

Tell Mormon Missionaries: Getting Started

An experience: The two Mormon missionaries sat silently on the porch, rapt as they heard the Apostles' Creed for the first time, recited by a Christian they had hoped to convert to their church. They reacted with admiration and no argument.

Your Opportunity: Pre-empt the time with Mormon missionaries at your door or initiate a conversation when you see them elsewhere. Speak of your faith, not theirs. Consider using the Apostles' Creed to summarize your personal confidence in Christ. Then ask, perhaps, before sending them on their way:

What do you think of what I have recited (or read) to you?

What is *your* profession of faith?

Background:

Mormon children and adults testify regularly from the lectern at their Sunday sacrament meetings and "fast and testimony" meetings. They are taught to accept/respect virtually anything others testify. Their missionaries testify as they proselytize, vouching for the truth of their own beliefs, because, they say, the Holy Ghost has given them a private testimony to that effect.

Mormons hear from childhood that they are sons and daughters of God from a pre-creation, premortal world. In scripture written by their Prophet Joseph Smith, he suggests that

all humans are *begotten children of God* as spirit beings. Jesus is said to be the only child of God begotten *in the flesh*.

Mormons hear that God told Joseph Smith that among the churches existing in 1820 "*all their creeds were an abomination in His sight.*" Thus, many are uncertain, even suspicious, about your church and what you believe.

REMEMBER: Although Mormon missionaries might say that your expression of faith is inspiring, their goal is to testify to you that, nice as it is, your faith is incomplete. That's where Joseph Smith, his First Vision, the Restoration, their "living prophet," the Book of Mormon and other new Mormon scriptures come in. They will testify that their religion, and only theirs, adds the possibility for a continuation of happy family life forever, salvation for the dead, assurance of a glorious everlasting life for everyone, and other things never a part of biblical Christian faith. Help them think biblically.

Click on links above to see Mormon church materials.

Also see [P.S.#32](#) and [MOQ 19-1](#).

A version of the Apostles' Creed*

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty
Maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His only begotten Son
our Lord,**

**Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried.**

He descended into hell.

**On the third day He rose again from the
dead.**

**He ascended into heaven and sits at the
right hand of God the Father Almighty.**

**From thence He will come to judge the
living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.**

Amen.

*There are variations (available on the Web) in the wording of the Apostles' Creed. This amalgamation captures the gist of those various expressions of Christian faith. About the words: Most Mormons are comfortable interchanging "Holy Spirit" and "Holy Ghost." They may (or may not) understand the term "catholic church" used in some versions of the creed, which can be clarified by using "Christian Church."