



OOPS! Some Christians have tried to witness to Mormons but dropped the ball (or think they did), and quit. Others have avoided opportunities, unaware of the need, uncertain of the outcome—or simply impressed by Mormons they know.

You?

A good place to start before trying (or trying again) to reach out to Mormons: A review of current official doctrines and practices (they change over time, and Mormons often don't explain them correctly, fully, and clearly). Examples:

1. "Salvation" and "eternal life"—basic subjects in both Christian faith and Mormon religion.
2. Sacred clothing unique in Mormonism. A look at the church's new explanation.

1. IN MORMONISM: HOW IS A PERSON SAVED?

The Mormon scripture canon includes the Articles of Faith, thirteen statements of official Mormon beliefs. One article says, "We believe that through the Atonement of Christ, all mankind may be saved, by obedience to the laws and ordinances of the Gospel." But—

—What does it mean to "be saved"? [Addressing millions of Mormons](#) worldwide, a Mormon authority asked, "Have you been saved?" His speech was subtitled, "As Latter-day Saints use the words saved and salvation, there are at least six different meanings." The question "Have you been saved?" is "puzzling" to a Mormon, he said. Possible responses might range from yes to not yet to I hope so. **Can you help a puzzled Mormon?**

—What are the laws and ordinances one must obey? Typical church-published lists include: obey Mormon prophets, tithe to the Salt Lake City church, abstain from coffee, marry in an exclusive Mormon temple ritual, and work to save the dead.

—What about God's grace? An [item](#) in the church's official *New Era* magazine explained: •"To gain eternal life, we need both grace and works." By doing "our best to live righteously," we "qualify for the gift of salvation." •"Heavenly Father and the Savior will bless us with eternal life, through Their grace, if we do our

part." (Eternal life is one of the "at least six" forms of salvation that puzzle Mormons.) •Eternal life is "earned through a lifetime of striving, seeking, repenting, and finally succeeding," [according to the current prophet](#) of the Mormon church. **Can you help a Mormon realize that, good as they might be, they cannot earn eternal life?**

Those official Mormon views and requirements reflect scripture written or revised by the church:

- In its Book of Mormon—"...we know that it is by grace that we are saved, after all we can do."
- In a gratuitous rewrite of Romans 4:16 by the Mormon Prophet Joseph Smith—"Therefore ye are justified of faith and works...."

2. IN MORMONISM: SACRED RITUALS

Not all details about Mormonism, whether told by Mormons or their critics are true. True or not, not all are useful in an effective relationship with, and witness to, Mormons.

A [recently published essay and YouTube video](#) from the Mormon church's "Worldwide Newsroom" mentions underclothing worn by many members, designed, manufactured, and sold by the church. The essay's concluding sentence: "Ridiculing or making light of sacred clothing is highly offensive to Latter-day Saints."

Of course this is a sensitive subject and probably counterproductive in conversations with Mormons, but the church wants you to know anyway: "Worthy" members wear sacred *undergarments* 24/7, and they don equally unusual outer *vestments* when in their temples. **Go ahead; watch the [video](#).**

Not mentioned in the essay: the church "marks" undergarments with sacred symbols. Marked garments properly worn are to protect believing Mormons from evil. To retire used garments, members are to destroy the symbols before mutilating the remaining material.

Faithful Mormons are lost, whether they wear garments or not, because their faith is not in Christ alone for eternal salvation, but also in their church and its rituals, and in their own goodness. **Can you encourage a Mormon (perhaps a fine person) to rely for eternal salvation solely on Christ's gift, His merit?**