

Opening Question:

What have been your interactions with Mormons? What have those conversations been like?

Discussion Questions

Read Galatians 1:6-9. What does God have to say about changing or messing with the gospel message?

Read Colossians 1:15-20. What does this passage reveal about Jesus? How does this view differ from what you know about, or heard this weekend, of how Mormons view Jesus?

“Essentially Christianity is Christ. The person and work of Christ are the rock upon which the Christian religion is built. If he is not who he said he was, and if he did not do what he said he had come to do, the foundation is undermined and the whole superstructure will collapse. Take Christ from Christianity, and you disembowel it; there is practically nothing left. Christ is the center of Christianity; all else is circumference.”

- What does this tell you about the importance of an orthodox and “right” view of Jesus?
- What does this tell you about the Mormon view of Jesus, or any other view that is deficient? In what ways are they deficient? **Look below for some core doctrinal differences between Mormonism & Christianity.**

Read Ephesians 4:15 & 1 Peter 3:15. *“Sometimes the best way to love our neighbor is to tell the truth”* - sometimes we believe truth telling is not loving, and rather we minimize discomfort and steer away from any difficult conversation in order to keep things calm and unstressed. Would you say this is you or not you?

- What are the extremes of both sides, and how can we come to a better understanding of truth telling?
- Consider the ways in which Jesus told the truth – How did He do it?
- What does the scripture above teach us?

Brett challenged us to explain the Trinity to our neighbor. What was that like for you?

- Did you feel equipped to do so, or were you at a loss?
- What does this show us of the importance of knowing core doctrine, and what do you think could be a next step for you or your group to grow in this area?

Brett described the differences between views of Gospel/Salvation... Did this challenge you in any way as you consider your own view of the Christian faith, and of following Jesus?

- Faith + Works = Salvation (Mormonism)
- Faith = Salvation + Works (Christianity)

Prayer

- Pray for each other in any way required. Conversations with family or friends? Conversation with a Mormon? Understanding of our own faith and doctrine? Christ-like view and practice of evangelism?
- Pray for Mormons, that God would begin to speak to them, and that whether through God's voice, or through a Christian friend, colleague or neighbor, that a "stone will be placed in their shoe".

Next Steps

- Take a look at the "Additional Resources" page that was handed out at the end of services this past weekend, it can be downloaded from our website.

A Comparison Between Christian Doctrine and Mormon Doctrine

*Excerpt taken from the Christian Apologetics Research Ministry, [by Matt Slick](#)

What does Mormonism Teach? Well, here are some of the basics, plain and simple.

1. God came from another planet
2. God is a man with a body of flesh and bones
3. There is a mother goddess
4. God and his goddess wife are married
5. You can become gods

Following is a comparison between Christian [doctrine](#) and Mormon doctrine. It will become very obvious that Mormonism does not agree with the [Bible](#). In fact, [Mormonism](#) uses the same words found in Christianity, but it redefines them. So, with a proper understanding of what Mormonism really teaches, you will be able to see past those definitions into the real differences between Christianity and Mormonism.

The difference is the difference between [eternal life](#) and damnation.

Topic	Christian	Mormon
GOD	There is only one God. (Isaiah 43:11; 44:6, 8; 45:5).	"And they (the Gods) said: Let there be light: and there was light." (Book of Abraham 4:3).
	God has always been God. (Psalm 90:2; Isaiah 57:15).	"God himself was once as we are now, and is an exalted man, and sits enthroned in yonder heavens!!! . . . We have imagined that God was God from all eternity. I will refute that idea and take away the veil, so that you may see,"

		(<i>Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith</i> , p. 345).
	God is a spirit without flesh and bones. (John 4:24; Luke 24:39).	"The Father has a body of flesh and bones as tangible as man's," (Doctrine and Covenants 130:22; Compare with Alma 18:26-27; 22:9-10). "Therefore we know that both the Father and the Son are in form and stature perfect men; each of them possesses a tangible body . . . of flesh and bones," (<i>Articles of Faith</i> , by James Talmage, p. 38).
TRINITY	The Trinity is the doctrine that there is only one God in all the universe, and that He exists in three eternal, simultaneous persons: The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.	The trinity is three separate Gods: The Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost. "That these three are separate individuals, physically distinct from each other, is demonstrated by the accepted records of divine dealings with man," (<i>Articles of Faith</i> , by James Talmage, p. 35).
JESUS	Jesus was born of the virgin Mary. (Isaiah 7:14; Matt. 1:23).	"The birth of the Saviour was as natural as are the births of our children; it was the result of natural action. He partook of flesh and blood--was begotten of his Father, as we were of our fathers," (<i>Journal of Discourses</i> , vol. 8, p. 115). "Christ was begotten by an Immortal Father in the same way that mortal men are begotten by mortal fathers" (<i>Mormon Doctrine</i> , by Bruce McConkie, p. 547).
	Jesus is the eternal Son. He is second person of the Trinity. He has two natures . He is God in flesh and man (John 1:1, 14; Col. 2:9) and the creator of all things (Col. 1:15-17).	Jesus is the literal spirit-brother of Lucifer, a creation (<i>Gospel Through the Ages</i> , p. 15).
THE HOLY SPIRIT	The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity. He is not a force. He is a person. (Acts 5:3-4; 13:2)	Mormonism distinguishes between the Holy Spirit (God's presence via an essence) and the Holy Ghost (the third god in the Mormon doctrine of the trinity). "He [the Holy Ghost] is a being endowed with the attributes and powers of Deity, and not a mere force, or essence," (<i>Articles of Faith</i> , by James Talmage, p. 144).
SALVATION	Salvation is the forgiveness of sin and deliverance of the	Salvation has a double meaning in Mormonism: universal resurrection and . . .

	sinner from damnation. It is a free gift received by God's grace (Eph. 2:8; Rom. 6:23) and cannot be earned. (Rom. 11:6).	"The first effect [of the atonement] is to secure to all mankind alike, exemption from the penalty of the fall, thus providing a plan of <i>General Salvation</i> . The second effect is to open a way for <i>Individual Salvation</i> whereby mankind may secure remission of personal sins," (<i>Articles of Faith</i> , by James Talmage, p. 78-79).
	Salvation (forgiveness of sins) is not by works. (Eph. 2:8; Rom. 4:5; Gal. 2:21).	"As these sins are the result of individual acts it is just that forgiveness for them should be conditioned on individual compliance with prescribed requirements--'obedience to the laws and ordinances of the Gospel,'" (<i>Articles of Faith</i> , p. 79).
BIBLE	The inspired inerrant word of God (2 Tim. 3:16). It is authoritative in all subjects it addresses.	"We believe the Bible to be the word of God as far as it is translated correctly. . ." (8th Article of Faith of the Mormon Church).

This is only a sample of many of the differences between Christianity and Mormonism. As you can see, they are quite different doctrines. [God](#) cannot be uncreated and created at the same time. There cannot be only one God and many gods at the same time. The Trinity cannot be one God in three persons and three gods in an office known as the Trinity, etc. These teachings are mutually exclusive.

This is important because faith is only as good as the object in which it is placed. Is the Mormon god the real one? Or, is the God of historic and biblical Christianity the real one?

Mormonism is obviously not the biblical version of Christianity. It is not Christian, and Mormons serve a different god than Christians do--a god that does not exist. Paul talks about this in Galatians 4:8, "When you did not know God, you were slaves to those which by nature are no gods." Only the God of the Bible exists. There are no others. Mormonism puts its faith in a non-existent god.