

Recap of 2/21/16 (2 Peter 2:1):

The marks of a cult:

- 1. A source of authority other than or in addition to the Bible (often presented as new truth or new revelation from God or a new interpretation with the Bible seen as inadequate or the church seen as having fallen away from the truth).**
- 2. Salvation by works (a denial of justification by grace through faith). The Biblical teaching, as seen in passages such as Ephesians 2:8-10; Titus 3:5; and John 6:28,29, is that salvation is by grace through faith, not by works. The danger of teaching anything different is outlined by Paul in Galatians 1:6-9.**
- 3. Devaluation of Christ. Either a denial of His deity or of His humanity (incarnation) (1 John 2:22-23; 4:2-3)**
- 4. Denial of the Trinity or an inadequate view of the Trinity. (Matthew 28:19,20; Deuteronomy 6; John 6:27; 20:28; Acts 5:3-5).**
- 5. The group (cult) as the exclusive community of the saved.**
- 6. A strong, charismatic leader.**
- 7. False prophecy, making prophetic statements which do not come true.**
- 8. Changing theology and subsequent practices.**
- 9. Deceptive double-talk.**

(Sources on the above or for teaching on the cults: Josh McDowell and Don Stewart, Understanding the Cults; Anthony Hoekema, The Four Major Cults; Walter Martin, Kingdom of the Cults; Hank Hannegraff, Christianity in Crisis, www.equip.org.)