

Why Mormonism Is Not Christian:



So What's The Difference??

A Voice Of Warning

In the mid 1960's, I was once as you may be right now -- a "satisfied" member of a mainline Christian denomination. If you live outside of Utah, you may also be just as uninformed about Mormonism as I was back then so many years ago. I just want to tell you a little bit of the "other side" of the story. I hope that it will help you avoid making the same mistake I made in 1965. That is the year I became a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (*aka* the Mormons). I joined them because they convinced me, *that to the exclusion of all others*, they were the only true church on the face of this earth.

With a professionally groomed and carefully nurtured "squeaky clean" image, the Mormonism of today is *not* the Mormonism I knew even as late as the 1960' s. Mormonism then was still rather blatant in its opposition to orthodox Christian groups of all kinds. Since then, they have gone into "high gear" to convince both the secular and Christian public that Mormonism is just another Christian church. No longer are Mormons offended when you call them "Christians" but rather (as I would have been in the 1960's), they will act very offended if you do not label them as such! However, underneath this rather recently built veneer of "orthodoxy," lies a system of religion opposed to virtually all traditional Christian beliefs. The public image of the Mormon church may have been altered, but the fundamental doctrines that separate them from the denominations that make up the Body of Christ have not.

Mormonism Says All Other Churches Are Totally False

As a time honored evasive tactic, Mormonism does not openly name individual Christian denominations in their wide variety of anti-Christian literature. Therefore, the uninformed seem to be more easily misled into thinking that Mormonism is not attacking anyone, when in fact they are attacking *everyone!* Their attack began early in the 19th century with the so called, "first vision" of their founder, Joseph Smith. Therein, he claimed to have asked God the Father which Christian church was right:

I was answered that I must join none of them, for they were all wrong; and the Personage who addressed me said that all their creeds were abominations in his sight; that those professors were all corrupt... (*Pearl of Great Price, Joseph Smith-History 1:19, Page 49*)

God The Father's alleged condemnation of all existing Christian churches in this so-called "first vision" story was not an isolated doctrine as evidenced by these comments from the early Mormon apostle, Orson Pratt:

The gates of Hell have prevailed and will continue to prevail over the Catholic Mother of Harlots, and over all her Protestant Daughters ...the apostate Catholic

Church, with all her popes and bishops, together with all her harlot daughters shall be hurled down to Hell... (*Pamphlets by Orson Pratt, Page 112*)

...all other churches are entirely destitute of all authority from God; any person who receives Baptism or the Lord's supper from their hands will highly offend God, for He looks upon them as the most corrupt of all people. Both Catholics and Protestants are nothing less than the "Whore of Babylon" whom the Lord denounces by the mouth of John the Revelator as having corrupted all the earth by their fornications and wickedness. (*The Seer, Page 255*)

Since the founding days of the church, little if anything has changed in regard to Mormonism's real opinion of Christians. Recent Mormon apostle Bruce R. McConkie taught that the *Book Of Mormon*:

...designated the Catholic Church as "the Mother of Harlots" (1 Nephi 13:34; 14:15-17), a title which means that the protestant churches, the harlot daughters which broke off from the great and abominable church, would themselves be apostate churches. (*Mormon Doctrine, 1958 Edition, Page 315*)

Mr. McConkie gave yet another good "bottom line" summary when he stated:

This church is the only true and living church upon the face of the whole earth ... there is no salvation outside the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. (*Mormon Doctrine, 1966 Edition, Page 670*)

Let me cite yet another example from apostle McConkie. In January 1984, he gave one of his famous "devotional talks" to the entire student body of Brigham Young University, the tape recordings of which were widely circulated then and now. In this speech, Mr. McConkie called the Christian doctrines of the *Trinity* and *Salvation by Grace* alone the first and second greatest heresies of Christianity. He also told his audience that the Gospel as presented by most Christians was the "broad way that leads to destruction." He made fun of Christian doctrines and his biting sarcasm drew laughter a number of times from his approving audience. He mocked ex-Mormons who became Christian in the person of a fictitious "apostate" Mormon that Mr. McConkie dubbed, "Carnalis Luciferno" (as if anyone could miss the implication of such a name!!)

I for one, feel obligated to answer these attacks on traditional Christian doctrine, beliefs and practice. Like any honorable person, I certainly disdain unneeded contention or argumentation. However, silence in the face of such attacks will always be mistaken for agreement with the allegations! To remain quiet while such attacks are made against the cause of the genuine Jesus Christ of the Bible is to go against my conscience. That is neither honest nor safe, and more importantly, I do no favor to the Mormons (or to those who might join them in ignorance) by my keeping silent. This is because Mormonism is not just another Christian group with a few "funny" ideas. If that were so, I would be the first to leave it alone

and grant it the toleration most Christian denominations readily give one another on secondary doctrinal issues.

Whenever I am asked to share about why Mormonism is not Christian, I always try to make it clear that in stating that Mormonism is not Christian we are not being judgmental of their actions or lifestyle. By and large, all the Mormons I have ever known have been good friends, good neighbors and good citizens. However, Mormonism is not Christian for the same reason that atheism is not Christian -- because neither system believes what Christians believe! By the same kind of logic, Mormons are not atheists either, because Mormons do not believe what atheists believe. The determining factor of who are rightly called "Christians" has to be the system of belief -- not just an outwardly moral lifestyle.

Simply stated, Christians are Christians because they believe what Christians believe. Both the atheist and Mormon are welcome to believe anything they want. The only time I (or any other Christian) should ever say anything at all is when a non-Christian belief system tries to pass itself off as a legitimate Christian group within the Body Of Christ.

The Primary Issue!

One time I had the opportunity to speak at a meeting of an inter-denominational group of Christian pastors. As often happens amongst the uninformed, a question was raised about the propriety of making any kind of robust answer to the attacks Mormonism makes against Christianity. As I always do, I shared briefly some of the above information which satisfied most of the pastors there.

However, after the meeting, one pastor came to me and insisted that the separation between his denomination's position on infant baptism (they practice it) and some of the other Christians at the meeting was no less significant than the separation I claimed existed between his church and Mormonism. Although we had an animated discussion about it for at least 10 to 15 minutes, I was not doing too well getting through to him. He just couldn't see that the difference with Mormonism was far more basic and drastic than he understood.

In the course of our conversation, this pastor told me that he would always disagree with those other Christians on what God has said about baptism. I stopped him right there and asked him, "Although you may disagree with other Christians on what God has said concerning baptism, do you have any disagreement with them on who God IS?!?" In answering that question, he finally saw the eternal separation that exists between Mormonism and the denominations within the Body of Christ! Mormonism not only opposes Christians on what God "wants us to do," it says our basic concept of the nature of God is heresy and an abomination in sight of God Himself!!

What follows now are a few representative quotations from Mormon apostles and prophets on some important subjects. We begin with the prime issue -- the nature of the Mormon gods, and conclude with some comments concerning Mormonism's founding prophet, Joseph Smith, Jr. By letting both their founding leadership and contemporary apostles do their own talking, I know you will get information that you will never get from a Mormon missionary who comes knocking at your door:

There Are Many Gods In Mormonism!

I will preach on the plurality of Gods ... I wish to declare I have always and in all congregations when I have preached on the subject of the Deity, it has been the plurality of Gods. (*Joseph Smith, History of the Church, Volume 6, Page 474*)

In the beginning, the head of the Gods called a council of the Gods; and they came together and concocted a plan to create the world and people it. (*Joseph Smith, Journal of Discourses, Volume 6. Page 5*)

God The Father Was Once A Man Like Us

God himself was once as we are now, and is an exalted Man ... I say, if you were to see him today, you would see him like a man in form -- like yourselves ... I am going to tell you how God came to be God. We have imagined and supposed that God was God from all eternity. I will refute that idea, and take away and do away the veil, so that you may see ... it is the first principle of the Gospel to know for a certainty the character of God ... and that he was once a man like us. (*Joseph Smith, Journal of Discourses, Volume 6, Page 3*)

God The Father Had Physical Relations With Mary

...Only Begotten Son ... These name-titles all signify that our Lord is the only son of the Father in the flesh. Each of these words is to be understood literally. Only means only; Begotten means begotten; and Son means son. Christ was begotten by an immortal Father in the SAME way that mortal men are begotten by mortal fathers. (*Bruce R. McConkie, Mormon Doctrine, Page 546-547*)

There is no need to spiritualize away the plain meaning of the scriptures. There is nothing figurative or hidden or beyond comprehension in our Lord's coming into mortality. He is the son of God in the same sense and way that we are the sons of mortal fathers. (*Bruce R. McConkie, The Promised Messiah, Page 468*)

God The Father Is Married

In the Heaven where our spirits were born, there are many Gods, each of whom has his own wife or wives, which were given to him previous to his redemption while yet in his mortal state. (*Orson Pratt, The Seer, Page 37*)

This doctrine that there is a Mother in Heaven was affirmed in plainness by the First Presidency of the Church. (*Bruce R. McConkie, Mormon Doctrine, Page 516*)

The Mormon Jesus Is Married Too!

Jesus was the bridegroom at the marriage of Cana of Galilee ... we say it was Jesus Christ who was married, to be brought into relation whereby he could see his seed before he was crucified. (*Orson Hyde, Journal of Discourses, Volume 2, Page 82*)

I discover that some of the Eastern papers represent me as a great blasphemer, because I said in my lecture on Marriage, at our last Conference, that Jesus was married at Cana of Galilee, that Mary, Martha and others were his wives, and that he begat children. (*Orson Hyde, Journal of Discourses, Volume 2, Page 210*)

Jesus And Lucifer Are Spirit Brothers

The appointment of Jesus to be the Savior of the world was contested by one of the other sons of God He was called Lucifer -- this spirit brother of Jesus desperately tried to become the Savior of mankind. (*Milton R. Hunter, 1st Council of the Seventy, Gospel Through The Ages, Page 15*)

It Is Joseph Smith Who Stands In Judgment of Men

No man or woman in this dispensation will ever enter into the celestial kingdom of God without the consent of Joseph Smith. From the day that the Priesthood was taken from the earth to the winding up scene of all things, every man and woman MUST have the certificate of Joseph Smith, Junior; as a passport to their entrance into the mansion where God and Christ are. (*Brigham Young, Journal of Discourses, Volume 7, Page 289*)

So hear it all ye ends of the earth; if you ever enter into the kingdom of God, it is because Joseph Smith let you go there. This will apply to Jews and Gentiles, to the bond and free; to friends and foes; no man or woman in this generation will get a resurrection and be crowned without Joseph saying so. (*Brigham Young, from a General Conference discourse delivered on October 8, 1854*)

Joseph Smith's Own Boastings

I have more to boast of than ever any man had. I am the only man that has ever been able to keep a whole church together since the days of Adam. A large majority of the whole have stood by me. Neither Paul, John, Peter nor Jesus ever did it. I boast that no man ever did a work such as I. The followers of Jesus ran away from Him; but the Latter-day Saints never ran away from me yet. (*Joseph Smith, History of the Church, Volume 6, Page 408-409*)

God made Aaron to be the mouthpiece for the children of Israel, and he will make me to be GOD to you in his stead, and the Elders to be mouth for me; and if you don't like it, you must lump it! (*Joseph Smith, Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, Page 363*)

The above quotations, as unbelievable as they seem to the uninformed, are an accurate representation of some of the obscured or hidden teachings of the Mormon leadership. The warning of the Apostle Paul to the Christians in Galatia rings just as true today as when he penned them so long ago:

Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the Gospel of Christ But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a Gospel other than the one we preached to you, let him be eternally condemned! (*Galatians 1 :7b-8*)

The Biblical View

Even if you are not a Christian yourself, I am sure that if you have read this far, you may ask, "Well then, if Mormonism has a counterfeit Christian message, what then is the real thing?" The genuine Christian Gospel proclaimed throughout the last 2000 years says that the Lord Jesus Christ gave His life so that we may receive as a gift that which cannot be earned by our own efforts:

For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. (*John 3:16*)

Everyone knows that just because a gift is free does not mean that it is cheap! Eternal life with God is not cheap merely because Jesus paid the price for it and offers it to you for free! Quite the opposite is true -- the purchase price of this gift was not silver or gold, but the very blood of God Himself in human form. The contrasting Mormon view of "salvation" is that we are saved by "grace," but only after all we can do ourselves. In a simple formula the Mormon plan is "God's grace plus my works equals salvation." However, God's true plan of salvation is for us to be born again by His Spirit through the sacrifice of the cross. Any "good works" that real Christians do are done in appreciation of God's favor, not to earn it!! This then is the simple message of the Christian Gospel -- God finished on the Cross what we can not

possibly do for ourselves! The Lord Jesus Himself told us what "works" are required of His followers when He said:

Then they asked Him, What must we do to do the works God requires? Jesus answered, The work of God is this: to believe in the one He has sent ... For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son, and believes in Him shall have eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day. (*John 6:28-29 & 40*)

But it takes more than a mere verbal agreement with a set of doctrinal statements to be "saved." It takes a contrite and humble heart to recognize your own sinful and selfish nature. God wants a sincere heart given over to Him, not a "whitewashed" life consisting of a long list of boastful religious deeds allegedly done in His name! People should not let pride or any religious traditions keep them from making a sincere and personal commitment to Jesus Christ. If you have not done that yourself, but want to, you can do it right now where you are! Just pray and ask Jesus to forgive you of your sins; to come into your heart; give Him total control of your life; and ask Him to make you a new person:

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation, the old has gone, the new has come!
(*2 Corinthians 5:17*)

Confess your sinful nature to Jesus Christ and acknowledge you own inability to "save" yourself:

Who can say, I have kept my heart pure; I am clean and without sin? ... If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and purify us from all unrighteousness. (*Proverbs 20:9 & 1st John 1:8*)

Let God know that you want to become one of His children by adoption through the shed blood of Jesus Christ. When you ask Jesus Christ into your life with the real commitment of all your heart, you will then be born again by His Spirit (*John 1:12.13*) as a child of God (*Galatians 3:26*) and be come a joint heir with Jesus Christ (*Romans 8:14-17*). When you have done this, all of Heaven rejoices for you -- and so will I. You see, I spent ten years in Mormonism all the while a prideful sinner separated from the true God of the Bible. However, on the night of the 5th of July in 1975, I made that same personal commitment to Jesus Christ I just mentioned, and was then born again myself!!



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