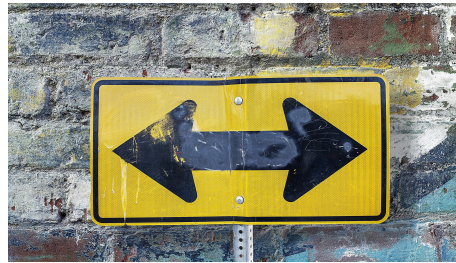

7 *Q: Do you have a personal relationship with God?*

A: Every Jew has a personal relationship with God, since we all 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.

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Look Both Ways...

If you have been confronted or confused by a cult or a deceptive missionary group like Jews for Jesus and need information beyond the scope of the Q&A provide in this brief pamphlet, **Jews for Judaism** is the Jewish community's resource that has the specialized experience and expertise to help you.

For more information, or to schedule a private consultation, contact Jews for Judaism directly.



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7 ANSWERS

to

Religious Coercion

**Cults and Deceptive
Missionaries**



This pamphlet is part of a series on applying critical thinking to life-challenges. For example, you may encounter religious coercion by cults, zealous self-help movements, and deceptive missionaries.

At first, their arguments may sound confusing or convincing. However, as with any argument, it is essential to step back, look both ways, and hear both sides.

King Solomon put it this way, *“the first to bring an argument sounds right, until someone comes and examines him”* (Proverbs 18:17).

This extremely practical approach to critical thinking can empower you to make smart choices.

If you or someone you know encounters an aggressive missionary, the following Q&A is provided to assist you, a family member or friend to answer their questions and make informed decisions.



Cults and Deceptive Missionaries

1. 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.

2. Q: Doesn't the Jewish Bible prove that Jesus is the Messiah?

A: Actually, 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, Jewish Scriptures do not point to Jesus and in fact clearly disqualify him as the Jewish Messiah.

3. 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,” A Jew for Jesus has crossed an unbreachable chasm by accepting a belief idolatrous for Jews.

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

A: Teshuvah 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.

5. 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. Chapter 13)

6. 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.