

# CULTS, HERESIES, AND ERROR

## HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF FROM WRONG TEACHING

*"I fear...For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him."*

~ 2 Corinthians 11:3-4

### 1. The Reality of Cults and Heresies

- a. With widespread Bible ignorance, false teaching has free course
- b. It has been true since Bible times – 2 Pet 2:1, 2Cor 2:17; 2Ti 3:13, 4:4, 1Ti 4:1
- c. Cults (sects) and heresies existed, Paul was labeled with both – Acts 24:14, 28:21-22
- d. How do you know you are not falling into wrong teaching? How do you know this is right?
- e. Grace doctrine can protect you from being taken captive by cults and hurt by heresies

### 2. Cults, Heresies, and Errors, Oh My!

- a. "How do I know?" – Let the Bible be your baseline – Mtt 22:29, Rom 3:4, 2Tim 3:14-17
- b. *Def.* ~ Heresy – a fundamental error; Cult – a group that embraces fundamental error
- c. Some errors are more serious than others – not all errors are created equal.
- d. Christian necessities: Godhead, God's power, Jesus Christ, salvation, Bible (truth)
- e. Stop identifying yourself with cults, we are not one – 2 Cor 6:14, Titus 3:10, Rom 16:17

### 3. Identifying Cults, Heresies, and Error

- a. Cults will - 1) add to God's word; 2) Subtract deity from Christ; 3) Multiply works for salvation; 4) Divide your loyalty ... (also, divide you away from learning doctrine)
- b. Claims of sole authority, sole source of truth, always being right, special group blessing
- c. Cults control your behavior, beliefs, "brothers", corrupt the Bible, create new doctrines
- d. Changing doctrines; further revelation; spokesmen from God; false prophecy; redefining words; retranslating required; unknown mysteries/secrets/inner circles; sin is acceptable.
- e. Paul says 2 Cor 11:3-4 1) another Jesus; 2) another spirit; 3) another gospel

### 4. Protecting Yourself

- a. Consider what Paul says and the Lord will give you understanding - 2 Tim 2:7
- b. You have a Bible you can understand – Rom 3:4; 2 Tim 2:15; Rom 14:5
- c. Grace teaches salvation only in the finished work of Christ – Rom 3:20-25; 1 Cor 15:1-4
- d. Grace teaches sin is wrong, and grace is the solution to righteousness – Titus 2:12
- e. Grace teaches one Head: Jesus Christ (not a vicar, organization, pope) – Col 2:18-19
- f. Grace teaches there is no dominion man/sin has over you in Christ – 2 Cor 1:24; Ro 8:15
- g. Grace teaches liberty in Christ free from the law – Rom 6:14; Gal 5:1; Rom 5:8
- h. Grace teaches as you purpose in your heart, not what others purpose for you – 2Co 9:7
- i. Grace teaches Christ as the preeminent fullness of the Godhead – Col 1:18, 2:9
- j. Grace teaches the mystery *revealed* now known to all – Rom 16:25, Eph 3:9
- k. Grace teaches the church is the Body, and you are member when you believe – Eph 1:13
- l. Don't remove yourself from the gospel of the grace of Christ – Gal 1:6-9