

Mormonism: Its Idolatry and Idiosyncrasies

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“Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.” Thus the Lord spoke to Samuel after Samuel had been sent by the Lord to anoint one of the sons of Jesse to be the successor to Saul as the King of Israel.

Many times outward appearance can be very deceiving. What might appear good from the outside can often times bring destruction. That could certainly describe the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (LDS). In recent months the LDS has aggressively tried to establish a positive image for its church in the world. Television ads as well as ads in popular publications have tried to establish the good qualities of the Mormon church. One thing that is never touched on, however, is how distinctively different Mormonism is from Christianity. Instead the LDS tries to emphasize its wholesomeness, its family values and its respect for the Bible. Yet in doing this it has no choice but to hide much of the truth about its origins and teachings. The projected image of Mormonism is a far cry from the facts. Mormon leaders have tried to hide and suppress many historic documents about Mormonism’s past, since they could prove to be a source of embarrassment. All the church documents, or at least most of them, have been reworked so that they say only what agrees with church policy. The diaries of their early leaders are suppressed and hidden since they show the confusion and man-made nature of the theology and religion of the Mormons.

The Mormons present a lot of claims to make it appear as though they are just another segment of Christianity. But upon closer examination we can see how empty these claims really are. They claim to be Christian. They claim to accept the Bible. They claim to believe in the Trinity. They claim to believe in the virgin birth. If people blindly accept such claims they will be drawn into the Mormon deception.

The truth about Mormonism is that its sum and substance is found in two words: JOSEPH SMITH. The church rests entirely on the validity of Smith as a true prophet of God. If you prove Smith a false prophet, the entire church of Mormon falls. According to a former president of the Mormons, Joseph Fielding Smith, “There is no salvation without accepting Joseph Smith. If Joseph Smith was verily a prophet, and if he told the truth... then this knowledge is of the most vital importance to the entire world.”¹ In fact so important is Smith according to the Mormons that they claim Smith will actually decide whether a person will or will not enter the mansions of eternity.

Yet what does the Bible say about prophets? In Deuteronomy we are told (Dt 18:22): “If what a prophet proclaims in the name of the Lord does not take place or come true, that is a message the Lord has not spoken. That prophet has spoken presumptuously.” Again and again Joseph Smith proved himself to be a false prophet when his prophecies did not come true. Yet his followers were evidently not phased by this. After all, if Mormons admit Smith is a false prophet their entire religion falls apart. They have too much riding on Smith to throw it all away on some false prophecies. Mormons still cling to the impossible dream of exaltation to godhood based on their confidence in the false prophecies of Smith.

Perhaps the reason Mormons don’t seem all that concerned with the apparent false prophecies of Smith is because Mormonism seems to be in a state of constant change. Things that were approved when Mormonism began are now condemned. And things that are now approved were once condemned. For example, since polygamy is no longer essential to salvation or exaltation, it is no longer practiced. Whereas, previously it had been required and practiced by true Mormons.

Interestingly enough many writings of Joseph Smith have been changed by simply deleting words that might otherwise be embarrassing to the church. Mormons think nothing of making these changes in the revelations of Smith. They claim that the revisions are made to correct errors made by scribes and publishers; additional clauses are inserted and paragraphs added for clarity and instruction. It is said that many times

¹ Ed Decker and Dave Hunt, *The God Makers* (Eugene, OR: Harvest House Publishers, 1984), p. 41

phrases were added so that the reader might get a better understanding of the meaning of a particular verse. Obviously the Mormons are trying to cover up any flaws in their system.

Smith himself saw no problem in changing his revelations. Nor would most others see anything wrong with it if these are just the words of Smith. But if, as Smith claimed, these were truly the revelations of God, he had no right to change these words. Smith had a mind of his own. Thus it only seemed natural that “by the year 1844 Joseph Smith had completely disregarded the teachings of the Book of Mormon, for he declared that God was just an exalted man and that men could become gods.”²

It was almost as if the Book of Mormon had been written just to see how gullible the people really were. And when they blindly followed the Book of Mormon, Smith decided that they would believe anything he said and that he didn't need help from any book.

Change seems to be a generally accepted part of Mormonism. If some teaching doesn't go the way you want it to, you simply change it until you get it right. Not even the Bible is safe from change according to the Mormons.

The Mormons have quite a list of writings that they consider to be sacred. That list consists of: the Bible, the Book of Mormon, the Doctrines and Covenants and the Pearl of Great Price. Included in the Pearl of Great of Great Price is the Book of Abraham, which will be discussed briefly later. Suffice it to say for the present that the Book of Abraham contains a polytheistic theology which is contrary to the teachings of the Bible and the Book of Mormon.

Since the Mormons consider the Bible to be sacred, most Christians might not be all that concerned about the Mormons. Yet it is a qualified acceptance of the Bible that the Mormons hold. Material for the potential convert says:

Both the Bible and the Book of Mormon bear the same testimony.... They are in perfect agreement with each other and when taken together give a plain and clear picture of Christ and of the laws of salvation.³

When it comes right down to the facts, however, the Mormons think the Bible is an incomplete revelation and that it has been altered over the years. They even claim that important doctrines about salvation have been removed. So the claim is made that no one can ever learn the everlasting Gospel just by reading the Bible.

It's easy to see why the Mormons attack the accuracy of the Bible. The Latter-Day Saints believe that the true Gospel of Jesus Christ was proclaimed in the heavens before the world was created; it was on earth in ancient times and known to men like Adam and others. Yet through the years men lost sight of this message so it had to be restored at different times. The last time it was done was when Joseph Smith was chosen by the Lord to proclaim the everlasting Gospel to the world.

With the advent of Joseph Smith the Bible suddenly lost its value for salvation. Joseph Smith once wrote “We believe the Bible to be the word of God as far as it is translated correctly.” That leaves the Bible wide open for every and any kind of criticism. If it doesn't say what you want it to, all you say is that the Bible is not translated correctly at that point.

Joseph Smith simply changed or created Scripture to serve his own ends. Smith said that there are many principles of the Gospel which must be learned before you can become a god or goddess. Some must even be learned after death. The ladder to heaven which people must climb might be a very long and grueling climb. Since you must rely on your own efforts, according to the Mormons, eternal life is unsure. In fact, even after the resurrection Mormons must keep on working toward the goal of eternal life.

The Latter-day Saints are very careful, however, not to totally discredit the Bible. They need it to a certain extent. Because the Book of Mormon quotes extensively from the Bible, the Bible cannot be discredited without casting doubt on the Book of Mormon also.

² Ibid., p. 173.

³ John M. Ball, *Saints of Another God* (Milwaukee: Northwestern Publishing House, 1989), p. 181.

And what about the Book of Mormon and the claim that the Bible is filled with changes that have been incorporated through the years? “As far as historical and manuscript evidence is concerned, Joseph Smith’s scriptures have absolutely no foundation.”⁴ Despite what Smith said about the changes in the Bible which necessitated the restoration, the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls make it clear that the Bible was not changed by the Catholics as the Mormons claim.

Even though the two copies of Isaiah discovered in Qumran Cave 1 near the Dead Sea in 1947 were a thousand years earlier than the oldest dated manuscript previously known (A.D. 980), they proved to be word for word identical with our standard Hebrew Bible in more than 95 percent of the text.⁵

These things were not known until after 1947, so some might excuse Smith saying that he was uneducated when he held the Book of Mormon far above the Bible. But then you would expect this from the man who wrote the Book of Mormon. Today’s Latter-day Saints still give the Book of Mormon a higher position than the Bible even though they have the facts.

What’s hard to understand is how the Mormons can look you straight in the eye and say the Book of Mormon was divinely revealed and more important than the Bible. Over 4000 changes have been made since the book was first published in 1830. “These corrections run all the way from those necessitated by changes in Joseph Smith’s beliefs to elimination of hundreds of obvious contradictions, absurdities and childish grammatical errors.”⁶ Yet even faced by these facts, Mormons seem reluctant to face reality. Even when facts prove the Book of Mormon is untrue and its teachings are false, most Mormons refuse to face the facts. They evidently have been so brain-washed that they will never believe the truth.

Even though Joseph Smith wrote his own translation of the Bible, most Mormons still use the King James Version. Smith’s version adds larger sections and strips Christ of his divinity. Of course everything in his translation must conform to the Mormon teachings. In reality Smith’s Bible translation is nothing more than a grotesque distortion of the truth. Yet most Mormons don’t seem concerned about that.

As we said, the Mormons consider the Book of Mormon more important than the Bible, because it contained the “pure” words of Christ. It was allegedly a direct revelation from the Lord. There was no chance for translators or publishers to make mistakes. At least that’s the claim Smith made about this holy book. Supposedly Smith’s Book of Mormon contained the “fullness of the everlasting gospel.” But the Mormon gospel is not the gospel of Christianity. There is no good news of salvation even found in the Book of Mormon. The reason why there are differences between what the Mormons teach and what other Christians teach is because their sources for their Gospel teachings are so different. The fact is that the Bible does not contain the full Mormon revelation. So obviously the Mormon gospel will never be found in the Bible because there is no such teaching in the Bible. The source for the Mormon gospel is Joseph Smith’s imagination as recorded in the Book of Mormon.

The Latter-day Saints present a gospel of laws and ordinances which must be kept if you want to earn salvation. Since no other group has their special revelations, they say no other church has the Mormon gospel. The heart and core of the Gospel of the Bible is the good news that Jesus is our one and only Savior from sin. The gospel of the Mormons is just a set of rules that must be followed in order to earn salvation.

It is quite clear from Mormon teachings that they consider salvation as something you must earn. Mormonism is just another work-righteous religion. They say faith plus baptism plus works is the only way to guarantee eternal life. In fact it is the Book of Mormon that states salvation is through faith in Christ (2 Nephi 2:6,7), together with obedience to his commands (3 Nephi 12:12-20) and faithfulness to the end. True faithfulness also includes trusting in the prophetic office of Joseph Smith and in the divinity of the Book of

⁴ Jerald and Sandra Tanner, *The Changing World of Mormonism* (Chicago: Moody Press, 1980), p. 369.

⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 371.

⁶ Decker and Hunt, *op. cit.*, p. 110.

Mormon. Of course that contradicts what both James and St. Paul say about faith and good works (Ja 2:21,24; Ep 2:8,9). But that is not all that surprising.

God did not give us his law so we can try to save ourselves by obeying it (cf. Ro 3: 20). Yet this is exactly what the Latter-day Saints teach. And instead of letting your faith show itself by your good works as Jesus says in his Sermon on the Mount (Mt 5:16), “Mormonism teaches that a person should do good works for his own benefit, to raise his standing in the eyes of God.”⁷

Another source of teachings for the Mormons is the Book of Abraham, part of the Pearl of Great Price. The Book of Abraham was supposedly translated by Joseph Smith and allegedly written by Abraham of the Old Testament. The original papyrus used by Smith was available for study. It turns out that this work which Smith found is nothing more than a common Egyptian funeral book. In 1970 Egyptian experts:

agreed that the illustrations were unrelated to Smith’s narratives, that his words in his Book of Abraham did not correlate in any way with correct translations of the Egyptian text, and that the papyri were about two thousand years too young to have been written by Abraham.⁸

This was positive proof that the Book of Abraham was a fraud. Even though it has been proved to be a fake, millions of Mormons still accept it as the word of God.

Smith was very much the false prophet who came as a wolf disguised in sheep’s clothing. While claiming to explain the Bible through his various writings, Smith actually undermined the teachings of the Bible. The Book of Abraham was just another tool used by Smith to draw Christians away from the truth of the Bible. The Book of Mormon had said that the Bible Was incomplete as it stood. But the Book of Abraham took another bold step forward when it said that the Bible was filled with error, much had been removed from it and mankind could expect periodically to receive additional scriptures equal in value to the Bible.

And conveniently for Smith, he was the one who received periodically those additional scriptures through revelations. These revelations are compiled into another important work of the Latter-day Saints known as *Doctrines and Covenants*. These revelations deal with an incredible range of subjects: “polygamy, stocks and bonds, hotels, real estate loans, doctrine, logic, scriptural translations, prayer and publishing—to mention only a few.”⁹ All these revelations are attributed to Jesus Christ himself. It’s really very convenient how the Lord always provided Smith with a revelation whenever Smith needed one. That’s why it just happens that every essential Mormon doctrine is contained in the *Doctrines and Covenants*.

Through his revelations Smith was able to present just about anything and his followers accepted it as if Jesus himself had spoken it. As early as 1832 Smith clearly stated that people may be converted after death. This was the first big step away from Christian orthodoxy and this movement rapidly accelerated in the next few years as his revelations came to him. In 1833 Smith said openly that the Trinity was an erroneous concept. It followed naturally then for Smith to say that Christ’s unique status came as a result of his actions as a man. Smith, at the time speaking for St. John, said that any man could become equal with Christ through his actions, earn his way into heaven and become a god. From this comes the popular Mormon expression, “As Man is, God was; as God is, Man can be.”

Just the mention of a couple of the *Doctrines and Covenants* (D and C) make us realize what Joseph Smith was trying to do. He was setting up a man-made religion to appeal to natural man. D and C 119 shows God as a careful bookkeeper. It says people are to include interest and all other income when they consider the tithe, the giving of ten percent for the church. D and C 130 says both Jesus Christ and the Father have bodies of flesh and bones and that they cannot be in two places at once. Since the *Doctrines and Covenants* are allegedly revelations directly from the Lord, Mormons consider them to be sacred and holy, even superior to the Bible.

⁷ Walter R. Martin, *Mormonism* (Minneapolis: Bethany Fellowship, Inc., Publishers, 1957), p. 7.

⁸ Ball, op. cit., p. 199-200.

⁹ Ball, op. cit., p. 210.

Yet the reason the Church of Latter-day Saints is so subject to change is because of their teaching about the Living Oracles. They are the First Presidency and the Apostles of God known as the Brethren. The First Presidency consists of three men, one of whom is their reigning, inspired prophet. Anything the Brethren say is equal to anything in the Book of Mormon or the Bible. The President of the Church of Latter-day Saints, who is Prophet, Seer and Revelator, can say anything and it takes precedent over whatever the Bible, the Book of Mormon or any past prophets said, including Joseph Smith. That way there is always room to go with the flow of popular opinion.

On May 5, 1974, Elder S. Dilworth said “modern revelation is what President Joseph Smith said, unless President Spencer W. Kimball (LDS President in 1974) says differently.”¹⁰ It is even said that the Bible, the Book of Mormon and Doctrine and Covenants would not be able to sufficiently guide the people. They need the Living Oracles. Like those who follow the cults, Mormons must blindly follow whatever the Brethren dictate.

It is this blind faith that is essential for the success of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. You are to do whatever you are told without asking any questions. The motto at the Mormon headquarters in Salt Lake City makes this very clear. It says “The Course of Wisdom is the Course of Obedience.” The President of the Mormon Church exercises unchallenged authority over all the members.

Literally speaking, the Mormon kingdom is a dictatorship ruled by the inner circle. Mormons have the freedom to disagree with their church leaders. But to do so means excommunication and damnation. All the wealth and power of the church is owned and controlled by the closely held corporation of the President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Inc. Because of that control, the common people have no vote or say in the corporate life of Mormonism.

Even when it comes to tithing, all good Mormons are required to give their ten percent. Yet the Mormon hierarchy is not accountable to anyone for the billions of dollars it receives. The church leaders would like to believe that they are living in a theocracy. The Mormon hierarchy claims to be God’s representatives, so they are not accountable to anyone on earth. They command and their followers must listen to them. In fact the real goal of the Mormon church is to establish a theocratic rule over the entire United States and eventually the world.

It is this goal that is reflected in the Mormon zeal and motivation for mission work. Mormon high school graduates spend two years as missionaries at their own expense. We might tend to commend them for such activities. But let’s remember that the reason they are so willing to do this is because they think they are helping themselves attain godhood.

Upon closer examination of their mission methods we can see that they contain a lot of misrepresentation. Missionaries claim to be bringing true Christianity to the world. They insist their gospel comes from the Bible and they have the same God and the same Jesus as Christians. In reality, however, they have a totally different God, Jesus and gospel than the Bible teaches. Yet evidently many Christians do not recognize this and when Mormons do their mission work they go after Protestants who form the majority of Mormon converts.

Even the Mormon teachings about God are different from the Biblical doctrines if people would only look closely. The Mormon God progresses up a scale step by step. He continues to move forward and overcome until he has arrived at the point where he is now. This contradicts the God of the Bible who says in Malachi (Ma 3:6): “I the Lord do not change.” The funny thing is that even in the Book of Mormon we find this statement, (Moroni 8:17): “I know that God is not a partial God, neither a changeable being; but he is unchangeable from all eternity to all eternity.” But to find teachings which do not agree even with the Book of Mormon is not all that surprising.

The most confusing area of Mormon theology has to do with the Holy Ghost. According to the first edition of the *Doctrine and Covenants* of 1835 there were only two personages in the Godhead, namely, the Father and the Son. The Holy Ghost was said to be merely the mind of the Father and the Son. As time went on

¹⁰ Decker and Hunt, op. cit., p. 44.

the Mormon Godhead evolved so that now Mormon leaders teach there are three personages in the Godhead. The Father and the Son have flesh and blood, but the Holy Spirit is merely a spirit.

Of course, any differences between Christianity and Mormonism are played down lest a prospective convert be lost. Many things in fact about Mormonism are not revealed to interested people since those who know have been sworn to secrecy. So the only way to find out about Mormonism's most sacred and important teachings is to get in so deep that there's little chance of getting back out safely.

Part of the control Mormonism holds over its people is that in Mormonism not only is it important to lead a righteous life to attain godhood, but it is also essential to present Mormonism in a positive way to outsiders. So loyal to their beliefs are most Mormons that they are convinced that blemishes on the past must be covered over and the truth must even be suppressed in the interest of spreading the "restored gospel."

To better understand some of the concepts of the Mormon doctrine we need to look at their creed which is called the "Articles of Faith."

1. We believe in God, the Eternal Father, and in His Son, Jesus Christ and in the Holy Ghost. (Comm.—Joseph Smith denied the teaching of the Trinity. The Mormon understanding of God is that there are three separate gods.)
2. We believe that men will be punished for their own sins, and not for Adam's transgression.
3. We believe that through the atonement of Christ all mankind may be saved, by obedience to the laws and ordinances of the gospel. (Comm.—It's very clear that Christ's atonement cannot save those who don't follow the rules and regulations of the Church of Latter-day Saints.)
4. We believe the first principles of the Gospel are: first, Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ; second, Repentance; third, Baptism by immersion for the remission of sins; fourth, laying on of hands for the gift of the Holy Ghost.
5. We believe that a man must be called of God by prophecy and by the laying on of hands, by those who are in authority, to preach the Gospel and administer the ordinance thereof. (Comm.—Anything done by non-Mormon ministers doesn't do anyone any good.)
6. We believe in the same organization that existed in the Primitive Church, namely, apostles, prophets, pastors, teachers, evangelists, etc. (Comm.—The term "etc." includes President, Melchizedek Priest and others unknown in the early church.)
7. We believe in the gift of tongues, prophecy, revelation, visions, healing, interpretation of tongues, etc. (Comm. - These gifts are restricted. No one but the Mormon President may have revelations or prophesy.)
8. 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. (Comm.—The Bible's authority is considerably reduced by this warning that it may be incorrectly translated.)
9. We believe all that God has revealed, all that He does now reveal, and we believe that He will yet reveal many great and important things pertaining to the kingdom of God. (Comm.—Mormons believe all past, present and future revelations of Mormon presidents.)
10. We believe in the literal gathering of Israel and in the restoration of the Ten Tribes; that Zion (the New Jerusalem) will be built upon the American continent; that Christ will reign personally upon the earth; and that the earth will be renewed and receive its paradisiacal glory. (Comm.—The location of the New Jerusalem will be Independence, Missouri.)

11. We claim the privilege of worshiping Almighty God according to the dictates of our own conscience, and allow all men the same privilege, let them worship how, where and what they may.

12. We believe in being subject to kings, presidents, rulers, and magistrates, in obeying, honoring, and sustaining the law.

13. We believe in being honest, true, chaste, benevolent, virtuous; and in doing good to all men, indeed, we may say that we follow the admonition of Paul—We believe all things, we hope all things, we have endured many things, and hope to endure all things. If there is anything virtuous, lovely, or of good report, or praiseworthy, we seek after these things.¹¹

Mormon prophets have taught that God, the Eternal Father was once a mortal man like us. He only became God through obedience to the same eternal Gospel truths that we are given the opportunity to obey today. This is nothing really new in religious circles. This is what the pagan religions have taught for a long time. The Mormon church leaders do not even try to deny this. Still the Mormons claim to be the only true Christians on earth because Joseph Smith said so.

Since to the Mormons God is just an exalted man they teach that God not only had a mother, but also a wife. Although Mormons do not actually worship God's wife they do teach that she is our "Eternal Mother." A Mormon elder in 1973 stated "I didn't see how God could have a Son if he didn't have a wife."¹²

It is also a denial of the virgin birth that hinges on the fact that God the Father is a man who has attained godhood. Since this is the case then there was no miraculous means necessary for the conception of Jesus. Mary, the wife of Joseph supposedly had another husband, the Mormon Father God. Obviously Jesus was not begotten by the Holy Ghost according to the Mormons. The Latter-day Saints say Jesus was conceived in mortality when Elohim came from Kolob to have sex with Mary, who is one of Elohim's many wives for eternity.

The Jesus Christ of the Mormons is similar to but not identical to the Jesus Christ of the Bible. The Mormon Jesus is the physical son of their god, a human, and Mary. "This child, they teach, was the human manifestation of a being who had achieved prominence in the spirit world."¹³ They also maintain that Jesus is the literal brother of Satan in the "pre-mortal existence." It is interesting that the LDS says both Jesus and his brother Satan offered to redeem mankind. But because of Christ's humility, he was chosen to be the Savior. According to Mormon theology it is further taught that Christ was not God from the beginning. This is definitely in opposition to what the apostle John says in the first chapter of his Gospel. "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.... The Word became flesh and lived for a while among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth." Since the Mormons are not all that concerned with what the Bible says they say that Jesus earned his godhood by his works just like any human can and just like his father did before him.

A lot of the Mormon religion depends on this striving for godhood. Before people are actually born they live in a pre-existing spirit world according to the Mormons. Mormons state that we are all "gods-in-embryo" who have been steadily progressing upward in the spirit world. Even though we, along with all people, are descendants of Mother and Father god, for some reason we were not born as gods but had to come to earth, take on a human body and through our actions prove ourselves worthy of godhood.

It's to be noted that the Mormons cannot quite explain why the children of the Father god and Mother goddess are not gods themselves. "For some peculiar reason that Joseph Smith did not divulge, the physical womb of mother goddess made pregnant by her god husband produces babies that are composed only of 'Spiritual substance.'"¹⁴

¹¹ Ball, op. cit., p. 219-221.

¹² Tanner, op. cit., p. 178.

¹³ Ball, op. cit., p. 173.

¹⁴ Decker and Hunt, op. cit., p. 26.

Lucifer and Jesus were such spiritual children who fought for the honor of being the Savior of mankind. As was said earlier, Jesus was chosen, so in anger Lucifer (Satan) led the rebellion against God.

If we were all spirit children at one time, the question is raised of why no one remembers this period of preexistence. The early Mormon apostle Orson Pratt had an answer. When the spirit enters the body it is so compressed that memory is suspended and he forgets his former existence. It seems the Mormons try to cover all bases and provide answers to any questions anyone might have.

Many of our own ancestors have already reached godhood, according to the LDS. They have attained godhood now and rule as gods and goddesses over worlds like ours.

Since there are still so many spirits waiting to attain godhood, any form of birth control is strictly prohibited by the Mormons. Every good Mormon couple is to have as many children as possible so that the waiting spirits can come to earth, enter bodies and work toward attaining godhood.

The greatest lie that was ever conceived was that man could become like God. Eve was first deceived by Satan's offer of godhood. With the fall into sin, spiritual death came immediately and in turn was followed by physical death. For all Bible-believing Christians it is very clear that "the wages of sin is death."

Yet the pagan/occult traditions have taught that the fall into sin was beneficial for mankind. This is basically the same things the Mormons teach. One Mormon in fact wrote "Adam fell but he fell in the right direction... toward the goal... he fell upward."¹⁵ In other words, according to the Mormons, if our first parents had not fallen into sin they never would have had the opportunity to attain godhood. The first sin is not even considered to be a sin by the Mormon hierarchy since such good things come as a result of it. In fact, Joseph Fielding Smith, a former Mormon president once said that:

the fall of man came as a blessing in disguise... I never speak of the part Eve took in this fall as a sin, nor do I accuse Adam of a sin... it is not always a sin to transgress a law.
(Doctrines of Salvation, Vol 1, pp114-115)¹⁶

Such obvious contradictions with what the Bible says don't bother Mormons since their religion is not based on what the Bible says nor on what the Book of Mormon says. Instead, it is based on whatever the Prophet who is alive at the time says is the truth. Again the motto of Mormonism states it very clearly: "The course of wisdom is the course of obedience." No matter what is said, the true Mormon must blindly obey. Just as Adam and Eve were given the opportunity to attain godhood through the fall, every human has that same opportunity according to the LDS. Supposedly in every human there are the "seeds of godhood" which when they grow can help a person become a god. Yet these seeds don't grow unless considerable time is spent in secret Mormon Temple rituals. But another requirement of godhood is that certain things must be done with the partner to whom you have been joined in "Temple" for eternity.

It is the idea of "eternal marriage" that causes the breakup of many marriages in the Mormon church. If one of the spouses loses his or her ambition to become a god or goddess, contrary to the Biblical teachings on marriage, the practicing Mormon is obligated to divorce that person and seek another marriage for eternity. After all, it is only as partners that you can attain godhood.

So much in Mormonism hinges on working toward godhood as we have said a number of times. While the promise of becoming a god at first might appear inspiring, the reality that godhood must be earned can be very discouraging. The Bible offers eternal life to all who admit their sins and see Jesus as their only Savior from sin. But Mormonism says godhood can be earned by the good works of those who show they are worthy. Because Mormons deny the value of Christ's blood for our redemption, they use bread and water in their communion service. They have very little that could really be recognized as Christian, although they try to convince people that they are Christian. Mormons display no crosses inside or outside their chapels and Temples, but instead they display many Masonic and occult symbols.

¹⁵ Decker and Hunt, op. cit., p. 30.

¹⁶ Tanner, op. cit., p. 192.

Contrary to the humility which Christ teaches, Mormonism exalts the pride of man. It's almost as if they try to convince themselves of how good they are.

Mormons don't grovel before God... They proudly stand, hold their heads high, and put out their hands to shake that of God in greeting, as any worthy son would be expected to respectfully but proudly stand before a wise and good father.¹⁷

Such actions are contrary to what Jesus says in the Gospel of Luke (Lk 17:10): "When you have done everything you were told to do, you should say, 'We are unworthy servants; we have only done our duty.'" We are to remember that we are humble servants of our almighty God.

The reason Mormons think they can proudly stand before God is because they claim man is naturally good. In effect we could say that the Mormon leaders point the people to the church and not to the Savior.

The problem with Mormon theology is that Christ's blood does not atone for any individual sin (*Journal of Discourses* vol 13, p. 143). The only way sin can be paid for is by 100% obedience to every Mormon command (over 4300) or even by the shedding of one's own blood. Some sins which can be atoned through your own blood are murder, adultery, stealing, taking God's name in vain, lying or damning old Joe Smith or his religion. According to such thinking suicide or murder could be beneficial to a person's salvation. Although such blood atonement is not widely practiced, it is still secretly practiced in Mormonism today.

Yet no matter how much the Mormons try to push this idea of working your way to godhood, it is almost impossible for the average Mormon to keep the several thousand commandments to show their worthiness.

Thus the Mormon dilemma: Outside the Church is no salvation, yet inside the Church there is no hope either for no one who is honest with himself could ever pretend to meet impossible standards of personal righteousness.¹⁸

For the nominal Mormon it appears as though there is little hope of perfection, so all too many Mormons remain in the Mormon church only for social reasons, to retain friends, family; prestige and self-esteem.

The frustration over not being able to attain godhood shows itself in different ways. The teen suicide rate in Utah is consistently above the national average. Wife-beating and child abuse are very serious problems and Utah's child murder rate is five times the national average. In a state where Mormons make up about 70% of the population, could these things be a reaction of the people against a standard that is impossible to keep? Despite what statistics show, the Mormons try to project a wholesome family image in their various ads and through personal contact. Because of that some think the Mormons are nothing more than an extreme form of Christian fundamentalism. In reality, however, it is really a modified form of paganism covered up by a semblance of Christianity.

In order to convey a positive image to the world, Mormons are to abstain from wine, strong drink and tobacco. This is according to Joseph Smith's *Words of Wisdom*. Yet most Mormons don't seem to practice what they preach.

Although Mormons pride themselves upon their abstinence from alcohol and tobacco, a government study conducted in 1973 indicated that church members take more barbiturate sedatives, tranquilizers, antidepressants, stimulants, pep pills, heroine, cocaine and LSD than non-Mormons.¹⁹

It would appear as though Mormons do get high on things other than just on life.

¹⁷ Tanner, op. cit., p. 549.

¹⁸ Decker and Hunt, op. cit., p. 55-56.

¹⁹ Decker and Hunt, op. cit., p. 19.

The Mormon temples play a key role in their doctrines also. They are the link between man and godhood. It is only in the Temple that the Mormons can gain secret knowledge and perform the secret rituals that will help lead from humanity to godhood. The sanctuaries of the Temples are used mainly to “redeem the dead.”

These temples and the ceremonies practiced within them are uniquely Mormon, and they are as alien from the customs of other so-called ‘Christian’ denominations as are the plains of Mars from the farmlands of Wisconsin.²⁰

The Bible clearly states (He 9:27): “man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment.” Yet according to Mormon teachings those who die can still communicate with the living and join the Mormon Church beyond the grave. The ordinances practiced within Mormon Temples are of two types: for the living and by proxy for the dead. If the departed spirits choose to accept the rituals done by the proxy, they can go to “Paradise” where all worthy Mormons go at the time of death.

The Mormons teach and practice baptism for the dead as part of their doctrines concerning the dead. The reason they teach baptism for the dead is because they say membership in their church is the only way to heaven. Through baptism for the dead those who never had a chance or who rejected Mormonism while they lived are given the opportunity to become Mormons after the resurrection. That’s why the Mormons are so obsessed with genealogical records. They want to make sure all their ancestors can be brought into the Mormon church.

Mormons are very obsessed with concerns for the dead. They even site proof from 1 Corinthians 15:29, saying Paul talked about baptism for the dead. Of course Paul was referring to the non-Christian pagans of his day who did baptize for the dead, contrary to the teachings in God’s Word.

According to the Mormons the dead are in a type of purgatory which is called “spirit prison.” It seems rather strange for spirits which are confined to a prison to be present in the Mormon Temples, seeking the living and calling on them to redeem the dead and save them. But that is what the Mormons believe and teach. The only way for the spirits to get out of prison by themselves is to endure the necessary punishment. Some would compare this to hell, but the Mormons don’t believe in hell.

Mormonism actually encourages and boasts of apparent contacts with the dead. The Bible, however, clearly forbids this (Dt 18:9-12; Le 19:31; 20:6). What we need to do is to remember the power of the devil. “These appearances (of the dead) are very real and extremely convincing, and usually accomplish the satanic deception intended.”²¹

It is interesting to note that in the Satanic Bible the god of the ghouls (evil being obsessed with the dead) is named Mormo and his followers would be called “Mormons”. In Chinese, Mormon means “gates of hell.” Is this just coincidence? According to a former veil-worker in the temple, Lucifer plays a more active role in the Mormon Temple than Jesus does.

Mormons obviously are offended by any idea that Joseph Smith was influenced by Satan.

There is no escaping the fact, however, that a surprisingly pagan and anti-Christian influence is woven like a web through Mormonism leaving a legacy of doctrines and practices that bear the unmistakable fingerprints of Lucifer himself.²²

The temple rituals themselves have been linked to Satanism.

Besides the link to Satanism, Mormonism also shows links to both Masonry and the occult. The ancient Masonic legend of Enoch closely parallels the teachings of Joseph Smith showing the strong Masonic influence on Smith. It didn’t take very long for Mormonism to become a secret society with the same tokens, signs and

²⁰ Ball, op. cit., p. 23.

²¹ Decker and Hunt, op. cit., p. 71.

²² Decker and Hunt, op. cit., p. 73.

horrible penalty (throat slit, heart and vitals torn out) for revealing temple secrets. When the truth is considered, Mormonism is not founded on the Bible nor on the doctrines of Christianity, but rather on the ancient mysteries of pagan occultism.

Smith supposedly restored the “ancient Priesthood,” but it was not a Biblical priesthood. It was rather a pagan priesthood of Lucifer. The earliest pagan traditions tell how the demons forbade Adam to eat of the Tree of Knowledge, but the Angel of Light (Lucifer, the Light-Bearer) helped Adam eat the forbidden fruit for his enlightenment. Yet this knowledge is kept from most Mormons who are not considered worthy to hear such secrets.

To further understand the confusion and lies on which Mormonism is based we simply consider how the Priesthood was supposedly restored and given to Joseph Smith. In LDS doctrine, only a baptized person can baptize others and only one who has the “Priesthood” can confer it. Because of the alleged total apostasy of all Christian religions, the authority to baptize and ordain no longer existed on earth and had to be “restored” from heaven. Yet under the alleged direction of an “angel,” unbaptized Smith baptized (Oliver) Cowdery; then Cowdery whose baptism was invalid, baptized Smith. Next, improperly baptized Smith conferred upon also improperly baptized Cowdery the Aaronic Priesthood, which he himself didn’t have to confer; after this, improperly ordained Cowdery conferred upon Smith the Aaronic Priesthood by virtue of having supposedly received it from Smith, which clearly wasn’t possible since Smith had not yet received it, and never did.

The Mormons speak of two different priesthoods. There is the Melchizedek priesthood and the Aaronic priesthood. The Melchizedek priesthood is the highest level. It consists of the high priest, and the elders. These people direct all the affairs of the church on all levels. The Aaronic priesthood is the lower level that consists of all the other male members of the Mormon church.

The terms used by the Mormons to describe their structure are an attempt by the Mormon leaders to make people think the church is founded on Biblical principles. As far as the Mormons are concerned their church is the only true church. They claim their doctrines and church government are perfect and exactly like those established by Christ. Yet upon closer examination it is very clear that the Mormon hierarchy does not resemble the structure of the early Christian church at all.

The LDS church is headed by the First Presidency of three men. Then comes the board of 12 called the Twelve Apostles. There are two councils under them: the First Council of the 70 and the Presiding Bishopric. The former is over the local Melchizedek priesthood quorums of Seventy worldwide and the latter governs the Aaronic priesthood’s Stake Presidencies, councils and other offices. Besides stake or district offices, the Mormon church has numerous auxiliaries, missionaries, branch members, bishops, elders, deacons, patriarchs and other offices.

Regarding salvation itself the Mormons say they believe in salvation by grace. But to them “grace” is only for those who keep all the commandments and prove themselves worthy. Such an emphasis on personal worthiness is inherited from the mystery religions and is a mainstay in both Mormon and Masonic teachings. There are a number of things that the mystery religions, Masonry and Mormonism all have in common. 1)There are mysteries involved; 2)The mysteries are passed on only to a select few; 3)To receive these mysteries one must be personally worthy; 4)A process of initiation is required; 5)The initiation involves secret rituals; 6)This initiation takes place only in certain sanctuaries closed to outsiders, which are usually called Temples; 7)In the process, the initiates are sworn to secrecy; 8)The penalty for revealing this secret gnosis (knowledge) to the uninitiated is death.

This whole idea of secrecy is contrary to the teachings of Jesus (cf. Jn 18:20). He did everything openly and never spoke in secret. Yet secret doctrine is an integral part of the occult which means “hidden”. Thus it is said that:

Mormonism is but another descendant or offshoot of the pagan mysteries in modern form that seeks to hide its true anti-Christian nature beneath the camouflage of professed Christianity and Biblical terminology.²³

The whole purpose of Mormonism is to lead its members into the secret path that leads to godhood and to provide them with occult “Keys, secret signs, names, handshakes and various passwords to gain access to unspecified laws and forces.”²⁴ Humans can thus pull themselves up and become gods and create their own universes. Yet everything in the Mormon quest for godhood depends on whether a person is worthy. And it is still unknown as to how long it will be before a worthy Mormon can eventually gain access to the presence of God.

The life of the Mormon is not an easy one. And it is only a select few who are given the opportunity to participate in the Temple rituals. It all begins with the Temple Preparation Seminar. It is a preparation to face an unknown initiation ritual that one cannot be informed of in advance. The person will not actually be informed of what this will be until he is inside the Temple. And then he is sworn to secrecy. One Mormon said:

In spite of the joyful anticipation of entering the temple, a disquieting feeling that will grow into a heavy burden is settling upon him. He now realizes that regardless of whatever lip service Mormonism may give to Jesus Christ as Savior, the awesome responsibility for his own salvation, in the final analysis, rests upon him.²⁵

He knows that only 100% perfection will do. Hopefully the secrets he would learn in the Temple would give him power to attain perfection.

For the Seminar graduates, they are given a Temple Recommend. Yet they have to pass an interview with the Ward Bishop (equivalent to a local pastor) and the Stake President (presides over up to 10 wards). There’s quite a list that the Temple Recommend must subscribe to. He must show he: abstains from the use of coffee, tea, alcohol, tobacco and cola drinks; sustains the General Authorities and local authorities of the Church; attends all meetings possible, deals honestly with everyone, is morally clean and tithes 10 percent of his income to the church; doesn’t associate with apostate groups (non-Mormons) and has no anti-Mormon literature in his home. He also must fully obey all the commands of the Gospel.

Once inside the Temple the Temple Recommends join together in the Endowment Ceremony. This is a group ritual performed simultaneously for large numbers of saints. The latter-day saints go from one room to another, watching plays in which actors portray Jehovah, Adam and others. After ceremonial washing and anointing, the participants are given new names which they are never to reveal. Wearing white garments, white shoes and sacred undergarments, the people proceed through the various rituals.

These sacred undergarments are the special garments of the Holy Priesthood of the Mormons. They are like long underwear with Masonic markings sewn in. They are to be worn twenty-four hours a day, every day. The garments are supposedly endowed with magic powers and are for the Mormons own protection. While in the Temple the Mormons must learn all the tokens, signs, names and penalties. Every candidate for Mormon priesthood must repeat the Mason’s incantation “Health in the navel, marrow in the bones, strength in the loins and in the sinews, power in the Priesthood be upon me and my posterity through all generations of time throughout all eternity.”²⁶ This is nothing more than a pledge to Satan’s power.

We might wonder how Mormons could allow these rituals to take place in their temples. The fact is that only about 10% of all Mormons are involved in the Temple work, since the rest are not considered worthy to enter the Temple. The ones who are not worthy are simply told that the temple work is “too sacred to be revealed,” so the majority of Mormons accept things as they are. Most Mormons never do find out what goes on

²³ Decker and Hunt, op. cit., p. 143.

²⁴ Decker and Hunt, op. cit., p. 181.

²⁵ Decker and Hunt, op. cit. p. 185.

²⁶ Decker and Hunt, op. cit., p. 192.

in the Temples. If others who have defected from the Mormon church try to explain to them all the things that go on in the Temples, most will not believe it. They have become so blinded by the Mormon teachings that they will no longer even believe the truth.

One doctrine which plagued the Mormon church especially during the civil rights movement was their obvious prejudice toward blacks. This goes back to the fact that when Mormon doctrines were being written, slavery was an accepted practice in the south.

According to Mormon teachings it is claimed that all humans had lived in a pre-mortal state before coming to earth, as was stated earlier. At some point Lucifer had led a rebellion against Jesus. Those who fought with Jesus were rewarded with a white skin in their life on earth. Those who were lazy or unwilling to fight were cursed with a dark skin and disqualified for the Mormon priesthood, which was a stepping-stone to becoming a god. It was taught that blacks would always be slaves.

The idea of the eternal servitude of the blacks was evident in 1954. In a speech given at Brigham Young University an Apostle in the Mormon Church said if a “Negro is faithful all his days, he can and will enter the celestial kingdom. He will go there as a servant, but he will get celestial glory.”²⁷

On June 8, 1978, Mormon theology was changed by a new revelation. Blacks would be allowed to hold the priesthood. It was another instance where outside pressure forced a change in Mormon teachings. Yet even though the 1978 revelation opened the priesthood for blacks, it did not deny the origin of dark skin.

Another thorn in the flesh for Mormons through the years was the teaching about plural marriages, commonly called bigamy. This was Smith’s idea to allow him to have more than one wife at a time. Marriage was said to be for time and for eternity and the only way to enter godhood was as a married couple. Mormons preached this doctrine of polygamy until 1890 when a manifesto was issued due to government pressure. This was supposed to stop polygamy, but it is still practiced among certain Mormons today, especially in Utah. The Mormon leaders faced a real dilemma. If they repudiated the doctrine of polygamy they would actually be admitting that Joseph Smith was a deceiver and that the church was founded on fraud. But if they openly preached and defended the doctrine, many people would probably practice this and bring disgrace on the church. So what the Mormon leaders say is that polygamy was a righteous practice in Joseph Smith’s day. This apparently gets them off the hook and saves old Joseph Smith.

In keeping with the idea of a work-righteous religion, Mormons also teach that there are three different levels of glory. The first level is known as “Celestial glory.” This is the highest level of heaven given to all those who accepted the Gospel of Mormon, kept all the laws and ordinances of the church. These individuals receive the fullness of the Father, Son and the Holy Ghost.

The second level of heaven is called “Terrestrial glory.” This is for those not quite good enough for the highest realms of glory. It is considered a fairly comfortable place where people receive the “fullness of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,” but not the “fullness of the Father.”

The lowest realm of glory is known as “Telestial glory.” Here the people only receive the “fullness of the Holy Ghost.” This is for those who are barely good enough to make it to heaven. Although a person can continue to progress within a level of heaven, one can never progress from one level to the next.

As contrary to the Bible as Mormonism is, the Mormon church is one of the fastest growing groups in America, as well as one of the wealthiest business corporations. It took 117 years for the Mormon church to reach one million members, 19 years to add a second million; 9 years to add a third million and only five years to add its fourth million. The Mormon is doubling in size every ten years. It could possibly reach between 70 and 100 million members in the next 50 years. New chapels are being built at the rate of almost two every day somewhere in the world. The reason is that their mission effort is very extensive. But the sad thing is that the majority of converts come from the Protestant churches.

The Mormon church tries to present itself as just another religious alternative. The fact is that the Mormon gospel contains a god different from the God of the Bible. The Mormon god was once a sinful man who was resurrected in a physical body. This god has a “Father god” and “Grandfather god” and so on down the

²⁷ Tanner, op. cit., p. 321.

line. There is further talk of a Mrs. God in heaven, no hell or eternal punishment, no creation and no creator. Yet none of these teachings are even found in the Book of Mormon.

It's a little unnerving to think that such a man-made religion can control the lives of so many people. People seem to be looking for something. It's just too bad that they don't want to look into the Bible.

Hopefully this work will help make us all realize that the Mormon church is a sect that needs to be dealt with. People need to see the Mormon false teachings in view of God's Word and witness to the truth.

Mormonism vs. Christianity

Morm.: "God himself was once as we are now, and is an exalted man, and sits enthroned in yonder heavens." Journal of Discourses, vol. 6, p.3
 "Remember that God, our heavenly Father was perhaps once a child, and mortal He like ourselves, and rose step by step in the scale of progress, in the school of advancement; has moved forward and overcome, until he has arrived at the point where He is now."
 J of D Vol 6,p.4

The Virgin Birth of Christ

Morm.: "Now remember from this time forth, and forever, that Jesus Christ was not Begotten by the Holy Ghost."
 J of D, vol. 1, p.51.

Justification by Faith

Morm.: Justification by faith alone is called a "most pernicious doctrine."
 Art. of Faith 5, ed. 1909, p.111

Christianity: "I am God, and not man; the Holy One in the midst of thee..." Hosea 11:9
 "God is not a man, that He should lie; neither the son of a man that he should repent: hath He said, and shall not do it? I am the Lord, I change not."
 Ma 3:6

Christianity: "Joseph ...take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit." Mt 1:20

Christianity: "By grace you have been saved, through faith..." Ep 2:8. "Being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." Ro 5:1

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