

Tricks of The Cultists

Nine Revealing Identifiers

Fascination

Our fascination with cults – real or fictional – may stem from the fine line between being drawn to what appears to be an elitist community and a dangerous, free-will-stripping group. Many of them tout a superior lifestyle if one aligns with their group. People are attracted to them when they talk about their false prophecies such as a “new world coming. They are fascinated with the subtle “brotherhood of man” philosophies of the cults. People are manipulated and hurt by cults and they are controlled by fear and guilt.

Initiation

The cultists actually reach out and try to get people to join. They look for people with some sort of religious background and proselyte. They hold “free flowing” informal meetings and teach love, fellowship, good deeds, etc. They do their best to align themselves with evangelical Christianity. For example, the Jehovah’s Witnesses now say they are “Jehovah’s Christian Witnesses” when they come to your door because they have found that they can get into more homes if they use the word “Christian.”

Indoctrination

This is where they real brainwashing takes place. In long meetings, (in person Bible studies or via video conferencing) they pour their philosophies into the minds of the new “convert.” All major cults deny the deity of Jesus Christ. Not all of their doctrine is false but they take a morsel of truth to make false doctrine more palatable. They say, “This is what the Bible says but let me tell you...God has given us a “new revelation...” But God NEVER violates His Word. Indoctrination comes so frequently that the person begins to take it into his thinking and believe it.

Isolation

The organizational leader(s) structures his beliefs and interprets the facts to fit his own standards. The isolation factor is sometimes a physical tactic but usually they isolate unsuspecting people in the use of mental distractions and false teaching. They fanatically deny church history (no hell or eternal punishment). Followers are not allowed to read and study other religious viewpoints. If they mention other religious teachings it is always out of context.

Fragmentation

If in a vulnerable state, people are intrigued with the recruitment strategies. Some take place in person, such as meeting someone at work, or through a friend or from a community. With the power of the internet cultic leaders use online techniques such as social media posts, websites, YouTube videos, discussion forums, dating apps, movies or video games. Once individual identifies are lost, values and priorities are not important to any cult member. Children are alienated from their families who

are left in disbelief. Somewhere along the road to broadmindedness and permissiveness, the last remains of innocence and family togetherness are destroyed.

Intimidation

Fear and bullying tactics are common tools of the cultists. The Jehovah's Witnesses will tell you that "heaven is just about filled up and only available for a select few." The Mormons put great pressure on new converts to go on a two-year mission to promote their doctrine. The result is that people feel intimidated and powerless to do anything about it. Intimidated against attempting anything positive, people tend to reject automatically anything that disturbs the status quo.

Dedication

Working tirelessly, often around-the-clock, with iron-like tenacity, the cultist is busy scoring points for his or her leader(s). For example, all of Jehovah's Witnesses are publishers of the good news. However, some have organized their life to serve as regular pioneers, spending 70 hours each month in the preaching work. To do this, many limit their secular work to part-time. The history of cultism generally begins with an authoritarian pronouncement on the part of the founder or founders and the cultists are devoted to their leader.

Subjugation

Their own will sold out on the auction block of the cult leader's ego, they no longer think for themselves. At times, their speech patterns sound like programmed recordings, because at times they are programmed and subjected to the will of the group. The Mormon follower's "testimony" all sound the same!

Spiritual Self-Assassination

Cultists are oftentimes victims of that master propagandist of all ages described by our Lord as "the prince of this world," and by the Apostle Paul as "the god of this age." They are trapped in blinding darkness and although the killer cults promise much, they produce little.

Born again Christians must exercise caution that they do not overreact and castigate all unusual religious groups as cultic. It requires effort to save a soul, and loving effort to prevent a soul from being lost.

The epitaph of a cult is not written on this earth by people on this earth, but as written centuries ago by God.

"There is a way that seemest right unto man, but the end thereof are the ways of death" Proverbs 16:25. God wants to show you and me which are the right ways through His Word. He will give us strength to help us walk in it.