A SOBER EXHORTATION TO THE REBELS

To several who now bitterly claim our church, the church they once were willingly part of, is cult-like and I am a popish, manipulative control-freak…

That's a very interesting turn of opinion and certainly not very flattering for the patriarchs of the families. After all, you adamantly claimed God sent you to our church. You faithfully attended our services and sat contently under the teaching for years, even though you refused to fully embrace the vision. When you were finally pressed over your apparent disagreements, you stubbornly refused to either acquiesce or leave. I assume you'd still be with us had you not been forced out because of your unteachableness.

These are irrefutable facts that cannot be honestly denied by either you or me, but what exactly does this mean?

Sadly, it means you were apparently too spiritually-insensitive to avoid a cult and too undiscerning and weak to leave once you brought your family under its supposed insidious influence. In fact, it demanded me, the alleged 'cult-leader', excommunicate you from our church, effectively emancipating you, your wives and children from the dreadful 'cult' and it's awful brain-washing. The way I see it, you ought to rejoice, rather than be offended and you ought to sincerely thank me. From your stated point of view and the obvious turn of events, it would seem that it was I, the purported controlling cult-leader, who was the only one with enough spiritual discernment to see you needed to leave and the only man with enough backbone to decisively open the door to what you now blindly deem as 'freedom'.

So ultimately, when considering what happened through your perception, we're ironically forced to absurdly believe that God had to use *me* to deliver you from *me*.

—B.W.

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