

JEHOVAH'S WITNESS'S AND CHRISTIANITY

INTRODUCTION

Many people are confused about the Jehovah's Witness's. The following article may help to answer some important questions.

Jehovah's Witnesses and Christians have some things in common, and if you looked at their material much of it would look almost identical. However, with a closer inspection you will see there are some major differences. Recently the JW's seem to be targeting Christians, or people with some kind of faith. Below are what determines them as a false religion and a deviation from Christianity:

THE PERSON OF JESUS CHRIST

JW's believe that Jesus Christ was a perfect man, and that He is a person distinct from God the Father. However, they also teach that before His earthly life, Jesus was a spirit creature, the arch-angel Michael, who was created by God and became the Messiah or Christ at his baptism. According to Jehovah's Witnesses, Jesus is a mighty one, although not almighty as Jehovah God is. According to John 1:1 in their Bible, The New World Translation (their bible), Christ is "a god," but not "the God." They teach that Jesus "was and is and always will be beneath Jehovah" and that "Christ and God are not coequal".

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE REALLY SAY?

At this point it is worth mentioning that the JW's use their own translation of the bible which is subtly different to every other Christian bible. They will try to say you can use any bible, but actually this is not true, as you will see from this article.

The Christ of the New Testament is the Jehovah or God of the Old Testament:

- 1.) Isaiah wrote about seeing Jehovah in Isaiah 6:1-10.
- 2.) In John 12:31-42, we are told that Isaiah saw Jesus' glory and spoke of Him
- 3.) In Exodus 34:14 we are to worship no one but Jehovah.
- 4.) In Hebrews 1:6 the angels worship Christ.
- 5.) In Isaiah 44:6 Jehovah is called the first and the last (confirmed in Revelation 1:8), but in Revelation 22:13 Christ is the first and the last.

These verses demonstrate that the name "Jehovah" is used for both God the Father and of God the Son. Although they are distinct persons they are each called "Jehovah" because they each possess deity.

THE DEITY OF JESUS IN THE BIBLE

- 1.) In Matthew 1:23, Christ is called "Immanuel," which means "God with us."
- 2.) When Thomas touched Jesus' wounds, after the resurrection, he exclaimed, "My Lord and my God" (John 20:28). There is no basis whatsoever for saying, as some JW's say, that Thomas was referring to Christ when he said "my Lord," but was referring to God (Jehovah) when he said "my God." Instead, Thomas called Christ both his Lord and his God. And Christ did not correct him!
- 3.) Colossians 2:9 clearly confirms the deity of Christ when it states that in Him "all the fullness of the divine quality dwells bodily" (New World Translation).
- 4.) Stephen called Jesus "Lord" (Acts 7:59,60), and we are to confess Jesus as Lord (Rom. 10:9; I Cor. 12:3). "Lord" in these verses is Kurios, which is the Greek word for Jehovah in the Septuagint, the Greek version of the Old Testament. It is evident from this that Christ the Lord (kurios) is Jehovah God.

DIVINE ATTRIBUTE OF JESUS

- 1.) Jesus Christ knows all things (John 1:48; 2:25; 6:64; 14:30; 21:17).
- 2.) He is all-powerful (Matt. 28:18; Heb. 1:3),
- 3.) Sinless (John 8:46),
- 4.) Eternal (Mic. 5:2)
- 5.) Unchanging (Heb. 13:8).
- 6.) Since only God possesses these attributes, Christ must be God.

DIVINE WORKS OF JESUS

Jesus Christ has the power to forgive sins (Mark 2:5-7; Eph. 1:7), give eternal life (John 10:28; 17:2), judge the world (John 5:22, 27), and control nature (Matt. 8:26). Since only God can do these things, Christ must be God.

JESUS WAS WORSHIPPED AS GOD.

Jesus is worshipped by the angels (Heb. 1:6) and by man (Matt. 14:33), and yet only God is to be worshipped (Ex. 34:14). Christ Himself said that worship is due to God alone (Matt. 4:10), and yet He accepted worship. If Jesus in His pre-existent state were the archangel Michael, how could He have received worship, since angels are not allowed to receive worship (Rev. 19:10)? If Christ were not God, then worshipping Him would be idolatrous.

Jesus Christ is called “the mighty God” in Isaiah 9:6.

JW’s have a ready answer for this verse. They explain that Christ is “the mighty god.” but not “the almighty.” They say that Christ is the mighty, never the almighty and that Jehovah is the almighty God, never the mighty. However, Jeremiah 32:18 shows that Jehovah is the mighty One. Therefore, since Christ is the mighty God (Isaiah 9:6) and Jehovah is the mighty God (Jer. 32:18), they are both God. They both possess full deity.

Christ is God, the Creator of all things according to Colossians 1:15-17.

JW’s refer to this passage to support their teaching that Christ was created by Jehovah (for example, Let God Be True, p.35). This is based primarily on the words, “the firstborn of all creation,” in verse 15. However, if this verse was teaching that Jesus Christ is the first created being made by God, the word “first-created” would have been used of Christ, not the word “firstborn.” These are two different words in the Greek, with two different meanings. “First-created” is protoktistos, and “firstborn” is prototokos. Colossians 1:15 does not use the protoktistos, “first-created.” Instead it uses prototokos, which means an heir, a begotten one, the first in rank. The teaching of Colossians 1:15 is that Christ is first in rank above all creation; He is the Heir of all things. He is prior to all creation and superior over it.

The JW’s New World Translation adds the word “other” four times in Colossians 1:15-17, so that the passage states that Christ created “all other things,” everything except Himself. However, there is no basis for adding “other.” It certainly does not occur in the Greek manuscripts. The translators of the New World Translation admit this by putting “other” in brackets. This “translation” attempts to comply with the assumption that firstborn means first-created. But, as shown, this is not the meaning of firstborn, and therefore it is also wrong to add the word “other.” There is no verse in the entire Bible that states that Christ was created by Jehovah!

Jesus Christ claimed to be equal with God in John 10:30.

JW’s believe that this verse, “I and the Father are one,” means that Christ was one with God the Father in purpose and not in nature and essence. However, if that was all Christ was saying, why did the Jews want to stone Him? They themselves thought His purpose

was the same as God's. Verse 33 of John 10 explains that they wanted to stone Him because of blasphemy, because He claimed to be God!

RECENT JW MATERIAL

Their latest material focuses on dispelling that Jesus is God. As we have seen above this is not from the bible. However, they do use the bible cleverly for their case. For example they will argue that, because Jesus said he came down from heaven to do Gods will (John6:38), and because he said the father is greater than him (John 14:28), and that the father gives him authority (Matt 28:18), and because Jesus was baptised and God the father spoke to him (Matt 3:16-17), he cannot be God. What they don't see is the need for God to humble himself as a man to pay for our sins. The bible clearly tells us as we have seen above that Jesus existed since the creation of the world, and that he was and is God, and that when he became a man, he had to humble himself, put aside his divine attributes. He did this to show us how we can live in the power of the Holy Spirit in the will of God. He also became a man to die the death that we needed to die for our sins. Only a sinless God who becomes man can do this, no angel, or demi god. Jesus is God, and the triune God has always existed as Father, Son and Holy Spirit: Three distinct persons but all in essence God. The deity of Christ is the central point of the Scriptures. It clearly teaches that Jesus Christ is God. Philippians 2:5-11 tell us that Jesus Christ, who existed as God, took the bodily form of a humble servant so that He could die on the cross in our place. "Therefore also God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name (the place where he was before he humbled himself as a man), that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those who are in heaven, and on earth, and under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord (kurios), to the glory of God the Father."

CONCLUSION

The JW's are not bad people just misguided, they need Jesus, just like the rest of the world. Our responsibility is to lovingly and through the power of the Holy Spirit teach them the powerful truths of Jesus Christ the God-Man who made a way for us to be free from our sin, and live in His eternal life.