



The Organization of Jehovah's Witnesses

- The Organization of Jehovah's Witnesses is a religious organization that witnesses to others by distributing Watchtower publications door to door and by evangelizing with three primary messages ...
 - That Jehovah alone is God, not the Trinity
 - That governments and other organized religions are corrupt (according to "The 1914 Generation-Why?" *The Watchtower*, May 1, 1992)
 - That the end of the world is imminent
- This religion was founded by its first President, Charles Taze Russell.
- It was incorporated in 1884 and operated under the name Zion's Watch Tower Society until 1931, at which time Watchtower Bible and Tract Society became the official title. In 2000 the Society completely reorganized its operations into three related nonprofit organizations: The Christian Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses, The Religious Order of Jehovah's Witnesses, and Kingdom Support Services, Inc.

Publications of the Jehovah's Witnesses

- *The Watchtower*—a magazine used to instruct the public in Jehovah's Witnesses doctrines
- *Awake!*—a periodical used to introduce Jehovah's Witnesses to the public
- The *New World Translation*—the Watchtower's own translation of the Bible, containing numerous mistranslations to support the Society's doctrines

"A prophet who presumes to speak in my name anything I have not commanded ... is to be put to death. ... If what a prophet proclaims in the name of the LORD does not take place or come true, that is a message the LORD has not spoken."
(Deuteronomy 18:20, 22)

Terminology Used by Jehovah's Witnesses

- **Disfellowshipping or Shunning:** Punishment for disobedience of Watchtower rules and regulations resulting in excommunication. Baptized members who are disfellowshipped are no longer allowed to talk with current members—including in most cases even family members.
- **Faithful and Wise Servant** (Matthew 24:45): Originally referring to Charles Taze Russell, now referring to the remnant of the 144,000 or "anointed class"/"Little Flock" including the "Governing Body" of Jehovah's Witnesses. (For photocopies documenting the "Faithful and Discreet Slave" doctrine see, *Watchtower Doctrines unto Destruction* by James Walker.)
- **Faithful and Discreet Slave:** Another term for the "Faithful and Wise Servant."
- **Great Crowd:** The non-anointed faithful, including those who survive Armageddon. These are also known as the "other sheep," and they make up the vast majority of Jehovah's Witnesses who will not live in heaven but hope to be able to inhabit the restored "Paradise Earth."
- **Governing Body:** A group of fewer than 25 men of the anointed class or "Faithful and Discreet Slave" who historically established the Watchtower's policies and beliefs and direct its publications.
- **Jehovah:** The only true name for God. (The Trinity is considered a false doctrine.)
- **Kingdom Hall:** The local meeting place where Jehovah's Witnesses receive instruction.
- **"Little Flock"/"Anointed Class"/"Heavenly Class":** The elite group of 144,000 who will live in heaven and reign with Christ. This group is believed to be the Spiritual Israel as the prophecies of the Old and New Testaments are being fulfilled through them.
- **The Truth:** Knowledge available only to Jehovah's Witnesses and learned only through *The Watchtower*.

Forbidden Practices

• Viewed as idolatrous ...

- Belonging to any political party
- Holding an elected office
- Pledging allegiance to the flag
- Serving jury duty
- Serving in the military
- Singing the national anthem
- Voting in elections

*“Let everyone be subject
to the governing authorities,
for there is no authority except
that which God has established.*

The authorities that exist have been established by God.

*Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority
is rebelling against what God has instituted,
and those who do so will bring
judgment on themselves.”*

(Romans 13:1–2)

• Viewed as corrupt ...

- Associating with disfellowshipped Jehovah’s Witnesses, even close relatives
- Attending church services not conducted by Jehovah’s Witnesses
- Joining the YMCA/YWCA
- Close associations with Christians or other false worshippers except for the purpose of winning them over

• Viewed as pagan ...

- Celebrating birthdays
- Celebrating holidays (for instance, Christmas, New Year’s Day)
- Celebrating Mother’s or Father’s Day

• Viewed as eating blood ...

- Giving or receiving blood transfusions

Key Verse to Memorize

*“I write these things to you who believe
in the name of the Son of God so that you
may know that you have eternal life.”*

(1 John 5:13)

Key Passage to Read

(John 17:20–25)

Does the Bible Claim Jesus Is 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)
- In Colossians, Jesus is fully God with “all the fullness of Deity.” (Colossians 2:9–10)
- In Romans, Jesus is called “God over all.” (Romans 9:5)

*“The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn
over all creation. For in him all things were created:
things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible,
whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities;
all things were created through him and for him.*

*He is before all things, and in him
all things hold together.”*

(Colossians 1:15–17)

Corrections for Their Claims

- **Witnesses Claim:** Jesus is not God.
Biblical Correction: The apostle Thomas (known as “doubting Thomas”) called Jesus “God.” (John 20:25–28)
- **Witnesses Claim:** The Holy Spirit is not God.
Biblical Correction: The apostle Peter called the Holy Spirit “God.” (Acts 5:3–4)
- **Witnesses Claim:** The word *Trinity* isn’t found in the Bible.
Biblical Correction: That is correct ... neither are words such as *discipleship*, *missions*, *rapture*, and the *Old* and *New Testaments*. Likewise, important Jehovah’s Witness terms like *Theocratic*, *Pioneer*, *Governing Body*, and *Disfellowship* are not found in the Bible—including the *New World Translation*. The lack of these specific words in the Bible doesn’t necessarily mean that they are unbiblical. For example, the Trinity is presumed in Matthew 28:19.
- **Witnesses Claim:** Jesus is less than the Father according to the apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 11:3 ... “*The head of Christ is God.*”
Biblical Correction: When on earth, Jesus submitted to the Father. When in heaven, Jesus is equal to the Father. Jesus is equal to God the Father in nature, glory, and honor. (Philippians 2:5–6)

- **Witnesses Claim:** Jesus did not rise bodily from the grave; instead He was a vapor.
Biblical Correction: Jesus Christ was raised bodily from the grave. (Luke 24:39)
- **Witnesses Claim:** For the unrighteous who reject Jehovah, no eternal torment in hell exists, only physical annihilation.
Biblical Correction: The doctrine of eternal punishment in hell is clearly taught in numerous places throughout the Bible. (Luke 16:23–24)
- **Witnesses Claim:** Jesus is not to be worshiped.
Biblical Correction: Jesus was worshiped and is to be worshiped. (Matthew 2:11)

The ABCs 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)

Focus on the prophecies that discredit the Watchtower as a “False Prophet.” (Deuteronomy 18:20, 22)

Give them copies of their own materials that document errors in their teachings. (Photocopies of Jehovah’s Witnesses literature appropriate for evangelism are available for purchase from Watchman Fellowship at <http://www.watchman.org/jwtools.htm>.) (2 Timothy 2:25)

Have appropriate tracts available for them. (1 Peter 3:15)

Impart pertinent Scripture but be prepared for them to change the meaning. (Hebrews 4:12)

Join in agreement with them whenever possible. (2 Timothy 2:24)

Keep praying for wisdom and for their eyes to be opened. (Ephesians 1:18)

Learn all you can about answering doctrinal differences because TRUTH alone will set Jehovah’s Witnesses FREE. (John 8:32)

*“In your hearts revere Christ as Lord.
Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.
But do this with gentleness and respect.”*
(1 Peter 3:15)

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www.HopeForTheHeart.org

The information in this resource is intended as guidelines for healthy living. Please consult qualified medical, legal, pastoral, and psychological professionals regarding individual concerns.

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