

## A Cult Leader's Worst Nightmare

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### The Dangers of the Words "Cult" and "Cult Leader"

#### What is a Cult?

It's a strange religious environment that is not patterned after the Bible in its discipleship method, but rather, built upon the Satanic elements of human control and manipulation. In short, a cult is an environment masquerading under the banner of a pure and godly sounding religious intent, but that is, in fact, maliciously seeking the control and manipulation of human souls unto their eternal destruction.

#### What is a Cult Leader?

It's a master manipulator of people. It's a man or woman playing the part of the sincerely religious, but who, in actuality, is really nothing more than an expert liar and con-man. The "cult leader" aims to subtly direct the youthful enthusiasms of innocent religious zeal away from God and toward himself/herself. He/she does this through elaborate means of manipulation and human-control techniques.

# The Original Cult Leader

## *The Serpent*

Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?" And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.'" Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

**Genesis 3:1-5**

## Sin

### *The Great Soul Cult*

**The Cult Leader: The Flesh**

**The Cult Follower: Self**

## The Modern Jesus Cult

### *Flesh-controlled Christianity*

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Now the serpent was more **cunning** than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made.

### **Genesis 3:1**

## **`Aruwm [Ah-room]**

subtle, shrewd, crafty, sly, sensible

Now the cult-leader was more **`aruwm** than any of the ordinary people on earth which the LORD God had made.

### **Manipulations 3:1**

## Five Common Elements of Satanic *`Aruwm* Control

### 1. Exposing Conspiracy, Danger, and Intrigue

The spiritual manipulator inevitably has knowledge that is rare. He knows things about history that are not publicly recorded; he has insider information on leaders, both from yesteryear and today, that tarnishes their good reputations; he has a conspiracy for everything and he is a harbinger of bad news at every turn. He casts doubt on long-held orthodox Truths, he throws dirt on upstanding moral leaders, and he dishes out stories that stimulate fear and a need to self-preserve and find a hole in the ground in which to hide.

**The Manipulator's Motto:** Cultivate an Atmosphere of Danger, Fear, and Dark Foreboding.

### 2. Making a lot of Noise about Nothing

The spiritual manipulator talks a lot about the Bible, but never about what really matters in the Bible, focusing on peripheral, non-essential subjects in the Text. He dazzles his followers with a fascinating brilliance in arenas of off-beat and off-center value. For instance, his knowledge of a pre-Adamite world wholly spellbinds his adherents. While his secret understanding of the order and names of Angel warriors brings out gasps of delight within his fellowship. This, of course, is not even mentioning his profound knowledge regarding number patterns within the Bible, hidden eschatological secrets in the Book of Daniel, genealogical mysteries in the line of Christ, historic soteriological nuance once understood by the Father's of the Faith and now lost, dietary mysteries that unlock the spiritual life of man, or the sacred knowledge of the inner voice that if heeded leads one into the deeper mysteries of the Kingdom.

**The Manipulator's Motto:** Keep the Focus off the Foundation.

### 3. Leveraging Secrets

The spiritual manipulator specializes in leveraging all varieties of knowledge. Especially, knowledge of his follower's weaknesses and past indiscretions. A spiritual manipulator must be a master at blackmailing his congregants without it ever being construed as being actual blackmail. He keeps elaborate file data on everything. Every fault is remembered and used when most appropriate. And, for a spiritual manipulator to fully gain the trembling respect of his followers, it must be clearly demonstrated that all those secrets will go airborne the moment someone chooses to leave the environment.

**The Manipulator's Motto:** Be quick to accuse, and notice fault. And never let an indiscretion be forgotten.

### 4. Demonstrating a "Special" Connection with God that others cannot have.

The spiritual manipulator must prove to have a divine “in” with God. This “in” is proven in a variety of ways. The most common is through supernatural words of knowledge, through specific prayers answered with seeming miraculous power, and with prophetic projections proving true. Once this “Special Connection” is established, the stage is set for the leader to now gain extra-biblical revelations from God. These extra-biblical revelations work to even further establish the leader’s position, and often, these “revelations” hold sway in and amongst the followers with equal or often-times even greater authority than the Bible.

**The Manipulator’s Motto:** Make everyone dependent upon your unique ability to hear from God and know His mind on every matter.

## 5. Keeping People Close

The spiritual manipulator specializes in creating elaborate webs of interdependency amongst his adherents. The more complex and intertwined the better. These include co-signings, shared businesses, and financial overlaps that complicate the notion of ever leaving.

Intermarriages, shared housing, interlinked reputations - these bizarre interdependencies cause most, even those aware that they are caught in a web, to choose to stay rather than go through the immense hassle of ever leaving.

**The Manipulator’s Motto:** Seek to complicate peoples lives - irretrievably intertwine them, overlap them, and intermarry them.

## Five Key Contrasts - `Aruwm Control vs. Spirit Control

`Aruwm Control	Spirit Control
Exposing the Conspiracy, Danger, and Intrigue within the world	Exposing the Conspiracy, Danger, and Intrigue within the human soul

`Aruwm Control	Spirit Control
<b>The Motto:</b> Cultivate an atmosphere of danger, fear, and dark foreboding	<b>The Motto:</b> Set the soul free with the Gospel Truth of Jesus Christ

`Aruwm Control	Spirit Control
Making a lot of noise about nothing	Making a lot of noise about Jesus Christ and Him Crucified
<b>The Motto:</b> Keep the focus off the foundation	<b>The Motto:</b> Build a strong foundation that can stand the tests of time and endure the winds and the rains that will certainly beat against it

`Aruwm Control	Spirit Control
Leveraging secrets	Forgiving and forgetting
<b>The Motto:</b> Be quick to accuse and notice fault. And never let an indiscretion be forgotten	<b>The Motto:</b> Wield the power of the Blood of Jesus in order to remove all Satanic control points within the soul and prepare an avenue of unrestricted freedom unto the limitless Grace of God

`Aruwm Control	Spirit Control
Demonstrating a “Special” Connection with God that others cannot have	Make the “Special” Connection with God common unto all who believe
<b>The Motto:</b> Make everyone dependent upon your unique ability to hear from God and know His mind on every matter	<b>The Motto:</b> Make everyone dependent on Jesus, and Jesus alone

`Aruwm Control	Spirit Control
Keeping people close	Send them forth

`Aruwm Control	Spirit Control
<p><b>The Motto:</b> Seek to complicate people's lives - irretrievably intertwine them, overlap them, and intermarry them</p>	<p><b>The Motto:</b> Labor to free people from all worldly encumbrance in order that they might freely and readily go into all the earth to preach the Gospel and make disciples of all men - for the Glory of Jesus Christ and not the glory of any man or organization</p>

## Three Reasons Sincere Believers End up Trapped in a Controlling Spiritual Environment

1. **The Need to Belong.** The dire hunger for community and belonging, causes them to overlook strange characteristics of a group or leader.
2. **Disgust with their own Personal Weakness.** The lack of discipline and moral muscle leads to a desire to want to follow someone who is strong, rather than being strong themselves.
3. **Eager to Prove Righteous.** Due to a subtle twist in their understanding of righteousness, they try and achieve righteousness in their own strength. Their dedication and loyalty unto a church or ministry (though that church or ministry be a bit bizarre) is their means of being right in God's eyes.

## Checking your own soul

1. Are you so overly hungry to belong, that you will overlook unbiblical attributes just to fit in somewhere?
2. Do you suffer from soul lassitude, and moral laziness? Are you desiring someone else to do hard work, obedience, study, prayer, and spiritual thinking for you?
3. Where do you find your righteousness? Is it in your loyalty unto men and your approval from earthly leadership?

# The Top 10 Worst Things a Cult Leader Could Ever Say

And, thusly, the top 10 best things a true Godly leader needs to shout at the top of his lungs!

## 1. **Test Everything I say against the Bible!**

Test every little thing I say against the sixty-six Canonized books found within the Word of God. For the Word of God is correct on every matter. And where I disagree with the Word of God, throw out my opinion. The Bible is 100% right. And if I ever disagree with it, I'm 100% wrong. If I write something contrary to the Word of God, burn the book I write. If I ever "receive" a revelation from God that in any way contradicts or adds to the canon of Scripture - treat it with contempt. If I counsel you to do something contrary to the Word of God, disregard my counsel as foolish and fleshly.

(The Berean Christians) were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.

**Acts 17:11**

## 2. **Go! Get out of here! You have a job to do!**

We're not digging bomb shelters and hiding in them. Rather, we're climbing to the top of mountains and preaching from them. Our protection isn't in the folds of a group, a compound, or an environment. Our protection is in a person, named Jesus Christ. We are called to go, not stay. We are called to spread Good News and not keep it for ourselves. Jesus said, "Go!"

**Go ye therefore**, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost . . . And he said unto



them, **Go ye into all the world**, and preach the gospel to every creature.

**Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:15**

### **3. Your spiritual life can thrive without me!**

If I can be a tool in the hand of God to help you along in your spiritual life, then great. But I am not your spiritual life - Jesus is! I cannot save you - only He can. I can only lead you to Him. I am not a destination in and of myself; I'm merely a road sign that points to the only source of true salvation.

Now this I say, that every one of you saith, I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas; and I of Christ. Is Christ divided? was Paul crucified for you? or were ye baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I baptized none of you, but Crispus and Gaius; Lest any should say that I had baptized in mine own name.

**1 Corinthians 1:12-15**

And as Peter was coming in, Cornelius met him, and fell down at his feet, and worshipped him. But Peter took him up, saying, Stand up; I myself also am a man.

**Acts 10:25-26**

### **4. Truth is not exclusive to our little group!**

We are not the only place where the Words of Salvation can be found. Though the Church be weak, God always has His people. The true Church is out there, working, laboring, and oft-unpublicized and unknown. There are pastors all over this country, continent, and world that are preaching the life-giving words of Jesus Christ and His glorious Cross-work. Don't think for a moment that just because you haven't yet

met these other voices that this little cluster of believers sitting around you right now is the only group on earth that hasn't bent their knees to Baal.

But He answered and said to them, "I tell you that if these should keep silent, the stones would immediately cry out."

**Luke 19:40**

**Elijah said:** God, I am left alone, and they seek my life.

**God responded:** Elijah, I have reserved to myself seven thousand men, who have not bowed the knee to the image of Baal.

**Romans 11:3-4**

## **5. Let God direct your giving. Give to the work He asks you to give to - even if it's not here.**

As a believer in Jesus Christ, your first loyalty is unto Him, not to me or this ministry. You are responsible to give of yourself and your resources unto Him, not to me or this ministry. If God directs you to give elsewhere, then you give elsewhere. If God is building this ministry, then He will supply for its financial needs without even the slightest arm-twisting from me. You don't owe me anything. You owe God everything!

Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to your account.

**Philippians 4:17**

So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, **not grudgingly or of necessity**; for God loves a cheerful giver.

**2 Corinthians 9:7**

## **6. I'm not perfect! But, Jesus IS!**

I'm not a finished product, and when closely examined you would find that I'm still a picture of incompleteness in my spiritual maturity. I'm not holy. But, Jesus is holy! I'm not righteous. But, Jesus is righteous. I'm not perfect Love, but Jesus is perfect Love. Apart from Jesus I'm not perfect, holy, righteous, or loving. But apart from me, He still is perfect, holy, righteous, and loving. So, who needs who? I need Him! He doesn't need me! And likewise, you need Him, and you don't need me!

Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me.

**Philippians 3:12**

## **7. I don't deserve special treatment!**

Though I be the leader, I am not above scrutiny, accountability, and character evaluation. In fact, I'm technically, more responsible for every word spoken, every thought thought, and every action performed. If ever I am rude, discourteous, disrespectful, dishonoring, harsh, inappropriate, short-tempered, controlling, abusive, manipulative, or anything else from the Flesh family of behaviors - it's as wrong for me to behave in those ways as it is for any one else to behave in those ways.

To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ,

**Ephesians 3:8**

My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment.

**James 3:1**

Nor did we eat anyone's bread free of charge, but worked with labor and toil night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you . . . And when I was present with you, and in need, I was a burden to no one, for what I lacked the brethren who came from Macedonia supplied. And in

everything I kept myself from being burdensome to you, and so I will keep myself.

**2 Thessalonians 3:8; 2 Corinthians 11:9**

## **8. Jesus forgives thoroughly and completely! And I choose to do the same!**

If I don't offer forgiveness when repentance and confession of fault is present, then my leadership is a miscarriage of Grace. For, whenever I have repented and sought forgiveness from Jesus, He always has forgiven me. His Cross-work allows for Him to not just forgive, but also to forget my past indiscretions. And so it is, when someone comes to me in repentance, seeking forgiveness, I must forgive them just as Jesus has forgiven me. If I keep a record of someone's wrongs then my God will keep a record of mine. But since my Lord chooses not to remember and keep track of my wrongs, I am ready to throw out all records that I might keep on others.

To whom ye forgive any thing, I forgive also: for if I forgave any thing, to whom I forgave it, for your sakes forgave I it in the person of Christ; lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.

**2 Corinthians 2:10-11**

## **9. Don't be quick to judge the motives of others!**

Be gracious. Be merciful in your thoughts. Men that are quick to judge are quick to be caught in the same fault that they were quick to carelessly accuse others of walking in. Be slow to conclude in matters of spiritual motive. First, remove the plank from your own eye so that you can see clearly enough to help your brother with the speck of sawdust in his eye. Don't cast slurs against fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. Don't throw terms like heretic, cult-leader, deceiver, and false teacher around loosely, unless you wish to have those same terms come back upon your own head

someday soon. Be quick to give grace and quick to believe another's testimony of faith, and not quick to question and doubt. Sure, there is certainly deception out there, but do not assume that everyone is deceived, for there are many in this earth that are true unto Jesus Christ.

Therefore be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful. Judge not, and you shall not be judged. Condemn not, and you shall not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven.

**Luke 6:36-37**

## **10. The only message that counts is Jesus and Him Crucified!**

I'm not going to talk about peripheral, debatable, private pet doctrines. I'm not going to give you any special new novel notions. I'm not going to try and impress you with my vast array of knowledge on everything immaterial and non-important. Rather, I wish to talk about Jesus - Jesus first, Jesus foremost, Jesus always. Every time you talk with me I want you to come away thinking about Him and not me. Every time you hear me speak, I want you to come away more in love with Him and not more impressed with me. If you are thinking about me, then I am in the way. I must decrease that He might increase.

For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified.

**1 Corinthians 2:2**

He must increase, but I must decrease.

**John 3:30**

## **A Cult Leader's Worst Nightmare**

- The Truth that sets all men free
- A well-disciplined Church that knows the power of God unto Salvation

- A truly rescued soul that seeks not the approval of any man, but simply the Glory of His Beloved King Jesus
- And, hopefully, this message