

Christian and Watchtower Doctrine Compared

DOCTRINE	CHRISTIAN POSITION	WATCHTOWER POSITION
GOD	one God eternally existent in 3 persons; omnipotent, omnipresent, omniscient (all-powerful, everywhere present, all-knowing)	only one God Jehovah (= the Father); NOT omnipresent nor omniscient
CHRIST	eternal Son of God, incarnate in Jesus; one person in two natures (hypostatic union)	Michael the Archangel incarnated, thus a created being; having ordinary human nature, thus perished at physical death
HOLY SPIRIT	3rd person of the Trinity, personally present in ALL Christians, sealing, sanctifying them	impersonal power of God, compared to electricity and called "active force"; only the 144,000 need be "born again"
MAN	body/soul/spirit, image of God's own simplicity in complexity; therefore not annihilated at physical death	a physical body activated by an impersonal spirit; therefore individual ceases to exist at physical death
SIN	without Christ we are lost in PERSONAL sin and rebellion against God; Christ died for ALL -- not just Adam as in Watchtower theology (a "corresponding ransom", as JW's habitually refer to the sacrifice of Christ)	we are "imperfect" because of a genetic fault transmitted from rebel Adam; to balance the scales of justice, we need an Edenic new start, a perfect environment, or at least "accurate knowledge" before God can evaluate our response to his commandments
SALVATION	in Christ; by grace alone, through faith; Christ's last words "It is finished" mean our debt is PAID IN FULL, thus eternal life is a present possession of Christians	by faithfulness, obedience, loyalty to "God's organization"; Christ's "ransom sacrifice" did not save us but only made it possible for us to get a chance to prove our own integrity
CHURCH	all believers in Christ, distinguished by personal relationship with Him -- not with religious institutions	called "Jehovah's organization" (JW's avoid word "church"); really, only 144,000 are technically Christ's "body" or "spiritual Israel"-- almost all JW's are "other sheep"
HOPE	to be with God and Christ forever; the physical body to be ultimately raised, glorified and reunited with the personal spirit of each believer	eternal existence on earth -- without God or Christ; such is destiny of all "great crowd" of Armageddon survivors and "other sheep" raised from dead during millenium
UNBELIEVERS	God loved us before we loved Him, therefore love is unconditional; unbelievers will receive exactly what they have chosen -- eternal existence out of God's presence	God loves us while we are obedient, loyal -- so JW's cannot even pray for disfellowshipped family; all "unfaithful" are to be annihilated forever
AUTHORITY	the Bible, interpreted for the church by the Holy Spirit	<i>The Watchtower</i> and its other publications, the official voice of the "anointed class", the "faithful and discreet slave [class]", the "remnant of spiritual Israel", the 144,000

Structure of Authority for Christians

(based on 1 Corinthians 15:1-5, Ephesians 2:20-22)

JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH	GENERAL RESURRECTION	TRINITY
ATONEMENT	ETERNAL LIFE	DEITY OF CHRIST
DEATH	BURIAL	RESURRECTION
OLD TESTAMENT 'ACCORDING TO THE SCRIPTURES'		NEW TESTAMENT APOSTLES' EYE-WITNESS TESTIMONY

Structure of Authority for JW's (Ezek.1)

NEW HEAVENS	NEW EARTH	MILLENNIUM (1000 YEARS)	GENERAL RESURRECTION	FINAL JUDGMENT
KINGDOM			PARADISE	
GOATS (NON-JW'S)		SHEEP (GREAT CROWD)	OTHER SHEEP	
JEHOVAH		JESUS	SATAN	
VINDICATION OF THE NAME		UNIVERSAL SOVEREIGNTY		
JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES				
ORGANIZATION				
REMNANT		ANOINTED	144,000	
FAITHFUL & DISCREET SLAVE [CLASS]				
LAST DAYS 1914 GENERATION				