

# LIGHT IT UP!

## Witnessing To Jehovah's Witnesses

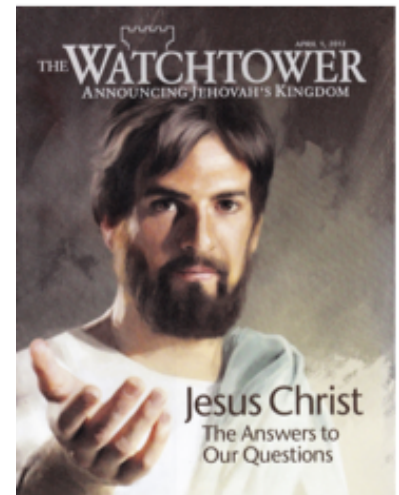
Various Scriptures

Pastor Mel Svendsen

November 16, 2014

**Jehovah's Witnesses Theology** (All points are supported references to literature [carm.org])

1. **There is one God in one person.** (*Make Sure of All Things*, p. 188)
2. There is no Trinity. (*Let God be True*, 2nd Ed., pp. 100-101; *Should You Believe in the Trinity?* p. 7; *Watchtower*, 2/1/1960, p. 94, *Why Do You Believe in the Trinity?*)
3. **The Holy Spirit is a force, not alive.** (*Reasoning from the Scriptures*, 1985, pp. 406-407)
4. The Holy Spirit is God's impersonal active force. (*The Watchtower*, June 1, 1952, p. 24)
5. **Jehovah's first creation was his 'only-begotten Son' . . . was used by Jehovah in creating all other things.** (*Aid to Bible Understanding*, pp. 390-391)
6. Jesus was Michael the archangel who became a man. (*The Watchtower*, May 15, 1963, p. 307; *The New World*, 284)
7. **Jesus was only a perfect man, not God in flesh.** (*Reasoning from the Scriptures*, 1985, p.306)
8. Jesus did not rise from the dead in his physical body. (*Awake!* July 22, 1973, p. 4)
9. **Jesus was raised "not a human creature, but a spirit."** (*Let God be True*, p. 276)
10. Jesus was born again. (*The Watchtower*, Nov. 15, 1954, p. 682)
11. **Jesus did not die on a cross but on a stake.** (*Reasoning from the Scriptures*, 1985, p. 89-90)
12. Jesus began his invisible rule over the earth in 1914. (*The Truth Shall Make You Free*, p.300)
13. **Jesus' ransom sacrifice did not include Adam.** (*Let God be True*, p. 119, copyright 1946)
14. They claim to be the only channel of God's truth. (*The Watchtower*, Feb. 15, 1981, p. 19)
15. **Only their church members will be saved.** (*The Watchtower*, Feb. 15, 1979, p. 30)
16. Good works are necessary for salvation. (*Studies in the Scriptures*, Vol. 1, pp. 150, 152)
17. **The soul ceases to exist after death.** (*Let God be True*, pp. 59, 60, 67)
18. There is no hell of fire where the wicked are punished. (*Let God be True*, pp. 79, 80)
19. **Only 144,000 Jehovah's Witness go to heaven.** (*Reasoning from the Scriptures*, 1985, pp. 166-167, 361; *Let God be True*, p. 121)
20. Only the 144,000 Jehovah's Witness are born again. (*Reasoning from the Scriptures*, 1985, p. 76; *Watchtower* 11/15/54, p. 681)
21. **Blood transfusions are a sin.** (*Reasoning from the Scriptures*, 1985, pp. 72-73)
22. The Cross is a pagan symbol and should not be used. (*Reasoning from the Scriptures*, 1985, pp. 90-92)
23. **Salvation is by faith and what you do.** (*Studies in the Scriptures*, Vol. 1, pp. 150, 152)
24. It is possible to lose your salvation. (*Reasoning from the Scriptures*, 1985, pp. 358-359)
25. **They also refuse to vote, salute the flag, sing the "Star Spangled Banner," or celebrate Christmas or birthdays. They are not allowed to serve in the armed forces.**
26. Satan was entrusted with obligation of overseeing the creation of the earth. (*Children*, p. 55)



### Important Reminders:

- Jehovah's Witnesses are people who are sincerely trying to have a relationship with God and follow Him in their lives, but sadly have been deceived into believing false doctrines and teachings.
- When witnessing, always share the truth in love without getting into heated arguments.

### Key Summary of JW Theology:

#### 1. God

- a. God's personal name is Jehovah and JW's see other Christians minimizing and avoiding that name.
- b. Only one being has existed from all eternity – Jehovah (Satan is the originator of the Trinity).

## 2. Jesus Christ

- a. Jesus Christ is a created being and the first creation of Jehovah.
- b. The “logos” of John 1:1 is “a god” according to JW’s not “God”.
- c. Jesus existed in 3 separate stages:
  - 1) Archangel Michael while in heaven prior to coming to earth.
  - 2) Jesus Christ – a man who was perfect on earth. The perfect Second Adam. Life force of Michael used in the virgin birth. On earth, Jesus vindicated Jehovah’s name by obedience.
  - 3) Jesus’ body has disappeared forever. Jesus was raised an immortal spirit son.

## 3. Holy Spirit

- a. The Holy Spirit is an invisible active force of the almighty God, which moves His servants.
- b. Referred to as an “it”, never a “He”.

## 4. Salvation

- a. Jesus’ death was a ransom paid to Jehovah. His perfect human life was laid down not for sin and punishment, but to buy back the ability for perfect human life.
- b. “The ransom” for all does not give or guarantee everlasting life or blessing to any man, but it does guarantee to every man another opportunity or trial for everlasting life. (Studies, 1, p. 128)

## Witnessing to Jehovah’s Witnesses:

1. John 1:1 – JW’s translate this verse as “the Word was a god” in their New World Translation.
  - a. JW’s are inconsistent – Verses 6, 12, 13 and 18 translate the same structure differently in their NWT.
  - b. Colwell’s “rule of Greek Grammar” states that a predicate nominative (Theos) is indefinite in this position “only when the context demands it.” The “rule” doesn’t state that *all* anarthrous predicate nouns that precede the verb in Greek are definite noun, but *context* must guide the translator in such cases and virtually demand the dropping of the the article “the”.
2. Colossians 1:16-17 – JW’s translate the verse “by means of him all other things were created.”
  - a. The word “other” does not appear in the Greek and the natural reading of the text would leave that word out.
  - b. JW’s will also point to verse 15, which reads “firstborn of all creation.”
    - Response: does not refer to Jesus being “first created” but rather the Jewish custom that the firstborn had preeminence (first place) and rights of inheritance in the Hebrew family structure. This is the biblical description of Jesus Christ in relation to the world and his inheritance of it. The verse clearly speaks of Jesus’ preeminence, not of being first created.
3. John 10:30 “I and the Father are one.” – JW’s claim this is one in purpose not in essence. (John 17:22)
  - a. This interpretation ignores the context of the John 10 passage. The Jews who were there hearing Jesus in verse 33 clearly understood that Jesus was claiming to be God. (c.f. John 5:18)
4. While witnessing, it’s important to focus on the Trinity and the deity of Jesus Christ.
  - Defining the Trinity: “Within the nature of the one God, there are three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and these three persons share the same attributes. In effect, these three persons are the one God.”
  - a. **The Father is God:** 2 Peter 1:17
  - b. **Jesus is God:** Revelation 22:13; Revelation 22:16, 20; John 1:1, 5:18, 10:30; Exodus 3:11
  - c. **The Holy Spirit is God:** Acts 5:1-4; Acts 13:1-4
  - d. **Only one God:** Deuteronomy 6:4; 1 Timothy 2:5
  - e. **Jesus worshiped:** Hebrews 1:6 coupled with Luke 4:8
    - Revelation 1:17-18, 2:8 “First and Last” (referring to Jesus)
    - Revelation 21:6-7 “First and Last” (referring to Jehovah)
    - Revelation 22:13 “Beginning and End” (referring to Jesus)
    - Revelation 21:6 “Beginning and End” (referring to Jehovah)