

## **Mormon Doctrine:** (All of the following was taken from [carm.org](http://carm.org))

1. The true gospel was lost from the earth. Mormonism is its restoration. Mormon Doctrine, p. 635. They teach there was an apostasy and the true church ceased to exist on earth.
2. We need prophets today, the same as in the Old Testament. Mormon Doctrine, p. 606
3. The Book of Mormon is more correct than the Bible. History of the Church 4.461
4. There is no salvation outside the church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Mormon Doctrine p. 670
5. There are many gods. Mormon Doctrine, p. 163
6. There is a mother god. Articles of Faith by James Talmage, p. 443
7. God used to be a man on another planet. Mormon Doctrine, p. 321
8. Men may become gods. Mormon Doctrine, p. 321
9. God the Father has a body of flesh and bones. Doctrine and Covenants 130.22
10. God is married to his goddess wife and has spirit babies. Mormon Doctrine p.516
11. We were first begotten as spirit babies in heaven and then born naturally on earth. Journal of Discourse Vol 4.218
12. Jesus and Satan are spirit brothers. Mormon Doctrine p.163
13. God had sexual relations with Mary to make the body of Jesus. Journal of Discourses Vol 4, p.218, 1857
14. Jesus' sacrifice was not able to cleanse us from all our sins. Journal of Discourses Vol 3, p.247, 1856
15. Good works are necessary for salvation. Articles of Faith, p.92
16. There is no salvation without accepting Joseph Smith. Doctrine of Salvation Vol 1, p.188
17. Baptism for the dead. Doctrines of Salvation Vol II, p.141. This is a practice where they baptize each other in place of non-Mormons who are now dead. Their belief is that in the afterlife, the "newly baptized" person will be able to enter into a higher level of Mormon heaven.
18. There are three degrees of heaven: telestial, terrestrial and celestial. Mormon Doctrine p.348.

## **Christian Doctrine:**

1. There is only one God. Isaiah 44:6,8; Isaiah 45:6,14,18,21,22
2. There are no gods before or after God. Isaiah 43.10
3. God knows all things. 1 John 3.20
4. God is all powerful. Psalms 115.3
5. God is everywhere. Jeremiah 23.23, 24
6. God is spirit. John 4.24
7. Spirit does not have a body of flesh and bones. Luke 24.39
8. God has always been God. Psalms 90.2
9. Jesus is God. Isaiah 7:14; Isaiah 9:6; Isaiah 44:6 & Rev 1:17-18; John 1.1, 14; John 8.58; John 20.28; Col 2.9; Heb 1.6-8.
10. Jesus became a man. Phil 2.5-8
11. Jesus has two natures, divine and human. Col 2.9; 1 Tim 2.5
12. The Holy Spirit is God. Acts 5.3-4
13. The Holy Spirit is not a force. He is a person who speaks and acts and is alive - Acts 13:2
14. All people have sinned. Rom 3.23; Rom 5.12
15. Sin separates us from God. Isaiah 59.2
16. Jesus died for all of our sins. 1 John 2:2; 2 Cor. 5:14; 1 Pet. 2:24

17. Jesus' sacrifice was a substitution for us. 1 Pet 2:24
18. Jesus rose from the dead in His physical body.  
John 2:19-21
19. Those who reject Jesus will go to hell. Rev 20:11-15
20. Hell is a place of fiery punishment. Matt 25:41; Rev 19:20
21. Hell is eternal. Matt 25:46
22. The unsaved go to hell forever. Rev 21:8
23. Salvation is a free gift of God, by grace, with no works of our own involved.  
Salvation cannot be earned by works – Rom. 4:5; Rom 6:23; Eph. 2:8-9; Titus 3:5
24. Jesus will return visibly to earth. Acts 1:11; Rev 1:7
25. The Bible is the word of God; it is inspired (breathed out) by God; it is our only authority for information about God and ourselves; and for teaching us what God requires us to believe and do - 2 Tim. 3:16
26. The **Bible** is God's only written revelation and must not be added to or altered in any way – Deut 4:2; Rev 22:18-19 (The Book of Mormon adds to God's word)
27. Men are saved through belief in the truth – 2 Thess 2:13
28. God's word, the Bible, is the truth – John 17:17
29. God's word is our life – Deut 32:47; Matt 4:4
30. God's word will judge us – John 12:48; Deut 31:26; Heb 4:12
31. God's word is eternal – Matt 24:35; Psalm 119:89
32. God's word cannot be broken – John 10:35



**LDS believe you should pray to God about the Book of Mormon**, get a warm feeling, and then join their group. In other words, our salvation is to be based on a warm feeling! But

**1)** How do you know what you feel is right? It is not possible that our feelings can determine truth. That would be putting ourselves in the place of God and looking to ourselves for what we feel is right.

**2)** If religion is whatever we feel is right this could lead to chaos. What if some people felt that stealing was acceptable? Or lying and cheating? Would you trust someone who believed in a religion that felt it was alright to steal, lie and cheat?

**3)** Hitler felt killing Jews was right. He was wrong. The Bible says that the heart is deceitful and untrustworthy (Jer 17:9). If you could come to know truth by what you felt, then the Bible, which is God's revelation, didn't need to be written. But it has been written and it has revealed that only God is the Source of truth, not our feelings.

**4)** It is impossible for truth to contradict itself. Because feelings are subjective, truth cannot be based on them – because different people feel different things are right and wrong. For something to be true means it is absolute, not relative. Relative "truths" are not truth, they are just opinions, that is why they may contradict each other. But truth cannot contradict itself. That is what it means to be truth – that it is non-contradictory.

**LDS believe God the Father was once a man of flesh and blood.** They believe that is what it means for men to be made in God's image, i.e., that God must have a body because men have bodies!

**1.** Spiritual things and material things are different by definition.

**2.** God is not material or of matter. God is eternal and matter is temporal. God is infinite and matter is finite. God is unchangeable and matter is changeable. Matter and spirit are different orders of being.

**3.** The most important part of man is not his body (material) but his soul or spirit. Everywhere in the Bible the priority of the spiritual is stressed over the material (Matthew 6:33).

**4.** What kind of substance is God? "God is a spirit; and they that worship him, must worship Him in spirit and in truth."— John 4:24. To be created in God's image cannot contradict the

other parts of the Bible which tell us that God is a Spirit; and that therefore for man to be created in God's image refers to man's spiritual nature, not his bodily nature.

5. What is a spirit? A spirit is an immaterial substance, without flesh or bones, or bodily parts. "Behold my hands and my feet that it is I myself; handle me and see, for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have."— Luke 24:39.

6. See 2 Cor 3:18 – we are being transformed into God's likeness with ever increasing glory – this does not refer to bodily likeness (because God does not have a body), but to spiritual growth for the Christian believer.

7. God cannot have once been a man of flesh and bones because the Bible says that God is Spirit and that a spirit is without flesh & bones. John 4:24 Luke 24:39.

### **Is there more than one true God?**

*The Bible teaches and all Christians believe that there is only one True and Living God and apart from Him there are no other Gods* (Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 43:10,11; 44:6,8; 45:21,22; 46:9; Mark 12:29-34). By contrast, the Mormon Church teaches that there are many Gods (Book of Abraham 4:3ff), and that we can become gods and goddesses in the celestial kingdom (*Doctrine and Covenants* 132:19-20; *Gospel Principles*, p. 245; *Achieving a Celestial Marriage*, p. 130). It also teaches that those who achieve godhood will have spirit children who will worship and pray to them, just as we worship and pray to God the Father (*Gospel Principles*, p. 302).

### **Is God a Trinity?**

*The Bible teaches and all Christians believe that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are not separate Gods or separate beings, but are distinct Persons within the one Triune God.* Throughout the New Testament the Son and the Holy Spirit, as well as the Father are separately identified as, and act as, God (*Son*: Mark 2:5-12; John 20:28; Philippians 2:10,11; *Holy Spirit*: Acts 5:3,4; 2 Corinthians 3:17,18; 13:14); yet at the same time the Bible teaches that these three are only one God. By contrast, the Mormon Church teaches that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are three separate Gods (*Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, p. 370; *Mormon Doctrine*, pp. 576-577), and that the Son and Holy Spirit are the literal offspring of Heavenly Father and a celestial wife (Joseph Fielding McConkie, *Encyclopedia of Mormonism*, vol. 2, p. 649).

**Was the sin of Adam and Eve a great evil or a great blessing?** *The Bible teaches and all Christians believe that the disobedience of our first parents Adam and Eve was a great evil. Through their fall sin entered the world, bringing all human beings under condemnation and death.* Thus we are born with a sinful nature, and will be judged for the sins we commit as individuals. (Ezekiel 18:1-20; Romans 5:12-21). By contrast, the Mormon Church teaches that Adam's sin was "a necessary step in the plan of life and a great blessing to all of us" (*Gospel Principles*, p. 33; Book of Mormon 2 Nephi 2:25; *Doctrines of Salvation*, vol. 1, pp. 114-115).

### **Can we make ourselves worthy before God?**

*The Bible teaches and all Christians believe that apart from the saving work of Christ on the cross we are spiritually "dead in trespasses and sins" (Ephesians 2:1,5) and are powerless to save ourselves. By grace alone, apart from self-righteous works, God forgives our sins and makes us worthy to live in His presence* (Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:5-6). Our part is only to cling to Christ in heartfelt faith. (However, it is certainly true that without the evidence of a changed life, a person's testimony of faith in Christ must be questioned). By contrast, the Mormon Church teaches that eternal life in the presence of God ("exaltation in the celestial kingdom") must be earned through obedience to all the commands of the Mormon Church, including exclusive Mormon temple rituals. Works are a *requirement* for salvation (entrance into the "celestial kingdom") *Gospel Principles*, p. 303-304; Pearl of Great Price Third Article of Faith; *Mormon Doctrine*, pp. 339, 671; Book of Mormon 2 Nephi 25:23).

### **Does Christ's atoning death benefit those who reject Him?**

*The Bible teaches and all Christians believe that the purpose of the atoning work of Christ on the cross was to provide the complete solution for man's sin problem. However, those who*

*reject God's grace in this life will have no part in this salvation but are under the judgment of God for eternity* (John 3:36; Hebrews 9:27; 1 John 5:11-12). By contrast, the Mormon Church teaches that the purpose of the atonement was to bring resurrection and immortality to all people, regardless of whether they receive Christ by faith. Christ's atonement is only a *partial* basis for worthiness and eternal life, which also requires obedience to all the commands of the Mormon church, including exclusive Mormon temple rituals (*Gospel Principles*, pp. 74-75; *Mormon Doctrine*, p. 669).

**Is the Bible the unique and final word of God?** *The Bible teaches and all Christians believe that the Bible is the unique, final and infallible Word of God* (2 Timothy 3:16; Hebrews 1:1,2; 2 Peter 1:21) and that it will stand forever (1 Peter 1:23-25). God is providentially able to keep His word pure and unchanged throughout all history. God's providential preservation of the text of the Bible was marvelously illustrated in the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls.

By contrast, the Mormon Church teaches that the Bible has been corrupted, is missing many "plain and precious parts" and does not contain the fullness of the Gospel (Book of Mormon 1 Nephi 13:26-29; *Doctrines of Salvation*, vol. 3, pp. 190-191).

**Did the early church fall into total apostasy?** *The Bible teaches and all Christians believe that the true Church was divinely established by Jesus and could never disappear from the earth* (Matthew 16:18; John 15:16; 17:11). Christians acknowledge that there have been times of corruption and apostasy within the Church, but believe there has always been a remnant that held fast to the biblical essentials. By contrast, the Mormon Church teaches that there was a great and total apostasy of the Church as established by Jesus Christ; this state of apostasy "still prevails except among those who have come to a knowledge of the restored gospel" of the Mormon Church (*Gospel Principles*, pp. 105-106; *Mormon Doctrine*, p. 44).

**Conclusion:** The above points *in italics* constitute the common gospel believed by all Christians throughout history regardless of denominational labels. On the other hand, some new religions such as Mormonism claim to be Christian, but accept as Scripture writings outside of the Bible, teach doctrines that contradict the Bible, and hold to beliefs completely foreign to the teachings of Jesus and His apostles.

Mormons share with Christians some important moral precepts from the Bible. However, the above points are examples of the many fundamental and irreconcilable differences between historic, biblical Christianity and Mormonism. While these differences do not keep us from being friendly with Mormons, we cannot consider them brothers and sisters in Christ. The Bible specifically warns of false prophets who will teach "another gospel" centered around "another Jesus," and witnessed to by "another spirit" (2 Corinthians 11:4,13-15; Galatians 1:6-9). Based on the evidence presented above, we believe Mormonism represents just such a counterfeit gospel. All the basic tenets of Mormonism — that Joseph Smith was a prophet of God, that the Book of Mormon is true and divinely inspired, that god was once a man who progressed to godhood through keeping the laws and ordinances of the Mormon Church, and that the Mormon Church was divinely established — disqualify the Mormon Church from being a true Christian Church. No one can call himself a Christian if he does not believe and teach the fundamental doctrines taught in the only true word of God, the Bible.

The only true Christian Church is the Church which the Bible and God Himself have instituted. The Bible is the only written revelation of God. Please join us in submitting to its authority and upholding its divine origin. Eternity is a long time to be wrong. You do not want to find yourself on the wrong side of the only true and living God, the God of the Bible. May God bring you out of the darkness (just like He brought us out of our darkness) and into His kingdom of Light, and Truth, and Love, the kingdom of the Lord of Lords and King of Kings, the only Lord Jesus Christ of the Bible.