

Are Mormons Christians?

Although Mormons themselves today call themselves Christians it may be interesting to consider what their prophet had to say.

Consider the following statement by Joseph Smith the founder of Mormonism.

History of the Church, Vol.6, Ch.19, p.408 (PDF pg. 2432)

(Joseph Smith speaking here.)

I have more to boast of than ever any man had. I am the only man that has ever been able to keep a whole church together since the days of Adam. A large majority of the whole have stood by me. Neither Paul, John, Peter, nor Jesus ever did it. I boast that no man ever did such a work as I. The followers of Jesus ran away from Him; but the Latter-day Saints never ran away from me yet.

Ignore for a minute the boastful attitude of Joseph Smith here. In the last sentence is he not putting the followers of Jesus and the latter-day Saints in two separate categories?

If a Christian is a follower of Jesus Christ, then why does he not include himself and the Latter- day Saints in this same category?

Looking at this statement by Joseph Smith; is the church that he claimed to hold together the same church that was established by Jesus? Is it the same church that Paul, John or Peter tried to help build? Or does Joseph Smith seem to place the latter-day Saints (Mormons) into another category?

The Mormon Church claims it is the restored true church. Did the church need to be restored or just reformed?

Matt 16:18 (Jesus Speaking)

"And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades shall not overpower it.

I find it ironic that Mormons even want to claim to be Christians. After all their own Prophet Joseph Smith testified that everything Christians today believe is an abomination to God. Why would they want to be identified with those who according to their prophet are offensive to God?

PEARL OF GREAT PRICE (Mormon Scripture)(PDF- L.D.S Scripture, pg. 919)

Joseph Smith History 1:18-19 (Also called Joseph Smith 2)

18 My object in going to inquire of the Lord was to know which of all the sects was right, that I might know which to join. No sooner, therefore, did I get possession of myself, so as to be able to speak, than I asked the Personages who stood above me in the light, which of all the sects was right (for at this time it had never entered into my heart that all were wrong)--and which I should join.

19 I was answered that I must join none of them, for they were all wrong; and the Personage who addressed me said that all their creeds were an abomination in his sight; that those professors were all corrupt; that: "they draw near to me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me, they teach for doctrines the commandments of men, having a form of godliness, but they deny the power thereof."

(Side note: The text in parenthesis is not in my 1977 version of the text, the PDF version is 1981)

Notice we are told all of our creeds are an abomination to him. Now a creed is a statement of the fundamental beliefs. For the Christian Church this would include the following.

1. There is only one true and living God.
2. This God is described as a Trinity
3. Jesus is fully God and fully man.
4. Salvation is to be rescued or delivered from the wrath of God by the sacrifice Jesus made on the cross. This is a free gift that cannot be earned.
5. The bible is the word of God and it is trustworthy. .

This is not an exhaustive list of Major Christian doctrines, but you would be hard pressed to find a knowledgeable Christian who objected to any of these short statements. Yet Mormonism disagrees with every one of them.

Mormonism tries to say that over time much of the beliefs of the original church were changed. Sadly, they seem to be ignorant of the fact that all of these beliefs can be shown to be taught by Christians that lived in the first century. We still have the writings of men such as Clement of Rome, Hermas, Ignatius, Papias and Polycarp. These are all men that were taught directly by the original Apostles. These and others in the first century confirm the major doctrines that are taught by the church today. These are the very creeds that Joseph Smith says he was told were an abomination to God.

Mormonism denies 99.9% of the major doctrines taught by the 1st century church and still wants to identify itself as a Christian Church because it has Jesus' name on the church. I say 99.9% because they do believe that Jesus bodily rose from the dead. This is the only major Christian Doctrine that I know of that they do accept. Yet it is not the same Jesus.

They deny what the Bible teaches about whom God and Jesus are as well as salvation and still cling to the name that is on their church.

Suppose I had a German Shepherd and named him Kitty. I put his name on his collar and write Cat on this food bowl and bed. Suppose I feed him cat food and convince some people that he is really a cat. Is my German Shepherd really a cat? I could even say that others persecute me by not allowing me to rent from places that do not allow dogs. Yet I do not have a dog. I have a German Shepherd named Kitty. I insist that my German Shepherd is a cat. Is he therefore a cat?

Are Mormons Christians? Is my German Shepherd a Cat? Would you be interested in buying some ocean front property in Arizona?

Look into the fact's folks. One is not a Christian just because they claim to follow someone named Jesus yet deny what the Bible teaches about God, Jesus and Salvation.

Some may say that is your interpretation. Well show me Mormon doctrine from any Christian writer in the first century. For a church to be restored it had to at one time exist. I can show Christian doctrine from writers in the first century that is still taught in churches today. Before the so called only true church fell off of the face of the earth didn't anybody record these beliefs?

It may surprise you to know that even the Book of Mormon does not teach many Mormon doctrines. Do not just take my word for it check it out for yourself.

http://www.nytimes.com/2012/06/13/opinion/im-a-mormon-not-a-christian.html?_r=0
The New York Times, The opinion pages, Op-Ed Contributor

I'm a Mormon, Not a Christian By DAVID V. MASON

Published: June 12, 2012

THANKS to Mitt Romney, a Broadway hit and a relentless marketing campaign by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Mormons seem to be everywhere. This is the so-called Mormon Moment: a strange convergence of developments offering Mormons hope that the Christian nation that persecuted, banished or killed them in the 19th century will finally love them as fellow Christians.

I want to be on record about this. I'm about as genuine a Mormon as you'll find — a temple goer with a Utah pedigree and an administrative position in a congregation of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. I am also emphatically not a Christian.

For the curious, the dispute can be reduced to Jesus. Mormons assert that because they believe Jesus is divine, they are Christians by default. Christians respond that because Mormons don't believe — in accordance with the Nicene Creed promulgated in the fourth century — that Jesus is also the Father and the Holy Spirit, the Jesus that Mormons have in mind is someone else altogether. The Mormon reaction is incredulity. The Christian retort is exasperation. Rinse and repeat.

I am confident that I am not the only person — Mormon or Christian — who has had enough of the acrimonious niggling from both sides over the nature of the trinity, the authority of the creeds, the significance of grace and works, the union of Christ's divinity and humanity, and the real color of God's underwear. I'm perfectly happy not being a Christian. My Mormon fellows, most of whom will argue earnestly for their Christian legitimacy, will scream bloody murder that I don't represent them. I don't. They don't represent me, either.
..... (End Quote)

Someone is sure to ask as they have in the past why are you picking on Mormons?

Why pick on Mormons?

I find it interesting that Mormon missionaries can go out in groves knocking on the doors of friends, family and neighbors. Then proceed to tell the story of Joseph Smith and one of the stories of his vision when going into the grove to pray.

They persist in repeating the story that all of the other churches are wrong and all of our creeds were declared as an abomination to God.

Then after years of doing this if anyone dares to turn the tables and show evidence of this fallacy they act as if they are being persecuted because some Christian stood up and said enough is enough and actually defended the Christian faith against Mormon claims. Have I therefore become your enemy by telling you the truth? (Gal 4:16)

I did not knock on your door. I only placed a page on the internet for those who may be interested. No one will force you to read my material. I am exercising my freedom of speech as an American by responding to Mormonism's attacks against my faith.

I do not dislike or hate Mormon people. Some of my friends and family are Mormons. I do however fear that if nobody speaks up many good people will remain eternally lost because of the deception of the Mormon Church.

How can I as a Christian stand idly by and allow this to happen? If I truly love my neighbor, am I not obligated to tell them the truth if they are willing to listen?

I hope this note will help those who may be not understand why I would write against Mormonism.

You may also want to read: Why should a Christian defend their faith?

The Mormons claim to be the only true church. Furthermore, we are told all Christian denominations at the time of Joseph Smith were an abomination to the Lord. Was God's church really gone from the face of the earth and restored through Joseph Smith as the Mormons claim? Well, we will let the facts speak for themselves.

L.D.S. VIEW OF CHRISTIANITY

Joseph Smith History 1:18-19 (also called Joseph Smith 2 and Pearl of Great Price)

"18) My object in going to inquire of the Lord was to know which of all the sects was right, that I might know which to join. No sooner, therefore, did I get possession of myself, so as to be able to speak, than I asked the Personages who stood above me in the light, which of all the sects was right (for at this time it had never entered into my heart that all were wrong) — and which I should join.

"19) I was answered that I must join none of them, for they were all wrong; and the Personage who addressed me said that all their creeds were an abomination in his sight; that those professors were all corrupt; that: 'they draw near to me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me, they teach for doctrines the commandments of men, having a form of godliness, but they deny the power thereof.'" (PDF-LDS Scripture, pg, 919)

Discourses of Brigham Young, p.319 - p.320 (PDF pg. 510)

(Mormon Prophet 1847-1877)

"There are, doubtless, millions of just as honest people among the several religious denominations as are amongst the professedly Latter-day Saints. But they have not the Gospel, they are in darkness with regard to the plan of salvation, and their teachers are blind guides, totally unable to give the people the living word, the way of life. If they live up to the best light and knowledge they have and can get, they are safe, and in a saved condition. What is the sin of the ministry and people of the present Christian denominations? It is that light has come to them and they reject it. The condemnation of the Jewish nation was that light had come into the world, but they chose darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil; so says the Savior. The same Gospel that Jesus taught to those who rejected him is entrusted to us to preach to the whole world with the same consequences which must reach them at some time, in some condition. 17:262."

Nephi 14:10 (Book of Mormon) (PDF LDS Scripture pg. 46)

"And he said unto me: 'Behold there are save two churches only; the one is the church of the Lamb of God, and the other is the church of the devil; wherefore, whoso belongeth not to the church of the Lamb of God belongeth to that great church, which is the mother of abominations; and she is the whore of all the earth.'"

As you have just read, the Mormon Church teaches that the various denominations that compose historic Christianity are all wrong, in sin, and of the devil. Furthermore, previous L.D.S. authorities have given us the challenge to examine Mormonism in light of the Bible and show them where there is any error.

By Brigham Young "Take up the Bible, compare the religion of the Latter-Day Saints with it and see if it will stand the test." (Journal of Discourses, V16 pg. 46, 1873) (PDF pg. 54)

By Brigham Young "No man can disprove a truth...Why not rather every man rise up and say, 'Let God be true, let the truth remain and let me know the truth. That is what I want—I will submit to it; and let every false theory and principle fall, to rise up no more.'" (Journal of Discourses, V8 pg. 132, 1860) (PDF pg. 140)

By Orson Pratt "If we cannot convince you by reason nor by the word of God, that your religion is wrong, we will not persecute you...we ask you the same generosity...convince us of our errors of doctrine, if we have any, by reason, by logical arguments, or by the word of God and we will be forever grateful for the information." (The Seer, pg.15) (PDF pg. 15)