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

JEWISH APOLOGETICS (24)
ANSWERING JEWISH OBJECTION #15
(DDR #643)

Objection #15: “Missionaries like you target the sick, the elderly, the ignorant, and the young and uninformed.”

Michael Brown’s shorter response:

Actually, we don’t target any one group in particular—although many of us are especially interested in having exchanges with rabbis and religious Jews whenever we have the opportunity, and we especially appreciate interaction with well-informed Jews. We won’t, however, withhold the good news about the Messiah from anyone, young or old, healthy or sick. Everyone should know about the mercy of God that is available through repentance and faith. As for those who have lived their entire lives without the knowledge of the Messiah and now are nearing death through sickness or old age, isn’t it only fair to reach out to them? This is the time that many of them are finally doing some serious thinking about the meaning of life and their relationship with God. Is it right to neglect them?¹

Objection #15 is one of the most common raised by modern Judaism. Furthermore, there is not one objection in Brown’s five volumes on Judaism that he simply created out of thin air. These are all objections found in modern Judaism.

Of course in this objection, what the objector is really saying is that the reason Messianic Jews cannot reach him is because he is too smart. Note in the short response how Brown is able to turn the issue back on the objector. He has a real gift for not only cogently answering the objection, but with his response reframe the issue in a way that puts the onus back on the objector.

¹Michael L. Brown, *Answering Jewish Objections to Jesus: General and Historical Objections*, 1ST ed. (Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Books, 2000), 52-55. In this work, Brown lists the objection and then gives a short response, which is followed by a more developed 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 longer response (there is far too much material to include in the DDRs).

You could ask the objector why is it then that you are talking to him—if it was true that you only talk to the ignorant and uninformed. Additionally, you could ask him why is it that plenty of Jewish groups visit the “shut-ins” in nursing homes as well as talk to the young in colleges about Judaism. Furthermore, many in modern Judaism support Jewish “missions” who “go out” to the uninformed in India, Africa, and Russia, among other places.

You could ask the objector, “should we neglect these people?” When a Jewish (or Gentile) person contacts a Messianic Jew and tells him that his mom is in a nursing home and asks if he would go talk to her, should the Messianic Jew neglect her and simply say “no” and just let her die? No, we should reach out to everyone, including them!

A fellow citizen of heaven,

Philippians 3:20 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ;

Pastor Don