

# THINK!

**“People who end up in cults are normal people.** They are usually intelligent, open-minded and honest. They’re willing to make sacrifices for the greater good of the group. They’re interested in self-improvement and in the improvement of the world. The best kinds of people, in a way, are targeted by cults. **Their very decency makes them desirable as cult members.”**

Dr. J W West  
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**“Even a dishonest person prefers to do business with an honest person.”**

Thomas E. Collins  
Wallpaper Salesman & Lay Preacher  
From a message to the Joshua  
Assembly

Have you ever wondered why a dishonest person prefers to do business with an honest person? It’s because he can manage and manipulate the honest person with deceit, flattery, bluster, guilt, lies, emotionally charged coercion, and group oppression to suppress his critical thought processes and to garner his unquestioned loyalty. It is then that the dishonest person can rob the decent, unsuspecting person of his vitality, his wealth, and his freedom before he realizes what is happening to himself.

The man who lacks virtue feels morally smug in judging the virtue of his neighbor. The “hypocrite” is the critic who disguises his own failings by focusing attention on the failings of others, for have you considered

that the adulterer is obsessed with judging other peoples’ sexual offenses, the homophobe secretly wonders about his own sexuality or the sexuality of his son, the self-righteous co-dependent who idolizes group conformity condemns the critical thinker, and the accuser of libel is himself guilty of the charge?

Have you ever considered how powerful a man is who understands how vulnerable an honest person is to a dishonest person? This principle is learned by observation and perfected by experience. The power it invokes in a man over others is frightening. For such power promotes the tyranny of one over many, demanding unquestioned loyalty to the practitioner who determines and dictates to the unsuspecting soul how he/she is to act and what he/she is to think. And suddenly the choices you once made become the choices he now makes for you under the cult of his personality, the cult of his leadership, on which you’ve come to depend and to fear.

The bane of hypocrisy is not its visibility to others, it is its invisibility to the practitioner. Therefore, a man that recognizes that a dishonest person prefers to do business with an honest person can be and often is himself a practitioner of dishonesty for he feels morally smug in judging a neighbor of the virtue of which he himself lacks, but which he exploits to his own benefit.

There is no escape from the fact that men have to make choices, there is no escape from moral values; so long as moral values are at stake, no moral neutrality is possible. One is either for or against God, for or against man. God allows men to make choices, in fact, provides them with the tools for doing so. Men do not. Yet the deceitful man gives that appearance all the while cinching

a noose about the throat of his victims daring them to think and to choose independently at the forfeiture of all they have.

To know God one must read God's Word. If to you it is dictated, then you are in trouble, for it is not your understanding, but the understanding of another that guides you by the force of his personality and the intimidation of the group he's fostered and into which he's drawn you. And you become as a seed planted in the fallow ground of his vineyard only to grow so much before

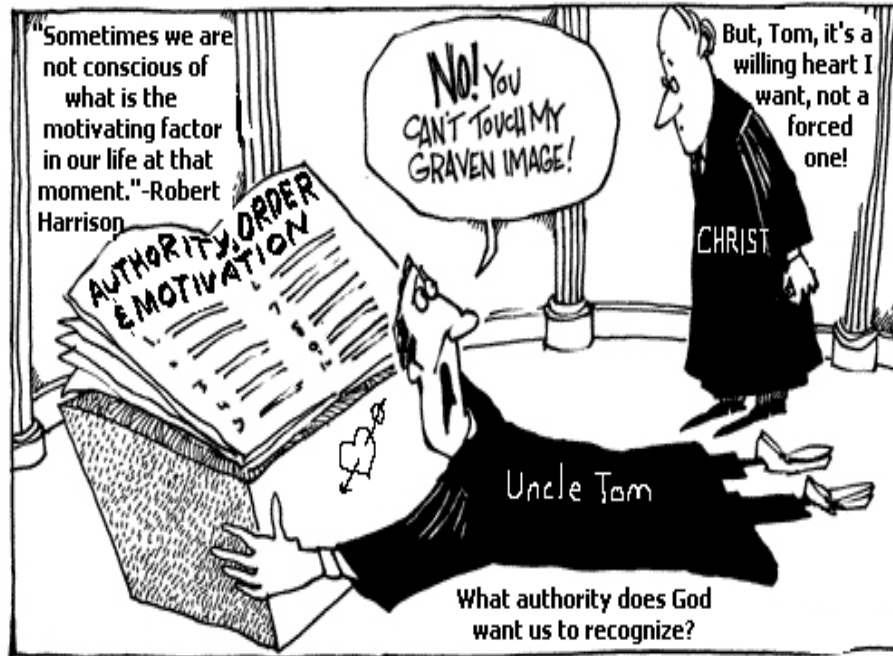
you begin to wither away and die for the lack of care and spiritual depth within his closed environment or, worse yet, death by persecution because you might think critically and dare to question his leadership cult or decide to leave.

Therefore to abstain from condemning a cult personality or the cult of his leadership is to become an accessory to the persecution and social murder of his victims who have criticized and refused to follow him. It is to live in fear so long as you are unable or unwilling to consider criticism of a leader or a leader's beliefs. And, so long as you remain alien to God's Word, which encourages critical thinking and/or criticism of those who would lead us in error. (1 John 4:1)

It is important that you consider carefully the

man who both understands and is able to exploit this principle of control over others, for your very decency makes you a desirable member of the cult, which he is brewing.

**Cognita tute** – think for yourself – *critically*, with God's Word the basis for your evaluation.



Then choose carefully and walk in it because God would have you to, unafraid of what the deceitful man may do to you. For, consider who is greater. Is it not the Word of God that will deliver us from the mouth of this

roaring lion? But, if we do not spend time in it, then are we not fair game for this savage beast?

God's Word helps us to think critically. It provides us with the grist for choosing rightfully. We have the right to partake of this Tree of Knowledge. And, when we do, the choices we make become to us a Tree of Life – Then said Jesus to those ... which believed on him, **If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.** (John 8: 31,32).

Name one man whom God has chosen to make our choices for us and I will show you antichrist – person of the lie.

Lazarus (from the grave)  
John 12:10-11