

1. How were you all able to obtain enough funds to sustain a large group of people?

Manson would manipulate people who came around by giving them something, whether something previously given to him, or he might give a sexual experience with one of his girls. He did this so the person would feel obligated to give to him, or owe him a favor. At other times, he would just con someone out of something that he wanted, but people would often just show up with food for the family. Also, the girls would go on "garbage runs" obtaining thrown out food from bins behind grocery stores.

2. What was so special or intriguing about Manson that you chose to continue to follow him?

His deceptive charisma would intimidate us who were blinded by past hurts, frustrations and insecurities. This came off as an experience of love that was missing in our lives. It was experienced regardless of all our felt hurts, but all part of the deception. Of course, the drugs had a lot to do with it.

3. What happened in your life that changed your views on the world that led you to Manson?

I was experiencing fear and anxiety from academic pressure for years, running from my failures, and medicating my emotional pain with alcohol, sex and eventually drugs in California. I went from a hard worker in Texas to a lazy bum when I started smoking pot, thinking the world was going to be handed to me on a silver platter as Manson promised.

4. Why did everyone adopt a new identity once entering the Manson family?

It seemed playful at first, even fun, but underneath the surface the hidden agenda of Manson was to turn us from our past identity and relationships, i.e. family, friends and dreams, which was the start of our surrender to him and his beliefs.

5. How did Manson persuade everyone he was Jesus? Did everyone truly believe that?

Manson never tried to persuade anyone that he was Jesus. We looked upon him as sort of a guru of the time, but no specific

religion. Any type of messianic-type beliefs came from our own heart's perceptions plucked from various religious beliefs in our childhoods. I've written about the similarities in my books, but none of us actually believed he was Jesus.

6. How did Charlie manage to brainwash the people so much to the point where they trusted him with everything?

Through his constant programming, and by our willingness to listen to him and his music day after day! The drugs helped our gullibility, plus we were greedy, with a fear of not having, or being enough, like we were missing out on something important.

7. What advice would you give to young adults who may be troubled?

Of course, I would like to see everyone receive Christ, but to be realistic with an answer.

- Open up to someone, begin to share your troubles before they get out of hand, with a believer in Christ, even a school counselor or classmate you can trust with your secrets.
- Go to church with a friend who is a believer, so you can experience the presence of God, and His love: It's not so with all churches, so find one like a Calvary Chapel where they have contemporary worship as well.
- Speaking of music, check out a Christian contemporary music station on the radio, like K-Love, even google it .
- Most important; obtain a Bible. I use a King James, but on my website I use the New Living Translation (NLT) for easy to understand. For instance, turn to Psalm 34:4,6, "I prayed to the Lord, and he answered me. He freed me from all my fears... in my desperation I prayed, and the Lord listened; he saved me from all my troubles."
- Obey your parents, and all will go well with you (Eph. 6:2,3).

8. What do you think occurred in your life or the lives of the cult members that caused for them to seek acceptance into a group like the Manson family"?

I struggled academically with a fear of failure, which grew into a sense of rejection, though I was deeply loved by my family. They lacked in affection, so I sought it in all the wrong places with the wrong crowd, which led me to do anything for acceptance. The results were deadly, mixed with delusional beliefs and drugs.

For more in-depth answers, see my book "Manson's Right-Hand Man Speaks out!" and Questions & Answers at aboundinglove.org.