

**FOUR THEOLOGICAL
MARKS OF A CULT**

1. ADDITION

Books equal to the Bible either as corrections or additions.

2. SUBTRACTION

Either from Christ's perfect Divinity or His perfect Humanity, so He is either not God or not sinless.

3. MULTIPLICATION

Of the paths to salvation, bringing in adherence to variant and extra-biblical steps, usually in allegiance to the movement. Salvation is not by grace but continuing works.

4. DIVISION

Of the Body of Christ, so they are the only group through which man can be saved. Allegiance is usually to a particular leader.

**TEN SOCIOLOGICAL
MARKS OF A CULT**

1. DIVINELY INSPIRED LEADERS

Cults demand absolute allegiance, and defiance of the leader or teachings is the loss of salvation.

2. FOUR FORMS OF ENVIRONMENT CONTROL

ISOLATION: usually at immersion phase.

SEPARATION: Physically separated from society.

DEPRIVATION: from exposure to media or family

SUPPRESSION: of any critical thinking. Questioning is disapproved

3. MYSTICAL MANIPULATION

Punishment for leaving the group takes mythic or mystical dimensions, including curses, punishment or death.

4. DEMAND FOR TOTALITARIAN PURITY

Dress, behavior, speech and action are prescribed in minute detail. Any variance from lock-step conformity is seen as a breach of salvation.

This is the ethical dimension, because ethical decisions are made for you. There is no room for personal decisions or sanctification.

5. CONFESSION TO COMMUNITY

Any sin is immediately confessed before the group, as an act of penance, and accountability is directly and immediately total. One's very identity is tied to, and investigated by the group or leaders. This often includes finances, time, and home and marriage.

6. COMMUNITY OVER THE INDIVIDUAL

The group or movement is established over the individual in every sense.

7. DISPOSABLE EXISTENCE

Death, for the purpose of the movement, is seen as highest form of life. Purposeful martyrdom views life as unimportant.

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8. APPEAL TO THE FLESH

The indulgence of the flesh, especially as inducement and intoxication, as a means of salvation or sanctification. The psychotropic nature of the flesh is seen as blessed, and often includes taking of drugs for knowledge.

9. COMMUNAL EXISTENCE

The sharing of all “life-force,” including money, property or even wives. Goods, and even marriage, are seen as a corporate wealth. Often the leader indulges in “first fruits.”

10. GLOBAL CONSPIRACY

The “us-versus-them” mentality is huge in a cult. The world is in a conspiracy against them, often to a global or galactic level.

**MARKS
OF A CULTIC
MOVEMENT**

- 1. DIVISION:** Does the group view other sects as suspect, and they as the only truly committed followers of Christ?
- 2. SEPARATION:** Does the group regularly separate from other ministries over minor doctrines?
- 3. ABERRATION:** Does the group emphasize one doctrine over against all others, to the point of exclusion? Does one doctrine become the filter through which all others flow?
- 4. ISOLATION:** Does the group only accept members or leaders that adhere to the minute details of their doctrinal stance, to such a degree, that it becomes almost a genetic model?
- 5. INDOCTRINATION:** Does the group demand the member to be trained only by their specific leaders or writings, intimating that all others are sub-Christian or non-Christian?
- 6. ALLEGIANCE:** Does the group demand almost blind allegiance to the leadership, with automatic exclusion toward those who do not?
- 7. SEPARATION:** Does the group demand those who have been cut off be considered off limits? Shunning principle, and punitive rather than restorative.