

Is Your Church Free From Cultic Tendencies? -A checklist For Responsible Christians

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| 1 | Is your pastor fully accountable to board of elders, presbyters, et cetera? | Y / N |
| 2 | Is loyalty to Jesus and to one's own calling palced before loyalty to pastor and church? | Y / N |
| 3 | Does your pastor encourage questions and suggestions? Is he approachable? | Y / N |
| 4 | Does pastor give equal attention to all kinds of people in his congregation? | Y / N |
| 5 | Does your pastor readily admit his errors? | Y / N |
| 6 | Does your pastor avoid boasting or hinting at a "special anointing"? | Y / N |
| 7 | Is your pastor truly humble? | Y / N |
| 8 | Are the sermons based on clear Biblical truths, not on "original revelations" or ax-grinding? | Y / N |
| 9 | Does your church interact with other churches? | Y / N |
| 10 | Does your church staff avoid secrecy? | Y / N |
| 11 | Is power shared in your church (rather than preented by a hierarchy) | Y / N |
| 12 | Does your church see itself as just one organ of the body of Christ, and not the main one? | Y / N |
| 13 | Is your church truly friendly? | Y / N |
| 14 | Does your church emphasize ministry to people rather than church "programs"? | Y / N |
| 15 | Are especailly needy people cared for lovingly in your church? | Y / N |
| 16 | Are church members encouraged and loved even when they leave? | Y / N |
| 17 | Are relationship with former members encouraged or allowed? | Y / N |
| 18 | Do the pastor and congregation avoid attacking, and using as "object lessons," former members or those who disagree? | Y / N |
| 19 | Are family encouraged to stay together and spend time together? | Y / N |
| 20 | Does your family worship together in the Sunday service (including children, at least for part of the service)? | Y / N |
| 21 | Are you encouraged in your own calling? | Y / N |
| 22 | Are pleas for money rare and unemotional? | Y / N |
| 23 | Are your children happy to attend church? | Y / N |
| 24 | Are you happy to bring unsaved friends to yours church? | Y / N |
| 25 | Is there a diversity of classes, races, dress styles, ages, and occupations in your church? | Y / N |
| 26 | Are people encouraged to hear from God for themselves? | Y / N |
| 27 | Is there a single behaviour standard for all people in the church? | Y / N |
| 28 | Are all types of people considered welcome to your church? | Y / N |
| 29 | Is the joy of the Lord present in your church? | Y / N |
| 30 | Are you free from fear in your church? | Y / N |
| 31 | Do you think more about God and Jesus than you do about your pastor and church? | Y / N |
| 32 | Does your pastor included himself in any call s for repentance and forgiveness? | Y / N |

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| 33 | Are you clear the pastors and elders never exaggerate or lie to make themselves look good? | Y / N |
| 34 | Is your group encouraging of each other and free from gossip and rumoring? | Y / N |
| 35 | Is there a humility of doctrine that points to the grace of God and His mercy for sinners? | Y / N |
| 36 | Are you encouraged to serve in ministries or missions outside the local body? | Y / N |
| 37 | Is there ever any pressure put upon members to give or lend money to leaders for their personal or business use (exclusive of church business or project)? | Y / N |

If the majority of the answers are 'yes,' thank God for a safe home church. If ten or fewer answers are 'yes,' may be is time for you to move to another safer church.

Twelve Characteristic of a Couterfiet Church / Cult

To be considered a cult a church or group should evidence all or most of the following characteristics:

1. Authoritarian, oppressive leadership; no room for other ideas and independent action.
2. Lack of accountability at the top; leaders don't need or want to answer for their actions.
3. Pyramid of power; the further from the top, the less power and influence members have.
4. Belief that members and their families are inferior to the leader and his circle.
5. Belief that leader is closer to God and can hear Him better than lay people.
6. Strong pressure to conform to manner, dress, speech, *et cetera* of those in power.
7. Financial needs of the group (or its leaders) placed above those of members' family.
8. Pressure to give undue amounts of time to the group, to neglect other responsibilities.
9. An "us-versus-them" mentality; distrust of all other churches / groups / persuasions.
10. Narrow doctrines and teachings so unique that only this group has the "right path."
11. Discouragement of frank and open discussion about the group, its doctrine, or its leaders.
12. Ostracism of former members; prejudice against those no longer "choosing to belong."