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A New Religion

"The endless apologies are central to cults. What they do is have "struggle sessions" in which they tell you that you're not a loyal member, and everyone turns against you, tearing you down and threatening to excommunicate you. So you grovel for forgiveness. Note that the cookie-cutter apologies always include promises to "reflect", "learn" and "do better". - Thomas Wictor

I was raised in "the church". I won't get into which one because I don't believe it's relevant in this discussion. I have moved around a few different denominations, many of which say they aren't denominations, but part of the whole and/or the "right ones" claiming as close to identical as that of the New Testament church. After a life change, I found myself without a "church family"; then completely taking a break, distraught that there was no place to go that I felt comfortable or compelled to pursue. I found more truth in solace than the 35 years in a religious setting. After stumbling onto research into cults by accident, I realized that most, (and I say that loosely, not to offend anyone as I believe religion and/or church is mostly "good" for people - again, a topic for another time), but *most* organized religions do in fact use the same brainwashing tactics and do in fact fit the description of "cult", knowingly or unknowingly.

I have now been roped into it first-hand as I have been told that I need to change, that I don't understand and that it is inherent. I honestly have reflected and do not even understand what is asked of me and why. What's worse is, I actually have an argument in the game as I am Native American by blood; enough that I could "benefit" from it. Because of the "rules", I cannot be recognized. My grandfather was a "bastard" (another word that doesn't fit in the new cult narrative) and given away, although my biological family knows who we are now and DNA proves the connection. It becomes a sick, twisted and confusing issue all around.

I have no words but grief.