

Addressing Culture with Scripture: Seeing and Answering the Many Faces of False Teaching

False teaching has been in our world since Genesis three and has metastasized so many times that it fills every culture so that it manifests itself in seemingly enumerable degrees and forms. The Bible repeatedly warns the people of God to be on guard against all false teaching, to defend the true faith, and to be prepared to give answer for the hope we have in Christ. Paul's warning from Colossians 2:8 needs to be heard loud and clear in the church today, "See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy or empty deceit..."! Therefore, starting October 5th we will begin a 9-week study of specific false teachings that inundate our culture, constantly seek to infect our homes, and even strive to distract our ministry. The plan for this class is to not only see some of the primary false teachings listed here but also to equip you with a sound biblical defense of the truth that has been twisted by these deceptions of the devil. We are living in a world filled with lies but we are called to be people of the truth who graciously but boldly live out and declare the truth in love. May the Lord use this study to further help us to remain on guard as we grow in our understanding of and submission to the Scriptures.

Date	Scheduled Lesson Topic
10/5	Prosperity Gospel / Word of Faith Movement
10/12	Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (Mormonism)
10/19	The Watchtower Bible and Tract Society (Jehovah Witnesses)
10/26	Roman Catholicism & Eastern Orthodoxy
11/2	Islam
11/9	Mind Science Groups & New Age Spirituality
11/16	Middle Eastern Religions (Hinduism; Buddhism...)
11/30	Secularism & Atheism & Naturalism
12/7	Legalism & Antinomianism & Universalism / Inclusivism

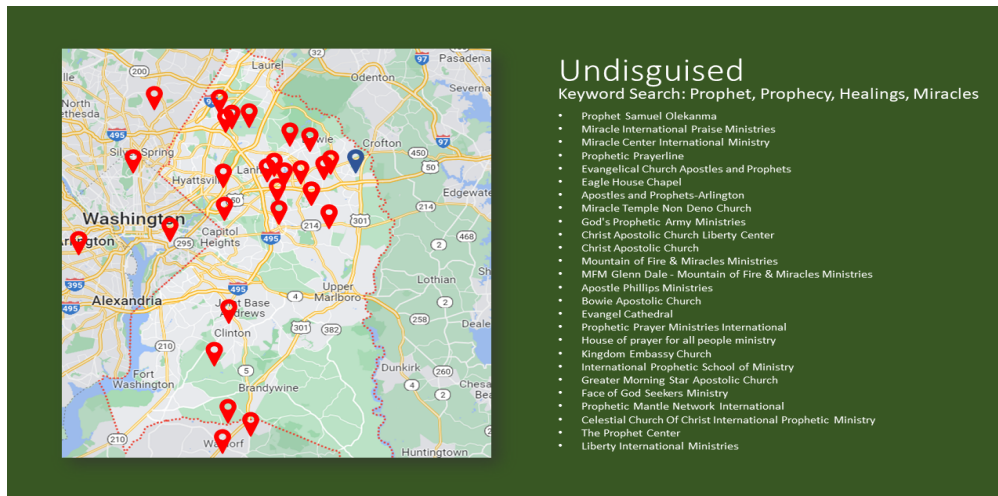


Mormonism: A Counterfeit Christian Cult

“A cult is a group that professes to be Christian, but so grossly distorts the fundamental doctrines of the true Christian faith that it sends people to hell rather than to heaven.”

Nathan Busenitz

Intro: “A Mecca for False Teaching”



- The Great Deception of Counterfeit Christianity: 2 Cor 11:3-15; Mt 7:15; Ezek 22:25-29
- The Damnable Nature of Another Gospel: Gal 1:6-9
- The Fingerprints of False Teaching:¹
 - A wrong view of Scripture: False teachers and cults will always **add** to Scripture for they view it as insufficient
 - A wrong view of the Savior: False teachers and cults will always **subtract** from Jesus Christ for they have a diminished view of the Lord
 - A wrong view of Salvation: False teachers and cults will always **multiply** the requirements for salvation because they have a synergistic man centered view of the gospel

¹ Thankful for the teaching of Dr. Nathan Busenitz, on my professors, who explained this helpful clarification regarding cults. Thankful for Dr. Dennis Kirkland who was also a former professor, friend, and a missionary in many places including to Mormons. Dennis helped me see how false teachers add to the Scriptures, subtract from Christ, and divide the gospel.

I. The Historical Roots of this False Teaching

1. **Joseph Smith** (1805-1844) is the founder or better yet the revelator of Mormonism also known as “The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints” or for short “LDS.” He claimed that in 1823, he had dug up a book of thin golden plates on a hill near Palmyra, N. Y. He went on to claim that it was through many years (1820-27) of receiving divine messages from God, by an angel whose name was “Moroni” (the angle you see on the top of all Mormon temples), that he eventually found the golden plates. He claimed that “Moroni” informed him that he was now the chosen prophet of God who has been given the revelation of the true church and everlasting gospel for this age. Smith was told that all the churches of the earth had lost their way and that God was telling Smith not to join any of them but to start a new one.

Interestingly, it has been well documented by a former Mormon historian that both Joseph Smith and his father were avid treasure hunters. They would often use “occult practices” (illegal in that day) in looking for buried treasure like using “seer stone divination, divining rods, talismans and implements of ritual magic.”² His desire for finding buried treasure and using occult practices in hunting for fortune did not stop with the founding of Mormonism but continued even more. Smith later translated and published the golden plates by using a “seer stone placed in his hat” which he called the “Urim and Thummin” in 1830 which became *The Book of Mormon*. The influence of Smith’s father on Joseph is also seen in how his dad was heavily involved in the society of Freemasonry. Many of the rituals, and symbolism of Freemasonry can be seen in Mormon temple construction, current ritual practices such as secret handshakes, oaths, and ritual dress where the markings of Freemasonry of the “square” and “compass” can be found on the holy “temple undergarments” worn by Mormons.³

The newfound group called the “Mormons” grew rapidly and often came in conflict with neighboring communities over social and religious practices which created great tension and forced them to move many times. They moved from NY where the so-called visions and plates were received and relocated in Kirkland, Ohio, 1831-37, then moved again to Independence, Missouri, and then again to Nauvoo, Illinois. It was there in Carthage, Illinois while awaiting trial on charges on riot and treason that Smith was killed by a mob who hated his doctrine most specifically polygamy.

2. **Brigham Young** (1801-1877) is best seen as the administrator of Mormonism as he built upon all the Joseph Smith started and organized it into a recognized, be it false, religious movement. Young was converted to Mormonism after moving to Western NY and then later followed Smith to Kirkland, Ohio. In 1835 Young become ordained as one of the “quorums” of the “12 Apostles of the new church” which served as the official governing body. While Smith was imprisoned in Carthage, Young led the growing congregation of Mormons to establish their city of “Nauvoo” in Illinois as they waited for Smith. After Joseph Smith was killed there were divisions among the Mormons which led to several factions and sects of Mormons being established. One of the largest surviving “offshoots” to be established still in existence today is known as “Reorganized

² See Walter Martin, “Kingdom of the Cults”; pg. 197-201.

³ See Roger Patterson in “World Religions and Cults” page 266-267.

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.” This group eventually came under the leadership of one of Joseph Smith’s sons. However, the largest following of Mormons elevated Brigham Young as their next leader after the death of Smith and thus Young became the second president of LDS church. It was Young who led the followers of Joseph Smith from Illinois across the mountains into Utah to make Salt Lake City their new home base where it continues to the present day. Young eventually embraced Smith’s teaching on polygamy and was said to have had 55 wives and 56 children.⁴ The main Mormon university, “Brigham Young University”, is obviously named after this man who became the movements most influence leader in helping organize and establish this group as an accepted religious presence in American history. Interestingly, Young was the Mormon president during the infamous “Mountain Meadows Massacre” where Indians and Mormons together slaughtered over 120 immigrants, mostly from Arkansas, passing through Utah heading to California.⁵ A lot of questions continue to go unanswered regarding this tragedy and Young’s leadership or lack thereof.

3. **Lorenzo Snow** became the fifth president and coined the well-known couplet to portray the law of eternal progression: “As man now is, God once was: As God now is, man may be.”⁶ The LDS doctrine of “eternal progression” is clearly a doctrine of demons and damnable as we examine further.

II. Some Core Tenants of this False Teaching

- God is one of many gods. Mormonism denies a trinitarian God and ultimately promotes polytheism that has aspects of it that are not that far removed from some forms of Hinduism.
- God is a created being with a body and flesh. Mormonism denies that God the Father is an eternal spirit for they teach he is a created being (created by another god) and was once like man is now. Mormonism teaches that through obedience God, whom they will often refer to as, “Heavenly Father”, achieved or “progressed” through degrees of sanctification to become exalted as god. This is what is known in Mormonism as the “law of eternal progression.” (See the “King Follet” sermon by Smith in 1844)
- Jesus is a created being. Mormonism denies the eternal existence of Jesus Christ as they say Jesus was the first spirit child sired by Heavenly Father. Satan was the second child sired by god with one of Heavenly Father’s many wives.
- Jesus was born through sexual intercourse between Heavenly Father and Mary. Mormonism denies the virgin birth and promotes a blasphemous view that does not see Christ being begotten by the Holy Spirit. In this reality the “Heavenly Father” of Mormonism is very similar to a Greek mythology god who were known for having sex with human women.

⁴ <https://www.history.com/topics/religion/brigham-young>

⁵ <https://www.famous-trials.com/mountainmeadows/936-home>

⁶ See Roger Patterson in “World Religions and Cults” page 242.

- Man can become a god by obedience to the gospel and other Mormon ordinances. This is foundational to the Mormon way of life and serves a massive motivation to much of what they do as they are seeking to become a god like Heavenly Father. The law of eternal progression was not just for “god” but for man so that he can become a god.
- Man will not be judged for the sin of Adam. Mormonism denies this aspect of original sin and actually do not see the fall as a bad event, but a blessed choice Adam made. This doctrine sets the stage for a form of universalism where most people eventually go to heaven according to Mormon doctrine.
- The true gospel involves embracing four ordinances which are faith, repentance, baptism by immersions, and laying on of hands for the Holy Spirit. Mormonism denies that salvation is by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone. Additional ordinances and covenants made in the temple are necessary for being exalted to godhood in the “Celestial Kingdom” which is the highest status or level of heaven.
- All except Satan, Demons, and few really bad people will eventually inherit one of the three levels of glory in heaven. Mormonism teaches a form of purgatory where you get to continue growing in Mormon doctrine and practice and eventually get promoted to a level of heaven. Since there are three levels almost everyone will go to some form of heaven.
- Christ’s death cannot remove personal sins. It can only provide for people the opportunity to remove their own sins and achieve salvation. Mormonism at its core is a works based dead religion that tells man he must and can ultimately save himself. In the *Articles of Faith* it says multiple times, “individual salvation or rescue from the effects of personal sin is to be acquired by each for himself, by faith and good works” (p.476).
- The book of Mormon is the most perfect book ever. Mormonism rejects the sole authority and sufficiency of Scripture as the perfectly holy inspired Word of God. The Bible for Mormonism is correct only as far it is translated and interpreted accurately. Mormonism sees the Bible as having been corrupted over time and translations so that is why *The Book of Mormon* was needed to be given and is more accurate and the only truly perfect book. Mormonism has multiple authoritative books it sees as “inspired Scripture” in addition to *The Book of Mormon* and they include, *Doctrine and Covenants*, *The Pearl of Great Price*, and within *The Pearl of Great Price* there is *The Articles of Faith*. The Bible is always regulated to a possession below their standard works listed above because they view the Bible as being full of errors. According to Mormonism, wherever and whenever the Bible contradicts Mormon teaching the Bible is wrong. All Mormon writings and works always stand above the Bible.
- Ongoing revelation, prophecy, healings, visions, tongues, and interpretation of tongues are gifts still active today. Mormonism is founded upon God continuing to give more

revelation that will add many more important things not yet known or heard about His kingdom.

- The Mormon leader, specifically their president, is designated as a prophet, seer, and revelator for God. Mormonism holds that their presidents speak authoritatively on behalf of God and give ongoing inspired revelation. Interesting note is how many times these Mormon leaders have contradicted, condemned, and corrected each other. Brigham Young and other early prophets taught the “Adam doctrine” which said that Adam was essentially was both God the Father and Michael the archangel. The 12th president, Spence Kimball, denounced the Adam-God teaching as a false doctrine. What does that say then about Brigham Young?

III. Comparing Some Core Tenants of this False Teaching with Scripture

1. What the Mormons Believe About God

- They believe that God is one of many gods (*Teaching of the Prophet Joseph Smith pp.370-372.*).
- They believe that God is a progressive being who was once as man is (*Gospel Doctrine, p.64; Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, 345*).
- They believe that Father God has a body of flesh and bones like man (*Doctrines and Covenants, 130*).
- They believe that God is not omnipresent (*Talmage, DC, p.48*).
- They believe that the heavens and the earth were created by the “gods” plural (*Abraham 4:1*).
- They believe their Father God, Adam, and Michael the Archangel to be one and the same (*Brigham Young, in the Journal of Discourses, 1:50*).
- They believe that man can become a god as God is. “As man is, God once was: as God is, man may become” (*Prophet Lorenzo Snow, quoted in Milton R. Hunter, The Gospel Through the Ages, 105-106*).

1. What the Bible Declares About God

- The Bible declares there is only one true God (*Duet.4:35, 6:4; 1Tim.2:5; Isa.43:10-1; 1Cor.8:4-6*).
- The Bible declares that the one true God is eternal, unchangeable, unique and all powerful (*Isa.44:6-8; Ps.90:2; Mal.3:6; Js.1:17*).
- The Bible declares that the one true God is spirit; and that He is transcendent (*Jn.4:24; 2Chron.6:18*).
- The Bible declares the one true God is omnipresent (*Jerm. 23:23-24; Ps 139:7-10, 17-18; Matt.28:20; Heb.4:13*).
- The Bible declares that the one true God is creator of all (*Gen1:1; Ex.20:11; Neh.9:6; Ps. 24:1-2, 33:6; Isa.40:12, 21-28, 45:18; Eph.3:9; Heb.3:4, 11:3*).

- The Bible declares that the one true God is everlasting and that both Adam (man) and Michael (angel) are totally different from each other and God, being created by Him (*Ps.90:2, 102:25; Gen.1:27, 2:7; Acts 17:25-26, Neh.9:6; Ps.148:2,5; Mk.12:25*).
- The Bible declares that God is the Creator and man is His creation and therefore man will always be subordinate to God and never as God is (*Zech.12:1; Ps.50:21; Isa.29:16, 55:8; Hosea 11:9; Rom.11:33-37*).

2. What the Mormons Believe About Jesus Christ

- They believe that Jesus Christ was not begotten by the Holy Spirit (*Journal of Discourses, 1:50-51*).
- They believe that Jesus Christ was begotten by the sexual union between God the Father and Mary (*Journal of Discourse, 1:50-51, 4:218, 8:115*).
- They believe that Jesus Christ is the firstborn and highest ranking of all the spirit children (mankind) created (not preexistent) by Elohim (*Smith, GD, p.70*).
- They believe that Jesus Christ and Satan are brothers (*Mormon Doctrine by Bruce McConkie, pp.163-164*).
- They believe that Jesus Christ was aided in creation by Moses, Abraham, Adam, Joseph Smith and many others (*McConkie, MD, p.169*).

2. What the Bible Declares About Jesus Christ

- The Bible declares that Jesus Christ was begotten by the Holy Spirit (*Mt.1:18; Lk.1:35*).
- The Bible declares that Jesus Christ was born of a virgin (*Isa.7:14; Mt.1:23; Lk.1:27*).
- The Bible declares the eternality and deity Jesus Christ (*Jn.1:1-2,15; Col.1:17,19,2:9; Rev.1:8; Jn.8:58, 10:30*).
- The Bible declares that Satan is a created being and that Jesus Christ is the Creator of all things and superior to all angels (*Ezek.28:15; Phil.2:9-10; Col.1:15-17; Heb.1:1-14; Jn.1:1, 3, 10; 1Cor.8:6*).

3. What the Mormons Believe About Man, the Fall, and Sin

- They believe that man is a preexistent soul who takes his body at birth (*DC 93:29, The Gospel Through the Ages pp. 21, 126-127*).
- They believe that the fall of Adam was a blessing.
 - “Adam fell that men might be; and men are, that they might have joy” (*11Nephi 2:25*).
 - “Adam deliberately and wisely chose to touch the forbidden tree” (*Talmage, DC, p. 65*).
 - “We ought to consider the fall of our parents as one of the great steps to external exaltation and happiness” (*Mormon Catechism*).
- They believe that man will be punished for their own sins and not for the sins of Adam (*Articles of Faith, 2*).

3. What the Bible Declares about Man, the Fall, and Sin

- The Bible declares that man is a finite being not an eternal one (*Gen.1:26-27; 2:7; 1Cor. 15:45-49*).
- The Bible declares that Adam's choice brought a curse on the whole world which proves that his choice was not wise or a great step for the happiness of man (*Rom.6:12-14, 8:18-25*).
- The Bible declares that through Adam's sin all mankind became sinners and therefore stands guilty because of imputed sin and personal sin (*Rom.6:13-14; Ps.51:5, 58:3; Eph.2:3; Ecc.7:20; Rom.8:18-21*).

4. What the Mormons Believe About Salvation

- They believe that Saints can redeem their unbaptized dead from the grasp of Satan through proxy baptism (*Morgan, Plan of Salvation, p.8*).
- They believe that Christ blood was not sufficient for all sins (*Journal of Discourse 3:247; 4:219-220*).
- They believe that salvation by grace through faith alone is "utter nonsense and... palpably false" (*What Mormons Think of Christ, Bruce R. McConkie, pp. 27-33*).
- They believe that certain works and rituals must be added to faith for true salvation (*What Mormons Think of Christ, Bruce R. McConkie, pp. 27-33*).
- They believe that salvation ultimately depends upon the work and acceptance of Joseph Smith and his teachings (*Doctrines of Salvation, Vol.1, p. 190*).
- They believe in a universal salvation of sorts as Christ death simply secures freedom from the grave and a universal resurrection from the dead (*Rosten, 136; Journal of Discourses, 12:100-101; What Mormons Think About Christ, Bruce R. McConkie, p.27-33*).
- They believe that "eternal life is the reward for obedience to the laws and ordinances of the Gospel" (*Mormon Doctrine, p.62*). The *Articles of Faith* says that "individual salvation or rescue from the effects of personal sin is to be acquired by each for himself, by faith and good works" (p.476).

4. What the Bible Declares About Salvation

- The Bible declares that redemption is only by Christ for those who believe in Christ not through any type of baptism (*Jn.1:12; Eph.1:7; Jn.3:18,36; Gal.3:13; Rom.3:24; Heb.9:27*).
- The Bible declares that Christ blood is sufficient for the forgiveness of all sin to those who believe (*Rom.3:25, 5:9; 1Jn.1:7; Eph.1:7; Col.1:20; 1Pet.1:18-19; Rev.1:5-6*).
- The Bible declares that salvation is by grace alone, in Christ alone, through faith alone (*Eph.2:8-9; Acts16:31; Jn.1:12, 3:16-18, 36; Rom.10:4, 9-11; Gal.1:9*).
- The Bible declares that salvation is not by any works of righteousness that we have done or could do (*Titus 3:5; Gal.2:15-16; 2Tim.1:9; Rom.3:28*).
- The Bible declares that salvation is found in no other name then Jesus Christ (*Acts 4:10-12; Jn. 6:14*).

- The Bible declares that there will be eternal life only for those who have believed and eternal damnation for all others (*Rev.19-20, 20:10,15, 21:8, 14:10-11; Jn.3:18; Rom.8:1; Mt.10:26-33, 25:31-46; Mt.7:21-23*).

5. What the Mormons Believe About the Bible

- They believe the Bible to be the Word of God as far as it is translated correctly (*Articles of Faith, No.8*).
- They believe the book of Mormon and other books to also be the Word of God with the other books taking precedence over the Bible (*Articles of Faith, No.8*).
- They believe that those who say the Bible should be the only source of authority are foolish (*Book of Mormon, 2 Nephi 29:3, 6, 10*).
- They believe that the Book of Mormon, Doctrine & Covenants, and the Pearl at Great Price cover a wide range of subjects and are directly from God. They restore the truths that were taken away from the Bible. “The Book of Mormon...was translated from the gold plates by Joseph Smith and contains the fulness of the gospel” (*Gospel Principles, p. 375*).

5. What the Bible Declares About itself

- The Bible declares that only the Scriptures are God breathed, inerrant, and infallible, not the writers, nor any other writings (*2 Tim.3:16-17; 2 Pet.1:20-21; Mt.5:18; Jn.10:35; Ps.119:160*).
- The Bible declares that no man shall add or take away from the words of the Lord and the book of prophecy says cursed is any man that adds or takes away from this book (*Rev. 22:18-19; Duet.4:2; Prov.30:5-6*).
- The Bible has total continuity and harmony with its claims, content, and character.
 - The so called “inspired” books of Mormon are filled with internal and external contradictions and many claims that have been proven to be false and many others that find no historical or archeological substantiation.
 - However, “What the Bible says about itself should be understood in light of what the Bible shows in itself. In order to demonstrate the divine authority of the Scriptures, it must be shown that the Bible has a divine claim corroborated by a divine character and supported by divine credentials” (*Norman Geisler, A general Introduction to the Bible, p.49*).

IV. A Summary of Why Mormonism is a Doctrine of Demons (1 Tim 4:1)

“Are Mormons really Christian?”

1. **A Blasphemous View of God:** Mormonism does not believe in the God of Bible but actually utterly denies a trinitarian God. Instead, Mormons believe God was created by other gods and was once a man. The “god” of Mormonism is not the God of the Bible!

2. **A Debased View of Christ:** In Mormonism Jesus Christ is a created being and not the eternal Son of God being co-equal with God. This Christ is always seen as lesser than God. Jesus was not miraculously begotten through the Holy Spirit but was conceived through actual intercourse

between God the Father and Mary. Jesus in Mormonism is seen to be a polygamist who was married to Mary Magdalene, Mary the sister of Lazarus, and Martha (Apostle Orson Hyde, *Journal of Discourses* 2:81). The “Christ” of Mormonism is not the Christ of the Bible!

3. A False View of Sin: Mormonism does not see the choice of Adam in rebelling against God in the Garden to eat the forbidden fruit as an actual act of sin. The “Fall” is something to rejoice over according to Mormonism. Therefore, for Mormonism Adam’s sin and guilt is not passed on to all humanity. Furthermore, sin is something man can deal with himself through obedience and good works. “Sin” in Mormonism is not the something as sin described in the Bible!

4. A Contrary View of the Atonement: Mormonism teaches that through the atonement Christ’s death cancels the death penalty imposed on all men because of the fall. Thus, all men will be resurrected and redeemed in the end. The atonement also opens the door for man to deal with his own personal sin through obedience and good works. Christ’s “atonement” for Mormonism is not the substitutionary and propitiatory atonement of the Bible!

5. An Unorthodox View of Scripture: Mormonism teaches that God’s ultimate revelation comes through the *Book of Mormon*, *Doctrine & Covenants*, and *The Pearl of Great Price*. Mormonism sees these writings as inspired by God and must always be seen as more important and placed over the Bible in priority and truth. Mormonism sees the Bible as ultimately corrupted and untrustworthy for life. “Divine Revelation” for Mormonism does ultimately come from the 66 inspired books of the Old and New Testaments of the Bible!

6. A Heretical View of Man: Mormonism teaches that man is an eternal being waiting for a body and that he can be a god one day just like Heavenly Father who was once like man. As a matter of fact, Mormonism teaches that everyone once lived life with Jesus in heaven since we are all eternal. Thus, in Mormonism, Jesus is literally man’s elder brother. “Man” in the teachings of Mormonism is not that same thing as man in the Bible!

7. A Disastrous View of the Gospel: Mormonism teaches a gospel of man centered works that has four component parts to it: Faith, Repentance, Baptism by Immersion, and the Laying on of Hands for the Holy Spirit. Furthermore, Mormonism teaches that ongoing involvement in temple rituals and obedience to Mormon teaching, and good works are the only way to atone for personal sins. The “gospel” in Mormonism is not the gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ as declared in the Bible!

8. A Sacrilegious View of Baptism: Mormonism teaches individual baptism as necessary for salvation and proxy baptism as necessary for the salvation of others who have not had the privilege of hearing and following Mormon doctrine. Thus, Mormonism practices proxy baptisms for dead loved ones so as to help free them from prison and help them get to heaven. “Baptism” in Mormonism is not the same baptism we read about in the Bible!

9. A False View of Heaven and Hell: Mormonism teaches there are three different levels in heaven or God’s kingdom (telestial glory; terrestrial glory; and celestial glory). Basically, everyone will achieve a position in the one of the first two levels. However, only Mormons will

receive or enter true heaven which is the third level, and it is this level that all faithful Mormons are working towards as they practice this false religion. This third level is what they are progressing towards as they seek “god like” status one day just like God did when he was human. Only Satan, the demons, and few really wicked people called sons of perdition (including those who apostatize or willingly reject Mormon doctrine) actually go to “outer darkness” for all eternity. “Heaven and hell” for Mormonism is not what we read about in the Bible!

10. An Ungodly View of Marriage: Mormonism teaches that Mormon marriage in a temple is a necessary step to achieving ultimate exaltation and a celestial marriage in heaven. Mormons teach that Mormon married couples after death remain married in heaven and continue to have spirit children who will one day become gods like them. Sadly, in Mormon teaching those who die unmarried (in the Mormon sense) will never be able to continue in family unity and procreate spirit children in heaven. Furthermore, these people will also never achieve ultimate exaltation and salvation of becoming like god. “Marriage” for Mormonism is not like we read about in the Bible!

Conclusion: How should I respond and what should I think about Mormonism?

- **How I Should Respond:** Always respond with grace and kindness but never compromise God’s Word. Use the information above never to mock or ridicule but to patiently ask questions as you point out clear contradictions both in their own writings and as compared to Holy writ! Never forget it is not about winning arguments or sinfully belittling anyone but about lovingly sharing truth to the glory of God! This teaching is so appealing to our world because the globe both sits in darkness and loves darkness just like every believer once was (Jn 3:19; Eph 5:8)! Be kind, be gracious, be truthful, and be biblical as you keep the discussion on the gospel as declared in and through the Scriptures. Never forget what Paul declared in Gal 1:6-9 and the severity of what we are dealing with when discussing these things with people who honestly preach another gospel! Guard your heart from both arrogance and flippancy so that you do not sin in pride or become easily deceived and lead astray by this deceptive false teaching.
- **What I Should Think:** Christianity is founded upon the Word of God and every segment, denomination, and gathering of true Christianity must believe in, submit to, and practice at least the basic doctrines of Scripture if it is to be rightly labeled “Christian” meaning sanctioned by and a reflection of Christ. Therefore, when any form of so called “Christianity” deviates from or contradicts the core doctrines and practices given by God through His holy Word then that religious sect is objectively proven to be a counterfeit and false in its claim to be Christian! Mormonism is objectively anything but “Christian” as it denies, demeans, and distorts the basic, foundational, and clear teachings of Christ as given through His perfect Word the Bible! **Never be deceived by anyone, Mormonism is not Christian in anyway, but it is demonic in every way (Jn 8:44; 1 Tim 4:1 cf. 2 Cor 11:3-15; 2 Tim 2:24-26)!**