

# “NOT ALL ‘MINISTRIES’ ARE MINISTRIES”

*(2 Corinthians 11:1-15)*

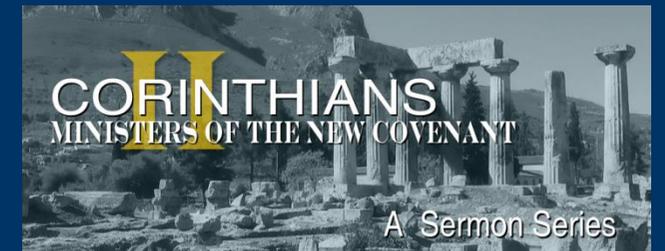
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*Expository Sermon of II Corinthians - Sermon 22*

*Speaker: Rev. Bobby Lam*

*Date: April 15, 2018*

*Place: Hope Community Baptist Church*



# INTRODUCTION:



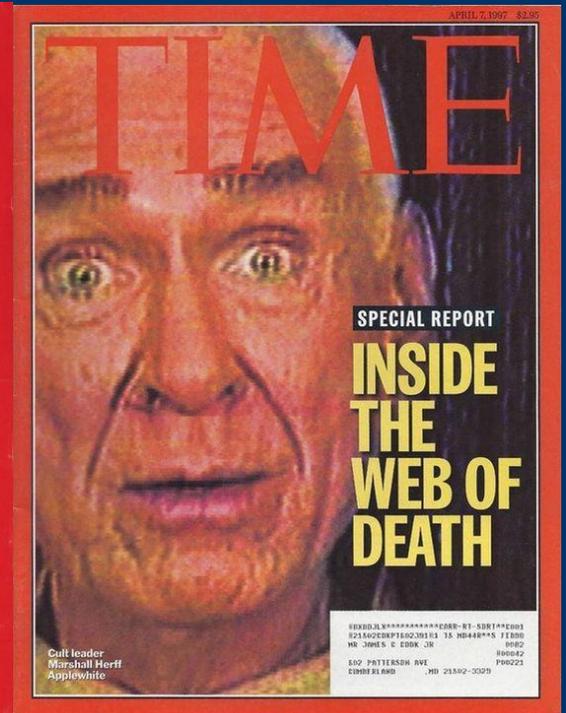
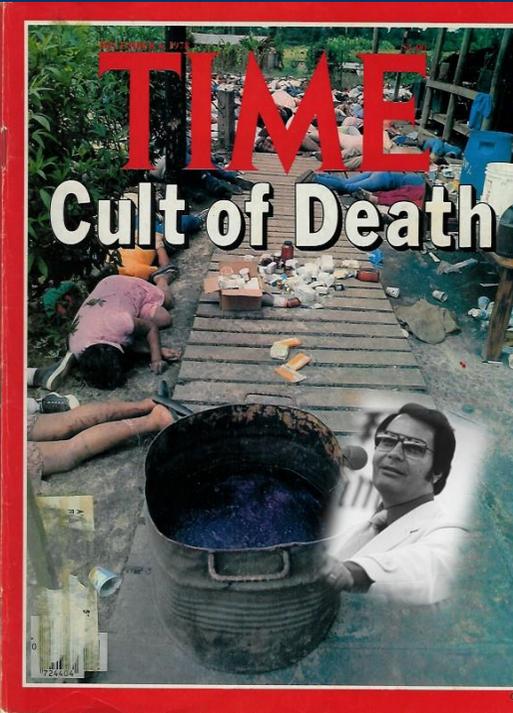
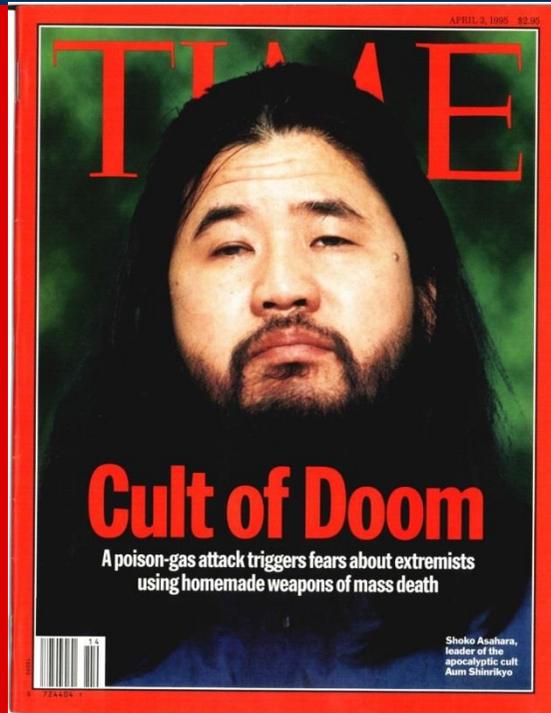
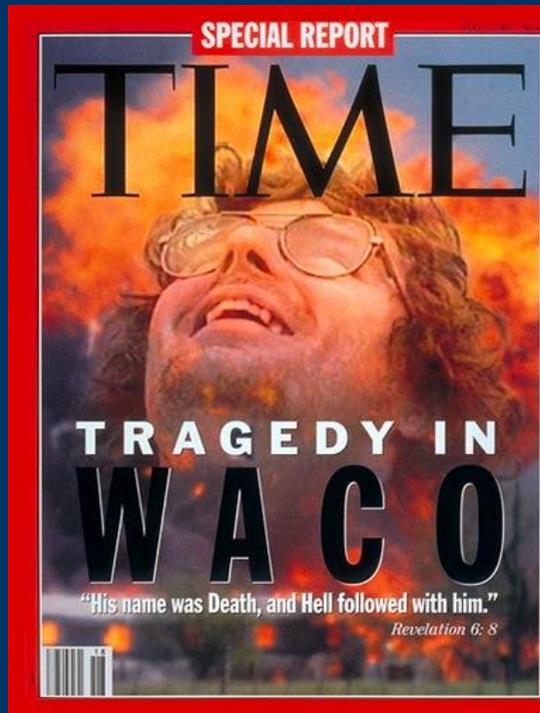
## Unification Church

founded by Sun Myung Moon

### Webster definition of a cult:

**“A system of intense religious veneration of a particular person, idea, or object, especially one considered irrational by traditional religious bodies.”**

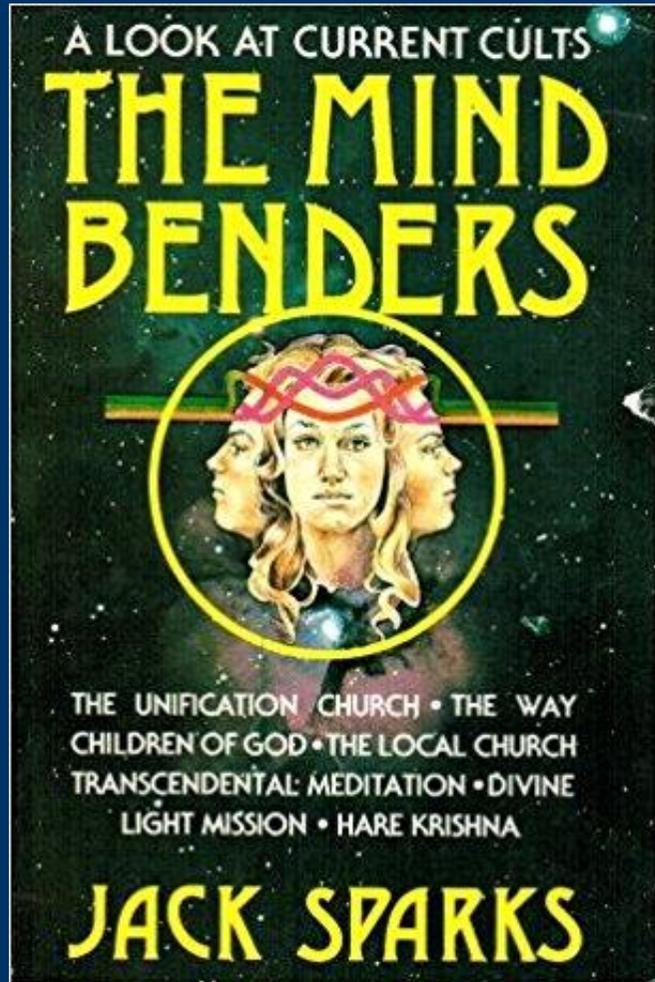
# INTRODUCTION:



Evangelical Christian definition of cult:

"A cult is a perversion of the gospel, based upon an unholy devotion to a person, a principle, or both."

# INTRODUCTION:



*Cults use these three simultaneous methods to lure their members.*

*A) Gradual deprogramming*

*B) Demands your will be captured by the cult*

*C) Concentrated reprogramming*

# I. RED FLAGS IN QUESTIONABLE MINISTRIES

*A) Questionable ministries substitute human tradition for divine revelation.*

***Matt. 15:2** Why do your disciples break the tradition of the elders? They don't wash their hands before they eat!"*



***Matt 15:3** "Jesus replied, "And why do you break the command of God for the sake of your tradition?"*

***4** For God said, 'Honor your father and mother' and 'Anyone who curses their father or mother is to be put to death.'*

# I. RED FLAGS IN QUESTIONABLE MINISTRIES

*A) Questionable ministries substitute human tradition for divine revelation.*



***Matt 15:5** But you say that if anyone declares that what might have been used to help their father or mother is 'devoted to God,' **6** they are not to 'honor their father or mother' with it. Thus you nullify the word of God for the sake of your tradition.*

# I. RED FLAGS IN QUESTIONABLE MINISTRIES

*B) Questionable ministries have externals that seem right, but internally they're far from God.*



***Matt 15:7** You hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you:*

***8** " 'These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.*

***9** They worship me in vain; their teachings are merely human rules.' "*

# I. RED FLAGS IN QUESTIONABLE MINISTRIES

*C) Questionable ministries offer teachings that defile and destroy.*



***Matt 15:10*** *Jesus called the crowd to him and said, "Listen and understand.*

***11*** *What goes into someone's mouth does not defile them, but what comes out of their mouth, that is what defiles them."*

# I. RED FLAGS IN QUESTIONABLE MINISTRIES

*D) Questionable ministries are led by the blind.*

***Matt 15:14** Leave them; they are blind guides. If the blind lead the blind, both will fall into a pit."*



## ***The Six Blind Spots of a Cult***

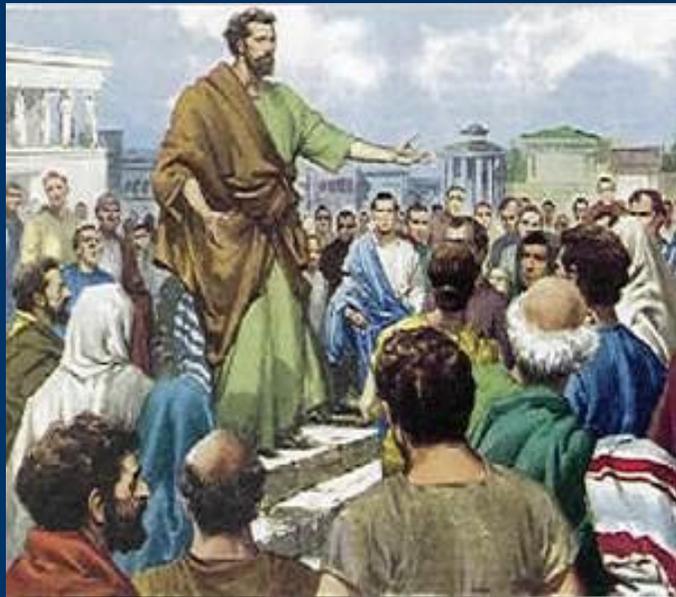
- 1. Authoritarianism***
- 2. Exclusiveness***
- 3. Greed***
- 4. Sensuality***
- 5. Unaccountability***
- 6. Rationalization***

## II. OUR NEED FOR DISCERNMENT BETWEEN TRUTH AND LIE

### A) Concern of a Caring Shepherd

**2 Cor 11:1** *I hope you will put up with me in a little foolishness.*

*Yes, please put up with me! "Spiritual Purity"*

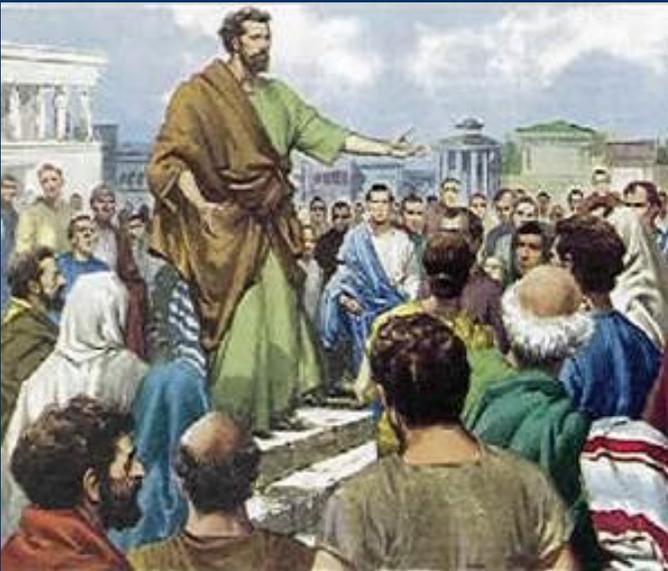


**2 Cor 11:2** *I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy. I promised you to one husband, to Christ, so that I might present you as a pure virgin to him. <sup>3</sup> But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ.*

## II. OUR NEED FOR DISCERNMENT BETWEEN TRUTH AND LIE

### *B) Differences between the Authentic and the Artificial*

#### *1) False teachers proclaim another Jesus and a different gospel.*

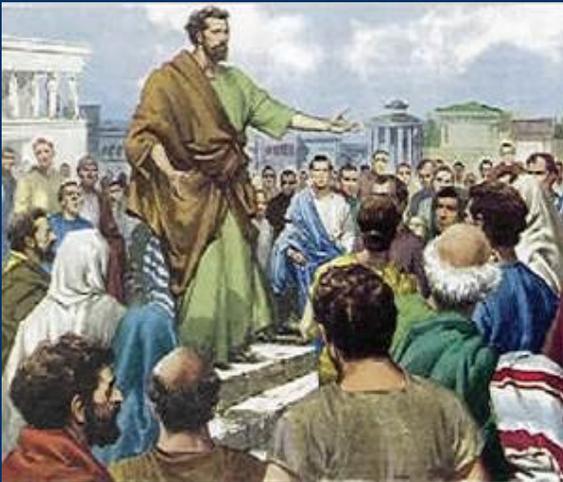


***2 Cor 11:4** For if someone comes to you and preaches a Jesus other than the Jesus we preached, or if you receive a different spirit from the Spirit you received, or a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it easily enough.*

## II. OUR NEED FOR DISCERNMENT BETWEEN TRUTH AND LIE

### *B) Differences between the Authentic and the Artificial*

#### *2) False teachers have a lot of charisma.*



*2 Cor 11:5 I do not think I am in the least inferior to those "super-apostles."*

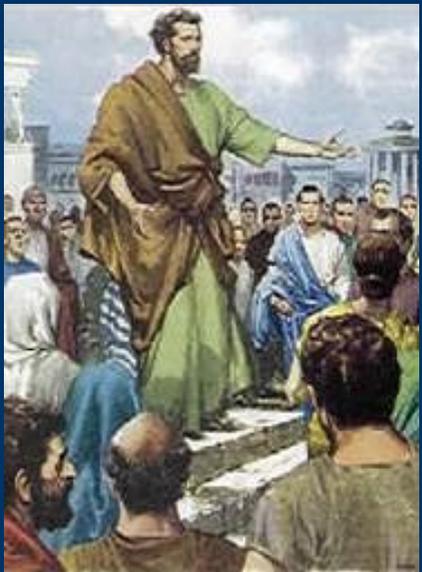
*6 I may indeed be untrained as a speaker, but I do have knowledge. We have made this perfectly clear to you in every way.*

## II. OUR NEED FOR DISCERNMENT BETWEEN TRUTH AND LIE

### *B) Differences between the Authentic and the Artificial*

#### *3) False teachers are greedy.*

*2 Cor 11:7* Was it a sin for me to lower myself in order to elevate you by preaching the gospel of God to you free of charge? **8** I robbed other churches by receiving support from them so as to serve you. **9** And when I was with you and needed something, I was not a burden to anyone, for the brothers who came from Macedonia supplied what I needed. I have kept myself from being a burden to you in any way, and will continue to do so.



## II. OUR NEED FOR DISCERNMENT BETWEEN TRUTH AND LIE

### *B) Differences between the Authentic and the Artificial*

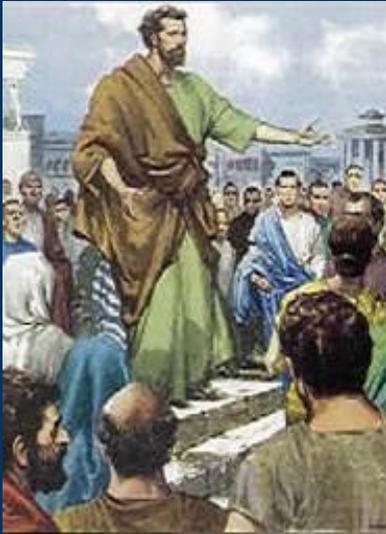
*Paul concludes his personal defense.*



*2 Cor 11:10 As surely as the truth of Christ is in me, nobody in the regions of Achaia will stop this boasting of mine. **11** Why? Because I do not love you? God knows I do! **12** And I will keep on doing what I am doing in order to cut the ground from under those who want an opportunity to be considered equal with us in the things they boast about.*

## II. OUR NEED FOR DISCERNMENT BETWEEN TRUTH AND LIE

### *C) Reason Behind the Lure of False "Ministries"*



**2 Cor 11:13** *For such people are false apostles, deceitful workers, masquerading as apostles of Christ. **14** And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light.*

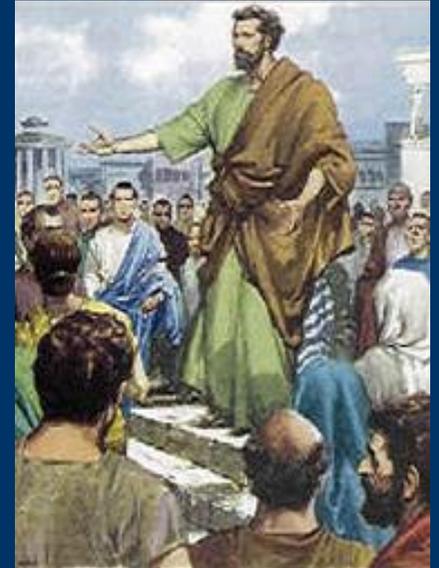
**15** *It is not surprising, then, if his servants also masquerade as servants of righteousness. Their end will be what their actions deserve.*

# CONCLUSION:



Here are two suggestions to help you discern authentic ministries from the artificial.

- A) Probe into the doctrinal statement of the organization.***
- B) Examine the private lives of leadership.***





## CG DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. Have you personally being approached by a cult? What was your experience like when you talk with them?*
- 2. How can we tell the difference between true ministries from a cult?*
- 3. How did tradition and false teaching creep into divine revelation?*
- 4. What are some distinctive marks of a Good Shepherd?*
- 5. How can we discern truth from lie? Why are false teachings so attractive?*



*Scripture References:*

*2 Corinthians 11:1-15*