

12 MAJOR DIFFERENCES BETWEEN A RELIGIOUS CULT & A BODY OF CHRIST MINISTRY

So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another. (Romans

Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates? (2 Corinthians 13:5)

Conduct within a Cult Group:

Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them. (Acts 20:30)

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- 2) **The Leader is not accountable to anyone else;** There's No Publicly Known Successor to his Authority and any threat to his Authority is removed.
- 3) **The same leader** has been running the group since it started, or leadership has passed to family or a **closed-door confidant.**
- 4) **Members who leave are harassed,** or emotionally blackmailed.
- 5) **Members are kept** from forming relationships outside the group with other Bible Teaching Sabbath day Classes.
- 6) **Leader teaches that non-members** of his organization are morally suspect, unintelligent, and **deemed an enemy or unenlightened.**
- 7) Recruiting new group members is a mandatory activity, perhaps with a quota.
- 8) **Members are required** to spend most of their time on group activities **and to avoid outsider Bible Teachings.**
- 9) **Members must consult group leaders** on even minor decisions.
- 10) Members must give large sums of money to the group.
- 11) **The Leader FORBIDS GUESS TEACHERS TO TEACH, UNLESS THEY ARE A MEMBER OF THEIR SPECIFIC ORGANIZATION.**
- 12) The Leader PROHIBITS JOINT MINISTRY VENTURES/ ACTIVITIES with other Bible Teaching Organization.

**** MEMBERS OWNED BY A LEADER, IN THE FLESH****

Conduct within The Body of Christ:

Bind up the testimony, seal the law among my disciples. (Isaiah 8:16)

- 1) **Leadership is open to both questioning and criticism** from members and **takes account of their views in the light of scriptures.**
- 2) **There are checks on the abuse of power,** through elections, external audits, or open meetings.
- 3) **There is an established Policy for change of leadership** through the organization **publicly known successor procedures.**
- 4) **Members are free** to leave the group without undue pressure to return.
- 5) **Members are free to mingle** with fellow Body of Christ family and friends outside the Organization /Group.
- 6) **Non-members are not viewed with suspicion, condescension, or hostility.**
- 7) **Members are not required** to recruit others.
- 8) **Member's activities** leave time for work, family, and a social life outside the group.
- 9) **Members make their own decisions,** guided by Biblically sound Spiritual principles.
- 10) **The Leader/group does not demand** large sums of money, from its members.
- 11) **The Leader OPENLY PERMITS BODY OF CHRIST GUESS TEACHERS TO TEACH THEIR CLASS, EVEN IF THEY'RE NOT A MEMBER OF THEIR SPECIFIC ORGANIZATION.**
- 12) The Leader SEEKS JOINT MINISTRY VENTURES/ ACTIVITIES with other Bible Teaching Organizations.

**** MEMBERS OWNED BY THE SPIRIT OF CHRIST ****

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