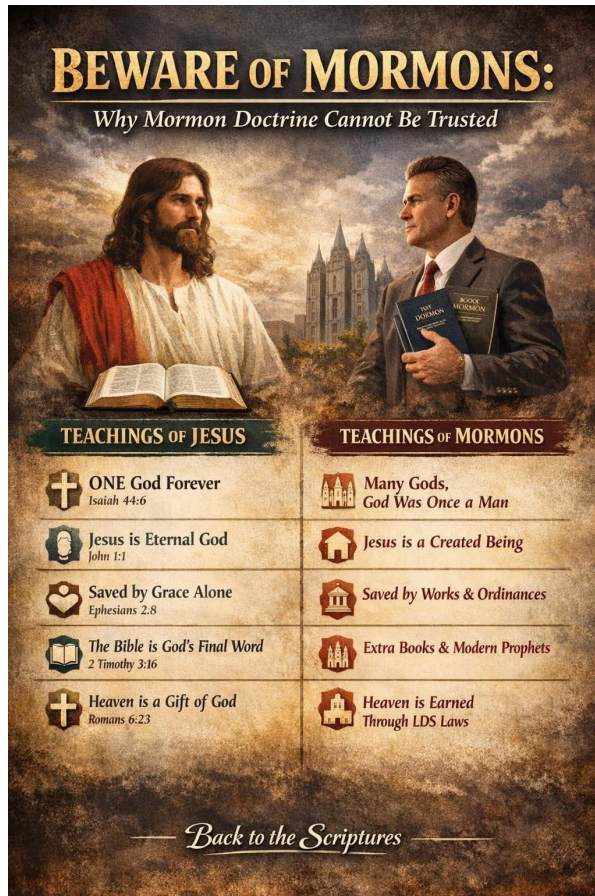




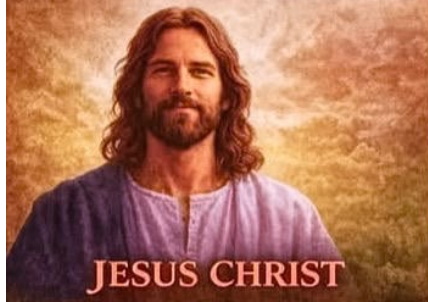
Title: Definition of A Cult



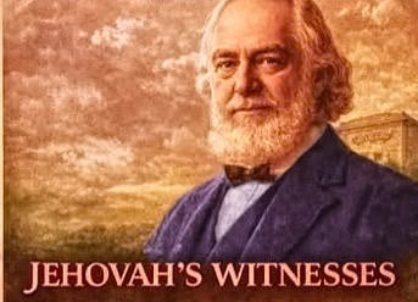
A cult is a religious group (but do not have to be religious¹) that follows a particular theological system.

THE TEACHINGS OF JESUS CHRIST VS. JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

COMPARING CORE BELIEFS BETWEEN TRADITIONAL
CHRISTIANITY AND JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES



JESUS CHRIST



JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

THE NATURE OF GOD	VS	JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES
• Trinity: Father, Son, Holy Spirit		• Reject Trinity: Jehovah is one true God
• Divinity of Jesus		• Jesus is Michael the Archangel, not divine
• Salvation: Salvation by faith in Jesus alone		• Salvation: requires faith in Jesus alone works (obedience to organization)
• Hell and Eternal Punishment Hell exists, eternal punishment for wicked		• Reject eternal hell, believe in annihilation of wicked
• Afterlife and Kingdom of God All believers gain heaven, resurrection		• Only 144,000 go to heaven, others live forever on Earth
• The Holy Spirit: Holy Spirit is a divine person, resurrection		• Holy Spirit is Jehovah's active force, not a person
• Jesus' Death and Resurrection: Salvation available to all who believe.		• Jesus' death only for organization members Only 144,000 partake of bread and wine.
• The Lord's Supper		• Only 144,000 partake of bread and wine

Understand the differences between the true Gospel of Jesus and the beliefs of Jehovah's Witnesses

BACK TO THE SCRIPTURES

From the view of Christianity, a cult distorts the doctrines that affect salvation sufficiently to cause it to be unattainable.

For example, it is an essential doctrine of Christianity that there is only one God (**Isaiah 43:10; 44:6; 44:8; 45:5**) and that believing in a false God brings judgment (**Exodus 20:1-6**).

Isiah 43:10 NIV:

10 "You are my witnesses," declares the LORD, "and my servant whom I have chosen, so that you may know and believe me and understand that I am he. Before me no god was formed, nor will there be one after me.

Isiah 44:6 NIV:

There Is No Other God

6 "This is what the LORD says Israel's King and Redeemer, the LORD Almighty: I am the first and I am the last; apart from me there is no God.

Isiah 43:8 NIV:

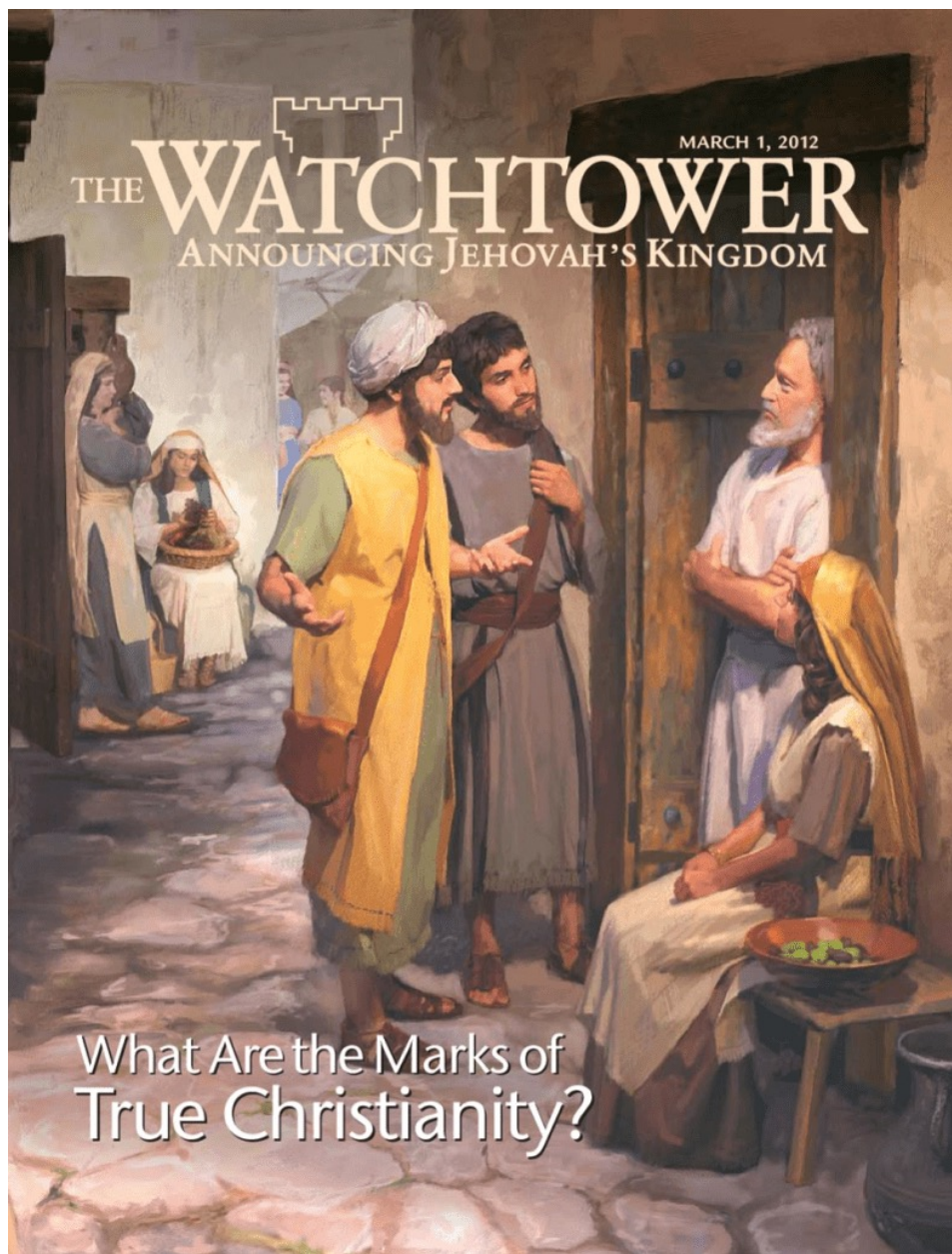
8 Lead out those who have eyes but are blind, who have ears but are deaf.

Isiah 45:5 NIV:

5 I am the LORD, and there is no other; apart from me there is no God. I will strengthen you, though you have not acknowledged me,

Exodus 20:1-6 NIV:

1. And God spoke all these words:
2. “I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.
3. “You shall have no other gods before me.
4. You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below.
5. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me,
6. but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.



If a group were to affirm that there is more than one God (i.e., Mormonism), then it would violate an essential doctrine and be outside the Christian faith.

Another essential would be that Jesus is God in flesh - **(John 1:1,14; Col. 2:9)** and that to deny it means a person will die in his sins, **John 8:24.**

The Jehovah's Witnesses deny Christ's deity and are, therefore, not Christian.

John 1:1 NIV:

1. In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

John 1:14 NIV:

14. The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Col. 2:9 NIV:

9. For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form,



A few examples of cults are Mormonism, Jehovah's Witnesses, Christian Science, Christadelphians, Unity, Religious Science, The Way International, and the Moonies.

The Doctrinal positions of these Cults:

1. Christian Science has six tenets—or key points—that briefly summarize the teachings of Christian Science. They are rooted in the Bible, and are found in *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures* by Mary Baker Eddy on pages 496-497.

2. Doctrinally, the **Christadelphians** are unique in Christendom in our understanding of the nature of Christ, and the way in which we are redeemed by his death. We reject as unbiblical the idea that Christ could die as a replacement sacrifice for us, thus covering all our sins forever with that one act. Certainly it is through his sacrifice that we may be forgiven, but only if we walk the path of self-denial that he marked out for us.

3. Unity honors the universal truths in all religions and believes that different religions are like spokes on a wheel, with the hub being God. They may be set apart by variations in doctrines and worship styles, but their essence is the same and all are seeking to know the One. Therefore, Unity does not deny anyone the right to have his/her own beliefs. We invite the individual to explore Unity teachings and use what works best on their path.

4. Religious Science teaches that there is a Universal Mind and that this Universal Mind is one with individual minds, that all living beings are one, and that everyone is an expression of God. A belief in the power of the mind to promote healing and a full life is fundamental to the religion.

5. The Way International believes: In one God, the Creator of the heavens and earth, and in the divine conception of Jesus by God, and that he is the Son of God, not God the son. Jesus Christ died for humankind's sins and God raised Jesus from the dead and ascended him into heaven.

6. What are the beliefs of the Moonies?

Moon, was intent on replacing worldwide forms of Christianity with his new unified vision of it, Moon being a self-declared messiah. Moon's followers regard him as a separate person from Jesus but with a mission to basically continue and complete Jesus's work in a new way, according to the Principle.

Apostasy:

(falling away from the truth) is different than being a non-Christian cult.



Roman Catholicism, for example, is not a cult but is apostate.

It has fallen away from the true Christian faith by violating the teaching of salvation by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone which is something that all cults also do.



John 14:6 New International Version:

6 Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

How do we obtain the Forgiveness of our Sins?



How do we get right with God, regardless of our individual sins?

Just say this Prayer and all of your sins will be forgotten, and you will have Eternal life, with Christ Jesus, in Heaven:

Lord Jesus, I repent of all my sins, and I ask you to come into my life, and I believe, that God raised You from the dead, this day, I ask you to be my Lord and Savior.

Romans 10:9 New Living Translation Reads:

9 If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

Friends, if you prayed that prayer, I believe that you are born again, and you have ever lasting life, get in a good bible teaching church, and may you keep growing, in the Lord, and may HE use you to help save many souls for His Kingdom !

In, Jesus Mighty Name!

Rev. Jesus Del Rio, Ed

