

Youth Group - Other Cults - 1/27/21

- Review 4 things that separate Christianity from all other religions

Hebrew Roots

- About 300,000 followers.
- Generally, believe that Jesus is indeed the Messiah, and that salvation comes through him.
 - Hold to the _____ (OT law/law of Moses), including observing Sabbath (Saturdays), feasts, holy days, etc.
- Believe that since _____ was a Jew and he followed/obeyed the Torah, we should too.
 - They vary in how much they reject New Testament teachings.
- This "movement" has been more grassroots in nature, and has largely existed _____. There are very few formal gatherings and meetings, and many of its adherents will attend a Jewish synagogue in order to participate in corporate worship.
- Primary problems with this belief system:
 - Denial of the work of Christ
 - Accepting a general belief in Christ as savior, while generally rejecting that his perfect obedience counts for us and that he has fulfilled the Mosaic law.
 - Ultimately believe in Faith + Works to be saved
 - "Therefore let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath." Colossians 2:16-17

7th Day Adventist

(Many would disagree that this is a cult)

- _____ million followers
- They generally believe normal Christian beliefs with the exception of the following:
 - Hold the writings of _____ (co-founder) on a level equal to scripture.
 - It is sin to not worship on _____. (See Colossians 2:16-17 above)
 - Death is an unconscious state for **all** people until the end of the world.
 - There is no _____
- This last point is particularly concerning since hell as punishment for sin is essential to the gospel.
- If there is no eternal punishment then:
 - sin is either not that bad or isn't punished which means God either isn't holy or isn't just.
 - what did Jesus save us from?
 - is God actually merciful?
 - someone besides Jesus (AKA not God) could've taken our punishment.
 - why share the gospel?
 - why does the Bible say there is eternal punishment?
- The parts of 7th day Adventist that would classify it as a cult are: charismatic leader, writings on equal authority to the Bible, significant distortion of Biblical teaching to the point that it isn't the gospel anymore.

Witchcraft/Wicca

- Unclear how many followers. Estimates around 1 million.
- Existed essentially since the _____ of recorded history
 - Pharaoh had sorcerers that were able to imitate some of the miracles that God did through Moses. 1 Samuel 28 (Medium of Endor)
- Often will worship the " _____ "

- _____ - everything is God
 - Look for power / fulfillment / joy by “tapping into” this
 - Complete denial of a good creator God who is distinct from his creation
- Accepting of other religions > If you want to practice Wicca and still be a Hindu, or Buddhist, or even Christian, they’re happy to have you.
- They do practice _____ > They have rituals and ceremonies where they call upon deities to assist them, or attempt to speak to the dead, or communicate with/pray to celestial bodies like the moon and stars.
- Their general creed is: “If it harm none, do what you will.”
- Organized Covens and Priesthood
- Modern Wicca
 - Distance themselves from the term “witch”
 - Decreased the nudity

Christian Science

- About 1/2 million followers.
- Founded in 1875 by _____. She experienced a miraculous healing just by reading the Bible.
 - Her conclusion was that the scriptures have the power to _____, and so she began to seek to find out how.
- She wrote the book “Science and Health” explaining how reading the Bible and praying can heal you.
 - This book is considered sacred writing and inspired and is studied alongside the Bible.
 - The last 100 pages are stories of people who claimed to be healing just by reading the Bible.
- Christian Science is all about healing. Many refuse to go to the doctor.
- Eddy claimed that the Bible was her only authority but denies the trinity, the atonement, and the deity of Christ (so everything that makes us Christian).

Scientology

- Unclear how many followers. Probably between 1/2 and 4 million.
- Founded in early 1900's by L. Ron Hubbard.
 - Never claimed divine inspiration.
- Started as a new take on psychotherapy and ended up as a religion.
- Many famous actors adhere to this: Tom Cruise, Jon Travolta, etc.
- Goal is to remove negative memories from the mind until clear.
- Very _____. Current approximate cost to get to level 9 is \$400,000. Takes in 125 million dollars in dues each year.
- "If a man really wants to make a million dollars, the best way would be to start his own religion." - Hubbard

(Torah), (Jesus), (online), (22), (Ellen White), (Saturdays), (Hell), (beginning), (mother goddess), (pantheistic), (magic), (Mary Baker Eddy), (heal), (expensive)