



## DO JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES HAVE THE FACTS ABOUT SHUNNING?

When a Jehovah's Witness (male) qualifies to be an elder (leader) in the congregation, he is assigned an uncirculated book, *Pay Attention To Yourself and to All the Flock*, that provides instruction for counseling and disciplining members according to the Watchtower Bible & Tract Society's rules.

Page 103 states that Jehovah's Witnesses need *not* be disfellowshipped for associating with disfellowshipped relatives except:

- (1) if the **association involves "spiritual association"** and/or
- (2) there is an attempt to **excuse the former member's objectional behavior**.

Despite this *documented* clarification, Jehovah's Witnesses worldwide are taught that to please Jehovah they must shun their siblings, their children, and even their parents who either (1) choose to leave or (2) are disfellowshipped. If they do NOT, then they too may be disfellowshipped and shunned by other Jehovah's Witnesses.

There is no scripture basis mandating that Christians *totally* shun former members (that is, have no communication or conversation with them). **The instruction is to expel them from the congregation and treat them like anyone else who is not a member.** There is absolutely no scripture to support shunning of one's own relatives—parents, children and siblings.

**Jehovah's Witnesses: How do you feel about shunning someone you love? Does it sit well with your conscience? If not, ask your elders why the elder's book says one thing but you are expected to do something entirely different. Does this seem right?**

**Ask yourself: "If I am following Jesus as the model for all I do, why am I forbidden to *even say 'hello'* to unbelievers when it is recorded in the Bible that Jesus even spoke to Satan?"**