

III. THE CHURCH SURVIVES

Information page: Of Sects and Cults

We can't seem to live without them and living with them is not so easy, either but..just a few things about sects and cults. Below is some space for you to draw your own chart of definition. I will scribble on the blackboard or overhead and will just leave you this much room for the main ideas.

Sects are divisions within the body and **cults** are living centers external to the body although the usually derive life from the body. The sect distinguishes itself with a titular capacity that gives it the appearance of being the body while in reality it is only a part of the body. The terms are used somewhat interchangeably in our day and time spend arguing over the usage is wasted..but it is technically correct so, if you look around our classrooms you will see a lot of sects represented..but hopefully no cults unless..someone is seeking the truth.

In church history it is often difficult to find accurate information about both groups in past centuries. We frequently do not have their own writings and only the things that are written against them by hostile sources...and, believe it or not, that is not really very reliable material. Sometimes we assume a group was "good" or "bad" based on the nomenclature..but if you just look at cultic movements today you will see how fallacious that sort of thinking is.

The **Cult** requires the following:

- an absolute enlightened leader
- a movement away from the body politic
- an emphasis on special understanding
- an attachment to a particular lifestyle or more of life
- a stigmatization of those outside the cult
- a demand for the total life of the cult member
- a source of mandated continuing revelation..obligatory
- a promotion of the cultic ideal beyond ordinate means

The **Sect** only requires a couple of people who don't agree with each other and have to have their own ways! The cults are all around us..the sects are everywhere within us.