

## MORMONISM—Introduction

The Mormon religion (Mormonism), whose followers are known as Mormons and \_\_\_\_\_ (LDS), was founded less than two hundred years ago by a man named \_\_\_\_\_. He claimed to have received a personal visit from God the Father and Jesus Christ (*Articles of Faith*, p. 35) who told him that all churches and their creeds were an abomination (1 Nephi 13:28; *Pearl of Great Price*, *Joseph Smith – History* 1:18, 19). Joseph Smith then set out to "restore true Christianity" and claimed his church to be the "only true church on earth" (*Mormon Doctrine*, p. 670; 1 Nephi 14:10). The problem with Mormonism is that it contradicts, modifies, and expands on the Bible. Christians do not have a reason to believe that the Bible is \_\_\_\_\_. To truly believe in and trust God means to believe in His Word, and all Scripture is inspired by God, which means it comes from Him (2 Timothy 3:16).



### Four Books

Mormons believe that there are in fact four sources of divinely inspired words, not just one: 1) **the Bible** "as far as it is \_\_\_\_\_" (8th Article of Faith). Which verses are considered incorrectly translated is not always made clear. 2) **The Book of Mormon**, which was "translated" by Smith and published in 1830. Smith claimed it is the "most correct book" on earth and that a person can get closer to God by following its precepts "than by any other book" (*History of the Church* 4:461). 3) **Doctrine and Covenants**, containing a collection of modern revelations regarding the "Church of Jesus Christ as it has been restored." 4) **The Pearl of Great Price**, which is considered by Mormons to "clarify" doctrines and teachings that were lost from the Bible (*Articles of Faith*, p. 182–185) and adds its own information about the earth's creation.

### Beliefs

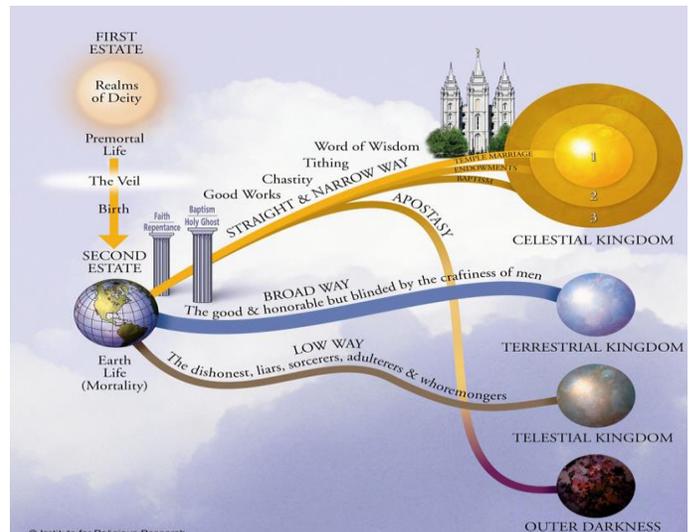
Mormons believe the following about God: He has \_\_\_\_\_ been the Supreme Being of the universe (*Mormon Doctrine*, p. 321) but attained that status through righteous living and persistent effort (*Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, p. 345). They believe God the Father has a "body of flesh and bones as tangible as man's" (*Doctrine and Covenants* 130:22). \_\_\_\_\_ taught that Adam actually was God and the father of Jesus Christ—although this teaching has been abandoned by modern Mormon leaders.



In contrast, Christians know this about God: there is only one true God (Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 43:10; 44:6–8). He always has existed and always will exist (Deuteronomy 33:27; Psalm 90:2; 1 Timothy 1:17). He was not created but is the Creator (Genesis 1; Psalm 24:1; Isaiah 37:16). He is perfect, and no one else is equal to Him (Psalm 86:8; Isaiah 40:25). God the Father is not a man, nor was He ever (Numbers 23:19; 1 Samuel 15:29; Hosea 11:9). He is Spirit (John 4:24), and Spirit is not made of flesh and bone (Luke 24:39).

Mormons believe that there are different levels or kingdoms in the afterlife: the celestial kingdom, the terrestrial kingdom, the telestial kingdom, and outer darkness (*Mormon Doctrine*, p. 348). Where mankind will end up depends on what they believe and do in this life (2 Nephi 25:23; *Articles of Faith*, p.79).

In contrast, the Bible tells us that after death we go to heaven or hell based on whether or not we had faith in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. To be absent from our bodies means, as believers, we are with the Lord (2 Corinthians 5:6–8). Unbelievers are sent to hell or the place of the dead (Luke 16:22–23). When Jesus comes the second time, we will receive resurrected, glorified bodies (1 Corinthians 15:50–54). There will be a new heaven and new earth for believers (Revelation 21:1), and unbelievers will be thrown into an everlasting lake of fire (Revelation 20:11–15). There is no second chance for redemption after death (Hebrews 9:27).



Mormon leaders have taught that Jesus' incarnation was the result of a physical relationship between God the Father and Mary (*Journal of Discourses*, vol. 8, p. 115; *Mormon Doctrine*, p. 547). Mormons believe Jesus is a god, but that \_\_\_\_\_ can also become a god (*Doctrine and Covenants* 132:20; *Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, p. 345–354). Mormonism teaches that salvation can be earned by a combination of faith and good works (*LDS Bible Dictionary*, p. 697).

Contrary to this, Christians historically have taught that no one can achieve the status of God—only He is holy (1 Samuel 2:2). We can only be made holy in God's sight through faith in Him (1 Corinthians 1:2). Jesus is the only begotten Son of God (John 3:16), is the only one ever to have lived a sinless life, and now has the highest place of honor in heaven (Hebrews 7:26). Jesus and God are one in essence, Jesus being the only man who existed before physical birth (John 1:1–8; 8:56). Jesus gave Himself to us as a sacrifice, God raised Him from the dead, and one day everyone will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord (Philippians 2:6–11). Jesus tells us it is impossible to get to heaven by our own works and that only by faith in Him is it possible (Matthew 19:26). We all deserve eternal punishment for our sins, but God's infinite love and grace has allowed us a way out. "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 6:23).

Clearly, there is only one way to receive salvation and that is to know God and His Son, Jesus (John 17:3). Receiving salvation is not done by works but by faith (Romans 1:17; 3:28). We can receive this gift no matter who we are or what we have done (Romans 3:22). "Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved" (Acts 4:12).

Although Mormons are usually friendly, loving, and kind people, they are deceived by a false religion that \_\_\_\_\_ the nature of God, the Person of Jesus Christ, and the means of salvation.

# Mormonism vs. Traditional Christianity

How Mormon beliefs differ from those of traditional Christianity

	Christianity	Mormonism
Scripture:	Most Christians accept only the Bible as authoritative scripture.	Mormons believe the Bible is sacred. They add three other documents—The Pearl of Great Price, The Doctrine and Covenants, and The Book of Mormon—to their canon.
Creeds:	For most Christians, church teachings stem from scripture. Leaders of the early church sought to specify the core of Christian belief in order to ensure the soundness of Christian teaching. At meetings in Nicea and Chalcedon in the fourth and fifth centuries, these leaders established the canon of scripture and proclaimed the basic elements of acceptable Christian doctrine.	Mormons do not affirm any of the creeds as stated, though they share some of the theological ideas in the creeds. They believe that after the death of the early apostles, the Christian church fell into apostasy. The church needed to be restored in the latter days, which Mormons believe were begun in 1820, when Mormon founder Joseph Smith was visited by God the father and Jesus Christ.
Nature of Godhead:	For most Christians, the Godhead is composed of three persons of one substance, power, and eternity—the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. These Three are One. This triune God is without "body, parts or passions."	The LDS Church also teaches that the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost comprise the Godhead. But Mormons believe that God the Father and Jesus Christ have bodies of flesh and bones as tangible as human beings, while the Holy Ghost "is a personage of Spirit." Mormonism also teaches that God the Father was once a man. He is married to a "heavenly mother" and is the literal father of all mortal spirits.
Christ:	Most Christians believe that Jesus Christ was "truly God and truly man, in whom the divine and human natures are perfectly and inseparably united." He is the only begotten Son of the Father, born of the Virgin Mary by the power of the Holy Spirit.	Mormons believe that Jesus is the Son of God in the most literal sense. He is eldest brother of all mortals and firstborn spirit child of God. He was Jehovah of the Old Testament but became Jesus Christ of the New Testament when he was born into mortality. They believe that from Mary, a mortal woman, he inherited the capacity to die, and from God, an exalted being, he inherited the capacity to live forever.
Salvation:	According to the historic, apostolic Christian faith, salvation comes only by the grace of Christ, who "suffered, was crucified, died and was buried, to reconcile his Father to us, and to be a sacrifice, not only for original guilt, but also for actual sins of men."	Mormons also believe that salvation comes through Christ's atoning sacrifice. But they don't believe in "original sin" or in human depravity. Still, Latter-day Saints believe that fallen men and women do need redemption. And while works are a necessary condition, they are insufficient for salvation.

## ANSWERS:

Latter-day-Saints, Joseph Smith, Untrue or Inadequate,  
Translated Correctly, Not Always, Brigham Young, Any Human, Distorts

## CHURCH WORK DAY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Saturday, October 22, 8:30 am- 12pm

### Financial Update

Total Weekly Budget  
**\$ 12,857.00**

Weekly Offering  
Received  
October 9, 2016  
**\$ 4,082.88**



### CALENDAR SALE

The Student ministry will be having their annual calendar fundraiser sale. These beautiful scripture-filled calendars will be \$7.00 each.

We have two new items for sale, pocket calendars at \$6.00 each and note pads for \$2.00. each. These items make great Christmas gifts.

## FALL TRUNK OR TREAT FESTIVAL

**DLBC** Deltona Lakes Baptist Church

2886 Elldcam Blvd.  
Deltona, FL 32738

**October 29th**

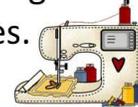
**3 pm - 6 pm**

- HAY RIDES
- GAMES
- PRIZES
- GIANT OBSTACLE COURSE
- BOUNCE HOUSE
- CANDY
- POPCORN
- HOT DOGS

We need your help to make this outreach event successful. There is a sign-up sheet located in the lobby. Please let us know how you can help.



The Bear Ministry will be meeting on Saturday, 10/22 from 1-4pm. If you have not joined in this activity yet, we could always use your help. The bears require several steps to complete; machine and hand sewing, as well as stuffing and putting on ribbons or faces.



## Sunday, October 23rd

Sign-up at [info@deltonalakes.org](mailto:info@deltonalakes.org)  
or call 386-789-2400

# BAPTISM

GOING PUBLIC WITH YOUR FAITH



## Save The Date

**Saturday, November 5th**

5:30 pm – 8:00 pm