

What can you do to help?

Be PREPARED

One advantage you have if you want to help Jehovah's Witnesses is their willingness to call at your door and discuss their faith with you. Frankly, it is unlikely that you will be successful in reasoning with them that their beliefs are harmful - but you can at least download an information flyer similar to this one that has been specially written with Jehovah's Witnesses in mind and offer it to them.

You can find this flyer at...

jwsurvey.org/get-involved

Why not print out a few copies and have these handy by your front door for the next time the Witnesses visit? You have no idea how this could potentially impact your caller's life for the better by freeing him or her to think for themselves.

Be PRO-ACTIVE

Once a Jehovah's Witness has reached a certain stage in his or her studies, it becomes especially difficult for them to consider objective information and break free from indoctrination. This is why it is vital that if you know someone who is being called on by Witnesses or is considering becoming one you make them aware of the true nature of the Watch Tower Society before it is too late.

Be PATIENT

The most important thing you can do is be understanding of Witnesses and refrain from doing or saying anything harsh or patronizing when they visit. It is not easy for a person under the influence of mind control to recognize that they are being manipulated. If you shout at a Witness or say something unkind or sarcastic, they will likely interpret this as persecution and be less inclined to trust you.

For more information, please visit

JWsurvey.org or JWfacts.com

Thank you for your time.

JWsurvey.org

Why Jehovah's Witnesses Need Your Help



**“By helping others, you will learn
how to help yourselves.”**

~Aung San Suu Kyi

Do Jehovah's Witnesses need your help?

You are likely familiar with Jehovah's Witnesses as those friendly folks who call on you unexpectedly and want to talk to you about the bible. While Witnesses are generally good people who only want to help others, the truth is they are among those in your community in most need of your help. Why is that so?

In this 21st Century we like to think that we as human beings have advanced to a stage where we can think and act independently, without being unduly influenced by those who would do us harm. Unfortunately, the more we learn about human behavior, the more we realize that it is all too easy to control a person given the right circumstances.

Cult expert Steven Hassan of *freedomofmind.com* has identified five key strategies exploited by various religious and political movements to exert harmful influence on individuals. He calls this the "BITE model." Put simply, if a person is having their Behavior, Information, Thoughts and Emotions manipulated, they can be made to do things that they wouldn't normally do – even to the detriment of themselves and others.

Historically we have seen this happen in Hitler's Nazi Germany where strict control of the media caused an entire nation to support one man's evil agenda. The BITE model also explains how intelligent people can be driven to commit mass suicide by cults such as Heaven's Gate and the People's Temple.

Though Jehovah's Witnesses would strenuously deny that they are a cult, they do meet the criteria of Hassan's BITE model in that (1) their behavior is strictly controlled and regimented with a lengthy list of things they cannot do, (2) they are only allowed to study information on their beliefs provided to them by their leaders, (3) "independent thinking" is frowned upon, and they are urged to put on the "new personality," and (4) they are taught to fear and distrust the outside world –with the ever-present threat of shunning if they fall short of expectations.

At this point you might be thinking, "Well suppose Witnesses ARE being controlled. Why is this a problem? After all, they don't seem to be in any danger."

But there are five key areas in which Witness leaders, the Watch Tower Society, place their followers in harm's way.

1. Shunning of family members

Witnesses are instructed to shun anyone who leaves their religion, whether through committing a sin or simply by no longer recognizing the authority of the leaders. Shunning is even applied within the family circle, so teenagers are to be shunned by their Witness parents if they are old enough to leave home. This policy results in countless divided homes and even leads some to suicide.

2. Mishandling of child abuse

When a Witness child is molested by a congregation member, the parents will often approach their elders for guidance. Watchtower policy currently prevents elders from contacting the police straight away in all instances. Instead they are told to first contact the local branch office, and judge the matter according to the "two witness rule." This means that if nobody witnessed the abuse other than the victim, or there is no second victim, they should "leave matters in Jehovah's hands." Child molesters are also not automatically prevented from serving as elders in Witness congregations in the future. Such grossly negligent policies have resulted in countless pedophiles preying on JW children with little hindrance, and a number of lawsuits are only now coming to light.

3. Stigmatizing of higher education

From a very early age, Witness youths are urged to turn their backs on college or university and, if possible, become "regular pioneers." Pioneering involves spending 70 hours per month preaching on an unpaid volunteer basis. This policy has resulted in many young Witnesses failing to realize their full potential and struggling to support a family in their later years.

4. Refusal of blood transfusions

Witnesses are notorious for refusing blood. Though they argue that their stand is bible based, there are actually no solid grounds for the command since bible prohibitions against blood only involved eating it. Despite this, Witnesses are expected to die rather than accept blood, to the point of sacrificing their children's lives if necessary as a show of loyalty.

5. Mishandling of domestic abuse

Divorce is only permitted for Witnesses on the grounds of adultery. This means that if a Witness husband turns abusive and starts beating his wife, she is unable to divorce him and move on unless either partner is unfaithful. This policy leads to many women suffering in silence, often putting up with years of abuse in the hopes that they will eventually win over their husbands through their conduct.