

Contrary to the idea that all denominations disagree on basic doctrinal issues, the Biblical teachings in this comparison are held by all Bible-based denominations. Clearly taught in the *Bible* since the beginning, these doctrines are typically referred to as nonnegotiable or essential beliefs of the Christian faith.

When Latter-day Saints see these essential beliefs of Bible-based Christians, we are not surprised when they recognize immediately, "These folks are obviously not LDS."

Likewise, when we encounter non-LDS Christians who understand the LDS beliefs on these same doctrines, it should be no surprise for them to conclude that Mormonism is not a Christian belief system.

### **Does it really matter what we believe about Jesus Christ, as long as we believe in his name?**

We want to be sensitive to the good intentions of all who believe they are following Jesus Christ. However, we cannot claim to love them if we ignore Jesus' own warnings when we suspect they are following a different Christ. He said that many will think they know Him when, in reality, they have been deceived:

Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name?...and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me... (*Mat 7:22-23*)

For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. (*Mat 24:24*)

Still, many reject Biblical teachings concerning the nature of Christ, God the Father, and the gospel, thinking that the specifics of what we believe about them are not that important. But the Apostle Paul warns us:

But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds

should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. For if he that cometh preacheth *another Jesus*, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive *another spirit*, which ye have not received, or *another gospel*, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him ... For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. (*2 Cor 11:3-4, 13-14*)

But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any *other gospel* unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. (*Ga 1:8*)

Others imagine that what they don't know won't hurt them but the Bible warns us that it's *eternally* important to know the true God of scripture:

...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 Thes 1:7-9*)

Though we run the risk of being misunderstood, and labeled *intolerant*, when we become deeply concerned that someone might have accepted *another Jesus*, we have a solemn responsibility to ask that person, for his sake, to compare the Jesus he has received to the Jesus of the Bible.

**Are you trusting solely in the Jesus Christ of the Bible, in whom, alone, is the forgiveness of sins? Or did you receive *another Jesus* and *another gospel*?**

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See also, *Before 1921 LDS and Evangelicals agreed on three basic Christian truths...What happened?*, at WeUsedToAgree.com



# Under- standing your non-LDS Christian friends

Have you ever wondered why so many non-LDS Christians claim that The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormon or LDS) is not Christian, especially when you believe the same things they say they believe?

It's true that non-LDS Christians use the same words as the LDS Church to describe their beliefs; but do they mean the same thing?

In order to understand what they really believe it's important to look at the Biblical definitions of the terms they use in sharing their faith with others.

The following chart will help you understand what non-LDS Christians mean when they speak of God the Father, Jesus Christ, the origin and destiny of man and salvation, as compared to the teachings of the LDS Church.

### LDS Definitions

Based on LDS Scripture, teaching manuals and writings of top leaders<sup>1</sup>

### Non-LDS Christian Definitions

Based on the Bible

#### GOD THE FATHER:

1. He was once a mortal man. He has a father. (GP p.279; TPJS p.345; JD 6:3; STC p.152)
2. He is one of many Gods. (TPJS p.370; STC p. 152-153; MD p.576-577)
3. He has a body of flesh and bones as tangible as man's. (D&C 130:22)
4. He and his wife are our parents in heaven. (ACM p. 129-132; GP p.9; AF p.443)

#### GOD THE FATHER:

1. He has always been God, from eternity to eternity. (Ps 90:2; Deut 33:27)
2. He is the only God that has ever existed. (Is 43:10; Is 44:6; Heb 6:13)
3. He is a spirit. A spirit does not have flesh and bones. (Jn 4:24, Col 1:15-16, Lk 24:39)
4. The Bible says nothing about God having a wife. (See Man at #2.)

### Latter-day Saint Definitions

#### JESUS CHRIST:

1. He is God's first spirit child, thus, was not always God. (MD p.129; AF p.472; GP p.15)
2. He is the spirit brother of Lucifer, Satan, the devil. (GP p.15; GTTA p. 15; MD p.192-193; Moses 5:13)
3. God, a resurrected man of flesh & bone, is his literal father; he was conceived in the same way that we were. (FHEM p. 125-126; MD p.546-547, 742)

#### MAN:

1. Men can become Gods, with all the powers of Godhood. (ACM p.129-132; D&C 132:20; JD 6:4; AF p.430)
2. His spirit is procreated by a Heavenly Father and Mother (Preexistence). Later, he gets a body. (GP p.9; MD p.589; AF p.472)

#### SALVATION:

1. Almost everyone, even those who don't accept Christ, will eventually receive some degree of glory in one of several levels of heaven.

### Non-LDS Christian Definitions

#### JESUS CHRIST:

1. He has always been God. He has no beginning, no end. (Jn 1:1; Is 43:10-11 with Lk 2:11; 2 Sam 22:32 with 1 Cor 10:1-4; Is 44:24 with Col 1:16; Ex 3:14 with Jn 8:58; Is 9:6; Rev 1:8, 22:13; Ps 90:2)
2. He is Lucifer's Creator, not his brother. (Col 1:16-17)
3. He appeared in a body by miraculous conception, not by a physical act. (Mat 1:18-23; Lk 1:34-35)

#### MAN:

1. Men cannot become Gods. There is only one true God. (Is 43:10; Is 44:6, 8; Is 48:11-12)
2. His spirit is created within him by God, who created everything by himself, alone. (Zec 12:1; Is 42:5 with Jn 3:6; Is 44:24; Is 45:5)

#### SALVATION:

1. Most people will spend eternity in outer darkness (hell). Few will have Eternal Life with God and Christ in heaven, the

### Latter-day Saint Definitions

1. Only a few, those who receive the LDS gospel and later reject it (sons of perdition) will spend eternity in outer darkness. (D&C 76:31-44)
2. The blood of Christ does not atone for some grievous sins. A murderer, for example, must have his own blood shed. (MD p.92; DS 1:133-138)
3. Christ's sacrifice allows opportunity to attain perfection by human effort. (LTJHA p.351; AF p.89; MD p.641)
4. Eternal life with God is earned. (MD p.237; The Articles of Faith, #3; Moroni 10:32-33, BOM)
5. One who sins after being forgiven is held accountable for former sins. (D&C 82:7; GP p.231; DG p.41)

#### <sup>1</sup> MORMON REFERENCE CODES:

ACM=Achieving A Celestial Marriage, 1976  
 AF=Articles of Faith  
 BOM=Book of Mormon  
 D&C=Doctrine and Covenants  
 DG=Doctrines of the Gospel, 1986  
 DS=Doctrines of Salvation  
 FHEM=Family Home Evening Manual, 1972  
 GP=Gospel Principles, 2009  
 GTTA=Gospel Through The Ages

### Non-LDS Christian Definitions

only alternative. (Mat 7:13-14)

**WORD STUDY**

Note: The wide gate that leads to "destruction" in Mat 7:13 is synonymous with "perdition", the loss of eternal life, eternal misery. See Strong's Concordance (#684), Vine's Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words, or any Greek lexicon of the New Testament.)

2. The blood of Christ cleanses us (those who repent) of all sin. (1 Jn 1:7-9)
3. Christ has perfected, forever, those who trust (follow) him. (Heb 10:10-18)
4. Eternal life with God is a gift, not earned. Good works follow spiritual birth. (Eph 2:8-10; Gal 2:16-21; Rom 11: 5 -6; Tit 3:4-6)
5. "If any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ..." (1 Jn 2:1)

JD=Journal of Discourses  
 LTJHA=The Life and Teachings of Jesus and His Apostles, 1979  
 MD=Mormon Doctrine  
 STC=Search These Commandments (a priesthood study guide), 1985  
 TPJS=Teachings of The Prophet Joseph Smith  
 All but DS, JD, MD, GTTA & TPJS, are copyrighted by The LDS Church.