

## 1 **Schism's, Ism's and Cults**

A Study of Various Divisions within Christianity

Jonathan Wheatley

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## 2 **Course Outline**

1. Purpose of this Study
2. Scope
3. Approach
4. Definitions
5. Bibliography

## 3 **Schism's, Ism's & Cults**

1. Purpose

The purpose of this study is to determine where these various groups have their foundation or supposition, examine their proof texts, and who the Principle Leaders are.

## 4 **Schism's, Ism's & Cults**

2. Scope

The scope of this study are the various groups that have arisen since the beginning of the earthly ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the present day.

Out of Scope

- Excluded from this study are those non-Judean teachings that were around before The Lord Jesus Christ's earthly ministry.
- Where there is a connection, it will be highlighted during that particular lesson.

## 5 **Schism's, Ism's & Cults**

3. Approach

- We shall start at "The Beginning" and layout these false teachings from the earliest to the latest on a Historical Timeline
- We shall also show the common themes that arise in the historical context in which many of them were born.
- We shall expose the fallacy of the teachings in light of the Word of God, rightly divided (2 Tim.2:15).
- We shall differentiate between those that are differences of opinion, vs. the dangerous Cults that have deceived so many.

## 6 **4. Definitions – a. Schism**

a. Schism /O'sɪz(ə)m, 0'skɪz(ə)m/ noun. Orig. †scisme. LME. [ORIGIN Old French s(c)isme (mod. schisme) from Ecclesiastical Latin schisma from Greek skhisma rent, cleft, (in the New Testament) division in the Church, from base of skhizein cleave, split. Cf. schisma.]

1. Ecclesiastical. ▶ a A division, esp. a formal split within or the secession of a group from, the Church; the division of (part of) a Church into mutually opposed organizations; the state of or an instance of such division, esp. as caused by a dispute over discipline, the validity of an episcopal or papal election, etc. LME. ▶ b The offence of causing or promoting (a) schismatic division in a Church, esp. the Established Church; the state of belonging to a schismatic body. LME. ▶ c A sect or body formed by division within or secession from the Church; a body maintaining an ecclesiastical organization independent of that of the Catholic Church. arch. E16.

2. General. Formerly, any state of dissension or mutual hostility. Now, any division of a previously united body of people into mutually opposing parties; (arch.) a party or faction formed as a result of such a division; any split or breach between people or things. LME.

#### 7 ☐ 4. Definitions – b. Ism

b. Ism /0'ɪz(ə)m/ noun. Chiefly derog. L17. [ORIGIN -ism used generically. Cf. wasm.] A form of doctrine, theory, or practice having, or claiming to have, a distinctive character or relationship. Suffix -ism (c) (adherence to) a system of theory, belief, or practice (religious, philosophical, political, scientific, etc.), as atheism, Buddhism, Darwinism, feminism, hedonism, Marxism, socialism, Wesleyism;

#### 8 ☐ 4. Definitions – c. Cult

c. Cult /0kʌlt/ noun & adjective. E17. [ORIGIN French culte or its source Latin cultus worship, from colere inhabit, cultivate, protect, honour with worship.]

► A noun. †1 Worship; reverential homage rendered to a divine being. Only in 17.

2 A system of religious worship, esp. as expressed in ceremonies, ritual, etc. L17.

example = K. Clark *The cult of the Virgin*. G. Vidal *Like a priest of a pagan cult he began to perform the ritual of arranging plates*.

3 Devotion or homage paid to a person or thing; esp. a fashionable enthusiasm;

derog. a transient fad of an in-group. E18.

example = M. Girouard *The cult of aestheticism was brought to England...by Swinburne and Walter Pater*.

► B attrib. or as adjective. That is the object of a cult; involving or involved in a cult; cultic. E20.

Martin: "Any religious group which differs significantly in some one or more respects as to belief or practice, from those religious groups which are regarded as the normative expressions in our total culture". (preface, xii). "A cult may also be defined as a group of people gathered around a specific person or person's interpretation of the Bible". p.11. *The Kingdom of the Cults*. 1982.

#### 9 ☐ 5. Bibliography

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#### 10 ☐ What Saith the Scripture?

- Matt. 7:15 Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.
- 2 Cor.11:13 For such *are* false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. 14 And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. 15 Therefore *it is* no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.
- 2 Tim. 2:19 Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.