

Understanding the Mormons

(aka The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints)

Part 2: Their Beliefs

KEY MORMON ISSUES IN THE 1800'S

_____ became a core tenet of the Mormon faith and was established as an everlasting covenant (D & C 132). It was not an option, but necessary for a Mormon's salvation. Ironically, the book of Mormon condemns polygamy (Jacob 1:15; 2:27).

The practice of "Blood _____" was also central under Brigham Young. This was the teaching that certain sins can only be forgiven through your own spilt blood (i.e., death).

THEIR AUTHORITY

Mormons believe the King James Version of the Bible to be the word of God as far as it is _____ correctly (Articles of Faith #8). This makes it very easy for them to deny any biblical teachings that go against their own beliefs and practices.

The Book of Mormon, _____ and Covenants, and the Pearl of Great Price also comprise their official Scriptures.

Mormons believe that new _____ from God come forth regularly from their current Prophet, Apostles, and Seers. What the current prophet speaks under inspiration is binding and may overrule any previous teaching.

THEIR BELIEFS vs THE BIBLE

Mormons believe God the Father was a _____ who became a god (i.e., an exalted man). He is just one of a countless number of gods who exist in the universe. He has a body of flesh and bones and has produced countless spirit babies through intercourse with his goddess wife (or wives).

The Bible teaches that God is not a _____ (Num. 23:19; Hosea 11:9), but He has always been _____ (Psalm 90:2). There is only one God, and there is no one like Him. (Deut. 4:35; Isa. 43:10; 45:5; 46:9; Mark 12:32). God is spirit, (Psalm 139:7-10; John 4:24; 2 Cor. 3:17; 1 Timothy 1:17; 1 Timothy 6:16) and therefore does not have flesh and bones (Luke 24:39).

Mormons believe the Trinity consists of three _____: The Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Each god was born as a man and progressed to the level of godhood. The biblical doctrine of one God eternally existing in three persons is to be denied.

The Bible teaches there is one God who is eternally exists in _____ distinct and divine Persons all of the same Substance, co-equal, co-existent and co-eternal (Genesis 1:26; 11:7-8; Isa 6:8; Matthew 28:19). God clearly reveals Himself as the Father (Malachi 2:10; Eph. 4:6; Php 4:20), the SON (Isaiah 9:6; John 1:1, 14; Heb 1:8; 1 John 5:20) and the Holy Spirit (2 Sam. 23:2-3; Mark 3:29; Acts 5:1-4; Heb. 9:14; 10:15-16).

Mormons believe that Jesus had a _____ and was the firstborn of all other spirit-children, including Lucifer, his spirit brother. Jesus' physical body was conceived through intercourse between God the Father and the Virgin Mary. After his resurrection, he received the fullness of Godhood.

The Bible teaches that Jesus is and always has been the _____ God who has no beginning and is before all things (Isaiah 9:6; John 1:1, 14; John 8:58; Acts 20:28; Romans 9:5; Titus 2:13; 1 John 5:20; Col. 1:17). Jesus is the creator of all things, including Lucifer (John 1:3; Col. 1:16-17; Ezek. 28:13-15). Jesus was conceived in Mary through the miraculous work of the Holy Spirit and not through intercourse (Matt 1:18, 20, 25).

Mormons believe that all human beings existed in heaven before coming to earth and are gods in _____ form. The goal for every Mormon male is to become a god by being sealed for eternity with his wife in order to populate and rule an earth of their own. Part of the progression to godhood is the probationary period on this earth.

The Bible teaches that man has no pre-existence in heaven, but is formed from the _____ (Gen. 2:7; John 3:31; 1 Cor. 15:47). Jesus clearly taught that there is no marriage in heaven (Matt. 22:30; Mark 12:25). Marriage is not essential for salvation (1 Cor. 7:8-9). The idea of man becoming a god or being like God is the great lie of Satan (Gen. 3:5; Eze 28:2; Acts 12:22-23; 2 Thes. 2:4; Isaiah 43:10).

Mormons believe that mankind may be _____ by _____ to the laws and ordinances of the Gospel (Articles of Faith #3), and that the blood of Jesus does not atone for certain sins.

The Bible teaches that salvation is a free gift of God's grace through faith alone in Christ alone and _____ from any works of our own (Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:5; Romans 3:20-28, 4:5; John 3:16; John 6:29; 2 Tim. 1:9; Rom. 11:6). The blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin (1 John 1:7, 2:2; 1 Cor. 6:11; Col. 2:13).

THEIR MINDSET

Potential converts are encouraged to pray about whether Mormonism is true. When one gets a positive _____, that's the Holy Ghost's confirmation that Mormonism is true. This is sometimes referred to as a "burning in the bosom." It is difficult to reason with Mormons because of this supposed confirmation of the truth. (Proverbs 14:12; Jer. 17:9)

Mormon converts are showered with support and acceptance in their new church. There is a great emphasis on _____. For many, Mormonism is a really enjoyable experience.

Ultimately, Mormons are trained to give blind _____ to the LDS church and its leaders.

Mormons believe their church is the _____ church and all other churches are of the _____.

Mormons are highly motivated to do all that the church says in hopes to attain _____.

To _____ the Mormon church would not be without a great cost.

HOW TO WITNESS TO A MORMON

Pray that God would give you a heart for these poor folks who are _____.

Don't tell a Mormon what they _____. Ask them what they believe. Not all Mormons are aware of the official teachings of the church.

Ask strategic questions to help them discover _____ with their beliefs.

Demonstrate that the Mormon _____ have contradicted one another and have been wrong time and time again with their predictions.

Give a clear message of the _____ and share your personal testimony of how Jesus saved you from your sins.

For Further Study, check out:

One Nations Under Gods, by Richard Abanes
The Kingdom of the Cults, by Walter Martin
Fast Facts on Mormonism, by John Ankerberg
The Godmakers, by Dave Hunt

Mormonism, by Kurt Van Gorden
Reasoning from the Scriptures with the Mormons, by Ron Rhodes

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