

# How to Cult-Proof Your Faith

## Paul's Letter to the Philippians, Part 7

June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020

A cult is a group of people who \_\_\_\_\_ to be Christian but \_\_\_\_\_

Cults often use the same words as Christians but with \_\_\_\_\_

In Scripture Jesus defines Himself as the \_\_\_\_\_, and we are His \_\_\_\_\_

There can be cult-like behavior among \_\_\_\_\_

Matthew 13:24-30 (NIV) “<sup>29</sup>‘No,’ He answered, ‘because while you are pulling the weeds, you may uproot the wheat with them. <sup>30</sup>Let both grow together until the harvest.’”

### Know Your Enemy:

- **The most dangerous enemy is the one that looks like a \_\_\_\_\_**  
2 Corinthians 11:14-15 (NIV) “<sup>14</sup>And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. <sup>15</sup>It is not surprising, then, if his servants also masquerade as servants of righteousness.”
- **Satan's goal isn't to make us \_\_\_\_\_ – it's to keep us from \_\_\_\_\_**  
2 Corinthians 4:4 (NLT) “Satan, who is the god of this world, has blinded the minds of those who don't believe. They are unable to see the glorious light of the Good News.”

### Today's Passage: Enemies or Citizens - Philippians 3:17-4:1

Philippians 4:1 (NIV) “Therefore, my brothers and sisters, you whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, dear friends!”

- **Enemies claim to be \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ. But their...**  
Philippians 3:17-19 (NIV) “<sup>17</sup>Join together in following my example, brothers and sisters, and just as you have us as a model, keep your eyes on those who live as we do. <sup>18</sup>For, as I have often told you before and now tell you again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. <sup>19</sup>Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is set on earthly things.”  
✓ Destiny = \_\_\_\_\_ god = \_\_\_\_\_ Glory = their \_\_\_\_\_ Focus = \_\_\_\_\_ things  
Philippians 3:20-21 (NIV) “<sup>20</sup>But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>21</sup>who, by the power that enables Him to bring everything under His control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like His glorious body.”  
✓ Those who follow God (called “citizens of heaven”) trust Jesus to make them \_\_\_\_\_  
✓ Why is this such a big deal?
  - By raising the bar with man-made rules the enemy \_\_\_\_\_ from God  
Jesus made Christianity the ultimate “\_\_\_\_\_” religion
  - By turning religion into a set of rituals & rules, the enemy fills us with \_\_\_\_\_  
Luke 18:11 (NAS) “The Pharisee stood and was praying this to himself: ‘God, I thank You that I am not like other people: swindlers, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector.’”

### How To Cult-Proof Your Faith: Watch Out for Those Who...

1. **Devalue the \_\_\_\_\_** (Phil 3:18 “...many live as enemies of the cross of Christ)

Some of Jesus last words were, “It is \_\_\_\_\_.” Cults & cult-like groups say, “\_\_\_\_\_”

If Christ's death \_\_\_\_\_ isn't enough to repair our broken relationship with God caused by our sins, then Jesus died in \_\_\_\_\_

Galatians 2:21 (GN) "I refuse to reject the grace of God. But if a person is put right with God through the Law, it means that Christ died for nothing!"

2. **Focus more on what we \_\_\_\_\_ that who \_\_\_\_\_** (Phil 3:19 "...their god is their stomach...")  
Matthew 7:18-19 (NTL) "18 'Don't you understand either?' He [Jesus] asked. 'Can't you see that the food you put into your body cannot defile you? 19 Food doesn't go into your heart, but only passes through the stomach and then goes into the sewer.' (By saying this, He declared that every kind of food is acceptable in God's eyes.)"  
1 Timothy 4:1-4 (NIV) "The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons... 3 They forbid people to marry and order them to abstain from certain foods, which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and who know the truth. 4 For everything God created is good,..."

You can follow all the rules and not be \_\_\_\_\_ with God – God looks at our \_\_\_\_\_

3. **Breed an attitude of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_** (Phil 3:19 "...their glory is their shame.")  
Isaiah 64:6 (NLT) "We are all infected and impure with sin. When we display our righteous deeds, they are nothing but filthy rags."

We may look "good" compared to some others, but compared to Jesus, we're \_\_\_\_\_

4. **Focus on brand new \_\_\_\_\_ and special \_\_\_\_\_**

True Christianity is built upon the \_\_\_\_\_

Acts 17:11 (GN) "The people there were more open-minded than the people in Thessalonica. They listened to the message with great eagerness, and every day they studied the Scriptures to see if what Paul said was really true."

Don't settle for a \_\_\_\_\_-hand faith!!! You want a \_\_\_\_\_-hand faith that says, "I believe and follow this because it's what \_\_\_\_\_ says"

Never confuse a \_\_\_\_\_ of the Enemy with the \_\_\_\_\_ himself

2 Timothy 2:24-26 (NLT) "24 A servant of the Lord must not quarrel but must be kind to everyone, be able to teach, and be patient with difficult people. 25 Gently instruct those who oppose the truth. Perhaps God will change those people's hearts, and they will learn the truth. 26 Then they will come to their senses and escape from the devil's trap. For they have been held captive by him to do whatever he wants."

### **My Next Step Today Is:**

- ☐ I will commit to building a "first hand faith" so I will not be led astray from Jesus
- ☐ I have exposed to some questionable teaching. I need to explore the truth of that teaching.

**Next week we'll look at Philippians 4:2-9 – "How to Worry Well." Invite a friend!!!**