

Forcing Change



Legacy: One Woman's Life

By Carl Teichrib (www.forcingchange.org)

"Let me direct your thoughts along a difficult path. I ask you to think about your life - where you've been - where you're going - and see that nothing is certain. We have no guaranties about tomorrow. There is really only one thing that you and I know for certain, and that is that we die. The ultimate end-destiny of each one of us is death.

If death is so certain, then how are we living? Should not our life be all about learning how to die? Should we not live in such a way that we may die and bring God glory? Life, or rather death, demands that you and I look at our priorities, at our relationships, and our faith in Jesus Christ." - J.T.



Index:

Legacy, P. 1

Virtuous, P. 8

Rejoice!, P.10

Martyrs, P.11

Jesus and Cults, P.12



Carl Teichrib,
Editor.

Death has a way of re-focusing the thoughts and priorities of those who are close to it. And yet, as the above quote demonstrates, none of us are removed from its grip. Sobering as those opening lines may be, the message nevertheless strikes at the heart. For myself this quote hits home as the writer was close. She was a life-long mentor and friend; she was my mother, Janet Teichrib.

The summer and fall of 2011 was a trying time for our family, and October has been especially difficult. On October 11, after a short but distressing battle with a lung tumor, my mother passed away with her family by her side.

Why am I telling you this? Because she lived her life in such a way that, even in death, others could benefit from it.

My mother was well-read, and had an interest in world affairs and history. And as you'll see in this article, she was a woman who had experienced difficult personal challenges, including two prior bouts with cancer. She understood the uncertainty of life, and at the same time had her eyes on the bigger picture. This perspective meant she didn't cater to triviality. Reminiscing about and laughing over past adventures were often part of our conversation, but what she craved were frank discussions about the deeper things of Scripture, history, and life.

In reprinting her eulogy in *Forcing Change*, it is hoped that you will be encouraged and challenged.

NOTE: As there are names, places, and circumstances that are unfamiliar to most readers, I have taken the liberty of adding extra detail in order to bring out a fuller picture, and editing to ensure flow. This eulogy was pulled together by family, and excerpts from my mother's journals and written testimonies.

Janet Lorena Teichrib was born in Morden, Manitoba on June 11, 1944 to Bill and Helen Vogt.

She was the first child of five, and from infancy into her teenage years, the Vogt family lived on a pioneer homestead in the Carrot River district of Saskatchewan. Her journals tell of joyful times, hard work and creativity. Here's one example from her pen,

"As a young child with 2 sisters near to me in age, I particularly remember how we loved to play paper dolls. We never had the store bought variety, but used discarded catalogues to cut out not only the dolls, but also their wardrobes and furniture."

In the evenings she would read books like Tom Sawyer and Huck Finn, her mother knitted, and the family playing checkers, all under the glow of an oil lamp, for there was no electricity on their homestead. In fact, until Janet was 14, her family's only transportation - besides a farm tractor - was a



horse-drawn covered cab. Her dad was especially pleased when she could catch a hard thrown fast-ball, and bragged to friends how she could handle the tractor and cultivate so straight. The Vogt family moved to southern Manitoba when she was in her mid-teens, and then re-located to the Ogilvie district of central Manitoba.

On a different note, how she came to know Jesus Christ is unique. The following is from her testimony,

“We seldom attended church and as a youth I had only a very limited knowledge of the Bible. Nevertheless, my aunt asked me to teach her Sunday School class of boys. I consented and began to study the Bible. Later that summer I was asked to teach Vacation Bible School in another community. My partner was quite a bit older than I, and had already completed Bible School. We spent two weeks together and her constant witness, Bible reading and prayer time, and the studying and preparing of lessons for my class of 30, 3-7 year olds, lead me to understand what a great love God had for me.

I read in John 15:13; ‘Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends,’ and in Romans 5:8; ‘But God proves His love toward us, in that, while we were sinners, Christ died for us.’

I accepted this great love of God by confessing my sins and inviting Jesus Christ into my life as my personal Savior and Friend.

Life took on a new meaning and a new direction. One thing seemed very important and that was to continue my education so that I might better serve this Jesus whom I now loved.”

After graduating from high school she attended Teacher’s College and then took a position at the Helston School, and later taught at Riverdale Colony. [Note: Helston was a small farming village in the Central Plains region of Manitoba; today only a few houses are standing. Riverdale is a Hutterite Colony close to the family farm; the people of Riverdale have always been a part of our lives].

It was during her time at Helston when she met, in her words, “this tall, handsome fellow” - Bill Teichrib. Years after they were married, she wrote the following.

“I realize now that the Lord especially had His hand on my life at that time. I have a husband who is all I could ever hope for or dream of. He is patient and kind, a good companion, friend, husband and father.”

But there was testing. Eight months after their wedding, Bill was seriously injured in an airplane crash at the Teichrib farm – an accident that took the life of his younger brother, Harvey. Her first year of marriage was difficult in other ways. Because Bill was helping to keep his mother’s farm operational, they moved into her house for one year. This was no picnic: It was small farm dwelling, and the fact that some of Bill’s younger siblings were still living at home made for tight quarters and little real privacy. In

1967, Bill and Janet purchased a half section on the north side of the Whitemud River and began the laborious task of establishing their life-long home.

In 1968 her first son was born, Carl. Three years later Mark entered the picture, followed by her daughter. Janet writes; “We named her Angela and she turned out to be an angel in my life.”

However, while at the hospital she had a routine chest x-ray. Two weeks after the birth of Angela, she was in Winnipeg, Manitoba being prepped for extensive surgery. The prognosis was Hodgkin’s Disease. All three young children had to be sent to different family members, while Bill struggled between farm work and frequent trips to Winnipeg - a full 100 miles away. In the first six weeks Janet had two major surgeries; first removing much of her right lung, then the majority of her spleen. Cobalt treatments followed, then round after round of chemo as new tumors were discovered. It was a battle that lasted more than two years.

Although noted for her incredible strength of character, a fact demonstrated repeatedly through her life, this resilience was grounded in God’s many promises. Hebrews 13:5 was an example; “Be content with such things as you have, for He hath said, I will never leave thee or forsake thee.”

Janet writes; “I became assured that if God would require my life, then He would also care for and provide for my family, for He loves them more than I.”

Healed of Hodgkin’s, her life revolved around her husband and children, and the work required in a farm operation. She also began to put her teaching skills to work in a volunteer fashion; she initiated Child Evangelism classes in the elementary school, taught English to an immigrant family from Laos, and instilled in her own children many life skills.

Travel was also important. Bill, Janet, and the children saw much of western Canada and the US. It wasn’t uncommon to pull the kids out of school in advance of summer holidays and hit the road, never lingering in any one spot too long, yet taking each new encounter in stride. After the children were out

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of the house, her and Bill continued to travel – seeing vast swaths of our great land, and visiting 42 states. Along the way they met interesting people, tasted new flavors, and expanded horizons. She relished new experiences, and transferred some of that to her home. In fact, only a few years ago she hosted special theme meals in her house, inviting neighbors and family, and cooking up Louisiana-styled dishes they had tried while on the road in the American deep south. This desire for cross-cultural connections spilled over with trips to Folkloram [a massive cultural festival in Winnipeg], and shopping in the city would often include never-before-tried restaurants or wandering through ethnic markets.

Sometimes these experiences were stretching for Bill and the children, but it instilled a broader world perspective, and the importance of connecting with people regardless of where they came from.

Her family came first, and there were concerns. Farm accidents happened, along with motorcycle wrecks and many other incidents that come with the Teichrib territory. Nevertheless, she was supportive of her family, and was always interested in every adventure – whether it was local or abroad. As she said to her children on different occasions, “You were born an original, don’t die a copy.”

She loved being part of their lives, and took delight in the fact that her relationship to each one was meaningful. She never took those bonds for granted.

An incredible event happened on April Fool’s Day, 1978; the birth of Janet’s fourth child, Bevan Harvey Teichrib.

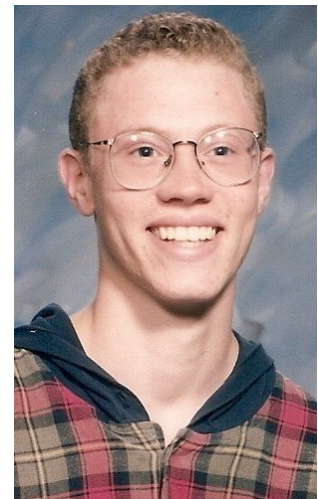
When Janet found out she was expecting, the doctors informed her that because of the massive doses of radiation she had endured with her Hodgkin’s Disease, this “surprise baby” would likely be physically deformed or mentally handicapped. Instead, Bevan was a miracle; healthy and whole. And as he grew up and developed into a young man, his charismatic personality blossomed.

However, his life ended when at the age of 17, less than a mile from the family farm, the truck he was riding in dropped into the Whitemud River.

There are no words to describe the anguish that comes from losing a child; it was a tragedy that rocked the Teichrib family to their core. Yet in the midst of this trial, the hand of God was clearly seen – both in leading Janet and her family through the event, and in what happened afterward.

A person, once deceased, can never be replaced, for we are created as unique individuals. No one can fill Janet’s shoes except Janet, and no one could fill Bevan’s shoes. The blessing came, however, in that as a son was lost, another was “adopted.” Jeff Doerksen, the driver of the truck, was grafted-in as a special son, brother, and uncle – one who walked through the valley with Janet and family, and who became a member of the clan not through DNA, but through bonds that go beyond flesh and blood. And when Jeff married Sharon Doell, she too was brought into the fold as a daughter.

Bevan’s death in 1995 revealed another blessing. His young friends surrounded the family with love and support, forging ties that still exist today. In fact, for a time many of these young people, even though some were already married, would gather at Bill and Janet’s house for a time of remembrance and celebration during the Christmas season. The blessings are still visible, as there are many in this room today [remember, this was read at her funeral] who held Bevan close and loved Janet dearly, and counted her as a true friend.



Bevan Teichrib

Even before Bevan's passing, Janet saw high potential for his generation. And this perspective carried over into her involvement with Youth For Christ. She was a strong advocate for YFC, as she believed it was vitally important to impact young lives right here, in this community, and in the surrounding area.

Janet also esteemed those who were older than her. Pastor Friesen was one example [a long-time pastor of our church], as was her friend, Helen Fehr. June Ferguson, Verna McLaughlin, and Yanni Dethmers also held special places in Janet's heart. [Mrs. Ferguson was a neighbor, Mrs. McLaughlin a community friend, and Mrs. Dethmers was a church friend, who, in her younger years, lived under Nazi rule in occupied Holland].

During the 1980s, Janet entered the work force as a nurse's aid at Third Crossing Manor, a home for senior citizens. This task isn't easy; it requires a strong constitution yet caring attitude. Janet fit this description. Over the years she spent working there, she forged strong ties with the staff. Barb Gabor was her partner, and like Barb, many other staff members became more than co-workers; they became friends, often carrying each other through difficult times. Moreover, Janet had a tight bond with two important ladies, Marlene Fehr and Val Emerson – both of whom enriched her in many ways. Far more community friends could be mentioned.

Immigrant families too played a major role in her life. Janet's heart for immigrants stemmed in part from her experience in 1979 teaching English to Laotian refugees, who were sponsored by our local church during the era of the "boat people." Relating how she first met this couple, Janet explained that when the family was first picked up in the city by church friends, they were escorted to an out-of-town farm house. Someone from church had an empty dwelling on their farm property, and had graciously opened it for them. Of course, this Laotian family had spent their years in a city environment and then in the crowded life of a refugee camp. Now they were thrust into a *very* rural district, where the largest "town" - Gladstone, our home community of 850 people - must have felt like the edge of the earth. But to be dropped off many miles from town was shocking.

When Janet arrived in the morning to introduce herself, she found an exhausted and frightened young couple with tired looking children. It turned out that after being settled in for their first night, the Laotian family were startled when the house and entire yard went black. Frightened and unsure of what was happening, the family huddled in the middle of their dark house and waited the long hours until morning. After hearing how they had been "left in the jungle" - the only comparative reference point they could verbalize - Janet's first lesson was on fuse boxes and the dangers of overloading the electrical system. Then she helped them find a place to live in town.

It was quickly apparent to her how distressing it was for new people to be thrust into this harsh northern environment and the strangeness of our rural Canadian culture. Therefore, after her retirement from Third Crossing she naturally gravitated to those who had recently come from the Philippines, Korea, and Mexico. Janet always viewed these individuals as important members of our society, to be treated with dignity and respect, and whom she could come alongside as a mentor and friend. She loved them all dearly, and truly wanted the best for them in their new country.

As important as friends were to Janet, three other relationships held top priority.

First, her love for Jesus Christ. Through her many trials and celebrations, she acknowledged the grace and mercy extended to her by the hand of God, and she bent her knee in gratitude and awe to her King and Maker, even when life didn't make sense. She also took seriously the words of 2 Timothy 3:16-17,

“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

Janet studiously wrestled through Scripture. She loved theology, and craved deep discussions that probed and plumbed God’s Word. Not surprisingly, she has left behind binders full of organized notes on various Biblical passages and Scriptural themes – in effect, creating her own theological commentary sets. She always saw the bigger picture.

Second, her love for Bill. He was the apple of her eye, and her love for him was evident and strong, year after year. In fact, they were only weeks away from celebrating their 45th anniversary. In one of her testimonies Janet wrote the following,

“I cannot ever remember asking the Lord for specific guidance to my life’s partner, but I had set myself 3 requirements for my future husband. Bill was able to meet all 3 of these guidelines and much more.”

Janet’s notebook doesn’t say what those three requirements were, but it was clear that Bill was her Knight in Shining Armor. This was evident throughout their marriage, and was demonstrated as the months, weeks, days, and hours of her earthly life came to a close.

Third, her love for her children and grandchildren. She was close to them all. Her calm yet resolute spirit comforted and guided them. Janet also brought a measure of class and grace to her daughters and granddaughters, and had an uncanny wisdom about how boys worked and how each of her sons and grandsons’ ticked as individuals. She was a rock in the family, and will remain a legacy for as long as her children live.



The family of Bill and Janet Teichrib.

This photo was taken only weeks before her passing.

In 2004, Janet was diagnosed with breast cancer. The response from the medical community was swift and effective. After the initial surgery she consented to an experimental treatment that included chemo and targeted radiation. Here, like the time of her Hodgkin's, she braced for the fight and bravely battled through this second round of cancer. It wasn't easy. After the treatments her heart was weak, and she worked at bringing life back into her scarred body. However, in hindsight it appears the radiation from her breast cancer may have done something more.

Late this spring Janet developed an abnormal cough. Toward the end of June she was rushed to emergency – her coughing was bringing up blood. And thus began a long, dark road.

When her Hodgkin's and breast cancer happened, the medical community had worked with a sense of urgency. This time everything went wrong, leaving the family with a growing sense of dread and extreme frustration.

Her own physician dismissed the notion of cancer. Instead, she was put on medication for an infection. Weeks later the coughing hadn't stopped, so she was given a second round of anti-biotics. By this time August was rolling along, and during the month she had a chest x-ray. A shadow was visible.

Two weeks later a CT scan was done, and what had started as a shadow was now advanced. Days later she visited the doctor's office to talk about options, and was told she had three weeks, and that there was little hope.

The struggle with the medial community was frustrating. Through it all Janet was hoping for a breakthrough, and promising signs did appear, but by the time a lung specialist in Winnipeg was finally able to see her, she was already poised on the edge of her valley.

This last month was particularly difficult. There was an anxiousness to Janet as she was preparing to take her lung-capacity test, scheduled for October 13, which would hopefully open the way for a biopsy.

At 9:30 on Monday morning, October 10th, Bill took Janet to the emergency room at Neepawa hospital. Even then it was hoped that, with proper rest, she would come out the next day. However, as the

The Virtuous Wife:

Proverbs 31:16-31

“Who can find a virtuous wife?
For her worth is far above rubies.
The heart of her husband safely trusts her;
So he will have no lack of gain.
She does him good and not evil
All the days of her life.
She seeks wool and flax,
And willingly works with her hands.
She is like the merchant ships,
She brings her food from afar.
She also rises while it is yet night,
And provides food for her household,
And a portion for her maidservants.
She considers a field and buys it;
From her profits she plants a vineyard.
She girds herself with strength,
And strengthens her arms.
She perceives that her merchandise is good,
And her lamp does not go out by night.
She stretches out her hands to the distaff,
And her hand holds the spindle.
She extends her hand to the poor,
Yes, she reaches out her hands to the needy.

Continued on page 9

night progressed it was obvious she wouldn't be leaving the hospital. On Tuesday morning, at 8:38, she passed away with her family by her bed.

The race was grueling, but she won the prize. In turn she left a legacy: Strength in Christ Jesus her Savior, strength in family, strength in character.

Note: The closing of her eulogy was a reading of Proverbs 31:16-31.

My mom had pre-arranged which verses would be used in her funeral service. These passages speak volumes.

“For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.”
- Jeremiah 29:11

“Though the fig tree may not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines; Though the labor of the olive may fail, and the fields yield no food; Though the flock may be cut off from the fold, and there be no herd in the stalls - yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation.”
- Habakkuk 3:17-18

“Life, or rather death, demands that you and I look at our priorities, at our relationships, and our faith in Jesus Christ.” - Janet Teichrib.

Continued from page 8.

She is not afraid of snow for her household,
For all her household is clothed with scarlet.
She makes tapestry for herself;
Her clothing is fine linen and purple.
Her husband is known in the gates,
When he sits among the elders of the land.
She makes linen garments and sells them,
And supplies sashes for the merchants.
Strength and honor are her clothing;
She shall rejoice in time to come.
She opens her mouth with wisdom,
And on her tongue is the law of kindness.
She watches over the ways of her household,
And does not eat the bread of idleness.
Her children rise up and call her blessed;
Her husband also, and he praises her:
‘Many daughters have done well,
But you excel them all.’
Charm is deceitful and beauty is passing,
But a woman who fears the LORD, she shall
be praised.
Give her of the fruit of her hands,
And let her own works praise her in the gates.”



Rejoice!

By Janet Teichrib

Note from the Editor: In 1972, my mother, Janet Teichrib, was diagnosed with Hodgkin's Disease. A suggestion was made; start a "joy" book - a scrapbook where you can paste encouraging quotes, Bible passages, uplifting poetry, excerpts from favorite hymns, notes taken during church services, and other literary items that have been a blessing. Her "joy" book is thick, reflecting a constant dependence on God's strength, and thankfulness to be His child. Interspersed in the pages are items of poetry that she penned. "Rejoice" is one such piece. Here is an excerpt.

Rejoice!

There is a Saviour,
A Father in Heaven above,
Who watches over us
And surrounds us with His love.
He takes us in His arms
And tenderly holds us there,
Gently He guides us over the path,
Leading along with special tender care!

Rejoice!

No matter what each day
May bring in trial or upset,
He has a wealth of knowledge,
Every care can be met.
He truly loves each one;
Little insignificant me,
And will fill my spirit
With joy and radiance for all to see

Rejoice!

Not so much that He heals,
But that He found.
I accepted Him more fully,
I heard His invitation sound;
And now He's more important
Than health or life;
Just to serve and obey
His call unto Eternal Life!

Martyrs For Christ

NOTE: Much can be learnt from witnesses of the Gospel who have gone before us. To this end, on occasion I dip my hand in an old but relevant book, *Martyrs Mirror*. Originally penned in Dutch in 1660, then German, and finally into English in the year 1745, *Martyrs Mirror* is a heavy collection of Christian martyrdom accounts from the Early Church until 1660. Some of these entries are rather long, others brief - leaving the reader wondering about the backstories that obviously existed. Over again a theme emerges; that of people of Biblical conviction, bolstered by their faith in Jesus Christ, standing firm in the face of a crushing state/church system. Here are two accounts.

Catharine Burned at the Stake, A.D. 1551

Eight days after the sacrifice of the preceding persons [4 believes who burnt together], a woman name Catharine was also sentenced to fire. While yet in prison, she was greatly tormented by the monks, in order to make her apostatize, but she said: "I stand so firmly to my faith that for it, to the honor of God, I will suffer my self to be burned at the stake. What would you do for your faith? Not much, I think. Hence repent, before you be brought to shame."

Having been sentenced to be burned alive, and on her way to death, she was saluted by a brother. When she arrived on the scaffold, her hands were untied at her request. She then knelt down, and prayed fervently to God for strength, which He also gave her; for when she had arisen, and was tied to the stake, she boldly said: "I am put to death for the truth's sake; whatever you are able to inflict upon me, I am freely ready to suffer."

A seducer then came up, to comfort and strengthen her, as he said, but she replied: "Be still, I am tired of your tormenting; forbear comfort me, and comfort yourself; for He whose name I suffer, shall now be my comfort."

Thereupon, calling with a firm confidence upon God, she was burned alive in the sight of all men, steadfastly offering up soul and body to God, as a burnt sacrifice.

Simon the Shopkeeper, A.D. 1553

About the year 1553 there was at Bergen op Zoom, in Brabant, a shopkeeper, named Simon, who stood in the marketplace, to sell his wares. When the priests passed him with their idol, this Simon did not dar give divine honor to this idol made by human hands (Dan. 3:18), but, according to the testimony of God presented in the holy Scriptures, would worship and serve only the Lord his God. He was therefore apprehended by he maintainers of the Roman antichrist, and examined in the faith, which he freely confessed, rejecting their self-invented infant baptism together with all human commandments, and holding fast only to the testimony of the Word of God; hence he was sentenced to death by the enemies of the truth, and was thus led without the city, and burnt for the testimony of Jesus.

Many of the people present were therefore greatly astonished when they beheld the great boldness and steadfastness of this pious witness of God, who thus through grace obtained the crown of eternal life.

NOTE: Looking at the years 2000 to 2010, one source estimates that 270 Christians were martyred per day during this time period. **FC**

Jesus and the Cults

By Ed Decker (www.saintsalive.com)

Note: Although this article is a few years old, it is still relevant - maybe even more than when first written.

It's not like we aren't to have expected it. Jesus talked about it. The disciples asked questions about it. It's there in the Word for us to read, to study.

"As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately. 'Tell us,' they said, 'when will this happen, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?'"

Jesus answered: **"Watch out that no one deceives you. For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many."**

You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come.

Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of birth pains." (Matt. 24:3-8)

We're certainly seeing that in our day and age. Jesus said in the last days, these things are going to take place. Paul warned us in the fourth chapter of First Timothy, verse one:

"The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons."

Not only are we told that in the last days, people are going to go after the false prophets, but many are going to follow after the doctrine of demons and deceitful spirits.

We are literally seeing an explosion of the world of the occult. In fact, a recent magazine article estimated nearly fifty million Americans are involved in some form of the occult. A recent survey estimated that nearly forty million Americans read their horoscopes, every day, to see what their zodiac sign says they should do that day.

People are involved in the use of tarot cards, palmistry, and numerology. People are going to psychics, to mediums. One of the biggest programs on television is the psychic solution, with Dianne Warwick and other stars promoting psychics and astrology, spiritism, the mediums, the clairvoyants, and playing with the ouija board. People are getting involved in Witchcraft, Satanism and the whole world of the occult.

I want to give you a brief overview of the Jesus of the cults.

There are actually four categories of Cults prevalent today in America. These are:

- 1. Pseudo-Christian Cults**
- 2. Oriental Cults**
- 3. New Age Cults**
- 4. Spiritist Cults or the Occult**

Pseudo-Christian Cults

Over the last 150 years, the classical definition of a Cult has referred to this first category known as the Pseudo-Christian Cults. These are religious organizations or movements who claim to be Christian and claim to believe in the Bible. But, instead of building their theology and teaching on God's Word, the Bible, they claim some "new revelation" or man-made teaching as superior to the Bible. By interpreting the Bible through the grid of their particular revelation or teaching,

these groups end up denying the central doctrines of historic, orthodox, Biblical Christianity. The key perversions of the Cults always relate to the central issues of theology, specifically the Doctrine of God, Jesus Christ, and Salvation.

They are considered Cults because they seek to "counterfeit" Biblical Christianity.

Counterfeits deceive by their outward appearance. Like counterfeit money, the Cults want to look and sound like the genuine thing without having their "bogus" nature detected. This is precisely what deceives so many people when confronted by one of the above groups. The Cults will use Christian "terminology" to sound Christian, but then will redefine the terms to fit their own "man-made" theology. The definition of terms is key to understanding the Cult deception.

The Pseudo-Christian Cults have essentially emptied Biblical Christianity of all of its content theologically, Christ's divinity, His saving grace; replaced the content with a perverted theology of their own making; then sprayed it over with Christian words and terminology to look and sound Christian; and now market it as a new revelation from God. Many people naively buy the outer wrapping, without first examining the content and essence of the package. This can be deadly to your spiritual health and ultimate eternal destiny!

Such organizations are the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, known as the Jehovah's Witnesses, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, known as the Mormons.

There are other groups, such as the Unification Church, Christian Science, The Way International and many other organizations which all claim to be Christian and claim to believe the Bible, but instead of building their teaching from what God has revealed, these organizations are claiming some new revelation, some man made teaching which they say supersedes or is greater than the Bible.

They interpret the Bible through their manmade revelations or teaching, and end up denying the basic doctrines and central beliefs of historic Biblical Christianity. They use the term "Jesus Christ" and then redefine the term to fit their man-made theology. Go down to a Christian Science Reading Room, founded by Mary Baker Eddy, and ask them, "Do you believe in the Trinity?"

They will say, "Of course we do!" But if you ask them, "What is the Trinity?" they will tell you the Trinity is three ethical principles: life, truth and love. You see, they will use Christian words to make you think they are Christian, and then they will redefine those words to their manmade theology.

You can ask a Mormon missionary, "Do you believe in Jesus Christ?" he will say, "Of course. We are wearing a little name tag here that says that we are the Church of Jesus Christ." But if you ask that Mormon who is Jesus Christ, you will learn that they believe that Jesus Christ is the brother of Lucifer, that he is simply one God in a pantheon of Gods. Mormons are polytheists. They believe in millions of Gods and not just one of them. They deny the Virgin Birth and teach he



was born through physical sex between God and Mary.

That's the story with each of the cults. Their Jesus only looks like the real Jesus on the surface. Dig a little and another one of those false christs rises up. In dealing with the cults, you must define your terminology. What do you mean when you talk about God? What do you mean when you talk about Jesus Christ? What do you mean when you talk about salvation?

Oriental Cults

A second category that we now talk about are what are known as the Oriental cults. These are the cults that have their basis in Oriental or Eastern philosophy, specifically Hinduism and Buddhism.

Such things as the Hare Krishna movement, Christian consciousness, The Divine Light Mission, Transcendental meditation, Yoga, Zen, and many others. It is interesting that while all the American cults are going to Asia, the Asian cults are all coming to America.

All the oriental cults basically teach a Hindu pantheism, that we are all part of an impersonal universe which they call God. They say people suffer in life because they think they are personal beings.

In Hinduism and Buddhism they say personal thinking and feeling is all an illusion. They teach that the world is an illusion, and in order to get rid of suffering we must get rid of the physical personal world which is not real. And we must transcend through transcendental meditation or yoga meditation to become part of the impersonal universe which they call God.

We need understand something here. An "impersonal universe" never loved or cared about you. Only a personal creator loves and cares for his creation. The world, at large, is lost to that simple theology. They want the answer to be within their

control, their understanding, within themselves and the false gods they play with like it that way. That brings us to the third category.

The New Age Cults

The New Age cults are sometime referred to as the Human Potential Movement. They combine Eastern philosophy with Western humanism and psychology teaching that man has evolved physically as an animal in the first stage of life. And they say we are standing on the brink of a New Age, what they call the Age of Aquarius, and in this New Age, man will continue his evolution spiritually to achieve his own divine nature.

A good example of this grouping is the Church of Scientology. We have all seen the ads for the book *Dianetics, The Science of the Mind*, by L. Ron Hubbard. Over thirteen million copies have been sold. It is amazing. L Ron Hubbard was a science fiction writer back in the 30s and 40s. In 1954, he started his own church based his science fiction book.

Scientology teaches that the reason why we suffer in life is because you have lost your Godhood through thousands of reincarnations. For a mere ten or twenty thousand dollars, they will help program a person through past reincarnations to get back to the state of Godhood.

Then when you realize that you are God, you are able to worship yourself and you will be at peace. How much does it cost to reach that divine plateau?

This is the oldest lie recorded in the Bible. In the Garden of Eden, the serpent said to Adam and Eve, "Ah, eat of the fruit. You can be-come God yourselves." Isn't it interesting that Satan hasn't changed? He's still promoting that same old lie that he dresses up in new terms, but it is pawned off as new revelation.

It's the cry of the cults from Scientology to Mormonism. "You can become God yourself!"

It's the ultimate lie, the ultimate sin, man wanting to become God himself. It's still going on.

But, because people do not find what they are looking for in their own in their own divinity, many of them have gone into a fourth category known as the Occult, or the Spiritist Cults.

The Spiritist Cults or the Occult

This category of cult spans the whole universe of darkness - everything from astrology to tarot cards, palmistry, numerology, people involved in witchcraft and Satanism, going to seances, meeting with clairvoyants, channelers, etc.

Paul warned us that in the last days before Christ returns at His second coming, we will see the rise of such evil.

"The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons." (1 Tim. 4:1)

They bring with them a new Ba'alism, with the pursuit of pleasure as the location of the sacred. There develops a sacramental character of sexuality and drugs within their ranks. Their goal is the removal of all "hang-ups" and moral restraints; a totally free society; the attainment of "peak experiences". Their salvation is through self-gratification and their central idol is the "Pleasure Principle," achieved through sensual pleasure and self-gratification.

Every one of these groups has its own idol[s] of one sort or another. What's on top of the Mormon Temple in Salt Lake City? It's not a cross. At the highest pinnacle there is Moroni, the angel of light, who told Joseph Smith that all the teachings of Christianity are an abomination, and that he could become God himself.

Mormonism is not of Jesus Christ. It's from the pit of hell, dressed up to look like Christianity, palmed off as a new revelation, bringing another Jesus and another gospel and another spirit, counterfeits, false apostles disguising themselves to look like Christians.

It's fascinating how many cults began by somebody getting a revelation from an angel of light. Read the history of Islam. One billion people today are following Islam because a man named Mohammed claimed to have received revelations from an angel of light, who told him Jesus Christ was not God, Jesus Christ did not die on a cross for man's sins, and that man can save himself by

keeping the law of Mohammed. An angel of light... I could go on and on.



The Jesus of the cults

There is literally a smorgasbord of Jesus Christs being served up to the public. Who is the Jesus of the cults? Let us give you just a brief idea. Jesus said, in the last days there's going to come many false christs. Paul warned of it. We've got them by the hundreds today!... by the millions if you believe Shirley McLaine's pronouncement that we are all "Jesus Christs."

Who is the Jesus of Jehovah's Witnesses? They say He is the archangel, Michael, and that He was the first creation of God, came to earth as a man, died on a stake and rose invisibly as a ghost.

The Mormons say that Jesus was simply one God in a pantheon of Gods, He's the brother of Satan, that the cross and blood of Christ is foolishness. He points the way, but we ourselves are our own 'way.'

Mary Baker Eddy taught in Christian Science that Jesus was a divine idea, a nice idea.

Sun Myung Moon, in the Unification Church, says that Jesus was a man who failed, and that he, Sun Myung Moon is the second coming of Jesus Christ.

The Bahais say that Jesus is one of nine great world manifestations. They say it does not matter what religion you believe, that all religions are basically the same.

The Unitarians say that Jesus was a good man but his followers mistakenly deified him.

Spiritists say that Jesus is an advanced medium in the sixth sphere in the astrological projection, wherever that is.

The Rosacrucians say that Jesus is the man at the station of cosmic consciousness.

Maharishi and Transcendent Meditation says Jesus was an enlightened guru who never suffered or died for anyone.

And the list goes on and on.

You need to understand that the Jesus of the cults is not the Jesus of the Bible. They have another Jesus, a counterfeit, a false Christ who can save no one. And the greatest question still before us is "what think ye of Jesus Christ? Who is He?"

Who is the real Jesus Christ?

That's the ultimate question.

"Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world."

This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the anti-christ, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world." (1 John 4:1-3)

John says to test these people. Do they confess that Jesus Christ is God come in the flesh? If they deny that, he says, then that they are of the anti-christ. Now there are many cults that believe that their particular Jesus was actually in the flesh. But John had already recorded for us in his gospel who this unique one is that has come in the flesh and is from God.

The other scripture is in the Book of John. John starts his gospel so there would be no mistake. God took on human flesh, God incarnate.

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth." (John 1:1, 14)

The cults have another gospel, able to enslave you into a man made system trying to earn and work for your salvation apart from Jesus Christ. But Jesus Christ *is* **"...the way, the truth and the light. No one comes to the Father but by him.** (John 14:6)

Acts 4:12 says: **"there is no other name given among men whereby we must be saved but that of Jesus Christ."**

Salvation is not a man made system or organization, but that it is a gift of God. It was bought and paid for by the eternal Lamb of God, Jesus Christ, who was the infinite sacrifice, who shed His blood on the cross, for an infinite amount of sins, that we could come by faith and receive that free gift of salvation. That's why they call it "good news." It is the true power of God Himself in each and every one of us. *FC*

Forcing Change

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