

Mormonism

Review of cults:

Definition of a cult as a group of people gathered about a specific person or person's misinterpretation of the Bible.

Four things most cults have in common:

1. Centralized authority
2. Us versus them complex
3. Commitment for each member to proselytize the unconverted
4. Isolationism

They fail to have correct theology according to historic Christianity in the following areas:

1. The attributes of God
2. The person of Jesus Christ
3. The nature of man
4. The requirements of atonement
5. The source of revelation

History of the Mormons

Mormonism is a cult started by a man by the name of Joseph Smith (1805-1844).

Joseph Smith claimed that when he was 15 years-old he was reading James 1:5 and asked for wisdom because the difference between different Christians confused him and he prayed to God. God the Father and God the Son appeared to him they told him that Christianity had become a complete apostasy and he was the one picked to reestablish the true Christian church.

The Mormon church has always held the position that they alone are true Christianity.

They teach that after the apostles died the Christian church fell into complete apostasy, making it necessary for the restoration of true Christianity by the Mormons.

On September 21, 1823, an angel appeared to Smith telling him of the location of golden plates that had been buried near his location in Palmyra, New York.

Smith would translate them starting in 1827 and they would become the Book of Mormon the number one book of the Mormons.

Smith said he received another 135 direct revelations from God to help this new true Christianity grow. Along with God, he received visits from Peter, James, John the Baptist, and others. Many of these revelations are printed in the second most important book for the Mormons and it is called the Doctrine and Covenants.

The book of Mormon was published in 1830 and on April 6 Smith and a group of other men started the Church of Christ. The name was changed in 1834 to the Church of Latter-Day Saints, the name was changed again in 1838 to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.

I want to note something very important about Joseph Smith. Smith was involved with supernatural things like peep stones, divining rods, fortune-telling and claimed to have supernatural powers to help him dig for treasures.

He used seer stones to translate the golden plates.

Kirtland, Ohio was the place that Smith, through divine revelation, instituted polygamy.

Their holy books

The Mormons have four books that they believe are the Word of God

1. King James Bible, if interpreted correctly
2. Doctrine of Covenants
3. The Pearl of Great Price
4. The Book of Mormon- this book is the pivotal book for the Mormons

The key to the Mormons is found in the Bible, in fact, they say the Bible predicts the Mormons.

John 10:16

And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.

The Mormons teach that Jesus never went to the Gentiles, so they believed this was fulfilled when Jesus appeared to the Nephites.

The *Book of Mormon* is the Bible for the Mormons it tells the history of three different groups of people.

The most important group was led by a man by the name of Lehi of Jerusalem. His descendants became the Nephites and that is the group that the Book of Mormon is all about.

The story goes that Lehi left Jerusalem around 600 years before Christ and came to North America. Lehi had two sons Nephi and Laman.

Nephi was a righteous leader but Laman was not. Laman's descendants who were the Native Americans and black people carry the curse of god and their skin was darkened.

When Jesus rose from the dead he came and preached to them and they were converted.

In 385 AD the Lamanites became apostates and warred against the Nephites and wiped them out.

Before they were wiped out, Mormon took all the records of his people and on gold tablets wrote down the history of his people in reformed Egyptian (which does not exist). He entrusted them to his son Moroni who finished them and then buried them in the Hill Cumorah. 1400 years later Moroni who was an angel led Smith to these plates.

By using magical seer stones Smith translated these tablets into the book of Mormon.

What they believe

Mormonism considers Christianity its enemy. They strongly oppose the Christian teaching of salvation by grace through faith.

God

The Mormons believe in polytheism-a belief in many gods.

- a. They believe there are three gods for this earth and there is an infinite number of gods throughout the universe.
- b. Every Mormon who is exalted also becomes a god.
- c. God was once a man who was created by another god and by self-perfection become a god. He evolved into God.
- d. Mormons believe God has a body and since he has a body, he can have sexual intercourse
- e. These gods produce spirit children that need bodies so the earth is populated with physical bodies so that these spirit children might have the opportunity to progress to godhood.
- f. Every god was once an imperfect man who was saved by good works. So that means god was once a man and he had to earn his salvation.

Jesus Christ

Jesus Christ is a created being.

- a. He was the first of billions of spirit children created through sexual intercourse between the male and female earth gods.
- b. Jesus and Satan are blood brothers
- c. Jesus is a saved being; he came to earth to work out his own salvation
- d. His divinity is not unique for every exalted man will attain the same godhead that Jesus now has.
- e. Jesus needed help in the creation. Mormonism teaches that the preexistent spirits of Adam and Joseph Smith plus others helped him in creation.
- f. Jesus was born through sexual intercourse by God and Mary, his mother

To understand scripture you must understand what it meant to the people who it was written to:

Image- when Paul was writing this people would look at this and go “wow”, because to the philosophers of the day this is the word they would use to describe the Word, the very mind and reason of God.

To the regular guy of that time they would see this verse and go “wow”. Back in the day when people would make a contract they would write their names but also put down their **description** so they could be identified. This told the regular guy **this is God**.

Firstborn- the Greek word used does not mean first in creation but refers to **position and rank**.

Jesus **created** everything it sprang from him at his command and everything is going back to him- he is the Alpha and the Omega.

Salvation

Mormons will claim that they believe salvation is by grace, however, what they mean is that everyone will be **resurrected from the dead**. The destiny of a person is **determined by their works**.

- a. Mormons are grateful for the atonement because it raises them from the **dead but that is all it does**.
- b. A person's good works and personal merit determine which kingdom **of glory** he or she inherits after death.
 1. Telestial kingdom- it is a place where **the wicked will go**. This is the place most of humanity will go. These folks will be excluded from the presence of God and Christ.
 2. Terrestrial kingdom- this is where **lukewarm Mormons**, good non-Mormons, and those who will accept Mormonism **after death go**.
 3. Celestial kingdom- this is gained by complete obedience to the Mormon way. This kingdom has three parts, **the top one is where you can** attain godhood and eternal sexual increase.

Ephesians 2:8-9

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

Titus 3:5

he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit,

Conclusion

Mormonism **is not Christianity**; in fact, it is probably more in the category of being part of **the occult**.