

Letters to My Jehovah's Witness Friend 12

This is the last letter I will be sending to my friend. She is becoming defensive and questions my integrity. She wonders, because of my knowledge of her religion, if I am an apostate (one who was formerly a Jehovah's Witness but has now rejected their "truth"). Jehovah's Witnesses are forbidden to listen to apostates. I am not an apostate—I have never studied with Jehovah's Witnesses. As a Christian, though, I cannot do less than present Scriptural truth to her.

Because Jehovah's Witnesses do not believe that Jesus is God, they believe that Jesus cannot dwell in a person, nor can a person dwell in Jesus. That presents a problem for them. There are over a hundred Scriptures which speak of Christ dwelling in us or of us dwelling in Christ. They resolve the problem by adding some words to the original text of the Scriptures. For example, in the Greek text of Philippians 4:21, Paul writes, "Greet every saint in Christ Jesus..." The Bible that Jehovah's Witnesses use, on the other hand, translates this text as, "Give my greetings to every holy one in union with Christ Jesus. In Colossians 1:27 the discrepancy continues. Their translation reads: "Christ in union with you, the hope of glory." The Greek text, however, reads, "Christ in you, the hope of glory." The words "in union with" are not in the original Greek Bible.

These added words in the Jehovah's Witness Bible camouflage the true nature of Jesus. As God, Jesus can dwell in us and we can dwell in Christ. If Jesus is not God, as the Witnesses claim, these verses must be changed—and the Witnesses have done so! I think we can safely say that it is best not to add to God's Word.

Hi dear friend

Today, my daughter and I go to finalize our choice on the kitchen and bathroom cabinets. This is exciting because we women spend so much time in the kitchen. When we finish with the new house, could you and your hubby come and visit us to see with your eyes what you have only been reading about in these emails? We would love to have you come. I could make the lasagna you and your husband enjoy so much.

You have shown interest in the comment I made in my last letter where I spoke of Christ living in me and that I live in him. According to Romans 8:1, I am protected from God's condemnation because I am "in Christ Jesus." Additionally, it is God's "doing" that I am in Christ (1 Corinthians 1:30). And, since I am in Christ, I am "a new creature" (2 Corinthians 5:17). These promises are given to me in Scripture because I "believe in the Lord Jesus" (Acts 16:31).

Furthermore, not only am I in Christ, Christ is in me. Galatians 2:20 Paul states that he is "crucified with Christ" and that it is no longer Paul who lives, but Christ who is "in" him. As Jesus speaks to his Father, in John 17:26, he declares, "I have made Your name known to them (his followers), and will make it known, so that the love with which You loved me may be in them, and I in them." Therefore, I can claim that I am in Christ, and Christ is in me.

I have noted that in your Bible, translated by Jehovah's Witnesses, you have extra wording whenever the word "in" is used concerning Jesus. Your translation says, not "in," but "in union with" in the verses I presented above. Yet, whenever the word "in" is used elsewhere for someone other than Jesus, the Witness's Bible does not use the words "in union with." For example, Ephesians 4:6 of your Bible notes that there is "one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all." Or, when the Witness's Bible speaks of God's spirit, it says, "God's spirit truly dwells in you" (Romans 8:9). In these verses, the word "in" is translated correctly. Contrariwise, in the very next verse, when the Greek word for "in" is used for Jesus, again the extra words "in union with" are put in (Romans 8:10). Can you explain this inconsistency, my friend? Does it not cover up the truth that Jesus, who as God, dwells in us and we in Him?

Barbara