

Cults and the Occult*

Many times people are confused by the difference between a Cult and the Occult. This chart will make some of those distinctions a little more clear. There are over 5,000 cults in the U.S. While the specifics for each Cult differ, the underlying concepts are the same. If you will learn the biblical concepts in each of these areas, you will be able to defend the Scriptures against these attacks. You will then be able to provide answers to hurting people in need of the true Savior.

Christianity	Mormonism	Jehovah's Witnesses	Scientology ¹	Wicca ²
God	Once a man as we are now. He is now an exalted man. Literally our Heavenly Father. He and his many wives have sex to produce spirit babies that eventually become the human race.	One person God, called Jehovah. There is no other name for God. Jesus is not God, he is the first thing that Jehovah created.	Does not define God or Supreme being, but rejects the biblical God. Everyone is a "thetan", an immortal spirit with unlimited powers over its own universe, but all are not aware of this.	The supreme being is called the Goddess, sometimes the Goddess and God, or goddess and horned god. The Goddess can be a symbol, the impersonal force in everything, or a personal being.
Jesus Christ John 1:1-3, 14; 8:58 Colossians 1:16-20	Jesus Christ, spirit brother of Lucifer, received a body of flesh and bone and is now elevated to deity. He is referred to as our "elder brother," one of many gods.	Jesus is a god, not God the Son. He is represented as the first creation of Jehovah. Before his incarnation he was Michael, captain of Jehovah's hosts.	Jesus is rarely mentioned. Jesus was not Creator, nor was he an "operating thetan" (in control of supernatural powers, cleared from mental defects). Jesus did not die for our sins.	Jesus is either rejected altogether or sometimes considered a spiritual teacher who taught love and compassion.
Tri-Unity Luke 3:21-22 Peter 1:2 Matthew 28:19 John 15:26	Mormon theology is henotheistic. It exalts one God (the Father -God) above the other gods in the universe. The Holy Spirit is a spiritual impersonal "force."	The doctrine of the Tri-Unity is denied emphatically. The deity of the Holy Spirit is denied—he is likened to a radar beam.	The doctrine of the Tri-Unity is denied. The Holy Spirit is not part of their belief.	The doctrine of the Tri-Unity is denied. The Holy Spirit is not part of their belief. Some Wiccans may refer to "Spirit" as a kind of divine energy.
Everyone has an eternal spirit Matthew 25:46 Daniel 12:2 Ecclesiastes 12:7 Revelation 20:11-15	Yes	They argue for painless extinction, indicating man does not possess an immortal soul, just a combination of breath and flesh. That is unless you become part of the Organization or the 144,000.	There are no particular human incarnations of God as the universal life force (Theta) is inherent in all. All humans are immortal spiritual beings (thetans) capable of realizing a nearly godlike state.	Values are part of our social paradigms as well. Tolerance, freedom of expression, inclusion, and refusal to claim to have the answers are the only universal values.

Christianity	Mormonism	Jehovah's Witnesses	Scientology ³	Wicca ⁴
Born a Lost Soul Psalm 51:5 James 1:15 Romans 5:12-21 I Corinthians 15: 21-22	Mormons deny the doctrine of original sin and teach that the fall of man was a good and necessary thing. There is no imputed sin nature	Adam's sin imputed to mankind, as federal head of the race. However, a sin nature apparently not inherited by the race.	No sin and no need to repent. Hell is a myth. People who get clear of "engrams" become operating "thetans".	Definitely not.
Suggested Approaches For Presenting The Christian Faith	1. Confront with the "pillars" of Mormonism: God, works, salvation. 2. Compare beliefs with Bible. 3. The archeology of the New World refutes the Book of Mormon.	1. Present a clear biblical case of Christ's and Holy Spirit's deity. 2. Present the case of the Tri-unity. 3. Challenge them to look at the whole of Scripture.	1. Ask why they think the world is in such a mess? 2. Ask how they know for sure that what they believe is true. 3. Present the gospel and the gift of eternal life.	1. Wicca is an occultic "nature religion". Explain the origins of this belief. 2. Ask them how they know that there is no God who loves. 3. Share with them the gospel of eternal life.
Other Beliefs	No alcohol, tobacco, coffee or tea. Baptism on behalf of the dead. Two year missionary commitment encouraged. Extensive social network.	Known as the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society. Meet in Kingdom Halls. Do not observe holidays or birthdays. Forbidden to vote, salute flag, work in military.	Highly controversial. Publication of <i>Dianetics</i> . Organizations related: Narconan, Criminon, Way to Happiness Foundation, WISE, Applied Schloastics.	Wiccans practice divination and spell-casting, with most rituals performed in a circle. Many Wiccans are part of a coven. Extremely occultic.

* Boa, Kenneth, Cults, World Religions and the Occult, (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1990)

¹ Rose Publishing, Christianity, Cults & Religions chart. Compares 17 religions and cults

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.