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Faith Bible Church  
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<http://fbcweb.org/doctrines.html>

JEWISH APOLOGETICS (18)  
ANSWERING JEWISH OBJECTION #9  
(DDR #637)

**Objection #9: “I won’t betray my ancestors! I won’t forsake the faith of my fathers!”**

Michael Brown’s short response:

That is a noble sentiment, and God appreciates the fact that you honor the memory of your forefathers. But the Torah is very clear: When we have to choose between loyalty to our families and loyalty to God, we must choose to be loyal to him—no matter what the consequences. If we truly love our family and our heritage, then the most noble thing we can possibly do is to be faithful to God and the Messiah at any cost. In the end, we will be the shining lights in our family history. And when you say, “I can’t forsake the faith of my fathers,” I remind you, Abraham did.<sup>1</sup>

The idea here for many Jews is that since their forefathers were tortured to death rather than deny their faith—Christian baptism or death—and they chose death, how could they willingly, with no pressure, just turn around and deny their faith? To them, it is about the worst thing they could do—it would be unforgivable to go against the Jewish people. It would almost be like a prisoner of war giving away secrets to the enemy, which would cause many of their own soldiers to be killed.

There are a lot of psychological roadblocks embedded in this objection. What needs to be stressed here is that from their own Jewish Bible (the Tanakh), God requires obedience to Him, even if it means going against and even forsaking one’s family (Exodus 32:26-29; Deut. 13:6-10). This is a great way of turning the issue around and focusing in on their Bible and God. God

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<sup>1</sup>Michael L. Brown, *Answering Jewish Objections to Jesus: General and Historical Objections*, 1ST ed. (Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Books, 2000), 24-28. In this work, Brown lists the objection and then gives a short response, which is followed by a more detailed response. This DDR series, for the most part, tracks the objection and his *short* response, after which you will find my comments. I highly recommend his book if you are interested in his detailed responses (there is far too much material to include in the DDRs).

must come first regardless of family tradition or ancestry. Abraham had to forsake his idolatrous father's household. Within the Torah God requires one to put Him before family. Perhaps you can frame this into a challenge: "Are you willing to follow God even though it is going to mean rejection by your own people? Are you willing to forsake your traditions if that means following God?" You could also point out that in the Bible many times following the ways of the fathers is sinful and condemned by God (1 Kings 22:52). You could ask them if they admire those who are willing to follow the Truth, even if that means going against family and traditions—or if they admire people who have the courage to stand up for their convictions regardless of the consequences. Many Jews have lost almost everything simply for accepting Jesus Christ as the Messiah. They have been disowned from their families, considered dead (complete with funeral), cut off from inheritance and businesses, and even lost graduate degrees from Hebrew universities as they were "stricken" from the rolls.

A fellow believer priest,

**Revelation 1:6** and He has made us *to be* a kingdom, priests to His God and Father; to Him *be* the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Don