

IDEAL TYPES OF RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATION

<i>characteristic</i>	CULT ➔	SECT ➔	DENOMINATION	CHURCH or ECCELSIA
Relation to state and/or secular powers	Avoiding	Uneasy, tenuous	On good terms, sometimes influential	Conflates citizen with member
Relation to other religious groups	Rejection, separation, isolation, withdrawal	Avoiding	Tolerant, friendly, accepting pluralism	Claims universality, attempts to eliminate competition
Source of new membership	Voluntary conversion, "kidnapping"	Voluntary, often evangelical	Birth, conversion, some evangelical	Birth, socialization, conversion, conquest, missionized salvation
Relation to doctrinal change	New revelations, insights, discoveries	Return to original sources	Modestly changing, adaptive doctrine	Rigidly interpreted theologies, highly intellectualized
Doctrinal focus	Highly spiritual	Otherworldly	Practical	Both otherworldly and practical; politically sensitive
Form of ritual or worship	Esoteric, highly symbolic	Often informal, spontaneous	Ritualized, routine, less spontaneous	Highly ritualized, elaborate
Type of leadership	Charismatic, individual	Charismatic, lay leadership	Professional, trained, licensed clergy	Professional, trained, licensed clergy
Form or Degree of Organization	Very loose, even democratic	Informal	Somewhat hierarchical, often congregational	Hierarchical, structured, authoritarian
Degree of member involvement	Exclusive, Intense, emotional	Exclusive	Non-exclusive, integrated	Lifelong, extensive, non-exclusive (altho see conflation)
Potential or desired size	Small	Small, but growing	Large, growing (in decline)	Large, expansive, comprehensive, all-inclusive
Relation to social class	Disenfranchised, marginal, alienated	Lower SES	Upper and Middle SES	All classes, tho differentially