

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormon or LDS Church) proclaims its belief in “God our Heavenly Father” and “his Son, our Savior Jesus Christ.” Hearing this, it’s quite natural for one to assume that Latter-day Saints believe in the God of the Bible—but do they?

Whether you are a new Mormon, you are visiting the LDS Church, or you know someone who is studying with Mormon Missionaries, we believe you should know what the LDS Church does not normally tell outsiders.

As you read this comparison of LDS and biblical teaching, keep in mind the warning our Lord has given us:

If there arise among you a prophet, or a dreamer of dreams, and giveth thee a sign or a wonder, And the sign or the wonder come to pass, *whereof he spake unto thee, saying, Let us go after other gods, which thou hast not known, and let us serve them; Thou shalt not hearken unto the words of that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams: for the LORD your God proveth you, to know whether ye love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul. Ye shall walk after the LORD your God, and fear him, and keep his commandments, and obey his voice, and ye shall serve him, and cleave unto him. And that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams, shall be put to death; because he hath spoken to turn you away from the LORD your God.* (Deuteronomy 13:1-5)

The Mormon God the Father

The LDS Church teaches that God the Father was once a man like us. Read for yourself from this photocopy excerpt from an LDS teaching manual.*

Improvement Era, June 1919, pp. 331-332.

■ The Prophet Joseph Smith said:

“... It is the first principle of the Gospel to know for a certainty the Character of God, and to know that we may converse with him as one man converses with another, and that he was once a man like us; yea, that God himself, the Father of us all, dwelt on an earth” (*Teachings*, pp. 345-46; italics in original).

■ President Brigham Young elaborated on this concept: “It must

Search These Commandments, Melchizedek Priesthood Personal Study Guide, p.152, 1984

The True God of the Bible

But the Bible tells us that God the Father has always been God:

Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even *from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God.* (Psalm 90:2)

The Mormon God the Father

Mormonism teaches that God the Father is only one of countless Gods and that he had help from other Gods in planning his creation:

was not willing to do himself:

2 Our Father Advanced and Progressed Until He Became God

■ President Joseph Fielding Smith said: “Our Father in heaven, according to the Prophet, had a Father, and since there has been a condition of this kind through all eternity, each Father had a Father” (*Doctrines of Salvation*, 2:47).

■ President Joseph F. Smith taught: “I know that God is a being

Search These Commandments, Melchizedek Priesthood Personal Study Guide, p.152, 1984

And the Gods prepared the earth to bring forth the living creature after his kind, cattle and creeping things, and beasts of the earth after their kind; and it was so, as they had said. And the Gods organized the earth to bring forth the beasts after their kind, and cattle after their kind, and every thing that creepeth upon the earth after its kind; and the Gods saw they would obey.” (Abraham 4:24-25, *Pearl of Great Price*, an LDS Scripture)

Joseph Smith, the founder of the LDS Church taught the same idea. See *Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, p. 349.

The True God of the Bible

But the God of the Bible says that there are no other Gods and that he works alone:

Before me there was no God formed, and neither shall there be after me. (Isaiah 43:10)

Thus saith the LORD, thy redeemer, and he that formed thee from the womb, I am the LORD that maketh all things; that stretcheth forth the heavens alone; that spreadeth abroad the earth by myself; (Isaiah 44:24)

The Mormon God the Father

The God of the Latter-day Saints is an exalted man who is confined to a body of flesh and bones and is not personally omnipresent:

The Father has a body of flesh and bones as tangible as man’s. (D&C 130:22)

universe. . . . They are: God the Father; God the Son; God the Holy Ghost. . . .

“Though each God in the Godhead is a personage, separate and distinct from each of the others, yet they are ‘one God’ . . . , meaning that they are united as one in the attributes of perfection. For instance, each has the fulness of truth, knowledge, charity, power, justice, judgment, mercy, and faith. Accordingly they all think, act, speak, and are alike in all things; and yet they are three separate and distinct entities. Each occupies space and is and can be in but one place at one time, but each has power and influence that is everywhere present.” (McConkie, *Mormon Doctrine*, p. 319.)

■ “Everlasting covenant was made between three

Doctrines of the Gospel, Student Manual, Religion 231 and 232, p.8, 1986

The True God of the Bible

But God has spoken clearly for himself:

God is a spirit... (John 4:24)

A spirit hath not flesh and bones... (Luke 24:39)

Can any hide himself in secret places that I shall not see him? saith the LORD. Do not I fill heaven and earth? saith the LORD. (Jeremiah 23:24)

But will God in very deed dwell with men on the earth? behold, heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain thee; how much less this house which I have built! (2 Chronicles 6:18)

The Mormon God the Father

Latter-day Saints are taught that their Heavenly Father has a wife with whom he procreates spirit children:

Mormon (1-20) SUMMARY

As shown in this chapter, our Father in heaven was once a man as we are now, capable of physical death. By obedience to eternal gospel principles, he progressed from one stage of life to another until he attained the state that we call exaltation or godhood. In such a condition, he and our mother in heaven were empowered to give birth to spirit children whose potential was equal to that of their heavenly parents. We are those spirit children.

We have also seen that the family is the basic

Achieving a Celestial Marriage, Student Manual, p.132, 1976, 1992

The True God of the Bible

God, *not being a man*, does not need a wife:

God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent. (Numbers 23:19)

The origin of man is God's single-handed creation of them on the earth:

God *created* [not procreated] *man* in his own image, in the image of God created [not procreated] he him; male and female created he them. (Genesis 1:27)

...the Lord, which stretcheth forth the heavens, and layeth the foundation of the earth, and *formeth the spirit of man within him*. (Zechariah 12:1)

(See also Ecclesiastes 12:7; Psalm 100:3; Isaiah 44:2)

If we existed as a result of procreation between God and a wife, why would God then have to create us and *form our spirit in us*?

As we are creations of God, not naturally children of God, He adopts us as His children when we accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior:

But as many as received him, to them gave he power to *become the sons of God*, even to them that believe on his name: (John 1:12)

God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the *adoption of sons*. (Galatians 4:5)

Having predestinated us unto the *adoption of children* by Jesus Christ to himself. (Ephesians 1:5)

Are we splitting hairs?

Many say, "Don't worry about the details, we'll sort them out when we get to Heaven." Really? Please reread, at the beginning of this article, the warning God gives us in Deuteronomy 13:1-5.

Yes, there are gray areas in the practical ways we work out our faith. We may disagree about which style of clothing best represents modesty or which bread and wine to serve at the Lord's supper. But the nature of God is no gray area. Knowing God is a matter of life and death—eternal life or eternal death—as evidenced by the following passages from the Bible:

Take ye therefore good heed unto yourselves; for *ye saw no manner of similitude* on the day that the LORD spake unto you in Horeb out of the midst of the fire: *Lest ye corrupt yourselves, and make you a graven image, the similitude of any figure, the likeness of male or female...* (Deuteronomy 4:15-16)

Think about that. In your home, do you have an image of God the Father resembling a man?

...when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire *taking vengeance on them that know not God*, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: *Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord...* (2 Thessalonians 1:7-9)

And *this is life eternal*, that they might know thee *the only true God*, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent. (John 17:3)

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For a FREE comprehensive guide to what the Bible says about how to qualify for eternal life, see our brochure, *Heavenly Father's Plan for You*, on our web site or write, phone or e-mail your request to:



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What the Mormon Church Really Teaches About God the Father

