Definition of a Cult

A false religion truthfully admits they are not Christian. They follow their own set of teachings handed down from their founders long ago. A cult claims to be a certain religion but changes the basic doctrine enough that according to that religion’s holy book they are damned. Buddhism could be considered as either a religion in its own right or a cult that broke off from Hinduism.

Sikhism was formed by combining the teachings from Hinduism and Islam. As a result, Sikhs are hated and persecuted by both religions.

The Nation of Islam claims to be the true Islam but denies the central teachings of the Qur’an. They are classified as an Islamic cult.

Any group that does not claim to be Christian is a false religion. Any group that claims to be Christian but denies any of the central teachings of the Bible, is a Christian cult, simply called a cult by Christians.

We have learned the central teaching of the Bible is the deity of Jesus Christ and the doctrine of the trinity. We have also learned that when cults arose in the first few centuries they all denied the doctrine of the trinity in some way. This led the ancient church fathers to classify a heretic, or cult, as one that is a nontrinitarian Christian.

We will now learn that almost all modern cults are nontrinitarians as well. By being able to clearly teach the doctrine of the trinity, a Christian will be able to instantly witness to any cult without having to memorize a large
number of cultic teachings. There are 158 different denominations grouped in twenty major movements. Here is a list of true Christian groups, or denominations.

**Christian Denominations (Trinitarians)**
- Anglican
- Adventist
- Baptist
- Brethren
- Catholic
- Christian Church
- Churches of Christ
- Churches of God
- Congregational
- Eastern Orthodox
- Episcopalian
- Friends/Quaker
- Fundamentalist
- Holiness
- Lutheran
- Mennonite
- Methodist
- Pentecostal/Charismatic
- Presbyterian
- Reformed

There may always be break offs of one of these groups that are nontrinitarian. For example, Oneness Pentecostals are nontrinitarian while almost all other Pentecostals are Trinitarian.
Nontrinitarian Cults

These are groups that claim to be the real Christians but deny the doctrine of the trinity. For more information on a specific cult see apologeticsindex.com, CARM.org, equip.org, and watchman.org.

See the Cult Index at the end of this book to look up a group by an alternate name or the name of its founder.

A Course in Miracles
A spirit, calling itself Jesus, dictated this book to Helen Shucman. It teaches there is no sin or hell and that God exists inside of everyone. Channeling a spirit named Jesus is the biblically forbidden practice of spiritism. The denial of sin and hell amounts to calling Jesus a liar. Saying God exists inside of everyone is pantheism which denies the doctrine of the trinity.

Ancient Mystic Order of Melchizedek (AMOM)
This UFO cult is a quasi-fraternal organization led by Malachi Z. York who claims he is from the nineteenth galaxy called Illyuwn. Salvation will be accomplished when the UFOs land and bring everlasting life. Other names for this group include: Nuwaubians, the Nubian Nation of Moors, and Right Knowledge).

Association for Research and Enlightenment
This group, abbreviated ARE, was founded upon the writings of Edgar Cace. They teach that a portion of god called Soul reincarnated many times, finally reincarnating as Jesus Christ.
Assemblies of Yahweh
This group was started by Jacob O. Meyer in 1966. Influenced by the Worldwide Church of God they are nontrinitarian, believe one must keep the seven Hebrew festivals, and never celebrate Christmas or Easter.

Aum Shinrikyo
This cult was founded by Shoko Asahara of Japan. It mixes Yoga with facets of Buddhism, Hinduism, Christianity, and the writings of Nostradamus. In 1992 Asahara published a book in which he declared himself to be the “Christ.”

Beta Dominion Xenophilia (BDX)
This group is a UFO cult reputedly lead by Scott Caruthers involving the worship of cats. They believe the Second Coming will be in the form of UFOs bringing salvation to mankind. This group is nontrinitarian.

Branch Davidians
David Koresh founded this break off from the Seventh Day Adventists. Eventually he formed a commune, trapped members, took all the members’ wives as his own, and declared himself as Christ back in the flesh. This group was destroyed in 1993 during a standoff with the federal government. A splinter group of this cult is the Students of the Seven Seals.

Brethren
This group is also called Brothers and Sisters and the Garbage Eaters. It was founded by Jim Roberts. Not to be confused with the Christian denomination called the Brethren, members of this cult reject owning property and live as vagrants, shunning family. Marriage is forbidden. Having a regular job or career is discouraged. They deny
the doctrine of the trinity, and teach the only way of salvation is to follow Jim Roberts. A sinless lifestyle is required for salvation.

**Bible Students**
Also called the Dawn Bible Students, or the Associated Bible Students this group is a break off of the Jehovah’s Witnesses. They deny both the Trinity and the immortality of the soul.

**The Celestine Prophecy**
This is a book written by New Ager James Redfield. Other New Age books include *The Tenth Insight* and *The Secret of Shambhala*. New Agers like James Redfield deny the only way to God is though Jesus Christ.

**Center for Spiritual Awareness**
Also called Christian Spiritual Alliance, this group teaches Jesus was just a man with the Christ consciousness.

**Charles Manson**
Charles Manson murdered several people to trigger what he believed would be a race war ending in the apocalypse. He declared himself to be the angel from the bottomless pit mentioned in the book of Revelation. Later he stated he was Jesus Christ in the flesh, and still later that he was Satan in the flesh. Finally, he stated they were all the same thing.

**Chen Tao (the Right Way)**
This group was founded by Hon-ming Chen in 1993. Chen Tao combines Christianity, Buddhism, Taoism, science fiction, and Taiwanese folk religion. Its hope was that UFOs would bring salvation in 1999. They believe in
evolution with reincarnation and karma, pantheism, and that Jesus Christ is just one of the divine beings. They deny the doctrine of the trinity and teach that the Bible is a demonic deception. Other names of this group were God's Salvation Church, and God Saves the Earth Flying Saucer Foundation.

Children of God
This group was founded by Moses David Berg. It was known for funding the cult using child and young adult prostitution, called “flirty fishing.” It is believed that Berg fled to Brazil to escape prosecution in the USA. The group later reformed as The Family. Berg was a follower of William Branham. Another name for this group is Fellowship of Independent Christian Churches.

Christadelphians
Christadelphians are a small cult, founded in the United States by John Thomas in 1833. They were also known as the Brothers of Christ and the Thomasites. They share many similar doctrines with the Jehovah's Witnesses. They teach that their founder, John Thomas, brought to light through his interpretations the "lost" truth, which had been corrupted with apostasy for centuries and without his interpretation, the Bible cannot be understood. They believe you must be baptized as a Christadelphian in order to have a chance at salvation: Jesus was not God in the flesh (denying the Trinity); Jesus Christ was just a human being. His death on the cross was not substitutionary, does not atone for our sins, and is not sufficient for our salvation. He only died so that we could have an opportunity to be like Him. He was only a representative, not a savior. They also teach that Jesus was not born sinless and that people must achieve sinless perfection like Christ did, in order to save themselves.
This is referred to as the “God Manifestation.” Another belief is the Holy Spirit is the radiant energy/power of God, not the third person of the Trinity, and He does not indwell the believer, baptism and other works are necessary for salvation, and Hell is not eternal. They teach the wicked are annihilated, and except for the resurrection, there is no type of life after death. They also teach the soul is not immortal; it ceases to exist after death, and the devil, fallen angels, and demons are not real — just a euphemism for sin and evil men!

**Community of Christ**
This is the new name of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ (RLDS). It is a Mormon break off.

**Concerned Christians**
This group was founded by Monte Miller. Miller taught salvation could only come from following him. He predicted an earthquake would destroy Denver, Colorado, in 1998. The Millennium was supposed to start in the year 2001.

**Christian Science**
Christian Science was founded by Mary Baker Eddy. Mary Baker was born in Bow, New Hampshire, July 16, 1821 to a Congregationalist family. Her father, Mark Baker, was a Calvinist. Mary was married in 1843 at the age of 22 to George Glover in Charleston, South Carolina. Within two years her husband died of yellow fever. She gave birth to her son in September 1844. From this time on she was in constant pain and became preoccupied with the question of health. Mary was a semi-invalid and for years was afflicted with a spinal weakness that caused her spasmodic seizures. The stress, with other complications, caused her to have a complete nervous collapse. She soon
became involved in mesmerism, hypnosis, spiritualism, and clairvoyance. In 1862, seeking relief from her spinal illness, Mary decided to go see Phineas P. Quimby, who practiced a form of mind-over-matter healing. She believed she was healed by him, but her symptoms soon returned. Science and Health was first published in 1875 and the Church of Christ Scientist was incorporated in 1879.

They are nontrinitarian, teaching that God is not a person and that Jesus is not God, nor was He the Christ. The Christ was just an idea, a consciousness. Man already has everlasting salvation, and there is no final judgment awaiting mortals. There is no Resurrection. Matter, sin, and evil do not exist; they are merely an illusion. They also teach that Jesus was never crucified.

**Church of Bible Understanding**
Also called Forever Family, this group was founded by Stewart Traill. He teaches he is the only way to God and salvation. He denies the Trinity. Members join a commune and work for very low wages.

**Church of God in Christ (Mennonite)**
This Mennonite break off was founded by John Holdeman in 1859. While confessing to be Trinitarian, this group denies the complete humanness of Jesus Christ. They teach salvation by faith and works, and that salvation can only be obtained through them.

**Church of God General Conference**
This group was formed in 1921 from the Adventist movement. They are nontrinitarian and teach annihilationism (the belief that spirit/soul does not continue after death). The Church of the Blessed Hope is
a break off of this group with the same nontrinitarian teachings.

**Church of the Lamb of God**
This group was a polygamous sect of the Mormon Church. It was founded by Ervil LeBaron, who considered himself to be a prophet.

**Church of Religious Science**
This metaphysical group teaches Jesus is not the Christ, but all humans are part of the Christ conscience. It is sometimes referred to as New Thought and Centers for Spiritual Living. A similar group is Divine Science.

**Church Universal and Triumphant**
Formerly known as the Summit Lighthouse originally founded by Mark L. Prophet in 1958, this group is now headed by the late prophet’s wife Elizabeth Clare Prophet.

This church teaches that Elizabeth is the incarnation of the mother god. She is the only messenger of the ascended masters (humans that have ascended to god consciousness or Christ consciousness). Eighteenth century occultist Saint Germain is the main ascended master venerated by this group. Germain is believed to have done more for mankind than ascended master Jesus Christ has. They teach evolution with reincarnation and karma and that every human being is god incarnate. They deny the doctrine of the trinity and use spiritism to channel the ascended masters.

Elizabeth Clare Prophet says she channels the same ascended masters that Helena Petrovna Blavatsky, founder of Theosophy, supposedly channeled.
Cooneyites
This group, also called the Two By Twos and Assemblies of Christians in Canada, believes Jesus inherited Adam's fallen sin nature and did not finish His earthly mission, but they are doing so. They are known for traveling on foot two-by-two and witnessing door-to-door.

Eckankar
Eckankar was founded in 1965 by Paul Twitchell. The term Eck comes from Sikh holy books and means “name of God.” Some of the meditative practices come from the Sufi. The group teaches what they call the ancient science of soul travel. This is supposed to be a much superior form of astral projection. They believe man can never come to know God and there is no Trinity. They teach evolution and reincarnation with karma.

Eckhart Tolle
This New Ager has written books that make the Bible confusing to many. Seen nationally in Oprah, he has taught all paths lead to God, denying the Trinity, and the need to convert to Christianity.

Father Divine
African American Reverend Major Jealous Divine founded this group. He was also known as the “messenger” and claimed to be God incarnate. He stated he was Jesus Christ reincarnated. He died in 1965, but not before influencing Jim Jones of the People’s Temple.

Fiat Lux
Erika Bertschinger of Switzerland fell off a horse in 1973, hit her head, and realized she was the reincarnation of the Virgin Mary. She then changed her name to Uriella and formed the cult. After contacting spirit beings (including
Jesus Christ) in séances, she was told of ancient UFO mother ships that crashed on earth eons ago. The cult hopes to find and retrieve a specific mother ship which they believe is buried under Antarctica.

**Findhorn Foundation University of Light**
This Scottish spiritual community teaches Jesus is not the Christ. They appear to be pantheistic and believe in plant spirits, UFOs, and channeling.

**Friends General Conference**
There are several Friends or Quaker groups out there. Most are non-creedal but orthodox in essential doctrines. This particular group is from the Friends or Quaker movement, but denies the Trinity.

**Friends of Man**
This offshoot of the Jehovah’s Witnesses was founded in 1916 by Alexander F.L. Freytag, the former branch manager of the Swiss Watch Tower Society.

**Foundation for Human Understanding**
This group was founded by Roy Masters. Masters denied the Trinity and stated that Jesus was the son of God only in that Jesus was a prophet.

**Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (FLDS)**
This Mormon break off is noted for being the largest cult currently practicing polygamy. It was founded in 1932. In 2007, its current leader, Warren Jeffs, was sentenced to twenty years in Utah state prison for raping twelve-to-

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Groups that are non-creedal refuse to teach anything controversial; instead they let everyone decide for themselves what to believe.
fifteen-year-old girls due to the cult’s teachings on polygamy. This group teaches it is absolutely mandatory to have multiple wives or one cannot attain to godhood.

**Golden Dawn**
Founded by MacGregor Mathers, this group combines many religious ideas. It is mainly based on Hermeticism. This is a pagan system of alchemy, the Kabbalah, astrology, and magic focused on ascension to godhood in the afterlife. It is based on the supposed writings of the Greek magus Hermes Trismegistus and the Egyptian magus Thoth.

**Growing in Grace Ministries**
Also called Creciendo en Gracia, this group was founded by Jose Luis de Jesus Miranda. Miranda claims he is the last manifestation of God on earth, the true Christ.

**Harold Camping**
Camping is a self-styled false prophet who predicted the Rapture would take place on September 6, 1994 and then again on May 21, 2011. On Family Radio he taught God was calling all true Christians to stop going to churches since they were all corrupt, and only listen to his radio broadcast.

**Heaven’s Gate**
Founded by Marshall Applewhite and Bonnie Lou Nettles, this cult combines Christianity with New Age channeling and Theosophy. In 1997, Applewhite and thirty-eight others committed suicide in order to board a UFO that they claimed travelled behind the Hale-Bopp comet. They also denied the Trinity.
Holyland Reach Inc
Holyland Reach was founded by Luke Edwards. Members live in a commune working only for room and board. They deny the doctrine of the trinity, believing that salvation depends upon water baptism in the name of Jesus only (more denial of the Trinity), being filled with the Holy Spirit, and being entirely sanctified.

Iglesia ni Cristo
This group believes it is the only true church and was founded by Felix Manalo, who was the last and final messenger of God to earth. They deny the Trinity and believe in soul sleep.

International Society for Krishna Consciousness
This group, abbreviated (ISKCON) is also referred to as the Hare Krishnas. They mix Christianity with Hinduism. They teach pantheism, or that everything is God. They state there is no Trinity. They believe in a form of enlightenment that is supposed to offer a kind of self salvation.

Israelite Church of God in Jesus Christ
Formerly known as the Israeli Church of Universal Practical Knowledge, this racist group believes the blacks of Africa to be the lost tribes of Israel and the Caucasians are Edomites. They are also nontrinitarian.

Jehovah’s Witnesses
Jehovah’s Witnesses teach that God restored the true church in 1878 through Charles Russell, their founder. Christ is supposed to be Michael the Archangel, a created being. Jesus never was, or will be, God. Jesus did not die for our sins. The Holy Spirit is not a person and there is no Trinity. The only way to salvation is by being a
faithful Jehovah’s Witness. There is no hell and the soul is not eternal. This group has made numerous predictions that the world would end between AD 1914 to 1975. They have their own Bible called the New World Translation. They have a unique teaching that if a member (adult or child) needs a blood transfusion, that member should die. Jehovah’s Witnesses are also known as the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society.

**John of God**
Joao de Deus is a trance medium who performs psychic surgery and other supposed miracles. He teaches that he is a manifestation of one of the thirty spirit gods, thus denying the Trinity.

**J.Z. Knight**
Born as Judith Darlene Hampton, J.Z. Knight claims to channel a 35,000-year-old warrior spirit called Ramtha. Ramtha teaches normal New Age concepts like mankind is god. This denies the doctrine of the trinity.

**Kingston Clan**
This group is a polygamous and incestuous sect of Mormonism.

**La Luz del Mundo**
This group teaches there was no salvation on earth from the death of the apostle John until 1926 when Eusebio Joaquin Gonzalez, known as “Aaron the Apostle” reformed the true church. They deny the Trinity and teach Jesus is not the Christ. Only members of this group will be saved. The founder was sued for the rape of a minor and settled out of court by declaring himself to the father of the minor’s child.
Liberal Catholic Church
This group combines some of the teachings of Roman Catholicism with reincarnation and Theosophy.

The Local Church
Witness Lee established this group based on the ministry of Watchman Nee of China. Although Watchmen Nee was an orthodox Christian, this group has departed from his teachings. Their publishing house is Living Stream Ministry which produces their cultic Bible called the Recovery Version. The Amana Christian Bookstore is one of their outreaches. They repeat the name of Jesus as a contemplative type of prayer, teach they are the only true church, and that water baptism is necessary for salvation. Even though they sometimes say they are Trinitarian, they redefine the Trinity to a modelistic view similar to oneness groups.

Mormonism
In 1820 a 15-year-old boy named Joseph Smith claimed that the angel Moroni appeared to him and told him all churches were corrupt. In 1830 he founded the Mormon cult. He said the true Gospel had not been preached for 1800 years, and Mormonism is the only true church. Joseph Smith was assassinated in Carthage, Illinois in 1844. The teachings of the cult are as follows: a race of gods, (advanced humanoids from a planet orbiting the mysterious star Kolab) who were once only men but through adherence to Mormon teachings became gods, called a council and decided that Jesus would be the god and savior of planet earth. Lucifer, spirit brother of Jesus, wanting to be the god and savior of earth, lead a rebellion of other spirits and lost. The followers of Lucifer became demons and were therefore denied bodies of flesh and blood for all eternity. Those who remained neutral in the
rebellion were cursed to be born with black skin. Those who followed Jesus were born with white skin. [This explains the Mormon doctrine of the pre-existence of souls and the doctrine that God the Father has a body of flesh and blood.] God the Father is also called Michael the Archangel. The father god, Elohim, or Adam, came from Kolab to earth with one of his wives, Eve, to populate the planet. [That means there was no Fall. Joseph Smith and Brigham Young both taught originally that polygamy was good. The Scripture says it is sin, and so does the book of Mormon, Jacob 2:22-24.] Later the father god, Elohim, came back to earth and had sex with the virgin Mary to give Jesus a physical body. [This denies the virgin birth and conception by the Holy Spirit. It is also adultery because Mary was already legally married to Joseph.] Jesus married Mary, Martha, and Mary Magdalene and had children, through whom Joseph Smith is supposed to be a direct descendant.

Salvation is exaltation to godhood. The goal is for the Mormon male to become a god and with one or more goddesses populate whole new worlds. Goddesses will be eternally pregnant. Jesus died to pay for a person’s sin nature, but His blood does nothing to cover individual sins. A person must pay for his own sins with his own blood. Salvation is accomplished by works, baptism, and temple marriage. Without a temple marriage a woman can never become a goddess. Therefore the woman must be totally obedient to her husband or he may choose not to resurrect her. If an ancestor died and went to hell, a Mormon descendant of his could be baptized in his place. Eventually no one will be in hell. This is why the Mormon cult is the best place to go for genealogical research; their religion depends on it.
The current LDS and Community of Christ (formerly RLDS) may not hold to all of these teachings, (for instance, most Mormon groups no longer hold to the Adam is God doctrine) but why continue to belong to a group that still holds to the name of such false prophets?

**Famous Mormon quotes:**

God was once as we are now, and is an exalted man, and sits enthroned in yonder heavens.

*Joseph Smith, Times and Seasons, Aug. 1, 1844*

As man is, God once was. As God is, man may become.” *Lorenzo Snow, Millenial Star, Vol. 54*

In the beginning the head of the GODS called a council of the GODS and they came together and concocted a plan to create the world and the people in it.

*Joseph Smith, The Journal of Discourses, Vol. 6*

In the heaven where our spirits were born, there are many GODS, each of whom has his own wife or wives which were given to him previous to his redemption while yet in his mortal state.

*Apostle Orson Pratt, The Seer, Vol. 1, Pg 37*

If we should take a million worlds like this and number their particles we should find there are more GODS than there are particles of matter in those worlds. *Apostle Orson Pratt, Journal of Discourses, Vol. 2, Pg. 345*

The Father has a body of flesh and bone as tangible as man’s... *Doctrine and Covenants, Sec. 130:22*
Our God and Father in heaven, is a being of tabernacle, or, in other words, he has a body, with parts the same as you and I have. *Brigham Young, Journal of Discourses, 1:50*

When our father Adam came into the Garden of Eden, he came into it with a celestial body and brought Eve, one of his celestial wives, with him... He is our father and our GOD and the ONLY GOD with whom we have to do. *Brigham Young, Journal of Discourses, Vol. 1, Pg. 50*

Mormonism is also called the Latter Day Saints (LDS). Break offs of Mormonism include the Reorganized Latter Day Saints (RLDS) later renamed the Community of Christ. The Temple-Lot is the Mormon break off that legally controls the lot where the new Mormon temple is supposed to be built.

**Moonies**
The Unification Church (Moonies) was founded by Sung Myung Moon. They deny the Trinity, stating that God is dualistic (a yin/yang concept). They teach that Jesus failed to fulfill the primary task of defeating Satan by marrying the perfect woman and having twelve sinless children. Moon, who claims to be the second Messiah, has fulfilled this messianic duty of creating God's family on earth.

Another odd teaching is that the sin of Adam and Eve was not eating the fruit, but sex. In 1997 the name of this group was officially changed to Family Federation for World Peace and Unification.
**Nation of Gods and Earths**
This group, also known as the Five Percent, is a splinter group of the Nation of Islam.

**Neale Donald Walsch**
In his book *Conversations with God*, Walsch claims that God actually spoke to him and related many things such as no one goes to a hell. In fact, he says, Adolf Hitler is in heaven with God right now because he did the best he could with what he thought was right. God also supposedly told him that we are all gods. This denies the doctrine of the trinity and makes God out to be a liar.

**New Age**
The New Age is a term applied to various movements. It usually teaches the concepts of reincarnation, astrology, divination, and has facets from Wicca, Druidism, and others practices.

**Order of the Solar Temple (OTS)**
This group combined Christian teachings with Islam and paganism. They taught reincarnation and denied the doctrine of the trinity. In 1994 a group of fifty-four members committed mass suicide, after which the order seems to have ceased to exit.

**Oneness Pentecostals**
Oneness groups are a rebirth of the ancient heresy of Sebellianism, which teaches Jesus is the Father. They deny the Trinity and state that Jesus just appeared as either the Son, the Father or Holy Spirit, one God manifested in three offices or modes, not three distinct persons. This is also called “Modalism.” In 1913 in a Pentecostal camp meeting in Arroyo Seco, just outside Los Angeles, California, R. E. McAlister, John G.
Scheppie, and Frank Ewart perverted the Word of God and started teaching this new form of Oneness doctrine, which is completely unbiblical. This quickly spread into numerous Oneness denominations, the largest of which is the United Pentecostal Church. T. D. Jakes is a famous Oneness pastor.

**Oneness Groups in the USA**

Here is a list of some of the organizations that teach Oneness doctrines: Apostolic Church of Jesus; The Apostolic Faith Church; Apostolic Gospel Church of Jesus Christ (Bible Apostolic Churches); Apostolic Overcoming Holy Church of God, Incorporated; Assemblies of the Lord Jesus Christ; The Associated Brotherhood of Christians; The Bible Way Churches of Our Lord Jesus Christ World Wide, Incorporated; The Church of Jesus Christ; The Church of Jesus Christ of Georgia; Church of Jesus Christ, Incorporated; The Church of Jesus Christ Ministerial Alliance; The Church of the Little Children; Church of the Lord Jesus Christ of the Apostolic Faith; Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ of the Apostolic Faith, Incorporated; First Church of Jesus Christ; The Holiness Church of Jesus Christ; International Evangelism Crusades, Incorporated; International Ministerial Association, Incorporated (Houston, Texas); The Jesus Church; Pentecostal Assemblies of the World, Incorporated; Pentecostal Church of Zion, Incorporated; The Primitive Church of Jesus Christ; The Seventh Day Pentecostal Church of the Living God; The United Church of Jesus Christ; United Pentecostal Church International; The Universal Church of Jesus Christ.
People’s Temple
The People’s Temple was headquartered at Jonestown, Guyana, by American minister Jim Jones. Jones was influenced by Unitarian doctrine and a man named Father Divine. Jones began to reject the doctrine of the trinity, then the authority of the Bible, and finally claimed to be Christ himself, at which point members were forbidden to leave and were eventually murdered.

Rajneesh
A Hindu mystic named Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh taught a mixture of Hinduism, Tantra, and Christianity, that involved meditation and sex. He denied the Trinity and taught pantheism. He claimed he was the same as Jesus Christ. He started a commune in Oregon and was eventually deported by the US government after trying to infiltrate the local government.

Religious Science
This group denies the Trinity by teaching pantheism. They teach Jesus was not the Christ but that everyone can have a Christ consciousness, since everyone is divine.

Raelian
The Raelians are a UFO cult headquartered in Quebec, Canada. Its founder, ex-racecar driver Claude Vorilhon (b. 1946), tells the story that on December 19, 1973 he had an encounter with a UFO and a four foot tall, pale green alien with a black beard. He was told the truth about all religions and was informed that he was to be the last of the forty great prophets. He changed his name from Claude to Rael (meaning light of God), taking the name of the Egyptian sun god, Ra, and the Hebrew word for God, El. Rael was commissioned to spread the truth with the “new commandments” to the world. Basically the
teachings are Bible stories with an extraterrestrial twist to them.

They teach that the Genesis flood was caused by exploding nuclear missiles. Noah's ark was actually a space craft that floated high above the earth. The Tower of Babel was a rocket designed for the conquest of space. Crossing the Red Sea was made possible by a repulsion beam. Ezekiel's creatures were wearing anti-gravity suits with small jet engines. Jesus' healings were performed by concentrated laser beams from a far away spaceship. The Hebrew word “Elohim” does not mean "God" but refers to all the alien creators. Aliens, who left their planet and now live in spaceships, created all life on earth about 25,000 years ago, by altering the evolutionary process here on earth. The Genesis story of the cherubim with the flaming sword refers to soldiers with atomic disintegration weapons preventing humans from stealing scientific knowledge and becoming intellectually equal with their creators. Jesus was the thirty-eighth prophet, Joseph Smith (founder of Mormonism) was the thirty-ninth, now Rael is the fortieth and last. Mary was artificially inseminated by Yahweh, the chief alien. Rael's mother was also artificially inseminated by Yahweh, making Jesus and Rael half brothers. The resurrection was accomplished by cloning a single cell of Jesus' dead body. There is no devil, omniscient god, guardian angels, or sin. The Raelians want to build an embassy in Israel to welcome the Elohim when they return to earth. Everlasting life is based on works. They endorse euthanasia, and contend that there is no individual human soul.

The movement says it is attempting to clone humans for the purpose of eventually adding alien DNA to create a
hybrid alien-human creature, thus fulfilling man's destiny. They now own an offshore bio-technology company called Clonaid. The government of Canada has officially recognized the “Raelian church” as an official church with the same tax exemptions as other religions. In 2002 there were reported to be some 55,000 Raelians. Experimenting with sexuality, including homosexuality, seems to be encouraged. Marriage is discouraged and considered useless. The official symbol of the Raelian movement is a Star of David with a swastika in its center. The group replaced the swastika with a swirling galaxy after trying to buy a plot of land in Israel for their embassy.

**Rastafari**
The Rastafari movement began in the 1930’s in Jamaica. They teach that blacks are the descendants of the lost tribes of Israel and that emperor Haile Selassie I (ruled from 1930 to 1974) was God incarnate, the reincarnation of Jesus in His Second Advent. Some use marijuana in their spiritual rituals. They do not believe in the Trinity.

**Remnant Fellowship**
This group was founded by Gwen Shamblin, the author of the *Weigh Down Diet*. The doctrine of the trinity is denied.

**Rosicrucianism**
There are several groups that go by the name Rosicrucian, but the largest of them is the Ancient & Mystical Order Rosae Crucis (ARMOC), headquartered in San Jose, California. This group combines Hinduism, alchemy, and Masonic rituals with what they call the “wisdom of Egypt.” They are very secretive, although they claim they are not a religion. They do have altars set up to ancient
Egyptian deities and a rite called the “appellation rite” that replaces Christian baptism. They deny the doctrine of the Trinity. Instead they teach reincarnation and pantheism – God is the supreme intelligence, made of pure energy, not a person. They practice Spiritism and believe in a universal soul. They state Jesus is the highest initiate of the sun period, but not God. The Holy Spirit is the highest initiate of the moon period, but not God, or not even a person. Sins are expiated with the law of AMRA, not by the blood of Christ.

The sacred books of this group are the *Fama*, *Confessio Fraternitas*, and the *Chymische Hochzeit Christini Rosenkreutz*. These were novels written by Johann V. Andreae in 1610, 1615, and 1616 respectively. The author made it clear they were novels with no basis in real life.

**Silva Mind Control**
This group founded by José Silva teaches meditation techniques for contacting spirit guides. They deny the Trinity by seeking oneness with a pantheistic deity and speak of the Christ consciousness.

**Spiritism**
Spiritism is the belief that the dead simply go on to a higher form and can be contacted by séances and other occult practices. The modern movement started in 1848 with Kate Fox. There is no concept of the Trinity and heaven and hell are not taught. Jesus is an advanced Jewish medium. The two largest Spiritist groups are National Spiritualist Alliance of the USA, and National Spiritualist Association of Churches. Famous Spiritists include Sylvia Brown, James Van Praagh, and John Edward.
**Spiritual Advancement of the Individual Foundation**
This group was founded by guru Sai Baba, who claims to be Jesus Christ, reincarnated. He teaches that all human beings are god.

**Spiritual Frontiers Fellowship**
This group was founded by Arthur Ford in 1956. They state the man Jesus died, but the Christ lived on and can be contacted using séances.

**Scientology**
This group was founded by science fiction writer L. Ron Hubbard. Hubbard started with the book *Dianetics* and then formed the religion. They believe each person is a thetan (godlike creature from another part of the universe) who is trapped in an endless cycle of reincarnation here on earth. This denies the Trinity. They teach reincarnation and karma, denying that sin, heaven, or hell actually exist. Salvation is obtained by reaching the level of “clear;” at a cost of about $50,000. Time Magazine called Scientology the cult of greed. Hubbard stated he was one level higher than Jesus Christ.

**Self Realization Fellowship**
This group is based on a mix of Hinduism and Christianity. They claim Jesus was just a man indwelt with the Christ consciousness.

**Shakers**
Founded upon the teachings of Mother Ann Lee, this group was best known for its furniture! They believed in a father/mother god based on Mother Ann Lee’s visions. This in effect denied the Trinity. The group was celibate and lived a communal lifestyle. It has nearly died out.
Shepherd’s Chapel
Arnold Murray’s Shepherd's Chapel is headquartered in Gravette, Arkansas. Murray is a nontrinitarian. He teaches that human spirits exist prior to birth, Jesus was resurrected spiritually but not physically, serpent seed doctrine\(^7\), British Israelism\(^8\), and that the doctrine of the Rapture is cultic. Murray denies the physical resurrection of the believer, and the seven-day creation, teaching instead that the earth is millions of years old.

Murray says the sin of Adam and Eve was not eating the fruit but having sex. Murray emphasizes Edgar Cayce and Nostradamus, and falsely prophesied the date of the appearance of the Antichrist would be 1981.

Swedenborgianism
The Church of the New Jerusalem was founded by Immanuel Swedenborg. Swedenborg said Jesus was God but denied the personality and deity of the Holy Spirit. He received his revelation from “the spirits.”

TELAH Foundation
This group was started by Mark and Sarah King, who left the Heaven's Gate cult in 1979. They have the same basic belief structure as the Heaven’s Gate cult. They believe in UFO’s and deny the doctrine of the trinity.

Theosophical Society
Helena Petrovna Blavatsky founded Theosophy in 1875. They believe each man can become an ascended master (man-god) after many cycles of reincarnation and

\(^7\) Serpent Seed heresy is the idea the Jews were the offspring of Satan.
\(^8\) British Israelism is the belief that the Jews are not really Jews; but the real descendants of the Children of Israel are the British and Anglo-Saxon peoples.
evolution. They deny the Trinity and state Jesus was the reincarnation of the world soul.

**Transcendental Meditation**
Similar to yoga, TM is an offshoot of Hinduism. It is a meditative technique (forbidden by Jesus in Matthew 6:7). The movement was started by Maharishi Mahesh Yogi as a way to trick Americans into practicing Hindu meditation. TM teaches that there is no Trinity and that salvation is god-realization. Jesus is not God, but simply a prophet who showed us the way. Mankind can meditate into God-awareness without a mediator.

**True and Living Church**
Jim Harmston founded this LDS offshoot. They teach a need to return to the original doctrines of the Mormon church. They believe in plural marriage and a form of reincarnation they call Multiple Mortal Probations. Along with other Mormon cults, they believe in exaltation to godhood which denies the biblical doctrine of the trinity.

**True Jesus Church**
This group is similar to Oneness Pentecostals. It was founded in China in 1917. It is nontrinitarian and Sabbatarian⁹.

**Twelve Tribes**
This racist group is led by Super Apostle Elbert Eugene Spriggs, a.k.a. Yoneq. It is also known as Messianic Communities, Northeast Kingdom Community Church, The New Apostolic Order in Messiah, The Church in Island Pond, and The Communities. This is a racist

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⁹ Sabbatarianism is the belief that people must keep the Jewish Saturday Sabbath instead of going to church on Sunday.
Messianic-type group which teaches extreme legalism. Charges of abuse of its members have been common.

**Unarius Academy of Science**
This group believes all religions are corrupted, but they use Christian terms. They have stated they believe “a Pleiadian star ship will land on a rising portion of Atlantis in the area of the Bermuda Triangle and will become the final world to join an alignment of thirty-three planets forming an interplanetary confederation for the spiritual renaissance of humankind on Earth.”

**Unitarianism**
The Unitarians, Unitarian Universalist Association, believe in a universal salvation for all. They deny the Trinity, teaching that Jesus was just an extraordinarily good man.

**Unity**
Headquartered in Lee's Summit, Missouri, Unity started in 1891 as a break off of Christian Science. They teach that there is no Trinity, Jesus is not God, not the Christ, and matter does not exist. They do not believe that God is a person but a state of consciousness they call the Christ consciousness. Reincarnation has also been taught. They teach Jesus was a perfect man indwelt by the Christ consciousness that can be present in everyone.

**Universal Light**
Universal Light is an organization where anyone can become a licensed minister. Various occult courses are offered from astrology to meditation. Belief in the Trinity is allowed but not recommended.
**Uranta**
The Uranta Foundation maintains the book *Uranta* was a product of aliens. It is supposed to tell the true story of mankind. It teaches each person has a spark of God in them making everyone a son of God. Jesus is considered the human incarnation of “Michael of Nebadon,” one of thousands of “Creator Sons.” Jesus was not born of a virgin. There is no reincarnation or hell.

**The Way International**
The Way was founded by Victor Paul Wierwille in 1942. In his book *Jesus is not God*, Wierwille tries to attack the doctrine of the divinity of Jesus by refuting four New Testament passages that state Jesus is God. He fails miserably, not to mention there are twenty-seven passages that affirm Jesus’ divinity. Followers must speak in tongues and be a member of their group in order to be saved.

**William Branham**
William Branham was a faith healer in the middle part of the twentieth century. During his ministry he began to claim he was the prophet Elijah. He taught that he opened the seven seals of Revelation and that the world would end around 1977. Ultimately, he denied the Trinity stating the doctrine of the trinity was of the devil, thus damning all Trinitarian Christians to hell.

**Worldwide Church of God**
The Worldwide Church of God was founded by Herbert W. Armstrong. This group was nontrinitarian, practiced extreme legalism, forbidding certain foods and clothes, and commanding a 30% tithe. They taught British Israelism and annihilationism. After the founder’s death, the group became orthodox in belief structure causing a
mass exodus of former cult members and creating numerous cults.

Some of the people and groups that broke from this cult that still hold nontrinitarian beliefs include: Garner Ted Armstrong; House of Yahweh Restored Church of God; Living Church of God; Philadelphia Church of God; Global Church of God; United Church of God; and the Church of the Great God.

**Yahweh Ben Yahweh**

Hulon Mitchell, Jr., a member of the Church of God in Christ, changed his name to Yahweh Ben Yahweh. Hailing himself as the Messiah, he started a black supremacist cult called the Nation of Yahweh. He was later convicted of conspiring to murder white people as an initiation rite to the cult. They do not believe in the Trinity.

Other black supremacist groups include the (black) Hebrew Israelites, The Stream, Original African Hebrew Israelite Nation of Jerusalem.

**Yoga**

Yoga is one of the six orthodox schools in the Hindu religion. It is a form of dynamic mediation (meditation with exercise) which is designed to yoke the practitioner with Brahman, whereby one realizes his own divinity. Brahman is an impersonal god, not the God of the Bible. There is no concept of the Trinity and the teachings of Jesus are ignored.