



Series: Unmasking the Cults

Title: The Marks of a Cult – Part 3

Text: 1 Peter 2:4-5

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4 To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious,

5 Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

INTRODUCTION

• THE DOCTRINE OF THE PRIESTHOOD OF THE BELIEVER

The Bible teaches that all believers are priests meaning all believers have direct access to God and to His Word.

Being a priest involves both opportunity and responsibility. In the Old Testament, a priest held a special place in the worship of God.

Priests were responsible for certain aspects of worship, such as the sacrifice of animals. They served as mediators between the people and God.

The High Priest, the head priest, was the only one, however, allowed to enter the Holy of Holies in the Jewish temple. This especially sacred place was separated from the rest of the temple and from the other priests and worshippers by a great curtain or veil.

With the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, all of this changed. No longer was the sacrifice of animals appropriate, because Christ, the Lamb of God, had given himself as a sacrifice for sin. This was a once-and-for-all act.

At the crucifixion of Jesus, the great veil in the temple was torn in two from top to bottom.

Matthew 27:51

51 And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent;

1 Peter 2:4–5

4 To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious,

5 Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 2:9

9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

Hebrews 4:16

16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

Acts 17:11

11 These 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.

Isaiah 8:19–20

19 And when they shall say unto you, Seek unto them that have familiar spirits, And unto wizards that peep, and that mutter: Should not a people seek unto their God? For the living to the dead?

20 To the law and to the testimony: If they speak not according to this word, It is because there is no light in them.

- **THE DENIAL OF THE PRIESTHOOD OF THE BELIEVER**

Cults often deny this doctrine by stating that in order for people to understand God’s truth, they must submit to the teaching of the cult leader or organization, thus denying the individual the freedom to search the Scriptures himself.

The JW’s are a prime example of this. They must submit their minds to the Watchtower Society – God’s alleged channel of truth today.

1 John 2:26–27

26 These things have I written unto you concerning them that seduce you.

27 But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him.

The Unification Church is another example of this. According to Moon, human history is divided into three dispensations: Moses revealed God’s truth in the Old Testament age, Jesus revealed God’s truth in the New Testament age, and Moon revealed God’s truth in the Completed Testament age. (2) The introduction to the Divine Principle states: “With the fullness of time, God has sent His messenger to resolve the fundamental questions of life and the universe. His name is Sun Myung Moon.” (taken from *Unmasking the Cults* by Alan W. Gomes.)

John 5:37–40

37 And the Father himself, which hath sent me, hath borne witness of me. Ye have neither heard his voice at any time, nor seen his shape.

38 And ye have not his word abiding in you: for whom he hath sent, him ye believe not.

39 Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.

40 And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life.