

Are You A Cult Member and Not Know It?

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There are many cults around the world, even in our own country. The World Book Dictionary defines a cult as “1) a system of religious worship, especially with reference to its rites and ceremonies, and 5a) a group or sect whose practices or beliefs are separated from generally accepted values and creeds.” This second definition shows how a cult can be political as well as religious.

Although there are many differences in how cults operate, I want to focus on one main aspect – **how information is dealt with**. Often cults will tell their members that they should believe only what they are told by their organization and only read and listen to what their organizations provide in fear of their members being influenced away from the cult’s beliefs.

Often it is highly discouraged, by other members and by the leaders, for any member to question or research the teachings and beliefs of the organization. Sometimes there are laws (written or unwritten) within the cult forbidding research and questioning with consequences ranging from verbal correction to being kicked out of the cult to even death for not believing what the organization teaches.

The problem with cults is the same as it is with many of our public school systems around our country today – especially many of our higher education institutions. Members are not taught to, or encouraged to, think critically. To know the truth, a person must be allowed and encouraged to research and look at all the available evidence and look at all the different views. Members in cults and many of our students today are being taught that they are to believe the views of their leaders and strongly reject any other opposing views.

How do you know what you believe is right if you never really question what you believe and never research other views to prove that you are right? How many times have you believed what someone told you until you heard another person’s view – another side of the story? How many times have you changed your mind once you were allowed to see more evidence? Do you try to look at ideas from different views, or are you satisfied just believing what you are told by a certain source?

Often cults select people who are simple-minded – they easily believe what they are told to believe by persuasive people. But now there are strong, powerful institutions (as many public school systems, the mainstream media and social media) which use techniques to strongly influence intelligent people too. Many people in our society, especially the young, are being taught that if they believe any other way than these institutions believe, then they are a bad person and they don’t have a right to talk about their views.

“Freedom of Speech” no longer means that everyone has the right to share their views and beliefs without persecution; it now has come to mean “Some people have the right to share their views and beliefs while it is also alright for these same people to suppress others who have opposing views from sharing their views.” Often people who opposes the views of these institutions are now being persecuted verbally and physically. Even many of today’s journalists use their skills to promote what they believe, and want others to believe, instead of investigating and telling the truth.

So if you want to know what is true and what you should believe, I encourage you to research what you believe and look at other views which may challenge what you believe in order to either strengthen your existing views or lead you to change your mind. Don’t research in order to change your belief system; research other views to prove to yourself that what you believe is correct. If you find that what you believe is not correct, then you need to ask yourself why you believe what you believe.

As for religion, I have heavily researched why I should believe in Christianity, and how reliable the Holy Bible is. If you would like to benefit from my research, visit my website www.BiblicalReliability.com. Especially see the audio script article “*Evidence for Biblical Reliability and Why To Believe*” under the Quick Learn tab. I pray that you will find what you are looking for on your quest for truth!