

Apologetics - Challenging Latter Day Saints (Mormon)

(Love them, do not be contentious -let the gospel offend, be gentle, victims not enemy, focus on Mormon stress points, speak their language, witness Christ, talk about faith)

Stress points – uncertainty of forgiveness, have they done enough, are they good enough, do they feel worthiness, are they saved?

Mormons believe that there are in fact four sources of divinely inspired words, not just one:

- 1) the Bible “as far as it is translated correctly” (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.

Mormons believe the following about God: He has not always 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). [Brigham Young](#) 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](#)).

LDS (Mormons) believe that Jesus Christ was the first “spirit child” born to God the Heavenly Father with one of his many wives. Instead of acknowledging Jesus as the one true God, they believe He became God, just as they will one day become gods. According to Mormon doctrine, as the first of the “spirit children” of God, Jesus had preeminence over Satan or Lucifer, who was the second “son of God” and the “spirit brother” of Jesus. It is ironic that they will use Colossians 1:15 as one of their “proof texts,” because it says that “[Christ] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.” Yet they ignore verse 16, where we see that “By [Christ] all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth. Visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. ALL THINGS were created through Him and for Him.” All things—thrones, dominions, principalities, or powers—includes Satan and his demon

LDS language – terminology

Exaltation - To be exalted, we first must place our faith in Jesus Christ and then endure in that faith to the end of our lives. Our faith in Him must be such that we repent ...

Salvation - Elder Russell M. Nelson explained that “to be saved—or to gain salvation—means to be saved from physical and spiritual death.” Exaltation, he further taught, “refers to the highest state of happiness and glory in the celestial realm.” “The time to prepare for our eventual salvation and exaltation is now.”

Spirit Children - Each individual is a spirit child of Heavenly Father and existed as a spirit before this life on earth. During this life, the spirit of the individual is housed in a physical body, which was born of mortal parents. The scriptures teach that at the time of physical death, the spirit does not die.

Notes:

Use the Bible and ‘Columbo’ technique – [^{Ref5}] do not try to refute their ‘scripture’ – I think the prophets are fair game if you know enough or have solid evidence.

If the Bible is the Word of God (both Joseph Smith and Brigham Young believed this), then the foundational beliefs of Mormonism and the Latter-day Saints (if those beliefs are reliable) should be consistent with what the Bible teaches. However, there are inconsistencies, and we will look at four areas of discrepancy between Mormonism and the Bible. [^{Ref:3}]

Also LDS reference the writing of the prophets and the Book of Mormon as well as the Holy Bible – stress that God has stated that there are no other Gods – None, not before Him or beside Him - Isaiah 43:10 & Isaiah 44:6,8

Witness as to Christ, just leaving Mormonism does not save them.

Listen to them talk about faith – important to understand spectrum levels of kingdoms in the afterlife .
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).

Be prepared to explain Psalm 82:6 and John 10:34 and divine council. [^{Ref1}]

Patience of the Saints - Immediately after this pronouncement of judgment, John observes that “here is the patience of the saints.” He identifies the saints as “the people of God who keep his commands and remain faithful to Jesus” ([Revelation 14:12](#)). [Not the Church but Tribulation saints]

Issues:

Can't leave the LDS Church - loss of family, friends (Matthew 19:29)

God is not created but the Creator Himself ([Genesis 1](#); [Psalm 24:1](#); [Isaiah 37:16](#); [Colossians 1:17–18](#)).

Resources

[Colossians 1:15](#)

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.

[Isaiah 9:4](#)

6 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

[Isaiah 43:10](#)

“You are my witnesses,” declares the Lord, “and my servant whom I have chosen, that you may know and believe me and understand that I am he. Before me no god was formed, nor shall there be any after me.

[Isaiah 44:6-8](#)

Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts: “I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god. 7 Who is like me? Let him proclaim it. Let him declare and set it before me, since I appointed an ancient people. Let them declare what is to come, and what will happen.

8 Fear not, nor be afraid; have I not told you from of old and declared it? And you are my witnesses! Is there a God besides me? There is no Rock; I know not any.”

[Deuteronomy 6:4](#)

4 “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.

[Deuteronomy 33:27](#)

The eternal God is your dwelling place, and underneath are the everlasting arms. And he thrust out the enemy before you and said, ‘Destroy.’

[Psalm 90:2](#)

Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

[1 Timothy 1:17](#)

17 To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

[Genesis 1](#)

1 In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

[Psalm 24:1](#)

The earth is the Lord’s and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein,

[Isaiah 37:16](#)

16 “O Lord of hosts, God of Israel, enthroned above the cherubim, you are the God, you alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth; you have made heaven and earth.

[Psalm 86:8](#)

There is none like you among the gods, O Lord, nor are there any works like yours.

[Isaiah 40:25](#)

25 To whom then will you compare me, that I should be like him? says the Holy One.

[Numbers 23:19](#)

19 God is not man, that he should lie, or a son of man, that he should change his mind. Has he said, and will he not do it? Or has he spoken, and will he not fulfill it?

[1 Samuel 15:29](#)

29 And also the Glory of Israel will not lie or have regret, for he is not a man, that he should have regret.”

[Hosea 11:9](#)

I will not execute my burning anger; I will not again destroy Ephraim; for I am God and not a man, the Holy One in your midst, and I will not come in wrath.

[John 4:24](#)

24 God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.”

[Luke 24:39](#)

39 See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.”

[1 Timothy 1:3,4](#)

3 As I urged you when I was going to Macedonia, remain at Ephesus so that you may charge certain persons not to teach any different doctrine, 4 nor to devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies, which promote speculations rather than the stewardship from God that is by faith.

[Jude v1-4](#)

1 Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ and brother of James, To those who are called, beloved in God the Father and kept for Jesus Christ: 2 May mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you. 3 Beloved, although I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation, I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints. 4 For certain people have crept in unnoticed who long ago were designated for this condemnation, ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into sensuality and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.

[Matthew 19:29](#)

29 And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands, for my name's sake, will receive a hundredfold³ and will inherit eternal life.

References

Ref:1

What is divine council? <https://www.gotquestions.org/divine-council.html>

Ref:2

Who are the Mormons and what do they believe? <https://www.gotquestions.org/Mormons.html>

Ref:3

I am a Mormon. Why should I consider becoming a Christian? <https://www.gotquestions.org/Mormon-Christian.html>

Ref:4

[Jesus Perfect Man Prays to the Father](#) (Filed on Discord – need free account)

Ref:5

Tactics: A Game Plan for Discussing Your Christian Convictions by Greg Kousser.