

## “ARE MORMONS CHRISTIANS?”

That’s the first FAQ the Mormon church poses to itself at <http://mormon.org/faq>.

Mormons—and many others, too—are puzzled by the question. Mormons say, *Yes, of course we are Christians; after all our church is “The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.”* The uninterested, and even many in the Christian world might agree.

## WELL, ARE MORMONS FELLOW-CHRISTIANS?

### Consider MUSIC

**Mormons extol prophets.** Their hymnal includes “**Praise to the Man.**”<sup>1</sup> “The man” is “Brother Joseph [Smith].” “That Prophet” shed his blood, ascended to heaven, and is “now mingling with Gods.”

**Mormons beseech a Heavenly Father and Mother.** In a hymn Mormons seek from their divine parents approval to live with them in heaven.<sup>2</sup>

**Mormons sing about the second coming of Adam and Eve.** A Mormon hymn celebrates a triumphant day when all mankind will adore and bow before the returning couple.<sup>3</sup> [In Mormon religion, and in the hymn, “Michael” is Adam.]

### Consider SCRIPTURE AND SALVATION

**As for scripture:** •Mormon religion originated with “scripture,” known now as *The Book of Mormon*, dug from a hill in New York in the 1800s. It says that long before Christ was born, Christians lived in the Americas. Example: About 124 B.C. people “cried aloud” for mercy, saying, “...we believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God...,” and they received “remission of their sins..., because of [their] exceeding faith...in Jesus Christ who should come...”<sup>4</sup> •More “scripture” was produced and the Bible modified in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries—and even more “scripture” is expected.

**As for salvation, and the Good News:** •A worldwide Mormon audience heard a modern-day Apostle—a “prophet, seer, and revelator”—explain, “full forgiveness is given to the sinner who repents and remains free from sin.”<sup>5</sup> •However, Mormons

hear that everyone is more-or-less saved and will live forever in glory, including unrepentant “liars, sorcerers, and adulterers.”<sup>6</sup> •Only people married in a Mormon temple can gain eternal life, the highest form of salvation, where men become “gods” and families expand forever. Failure to marry during mortality can be corrected after death.<sup>7</sup>

### Consider GOD

**God [the Father] “was once a man like us.”** He “dwelt on an earth, the same as Jesus Christ...did.” That’s a *principle*, no less, in what Mormons call the “restored gospel” revealed to their prophets.<sup>8</sup>

**God fathered billions of sons and daughters** as spirits and raised them to adulthood in heaven, then created Earth so the worthy spirits could become mortal. •Mormon children sing that God sent them here and they want to learn to *do all the things necessary to return* to heaven.<sup>9</sup> •In the pre-mortal heaven, Einstein learned mathematics and Cain learned to lie.<sup>10</sup>

**“The Gods” are the creators.** Mormon scripture: “So the Gods went down to organize man in their own image, in the image of the Gods to form they him, male and female to form they them.”<sup>11</sup>

## NOW WHAT?

Oddities of Mormonism (a few of many): Gods, Creators, and heavenly parents who were once human; revered prophets; revised Bible and new scripture, with more to come; forgiveness for those who stop sinning; universal salvation; eternal life for couples only; fanciful, premortal life. Christian? Generic, maybe, but obviously not biblical. Witnessing suggestions in the next “p.s.”

**NOTES**—Links to official Mormon church sites

1. [www.youtube.com/watch?v=18D7akQ-pzY](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=18D7akQ-pzY). [This video alone is enough for Christians to know that Mormonism is not Christian faith.]
2. <http://www.lds.org/music/library/hymns/o-my-father?lang=eng>
3. [www.lds.org/ldsorg/v/index.jsp?locale=0&sourceId=c60b8ceb1ec20110VgnVCM100000176f620a\\_\\_\\_&vgnnextoid=198bf4b13819d110VgnVCM1000003a94610aRCRD](http://www.lds.org/ldsorg/v/index.jsp?locale=0&sourceId=c60b8ceb1ec20110VgnVCM100000176f620a___&vgnnextoid=198bf4b13819d110VgnVCM1000003a94610aRCRD)
4. <https://www.lds.org/scriptures/bofm/mosiah/4.3?lang=eng#2>
5. [www.lds.org/general-conference/2007/04/repentance-and-conversion?lang=eng&query=free+from+sin#18-](http://www.lds.org/general-conference/2007/04/repentance-and-conversion?lang=eng&query=free+from+sin#18-)
6. [josephsmithpapers.org/topic/testial-kingdom](http://josephsmithpapers.org/topic/testial-kingdom)
7. [www.lds.org/manual/gospel-principles/chapter-38-eternal-marriage](http://www.lds.org/manual/gospel-principles/chapter-38-eternal-marriage)
8. <http://www.lds.org/manual/gospel-principles/chapter-47-exaltation>. [A recent earlier edition of the Mormon church’s *Gospel Principles* explained how “our Heavenly Father became God.”]
9. [www.lds.org/music/library/childrens-songbook/i-am-a-child-of-god?lang=eng](http://www.lds.org/music/library/childrens-songbook/i-am-a-child-of-god?lang=eng)
10. [www.ldschurchnews.com/articles/24726/Talents-traits-developed-in-the-premortal-life-carried-into--mortality.html](http://www.ldschurchnews.com/articles/24726/Talents-traits-developed-in-the-premortal-life-carried-into--mortality.html)
11. <http://www.lds.org/scriptures/pgp/abr/4>