

- A. The cults deny essential Christian doctrines. These doctrines are necessary for sound biblical faith.
1. The cults deny the doctrine of one God in Three Persons, the Trinity. Some cults will use the word “trinity,” although they redefine it and deny its true meaning.
 - a. The CS, SCI and JWs deny the Trinity by claiming that it is of pagan origin.
 - b. The LDS redefine “trinity” as “three gods” among many gods. The UC redefines the “trinity” as Father, Son, and Mother.
 - c. The Bible teaches that there is but one God (Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 43:10). This true God eternally exists as Three Persons. The Father is God (Romans 1:7), the Son is God (Philippians 2:6-8), and the Holy Spirit is God (Acts 5:3-4). They are Three Persons of one God (Matthew 28:19).
 2. The cults deny that Jesus is eternally God.
 - a. Some cults say that Jesus was “created” as a god, or that he is only godlike. None of them say that He is God eternal. The LDS say that He is one god among many gods. The JW believe that he was created as a godlike being who was also known as Michael the Archangel. The CS, UC, and SCI all deny that he is God.
 - b. The Bible teaches us that Jesus is truly God in human flesh (Matthew 1:23; John 1:1, 5:18, 8:58, 10:30, 20:28; Colossians 2:9; Hebrews 1:8; and Revelation 1:8).
 3. The cults deny that the Holy Spirit is a person and that He is God.
 - a. The JW, CS, and UC deny the Holy Spirit is a person or is God.
 - b. The LDS believe the Holy Spirit is different from the Holy Ghost. The Holy Ghost, in Mormonism, was born in heaven in human form and is one of their gods.
 - c. The Bible teaches that the Holy Spirit is a true person with a mind (Romans 8:27), emotions (Romans 15:30; Ephesians 4:30), and a will (1 Corinthians 12:11). Jesus also spoke of the Holy Spirit as a person in John 14:16-17, 15:26 and 16:7-14. The Holy Spirit is directly revealed as God (2 Samuel 23:2-3; Acts 5:3-4; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20). He is coequal with the Father and Son (Matthew 28:19).
 4. The cults deny or alter the vicarious atonement of Jesus Christ.
 - a. The LDS say that the atonement of Christ was ineffective for certain sins (murder and breaking temple covenants). CS claim it is not efficacious to cleanse from sin.
 - b. The UC, SCI and JW see it as an important event. It must be coupled with personal works to obtain salvation.
 - c. The Bible clearly states that Jesus took our place in his sacrificial death on the cross (2 Corinthians 5:21). His blood is the only means to cleanse from sin (Hebrews 9:21-25; 1 John 1:7).
 5. The cults deny or alter the bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.
 - a. The CS, JW, and UC deny that Jesus rose in a physical body. SCI is silent on this.
 - b. The LDS affirm the bodily resurrection, but differ on Jesus’ status in heaven.
 - c. The Bible teaches that without the bodily resurrection of Jesus, then all of our preaching is in vain and our faith is nothing (1 Corinthians 15:14). Jesus rose bodily on the third day (Luke 24:39). He could be touched (John 20:17), seen and heard (20:20), and eat (Luke 24:41-43).
 6. The cults deny or alter salvation by grace and not of works.
 - a. The LDS, CS, JW, SCI and UC deny that salvation is by grace through faith. They insist that personal works achieve salvation.
 - b. The Bible teaches that salvation is by God’s grace through faith and not of human works (Ephesians 2:8-9; Romans 4:16, 11:6; Titus 3:5-7).
 7. The cults deny or alter the doctrine of eternal punishment for the wicked (hell).
 - a. The LDS, CS, JW, SCI and UC deny hell as a literal place of eternal punishment for those who reject Jesus Christ.
 - b. The Bible teaches that hell was originally created by God as punishment for the devil and his angels (Matthew 25:41). It is described as a lake of eternal fire (Revelation 20:13-15; Matthew 13:42), torment (Luke 16:19-31), and outer darkness (Matthew 8:12, 22:13).