
MORMONS

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints

TODAY'S PASSAGE: John 14:6, Ephesians 2:8-9, Galatians 1:8-9

Some Definitions:

CULT: any religious movement with teachings and/or practices that _____ from historical orthodox Christianity.

ORTHODOX CHRISTIANITY: The doctrines and beliefs held as _____ by the majority of Christians since the birth of the first century church

What do you mean by intolerant?

1. _____ *Tolerance*
2. _____ *Tolerance*
3. _____ *Tolerance*

History

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

○ **THEIR SOURCES OF** _____:

○ **THEIR TEACHINGS ABOUT** _____.

○ **THEIR VIEW OF** _____.

○ **THEIR BELIEFS ABOUT** _____.

○ **THEIR PLAN OF** _____.

How should we respond?

- _____
- Engage them with _____ interest.
- Share your _____.
- Present the _____ (Know What You Believe).

Main Street Church - Life Group Guide

Series: COEXIST - Message #5 – MORMONSIM

Speaker: Shawn Vandop – Lead Pastor – June 5, 2022

1. Who can recite from memory **John 14:6**?
2. What jumped out at you from this week's message? Discuss.
3. When you meet a Mormon – do you tend to hide from them or engage them? Discuss.
4. What is one thing you learned about Mormonism that you did not know before? Ask if anyone in your group can give a quick overview of the history and beliefs of Mormonism?
5. Shawn talked about some of the doctrinal differences between Christianity and Mormonism by explaining **five big problems** with Mormonism. Does anyone remember what they are? Once your group has listed them walk through them and the questions below. **(Ask the questions without reading the answers that are included. First see what your group remembers).**

a. THEIR SOURCES OF AUTHORITY.

- i. **What are the four sources of authority for a Mormon?** (*Book of Mormon, King James Bible, Doctrine and Covenants and the Pearl of Great Price*).
- ii. **Who received the book of Mormon from an angel?** (*Joseph Smith the founder of Mormonism*).
- iii. **What is the Book of Mormon about?** (*The Book of Mormon claims which claims to be a record of God's dealings with the inhabitants of ancient America*).

b. THEIR TEACHINGS ABOUT GOD.

- i. **Do Mormons believe in the Trinity?** (*Although Mormons profess belief in God the Father, his Son Jesus Christ, and the Holy Ghost, their understanding of these persons is quite different from historic Christian belief that the three persons of the Trinity are one. Mormon teaching regards each of these three as an independent person, separate from the other two; and this teaching evoked the accusation that Mormons are polytheistic, believing in more than one god*).
- ii. **What do Mormons believe about God and Jesus?** (*According to Mormon teachings, God the Father was once a human being who became God, and his firstborn spirit child was Jehovah, who was later born with a physical body to Mary as Jesus Christ. Since God was once an ordinary human male who was "exalted," similarly ordinary human beings have the potential of "exaltation," or deification. This understanding implies that Jesus is not the unique incarnation of God*).

c. THEIR VIEW OF MAN.

- i. **What do Mormons believe about humans?** (*In Mormon teachings, human beings had a pre-earthly existence and after death will again be in the spirit world, where they can progress toward godliness. In time the spirit and body will reunite, and these Saints will undergo judgment on whether they have lived according to God's commands. The*

faithful then will live with their families in God's presence. The less faithful will live in other parts of heaven).

d. THEIR BELIEFS ABOUT JESUS.

- i. **What do Mormons believe about Jesus?** (Mormons believe that Jesus Christ was the firstborn spirit-child of the heavenly Father and a heavenly Mother. Jesus then *progressed* to deity in the spirit world. He was later physically conceived in Mary's womb, as the literal "only begotten" Son of God the Father in the flesh (though many present-day Mormons remain somewhat vague as to how this occurred. He is not eternal but had a beginning. They believe that Lucifer (Satan) is Jesus' brother.

e. THEIR PLAN OF SALVATION.

- i. **What do Mormons believe about salvation?** (Mormons believe that God gives to (virtually) everyone a general salvation to immortal life in one of the heavenly kingdoms, which is how they understand salvation by grace. Belief in Christ is necessary only to obtain passage to the highest, celestial kingdom—for which not only faith but participation in Mormon temple rituals and obedience to its "laws of the gospel" are also prerequisites. They are a works-based religion. GotQuestions.org nicely sums up the Mormon works "to do" list: *"In the Mormon gospel we see belief + repentance + baptism + laying on of hands + temple work + mission work + church ministry + tithing + ceasing from sin + abstaining from the use of intoxicants and strong drinks and tobacco and caffeine + confessing Joseph Smith as Prophet + temple marriage + baptism for the dead + genealogy research . . . the list could go on and on and on."*

6. READ Galatians 1:8-9

- a. How does this verse speak to the teachings of Mormonism?
- b. What is the Gospel?

7. What did Shawn tell us to do when reaching our Mormon friends and neighbors?

- a. Pray
- b. Engage with them (Ask Questions)
- c. Share your personal Testimony.
- d. Present the Truth (Know what you believe)

APPLICATION:

- If the opportunity arises, are you willing to engage a Mormon friend or neighbor?
- If you know a Mormon, take some time, and pray for them as a group.
- Memorize **Galatians 1:8-9** this week.

If you want to learn more about why we can trust the Bible – you can listen to Shawn's message from the "HOLD THE LINE" series here - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dMClshF2DA&t=1384s>