



Blood Transfusions

Jehovah's Witnesses

The Watchtower Society at one time imposed upon its members three rules that often put their health or even their lives in jeopardy: a ban on vaccinations, a ban on organ transplants, and a ban on blood transfusions.

The Society has since withdrawn two of the prohibitions, those against vaccinations and organ transplants. Only the ban on blood transfusions remains. Reports from "Watchtower watchers" indicate that the transfusions ban may be cast aside some day, too.

The Watchtower leaders have always claimed that God chose them to be His "faithful and discreet slave" whom He appointed over His "household, to dispense food at the proper time" (Matt. 24:45). Think about all those years when Watchtower leaders pointed to the Bible, saying "it" prohibited these things. Think about the years when smallpox wiped out families! What a dreaded fear it was! Think about the JWs whose conscience (trained by the Watchtower authors) told them that they must not go against the Bible, for IT said that vaccinations were wrong!!! Think about all those little JW children who could not enter school because they couldn't have a vaccination. Many children had "false" vaccinations to enter school – that is – those who could find someone to make it appear as such on the little child's arm. How many lives were lost during those years? How many parents grieved for those children – and how did they feel when the Watchtower leaders changed their minds about it? And how many JWs know the reason for this change – could the reason be, because the WT missionaries couldn't go over seas without small pox vaccinations?!!!!

Think about those who died while denying organ transplants – how did they feel when the WT leaders changed their minds? So whose conscience are JWs following when they read their Bibles with WT glasses? Are they following their own conscience, or WT interpretations? If Jehovah didn't direct the so-called "faithful and discreet slave" to print these prohibitions – who did direct them? Where did these ideas come from?

Now, they are slowly but surely changing blood transfusions prohibitions. They use Leviticus 17:13-14, which says that anyone who eats the blood of any flesh is to be "cut off." Being "cut off," the Witnesses explain, means being put to death. However, this is only their interpretation of the term, for the context of the passage clearly shows that the violator becomes outlawed ("cut off") from his people, must wash himself and his clothing and will be unclean until evening, but

then will be clean. (Lev. 17:15-16)

There is no law in God's Word that forbids blood transfusions. The apostle Paul writes in Romans 4:15, "But where there is no law, neither is there violation."

Acts 15:1-35

Rev. 2:14, 20

I Cor. 8:1-13

I Cor. 10:7, 8, 14-28

Gen 9:1-7

Gen 9:4

Lev. 7:25, 26

Lev. 3:17

Lev. 7:26

Lev. 17:10-16

Lev. 19:26

Deut. 12:16, 23

Blood transfusions cannot be equated to eating blood. Infused blood is not subjected to the digestive processes of the stomach as food is, which is then changed into blood – it already is blood!

If a JW took a blood transfusion in 1944 – he would think nothing of it! Because it wasn't until 1945 that this "new light" was revealed to the Wt leader. Until 1961, taking a blood transfusion wasn't considered an offence for disfellowshipping. In 1961, this was changed. Families could now be separated if one accepted a transfusion. Just think – a young mother, who couldn't stand to let her little baby die, would be cut off from all association from her family – she could no longer visit her JW family! How will these families feel should the WT authors get "new light" and withdraw their prohibition on blood transfusions?