

Why I follow Christianity and not Mormonism

A Pew Study stated that _____ of new converts that go into Mormonism come out of “_____ Christianity” – Dr. Lynn Wilder

Apostle Bruce R. McConkie wrote in his book, *Mormon Doctrine*, that “Mormonism is Christianity; Christianity is Mormonism...Mormons are _____ Christians.” (Pg. 512-513)

I. A Short History – started with a _____ man

- A. Joseph Smith Jr. was the fourth child of Lucy and Joseph Smith, born in Sharon Vermont, December 23, _____.
- B. With his father, Joseph Jr. was an avid treasure-seeker, having used divining rods, talismans and _____ (also called peep-stones, peek stones). These stones were supposedly magical rocks, which when placed in a hat and partially darkened, allegedly revealed lost items or buried treasures.
- C. Smith used his seer-stone to translate the book of _____ – Walter Martin, *Kingdom of the Cults*, pgs. 226-228
- D. March 20, 1826, Joseph Smith was convicted of “_____” – considered an illegal occult practice and paid a fine of \$_____.
- E. Michael D. Quinn, past professor of history at BYU, wrote *Early Mormonism and the Magic World View, 1987*, which documents Smith’s heavy involvement in _____ practices, before and _____ the founding of Mormonism.
- F. Joseph’s testimony of his first Vision can be found in the Pearl of Great Price – Joseph Smith – History 1:13-19 <https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/pgp/js-h/1?lang=eng>
- G. The majority of Mormon doctrine came through over _____ visions and Smith’s re-translation of the Bible and the Standard Works. (*World Religions and Cults*, pg. 256-261).
- H. Are you ready to follow the visions of Joseph Smith more than the visions of the Biblical Patriarchs, Prophets and _____?

II. They teach a _____ revelation – the Four Standard Works

- A. The “_____” work that Joseph Smith did has been broadened in definition to mean not a translation from one written language to another written language, but “translations” received from revelations given audibly by “personages,” through dreams, visions, and _____.
- B. The Bible (KJV preferred by LDS) is considered to be the word of God only “as far as it is translated _____” (Article 8). Mormons believe it is corrupted in certain places and the new revelations hold a more _____ place.
- C. The Book of Mormon was written (translated) by Joseph Smith, being translated from 4 sets of plates, with the first set being golden plates unearthed after the location was given by the angel Moroni, son of _____.
- D. The _____ method of translation affirmed by the LDS is that “Joseph Smith received the golden plates with the Urim and Thummim and viewed the plates through the clear stones to translate the reformed Egyptian hieroglyphics into Elizabethan English” Kingdom of the Cults, pg. 239.
- E. _____ accounts of translation were that Smith didn’t even look at the plates, but “placed a seer stone into a hat and his face in the darkness of the hat to see the spiritual light shine. A Piece of something resembling parchment would appear, and on that appeared the writing. One character at a time would appear, and under it was the interpretation in English. Brother Joseph would read off the English to Oliver Cowdery, who was his principal scribe, and when it was written down and repeated to Brother Joseph to see if it was correct, then it would disappear, and another character with the interpretation would appear. Thus the Book of Mormon was translated by the gift and power of God, and not by any power of man.” World Religions and Cults, pg. 259; Kingdom of the Cults pg. 239-240
- F. The _____ is the third of the Standard Works containing a history on Abraham, Moses, a commentary on Matthew and Joseph Smith himself. A final section contains the Articles of Faith.
- G. _____ “is unique because it is not a translation of an ancient document but is of modern origin and was given of God through

His chosen prophets for the restoration of His holy work and the establishment of the kingdom of God on the earth in these days.” There are parts that contradict with each other because of new revelation that was given through the Prophets.

H. If these “standard works” are still open to new _____ – How do we know something will not change for us in the future to our jeopardy?

III. They teach a _____ of Gods

A. The Articles of faith _____ states that they “believe in God, the Eternal Father, and in His Son, Jesus Christ, and in the Holy Ghost.”

B. “However, this cannot rationally be construed to mean that the Father, the son and the Holy Ghost are _____ in substance and in person.” (Talmage, Articles of Faith, pg. 40)

C. There are _____ Gods...separate in personality, united in purpose, in plan, and in all attributes of perfection (McConkie, Mormon Doctrine, pg. 270).

D. Joseph Smith said that “God himself was once as we are now and is an _____ man” (Journal of Discourses, 6:3).

E. “As man is, _____ once was; as God is, _____ may become” – Prophet Lorenzo Snow, quoted in Milton R. Hunter, The Gospel Through the Ages, pg. 105-106.

F. Polytheism is the _____ in the existence of more than one god. Mormons believe there are literally millions of gods; father gods, mother gods, grandfather gods, grandmother gods, - literally millions of gods. Fast Facts on False Teachings, pg. 171-172

G. They believe that the universe is inhabited by different gods and goddesses who procreate spirit children, which are in turn clothed with bodies on different _____, “Elohim” being the god of this planet. Kingdom of the cults, pg. 275

H. If the universe is filled with gods – how can we be sure ours is the _____ one?

IV. They teach a man-god _____

A. Brigham Young stated, “When the time came that His first-born, the Savior, should come into the world and take a tabernacle (body), the Father (Elohim) came Himself and favored that spirit with a tabernacle (Mary) instead of letting any other _____ do it” (Journal of Discourses, 4:218).

B. “The birth of the Savior was as natural as are the births of our children; it was the result of _____ action. He partook of flesh and blood – was begotten of his Father, as we are of our fathers (Journal of Discourses, 8:115).

C. Mormons believe Jesus is the elder brother, the god of the Old Testament, who once he took mortal form, _____ his own salvation through his works while in the flesh, just as each of us must. (FFOFT, pg. 170)

D. Jesus is the LDS savior only in the sense that his death gives the Mormon the _____ of returning to the god of this world, using the secret keys, handgrips, and passwords learned only in the Mormon Temple, secrets that will ensure safe passage through the doorway to personal godhood. (FFOFT, pg. 170)

V. They teach a salvation by _____

A. Sin is not seen as a _____, but as a condition through which salvation is begun – “Adam fell that men might be; and men are, that they might have joy (II Nephi 2:25).

B. “Adam cried, “Because of my transgression my eyes are opened, and in this _____ I shall have joy” (PGP, Moses 5:10-11).

C. “We ought to consider the fall of our first parents as one of the _____ steps to external exaltation and happiness (Mormon Catechism).

D. “We believe that through the atonement of Christ, all mankind _____ be saved, by obedience to the laws and ordinances of the gospel (Articles of Faith, 3).

E. _____ in water is “the very gateway into the kingdom of heaven, an indispensable step in our salvation and exaltation” (Bennett, Wallace F. *Why I Am A Mormon*, pg. 124. Cited from Spirit of Truth).

F. _____ works – works done in and by the local wards – inclusive of tithing.

G. _____ works – a dietary standard abstaining from alcohol, caffeine, narcotic and hallucinogenic drugs, tobacco, tea, coffee, eating meat sparingly and grains in abundance (D&C 89), was changed to allow caffeinated beverages August 29, 2012 by prophetic clarification eliminating a sixty-year ban on caffeinated Coca-Cola to the utter joy of Brigham Young University students.

H. Genealogical works and _____ baptisms for the dead

I. _____ works and marriage and family “sealings”

VI. A Few Summary Questions

- A. Would you rather believe the spiritual revelations contained within the Standard Works or those within the _____? (2Co. 11:2-4, 13-15)
- B. Would you rather follow a progressive revelation or a _____ revelation? (Rev. 22:18-19; Psa. 119:89)
- C. Would you rather follow the laws of many gods or the laws of _____ God? (Psa. 19:7-14)
- D. Would you rather follow a man that becomes a god, or God that became a man – the man-god or the _____-Man? (Heb. 9:13-16, 23-28; 10:8-18)
- E. Would you rather believe in a salvation earned through works, or salvation received as a _____? (Eph. 2:8-9; Titus 2:11-14)

VII. How to reach out to Mormons:

- A. _____ to prayer for the conviction of sin and helplessness (Jn. 6:44; 16:8); and for the potential of peace (Jn. 14:23-27)
- B. _____ and help in times of need – 2Co. 1:3-4
- C. _____ within sound doctrine – 1Pe. 3:14-17; 2Ti. 2:15
- D. _____ the Rest in Christ – Matt 11:28-29
- E. _____ Grace – Titus 3:1-7

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YouTube – Interview of Dr. Lynn Wilder with Allie Beth Stuckey

https://youtu.be/YBsS8z1GDhk?si=jjM5R_Jpgvm2ieAg