

The Latter-day Saint (LDS or Mormon) Creed

Typically Mormons are averse to the term “creed” because their church was founded on the assumption that God personally told its founder, 14-year-old Joseph Smith, that the creeds of all existing churches were “an abomination.” Mormon authorities continue to criticize creeds that express beliefs Mormons have discarded, calling them, among other things, “the strange creeds of Christendom.”

Mormons don’t call their summary of basic beliefs a “creed,” but call it “The Articles of Faith.” The articles, thirteen of them, are part of the religion’s scriptures.

The seventh article in essence endorses the claims of the church, its founder, and his successors, especially prophecy, revelation, and visions. Occasionally Mormons will speak of someone acting as “the voice” for a miraculous utterance, or a man speaking in a language he does not know.

7. We believe in the gift of tongues, prophecy, revelation, visions, healing, interpretation of tongues, and so forth.

LDS Articles of Faith

The eighth article illustrates why the Mormon church has become doctrinally distinct from normative Christian faith. It enshrines uncertainty about the Bible, and unrestrained confidence in the Book of Mormon.

8. 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.

LDS Articles of Faith

Mormon prophets decided that the Bible was in fact incorrectly translated, and they fixed it, not by consulting ancient texts, but by intuition - - or what they call inspiration or revelation. Thus Mormons have both the King James (the preferred translation among Mormons) and Joseph Smith versions of many Bible passages.

In the same way, “the word of God” was received by Joseph Smith. His unimpeachable

Book of Mormon, for which no ancient sources exist, is the bedrock of the religion.

Does this make a significant difference in the essentials of Christian faith? Yes.

For example, in the Bible Joseph Smith felt inspired to change Romans 4:5 from “justifieth the ungodly” to “justifieth not the ungodly.” Smith decided that Song of Solomon is not part of the Bible. He found that he, himself, and his Book of Mormon were foreseen in portions of the Old Testament that he had rewritten. In John 1:1, “the Word was God” became “the Son was of God.”

In the Book of Mormon, the biblical Joseph in Egypt was said to have spoken about a seer to appear in a final dispensation (the latter-days). He knew that the seer and his father would be named Joseph. The seer was, of course, Joseph Smith who founded what Mormons today say is the one true church on earth. Their Book of Mormon says there are only two churches, the true one and the church of the devil.

The ninth article opens the door to unending revelation, and the complexity and confusion of Mormon beliefs. It does not mention how or to whom such revelations will be made.

9. We believe all that God has revealed, all that He does now reveal, and we believe that He will yet reveal many great and important things pertaining to the Kingdom of God.

LDS Articles of Faith

After Joseph Smith wrote this and other Articles of Faith, he and a few others published more revelations known now as “Doctrine and Covenants” and “Pearl of Great Price.” The latter includes a revision of Genesis, chapters 1 to 8.

In addition Mormons are told that the words of their living prophets “become scripture to us.” Those words are individually accepted or silently rejected, but they are never added to the “standard works,” the Mormon scripture canon.

Be alert. Mormon beliefs are fluid, as in article 7, above: “We believe...and so forth.” Suggested reading: [MOQ 23-1](#). Or search [HERE](#).