

Studies in Truth

Knowing Cults...

Review:

System of religious beliefs and rituals with a
y of adherents deeply devoted to an extra-
ritual person, idea or thing; it cultivates worship
religion that, with reference to its basis for
n's salvation, is considered to be unorthodox,
rious, or false, thereby insulating its members
inst true salvation in Christ...all cultic
iations tend to down play the finished work of
rist and emphasize the importance of earning
al acceptance before God thru one's own
gious works.

Basics

Gnostic groups have in common:

- Jesus is NOT God
 - JW – archangel created by God
 - MM – man becomes “a god”, one of many
 - Jesus is lesser, and Bible is “incomplete”
 - JW’s retranslate whatever they don’t like
 - Mormon’s look to “Gold Tablets” – Moroni
 - Salvation is by “religious works”
 - Peer pressure and lay leadership
 - Questioning any doctrine is “cast out”
 - Elitist and exclusivity in the group
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Focusing on Jesus

Who is Jesus to YOU?

Who did HE SAY He was??

From Heaven – Jn 6:38, 41-42, 60, 66

More than good – Mk 10:17, 18

Son of Man – Mk 13:26 (80x Gospels)

Pointed to signs – Jn 10:36-39

Said He was God – Mk 14:61-64; Jn 8:58-59; 10:30-33; 17

Confirmed others – Mt 26:63-65; **Jn 5:18**

Said He was sinless – Jn 8:46

Focusing on Jesus

- Forgave sin – Mk 2:5 (only God)
 - Taught others to pray to Him as God – Jn 14:13,14; 15:7
 - Called Himself Judge – Jn 5:22-24
 - Claimed to be the only Way - Jn 14:6
 - Called His Disciples Jn 13:35; 15:8
 - Called His witnesses Acts 1:8
 - Books of John all deal heavily here
 - Using these books, helps to define who Jesus said He was...
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C.S. Lewis

- “A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher, He would be either a lunatic – on a level with the man who say he is a poached egg – or else the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God; or else a madman or something worse. You can shut Him up for a fool; you can spit at Him and kill Him as a demon; or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God.”
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Concerning the Trinity

- Word not found in the Scriptures
 - OT Name of God Plural
 - Gen 2 “Let US make man...”
 - Ps 110 – “The Lord said to my Lord...”
 - Title Wheel – used of Father/Jesus
 - Trinity in context : Ro 14:17-18; 15:16; 1Co 2:2-5; 6:11; 12:4-6; 2Co 1:21-22; 13:14; Ga 4:6; Ep 2:18-22; 3:14-19; 4:4-6; Co 1:6-8; 1Th 1:3-5; 2 Th 2:13-14; Ti 3:4-6; 1Pe 1:1-2
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