

11. Christian Worldview and Christian Religious Cults

What is a Christian cult? According to the historic Evangelical Christianity- a Christian cult is any religious movement that claims to have its origin from the Bible or Christian faith but seriously denies or deviates from the historic Christian Orthodoxy on God, Trinity, Jesus Christ, and the Bible. Below we shall consider only four cults.

A. Latter- Day Saints (Mormonism)

Bellow are their believes on God, Trinity, Humanity, Jesus Christ, Sin and Atonement;

- i. *God the Father*: Mormonism claims that God the Father was once a man that progressed to godhood.
- ii. *Trinity*: Mormons believes that trinity consist not of three persons in one God but rather of three distinct gods
- iii. *Humanity*: Mormons believe that humans like God the Father can go through a process of exaltation to godhood.
- iv. *Jesus Christ*: for Mormons, they teach that Jesus was the firstborn spirit-child of the heavenly father and a heavenly mother. Thus, this Jesus Christ progressed to deity in the spirit world.
- v. *Sin and Atonement*: Mormons believe that Adam's Sin was a noble act that made it possible for humans to become mortal and a necessary step on the path to exaltation to godhood. They also teach that Christ atonement secures immortality for all people whether they believe or repent or don not believe nor repent.

B. Jehovah Witnesses

Jehovah Witnesses: This religious cult believes that the only divine name by which God must be identified with is JEHOVAH. Below is their position on trinity Jesus Christ, Resurrection, Second coming of Christ, two types of people in the world and Hell.

- i. *Trinity*: Jehovah witnesses believe that the concept of trinity is unbiblical because the world is not found in the Bible and because the Bible emphasis that there is only one God.
- ii. *Jesus Christ*: Jehovah witnesses teach that Jesus was created by Jehovah as the arch angle Michael before the physical world came into being, and is a lesser though mighty god. Thus Jesus' incarnation only affirm his birth on earth. For Jehovah witnesses Jesus was a mare human being and not God in human flesh.
- iii. *Resurrection*: Jehovah witnesses teach that Jesus Christ resurrected spiritually from the death but not physically.
- iv. *The Second Coming of Jesus Christ*: Jehovah witnesses believe that Jesus Christ second coming was an invisible, spiritual event that occur in the year 1914. We Christians don't believe in this.
- v. *the two Redeemed People* : Jehovah witnesses teach that there are two types of people of God: first, the anointed class (144000) will live in heaven and rule with Jesus Christ. The second type of people is the "other ship" (all other believers) will life forever on a paradise earth.
- vi. *Hell*: Jehovah witnesses believe that hell is not a place of eternal suffering but rather the common grave of mankind. The wicked are annihilated-snuffed out of conscious existence forever.

C. Christian Science

Below are their believes:

- i. *Sin, Sickness, and Death*- Christian science teaches that sin, sickness and death are illusions that can be conquered by correct thinking. They believe that all things in the universe are ultimately God; thus there can be no sin and no matter. Since matter does not exist neither can sickness, pain or death exists.
- ii. *God*- Christian science holds a pantheistic view of God that is God, humanity and the universe are the same reality. Thus humans too are God.
- iii. *Salvation*- Christian science teaches that one is saved when he/she ceases to believe in sin, sickness and death.
- iv. *Heaven and Hell*- Christian science believes that people make their own hell by thinking wrongly and their own Heaven by thinking rightly.

D. New Age Movement

This movement has no headquarters or leadership but consist of hundreds of informally associated small organizations and groups it has more members or followers in the 21st century. Bellow are their believes:

- i. *God*- new agers hold to a pantheistic impersonal view of God .
- ii. *Jesus Christ*- New agers claim that Jesus was a human vessel who as an adult embodied the Christ (variously defined but always divine). Thus Jesus Christ is a prototype for the rest of humanity since all people embody the Christ.
- iii. *Humankind*- New agers hold that human beings are God and therefore have unlimited potential that is humans have the same attribute as God.
- iv. *Sin and Salvation*-New agers say humans do not have "sin problems" but "ignorance problem" the greatest need of humanity is enlightenment about their divinity through reincarnation the human soul can eventually reach a state of perfection and merge back with its source "Pantheistic God"