



We Don't Pledge Allegiance

by Tal Davis

Understanding Jehovah's Witnesses in Your School

It was the first game for the Junior Hockey League in Toronto, Ontario. The 12-year-old players sat in their team boxes by the ice rink as the public address announced, "Everyone please stand and sing the national anthem."

All the players and spectators stood and sang together "O Canada!" However, one player, Michael, remained seated and did not stand or sing.

Several of his teammates confronted him afterward and asked, "Hey ... why didn't you stand up and sing with us?"

"It's against my faith," he replied. "I love hockey, but my family and I are Jehovah's Witnesses. We don't pledge allegiance to the flag of any country or sing national songs."

The Bible teaches that Jesus was the earthly coming of God as a man.

My Friend Is a Jehovah's Witness

You may know someone in your school or neighborhood who is a Jehovah's Witness. If so, respect his right not to participate in activities he considers wrong. However, don't be afraid to ask him why he believes that way. Perhaps you may be able to tell him what you believe, especially about Jesus. Tell him that while you openly honor your country and flag, you pledge your highest allegiance to Jesus as Lord.

Are Jehovah's Witnesses Christians?

Perhaps you know kids in your school who are Jehovah's Witnesses and don't participate in a lot of school activities. Not only do they not pledge to the flag or sing national anthems, but they are also excused from class birthday parties and all holiday events.

Jehovah's Witnesses call themselves Christians, but they have basic beliefs that are different from most Christian churches. For instance, they teach that members of their group should never give allegiance to any nation or its symbols. They believe the only object of their loyalty must be God, whom they call by the Old Testament name Jehovah.

This rejection of earthly governments by Jehovah's Witnesses is unusual, but it is only a minor issue compared to what they believe about Jesus Christ. Jehovah's Witnesses claim that the Bible does not teach that Jesus was God. The Bible, however, clearly teaches that Jesus was the earthly coming of God as a man. (Read John 1:1; John 1:14; and Colossians 2:9.)

Jehovah's Witnesses also do not believe that God is a Trinity. The Trinity is the Christian belief that there is One God who exists in three Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Jehovah's Witnesses consider this a false idea and argue that Jehovah God is only one person. They maintain that Jesus is not God and neither is the Holy Spirit. In fact, they do not regard the Holy Spirit as a person at all, only God's "active force," as stated in one of their books of authority. ¹