

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES:

True or False?

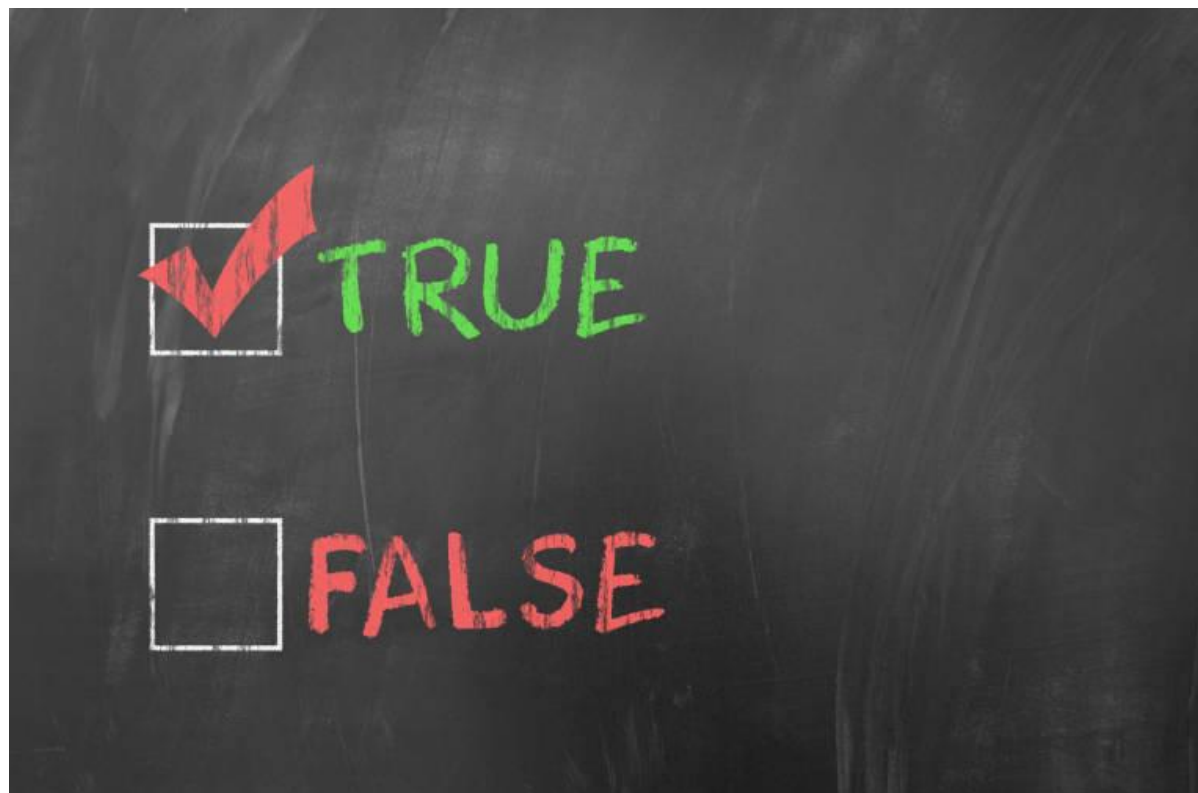
In recent times the outreach 'strategy' of those who call themselves **Jehovah's Witnesses** has broadened from being in the past mainly door-to-door outreach activity to now encompassing street/market-place outreach activity. Where we live in Ballynahinch there is a weekly market held in the town centre on a Thursday and Margaret shops in it most weeks. Recently she stopped at the portable stand erected and staffed most weeks by these so-called **Jehovah's Witnesses** and took a copy of their **AWAKE** magazine (No.1 2016). She took it as she thought it might be of some interest and use to me and I'm glad she did because in it there is a very interesting item on pages 7-9.

The heading to the item is '**What do you know about Jehovah's Witnesses?**' and it goes on to add – '**You see us in our public ministry. You may have read about us in news reports or heard things about us from others. But how much do you really know about Jehovah's Witnesses?**' This portion is then followed by –

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Check each statement true of false.

They then make 8 statements and beside each statement are boxes for you to tick as being either **TRUE** or **FALSE** – rather like the graphic that now follows



What I plan to do now is to include a table with three columns.

In the left hand column will be each statement.

In the middle column will be the official response from the Jehovah's Witnesses.

In the right hand column will be my response and comments.

STATEMENT	RESPONSE by JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES	CECIL'S RESPONSE and COMMENTS
<p>1. Jehovah's Witnesses are Christians</p>	<p>TRUE: We try to follow closely the teachings and behaviour of Jesus Christ (1 Peter 2:21). However in a number of ways we differ from other religious groups that are called Christians. For example we have found that the Bible teaches that Jesus is the Son of God; he is not part of a Trinity (Mark 12:29) We do not believe that the soul is immortal or that there is any basis in Scripture for saying that God torture people in an everlasting hell. Nor do we believe that those who take the lead in religious activities should have titles that elevate them above others – Ecclesiastes 9:5; Ezekiel 18:4; Matthew 23:8-10</p>	<p>FALSE: A Christian is someone who has experienced the 'new birth', who has been "born again" of the Spirit of God as Jesus explained to Nicodemus in John chapter 3 and so is indwelt by God the Holy Spirit as Paul detailed in 1 Corinthians 6:19. Apart from a select and limited group of 144,000 (most if not all of whom have by now died) the overwhelming number of Jehovah's Witnesses do NOT claim to be "born again" and so are NOT indwelt by the Spirit of God. This has 2 consequences for them as we learn from Romans 8:8-9. In verse 8 Paul writes "So then they that are in the flesh CANNOT please God". Jehovah's Witnesses are only "in the flesh" as they are not "born of the spirit" (see John 3:6) and so no matter how hard they try they CANNOT please God by what they are doing. In verse 9 Paul writes "if any man have not the spirit of Christ he is NONE of his". As Jehovah's Witnesses are not "born again" they do not have "the spirit of Christ" and so they are NONE of His – they are NOT Christians. True Christians on earth have one MEDIATOR (1 Timothy 2:5) and one ADVOCATE for them in heaven (1 John 2:1) BUT Jehovah's witnesses look to the select and limited group of 144,000 to mediate and advocate on their behalf – you can read more on this in my article on http://www.takeheed.info/pdf/2015/March/Jehovah-Witnesses-and-Jesus.pdf (Page 4 -'Many Mediators')</p>

<p>2. Jehovah's witnesses are creationists.</p>	<p><u>FALSE:</u> We believe that God created everything. But we do not agree with many who believe in creationism. Why not? Because a number of creationists' ideas CONFLICT (emphasis mine) with the Bible. For example some assert that the six days of creation were literal 24-hour days. But the word "day" in the Bible can refer to a considerable length of time. (Genesis 2:4; Psalm 90:4) Then too some creationists teach that the earth is just a few thousand years old. However, the Bible indicates that the earth and the universe existed long before the six days of creation – Genesis 1:1. 'Footnote – For that reason we have no objection – as do some creationists – to credible scientific research that indicates the earth may be billions of years old.</p>	<p><u>TRUE:</u> Their thinking and reasoning on this is quite frankly laughable. Their answer to the claim that they are 'creationists' is 'FALSE' and yet the opening line in their response states 'We believe God CREATED everything'. So which is it? If they believe as they have stated that God created everything' then they ARE 'creationists'. What they really mean is 'we are creationists' but not in the way God tells us clearly in the Bible. They reject God telling us that He created everything in 6 days, not just in the opening chapters of Genesis, but also when He was giving the 10 Commandments to Moses and from the fourth I quote "Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour and do all thy work... For IN SIX DAYS the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea and ALL that in them is and rested the Sabbath day" (Exodus 20:8-9 & 11). The context of God telling His people how to order a 7-day week makes it plain that we are talking about 24-hour days. It also makes it plain that 'heaven and earth' were also created within that same time-span and not 'billions' of years ago – witness the Lord's own words in Matthew 19:4 "Have ye not read that he who made them AT THE BEGINNING, made them male and female" (Matthew 19:4). The article on this link should also prove helpful in this context https://answersingenesis.org/theory-of-evolution/millions-of-years/seven-reasons-why-we-should-not-accept-millions-of-years/</p>
---	--	---

<p>3. Jehovah's Witnesses do not believe in doctors</p>	<p>FALSE: We do accept medical treatment. In fact some of us are physicians, as was the first-century Christian named Luke (Colossians 4:14). However we reject any treatment that conflicts with Bible principles. For example, we do not accept blood transfusions, because the Bible forbids TAKING IN blood (emphasis mine) Acts 15:20, 28, 29. Even then we seek the best possible care for ourselves and our families. In fact, blood conservation treatments that were developed to help witness patients are now being used to benefit all in the community. In many countries any patient can now choose to avoid blood transfusion risks, such as blood-borne diseases, immune-system reactions and human errors.</p>	<p>FALSE: However the wording of this question is really a 'straw man' waiting to be 'shot down' to draw attention away from serious medical prohibitions that Jehovah's Witnesses have held to and which have often resulted in unnecessary and easily preventable deaths. I never heard them being accused of 'not believing in doctors' but I often heard about their prohibitive views (sometimes changeable on some) in relation to the likes of blood transfusions, vaccinations and organ transplants. The most prominent prohibition relates to not accepting blood transfusions which they refer to as 'TAKING IN blood' – this relates to blood being 'infused'. HOWEVER, the scriptures they have referred to refer to blood being 'ingested' – a totally different matter altogether. Much has been written on this subject but perhaps I could direct you to an online article published by the 'Christian Medical Fellowship' and located on http://www.cmf.org.uk/publications/content/?context=article&id=461 One tragic story that involves the refusal of a Jehovah's Witness to take a blood transfusion can be read on http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2828862/Husband-tells-agony-death-Jehovah-s-Witness-wife-refused-blood-transfusion-C-section.html Former JW Elder, David Reed, in 'JW's Answered Verse by Verse' writes – 'To take a dietary regulation and stretch it to the point of denying a life-saving medical procedure to a dying man is reminiscent of the Jewish Pharisees who were furious that Jesus healed a man on the Sabbath' (Luke 6:6-11).</p>
---	---	--

<p>4. Jehovah's Witnesses accept the entire Bible.</p>	<p>TRUE: We believe that the entire Bible is "inspired of God and beneficial" (2 Timothy 3:16) That includes both the Old Testament and the New Testament, as they are commonly called. Generally we refer to these sections of the Bible as the Hebrew Scriptures and the Christian Greek Scriptures. In this way we avoid giving the impression that some parts of the Bible are outdated or irrelevant.</p>	<p>TRUE: However, whilst Jehovah's Witnesses declare that they 'accept the entire Bible' it is clear that they do NOT correctly accept what it teaches, As well as that there are 'Bibles' and 'Bibles' in the sense that there are 'trustworthy' translations and 'untrustworthy' translations. The Jehovah's Witnesses have their own 'New World Translation' and it falls into the category of an 'untrustworthy' translation and serves to support and propagate many of their own unbiblical false teachings.</p>
<p>5. Jehovah's Witnesses use only their own Bible translation.</p>	<p>FALSE: We use many translations in our study of the Bible. In languages in which it is available, though, we especially appreciate the 'New World translation' of the Holy Scriptures for its use of God's name, for its accuracy and for its clarity. Consider the use of God's name, Jehovah. In the introduction of one Bible translation, there is a list of the names of 79 people who in some way contributed to the production of the translation. Yet, this same Bible omits the name of the very author – Jehovah God! In contrast, the 'New world translation' restores the divine name in the thousands of places where it existed in the original text.</p>	<p>FALSE: Whilst Jehovah's Witnesses may use other translations for 'study' they predominantly use and direct people to their own 'New World Translation'. In 'The Facts on Jehovah's Witnesses' by Ankerberg and Weldon we read on Page 21 - F W Franz along with then-president Nathan Knorr headed the secret committee of seven translators. Franz testified in a court case in Edinburgh (Nov. 23 1954)... he stated under oath... that translations and interpretations came from God, invisibly communicated to the publicity department by "angels of various ranks who controlled" the translators. Greek scholars, Christian and non-Christian, universally reject the NWT calling it biased and inaccurate... Dr Julius Mantey (who) was one of the leading Greek scholars in the world... publicly demanded that the society stop misquoting his 'A Manual Grammar of the Greek New Testament'... of the NWT he wrote 'I have never read any NT so badly translated... it is a distortion of the NT'.</p>

<p>6. Jehovah's Witnesses changed their Bible to fit their beliefs.</p>	<p>FALSE: When we have discovered that our beliefs were not completely in line with the Bible, we have adjusted our understanding. Long before we started producing the 'New World translation' of the Holy Scriptures in 1950 we used available translations and formed our beliefs accordingly.</p>	<p>TRUE: One glaring example is their rendering of Colossians 1:16-17. In the NWT these verses (concerning Christ) read 'because by means of him all[other] things were created in the heavens and upon the earth, the things visible and the things invisible, no matter whether they are thrones or lordships or governments or authorities. All [other] things have been created through him and for him. Also, he is before all [other] things and by means of him all [other] things were made to exist'.</p> <p>In 'The Facts on Jehovah's Witnesses' we read on page 25 concerning verse 17 – "Here in Colossians 1:17 the Watchtower's translators have inserted the word 'other' twice and out it in parentheses (they did this also three more times in verses 16 and 20). They did this to IMPLY that Christ Himself is not the Creator. But, as their own Greek interlinear shows (page 896) the Greek word <i>panta</i> means 'all things' and not 'all other things'. The Watchtower claims that inserting 'other' is justified five times because the context implies it. BUT the only thing that implies it is their own bias against Christ's deity".</p> <p>Some quotes from 'Apostles of Denial' by E C Gruss are also enlightening (pp196-214) – 'The New World Translation of the entire Bible was completed and published in 1961...If all the errors of this work would be followed through, it would be a book-length treatment... The translators, in their attempts to remove the import of Christological passages found it necessary to alter the translations and to read in words that are not in the text...</p>
---	--	---

In his appraisal of the entire translation Anthony Hoekema says that 'their New World translation of the Bible is by no means an objective rendering of the sacred text into modern English but is a biased translation in which many of the peculiar teachings of the Watchtower Society are smuggled into the text of the Bible itself... Bruce M Metzger in his article 'The Jehovah's Witnesses and Jesus Christ' clearly shows the errors of many Christological passages found in the New World Translation... The Christian who is confronted with the renderings or evidence from these translations which is contradictory to orthodox Christianity should be aware of their utter lack of authority and dishonesty in the handling of many portions of the Word of God'. In my answer on 'Point 5' I referred to Dr Julius Mantey's request to the Watchtower to stop misquoting what he had written in his 'Grammar of the Greek NT' and his letter can be viewed on [http://www.towerwatch.com/Witnesses/New World Translation/mantey letter.htm](http://www.towerwatch.com/Witnesses/New_World_Translation/mantey_letter.htm) and is I believe relevant to this section also. Worth watching at this stage (from 19.29-21.51) is this link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VE3zp9FiyiQ> In conclusion, again on this link (from 12.40-14.42), are revealing insights from Raymond Franz, a nephew of F W Franz, who I mentioned earlier as being one of the translation committee, (he was also WT President from 1977-1992). Mr Franz reveals the 'minor role' the Bible played when it came to determining the Watchtower Society's strategy

<p>7. Jehovah's Witnesses shun community involvement.</p>	<p>FALSE: Our ministry benefits many in the community. We have helped many people to overcome harmful addictions, such as the abuse of drugs and alcohol. Our literacy classes help thousands around the world to learn to read and write. We also help when disaster strikes by providing practical relief assistance to both Witnesses and non-Witnesses. We try to give emotional and spiritual support that victims sorely need at such times.</p>	<p>TRUE: and FALSE: The statement is 'FALSE' in the circumstances outlined by the Witnesses. However it is 'TRUE' in the following respects. I'm typing this on Thursday 21st April 2016 which just happens to be the 90th birthday of Queen Elizabeth II. Here in the UK there are many 'community' events taking place to mark the occasion, some of which are being televised. You can be assured that Jehovah's Witnesses will not be joining in because of their teaching on 'birthdays'. In their publication 'Reasoning from the Scriptures', on page 68, they refer to events associated with Pharaoh's birthday (Genesis 40:20-22) and Herod's birthday (Matthew 14:6-10) and make this statement – 'Jehovah's Witnesses take note that God's Word reports unfavourably about birthday celebrations and so shun these'. Shortly there will be elections of various kinds in the UK during May and June – will Jehovah's Witnesses be taking part? Returning to their 'Reasoning from the Scriptures' we read this on page 270 'They (JW's) do not interfere with what others do about sharing in patriotic ceremonies, serving in the armed forces, joining a political party, running for political office or voting. But they themselves worship only Jehovah, the God of the Bible; they have dedicated their lives unreservedly to him and give their full support to his Kingdom'. Once again I would direct you to https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VE3zp9FiyiQ and invite you to watch 33.39-35.58 & 41.44-44.33 to see the past duplicity of the Watchtower Society.</p>
---	---	--

<p>8. Jehovah's Witnesses look down on people of other religions.</p>	<p>FALSE: We follow the Bible's advice to 'respect everyone' – regardless of their religious beliefs (1 Peter 2:17 <i>Today's English Version</i>) For example, though in some countries there are hundreds of thousands of us, we do not try to pressure politicians or lawmakers into restricting or banning the work of other religious groups. Nor do we campaign to have laws passed that would impose our moral and religious convictions on the community. Instead, we extend to others the same tolerance that we appreciate receiving from them – Matthew 7:12.</p>	<p>TRUE: Let me deal firstly with the realm of 'politics' seeing as how it was referred to in the response by the Jehovah's witnesses. They gave a Bible reference of 1 Peter 2:17 from <i>Today's English Version</i>. This verse reads 'Respect everyone, love your fellow believers, and respect the emperor' – This version states that they are to respect everyone, which they claim to do, BUT it also says they are to respect the emperor which they don't do as they show no respect for countries or their flags or their rulers. Let me quote from a Watchtower publication 'Let God be True'. Chapter XVIII deals with 'Salutes and Politics' and on pages 235-236 we read 'The giving of the salute to the flag of any nation is an act that ascribes salvation to the flag and to the nation for which it stands... A true ambassador of Christ Jesus and minister of Jehovah has for all time sworn his unbreakable allegiance to Almighty God, Jehovah, by consecration and covenant and he cannot ascribe salvation to any other sovereign or a worldly power... Therefore no witness of Jehovah... may salute any flag of any nation without a violation of Jehovah's commandment against idolatry as stated in His Word (1 John 5:21).' Perhaps you're thinking to yourself – how do JW's square that thinking and instruction with God's Word in Romans 13:1-5 particularly the opening words – "Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers...the powers that be are ordained of God" – clearly referring to those who on earth are in position to rule over</p>
---	---	--

us. Well on page 242 of 'Let God be True' we read 'The 'higher powers' mentioned at Romans 13:1-5 are the principal ruling factors of Almighty God's congregation, or the invisible governing body of the Kingdom of God. The apostle's mention of the 'higher powers' he did NOT intend to be applied to rulers of this evil world run by Satan who are visible to human eyes. The 'higher powers' mentioned by the apostle are Jehovah God and Christ Jesus and Christ Jesus is Jehovah's great Minister'. In context this is in truth a ridiculous explanation of "the higher powers" particularly in the light of the same apostle's exhortation in 1st Timothy 2:1-2 "I exhort therefore, that first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions and giving of thanks be made for all men. For kings and for all that are in authority that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God, our Saviour". In contrast to the convoluted claim made by the JW's for the identity of "the higher powers" in Romans 13:1 I go with John MacArthur's comments in his study bible - 'Since He (God) alone is the sovereign ruler of the universe He has instituted authorities on earth (1) the government over all citizens... Human government's authority derives from and is defined by God. He instituted human government to reward good and to restrain sin in an evil fallen world'. These are "the higher powers" referred to.

Then what about people of other religions? Have JW's always shown respect and never 'looked down' on them? A A Hoekema in his book 'The Four Major Cults' writes on pages 285-287 'The attitude of Jehovah's Witnesses toward the Christian church in general is so utterly bigoted as to be almost unbelievable. They – the Witnesses – alone are God's true people; all others are followers of the devil. The "great whore" of Revelation 17... is organised religion, Christian as well as heathen (Ref: 'Religion for Mankind' p 328 – A JW publication)... The religious clergy... are the direct visible link between mankind and the invisible demons (Ref: 'The Kingdom is at Hand' p 186 – A JW publication)... The real restoration of the church to true religion did not take place until the 1870's when Russell (founder of the JW's) began his bible class (Ref: 'Qualified to be Ministers' p 296 – A JW publication) The complete release of God's true people from "Babylonish captivity" however did not occur until 1919 (Ref: 'Qualified to be Ministers' p 297 – A JW publication).

In 'The Facts on Jehovah's Witnesses' we read on pages 10-11 'The Jehovah's Witnesses believe that Christianity is an apostate religion that has taught false doctrines and deceived people for over 1800 years... Thus the Witnesses believe that the Christian Church is a satanic deception and that they alone are the true church. Consider the following statements that have been made by some of the Watchtower presidents and official leaders –

		<p>‘Jehovah’s Christian Witnesses are the ones that have identified who Babylon the Great is... the world empire of false religion. The chief component member and mouthpiece in that religious world empire is Christendom! She is the most reprehensible member thereof because she claims to be “Christian”. Her blasphemies exceed those of “pagandom”... Her blood guilt exceeds that of all the non-Christian religious realm”</p> <p>(Ref: ‘Man’s Salvation out of World Distress at Hand’ WBTS 1975: p 335)</p> <p>‘Christendom’s course is “the way of death”...’</p> <p>(Ref: ‘The Watchtower’ 1 September 1979 p 21)</p> <p>‘The Anglo-American empire system, which chiefly is “Christendom”, Satan makes his chief spokesman on earth’</p> <p>(Ref: J F Rutherford ‘Preparation’ WBTS 1933: pp19-20)</p> <p>‘Christendom’s religion is demonism’</p> <p>(Ref: J F Rutherford ‘Religion’ WBTS 1940: p 104)</p> <p>‘As the most reprehensible ones among the people of Christendom, the clergy and religious leaders will drink the potion of death’</p> <p>(Ref: ‘The Watchtower’ 1 September 1979 p 8)</p> <p>I do not deny for one minute the right of the leaders of the Watchtower, or indeed any religious organisation, to pass comment on the religion of others, including what they refer to as ‘Christendom’ BUT I do take exception to their denial that they do not ‘look down on people of other religions’ in the light of the comments I have just cited. They are being dishonest and FALSE in their denial’</p>
--	--	---

I hope this table will be useful should any true believers have to respond to or discuss the sorts of claims made by the **Jehovah's Witnesses** for themselves in the magazine I have quoted from and even perhaps also in future publications. Quite simply **Jehovah's Witnesses** are bearing '**false witness**'.

Cecil Andrews – 'Take Heed' Ministries – 21st April 2016