

Mormonism – Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

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Following is a summary of some of the basic beliefs of the Mormons. (1)
(*Christianity, Cults & Religions Leader Guide*, Paul Carden, Rose Publishing, 2010,
pages 50-52.) (*My comments are in italics and parentheses – Karen Nyquist*)

1. **God** - God the Father was once a man, but “progressed” to godhood. He has a physical body, as does his wife (Heavenly Mother). No Trinity. Father, Son, and Holy Ghost are three separate gods. Worthy men may one day become gods themselves. (*No emphasis on having a relationship with God, Jesus, or Holy Spirit.*)
2. **Jesus** - Jesus is a separate god from the Father (Elohim). He was created as a spirit child by the Father and Mother in Heaven, and is the “elder brother” of all men and spirit beings. His body was created through sexual union between Elohim and Mary. Jesus was married. His death on the cross does not provide full atonement for all sin, but does provide everyone with resurrection.
3. **Holy Spirit** - The “holy spirit” is different from the “Holy Ghost.” The “holy spirit” is not God, but is an influence or electricity-like emanation from God for “light of Christ.”
4. **Salvation** - Resurrected by grace, but saved (exalted to godhood) by works, including faithfulness to church leaders. Mormon baptism, tithing, ordination, marriage and secret temple rituals. No eternal life in the Celestial Kingdom without Mormon membership.



(All mankind were born as spirits and lived in a spirit world until they became mature and were then born onto the Earth with mortal bodies. Those who were good Mormons can go to Paradise. Those who were not Mormons go to Spirit Prison where they are given a second chance. Spirit missionaries can witness to them; those who choose to be saved can, but only if a Mormon on earth gets baptized for them. All people will be

resurrected either in the First Resurrection before the Millennial Reign or in the Last Resurrection and will experience the Judgment.)

5. **Death** - Eventually nearly everyone goes to one of **three separate heavenly “kingdoms”** with some achieving godhood. But **apostates** (*those who leave the Mormon church*) and **murderers** go to Outer Darkness or Perdition. Those who completely obey the Mormon gospel can go to the Celestial Kingdom, as will those who attain the highest level (exaltation) and become gods. Unbelievers will go to the Terrestrial Kingdom and the worse sinners will go to the Telestial Kingdom.

6. **Mormons’ Other Beliefs -**

a. (*The Mormons believe that the church of Jesus Christ had been lost to heresy and that Joseph Smith was called to restore the true church. **But the Bible says** that Jesus is able to preserve His church: “And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it” (Matthew 16:18).*

b. (*Through visions and visitations of Mormon and the “Angel” Moroni, Joseph Smith was given revelations that are contrary to the gospel of the Bible.*)



“Angel” Moroni



Mormon Temples



Temple Baptismal

(**But the Bible says** anyone bringing a different gospel is accursed: “I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ. But even if we, or **an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel** to you than what we have preached to you, **let him be accursed**” (Galatians 1:6-8).

c. **Various Beliefs** - Secret temple “endowment” rituals and “celestial marriage” available only to members in good standing. Baptism on behalf of the dead. “Word of Wisdom” prohibits tobacco, alcohol, and caffeine drinks. Two-year missionary commitment encouraged. Tithing essential. Door-to-door proselytizing. Extensive social network. People of African ancestry denied full access to Mormon priesthood and privileges until 1978.

7. **Is Mormonism Christian?** - Christians are monotheistic, they believe in the existence of only one God, while Mormons believe in many gods. - (2) (Christian Apologetics & Research Ministry, carm.org/mormon-beliefs - (*My added comments are in italics. – Karen Sue Nyquist*)

Mormon Beliefs Documented - Please note that these teachings are documented from Mormon writers — not anti-Mormon writers:

a. **Joseph Smith** - If it had not been for Joseph Smith and the restoration (**of the “true” church**), there would be no salvation. **There is no salvation** [the context is the full gospel including exaltation to Godhood] **outside the church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints** (*Mormon Doctrine*, p. 670).

b. **There is no salvation without accepting Joseph Smith as a prophet of God** (*Doctrines of Salvation*, vol. 1, p. 188). (**But the Bible says** that there is no salvation in any other except Jesus: “let it be known to you all, and to all people of 2

Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, . . . Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved” (Acts 4:10,12).

(Mormons believe that Joseph Smith was a modern day prophet. But his doctrines are different than those of the Bible. **The Bible says** we are not to change the Word of God. “You shall not add to the word which I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you” (Deuteronomy 4:2). **The Bible also says** there are false prophets: “Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world” (1 John 4:1).



c. Book of Mormon - Mormons believe **the Book of Mormon is more correct than the Bible**, (History of the Church, vol. 4, p. 461). (They also depend on the books Doctrine and Covenants, Pearl of Great Price, the Bible - King James Version, and the “Inspired Version” translated by Joseph Smith. The KJV is considered more reliable than the Inspired Version.)

d. God - God used to be a man on another planet (Mormon Doctrine, p. 321, Joseph Smith, *Times and Seasons*, vol. 5, p. 613-614, Orson Pratt, *Journal of Discourses*, vol. 2, p. 345, Brigham Young, *Journal of Discourses*, vol. 7, p. 333). (**But the Bible says** that God was not a son of man: “God is not a man, that He should lie, Nor a son of man, that He should repent. Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?” (Numbers 23:19).

e. Men can become a god - After you become a good Mormon, you have the potential of becoming a god (*Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, p. 345-347, 354). (The leaders say that only men, not women, can become gods.)



Becoming Gods

(**But the Bible says** that no other gods were formed before or will be after God: “You are My witnesses,” says the Lord, “And My servant whom I have chosen, That you may know and believe Me, And understand that I am He. Before Me there was no God formed, Nor shall there be after Me” (Isaiah 43:10).

f. Many gods - There are many gods (Mormon Doctrine, p. 163). “And they (the Gods) said: Let there be light: and there was light,” (Abraham 4:3).

(**But the Bible says** that there is only one God, He is the first and the last God. “Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel, And His Redeemer, the Lord of Hosts: ‘I am the First and I am the Last; Besides Me there is no God’” (Isaiah 44:6).

g. Mother Goddess - There is a mother god (*Articles of Faith*, by James Talmage, p. 443). **God is married to his goddess wife and has spirit children** 3

(Mormon Doctrine, p. 516). (**But the Bible never says** there is a mother god or even any goddesses.)

h. Jesus - "Therefore we know that both the Father and the Son are in form and stature perfect men; each of them possesses a tangible body . . . of flesh and bones," (Articles of Faith, by James Talmage, p. 38). (**But the Bible says** God is a spirit, not flesh and blood: "God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth" (John 4:24).

"The birth of the Savior was as natural as are the births of our children; it was the result of natural action. He partook of flesh and blood--was begotten of his Father, as we were of our fathers," (Journal of Discourses, vol. 8, p. 115). (**But the Bible says** that the Holy Spirit overshadowed Mary. "And the angel answered and said to her (Mary), 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God'" (Luke 1:35).

i. Salvation - "One of the most fallacious doctrines originated by Satan and propounded by man is that man is saved alone by the grace of God; that belief in Jesus Christ alone is all that is needed for salvation," (Miracle of Forgiveness, by Spencer W. Kimball -12th president of the Church of Latter-day Saints, p. 206). "**Good works are necessary for salvation**" (Articles of Faith, p. 92) (**But the Bible says**, "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast" (Ephesians 2:8-9).

j. Polygamy - Brigham Young said, "The only men who become Gods, even the Sons of God, are those who enter into polygamy." (Journal of Discourses, Volume 11, pg. 269.) "Though it was necessary for Mormon leaders to formally renounce plural marriage in 1890, the principle remains valid, and the earthly practice of polygamy will one day resume" (Christianity, Cults & Religions, Rose Publishing, Inc., page 93.) (**But the Bible says** that Jesus answered: "But from the beginning of the creation, God 'made them male and female.' For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh"; so then they are no longer two, but one flesh" (Mark 10:6-8).



Why are people drawn to Mormonism?

- a. Family emphasis
- b. Their sincerity and commitment to what they believe.
- c. Social activities
- d. Baptism on behalf of deceased relatives (people get a second chance for salvation). (**But the Bible says** we have only one chance, "And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment," (Hebrews 9:27).
- e. Everyone is resurrected and there is no hell. (**But the Bible says** Jesus stated there is a hell: "It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye, rather than having two eyes, to be cast into hell fire— where 'Their worm does not die And the fire is not quenched'" (Mark 9:47-48).

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Quick Quiz –

Choose only one answer for each question.

1. How many scriptures or books do the Mormons rely on?
a) two b) three c) four 4) five
2. How many “heavens” do the Mormons believe in?
a) one b) two c) three 4) four
3. How many people are resurrected and can go to these heavens?
a) only Mormons b) only Mormons and good people
c) everyone except Mormon apostates and murderers
4. Who goes to the Celestial Kingdom?
a) only Mormons b) only Mormons who have become gods
c) all good people c) both a and b
5. Why are people drawn to Mormonism?
a) Their emphasis on family and social activities
b) Their sincerity and commitment to what they believe
c) A second chance for salvation
d) Everyone is resurrected and there is no hell
e) All the above
6. The closest thing to hell is their Outer Darkness or Perdition. Who goes there?
a) all non-Mormons
b) those who left the Mormon church - apostates
c) murderers
d) apostates and murderers

Witnessing Tips (Do's and Don'ts)



(1) *Christianity, Cults & Religions Leader Guide*, Paul Carden, Rose Publishing, 2010, page 94.) (My added comments are in italics and parentheses – Karen Nyquist)

1. **Don't** assume that a Mormon has any relationship with God.)
(Do share your testimony about your relationship, what it means to you, and how God has changed your life, answers your prayers, signs, wonders, miracles, etc.)
2. **Don't** assume that a Mormon defines a word in the same way you do.
Do define your terms – and have them define theirs.
3. **Don't** assume what an individual Mormon believes. Not all Mormons agree with their leaders. This could be because they are not aware of what their leaders have taught. For example, if a Mormon appears to answer a question biblically, you may

respond by saying, “That is exactly what the Bible teaches; however, are you aware that prophet so-and-so said just the opposite? **Shouldn’t they be in harmony with the Bible if they are getting their information from the same god who gave us the Bible?”**

Do ask Mormons what they believe. Rather than accusing, ask a question.

4. **Don’t** agree to pray about the Book of Mormon, (or their other books, Doctrines and Covenants or Pearl of Great Price.)

(**Do** test everything with the Bible. If they quote from one of their other books ask them, **shouldn’t those books be in harmony with the Bible if they are from the same God who gave us the Bible?**” Let’s talk about the Bible.)

5. **Don’t** dwell on topics that are especially sensitive to Mormons and should only be addressed after they feel more comfortable discussing religious issues with you. Talking about the temple ceremony, the sacred garments, polygamy, or racism will almost certainly bring the discussion to a close. Use your time wisely.

Do concentrate on core issues: what the Mormon believes about God the Father, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit, as well as the issue of salvation. Do they have the assurance that when they die all of their sins are forgiven? Do they feel confident they will receive godhood or eternal increase?

6. **Don’t** be surprised if Mormons are suspicious of Christian literature. Mormons often feel that information written about their church, but not by their church, is almost always inaccurate Rather than insisting that the material is correct, have Mormons show you where the information could be wrong.



Do memorize certain points and quotes. This often works better than using printed material because it shows the Mormon that you have taken the time to read LDS resources. Quote directly from LDS sources if possible. Statements from LDS leaders work best.

7. **Don’t** think you need to cover every topic in one sitting. Sometimes dealing with one or two subjects makes it easier to remember what you talked about.

Do be patient. Mormons are led to believe that leaving the LDS church will lead to damnation (*going to Outer Darkness*). This is not a decision most Mormons make in an instant.

8. **Don’t** ridicule their beliefs.

Do test everything by the Bible. End on a positive note.

(Let’s remember, these people are precious to God. Jesus died for their sins too. Satan has deceived them. Their souls and those of their families are at stake. We need to be willing to pay the price to witness to them, sowing the seeds that will eventually lead them to Christ. It will cost us our time, our studying, our prayers, our spiritual warfare, and our caring friendship.)