

Deacons, according to Mormon church leaders, are far more—or far less, from a Christian perspective—than outlined in the Bible. The Apostle Paul listed, and Mormons acknowledge, the biblical standards, as in [1 Timothy 3:8-13](#). For Mormons, however, that and other Bible instructions are not enough. In keeping with its theory of living, modern-day prophets and apostles, and continuous revelation, the Mormon church says deacons are qualified and appointed “as confirmed by the inspiration of the Spirit resting upon those who hold the keys of the kingdom.”\*

\**Mormon Doctrine* p.183, confirmed in the church’s continuing everyday practice

### WHAT IS A MORMON (I.E., LATTER-DAY SAINT OR LDS) “DEACON”?

Deacon is an office in the Mormon church “generally held by young men ages 12 to 13” (<http://www.mormonnewsroom.org/article/deacon>). It is the entry level position in the two Mormon priesthoods, one of which, the lower, is named after Aaron and the other, the higher, after Melchizedek. Boys ordained to this office may be promoted to teachers when they are 14, and to priests at age 16. Typically, Mormon boys and their parents covet these appointments.

In short: The duties and responsibilities of deacons may include chores around their church facilities, assisting in church services, visiting church members in their homes, and running errands for local leaders. They may “warn, expound, exhort, and teach.”

For a more expansive (but brief) discussion of Mormon priesthood, see [P.S. #4](#) at <http://immanuelbible.net/images/ibc/mission/moq/ps004.pdf>. For the Mormon church’s own complicated discussion of priesthood, see [Chapter 14](#) at <https://www.lds.org/manual/gospel-principles?lang=eng>.

### AS A CHRISTIAN, WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES THIS MAKE TO ME?

This brief look at deacons in the Mormon religion represents a pervasive, underlying problem: the Mormon church’s attitude about the Bible. All Mormon doctrines and practices assume that the Bible might be okay, but that Christian faith in these “latter days” is subject to the decisions of the church’s living “prophets, seers, and revelators” headquartered in Salt Lake City. Those men interpret, change, and supplement the Bible.

The church’s creedal statement in its new scriptures (called “The [Articles of Faith](#)”): “We believe the Bible to be the word of God as far as it is translated correctly; we also believe the Book of Mormon to be the word of God.” In fact, Mormons are taught that the Bible *has not* been translated correctly; alone it is inadequate, requiring the new prophets and scriptures which Mormonism has produced in the last 185 years

Imitating Christianity, Mormonism is a risk in churches, and to those you know. Its doctrines on scripture, God, man, sin, salvation are lethal; “deacons” are illustrative.