

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES

On December 1, 2015, we received the following inquiry (translated from French):

“Here's a little thought I had. I always thought that Christians (like the Israelites) belonged to God and were His possession. But look in your book in English "Organized to do the will of Jehovah" in 2015, the question of baptisms. There is a transfer of ownership, and therefore those who accept baptism are no longer Jehovah's Witnesses but "Jehovah's Witnesses' Witnesses." Why is there such a diversion of the sheep of God?”

To the author, thank you for your email. You raise an interesting point and we would have to agree with you. Those baptized in the Watchtower organization are really witnesses of the organization, not witnesses of God. That fact is made even more clearer when you look at what it takes to remain in good standing in the Watchtower organization.

Following the teachings in the Bible is not what keeps one in good standing. What keeps one in good standing in the organization is following the teachings of the Governing Body. Many of our brothers and sisters are disfellowshipped and viewed as apostates, not because they turned away from God or the teachings in the Bible, but because they no longer follow the teachings of the Governing Body. So the fact that turning away from the Governing Body gets one disfellowshipped from the organization is proof that Jehovah's Witnesses are really witnesses of the Watchtower organization, or as you wrote, Jehovah's Witnesses' Witnesses.

This is one of the reasons why we chose to get re-baptized solely in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit in a private session apart from the organization before we partook of the Memorial emblems for the first time. And we are hearing that many others have chosen to do the same.

Of course, whether one chooses to get re-baptized is a personal decision. Baptism in water is merely symbolic of a greater spiritual consecration. The important baptism is the baptism in spirit that occurs individually irrespective of where one was baptized in water. For a further discussion, see **Question and Response, Baptism**.

“Elaia Luchnia”
