

# Jehovah's Witnesses

QUICK REFERENCE COUNSELING KEYS Excerpt

## The Unity of the Father and the Son . . .

*"I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me. Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. O righteous Father, even though the world does not know you, I know you, and these know that you have sent me."*

(John 17:20–25)

*"They go door to door, proclaiming a curious message of doom, in hope that their hard work will earn them eternal life on earth."*

—Joe Hewitt (former Jehovah's Witness)

**Q:** "What would cause people to be attracted to the Jehovah's Witnesses?"

Their appeal is made to the fear that is in the human heart!

**F**ear: Jehovah's Witnesses are living under the cloud of impending doom and destruction. According to their history, they predicted the end of the world would occur in 1914, in 1918, in 1925, and in 1975.

**E**xclusivity: Only the Jehovah's Witnesses have "The Truth," and only those in right relationship to the organization will be permitted to have eternal life.

**A**chievement: Jehovah's Witnesses believe that eternal life is not a free gift of God's grace, but must be earned through faith and good works.

**R**espect: Jehovah's Witnesses seem to have authoritative answers to life's problems, and their zealous desire for evangelism gains the admiration of those who are searching for truth.

*"There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love."  
(1 John 4:18)*

## Doctrinal Beliefs That Vary from Orthodox Christianity

**V**irgin Birth (Isaiah 7:14): Jehovah's Witnesses admit that Jesus was born of a virgin, but maintain He is not God.<sup>2</sup>

**A**tonement (Ephesians 2:8–9): Jehovah's Witnesses claim salvation must be accompanied by good works, Bible study, witnessing, and association with the Watchtower.<sup>3</sup>

**R**esurrection (Luke 24:39): Jehovah's Witnesses do not believe that Jesus was raised from the dead in His physical body.<sup>4</sup>

**I**ncarnation (Hebrews 1:1–5): Jehovah's Witnesses do not believe that Jesus is God.<sup>5</sup>

**E**schatology (Matthew 24:30): Jehovah's Witnesses do not believe that Jesus will return in bodily form, but that He already returned in 1914 in invisible form and is ruling as King on earth through the Watchtower Society.<sup>6</sup>

**S**cripture (Revelation 22:18–19): Jehovah's Witnesses admit that the Bible is the Word of God, but they claim all orthodox translations are distorted.

## The Truth about the Trinity

Jehovah's Witnesses mistakenly believe that the doctrine of the trinity is actually the worship of three gods (tri-theism). The truth is that the Bible proclaims in many passages that there is only one true God (monotheism).

*“One is justified by faith apart from works of the law. Or is God the God of Jews only? Is he not the God of Gentiles also? Yes, of Gentiles also, since God is one. He will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith.”*  
(Romans 3:28–30)

Consider this: The Bible teaches that within the one true God, three coequal, coeternal persons exist: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

- The Father is called God. (1 Corinthians 8:6)
- The Son is called God. (Hebrews 1:8)
- The Holy Spirit is called God. (Acts 5:3–4)

## Key Verse to Memorize

*“I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life.”*  
(1 John 5:13)

## Key Passage to Read and Reread

John 17:20–25

## Is Jesus God?

Paul refers to Jesus as “God” and “Savior.” (Titus 2:13)

Peter refers to Jesus as “God” and “Savior.” (2 Peter 1:1)

Thomas refers to Jesus as “My Lord and my God.” (John 20:28)

John refers to Jesus as “the Word” and as “God.” (John 1:1)

Jesus even says that He and God the Father are one. (John 10:30)

In Hebrews, Jesus is called “God.” (Hebrews 1:8)

In the epistle of 1 John, Jesus is called “the true God and eternal life.” (1 John 5:20)

In Philippians, Jesus is described as “in very nature God.” (Philippians 2:5–6 NIV)

In Colossians, Jesus is fully God with “the whole fullness of deity.” (Colossians 2:9–10)

In the Gospel of John, Jesus is called the great “I AM.” (John 8:58) (See also Exodus 3:14.)

*“To them belong the patriarchs, and from their race, according to the flesh, is the Christ who is God over all, blessed forever.”*  
(Romans 9:5)

# The ABC's of Witnessing to the Witnesses!

**A**ssume they are sincere. (Romans 10:2)

**B**e compassionate and loving. (Mark 6:34)

**C**all them by name. (Proverbs 10:32)

**D**on't slam the door in their faces. (Ephesians 6:12)

**E**xplain how you know that you have received eternal life through Christ. (1 John 5:13)

**F**ocus on the prophecies that discredit the Watchtower as a "False Prophet." (See the Biblical Counseling Keys.) (Deuteronomy 18:20, 22)

**G**ive them copies of their own materials that document the errors.<sup>7</sup> (2 Timothy 2:25)

**H**ave appropriate tracts available for them. (1 Peter 3:15)

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## Related Topics . . .

- The Bible: Is It Reliable?  
*Truth on Trial*
- Cults:  
*The Truth Twisters*
- God: Who Is He?  
*Who Do You Say That He Is?*
- The Holy Spirit:  
*Living Free in the Power and Peace  
of the Spirit*
- Spiritual Warfare:  
*Strategy for the Battle*

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For prayer encouragement and biblical counsel  
call 1-866-570-HOPE (4673).

1. Joe Hewitt, *I Was Raised a Jehovah's Witness* (Denver: Accent, 1979), back cover.  
2. *Should You Believe in the Trinity?* (Brooklyn, NY: Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, 1989)20–22.  
3. You Can Live Forever in Paradise on Earth (Brooklyn, NY: Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, 1982), 132–33; "The Paths of the Righteous Does Keep Getting Brighter," *The Watchtower* (December 1, 1981), 27–28.  
4. "How Does Christ Come the Second Time?" *The Watchtower* (February 15, 1955), 101–4.  
5. *The Truth Shall Make You Free* (Brooklyn, NY: Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, 1943), 49.  
6. "Are You Ready for Jehovah's Day?" *The Watchtower* (March 1, 1997), 10.  
7. Photocopies of Jehovah's Witnesses literature appropriate for evangelism are available for purchase from Watchman Fellowship at <http://www.watchman.org/jwtools.htm>.



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