

"... Hereby know we the spirit of truth and the spirit of error"

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2. THE OPPORTUNITIES IN COMBATTING
THE CULTS
5. DEADLY RELIGION
7. A QUICK LOOK AT
SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS
10. CATHOLICISM—ITS CONFUSION
AND CONSTANCY
12. HOME ENVIRONMENT CREATES
HOMOSEXUALS
14. SEPARATION FROM FALSE DOCTRINE
16. PERTINENT QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

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NEW OPPORTUNITIES IN COMBATting THE CULTS

Prof. John E. Dahlin, Editor

Until quite recently church people in general have maintained a passive attitude towards the cults. In fact, often cultic representatives have been invited to share the positions which they hold. Such arrangements are made in order to gain information on the cults first hand. But in so doing the spurious groups have been given a status which they do not deserve. From time to time one hears it stated that those who belong to these off-center groups are headed toward the same goals as the rest of us. It is believed, by many, that the cults differ only in that they do not follow precisely the way others do who are within the mainstream, or in the historically recognized denominations. And, I have also heard people say in my presence, that which Armstrong teaches makes a lot of sense. Still others have pointed out to me that the Mormons are fine people and are motivated by high principles. Even if this should be true, it would not justify their position on salvation and other Biblical doctrines which they hold erroneously. To continue, often those who identified with are the Transcendental Meditation group have been refer-

red to as people who hold forth something which others might well emulate. I could proceed further on this line of discussion, but the illustrations cited will suffice.

All of this has changed during the past year. The confidence among millions in the cults has been shaken through the recent tragic developments within several of the well known groups.

How This Awakening Has Taken Place

One of the major developments has been the horrors of Jonestown in Guyana, a recent tragedy for which Jim Jones was responsible. Over 900 people died, and actually the whole colony was wiped out. Incredible as it may seem now, yet in recent years leaders of the city government of San Francisco had honored Rev. Jones and sought his help. At that time his central work was concentrated in that city. Even national politicians spoke favorably about his work, and they were anxious to have him on their side. In other words, he was looked upon as one who sought to help the down-trodden and under-privileged. With the frightful story of Jonestown, the American public

has been shocked. People have not heard anything comparable since the days of Adolph Hitler during which time the gas chambers brought death to millions of people. Almost over night numerous people have been convinced that extremists are dangerous and detrimental by the techniques they use in brain-washing their followers.

Many also have changed their attitude toward cultic groups since the recent break-up of the Armstrong system. Last year Herbert W. Armstrong separated his son, Garner Ted, from the Worldwide Church of God. He was dismissed from all the positions which he had held for many years. In fact, he was the key man in all that which is called Armstrongism. In addition to this, a number of the leaders within that system became disenchanting and they severed their relationship with Herbert W. Armstrong. They have since organized a program of their own separate from the parent body. Others among the former leaders have brought forth accusations against the principal leaders of the Armstrong system regarding extravagant living and practices. These developments have cast a dark cloud over the entire Armstrong system such as it has not experienced in its 45-year history. Much of their vast holdings have been sold and it is a question whether a total collapse will be the end results. Thinking people have seen this and it will help all who have opposed Armstrongism through the years.

Moreover, the cultic activity of

the Korean, Sun Myung Moon, has come under Congressional investigation last year by a committee headed by the recent Congressman, Donald Fraser. This development has placed the Korean leader in a very unfavorable light. Certain writers have made charges that many young people have been brain-washed by the cult, which is generally known as The Worldwide Unification Church. The publicity through the news media has opened the eyes of many who, until recently, were inclined to believe that Sun Myung Moon was on the right track.

Other cults have received unfavorable publicity in the newspapers and magazines as, e.g., The Transcendental Meditation and the Scientology organizations. They have come under scrutiny, and uncomplimentary statements regarding their tactics have appeared in the press and on the television. Scientology has been under investigation by the federal government for some time. The Scientology organization has designated these developments as persecution and harassment. Quite recently the Transcendental Meditation Movement has been given the status of a religious body by a higher court. The organization had sought approval of its teaching in many state legislatures by posing as a non-religious movement. This cannot continue since the court has held consistently to the constitutional separation of church and state. Both of these organizations have accused the governmental agencies of unwar-

ranted interference. The fact is these developments have caused an unfavorable public reaction against the extreme cults.

Even the Mormons have not escaped some unfavorable publicity, particularly since the President of the Mormon Church declared that he had received a special revelation that Negroes (males) may now qualify for the priesthood. This has been denied them in Mormon history. Many have felt, however, that this special revelation (so-considered) was made mainly for the sake of expedience rather than for any other reason. The cult has been under much pressure to abandon the discrimination of races. Doubtlessly this was the reason for the new policy.

How The Present Situation Provides A New Opportunity

In the preceding paragraphs I have given the necessary background for the changed public attitude with regard to the cults. Taken together these developments have cast a shadow over the groups mentioned. Recently certain members of Congress have demanded an investigation of the extremists among the religious cults. Likely this will not take place because of our historic position of freedom of religion, and the separation of church and state. These proposals demonstrate, nevertheless, a present restlessness, and even anxiety by many public leaders and others, concerning the activities of certain cults. In adding to that, we might point out many of the

followers of the cults have become disenchanting by the reckless activities of certain cultists. This changed public attitude has opened the door of opportunity for Bible-believing people to minister to the people through the presentation of the Gospel of Christ. As I already have mentioned, cults are definitely discredited, and many people are now willing to listen to those who hold forth the Scriptural truth. It is now time for God's people to enter in through the open door. We read, "Behold I have set before thee an open door and no man can shut it" (Rev. 3:8). In addition to these words of Christ, the apostle Paul writes, "A door was opened unto me of the Lord" (2 Cor. 2:12). The application may well be to us in our day.

How We May Lay Hold Of This Opportunity

First of all, we need to emphasize that which the Bible teaches, and Bible doctrine in particular. It should be given the priority in the ministry as well as in Christian education. Too often doctrine has been passed over lightly. One of America's largest denominations boasts that it is not doctrinaire. Even some evangelicals have failed in doctrinal preaching and teaching. It is now time to enter the arena by pointing out how the Biblical truth differs from the rationalistic tactics used by the cultists.

In addition, courses on the various cults ought to be taught in every church and Christian institution. I have had more requests recently for series of messages on

the cults than during any previous period. And, at my meetings held more copies of our magazine, *The Discerner*, have been picked up (which deals with cultic activities) than during any past years. Telephone calls come to our office regularly, and to me personally more often now than during the 24 years that I have been the director of Religion Analysis Service. This is indicative that people want information and they are ready to listen to informed Bible-believing people. Indeed, we have an open door

to teach the Word of God.

Finally, the emphasis should be on a continuous distribution of literature which enlightens people. It is a MUST confronting us, and an open door in helping people. Some come even after our office hours by appointment because their need is so urgent. Will you join us in the distribution of sound literature? What I have pointed out in this article is that we have an open door, and a very special opportunity in giving people spiritual direction these days.

DEADLY RELIGION

By Dr. David Breeze, Editor
Destiny Bulletin, Christian Destiny, Inc., Wheaton, Illinois

Slowly they came to that last, fatal communion service.

Some faces were bright with ecstasy and others were contorted with unspeakable fear, but still they came. One by one, they partook of the elements of that last communion, the "potion" as the Rev. Jim Jones called it. They were led out to the place where they were to die and with one last spasm of agony, it was all over. 913 pathetic religious slaves died in that jungle commune in Guyana. That cult, commune, murder-suicide scene in the rain forests of Guyana is so unspeakable that even now the press and the religious world do not know what to make of it. A thousand questions have been asked, centered around what happened and why.

The continuing investigation is also astonishing. The Jonestown commune in Guyana originated at

The People's Temple in San Francisco, California. Here faith healer, socialist, political activist, communist Jim Jones conducted his religious activities among thousands who gathered to listen to this charismatic personality. He preached to them his utopian doctrine of the possibility of that church, the kingdom of God, becoming a perfect society. He painted a picture of a heaven on earth, ringed by the darkness of the world. Within that darkness, however, he conducted his political activities, bringing letters of congratulation from Rosalynn Carter, Walter Mondale, the mayor of San Francisco and other political luminaries. Many agreed that one could not be elected to political office in San Francisco without the backing of Jim Jones, as well as the homosexuals, of course.

As the pressures increased in San Francisco, Jones led his followers to the weakly governed, primitive former British colony in South America, Guyana. There he kept his followers in virtual slavery, and there he finally led them to the deadly communion service of November 18. 913 of them died.

Authorities now report the existence of a "hit list" in which other public personalities were named for execution by the gunmen of The People's Temple. Former President Richard Nixon and others have been warned that their lives may now be in danger from the fanatics of The People's Temple cult. How easy it would be for them to see themselves as avengers of the death of their leader upon the society which rejected them. What could have happened to produce such weird and astonishing ideas in the lives of people in the name of religion?

The answer is that The People's Temple is a cult. Its leader moved through the years of his ministry into a progressively cultic posture and finally announced that he himself was Jesus Christ. He even moved to the claim that he was God himself. Presumptuous messianic leadership is one of the marks of a cult. Jones also believed in extra-biblical revelation, which is the first, grim characteristic of a false religion. He also believed in the possibility of creating a perfect society in this world. We move from Christian to cultic when we attempt to make visible what God has made invisible. Jonestown, Guyana was to be the kingdom of heaven on earth, a

communistic, communal society in which everyone would be perfectly happy.

The horrible fruit of The People's Temple cult is a classic illustration of the fact that false doctrine can be fatal. Doctrines that are false, when we but speak of them and sing about them, are merely silly. When we attempt to practice them, that is when somebody dies. Only heaven knows how many cemeteries down through the history of religion have been custodians of the bodies of those who pursued a religious delusion to its ultimate conclusion. Many thousands in our time have been brought to an early grave simply because they believed the wrong thing and followed an attractive but deadly leader.

Investigating these things, the press has now announced that there are more than 1,300 cults in America with about twenty million people as members. This estimate is conservative, but it points up a religious phenomenon that even now is holding millions of people hostage to a false faith that could be fatal. Religion becomes deadly when it moves from Christian to cultic.

The final, fatal potion that was administered at Jonestown is certainly an ironic paradigm of false religion—Kool-Aid laced with cyanide. The preaching that is heard in many cultic communes and from behind many pulpits is the sweet, saccharine, soothing message that a hopeful heart wants to hear. "Follow me and you will be fulfilled, happy, prosperous. Your body will be healed,

your problems will be solved, you'll never be lonely again." These sweet promises are presented almost everywhere. "Each day will be like heaven if you will come and follow me," the false messiah says. This is the Kool-Aid.

Then comes the cyanide. The poison of the cults is that they present another gospel, another christ, another way of salvation. The difference from true Christianity is often very subtle in the beginning. Emboldened by the ecstasy of their followers, the cult leaders then insinuate themselves into the position of being the imperative guru that the seeker needs in order to be fulfilled. They take the place of Jesus Christ and establish a program of discipleship where they stand at the center, becoming the fountainhead of reality to those who follow. The promise of heaven, beguiling at first, now becomes a living hell. The Guyana commune was a grisly round of sexual exploitation, organizational enslavement, financial bondage, disillusionment, guilt and despair. The way that "seemed right" to so many people ended up to be a way of death. The story of Guyana is the story of false doctrine taken seriously. This mix of communism, faith healing, utopian promises—this mixture of Kool-Aid and cyanide—left 913 bodies rotting in the jungles of Guyana. I

have been to Guyana and, believe me, it's the wrong place to die.

The Guyana tragedy will focus attention upon the world of religion as never before. The public press has already declared its intention to investigate the cults, the whole religious world. The government, triggered by the death of Rep. Leo Ryan, will be investigating religious practices with new, understandable concern. Questions of doctrine, purpose, finances, membership will be raised as never before. Already everyone is asking, "What is a cult?" "What is the difference between a cult and a denomination?" "Is it possible to move from Christian to cultic?" "What can be done about the cults today?" These and other questions press upon every evangelical Christian a remarkable responsibility and opportunity. We will be called upon as never before to explain the truth of the gospel and point up the difference between evangelical faith and cultic religion.

Do you know the difference? Would you be ready to instantly present an understandable message on the true and the false in the realm of religion? More than ever, each Christian will now be called upon to give a reason for the faith that is in him. We all need to be prepared for that call.

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A QUICK LOOK AT SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

*By Rev. R. Allan Street, Evangelist and Bible Teacher
Finksburg, Maryland*

The beginning of the Seventh Day Adventist movement can be traced to the mid 1800's. At that time a great interest was raging over the doctrine of the second coming of Christ. The main reason for the interest was that a Baptist minister from New York by the name of William Miller was predicting the return of Jesus Christ to occur on March 21, 1843. He came to this conclusion as a result of his personal study into the books of Daniel and the Revelation. His arguments seemed so theologically sound and his public lectures so convincing that many Christians embraced his theory, including numerous pastors from various denominations.

When Christ failed to return as predicted, Miller rechecked his calculations, and determined that he had made a mathematical mistake. He reset the date of Christ's return for one year later—March 21, 1844. After Christ failed to return the second time, Miller made a final prediction: October 22, 1844. Needless to say, Christ did not return as Miller predicted. Thousands of expectant Millerites became totally disillusioned, and the Adventist movement—as it had become known—lost its impetus. Miller publicly confessed that he had grievously sinned against God by attempting to set a date for the Lord's return, a practice strictly forbidden by Scripture. He openly repented of his misdeeds and soon

dropped out of sight. There were, however, a small remnant of Millerites who never gave up hope of Christ's soon return.

The following year this remnant banded together to discuss Miller's prophecies. They concluded that Miller's second date was correct, but his interpretation of what was supposed to have happened on that date was wrong. They said that in 1844 Christ was not to return to earth, as Miller had mistakingly thought, but was supposed to leave His position next to the Heavenly Father and enter into a part of Heaven known as the Holy of Holies, and begin a work called the "Investigative Judgment." Among those who held to this theory were Hiram Edson, who formulated this explanation, James White, who became the leader of the remnant, and Ellen Harmon, who later married White and became the prophetess of the movement. Along with the "Investigative Judgment" theory the group borrowed from the Seventh Day Baptist Church the practice of Saturday Sabbath keeping. In 1860, they met and officially adopted the name Seventh Day Adventists.

The Adventists have enjoyed rapid growth. Presently there are nearly 3,000,000 members scattered worldwide in 192 countries. The cult has its own educational system consisting of grades kindergarten through graduate school, operates scores of

hospitals and sanitariums, and owns 51 publishing houses. Headquarters for the movement is located in Washington, D.C.

Doctrinal Deviations

Briefly let's examine some of the more bizarre of the Seventh Day Adventist doctrines.

First of all, the cult believes that Ellen White was endowed with a special gift of prophecy. While they do not place her prophetic utterances or visions on par with the Bible, they do interpret the Scriptures in light of her prophecies. Thus, the Adventists claim to have the only correct interpretation of Scripture.

Second, the Seventh Day Adventist Church considers itself a fulfillment of Bible prophecy, and claims to be God's only true remnant Church during these "last days" of earth's history.

Third, the Adventists believe that Jesus had a fallen nature similar to Adam's *after the fall* in the Garden of Eden. True evangelicals believe that Jesus had a human nature like Adam's *BEFORE* the fall, perfect in every way.

Fourth, the cult believes that Jesus is now in the process of conducting the "Investigative Judgment" in the heavenly sanctuary. Simply stated, this means that He is "reviewing" the lives of all who were ever born again to see if they have lived according to the standards of God's Law. If they have not, and die with these unforgiven sins placed against their account, then Christ blots their names out of the Book of Life.

Therefore, it is imperative that once an individual is saved he live a holy life.

Such a doctrine is a complete repudiation of Biblical grace. The Scriptures are clear that keeping the Law saves no one; neither will it keep anyone saved. We are saved by grace and kept by grace. Romans 3:28 says, "Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the Law." In John 5:24 Jesus says, "Verily, Verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on Him that sent me, HATH EVERLASTING LIFE, and SHALL NOT COME INTO CONDEMNATION but is passed from death unto life." Jesus is not going to remove a person's salvation because he cannot keep every point of the Law. If that were the case, no one would be saved. Our salvation is not dependent on anything we do, but totally on what Christ did FOR US 2,000 years ago on the Cross. The "Investigative Judgment" removes Christ's atoning death as the sole means of redemption. This is heresy.

Fifth, the Adventists keep Saturday as the Sabbath, and say that anyone living in the end times who does not will receive the "mark of the beast." I believe the Apostle Paul had a word for our Adventist friends:

"But now after ye have known God . . . how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto YE DESIRE AGAIN TO BE IN BONDAGE? Ye OBSERVE DAYS, and months, and times and years." (Galatians

Mandatory Sabbath observance is classified as a "bondage." We have been freed from the Law. Jesus is our sabbath; He is our rest.

"Let NO MAN therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of a holy day, or of a new moon, or of the SABBATH DAY" (Colossians 2:16).

Sixth, the Seventh Day Adventists, as a result of Mrs. White's prophecies, forbid their membership to eat certain meats. They strictly follow the Old Testament dietary laws. But what saith the Scriptures?

"Now the Spirit speaketh expressly that in latter days some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and DOCTRINE OF DEMONS. Forbidding to marry and commanding to abstain from meats . . ." (I Timothy 4:1-3).

Voluntary vegetarianism is one thing. Mandatory abstention is quite another story. The Scriptures call it a "doctrine of demons."

Besides these deviations from the orthodox faith, the Seventh Day Adventist Church rejects the immortality of the soul and the doctrine of an eternal Hell. The cult believes that upon death, the soul sleeps until Judgment Day when it will be resurrected with the body to stand before Christ. Those who have been born again and have lived according to the Law will receive eternal life. Those who were without Christ will be annihilated, never to exist again.

Pray for your Adventist friends, that God's grace will be made real to them and that they will be delivered from their bondage.

CATHOLICISM—ITS CONFUSION AND CONSTANCY

*By Rev. Bill Jackson
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Was the pope thinking clearly when he abolished saints that had been household names for years?

Are liberal Catholic theologians, who write catechisms that, according to conservatives, are heretical, really Protestants in disguise?

Was Paul VI a distraught old man, trying to walk a tight-rope between harsh conservatism and radical liberalism in the Roman Catholic Church today?

Is the Catholic Church falling apart at the seams—or is it about

to cash in on the greatest investment that was ever made?

In order to face the responsibilities of this ecumenical age, we must have a clear answer to these questions.

We can start by reviewing the development of the Roman Catholic Church, and herein we see a calculated plan moving ever toward world religious supremacy. The control which this system continues to develop over men has manifested itself in a variety of ways, and therefore has escaped

detection as the essence of the genius behind Roman Catholicism.

Over the centuries, there has been control by conquest, control by doctrinal dogmatism, control by intrigue and control by compromise. Rome has always been very adaptable, and although the means differ from country to country and from century to century, we can clearly see the emergence of an ecclesiastical giant determined to control and rule the religious world.

This development can be traced to early post-Apostolic days. The creation of an institutional church, largely the work of early church councils, was the first step. Although historians have congratulated these councils for defeating heresy, the Scriptural means of fighting heresy was not through church organization, it was by the preaching of and obedience to the Word of God.

The next step was the supremacy of the papacy in this institution. Gregory I, generally regarded as the first pope, established papal control in Italy, Spain and England. During the subsequent centuries, the aim of the papacy was to rule over Europe's kings. Aided by unsettled political affairs, papal control in Europe reached a highwater mark during the reigns of two powerful popes—Gregory VII (Hildebrand) and Innocent III. Just after this peak of papal power, Boniface VIII issued his famous bull, *Unam Sanctam*, which, in addition to proclaiming papal superiority over the State, dogmatically stated: "We declare, say, determine and pronounce that

for every human creature it is necessary for salvation to be subject to the authority of the Roman Pontiff."

Control by force was the keynote of the conquests of Charlemagne, and was again demonstrated in the Spanish march into South America.

While Rome's popes were grinding the kings of Europe under their heels, a doctrinal system of control was in the making. This has been more lasting than political dominion. Notwithstanding, modern, more lenient emphases, it is still the most important means of control in the Catholic Church.

This doctrinal system of control centered around the teaching of Thomas Aquinas, the greatest Catholic theologian. He taught that, outside of the seven sacraments, there was no salvation. It was only a few steps from there to Trent, with its absolute dogmatism and stern anathemas.

Modern Romanism has attempted to convince us that Trent was only a bad dream, and that the Catholic Church is not that harsh. However, Pope John XXIII, in opening the Vatican II Council, proclaimed his acceptance of the teachings of the Council of Trent, and none of the Vatican II documents, promulgated by Paul VI, have altered basic Tridentine dogma.

Roman Catholic strategy is more subtle today. Reforms along the fringes of dogma have attracted millions of non-Catholics. In order to lure Protestants, Rome had made changes which make her foundations appear shaky.

However, the liberal Roman Catholic theologians are now speaking because the pope has no power to stop them; saints are not being thrown out of the window because Rome is carelessly ignoring the danger. Roman Catholicism is taking a calculated risk—and is gambling for the highest stakes possible—ecclesiastic control over earth's multitudes of people.

The risk is that, with foundations shaking, individual Catholics will leave their Church. This is happening, but Rome expects to hold it to a minimum because of two important factors: (1) evangelicals, lured by the sweet song of brotherhood and fooled by peripheral changes in Romanism, will have any urge for evangelism dashed on the rocks of ecumenism and (2) that even

shaky foundations will not destroy the ingrained attachment of Roman Catholics to Holy Mother Church and the Blessed Virgin Mary.

The Credo of Paul VI, published after Vatican II, proves that official Roman Catholic doctrine has never changed. When the ecumenists are all in the fold, and the confusion of Catholic liberalism cleared away, Roman Catholicism will still have maintained their basic doctrinal position based on sacramental salvation. Then, with separated brethren re-united, Satanic religious control over earth's unraptured billions will be realized at last, in one great super-church, ecclesiastical anti-Christ.

HOME ENVIRONMENT CREATES HOMOSEXUALS

By James E. Goering

Homosexuality is one of the greatest social problems facing America today. We appreciate Anita Bryant taking such an important stand regarding Homosexuality. But, I often have to ask myself where are the men? Our country, churches and communities are seriously lacking male leadership! This statement vividly describes a desperate need in our country, "A country is only as strong as each man in it, and its civilization only as great as its dreams."

Homosexuals are made, and not born. It is generally agreed that the human shortcoming which contributed to the downfall of Greece and Rome was homosexuality.

Homosexuality was a result of childhood experiences formed by a dominant mother and a disinterested or negligent father, and then nurtured by a society that increasingly accepted this style of life.

One of the major causes for the rise in homosexuality is the increase in the feminization of men and the masculinization of women. Psychologists say that the pressure upon women in the highly competitive business and professional worlds is one factor in making women more masculine. Another factor in mixing the roles is hair styles, that is men with long hair and women with short hair. Also, fashions in clothes play a part in

the rise of masculinization of women and feminization of men and consequently of homosexuality.

The philosopher Nietzsche explains, "When there are no longer men, the women will become men." When this happens, the society will crumble! When Rome first conquered Greece, the Greek sculpture could be described as predominately feminine, and this was a description of Grecian young men. A great contrast was seen here because the Roman sculpture at that time reflected the vigor and power of manhood. No wonder they could conquer the Greeks. However, all this was changed six centuries later before the barbarian army invaded Rome. The sculpture in Rome has become feminized reflecting the feminization of Roman men. It was literally Greece all over again.

The Bible clearly states that homosexuality is an abomination unto God. The Bible says it is a wicked sin against a Holy and Righteous God (Leviticus 20:13; I Kings 15:11, 12; Romans 1:24-28). This is the reason God destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 19:5). Therefore, it ought to behoove every individual (especially born-again believers) to carefully follow the strong guidelines in Scriptures. This would help stem the rising tide of homosexuality! But we must be prepared to put the guidelines into practice!

Since the home is central in being the main cause for homosexuality, it is mandatory that the home returns to the following Biblical principles. *First*, the Father

is instructed in the Word of God to be the head of the home. His leadership cannot be successfully fulfilled until it correctly includes spiritual leadership (Ephesians 5:23, Joshua 24:15). There ought to be definite leadership in having devotions every morning and evening (Joshua 1:8; Psalm 1:2; Deuteronomy 6:7).

Secondly, the Bible clearly instructs that the wife be in submission to her husband. This lack of submission is really indicated in our American homes by the kind of clothing the wife wears. Most men prefer to have their wives wear dresses and skirts rather than slacks but are unable to get their wives to dress to please them. Remember Deuteronomy 22:5 is to be God's guideline. It says, "The woman shall not wear that which pertaineth unto a man, neither shall a man put on a woman's garment: for all that do so are abomination unto the Lord thy God." This verse says that for a woman to wear men's clothes is a wicked sin. It is just as much an abomination for women to wear jeans as it is for men to wear dresses. The Bible also makes it extremely clear that it applies to New Testament Christians. In I Corinthians 14:34 we are told "Let your women . . . be under obedience as also saith the Law." God wants a man to be distinctively a man and a woman to be distinctively a woman.

The tragedy is that while the parents seemingly can cross these lined of masculinity and femininity and get by with it, the children will have to pay the price of their

parents sins. The Bible allows no place for the dominant mother, the weak father, the overindulgent mother, or the cruel father.

What happens when homosexuality becomes a part of the children and or parents? Judge John M. Murtagh, a New York jurist, in his book *Cast The First Stone*, said that probably 50% of all suicides and homicides in a big city can be attributed to homosexuality. Crimes of arson and theft often have been linked directly to homosexuality, and there is always the danger of alcoholism. One psychologist has said that "Not every alcoholic is homosexual, but every homosexual is alcoholic." This certainly is not overstated when recent statistics show that Womens Lib has made a big difference in increasing Alcoholism. Back in 1950, 80% of college men and 61% of college women are drinkers. Today 95% of college students consume alcohol, with lit-

tle difference among the sexes.

With society constantly pressuring the young people it is imperative that children are properly trained (drilled) in the roles God intended them to fulfill. We are already teaching our daughter that woman is made for man. We do this by explaining and teaching her to do things to please dad. Young boys should be taught the importance of making decisions and how to make right decisions. They need to be trained in leadership.

Yes, homosexuality has become a problem in America. The real tragedy is that it is being bred in Christian homes. The only cure found is for the homosexuals to place their sin under the precious cleansing blood of Christ. Homes must return to Biblical Principles!

NOTE: Some information obtained from *The Marriage Affair*, edited by J. Allan Petersen, pages 253-259.

From Family Altar Broadcast, Waterloo, Iowa. Used with permission.

SEPARATION FROM FALSE DOCTRINE

By Dr. Robert P. Lightner

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Granted, if the Bible teaches separation from false doctrine, the believer who claims the Bible as his rule of faith and practice has no choice but to obey. If God commands it, we must comply or we are disobedient. But are there other answers to the question, Why separate?

There are a number of Biblical purposes. Beyond the necessity of simple obedience there is the blessed privilege of honoring God

and His Word by obedience. Compliance with the exhortation of Scripture to separate also provides a means of defending the doctrinal purity of the church and its testimony. This is not to say that it is possible to have a perfect church. It is not. Maintenance of sound doctrine in the assembly is certainly a Biblically warranted endeavor. In fact, the bonafide existence and ministry of the church demands that it remain true to the

Word of God. When it departs from the Word, it has no genuine and unique reason to exist. Other organizations can, and do, serve for the good of mankind in various social activities and probably do it better than the church. Christians are to be like salt in the earth. Among other things this implies that believers are to exert a preservative and preventative influence in the world. The Holy Spirit desires to work through God's children to restrain sin—to hold it in check. Such a ministry cannot be fully effective when compromise and alliance is made with those opposed to the Bible and other essentials of the faith. Too, some erring brethren can be restored and helped when the command to separate is obeyed. Many new and immature Christians look to older more mature ones for

guidance. As long as those who know the Biblical injunction do not share them with others and do not obey them themselves, many "babes in Christ" are led astray. We all have a testimony to bear before God and others. No amount of rationalization and excuses will clear us before the Lord when we have failed to obey what He clearly revealed and is known by us. To summarize, separation from false doctrine makes it possible for the believer and his church to do and to be precisely what God intends for them to do and to be—shining lights for Jesus Christ in a sin-darkened world. Assisting the enemy of the cross in no way honors Jesus Christ, the Commander-in-Chief.

From Church Union,
Robert P. Lightner

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The *Discerner* keeps abreast of developments within the cultic areas. Articles appear in each issue which deals with groups and individuals which have deviated from the truth. More requests have come for the January-March issue this year than during any year in the past. The present issue has equally challenging articles. Check the expiration date of your own subscription and be sure to renew it in time. Your friends will appreciate gift subscriptions. 4 issues for \$2.00, 12 issues for \$5.00.

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PERTINENT QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

John E. Dahlin, Editor

QUESTION . . . May we expect the national government to initiate a major investigation of cultic activity in our country?

ANSWER . . . It is unlikely that the government will enter an area where it might be accused of tampering with religious freedom. Constitutional freedom of religion and separation of church and state are long cherished privileges, as old as our nation. Neither is it expected that the government will provide guidelines how religious groups must function, even of some represent extremism. The recklessness of Rev. Jim Jones did not bring about a governmental intervention. The American embassy did little in Guyana to find out what was going on in Jonestown.

QUESTION . . . Will cultic extremism moderate in view of recent situations which have brought about unfavorable public reaction towards such groups?

ANSWER . . . While no one can predict reliably the future of cultic activity, it may be assumed that certain manipulators and religious schemers will continue as they have in the past. Many people are naive and quickly forget certain cultic excesses, such as those practiced in recent years by extremists, and a basic change in this regard is not to be expected. Paul writes, "Evil men and seducers shall become worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived" (2 Tim. 3:13). The apostle had reference to the latter days.