

# No • More • Mormons ?

## WHAT IS HE TALKING ABOUT?

Mormon church President Russell M. Nelson, addressing Mormons worldwide in their semiannual General Conference in October, said, “I promise that if we will do our best to restore the correct name of the Lord’s Church, He whose Church this is will pour down His power and blessings upon the heads of the Latter-day Saints, the likes of which we have never seen.”

Why is the church’s 94-year-old leader wanting to “restore the correct name” of his church? What suddenly became the wrong name? Why now?

## HERE’S HOW THE MORMON CHURCH TELLS IT:

God revealed earlier this year to “living prophets” in Salt Lake City that the word “Mormon” is a no-no. The religion is no longer “Mormonism” or “Mormon church,” and members of that now never-existent, but historic church are no longer “Mormons”—and never were. The famous choir is no longer the “Mormon Tabernacle Choir.”

There are exceptions, of course. There’s still the Book of Mormon, which includes stories written by Joseph Smith, among them accounts of a 4<sup>th</sup> century character named Mormon, who wandered thousands of miles in what are now the Americas with gold plates containing religious records. In the 5<sup>th</sup> century they were buried in New York by Mormon’s son, Moroni, where they were unearthed by Joseph Smith in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. [Frankly, it’s a confusing tale, as you can see [HERE](#), on the church’s website.]

## HERE’S WHAT YOU CAN DO:

Don’t focus on this and similar oddities of the religion: •the unquestioned authority of church leaders, for example, and •the continuing, ever-changing revelations that God sends to them. •Self-authentication: In October, a leader spoke to his followers, then assured them that because he was a living apostle, a prophet, seer, and revelator, what he had said was true. •The idea that only in temples built by the church can people do the sacred rites necessary for them to gain eternal life—marriage, for example—and get married and baptized in water vicariously on behalf of the dead.

Suggestions. Go ahead; ask your Mormon friends if they are Mormons. If they are obedient to their prophets, they might respond that they are not Mormons, but simply members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, or members of the true church restored to earth in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. They might prefer to be known as “LDS,” not “Mormon.” Tell them the unchanging, gracious Good News in the Bible.