

How to answer a Jehovah's Witness

A. We SHOULD answer a JW

Two reasons why many Christians will not do so

1) They are not prepared to give an answer or are afraid of losing the argument and the JW will be unmoved and I'll be embarrassed.

**** We should be prepared to give an answer:**

2 Timothy 4:2; "Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke, and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction."

1 Peter 3:15-16; "But in your hearts, set apart 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, keeping a clear conscience..."

**** We should not throw a lamb into a den of lions:**

If you are a baby Christian and totally unfamiliar with Christian doctrine and proofs then you might be seriously swayed by the supposed "facts" that a JW may show you. Don't get unnerved if this happens, just come and speak to a church leader, and in the meantime, get prepared! And that's what we are trying to accomplish in this lesson.

**** If you are timid:**

He who is in you is greater than He who is in the world! You have the truths of Scripture and understand them! You don't have to be an expert on the cults to answer a JW. If you love Jesus and have a heart for the couple at your door, God can use your pathetic or eloquent words to change their hearts—remember: "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." 2 Timothy 1:7-8

Paul himself said, "I may not be a trained speaker, but I do have knowledge" 2 Corinthians 11:6

**** Remember that this is a lost soul!**

✠ If you are willing, the Holy Spirit can use your words to work miracles in their life. It may not happen right in front of you, but you can plant a seed. It's not up to you to save them. Just be prepared, willing, and answer the door!!!

✠ JW are made in God's image, they are wrong, and they don't know the truth, so their faith is not placed in the real Jesus. Unless they are born-again they will go to an eternity without God and with unspeakable torment....

✠ **Jesus Died for these people!** 1 John 2:2 "He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours, but also for the sins of the whole world" Surely if Christ was willing to die for them, we can take a few minutes to tell them about Him!

✠ If you are a Calvinist, remember: some of them are part of the elect!

✠ This is a ready-made witnessing opportunity

2) They believe that to welcome a Witness would be to share in his work [2 John 7-11]

Exegete 2 John

{Sidepoint: "erchomenon" "is coming in the flesh..."

argues against 1) Gnosticism 2) Docetism 3) JW's and 4) Preterism}

✠ If you can't let a JW in, then you can't let anyone in your house that doesn't bring the teaching of Christ! This includes unsaved secular friends and family members, too. At the time, to welcome a traveling teacher into your home was a way of supporting and helping them in their work, and we must be very careful who we support. Today that would include our money, meeting space for their "Bible study" or other forms of support and help.

B. History

Charles T. Russell raised in a Protestant church in Pennsylvania. He grew up disliking the teachings on hell and the Trinity, which he said wasn't rational.

1870: first published "Studies in Scripture" [six volumes published in 1886]

1874 : First prophesy of the second coming of Christ

1879 "The Watchtower" was published

1884 Watchtower Bible and Tract Society incorporated [Pennsylvania]

1909 Headquarters moved to Brooklyn

1914 Second prophesy of the second coming of Christ

1915 claimed that the second coming of Christ was a secret, invisible coming to the Watchtower Society and coincided with WWI

1916 Russell Dies

Joseph Franklin Rutherford

Coined the name "Jehovah's witnesses" [from Isaiah 43:10]—on July 26th 1931

Preached that Armageddon was coming soon and that only 144,000 could go to heaven, so many witnesses hit the streets telling people to sign up now!

1925-1929 Prophesied that Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob would return visibly to help the kingdom—he built a large mansion for them to live in—called Beth-Sarim ["House of the Princes"]—sold in 1948

1929 When they didn't show up, he moved into the house in San Diego until his death in 1942

1935 Number of JW's exceeds 144,000. Rutherford claims a revelation from God that all who signed up before 1935 would go to heaven and those after 1935 would live in paradise on earth.

1942 Rutherford dies

Nathan Knorr

NWT [New World Translation] of the Bible done, supposedly by 5 greek scholars

Massive increase in JW training and outreach, especially to other countries

1975 Date of his prophesy of the end of the age and Armageddon would happen

1976-1977 Over one million JW's leave the Watchtower disillusioned

1977 Knorr Dies

1977-1992 Frederick Franz

1992 -2000 Milton G. Henschel

2000 Entire governing body resigns and Watchtower is run by three corporations which answer to the "former governing body"

March 27,2003 Milton Henschel dies

C. Beliefs

1) "Trunk"

Deny the Trinity

Deny the Deity of Christ

Deny the Deity of the Holy Spirit

Salvation by Good Works and membership in the Watchtower

Deny the Bodily Resurrection of Jesus

2) "Branches"

Deny the reality of eternal hell

Deny necessity of rebirth for everyone, only the 144,000

3) "Leaves"

Use no blood products

Earthly governments are from the devil—no patriotism—*UN is 666*

Jesus died on a stake, not a cross

End-times prophesies

Don't celebrate Christmas or birthdays

Answering a Jehovah's Witness

Do everything in love—JW's are used to rudeness. Don't be like the other people they see, shock them with love and compassion and caring! If you are rude and nasty then don't bother giving the gospel.

Story about Mormon's that came to my door and I loved them, they noticed it and commented on how they could tell that I cared for them and how they had just spoken to one of our neighbors who rudely said they are a cult and closed the door. The Mormon elder then said to the other elder as they were walking away, "You know, if we are a cult, then why wouldn't she want to tell us where we are wrong?" This furthered their thinking that they were right and she was the one in the wrong.

Do's	Don'ts
Love Them	Engage in peripheral discussions—especially the "leaves"
Discuss the Deity of Jesus Christ	Attack the history of their organization as your main argument
Discuss Assurance of Salvation by faith alone	Give testimony of converted witnesses as your primary mode of showing truth—they are trained to avoid literature and testimonies from "apostates" that have left the Watchtower
Have printed helps with you	Be discouraged—Many JW's get saved years later after the seed is planted
Focus your attention on the younger witness—[tell story about my interaction with JW ladies –quoting 2 Corinthians 11:4 —there is a different Jesus that is being taught and preached.]	
Realize that they will often use the same terms as you, saying that they "agree" but they define the terms differently. Be VERY specific	
Use the Bible frequently—be familiar with places where the NWT differs, be prepared to answer to these differences	
Keep it simple	
Encourage independent thinking based on the Bible only, NOT the Watchtower Society	
Be prepared to answer verses that show the inferiority of Christ to the Father when He was here on earth	
Ask them what they would like to discuss, then respond by redirecting the discussion to "trunk" issues	

E. Deity of Jesus Christ:

If the topic “Trinity” comes up—agree that that word is not found in the Bible, but neither is “theocratic kingdom”, both are terms used by people to describe a concept they believe the Bible describes. Then redirect the discussion to the Deity of Christ:

Deity of Jesus Christ

Revelation 1:8; Alpha/Omega = Almighty = The One who is to come = **Lord God**

Revelation 21:6-7; Alpha/Omega = Beginning/End = **God**

Revelation 22:12-13; Alpha/Omega = The One who is coming soon = Beginning/End = First/Last

Revelation 1:17-18; First/Last = Living One = “I was dead, and behold I am alive for ever and ever!”

- Isaiah 44:6; “This is what the LORD says— **Israel’s King** and Redeemer, the LORD Almighty. **I am the first and I am the Last**; apart from me there is no God.”
- **Read Isaiah 48:12-16**
- John 1:49; Then Nathanael declared, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the **King of Israel**.”

Colossians 1:15-18—see “JW handout”

“Prototokos”

The words “other things” are NOT in the greek

F. The Bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ

They claim Jesus to be the archangel Michael

“Jesus Christ deserves honor because he is Jehovah’s chief angel, or archangel.” [*The Watchtower*, Feb 1, 1991, page 17] “Jesus Christ, whom we understand from the scriptures to be Michael the archangel...” [*The Watchtower*, Feb 15, 1979, p. 31]

The Watchtower April 15, 1991, page 28

“Why do we conclude that Jesus is the archangel Michael? God’s Word mentions only one archangel, and it speaks of that angel in reference to the resurrected Lord Jesus: “The Lord himself will descend from heaven with a commanding call, with an archangel’s voice and with God’s trumpet.” [I Thessalonians 4:16] At Jude 9 we find that this archangel’s name is Michael.”

Biblical answers: 1) If “an archangel’s voice” means that Jesus IS an archangel, then “God’s trumpet” would mean that he is God!

2) Hebrews 1 shows that Jesus is not an angel at all!

Hebrews 1:4 NWT and Hebrews 1:13 NWT

They claim that Jesus’ body was disposed of and that he was raised as a spirit-being, A re-created spirit Archangel Michael

“God disposed of Jesus’ body, not allowing it to see corruption and thus preventing its becoming a stumbling block to faith.” [*The Watchtower*, Nov 15, 1991, p. 31]

“We deny that he was raised in the flesh, and challenge any statement to that effect as being unscriptural.” [*Studies in the Scriptures*, Vol. 7, p. 57]

“it was disposed of by Jehovah God, dissolved into its constituent elements or atoms” [*The Watchtower*, Sept 1, 1953]

“The man Jesus is dead, forever dead” [*Studies in the Scriptures*, Vol 5, p. 454]

Biblical answers:

What then is the significance of the empty tomb? Just that his body was disposed of?

1) John 2:19-21 in NWT—Jesus Himself would raise His own body!

2) Jesus was NOT raised a spirit, see Luke 24:37-39; John 20:24-28 NWT

3) ROMANS 10:9; “IF YOU BELIEVE IN YOUR HEART THAT God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.”—this is an issue of salvation.

There is another Jesus who is preached

2 Cor. 11:4; “For if someone comes to you and preaches a Jesus other than the Jesus we preached...”

It is important to receive the REAL Jesus by faith alone.

G. Salvation by Faith alone that leads to assurance of Salvation

This is an excerpt from JW official literature...

“Salvation is a free gift from God. It cannot be earned. Yet it does require effort on our part. If someone offered you a very valuable gift and you did not show enough appreciation to pick it up and take it with you, your lack of gratitude might prompt the giver to present it to someone else. Well, how valuable is the lifeblood of Jesus Christ? It is a free gift, but we must demonstrate deep appreciation for it.

True Christians are in a saved condition in that they are in an approved position before God. As a group, their salvation is sure. **Individually, they must meet God's requirements.** However, we can fail, for Jesus said: "If anyone does not remain in union with me, he is cast out as a branch and is dried up."—John 15:6." -- http://www.watchtower.org/library/w/1996/2/1/what_must_we_do.htm

Give your personal testimony at this time!

1 John 5:13 “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.”