

Being a

WITNESS

to a Jehovah's Witness

Understanding

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

The Jehovah's Witness (JW) religious movement was started in the late 1800's by Charles Taze Russell. As a teenager, Russell left his church because he rejected its biblical teachings on eternal punishment in Hell. He also denied the deity of Jesus Christ, the Trinity, and many other essential doctrines.

At age 18, Russell started a Bible study to spread his beliefs before publishing his magazine, now known as The Watchtower. In 1884 he started the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, which is headquartered in Brooklyn, New York.

The Watchtower Society boldly claims to be the only channel of divine truth in the world today, and that no one can be saved apart from their organization.

Understanding

THEIR BELIEFS

CONCEPT OF GOD

The JW's deny the concept of the Trinity but believe in many of the core attributes of God.

SOURCE OF WRITTEN REVELATION

The New World Translation (NWT) of the Bible. This "translation" accommodates the heresies that the JW's believe. JW's are not allowed to think for themselves on matters of faith.

JESUS CHRIST

The JW's deny the deity of Christ, the Second Coming, and His physical resurrection. Distorting the Virgin Birth, they believe that before His incarnation He was the archangel Gabriel. They also believe He returned to earth in 1914.

SIN

"...sin is a violation of the law, His perfect standard." (from NWT, page 1657)

SALVATION

Christ partially atoned for sins by removing the effects of Adam's sin, leaving us to work for our own salvation. Escape from Armageddon comes by proselytizing.

AFTERLIFE

They believe there is no hell, that Judgment Day happened in 1918, and heaven will be a kingdom on earth.

Referencing

BIBLICAL PASSAGES

GENESIS 1:26

“Let us make man in our own image” speaks of the Trinity. Also, in Gen. 1:1 the “im” in elohim is a plural ending in Hebrew.

GENESIS 11:7

“Let us go down...”

ISAIAH 6:8

“Who will go for us?”

ISAIAH 9:6

The Messiah is called “mighty God, everlasting Father”, as well as “son”.

JOHN 1:1

Note that the NWT mistranslates this verse, saying that the Word was “a god”.

JOHN 1:29

Jesus is the Lamb of God who came to take away the sin of the world. Our works can't do that.

JOHN 5:18

The problem the Jews had with Jesus was that He made Himself equal with God.

JOHN 8:58

Jesus claims to be the “I AM”.

JOHN 10:30

Jesus states that He and the Father are One.

JOHN 17:5

Compare this verse with Is. 42:8 and 48:11.

JOHN 20:24-26

Proof of the literal, physical resurrection of Jesus.

JOHN 20:28

Thomas recognized Jesus as Lord and God, and Jesus received this worship.

1 CORINTHIANS 15:15

Christ is risen from the dead.

EPHESIANS 2:8-9

Salvation is not by works, but by faith.

COLOSSIANS 1:20

Only the blood shed at the cross can bring us peace with God.

TITUS 2:13

Paul calls Jesus God.

HEBREWS 1:3

Jesus is the exact representation of God's very being.

HEBREWS 9:22

Only the blood of Christ can cleanse from sin.

MATTHEW 10:28; 25:46

Hell is real and eternal.

REVELATION 14:10-11

Hell is a real place of eternal torment under the wrath of God.

Being a

WITNESS

Witnessing to a JW is as simple as "ABC":

ANGEL?

The first question to ask is this: "Is Jesus Christ really an angel?" Now, re-examining this cherished belief may scare the JW, but we can start by asking them to show us the Scriptures that say Jesus is Michael the archangel. Of course, there are no Scriptures that teach this heresy.

The New World Translation (NWT) mentions Jesus five times as: "one of the foremost princes" (Dan. 10:13), "the prince of [Daniel's] people" (Dan. 10:21), "the great prince who is standing on behalf of the sons of [Daniel's] people" (Dan. 12:1), "the archangel who had a difference with the devil and was disputing about Moses' body" (Jude 9), and "a participant in heavenly conflict when Michael and his

angels battled with the dragon” (Rev. 12:7). Further, the NWT also says that Jesus Christ is “Lord of lords and King of kings” (Rev. 17:14).

So where does the Watchtower Society get the idea that Jesus is Michael the Archangel? They point to 1 Thessalonians 4:16. However, the expression “with an archangel’s voice” just means that the archangel, like God’s trumpet, will herald the coming of the Lord, not that the Lord is an archangel.

BIBLE?

The Bible clearly teaches that, not only is Jesus not Michael the archangel, but He is superior to the angels and worthy of receiving worship. In fact, the entire first chapter of Hebrews is devoted to this theme. So simply ask the JW, “Can we look at a few verses in the Bible

together?” and ask them to read the Scriptures aloud with you as you interject at each point where God makes a sharp distinction between Jesus and the angels (ex. v.8 – God calls the Son “God”). You can also show the JW from their own Bible that angels consistently refuse worship (Rev. 22:8-9), but the Father’s command concerning His Son is, “Let all angels worship Him” (Heb. 1:6).

CONNECT?

Up to this point you’ve laid a good foundation by giving the JW convincing evidence that Jesus Christ is not an angel, so now he may be questioning who Jesus really is. This has put you in a much better position to connect again to present the Gospel. When sharing, don’t worry about straightening out all the areas of disagreement, rather gently point them to the

moral Law, the Ten Commandments. Show them that as lawbreakers they will be guilty before a holy God, and that no amount of works will ever save them.

Conversation QUICK TIPS

Keep in mind that JW's believe they worship the true God of the Bible, while Christians are lost souls who have been misled by the devil into worshipping a pagan three-headed deity.

A JW would be sinning against Jehovah by giving any serious consideration to the Trinity, so don't be surprised if they're not very receptive to your message!

When witnessing to a JW, remember that the Word of God is living and powerful and will have an impact!

Additional RESOURCES

PRINT

The School of Biblical Evangelism by
Kirk Cameron and Ray Comfort

(Available at the Harvest London Resource
Centre and online at livingwaterscanada.com)

WEB

www.carm.org/jehovahs-witnesses

For more information on evangelism training
with The Cross Current, visit:

www.thecrosscurrent.com

About THE CROSS CURRENT

The Cross Current is a local missions ministry and outreach broadcast bringing glory to God's Name by unifying His Church in His Gospel and helping pastors equip all Christians under their care to be Christ's witnesses everyday, everywhere, to everyone, as one body serving in accordance with the various gifts He has given each.



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