

MORMONISM

Key question

What does the Mormon Church believe and why is it viewed as a cult?

Key text

II Corinthians 11:13-15

“For such [are] false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore [it is] no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.”

Mormonism in a nutshell

Mormonism teaches that God used to be a man on another planet and that he became a god by following the laws and ordinances of his god on his home planet. In his present god-state, he rules our world. He has a body of flesh and bones and, according to Mormonism, he has a wife, a goddess wife. Since they are both exalted persons, they each possess physical bodies. In their exalted states as deities, they have sexual relations and produces spirit children that grow and mature in the spiritual realm. The first spirit born was Jesus. Afterwards were born the devil and all other spirit creatures. After the spirit children are born to god and his goddess wife in heaven, they come down and entered into the bodies of human babies that are being born on earth. During this ‘compression’ into the infant state, the memories of their pre-existence is ‘veiled.’ All people were, according to Mormonism, born in heaven first and then on earth where they are to grow, learn, and return to god.

God the father, who is called Elohim, was concerned for the future salvation of the people on earth. In the heavenly realm, the Father had a plan for the salvation of the world. Jesus endorsed the Father’s plan. Lucifer did not. Lucifer became jealous and rebelled. In his rebellion he convinced a third of the spirits existing in heaven to side with him and oppose god. God being more powerful then they, cursed these rebellious spirits to become demons.

Of the remaining spirits, one third sided with Jesus. Since they chose the better way, when it comes time for them to live on earth, they have the privilege of being born in white skinned families. The final third of the spirits that didn’t chose a side were cursed to be born in black skinned families.

In the Mormon plan of salvation there needed to be a savior: Jesus. But Jesus was a spirit in heaven. For him to be born on earth, Brigham Young the second prophet of the Mormon church said that instead of letting any other man do it, God the Father did it with Mary. He said that the birth of our savior was as natural as the birth of our parents.

Essentially, what this means is that god the father came down and had sexual relations with Mary, his spirit daughter, to produce the body of Jesus. Jesus, then, was born, got married, and had children. He died on the cross and paid for sins not on the cross only, but in the garden of Gethemene before he went to the cross.

Mormon men and women have the potential of becoming gods. A famous Mormon saying is “As god once was, man is. As God is, man may become.” In order to reach this exalted state a person must first become a good Mormon and pay a full ten percent tithe to the Mormon church. Afterwards, he or she can enter a Mormon temple and go through secret rituals: baptism for the dead, celestial marriage, and various oaths of secrecy and commitment. Additionally, four secret handshakes are taught so the believing Mormon, upon entering the third level of Mormon heaven, can shake hands with god in a certain pattern. This celestial ritual is for the purpose of permitting entrance into that level of heaven.

For those who achieve this highest of heavens, exaltation to godhood awaits them. Then, he or she, will be permitted to have his or her own planet and be the god of his own world and the Mormon system will be expanded to other planets.

Is Mormonism Christian?

The reason Mormonism is not Christian is because it, like any other cult, denies one or more of the essential historic doctrines of Christianity. Of the essential doctrines (Jesus is God in flesh, salvation by grace, and Jesus’ physical resurrection), Mormonism distorts two of them: the person of Jesus, and His work of salvation.

Not only does Mormonism teach that **God the Father has a body of flesh and bones** (D. & C. 130:22), it also teaches that **Jesus is a creation**; that is, he was begotten in heaven as one of God’s spirit children (Jesus the Christ, by Talmage, p. 8) . This is in strict contrast to the biblical teaching that he is God in flesh (John 1:1,14), eternal (John 1:1,2,15), uncreated yet born on earth (Col.1:15), and the creator all (John 1:3; Col.1;16-17). Jesus cannot be both created and not created at the same time. Though Mormonism teaches that Jesus is god in flesh, it also teaches that he is “a” god in flesh, one of three gods that comprise the office of the Trinity (Articles of Faith, by Talmage, pp.35-40). These three gods are the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. This is in direct contradiction of the biblical doctrine that there is only one God (Isaiah 44:6,8; 45:5).

We are saved from our sins and judgment by putting our trust in Jesus for the forgiveness of our sins. But faith is only as good as the object in which it is placed. The Mormon Jesus is not the one of the Bible, even though they call him Jesus, say he died for sins, and was born in Bethlehem. But that is where the similarities stop. It is the nature of Jesus that is the issue. Jesus must be God in flesh, (second person of the Trinity) not “a” god in flesh. He must be uncreated, not created. He must be the creator (Col.1:16-17), not the brother of the devil as Mormonism maintains.

Mormon theology teaches that god used to be a man on another planet, that he became a god by following the laws and ordinances of that god on that world, and that he brought one of his wives to this world with whom he produces spirit children who then inhabit human bodies at birth. The first spirit child to be born was Jesus. Second was Satan, and then we all followed. The Jesus of Mormonism is not the same Jesus of the Bible. Therefore, faith in the Mormon Jesus, is faith misplaced.

Mormonism teaches that the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross itself (and receiving it by faith) is not sufficient to bring forgiveness of sins. **It teaches that the forgiveness of sins is**

obtained through a cooperative effort with God; that is, we must be good and follow the laws and ordinances of God in order to obtain forgiveness. Consider James Talmage, a very important Mormon figure, who said “The sectarian dogma of justification by faith alone has exercised an influence for evil” (Articles, p. 432), and “**Hence the justice of the scriptural doctrine that salvation comes to the individual only through obedience**” (Articles, p. 81). This contradicts the biblical doctrine of the forgiveness of sins by grace through faith (Rom.5:1; 6:23; Eph.2:8-9) and the doctrine that works are not part of our salvation but a result of them (Rom.4:5, James 2:14-18).

To further confuse the matter, Mormonism further states that salvation is twofold: forgiveness of sins and universal resurrection. So when a Mormon speaks of salvation by grace, he is usually referring to universal resurrection. But the Bible speaks of salvation as the forgiveness of sins, not simple universal resurrection.

The 8th article of faith from the Mormon Church states, “We believe the Bible to be the word of God as far as it is translated correctly.” In other words, where the Bible disagrees with Mormonism, the Bible is wrong.

Why is Mormonism a non-Christian cult? Because **it adds works to salvation. It denies that Jesus is the uncreated creator. It alters the biblical teaching of the atonement. It contradicts the Christian teaching of monotheism.** It undermines the authority and reliability of the Bible.

I do not deny that Mormons are good people, that they worship “a” god, that they share common words with Christians, that they help their people, and that they do many good things. However, Jesus said in Matthew 7:21-23, “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’” (NKJV). Becoming a Christian does not mean belonging to a church, doing good things, or simply believing in God. Being a Christian means that you have trusted in the true God for salvation, in the True Jesus -- not the brother of the devil.

Mormon Beliefs documented

Please note that these teachings are documented from Mormon writers, not anti-Mormon writers.

1 Book of Mormon

- The book of Mormon is more correct than the Bible, (History of the Church, 4:461.)

2 Devil, the

- The Devil was born as a spirit after Jesus "in the morning of pre-existence," (Mormon Doctrine, page 192.)
- Jesus and Satan are spirit brothers and we were all born as siblings in heaven to them both, (Mormon Doctrine, p. 163.)

3 God

- God used to be a man on another planet, Mormon Doctrine, p. 321. Joseph

Smith, Times and Seasons, Vol 5, pp. 613-614; Orson Pratt, Journal of Discourses, Vol 2, p. 345, Brigham Young, Journal of Discourses, vol. 7, p. 333.)

- "The Father has a body of flesh and bones as tangible as mans..." (D&C 130:22).

4 God, becoming a god

- After you become a good Mormon, you have the potential of becoming a god, (Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, pages 345-347, 354.)
- "Then shall they be gods, because they have no end; therefore shall they be from everlasting to everlasting, because they continue; then shall they be above all, because all things are subject unto them. Then shall they be gods, because they have all power, and the angels are subject unto them," (DC 132:20).

5 God, many gods

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

6 God, 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, (Mormon Doctrine p. 516.)

7 God, Trinity

- The trinity is three separate Gods: The Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost. "That these three are separate individuals, physically distinct from each other, is demonstrated by the accepted records of divine dealings with man." (*Articles of Faith*, by James Talmage, p. 35.)

8 Heaven

- There are three levels of heaven: telestial, terrestrial, and celestial, Mormon Doctrine, p. 348.

9 Holy Ghost, the

- The Holy Ghost is a male personage, A Marvelous Work and a Wonder, (Le Grand Richards, Salt Lake City, 1956, page 118; Journal of Discourses, Vol. 5, page 179.)

10 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).
- "The birth of the Saviour 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).
- "Elohim is literally the Father of the spirit of Jesus Christ and also of the body in which Jesus Christ performed His mission in the flesh ..." (First Presidency

and Council of the Twelve, 1916, God the Father, compiled by Gordon Allred, pg. 150).

11 Joseph Smith

- If it had not been for Joseph Smith and the restoration, 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.)

12 Pre-existence

- We were first begotten as spirit children in heaven and then born naturally on earth, (Journal of Discourse, Vol. 4, p. 218.)
- The first spirit to be born in heaven was Jesus, (Mormon Doctrine, page 129.)
- The Devil was born as a spirit after Jesus "in the morning of pre-existence," (Mormon Doctrine, page 192.)

13 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, Spencer W. Kimball, p. 206.)
- A plan of salvation was needed for the people of earth so Jesus offered a plan to the Father and Satan offered a plan to the father but Jesus' plan was accepted. In effect the Devil wanted to be the Savior of all Mankind and to "deny men their agency and to dethrone god." (Mormon Doctrine, page 193; Journal of Discourses, vol. 6, page 8.)
- Jesus' sacrifice was not able to cleanse us from all our sins, (murder and repeated adultery are exceptions), (Journal of Discourses, Vol. 3, p. 247, 1856.)
- Good works are necessary for salvation, Articles of Faith, p. 92.)
- There is no salvation without accepting Joseph Smith as a prophet of God, (Doctrines of Salvation, Vol. 1, p. 188.)
- "The first effect [of the atonement] is to secure to all mankind alike, exemption from the penalty of the fall, thus providing a plan of *General Salvation*. The second effect is to open a way for *Individual Salvation* whereby mankind may secure remission of personal sins (*Articles of Faith*, by James Talmage, p. 78-79.)
- "As these sins are the result of individual acts it is just that forgiveness for them should be conditioned on individual compliance with prescribed requirements -- 'obedience to the laws and ordinances of the Gospel.'" (*Articles of Faith* p. 79).
- "This grace is an enabling power that allows men and women to lay hold on eternal life and exaltation after they have expended their own best efforts" (*LDS Bible Dictionary*, p. 697).
- "We know that it is by grace that we are saved, after all we can do," (2 Nephi 25:23).

14 Trinity, the

- The trinity is three separate Gods: The Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost. "That these three are separate individuals, physically distinct from each other, is demonstrated by the accepted records of divine dealings with man." (*Articles of Faith*, by James Talmage, p. 35.)

The above notes are taken from **Christian Apologetics and Research Ministry** (www.carm.org/mormon.htm)

See also (www.rapidnet.com/~jbeard/bdm/Cults/mormon.htm)

For further reading – **Breaking the Mormon Code** by Matt Paulson