

# A GENERAL INTRODUCTION TO THE CULTS

## PRELIMINARY THOUGHTS:

### IS IT "CHRISTIAN" TO JUDGE OTHER RELIGIONS?

Before discussing the subject of cults, it is necessary to address the question of whether it is right to "judge" religious groups that we don't agree with? Some well meaning Christians maintain that Christians shouldn't judge or say anything critical about any other religious group. The verse that is usually quoted in support of that view is Mt. 7:1-"*Judge not, that ye be not judged.*"

Jesus said that, but we need to pay careful attention to the context. When we do, it becomes clear that Jesus did not mean that we shouldn't criticise false teachers or expose false religions. First, please bear in mind that all of chapter seven, along with chapters five and six, constitute one sermon preached at one time to one group of people. Just 5 verses after Christ said, "*Judge not*"(v.6) Jesus commanded those same hearers to judge between genuine seekers and false enquirers (swine i.e. pigs)! Furthermore, in vv. 19-23 Jesus commanded those same listeners to judge false from true teachers. He told them to judge them by their fruits.

When Jesus implored people, "*Judge not, that ye be not judged*", He was referring to the use of unrighteous judgment, e.g. condemning people to hell. For example, were you to say of someone, "*He's going to go to hell!*" that would be practising unrighteousness judgment. We don't know things like that, since we are not God. God can save anyone, even the most evil person, even at the end of his/her life. So making such judgments is wrong. However, we are commanded to "*judge righteous judgment*" (Jn. 7:24). Righteous judgment is judgment based on God's Word.

**Examining teachers or religious groups** and judging (discerning) whether they are true or false **was not only commanded by Jesus, but was also practiced by God's prophets and apostles** (e.g. I Kings 18; Jer. 23; Acts 2:23; 4:10-12; 5:30; 7:51; 8:20-23; 13:8-11,46; 17:16-33; Phil. 3:2; II Pet. 2:1-22; I Jn. 2:18-27; III Jn. 9; etc.).

**Judgment of true and false teaching is also commanded and endorsed throughout the Bible.** A few examples should suffice to establish the factuality of that assertion:

**Acts 17:11** – Note that the Bereans were called "*more noble*" than the Thessalonians, because they even checked out the apostle Paul's teaching to see if it was straight or not!

**Heb. 5:13-14** - Here immature Christians are rebuked and mature Christians described as those who have their senses trained to discern truth from error.

**Eph. 5:11** – This verse instructs believers to *have no fellowship* with false workers, but to *reprove* (expose) *them!*

**I Thess. 5:21** – A clear command for believers to *examine ALL things and hold fast to that which is good.*

**Isa. 8:20** - If people do not speak or teach according to the Word of God, they show that *there is no light in them.*

**Rom. 12:9** – Here we are commanded to *hate what is evil and cling to what is good.*

**Acts 20:17-26** Paul warned that false teachers *would come* and he declared in his own defense that he had *warned everyone* in Ephesus night and day for three years.

**II Jn.7-11.** Here we are told that there were-and would be in the future-many deceivers who would be known by the fact that they do not hold to the basic doctrinal teachings about Christ. John tells us that such people are not of God and that *we shouldn't even give them a greeting.* Strong comments indeed, from the "*apostle of love!*"

"Christ pointed out that the false prophets *would come.* There was not a doubt in the mind of the Son of God that this would take place, and the history of the heresies of the first five centuries of the Christian Church bear out the accuracy of His predictions. Christ further taught that the fruits of the false prophets would also be apparent...Let us never forget that 'fruits' from a corrupt tree can also be doctrinal, as well as ethical and moral. A person may be ethically and morally 'good' by human standards, but if he sets his face against Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, and rejects Him, his fruit is corrupt and he is to be rejected as counterfeit."<sup>1</sup> (e.g. The Mormons)

Martin succinctly writes: "I must dissent from the view that 'all roads that lead to God are good' and believe instead the words of our Lord, *'I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me'* (John 14:6). It should be carefully noted that Jesus did not say 'I am one of many equally good ways,' or, 'I am a better way than the others, I am an aspect of truth; I am a fragment of the life.' Instead, His claim was absolute, and allegiance to Him, as the Savior of the world, was to take precedence over all the claims of men and religions."<sup>iii</sup>

### **WHAT ABOUT ECUMENICAL UNITY?**

Martin adds: "We are consistently being told in books, articles, council pronouncements and ecumenical conclaves, that we must 'play down the things that divide us and emphasize those things which make for unity.' This is all well and good, if we are speaking about a firm foundation of doctrinal, as well as of moral and ethical truth, and if we are speaking about true unity within the body of Christ. But if, as some suggest, this be broadened to include those who are not in agreement with the essentials of Biblical Christianity, we must resolutely oppose it."<sup>iiii</sup>

Some advocate following Gamaliel's advice in Acts 5:33-40 where he suggested leaving those we disagree with alone, assuming that false teaching will die of itself. But that is not wise advice for a Christian to follow. Firstly, it was an unsaved Jewish leader's advice; secondly, it is obviously not appropriate to today's situation, since cults are growing by leaps and bounds around the world. Pastors are called shepherds, and it is expected that they will warn and protect their spiritual sheep, even as a physical shepherd does.

As Martin has said: "Let it not be forgotten that Gamaliel's advice is not Biblical Theology; and if it were followed in the practical realm of experience as steadfastly as it is urged, then we would have to recognize Islam as 'of God,' because of its rapid growth...We would have to acknowledge Mormonism (six people in 1830 to over 5 million in 1982) in the same category as Islam...We do not suggest that we 'turn ecclesiastical microscopes' on the cults, but rather that they be viewed in the light of what we know to be divine revelation, the Word of God, which itself weights them, 'in the sensitive scale of final truth,' for it was our Lord who taught, 'If you believe not that I AM, you will die in your sins.' And the final criterion today as always, must remain, 'What think ye of Christ, whose son is He?'"<sup>iv</sup>

"We cannot afford then, to have any concept of the purveyors of erroneous doctrines different from that held by our Lord and the apostles, and agree with the Apostle Paul that we must 'abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good' (Romans 12:9). In the light of Paul's teaching, it is extremely difficult for this writer to understand how it is possible to cleave to that which is good, without an abhorrence of that which is evil."<sup>v</sup>

### **WHAT MAKES UP A CULT?**

Following are some common marks shared by almost every false cult. Not every cult will have all of them, and a few overlap, but if a group has a significant number of these characteristics, they are normally classified as a cult. For a religious group to have only one or two of the LESSER characteristics (e.g. a strong leader) does NOT mean they are necessarily a cult. Some Christian churches may have a particularly strong leader. That, in itself, does not mean they are a cult! But when a large number of these marks or several of the more important ones are found in a religious group, they may definitely be labeled a cult.

### **MAIN MARKS OF A CULT:**

**1. AN EXTRABIBLICAL SOURCE OF AUTHORITY.** Cults will usually say they believe the Bible...but they will often have another non-biblical source of authority, whether it is another allegedly inspired book, leader, etc. For example, The Mormons or Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints consider three other books as inspired (The Book of Mormon, Doctrines & Covenants and Pearl of Great Price), as well as the words of living church leaders; The "Moonies" or Unification Church consider Rev. Moon's book "The Divine Principle" as an additional revelation, etc. However the canon of Scripture is closed! (cf. Ps. 19:7; II Tim. 3:16-17; Jude 3; Rev. 22:18; etc.)

**2. FALSE TEACHING(S) REGARDING JESUS CHRIST.** For example, Jehovah's Witnesses deny that Christ is equal with God the Father; Mormons believe Jesus and Lucifer (Satan) are "*spirit brothers*", etc. (cf. II Jn. 7-11)

**3. BELIEF IN SALVATION BY WORKS.** Virtually every cult teaches the false idea that a person must work, or earn his/her way to heaven via good deeds, obedience, etc. e.g. Mormons, Moonies, J.W's, etc. (cf. Jn. 6:28-29;

Eph., 2:8-9; Rom. 3:28; Gal. 2:16; etc.)

4. **BELIEF THAT THEY ARE THE ONLY ONES GOING TO HEAVEN.** J.W's, for example, believe that only `their' 144,000 make it; Latter-day Saints (Mormons) believe that only `they' get to the '3rd' heaven, etc.(cf. Jn. 4:14; 6:47; Acts 10:34-35,43; etc.)

5. **FALSE PROPHECY.** J.W's have falsely predicted Christ's second coming several times (1914, 1918, 1925 & 1975); Joseph Smith the founder of Mormonism made 64 prophecies and at least 52 of them never came to pass! (cf. Dt. 18:20-22; 13:1-3; etc.)

6. **DENIAL OF CARDINAL (i.e. BASIC) DOCTRINES OF CHRISTIANITY.** For instance, The United Pentecostal Church denies the Trinity. (Cf. Mt. 28:19; Rom. 1:7-Heb. 1:8-Acts 5:3-4; etc.)

7. **REJECTION OF ORTHODOX, BIBLICAL CHRISTIANITY.** Christian Science and Rev. Moon's Unification Church deny virtually all the standard teachings and beliefs of Christianity. (cf. Isa. 8:20; I Jn. 2:19; etc.)

### **LESSER MARKS OF A CULT:**

1. **BELIEF THAT "THEY" HAVE "NEW" TRUTH.** For example, the "Moonies"(i.e. the Unification Church, which also uses such names as the HSAUWC [the "Holy Spirit Association for the Unification of World Christianity"], CARP [the "Collegiate Association for the Research of Principles"], etc) virtually reinterpret the entire Bible, making almost everything symbolic. According to them Christ's death was a "failure"; His physical resurrection never occurred; the sin in the Garden of Eden was Eve having sexual relations with Satan; etc. (cf. Jude 3; II Tim. 3:16-17; Ps. 19:7; etc.)

2. **NEW (STRANGE) INTERPRETATIONS.** Herbert Armstrong/The Plain Truth magazine believed and taught for decades that Britain and America was the ten lost tribes of Israel; etc. See also #8 above. (cf. II Tim. 2:15)

3. **A STRONG, DYNAMIC LEADER.** He/She will dominate the cult, and usually their word is to be accepted and obeyed without question. e.g. Rev. Sun Myung Moon, Joseph Smith, Charles Russell (founder of the JW's), Mary Baker Eddy, David Koresh, Jim Jones, etc. (cf. Acts 17:11; I Thess. 5:21; Gal. 1:8-9; etc.)

"...a cult may also be defined as a group of people gathered about a specific person or person's misinterpretation of the Bible."<sup>vi</sup>

4. **SEMANTICAL "DOUBLE TALK."** Cults use biblical terms, and often the same words as Bible believers, BUT with totally different meanings! (For a fuller discussion, see under III.A. below) (cf. II Cor. 11:13-15; James 5:12; Eph. 4:25; Prov. 6:16-17; 12:22; etc.)

5. **CULT FOLLOWERS ARE USUALLY "CLOSED MINDED."** i.e. they are not willing to consider other views, or critically examine their own teachings. Normally the organization interprets the facts for the cult follower. Cult followers are not usually encouraged to examine teachings and think for themselves. For example, leaders of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints' (Mormons) have made statements such as: "*When the prophet speaks, the thinking has been done.*" & "*If the prophet ever asks you to do something wrong, you do it and God will bless you for it.*"!<sup>vii</sup> (cf. I Thess. 5:21; Acts 17:11; etc.)

"First and foremost, the belief systems of the cults are characterized by closed-mindedness. They are not interested in a rational cognitive evaluation of the facts. The organizational structure interprets the facts to the cultist, generally invoking the Bible and/or its respective founder as the ultimate source of its pronouncements. Such belief systems are in isolation; they never shift to logical consistency...and are almost incapable of penetration or disruption if the individual cultist is completely committed to the authority pattern of his organization."<sup>viii</sup>

6. **CULT FOLLOWERS ARE USUALLY HOSTILE ON A PERSONAL LEVEL.** They are programmed to consider others as "the enemy", and so this antagonism usually carries over into personal relationships.

"...cultic belief systems are characterized by genuine antagonism on a personal level since the cultist almost always

identifies his dislike of the Christian message with the messenger who holds such opposing beliefs."<sup>x</sup>

### **TO COUNTERACT THAT...**

A. **Be neutral**-try not to make it "him against you," but rather you and he, against their organization.

"The Christian (should) ...become a person who maintains a system of theology opposed to theirs but not necessarily involved on a level of personal antagonism toward the cultist. Experience has shown me that when this is accomplished it is the first step in a systematic under-cutting of one of the basic problems all cultists face ...the problem of hostility toward those who reject their interpretations ...once a cultist ...is confronted by a Christian whom he can learn to accept on a personal basis apart from differences of theological opinion, the possibility of communication improves markedly ...Since almost all systems of authority in cult organizations indoctrinate their disciples to believe that anyone who opposes their beliefs cannot be motivated by anything other than satanic force or blind prejudice and ignorance, a cultist's encounter with Christians who do not fit this pattern can produce startling results."<sup>x</sup>

B. **Be a genuine friend.** "(It is) a vital necessity to demonstrate genuine interest in the cultist as a person for the sake of himself and his personal redemption, rather than as a possible statistic for any given denomination."<sup>xi</sup> (cf. Prov. 17:17; Jn. 15:13)

7. **CULTS & CULT TEACHERS ARE DOGMATIC & INTOLERANT.** In most cults you are taught not to question authority (see #10 & 12 above). e.g. In earlier days, Jehovah's Witnesses were told that studying the Bible without Charles Russell's books would lead a person into darkness! In the lobby of the Mormon Church headquarters is a big sign that says "*The Course of Wisdom is the Course of Obedience.*"

"We do not wish to imply that there is no such thing as an authoritative dogmatism which is valid and true (such as the teachings of Jesus Christ), but rather that cult systems tend to invest with the authority of the supernatural, whatever pronouncements are deemed necessary to condition and control the minds of their followers. Thus it is that when Joseph Smith Jr., ...and...Brigham Young, wished to introduce doctrines or changes of practice in the Mormon Church, they prefaced their remarks with proclamations that God had revealed to them the necessity of such doctrines or practices among the 'saints'.<sup>xii</sup>

8. **ISOLATION.** Cult followers are isolated from other groups and people, and so the cult and cult leaders themselves can contradict themselves without fear, since their followers are not encouraged to read other books or outside literature. Thus the Jehovah's Witnesses built an expensive home (*Beth Sarim*) for the ancient prophets who were supposed to return to earth. The prophets never showed up of course, and the home was quietly sold 25 years later-but most Jehovah's Witnesses never knew about it anyway. Likewise Mormonism's Joseph Smith completely misinterpreted the so-called "Book of Abraham", but the average Mormon will never know it. In fact a Mormon leader once said regarding contradictions between various Mormon prophets: "*Revelation is what Joseph Smith says ...unless Spencer W. Kimball says differently.*"<sup>xiii</sup>

### **THE BIG KEY TO AVOID JOINING A CULT: KNOW TRUE DOCTRINE!**

The American Banking Association has hundreds of bank tellers/year go to Washington D.C. for courses on detecting counterfeit (false) money. Interestingly, during the entire 2 week course, they never once see counterfeit bank notes! Instead they intensively study genuine money. Once they know it well, a fake stands out like a sore thumb. Likewise, if those who genuinely know Christ have a thorough knowledge of true Bible doctrine, they will quickly detect false teaching.

In addition, applying solid, basic principles of Bible interpretation (hermeneutics) will keep one from coming up with weird, unbiblical, "cultish" interpretations (For more information on how to interpret the Bible correctly, see my paper "*Principles of Bible Interpretation.*").

### **PROBLEMS IN REACHING A CULT MEMBER.**

**THE WORD PROBLEM (i.e. SEMANTICS).** Cult members will often agree with you when you try and talk to

them. You may think you are making good progress. But most of the time they are agreeing with you because they redefine everything. The words do not mean the same thing to them that they mean to you. The writer George Orwell called it "*Double Speak*."

Martin writes, "On countless occasions, the author has been asked, 'Why is it, that when I am talking with a cultist, he seems to be in full agreement with what I am saying; but, when we have finished talking, I am aware of a definite lack of communication, almost as though we were not talking the same language?'

"The answer to this question is, of course, that we have not been communicating, because the vocabulary of the cults is not the vocabulary of the Bible by definition. Only the Lord knows how many fruitless hours have been spent attempting to confront cultists with the claim of the Gospel, when five short minutes of insistence upon definitions of the terms employed in conversation, (particularly the nature of God, and the Person, nature and work of Jesus Christ), would have stripped the cult theology of one of its most potent tools, that of theological term-switching...The cults capitalize on the almost total inability of the average Christian to understand the subtle art of redefinition in the realm of Biblical theology...proper usage of definitions as a practical tool will rob the cultist of at least two of his advantages: surprise and confusion."<sup>xiv</sup>

"The late George Orwell's stirring novel, 1984, in which he points out that the redefinition of common political terms can lead to slavery when it is allowed to pass unchallenged...is a classic illustration of the dangers of perverted semantics. It should be of no particular surprise to any student of world history that trick terminology is a powerful propaganda weapon. The communist dictatorship of China, which even the Russian theorists have rejected as incalculably brutal and inept, dares to call itself the *Peoples* Republic of China. As history testifies, the people have very little, if any, say in the actual operation of communism, and if democracy is to be understood as the rule of the people, the Chinese communists have canonized the greatest misnomer of all time!"<sup>xv</sup>

"The average non-Christian cult owes its very existence to the fact that it has utilized the terminology of Christianity, has borrowed liberally from the Bible, almost always out of context, and sprinkled its format with evangelical cliché's and terms wherever possible or advantageous...On encountering a cultist then, always remember that you are dealing with a person who is familiar with Christian terminology, and who has carefully redefined it to fit the system of thought he or she now embraces."<sup>xvi</sup>

For example: "Both Christian Science and Unity talk of God as Trinity; but their real concept of God is a pantheistic abstraction (Life, Truth and Love constitute the Triune divine principles of Christian Science)."<sup>xvii</sup>

If you do point out that you mean two different things, they will often say, "*Well, you interpret it your way, and I interpret it my way.*" When they say that, you must point out that opposite things can't both be true!

"...one thing is beyond dispute, and that is that in context, words mean just what they say. Either we admit this, or we must be prepared to surrender all the accomplishments of grammar and scholastic progress, and return to writing on cave walls with charcoal sticks in the tradition of our alleged stone-age ancestors."<sup>xviii</sup>

"A man who says he stole only ninety dollars (petty theft), but who really means that it was ninety dollars more or less, and in reality knows that it was in excess of five hundred dollars (grand theft), is playing a game that the law will not tolerate. He will most certainly be punished for such perversions of standard legal terms.

"If a doctor says he is going to do open heart surgery and instead he removes your liver, saying, that for him, open heart surgery means removing the liver, he would not practice medicine long! In order for medicine to be practiced, terms must mean the same thing everywhere to every doctor. We can't have every doctor inventing his own meaning to words. But that is exactly what cults do i.e. they invent their own meanings to established words and concepts.

"Similarly, the math formula " $\pi r^2$ "=a circle is true EVERY TIME! It doesn't mean a circle for one person and a square for another. In chemistry 2 parts of hydrogen & 1 part oxygen=water ...ALWAYS! You can't say, well maybe that's true for you, but not for me!"<sup>xix</sup> Such thinking makes one a candidate for a Mental hospital!

So...

**DEFINE THE TERMS BEING DISCUSSED;  
THEN COMPARE THEM WITH THE BIBLE MEANINGS;  
AVOID, IF POSSIBLE, VERSES AND THEOLOGICAL WORDS THAT CAUSE AN**

**AUTOMATIC REACTION;  
DON'T ATTACK THE CULTIST PERSONALLY; &  
BE SURE AND SHARE YOUR TESTIMONY OF HOW YOU WERE SAVED (BORN AGAIN).**

**BE AWARE THAT CULT MEMBERS WILL USE BIBLE VERSES ...OUT OF CONTEXT!**

Every cult uses the Bible to support their false teachings! A person can make the Bible say anything he wants it to, if he rips verses out of their context. True Bible study and interpretation is letting the Bible say what it says, instead of trying to make the Bible say what we want it to say. For instance, I can prove that the Bible says you should hang yourself right now ...for the Bible says, "Judas went and hanged himself...go and do thou likewise...what thou doest, do quickly." (Mt. 27:5; Lk. 10:37; Jn. 13:27) However the proper attitude towards Bible study is found in II Tim. 2:15-rightly dividing the word of truth-literally, "cutting it straight."

"Another confusing aspect of non-Christian cultist's approach to semantics is the manner in which they will surprise the Christian with voluminous quotations from ...the Bible, and give the appearance of agreeing with nearly every statement the Christian makes in attempting to evangelize the cultist. Such stock phrases as, 'We believe that way too; we agree on this point,' or the more familiar, Mrs. Eddy or Mr. or Mrs. Fillmore, Mr. Evans, Dr. Buchman, Joseph Smith or Brigham Young, (Rev. Moon),etc. 'says exactly the same thing; we are completely in agreement.'"<sup>xxx</sup>

"The Christian must realize that for every Biblical or doctrinal term HE mentions, a redefinition light flashes on in the mind of the cultist, and a lightning-fast redefinition is accomplished. (Realize) that the cultist will apparently agree with the doctrine under discussion, while firmly disagreeing in reality with the historical and Biblical concept...This amazing operation of terminological redefinition works very much like a word-association test in psychology."<sup>xxxi</sup>

**BRIEF COMMENTS ON A FEW INDIVIDUAL CULTS &/or RELIGIONS:**

I will not deal in depth with specific cults in this paper, since I have done so elsewhere (see my papers on Mormonism, Jehovah's Witnesses, Bahai, Islam, Rastafarianism, etc.) But I would like to briefly point out a few of the major errors of some of the cults:

**MORMONS- i.e. "The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints."** These are the folks with the white shirts, ties and a name plate calling them "elder or sister \_\_\_\_\_" Their teachings include the following errors and heretical beliefs:

We have a heavenly mother as well as father;  
God was once a man like us;  
Man can become a god;  
There are thousands of gods;  
Lucifer and Jesus were spirit brothers;  
Jesus was not born of a virgin, but was produced when God the Father had sexual relations with Mary; &  
For 148 years the LDS Church taught that people with dark skin (especially Negroes) were dark as a punishment for sins committed in the alleged spirit world-in 1978 they reversed this very unpopular and racist teaching.

**JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES.** Among their major problems are false prophecies, and the denial of almost all the cardinal doctrines held by Christianity for 20 centuries, e.g.

They falsely predicted Christ's return in 1914, 1918, 1925 &1975;  
They deny that Christ is God i.e. equal with God the Father;  
They deny that the Holy Spirit is God;  
They deny that the Holy Spirit is a person;  
They deny that there is an everlasting hell;  
They believe in "soul sleep";  
They deny the physical resurrection of Christ.

**UNITED PENTECOSTAL CHURCH.** These folks believe many normal things, but deny the Trinity, one of the most fundamental teachings of biblical Christianity.

**THE UNIFICATION CHURCH.** (Full name: "*The Holy Spirit Association for the Unification of World Christianity.*" They are also referred to as "*The Moonies*". Among their errors are:

- They make virtually everything in the Bible symbolic, coming up with some incredibly bizarre interpretations in the process;
- They believe that the crucifixion of Christ was a failure (cf. Mt. 26:53; Jn. 2:19; 10:11, 15, 17-18; etc.);
- They believe (and Rev. Sun Myung Moon teaches), that he (Moon) is the Messiah, come back to finish and fulfill the rest of Christ's work (since they believe Christ was a failure); &
- They deny the literal resurrection & assumption of Jesus Christ, etc.

### **FALSE RELIGIONS:**

While it is beyond the scope of this paper to go into various world religions which are also contrary to Christianity, two should be mentioned since they are in PNG:

**ISLAM.** (The Muslim faith). Muslims attack the idea that the Bible is God's word, and they vehemently deny that Jesus is God's son. Depending on which Muslim you talk to, you will also find that they either deny that Christ ever died on the cross, or that He rose from the dead. Islam is totally incompatible with Christianity.

**BAHAI.** The Bahai's, like Islam, honour Christ as a "great prophet", but they deny that He is God. Instead, Bahai's follow 9 prophets from some of the world's greatest religions. Unfortunately for Bahai's, the 9 contradict each other. Nonetheless Bahai's believe and teach that all those various religious leaders agreed on the essentials. Such a view is absurd if you take a serious look at their various teachings. Additionally, Bahai's believe that Baha'u'llah is the greatest prophet. They misinterpret various verses in Scripture, to try and apply them to Baha'u'llah.

### **CONCLUSION:**

We live in a difficult time in history where the push for the acceptance of ALL religions and beliefs is at an all time high. But the believer who knows his Bible is aware that fellowshiping and uniting with non-Christians in an ecumenical conglomerate is condemned in Scripture (II Cor. 6:14-7:1; III Jn. 7-11; Eph. 5:11; etc.). Furthermore, a one world church is a feature of the future tribulation period and reign of antichrist (Rev. 17:1-18; II Thess. 2:3-5). A mature Christian needs to keep his spiritual senses trained to discern good from evil, lest he be swept up into a false religion or cult.

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