

## How to respond?

Raising awareness of SCJ's recruitment strategy is one way to respond. We know how they recruit people, so we can now educate the public on how to avoid SCJ recruitment tactics.

Things SCJ does specifically:

- They often use the phrase "Food at the proper time"

If you attend a Bible Study and this phrase is used to answer your questions, you are probably talking to an SCJ member. SCJ use this phrase when they try to hide some of the more questionable elements of their doctrine. The phrase is designed to stop the critical thought process you are using. Overtime, recruits are conditioned to stop thinking critically and start thinking in terms of the sound bites used by the cult. Once the thought process is disrupted, then the cult begins to explain the extreme parts of the doctrine. That is their "proper time".

- They use the story of Abraham to justify lying to family and friends

SCJ believe lying is permissible if it propels God's purpose. They use Abraham hiding facts from his son as an example to follow. However, Christians should follow Christ's example. We are not Abrahamians.

- Harsh criticism of current beliefs to make one more susceptible to change

During the early stages, SCJ will try to break down your current belief system. They will call you arrogant if you disagree with their teaching. Ad-hominem attacks are a classic logical fallacy and a way to undermine an argument. Furthermore, they deflect the problem you have raised about their teaching and places it back on you. This can open you up to absorb their beliefs more readily if you buy-in their problem being because you are supposedly "arrogant: you may think the way to solve the problem is to change yourself and to adopt their beliefs.

## Closing Thoughts

What makes us listen to certain people over others? We are often swayed by charismatic authority figures, listening to people because we like them instead of judging them by their merits, and rare opportunities that are non-inclusive. Whilst there is undeniable thought reform in SCJ, basic human nature can attract us there in the first place.

For those in SCJ, being on a mission to "save" as many people as possible is certainly a noble purpose but believing in and obtaining a secret knowledge that belongs to a small group of chosen individuals is conceited. We are all equals, yet SCJ temples only allow the "spiritually clean" to enter. Sadly, SCJ members and Man Hee Lee have forgotten that they too lack divinity.

Apostle Paul lived around 2000 years ago and had an amazing understanding of God. He did not need Man Hee Lee and neither do we:

*Philippians 4:12*

*I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want.*

It is awkward speaking for God, but it is obvious that He does not choose people just because they attended a 6-month Bible Study course. Please help us stop the spread of this cult in New Zealand.

Talk about SCJ and cults to young people and think about any cultic elements in your own church. Ask yourself, are these elements ok? Can our ways be improved? Answering these questions can strengthen your own faith and protect others as well.

## Contact/Helpline

Email : [helpstopscj@hotmail.com](mailto:helpstopscj@hotmail.com)

# SHINCHEONJI

## A dangerous Korean Cult Recruiting in Auckland and Wellington Churches and Universities.

Topics highlighted:

- What is Shincheonji (SCJ)?
- How do they recruit?
- Why it is wrong?
- How to respond?
- Closing Thoughts



Man Hee Lee. SCJ Cult Leader.

*Matthew 24:23-25*

*At that time if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Messiah!' or, 'There he is!' do not believe it. For false messiahs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. See, I have told you ahead of time.*

## What is Shincheonji (SCJ)?

Shincheonji (SCJ) is a religious movement originating from South Korea. The name means New Heaven and New Earth in Korean. It refers to Chapter 21 of Revelation in the Bible:

*Then I saw "a new heaven and a new earth," for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea.*

One of the main pieces of doctrine of SCJ is that they believe the spirit of Jesus Christ is working through only one man whose name is Man Hee Lee. He is known by various names and titles such as: The Promised Pastor, The One Who Overcomes, The Chairman, Seon-saeng-nim (SSN - "teacher" in Korean).

According to SCJ, he and those who follow his teachings are the only ones who understand the Bible. They believe that he has fulfilled all the prophecies in the New Testament just as Jesus fulfilled the prophecies of the Old Testament.

SCJ in Auckland comprise of Korean and non-Korean members. They are primarily young adults. Their beliefs are extreme by any standard and the psychological and spiritual manipulation are equally extreme.



SCJ1 Burton Street, Grafton, Auckland 1010, above Knobs & Knockers.

## How do they recruit?

SCJ members visit churches or attend public events in the hopes of meeting potential recruits. They strike up conversations, pretend to ask prospects out for a coffee catch up and once they have gathered enough information about someone, they begin their indoctrination process.

Indoctrination begins with a one-on-one setting for several weeks before inviting the recruit to a larger classroom setting run by a small group of tutors, several maintainers (people pretending to learn for the first time but are actually SCJ members) and a small number of potential recruits.

Potential recruits do not know that this free Bible Study is not a standalone six-month course. Rather, it is part of a greater organization/church. The doctrine is very carefully explained piece by piece and questions are encouraged. However, most questions that relate to content that is covered further on in the course or the answer to which would arouse suspicion are answered with something along the lines of: "We will cover that later, just wait."

Maintainers provide a fake social proof to new recruits. In our day to day experience, we all look to our peers to help form our opinions and choose appropriate behavior. SCJ uses this to their advantage. When a potential recruit looks to their peers for a second opinion on a topic discussed in the Bible Study, they do not realize that they could be modelling their opinion on indoctrinated individuals (instead of genuine peers) who will give a false impression of the topic. Creating these false "organized informalities", it is a powerful tool to manipulate someone's worldview, especially when reinforced with friendly social interactions.

## Why is it wrong?

We have the freedom of religion in New Zealand. We have the right to hold any religious beliefs we choose, so why do we want to stop the spread of SCJ?

As earlier mentioned, the spread of the belief system is predicated on a lack of consent. No one wants to join a cult, no one will ever want to join a cult. So, why do people join SCJ? All members were manipulated into the cult and manipulated to believe that their lack of consent was for their benefit. They only reveal that you didn't consent to the indoctrination, after you have been indoctrinated to minimize disapprobation.

Secondly, relationships can be severely damaged as a result of cult membership. Close friends and loved ones can be lost when the cult positions itself as more important than anything or anyone else. Friendships can be broken by any disparaging comments towards the cults, even when coming from a place of concern. Do the cult members want to say goodbye to important people in their lives? No. Is it falsely perceived as necessary? Yes. Is it wrong? Definitely.

Thirdly, young people involved in cults dedicate years of their lives towards this false cause and pause their career development, putting their futures on the line. Additionally, followers are encouraged to give up their worldly possessions, like savings, for the cult's cause. In the end, they will get little to nothing in return.

Finally, Man Hee Lee is guilty of hate speech towards outsiders. He describes all Christian pastors as dogs. Ironically, he is also a self-described peace leader of a peace group called HWPL. This is clearly hypocritical. Man Hee Lee is the leader of a destructive cult and nothing more.