

RED FLAGS OF RELIGIOUS BELIEFS/GROUPS

1. Hijacking

An individual or religious group takes another religious group's holy book and changes its meaning and stories.

2. Lack of Corroboration

A religious belief system is created by one person or a few with little confirmation of its conclusions from other sources.

3. The Monopoly Effect

Because of human sin, religious and secular institutions will corrupt without checks and balances.

4. Control Issues

Members/followers are controlled through pressure, coercion, guilt, threat, etc. There needs to be total freedom of the individual to think, say, believe as he/she wants as well as be able to leave that religion without fear.

5. Secrets

It is never acceptable for a religious group to keep secrets from their membership or hide its past actions or doctrines.

6. Fruitlessness

Appropriate fruit of a healthy religion should be freedom and spiritual, mental and emotional health. Depression, shame, self-centeredness and lack of service to others are a sign of bad/false religious belief.

7. Rejection of Key Enlightenment Truths

- A. Freedom of thought and expression
- B. Equality of women
- C. Equality of races
- D. Passive resistance/solving conflict through forgiveness

