Applying Lifton’s Eight Criteria to my life in the TT

THE WORDS IN CAPITAL LETTERS are the ones that carry a meaning specific within the TT traditions and doctrines. The ones in big bold letters sayings that are inculcated into the very fabric of the minds and lives of the people.

Milieu control

 Everything comes under the control of the leaders and the community.

**Possessions :** you have to give up everything and continue to, for example if you have tools everyone uses them and you are supposed to forgive if they misuse them. The communities are quite poor. Children all share the same football and when that gets damaged or lost it is months before they buy another one. **Money:**  you give up all your money and then never get any. All you earnings outside the community go to the leaders and the treasurer. There is never enough money to go around . Most clothes come from the opp shop, they have to scrap around for grocery money and you have to wait a long time for medical treatment etc.**Communal** **living: the** TT believe they ought to live as the first believers which they interpret as living communally. One of the things they despise Christians for is for being too selfish to share everything with fellow-Christians and therefore disqualifying themselves from being the true believers. The TT all live communally with one room for the parents and shared rooms for the children. Singles live in dormitories either for men or for women. 

**Time** :Your time is not your own. You are taught it is selfish to think of your time as your own. It is a 24/7 life. Life follows the rhythm of the meetings which are everyday as follows.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1rst Day  Sunday | 2nd Day  Monday | 3rd Day  Tuesday | 4th Day  Wednesday | 5th Day  Thursday | Preparation Day  Friday | Sabbath  Saturday |
| Morning gathering | 7 am to 7:40 | 7 am to 7:40 | 7 am to 7:40 | 7 am to 7:40 | 7 am to 7:40 | 7 am to 7:40 | 8 am to 9am |
| Evening gathering | 7 pm to 7:40 | 7 pm to 7:40 | 7 pm to 7:40 | 7 pm to 7:40 | 7 pm to 7:40 | 7 pm to 8 pm, then  Dinner together and celebration until everyone goes to bed. | 7 pm to 8 pm  Breaking of the bread from around 9:30 to 11:30 pm |

Plus extra time spent at the GATHERINGS because of TEACHINGS, plus CHILD TRAINING TEACHINGS, plus story times, plus meetings, plus BREAKING OF THE BREAD which is a 1 and half to two hour’s regular meeting compulsory to every baptized member.

All your time is used serving other people or working to expand the businesses of the communities.

None of your time is your own. You have a schedule and can be asked to do anything anytime and you have to comply otherwise you are labelled as having your own mind which will eventually lead to being thrown out.

As far as communication with the outside world it is totally controlled. If the leaders don’t like your old friends or even your close family or friends you are attempting to make they will let you know either that this person is not good for you or for the community at large. They will discourage you from seeing them and failure to comply with the restrictions will again earn you being cut off.

As far as information it is totally controlled. According to them the Devil has his ways into every aspect of the world, that is politics, education, laws, information, literature, arts, music, media... so everything comes under censure laws. Does this children story book contain fairies and gnomes? It would introduce children to fantasy and train them to lie. You are not allowed any novels or biographies, no fiction. For adults only the approved versions of the Bible, the monthly newsletter and publications produced by the TT and the notes from teachings. For children there are very few selected books mainly what is produced by the TT. No TV, no magazines, newspapers, no radio. You are not allowed to play other people’s music, not allowed to even listen to TT produced music unless you have been given permission as a music teacher preparing a lesson for the students. At the cafes you are not to play any other people’s music which contains lyrics. Also very rarely would you play TT music which has lyrics in a cafe setting.

When you are a guest they tell you only certain things and hide important aspects which would put you off. You get to hear harsher and harsher truths as you go along. For example they said us parents were ultimately in control and held the greatest responsibility to raise our children right. They presented themselves as gentle helpers. If we had known the reality of what it is to be a parent, we would have not joined. In fact my husband’s main reason for leaving was to having being stripped of any parental authority. We were merely the puppets of the leaders doing everything as they say and having them dominating every aspect of our life. And our children knew that we didn’t mean anything in the face of the real authority which was the leaders. We lost a great deal of their respect and we were unable to love them as we wanted, nor give our best.

Mystical manipulation

You are told as a guest that God led you to the community. You are love-bombed and told that it is God showing you his love. Everything happens because God willed it because he wants to show you your iniquities so you can change (when really leaders are manipulating you through fear and stress).

When you are sick it is so you have time to think about God more and when your children are sick is for you to bond with them. I still don’t understand what made me so certain that the leaders were so loving and so much more spiritual than myself and my husband. I definitely got mystified. My first impression of the main leader was that he was a loud mouth arrogant American poofter (I greatly disliked both Americans and homosexuals). 3 weeks later I was moving in, and getting ready to give my life over to Yahshua which concretely meant to obey my leaders therefore this man which I then saw as radiating love and setting an example and in which presence I felt honoured to be, being so worldly and full of sin as I was.

People in the community make stupid mistakes all the time because they are so tired. Example, like keeping the keys for a vehicle (all vehicles are shared) in their pocket and getting in another vehicle. Someone had to get in yet another vehicle and drive to where that inadvertent person had got to and retrieve the key and bring it back. Much worst things happen all the time. So much time and efforts are misemployed and waisted for lack of forethought, planning, proper communication, misjudgement because of lack of experience, competence or as said, being tired. And all these mishaps are all said to come from God as part of our training to be rulers of the Universe, full of love, patience, understanding, wisdom. They even pride themselves than nowhere else can anyone be really made fit to rule with God for the community where all circumstances happen to purify us is the only testing, purifying ground for anyone to be made ready to be part of the Bride of Messiah. Only in the communities where people live together and experience suffering from the shortcomings of others can you truly be purified.” In the world” people live their selfish lives insulated from circumstances where they have to learn to truly love. It is too easy to love. True love is true obedience. You can’t be purged of your rebellion in a world that is full of it.

You think that things happen because you prayed. For example we prayed for months for God to give us the Balmoral house which is a guest house that the leaders had their eye on. We prayed and prayed and one day it was announced we had it. But in reality the leaders had just decided to get a loan. It had nothing more to do with God than anything else for that matter.

The demand for purity

You get informed but then taught with excessive repetitions at the meetings in teachings given. One of the things you learn is to “think the best of your brothers”, “remain positive”. “Support authority”, “have and maintain a good attitude”, “don’t listen to the Evil One”, “be thankful”, “stress is sin”, “don’t complain”. I remember when I first arrived I was told and heard others being told; “what are you sad about that your sins are forgiven or that you have the Holy Spirit?” when having a depressed attitude. All psychological, mental and even physical sometimes ailments surely have their root in sin. You are depressed because of unconfessed sin or “resisting Our Father’s will” –usually disagreeing with whoever has authority over your life. You have the Holy Spirit who portrays the fruit of the Spirit which is everything good: faithfulness, joy, forbearance, gentleness, kindness, self-control, peace, love. So you get trained to think that all your problems are basically going to be resolved by getting the devil out of your life. As things are not that simple they do not get resolved and all you are left with is the fact that ultimately it is your entire fault which puts an enormous weight on your shoulders. We were told that those that make it into the Holy City are those who have learned to “own every circumstance in their life as coming from God” for He tests everyone but particularly those whom He has chosen. So to not receive what happens to you as from God is being blind to His Kindness to you and if pointed out clearly to you and not accepted or understood is seen as the beginning of rebellion. “Whomever I love I will chastise”.

You are supposed to live without fear, judge all evil, have a perfect attitude, and be solely make decisions based on love and on what is right. Teachings and talks on purifying yourself run through your everyday life and you always hear people talk about how they fall short of loving perfectly and how they want to change. Leaders are examples of this, constantly telling everyone how they want to “increase” in their obedience and love.

Yahshua was unselfish because he made right decisions to love and not live for himself. He was a man with the same propensity to” fall” so we have a chance to be like him because of the Holy Spirit that is in us. He was off with a good start being from undefiled seed (like Adam) and did not share in the curse that Adam brought which we do. And he was raised by righteous parents who recognized the Holy Spirit that was upon him. And so our children have the Holy Spirit upon them to and we ought to raise them in a way they can receive the gift of the Holy Spirit and house the HS.

There will be at the end of the age 144 000 “MALE CHID” who will be as pure as the Son of God and our responsibility as parents is to raise our children in such a pure way as to produce 3 or 4 successive generations who will eventuate in those pure undefiled male virgins who have never spoken a lie, are totally controlled by love and follow the Son of God, who will preach to the whole world the news of salvation and get killed in the process which will be the grounds for God to judge the world. So there is no hope for anyone apart from this judgment. No hope not even for the good people who are yet to receive their reward from God after the world is judged and evil is done away once and for all.

You live in a state of feeling like a failure and in our case we were made to feel from the beginning as bad parents who have to shape up. Our son was labelled “WORLDLY” from 5 years old. It only got worse and worse, we were ostracized and “CUT OFF “in their effort to try to stop our worldly and bad ways to be spread to others. Their approach is very clinical. At the slightest suspicion there is something wrong with you they separate you. As a mother you spend your waking hours praying to not be so selfish –when you are working your butt off all day long for nothing. You also pray to have your evil ways revealed to you and to be able to help your children with theirs. In such an environment you interpret situations wrongly because of your zeal to be purified and even imagine things that are not. Because of your stress you have difficulties simply enjoying life and your children.

You are also made to feel personally accountable for the state of your tribe. The “’tribal iniquities” are your concern, also representing well your tribe, not giving the wrong image. Also all the problems of the community have to do with you. Maybe God is not answering the prayers because you are at fault, he is not allowing “people to be saved” because of the lack of purity and love in your life or generally as a tribe. There are even teachings about the “SACRIFICE” morning and evening which is to be done in sincerity and purity of heart (no sin) done as a collective. Everyone at the end of each meeting lifts hands and prays and offers petitions personal, for family, leaders, children, friends, for the whole community or for the righteous. And this is the fulfilment of the sacrifice of a lamb the priests in ancient Israel performed on behalf of the nation morning and evening. So the lives of the people are like that lamb being offered to God and if He finds a defect in it he does not accept it nor can he righteously answer anyone’s prayers that day.

It is a totally black and white perspective at every level. You start judging everyone according to what you hear which is for someone like I was at the bottom of the ladder 95% TT material, the rest being little kids books that had made it through the fine screening. After a few months in there I was already judging my mother as having almost if not totally forsaken listening to her conscience. That is a very serious state of affairs, it means you are destined to the Lake of Fire to suffer eternal torment. I had come to this sad conclusion based on her response to my letter of apology for my rebellion in my teenage years and my sexual promiscuity. Her response was that of a loving mother, she basically was forgiving and understanding of all the trouble I had and caused her.

The TT see themselves as the only way to truly obey the Son of God therefore to truly know Him or please Him. They deify Him. So if you disagree with Him (through disagreeing with someone who has His Spirit) you are disagreeing with God himself.

The whole world is under the dominion of Satan. There is a snake through everything, music, art, philosophy, education, science...so you cannot in essence trust “the world”. Only very high-ranking members are allowed to read material outside of what the TT publish themselves and certain unabridged versions of the Bible. Yoneq apparently is an avid reader and travels with a suitcase full of “worldly books”. And he alone has the spiritual discernment to extract the good out of the evil.

#### The cult of confession

THE BREAKING OF BREAD is a time to express everything and be like an open book before your brethren. Everyone mainly talks in turn. The children are cared for, there are no distractions and the focus of the night is fellowship. Members are encouraged to open up and share their thoughts on YAHSHUA, their walk with him, their troubles and joys. It culminates with everyone single-mindedly singing a song which ends in a screaming session that lasts a couple of minutes. It is the time to cry out to be forgiven from all your sins you have committed during the week and to be saved from ongoing problems. It feels therapeutic at the time. At the GATHERINGS everyone is invited TO SHARE which means people elaborate their discourse about their daily experience, deeper thoughts and observations and tie it with what everyone supposedly believe in common ,the words in the Bible, the life of Yahshua and his person.

On top of that everyone except the leaders have someone assigned to them that SHEPHERDS them and to which they open up and confess things to them.

You are also reminded to always pray and communicate with Our Father which really I see now is going rounds and rounds confessing things to yourself all day which amounts to a self absorbed morbid self talk which effectively replaces your normal talking you normally do to yourself which has a healthy dose of criticism and supports the workings of your critical faculties.

You feel obliged to confess everything all the time and I believe your mind running out of things to think about invents evil and trouble. Teachings on confession are given quite regularly. You run to your shepherds for everything and feel helpless to judge the least important matter without others of the leadership being involved. You don’t trust yourself nor your husband. Your NATURAL MIND and YOUR FLESH are your enemies so you are on the alert to remove and deactivate your own mind, natural feelings as they are bound to lead you away from God.

The leaders lead in self-confession always talking about their evil ways.

They talk about forgiveness and the mercies of God all day long but the reality is that what you have confessed gets used against you. You get reminded of your past faults and they use them to create the environment where you feel like you never attain and you always need their advice, you are inferior and in much need of spiritual guidance. You get depressed and never get enough encouragement. You end up getting strength from the only thing that seems stable and never changing, the sense of ought because of your commitment, the direction in which the whole herd is moving. It is no longer feeling loved, understood and real bonds but knowing you are doing the right thing.

#### Sacred science

It offered me great security to know there was a God who knew me and had a plan for me. The whole of human history and plight was delineated in the stories from the Bible which I accepted as being from God. There was a solution to every suffering, every problem and even to death. The people seemed so dedicated I felt like I had led God down and I didn’t know him. I wanted to know him and have genuine relationships with other caring people. I received their teachings as true, about THE 3 ETERNAL DESTINIES, about sin. I wanted to respond to the higher calling and find purpose in fighting evil. But as it turned out the doctrines enclosed me into a web of guilt, shame, feeling inadequate, never attaining but giving me the security of knowing I was in the right path. While everything was deteriorating around me and in me I still was persuaded I was living the most worthwhile life because I was in the running in the race against evil and I was going to win no matter what.

You are to adopt “THE MIND OF MESSIAH” which is pure and true and knows all answers to life. You supposedly have to seek to know things in your heart because God doesn’t want robots but in reality it is all worked out for you and just “JUDGE YOURSELF” and your rebellion, unwillingness, selfishness.

The TT think they can judge everyone or at least are starting to be trained to do so like God would and one day the TT “will rule over the Nations”. They exclusively have the truth, the true heart of God and they alone can truly please God.

Loading the language

EX 1: Some words are forbidden: Kids, Play (in the context of a child playing) Toys we said “my child IS WORKING with the ball. Children are supposed to always be supervised by an adult and be engaged in an activity that prepares for adult life with real things. Little children do have toys to play with but they are not supposed to be left alone by themselves or with other children, nor do role playing or using their imagination. Even supervised these kind of activities are called “DISSIPATION” in other TT words you are training your child grow to stray from their consciences and up to be A FOOL. They are not allowed dollies or soft toys. The result is children, who are deprived of the opportunity to develop their imagination, increase their social, interactive and conflict resolution skills. They are deprived or their given right to be children. Children are to get their head on their shoulders as early as possible and seriously consider life. From a young age they participate in chores such as laundry, cooking, cleaning and if facilitated, gardening. As a parent you can never say: He is just playing around, just being a kid. That is not taking responsibility for your child’s actions and training him to be a fool. Children are taught to be accountable, responsible, respectful to authority, sober minded. They get disciplined on a daily basis, some of them, for being “foolish” which frequently includes being funny, getting attention, acting silly or joking inappropriately. Children get work in their bakeries, cafe as early as they can, 12, 13 but are limited by their fear of local authorities busting them for child labour and lack of safety. If they could get away with it that would happen all the time. They are against further education because students in Universities get taught useless knowledge and get trained in the ways of the devil who is leading everyone astray from their consciences. One of the ways the devil does that, still according to their teachings is by enticing men to work in jobs where they don’t have to sweat and work hard as God commanded to the first man. Another way is to entice women to want to have careers and give up full charge of their children one of the commands of God to Eve. Definitely from 15 y girls are working in cafes and boys in building projects 10 hours in average. Further education from that point is solely TT focused, almost totally given within the TT. So real choice-based education for personal advancement is discouraged and possibly non-existent.

The word “receiving” is a loaded word. The teachings of Yoneq are all about obedience. Without obedience there is no salvation, no redemption, no premise on which God is free to act and bless and protect anyone nor will he be able to speak to his chosen people (of course the TT) and reveal his plans. The TT are there to show everybody else what a truly obedient people are as a light to guide in a world overtaken by the rebellion which started with the evil angel called Lucifer or Satan who wilfully chose to come out from under God’ authority and is usurping or trying to God’s place. That way of thinking has implications in your every waking moment. They are constant reminders through child training teachings that children are to obey their parents in all things. So as a parent your mind is constantly engaged (if you have an energetic, creative or simply wilful child) in weighing down how much he-she is “receiving” you. And you are to spank the devil out of them as soon as there is the slightest hint of rebellion. If you have more than one those children you will find yourself fighting an uphill battle for children are not little robots. It takes its toll on the mothers, mentally, physically, emotionally. Far from getting closer your children distance themselves from you. Women are to submit to their husbands in every way and if not married to their leaders and their wives. s. And there is allowance for discussing things and workings things through you should always keep at heart the leaders direction (what God has reveal to us) and the traditions and of course whichever man has greatest position in that particular community always has the final word. You feel guilty for not totally agreeing or even having second thoughts about your husband’s final decision but even more so about not being in agreance with any final rules decided for your particular community. Everyone must receive and therefore obey the higher ranking person placed above them. Children are to “receive”, or in other words, receive the guidance, remember the words, acknowledge the superior position of and if required absolutely obey the commands of adult members, especially if they are held in esteem and honoured by the leaders. They are also expected to receive their properly trained older siblings including other properly trained older children. They don’t have to receive anybody else. In fact children are taught from a young age to distrust the world, it’s ways and it’s people because as the Bible says the whole world is led astray by Satan. So as a child you get conditioned to think that people in the world have spirits, wrongs minds, dirty lives, false anointing and useless religions, are cut-off from God and his grace. They will see things like a sincere guest who considers himself a Christian and finding himself so welcome and relaxed in a one of their regular meeting wanting to participate ask to sing them a godly song or share his point of view about a passage in the scriptures being nicely told by a leader that we only RECEIVE what has being passed unto us by God through revelation. And children know any advice from their grandparents or any relative that is contrary to what they are being taught for they will be taught afterward not to receive advice from worldly people.

Not receiving or sometimes only the suspicion of it by a leader has serious repercussions and the punishment is ostracism, lack of respect, being kept in lower menial positions, not advancing in rank, having people always doubting you and not really taking you seriously nor trusting you, mocking, basically being at the bottom of the pecking order. More total sanction is being pronounced cut-off, in rebellion by the leaders. Many members including youths have been sent away because of not receiving .

Also generally everyone has to gladly receive their WILL for the day. You are programmed to want to do what you have been told to do, work at the cafe 6 days a week 10 h a day with a smile on your face . More broadly you should never complain even just in your heart to yourself about what being a woman or a man means in the TT. A man should not complain about working hard nor dream of smarter less strenuous ways to make money. Nor should a woman dream of putting off having children for a while to dedicate her life to educate herself or have a career or simply avoid it. All that would be not receiving God ‘will for mankind and therefore your life.

Doctrine over person

You are told and led to believe that it is all about love but really it is all about the doctrine. You want to gain more and more revelation but you learn how to be obedient to the revelation given to the leaders. You want to love but every relationship, every thought you have of others is dictated by the ideology which is based upon the polarity of good and evil and already thought for you. Your

freedom is defined by how much you willingly give yourself to the teachings and moral values given to you

The TT doctrines make you feel humbly superior. You hear about the seriousness of misjudging people and how we are to be mercifully and understand everyone. But you are really always passing judgments about yourself, others around you and people you meet. You think you know better than anyone and no one but the TT can teach you anything of value, because they do not possess the Holy Spirit. And no Christian has the Holy Spirit, only the TT.

Dispensing of existence

The cult decides who has the "right" to exist and who does not. They decide who will perish in the final battle of good over evil. The leaders decide which history books are accurate and which are biased. Families can be cut off and outsiders can be deceived, for they are not fit to exist!

If you leave you are declared “In Death” because the whole world is dead. And so you have lost any priviledge a living person would have. Noone wants to acknowledge your presence, nor engage with you at any level. You don’t deserve to be told the truth nor to be treated fairly.

Outsiders are not to be taken seriously, learned from or otherwise serve as a model because they don’t have “The Right Mind”, meaning they don’t have the mind of Messiah, meaning they don’t think like Yoneq does. For example a Christian guest might want to share a song at the gathering, they get told that they only want to learn what God wants them to learn, not caring for a second for the offense thereby created.

Guests are expected to adopt the attitude of “please teach me oh you learned ones!” and know their spiritual position which is lower than the TT people. If they fail to do so they are called “arrogant”, “full of themselves” or worst “having their own anointing”. Children growing up are taught not to take seriously any guest or relatives.