

1 IT RAISES THE ISSUE, IS IT A CULT OR NOT. WE ARE READY TO
2 DECIDE. THE REAL PROBLEM IS THAT SCP IS IDENTIFIED AS AN
3 ANTI-CULT ORGANIZATION, AND ANY GROUP THAT THEY TREAT IN
4 DEPTH IS GOING TO BE IDENTIFIED IN THE PUBLIC MIND AS A CULT
5 GROUP, AND IF YOU GO TO CHRISTIAN BOOK STORES, WHERE THE BOOK
6 WAS SOLD, WHERE I PURCHASED IT WAS AT THE MOODY BOOK STORE IN
7 CHICAGO AND IT WAS ON THE SHELF OF BOOKS PLAINLY MARKED AS
8 ANTI-CULT BOOKS.

9 Q CAN YOU EXPLAIN TO THE COURT THE DILEMMA OF A GROUP
10 SUCH AS THE LOCAL CHURCH WHEN IT IS CALLED A CULT AS TO HOW IT
11 CAN ERASE THAT CHARGE?

12 A IT IS VERY, VERY DIFFICULT. IT IS LIKE OPENING UP A
13 PILLOW TO THE WIND AND THEN TRYING TO RECLAIM ALL THE FEATHERS.
14 IT IS A VERY DIFFICULT THING TO DO. THEY WILL BE A LONG TIME,
15 AT BEST, ERASING THAT IMAGE.

16 Q IS ONE OF THE PROBLEMS THAT CULTS ARE CLAIMED TO BE
17 DECEITFUL?

18 A CULTS ARE CLAIMED TO BE DECEITFUL. THEY ARE CLAIMED TO
19 BE HARMFUL TO THEIR MEMBERS. THEY ARE CLAIMED TO BE UNDER-
20 MINING AMERICAN VALUES. CULTS ARE CLAIMED TO BE JUST ABOUT
21 EVERY BAD THING IN THE BOOK THESE DAYS, AND WITH THE PERVASIVE
22 IMAGES OF MANSON AND JIM JONES HANGING OVER US, ANY GROUP
23 THAT IS CALLED A CULT IS IMMEDIATELY ASSOCIATED WITH THOSE
24 TWO PEOPLE.

25 THE COURT: WHAT IS YOUR DEFINITION OF A CULT?

26 THE WITNESS: MY WORKING DEFINITION OF A CULT
27 IS A GROUP THAT YOU DON'T LIKE, AND I SAY THAT SOMEWHAT
28 FACETIOUSLY, BUT AT THE SAME TIME IN FACT THAT IS MY WORKING

1 DEFINITION OF A CULT. IT IS A GROUP THAT SOMEBODY DOESN'T
2 LIKE. IT IS A DEROGATORY TERM AND I HAVE NEVER SEEN IT
3 REDEEMED FROM THE DEROGATORY CONNOTATIONS THAT IT PICKED UP
4 IN THE SOCIOLOGICAL LITERATURE IN THE 1930'S.

5 Q (BY MR. MORGAN) HAS THE TERM CULT GONE THROUGH ALL
6 SORTS OF CHANGES?

7 A IT BEGAN AS A SOCIOLOGICAL TERM IN THE 20'S AND 30'S.
8 IT WAS USED TO DESCRIBE LEFTOVER GROUPS AFTER SOCIOLOGISTS
9 HAD TALKED ABOUT CHURCHES AND SECTS. THEY WERE A GROUP
10 THAT JUST DIDN'T FIT AND THEY WERE TERMED CULTS. THEY WERE
11 TREATED PRIMARILY AS ESOTERICA IN AMERICAN RELIGION.

12 THEN IN THE 30'S CHRISTIAN APOLOGISTS PICKED UP THE
13 TERM AND USED IT TO DESCRIBE GROUPS THAT WERE EITHER NOT
14 ORTHODOX IN THEIR THEOLOGY OR WERE NOT CHRISTIAN AT ALL.
15 THAT BECAME THE MOST POPULAR USE OF THE TERM UP UNTIL THE
16 1970'S.

17 THEN IN THE 1970'S THE SECULAR ANTI-CULT MOVEMENT
18 CAME ALONG.

19 AMERICA HAS EXPERIENCED A GREAT PLURALISM AND A MARKED
20 JUMP IN PLURALISM IN RELIGION, AND IT'S COME TO MEAN SOME-
21 THING DESTRUCTIVE, NOT JUST SOMETHING WRONG, BUT SOMETHING
22 ACTIVELY DESTRUCTIVE, PSYCHOLOGICALLY SO.

23 Q HOW DOES, SAY, A GROUP LIKE THE LOCAL CHURCH, WHEN THEY
24 PROTEST AND SAY "WE ARE NOT A CULT," DOES THAT FALL ON DEAF
25 EARS?

26 A MOST OF THE TIME IT DOES.

27 Q AND IS THAT BECAUSE THE CHARGE HAD BEEN MADE THAT THEY
28 ARE DECEITFUL?