

built on a religious worldview that has been abandoned.

— In the group beliefs and rituals were externally imposed. There was no real opportunity to determine or “own” a personal belief system.

— Thus, the young adult often gets involved in circumstances not healthy for them. They have inadequate decision making skills.

3. Social Attachment/Isolation Issues.

— The young adult is frequently afraid to tell anyone of past because of stigma of “cults.”

— It is often very difficult to identify with peers and their past.

— Because of issues of inconsistent or abusive authority it is difficult for the young adult to trust.

— Loneliness and isolation are much a part of the young adult’s life.

4. Emotional/Psychological Issues.

— The young adult frequently feels intense guilt for having left the group or not measuring up to it’s standards.

— Fear is also a large part of the young adult’s life. The group has told them that to leave is to invite God’s wrath. The world is also a scary place to the former member. Strangers, authority figures, the organized church are all feared at some level.

— The young adult may also feel intense anger at the group for “ruining” their life and family, or they may be angry at God for “allowing” this to happen to them.

5. Social/Cultural Issues

— Bible based destructive groups create their own culture (practices, rituals, music, dietary “laws”, ways of worship, etc.) and worldview (a way to look at the world and society) that is often radically against any culture outside their context.

— Young adults born and raised in such groups are particularly unprepared to function within a world they do not understand or comprehend, even though they speak the language fluently. They don’t understand social cues (respecting positions of authority, personal space, standing for older folk, etc.), socially “appropriate” actions (thank you’s, respecting other’s property, knocking, etc.), culturally determined abstract concepts (politically “correct” language, “rites” of passage, equality, etc.).

— The young adult frequently does not know how to set up a bank account, how to handle money, credit, large purchases, etc.