

Jehovah's Witnesses

Apologetics...does this word mean to apologize for what you believe, of course not.

Apologetics comes from the Greek word *apologia* and means "to give a rational defense of the Christian faith."

Webster's second edition defines apologetics this way, "that branch of theology having to do with the defense and proofs of Christianity."

Titus 1:9 exhorts as in the context of qualified elders to "hold fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict."

1 Peter 3:15 says "and always be ready to give a defense [*apologia*] to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear"

With these verses in mind, what I'd like to talk to you about tonight, over the next hour or so, is the Jehovah's Witnesses. We've felt it necessary to talk to the church about some of the false teachings that are popular with the Jehovah's Witnesses.

9 out of 10 Christians don't know how to answer a JW when they show up on their doorstep.

Tonight, we're going to discuss 5 major topics where the Jehovah's Witnesses err thus defining themselves as false teachers of God's Word.

During this teaching, I'll be using the acronym W. A. T. C. H. to help you better remember the false teachings of the *Watchtower Bible and Tract Society*, better known as the *Jehovah's Witnesses*.

1. **W**atchtower Bible and Tract Society
2. **A**rianism
3. **T**rinity
4. **C**hrist
5. **H**oly Spirit

The first letter in the acronym of **W.A.T.C.H** is **W**, the *Watchtower Bible and Tract Society* which for brevities sake I'll just call the Watchtower.

1. The Watchtower Bible and Tract Society

Here's a little background on their beginnings.

The Watchtower organization can trace its roots back to its founder, a man by the name of Charles Taze Russell (1852-1916).

Charles Russell was born in Pittsburg Pennsylvania in 1852 and as a teenager found that he was unable or unwilling to accept some of the teachings of the Presbyterian Church he was attending. Specifically,

1. Hell
2. The Trinity
3. The Deity of Jesus Christ

So in 1870, at the age of 18, Charles Russell organized a Bible study in Pittsburgh, at which time he began to share his unorthodox beliefs with others.

As the Bible study grew, the group eventually made him pastor. In 1879, Charles Russell started his own magazine to promote his doctrines. That magazine, still in publication today, is now called The Watchtower. The Watchtower organization prints and disseminates over 37 million of these magazines twice a month in 174 different languages.

Another publication that is produced today is Awake! (also published twice a month, in nearly the same quantities (36.7 million in 82 languages). The Watchtower organization continued to grow after Russell's death in 1916, into what is today one of the most influential cults of our time.

By 1940, there were only about 95,327 Jehovah's Witnesses in the United States.¹

Today there are 6 million Jehovah's Witnesses worldwide, attending some 90,000 Kingdom Halls.

The modern day Jehovah's Witness organization is officially known as: *The Watchtower Bible and Tract Society*.

The Watchtower organization is led by a group of men, known as "The Governing Body", and is based in Brooklyn, New York. This group of men, or the "Governing Body", oversees every aspect of the organization including the material that is written and produced for the Watchtower such as periodicals, and books.

The Watchtower organization claims to be God's sole "channel for communicating" truth to humankind today.²

Other claims they have made concerning being under "God's direction" and the *only* bearer of God's truth are:

- "Jehovah's theocratically controlled organization under the immediate direction of Jehovah God Himself."³
- "Is not the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society the one and only channel which the Lord has used in dispensing his truth continually since the beginning of the harvest period."⁴
- "Jehovah's organization alone, in all the earth, is directed by God's holy spirit or active force."⁵

- "We must not lose sight of the fact that God is directing his organization."⁶
- "Jehovah's organization has a visible part on the earth which represents the Lord and is under his direct supervision."⁷

Now, of course, if these statements are true as the Watchtower teaches, then this means that all other Christian organizations are not directed by God, and are therefore deceptive or being deceived and are of the devil.

The False Prophet:

Not only does the Watchtower claim to be the "one and only channel," but they claim to be a prophet of God.

- "So, does Jehovah have a prophet to help them,...and to declare things to come?...*The answer can be answered in the affirmative.* Who is this prophet?...This "prophet" was not one man, but was a body of men and women...known at that time as International Bible Students. Today they are known as Jehovah's Christian Witnesses."⁸ (emphasis added)

If the Watchtower is indeed the "one and only channel" and "Jehovah's organization alone" which dispenses God's truth, why did they make the following false prophecies?

1. *The Second Coming of Christ* in 1874 and 1914.
2. *The Return of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob* in 1925.
3. *The End of the World* in 1975.

Concerning the *Second Coming of Christ* in 1874 they wrote:

- "the Scriptural proof is that the second presence of the Lord Jesus Christ began in 1874 A.D."⁹
- "the second coming of the Lord therefore began in 1874..."¹⁰

Despite the fact that early Watchtower literature assured people that Christ returned in 1874, the Watchtower later argued that the invisible Second Coming of Christ occurred in 1914.

- "Christ Jesus came to the Kingdom in A.D. 1914, but unseen to men."¹¹
- "Jesus foretold many things that would mark the time of his invisible presence and the setting up of God's kingdom. The end of the Gentile Times or 'appointed times of the nations' in 1914 was the time for these to begin appearing."¹²

And what about the predictions that *Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and the Prophets* would return in 1925?

- "we may expect 1925 to witness the return of these faithful men of Israel from the condition of death, being resurrected...1925 will mark the return of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and the faithful prophets of old."¹³
- "There will be no slip-up...Abraham should enter upon the actual possession of his promised inheritance in the year 1925 A.D."¹⁴

And finally, the Watchtower predicted that Armageddon was going to occur in 1975 culminating in the return of Christ and His setting up of the Millennial Kingdom and the end of human history.

- "In what year, then, would the first 6,000 years of man's existence and the first 6,000 years of God's rest come to an end? The year 1975."¹⁵
- "There are only about ninety months [7 and ½ years] left before 6,000 years of man's existence on earth is completed...The majority of people living today will probably be alive when Armageddon breaks out."¹⁶
- "According to this trustworthy Bible chronology six thousand years from man's creation will end in 1975, and the seventh period of a thousand years of human history will begin in the fall of 1975 C.E."¹⁷

When it comes to determining the test for a prophet, or a false prophet, all we have to do is turn to our Bibles, our *Final Court of Appeal* and see what God says, for He is the final authority.

- Deut. 18:20-22 says, "But a prophet who presumes to speak in my name anything I have not commanded him to say, or a prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, must be put to death. You may say to yourselves, 'How can we know when a message has not been spoken by the Lord?' 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. That prophet has spoken presumptuously. Do not be afraid of them."

The bottom line is this, a prophet must be 100% correct, 100% of the time.

Anything less and we can rest assured that this person or organization is not speaking for God.

In other words, that person, or organization, is a false prophet.

Over and over again, the Watchtower has made false predictions and prophecies concerning the return of Christ and the end of the world.

Ironically, even their own literature warns that when one discovers false prophets, "the people should no longer trust them as safe guides."¹⁸



Do you agree with the Watchtower instruction that when one discovers false prophets, then "the people should no longer trust them as safe guides"?

Since the Watchtower Society was wrong in 1874, 1914, 1925, and 1975, do you think you should still trust the Society as a "safe guide"?

Exclusivity Claims:

The Watchtower claims exclusivity when it comes to hearing from God and the sole possessor and propagator when dispensing God's Word.

The Watchtower teaches its members that Bible reading isn't enough to understand God truths; you must read the Bible as filtered through the Watchtower literature as they explain:

- "God has not arranged for [His] Word to speak independently or to shine forth life-giving truths by itself. It is through his organization God provides his light."¹⁹
- "Avoid independent thinking...questioning the counsel that is provided by God's visible organization."²⁰
- "Fight against independent thinking."²¹
- "Rather we should seek for dependent Bible study, rather than for independent Bible Study."²²
- "The Bible cannot be properly understood without Jehovah's visible organization in mind."²³
- "Unless we are in touch with this channel of communication [The Watchtower Society] that God is using, we will not progress along the road to life, no matter how much Bible reading we do."²⁴

The bottom line is that the Watchtower teaches that they alone are the sole mouth piece of God and no other organization. They teach their members that you cannot understand the Bible independently, on your own, but that you must read their accompanying literature in order to understand and properly interpret Gods Truths.

But, is that what the Bible teaches?

Do we need to join an organization in order to understand Gods Truths? – NO.

Is the Bible sufficient in and of itself? – YES

In Acts 8: 26-40, we read of Philip who upon being commanded by the Lord to "go down from Jerusalem to Gaza", encounters the Ethiopian eunuch who was sitting in his chariot reading from the book of Isaiah.

Ironically, the Watchtower uses Acts 8:30, 31 to support their teaching that we need their organization in order to understand Gods truths.

Verses 30 and 31 says, "So Philip ran to him, and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah, and said, "Do you understand what you are reading?" And he said, "How can I unless someone guides me?"

The Watchtower teaches that just as the Ethiopian eunuch needed Philip to understand scripture, so humankind needs the Watchtower Society to understand scripture.

Indeed, the Watchtower teaches that, "in order to understand God's Word and discern his will we...need the help of his dedicated, organized people [anointed believers in the Watchtower Society]. The Ethiopian Bible reader acknowledged this fact."²⁵

Obviously, the Jehovah's Witnesses are reading into the text something that is not there.

After reading Acts 8:26-40, several points stick out:

- There is no evidence in this passage that an organization is needed in order to understand scripture. True, there are certain scriptures that are not always self-evident, Peter even acknowledged that some of the apostle Paul's teachings were hard to understand – 2 Peter 3:16. That's why God gives teachers to His church – Ephesians 4:11 and the reason why He gave the illuminating ministry of the Holy Spirit – John 16:12-15; 1 Corinthians 2:9-12.
- Where in the text did Philip use literature other than Scripture alone to talk to the Eunuch? In the text, one man (Philip) preached to an Ethiopian man directly from the scripture and not from literature designed by an organization, after which time the Ethiopian confessed

his faith in Christ and became baptized. Indeed the eunuch didn't have to join an organization and he didn't even see Philip again!

With this in mind, Ron Rhodes in his book, *Reasoning from the Scriptures with the Jehovah's Witnesses* compels us to ask the Jehovah's Witness at our doorstep the following questions:

① Where in the biblical text do you see any support for the idea that people must join an organization and submit to the interpretations of such an organization? (Only one man – Philip – is mentioned in the text. And after this single encounter, the eunuch never saw him again.)

Did Philip use *Scripture alone* in talking to the eunuch, or did he have to use additional literature?

If *Scripture alone* was sufficient for Philip and the eunuch, is not *Scripture alone* sufficient for us as well?

As for the question of "Is the Bible sufficient in and of itself?" we need only look at 2 Timothy 3:15-17 where Paul writes to Timothy:

- "from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Jesus Christ. All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be *complete*, thoroughly equipped for every good work." (emphasis added)

It's worth noting that the word *complete* [Greek: *artios*] means just that, "complete, perfect, capable, fully furnished, and proficient in the sense of being able to meet all demands."

② According to 2 Timothy 3:15, were the *Scriptures alone* sufficient to provide Timothy what he needed to know to be saved?

If the *Scriptures alone* were sufficient for Timothy, then aren't the *Scriptures alone* sufficient for us?

Another thing worth mentioning, if the Watchtower didn't exist and indeed didn't start producing literature until the late 19th century, ask the following:

① How did people understand the Bible for the 19 centuries prior to the existence of the Watchtower Society? (If one cannot understand the Bible without the Watchtower literature, as they claim, then apparently people could not understand the Bible for 19 centuries.)

What kind of a God would give His people a Bible with no means of understanding it?

Isn't it ironic that if we cannot understand the true meaning of Scripture without the Watchtower organization, how did the Scripture teach us that we need the Watchtower organization in order to understand it?

And finally, to finish up the **W** in the acronym **W.A.T.C.H.**, let's look at Acts 16:30-31.

In these passages the Philippian jailor asks Paul and Silas, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" So they said, "Believe on the *Lord Jesus Christ*, and you will be saved, you and your household."

Then, after he became saved, the Bible says that "he rejoiced, having *believed in God* with all his household."

② What do you think this verse says about who Christ is, that believing in Him (Acts 16:31) and believing in God (Acts 16:34), are seen as identical acts?

Where in the biblical text do you see any support for the idea that people must join an organization and submit to the interpretations of such an organization in order to be saved?

As David Reed, a former Jehovah's Witness has said:

- "Any organization inserting itself into the picture as essential to salvation and demanding obedience must be viewed as a false savior and lord, a corporate false Christ, and thus one of the "false Christs, and false prophets" that Jesus warned against. (Matthew 24:24)"²⁶

Moving on to the **A** in the acronym W.**A**.T.C.H., let's talk about Arianism.

2. Arianism – Denying the eternity of Jesus

Arius (256 – 336 AD), was a man who caused some disputes throughout the Roman Empire regarding the eternity of Jesus Christ.

Specifically, Arius reasoned that since Jesus was "begotten" (John 3:16), He must have had a beginning. This false teaching became known as Arianism and was the forerunner of today's Jehovah's Witnesses.

And indeed, the followers of Arius, known as Arians, held that the divine nature of Christ was "similar" to God, but not the "same" as God. His wide following believed that Christ was more than a man but less than God.

In 325 AD, Constantine (280 – 337 AD), the Emperor of Rome, hoping to unify Christianity, called together a council of 318 church leaders, known as the 'Council of Nicea' to settle disputes over the Doctrine of Christ.

As Dr. Erwin W. Lutzer points out:

- "Though Arius was given an opportunity to defend his views, the delegates recognized that if Christ was not fully God, then God was not the Redeemer of mankind. To say that Christ was created was to deny the clear teaching of scripture...Affirming the divinity of Jesus; the delegates turned their attention to the question of how he related to the Father."²⁷

In the end, the Nicene Creed reaffirmed what is taught in the Bible, that Jesus had the very same nature as God.

Hebrews 1:3a – "And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature" NASB

- The words *exact representation* or *express image* in the NKJV [Greek: *charakter*] literally means "engraving, stamped or an exact copy."
- The word *nature* [Greek: *hupostasis*] literally means "essence, person or substance."
- We could then render this verse to say "And He is the radiance of His glory and the [very image and exact copy of His essence and substance.]

Allow me to quote a small part from the Creed that came out of the Council of Nicea in 325 AD.

"I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds; God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God; begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made."

Today's Watchtower teaches essentially the same thing as Arius, that Jesus was similar to God and even "a god" but not "the God".

According to their Bible, the *New World Translation*, John 1:1 reads, "In the beginning the Word was, and the Word was with God, and the Word was a *god*."

This of course is a completely inappropriate and heretical translation of the Greek text.

But, the Bible, our *Final Court of Appeal*, the eternal Word of God teaches that Jesus is God.

1. The apostle Thomas called Jesus God in John 20:27-29.
 - After seeing Jesus raised from the dead, Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and My God!"
 - In the Greek, it literally reads, "The Lord of me and the God of me"
 - And then Jesus rebuked him for calling him God!! – **Of course not!**
 - "Jesus said to him, "Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."
2. The apostle Peter called Jesus God in 2 Peter 1:1.
 - "To those who have obtained like precious faith with us by the righteousness of *our God and Savior Jesus Christ.*" (emphasis added)
3. The apostle Paul called Jesus God in Titus 2:13.
 - "looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of *our great God and Savior Jesus Christ.*" (emphasis added)
4. The apostle John called Jesus God in John 1:1-3, 14.
 - "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...and the Word became flesh and dwelt among us"

5. The prophet Isaiah said that the Messiah would be called "mighty God" in Isaiah 9:6.
 - The Jehovah's Witnesses will point out that "See, Jesus is only called a 'mighty god' but in Revelation 1:8, the Father is called 'Almighty God', therefore they are two different Gods."
 - At this point you can take them one chapter to the right in Isaiah 10:21 and point out that the Father is also ascribed the title of "mighty God." Both Jesus and the Father are called "Mighty God".
6. Jesus referred to Himself as the "I AM" in John 8:58-59, the Old Testament name for God in Exodus 3:14.
7. The angels will worship Him in Hebrews 1:6 at His second coming. As the Bible points out, worship is something that is strictly forbidden by God of any created being (Rev. 22:9). Jesus said in Matthew 4:10, "it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only.'"
8. Jesus also said that God was His Father, resulting in some of His listeners trying to stone Him for making Himself "equal with God." (John 5:18 & 10:33)

In John 17:3 we read, "And this is eternal life, that they may know You, *the only true God*, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent." (emphasis added)

The word *only* [Greek: *monos*] – literally means "sole or single, alone, only, by themselves."

In light of how the Jehovah's Witnesses Bible, the *New World Translation*, renders John 1:1, Ron Rhodes, in his book, *Reasoning from the Scriptures with the Jehovah's Witnesses*, suggests a "Witnessing Tip" conversation that could go like this:

- *Christian*: According to John 17:3, how many *true* Gods are there?

- *JW*: Only one, Jehovah the Father is “the only true God.”
- *Christian*: Quite right. Now, would you agree that whatever is not true must be false?
- *JW*: Yes, I suppose so.
- *Christian*: Then, if there is only one true God, all other gods must be false, right?
- *JW*: Yes, I can see that.
- *Christian*: Now, according to John 1:1 in the *New World Translation*, Jesus is a god. Do you agree with that?
- *JW*: Of course.
- *Christian*: Well then, is Jesus a true god or a false god?
- *JW*: Hmm...I don't know.
- *Christian*: He can't be a false god, can he, since that would mean that the apostle John was guilty of falsely honoring Jesus as a god? Therefore he must be a true God. But Jehovah is the only true God. Therefore, Jesus must be Jehovah.

The Jehovah's Witnesses Bible, *The New World Translation*, has been changed (e.g., John 1:1; Colossians 1:16-20; and many other places), to *fit* their theology instead of letting the Bible *set* their theology.

These changes revolve around their denial of Jesus Christ as the “one true God” of the Bible.

This of course leads us into our next topic, which is the **T** in the acronym W.A.**T**.C.H. or the Trinity.

3. The Trinity

Dr. James R. White, in his book, *The Forgotten Trinity* says:

- "Within the one Being that is God, there exists eternally three coequal and coeternal persons, namely, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit."

While this statement embodies the definition of the Trinity, it is the Bible that lays it out for us.

First, realize that the doctrine rests completely upon the truth of the first clause: there is only one God.

- Deuteronomy 6:4 says, "Hear, O Israel; The LORD our God, the LORD is one!"

This prayer, the *Shema*, taken from the Hebrew word "to hear", was the prayer each morning of the faithful Jew and defined his faith and provided the foundation of his religion.

Other verses also attest to the fact that there is only one God:

- 2 Samuel 7:22 says, "Therefore You are great, O Lord God. For there is none like You, nor is there any God besides You"
- 1 Kings 8:60 says, "that all the peoples of the earth may know that the LORD is God; there is no other."
- 1 Chronicles 17:20 says, "O LORD, there is none like You, nor is there any God besides You, according to all that we have heard with our ears."
- See also Isaiah 37:16; 45:14; Jeremiah 10:6,7

Second, the definition insists that there are three divine persons.

Please note that we are not saying there are three Beings that are one Being, or three persons that are one person. The second clause speaks of three divine persons, not three divine Beings.

As Hank Hanegraff, president of the *Christian Research Institute* has often expressed, "We need to realize that we are talking about one *what* and three *who's*. The one *what* is the Being or essence of God; the three *who's* are the Father, Son, and Spirit."

Finally, the relationship among these divine persons is eternal.

The Father is eternal:

- Romans 16:26-27 says, "but now made manifest, and by the prophetic Scriptures made known to all nations, according to the commandment of the everlasting God"

The Son is eternal:

- Revelation 1:17 says, "And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, 'Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last.'"
- John 1:1 says, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."

This verse in the *New English Bible* puts it very appropriately, "When all things began, the Word already was."

The Holy Spirit is eternal:

- Hebrews 9:14 says, "how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God"

The Father is not 1/3 of God, the Son 1/3 of God and the Spirit 1/3 of God.

Each is fully God, coequal and coeternal with the others.

The three foundations of the Trinity are now visible:

- Foundation One: Monotheism: There is Only One God

- Foundation Two: There Are Three Divine Persons
- Foundation Three: The Persons Are Coequal and Coeternal

Now, the Jehovah's Witness will undoubtedly bring up that the word "Trinity" is not in the Bible. That's OK, the word "Bible" isn't in the Bible either or the word "Theocracy" or the word "Jehovah" (spelled that way "Jehovah") isn't in the Bible, but what is there are the foundations or concepts.

If you find it hard to understand the concept of the Trinity, welcome to the club. Our limited human understanding makes it a difficult concept. We can apprehend the concept of the Trinity even though we may not fully comprehend the concept of the Trinity.

Basically, human beings cannot possibly or fully understand everything there is to know about God.

- Romans 11:33 says, "Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out!"
- Isaiah 55:8, 9 says, "'For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways,' declares the LORD. 'As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.'"
- 1 Corinthians 13:12 says, "Now we see but a poor reflection; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known."

Now that we've defined our terms, let's see what the Bible has to say about the Trinity.

There are over *60 Bible passages* that talk about the functioning of the three as the Trinity. Turn to Matthew 28:19, 20.

- "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them *in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit*, teaching them to

observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

First, note that the word *name* [Greek: *onoma*] is singular. Matthew did not say “baptizing them in the *names* of the Father”

Second, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are invoked as three equal Persons. The Son manifests omnipresence and omniscience by promising to be with all believers at all times in all places throughout this age.



Can you see that because the word “name” is singular in the Greek – and the definite articles (e.g., “the”) are placed in front of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – that plurality within unity is thereby indicated?

There are so many proof texts that it could take literally weeks of intense studies just to cover them all. Fortunately for us, John Ankerberg and John Weldon do a considerable service to us by demonstrating numerous texts where the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are equated.

Below are some verses that demonstrate the truth of the Trinity: ²⁸

| | | |
|--|------------------|----------------------|
| Who raised Jesus from the dead? | The Father? | Romans 6:4 |
| | | Acts 3:26 |
| | | 1 Thessalonians 1:10 |
| | The Son? | John 2:19-21 |
| | | John 10:17,18 |
| | The Holy Spirit? | Romans 8:11 |
| | God? | Hebrews 13:20 |
| | | Acts 13:30 |
| | | Acts 17:30 |
| Who does the Bible say is God? | The Father? | Ephesians 4:6 |
| | The Son? | Titus 2:13 |
| | | John 1:1 |
| | | John 20:28 |
| | The Holy Spirit? | Acts 5:3,4 |

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|---|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| | The one and only true God? | Deuteronomy 4:35 |
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| Who created the world? | The Father? | I Corinthians 8:6; John 14:2 |
| | The Son? | John 1:1-3 |
| | | Colossians 1:16,17 |
| | The Holy Spirit? | Genesis 1:2 |
| | | Psalm 104:30 |
| | God? | Genesis 1:1 |
| | | Hebrews 11:3 |
| | | |
| Who saves (regenerates) man? | The Father? | 1 Peter 1:3 |
| | The Son? | John 5:21 |
| | | John 4:14 |
| | The Holy Spirit? | John 3:6 |
| | | Titus 3:5 |
| | God? | 1 John 3:9 |
| | | |
| Who justifies man? | The Father? | Jeremiah 23:6 |
| | | 2 Corinthians 5:19 |
| | The Son? | Romans 5:9 |
| | | Romans 10:4 |
| | | 2 Corinthians 5:19,21 |
| | The Holy Spirit? | 1 Corinthians 6:11 |
| | | Galatians 5:5 |
| | God? | Romans 4:6 |
| | | Romans 9:33 |
| | | |
| Who sanctifies man? | The Father? | Jude 1 |
| | The Son? | Titus 2:14 |
| | The Holy Spirit? | 1 Peter 1:2 |
| | God? | Exodus 31:13 |
| | | |
| Who appeased God's anger against man for his sins? | The Father? | 1 John 4:14 |
| | | John 3:16 |
| | | John 17:5 |
| | | John 18:11 |
| | The Son? | Matthew 26:28 |
| | | John 1:19 |

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| | | 1 John 2:2 |
| | The Holy Spirit? | Hebrews 9:14 |
| | God? | 2 Corinthians 5:1 |
| | | Acts 20:28 |

Moving on to the **C** in the acronym W.A.T.**C**.H., let's talk about Christ.

4. Christ

As we have refuted the Arian view pointed out in the letter A of the acronym W.A.T.C.H., we won't beat a dead horse by again proving that in Jesus "dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily." (Colossians 2:9)

However, I would like to focus on who we, as Christians, should be witnesses of.

In order to begin this topic, I would like to point out that the Jehovah's Witnesses Bible, *The New World Translation*, inserts the name "Jehovah" in the New Testament verses where they believe the text refers to the Father, 237 times.

As Ron Rhodes points out in his book, *Reasoning from the Scriptures with the Jehovah's Witnesses*:

"They have taken the liberty to do this *despite* the fact that it blatantly goes against the thousands of Greek manuscripts of the New Testament that we have – some of which date from the second century. (The New Testament *always* uses the words "Lord" [Greek: *kurios*] and "God" [Greek: *theos*], *never* "Jehovah" – even in quotations for the Old Testament.)"²⁹

So one might ask where did the name "Jehovah" originate considering the Old Testament contains the name "Yahweh" or more accurately, YHWH [the original Hebrew had only consonants].

Again, I'll turn to Ron Rhodes for this answer:

“To answer this question, we must recognize that the ancient Jews had a superstitious dread of pronouncing the name YHWH. They felt that if they uttered this name, they might violate the Third Commandment, which deals with taking God’s name in vain (Exodus 20:7). So, to avoid the possibility of breaking this commandment, the Jews for centuries substituted the name “Adonai” (Lord) or some other name in the place whenever they came across it in public readings of Scripture.

Eventually, the fearful Hebrew scribes decided to insert the vowels from Adonai (a-o-a) within the consonants YHWH. The result was Yahowah, or Jehovah. Hence, the word Jehovah is derived from a consonant-vowel combination from the words YHWH and Adonai.”³⁰

The reason I want to point this out is because when the Jehovah’s Witnesses show up on your doorstep, they will often point out the importance of using Jehovah as Gods correct name.

They will usually open their *New World Translation* and use such verses as:

- Romans 10:13 says, “Everyone who calls on the name of Jehovah will be saved”
- Ezekiel 39:6 says, “People will have to know that I am Jehovah.”

As noted earlier, the New Testament Greek **never** uses the word Jehovah and the *New World Translation* inserts the word “Jehovah” in place of the word “Lord” [Greek: *kurios*].

The Jehovah’s Witnesses believe, and are taught, that it is absolutely essential to one’s salvation to use the ‘correct’ name (Jehovah) of God. Indeed, the Jehovah’s Witnesses believe that since they, and only they, are the only group that refers to God by His ‘correct’ name, Jehovah, they are the ‘only true’ followers of God and that all other Christian denominations are essentially part of a false, satanically inspired Christendom.

Exclusivity in this point as well as exclusivity in several others that, because of time, we won’t be able to discuss is one mark of a cult.

The New Testament over and over again lifts up the name of Jesus. The Watchtower organization, by inserting the name 'Jehovah' in their *New World Translation*, attempts to cloud this issue.

But you only have to turn to the following Scriptures to point out the fact that Jesus' name is consistently lifted up:

- In whose name should we meet together? (Matt 18:20; 1 Cor. 5:4)
- Demons are subject to whose name? (Luke 10:17; Acts 16:18)
- Repentance and forgiveness should be preached in whose name? (Luke 24:47)
- In whose name are you to believe and receive forgiveness of sins? (John 1:12; 3:16; Acts 10:43)
- By whose name and no other, do we obtain salvation? (Acts 4:12)
- Whose name should be invoked as we bring our petitions to God in prayer? (John 14:13, 14)
- Whose name and authority was invoked by the disciples in healing the sick? (Act 3:16, 4:7-10, 30)
- In whose name was the Holy Spirit sent? (John 14:26)
- Whose name did Paul tell us to call upon? (1 Cor. 1:2)
- Believers were gathered in whose name? (1 Cor. 5:4)
- Christians were insulted in whose name? (1 Peter 4:14)
- Whose name is above every name? (Eph. 1:21, Phil. 2:9-11)

It's definitely worth pointing out that in the reference in Philippians 2:9-11, Paul is making a comparison of Jesus Christ to God the Father by using Isaiah 45:22-24:

- Isaiah 45:22-24 says, "Look to Me, and be saved, All you ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other. I have sworn by Myself;

The word has gone out of My mouth in righteousness, And shall not return, *That to Me every knee shall bow, Every tongue shall take an oath.* He shall say, 'surely in the LORD I have righteousness and strength. To Him men shall come, and all shall be ashamed Who are incensed against Him.'" (emphasis added)

- Philippians 2:9-11 says, "Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, *that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,* of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, *and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,* to the glory of God the Father." (emphasis added)

After you have presented the above points to the Jehovah's Witness, you are ready to point out the "doctrinal clincher" as it were.

In Acts 1:8 we read the admonition of Jesus to His disciples and as an extension, to us:

- "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and *you shall be witnesses* to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." (emphasis added)



According to Acts 1:8 of whom are we to be witnesses?

With your exclusive emphasis on Jehovah, can you honestly say that you are being obedient to Acts 1:8?

We are called to lift up the name of Jesus and be witnesses of Jesus Christ over and over again in the New Testament!

And lastly, moving on to the **H** in the acronym **W.A.T.C.H.**, let's talk about where the Jehovah's Witnesses err when it comes to knowing the Holy Spirit.

5. The Holy Spirit

The Jehovah's Witnesses will point out that the Holy Spirit "is not a person but is a powerful force that God causes to emanate from himself to accomplish his holy will."³¹

They will also tell you that the Holy Spirit can be likened to electricity, "a force that can be adapted to perform a great variety of operations."³²

The Watchtower will also tell you that "the holy spirit is not a person and it is not part of the Trinity. The holy spirit is God's active force that he uses to accomplish his will. It is not equal to God but is always at his disposition and subordinate to him."³³

This denial of the Holy Spirit's personality falls right in line with their denial of the Trinity.

The Jehovah's Witness will argue that proof is found in Scripture that people are filled, baptized and anointed by the Holy Spirit and that only if the Holy Spirit was a force and not a person could this be accomplished.

Indeed, they'll argue, how could a person be split up and fill thousands of people at one time?

They will also point out that just because the Scriptures *personified* the Holy Spirit, this is not unlike other things which are personified – such as wisdom, sin and death.

As Ron Rhodes explains the Watchtowers position:

"The booklet *Should You Believe in the Trinity?* Cites the *New English Bible's* rendering of Genesis 4:7: 'Sin is a demon crouching at the door.' This personifies sin as a wicked spirit at Cain's door. But of course, 'sin is not a person; nor does personifying the holy spirit make it a spirit person.'"³⁴

The Jehovah's Witnesses will deny the attributes of the Holy Spirit that make up the third person of the Trinity. Let's take a look at some of those attributes that, for example show that only a person can, be lied to, love, convict of sin, command and forbid, speak and intercede for believers just to name a few. An 'active force' could do none of these things because it would be just that – an electrical force.

The Holy Spirit is distinguished from both the Father and the Son:

- Isaiah 48:16b says, "And now the Sovereign Lord has sent me, with His Spirit."
- Matthew 28:19 says, "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit"
- Luke 3:21, 22 says, "And as He was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended on Him in bodily form like a dove."
- John 14:16 says, "And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Counselor to be with you forever-the Spirit of truth."
- Hebrews 9:8 says, "The Holy Spirit was showing by this that the way into the Most Holy Place"

The Holy Spirit is personal:

He loves - Romans 15:30 says, "I urge you, brothers, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit"

He wills - 1 Corinthians 12:11 says, "All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and He gives them to each one, just as He determines."

He convicts of sin - John 16:8 says, "When He [Holy Spirit] comes, He will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin"

He commands and forbids - Acts 8:29 says, "The Spirit told Philip, 'Go to that chariot and stand near it.'"

Acts 13:2 says, "the Holy Spirit said, 'Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.'"

Acts 16:6 says, "having been kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word"

He speaks messages - 1Timothy 4:1 says, "The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith"

Revelation 2:7 says, "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

He intercedes for believers - Romans 8:26 says, "In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness...but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express."

He teaches, comforts and guides into the truth - John 14:26 says, "But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, will teach you all things and remind you of everything I have said to you."

He can be grieved - Ephesians 4:30 says, "And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed"

He can be blasphemed - Mark 3:29 says, "But whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven"

He can be insulted - Hebrews 10:29 says, "and who has insulted the Spirit of grace?"

He can be lied to - Acts 5: 3, 4 says, "But Peter said, 'Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit...You have not lied to men but to God.'"

And lastly, the Holy Spirit is God:

He is omnipresent (everywhere) - Psalm 139:7, 8 says, "Where can I go from Your Spirit? Where can I flee from Your presence? If I go up to the heavens, You are there; if I make my bed in the depths You are there."

He is omniscient (all knowing) - 1 Corinthians 2:10, 11 says, "but God has revealed it to us by His Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man's spirit within him? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God."

He is omnipotent (all powerful) - Job 33:4 says, "The Spirit of God has made me; the breath of the Almighty gives me life."

He is eternal - Hebrews 9:14 says, "How much more then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences"

He is the creator of the universe - Genesis 1:2 says, "Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters."

He is the giver of eternal life - John 3:3-8 says, "Jesus answered, 'I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and of the Spirit.'"

He indwells the believer: By putting these 2 verses together we can see that the Holy Spirit is God Almighty

1 Corinthians 6:19 says, "Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you received from God?"

2 Corinthians 6:16b says, "For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said: 'I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people.'"

He strives with man: By putting these 2 verses together we can see that the Holy Spirit is God Almighty

Genesis 6:3 says, "Then the Lord said, 'My Spirit will not contend with man forever, for he is mortal'"

1 Peter 3:20 says, "who disobeyed long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built."



In light of the multitude of evidence that shows the Holy Spirit with traits that only a person and not an 'active force' can have, can you see that the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society's teaching on the Holy Spirit is incorrect?

To sum up, the Holy Spirit has attributes of Personality. He is not an "active force" or electricity, but over and over again in the Bible, He is seen as the third person of the Trinity.

Conclusion

As we have seen using the acronym W.A.T.C.H., the Jehovah's Witnesses err when it comes to:

1. The need to join an organization or use supplemental literature from the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society to attain eternal salvation.
2. Denying the eternity of Christ.
3. Denying the Trinity.
4. We are to be witnesses of Jesus Christ.
5. The Person of the Holy Spirit.

As Christians, we have the perfect opportunity do demonstrate the love of Christ by witnessing to those who do not know Him.

The amazing thing is that they will come to us! Usually on Saturdays between 10:00 and 12:00, two Jehovah's Witnesses may come to your doorstep and you will be given the opportunity to talk to them about Jesus.

- 1 Corinthians 3:6 says, "[Paul] planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase."

Don't worry about changing the Jehovah's Witness or anyone else for that matter – that's the Holy Spirit's job (John 16:13, 14). Just be open and let the Holy Spirit use you to spread the good news of Jesus Christ.

Jehovah's Witnesses are stuck in a works based religion and they need the love of Christ to change their hearts - you could be that person that God uses to soften their hearts.

- 1 Thessalonians 2:4 says, "But as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, even so we speak, not as pleasing men, but God who tests our hearts."
- 2 Timothy 2:15 says, "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."
- 1 Peter 3:15 says "and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear"

Here are a few Witnessing tips for Jehovah's Witnesses (Chapter 15 of *Reasoning from the Scriptures with the Jehovah's Witnesses*):

- 1.** Identify with the Jehovah's Witness - Be honest with them.
- 2.** Labor persistently with the Jehovah's Witness – Don't give up until they refuse further contact.
- 3.** Exhaust every effort to answer the questions of the Jehovah's Witness.
- 4.** Allow the Jehovah's Witness to save face.
- 5.** Don't approach the Jehovah's Witness with a "spiritual chip" on your shoulder.
- 6.** Be Patient.

PRAY for the Holy Spirit to enlighten them and show them the true saving faith and knowledge of Jesus Christ!

Resources used for this teaching and recommended reading material:

1. *Reasoning from the Scriptures with the Jehovah's Witnesses*, Ron Rhodes, Harvest House Publishers, ISBN 1565071069
2. *The Forgotten Trinity*, James R. White, Bethany House Publishers, ISBN 1556617259
3. *The Trinity Evidence and Issues*, Robert Morey, World Publishing, ISBN 0529106922
4. *Jehovah's' Witnesses Answered Verse by Verse*, David Reed, Baker Book House, ISBN 0801077397
5. *Jehovah's' Witnesses Answered Subject by Subject*, David Reed, Baker Book House, ISBN 080105317X
6. *Jehovah's Witnesses, Jesus Christ, & the Gospel of John*, Robert M Bowman Jr., Baker Book House, ISBN 0801009553
7. *Why You Should Believe in the Trinity*, Robert M. Bowman, Jr., Baker Book House, ISBN 0801009812
8. *The Interlinear KJV-NIV Parallel New Testament in Greek and English*, Alfred Marshall, Zondervan Publishing House, ISBN 0310950708
9. *Behind the Mask of Mormonism*, John Ankerberg & John Weldon, Harvest House Publishers, ISBN 1565074432
10. *The Jehovah's Witnesses*, DVD Video by Charlie H. Campbell – www.AlwaysBeReady.com

If you have questions or comments, please feel free to email info@calvaryCO.church

Notes

1. Ron Rhodes, *Reasoning from the Scriptures with the Jehovah's Witnesses* (Eugene, OR: Harvest House, 1993), p. 10
2. Ibid. p. 27 as cited in *The Watchtower*, 15 July 1963, pp.443-444.
3. *The Watchtower*, 6/1/1965, p. 352
4. Ron Rhodes, *Reasoning from the Scriptures with the Jehovah's Witnesses* (Eugene, OR: Harvest House, 1993), p. 24 as cited in *The Watchtower*, 4/1/1919, p. 6414
5. Ibid. p. 24 as cited in *The Watchtower*, 7/1/1973, p. 402
6. Ibid. p. 24
7. *The Watchtower*, 1 May 1938, p. 169
8. *The Watchtower*, 1 April 1972, p. 197
9. The Watchtower publication *Prophecy*, p. 65
10. The Watchtower publication *Creation*, p. 289
11. *The Truth Shall Make You Free*, p. 300
12. *Let God Be True*, p. 250
13. *Millions Now Living Will Never Die* (Brooklyn, NY: Watchtower Bible and Track Society, 1920), pgs. 88-90
14. *The Watchtower*, 15 October 1917
15. *Awake!*, 8 October 1966 , p.19
16. *Our Kingdom Ministry*, March 1968, pg. 4
17. David Reed, *Answering Jehovah's Witnesses Subject by Subject* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1996), p. 17 as cited in *Life Everlasting – in Freedom of the Sons of God*, Watchtower Society, 1933, p 29
18. *The Watchtower*, 15 May 1930, p. 154
19. *The Watchtower*, 5/1/1957, p. 274
20. *The Watchtower*, 1/15/1983, p. 22
21. *The Watchtower*, 1/15/1983, p. 27
22. *The Watchtower*, 9/15/1911, p. 4885
23. *The Watchtower*, 10/1/1967, p. 587
24. Ron Rhodes, *Reasoning from the Scriptures with the Jehovah's Witnesses* (Eugene, OR: Harvest House, 1993), p. 25 as cited in *Reasoning from the Scriptures* (Brooklyn, NY: Watchtower Bible and Track Society, 1989), pp. 15-24
25. Ibid, pg. 34 as cited in *Your Will Be Done On Earth* (Brooklyn, NY: Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, 1958), p. 362, insert Ron Rhodes.
26. David Reed, *Answering Jehovah's Witnesses Subject by Subject* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1996), p. 41
27. Dr. Edwin W. Lutzer, *The DaVinci Deception*, (Carol Stream, IL.: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., 2006), pp. 6-7
28. John Ankerberg & John Weldon, *Behind the Mask of Mormonism* (Eugene, OR: Harvest House, 1992), p. 106
29. Ron Rhodes, *Reasoning from the Scriptures with the Jehovah's Witnesses* (Eugene, OR: Harvest House, 1993), p. 25 as cited in *Reasoning from the Scriptures* (Brooklyn, NY: Watchtower Bible and Track Society, 1989), p. 49
30. Ibid. pg. 50-51
31. Ibid. pg. 195 citing the Watchtower publication, *Reasoning From the Scriptures* (Brooklyn, NY: Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, 1989), p. 381
32. Ibid. pg. 195 citing the Watchtower publication, *Should You Believe in the Trinity?* (Brooklyn, NY: Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, 1989), p. 20
33. Ibid, pg. 196-197 citing the Watchtower publication, *Should You Believe in the Trinity?* (Brooklyn, NY: Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, 1989), p. 23

34. Ibid, pg. 96 citing the Watchtower publication, *Should You Believe in the Trinity?* (Brooklyn, NY: Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, 1989), p. 21