

## PIMO

PIMO is the acronym for "**Physically In Mentally Out**". It is the designation that Jehovah's Witnesses (JW) give themselves when they are only pretending to be a JW.

They go to the Hall, sing the songs, answer at the studies, and do the minimal service, but they really don't want to. They are only pretending to be a JW because if they stopped and admitted they no longer believe what JW's believe, they would be labeled an apostate who is rejecting God and choosing the side of the Devil, which means they would be shunned and lose their family and friends. Their life would be devastated. Some who have had this happen to them have even committed suicide because they could not live with the loss. So they continue with the charade of being a JW who is still loyal to their religious leaders, their Governing Body (GB).

In order not to stand out and be noticed, they don't make waves, they fall in line, they keep their head down, they "go with the flow" and move with the crowd, and they definitely don't point out any of the flaws in the teachings of their GB.

But what's wrong with that? It's not like they're secretly committing adultery or murdering or robbing banks. So it's fine, right?

Well, the only place to get the true answer to that question is in the Bible. Although the term PIMO isn't in the Bible it does describe the conditions of a PIMO. Let's look at those verses.

**(Matthew 7:13, 14)** ...broad is the gate and spacious is the road leading off into destruction, and many are going in through it;<sup>14</sup> whereas narrow is the gate and cramped the road leading off into life, and few are finding it.

How does that describe a PIMO? A look at the context will make it clear.

In the previous verses (7-11) Jesus is speaking about seeking and knocking and asking, and in the following verses (15-20) Jesus is warning about false prophets. And that is what Matthew 7:13, 14 is talking about.

Those on the narrow and cramped road are the ones who have taken it upon themselves to seek, knock, and ask. They are the ones spoken about in verses 7 through 11.

In contrast, while those on the wide and spacious road are not said to be wicked sinners like at 1 Corinthians 6:9-10, they allow themselves to be swept along by the crowd around them as they follow the directions and leadership of human religious leaders, the "*false prophets*" that Jesus warned about in verses 15 through 20.

That is how the conditions of a PIMO are described. They are on the wide and spacious road even though they don't want to be there, which is why they are pretending.

To switch to the cramped road they would have to stop following human leaders (false prophets) and start doing their own Bible research (seek/knock/ask) in order to get scriptural understanding on their own, as the Bible says it should be done. (2Ti 3:17) They want to get off that wide road, but that is where their family and friends are. And as was said earlier, doing that means they will be labeled an apostate and lose their family and friends. So they stay where they are as a PIMO pretending to be a good JW, surrounded by the love of family and friends, but under the yoke of false prophets and heading for the end of that wide road. (Mt 7:13)

So what is wrong with doing that? Well Jesus covers that in verses 24 to 27.

**(Matthew 7:24-27)** “Therefore, everyone who hears these sayings of mine and does them will be like a discreet man who built his house on the rock. <sup>25</sup> And the rain poured down and the floods came and the winds blew and lashed against that house, but it did not cave in, for it had been founded on the rock. <sup>26</sup> Furthermore, everyone hearing these sayings of mine and not doing them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. <sup>27</sup> And the rain poured down and the floods came and the winds blew and struck against that house, and it caved in, and its collapse was great.”

Those verses speak for themselves. So a PIMO must ask themself: *Do I keep pretending to be a JW and stay on the wide road with my family and friends, or do I switch to the cramped road?*

On the wide road you don't get to choose your own course or make decisions about what to believe when it comes to the Bible. You have to follow the lead of the crowd who allow others to dictate to them what the bible says.

**(Matthew 15:14)** Let them be. Blind guides is what they are. If, then, a blind man guides a blind man, both will fall into a pit.”

Even if you are not blind, if you go along with those who are blindly following, you will end up in the same pit as they do. As a PIMO you are surrounded by the love of family and friends, but you are also under the yoke of false prophets and heading ever quicker towards the destination of that wide road. On the cramped road others do not direct your every step, you are required to plot your own spiritual course toward God and Christ.

It takes courage to not "go with the flow", to not give-in to the peer pressure that every JW is continuously subjected-to to obey their GB and their smiling enforcers the Elders. It takes courage to break away from being followers of men and take your stand for Jesus Christ and Jehovah God the way the scriptures command you to:

**(Isaiah 2:22)** For your own sakes, quit trusting in mere man,

**(Psalm 146:3)** Do not put your trust in princes Nor in a son of man, who cannot bring salvation.

**(Jeremiah 17:5)** This is what Jehovah says: "Cursed is the man who puts his trust in mere humans

**(Matthew 23:10)** Neither be called leaders, for your Leader is one, the Christ.

**(1 Timothy 2:5)** For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, a man, Christ Jesus,

**(John 14:6)** Jesus said to him: "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Peer pressure is a powerful weapon and the GB are very skilled at wielding it, but a true Christian takes the cramped road instead of deceptively remaining with the crowd of JW's around them and giving-in to the GB's influence.

**(Matthew 10:32, 33)** "Everyone, then, who acknowledges me before men, I will also acknowledge him before my Father who is in the heavens. <sup>33</sup> But whoever disowns me before men, I will also disown him before my Father who is in the heavens.

If you choose the cramped road you will walk single-file. Although those whom you believe to be loving family and true friends will immediately abandoned you to stay in the good graces of their false prophets, you would not be alone on the cramped road. There are plenty of other Christian brothers and sisters on the cramped road. (He 10:24, 25) They are doing the same thing you would be doing; choosing their own steps and making their own way along it. On the cramped road no one defines the Bible for you. Human leaders and peer pressure don't guide you. Instead, you read the Bible, see what it tells you to do, and then you make the decision to do it. (He 5:14) Not from external pressure or compulsion, but from your own desire to please God and Christ. (Phm 14)

To be on the cramped road you have to read the Bible yourself, think for yourself, and decide for yourself what is the proper path to take. That's what it means to be on the cramped road. If you let others define the Bible for you, then you aren't on the cramped road.

Now before you walk the cramped road you have to go through the narrow gate. It takes effort to get through the narrow gate because it's not easy to free yourself from all that peer pressure.

**(Luke 13:24)** Exert yourselves vigorously to get in through the narrow door.

You don't step through the narrow gate with others at the same time. That's why Jesus called the gate "*narrow*" because stepping through it requires you to personally make the decision on your own to stop following human religious leaders, based on verses such as those quoted above. But once you have passed through that "*narrow door*" and are on the cramped road beyond, you will enjoy the freedom that comes with it. (Ro 6:14, 22-23)

**(John 8:32)** and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.

What truth? That "*there is... one mediator between God and men, a man, Christ Jesus,*" (1Ti 2:5) On the cramped road you aren't burdened with the yoke of false prophets. You are under Christ's yoke.

**(Matthew 11:28-30)** Come to me, all you who are toiling and loaded down, and I will refresh you.

<sup>29</sup> Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am mild-tempered and lowly in heart, and you will find refreshment for yourselves. <sup>30</sup> For my yoke is kindly, and my load is light."

Here is what Jesus said is required for everlasting life:

**(John 3:15-16)** so that everyone believing in him may have everlasting life. <sup>16</sup> "For God loved the world so much that he gave his only-begotten Son, so that everyone exercising faith in him might not be destroyed but have everlasting life.

**(John 3:36)** The one who exercises faith in the Son has everlasting life; the one who disobeys the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God remains upon him.

**(John 6:40)** For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who recognizes the Son and exercises faith in him should have everlasting life, and I will resurrect him on the last day."

**(John 17:3)** This means everlasting life, their coming to know you, the only true God, and the one whom you sent, Jesus Christ.

**(John 20:31)** But these have been written down so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and because of believing, you may have life by means of his name.

Christ's yoke truly is "*light*" (minimal) isn't it. No, the cramped road isn't hard to traverse. What's hard is making that very difficult initial decision to go through the narrow gate by choosing God and Christ over family and friends.

**(Matthew 10:37)** Whoever has greater affection for father or mother than for me is not worthy of me; and whoever has greater affection for son or daughter than for me is not worthy of me.

Jesus calls the road "*cramped*" because it's up to you to choose your steps, based on your own Bible research and conclusions, not the dictates of human spiritual leaders.

Those going through the wide gate consciously choose family and friends over God and Christ. (Mt 10:37) They walk with the crowd who are following the directions of religious leaders, who don't think for themselves, and who allow others to define the Bible for them.

But wait... Why does Matthew 7:14 say that "*few*" find the cramped road, while Revelation 7:9 says that a "*great crowd*" make it through Armageddon?

**(Revelation 7:9)** After this I saw, and look! a great crowd, which no man was able to number, out of all nations and tribes and peoples and tongues,

Because Matthew 7:14 isn't about the numbers. It's about the conditions on the road. On the wide road you don't think for yourself or make decisions, because you are allowing yourself to be swept along by the crowd around you as they follow the leadership of their GB. (see the article "The Governing Body")

Yes, a "great crowd" make it through Armageddon (Re 7:9), but they get there by individually making their own way along the cramped road. They choose their own steps wisely, based on their own Bible research, instead of the coercions of Satan's world which includes the decrees and manipulation of human religious leaders, peer pressure, and the fear of loss. (Mt 16:23; 1Pe 5:8)

That's the whole point of Jesus' illustration about the cramped road and the spacious road. You either study the Bible for yourself, or you let others tell you what the Bible means. It's as simple as that.

Unfortunately JW's have been taught that being compliant and non-confrontational is what it means to be a sheep (Jn 10:3), so they feel obliged to follow the GB and allow themselves to be carried along by the crowd. (see the Article "Are you a sheep?") But if you are "going with the flow", if you are allowing yourself to be carried along by those around you instead of making your own Bible based decisions, then you are on the wide road. (1Ti 6:12)

Note that not choosing the wide gate doesn't mean you have chosen the narrow gate. Jesus only speaks about two options, the wide gate or the narrow gate. There is no third option where you don't choose either one. If you choose not to decide, you still have made the choice not to enter the narrow gate, which is the only avenue for life.

Even Jesus was confronted with the decision whether to follow men or God.

**(Matthew 16:22)** At this Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying: "Be kind to yourself, Lord; you will not have this happen to you at all."

What did Jesus do? He chose to obey God's will rather than man's. If Jesus listened to Peter he would be listening to the words of men instead of following God's directions. But Jesus chose to ignore Peter's directions, setting a good example for all of us, even when that direction comes from men like Peter. (see the article "Are You Worshiping Jehovah Acceptably? - Expanded")

PIMO's want to be kind to themselves, to do the easy thing. They choose to not stand out or make waves, to fall in line, to keep their head down, and allow themselves to be carried along by the crowd on

the wide road. (Mt 7:13) But what they should do is follow Jesus' example and take the more difficult (cramped) path of obeying the Bible rather than men. They should respond the same way Jesus did:

**(Matthew 16:23)** "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me, because you think, not God's thoughts, but those of men."

Are you a PIMO? It's not too late. You can turn around and go through the narrow gate instead.

**(Matthew 18:3)** Truly I say to you, unless you turn around and become as young children, you will by no means enter into the Kingdom of the heavens.

**(John 12:40)** "He has blinded their eyes and has made their hearts hard, so that they would not see with their eyes and understand with their hearts and turn around and I heal them."

**(Acts 3:19)** "Repent, therefore, and turn around so as to get your sins blotted out, so that seasons of refreshing may come from Jehovah himself

(see also Mt 13:15; Mr 4:12; Acts 28:27)

Will you continue being under the leadership, or as Jesus called it, under the "yoke", of the GB? Or will you choose Jesus' refreshing, kindly, and light yoke? (Mt 11:28-30)

How many in your Hall are PIMO? How many show up just in time and leave right after? How many have been tricked into believing that they must follow the teachings of the GB in order to please God? (see the article "Which is the True Christian Denomination?") If you choose the cramped road over the wide road maybe you will give family and friends who are also secretly PIMO the courage to throw off the GB's yoke and take up Christ's as you set the example in doing.

Tell them: God installed only one mediator between mankind and Himself; Christ Jesus. (1Ti 2:5)

Ask them: Why do you hold on so tightly to the yoke of the GB when you could swap it for Christ's yoke which is refreshing, kindly, and light? (Mt 11:28-30)

Invite them to join you on the cramped road to life, enjoying a closer relationship with Jehovah God and His Son without the interference of human middlemen in-between. (Ac 20:30)

Go over with them some of the many scriptures in the article "Are You Worshiping Jehovah Acceptably? - Expanded".

**(Revelation 18:4)** And I heard another voice out of heaven say: "Get out of her, my people, if you do not want to share with her in her sins, and if you do not want to receive part of her plagues.

**(1 Corinthians 6:16-17)** Do you not know that anyone who is joined to a prostitute is one body with her? For "the two," says he, "will be one flesh." <sup>17</sup> But whoever is joined to the Lord is one with

him in spirit.

**(2 Corinthians 6:16-18)** And what agreement does God's temple have with idols? For we are a temple of a living God; just as God said: "I will reside among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people." <sup>17</sup> "Therefore, get out from among them, and separate yourselves,' says Jehovah, 'and quit touching the unclean thing"'; "and I will take you in." <sup>18</sup> "And I will become a father to you, and you will become sons and daughters to me,' says Jehovah, the Almighty."

What do you suppose would happen if all PIMO's took a stand for truth at the same time? I think it would open the eyes of many others who are blindly following and had never even considered questioning whether or not that what they have been taught is true or a lie.

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Dave da.getmyip@gmail.com

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