

# Wedding Invitations



**Should I send my witness family a wedding invitation? I know they won't show up, and I know I don't want a phone call telling me they won't show up. So, do I send one?**

Answers from people who have been there:

- From reading your question I think I'm picking up on something that I have yet to get past myself. It's that yearning to be loved and to have the same experiences with your family that every person dreams to share with their loved ones. I was just married this last August and went through hurdles for nothing. First my fiancée and I offered to have the wedding outdoors and not in a church (which I preferred), so they wouldn't be uncomfortable. That didn't work, because we would still have a pastor. After a few different offers to change our plans, with no excitement coming from their end, I called it quits. Although I longed to have this one day with people I still consider family in my heart, their unswerving devotion was to their organization rather than their God given family. I came to the conclusion that I would rather share that day with people that loved me and accepted me, rather than thinking I'm not worth their time because I have a different faith. There is a constant desire in my heart for them to love me, but for now, I know I'm going to have to move forward with the blessings that I have. As far as sending them an invitation... consider what it will mean for them. Will it just put their faith on the defense? Will it get your hopes up that they may choose to come last minute, only for there to be disappointment that will break your heart and sadden your day when they don't [show up]? Or, is there a chance they may come? I think you know more than any of us what the deciding factors would be for them...act on that.
- I believe many JWs enjoy the feeling of control when telling an ex-member they cannot or will not talk with them or be any part of their life. Once when I was getting married, I had a "sister" who was selling her daughters wedding gown tell my mother that she would talk to me about buying the wedding dress because it was "business." I decided not to look at the dress. I have an older sister that was disfellowshipped for a few years and we were the best of friends. (I have been disfellowshipped since 1991) She has been reinstated and back in the organization full force. She now has distanced herself from me and has even told me I am a danger to her. But she still calls my husband or me when she needs something. My husband and I refuse to let her use us. It may be difficult, but I say the street goes both ways. I personally wouldn't give them the opportunity to receive an invitation to your wedding and turn it down.
- One thing I vividly remember about my wedding is standing in the reception line afterwards and shaking hands with over one hundred strangers. Nearly all were from my husband's side of the family. Many flew in from out of state to help him celebrate. None of my immediate family was there, even though I had done the right thing and sent them all an invitation. Looking back with 20/20 sight, I wish I'd never sent those invitations. Even though this was our special day, I was more concerned about hurting my family (by not sending an invitation) than I was about sparing myself. Their disregard for me picked a scab off a wound that had been healing ever so slowly. (Our wedding wasn't held in a church so they could have attended). I think you need to do what you feel is best for *you*. I know, though, if I ever get to make this decision again, I won't waste the postage, or the tears. This is about your future with your soon-to-be husband, not the past. I'd suggest you leave the JW past out of it. Rejection is direction. – Brenda Lee, Author, "Out of the Cocoon"