



THE PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF KOREA

TRUTH MATTERS

A Guide to Heretical
and Pseudo-Christian Movements

Committee on Countering Heretical and Pseudo-Christian Movements,
Ecumenical Committee of the Presbyterian Church of Korea (PCK)

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First edition. Published by Publishing House of the Presbyterian Church of Korea (PCK) 4th Floor, 29, Daehak-ro 3-gil, Jongno-gu, Seoul, Korea (03128)

Printed in Korea / ISBN 978-89-398-4626-5

Symbols

Shincheonji Church of Jesus, the Temple of the Tabernacle of the Testimony

LEE Man-hee



Christian Gospel Mission

JUNG Myung-seok / JMS



Manmin Central Church

LEE Jae-rock



World Mission Society Church of God

AHN Sahng-hong Witnesses



Salvation Sect



Unification Church

Family Federation for World Peace and Unification
MOON Sun-myung



Berea Academy

KIM Ki-dong / Sungrak Church



World Evangelization Association

Darakbang / RYU Kwang-soo





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Foreword

The Presbyterian Church of Korea (PCK), a dedicated member of the Council for World Mission (CWM), has been deeply committed to promoting sound Christian witness and theological integrity. As early as the Fourth General Assembly in 1915, the PCK made its first official resolution against heretical teachings, establishing a tradition of theological vigilance that continues to this day.

Having heard with deep concern from CWM about the growing impact of heretical and pseudo-Christian groups rooted in Korea, we have prepared this booklet in partnership with our ecumenical colleagues.

This publication is the fruit of extensive research and prayerful reflection by the PCK's Committee on Countering Heretical and Pseudo-Christian Movements and the Ecumenical Committee, grounded in the decisions of our General Assembly. It presents the doctrinal errors of eight specific groups, evaluates their teachings in light of orthodox theological principles, and offers practical guidelines for faithful response.

Our hope is that this resource will equip churches to stand firm in the gospel, protect their communities from spiritual deception, and affirm our shared calling to proclaim Christ with integrity.

We commend this work to you with prayer, trusting that it will contribute to the global church's discernment, unity, and witness in Christ.

Rev. Kim Bo-hyun

General Secretary

The Presbyterian Church of Korea (PCK)

Introduction

As part of the PCK 109th General Assembly's initiative to prevent and respond to the challenges posed by heretical and pseudo-Christian groups, the Committee on Countering Heretical and Pseudo-Christian Movements and the Ecumenical Committee have jointly prepared this resource.

In recent years, groups originating in South Korea that have been identified by the General Assembly as departing from essential Christian teachings have begun to expand their missionary activities beyond national borders and into global mission fields. This booklet aims to provide a brief overview of the core doctrines of concern from eight heretical and pseudo-Christian groups originated from Korea based on the findings and conclusions of previously adopted General Assembly reports.

In addition to outlining these doctrinal issues, this guide includes a clear summary of the General Assembly's theological criteria for identifying unorthodox teachings, as well as ten practical guidelines for responding appropriately in overseas mission contexts.

It is our sincere hope that this resource will assist missionaries and church leaders around the world in recognizing and responding wisely to the activities of such groups, while helping to prevent their harmful influence and support the flourishing of sound and healthy Christian witness abroad.

1

The PCK General Assembly's Definition and Discernment Criteria for Heretical and Pseudo-Christian Groups



To effectively respond to the activities of heretical and pseudo-Christian groups – and thereby prevent potential harm and support recovery from such harm – it is essential to cultivate a clear and accurate understanding of the true nature of these groups.

From this standpoint, it is of utmost importance to inform churches, pastors, overseas missionaries, and partner Churches affiliated with the PCK of its official definitions, criteria for discernment, and comprehensive strategies for engagement. This section therefore presents the relevant provisions based on the PCK's regulations and operational guidelines.

Above all, it is crucial to provide ongoing education on the fundamental truths of the Christian faith so that these truths may be rightly understood and faithfully practiced. This is the most vital foundation for discerning the nature of heretical and pseudo-Christian groups and responding to them with theological clarity and pastoral wisdom.

1. Definition of Heretical and Pseudo-Christian Groups

As defined in Article 3 of the Operational Guidelines of the Committee on Countering Heretical and Pseudo-Christian Movements of this PCK:

- (1) “Heresy” refers to teachings or belief systems that are in direct contradiction to the Bible and the core doctrines of the universal Church, as well as groups that follow such teachings.
- (2) “Pseudo-Christian group” refers to movements that promote ideologies associated with unethical or socially harmful behavior while presenting themselves as part of the Christian faith.

- (3) “Tendencies toward heresy or pseudo-Christianity” refer to ideas or behaviors that do not rise to the level of formal heresy or pseudo-Christian classification, but nonetheless exhibit problematic elements that may warrant certain forms of disciplinary response.
- (4) “Prohibition of participation” refers to a directive to refrain from attending gatherings or educational programs when there are serious biblical and pastoral concerns, including notable harmful effects.
- (5) “Recommendation to refrain and maintain vigilance” refers to situations where full prohibition is not deemed necessary but potential concerns and effects therein require caution. In such cases, participants are advised to refrain, and the General Assembly of the PCK will continue to monitor the situation closely.
- (6) “Media outlets supporting heretical or pseudo-Christian groups” refers to media platforms that actively promote, defend, or publish advertisements on behalf of individuals or groups officially classified as heretical or pseudo-Christian by the PCK.

2. Criteria for Discerning Heretical and Pseudo-Christian Groups

Article 4 of the Operational Guidelines of the Committee on Countering Heretical and Pseudo-Christian Movements outlines the following criteria for discerning heretical and pseudo-Christian groups:

- (1) The Bible alone serves as the ultimate authority in discerning whether a group is to be regarded as heretical or pseudo-Christian.
- (2) For the proper interpretation of Scripture, the Constitution of the General Assembly (Doctrines) and the following criteria shall be used as

standards.

① Apostle's Creed

② Confessions

③ The Westminster Shorter Catechism and the Westminster Confession of Faith

④ Other doctrinal and theological traditions of the Reformed churches

(3) A group may only be designated as heretical or pseudo-Christian when there is clear and compelling evidence of a significant contradiction to the teachings of the Bible.

(4) When determining whether a group should be classified as heretical or pseudo-Christian, the Committee on Countering Heretical and Pseudo-Christian Movements must carefully verify evidence that meets the above standards. The Committee must also thoroughly and prayerfully consider the examples listed below, which have historically been recognized as heretical by the universal Church.

① Regarding the doctrine of revelation: an emphasis on extra-biblical revelations

② In the doctrine of Scripture, it is deemed erroneous to assert the existence of another scripture possessing equal authority to the Bible, to deny the authority of the Bible as the Word of God, or to distort and grievously misinterpret the Scriptures.

③ In the doctrine of the Trinity, the denial of the Trinity or the grievous misrepresentation of the Trinity – such as the teachings of Subordinationism, Modalism, or Tritheism – constitutes a serious theological error.

④ In the doctrine of Christology, it is a serious theological error to deny the true divinity and humanity of Jesus Christ (*vere Deus, vere homo*),

to deny that Jesus Christ is the only-begotten Son of God, or to reject essential truths such as His incarnation, virgin birth, sinlessness, vicarious death, resurrection, ascension, second coming, and role as the Judge.

- ⑤ In the doctrine of the Holy Spirit, it is a serious theological error to deny either the deity or the personhood of the Holy Spirit.
- ⑥ In the doctrine of salvation, it is a serious theological error to deny justification by faith alone (*sola fide*), to reject salvation by grace alone (*sola gratia*), or to advocate religious pluralism by recognizing saviors other than Jesus Christ.
- ⑦ In the doctrine of eschatology, it is a grave theological error to deny essential teachings such as the resurrection of believers, the final judgment, or the reality of heaven and hell, or to advocate excessive date-setting regarding the end times.
- ⑧ In the doctrine of the Church, it is a serious theological error to revile the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church that confesses Jesus Christ as its head, or to deny that the truth of salvation is found within the visible Church while claiming that salvation exists exclusively within one's own sect.
- ⑨ In the doctrine of humanity, it is a serious theological error to deify human beings, to exalt a religious leader as the Messiah or the Holy Spirit, or to deny the truth that a believer is simultaneously righteous and a sinner (*simul iustus et peccator*)
- ⑩ In the doctrine of creation, it is a serious theological error to deny God as the Creator, to promote theories that contradict the doctrine of creation, or to advocate an ideology that rejects the biblical teaching that God created humanity.

2

Major Doctrines of Heretical and Pseudo-Christian Groups



SHINCHEONJI CHURCH OF JESUS, THE TEMPLE OF THE TABERNACLE OF THE TESTIMONY (LEE MAN-HEE)



The Shincheonji Church of Jesus, the Temple of the Tabernacle of the Testimony, under the leadership of LEE Man-hee, is a pseudo-Christian group that has inflicted significant harm on the Korean Church and society over the past ten years. Though it sustained considerable damage when its deceitful practices were exposed to the public during the COVID-19 pandemic, it remains actively engaged in aggressive missionary activities and thus requires continued and careful vigilance.

Based on a heretical doctrine of false revelation, Shincheonji advocates a distorted interpretation of the Bible. It claims that the Scriptures are sealed with parables and allegories, written in symbolic language as if encrypted. By distinguishing between the “visionary revelation” and prophecies received by the original biblical authors, and the “physical fulfillment revelation” allegedly received by LEE Man-hee, Shincheonji undermines the authority of Scripture. It further asserts that the apostle John, who received the book mentioned in Revelation 10, symbolizes LEE Man-hee as the recipient of direct revelation.

It also teaches that only Matthew 24 and the Book of Revelation constitute the “New Covenant.”

Shincheonji promotes a deceitful doctrine that subtly denies the divinity of Jesus Christ. It claims that Jesus Christ is not God who came in the flesh, but rather that He became the Son of God when the Spirit descended upon the human body of Jesus.

Shincheonji promotes a false doctrine of salvation that denies salvation through faith in Jesus Christ. It teaches that salvation is not attained through faith in Christ but by hearing the “words of eternal life” from LEE Man-hee, who is claimed to be the “appointed messenger sent by the Holy Spirit” or the “John-like figure” on earth. According to Shincheonji, salvation exists exclusively within their organization, following a sequence of betrayal, destruction, and salvation. They assert that LEE Man-hee is the witness who has seen the events of betrayal and destruction, and that the physical fulfillment of the Book of Revelation has been realized within Shincheonji.

Shincheonji distorts the biblical doctrines of the physical second coming of Jesus Christ and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, promoting a false teaching that deifies LEE Man-hee as both the Second Coming Christ and the Advocate (the Holy Spirit). They claim that the second coming of Jesus is fulfilled when the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, descends upon LEE Man-hee, who is referred to as the “one who comes in the flesh, the Son of Man.” According to Shincheonji, just as the first coming Jesus sowed the seed in Matthew 13 in fulfillment of the prophecy of Jeremiah 31, today LEE Man-hee, as the Second Coming Christ and the Advocate, carries out the harvest described in Revelation 14.

Shincheonji promotes a false eschatology based on a form of dispensationalism known as the “Three Ages Doctrine.” It teaches that there are three ages – the physical Israel, the spiritual Israel, and the new spiritual Israel

– and that in each age a so-called “overcomer” serves as the savior. Shincheonji claims that it is the fulfillment of the new spiritual Israel prophesied in the Book of Revelation. According to their teaching, the “new heaven and new Jerusalem” described in Revelation 21 will be realized when 144,000 martyrs’ spirits (later reinterpreted as the “sealed 144,000 and the great white multitude”) are gathered, beginning and culminating at the Shincheonji Church of Jesus, the Temple of the Tabernacle of the Testimony, located in Gwacheon, Korea, the place identified as the “extreme east where the sun rises.”

Shincheonji promotes the heretical claim that all churches apart from the Shincheonji Church of Jesus, the Temple of the Tabernacle of the Testimony, are part of “Babylon” under the dominion of Satan, and that only Shincheonji constitutes Mount Zion, the true place of salvation where God dwells.

Shincheonji operates internationally through its “Zion Christian Mission Centers” and has established branches across the U.S., Europe, Africa, and Asia. Its affiliated peace organization, HWPL (Heavenly Culture, World Peace, Restoration of Light), hosts international peace events and claims cooperation with NGOs and UN-affiliated individuals.



WORLD MISSION SOCIETY CHURCH OF GOD (AHN SAHNG-HONG WITNESSES)



The World Mission Society Church of God (AHN Sahng-hong Witnesses) is a pseudo-Christian group that engages in blasphemy by exalting AHN Sahng-hong as “God the Father” and JANG Gil-ja as “God the Mother.” Following AHN’s death, the group divided into several sects, including the New Covenant Passover Church of God and the World Mission Society Church of God, thereby actively expanding their reach. In recent years, they have notably intensified their street evangelism efforts, particularly emphasizing the observance of the Passover.

They falsely claim that King David’s 40-year reign was the fulfillment of a divine prophecy and that, because Jesus Christ’s public ministry lasted only three years, thereby failing to complete the 40 years, He must return to fulfill the remaining 37 years. Accordingly, they assert that AHN Sahng-hong came in the flesh to complete the 37 years as the “Second Coming Jesus” and the “Christ” according to the “order of Melchizedek” and the “prophecy of David.” They further claim that AHN Sahng-hong is the “God the Father” who has

come in the age of the Holy Spirit to bring salvation to humanity, thereby deifying him.

After the death of AHN Sahng-hong, they deified JANG Gil-ja. During AHN Sahng-hong's lifetime, she was referred to as the "Bride of God," but after his death, she came to be called "God the Mother" and was subsequently deified.

They claim that orthodox churches, which do not observe the Sabbath and the Passover according to the Old Testament but instead celebrate Sunday worship and Christmas – both of which, they argue, have no biblical basis – are heretical. They teach an unbiblical soteriology, insisting that salvation can only be attained by observing the Passover. They further claim that Sunday and Christmas originate from the worship of the sun, pointing out that even the term "Sunday" reflects this pagan origin, and they condemn the shift from Saturday Sabbath to Sunday worship as an act of apostate idolatry. They maintain that only their church, which celebrates the New Covenant Passover through the bread and wine, continues the true rite that grants eternal life. However, contrary to their claims, Sunday worship was not a later 4th century innovation but is in fact rooted in apostolic tradition, wherein the early church gathered on the first day of the week – the day of the Lord's resurrection – for worship.

The World Mission Society Church of God is a heretical group that propagates false doctrines concerning the Bible, God, Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, the Church, and eschatology related to the prediction of an imminent end.

* In recent years, the group has been expanding its influence both domestically and internationally by engaging in social service activities and purchasing existing church buildings as a means of disguising its proselytizing efforts. It also actively monitors the heresy research and resolutions undertaken by traditional

Protestant denominations, including our own, and is willing to pursue legal action in response. Therefore, particular caution is required in the heresy response efforts of individual churches and members.

World Mission Society Church of God has vigorously expanded abroad and is known for its evangelistic outreach and community service. It also has received local awards for volunteer and environmental work in various countries.



MANMIN CENTRAL CHURCH (LEE JAE-ROCK)



Manmin Central Church, founded by LEE Jae-rock, is a heretical group that distorts fundamental Christian doctrines by interpreting the Bible arbitrarily and dogmatically according to a mystical view of revelation. LEE emphasized direct and immediate revelation, claiming that he continually received divine revelations from God on all matters. After LEE's death while he was in prison for sex crimes, leadership was passed onto his two daughters, who continue the group's activities.

They teach blasphemous false doctrines about God. They degrade God by portraying God as someone who comes and goes at their command, reducing God to a being they can control at will. They also claim titles and attributes that belong to God alone for themselves, calling themselves the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, and asserting that they possess the authority of judgment and the power to forgive sins, thus promoting a distorted and heretical view of God through their self-deification.

They deny the doctrine that salvation is attained through faith in Jesus Christ

and the cleansing of sins by His atoning blood. Instead, they promote a false doctrine concerning Christ and salvation, claiming that salvation is achieved through them.

LEE Jae-rock claimed that through a complete exchange of blood – so-called “blood replacement” – he became free from both original and personal sin, and even exempt from death. He further distorted Christian teaching by misleadingly attributing the healing power of the Holy Spirit to himself.

LEE Jae-rock claimed that God revealed the events of the Second Coming and the Rapture to him. He further asserted that at the final judgment he will be seated at the left hand of God’s throne as an advocate for his followers. Based on this, he promoted a false eschatology, including an arbitrary and dogmatic view of faith and the afterlife, characterized by a five-stage system in which rewards and dwelling places in heaven are determined according to the measure of each believer’s faith.

Manmin Central Church has established missionary bases in several regions, including North America, Africa, and Asia, and has conducted international healing crusades through its media network. However, following the conviction of its founder, Lee Jaerock, the church’s global activities have relatively declined.



CHRISTIAN GOSPEL MISSION (JUNG MYUNG-SEOK / JMS)



The Christian Gospel Mission (JUNG Myung-seok / JMS)

is a heretical group founded under the influence of the Unification Church. It primarily targets young adults and university students for proselytization, thereby expanding its membership base. The leader, JUNG Myung-seok, has caused serious social controversy both domestically and internationally through acts of sexual harassment and assault. After fleeing to China, he was extradited back to South Korea, where he was tried and ultimately sentenced by the Supreme Court to 17 years in prison. He is currently serving his sentence.

They claim that the entire Bible consists of parables and symbols, and they interpret these figuratively and arbitrarily. They assert that traditional churches misinterpret the Bible by relying solely on literal and doctrinal readings without considering historical context or scientific understanding. For example, they interpret the account of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil as symbolizing a fall through a sexual relationship between Eve and the fallen angel (the serpent). They also claim that the miracle of the five loaves

and two fish does not refer to actual bread, but to the word of life, and that the 12 baskets of leftovers signify that the 12 disciples held onto teachings as insignificant as crumbs apart from the words of Jesus. Through such arbitrary figurative interpretations, they distort the true meaning of the Scriptures.

They deny the doctrine of the Trinity and reject the divinity of Jesus Christ. They assert that, “The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are not one in person,” and question, “If the three are one, does that mean God entered Mary's womb?” They further claim, “The three – the Father (God the Father), the Mother (the Holy Spirit), and the Son (Jesus Christ) – are analogous to a human family relationship,” and argue, “Jesus was merely a human being. If the Trinity were true, how could He say that He not have known Himself? It is because He was a man.” They insist that Christianity has been teaching the erroneous doctrine of the Trinity for 2,000 years.

They blaspheme and repudiate the Church by claiming that the Old Testament, the New Testament, and the entire history of Christianity are histories of failure. JUNG Myung-seok asserts that, “Judaism was a spiritual failure; the Holy Spirit failed during the New Testament era; Christianity is a spiritual failure, and there is no hope in Christianity.” He further claims that he himself is “a servant sent by God, like King Josiah,” and that “Christianity will ultimately kneel before him.”

They deny the doctrine of the bodily resurrection and teach a false doctrine of resurrection. They propose arbitrary concepts such as “regeneration resurrection” and “second coming resurrection.” According to their claims, the “second coming resurrection” means that a spirit is resurrected by entering another person's body. They assert that “Elijah was resurrected into John's body; although the body belonged to John, he was in fact Elijah, and thus John the Baptist was simultaneously John and Elijah.” They further redefine the

bodily resurrection as a “resurrection of deeds,” thereby denying the physical resurrection of Jesus Christ and insisting instead that His resurrection was merely spiritual.

JUNG Myung-seok claims to be the Second Coming Christ and distorts the doctrine of the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. He teaches that, “Christianity believes and eagerly awaits that Jesus will physically descend on the clouds from the sky. However, in reality, just as the spirit of Elijah came upon John the Baptist and the spirit of Moses came upon Jesus, the Second Coming does not involve the resurrected and ascended Jesus returning in the flesh. Rather, Jesus spiritually returns by selecting a central figure from among Christians and works through him to fulfill the mission of the Second Coming.” JUNG further asserts that he is “able to travel through the spiritual world even while sitting,” and claims that he is “the one sent for this age,” namely, the Second Coming Christ.

This group is active in countries such as Japan, Taiwan, and the United States under names like “Providence” or “Christian Gospel Mission.” It focuses on campus outreach, sports, and cultural activities.



SALVATION SECT



The "Salvation Sect" refers to a group of heretical movements that have splintered into various factions, including the Evangelical Baptist Church of Korea (KWON Shin-chan and YOO Byung-eun), the Life Word Mission (LEE Yo-han), and the Good News Mission (PARK Ock-soo). They are collectively called the "Salvation Sect" because they advocate a false doctrine of salvation.

They severely abuse allegorical interpretation of the Bible. Although they acknowledge the Bible as the Word of God, unlike traditional churches, they misuse allegorical interpretation to distort the Christian life of sanctification, promoting a Gnostic-influenced false doctrine of salvation.

They claim that salvation is not achieved through faith and repentance, but through so-called "enlightenment," asserting that one must be awakened and reborn to be saved. They further teach that a person must recognize the exact moment of salvation, their "spiritual birthday," and that marking it, just like a normal birthday, serves as evidence of salvation. This emphasis on passive enlightenment as the basis for salvation constitutes a Gnostic false teaching.

They promote a false doctrine of salvation by claiming that continual repentance is evidence of not being saved. They teach that those who have turned to God and received salvation no longer need to repent, asserting that all past, present, and future sins have already been forgiven. According to their doctrine, continuing to repent indicates a lack of assurance of forgiveness and is proof that the person is not saved but is instead a child of hell. They even claim that confessing oneself as a sinner leads to hell, and that only by proclaiming oneself as righteous can one be recognized as truly saved.

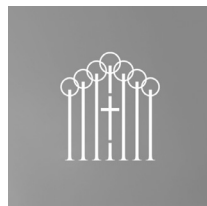
* True faith affirms that a person is justified by the grace of God through Jesus Christ. However, this must be accompanied by a life of sanctification through the work of the Holy Spirit, wherein the believer continues to confess themselves a sinner before God and receives ongoing forgiveness.

The Salvation Sect (KWON Shin-chan / LEE Yo-han factions) promotes an urgent, false, and time-limited eschatology characterized by antisocial and dispensationalist tendencies. They instill fear by claiming that unless people join their group, they will not be taken up in the rapture at Christ's return and will instead have to endure the so-called seven-year Great Tribulation. They further assert that the "bride," meaning the Church, will be completed and raptured only when the full number of the saved has been reached. They undermine traditional churches, deny the structures and forms of church worship, and engage in proselytizing activities that sow confusion within the church and lead believers astray.

Recently, they have been engaging in deceptive proselytizing activities by acquiring Christian universities that are struggling due to population

decline and a decrease in university enrollment. They disguise their efforts by cooperating with local governments to attract international students, making it necessary to exercise particular vigilance.

The Salvation Sect has been linked to overseas cultural and media initiatives.



UNIFICATION CHURCH (FAMILY FEDERATION FOR WORLD PEACE AND UNIFICATION / MOON SUN-MYUNG)



The Family Federation for World Peace and Unification (Unification Church) is a heretical group founded by MOON Sun-myung that has served as a source or model for the development of many other heretical movements. Following MOON's death, his wife, HAN Hak-ja, claimed that she is the "Only Begotten Daughter" born after 6,000 years. Meanwhile, their son, MOON Hyung-jin, has denounced his mother HAN as a "prostitute" and a "seed of Satan," leading to a fierce succession dispute. Recently, the group drew major public controversy following the assassination of former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, resulting in a court order to dissolve the Unification Church corporation in Japan. Working to overcome its financial crisis, the movement has been promoting the sanctification of Gapyeong, a city located in Gyeonggi Province as a new sacred site.

They divide the Scriptures into the Old Testament, the New Testament, and the "Completed Testament," claiming that the Divine Principle is the book of the Completed Testament in which God's promises are fulfilled, thereby

relativizing the authority of the Bible.

They regard Jesus Christ as a failure and claim that MOON Sun-myung, as the Second Coming Christ and the Messiah, will complete the unfinished mission. They teach that while Jesus' work of redemption was spiritually fulfilled, it failed physically. They deny the divinity of Jesus Christ by arguing that if Jesus were truly God Himself, He could not have been tempted by Satan or crucified. They further claim that when Jesus died on the cross, His physical body was invaded by Satan, and, therefore, the bodies of believers, being united with Jesus' body, are also subject to satanic invasion. Consequently, they argue that the atonement accomplished through Jesus' crucifixion was insufficient to complete physical salvation, and that MOON Sun-myung, the Second Coming Christ, must appear to accomplish the full redemption of both spirit and body.

They promote the false doctrine of "restoration through indemnity," claiming that salvation can only be attained by practicing faith according to the commands of MOON Sun-myung.

The doctrine of "restoration through indemnity," which is a core heretical teaching set forth in the Divine Principle, consists of a distorted view of salvation based on the theories of the Fall and Restoration. They interpret the Fall in Genesis 2:17 – the account of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil – as the result of a sexual relationship between Eve and Satan. Based on this interpretation, they advocate an absurd "blood lineage cleansing ritual," arguing that the corrupt lineage of Satan, transmitted through illicit sexual relations, must be purified.

MOON Sun-myung claims to be the returning Messiah prophesied as the "one from the East, from the rising of the sun" (Revelation 7:2). He teaches that he is the one that God has sent to resolve the fundamental problems of

humanity and the universe. He also asserts that the earthly kingdom of God – the ideal kingdom – will be established in Korea, the land of the East.

Since the death of Sun Myung Moon in 2012, the Unification Church has experienced internal divisions and leadership struggles. His widow, Hak Ja Han, has taken a central leadership role and rebranded the movement as the “Family Federation for World Peace and Unification.” Meanwhile, some of Moon's children have broken away and established separate factions, leading to further fragmentation. Despite these challenges, the movement continues to hold large-scale international events and remains active in promoting its vision of global peace, often through political and interfaith initiatives. However, its core teachings and practices continue to be viewed as heretical by mainstream Christian denominations.

The Unification Church maintains a large international presence through its religious, educational, and media institutions in the U.S., Japan, Latin America, and Africa. Its affiliated organization, the Universal Peace Federation (UPF), holds special consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). UPF actively participates in peacebuilding and interfaith events under the UN umbrella.



BEREA ACADEMY
(KIM KI-DONG / SUNGNAK CHURCH)



Berea Academy (Sungnak Church), led by KIM Ki-dong, has spread a false doctrine of “demonology,” misleading believers and doing serious harm to the Church. As a result, it has been officially condemned as heretical by multiple denominations. Although the group’s influence appears to have weakened following KIM Ki-dong’s death in 2022, the erroneous and distorted teachings concerning demons and other related doctrines continue to exert influence. Therefore, vigilance must be upheld.

They deny the authority of the Bible by interpreting it arbitrarily. They claim that today’s Scriptures are divided into the “Bible” and the “Sacred Writings,” asserting that while the “Bible,” being divine revelation, cannot be altered, the “Sacred Writings,” which merely testify to the revelation, can be modified. According to their interpretation, the “Bible” consists of only eight books – the Pentateuch and the Synoptic Gospels – while the remaining 58 books are classified as “Sacred Writings.” Although they outwardly emphasize the authority of the “Bible,” in practice, they downgrade its value, particularly

under their teachings on demonology. They falsely assert that the “Bible” is just a sliver of light entering through a crack in a door, and that one cannot fully know Jesus Christ from the Bible alone.

They advocate a distorted, modalistic view of the Trinity. They claim that God is the Holy Spirit, that when the Holy Spirit is within Jesus, He becomes the Father, and that when the Father is within believers, He becomes the Holy Spirit. They deny that the three persons of the Trinity have distinct personal identities, arguing instead that the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are merely different names according to different locations. By promoting a distorted analogy, they fundamentally reject the independent personhood of each of the three divine persons.

They deny the divinity of Jesus Christ and promote a false doctrine that restricts His true humanity. They claim that the life of Jesus was not the life of God but merely the life of a human being, even going so far as to say that calling Jesus "God" is heretical. They argue that Jesus used honorific titles for the Holy Spirit because, while clothed in flesh, He could not speak of the Holy Spirit as being on the same level as Himself. They further distort the doctrine of the incarnation by asserting that Jesus' flesh came from the Word (John 1:14), and since the Word is spirit (John 6:63), Jesus' flesh is on the same level as our spirit. Consequently, they claim that the blood and flesh that Jesus shed are themselves spirit.

This group advocates a distorted and heretical doctrine that effectively reduces the Holy Spirit to a shadow. They assert that the terms “Spirit of God” and “spirits sent by God” in the Old Testament refer not to the Holy Spirit, but to angels. They further claim that the “Spirit of God” mentioned in Genesis 1:2 is also an angelic being. According to their teaching, salvation is attainable by merely acknowledging Jesus, even apart from the presence or work of

the Holy Spirit. In their interpretation of the Pentecost narrative in Acts, they equate the phrase “you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you” with “receiving an angel,” thereby identifying the Holy Spirit with angels. Consequently, in all respects, they deny the personhood and work of the Holy Spirit, reducing the Holy Spirit to an ineffective, symbolic figure.

To legitimize his heretical doctrine concerning demons, KIM Ki-dong distorts the biblical teachings on the creation of the universe and humanity. In his Bible study textbook *Berea Basic Lectures*, he engages in highly subjective and idiosyncratic interpretations of Scripture to support his demon-centered theology. He claims that God created this world imperfectly as a prison intended for the destruction of Satan. He further asserts that the accounts of human creation in Genesis chapters 1 and 2 describe two fundamentally different kinds of human beings. According to his interpretation, the “humans” in Genesis 1 refer to gendered, animal-like beings possessing only body and soul, while the “human” in Genesis 2 refers to a spiritually awakened, selected human endowed with a spirit, thus departing from orthodox biblical anthropology.

One of the central false doctrines in KIM Ki-dong’s theology is his demonology, in which he defines demons as the spirits of deceased unbelievers and their ancestors. He interprets Genesis 6:3 in an arbitrary manner, claiming that the human lifespan is limited to 120 years. According to his teaching, if a person dies before reaching 120 years, the remaining years are spent as a demon; once the full 120 years are completed, the spirit is sent to hell. He asserts that his understanding of demons is “accurate” because it is based on his personal experiences of casting out numerous demons, conversing with them, and observing them. He also distinguishes demons from the devil or Satan, identifying the latter as a fallen angel.

A central emphasis in KIM Ki-dong’s demonology is the claim that all

diseases, accidents, unbelieving attitudes, and flawed character traits originate from demons. He asserts that demons are not personal beings and therefore cannot enter human bodies on their own; instead, they must do so with the assistance of deceiving spirits. According to his teaching, every illness – even minor ailments such as the common cold or athlete's foot – is caused by demons. He further claims that diseases are the result of demons attaching themselves to the human body and thus they cannot be cured through medicine or medical treatment, but only through exorcism. This teaching directly contradicts the biblical understanding of healing.



WORLD EVANGELIZATION ASSOCIATION (DARAKBANG / RYU KWANG-SOO)



The World Evangelization Association (Darakbang), founded by RYU Kwang-soo, originated from the so-called “Darakbang Evangelism Movement,” which derives its name from the Upper Room where the Paraclete Holy Spirit descended in the New Testament. However, the movement has propagated distorted and false doctrines, and due to its theological deviations, as well as ethical controversies, it has been officially designated a heretical group by major denominational bodies. In recent years, numerous pastors and congregants have withdrawn from the group, particularly in response to the unethical conduct of RYU Kwang-soo.

A central false doctrine promoted by RYU Kwang-soo is his demonology, which frames redemptive history as a cosmic battle against the devil. Drawing upon the foundational ideas of KIM Ki-dong’s demonology taught at the Berea Academy, RYU applies similar concepts within the context of evangelism. He teaches that, “in order to evangelize effectively, one must first bind the forces of the devil through prayer.” He further asserts that believers possess the authority

to mobilize angels through prayer, which he calls the “right to dispatch angels.” According to him, all spiritual, psychological, and physical illnesses enter through the heart; mental illness in particular is attributed to the activity of evil spirits such as Satan and deceiving spirits. He also categorizes recurring misfortunes, family conflict, and personal failure as manifestations of spiritual sickness.

Based on an arbitrary interpretation of the stages of faith, RYU Kwang-soo advocates a distorted and false doctrine concerning salvation. He claims that “receiving Jesus” means accepting the truth that “the Son of God appeared to destroy the works of the devil,” and that proclaiming this message constitutes the true gospel. While promoting the Darakbang Evangelism Movement, there have been instances where even members of local churches have been pressured to undergo a forced “acceptance” experience according to Darakbang's prescribed method.

Grounded in distorted and false doctrines concerning redemptive history, the devil, faith, and salvation, RYU Kwang-soo's teachings undermine and criticize local churches, thereby causing confusion within congregations and disrupting ecclesial unity and fellowship. The Darakbang-style Bible studies, conducted under the auspices of the Darakbang Evangelism Training Center, promote doctrines that are incompatible with the teachings of orthodox churches, leading to theological confusion among believers. By presenting the Darakbang Evangelism Movement as the sole legitimate method of evangelism, RYU fosters an exclusivist attitude that encourages mistrust and criticism of local churches, ultimately denying the importance of unity, fellowship, and cooperation within the body of Christ.



A BRIEF TABLE SUMMARIZING THE DOCTRINES OF
HERETICAL AND PSEUDO-CHRISTIAN GROUPS



The following table summarizes the core theological errors of the aforementioned heretical and pseudo-Christian groups according to key doctrinal categories, providing a clearer understanding of their deviations from biblical and historic Christian teaching.

Subjects	Related Doctrines	Teachings
Bible	Direct Revelation, Allegorical Interpretation	· Claims of Extra-Biblical or Direct Revelation : MOON Sun-myung, LEE Man-hee, etc. · Creation of Private Doctrines Based on "Special" Bible Translations · Allegorical Interpretation that Distorts Proper Biblical Understanding
God	Doctrine of the Trinity- Divine Decree, Predestination, Creation and Providence	· Denial of the Trinity or interpretation in a modalistic or tritheistic manner · Claiming to be God: the Unification Church (MOON Sun-myung), LEE Man-hee, AHN Sang-hong, JUNG Myung-seok, etc.

Human Being	The Fall, Sin and Judgement, Covenant of Grace	· A tripartite view of human nature · Denial of both original and personal sin: LEE Jae-rok · Unorthodox doctrines of sin, such as the sexual interpretation of original sin in the "blood lineage cleansing": MOON Sun-myung, JUNG Myung-seok, etc. · The claim that union between God and human beings is ontologically possible
Jesus Christ	Mediator	· Denial or misinterpretation of the Chalcedonian Definition, which confesses the full divinity and full humanity of Christ · Claims of being the Second Coming of Christ – a phenomenon notably widespread in Korea –: MOON Sun-myung, LEE Man-hee, AHN Sang-hong, etc.
Salvation	Free Will, Calling, Justification, Adoption, Sanctification, Faith, Repentance, Good Works, Perseverance (of the Saints), Assurance of Salvation	· Excessive legalism · Doctrines that claim people must know the exact date of their salvation and that repentance and sanctification are unnecessary after salvation: Salvation Sect and related groups · Excessive spiritual mysticism
Ecclesiology	The Law, Christian Liberty, Worship and the Sabbath, Lawful Oaths and Vows, the Civil Magistrate, Marriage and Divorce, the Church, the Communion of Saints, the Sacraments, Church Discipline, Synods and General Assembly	· The denial of the holy catholic Church and the claim that salvation only exists within their own sect, a phenomenon commonly found among heretical groups both in Korea and abroad: LEE Man-hee, RYU Kwang-soo, LEE Jae-rok, JUNG Myung-seok, etc.
Eschatology	Death and Resurrection, Final Judgement	· Date-setting eschatology, originally associated with Seventh-day Adventism. · The doctrine of the Second Coming of Christ in the Far East (specifically Korea), a common feature of many heretical groups: MOON Sun-myung, LEE Man-hee, etc.

3

Countermeasures



This section introduces practical and concrete guidelines for the prevention of and response to heretical and pseudo-Christian groups, which is designed to be helpful in real-life situations and applicable in local ministry contexts.

1. Ten Practical Guidelines for Preventing Heretical and Pseudo-Christian Groups

1. Establish a firm foundation in the basic posture of the Christian faith.
2. Clearly understand the core tenets of Christian doctrine.
3. Possess a clear assurance of salvation.
4. Make a continual effort to learn the key teachings of the Bible accurately.
5. Commit to a church-centered and pastor-guided faith life.
6. Instead of blindly accepting all teachings, maintain a healthy critical perspective.
7. Acquire basic knowledge and awareness about heretical and pseudo-Christian movements.
8. Build a spiritually healthy church community to avoid vulnerability to deception.
9. Foster vigilance through regular seminars or special lectures on heresy and cults.
10. Strengthen ongoing and proactive responses by activating specialized counseling ministries on heretical and pseudo-Christian issues within the church.

2. Ten Practical Rules for Stopping Heretical and Pseudo-Christian Groups

1. Do not provide personal information such as your name, phone number, or address when responding to surveys.
2. Always verify the denominational or organizational affiliation, as cults may impersonate legitimate church names.
3. Be cautious of individuals who approach you with excessive familiarity; verify their identity.
4. Educate church members in advance about suspicious or misleading biblical questions designed to provoke curiosity.
5. Raise awareness about various entry points such as personality tests, humanities lectures, and university clubs that may be used by heretical groups.
6. If contact with a member of a heretical group is confirmed, report it immediately to the pastor.
7. Seek counseling through qualified and recognized experts on heretical and pseudo-Christian groups.
8. Hold at least one seminar on awareness of heretical and pseudo-Christian movements each year.
9. Train certified heretical group response counselors within the church to help protect members.
10. Continually educate church members so that they remain alert to the dangers and reality of heretical and pseudo-Christian movements.

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ISBN 978-89-398-4626-5


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