

# JCRC-NY - SPIRITUAL DECEPTION MATTERS

## FAQs

### About Hebrew-Christian Missionaries & “Jews for Jesus”

#### **Q What are Hebrew-Christian Missionaries and “Jews for Jesus”?**

**A** “Jews for Jesus” is just one of over hundreds of “Hebrew-Christian” missionary groups which attempt to convert Jews to Christianity. Leaders of these groups are many times ordained Christian ministers who are specifically trained in techniques for converting unsuspecting Jews. Members of these groups use Jewish symbols (such as Stars of David) so as to appear Jewish. Their goal is to take Jews away from Judaism and to bring them into the Christian Church. These groups are currently spending over \$100 million per year on these efforts. Despite any trappings of Jewish tradition, their theology is 100% Christian. Both Jewish and Christian groups have denounced their tactics.

#### **Q What type of Jew is most vulnerable?**

**A** The average Jewish convert to Christianity is between 15 and 35 years old and has little Jewish education. Since people are most vulnerable at times of personal change and transition, the missionaries center their efforts on a number of vulnerable Jewish populations, including high school and college students, senior citizens and recent immigrants.

#### **Q How might I be approached?**

**A** Someone might come to your door, catch you on the street or leave literature at your door. A letter or invitation to a “Jewish cultural” event might be mailed to you. A new friend, associate or someone from your neighborhood might invite you to a social gathering.

#### **Q How do people join Hebrew-Christian missionary groups?**

**A** “Joining” is a gradual process that starts with a personal contact by an appealing, friendly individual. Recruiters look for lonely, confused, vulnerable people. They offer help, friendship, love and “quick answers” to complicated problems. The vulnerable may feel that their needs are being met and come to depend upon this new source for support. The one-on-one relationship expands to an entire group. For a lonely person, instant acceptance by a friendly group of people is very enticing.

#### **Q What are some of the tell-tale signs of these groups?**

**A** If someone starts talking about being a “Messianic” or “completed” Jew or claims that a Jew can accept Jesus or, as they sometimes call him, “Yeshua” without giving up Judaism – that you can be a “Jew for Jesus”- then you are speaking with a Hebrew-Christian missionary.

### **Q How “Jewish” are Hebrew-Christian groups like “Jews for Jesus”?**

**A** While a large number of members are, in fact, born Jews, others are gentiles who have adopted Jewish or Hebrew names in order to appear Jewish. On a religious level, the “Jewishness” is a facade; these groups accept traditional Christian teaching and reject Jewish teaching in every single area where the two diverge. 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,” Hebrew-Christians have crossed over into another religion.

### **Q Is the Jewish community unified in opposing Hebrew-Christians?**

**A** On several occasions leaders of the four major Jewish movements have signed on to joint statements opposing Hebrew-Christian theology and tactics. In part they said:

*“Though Hebrew Christianity claims to be a form of Judaism, it is not ... It deceptively uses the sacred symbols of Jewish observance ... as a cover to convert Jews to Christianity, a belief system antithetical to Judaism ... Hebrew Christians are in radical conflict with the communal interests and the destiny of the Jewish people. They have crossed an unbreachable chasm by accepting another religion. Despite this separation, they continue to attempt to convert their former co-religionists”*

### **Q Don’t Hebrew-Christians Have a Constitutional right to spread their message?**

**A** Hebrew – Christian missionaries have every legal right to proclaim what they believe in the public square. The issue is not one of the First Amendment, but of their attempts to deceive Jews into believing that one can be both a Jew and Christian. When symbols and rituals, sacred exclusively to Judaism, are expropriated for use as props for the sake of converting Jews to a distinctly different religion, this behavior is deceptive.

### **Q Where Can I Receive More Information**

Contact – Spiritual Deception Matters