

THE SERVANT

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WHY WITNESS TO CULTS

Often people involved in "cult" ministries are asked, "Why do you put down other people's religions?" or "Would Jesus or the apostles have said things about somebody's beliefs?" Some Christians, and especially non-Christians, find it difficult to understand why there are ministries that specialize in witnessing to and teaching about other religions. They think it is all right to warn about "brain washing" techniques of Moonies, or ritualistic crimes of Satan worshippers. What they can't understand is why Christians would say things about the churches of "nice" people such as Mormons or Jehovah's Witnesses.

WHAT IS A CULT

One difficulty is that the word "cult" is often misunderstood. Psychiatrists define a cult as: a group whose dominate leader claims to be God, or his emissary. Total loyalty to the group and unquestioning obedience to the leader is required for membership. Obedience may include the way a person acts, dresses and thinks (Levine, Saul; Canadian Journal of Psychiatry 4:1979 p. 123).

Christian theologians also have an additional definition for cult. Sects that alone claim to be Christian, yet deny Christian doctrines and the Biblical concept of God are cults. These groups (sometimes called pseudo-christian cults) often follow the teachings of one person, and rely on "scriptures" not found in the Bible. The problem with any cult is not criminal activity or other anti-social behavior. The problem with cults are that their members are lost.

(See LOVE FOR THE LOST p. 3)

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L.D.S. RACISM IS NOT NEW

When George P. Lee, formerly of the First Quorum of the Seventy, was excommunicated on September 1, he accused Mormon leaders of being racist. This seems to have surprised some, but to those who know Mormonism, it is nothing new.

The **Book of Mormon** itself is a racist book. It tells of the division of Lehi's family into two groups--the Nephites and the Lamanites. The book says of the Lamanites, "as they were white, and exceedingly fair and delightful, that they might not be enticing unto my people the Lord God did cause a skin of blackness to come upon them" (2Ne.5:21). Further on in the **Book of Mormon**, a man named Jacob warns the Nephites, "O my brethren, I fear that unless ye shall repent of your sins that [the Lamanite's] skins will be whiter than yours, when ye shall be brought with them before the throne of God" (Jac.3:8). Racism in the **Book of Mormon** cannot be discussed without mentioning one of the changes that have been made in the book. In 1980 and earlier, 2 Nephi 30:6 said that those Lamanites who accepted the gospel would become "a white and a delightful people." In the 1981 edition, however, the word "white" was changed to pure. A passage which was not changed, but can only be understood properly in the context of the pre-1981 version of the one that was, seems to say that those Lamanites who came into the church became white within one year (3 Ne. 2:14&15). Clearly racism is part of the **Book of Mormon**. The Lamanites--considered by Mor-mons to be the Indians--are said to be dark-skinned because of their wickedness, and a white skin is spoken of as denoting right-eousness.

This idea is not restricted to Indians. Indeed, African-Americans have been discriminated against more than any other group by the LDS church. Until 1978, blacks could not hold the Mormon priesthood. Writing previous to the time, Bruce R. McConkie declared, "Those who were less valiant in pre-existence and who thereby had certain spiritual restrictions imposed upon them during mortality are known to us as the **negroes**" (**Mormon Doctrine**, 1966 ed., pg. 527, original emphasis). He

continued, "The present status of the negro rests purely and simply on the foundation of pre-existence. Along with all races and peoples he is receiving here what he merits as a result of the long pre-mortal probation in the presence of the Lord" (ibid). This article was rewritten in 1979 after the announcement granting the priesthood to Mormons of African ancestry.

Joseph Fielding Smith, who died before the "revelation" was announced in 1978, was spared the indignity of revising his racist comments. He wrote, "That the Negro race, for instance, have been placed under restrictions because of their attitude in the world of spirits, few will doubt. It cannot be looked upon as just that they should be deprived of the power of the Priesthood without it being a punishment for some act, or acts, performed before they were born" (**The Way to Perfection**, p. 43). According to Smith, "There is a reason why one man is born black and with other disadvantages, while another is born white with great advantages. The reason is that we once had an estate before we came here, and were obedient, more or less, to the laws that were given us there. **Those who were faithful in all things there received greater blessings here, and those who were not faithful received less**" (**Doctrines of Salvation**, Vol. 1, p. 61, original emphasis). And in another place he declared, "The Negro, evidently, is receiving the reward he merits" (ibid, p. 66).

When blacks were given the priesthood in 1978, the only change was in policy. Not one doctrine was changed. Mormonism is still racist, and while I sympathize with George P. Lee, I have trouble understanding why the racism of the General Authorities should be so surprising to him. Bigotry is written into the fabric of the LDS church, and is not likely to go away.

NOTE: This article was written by Robert McKay, of **Utah Missions, Inc.** It appeared in the November 1989 **The Evangel**, a free newsletter exposing the beliefs of Mormonism. You can write to them at: U. M. I. Box 348, Marlow, OK 73055.

THE SERVANT...

is a free quarterly publication of the **Christian Awareness Fellowship, Inc.** Our goal is to educate the church about false religions and the lost about Jesus Christ. **The Servant Needs Your Help.** If you have any local news worthy items relevant to the cults or the occult, please let us know. We hope to expand this newsletter to cover local religious events. Help us help the church stay informed. **We welcome your comments and questions.** The C.A.F. is a non-profit, volunteer, interdenominational Christian ministry. We are supported by your prayers and tax deductible gifts.

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The **Christian Awareness Fellowship** has had a dozen church presentations this year in Tucson, including ones at 1st So. Baptist, Casas Adobes Baptist, 1st Evangelical Free, 1st Assembly of God, and Grace Chapel School. In addition, we also have a weekly Bible study entitled the **Essentials Of Christianity** every Sunday night 5:15pm at Casas Adobes Baptist Church, located at 2131 Ina Road in Tucson. Please pray that the Lord would continue to open doors for other church presentations. If you would like to know more about presentations for your own church, please contact us.

WHY WITNESS TO CULTS

(Continued from p. 1)

LOVE FOR THE LOST

The reason for witnessing to those deceived by the cults is the same for witnessing to anyone, and that is Love; Love for the lost, Love for the truth, and Love for God. Cult members who are nice, moral people can be every bit as lost as people involved in immoral, exotic cults. The Mormons are going to hell just the same as the Satanist; if they have not believed in the Jesus Christ of the Bible, they are not saved. Christians know that the Lord and heaven awaits the children of God, and hell is reserved for the non-Christians. Hell is rarely taught in many churches today. Probably because of two main reasons. First, many cults and liberal churches don't really believe in the Biblical hell. To them, the Bible is just a sort of a spiritual smorgasbord one picks and chooses from. They pick heaven, but leave out hell. Robertson McQuilkin writes in his book The Great Omission (Baker Books p. 40-41):

"Throughout church history there have been those who teach that none will finally be lost. The old universalism taught that all ultimately will be saved because God is good. Not much was heard of this position from the days of Origen in the third century until the nineteenth century when it was revived, especially by the Universalist Church.. the teaching began to spread in many mainline denominations. There are problems with this position. Philosophically, such a teaching undermines the belief in the atoning death of Christ. For if all sin will ultimately be overlooked by a gracious deity, Christ never should have died. It was not only unnecessary, it was surely the greatest error in history, if not actually criminal on the part of God for allowing it to happen."

Jesus died to overcome sin. Hell is the final result of sin. If hell doesn't really exist, then Jesus wasn't really a savior. The Father then sent his son to die for nothing.

A second reason hell is not taught may be fear for what others think. They suppose if they speak about hell, others might think the teacher hasn't any love for them. But because hell is real is precisely why it should be taught. If only heaven (or only hell) is taught, then that is teaching only half-truths. Of course hell, like any other subject, must be taught in love. Did you hear the one about the old "Hell fire and Brimstone" preacher that

If all sin will be overlooked... Christ never should have died... It was surely the greatest error in history.

was always pointing his finger at people and yelling, "Turn or Burn!" One day the congregation replaced him with a younger soft spoken minister. After a few weeks, the old preacher became curious about the new pastor. He decided to call an elder at the church and ask how the congregation liked the new minister. The elder told him the new pastor was great, his first three sermons were all about hell. The old preacher snapped that all of his sermons had been about hell, too. The elder replied that the new minister taught differently, he preached like he didn't want anyone to go there! Jesus spoke more of hell than anyone else in the Bible. The reason is found in Ezekial 18:32: God has no pleasure in the destruction of anyone. Jesus spoke of hell because he doesn't want anyone to go there.

LOVE FOR TRUTH

The Christians' love for truth also compells them to expose

error. I Cor. 13:6 says love does not delight in evil, but rejoices in truth. So important is the truth of sound doctrine that every writer of the New Testament (except James) warn expressly about the doctrines of false religions. Some insist that it is all right to correct error, but Christians shouldn't mention any names. Not mentioning names would be like a newscaster reporting on a certain pain medication. Can you imagine a reporter saying some brand was found to contain poison, but then not mentioning the brand name? That doesn't help the people that just took that capsule. The same goes for religion. There are some brands of religion that are laced with poison. This poison will kill many, unless the church exposes it. Jesus commends and rebukes the churches in Revelation partly because of their rejection or acceptance of false teachers and doctrines. He also doesn't hesitate to use names. The Lord states in Rev. 2 (NKJV):

"I know your works... you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars. But this you have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate... But I have a few things against you, because you hold to the doctrine of Balaam, who have taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the children of Israel... Thus you also have those who hold to the doctrine of the Nicolaitans which thing I hate... Nevertheless I have a few things against you, because you allow that women Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess to teach and seduce My servants... as many as do not hold to her teaching and have not learned Satan's secrets, I will put on you no other burden... He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

(See LOVE FOR GOD p. 4)

WITNESSING TIPS

by Jack Gracie

It takes about six weeks to grow a squash, and about twenty-five years to grow a good oak tree. If we consider this from a spiritual perspective, most Christians would agree spiritual growth develops more like an oak than a squash. The same can be said when it comes to witnessing to someone deceived by a cult. In most cases it takes many hours of witnessing, teaching and praying before the cultist comes to know Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

One example of the time and effort needed to lead someone to the Lord is of a man I knew from Utah. This man was a very devout Mormon. He had been on a mission and been married in the Mormon temple. A Baptist minister had befriended the man and soon their conversations had turned to the subject of religion. They both agreed that because of the importance of religion, they would come together every Wednesday afternoon to talk about each other's beliefs. The Christian used every approach

conceivable. He spoke about Mormon false prophecies, incorrect doctrine and the sufficiency of Christ. Many times his L.D.S. friend would just stare and not say a word. The Christian then remembered II Cor. 4 which speaks of the god of this world blinding the minds of unbelievers. The minister called on several other Christians to pray that God would open the spiritual eyes of this Mormon. The Holy Spirit convicted the Mormon, and finally he gave his life to Jesus, five years later.

We as Christians must not only be prepared to take the time to witness, but also to take time to pray for the them. ††

"He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose."

-Jim Elliot martyred missionary for Wycliffe Bible Translators, Ecuador.

LOVE FOR GOD

(Continued from page 3)

The most important reason for witnessing to the cults is because the Lord has commanded us to teach His Gospel (Mat 28:19,20). Our love for God is shown by our obedience to Him. God desires all to be saved and to come to the knowledge of truth (1 Tim 2:4). But the false gospels of the cults cannot save from sin, and it is sin that separates people from God (Is. 59:2). God has made only one provision for the forgiveness of sin. That was sending His only Son to die on the cross. Because of Jesus Christ, and faith in Him alone, people are able to become children of God (John 1:12). Paul warns in I Tim 4:

"Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons..Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you save both yourself and those who hear you."

Take ***A CLOSER LOOK*** At what the BIBLE says about cults.
Jack Gracie can be heard on **A CLOSER LOOK** weekdays on the following stations.

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