

Cults

I think it might be helpful to know there are typically three different fields of study that use the word cult

1. Theology - A cult is a organized religious group with defined practices and beliefs. This is a neutral term and in theology it is not negative or positive.

2. Christianity - A cult is a false offshoot of the Christian faith that does not hold to at least one an essential core teaching of Christianity. This could be Jehovah Witnesses, Mormons, World Mission Society Church of God, Christian Science, Unification Church, or many others. This does not make the false Christian group controlling (although most are very controlling), but it means that the group teaches a false version of Christianity

3. Sociology - A cult is a high control group. Walter Martin in his Kingdom of the Cults book writes about how many of the "Christian" cults teach false versions of Christianity along with being controlling psychologically and some even physically. Steven Hassan (Mental Health Expert and ex-Unification Church member) presents a BITE model for determining a cult in its sociological control

B - Behavior Control

I - Information Control

T - Thought Control

E - Emotional Control

Sociological Cults try to control their members and they say that there religion is the only place for true teaching or to get the true Holy Spirit.

Take a look at examples of control in each of the BITE areas and think about the Watchtower's control of JW's

<https://freedomofmind.com/cult-mind-control/bite-model/>