The Way

Christianity & Mormonism

August 12, 2018

***Chris Stull, Pastor***

*See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ.*

*Colossians 2:8 NIV*

*Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.*

*John 14:6 NIV*

**What do Mormons believe?**

* ALL creeds, churches, denominations other than Mormons are and an .
* – a church that had disappeared from the face of the earth.
* Mormon doctrines compromise, confuse or contradict:
  1. The of God
  2. The of Scripture
  3. The of salvation

**Mormonism:**

* to the Word of God
* from the divinity of Jesus Christ
* the requirements of salvation
* themselves from Christian churches & faith

**Q: Are Mormons Christian?** A:

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|  | **Christianity** | **Mormonism** |
| **God** | 1 God = Trinity  Father, Son, Spirit | Denies Trinity –seen as separate entities; God/Heavenly Father is an exalted man with physical body |
| **Jesus** | God incarnate, born of a virgin; human & divine natures; sinless; sacrificial death for sin of all humanity; Messiah | Spiritual 1st born Son of God in the preexistence; “only begotten” physical offspring of God by procreation on earth; his atonement provides immortality for all regardless of their faith |
| **Holy Book(s)** | The Bible-OT/NT  Spoken/Inspired by God; sole authority for faith & practice | 1. The Bible-errant 2. The Book of Mormon-most correct/keystone of religion 3. The Doctrine & Covenants-scripture/modern revelations 4. The Pearl of the Great Price-inspired; clarifies lost Bible doctrines & teachings; additional info on creation |
| **Humanity** | Created in God’s image | Preexisted spiritual offspring of Heavenly Father & Mother; born basically good & are “gods in embryo.” |
| **Sin** | Man’s nature from Adam’s fall= need for Atonement | People sin by disobedience to God's laws. Adam's fall, a part of Heavenly Father's plan, caused a loss of immortality, necessary for mankind to advance; each person is responsible for his own sin. |
| **Salvation** | Grace through faith in Christ (sacrificial death) | Jesus' atonement provided immortality for all people. Exaltation (godhood) is available only to Mormons through obedience to LDS teachings: faith, baptism, endowments, celestial marriage, and tithing; Baptism for the dead provides post-mortem salvation for non-Mormons. |
| **Life after Death** | Eternal life in heaven with God for those who have trusted in Jesus Christ. Eternal separation from God's presence in hell for the unsaved. | 1 of 3 Levels of glory:   1. Exaltation in the Celestial Kingdom for faithful Mormons where people may become gods or angels. 2. Terrestrial Kingdom for righteous non-Mormons. 3. Telestial Kingdom of wicked/ ungodly (not hell). |
| **Church** | There is no organization or denomination that can claim exclusive designation as the "one true church. The universal church consists of all the redeemed in Jesus Christ in all of the ages. | Asserts that the LDS is the one true church. Mormons claim only the LDS possesses the divine authority of the Aaronic and Melchizedek Priesthood as restored by God to Joseph Smith in 1829. |

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