

### Who Are the Mormons?

- According to the founder of Mormonism, Joseph Smith, Mormon is the name of a man who allegedly lived as a prophet in America during the early fifth century AD.
- Joseph Smith stated that the prophet Mormon compiled and abridged the records of his people into what is known today as the *Book of Mormon*.
- Joseph Smith taught that from shortly after the first century until 1830, there was no true church, therefore, no true saints with authority from God on the earth. In 1830 Joseph Smith “restored” the only “true Church.” (Documentation for the “total apostasy” can be found in *History of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints* and *Pearl of Great Price* by Joseph Smith, Jr.)
- The group has long used the word *Mormons* in reference to themselves, but there is an increasing preference for “Latter-day Saints” when referring to members and the full name of the church when referring to the organization.

### What Are the Authorized Mormon Scriptures?

1. **The Bible:** In his “Inspired Version,” Smith made wholesale changes to major blocks of text as well as smaller changes throughout most of the Bible.
2. **The *Book of Mormon*:** Written by Joseph Smith, the book itself claims to be an abridged record of people living in the Americas, compiled mostly by the alleged prophet, Mormon.
3. ***Doctrine and Covenants*:** First published in 1835 as a major revision of the 1833 *Book of Commandments*, it is the main source of Mormon doctrine.
4. ***Pearl of Great Price*:** This book contains The Book of Moses, The Book of Abraham, and other writings of Joseph Smith.

### Outer Characteristics of Mormons

Mormons often appear to be Christians in that many have:

- Family-oriented lifestyles
- Dedication to spiritual growth
- Discipline with the prohibition of tobacco, alcohol, and drugs
- Commitment to abstinence from premarital sex
- Commitment to tithing
- Emphasis on evangelism
- Appearance of striving to be morally “perfect”

### Inner Symptoms of Mormons

With a continual emphasis on personal achievement, many Mormons struggle with:

- **Anger** over internal discrimination  
**Example:** Temple admittance requirements are too high for most Mormons.
- **Anxiety** over life’s unexpected circumstances  
**Example:** Infertile couples who are unable to provide physical bodies for spirit babies cannot meet the requirements for advancing to a higher level in heaven.
- **Compulsiveness** with rules and regulations  
**Example:** Compelled to do more and more in order to be “worthy.”
- **Depression** when failure occurs  
**Example:** Not advancing in the “eternal progression.”
- **Guilt** from inevitable failure  
**Example:** Unable to overcome habitual “besetting sins” or otherwise meet Church standards.
- **Low Self-Worth** when comparing self to others  
**Example:** Not keeping up with all the “callings” given by the church superior.
- **Pride** in good works  
**Example:** Performing multiple baptisms for the dead.

## When Mormons Come Knocking

- **Reflect the love of Christ.** Kind and courteous communication on your part could open the door of their hearts to Christ.
- **Realize the Mormon perspective.** Mormons are taught that full salvation is conditional, requiring not only God's grace but also their own obedience, performance of good works, and adherence to the rules of the Mormon Church.
- **Recognize deviant meanings.** Mormons will use the same Christian words you do, but with different meanings.
- **Reach out by asking questions.** When others disagreed with Him, Jesus frequently responded by asking penetrating questions.
- **Refer to your Bible.** The King James Version is the only version Mormons recognize.
- **Realize that the truth can hurt.** Facing the truth about Mormonism can be very painful for a "true believer" Mormon.
- **Relate your personal testimony.** Describe what a difference Jesus has made in your life.
- **Reinforce truth with tracts.** They can read the tract over and over again in privacy, where the Holy Spirit can do His work.
- **Remain encouraged.** Mormon missionaries are rarely converted while making house calls. However, the Holy Spirit can use your penetrating questions, the gospel tract, and your loving spirit to soften their hearts.
- **Remember to pray.** Pray for the visitors who have knocked on your door.

### Key Verses to Memorize

*"Before me no god was formed, nor will there be one after me. I, even I, am the LORD, and apart from me there is no savior."*

(Isaiah 43:10–11)

### Key Passage to Read

Romans 10:1–15

## Dos and Don'ts for Witnessing to a Mormon

- **Don't** make assumptions about a Mormon, particularly about personal beliefs. Not all Mormons believe alike. (Proverbs 16:23)  
**Do ...** Develop a personal relationship with the Mormon. (Proverbs 27:17)

- **Don't** be afraid to be bold. (2 Timothy 1:7)  
**Do ...** Be gentle and kind when confronting. (2 Timothy 2:24–25)
- **Don't** assume that Mormons know all the teachings of their church. (Proverbs 18:2)  
**Do ...** Research to become familiar with key Mormon writings, doctrines, and teachings. (Proverbs 19:2)
- **Don't** allow yourself to be sidetracked. (Romans 12:2)  
**Do ...** Ask Mormons if Jesus can save people from their sins—permanently forgiving *all* sins (past, present, and future)—*and* if He can give people eternal life in God's presence without the mediating help of any other person or organization. (Acts 4:12)
- **Don't** assume you are talking the same language—define your terms.  
**Do ...** Find out what the Mormon believes. (Proverbs 18:15)
- **Don't** use any paraphrasing or quote from any Bible translation except the King James Version.  
**Do ...** Help the Mormon recognize the reliability of the Bible. (Isaiah 40:8)
- **Don't** believe that a testimony grounded in Scripture alone is somehow inferior to a supernatural sign-based testimony. (John 16:13)  
**Do ...** Use your personal Christian testimony. (Proverbs 14:25)

## The Doctrinal Test for Orthodox Christianity

Learn how Mormonism varies from five of the six essential beliefs of orthodox Christianity.

**Virgin Birth**—According to *Journal of Discourses* by Brigham Young, Mormons claim Jesus was not born of a virgin. Christ was the product of a physical sexual union between the Mormon God, Elohim (a resurrected man), and Mary. (Read Matthew 1:18.)

**Atonement**—According to Moroni 10:32–33 in the *Book of Mormon*, Mormons claim Christ's agony in the Garden of Gethsemane rather than His death on the cross is the focus of atonement in Mormonism. That atonement is necessary for full salvation but not sufficient. Mormons' own good works must be added to Christ's atonement to obtain full salvation. (Read Acts 4:12; Ephesians 2:8–10; John 1:12.)

**Resurrection**—Mormons claim Jesus rose from the dead and has a physical body of flesh and bones (the same as Christian doctrine).

**Incarnation**—According to *The Gospel Through the Ages* by Milton R. Hunter, Mormons claim Jesus was not unique in His humanity or His deity. Jesus was only one of many spirit sons of God, as was His spirit-brother Lucifer. (Read John 1:14.)

**E**schatology—According to *Mormon Doctrine* by Bruce R. McConkie, Mormons claim hell is not a place of unending punishment for anyone. Virtually everyone will eventually go to one of the three heavenly kingdoms. (Read Revelation 20:15; Matthew 7:13–14; 13:50.)

**S**cripture—According to “The Articles of Faith,” in *Pearl of Great Price*, Mormons claim the *Holy Bible* is insufficient revelation from God. Three other revelations from God also exist: the *Book of Mormon*, *Doctrine and Covenants*, and the *Pearl of Great Price*. (Read Revelation 22:18.)

## Questions and Answers

**“How does a person receive full salvation in Mormonism as compared to Christianity?”**

In Mormonism, three requirements are essential: obedience to the laws and ordinances of the Mormon gospel, being baptized into an LDS church, and being married in a temple. In biblical Christianity, however, salvation is gained by believing in the Lord Jesus Christ, which means receiving Him as your only Lord and Savior and giving Him control of your life. To believe means “to rely on, to trust in” the Lord Jesus Christ alone for salvation rather than in a system of works.

*“He then brought them out and asked, ‘Sirs, what must I do to be saved?’ They replied, ‘Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved —you and your household.’”*  
(Acts 16:30–31)

**“Why are people, even Christians, attracted to the Mormon religion?”**

People are attracted to Mormonism for the very reasons that people are attracted to any religion: They appeal to our three God-given inner needs for love, for significance, and for security.

- Mormons appeal to our God-given need for security, our need to belong and to feel accepted. The door-to-door evangelism conducted by wholesome-looking young missionaries and the persistent follow-up by members of a local church can give a lonely person a sense of being noticed, cared for, and a feeling of being wanted.
- Mormons appeal to our God-given need for significance as they present their version of meaning and purpose in life. Their plan of salvation teaches that “you can be a god” if you learn to obey the requirements of Mormonism.

*“Acknowledge and take to heart this day that the LORD is God in heaven above and on the earth below. There is no other.”*  
(Deuteronomy 4:39)

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