

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES

Over the past few weeks, we received a few inquiries concerning our view of Ray Franz. Here are a few of the comments:

“I noticed your reference to "Christian freedom." It made me wonder if you brothers have read Raymond Franz's "In Search of Christian Freedom." I would think that there are some things he has said that you can agree with.”

“Hi Brothers! I was reading the book called *CRISES OF CONSCIENCE*. Its by Brother Ray Franz. I was wondering if your familiar with his story life. It seems to me to that he didn't agree with the governing body of Jehovah Witnesses. I know you may have noticed many flaws with the governing body of JWs too. I just wanted to know if u think it was fair for our dear bro Ray Franz to have been disfellowshipped by our governing body the way they did?”

“Your writing style is similar to Ray Franz. Were you associated with him?”

“[Ray Franz's] way of presenting what he has to say lends credibility to what he has to say, which is quite similar to your way of presenting what you have to say. Would you explain why you have chosen not to read what Ray has to say? I assume that it is not because of the Governing Body's warnings to avoid anything to do with apostates.”

To all those who have inquired about our view of the late Raymond Franz, we thank you for visiting our site. Of course, we are familiar with Ray Franz – practically all Jehovah's Witnesses are.

While we have not as yet read any of his writings, everything we hear about him and his writings are favorable. He appears to have been a sincere, honest man who was compelled to act in accord with his conscience. We cannot find complaint with that. We believe all of us must respond to the urgings of our conscience if we are to be true to ourselves. And unless we are true to ourselves, we cannot be true to the Father.

At the time of Brother Franz' problems with the Governing Body of Jehovah's Witnesses, we were but babes, and of course, we followed the Society's commands to avoid associating with disfellowshipped individuals or read literature that the Society viewed as apostate.

However, as we grew older and more sure in our relationship with the Father and confident in our hope and status as sons of God, those types of manmade commands have little impact on us. Our Christian freedom and spiritual acumen grants us the ability to discern whose association would be detrimental to ourselves and our families. We are now mature spiritual adults with trained perceptive powers. (*Hebrews 5:14*)

We do not need anyone telling us who we can and cannot associate with. (*1 John 2:27*) Our desire for freeness of speech before the Father is sufficient incentive for us to be cautious in all matters. But just because someone does not agree with something printed in a Watchtower magazine does not mean they are bad associates. And we would NEVER abandon or reject our family just because others do not view them as good association. But this is a subject for another discussion.

Our current reason for not reading Ray Franz' books has nothing to do with his prior status as a disfellowshipped person. It has everything to do with how we choose to use our time. We have dedicated practically all of our waking time that is not associated with secular work, to this ministry. Our prime desire is to know the Father and Jesus Christ to the best of our ability, to follow in Christ's footsteps to the best of our ability, and to endeavor to be faithful ambassadors of the Kingdom of the Heavens.

We feel the best use of our time is to take in knowledge of God and the one whom he sent forth, Jesus Christ. (*John 17:3*) He is our exemplar when it comes to our ministry, not any man, no matter how honorable. It appears that Brother Franz reached conclusions similar to our own. No doubt many others of our brothers who have come and gone, including Charles Taze Russell, and many now living, find commonality with our views. But we do not follow any man or take up anyone's ministry except that of Christ Jesus.

Currently, we do not see a need to read Brother Franz' books in order to understand the inner workings of the Governing Body. That does not interest us. We suspect that the behind-the-scene conduct of the Governing Body is much like that of any secular board meetings or legislative body – not very pretty. Those goings ons do not affect us. They are entitled to their privacy.

What concerns us is what the Governing Body does in the open, what they say publicly and what they print. As Jesus said, "These are the things defiling a man." (*Matthew 15:20*) These are the only things that are our business. They will have to answer for their private affairs and inner workings to the Father, as will we all.

All that we can do is try to readjust our brothers when we **SEE** a need. (*Galatians 6:1*) We do not need to go searching, and we do not need to take the testimony of witnesses when we can see the error with our own eyes. Our governing brothers are no different than any other erring brothers. Our Father is one, and we are all brothers. (*Matthew 23:8-9*) We will continue to view them as such until they make it clear they do not want our association. We keep before us Peter's counsel:

"Be as free people, and yet holding your freedom, not as a blind for badness, but as slaves of God. Honor [men] of all sorts, have love for the whole association of brothers, be in fear of God, have honor for the king." – *1 Peter 2:16-17*

We respect Brother Ray Franz' decision to separate from the Society; we respect Brother Ray Franz' decision to memorialize his experiences in his books; and, not only him, but we respect all individuals who act in harmony with their conscience and their understanding of the divine will. We cannot take freedoms for ourselves that we deprive from others. Since we can openly speak of our own understanding of divine will, we cannot contest the open confession by others.

We hope we have provided enough information here to satisfy all inquirers about our interest and knowledge of the late Brother Raymond Franz.

"Elaia Luchnia"