

Do Jehovah's Witnesses witness for Jehovah?

(by George Battey)

The people who call themselves “Jehovah’s Witnesses” have published a small blue book entitled “The Truth that leads to Eternal Life.” On page 13 of this book it says:

“We need to examine, not only what we personally believe, but also what is taught by any religious organization with which we may be associated. Are its teachings in full harmony with God’s Word, or are they based on the traditions of men? If we are lovers of the truth, there is nothing to fear from such an examination.”

Well, because they invite men to examine the teachings of “any religious organization,” we have chosen this week to consider some of the things which the Witnesses themselves teach that are contrary to the Word of God!

The next time some “Jehovah’s Witnesses” come to your door, you should ask them some straightforward questions about what they teach.

THE GODHEAD

First, you should ask them about their teachings on the Godhead. The Witnesses teach that there is only one being in the Godhead and that one being is Jehovah. They deny that Jesus is part of the Godhead. They deny that Jesus is equal with Jehovah God and they also deny that the Holy Spirit is even a person. The Watchtower Society has instructed its members that the Holy Spirit is not a person, but that it is simply the power of God personified!

But what does the Bible teach? Do the Scriptures teach there is just one being in the Godhead, or do they teach there are actually three?

Genesis 1:26 (NKJV)

26 Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; ...

The word God in this verse comes from the Hebrew word Elohim and is plural in number. Listen to that again because it is so significant! The word God in this verse comes from the Hebrew word Elohim and is plural in number. From this fact alone we can see that the Godhead contains more than just one being.

But notice also the pronouns in this verse. All of them are plural. “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.” We have here one being speaking to another being. In reality we have God the Father speaking to Jesus and to the Holy Spirit and saying, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.”

The beings of the Godhead are clearly named by Jesus in the following passage:

Matthew 28:19 (NKJV)

19 “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

There they are – the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. These are the members of the one Godhead which we read about in the Scriptures.

“ONE GOD” PASSAGES

If you point this out to Witnesses that come to your door, they are likely to read the following passage of Scripture to defend their belief:

Deuteronomy 6:4 (NKJV)

4 “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one!

They believe this verse agrees with them and they believe it teaches only one being in the Godhead.

But Deuteronomy 6:4 is teaching that there is only one God, or one Godhead and with this we agree -- there is only one Godhead, but there are three beings and only three beings within that one Godhead!

Notice the following passage:

Genesis 2:24 (NKJV)

24 Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

Here the husband-wife relationship is described. When a man and woman marry they now compose a single unit. Obviously the husband and wife are one in unity, and purpose, but they are not one being! There is not just one being in a marriage!

Even so, when the Bible speaks of the Lord as being “one God,” it means that the Father is one in unity and purpose with Jesus and the Holy Spirit, but it does not mean there is only one being in the Godhead.

John 10:30 (NKJV)

30 [Jesus said] “I and My Father are one.”

Here Jesus states that He and the Father are one, but they are one in unity and purpose. They are not one being!

THE DEITY OF JESUS

We only have time to discuss one more topic which you should ask the Witnesses about when they come to your door. You should ask them about the nature of Jesus and you should compare what the Witnesses say with what the Bible teaches.

The Witnesses say that Jesus is not equal with God the Father. They teach that Jesus is simply a created being -- simply a glorified angel. They deny that Jesus is eternal with God and they deny that He is truly one with God the Father.

But the Bible teaches differently. Notice:

John 1:1-14 (NKJV)

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

2 He was in the beginning with God.

3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.

14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

How much plainer does the Bible have to be??? Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is here called the “Word” that was made flesh and dwelt among men. In verse 1 this wonderful passage plainly declares, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”

There you have it! Jesus is God. He is just as divine as God the Father.

Hebrews 1:5 (NKJV)

5 For to which of the angels did He ever say: “You are My Son, Today I have begotten You”? And again: “I will be to Him a Father, And He shall be to Me a Son”?

Here the Bible asks the question, “Unto which of the angels said he at any time, *Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee?*” And the obvious answer is, God never said that to any angel! He said that only to His Son Jesus Christ! Jesus, then, is not and never was an angel. God never spoke of Him as an angel, and He never treated Him like a mere angel. Jesus is one with God the Father.

John 10:30 (NKJV)

30 [Jesus said] “I and My Father are one.”

This statement is true only if Jesus were equal with God the Father.

GOD'S PLAN OF SALVATION

Five steps in God's plan of salvation:

- 1) **Hear** the word of God (Rom 10:17).
- 2) **Believe** Jesus is the Son of God (Mk 16:16).
- 3) **Repent** of sins (change from living a sinful life) (Acts 2:38).
- 4) **Confess** your faith verbally before men (Rom 10:10).
- 5) **Be baptized** (immersed) in water in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit (Mt 28:19) for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38).

Mark 16:16 (NKJV)

*16 He who **believes** and is **baptized** will be saved; ...*

Acts 2:38 (NKJV)

*38 Then Peter said to them, "**Repent, and** let every one of you **be baptized** in the name of Jesus Christ **for the remission of sins**; ...*

After being baptized, one must continue to be faithful (Acts 2:42; Mt 28:20; Rev 2:10).