



## What Is a Cult? Is Mormonism a Cult?

*“Are they kind of like really exclusive clubs? What does it matter what they do if they aren’t hurting anyone? Wait, some of them are hurting people? Really? How do they work? How can I be sure I’m not being pulled into one?”*

As we know, Satan is crafty and he uses our desire to have union with the Lord to lead people into lies and false beliefs through cults. There are thousands of cults in the United States with thousands of people signing up each day. As Christians, we pay little attention to most of them. After all, many of those who belong to cults claim to be Christians and seem to be nice people. The Bible warns us to be knowledgeable about such groups and movements. Cults have strong leaders that not only pull Christians and non-Christians into their groups with sweet sounding words, but most of the time, their victims lose their money, families, friends, and more importantly, their hearts, minds and souls.

We must always be cautious when we are approached to join a Bible study or any religious group. The most important question that you can ask someone is, *“Who do you say Jesus is?”* If the answer is anything other than God Himself, who lived a sinless life on earth and came to be a living sacrifice for the sins of the world, this group is definitely not Christian. Another question to ask is, *“What do you use as your authority of truth?”* Many cults will claim a changed or adjusted version of the Bible, along with an additional text, or the sayings of their leader or former leader, as their standard of truth. Remember that the Bible is the Word of God and no other book has authority over it, because it is God-breathed and is simply the standard for truth. No other book will do!

One last question to ask any religious group is, *“How do I get into Heaven?”* If entry to Heaven isn’t a gift of grace by God made possible through His sacrifice on the cross, then be careful (Ephesians 2:8, 9). Any time someone adds something to God’s gift other than “believe and receive it” it is not the true gospel. Anyone who tells you that you have to complete a long list of do’s and don’ts to get into Heaven doesn’t know the Truth.

Cultists convince people to join their groups because they are experts at weaving a little bit of truth with a bunch of lies. Many cultists will use common Christian words like God, Jesus, Holy Spirit, Satan, and salvation, that sound Christian, but their meanings are totally different. For example, the Mormon religion claims that Jesus was born of a virgin. Sounds like a Christian belief, doesn’t it? But when asked to explain this statement, Mormons will tell you that Jesus was born of a virgin and that God (Elohim) came down to earth and had sex with his virgin daughter, Mary. She then conceived the earthly body for Jesus. This is a lie. The Bible tells us that the Holy Spirit came down from Heaven and impregnated Mary (Matthew 1:18-21, Luke 1:30-35). There was no physical intercourse, rather a miraculous conception through the Holy Spirit.

Do you see why it is so important to know the Truth of our faith? Scripture tells us to know the truth so that we can share with others the reason for the hope that we have in Jesus, and defend ourselves against those often well-meaning people, who are telling us lies about our Lord.

*Matthew 7:15 “Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves.”*