

THE BITE MODEL

The following is a summary of Jehovah's Witness beliefs regarding behavior, information, thoughts and emotions. The quotes are taken from the 2014 Watchtower Library CD ROM. The BITE model was developed by researcher and counsellor Steven Hassan M.Ed. LMHC, NCC, an expert in new religious groups. Behavior, Intellect, Thoughts, and Emotions (BITE) are aspects of mind control used by organizations to make their members compliant and dependent on the central leadership. Any organization which relies on the following techniques and deceptive practices to recruit or retain its membership should be scrutinized for destructive mind control nature.

Behavior Control

1. REGULATE INDIVIDUAL'S PHYSICAL REALITY
2. DICTATE WHERE, HOW, AND WITH WHOM THE MEMBER LIVES AND ASSOCIATES OR ISOLATES

***** w94 9/1 p. 29 Appreciate Your Sacred Service *****

At work or at school, there will also be a price to pay. The new Bible student will in time **stop sharing in worldly parties and other celebrations.** He will no longer listen to the unclean talk of his workmates or schoolmates, nor will he swap obscene jokes with them

***** w10 1/15 pp. 16-17 Help Your Children to Meet Their Many Challenges *****

In addition to pressures from the world, our sons or daughters may also have to fight against **their own desire to be like their peers.** "It is not easy being viewed as different," says Cathleen, a sister in her late teens. A young brother named Alan admits, "I was often invited to go out with my schoolmates on the weekends, and I really wanted to go." Further, the desire of young people to participate in school sports events, which can easily lead to **bad association,** can be strong. "I love sports," says a young sister named Tanya. "The coaches in school were always trying to get me to play on the team. **It was hard to refuse.**"

***** w87 9/15 p. 12 par. 9 Breathing This World's "Air" Is Death-Dealing! *****

So our challenge is to be in Satan's world, yet being no part of it, to be surrounded by its contaminated "air," yet not breathing it in. When we read secular publications, watch television, or go to places of entertainment, we are likely to be exposed to the world's "air." While some contact with worldly people is unavoidable—at work, at school, and otherwise—**we must be vigilant so as to keep from being sucked back into the death-dealing atmosphere of this world.**—1 Corinthians 15:33, 34.

***** km 5/74 p. 3 How Are You Using Your Life? *****

Reports are heard of brothers selling their homes and property and planning to finish out the rest of their days in this old system in the pioneer service. Certainly this is a fine way to spend the short time remaining before the wicked world's end.—1 John 2:17.

3. WHEN, HOW AND WITH WHOM THE MEMBER HAS SEX

** w74 11/15 p. 704 Questions From Readers ***

In the common Greek in which Jesus' words are recorded, the term "fornication" is *por-nei'a*, which designates all forms of immoral sexual relations, perversions and lewd practices such as might be carried on in a house of prostitution, **including oral and anal copulation....** Hence, circumstances could arise that would make lewd practices **of a married person toward that one's marriage mate** a Scriptural basis for divorce....if brought to the attention of elders in the congregation, would be **handled like any other serious wrongdoing.**

*** w78 2/15 p. 30 Questions From Readers ***

In the past some comments have appeared in this magazine in connection with certain unusual sex practices, such as **oral sex, within marriage** and these were equated with gross sexual immorality. On this basis the conclusion was reached that **those engaging in such sex practices were subject to disfellowshipping if unrepentant.** The view was taken that it was within the authority of congregational elders to investigate and act in a judicial capacity regarding such practices in the conjugal relationship.

*** w78 11/1 p. 26 Decisions That Have Contributed to a Happy Life ***

This was a fellow student who worked in the same laboratory. We intended to marry soon. But he became very unhappy with my decision to serve God. It caused me much heartache to see the difference in our outlook on this vital point. **Finally the tensions led to an ultimatum: It was either he or my newfound faith.** Shortly afterward I was baptized to symbolize my dedication to serve Jehovah God. I had made my decision.

4. CONTROL TYPES OF CLOTHING AND HAIRSTYLES

*** w75 8/15 p. 500 par. 9 Do Not Let Yourself Be Ensnared by Fads and Entertainment ***⁹

Extreme hair styles can easily lead one into a trap of the Devil also, and cause others to stumble...From early youth he had let his beard grow.... He was invited to consider his appearance in relation to what he claimed to be, a servant of God. Not wanting to be responsible for even one person's being stumbled so as to miss the way to everlasting life, **this new Kingdom publisher shaved off his beard.**

*** w12 8/15 p. 13 par. 8 Carry On as Kingdom Citizens! ***

Examine the way you react when you receive counsel about what you feel is a personal preference—for example, on the matter of dress and grooming. Before becoming a Kingdom citizen, you may have preferred to dress sloppily or provocatively. As your love for God grew, **you learned to dress in a way that honors him.** (1 Tim. 2:9, 10; 1 Pet. 3:3, 4) You may feel that you now dress modestly. But what if an **elder was to tell you that your preference in attire is causing serious offense** to a number of publishers in the congregation?

***** w12 4/1 p. 15 The Bible Changes Lives *****

My passion for music made quitting the heavy-metal scene the most difficult decision I've ever had to make. But with the help of my friends in the congregation, I was finally able to break free. I quit overdrinking and taking drugs. I also **cut my hair, shaved off my beard, and stopped dressing only in black**

***** w12 8/1 p. 14 The Bible Changes Lives *****

I cut my hair, removed my earring, and bought a suit. What I was learning also started to improve my attitude toward other people.

5. REGULATE DIET - FOOD AND DRINK, HUNGER AND/OR FASTING
6. MANIPULATION AND DEPRIVATION OF SLEEP

7. FINANCIAL EXPLOITATION, MANIPULATION OR DEPENDENCE

***** w13 6/15 pp. 14-15 par. 11 Appreciate Jehovah's Generosity and Reasonableness *****

We can also be generous toward Jehovah. "Honor Jehovah with your valuable things," admonish the Scriptures. (Prov. 3:9) Those "**valuable things**" include **our time, energy, and resources, which we can freely spend in his service.** Even young children can learn to be generous toward Jehovah. "When our family makes a donation at the Kingdom Hall, **we let our children put the money in the contribution box,**" says their father, Jason. "They enjoy it because, as they put it, they're 'giving something to Jehovah.'" Children who experience the joy of giving to Jehovah while they are young are **likely to continue being generous toward him in adulthood.**—Prov. 22:6.

8. RESTRICT LEISURE, ENTERTAINMENT, VACATION TIME

***** w14 4/15 p. 13 The Full-Time Ministry—Where It Has Led Me *****

During each **summer vacation from school,** I served as a vacation pioneer (now called an auxiliary pioneer),

***** w10 9/15 p. 32 Special Campaign in Bulgaria Has Success *****

How do those who generously **used their vacation and traveled at their own expense** to another country to preach the good news feel?

***** w10 1/15 p. 21 Use Each Day of Your Life for God's Glory *****

For example, **when planning for a vacation, we make sure that we will not miss the circuit overseer’s visit, a special assembly day, a circuit assembly, or a district convention.** At times, we may be able to combine some of our responsibilities.

***** w84 5/1 p. 30 Come to the 1984 “Kingdom Increase” District Conventions!

Most of us get some vacation each year. *Could not more of us plan to include the entire convention in that vacation? Or else, could we not sacrifice two days’ wages for the sake of a great spiritual feast?* In Honduras some brothers have lost their jobs simply because of asking time off from work so as to attend a convention. A sister there asked for two days off to attend the “Kingdom Unity” convention and was threatened with being fired. A lawyer, whose wife is a Witness, heard of this and arranged a job for her with better pay following the convention.

9. MAJOR TIME SPENT WITH GROUP INDOCTRINATION AND RITUALS AND/OR SELF-INDOCTRINATION INCLUDING THE INTERNET

This point hardly requires comment. Every Witness is run off their feet with Theocratic activities (15+ hours per week) and material to read and internalize (‘hard to keep up’)

*****yb16 p. 15*****

With Jehovah’s support, we are confident that **JW Broadcasting** will continue to be a rich spiritual blessing for our worldwide brotherhood and will bring increasing praise and glory to Jehovah.

***** w13 3/15 p. 16 par. 13 Having “Come to Know God”—What Now? *****

Jehovah is pleased with all those “seeking refuge in him”; hence, even after our coming to know God, we want to **continue regularly associating with the congregation** of others who know him.

- Monday - Book Study preparation from a Watchtower publication (1 hour)
- Tuesday - Attend the Book Study (until 2009) (1 hour)
- Wednesday CLAM preparation from Watchtower publications (1-2 hours)
- Thursday - Attend the CLAM (6:30-9:30 = 3 hours)
- Friday - Watchtower study preparation (1-2 hours)
- Saturday - Preaching and placing Watchtower publications (9-12 = 3 hours)
- Sunday - Public talk and Watchtower Study (9:30-12:30 = 3 hours)
- **Total time is 10-15 hours per week min.**

10. PERMISSION REQUIRED FOR MAJOR DECISIONS

11. THOUGHTS, FEELINGS, AND ACTIVITIES (OF SELF AND OTHERS) REPORTED TO SUPERIORS

Jehovah's Witness must report the amount of time and the number of publications they place each month.

***** w12 2/15 p. 22 par. 15 Preserve the Positive Spirit of the Congregation *****

So if we know that a brother or a sister has fallen into such wrongdoing, we should encourage that one to approach the elders and seek their help. (Jas. 5:13-15) **If he or she does not do so within a reasonable period of time, though, we should report the wrongdoing.**

12. REWARDS AND PUNISHMENTS USED TO MODIFY BEHAVIORS, BOTH POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE

Rewards: *“Reaching out” for privileges of service is encouraged for all. Men can work their up the ranks and be second only to God and Jesus Christ in importance – note the hierarchy depicted w13 4/15 p29*



(1 Timothy 2:5) . . .For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, a man, Christ Jesus. . .

(1 Corinthians 7:22, 23) . . . You were bought with a price; stop becoming slaves of men.

Eminent pioneers and others are praised in front of 1,000's at conventions and lauded for their great works and success at recruiting new members

(1 Corinthians 1:28, 29) . . . God chose the insignificant things of the world and the things looked down on, the things that are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, ²⁹ so that no one might boast in the sight of God. . .

(Matthew 20:16) ¹⁶ In this way the last ones will be first, and the first ones last.”

Punishment: *Those who do not follow direction may be stripped of privileges... or worse*

The Watchtower inserts an entire sentence into 2 John 11 (which is speaking about anti-Christ's) justify total shunning of former members for any offense that the Governing Body deems a sin:

***** w81 9/15 p. 25 par. 25 Disfellowshipping—How to View It *****

All faithful Christians need to take to heart the serious truth that God inspired John to write: “He that says a greeting to [*an expelled sinner who is promoting an erroneous teaching or carrying on ungodly conduct*] is a sharer in his wicked works.”—2 John 11.

***** w81 9/15 p. 22 par. 12 Disfellowshipping—How to View It *****

Thus “disfellowshipping” is what Jehovah’s Witnesses appropriately call the expelling and subsequent **shunning** of such an unrepentant wrongdoer

13. DISCOURAGE INDIVIDUALISM, ENCOURAGE GROUP-THINK

***** km 9/07 p. 3 Question Box *****

Does “the faithful and discreet slave” endorse independent groups of Witnesses who meet together to engage in Scriptural research or debate?—Matt. 24:45, 47.

No, it does not.

***** w13 11/15 p. 20 par. 17 Seven Shepherds, Eight Dukes—What They Mean for Us Today *****

All of us must be ready to **obey any instructions we may receive**, whether these appear sound from a strategic or human standpoint or not.

***** w72 9/1 p. 543 Do You Remember? *****

□ When is conformity a good thing, but when must it be avoided?

Conformity is good when it is in harmony with the guidelines set forth in the Bible and when it contributes to purposeful cooperative effort. But conformity to ways that are opposed to God’s righteous standards must be avoided if one is to enjoy divine favor.—P. 474.

□ What should you do if doubts come up in your mind about the spiritual food being dispensed by the “faithful and discreet slave” today?

Seek help from elders in the congregation. Be patient, remembering that following Jehovah's leading brings happiness and life. Keep in mind that you became a disciple because you were firmly persuaded of the truth and convinced that those who taught you had your interests at heart. Also consider how well matters have turned out for those who have maintained faithfulness.—P. 504.

***** w96 7/15 p. 17 par. 7 Maintain Unity in These Last Days *****

What if we individually have difficulty understanding or accepting a certain point? We should pray for wisdom and undertake research in the Scriptures and Christian publications. (Proverbs 2:4, 5; James 1:5-8) Discussion with an elder may help. **If the point still cannot be understood, it may be best to let the matter rest**

14. IMPOSE RIGID RULES AND REGULATIONS

Each Branch has a manual with 1,000's of procedures dictating matters as trivial as the manner in which your bed is to be made and specific techniques for cleaning windows.

Writing Desks at the branches have a "Correspondence Guidelines" manual (available on Google) that contains 'theocratic direction,' mainly taken from Watchtower publications, for 1,000's of possible inquiries from wearing beards to what type of sexual relations are appropriate for Jehovah's Witnesses.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B4_JQfRFexMAZFZYZINhZDBpWUk/view

(Romans 3:27, 28) ²⁷ Where, then, is the boasting? It is shut out. Through what law? That of works? No indeed, but through the law of faith. ²⁸ For we reckon that a man is declared righteous by faith apart from works of law.

***** w14 10/15 pp. 24-25 par. 8 Cherish Your Privilege of Working With Jehovah! *****

Faithful servants of Jehovah have always been eager to **submit to theocratic direction.** (Read Hebrews 13:7, 17.) We may initially lack full understanding of the reasons for carrying out our assigned work in a particular way. Nevertheless, we are fully aware of the benefits of cooperating with Jehovah in any adjustments that he sees fit to make.

***** w13 8/15 p. 5 par. 12 You Have Been Sanctified *****

Another lesson is this: Like Nehemiah, appointed men today **take the lead in supporting theocratic arrangements.**

15. INSTILL DEPENDENCY AND OBEDIENCE

***** w90 10/1 pp. 30-31 Do You Follow Instructions? *****

We should follow the instructions that the Head of the Christian congregation, Jesus Christ, gives through **"the faithful and discreet slave," the appointed channel of God's organization here on earth.** (Matthew 24:45-47; Ephesians 5:23) In order to have peace and unity in the congregation, all its **members must act in harmony** with the

guidance given. For instance, those taking the lead in teaching the congregation and in helping other people need to **stick to the directions they receive from Jehovah's organization**

Information Control

1. DECEPTION:

a. DELIBERATELY WITHHOLD INFORMATION

Are aware you of the extent and dogmatism of the false prophecies of the Watchtower for the years 1799, 1874, 1881, 1914, 1915, 1918, 1925, 1940's and 1975?

Hint-these were not just 'expectations' or 'past truth'

Did you know that not a single Biblical or historical source outside of the WTBTs supports a date for the destruction of Jerusalem of 607BCE?

This date is the basis for the 1914 doctrine and the claim of Russell and the current governing body to be God's 'faith slave'

b. DISTORT INFORMATION TO MAKE IT MORE ACCEPTABLE

The Trinity brochure and the Creation books are full of misleading and academically dishonest quoting. The publications cite sources that are anti-creation and anti-Christian to try to find support for their views

Only the bold portions are quoted in the articles. Here just two of dozens of examples Google: "creation book misquotes" or "trinity brochure misquotes" for many more.

Trinity: "It is certain, however, that from the apostolic times they paid worship to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, addressed to them their prayers, and included them in their doxologies." ... **"Precisely what the doctrine is, or precisely how it is to be explained, Trinitarians are not agreed among themselves."** ... "It is not possible for the human intellect to comprehend fully the divine nature. The Bible represents God to us as Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. It represents them as equally entitled to our highest reverence, affection, and allegiance." (**A Dictionary of Religious Knowledge**, Lyman Abbott, 1875, p. 944, as quoted in, **Should you believe the Trinity?**, Watchtower publication)

Creation Book: "I mention this only to illustrate the **lack of total agreement even within the warring camps:** things really are in an uproar these days, and each of the "basic" ways of looking at evolution has its minor variants. **Sometimes it seems as though there are as many variations on each theme as there are individual biologists.** But that's as it should be; this is how science is supposed to operate. ... When they [Creationists] misrepresent the exuberant, creative doubt and controversy permeating evolutionary biology these days, they are actively promoting scientific illiteracy." (**Natural History**, "Evolutionary Housecleaning," by Niles Eldredge, February 1982, pp. 78, 81.)

c. SYSTEMATICALLY LIE TO THE CULT MEMBER

Investigate the following outright lie regarding the location of the great crowd in Rev 7:15

*****w80 Aug 15 p.15****

"For example, in the Bible account of where Jesus Christ drove the money changers and merchantmen out of Herod's temple, the original Greek word used is naos'."

This is a lie. None of the Scriptures discussing where Jesus drove the money changers from use the word naos, they use the word hieron, which includes the outer courtyards. See John 2:14-15, Matthew 21:12 and Mark 11:15 in the The Kingdom Interlinear Translation of the Greek Scriptures.

2. MINIMIZE OR DISCOURAGE ACCESS TO NON-CULT SOURCES OF INFORMATION, INCLUDING:

a. INTERNET, TV, RADIO, BOOKS, ARTICLES, NEWSPAPERS, MAGAZINES, OTHER MEDIA

***** w93 4/1 pp. 17-18 par. 16 Who Are Following the Light of the World? *****

The new world will be bathed in the bright light of truth. Indeed, consider what the situation will be the day after God brings this system of things to its end. Satan, his demons, and his political, commercial, and religious systems will be gone—every one of them! **Satan's entire propaganda apparatus** will be gone too. Thus, after the great tribulation, there will never again be printed a single **newspaper, magazine, book, booklet, or leaflet** that supports this wicked world. There will be no corrupting influences broadcast from **worldly television or radio stations**. The entire poisonous environment of Satan's world will be cleared away in one mighty stroke!

b. CRITICAL INFORMATION

***** km 1/77 p. 2 Replying to Critics *****

Newspaper articles, TV programs and radio programs sometimes have information that is critical of Jehovah's Witnesses. Before deciding to answer in behalf of Jehovah's Witnesses, it is wise to remember that usually the **best policy is to ignore the critics**, following the example of Jesus, who did not go searching out those critical of him and his message in order to debate or argue with them. Moreover, harm can be done if one is not thoroughly prepared to answer or is not experienced in handling controversial questions.

***** w12 5/15 p. 26 par. 13 Are You Reflecting the Glory of Jehovah? *****

We are not benefited by trying to refute the arguments of apostates or those who are critical of Jehovah's organization. In fact, it is spiritually dangerous and improper to peruse their information, whether it appears in written form or it is found on the Internet.

c. FORMER MEMBERS

***** w11 7/15 p. 16 par. 6-7 Will You Heed Jehovah's Clear Warnings? *****

Well, **apostates are "mentally diseased,"** and they seek to infect others with their disloyal teachings...We do not receive them into our homes or greet them. **We also refuse to read their literature, watch TV programs that feature them, examine their Web sites, or add our comments to their blogs**

d. KEEP MEMBERS BUSY SO THEY DON'T HAVE TIME TO THINK AND INVESTIGATE

Most witnesses spend a minimum of 10-15 hours per week in Theocratic activities. Pioneers, Ministerial Servants, Elders and other 'full time servants' often have the equivalent of another full time job (40 hours+/week) caring for all their duties

***** w14 10/15 p. 30 par. 9 "Keep Your Minds Fixed on the Things Above" *****

If we do not keep our minds fixed on the things above, the fulfillment of these promises could appear to be delayed and we might slow down in our spiritual activities. For example, did you make sacrifices in the past in order to engage in the pioneer ministry or in some other form of expanded service? If so, you are to be commended.

***** w13 9/15 p. 15 par. 16 Make Jehovah's Reminders the Exultation of Your Heart *****

In imitation of our Creator, **we keep busy in theocratic activities.** Serving God wholeheartedly is personally rewarding for us, and it gives Jehovah great delight to bless our ministry.

e. CONTROL THROUGH CELL PHONE WITH TEXTING, CALLS, INTERNET TRACKING

3. COMPARTMENTALIZE INFORMATION INTO OUTSIDER VS. INSIDER DOCTRINES

- a. ENSURE THAT INFORMATION IS NOT FREELY ACCESSIBLE
- b. CONTROL INFORMATION AT DIFFERENT LEVELS AND MISSIONS WITHIN GROUP

Consider the misleading picture of salvation presented on JW.org contrasted with what is found in the publications

EXTERNAL - JW.ORG (FOR GENERAL PUBLIC)

Do Jehovah's Witnesses Feel That They Are the Only People Who Will Be Saved?

No. Many millions who lived in centuries past and who weren't Jehovah's Witnesses will have an opportunity for salvation. The Bible explains that in God's promised new world, "there is going to be a resurrection of both the righteous and the unrighteous." (Acts 24:15) Additionally, many now living may yet begin to serve God, and they too will gain salvation. In any case, **it's not our job to judge who will or won't be saved.** That assignment rests squarely in Jesus' hands

<https://www.jw.org/en/jehovahs-witnesses/faq/who-saved/>

INTERNAL - WATCHTOWER (FOR MEMBERS)

***** w89 9/1 p. 19 par. 7 Remaining Organized for Survival Into the Millennium *****

Only Jehovah's Witnesses, those of the anointed remnant and the "great crowd," as a united organization under the protection of the Supreme Organizer, **have any Scriptural hope of surviving the impending end of this doomed system** dominated by Satan the Devil

Information is also hierarchical within the organization and there is little or no transparency in many areas. Are you aware that Elders have a secret manual called 'Shepherd the Flock of God?'

This book details many extra-Scriptural procedures and standards for 'dealing with' trouble-makers and sinners (as defined by the WTBTs) in the congregation

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B2fYNzAbUpqFX2ICNXVTaDILZmM/view>

(1 Corinthians 4:6) . . . "Do not go beyond the things that are written," . . .

c. ALLOW ONLY LEADERSHIP TO DECIDE WHO NEEDS TO KNOW WHAT AND WHEN

4. ENCOURAGE SPYING ON OTHER MEMBERS

a. IMPOSE A BUDDY SYSTEM TO MONITOR AND CONTROL MEMBER

***** w13 6/15 p. 3 Obeying Jehovah Has Brought Me Many Blessings *****

My pioneer partner and I were thrilled to distribute a lot of Bible literature, but being rather young, how I missed home! Still, **I wanted to obey the direction I had been given.**

b. REPORT DEVIANT THOUGHTS, FEELINGS AND ACTIONS TO LEADERSHIP

***** w12 2/15 p. 22 par. 15 Preserve the Positive Spirit of the Congregation *****

As was previously mentioned, it is important to maintain confidentiality in certain matters, especially when others share with us their feelings and thoughts. How wrong and hurtful it is to spread confidential information about someone! **Even so, when serious sin has been committed, those Scripturally obligated to handle the matter—the elders in the congregation—should be informed. (Read Leviticus 5:1.)** So if we know that a brother or a sister has fallen into such wrongdoing, we should encourage that one to approach the

elders and seek their help. (Jas. 5:13-15) If he or she does not do so within a reasonable period of time, though, **we should report the wrongdoing.**

c. ENSURE THAT INDIVIDUAL BEHAVIOR IS MONITORED BY GROUP

5. EXTENSIVE USE OF CULT-GENERATED INFORMATION AND PROPAGANDA, INCLUDING:

a. NEWSLETTERS, MAGAZINES, JOURNALS, AUDIOTAPES, VIDEOTAPES, YOUTUBE, MOVIES AND OTHER MEDIA

No need to provide a quote for this one... we have such an abundance of 'spiritual food' that 'you cannot keep up'

b. MISQUOTING STATEMENTS OR USING THEM OUT OF CONTEXT FROM NON-CULT SOURCES

*Here is another dishonest quote regarding blood transfusions from **How Can Blood Save Your Life? p.16** (the quoted portion is bolded)*

Jehovah Witnesses had an increased susceptibility to rejection episodes. The cumulative percentage of incidence of primary rejection episodes was 77 percent at three months in Jehovah's Witnesses versus 44 percent at 21 months in the matched control group. The consequence of early allograft dysfunction from rejection was particularly detrimental to Jehovah's Witness who developed severe anemia (hemoglobin (Hgb)* 4.5 per cent) – two early deaths occurred in the subgroup with this combination. **The overall results suggest that renal transplantation can be safely and efficaciously applied to most Jehovah Witness patients** but those with anemia who undergo early rejection episodes are a high-risk group relative to other transplant patients."

6. UNETHICAL USE OF CONFESSION

a. INFORMATION ABOUT SINS USED TO DISRUPT AND/OR DISSOLVE IDENTITY BOUNDARIES

b. WITHHOLDING FORGIVENESS OR ABSOLUTION

*Those who are disfellowshipped are made to attend meetings for **a year or more**, while being **completely shunned** by all in attendance (including family). Disfellowshipping and 'reproof' are PERMANENTLY recorded on a 'publisher record card' and in a permanent file at the Branch. Many 'privileges of service' require disclosure of any recent (3-5 years) 'discipline' on a written form submitted for review to Elders and the Branch Office.*

***** w98 10/1 p. 18 Imitate Jehovah's Mercy *****

Although it seems that the wrongdoer in Corinth was reinstated within a relatively short period of time, this is not to be used as a standard for all disfellowshippings. Each case is different. Some wrongdoers begin to manifest genuine repentance almost immediately after being expelled. With others, it is **quite some time** before such an attitude is evident. In all cases,

however, those who are reinstated must first show evidence of godly sadness and, where possible, **must manifest works befitting repentance**

Is this really Biblical forgiveness? Contrast this with the Bible stance:

(2 Corinthians 2:5-8) . . . ⁶ This rebuke given by the majority is sufficient for such a man, ⁷ so that, on the contrary now, YOU should kindly forgive and comfort [him], that somehow such a man may not be swallowed up by his being overly sad. ⁸ **Therefore I exhort YOU to confirm YOUR love for him.**

(1 Corinthians 4:3-5) ³ Now to me it is of very little importance to be examined by you or by a human tribunal. In fact, I do not even examine myself. ⁴ For I am not conscious of anything against myself. But by this I am not proved righteous; **the one who examines me is Jehovah.** ⁵ **Therefore, do not judge anything before the due time, until the Lord comes.** He will bring the secret things of darkness to light and make known the intentions of the hearts, and then each one will receive his praise from God.

(John 8:7-11) ⁷ When they persisted in asking him, he straightened up and said to them: **“Let the one of YOU that is sinless be the first to throw a stone at her.”** ⁸ And bending over again he kept on writing in the ground. ⁹ But those who heard this began going out, one by one, starting with the older men, and he was left alone, and the woman that was in their midst. ¹⁰ Straightening up, Jesus said to her: “Woman, where are they? Did no one condemn you?” ¹¹ She said: “No one, sir.” **Jesus said: “Neither do I condemn you. Go your way; from now on practice sin no more.”**

c. MANIPULATION OF MEMORY, POSSIBLE FALSE MEMORIES

Thought Control

1. REQUIRE MEMBERS TO INTERNALIZE THE GROUP'S DOCTRINE AS TRUTH

- a. DISTORT INFORMATION TO MAKE IT MORE ACCEPTABLE
- b. ADOPTING THE GROUP'S 'MAP OF REALITY' AS REALITY

Witnesses refer to their beliefs as 'the Truth'. This is the only acceptable way of living one's life and having a relationship with God. Changing doctrines are 'new light.' The following quote sums up the situation:

*“... “present truth” may also in time become “past truth,” and that the “present truth” that replaces such “past truth” may itself become replaced by “future truth.” **I felt that the word “truth” used in such a manner became simply meaningless.**” (Crisis of Conscience, pp 259)*

*See the document (link below) of Watchtower references listing **138 pages** of FLIP FLOPS. The 'new light' is not progressive, it has and does regress to old view-points.*

These flip-flops (some within only months of each other) have included major doctrines and life changing restrictions such as:

- *Worship of Jesus*
- *Organ transplants*
- *Blood transfusions and fractions (allowed prior to 1940, banned 1945; fractions NO 1956, YES 1958, NO 1961 ... NO 1990, YES 2004)*
- *Superior authorities of Romans 13*
- *Disfellowshipping ('cruel' - 1947)*
- *Who is Gog of Magog?*
- *Days in a lunar/prophetic year*
- *Alpha and Omega Rev 22:12*

Google: "138 pages of Watchtower Flip Flops"

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B6Z35VcHJbHBTjlfSnBMWS1TWWikNXIKTuG1M1BOcGllidXJJ/view>

c. INSTILL BLACK AND WHITE THINKING

***** w02 7/1 p. 17 par. 12 Jehovah's Glory Shines on His People *****

The resulting peaceableness of Jehovah's people makes them a refreshing oasis in a violent world

d. DECIDE BETWEEN GOOD VS. EVIL

e. ORGANIZE PEOPLE INTO US VS. THEM (INSIDERS VS. OUTSIDERS)

***** w88 1/15 p. 10 par. 1 Jehovah—Our Strength *****

DO YOU attend meetings at a Kingdom Hall of **Jehovah's Witnesses**? There you see a **people far different from any other!** Who are these people, and why are they different? We are God's own people, and we are different because we bear the grandest of all names—that of the glorious Creator of all the marvels of the universe around us. His name is upon us

***** w13 2/15 p. 24 Beware of the Intentions of the Heart *****

Just as a small amount of pollution can contaminate clean water, **friendship with those who do not practice godly devotion** can contaminate our spirituality and lead us into adopting worldly viewpoints, dress, speech, and conduct.

f. CHANGE PERSON'S NAME AND IDENTITY

*Witnesses openly admit that people dramatically change when they become members. While many of the life changes of individuals entering the organization are positive (See the series *The Bible Changes Lives*), many of these changes – such as being clean shaven, wearing special clothes and separating completely from old friends are 'beyond what is written' in the Bible as requirements for Christians.*

For example of the hypocritical eisegesis used as Law for JW's, the WTBS refers to Leviticus 19:28 as a prohibition on tattoos for Christians but ignores the verse immediately preceding it which requires untrimmed beards. The WTBS also goes beyond the Bible in limiting association with 'unbelievers'.

(Leviticus 19:27, 28) 27 “**You must not shave** the hair on the side of your head or disfigure the edges of your beard. 28 “**You must not make cuts in your flesh for a dead person, and you must not make tattoo** markings on yourselves. I am Jehovah. . .

(1 Corinthians 10:27) 27 **If an unbeliever invites you and you want to go, eat whatever is set before you**, making no inquiry on account of your conscience.

2. USE OF LOADED LANGUAGE AND CLICHÉS WHICH CONSTRICT KNOWLEDGE, STOP CRITICAL THOUGHTS AND REDUCE COMPLEXITIES INTO PLATITUDINOUS BUZZ WORDS

Examples: 'the truth', 'new system', 'worldly people', 'disfellowship' 'Jehovah's Organization', 'RV's', 'door to door', 'theocratic', 'remnant'

*Note that the Watchtower has also attempted to redefine words in the English language. Its latest 'generation' teaching is that 'generation' refers to any contemporaries living at the same time. **By this definition grandparents are of the same generation as their grandchildren.***

3. ENCOURAGE ONLY 'GOOD AND PROPER' THOUGHTS

***** w09 7/1 p. 12 Can You Find Peace in This Troubled World? *****

Verse 8 encourages us to concentrate on positive thoughts. It is not enough, however, just to think of positive things.

4. HYPNOTIC TECHNIQUES ARE USED TO ALTER MENTAL STATES, UNDERMINE CRITICAL THINKING AND EVEN TO AGE REGRESS THE MEMBER

While not overt long monotonous parts and conventions can induce such a mild hypnotic state, making the mind more receptive to ideas.

5. MEMORIES ARE MANIPULATED AND FALSE MEMORIES ARE CREATED

This is not overt or spoken of in WT literature. However, people often only recall the worst negative aspects of their old life. Fond memories of family Christmas, old hobbies and habits etc. is strongly discouraged.

***** w12 4/15 pp. 15-16 par. 12 Maintain a Complete Heart Toward Jehovah *****

For comparison's sake, let us imagine a brother who keeps busy in the ministry. However, though attending meetings and sharing in field service, he cannot stop thinking of certain

aspects of the world's way of life that he finds appealing. Deep down in his heart, he longs for them. Eventually, after he carries out his ministry for several years, **his desire for some things of this world becomes so overwhelming that he turns back and looks at "the things behind."** Though there is still much work to be done in the ministry, he does not keep "a tight grip on the word of life," and his share in theocratic activities suffers

6. TEACHING THOUGHT-STOPPING TECHNIQUES WHICH SHUT DOWN REALITY TESTING BY STOPPING NEGATIVE THOUGHTS AND ALLOWING ONLY POSITIVE THOUGHTS, INCLUDING

a. DENIAL, RATIONALIZATION, JUSTIFICATION, WISHFUL THINKING

*** km 1/77 p. 2 Replying to Critics ***

Newspaper articles, TV programs and radio programs sometimes have information that is critical of Jehovah's Witnesses. Before deciding to answer in behalf of Jehovah's Witnesses, it is wise to remember that usually the **best policy is to ignore the critics**, following the example of Jesus, who did not go searching out those critical of him and his message in order to debate or argue with them. Moreover, harm can be done if one is not thoroughly prepared to answer or is not experienced in handling controversial questions.

*** w93 10/1 p. 19 par. 15 "Search Through Me, O God" ***

True Christians share Jehovah's feelings toward such apostates; **they are not curious about apostate ideas. On the contrary, they "feel a loathing" toward those who have made themselves God's enemies**, but they leave it to Jehovah to execute vengeance.

b. CHANTING

c. MEDITATING

*** w12 3/15 p. 27 par. 10 Do Not Look at "the Things Behind" ***

When faced with difficulties and problems, let us not fixate on what may appear to have been positive things in the past—perhaps even before we came to a knowledge of the truth. Although it is not wrong to **meditate** on the lessons we have learned from past experiences or to savor cherished memories, we need to maintain a balanced, realistic view of the past. **Otherwise, we could accentuate our dissatisfaction with our present circumstances and be tempted to return to our former way of life**

d. PRAYING

*** w01 7/1 p. 19 Do Not Let Doubts Destroy Your Faith ***

. He writes about the wonderful privilege we have of freely approaching God for help in time of trial. But, James warns, **when you do pray to God**, “keep on asking in faith, not doubting at all.” Doubts in our relationship with God make us “like a wave of the sea driven by the wind and blown about.” We become like “an indecisive man, unsteady in all his ways.” (James 1:6, 8) We develop an uncertainty of belief that leaves us floundering. Then, as happened to Eve, we become **vulnerable to all sorts of demonic teachings and philosophies**.

e. SPEAKING IN TONGUES

f. SINGING OR HUMMING

***** w12 8/1 p. 29 Champions of the Truth *****

Note this detail: They did not just pray, they sang. Their singing was loud enough for other prisoners to hear. Most of us, Brother Morris commented, do not have trained voices, but **we should not shy away from singing, especially when going through a crisis**. Brother Morris concluded by reading the words of “Enduring to the End,” Song number 135 in the songbook Sing to Jehovah.

***** w10 12/15 p. 22 par. 13 Sing to Jehovah! *****

learning the words of at least some of the songs can be an excellent way to **sound down *the truth* into our hearts**.

7. REJECTION OF RATIONAL ANALYSIS, CRITICAL THINKING, CONSTRUCTIVE CRITICISM

***** w12 5/15 p. 26 par. 13 Are You Reflecting the Glory of Jehovah? *****

We are not benefited by trying to refute the arguments of apostates or those who are critical of Jehovah’s organization. In fact, it is spiritually dangerous and improper to peruse their information, whether it appears in written form or it is found on the Internet.

***** w93 10/1 p. 19 par. 15 “Search Through Me, O God” *****

May no man “delude you with persuasive arguments”! ... True Christians share Jehovah’s feelings toward such apostates; **they are not curious about apostate ideas**. On the contrary, they “feel a loathing” toward those who have made themselves God’s enemies, but they leave it to Jehovah to execute vengeance.

***** w67 6/15 p. 371 par. 22 Firm in Faith Despite Opposition *****

a person’s faith can be weakened by what he reads and takes into his mind, dwelling upon “higher criticism,” relying on worldly philosophers. It should be remembered that, when we are reading a book, the author of the book becomes one’s teacher, and for this reason great care should be taken in selecting reading matter. When the source of such

information is from persons outside of Jehovah's organization or from those that may have crept into the organization for injurious purposes

8. FORBID CRITICAL QUESTIONS ABOUT LEADER, DOCTRINE, OR POLICY ALLOWED

***** w92 7/15 pp. 12-13 par. 19 Christ Hated Lawlessness—Do You? *****

Being imperfect, our hearts could easily have a **tendency toward being critical** of our brothers. As individuals, those of “the faithful and discreet slave” are imperfect humans. (Matthew 24:45-47) But this class is faithful and discreet. Apostates capitalize on **errors or seeming mistakes made by brothers who take the lead**. Our safety lies in **avoiding apostate propaganda as though it were poison**, which in fact it is

***** w92 11/15 pp. 19-20 par. 7 Serve Jehovah Loyally *****

Especially should appointed elders appreciate the nourishing spiritual food provided by God through the faithful slave. Years ago a few elders lacked such appreciation. One observer noted that these men “were **critical of the articles in The Watchtower, not wanting to accept it as . . . God's channel of truth**, always trying to influence others in their way of thinking.” However, loyal elders **never** try to influence others to **reject any of the spiritual food provided by God through the faithful slave**.

***** w86 3/15 p. 19 par. 14 Allow No Place for the Devil! *****

More importantly, what will you do if you hear such criticism? If a person is questioning whether we are living in “the last days” of this system, or perhaps is entertaining ideas that God is so merciful that he surely will not cause the death of so many millions of people during the “great tribulation,” then this individual already has prepared his heart to listen to such criticisms.

9. LABELING ALTERNATIVE BELIEF SYSTEMS AS ILLEGITIMATE, EVIL, OR NOT USEFUL

***** w89 4/15 p. 18 A Resolution *****

(1) **WE ABHOR** the reproach that **Babylon the Great, and Christendom in particular**, has cast upon the name of the one true and living God, Jehovah. For our part, **WE AFFIRM** wholeheartedly, in the words of Revelation 4:11: “You are worthy, Jehovah, even our God, to receive the glory and the honor and the power.”

***** w06 3/15 p. 28 par. 7 Keep Clear of False Worship! *****

7 The Scriptural description of Babylon the Great fits the world's collective body of false religion. Although the thousands of religions are not formally united as one world organization, they are inseparably joined in purpose and deed. As depicted by the immoral woman in Revelation, false religion has tremendous influence over governments. Resembling a woman not faithful to her marriage vows, **false religion has prostituted herself** by forming alliances

with one political power after another. “Adulteresses, do you not know that the friendship with the world is enmity with God?” wrote the disciple James. “Whoever, therefore, wants to be a friend of the world is constituting himself an enemy of God.”—James 4:4.

Emotional Control

1. MANIPULATE AND NARROW THE RANGE OF FEELINGS – SOME EMOTIONS AND/OR NEEDS ARE DEEMED AS EVIL, WRONG OR SELFISH

The ‘best life ever’ is depicted as recruiting new members in countries with poor internet access. Heaven forbid Jehovah’s Witnesses setup an orphanage or soup kitchen to actually feed people.

<https://www.jw.org/en/bible-teachings/family/teenagers/what-your-peers-say/video-best-life-ever/>

*** w07 2/1 p. 5 Why Be Truthful? ***

What about today? Do you not agree that greed and **selfish ambition** are still very much the motives that impel many people to lie? **Greedy business, corrupt politics, and false religion are rife with deception, falsehood, manipulation, and fraud.** Why? Is it not because people are often motivated by greed and ambition to get ahead or to reach out for wealth, power, or position to which they are not entitled?

2. TEACH EMOTION-STOPPING TECHNIQUES TO BLOCK FEELINGS OF HOMESICKNESS, ANGER, DOUBT

*** w07 2/1 p. 10 What Can You Learn From Children? ***

What, then, if a Bible teaching seems hard to understand? “Children keep on asking ‘Why?’ until they find satisfying answers to their questions,” observes one child-care worker. We do well to imitate their example. So keep studying. Talk to experienced Christians. Ask Jehovah for wisdom.

*** w01 2/1 pp. 9-10 pars. 4-6 Have You Made the Truth Your Own? ***

If such doubts should arise, what can we do to remove them? ... We should **“keep on asking God” in prayer for faith and understanding and bolster our efforts in personal study regarding any questions or doubts.** We can also **ask for help from those who are strong** in the faith, never doubting that Jehovah will give us the support we need. ...Yes, our doubts will dissipate as we draw close to God through **study and prayer.**

*** w99 10/15 p. 26 Can You Serve in a Foreign Field? ***

Makiko, from Japan, humorously adds: “After spending a full day in field service, I am quite tired. **So when I get home and start feeling homesick, I usually fall asleep. Consequently, the feeling doesn’t last very long.**”

***** w14 7/15 p. 3 They Offered Themselves Willingly—In Micronesia *****

Only once in her life had she been away from her family—and that for just two weeks—and she had been homesick every day. Yet, her heartfelt desire to experience the joy of helping those who search for Jehovah won out

3. MAKE THE PERSON FEEL THAT PROBLEMS ARE ALWAYS THEIR OWN FAULT, NEVER THE LEADER'S OR THE GROUP'S FAULT

Note that many articles and talks equate 'the organization' with Jehovah God – 'God's visible organization'. Thus in many cases where individuals are told 'not to blame Jehovah', really the human organization is to blame. (See: false prophecy, deadly medical flip-flops etc.)

***** w98 9/1 p. 12 par. 19 Keep Safe as Part of God's Organization *****

Whom can we blame if we find wrong thinking taking root in our heart? **Satan**? To a degree, yes. He is "the ruler of the authority of the air" of this world, in which such attitudes are widespread. (Ephesians 2:1, 2; Titus 2:12) Usually, though, the roots of wrong thinking lie in **our own imperfect flesh**

***** w90 7/1 p. 13 Jehovah's Blessing Has Made Me Rich *****

As is true of many other missionaries, I have found that the greatest challenge may not be the heat or the insects, the cold or the altitude, or even the disease and the poverty. Rather, it can be personality conflicts. **'Why do such difficulties arise in Jehovah's organization?'** I wondered, and **I even began to doubt that Jehovah** was making me rich with blessings. Then I recalled the scripture about Jehovah's blessing at Proverbs 10:22. The second part of the verse says, "And he adds no pain with it." **So we should not blame Jehovah for these difficulties**

***** w92 11/15 p. 14 par. 6 Jehovah Is Not to Blame *****

As Jehovah's present-day dedicated servants, we also are imperfect and therefore make mistakes. Like Lot, for instance, we may make a bad choice as to our place of residence. Perhaps we pass up an opportunity to expand our sacred service to God

4. PROMOTE FEELINGS OF GUILT OR UNWORTHINESS, SUCH AS

a. IDENTITY GUILT

b. YOU ARE NOT LIVING UP TO YOUR POTENTIAL

***** w14 1/15 p. 20 par. 13 Making Wise Choices During Youth *****

What would you like to do for Jehovah during your youth? Perhaps your goal is to be a pioneer. You may want to work in a foreign-language territory. Or perhaps you see ways to **serve more**

fully in your present congregation. Whatever your goal in God's service, you will need a way to earn a living. How much training will you need? What will you choose?

***** w14 10/15 p. 3 They Offered Themselves Willingly—In Taiwan *****

“We had part-time secular work and lived a comfortable life,” relates Choong Keon. “Where we lived, the weather was great and the lifestyle easygoing. We enjoyed being close to our family and friends.” Still, Choong Keon and Julie **felt uneasy. Why?** They knew that their circumstances allowed them to **do more in Jehovah's service**, but they hesitated to make the needed changes.

***** w14 10/15 p. 27 par. 17 Cherish Your Privilege of Working With Jehovah! *****

As long as Satan's world exists, our possibilities of service to Jehovah may be limited. We may have no control over our family responsibilities, health, or other circumstances. But that is no reason to be unduly discouraged. Never **underestimate your potential for working with God** by bearing witness to his name and making known his Kingdom at every opportunity. **Of prime importance is that you are working with him to the extent possible for you personally** and that you are praying for his blessing to be with your brothers who are able to do more than you can.

c. YOUR FAMILY IS DEFICIENT

***** w09 10/15 p. 17 par. 19 “You Are My Friends” *****

When you first began associating with Jehovah's organization, how did your relatives react? Hopefully, they supported your efforts to draw close to God and Christ. But Jesus warned that sometimes **“a man's enemies will be persons of his own household.”** (Matt. 10:36) How comforting to know that within the congregation, we can find those who will stick closer to us than a literal brother

***** w14 4/15 pp. 5-6 par. 12 Imitate the Faith of Moses *****

Some serve as full-time ministers. Mature baptized brothers serve others in the congregation as ministerial servants and elders. **However, your unbelieving family and others may question the value of these privileges or even reproach you for your self-sacrifice.** (Matt. 10:34-37) If they succeed in discouraging you, you could begin to wonder whether your sacrifices are worthwhile or if you can really carry out your assignment. If that happens to you, how will faith help you to persevere?

***** w12 2/15 p. 27 par. 5 Happiness Is Possible in a Divided Household *****

We need to make an earnest effort to cultivate a peaceful relationship with unbelieving family members. This may present a challenge because what they want us to do may at times conflict with Bible principles. **Our holding firmly to right principles may upset some unbelieving family members, but such a stand promotes peace in the long run.**

***** w12 2/15 p. 27 par. 6 Happiness Is Possible in a Divided Household *****

Even new Bible students can show discernment in this regard. Some unbelieving husbands or wives may not object to having their mate study the Bible. They may even acknowledge that this could be good for the family. **Others, however, may manifest hostility.** Esther, who is now a Witness, admits that she reacted in “pure anger” when her husband began studying the Bible with Jehovah’s Witnesses. **“I either threw out his literature or burned it,”** she says. Howard, who at first opposed his wife’s Bible study, remarks: **“Many husbands are afraid that their wives are being tricked into joining a religious sect.** A husband may not know how to react to this supposed threat and may become antagonistic.”

d. YOUR PAST IS SUSPECT

***** w12 3/15 p. 27 par. 10 Do Not Look at “the Things Behind” *****

What is the lesson for us today? When faced with difficulties and problems, let us not fixate on what may appear to have been positive things in the past—perhaps even before we came to a knowledge of the truth. Although it is not wrong to meditate on the lessons we have learned from past experiences or to savor cherished memories, we need to maintain a balanced, realistic view of the past. **Otherwise, we could accentuate our dissatisfaction with our present circumstances and be tempted to return to our former way of life**

e. YOUR AFFILIATIONS ARE UNWISE

***** w11 6/15 p. 32 “Make Your Way Successful”—How? *****

A traveling overseer helped Wiktor, mentioned earlier. The overseer commented to him: “You speak passionately about your career in volleyball.” “That shook me up,” says Wiktor. “I realized that I had gone too far. Soon, I **broke off association with worldly friends at the club** and sought out friends in the congregation.” Today, Wiktor is serving Jehovah zealously in his congregation. He recommends: “Ask your friends, your parents, or the congregation elders if they have observed whether your school activities draw you closer to Jehovah or away from him.”

f. YOUR THOUGHTS, FEELINGS, ACTIONS ARE IRRELEVANT OR SELFISH

***** w78 5/1 p. 21 par. 4 “Roll Your Works upon Jehovah” *****

This is a very serious matter. If a Christian does not do this, he may **begin relying too much on himself, thinking, perhaps not even consciously, of his own importance or ability.** If his plans appear to succeed, he may take the credit to himself, only to find out later that his “success” was only temporary or superficial. **Such success does not bring glory to God and does not truly help others.**

g. SOCIAL GUILT

***** w88 1/1 pp. 28-29 par. 14 Keep On Preaching the Kingdom *****

All of these, together with more than three million of their companions who have the hope of surviving the end of this system of things and receiving everlasting life on earth, **must never slack off from preaching the good news of God’s Kingdom and warning of the coming execution of his judgment. In this way they avoid bloodguilt.**

h. HISTORICAL GUILT

5. INSTILL FEAR, SUCH AS FEAR OF:

a. THINKING INDEPENDENTLY

***** w83 1/15 p. 27 pars. 19-20 Armed for the Fight Against Wicked Spirits *****

Yet there are some who point out that the organization has had to make adjustments before, and so they argue: “This shows that we have to make up our own mind on what to believe.” **This is independent thinking. Why is it so dangerous?**

Such thinking is an evidence of **pride.** And the Bible says: “Pride is before a crash, and a haughty spirit before stumbling.” (Proverbs 16:18) If we get to thinking that we know better than the organization, we should ask ourselves: “Where did we learn Bible truth in the first place? Would we know the way of the truth if it had not been for guidance from the organization? Really, can we get along without the direction of **God’s organization?**” **No, we cannot!**

b. THE OUTSIDE WORLD

***** w86 3/15 p. 20 par. 17 Allow No Place for the Devil! *****

Only Jehovah’s people have completely broken free from Babylonish superstitions. Only they have an organization that completely abides by what God’s Word has to say on sexual immorality, abortions, drunkenness, stealing, idolatry, racial prejudice, and other worldly pursuits and practices. **And they alone are the ones obeying the command to preach the good news of Jehovah’s Kingdom.** (Matthew 24:14) God’s own Word unquestionably points to Jehovah’s Witnesses as the one organized people that have his blessing!

c. ENEMIES

***** yb11 p. 27 Highlights of the Past Year *****

These court decisions have made it impossible, for the time being, to import any of the listed publications into Russia. In addition, the court decisions have emboldened **Christ's enemies to threaten and attack his peaceful followers in various cities**

***** yb85 p. 4 1985 Yearbook of Jehovah's Witnesses *****

A great mountain of **opposition was raised by Satan's wicked organization against Jehovah's tiny army of illuminators** right from the beginning of their public activities back in 1919. **Without divine protection** and backing, the entire organization that Jehovah was using to advance his Kingdom interests would have been destroyed by Satan's hordes.

***** km 5/70 p. 5 Revelation—Does It Make You Happy? *****

But other enemies come into view. One is the **Devil's beastly political organization** out of the sea. It wars against Christians, who thus need endurance and faith

d. LOSING ONE'S SALVATION

***** w83 2/15 p. 12 You Can Live Forever in Paradise on Earth—But How? *****

A third requirement is that we be associated with God's channel, his organization. God has always used an organization. For example, only those in the ark in Noah's day survived the Flood, and only those associated with the Christian congregation in the first century had God's favor. (Acts 4:12) Similarly, Jehovah is using only one organization today to accomplish his will. **To receive everlasting life in the earthly Paradise we must identify that organization and serve God as part of it.**

***** w14 5/15 p. 29 par. 14 Are You Moving Ahead With Jehovah's Organization? *****

Brother Pryce Hughes, who resolutely stuck to God and kept in step with His organization, once wrote: "I am so thankful that I have lived in the knowledge of Jehovah's purposes from those early days just prior to 1914 . . . If one thing has been most important to me, it has been the matter of keeping close to Jehovah's visible organization. My early experience taught me how unsound it is to rely on human reasoning. Once my mind had been resolved on that point, I determined to stay by the faithful organization. **How else can one get Jehovah's favor and blessing?**"

e. LEAVING OR BEING SHUNNED BY THE GROUP

***** km 8/02 p. 3 par. 3 Display Christian Loyalty When a Relative Is Disfellowshipped *****

This means that loyal Christians do not have spiritual fellowship with anyone who has been expelled from the congregation. But more is involved. God's Word states that we should 'not even eat with such a man.' (1 Cor. 5:11) Hence, we also **avoid social fellowship with an expelled person**. This would rule out joining him in a picnic, party, ball game, or trip to the mall or theater or sitting down to a meal with him either in the home or at a restaurant.

***** Iv pp. 208-209 How to Treat a Disfellowshipped Person *****

In other cases, the disfellowshipped relative may be living outside the immediate family circle and home. Although there might be a need for limited contact on some rare occasion to care for a necessary family matter, **any such contact should be kept to a minimum**. Loyal Christian family members do not look for excuses to have dealings with a disfellowshipped relative not living at home. Rather, loyalty to Jehovah and his organization moves them to uphold the Scriptural arrangement of disfellowshipping. Their loyal course has the best interests of the wrongdoer at heart and may help him to benefit from the discipline received.

f. OTHER'S DISAPPROVAL

6. EXTREMES OF EMOTIONAL HIGHS AND LOWS – LOVE BOMBING AND PRAISE ONE MOMENT AND THEN DECLARING YOU ARE HORRIBLE SINNER

***** yb14 p. 146 From Child Soldier to Regular Pioneer *****

Most people feared and despised us rebels, yet he was reaching out to help us spiritually. When he invited me to a meeting, I accepted. **I don't remember what was said at the meeting, but I clearly remember the warm welcome I received.**

***** yb97 p. 51 Worldwide Report *****

They want newly interested ones to appreciate that too, so they exert themselves to make the new ones feel comfortable. One of these wrote, saying: **"The first time I visited the Kingdom Hall I was really struck by all the happy faces and the love that was shown to me.** I came a few minutes late, so I sat down alone. Right away a young couple handed me a Bible and a copy of The Watchtower. After the meeting **almost everyone in the Kingdom Hall came up to me and shook my hand** and made my stay a most pleasant one.

***** w89 6/15 p. 20 par. 17 "Behave in a Manner Worthy of the Good News" *****

Elsewhere, a man came to a Kingdom Hall for the first time and said afterward: **"I met more genuinely loving people, total strangers, in one day than I had ever met in the church in which I was raised."** The result? "It was apparent that I had found the truth," he said. This man changed his life course, and seven months later he dedicated his life to Jehovah and was baptized

7. RITUALISTIC AND SOMETIMES PUBLIC CONFESSION OF SINS

***** w10 9/1 p. 23 Is Confession of Sins Required by God? *****

Yes, forgiveness is contingent not only on one's recognizing and confessing the sin but also on one's being willing to desist from the wrong course. This additional step is often difficult. But there is help.

Recall the words of the disciple James that we referred to earlier: "Openly confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may get healed." To those words, James added: "A righteous man's supplication, when it is at work, has much force." (James 5:16) The 'righteous man' can be one of "the older men of the congregation," whom James mentioned in verse 14. **In the Christian congregation, there are spiritually "older men," or elders, appointed to assist those who want to gain God's forgiveness.**

8. PHOBIA INDOCTRINATION: INCULCATING IRRATIONAL FEARS ABOUT LEAVING THE GROUP OR QUESTIONING THE LEADER'S AUTHORITY

a. NO HAPPINESS OR FULFILLMENT POSSIBLE OUTSIDE OF THE GROUP

***** g 5/11 p. 21 Why Are Jesus' True Followers Hated? *****

How sad that people hate Jehovah's servants for not embracing a world that is riddled with corruption, injustice, and violence and that is ruled by Satan! Many sincere people want to make the world a better place, but they are no match for its unseen ruler. Only Jehovah God can get rid of Satan—and he will, by utterly destroying him, as if by fire!

***** w86 5/1 p. 20 par. 19 'Keep Spotless, Unblemished, and in Peace' *****

If we realize that worldly attitudes are influencing us, or if some loving fellow believer has drawn this to our attention, it would be wise to be specific about this problem in our prayers by asking Jehovah to help us overcome these leanings. Surely, it would be appropriate to ask for God's spirit and for his help in cultivating its fruitage that is so unlike worldly attitudes and ways.

***** w13 8/15 p. 27 par. 18 Consider What Kind of Person You Ought to Be *****

Another factor that helps us to resist "the things in the world" is that we keep in mind John's inspired words: "The world is passing away and so is its desire, but he that does the will of God remains forever." (1 John 2:17) Satan's system seems to be permanent and real. Nevertheless, one day it will come to an end. Nothing that Satan's world has to offer has permanence. Remembering that fact will help us not to be seduced by the Devil's enticements.

b. TERRIBLE CONSEQUENCES IF YOU LEAVE: HELL, DEMON POSSESSION, INCURABLE DISEASES, ACCIDENTS, SUICIDE, INSANITY, 10,000 REINCARNATIONS, ETC.

***** w01 7/1 p. 20 Do Not Let Doubts Destroy Your Faith *****

To ignore what appears to be a trivial infection, to do nothing about nagging doubts, may have disastrous consequences

***** w10 6/15 p. 8 par. 11 Find Security Among God’s People *****

All those immorally leaving Jehovah, the psalmist perceived, will inevitably come to their end in “sudden terrors,” whereas those serving Jehovah will be supported by him. (Read Psalm 73:16-19, 27, 28.) No doubt you have seen the truth of that statement. Living for self without regard for divine law might seem attractive to many, but the bad consequences of such a course are inescapable.—Gal. 6:7-9.

c. SHUNNING OF THOSE WHO LEAVE; FEAR OF BEING REJECTED BY FRIENDS, PEERS, AND FAMILY

This has been covered in detail already

d. NEVER A LEGITIMATE REASON TO LEAVE; THOSE WHO LEAVE ARE WEAK, UNDISCIPLINED, UNSPIRITUAL, WORLDLY, BRAINWASHED BY FAMILY OR COUNSELOR, OR SEDUCED BY MONEY, SEX, OR ROCK AND ROLL

***** w88 3/15 pp. 18-19 par. 13 Serving as Jehovah’s Trusting Fellow Workers *****

Why are such **persons not justified in leaving God’s organization**? Because his Word assures us: “Abundant peace belongs to those loving [Jehovah’s] law, and for them there is no stumbling block.” (Psalm 119:165) Moreover, we are commanded to “have intense love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins.” (1 Peter 4:8; Proverbs 10:12) Furthermore, suppose a person was to separate himself from Jehovah’s people. **Where could he go?** Is he not faced with the same issue that confronted Jesus’ apostles when he asked them if they also wanted to leave him? The apostle Peter rightly replied: “Lord, whom shall we go away to? You have sayings of everlasting life.” (John 6:68) There is nowhere else to go but to “Babylon the Great,” the world empire of false religion, or into the clutches of Satan’s political “wild beast.” (Revelation 13:1; 18:1-5) Largely, **disloyal ones** who have left Jehovah’s visible organization have made common cause with those in God-dishonoring “Babylon the Great.”

***** w86 8/1 p. 12 par. 11 Youths—Do Not Be Deceived *****

How does Satan often allure or entice younger ones into wrongdoing? He does so by making what God condemns, activities that can lead to losing God’s approval, appear to be very attractive, yet at the same time harmless, even as the fruit appeared to Eve. And as he did with Eve, he will try to promote the idea that you are needlessly missing out on something **pleasurable. Thus, in a cunning, deceitful way Satan endeavors to undermine your respect** for Jehovah’s Word, as well as for the instructions given by your God-fearing parents and **God’s organization**. So with good reason the Bible urges, “Stand firm against the machinations [or, as The Kingdom Interlinear Translation of the Greek Scriptures says, “crafty acts”] of the Devil.”

e. THREATS OF HARM TO EX-MEMBER AND FAMILY



CONCLUSION

We have seen ample evidence that the WTBS was almost all traits of a desctrutive mind control group. Ask yourself the following question:

How does the Governing Body and Watchtower Bible and Tract Society compare against this standard set out in the 1986 Watchtower?

***** w86 5/15 p. 25 Are Religious Councils Approved by God? *****

H. G. Wells held that the spirit of Constantine dominated church affairs, and he observed: “The idea of stamping out all controversy and division, **stamping out all thought, by imposing one dogmatic creed upon all believers**, . . . is the idea of the single-handed man who feels that to work at all **he must be free from opposition and criticism**. The history of the Church under [Constantine’s] influence becomes now therefore a history of the violent struggles that were bound to follow upon his sudden and rough summons to unanimity. From him the Church acquired the disposition to be **authoritative and unquestioned, to develop a centralized organization** and run parallel to the empire.”

Charges of heresy proved to be a ruthless scheme to eliminate opponents who dared to defy Christendom’s church councils. **Any who expressed differing opinions or even attempted to present Scriptural proof refuting the dogmas and canons (church laws) of the councils were branded as heretics.**

SOURCES:

2014 Watchtower Library CD ROM

<https://www.freedomofmind.com/Info/BITE/bitemodel.php>

<http://www.jwfacts.com/watchtower/misquotes-deception-lies.php>