



the evangelical Mormon Outreach Quarterly (MOQ)
Periodic Supplement #1
 Supporting Christian witness to Mormons

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This first issue of “P.S.” continues our ministry addressing contemporary Mormon religion from a biblical perspective. Many of our monthly and quarterly papers from the past 22 years (“MOQ” and “Pastors’ Perspective!”) remain available on our [web site](#).

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Mormons and You

Millions of Christians and Mormons routinely interact daily: families, neighbors, and associates. Some Mormons are prominent in politics and government; business; higher education; entertainment; Olympic, professional and college sports. Often they are indistinguishable from others; and their religion, details of doctrine and practice aside, is commonly considered Christian.

Should Christians—should we—witness to Mormons or talk to them about their religion? How can we fortify other Christians who can be attracted by Mormon religion? Can we speak about Mormonism without alienating relatives, friends, and acquaintances—Mormon and otherwise?

Some Christians have spoken to Mormons about personal faith in Jesus Christ without observable positive results. Frustrated or embarrassed, they quit. Others have never tried.

Ready to Try (Again)?

To begin with, why do we even want to witness to Mormons? What is a proper motivation for such a venture with Mormons we know, or with others, such as Mormon missionaries who appear at our doors or on the street?

What should we say? What might be useful conversation starters? Are there shortcuts to success? How can we evaluate the effectiveness of our witness?

What approaches virtually guarantee disaster? Why might Mormons reject out of hand what we say? What can cause anger?

What do we have in common with Mormons? Since they say that they are Christians, can't we simply overlook our doctrinal differences and cooperate with their church's huge missionary effort?

In this “P.S.” we consider a few principles and motives to help us focus an effective witness—and, for background, some serious quirks of Mormon doctrine.

Principles and Quirks

1. Arguing with Mormons persuades or impresses no one.
2. Our motive for witness to Mormons is to explain Gospel truths they have misunderstood, ignored, or rejected; Some have never heard. Like others, Mormons sin, but typically they want forgiveness; moral, successful lives; good families; peace with God. Christians can share about these things from the Bible.
3. Focus on biblical truth. Mormons may recognize the clear doctrinal differences with Mormonism—and be irritated—or attracted.
4. An accurate perspective on Mormon church teachings can help, but information overload in classes, seminars, and books and tracts about Mormonism may impede. Views of the religion can be warped by out of date, unofficial, and exaggerated, alarmist details available on the web.
5. To be false, Mormonism does not have to be wrong on everything. Creation by “the Gods” is enough!
6. Mormons dislike hearing someone say, “You believe....” They say, “Ask us, not some anti-Mormon critic.” Christians can say, instead, “I’ve heard that your church teaches....” Or ask them what they believe about, for example, eternal life, and assurance of eternal life.

FOR MORE ALONG THIS LINE, SEE:
www.immanuelbible.net/images/stories/or-pp0907.pdf - Mormons might not talk.
www.immanuelbible.net/images/stories/or-pp1108.pdf - Mormons might testify.
www.immanuelbible.net/images/stories/or-moq2304.pdf - Mormons need to hear.

Biblical Perspective

The Apostle Paul never heard of Mormonism, of course, but if he were

to encounter the religion today, he would find a church that claims to be Christian but that teaches that:

•all people are by nature sons and daughters of God, born and raised in heaven before Creation.

•they each chose to live on earth, hoping to enhance their divine attributes and prove themselves worthy to return to heaven.

•everyone is already saved and will live forever in glory, maybe in God's presence, maybe not.

•only obedient Mormons will live with the Father, and only some of them have a chance to gain eternal life.

•eternal life is to be earned by lifelong obedience to many laws and ordinances, including marriage and other rituals in Mormon temples, abstinence from coffee and tea, and obedience to Mormon prophets.

Paul surely would tell Mormons the Good News. In [Ephesians 2](#), for example, Paul wrote that we are “by nature the children of wrath” — “dead in sins” — “without God in the world” — and “having no hope.” We become “saved” “by grace...through faith” and “not of works”; only then are we “quickened,” and “reconciled unto God”; and “have access...unto the Father.” Christ “abolished the law of commandments contained in ordinances.”

The saved have peace with God and are “created in Christ Jesus unto good works.” *Mormonism teaches that by doing good things and obeying their prophets members will “feel the Spirit” giving them a sense of satisfaction, pleasure, or peace.*

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