Welcome to Palmyra

Every year hundreds of people who are unfamiliar with the teachings of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (also known as the LDS or Mormon Church) will come to the Hill Cumorah Pageant with the hope of better understanding the history and theology of Mormonism.

When you step onto the site, you may be greeted by LDS missionaries who will be eager to share their church’s beliefs with you. There is a good chance that you may assume (or be given the impression) that the LDS Church is just another Christian denomination. In fact, as you tour the visitor center and watch the performance, you will often hear words and phrases similar to those used by Bible-believing Christians. What you may not know is that the Mormon religion has redefined many historic Christian terms, thus clouding their meaning.

Evangelical Christians who have spent years studying the LDS faith are providing this “brochure” to you with the hope that it will enhance your understanding of the differences between Mormonism and biblical Christianity. Some may question the motives of those who want to share this information with others. Yet it was second LDS President Brigham Young who stated, “If I should hear a man advocate erroneous principles he had imbibed through education, and oppose those principles, some might imagine that I was opposed to that man, when, in fact, I am only opposed to every evil and erroneous principle he advances.” (Discourses of Brigham Young, p. 251).

We are Bible-believing Christians desiring to share our faith with members of the continued on Page 2
PRIESTHOOD RESTORATION SITE
A Place of Heavenly Encounters?

On May 15, 1829, on the banks of the Susquehanna River, Joseph Smith, Jr and Oliver Cowdery went to the river to pray. It was there where John the Baptist allegedly conferred the Aaronic Priesthood on both Joseph and Oliver. Shortly thereafter Peter, James and John appeared on the same banks and both men were given the Melchizedek Priesthood as well.

The significance of the priesthood cannot be underestimated in LDS theology. The priesthood is the POWER and AUTHORITY of God given to man. Without the authority of the priesthood no ordinances can be performed. The priesthood is also necessary to hold any office in the LDS Church. According to LDS doctrine, God gave the priesthood authority so that worthy males of the church can act in his name for the salvation of his children. Mormons allege that following the ascension of Jesus Christ and the death of his apostles a total and complete apostasy took place and the priesthood authority was taken from the earth.

Hill Cumorah Monument to the Angel Moroni

According to the Mormon Church, Moroni was an angel who showed Joseph Smith where to find the “golden plates” which he would later translate, “by the power of God”, into the Book of Mormon. Interestingly, in the Book of Mormon, Moroni wrote a passage that reveals, in no uncertain terms, that Mormonism is a false gospel with a false christ.

Yea, come unto Christ, and be perfected in him, and deny yourselves of all ungodliness; and if ye shall deny yourselves of all ungodliness, and love God with all your might, mind and strength, then is his grace sufficient for you....(Moroni 10:32)

Notice that “if you deny yourselves of all ungodliness,” only then will his grace be sufficient for you. This is a major departure from the good news (gospel) of the Christian faith. This is bad news in that no one has ever been able to deny themselves of all ungodliness, and no one will in the future. Romans 3:10 says that “there is no one righteous, not even one.” James 2:10 says that “whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it.”

The biblical good news is that “It is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” (Eph 2:8-10)

Moroni 10:32 is a different gospel. Galatians 1:6-8 says, “I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you to live in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel—which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ. But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let them be under God’s curse!”
### Which one is right?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mormonism</th>
<th>Christianity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>GOD THE FATHER:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>1. He was once a man like us. He has a father. (GP p.305)</td>
<td>1. He has always been God (Psalm 90:2, Deuteronomy 33:27)</td>
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<td>2. He is one of many Gods. (TPJS p.370; STC p.152-153)</td>
<td>2. He is the only God that has ever existed. (Isaiah 43:10)</td>
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<td>3. He has a body of flesh and bones as tangible as man’s. (D&amp;C 130:22)</td>
<td>3. He is a spirit. A spirit does not have flesh and bones. (John 4:24, Col 1:15, Luke 24:39)</td>
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<td><strong>JESUS CHRIST:</strong></td>
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<td>1. He is God’s first spirit child, thus, was not always God. (MD p.129; GP p.11)</td>
<td>1. He has always been God; the beginning and the end; the Almighty. (John 1:1 with Psalm 90:2; Revelation 1:8)</td>
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<td>2. He is the spirit brother of Lucifer, Satan, the devil. (GP p.17-18; GTTA p.15)</td>
<td>2. He is Lucifer’s Creator, not his brother. (Col 1:16-17; Jn 1:3)</td>
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<td><strong>MAN:</strong></td>
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<td>1. Men can become Gods, with all the powers of Godhood. (GP p.302; ACM p.129-132; D&amp;C 132:19-20)</td>
<td>1. Men cannot become Gods. There is only one true God. (Isaiah 43:10; 44:6, 8; 48:11-12)</td>
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<td><strong>SALVATION:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>1. Almost everyone, even those who don’t believe in Jesus Christ, will end up in some level of heaven. Only ex-Mormons spend eternity in hell. (D&amp;C 76:31-44)</td>
<td>1. Although eternal life is available to all, Jesus prophesied that only a few will enter the narrow gate that leads to life—and that many will choose the wide gate that leads to destruction (hell). (Matthew 7:13-14)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. The blood of Christ does not atone for some grievous sins. A murderer, for example, must have his own blood shed. (MD p.92-93; DS 1:133-138)</td>
<td>2. The blood of Christ cleanses us (those who repent) of all sin. (1 John 1:7-9)</td>
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</table>

### It can’t be both!

If your Mormon friend denies that the LDS Church teaches the above, ask him/her to help you check out our references. Gospel Principles, the most quoted resource above, can be read online at www.lds.org/library/display/0,4945,11-1-13-1,00.html. Be sure to read the first two paragraphs of chapter 2 and all of chapter 47.

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* **MORMON REFERENCE CODES:**
  
The First Vision

Joseph Smith claimed that he saw God the Father and his son Jesus Christ in 1820 and that they told him not to join any of the churches, that they were all wrong and all those who profess the Christian faith were corrupt.

Unfortunately, for all those who are entrusting their eternal destiny to Joseph, his story just doesn’t fit the actual recorded history of his own church.

There is not a single mention of this “First Vision” in any of the historical records of the church before 1838. In 1833, the Book of Commandments (forerunner of the Doctrine & Covenants or D&C) did not contain even a hint of this event. Neither does the original D&C in 1835. There, in the Lectures on Faith (still available in LDS book stores), which were the Doctrine of the Doctrine & Covenants, Joseph taught that there is only one God, from eternity to eternity. He also taught that God the Father has always been God (was never a man) and that he is a personage of spirit as contrasted with the Son who is a personage of tabernacle (body of flesh and bone).

If Joseph had seen God the Father and God the Son together in physical form, why did he begin his church, nine years later, by teaching just the opposite?

Another astounding fact of LDS history is that, in over twenty-five years of preaching, Brigham Young never once mentioned a vision of the Father and the Son. How could he not speak often about the founding event of his own church. That would be like never hearing a Christian preacher speak of the resurrection of Christ.

What’s with that “Cheese Truck”?

The Mormon Church has spared no expense to limit opportunities for their members and visitors to receive the powerful evidence which exposes the deceptive nature of Mormonism and presents the truth which will set them free from false religion.

For example, they rerouted the road that used to go through the Smith Farm where we were able to hand out the truth to anyone who crossed the public right-of-way.

This sign truck is our best shot at giving everyone an opportunity to get the same same information which will help them understand the vast differences between true Christianity and Mormonism.

On our web site you can read and/or print any of our brochures free of charge. They all contain evidence which demands a verdict.

We welcome positive and negative feedback.