

Who's That Knocking at My Door? Christianity vs. So-Called Christian Cults

Jesus warns us in the Bible to "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves." Matt. 7:15

In other words, there will be people who appear to be Christians (sheep) but beneath the surfaces, they are deceivers. He goes on to say in the next verse, "You know them by their fruits." Matt. 7:16

This fruit can be clearly seen if we go beneath the surface and examine what they are teaching. The Bible strongly warns Christians to beware if "...he who comes preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or if you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted..." II Cor. 11:4

In this teaching, we will present the Historic Christian doctrines concerning JESUS, the HOLY SPIRIT, and the GOSPEL. We will contrast these truths with the false teachings widely circulated in the last 150 years through various so-called Christian Cults.

Christianity vs. Cults

HISTORIC CHRISTIAN DOCTRINES FOUND IN THE 1ST CENTURY CHURCH	JEHOVAH'S WITNESS FOUNDED 1879 MEMBERS 1996 5,700,000	MORMONS FOUNDED 1830 MEMBERS 1996 9,100,000	CHRISTIAN SCIENCE FOUNDED 1875 MEMBERS 1986 APPX. 125,000
	UNIFICATION CHURCH (MOONIES) FOUNDED 1954 MEMBERS 1977 2,000,000	THE WAY FOUNDED 1942 MEMBERS APPX. 50,000 TO 100,000	UNITY FOUNDED 1887 MEMBERS ESTIMATED 1,000,000

The Holy Bible

CHRISTIAN Is 100% the Word of God & is the final authority for doctrine & truth.	J.W.'s The King James Version of the Bible has many mistakes. Their New World Translation is better.	MORMONS The three other volumes of "scripture" used by Mormons are considered more correct.	CHR. SC. The Bible contains many mistakes. Certain portions are a lie.
	MOONIES The period for the New Testament's mission has elapsed with the coming of the new age.	THE WAY Not the Word of God. Old Testament & Gospels are unnecessary.	UNITY Other books from World Religions are accepted. Personal experience has more authority than the Bible.

THE HOLY BIBLE SAYS THAT:

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness" II Tim. 3:16

"Knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit." II Peter 1:20-21

"Every word of God is pure;" Prov. 30:5 Additional Scriptures: Rom. 16:25-25

THE TRINITY

CHRISTIAN There are three persons in one God; the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.	J.W.'s Believe only in Jehovah God. God is Singular. No Trinity.	MORMONS There are many Gods. The Father is the God of this earth.	CHR. SC. God is All in All. They reject the God of the Old Testament.
	MOONIES No Trinity. God is Single.	THE WAY No Trinity. God is Single.	UNITY Father is Principle or Mind. Not a Person.

The Christian Doctrine of the Trinity or Tri-unity is that in one God there are three distinct persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. They are of the same nature and substance, and are co-equal and co-eternal.

"And God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness" Gen. 1:26

"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" Matt. 28:19
 Additional Scriptures: Matt. 3:16-17, Luke 1:35, Isa. 9:6, Heb. 3:7-11

GOD THE SON JESUS CHRIST

<p>God, the Son. 2nd Person of the Trinity. On earth, He was 100% God and 100% man. Only sinless man.</p>	<p>J.W.'s Not God. Michael the Archangel & "a god". The first being God ever created.</p>	<p>MORMONS One of many gods. The Spirit brother of Lucifer (The Devil). A polygamist.</p>	<p>CHR. SC. Not God. Not the Christ. Jesus is the human man and Christ is the divine idea.</p>
	<p>MOONIES Not God Himself and not the Creator.</p>	<p>THE WAY Not God. Not eternal. A Man. Not a person. God's adopted son.</p>	<p>UNITY Christ is the one complete idea of perfect man and divine mind. Christ does not equal the man Jesus.</p>

THE HOLY BIBLE SHOWS THAT JESUS CHRIST IS GOD THE SON:

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. And the Word was made flesh" John 1:1, 14

"And Thomas answered and said unto Him, (Jesus) My Lord and my God." John 20:28

"God was manifested in the flesh" I Tim. 3:16

God showed His love toward man by willingly coming to earth Himself to die for the sins of His disobedient children. He did not have to send a created "fall guy" to do His dirty work.

Additional Scriptures: I Tim. 2:5, Phil. 2:6-7, Isa. 9:6, John 10:30, 14:7-9

GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT

CHRISTIAN God the Holy Spirit The 3rd person of the Trinity	J.W.'s Not God. Not a person. An invisible active force. Likened to a radar beam	MORMONS A substance. A fluid. A person.	CHR. SC. The Holy Ghost or Comforter is Divine Science.
	MOONIES A Female Spirit or Mother Spirit.	THE WAY Not a person. Holy Spirit is just another name of God.	UNITY The very Spirit of truth lying latent within each one of us.

The Bible teaches that Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit in the Virgin Mary's womb. (Matt. 1:18-23, Luke 1:27-35, Isa. 7:14)
 If the Holy Spirit is not God, then Jesus could not be called the Son of God.

He would have to be called:

"The Son of an invisible active force." (J.W.'s)

"The Son of a Substance or Fluid." (MORMONS)

"The Son of Divine Science." (CHRISTIAN SCIENCE)

"The Son of a Female Spirit." (MOONIES)

AND NOT THE SON OF GOD. (The Holy Spirit). Additional Scriptures: Acts 5:1-4, Heb. 3:7-11

VIRGIN BIRTH

CHRISTIAN Jesus was conceived by God in the Holy Spirit in the Virgin Mary's womb.	J.W.'s Conceived by an invisible active force, who is not a person & is not God.	MORMONS Not conceived by the Holy Spirit but by sexual intercourse with the Father.	CHR. SC. Jesus was born of Mary's spiritual thoughts.
	MOONIES Jesus was the perfect incarnation of the ideal creation.	THE WAY Jesus was created in Mary's womb.	Unity No information available

THE HOLY BIBLE TEACHES THAT:

"Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit....for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit." Matt. 1:18, 20

"The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God." Luke 1:35

Additional Scriptures: Isa. 7:14, Matt. 1:23, Luke 1:27-35

THE MEANING OF CHRIST'S BLOOD

<p>CHRISTIAN Being sinless, His blood is 100% sufficient to forgive men of all sins.</p>	<p>J.W.'s Christ's life was perfect human life, no more, no less. He was not God.</p>	<p>MORMONS Man's own blood must atone for certain more serious sins (i.e. fornication and murder).</p>	<p>CHR. SC. Christ's blood had no power to forgive sins.</p>
	<p>MOONIES Jesus did not come to die on the cross. His death was not God's will.</p>	<p>THE WAY Only a man could become a sacrifice for man's sins, and not God.</p>	<p>UNITY Paganism = An angry god only accepted a human sacrifice from his rebellious children.</p>

THE BIBLE TELLS US THAT:

"... the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin."
 John 1:7

"To him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood." Rev. 1:5

Conceivably, a perfect man could have died for one sinner. But no man is without sin. So it was essential that only the perfect God who made us could die for the sins of all men.

Being 100%, God He could take the punishment for His fallen creation, and being 100% man, he was tempted like other men though He never sinned.

Additional Scriptures: Rom. 3:10-12, 23, 5:9; Col. 1:20; Rev. 5:9; John 1:29

SALVATION

<p>CHRISTIAN We are saved by grace, through faith in Christ's death, burial, and resurrection.</p>	<p>J.W.'s Comes through good works & being a Jehovah's Witness.</p>	<p>MORMONS Through faith, baptism, repentance, good works, & keeping God's commandments.</p>	<p>CHR. SC. Harmony & Christ in Divine Science shows us the one way to heaven.</p>
	<p>MOONIES Your works can save you and other people who have died before you.</p>	<p>THE WAY A legal transaction and nothing more. No experience involved.</p>	<p>UNITY Man's spiritual man will be equal with God when his perfection of character comes forth.</p>

THE HOLY BIBLE SAYS THAT:

"by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast." Eph. 2:8-9

". . . a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified." Gal. 2:16

"not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us..." Titus 3:5

Additional Scriptures: Heb. 9:22, Gal. 3:8, Rom. 10:9-10, Acts 16:31

RESURRECTION

<p>CHRISTIAN Jesus was physically resurrected in a glorified body, as all true believers will be one day.</p>	<p>J.W.'s No bodily resurrection of Christ or of man.</p>	<p>MORMONS Man will be bodily resurrected and can become a god.</p>	<p>CHR. SC. Jesus did not really die. Resurrection is spiritualization of thoughts.</p>
	<p>MOONIES Jesus was not physically resurrected. In the spirit world he lives as a spirit man.</p>	<p>THE WAY No information available.</p>	<p>UNITY Reincarnation - We will have many lives in order to reach God consciousness.</p>

THE BIBLE TEACHES THAT:

"Jesus Himself stood in the midst of them, and said unto them, ...Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself, Handle me and see, for a Spirit does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have." Luke 24:36, 39

"Jesus answered and said to them. Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up... he was speaking of the temple of his body. "John 2:19, 21

"So also is the resurrection of the dead...It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body." I Cor. 15:42, 44

Additional Scriptures: John 20:26-28, John 21:4, Luke 24:16, Phil. 1:21-23

SECOND COMING OF CHRIST

<p>CHRISTIAN At a time undisclosed by the Bible, Jesus will physically & visibly, return to earth.</p>	<p>J.W.'s His invisible presence returned to earth in 1914</p>	<p>MORMONS No information available.</p>	<p>CHR. SC. Jesus has disappeared to material sense and has risen in the spiritual scale of existence.</p>
	<p>MOONIES Moon's followers believe that he is the Lord of the Second Coming.</p>	<p>THE WAY No information available</p>	<p>UNITY Jesus will not personally return to judge the world.</p>

THE HOLY BIBLE SAYS THAT:

"Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, and they also who pierced Him..." Rev. 1:7

"Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched. He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, who also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven." Acts 1:9-11

Additional Scriptures: Matt. 24:30, Matt. 26:63-64, 1 Thess. 4:15-17

HEAVEN AND HELL

CHRISTIAN Only two destinations for man. Eternity in heaven with God, or in heft in conscious torment.	J.W.'s Only 144,000 J.W.'s will go to heaven. The remaining J.W.'s will live here on a new earth.	MORMONS Virtually everyone will go to one of the 3 heavens. You can be baptized to save people who are dead.	CHR. SC. Sinner makes own hell by doing evil. Saint makes own heaven by doing good.
	MOONIES All humanity will ultimately be saved.	THE WAY No information available.	UNITY Deny the existence of a literal heaven or hell. They are here on Earth.

THE BIBLE TEACHES THAT:

"... it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment," Heb. 9:27

"Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world'... Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the Devil and his Angels.'" Matt. 25:34, 41

".. .great is your reward in heaven..." Matt. 5:12

Additional Scriptures: Matt. 5:3, 6:20, 13:42, 18:8-9, Mark 9:45, Luke 16:19-28, Heb. 11:16, Rev. 14:9-11, 21:8, 20:12-1522

On the following pages, we have compiled a list of possible Cult Renditions of the scripture John 3:16.

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

We have **rewritten this scripture to correspond with the actual definitions** the so-called Christian **Cults have incorrectly put on vital Christian words and doctrines.**

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

"For God was so uninvolved in the world that he sent Michael the Archangel, his first creation, the son of a non-personal invisible active force, to get beat up and killed in his place that whoever was willing to go door to door should not be annihilated but have a chance to be part of the 1st 144,000 contestants who would receive everlasting life in heaven."

MORMONS -

"For Adam-God, the God of this world (one of many) was so indifferent to the world that he sent one of the gods, the Spirit brother of the Devil, a polygamist, the son of a fluid or substance to die for certain less serious sins that whatever males would believe in his church would be able to work their way to becoming gods themselves and have their own kingdom."

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE -

"For the non-personal all in all believed the world didn't exist so much that it sent the divine idea, one of Mary's spiritual thoughts, the son of Divine Science to appear to die unable to forgive any sins that whoever was spacey enough to believe all this would not make their own hell, but rather, in their mind make their own heaven on Earth."

UNIFICATION CHURCH (MOONIES) -

"For God was so powerless that he sent his son to mistakenly die for nothing enabling a humble multimillionaire named Sun Myung Moon to successfully finish Christ's mission and save everyone who had ever lived no matter what they had done."

UNITY -

"For a gigantic impersonal mind sent one complete idea of perfect man and divine mind to be our example so that whoever could locate the spirit of truth inside of them could become equal with God, even if it took an infinite number of lifetimes to achieve this."

THE GENUINE CHRISTIAN VERSION –

"For God (the one and only Almighty God) so loved the world (all sinners) that He gave His only begotten Son, (the Lord Jesus Christ, the God-Man, to die for all men's sins) that whoever believes in Him (trusts Christ alone for their salvation) should not perish (go to hell forever) but have everlasting life (an eternal personal relationship with God)."

IN CONCLUSION

All so-called Christian Cults have attempted to:

- 1) Misrepresent God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit as being less than they really are.
- 2) Misrepresent man as being more than he really is.
- 3) Substitute for the true Gospel, which is faith in what only Christ's death and resurrection could accomplish, a false Gospel, which says that man's own works can make him acceptable to God.

HOW TO BECOME A CHRISTIAN

In order to receive what Jesus Christ has done for you, you must willingly:

- 1) Stop trusting in your own efforts to please God and begin to trust in what Christ has already done. Pro. 28:26, Pro. 3:5-6
- 2) Ask Him to forgive you for your sins. I Jn. 1:9
- 3) Invite Him to come and live inside of you. Rev. 3:20
- 4) Ask him to take His rightful place as Lord and God of your life. Phil. 2:11, Rom. 10:9-10
- 5) Desire to turn away from whatever the Bible says is sin. Acts 3:19, Jn. 1:12