

## Untitled

### 18. Social Institutionalism:

I am wary of cults but fortunate to have grown up on what I consider the fringe of cult environment. As a child I made my way through a typical Christian church upbringing from infant baptism, years of Sunday school remedial in preparation for youth ministry that finally concluded with formal confirmation before the gathered congregation, now an adult member entered into the service of the God, a born again believer. I first left the faith about a year before confirmation (the acquisition of a permission slip to later hold matrimony in the house of the lord as I later discovered) and I left the church immediately thereafter. I saw faith for the propaganda it is; belief without reason or question was impractical to me. I questioned, and continue to question religious ideology. My departure motivated by propagation; the church elders began driving work programs within prison ministry by recruiting from the youth faculty. Coercion of the sheeple to blindly follow; I wanted no part of it. I don't understand the need to promote salvation to condemned men over the plight of abused women and children, the adults recruiters offered explanation for their decision but failed to offer me satisfactory reason for going into correctional facilities to teach the love of God to individuals who had raped and murdered innocent people without remorse. People's attitudes change when you exit their organization, I left the church willingly and knowingly and happily. Solitary freedom. I started reading, learning about the mechanics of religion (each arguing their imaginary friend is the greatest) I understood the universal message of subjugation, control and manipulation of a corrupt minority over a naïve majority remains the corner pillar of organized religions. I may not have found God but I could express myself in a manner that terrified overly devote conservative minds who to this day believe anyone different to them (the favoured target from my childhood being people listening to Heavy Metal) smokes crack, kills cats and worships the dark lord Satan. I learned of the lies created and committed by the devote, how their pious deceit eats through the mind of society like dementia and which practices they skillfully execute against anyone calling them out on the bullshit. I must be doing something wrong then, if God demands absolute compliance yet allows the ongoing atrocities afflicting mankind then God is the monster and nature is the work of Satan. Organized religion is a cult following for the politically correct. Targeted with negative oppression, everything religion finds uncontrollable is branded as bad for the mindless masses and promoted as evil. Most things I carry neutral support. LGBTQ, anti racism, gender equality, animal welfare; I support that which is right and not that which is favourable. Everyone makes mistakes, informed consent and tolerance above all. I also drive everyone to learn and expand their own knowledge base, without knowledge people resort to ignorant hatred and fear driven action, usually violent. Organized religion, i.e. cults, thrives on this cocktail of emotionally charged misinformation fed mass of controllable minds acting on the confusion their fears promote. I developed an ability to immediately see through the bullshit, a skill I admit has failed me twice in my life, and call people out on it. I navigated the landscape of devious people trying to convert or

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convince me their imaginary friend and system of radical control is the one true version, difficult to believe someone's credibility when all their knowledge comes from a single book. As a self taught atheist I do not begrudge anyone of practicing faith provided their actions are fair and just. I personally do not believe a higher power using intelligent design can operate without a moral compass and still claim freewill is governable because somebody always loses. I find the teachings in contradiction and the arguments limited to points of denial. Notwithstanding should their indeed be a higher power upon which I, at the time of my death, stand before to face judgement I shall politely shake their hand, share my honest opinion of their work and move on to whatever afterlife awaits. The burden of proof remains on the believer; I'm open to examining it. The truth is people who pilot cults into the world are afraid and unsound, mostly as the unhinged sociopath with a God complex goes on a world class ego trip ultimately killing innocent people. For the leaders it's the need for power over others. Herein is my objection as these institutions all propagate sacrifice will lead to freedom when it really leads to servitude? Freedom is absolute, imagined ideology shared among the masses isn't.