of its religion without striking out in militant retaliation (an religious group which must rely on militant retaliation [bloodshed] to sustain itself gives evidence by this response that the don't have confidence in the ability of the truth which they teach to defend itself).

Note also the anti-semitic nature of Islam.

Islam is a violent religion that persecutes and threatens the lives of those who speak out against it or become Christian.

The **GOD** of Islam	
JEHOVAH	***ALLAH***
Knowable (Jn. 17:3)	Unknowable
Personal (Jn. 17:3)	Non-personal
Trinitarian (Gen. 1:26; Is. 48:16; II Cor. 13:14)	Unitarian
Limited (by His own nature) --Can't lie (Ti. 1:2; Heb. 6:8; II Tim. 2:13)	Unlimited (can do anything, under any circumstances)
Trustworthy (bound by His Word) (Ps. 138:2)	Untrustworthy (not bound by His Word)
Love (Jn. 3:16)	No love
Positive and negative attributes (what God is and isn't)	Only negative attributes (what Allah is <u>not</u>)
Grace (Jn. 1:17)	Works
Savior (Mt. 1:21)	No Savior

The **PROPHET** of Islam	
JESUS	***MUHAMMAD***
Peaceable (Mt. 12:20)	Fighting, killing, and plundering, raids (such as the Nakha Raid) Jew killing (Morey, p. 82-83)
Faithful (Rev. 3:14)	Truce breaker (at Mecca)
Unselfish (Mk. 10:45)	Greed (looting caravans)
Pure/Undefiled (Heb. 7:26)	Multiple wives and concubines (whereas Sura 4:3 forbids the taking of more than four wives, Muhammad had over 16, perhaps as many as 20) Child abuse (Aesha was only 8 or 9 years old when Muhammad married her)
Jesus' birth, life, death, and resurrection were prophesied in the Old Testament (Is. 9:6, 42:2-3; 53)	Muhammad was not predicted anywhere (in desperation, some modern Muslims claim he is the "Comforter" Jesus predicted - Jn. 14:26)
Virgin born (even the Koran accepts it) (Is. 7:14; Mt. 1:23)	Natural product of a father and mother

Sinless (II Cor. 5:21)	Normal human (lied, cheated, lusted, failed to keep his word) Koran never asserts Muhammad's sinlessness but rather calls him a: --mere man (Sura 18:110) 18:110 Say: "I am but a man like yourselves, (but) the inspiration has come to me, that your God is One God: Whoever expects to meet his Lord, let him work righteousness --one who needed to repent (Sura 40:55; 48:1, 2) 40:55 Patiently, then, persevere: For the Promise of Allah is true: And ask forgiveness for thy fault, and celebrate the Praises of thy Lord in the evening and in the morning.
Performed miracles (Judges 3:2, 6:2)	A mere <u>man</u>
Divine nature (Jn. 1:1, 18; 20:28; Acts 20:28; Rom. 9:5; Ti. 2:13; Heb. 1:8, 10; II Pet. 1:1)	Su 3:84 Say: "We believe in Allah, and in what has been revealed to us and what was revealed to Abraham, Ismail, Isaac, Jacob, and the Tribes, and in (the Books) given to Moses, Jesus, and the Prophets, from their Lord: We make no distinction between one and another among them, and to Allah do we bow our will (in Islam)."
Beauty of speech (EX: Sermon on Mount - Mt. 5 - 7)	Confused, ecstatic speech
High moral example (Jn. 8:46, 10:38)	Low moral example (early Muslim tradition reveals that Muhammad forced his adopted son Zaid to surrender his wife to the "prophet" (cp. Sura 33:36-38) v.37..."Then when Zaid had dissolved (his marriage) with her, with the necessary (formality), We joined her in marriage to thee: In order that (in future) there may be no difficulty to the Believers in (the matter of) marriage with the wives of their adopted sons, when the latter have dissolved with the necessary (formality) (their marriage) with them. And Allah's command must be fulfilled. "
Died for our sins (I Cor. 15:3-4)	Died for his own sins
Resurrected and ascended (Rom. 4:25; Acts 1:9-11) Intercedes and saves (Heb. 7:25)	Remains in the grave
Was Worshipped (Jn. 20:28)	Never worshipped
Will return (Jn. 14:3)	Will not return

The **BOOK** of Islam

THE BIBLE	***THE KORAN***
<u>Structured</u> Chronologically (in parts and in whole) (Creation to consummation) Thematically Grammatically	<u>Unstructured</u> A jumbled and confused ordering of 114 individual Suras (revelations)
<u>A literary Masterpiece</u> Discernable context Clear Logical Progression of thought Coherent Enjoyable reading No vain repetition Orderly arranged	<u>A literary blunder</u> No contextual flow of thought Confusing Illogical No progression of thought Incoherent Toilsome reading Endless repetition Obtusely arranged
<u>Trustworthy</u> Substantial manuscript evidence	<u>Non-trustworthy</u> No original manuscripts Muhammad did not write the final manuscript of the Koran. When Muhammad fell into one of his unpredictable trances, his revelations were written (by others usually) on bones, leaves, stones, or whatever was available (much of this was collected after his death) (<u>The Concise Encyclopedia of Islam</u>)
66 books, written over 1,400-year period by 40 different writers without error or contradiction	114 Suras written by many non-authenticated people, dictated by one man - Muhammad (all variant readings, internal contradictions, and omissions have been covered up over the years)
<u>Defendable</u> The Bible can be criticized and be proven authentic and reliable	<u>Non-defendable</u> Islam forbids any questioning of the Koran (SEE: Morey, p. 130)



Heresies & Errors in the KORAN



Creation took 8 days (Sura 41:9,10,12)

9 Section 2. Say: "Is it that ye deny Him Who created the earth in two Days? And do ye join equals with Him? He is the Lord of (all) the Worlds.
10 He set on the (earth) mountains standing firm, high above it, and bestowed blessings on the earth, and measured therein all things to give them nourishment in due proportion, in four Days, in accordance with (the needs of) those who seek (sustenance).
11 Moreover He comprehended in His design the sky, and it had been (as) smoke: He said to it and to the earth: "Come ye together, willingly or unwillingly." They said: "We do come (together), in willing obedience."
12 So he completed them as seven firmaments in two Days, and He assigned to each heaven its duty and command. And We adorned the lower heaven with lights, and (provided it) with guard. Such is the Decree of (Him) the Exalted in Might, Full of Knowledge.

2+4+2 = 8

One of Noah's sons refused to go into the Ark & drowned (Sura 11:32-48)

42 So the Ark floated with them on the waves (towering) like mountains, and Noah called out to his son, who had separated himself (from the rest): "O my son! Embark with us, and be not with the Unbelievers!"
43 The son replied: "I will betake myself to some mountain: It will save me from the water." Noah said: "This day nothing can save from the Command of Allah, any but those on whom He hath mercy!" --And the waves came between them, and the son was among those overwhelmed in the Flood. ...45 And Noah called upon his Lord, and said: "O my Lord! Surely my son is of my family! And Thy promise is true, and Thou art the Justest of Judges!"

Abraham offered up Ishmael (Sura 37:100-112)
100 "O my Lord! Grant me a righteous (son)!"
101 So We gave him the good news of a boy ready to suffer and forbear.
102 Then, when (the son) reached (the age of) (serious) work with him, he said: "O my son! I see in vision that I offer thee in sacrifice: Now see what is thy view!" (The son) said: "O my father! Do as thou art commanded: Thou will find me, if Allah so wills one practicing Patience and Constancy!"...111 For he was one of Our believing Servants.
112 And We gave him the good news of Isaac--a prophet, --one of the Righteous.
113 We blessed him and Isaac: But of their progeny are (some) that do right and (some) that obviously do wrong, to their own souls.



In the Koran the order is not Abraham, Isaac & Jacob but Abraham, Ismael, and Isaac, & Jacob. Su 4:163 Section 23. “... We sent inspiration to Abraham, Ismail, Isaac, Jacob

Pharaoh's wife adopted Moses (Sura 28:8,9) [Bible says it was his daughter - Exod.2:5)

9 The wife of Pharaoh said: "(Here is) a joy of the eye, for me and for thee: Slay him not. It may be that he will be of use to us, or we may adopt him as a son." And they perceived not (what they were doing)!
10 But there came to be a void in the heart of the mother of Moses: She was going almost to disclose his (case), had We not strengthened her heart (with faith), so that she might remain a (firm) believer.

The virgin Mary gave birth to Jesus under a palm tree (Sura 19:22) [Bible: a stable, Luke 2]

22 So she conceived him and she retired with him to a remote place.
23 And the pains of childbirth drove her to the trunk of a palm tree: She cried (in her anguish): "Ah! Would that I had died before this! Would that I had been a thing forgotten and out of sight!"
24 But (a voice) cried to her from beneath the (palm tree): "Grieve not! For thy Lord hath provided a rivulet beneath thee;
25 "And shake towards thyself the trunk of the palm tree: It will let fall fresh dates upon thee.

Contradiction: "At first Muhammad told his followers to face <u>Jerusalem</u> in prayer. Then he told them since God was everywhere they could face any say the wanted. Then he changed his mind yet again and directed them to pray toward Mecca (Sura 2:115 & 2:144)" Morey p.146.

"According to the literal Arabic translation of Sura 3:106,107, on Judgment Day, only people with white faces will be saved. People with Black faces will be damned. This is racism in its worse form!...Arab Muslims were enslaving black Africans long before Westerners" (Morey p.155)

106 On the day when some faces will be (lit up with) white, and some faces will be (in the gloom of) black: To those whose faces will be black, (will be said): "Did ye reject Faith after accepting it? Taste then the Penalty for rejecting Faith."
107 But those whose faces will be (lit with) white, --they will be in (the light of) Allah's mercy: Therein to dwell (forever).

Heaven will be full of wine and free sex with pure "companions" (Suras 2:25; 4:57; 11:23; 47:15).

57 But those who believe and do deeds of righteousness, We shall soon admit to Gardens, with rivers flowing beneath, --their eternal home: Therein shall they have companions pure and holy: We shall admit them to shades, cool and ever deepening.

15 (Here is) a Parable of the Garden which the righteous are promised: In it are rivers of water incorruptible; rivers of milk of which the taste never changes; rivers of wine, a joy to those who drink; and rivers of honey pure and clear. In it there are for them all kinds of fruits; and Grace from their Lord. (Can those in such Bliss) be compared to such as shall dwell forever in the Fire, and be given, to drink, boiling water, so that it cuts up their bowels (to pieces)?

The Koran prohibits charging interest on money loaned to people (Suras 2:275ff; 3:130; 4:161; 30:39) No Arab Muslim Banker in the world obeys this!

275 Those who devour usury will not stand except as stands one whom the Evil One by his touch hath driven to madness. That is because they say: "Trade is like usury," but Allah hath permitted trade and forbidden usury. Those who after receiving direction from their Lord, desist, shall be pardoned for the past; their case is for Allah (to judge); but those who repeat (the offence) are Companions of the Fire: They will abide therein (forever).

The **RELIGION** of Islam

BIBLE CHRISTIANITY	***ISLAM***
Emphasizes internals (Mt. 15:18; 23:25-27) (attitude, character, truth) --Modest apparel of your choice (I Tim. 2:9) --Prayer is to God in Heaven not limited to times and places (Jn. 4:23)	Emphasizes externals (clothing, diet, ritual) --Long desert clothes and veils --Must pray five times per day toward Mecca
Private and personal belief	Coercion and enforced compliance
Seeks to transform people in their culture (Rom. 12:2)	Seeks to transform culture into seventh century Arabia
Allows Christian liberty on non-moral and non-doctrinal issues (Gal. 5:13)	Dictates every area of life
Separation of Church and state (Mt. 22:21)	No separation of mosque and state
Isaac the chosen son of Abraham (Gen. 21:12, 22:2)	Ishmael the chosen son of Abraham
Abraham came from Ur (Chaldean - Iraq) (Gen. 15:7)	Abraham came from Mecca (Saudi Arabia)
Promotes democracy with civil & personal rights (Prov. 29:2) (freedom of religion, assembly, and press)	Promotes dictatorships (under a sheik [chief] with despotic rule and no civil and personal rights (no freedom of religion, assembly, or press)
Men and women are equal in value and essence (Lk. 20:36). --A woman chooses to submit to her husband (Col. 3:18)	Men are superior over women --Men receive twice the inheritance --A men's evidence carries twice the weight of a woman's in court --A woman is forced to submit by being beaten (Sura 4:34) 34 Section 6. Men are the protectors and maintainers of women, because Allah has given the one more (strength) than the other, and because they support them from their means. Therefore the righteous women are devoutly obedient, and guard in (the husband's) absence what Allah would have them guard. As to those women on whose part ye fear disloyalty and ill-conduct, admonish them (first), (next), refuse to share their beds, (and last) beat them (lightly); but if they return to obedience, seek not against them means (of annoyance): For Allah is Most High, Great (above you all).

Love enemies (Mt. 5:44) Love those who resist Christianity (I Peter)	Kill enemies Punish those who resist Islam (Sura 9:5) 5 But when the forbidden months are past, then fight and slay the Pagans wherever ye find them, and seize them, beleaguer them, and lie in wait for them in every stratagem (of war); but if they repent, and establish regular prayers and practice regular charity, then open the way for them: For Allah is Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful.

How should we witness to Muslims?

1. Be <u>Loving</u> & <u>Respectful</u>
(Muslims are not our enemy; they are victims of the enemy)

Build a bridge; A relationship.

Let them know that your differences are by no means a <u>personal attack</u> on the motives or character of Muslims.

2. Be <u>Personal</u>
(Share your testimony)

Let the Muslim see your love for Christ. Islam is a religion motivated by <u>fear</u> and not love for God.

3. Be <u>Enthusiastic</u>

4. Be <u>Focused</u>

Show your Muslim friend that:

- The Bible and the Koran cannot both be from God
  - The Muslim position is that the same God (Allah) revealed the Bible and the Koran. This is impossible because the Bible and Koran contradict each other: Examples: The Koran denies that Jesus was crucified; The Koran describes a God who is totally different from the character and attributes of God as revealed in the Bible.
- God is a Triune Being
- Christ is God, not a mere prophet
- Salvation is <u>completely paid for by Christ</u>
  is a <u>free gift</u>
  is only through a personal relationship with <u>Christ</u>

5. Be <u>Patient</u>
(Don't force a decision;
They have prayed prayers all their lives)