

WHAT IS A CULT?

There are many factors that can help you determine if an organization is a cult. The purpose of this graph is to help you recognize some of them. The most important thing you need to do is study the Word of God yourself (Acts 17:11). The following are 9 aspects of a cult compared the practices of New Life Ministries International. We are transitioning into a network of house gatherings that reflect the values and structure of the first century. What others may not understand, they will label as a cult. You need to know the facts.

	CULT EXPECTATIONS	NEW LIFE MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL	SCRIPTURES
Loyalty	Cults demand complete loyalty to the group. It is often enforced by actual or veiled threats to one's body or eternal spiritual condition.	We teach that your loyalty must be to Jesus Christ alone. Your salvation is based solely upon your relationship with Him.	Exodus 20:2-5; Deuteronomy 6:5; Matthew 4:10; Mark 12:30
Conformity	Cults often require everyone in the group to dress and act the same. Your spiritual condition is often based on you following a strict set of dress and activity rules.	We teach that you are created as an individual. Your relationship with others in the Body of Christ is based on covenant, not conformity.	Romans 12:5; 1Corinthians 12:27; Ephesians 5:30
Doctrine	Cults usually have complex revelations and expect its followers to accept them without question.	We teach that you must study the Word of God yourself. Ministry gifts help lay spiritual foundations, but ultimately you are responsible for your own spiritual growth.	Acts 17:11; 2Corinthians 2:17; Philippians 2:12; 2Timothy 2:15; 2Timothy 3:16-17; 2Peter 1:20-21
Exclusivity	Cults teach that those who don't accept their teachings are spiritually inferior. Cults are self-righteous, and project a 'we' versus 'they' spirit	We teach that we are part of the Body of Christ. Following our assignment from God does not make us better than anyone else. It only means we are obedient.	Romans 12:4-5; 1Corinthians 12:12; Ephesians 1:10; Ephesians 1:22-23
Finances	Cult members are often made to feel guilty for not pledging most of their money to the group. Funds are often used to benefit the leadership.	We teach that giving is a reflection of one's heart toward the Lord. Believers should give in faith, and never by coercion or threat.	Exodus 35:5; 2Corinthians 8:12; 2Corinthians 9:7
Isolation	Cults often encourage or at times demand separation from family and friends. In extreme situations they demand separation from society.	We teach that we are in this world, but not of it. We teach that we must live holy and walk upright among our friends, family, co-workers, etc.	Matthew 5:16; John 17:15-16; 1Peter 2:12; Jude 1:18-19

