

Background for the discussion below.

1. Mormons insist that they are Christians, and they may bristle when others disagree. They may speak of “our beloved brother Christians,” tempting others to agree.
2. Since the day their church was founded in 1830, Mormons claim it is the only true church, and is a final “dispensation” comprising all time since its founding.
3. The “celestial kingdom” is the heavenly destiny Mormons expect for themselves if they remain faithful to their church. In that kingdom the best of them can gain eternal life. You and everyone else will live in lesser kingdoms, not in the Father’s presence.

Brigham Young became the second president of the Mormon church after the death of its founder, Joseph Smith. President Young said, “I can tell **our beloved brother Christians...**that no man or woman in this **dispensation** will ever enter the **celestial kingdom** of God without the consent of Joseph Smith...every man and woman must have the certificate of Joseph Smith, junior, as a passport to their entrance into the mansion where God and Christ are....”¹

What would you say to Brigham Young? What can you say to Mormons you meet?

First, you can refer a Mormon to the words of their prophet. We can’t assume that a Mormon has been exposed to Young’s preposterous claim, or that they would agree with him. Nevertheless, because of their faith in their prophets and church they often will accept, tolerate, or excuse whatever their prophets may say.

Second, you can assure them that you have already received consent, certificate, and passport, so to speak, from Jesus Christ Himself! You can ask them to read² John

3:15, “That whosoever believeth in him [the Son of man] should not perish, but have eternal life.” Or 1 Timothy 2:5, “For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.” Tell them you have strong confidence in Scripture, faith in Christ, and assurance of eternal life.

Third, you can ask them exactly how they plan to get Joseph Smith’s consent, how they get the certificate that will admit them to God’s presence. Listen to them. Ask them how they are doing in this effort.

Fourth, you can ask them why Scripture never suggests a requirement to receive the consent of David or Isaiah (for example), or a certificate from the Apostle Paul; or Peter, James, or John.

Again, you can remind them of their prophets’ words, warning them to strive to become worthy of eternal life. Recently [they were told](#), “[The Lord] said, ‘If you will that I give unto you a place in the celestial world, you must prepare yourselves by doing the things which I have commanded you and required of you.’”³ Ask: What “things” are required?

1. Reported in the church’s flagship magazine, *The Ensign*, June 1994: “[Joseph Smith among the Prophets](#)” by Robert L. Millet, Dean of Religious Education, BYU. 2. Mormons use the King James Version of the Bible, as quoted here. 3. *The Ensign*, April 2010.