

# THINK

## How a Religious **CULT**ure is Created!

Start with a cage containing five monkeys. Inside the cage, hang a banana on a string and place a set of stairs under it. Before long, a monkey will go to the stairs and start to climb towards the banana.

As soon as he touches the stairs, spray all of the other monkeys with cold water. After a while, another monkey makes an attempt with the same result – all the other monkeys are sprayed with cold water. Pretty soon, when another monkey tries to climb the stairs, the other monkeys will try to prevent it.

Now, put away the cold water. Remove one monkey from the cage and replace it with a new one. The new monkey sees the banana and wants to climb the stairs. To his surprise and horror, all of the other monkeys attack him. Another attempt and attack, he knows that if he tries to climb the stairs, he will be assaulted.

Next, remove another of the original five monkeys and replace it with a new one. The newcomer goes to the stairs and is attacked. The previous newcomer takes part in the punishment WITH enthusiasm!

Likewise, replace a third original monkey with the new one, then a fourth, then the fifth. Every time the newest monkey takes to the stairs, he is attacked.

Most of the monkeys that are beating him have NO IDEA why they were not permitted to climb the stairs or why they are participating in the beating of the newest monkey.

After replacing all the original monkeys, none of the remaining monkeys have ever been sprayed with cold water. Nevertheless, no monkey ever again approaches the stairs to try for the banana. Why not? Because as far as they know that's the way it's always been done around here.

Now, lets replace the "cage" with a church and the "monkeys" with people. Inside the church people go for rest, comfort, fellowship, and teaching about Christ.

Before long, a person will try to help another in need. As soon as he does, the preacher rebukes that person for not seeking spiritual counsel before offering his help, for there is "safety in a multitude of counselors", the preacher says. After a while another person may question the preacher's position on a verse of scripture. As soon as he does, the preacher publicly rebukes the person and moves the congregation to "shun" the person as a subversive and independent thinker. For, "human reasoning, the preacher says, "cannot be tolerated in the body".

Another person decides to leave the group, which provokes the preacher to castigate the member as heretically divisive and the leadership encourages friends and family in the group to stand against the wayward member. "Not so much as to even eat with them!" he says.

Pretty soon people are leaving and/or being thrown from the congregation. New people come in. The preacher has fully invaded and compromised the congregation's Spiritual liberties conforming all to his control, using group "leadership" he so conveniently hides behind as his authority and whip. Families are destroyed, violating God's will that "**What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.**" (Mark 10:9)

By now most of the original members have left. The fully indoctrinated group now oppresses any members who seem Spirit-led by rebuking, chiding, discouraging, shunning to ensure complete obedience to the preacher and his "leadership". The congregation loses its enthusiasm, initiative and ceases to grow. Everybody is busy intruding into everybody else's lives, which the preacher airs out publicly like a soap opera. All have become co-dependent, actions are controlled by collective decisions and leadership constraints. Why? Because they know that's the way it's always been done, for as the "monkeys have learned" through repetitive conditioning, so have they.

**And THAT, my friends, is how a religious **cult**ure is created!**

**THINK** about that! It's really something to **THINK** about, don't you **THINK**? Scary stuff, huh!?

