The Psychology and Methodology of the Cults and what the Church can learn from it.

“The Cults have capitalized on the failure of the church to understand their teachings and to develop a workable methodology both to evangelize and to refute cult adherents.”Martin Kingdom of the Cults

Terms: “Such Biblical notions of Sin, Guilt, Damnation, Justification, regeneration, ect, all come out retranslated into language that is foreign to the meaning of these Concepts in the Scriptures themselves.” Dr. Bernard Ramm

Term Symantecs

Cult	Term	Cult Definition	Christian Definition
Mormonism	God	Many gods	One God
Jehovah's Witnesses	Jesus Christ	Not god, created by Jehovah	God the Son, Creator of all
Christian Science	Sin	Illusion, error, not real	Disobedience to God
New Age	Salvation	Becoming One with the Universe/God	Reconciliation with God by means of Christ's atonement

. The initial surge of interest during the decade between 1975–1985 in the psychology of cult involvement coincided with the rise in popularity of therapy, the new emphasis on "victimization" as a precursor to emotional problems, and the increasingly common assumption that religious faith was an emotional state more or less divorced from external, objective reality. As psychotherapy became more and more generally popular, many Christians came to believe that psychology was generally trustworthy and helpful rather than being a secular alternative to spiritual discipleship.

Kingdom of the Cults
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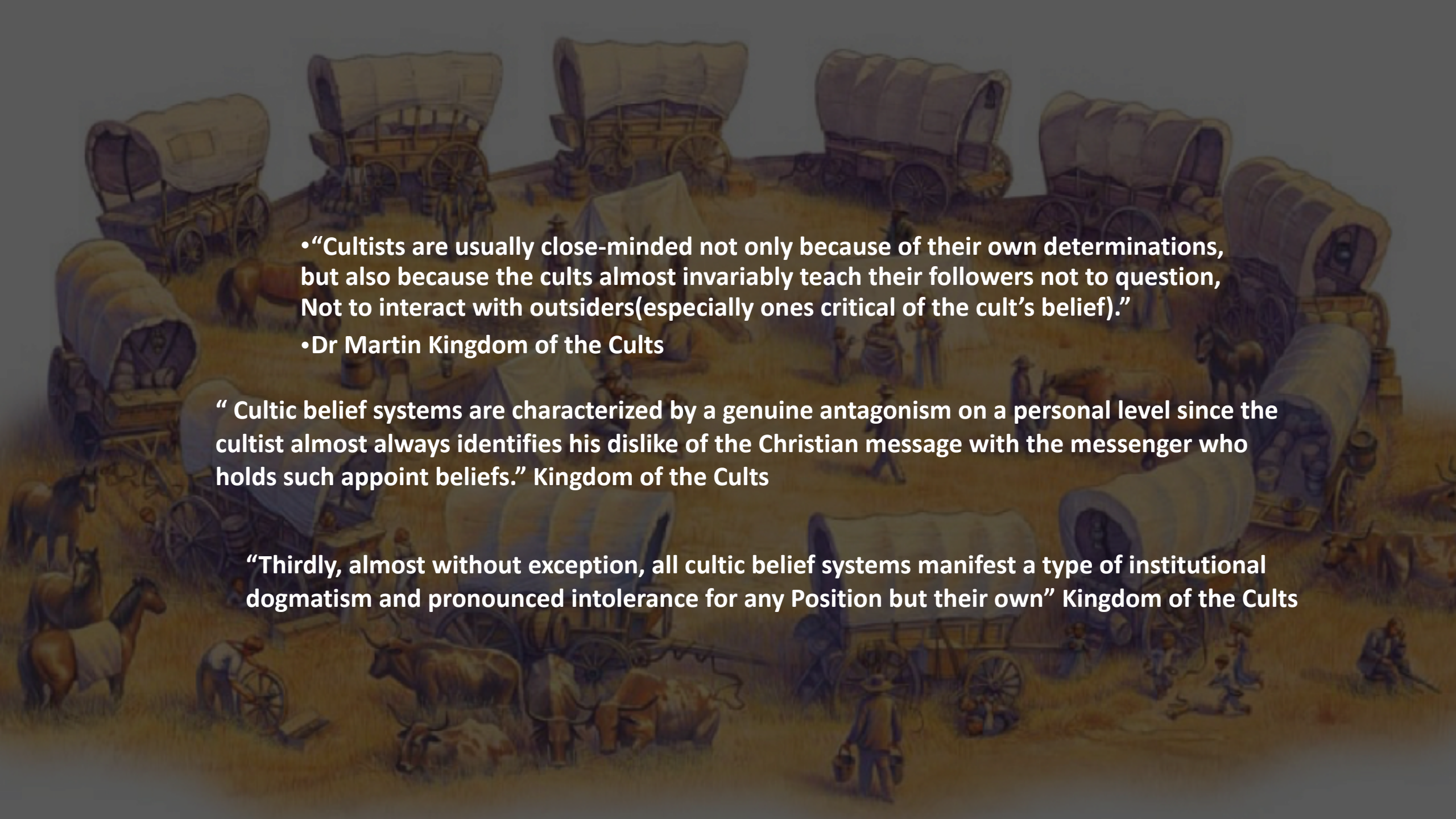
"This is a hard post to write and admit to. But it's true. You'd think that someone who was a victim of abuse would shun that victimhood status the moment she realized it, flinging it as far as the East is from the West. Nope. I coddled it. Nursed it. Loved it to ragged death". Mary Demuth

"As the Evangelical church finished the 1980's, it was standard for many Christians to have therapists, attribute their current problems to "dysfunctional relationships, and to trace their personal inadequacies to emotionally harmful childhoods(everyone became a dysfunctional "adult child" of alcoholism, abuse, isolationism, authoritarianism, etc). **Everyone was a victim**. One didn't need to be saved from one's own sins as much as from the sins of others." Kingdom of the Cults

"This new dependency on Psychology and on sociology not only substituted behavior theory for biblical theology, it also gave us a relativistic method of determining values." Kingdom of the Cults

- Dr Milton Rokeach Phycology
- Three levels in any belief or disbelief system "<u>The Opened and Closed Mind</u>"
  - Is the World a Threatening place or an Accepting place?
  - The Area of Authority
  - Details of the structure of Living



- “Cultists are usually close-minded not only because of their own determinations, but also because the cults almost invariably teach their followers not to question, Not to interact with outsiders(especially ones critical of the cult’s belief).”
- Dr Martin Kingdom of the Cults

“ Cultic belief systems are characterized by a genuine antagonism on a personal level since the cultist almost always identifies his dislike of the Christian message with the messenger who holds such appoint beliefs.” Kingdom of the Cults

“Thirdly, almost without exception, all cultic belief systems manifest a type of institutional dogmatism and pronounced intolerance for any Position but their own” Kingdom of the Cults

“The history of cultism generally begins with an authoritarian pronouncement on the part of the founder or founders.”

“The problem of intolerance is closely linked to institutional dogmatism or authoritarianism, and those systems that embody this line of reasoning are resistant to change and penetration since cults thrive on conformity, ambiguity, and extremeness of belief.”

Cultist Leaders Always Claim a Special revelation or new understanding creating a need for a new movement lead by the singular individual to whom this “Special or Esoteric Knowledge”.

There is always a lack of Plurality of leadership.

Mind Control Model

- Behavior Control
- Thought Control
- Emotional Control
- Information Control

In everyday life we note many examples of "double think"; expressing an abhorrence of violence and at the same time believing it is justifiable under certain conditions; affirming a faith in the common man and at the same time believing that the masses are stupid; being for democracy but also advocating a government run by an intellectual elite; believing in freedom for all but also believing that certain groups should be restricted; believing that science makes no value judgments, but also knowing a good theory from a bad theory and a good experiment from a bad experiment. Such expressions of clearly contradictory beliefs will be taken as one indication of isolation in the belief system. … A final indicator of isolation is the outright denial of contradiction. Contradictory facts can be denied in several ways: on grounds of face absurdity ("it is absurd on the face of it"), "chance," "the exception that proves the rule," and "the true facts are not accessible, and the only available sources of information are biased."[3-3]

"1984" George Orwell