



Many of us have heard the familiar knock on our door on a Saturday morning. As we open the door, two young men in white shirts and ties or two young women in dresses are standing there. We recognize them immediately as Mormons. They always seem to catch us by surprise with their opening greeting along the lines of “Hi we are here to tell you about Jesus.”

For most people, especially those who are Christians, this may seem like a good opportunity to talk to some nice people about Jesus. As the conversations proceed, at some point you notice their literature indicates they are from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (LDS, also known as Mormons). They use very familiar terms like Father, Son, Holy Ghost, salvation, sin, grace, faith, so they sound like normal Christian denomination. Are they Christians?

The answer is a big “No.” Not even close. But they sound like Christians. Here is the trick: the rules of logic (i.e. law of Non-Contradiction and Law of Identity), can help show us that LDS cannot be Biblical Christians. These laws of logic show that Jesus cannot be God incarnate

(Biblical Christianity) and the spirit brother of Lucifer (LDS) at the same time. God cannot be the creator of all things (Biblical Christianity) and the mere organizer of preexistent matter (LDS). God cannot be eternal being before all things (Biblical Christianity) and at the same time a man who progressed to become a God (LDS). The Bible cannot teach that there is a single being of God (Christianity-3 persons in one being) and at the same time many gods (LDS – 3 separate god beings pertaining to us but a plurality of gods in the universe).¹ The list goes on and on. All the LDS definitions of terms commonly used by Mormons are in complete contradiction to the way they are used in the Bible. If you ask them LDS if they are Christians they will say “yes.” The better question to ask is “Does that mean all Christians Mormons?” They cannot answer that with a ‘Yes.’ They want you to join their organization. That is way they are at your door. They know they are different. Make them explain and justify their differences and test them to the Bible which is our infallible rule of faith. You will find the vast differences between the God of the Bible and historic Christianity could not be any more different than the God of Mormonism.

¹ Larry A. Nichols, George A. Mather, Alvin J. Schmidt, *Encyclopedic Dictionary of Cults, Sects, and World Religions* (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan, 2006), 195.

Who are the Mormons or Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints?

This religion was started Joseph Smith 1820's while he was searching for buried treasure. He had vision of two visible entities. As the story goes, the angel of Moroni tells him about Book of Mormon. Smith claims he translated from Egyptian. This results in two major groups: LDS which is headquarters in Salt Lake City Utah and the Community of Christ with their headquarters in Independence, Missouri. They have a strong missionary force and spread their religion throughout the world and have robust financial resources.

Who was their founding prophet? Joseph Smith was “a mystic, a man who spent much of his time digging for imaginary buried treasure.”² Smith used “seer stone divination and had used divining rods, talismans, and implements of ritual magic.” His “peep-stone” gazing was well documented and his use of this practice, which was deemed illegal in the 1820's, was recorded in his misdemeanor crime verdict in 1826 which charged Smith with “glass-looking.” In 1820 Smith said he had a vision where an angel said he would be a prophet and in 1823

² Walter Martin, *The Kingdom of the Cults: The Definitive Work on the Subject* (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Bethany House Publishers, 2003). 197.

the angel Moroni appeared and was the beginning of the Book of Mormon. LDS have 3 extra books: 1. Book of Mormon tells about America history. 2. Doctrine of Covenants is their theology (morality of gods, eternal progression, etc.). 3, Pearl of Great Price contains Book of Moses which is expanded book of Genesis and the Book of Abraham where Abraham wrote while in Egypt. It includes the history of the Mormon church which has been refuted by historians.

The plates which the Book of Mormon is alleged to be written on were said by Smith to be “Reformed Egyptian,” which has been refuted by Egyptologists. Smith wrote that the Book of Mormon (BOM) is the most correct book on earth and supposedly records history of inhabitants of the American continent from 2247BC to AD421.³ The claims have been refuted by historians and archeologists. To their embarrassment, some quotes in the BOM were taken from the King James version of the Bible including some copying errors. How can a book that was supposedly have been dated before Christ have passages from the King James Bible from 1611?⁴ The book also contains animals and materials that were not

³ Ron Rhodes, *The Challenge of the Cults and New Religions* (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan, 2006), 60.

⁴ Ibid., 68-69.

present in the America's. Error after errors in the BOM have been an embarrassment to the LDS faith but its members ignore them and carry on with evangelism.⁵ In 1844 Joseph Smith ordered the destruction of a newspaper press before it was to come out with an article from 5 ex-Mormons denouncing Smith. Smith was imprisoned and in June 1844 a mob broke into the jail and Smith and his brother were killed during a shootout.⁶ Brigham Young became prophet who brought them to Utah.

When compared to prophets in the Bible, no Mormon prophet has the sign gifts and the LDS prophets have many false prophecies which Duet 18 says are a sign of a false prophet. If you take away anything from this post, investigate the history and doctrines of LDS/Mormonism and see for yourself. The training slides have links to excellent resources.

It is hard to imagine coming up with a more different faith system than LDS is to Christianity. Keep in mind that their founder, Joseph Smith said that "all churches were corrupt in God's sight and therefore the one true church

⁵ Walter Martin, *Kingdom of the Cults*, 200-227.

⁶ Larry A. Nichols, George A. Mather, Alvin J. Schmidt, *Encyclopedic Dictionary of Cults, Sects, and World Religions*, 191.

needed to be restored.”⁷ Their assertions are greatly unfounded and no evidence has been provided to demonstrate the corruption. Actual church history is available for any person researching the history of church teachings as well as the vast manuscript tradition which shows no corruption over time.

For a comprehensive comparison of the details, please see summary charts on the training material PowerPoint.

As you can see, it is important to remember to follow the Biblical principles that the Bereans’ used in Acts 17:11 where they tested everything to Scripture. Matthew 7:15-23 – gives us a warning to beware false prophets and Scripture is not to be added to (Prov. 30:5-6). False prophets make false organizations and come to deceive (1 John 2:18-23; 1 John 4:1-6; Matthew 24:3-5; 23-27; 2 Peter 2:1-3; Jude 3-4). In Pakistan, LDS are coming in and offering funding for much needed schooling and resources in exchange for joining their organization. They present themselves as Christians, so the temptation is great for Pakistan's looking for a better life. But at what expense? Jesus said in Matthew 16:26 "For what good will it do a person if he gains the whole world, but forfeits

⁷ Ron Rhodes, *The Challenge of the Cults and New Religions*, 59.

his soul? Or what will a person give in exchange for his soul?" Paul also issues a warning in 2 Timothy 4:3: "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires"