

Cult

noun, often attributive \ 'kʌlt \

- 1 a particular system of religious worship, especially with reference to its rites and ceremonies.
- 2 an instance of great veneration of a person, ideal, or thing, especially as manifested by a body of admirers:
| *the physical fitness cult.*
- 3 the object of such devotion.
- 4 a group or sect bound together by veneration of the same thing, person, ideal, etc.
- 5 *Sociology.* a group having a sacred ideology and a set of rites centering around their sacred symbols.
- 6 a religion or sect considered to be false, unorthodox, or extremist, with members often living outside of conventional society under the direction of a charismatic leader.
- 7 the members of such a religion or sect.
- 8 any system for treating human sickness that originated by a person usually claiming to have sole insight into the nature of disease, and that employs methods regarded as unorthodox or unscientific.

SIGNS of a "CULT"



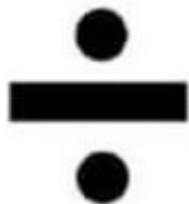
They add to the Word of God. It's never the Bible alone as its authority. Publications such as The Book of Mormon, Pearl of Great Price, Science & Health, and AWAKE and Watchtower magazines are given equal and greater importance over Scripture.



They subtract from the Deity of Jesus. They will say he's a prophet, a teacher, the devil's brother, Michael the archangel, the son of God - but never God in the flesh. They may also subtract from the personhood of the Holy Spirit by reducing Him to an impersonal force used by God.



They multiply works to gain salvation. It is never grace alone. You must join them, be baptized, you must go door to door, you must strictly obey commandments, no one is saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ alone.



They will divide your loyalties. They are an antichrist group. You are deceived into placing your primary loyalty toward the cult and its leaders instead of the Lord Jesus Christ. Also, you are discouraged from associating with non-members, and forbidden to have anything to do with ex-members. Where true Christians are encouraged to maintain contact and closeness with unbelieving family members, these groups do not.

Ten warning signs of a potentially unsafe group/leader.

- Absolute authoritarianism without meaningful accountability.
- No tolerance for questions or critical inquiry.
- No meaningful financial disclosure regarding budget, expenses such as an independently audited financial statement.
- Unreasonable fear about the outside world, such as impending catastrophe, evil conspiracies and persecutions.
- There is no legitimate reason to leave, former followers are always wrong in leaving, negative or even evil.
- Former members often relate the same stories of abuse and reflect a similar pattern of grievances.
- There are records, books, news articles, or television programs that document the abuses of the group/leader.
- Followers feel they can never be "good enough".
- The group/leader is always right.
- The group/leader is the exclusive means of knowing "truth" or receiving validation, no other process of discovery is really acceptable or credible.