



Stages of Cult Development

Lofland and Stark concluded in their theory of conversion that, in general, a convert to a cult would tend to:

1. Experience enduring acutely felt tensions
2. within a religious, problem solving perspective
3. which leads to defining himself as a religious seeker;
4. encountering the cult at a turning point in his life;
5. wherein an affective bond to adherents is formed (or preexists)
6. where extra-cult attachments are low or neutralized;
7. and where, to become a “deployable agent” (a convert), exposure to intensive interaction is accomplished.