

# Reference Document

## “No Part of the World”

Every Claim, Source, and Verification Status

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### How to Use This Document

Each entry identifies a specific factual claim made in the video, the source it is based on, where to verify it, and any notes on confidence level. Claims are listed in the order they appear in the video.

#### Verification levels:

- **PRIMARY** — Sourced from official Watchtower publications (including internal manuals such as *Shepherd the Flock of God*), the organization’s own websites and videos, court rulings, government and regulatory records, or major survey research. Primary sources can stand on their own.
- **SECONDARY** — Sourced from established documentation and analysis resources, or reputable journalism (Associated Press, BBC, Religion News Service, and similar). Secondary sources support claims and are strongest when paired with a primary source or an independent second source.

## SECTION 1: The Opening Clips

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**The official JW Pressroom video presents Jehovah’s Witnesses as ‘your classmate, your teacher, your doctor, your lawyer, your firefighter.’**

- **Source:** JW Pressroom — official media account of Jehovah’s Witnesses (promotional video, 2026)
- **Verify at:** [https://www.instagram.com/jw\\_pressroom/](https://www.instagram.com/jw_pressroom/)
- **Verification:** **PRIMARY** — the organization’s own published promotional video (also posted on TikTok, @jw\_pressroom)
- **Key quote:** “I’m your classmate. I’m your teacher. I am your doctor. I’m your lawyer. I’m your firefighter... We are Jehovah’s Witnesses.”

**In 2015, Governing Body member Anthony Morris III stated on JW Broadcasting that Witnesses would not need doctors or lawyers after Armageddon.**

- **Source:** Anthony Morris III, *JW Broadcasting* (2015); transcript preserved at JW Changes
- **Verify at:** <https://www.jwchanges.com/2015/12/07/watchtower-and-higher-education/>
- **Verification:** **SECONDARY** — the original JW Broadcasting segment was later removed by Watchtower; the transcript is preserved and the clip is shown in the video
- **Key quote:** “We need construction skills around the world right now. We will not need doctors or lawyers after Armageddon.”

## SECTION 2: ‘No Part of the World’ — The Foundational Doctrine

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**The phrase ‘no part of the world’ comes from John 17:16 and is foundational to Jehovah’s Witness identity.**

- **Source:** *New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures*, John 17:16
- **Verify at:** <https://www.jw.org/en/library/bible/study-bible/books/john/17/>
- **Verification:** **PRIMARY** — the organization’s own Bible translation
- **Key quote:** “They are no part of the world, just as I am no part of the world.”

**Watchtower teaches that mainstream religion is ‘part of the world’ and that, ‘in sharp contrast,’ true followers are ‘no part of the world’ — using this as the dividing line between the true religion and false ones.**

- **Source:** *Jehovah’s Witnesses—Proclaimers of God’s Kingdom* (1993), ‘They Are No Part of the World’
- **Verify at:** <https://www.jw.org/en/library/books/Jehovahs-Witnesses-Proclaimers-of-Gods-Kingdom/Gaining-Accurate-Knowledge-of-Gods-Word-and-Applying-It/They-Are-No-Part-of-the-World/>
- **Verification: PRIMARY** — the organization’s own published history
- **Key quote:** *“Modern-day religion is, for the most part, very much a part of the world, so it shares in the world’s celebrations and reflects its nationalistic spirit... In sharp contrast, Jesus said of his true followers: ‘They are no part of the world...’”*

**Watchtower has described Jehovah’s Witnesses as ‘unique’ in living up to Christ’s ‘no part of the world’ description, setting them apart from ‘just about every denomination.’**

- **Source:** *The Watchtower*, ‘Watching the World’ column (early 1980s)
- **Verify at:** <https://wol.jw.org/en/wol/d/r1/lp-e/101981172>
- **Verification: PRIMARY** — Watchtower publication, accessible on the Watchtower Online Library
- **Note:** The quotation appears in the ‘Watching the World’ news column; the surrounding context places it in the early 1980s.
- **Key quote:** *“...unique in living up to Christ’s description of those truly his disciples.”*

**Watchtower identifies all other religion as ‘Babylon the Great’ and lists her ‘friendship with the world’ (James 4:4) among her defining sins.**

- **Source:** *The Watchtower*, ‘The Infamous Harlot—Her Destruction’ (1989)
- **Verify at:** <https://wol.jw.org/en/wol/d/r1/lp-e/1989282>
- **Verification: PRIMARY** — Watchtower publication, accessible on the Watchtower Online Library
- **Key quote:** *“Her friendship with the world, her false doctrines, her moral permissiveness, her philandering with the political powers—none of these things are tolerated by Jehovah.”*

## SECTION 3: What They Told Their Own People

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**For decades, Watchtower publications and official congregation letters warned that the world’s ‘materialistic spirit’ drives people to seek higher education ‘at any cost.’**

- **Source:** Christian Congregation of Jehovah’s Witnesses body-of-elders letter, documented in AvoidJW, ‘Forbidding Education’
- **Verify at:** <https://avoidjw.org/news/forbidding-education/>
- **Verification: SECONDARY** — analysis reproducing the text of an official congregation letter
- **Key quote:** *“the world’s materialistic spirit ... drives many to seek higher education at any cost”*

**As recently as 2023, Governing Body member Stephen Lett compared pursuing higher education to swimming through a ‘school of hungry sharks.’**

- **Source:** M. Stephen Lett, Governing Body of Jehovah’s Witnesses (2023), documented at JWfacts
- **Verify at:** <https://www.jwfacts.com/watchtower/higher-education-university.php>
- **Verification: SECONDARY** — the quotation is documented and corroborated across multiple independent sources
- **Note:** Lett’s analogy held that even a high ‘survival rate’ would not justify the risk — framing university as a spiritual danger.
- **Key quote:** *“school of hungry sharks”*

## Elders and ministerial servants can have their congregation privileges removed in connection with higher education pursued by themselves or their family.

- **Source:** *Shepherd the Flock of God* (2019 ed.), ch. 8, 'Deletion of Elders and Ministerial Servants' — internal elders' manual; documented at JWfacts
- **Verify at:** <https://www.jwfacts.com/watchtower/higher-education-university.php>
- **Verification: PRIMARY** — internal Watchtower manual used by congregation elders
- **Key quote:** "Would an elder, a ministerial servant, or a pioneer continue to qualify to serve as such if he, his wife, or his children pursue higher education?"

## SECTION 4: What the Doctrine Produced — The Numbers

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### Jehovah's Witnesses are the least-educated major religious group in the United States, with roughly 12% holding a bachelor's degree or higher.

- **Source:** Pew Research Center, 'The most and least educated U.S. religious groups' (2016), based on the 2014 Religious Landscape Study
- **Verify at:** <https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2016/11/04/the-most-and-least-educated-u-s-religious-groups/>
- **Verification: PRIMARY** — a large national survey by an established research organization
- **Note:** Among the U.S. religious groups Pew studied, Jehovah's Witnesses ranked lowest for college education.

### Jehovah's Witnesses had one of the lowest household-income profiles of any U.S. religious group, with roughly half of Witness households earning under \$30,000 per year.

- **Source:** Pew Research Center, 'A closer look at Jehovah's Witnesses living in the U.S.' (2016)
- **Verify at:** <https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2016/04/26/a-closer-look-at-jehovahs-witnesses-living-in-the-u-s/>
- **Verification: PRIMARY** — established research organization, national survey data

## SECTION 5: What's Left of the Offer — Charity and Community

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### Watchtower's 'How Your Donations Are Used' series is overwhelmingly devoted to construction, Kingdom Halls, and branch and preaching facilities — not to feeding the poor or healing the sick.

- **Source:** [jw.org](http://jw.org), 'How Your Donations Are Used' (series)
- **Verify at:** <https://www.jw.org/en/library/series/how-your-donations-are-used/>
- **Verification: PRIMARY** — the organization's own published series
- **Note:** One article in the series states the organization 'avoid[s] the methods used by many churches' with respect to charity.

### Watchtower frames its disaster relief as directed 'especially toward those related to us in the faith,' while also stating it assists non-Witnesses.

- **Source:** [jw.org](http://jw.org), 'How Do Jehovah's Witnesses Assist With Disaster Relief?' (FAQ)
- **Verify at:** <https://www.jw.org/en/jehovahs-witnesses/faq/assist-with-disaster-relief/>
- **Verification: PRIMARY** — the organization's own published statement
- **Key quote:** "to both Witnesses and non-Witnesses ... but especially toward those related to us in the faith"

## SECTION 6: The Press Office

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## The JW Pressroom video closes by soliciting the world’s media for press inquiries and research resources.

- **Source:** JW Pressroom — official media account of Jehovah’s Witnesses (2026)
- **Verify at:** [https://www.instagram.com/jw\\_pressroom/](https://www.instagram.com/jw_pressroom/)
- **Verification: PRIMARY** — the organization’s own published video (also on TikTok, @jw\_pressroom)
- **Note:** The account’s own description identifies it as the official source for news, legal developments, and story leads about Jehovah’s Witnesses.
- **Key quote:** “For press inquiries and research resources, contact us at JW Pressroom.”

## Jehovah’s Witnesses handle media relations through official, centralized channels rather than through rank-and-file members.

- **Source:** JW Pressroom / official Jehovah’s Witnesses media channels
- **Verify at:** [https://www.instagram.com/jw\\_pressroom/](https://www.instagram.com/jw_pressroom/)
- **Verification: PRIMARY** — the existence of a single official press channel is verifiable on the account itself
- **Note:** The observation that members have historically been directed to refer media inquiries to the organization rather than speak independently reflects the creator’s firsthand experience as a former member.

## SECTION 7: The Pattern of Change

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### In December 2023, the Governing Body lifted the long-standing discouragement of beards, making it a personal decision.

- **Source:** 2023 Governing Body Update #8 (Stephen Lett), *JW Broadcasting*, December 15, 2023; documented at JWfacts
- **Verify at:** <https://www.jwfacts.com/watchtower/beards-jehovahs-witnesses.php>
- **Verification: SECONDARY** — documents the official December 2023 Governing Body Update
- **Key quote:** “whether a brother wears a beard is a personal decision.”

### In March 2026, Watchtower changed its blood policy to let members decide whether to store and reinfuse their own blood — a practice it had previously treated as conflicting with God’s law. The ban on transfusions of others’ blood remains.

- **Source:** Associated Press and BBC reporting on the Governing Body’s March 2026 announcement (Gerrit Lösch); Association for the Advancement of Blood & Biotherapies (AABB)
- **Verify at:** <https://www.aabb.org/news-resources/news/article/2026/03/24/jehovah-s-witnesses-to-permit-autologous-blood-transfusion>
- **Verification: SECONDARY** — multiple independent news organizations and the blood-banking professional association reported the official announcement
- **Key quote:** “Each Christian must decide for himself how his own blood will be used ... whether to allow his own blood to be removed, stored, and then given back to him.”

### Watchtower revised its disfellowshipping (‘removal’) practice in 2024, after the government of Norway moved to deny it state funding and registration over its shunning practices.

- **Source:** *The Watchtower*, August 2024 (Study Edition), disfellowshipping/removal articles; and Jehovah’s Witnesses, ‘Jehovah’s Witnesses to Appeal Unconstitutional Ruling in Norway’ (jw.org news, 2024)
- **Verify at:** <https://www.jw.org/en/news/region/norway/Jehovahs-Witnesses-to-Appeal-Unconstitutional-Ruling-in-Norway/>
- **Verification: PRIMARY** — the organization’s own statement of the Norway ruling and the disputed practice
- **Note:** The sequence is documented: Norway’s denial of funding and deregistration over disfellowshipping (2021–2024), followed by the August 2024 policy adjustment. The video presents this as a sequence of events.

**In August 2025, Governing Body member David Splane announced that ‘additional education’ is ‘a matter for personal decision’ and that members should not be judged for pursuing it.**

- **Source:** 2025 Governing Body Update #5 (David Splane), *JW Broadcasting*, August 22, 2025; documented at AvoidJW
- **Verify at:** <https://avoidjw.org/doctrine/higher-education-doctrinal-changes-governing-body-update-2025/>
- **Verification:** **SECONDARY** — analysis of the official August 2025 Governing Body Update
- **Key quote:** “additional education ... is a matter for personal decision.”

## SECTION 8: Analysis, Conclusions, and Predictions

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**The conclusion that, having abandoned its separateness, Watchtower no longer offers a compelling reason to join that mainstream churches do not already match — while offering less in community charity.**

- **Source:** Creator analysis / editorial opinion — not a factual claim requiring external verification
- **Verification:** **SECONDARY** — this is the creator’s conclusion, drawn from the documented facts cited throughout this document
- **Note:** Built on the ‘no part of the world’ doctrine, the professional-image contrast, the education and income data, and the absence of standing public charity — all sourced above.

**The prediction that further distinctive practices — such as the prohibitions on birthdays and Christmas, and the door-to-door preaching work — will eventually be relaxed or end.**

- **Source:** Creator analysis / editorial opinion — presented in the video explicitly as a prediction, not a statement of fact
- **Verification:** **SECONDARY** — a forward-looking prediction by the creator

**The observation that what now keeps many members is fear of losing family relationships (shunning) rather than the appeal of the teachings.**

- **Source:** Creator analysis / editorial opinion, informed by the documented disfellowshipping and shunning practice (see Section 7) and the creator’s firsthand experience
- **Verification:** **SECONDARY** — interpretation grounded in the sourced material on disfellowshipping and shunning

## SECTION 9: A Note on the Religion’s Origins

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**From the movement’s earliest days, members were taught that the greatest charity is the distribution of the organization’s literature; the wife of founder Charles Taze Russell wrote in 1898 that the group did no real charitable work.**

- **Source:** Maria Russell (1898), quoted in Watchtower Documents
- **Verify at:** <https://watchtowerdocuments.org/the-watchtowers-view-of-charity/>
- **Verification:** **SECONDARY** — a single historical source
- **Note:** This statement comes from Maria Russell, who by 1898 was estranged from Charles Taze Russell. It is a single historical source, and the video presents it as such — as corroborating background, not as a primary pillar of the argument.
- **Key quote:** “the greatest and all-comprehensive charity is the distribution of his literature.”

## SECTION 10: Additional Supporting Sources

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**Pew Research Center — Religious Landscape Study**

- **Source:** Pew Research Center
- **Verify at:** <https://www.pewresearch.org/religious-landscape-study/>
- **Verification: PRIMARY** — large national survey of U.S. religious groups
- **Contains:** Education and income breakdowns by religious group, the basis for the figures in Section 4.

### **AvoidJW — ‘Higher Education Doctrinal Changes (2025 Governing Body Update)’**

- **Source:** AvoidJW.org
- **Verify at:** <https://avoidjw.org/doctrine/higher-education-doctrinal-changes-governing-body-update-2025/>
- **Verification: SECONDARY** — documentation and analysis with an extensive list of Watchtower’s prior teachings against higher education
- **Contains:** A decade-by-decade record of Watchtower’s education stance and the 2025 reversal.

### **JWfacts — Higher Education and University**

- **Source:** JWfacts.com
- **Verify at:** <https://www.jwfacts.com/watchtower/higher-education-university.php>
- **Verification: SECONDARY** — doctrinal reference cataloguing the relevant Watchtower publications
- **Contains:** Quotations and citations spanning Watchtower’s teaching on higher education, including the Lett and Splane statements.

### **Religion News Service — Norway registration case**

- **Source:** Religion News Service
- **Verify at:** <https://religionnews.com/2024/01/16/jehovahs-witnesses-go-to-trial-against-norway-after-state-registration-is-revoked/>
- **Verification: SECONDARY** — reputable independent religion journalism
- **Contains:** Background on Norway’s denial of funding and deregistration of Jehovah’s Witnesses over disfellowshipping.