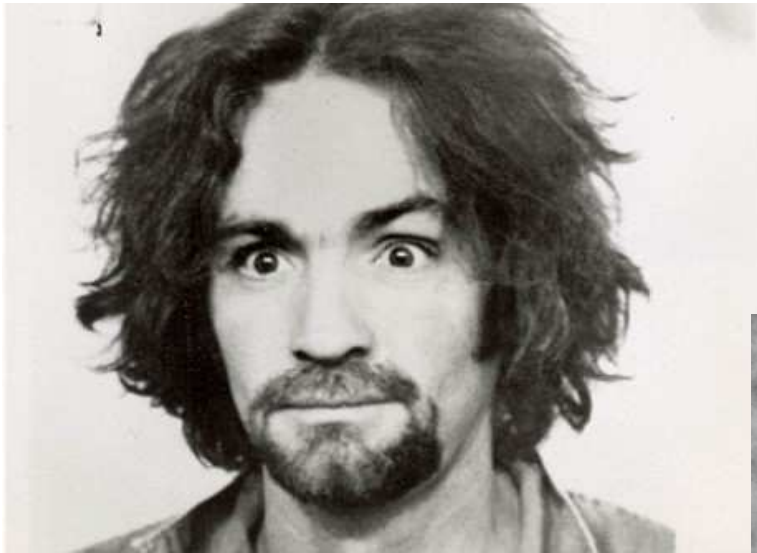


# Studies in Truth

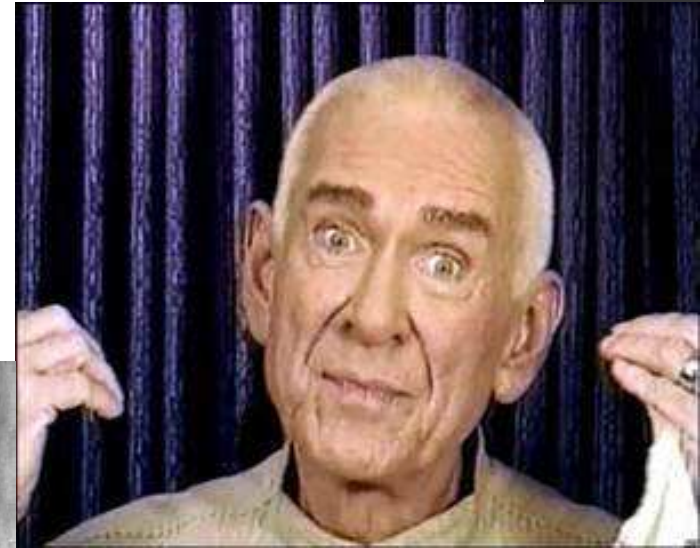
Knowing Cults...

# When we say cult...



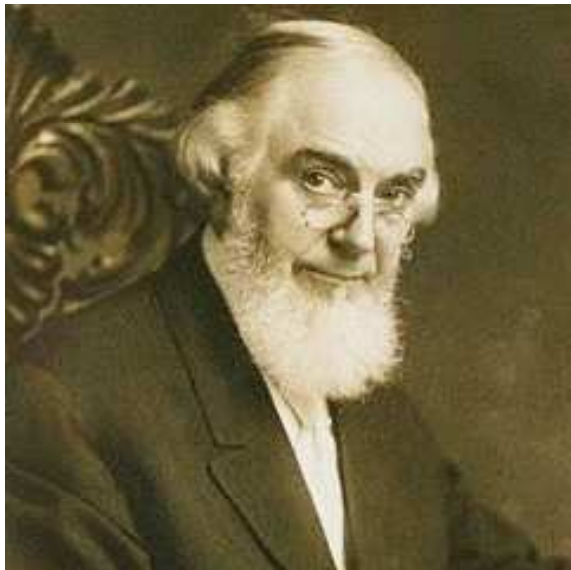
Charles Manson

Jim Jones



Marshall Applewhite

## Jehovah's Witness Founders



Charles Taz Russel



Judge Rutherford – 1920's on



Brigham Young

Mormonism

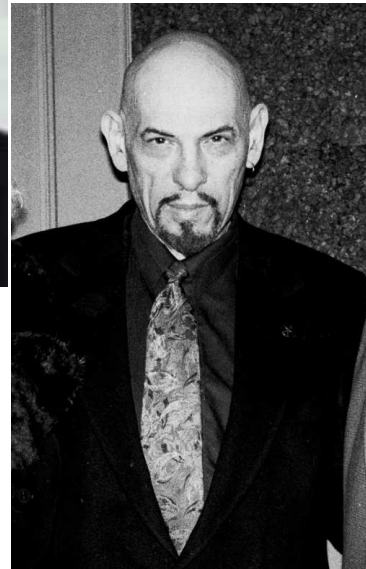


David Koresh



L. Ron Hubbard

Anton LeVay



Snake Handling?



# The Need to Know

- What is a cult?
  - Just a different theological view?
  - Are there different kinds of cults?
  - Why are they an issue? Gnostics (Col 2:8), Judizers,
  - What should our response be?
- Start with - **Jesus** – He warned us!
  - Mt 7:15-23 (Note: it is positioned where?) (Mt 24:24ff)
  - Not the sign of such people...FRUIT
  - In other words: CHARACTER!!!

## A Definition:

- A system of religious beliefs and rituals with a body of adherents deeply devoted to an extra-biblical person, idea or thing; it cultivates worship in a religion that, with reference to its basis for man's salvation, is considered to be unorthodox, spurious, or false, thereby insulating its members against true salvation in Christ...all cultic deviations tend to down play the finished work of Christ and emphasize the importance of earning moral acceptance before God thru one's own religious works.

## Other warnings:

- 2Peter 2
  - A careful and complex list of “fruits”
- 1 John and John’s Gospel
  - Both written to deal with Gnostic heresies
  - These are the basis of some cults today
- Acts of the Apostles
  - Paul and Barnabas must deal with issues
  - Pharisee’s and Jewish proselytizers
- Other epistles: Phil, Col, Eph, Tim, etc...

## Important Verses to KNOW:

- 2Co 11:13-15 “angel of light”
  - Ultimately this is the source of all cults
- 1Jn 4:1-6 – test the spirits, antichrists
  - The deception is already here
- 2Jn 7 – deceivers = antichrist (gnostics)
- 1Pt 3:15 – be ready to defend (*apologia*)
  - People today are asking...