

*You are a Christian. Mormons think that's nice, but want you to leave your church and join The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Why? Because they are convinced that only through the ministrations of their church can you be truly happy in this life and the next—that, in fact, their church holds the key to eternal life.*

*Mormons with good intentions will say that they are Christians, too, and they tell friends, associates, and relatives about their church's attractive moral*

*standards, family-strengthening programs and activities, and a healthy, patriotic, self-sufficient lifestyle. Often, however, their message will be tainted by false underpinnings, inaccurate personal opinions, and lack of detail. They—and their missionaries, too—might not know the details; if they do, they may be understandably reluctant to tell you.*

*For example, look at Mormon temples.*

#### QUIRKS OF MORMON TEMPLE RELIGION

More than 140 Mormon temples are in operation worldwide, with others planned or under construction. The impressive structures, often prominently located, are essential to Mormon religion. Each temple is called “the house of the Lord,” and the church says that “the Lord visits his temples.” It claims, “Building and using a temple properly are signs of the true Church....” (See the church’s explanation <sup>1</sup>[here](#).)

For Mormons, participation in temple rituals is required if they are to gain eternal life, but many are not allowed to enter their temples. Why? Because they have not yet been judged “worthy” by their authorities.

Bishops, leaders of local Mormon congregations, hold the keys to temples—meaning they have the responsibility and authority to interview and judge each member’s worthiness. Members judged worthy may receive ID cards and access to temples, and thus the possibility of eternal life.

According to Mormon lore, God warned the Prophet Joseph Smith that Mormon church leaders are obligated to keep unworthy persons from entering the temple. He told Smith, “Do not suffer any unclean thing to come into it” (Mormon Scripture: <sup>2</sup>[Doctrine and Covenants 97:15](#)).

As for Christians and other non-Mormons: all are barred from an operating temple. None are worthy of entering God’s presence in “the house of the Lord.”

## MORMONS AND THEIR MISSIONARIES MIGHT NOT TELL YOU . . .

**And that’s what any Mormon is reluctant to tell you: You are an “unclean thing.” You would offend God. You would “defile” God’s house.**

And what, exactly, might Mormons hope to gain through access and participation in temple rituals? What is it that they think you want or need?

Marriage is the ultimate temple ritual, purportedly uniting man and wife on earth and in heaven in an “eternal marriage,” helping them strive for exaltation or eternal life.

If they succeed, they will enjoy not just eternal life for themselves, but “eternal lives,” presumably in their offspring, their “eternal increase.” They will be Gods, and, as Gods do, they will reproduce.

**Mormons might not want to explain such things to you, or might not know them themselves.**

However, this religion of the Gods teaches:

- Temple-married parents may become Eternal Fathers and Eternal Mothers as new Gods.
- The offspring will be spirit children with “a spark of the eternal or divine that always did exist in them.”
- The offspring of the new Gods will also evolve into Gods.

**Even if Mormons fail to tell you, their church will tell you these things and more <sup>3</sup>[here](#).**

#### QUALMS?

You know these claims of the Mormon church are not true—biblically, and even intuitively. Among religions, the church is a novelty, to say the least.

Nevertheless, Christians often have cold feet when face-to-face with Mormons. Why?

Mormons, pleased, perhaps, that they are “worthy” and making progress on their trek toward eternal life, can testify in language resembling biblical, evangelical Christian faith. Awed by the opulence and serenity of their temples, they may enthuse about the temporal and heavenly rewards promised by their prophets, earned in their temples.

Maybe the best way to overcome Christian qualms is to testify: assurance of eternal life with the Savior, not striving for approval, not dreaming of Godhood.

Links in the text above are to an official Mormon church website: 1. <https://www.lds.org/friend/2002/06/temples-a-sign-of-the-true-church?lang=eng&query=temples> 2. <https://www.lds.org/scriptures/dc-testament/dc/97.15?lang=eng#14> 3. <https://www.lds.org/manual/eternal-marriage-student-manual/marriage-for-eternity?lang=eng&query=%2522eternal+increase%2522>