

Defending Your Faith – Knowing What You Believe 1 Pet 3:15 CHRISTIANITY VS JEHOVAH’S WITNESSES

	BIBLICAL CHRISTIANITY	JEHOVAH’S WITNESSES
KEY PERSON OR FOUNDER DATE, LOCATION	Jesus Christ. Founded about A.D. 30-33, in the Judean Province of Palestine (Israel today), under the Roman Empire	Charles Taze Russell (1852-1916), later Joseph F. Rutherford. Began 1879 in Pennsylvania. Headquarters in Brooklyn, New York
KEY WRITINGS	The Bible, written originally in Hebrew and Aramaic (Old Testament), and Greek (New Testament)	All current Watchtower publications, including the Bible (New World Translation only), Reasoning from the Scriptures, You Can Live Forever in Paradise on Earth. Watchtower and Awake magazines
WHO IS GOD?	The one God is Triune (One God in three Persons, not three gods): Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Often the title “God” designates the first person, God the Father. God is a spiritual being without a physical body. He is personal and involved with people. He created the universe of nothing and of nothing. He is eternal, changeless, holy, loving, and perfect	One-person God called Jehovah. No Trinity. Jesus is the first thing Jehovah created.
WHO IS JESUS?	Jesus is God, the second Person of the Trinity. As God the Son, He has always existed and was never created. He is fully God and fully man (the two natures joined, not mixed). As the second Person of the Trinity, He is coequal with God the Father and the Holy Spirit. In becoming man, He was begotten through the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. Jesus is the only way to the Father, salvation and eternal life. He died on a cross according to God’s plan, as a full sacrifice and payment for our sins. He rose from the dead three days later, spiritually and physically immortal. For the next forty days He was seen by more than 500 eyewitnesses. His wounds were touched and He ate meals. He physically ascended to Heaven. Jesus will come again visibly and physically at the end of the world to establish God’s kingdom and judge the world.	Jesus is not God. Before he lived on earth, he was Michael, the archangel. Jehovah made the universe through him. On earth he was a man who lived a perfect life. After dying on a stake (not a cross), he was resurrected as a spirit; his body was destroyed. Jesus is not coming again; he “returned” invisibly in 1914 in spirit. Very soon, he and the angels will destroy all non-Jehovah’s Witnesses.
WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?	The Holy Spirit is God, the third Person of the Trinity. The Holy Spirit is a person, not a force or energy field. He comforts, grieves, reproves, convicts, guides, teaches and fills Christians. He is not the Father, nor the Son, Jesus Christ.	Impersonal “holy spirit” is not God, but rather an invisible, active force from Jehovah.
HOW TO BE SAVED	Salvation is by God’s grace, not by an individual’s good works. Salvation must be received by faith. People must believe in their heart that Jesus died for their sins and physically rose again, which is the assurance of forgiveness and resurrection of the body. This is God’s loving plan to forgive sinful people.	Be baptized as Jehovah’s Witness. Most followers must earn everlasting life on earth by “door-to-door.” Salvation in heaven is limited to 144,000 “anointed ones.” This number is already reached.
WHAT HAPPENS AFTER DEATH?	Believers go to be with Jesus. After death, all people await the final judgement. Both saved and lost people will be resurrected. Those who are saved live with Jesus in Heaven. Those who are lost suffer the torment of eternal separation from God (Hell). Jesus’ bodily resurrection guarantees believers that they, too will be resurrected and receive new immortal bodies.	The 144,000 live as spirits in heaven. The rest of the righteous, “the great crowd,” live on earth, and must obey God perfectly for 1000 years or be annihilated.
OTHER BELIEFS OR PRACTICES	Group worship, usually in churches. No secret rites. Baptism and Lord’s Supper (Communion). Active voluntary missionary efforts. Aid to those in need.: The poor, widows, orphans, and downtrodden. Christians believe that Jesus is the Jewish Messiah promised to Israel in the Old Testament (Tanakh). Jesus said His followers would be known by their love for one another.	Known as the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society. Meet on Sunday in “Kingdom Halls.” Active members encouraged to distribute literature door-to-door. Once a year, Lord’s Evening Meal; only “anointed” one may partake. Do not observe holidays or birthdays. Do not vote, salute the flag, work in the military, or accept blood transfusions. Believe Armageddon will occur soon.