

a. Cultic varieties

I have in mind the centers or ethical areas in which the cultic groups develop and I mention a few of these quickly:

(1) Theosophic: those cultic groups entertaining the ideas of a higher knowledge of God by virtue of a new or special revelation of a spiritual knowledge apart from the Bible. Best examples are probably modern theosophy, Rosicrucianism, etc.

(2) Power: Cultic ideas that concentrate on dynamism and the mastery of others. In our day the scientology group is in this class. Most of the "mind over matter" are also members.

(3) Occultic: The bodies that deal with (or concentrate on) Satan worship, demonism, necromantic practices, and the like. Growing in this day but always on the circumference of the professing body.

(4) Esoteric: Groups claiming to have a developed picture of some biblical truth and thereby promoting it to an extreme or even anti-biblical understanding.

(5) Personality: Those who find life in the supposed revelations and disclosure of a supreme master or teacher of varied pretensions. In other words, the group builds itself around the personality and teaching of a gifted or competent leadership person.

(6) And finally, there are groups that incorporate all of these to some degree...the "New AGE" movement has bits of all.

b. In Historical Perspective:

(1) Adventism

(2) Russelitism