

JUST SAY
"KNOW"

7 JEWISH ANSWERS TO "JEWS FOR JESUS"

Jews for Jesus, along with hundreds of other evangelical Christian missionary organizations, spend millions of dollars annually trying to convert Jews to Christianity. Despite the Jewish look and feel (wearing headcoverings or *tzitzit*, using Yiddish or Hebrew phrases and music) of some of these groups, their theology is 100% Christian. In fact, many of their leaders, missionaries and volunteers are born Gentiles and not Jews. Both Jewish and Christian groups have denounced their tactics as deceptive and coercive.* To help you and your family respond effectively when confronted by a missionary, here are 7 of the most frequently asked questions used by the missionaries to engage Jews along with a Jewish response.**

Q: Who do you think Jesus was?

A: According to most theologians and Jewish scholars, Jesus was a 1st Century Jew who claimed to be the Messiah and died without fulfilling the Messianic prophecies, including bringing universal peace.

Q: Doesn't the TANACH (Jewish Bible) prove that Jesus is the Messiah?

A: No, every one of the Biblical or rabbinic passages that missionaries bring as a proof that Jesus is the Messiah, have been, either mistranslated, misquoted, taken out of context or even fabricated. When analyzed carefully, the Jewish Scriptures do not point to Jesus and in fact clearly disqualify him as the Jewish Messiah.

Q: Did you know that believing in Jesus is the most Jewish thing you can do?

A: According to Judaism the Messiah will not be divine or eliminate the obligation to observe Torah. Jews believe in a monotheistic system of a non-corporeal God. By believing that Jesus is "co-equal to God the Father" Jews for Jesus have crossed an unbridgeable chasm by accepting a belief idolatrous for Jews.

Q: How will you get forgiveness for your sins without Temple sacrifices?

A: Tshuvah is the means of rectifying our mistakes through a process of repentance that includes reflection, remorse and returning to God. Sacrificial offerings when practiced, only helped atone for unintentional transgressions. The prophets clearly taught that prayer and repentance are the main remedy for sin and suffice when there is no Temple.

Q: Did you know that Jesus can change your life and perform miracles?

A: No religion has a monopoly on life-changing experiences or claims to miracles. The Bible warns against relying on signs and wonders as proof that a person is a messenger of God. (Deut 13)

Q: Did you know that you can be Jewish and Christian at the same time?

A: A "Jew for Jesus" is as absurd as a "Christian for Buddha" and as ridiculous as "kosher pork." The fact that some of the first Christians were Jews didn't make them right. Their movement died out within three centuries as the church became a Gentile institution.

Q: Do you have a personal relationship with God?

A: Every Jew has a personal relationship with God, since we possess a divine *Neshama* soul. All we need to do is turn to God with a sincere heart and this will reawaken our intrinsic spiritual closeness to God. Prayer, Torah study and loving-kindness are the spiritual means to approach Him.

* For the complete statement by the Commission of Religious Leaders of New York City: "Respect for Faith Traditions", as well as other Interfaith Councils, see the Jews for Judaism website www.jewsforjudaism.org

**For additional responses or further information contact:



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