

UNDERSTANDING & REACHING OUT TO JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES AT YOUR DOOR

“Evangelism is neither to convert people, nor to win them, nor to bring them to Christ, though this is indeed the first goal of evangelism. Evangelism is to preach the gospel.” (John Stott)

Four (False) Reasons to Ignore Jehovah's Witnesses

- They're not worth it (and they're tools of the Devil anyway)
- You have to be some kind of expert to make a dent in their arguments
- They're annoying (and who needs more hassles in life?)
- It makes me feel so good when they go away frustrated

Four (Good) Reasons to Reach Out to Jehovah's Witnesses

- Christ died for people like them!
- Many secretly feel trapped and dissatisfied in the Watchtower system.
- They can be reached with Christ's love by the power of the Holy Spirit!
- Virtually any Christian can plant a seed of truth that God can use!

Four Barriers to Leaving Jehovah's Witnesses

- Fear of Armageddon and eternal destruction
- Fear of disfellowshipping (shunning — loss of friends and family)
- Fear of spiritual isolation (all other churches are false)
- Fear of the unknown

“A new member discovers, at some point, that a door has slammed shut behind him....Once a person has joined the Jehovah's Witness organization, there is no honorable way out.” (David Reed)

Four Do's & Don'ts When the Jehovah's Witnesses Come

(There is no “silver bullet!”)

“DO'S”...

- ① DO remember that JWs are people, just like you — “they want to be treated with respect, they like to think they are right, and they have doubts and insecurities” that they hide from other people — just like you do.

They are *also* “different from one another: some like to think for themselves, [while] others like to be told what to think; some are good listeners, some are not.” (Robert M. Bowman, Jr.)

- ② DO challenge JW stereotypes of non-Witnesses.
 - “Be courteous and respectful at all times, even when they are not. (Witnesses expect hostility and disrespect.)” (RMB)
 - “Know the Bible and what you believe, and be able to talk about it. (Witnesses are taught that non-Witnesses do not know the Bible and are not as well-taught as they are.)” (RMB)
 - Give them credit for being sincere and wanting to serve God (when so many others couldn’t care less)
- ③ DO ask questions instead of making accusations. (This way you may be able to avoid being labeled an “opposer” and help them to think for themselves at the same time.)

If you’ve taken the time to study problems in Witness doctrine and history, you’ll have many questions to ask!
- ④ DO be ready to give a brief testimony of what Jesus Christ has done for you personally!

The Witness has no such experience of a personal relationship with Christ, and they need to hear it firsthand from someone who has!

“DON’TS”...

- ① DON’T assume that Jehovah’s Witnesses know the Bible.
 - What they really know is their own doctrinal system, some Bible prooftexts, and a rehearsed speech that makes most of them appear to know more than they actually do.
- ② DON’T assume that there is only one right way to witness to Jehovah’s Witnesses.
 - “Since all Christians are different, they should lead from their strengths and speak about what they know when witnessing to JWs (or anyone else, for that matter).” (RMB)
- ③ DON’T try to force them to admit they’re wrong — or get in over your head.
 - They will almost never admit they’re wrong in front of you (or the JW standing next to them) — but you *can* admit you don’t know the answer to something and are willing to check it out and get back to them.
- ④ DON’T just turn them away, because God CAN use YOU!

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