EXPOSING COUNTERFEITS
CHOOSING THAT WHICH IS REAL

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We Want To Expose That Which Is Counterfeit And Choose That Which Is Real

Counterfeits Are All Around Us
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We Need To

- Study
- Meditate On
- Apply
- God’s Word
- Until We Are So Familiar With It That We Cannot Be Fooled
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READ: (Acts 19:11-20 NIV)

They would say, "In the name of Jesus, whom Paul preaches, I command you to come out."

(15) One day the evil spirit answered them, "Jesus I know, and I know about Paul, but who are you?" (16) Then the man who had the evil spirit jumped on them and overpowered them all. He gave them such a beating that they ran out of the house naked and bleeding.
A Counterfeit Is Close To Right
But It’s Not Right

A Counterfeit -- May Use The Right Words Or
Formula -- But It Emanates From The Wrong Spirit

True Spiritual Power That Is Of God Is Not About
A Religion -- A Form -- A Formula

The Kingdom Of God Goes Forth On The
Basis Of A Relationship With The King
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We Don’t “Invoke” The Name Of Jesus
We Preach And Proclaim Him!

Every Ounce Of Power We Have Over The Kingdoms Of Darkness Is By His Power And His Authority
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The 7 Sons Of Sceva Were Counterfeits Doing A Right Thing -- In A Wrong Way

In The Spiritual Realm Where There Is Something That Is Real & Godly -- There Will Be God Honoring Results

Where There Is Something That Is Fake Or Counterfeit -- The Result Will Be Chaos
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A Test For Those In The Church --
Is What They Have Real?

“You Will Know Them By Their Fruit”
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- Jesus Is The **Way** To God

- He Is The Only Way We Can Know God Or Receive His Life
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Why Study The Cults & False Religions?
• They Are Present In Our World
• Jesus Warned Us About Them
• They Are A Sign Of The End Times
• They Force Us To Know The Bible

A cult is a religious group, bound together by their attachment to a person or a principle.

A cult is a perversion of the gospel, based upon an unholy devotion to a person, a principle, or both.
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Characteristics of Cults & False Religions

A. Claim special revelation and privilege.

B. In disharmony with standard Biblical understanding.

C. Distorted Doctrines -- Void Salvation.
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TWISTING OF SCRIPTURE.

1. Take Scripture out of context
2. Read into the Scriptures
3. Pick and choose only the Scriptures
4. Ignoring full counsel of Scripture
5. Combine unrelated scriptures
6. Incorrect definitions of key words
7. Mistranslate the Scripture (change wording)
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HOW TO TELL A CULT?

1. Worships its leader NOT Christ
2. Quotes its leader more than Bible
3. Only believes part of the Bible.
4. Uses other books for Divine truth.
5. Requires allegiance to the leader
6. Leader lies and makes threats.
7. A cult emphasizes money.
WHAT DO CULTS TEACH?

- Jesus Was A Good Man Or A Prophet
- He Is Something Less Than God
- The Truth Is: HE IS THE ONLY TRUE GOD—THERE IS NONE BESIDES HIM
Counterfeit And False Gods Fall Into Two Categories: **Idolatry And The Occult**

1. **Idolatry** = worship of **idols**

2. **Occult** = “hidden” or “covered over”
The Occult Holds A Fascination For Fallen Man (Sinners) In This Generation.

Natural man craves Two things:

A. Desire For Knowledge
B. Desire For Power
Origins Of Supernatural Power

1. God
2. Satan

God — The Legitimate Power -- His Servants Know Whom They Serve

Satan = The Illegitimate Power = Most Of His Followers Don't Know Who They Serve
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When Man Looks Anywhere Else But To God For Power And Knowledge:

1. They acknowledge a false god
2. They break the first commandment.
3. Exposed to a curse of generations.
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Center of the secular worldview is: SELF

- What will I get out of this?
- Who will meet my needs?
- I'm going to do my own thing.
The Christian Worldview Has A Different Center. Jesus Confronts Us In Our Self-centeredness And Offers A Different Perspective For Life -- The Perspective From The Cross.

If Jesus Came To Set Captives Free, It Is Our Duty To Observe And Follow All The Things That Set Us Free; And, To Avoid Things That Lead To Spiritual Bondage