

Mr. Attorney General of California:

Just what do you mean—a "Cult"?

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ARE YOU implying the Worldwide Church of God is a "cult"?

Have you heard American Greeks insulted by calling them "wops"—Italian Americans insulted by the epithet "dagos"?—Jews belittled by the terms "kikes" or "sheenies"—would you insult blacks with the epithet "niggers"?

For a generation or two after the Civil War some Southerners hurled the insult "Yankees" at northerners—yet today a very respectable New York baseball club proudly bears the name "Yankees."

When your office launched its surprise massive armed attack on the Worldwide Church of God, screaming banner headlines used the epithet "cult." Was this intended to belittle the LIVING GOD AND HIS CHURCH?

Just What Is a "Cult"?

It's time we learn the meaning of words! It's time for those living in glass houses to quit throwing stones!

After the unfortunate Jonestown mass suicide the word *cult* was used to discredit. It was indiscriminately used to besmear smaller though fifth decade established respectable churches. Was it not used to justify the unconstitutional assault to "take over," control and own—or else destroy—the churches of California?

Our good name—and that of the great GOD whose name we bear—was irrepar-



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ably damaged by this politically motivated assault of Jan. 3, 1979. True, you, Mr. Attorney General, inherited this case. You came into office a few days after the assault by your office. But you have fully accepted it as *your* battle against the churches of California.

The unfortunate Jonestown disaster was used to justify the political scheme to take over, own, control and operate ALL churches in California. The Worldwide Church of God was selected as the target test case—one expected to "cave in".

If we fall before this massive unconstitutional assault all churches in California—Catholic, Protestant and Jewish—would topple like dominos. We defend them as well as ourselves! That's why they—representing 84 million Americans—are joining forces in our legal defense!

True, your office picked on a church supposedly small in membership. You see, we count as members *only* adult baptized members in regular weekly attendance at services (98% to 100% in local churches attend every weekly service—a record unmatched! If we counted, as commonly done, occasional attendances, children and regular financial supporters, our membership is closer to a half million.

We are considerably larger than the original Church of God founded A.D. 31

by Jesus Christ. It started, that day of Pentecost, with 120 members (Acts 1:15). And did you know that *they* were considered, while young, as a new "cult" or "sect"?

A prominent Baptist minister said recently, "If the Worldwide Church of God is a cult then we Baptists were a cult during the early years of our growth."

Actually the word *cult* is NOT primarily an insulting epithet. The word comes from the Latin and French through a word meaning "CULTURE." Webster defines "cult" as: "1) formal religious veneration, worship; 2) a system of religious belief and ritual, also adherents to; and 3) a religion rejected as unorthodox or spurious." It was this third usage in modern parlance that was sensationalized after the Jonestown tragedy. But that does not condemn the Worldwide Church of God, NOR the Catholic, Protestant or Jewish bodies—all of whom started SMALL IN NUMBERS!

The true Church of God started SMALL in number of members. Jesus Christ compared His Church, and the coming KINGDOM OF GOD into which it shall grow, to a grain of mustard seed—the smallest of all herbs, but to grow ultimately to FILL THE WHOLE EARTH! Jesus called His Church "the Little Flock."

That "Little Flock" then was persecuted, even as it still is TODAY! Jesus said if they had persecuted even HIM, they would also persecute His Church!

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If the reader would like to see some of the ORIGINAL TRUTH, delivered by Jesus Christ Himself, request the FREE booklet *Just What Do You Mean—BORN AGAIN?* It will open your eyes—astound you! Also we will send you a copy of *The Plain Truth*—a full-color mass-circulation magazine of UNDERSTANDING—circulation worldwide in five languages, over two million. It will surprise and delight you! There is NO FOLLOW-UP—we do not solicit the public for contributions. We are nonproselyting!

Write the Worldwide Church of God, Pasadena, Calif., 91123, or call toll-free, (800) 423-4444. In California call collect (213) 577-5225.

If you have some questions for the attorney general of the state of California, write to him, The Hon. George Deukmejian, California Attorney General, 555 Capitol Mall, Sacramento, Calif., 95814