

Questions and Answers

Many sincere people have been converted to the teachings of the Jehovah's Witnesses because they never had a clear understanding of the teaching of Holy Scripture and the historic Christian faith.

If a Witness asks you to consider their religion, first ask them if they will consider yours.

Here are questions and answers related to fundamental Jehovah's Witness teaching contrasted with historic Christian belief.

1. Is Jesus Christ true God who became incarnate of the Virgin Mary, who suffered in the flesh, died in the flesh, and was raised in a glorified but fleshly human body?

The Witnesses say "no." They admit "the son of God" who they consider a lesser being became human of a virgin mother and died, but was *not* resurrected as a real man. Rather the claim he was recreated as a purely "spirit being" and only "appeared" in various temporary bodies to his disciples after death.

The historic Christian faith affirms biblical truth. It says Christ lived, died, and was raised in a *real* human body: READ: 1 John 4:1-6 (very important passage); 1 Peter 4:1-6 Romans 8:1-4; Hebrews 5:1-10; 2 John 6-11 (very important passage); 1 Timothy 3:16; 1Peter 3:18-22; Luke 1:26-

35; Luke 24:36-43; John 20:26-29; Acts 10:40-42; Ephesians 1:19-20.

2. Is Jesus the Son of God equal to God the Father, the same being as God?

The Witnesses say no. The "son of God" is not equal to God himself they say, but is a "demi-god," a lesser god-like being like the angels created by God. In fact, they believe that Jesus was originally the Archangel Michael, who was changed into the mortal man Jesus. After his death, the Witnesses say, Jesus himself no longer existed but was "recreated" into a new and improved spirit creature, a new archangel, a new Michael. Their founder Charles Taze Russell wrote, "The man Jesus is dead, forever dead" (*Studies* 5:454). As to Jesus' divinity, their "New World Translation" Bible has carefully altered the translation of John 1:1 to read "And the Word was *a* god," although this faulty translation disagrees with *every other English Bible translation* that has been made by language scholars since the 15th century.

The historic Christian faith affirms the clear teaching of the Bible that Jesus is the true, fully divine Son of God who became incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and that he is *equal* to God the father in being, divinity and majesty, one of the "persons" of the Trinity, who "emptied himself" and came in the flesh to save mankind. As Greek scholars know, the most literal reading of John 1:1 is, "In beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and God was the Word." For clarity in English, the last

phrase is usually rendered "and the Word was God," but the *equivalence* of being is clear both ways. READ: Isaiah 9:6; John 5:17-18; Matthew 28:18-19; Titus 2:11-14; 2 Peter 1:1; Colossians 2:9; Philippians 2:5-8; John 1:1-3; 1 Timothy 2:5.

3. Where are the dead?

The Witnesses say the dead have perished completely until the day of resurrection, and presently have no existence of any kind.

The historic faith says the dead are in a state similar to sleep in a place Jesus himself called "Paradise," the place of rest for the spirits of the dead prior to the resurrection. READ: Luke 23:43; Luke 16:19-31; 2 Corinthians 12:4; Revelation 2:7; Revelation 6:9-11.

4. If the dead no longer exist, why does the New Testament describe them as being "asleep"?

The Witnesses do not accept this clear biblical teaching.

The historic faith agrees with the Bible. The dead have not completely perished, but continue to exist in a spiritual manner, although separated for a time from their bodies until the day of resurrection. READ: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-16; Ephesians 5:14; 1 Corinthians 15:1-20; 2 Peter 3:3-4; John 11:11-12; Acts 13:36; Acts 7:59-60; Matthew 27:51-52; Matthew 9:18-25

5. Are the dead still conscious?

Since the Witnesses believe the dead have perished absolutely, those who die can no longer have *any* form of existence or awareness or consciousness. They say, “That the soul lives on after death is a lie started by the devil” (*You Can Live*, p. 77).

The historic faith accepts the New Testament in saying that though “asleep” the dead retain a level of consciousness and awareness about themselves and others, and God’s activity in our world. READ: 1 Peter 3:18-22, 1 Peter 4:1-6 (the gospel was preached to the dead); Luke 9:28-35, Matthew 17:1-7 (Moses and Elijah appear to Jesus on the Mountain, and are seen by Peter, James and John); 1 Peter 3:18-19; Luke 20:37-38; Luke 16:19-31; Romans 14:9 (a very important verse); Luke 23:43; Revelation 6:9-11 (another important passage); Galatians 6:7-8; 1 Samuel 28:13-19.

6. What must I do to become a true Christian and have eternal salvation?

Believe that Jesus is who he said, and confess with your lips that Jesus Christ is Lord and Savior of all (Romans 10:8-10).

Confess that Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God was born, lived, suffered, died and was resurrected in a real human body (Luke 24:36-43; 1 John 4:1-6).

➤ Confess your sins and be born anew in Baptism in the Name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit and obediently follow the true teaching of Christ (John 3:1-17; Matthew 28:16-20).

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