

The Ambassador Series – Mormonism

Brief History

15.6 million members, 4th largest church in US

Are Mormons Christian?

The Book of Mormon refers to Christianity/Christian churches as, “the whore of all the earth” and “the great and abominable church”

- “If you’re a Christian, does that mean that I’m a Mormon?”

Stick to the Essentials

Don’t: Lead with polygamy, Mormon undergarments, Temple rituals, or baptism for the dead

Do: Stick with, the Nature of God, What is the Gospel, trustworthiness of the Bible, and propheticity of Joseph Smith

Who is the God of Mormonism?

An exalted man who lives on a planet near the star Kolob.

Mormon saying: “As man is, God once was; as God is, man may be”

Moronic 8:18 indicates that God is unchangeable.

- “If God is unchangeable, how did he become a God?”

Do we Worship the Same God?

<u>Mormon View</u>	<u>Orthodox Christian View</u>
There are many gods	There is one God
God the Father was once a man	God the Father was never a man
The Father has a body of flesh and bones	God is Spirit
The Father became god	The Father has always been God
Jesus was procreated by the Father and Mary through a physical union	Jesus has always existed as the Son and created all things
Jesus is a separate god from the Father	Jesus is the second person of the Trinity

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The Mormon Gospel is H.A.R.D. (actually it's impossible)

H – Have to be perfect:

Moroni 10:32 – “if ye shall deny yourselves of all ungodliness, ... then is his grace sufficient”

- “Have you denied yourself of *all* ungodliness?”

2 Nephi 25:23 – “... for we know that it is by grace that we are saved, after all we can do”

- “Have you done *everything* you can do?”

A – God gives them the Ability to be perfect:

1 Nephi 3:7 – for I know that the Lord giveth no commandments unto the children of men, save he shall prepare a way for them that they may accomplish the thing which he commandeth them.”

R – Repentance is insufficient because their sins Return

D&C 82:7 – ... go your ways and sin no more; but unto that soul who sinneth shall the former sins return, saith the Lord your God

D – The Deadline to be perfect is this life:

Alma 34:32 – “For behold, this life is the time for men to prepare to meet God; yea, behold the day of this life is the day for men to perform their labors”

Can the Bible be Trusted?

They claim a translation problem when they actually complain of a transmission problem.

- “Which mistranslated parts do you avoid reading?”

Was Joseph Smith a Prophet?

“How many false prophecies does it take to show someone is a false prophet?”

Doctrines & Covenants (D&C) 112:15 – Smith prophesied Jesus would return in his lifetime.

D&C 84 – Prophesied the temple would be built in Western Missouri in the lifetime of his immediate readers.

D&C 114:1 – Prophesied David Patten would do a mission trip in Spring 1839. He died Oct 1838.

Their Ultimate Fallback Position

They will ultimately rely on a “burning in the bosom” that it's true.

- “Have your feelings ever been wrong?”
- “What if someone prayed and felt the Book of Mormon was false? Who would be right?”

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Are Mormons Christian?

- “Church of *Jesus Christ* of Latter-day Saints”
- “There is one thing we would not like anyone to wonder about, that is, whether or not we are Christians.”
- Q – “If you’re a Christian, does that mean that I’m a Mormon?”

Controversial but Unproductive Areas

- Polygamy
- Mormon undergarments
- Temple rituals
- Racism
- Baptism for the dead

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The Essentials

Who is the God of Mormonism?

- “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”
- “As man is, God once was; as God is, man may be”
- Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are three separate gods

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Do We Worship the Same God?

<u>MORMON VIEW</u>	<u>ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN VIEW</u>
There are many gods	There is one God
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What is the Gospel?

- Q – “What *specifically* do you mean by _____”
- Ultimate goal of Mormonism – become a god

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Impossible Gospel Tactic

- “if ye shall deny yourselves of all ungodliness, and love God with all your might, mind and strength, then is his grace sufficient for you” (Moroni 10:32)
- Q – “Have you denied yourself of *all* ungodliness?”
- “for we know that it is by grace that we are saved, after all we can do” (2 Nephi 25:23)
- Q – “Have you done *everything* you can do?”

Impossible Gospel Tactic

- “for I know that the Lord giveth no commandments unto the children of men, save he shall prepare a way for them that they may accomplish the thing which he commandeth them.” (1 Nephi 3:7)
- “go your ways and sin no more; but unto that soul who sinneth shall the former sins return, saith the Lord your God” (D&C 82:7)

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Impossible Gospel Tactic

- “For behold, this life is the time for men to prepare to meet God; yea, behold the day of this life is the day for men to perform their labors” (Alma 34:32)
- For behold, if ye have procrastinated the day of your repentance even until death, behold, ye have become a subjected to the spirit of the devil, and he doth seal you his; ...” (Alma 34:35)
- the Spirit of the Lord hath withdrawn from you, and hath no place in you, and the devil hath all power over you; and this is the final state of the wicked.

Can the Bible be Trusted?

- According to LDS theology: definitely maybe
- Article 8: “We believe the Bible to be the word of God as far as it is translated correctly; we also believe the Book of Mormon to be the word of God.”
- Q – “If Joseph got a fundamental article of faith wrong, is it possible he got other things wrong?”

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Was Joseph Smith a True Prophet?

- Q – “How many false prophecies does it take to show that someone is a false prophet?”
- “Mormonism, as it is called, must stand or fall on the story of Joseph Smith. He was either a prophet of God, divinely called, properly appointed and commissioned, or he was one of the biggest frauds this world has ever seen. There is no middle ground.”

Smith's Prophecies

- I am with him, and my hand shall be over him; and the keys which I have given unto him, and also to youward, shall not be taken from him till I come (D&C 112:15)
- Verily thus saith the Lord: It is wisdom in my servant David W. Patten, that he settle up all his business as soon as he possibly can, and make a disposition of his merchandise, that he may perform a mission unto me next spring, in company with others, even twelve including himself, to testify of my name and bear glad tidings unto all the world (D&C 114:1)

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Ultimate Fallback Position

- “Personal testimony”/“Spiritual witness”/
“Burning in the bosom”

