



## THEOLOGY OF CULTS

### *A Biblical Examination of Christian Cults*

**Class Description:** Have you ever wondered just how different Mormons and Jehovah Witnesses are from Christianity? This Course will discuss the common characteristics of all cults that have arisen from out of Christianity, and how to biblically respond to them from a historic Christian Perspective. After learning the common characteristics of all Christian Cults and how they are distinct from every other Christian denomination, a detailed case study will be given for Mormonism, Jehovah's Witnesses, and Scientology. Join us as we look at the theology of cults from a biblical perspective in order to better stand for our faith.

**Class Teachers:** Jason Whitlock is a covenant member of Emmaus Church with a passion for teaching. He has his Masters of Divinity from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and his Doctor of Philosophy from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. He has five children - John Michael, Katie, Matthew, William, and Isabella.

**Class Resources:** We will be utilizing the following book for this class. It will be provided to participants (one per family) at the beginning of our time together.

- *The Kingdom of the Cults* by Walter Martin

**Class Outline:** Here is an overview of the topics we will cover through the class.

***Week 1 - Sunday, January 7***

Title: Introduction to Cult Theology

Description: Our first week together will serve as a foundational exploration into the realm of cult theology. We will begin by examining why it is important for followers of Jesus to be acquainted with the beliefs of cults in our society. We will also take time to provide an overview of what cults are, how they begin, and the basic patterns they all typically follow.

***Week 2 - Sunday, January 14***

Title: Jehovah's Witnesses

Description: Delving into the specifics of Jehovah's Witnesses, our second class will navigate through their historical development from their founding to the present day. We will examine the organizational structure and authoritative texts that shape their beliefs, delve into their key doctrines and practices, and explore approaches grounded in biblical response for engaging and evangelizing members of this cult.

***Week 3 - Sunday, January 21***

Title: Mormonism – The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints

Description: In our third week together, we will be focusing our attention on Mormonism. We will look at the history of this cult from its beginnings to today. We will examine their organizational structure, authoritative texts, core doctrines, and practices; and we will conclude our time by once again trying to understand effective ways to engage in evangelism with members of this cult.

***Week 4 - Sunday, January 28***

Title: Scientology, the Cult of Hollywood and the Elites

Description: In our final week, we will turn our attention to Scientology, one of the most unusual cults in our modern society that has tragically attracted a following among many notable celebrities. We will once again look at the organization and authoritative texts, the key doctrines and practices that they engage in, and a biblical response to this cult that includes strategies for evangelism with cult members.