

Who Are These “Upstanding People”? . . .

Wholesome and hardworking, serious and sacrificial . . . the image of the people called Mormons is exemplary. Their personal discipline is praiseworthy. Their advertising is first class. Their business presence is booming. Their humanitarian projects get headlines. Their tithing commitment is commendable. Their young missionaries are meritorious. Men and women between the ages of nineteen and twenty-five sacrifice two years of their lives as missionary volunteers. Who are these “good and upstanding people,” and what do they believe?

Q: “Why are people, even Christians, attracted to the Mormon Religion?”

People are attracted to Mormonism for the very reasons that people are attracted to any religion: they appeal to our three God-given inner needs for love, for significance, and for security.

- Mormons appeal to our God-given need for security, our need to belong and to feel accepted. The door-to-door evangelism done by wholesome-looking young missionaries and the persistent follow-up by members of a local church can give a lonely person a sense of being noticed, cared for, and a feeling of being wanted.
- Mormons appeal to our God-given need for significance as they present their version of meaning and purpose in life. Their plan of salvation teaches that “you can be a god” if you learn to obey the requirements of Mormonism.

Q: “Do Mormons believe in the Bible?”

Yes, but conditionally. Their Eighth Article of Faith says, “We believe the Bible to be the word of God as far as it is translated correctly; we also believe the *Book of Mormon* to be the word of God.”

“False prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction.”
(2 Peter 2:1)

Know the Doctrinal Test for Orthodox Christianity

Mormonism varies from five of the six essential beliefs of orthodox Christianity.

Virgin Birth—Mormons claim Christ was the product of a physical sexual union between the Mormon God, Elohim (a resurrected man), and Mary.¹ (Read Matthew 1:18.)

Atonement—Mormons claim their own good works must be added to Christ's atonement to obtain full salvation.² (Read Acts 4:12.)

Resurrection—Mormons correctly claim that Jesus physically rose from the dead (the same as Christian doctrine).

Incarnation—Mormons claim that Jesus was only one of many sons of God, as was His spirit-brother Lucifer.³ (Read John 1:14.)

Eschatology—Mormons claim that virtually everyone will eventually go to one of the three heavenly levels: the Celestial kingdom, the Terrestrial kingdom, or the Telestial kingdom.⁴ (Read Revelation 20:15.)

Scripture—Mormons claim that the Holy Bible is insufficient revelation from God. Three other revelations from God also exist: the *Book of Mormon*, *Doctrine and Covenants*, and *Pearl of Great Price*.⁵ (Read Revelation 22:18.)

Inner Symptoms of Mormons

With a continual emphasis on personal achievement, many Mormons struggle with:

Anger over internal discrimination

Anxiety over life's unexpected circumstances

Compulsiveness with rules and regulations

Depression when failure occurs

Fear of not measuring up

Guilt from inevitable failure

Low self-worth when comparing self to others

Pride in good works

"It is evident that no one is justified before God by the law, for 'The righteous shall live by faith.'"
(Galatians 3:11)

Key Verses to Memorize

"Before me no god was formed, nor shall there be any after me. I, I am the LORD, and besides me there is no savior."
(Isaiah 43:10–11)

Key Passage to Read and Reread

Romans 10:1–15

DO's and DON'Ts for Witnessing to a Mormon

- **Don't** make assumptions about a Mormon, particularly about personal beliefs. Not all Mormons believe alike. (Proverbs 16:23)

Do . . . Develop a personal relationship with the Mormon. (Proverbs 27:17)

- **Don't** be afraid to be bold. Mormons often view boldness as evidence of commitment and authority. (2 Timothy 1:7)

Do . . . Be gentle and kind when confronting. (2 Timothy 2:24–25)

- **Don't** assume that Mormons know all the teachings of their church. (Proverbs 18:2)

Do . . . Research to become familiar with key Mormon writings, doctrines, and teachings. (Proverbs 19:2)

- **Don't** assume you are talking the same language—define your terms. (Deuteronomy 4:39)

Do . . . Find out what the Mormon believes. (Proverbs 18:15)

- **Don't** use any paraphrasing or quote from any Bible translation except the King James Version. This is the only version that Mormons see as authoritative.

Do . . . Help the Mormon recognize the reliability of the Bible. (2 Timothy 3:16)

"Desire without knowledge is not good, and whoever makes haste with his feet misses his way."
(Proverbs 19:2)

What You Should Do When Mormons Come Knocking

*“Always being prepared to make a defense
to anyone who asks you for a reason
for the hope that is in you; yet do it
with gentleness and respect.”
(1 Peter 3:15–16)*

Reflect the love of Christ.

Realize the Mormon perspective.

Recognize deviant meanings.

Reach out by asking questions.

Refer to your Bible.

Realize that you don't have all the answers.

Realize that the truth can hurt.

Relate your personal testimony.

Reinforce truth with tracts.

Remain encouraged.

Remember to pray.



Related Mormonisms . . .

- Abortion Prevention:
Not a Choice, but a Child
- The Blended Family:
God's Recipe for Success
- Infertility:
Building Hope from Broken Dreams
- Parenting:
Steps for Successful Parenting
- Pregnancy . . . Unplanned:
I'm Pregnant?

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Mormonism:

A Different Gospel, a Different God.

If you would like more information,
call 1-800-488-HOPE (4673) or visit
www.hopefortheheart.org.

For prayer encouragement and biblical counsel
call 1-866-570-HOPE (4673).

1. For this section see Kay Marshall Strom and Douglas R. Donnelly, *The Complete Adoption Handbook*, rev. and updated ed. (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1992), 138-9.
2. Strom and Donnelly, *The Complete Adoption Handbook*, 139.
3. Frederica Mathewes-Green, *Real Choices: Offering Practical, Life-Affirming Alternatives to Abortion* (Sisters, OR: Multnomah Books, 1994), 128; Sylvia Boothe, *No Easy Choices* (Birmingham, AL: New Hope, 1990), 43-56.



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