

**INQUIRY INTO THE RECRUITMENT METHODS AND IMPACTS OF
CULTS AND ORGANISED FRINGE GROUPS**

Name: Name withheld

Date Received: 3 May 2025

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Submission Text: I was an active publisher of the Jehovah's Witnesses organization for 55 years; until a group of elders took it upon themselves to judge me as "unfit to be a JW". As a veteran instructor of Biblical theology and principles of conduct for over 30 years as an elder, ministerial servant and public speaker; I understood the Biblical reasons why we, if at all, would choose to expel a member publicly. While they invoke 'scriptural reasons' for choosing to shun their members; I can tell you that in most cases it's a matter of the overseers or elders' personal opinions and the corporate offices 'personal interpretations' of what constitutes a "sin", when they decide to expel and shun a member. In order to be reinstated, you have to request it in writing and then meet with same men to explain why you're sorry for what you did and how; if at all you've changed your behavior.

If however, the basis for their 'disfellowshipping' and shunning you publicly was based ON THEIR PERSONAL MISUNDERSTANDING AND MISAPPLICATION OF SCRIPTURES IN THE FIRST PLACE; then it's hard to be sorry for doing something that God, Jesus Christ and the inspired apostles in scripture DIDN'T OR NEVER CONDEMNED IN THE FIRST PLACE! I believe in my case; that either my wife or one gestapo like elder was following me on one of my social media sites, and believed that because I was calling out the reprehensibility and wrongdoing of the elders and the JW's 'governing body' in their enforcing man made rules over INSPIRED SCRIPTURE; that I was now "an apostate" in their fleshly view. You see, independent, critical thinking is discouraged in this organization. If a member discerns that an official teaching actually contradicts Biblical scripture, and speaks out about it; the leaders consider you an "apostate" and will not retain you as an approved member. The Bible only condemns apostasy from the Almighty God, Jehovah and His son Jesus Christ. NOT APOSTASY from man made sects! But then, in their hypocrisy; if the governing body in New York decide that their teachings were wrong and needed to be changed; it's called "new light" and everyone in the organization accepts it blindly as a new revelation from God! And it could be the VERY SAME TEACHING that the member publisher questioned themselves!

The "governing body"'s teachings are placed at the same level as Jesus Christ and Jehovah God. If you disobey them, you are believed to be disobeying God! Even if you can prove from the scriptures that they are wrong!! They thereby instill a morbid fear of disagreeing with any teaching officially published by the Watchtower organization.

So now what happens is, the brainwashed and mind controlled members think that by shunning, ignoring and ostracizing even members of their immediate family; they are obeying the Almighty God. In my case, all of my siblings; even though I sent them a test text letter informing them that I was reinstated; still somehow must have consulted with my

brain dead wife; who is fostering a slanderous lie that I'm not reinstated and that I'm an apostate.

As a long time member of this organization, I've devoted tens of thousands of hours voluntarily in my life to preach, teach and instruct congregation members in Biblical teachings. Volunteered hundreds of hours in building Kingdom Halls (worship buildings) as a skilled tradesman. Never paid a dime for that. Never paid for times of financial turmoil and distress; as there are NO CHARITABLE FUND ACCOUNTS set aside for those who encounter severe needs from time to time in their lives. As a result I've made good friends in multiple congregations across the State of Michigan for decades. Now, because of this SLANDEROUS ACCUSATION that I AM NO LONGER ONE OF JEHOVAH GOD'S WITNESSES; I have lost literally hundreds of my close spiritual friends! I've recently underwent spine surgery disabling me from working; and my wife, grown kids, grandchildren, and my siblings who live in other States NEVER ONCE CALLED ME, TEXTED ME OR E-MAILED ME WITH ANY CONCERN! THIS IS EMOTIONAL BLACK MAIL AND HOLDING MY DEAR FRIENDS AND FAMILY HOSTAGE because of propagating a lie based on the personal opinions of elders!

This organization IS NOT A CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION, THEY VIOLATE BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS AND NEEDS BY BROADCASTING TO EVERYONE THAT YOU ARE NOW AN EVIL PERSON because a few Biblically ignorant and haughty men decided that you offended their personal conscience and wrong interpretation of scripture!! The JW organization DOES NOT DESERVE RECOGNITION AS HUMANITARIAN, CHARITABLE, or even a CHRISTIAN RELIGION; because they continually VIOLATE MOST STANDARDS TAUGHT BY THE FOUNDER OF CHRISTIANITY; Jesus Christ himself! THEY FIT THE DEFINITION OF A CULT; AS DEFINED BY ALL INFORMED PSYCHOLOGISTS AND SPECIALISTS IN THE FIELD. They PROHIBIT FREEDOM OF WORSHIP from their own members because of their "obey us or else" pervasive teachings.