

Is Mormonism



Christian?

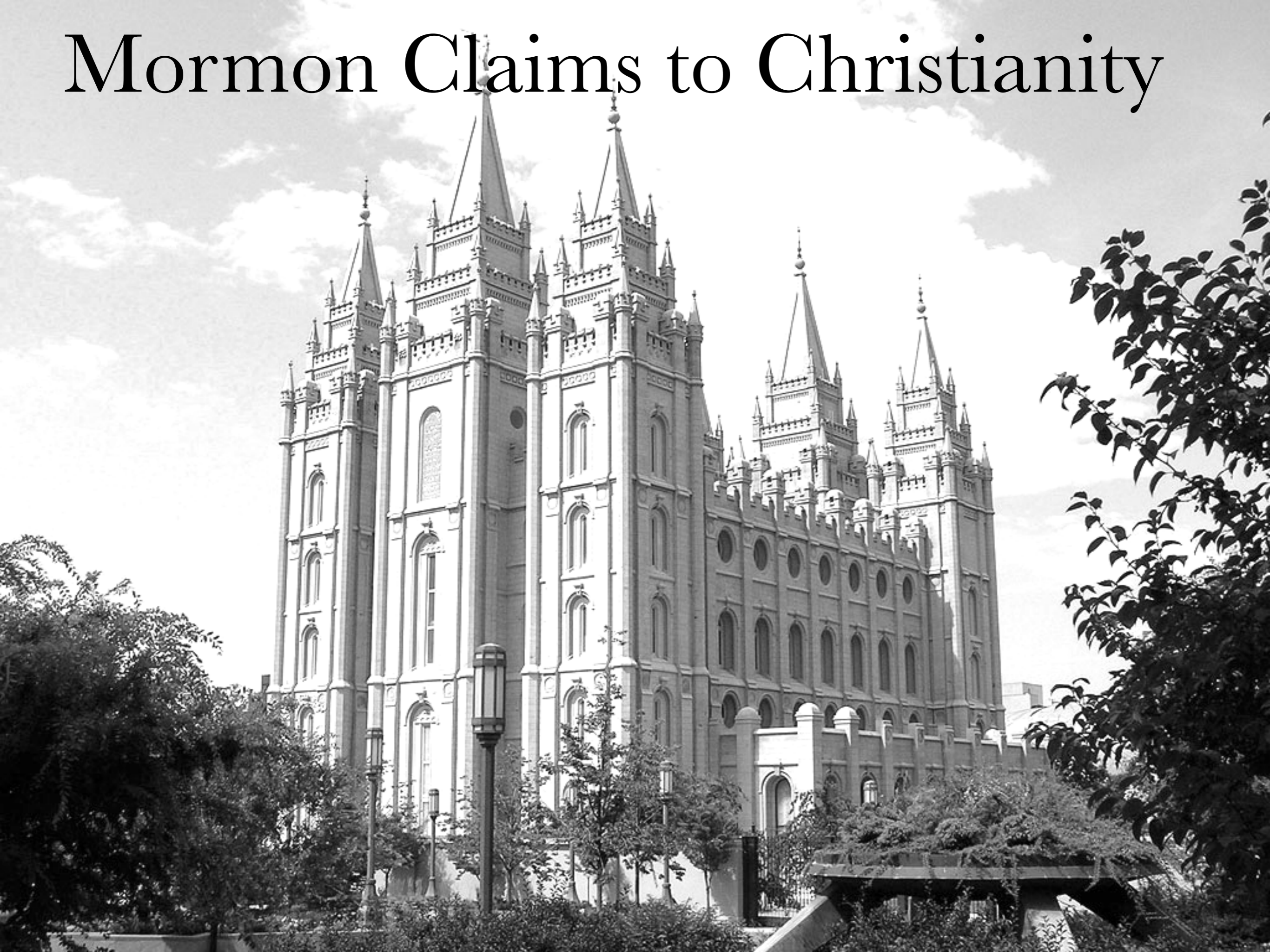
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Agenda

- ❖ Mormon claims to Christianity
- ❖ Are “Christians” really Christian?
- ❖ One God or many?
- ❖ A different Jesus?
- ❖ The Gospel and Salvation
- ❖ Is Mormonism Christian?



Mormon Claims to Christianity



Mormon Claims to Christianity

“Are Mormons Christian? Yes! In fact, ‘Mormon’ is just a nickname; the formal name of the Church is the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.” (mormon.org)

source: <https://www.mormon.org/beliefs/what-does-it-mean-to-be-christian>



Mormon Claims to Christianity

“The Bible is the word of God. It is a witness for God and Jesus Christ. Members of the Church are encouraged to study it and follow its teachings. The Church uses many translations of the Bible in various languages. In English, the King James Version is used as the official Bible of the Church.” ([LDS.org](https://www.lds.org))

source: <https://www.lds.org/topics/bible?lang=eng>



Mormon Claims to Christianity

“Members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints unequivocally affirm themselves to be Christians. They worship God the Eternal Father in the name of Jesus Christ.” (LDS.org)

source: <https://www.lds.org/topics/christians?lang=eng>



Mormon Claims to Christianity

“The fundamental principles of our religion is the testimony of the apostles and prophets concerning Jesus Christ, ‘that he died, was buried, and rose again the third day, and ascended up into heaven;’” (Joseph Smith, *Elders’ Journal*, July 1838)

source: <https://www.lds.org/topics/christians?lang=eng>

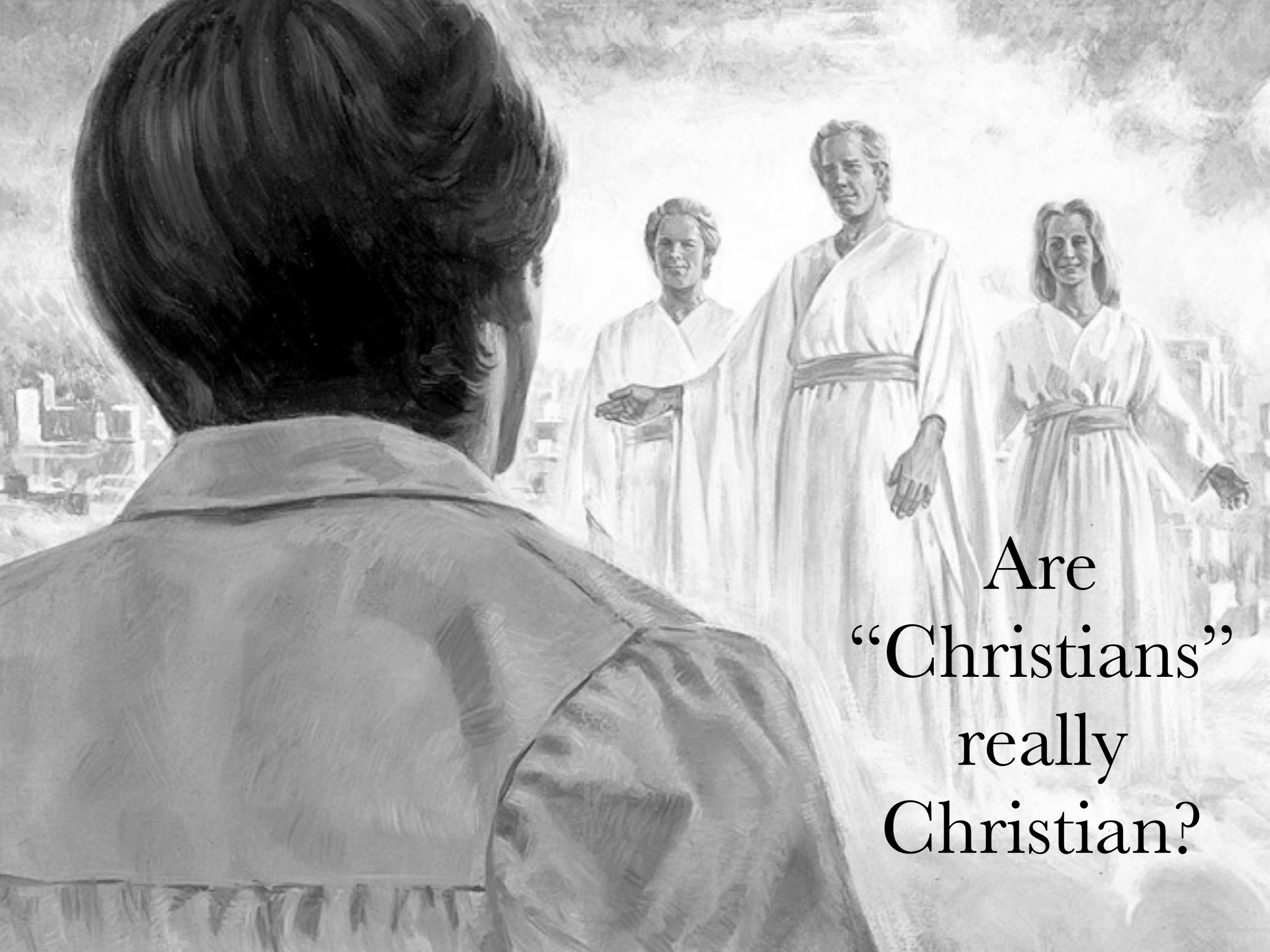


Mormon Claims to Christianity

“Jesus Christ is the savior of all humankind...He is central to God’s plan because He makes it possible for all to be cleansed of their sins, reconcile themselves to God, and be resurrected after death.” (mormon.org)

source: <https://www.mormon.org/beliefs/what-does-it-mean-to-be-christian>



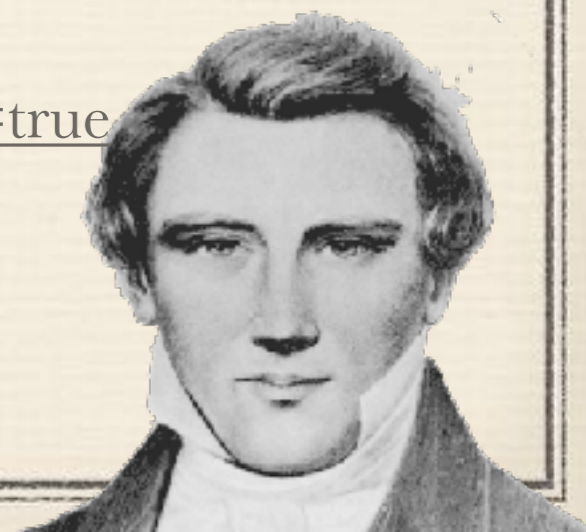


Are
“Christians”
really
Christian?

Are “Christians” really Christian?

“When Joseph Smith was 14 years old, he wanted to know which church he should join, so he asked God in sincere prayer. In response to this prayer, God the Father and His Son, Jesus Christ, appeared to Joseph and told him the true Church of Jesus Christ was not on the earth and They had chosen Joseph to restore it.” (*Testimony of the Prophet Joseph Smith*)

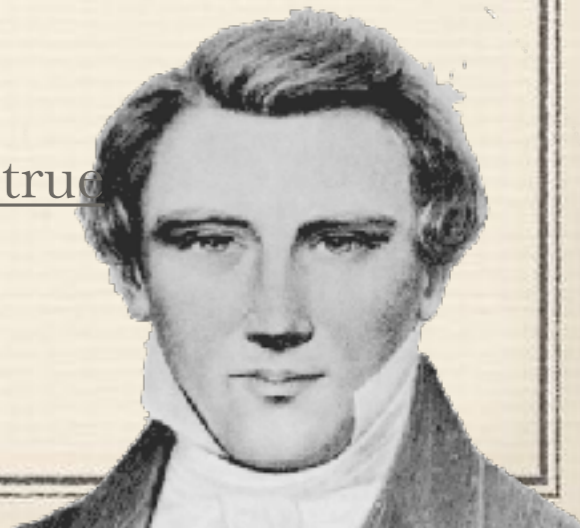
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Are “Christians” really Christian?

“I asked the Personages who stood above me in the light, which of all the sects was right (for at this time it had never entered into my heart that all were wrong) - and which I should join. I was answered that I must join none of them, for they were all wrong; and the Personages who addressed me said that all their creeds were an abomination in his sight; that those professors were all corrupt...

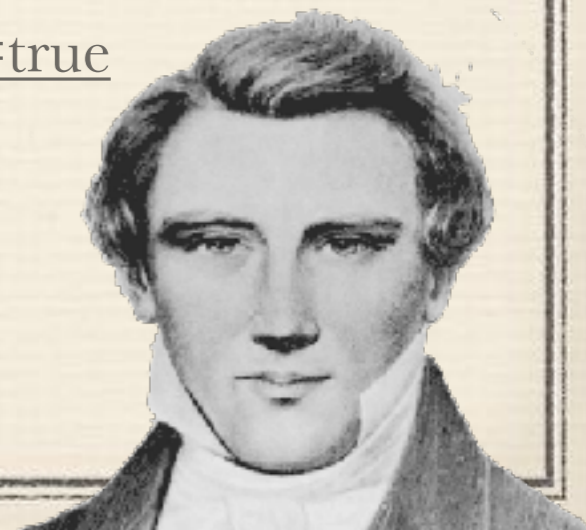
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Are “Christians” really Christian?

“...that: ‘they draw near to me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me, they teach for doctrines the commandments of men, having a form of godliness, but they deny the power thereof.’ He again forbade me to join with any of them.” (Joseph Smith, *Testimony of the Prophet...*)

source: <https://www.lds.org/topics/joseph-smith/testimony?lang=eng&old=true>



Are “Christians” really Christian?

“It is our firm conviction that The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is, as the revelations state, “the only true and living church upon the face of the whole earth.” (D&C 1:30.)” (Boyd K. Packer, *General Conference*, 1985)

source: <https://www.lds.org/general-conference/1985/10/the-only-true-church.p43?lang=eng>



Are “Christians” really Christian?

“And he said unto me: Behold there are save two churches only; the one is the church of the Lamb of God, and the other is the church of the devil; wherefore, whoso belongeth not to the church of the Lamb of God belongeth to that great church, which is the mother of abominations; and she is the whore of all the earth.” (1 Nephil 14:10)

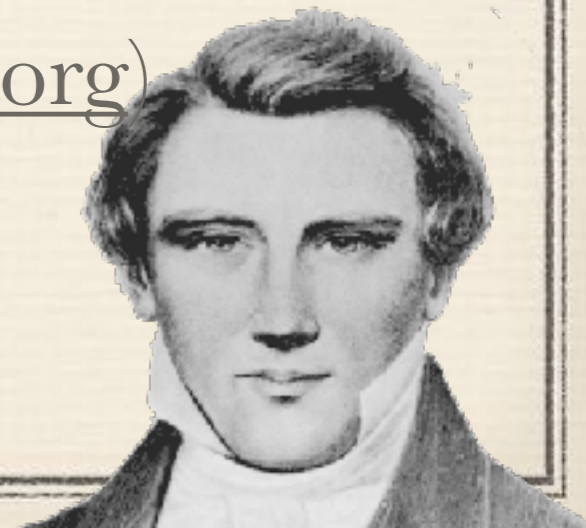
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Are “Christians” really Christian?

“When individuals or groups of people turn away from the principles of the gospel, they are in a state of apostasy. One example is the Great Apostasy, which occurred after the Savior established His Church. After the deaths of the Savior and His Apostles, men corrupted the principles of the gospel and made unauthorized changes in Church organization and priesthood ordinance. Because of this widespread apostasy, the Lord withdrew the authority of the priesthood from the earth. This apostasy lasted until Heavenly Father and His Beloved Son appeared to Joseph Smith in 1820 and initiated the restoration of the fulness of the gospel.” ([LDS.org](https://www.lds.org/topics/apostasy?lang=eng))

source: <https://www.lds.org/topics/apostasy?lang=eng>



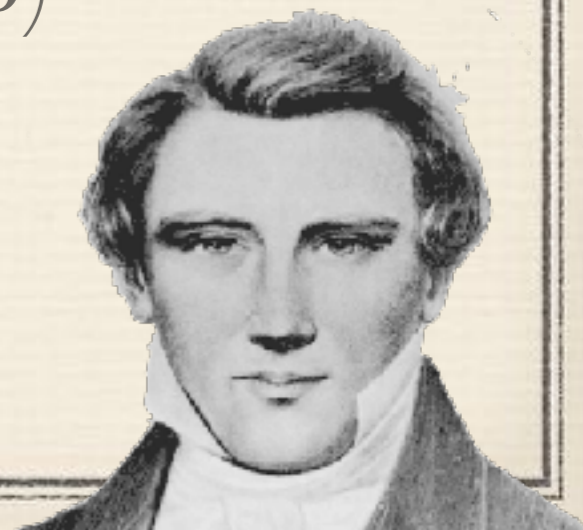


One God or many?

One God or Many?

Biblical Monotheism

“Hear, O Israel! Jehovah is our God, Jehovah is one! You shall love Jehovah your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart.” (Deuteronomy 6:4-6)



One God or Many?

Biblical Monotheism

“You are My witnesses,” declares Jehovah, “and My servant whom I have chosen, in order that you may know and believe Me and understand that I am He. Before Me there was no God formed, and there will be none after Me.” (Isaiah 43:10)



One God or Many?

Biblical Monotheism

“Know therefore today, and take it to your heart, that Jehovah, He is God in heaven above and the earth below; there is no other.” (Deuteronomy 4:39)



One God or Many?

Biblical Monotheism

“Is there any God besides Me, or is there any other Rock? I know of none.” (Isaiah 44:8)

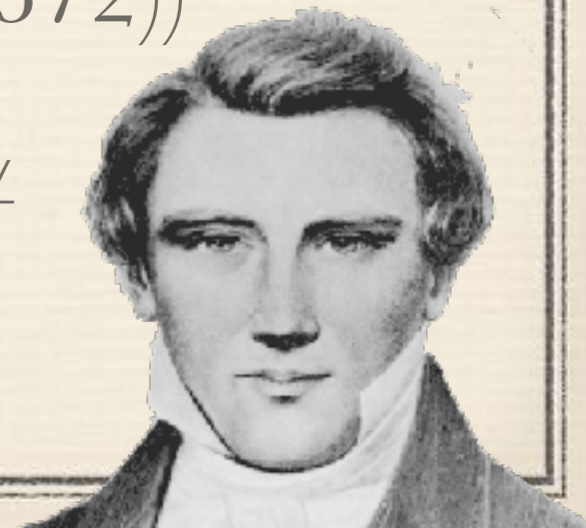


One God or Many?

Mormon Polytheism

“In the very beginning the Bible shows there is a plurality of Gods beyond the power of refutation. It is a great subject I am dwelling on. The word *Eloheim* ought to be in the plural all the way through - Gods. The heads of the Gods appointed one God for us; and when you take [that] view of the subject, it sets one free to see all the beauty, holiness and perfection of the Gods.” (*Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, 372))

source: <https://www.lds.org/manual/old-testament-student-manual-genesis-2-samuel/enrichment-section-a-who-is-the-god-of-the-old-testament.pl?lang=eng>



One God or Many?

Mormon Polytheism

“If we should take a million of worlds like this and number their particles, we should find that there are more Gods than there are particles of matter in those worlds.” (Orson Pratt, February 18, 1855, *Journal of Discourses* 2:345).

source: <http://jod.mrm.org/2/334#345>



One God or Many?

Mormon Polytheism

“The head God called together the Gods and sat in grand council to bring forth the world. The grand councilors sat at the head in yonder heavens and contemplated the creation of the worlds which were created at the time. (*Teachings*, pp. 348-49.) The Abraham account of the Creation reflects this idea of the plurality of Gods (see Abraham 4).” (*Old Testament Student Manual Genesis-2 Samuel*)

source: https://www.lds.org/manual/old-testament-student-manual-genesis-2-samuel-genesis-1-2-the-creation?lang=eng&_r=1



One God or Many?

Mormon Polytheism

“How many Gods there are, I do not know. But there never was a time when there were not Gods and worlds, and when men were not passing through the same ordeals that we are now passing through. That course has been from all eternity, and it is and will be to all eternity. (Brigham Young, October 8, 1859, *Journal of Discourses* 7:333)

source: <http://jod.mrm.org/7/331#333>



One God or Many?

Mormon Polytheism

“I have always declared God to be a distinct personage, Jesus Christ a separate and distinct personage from God the Father, and that the Holy Ghost was a distinct personage and a Spirit: and these three constitute three distinct personages and three Gods.” (Joseph Smith, *History of the Church*, 6:474)

source: <https://www.lds.org/manual/teachings-joseph-smith/chapter-2?lang=eng&r=1>



One God or Many?

Conclusion

Not only does Mormonism teach a plurality of Gods, an essential Biblical truth; but it teaches a different God altogether.



A black and white illustration depicting a celestial scene. In the center, Jesus stands on a large, billowing cloud. He has long hair and a beard, and is dressed in a simple, light-colored robe with a dark sash. His arms are outstretched to his sides, palms facing down. Surrounding him are numerous angels, also dressed in light-colored robes. Many of the angels are holding long, thin trumpets, and several are blowing them. The background is filled with more angels, some standing on clouds and others appearing to be in motion. The overall atmosphere is one of a grand, divine assembly.

A Different Jesus?

A Different Jesus?

The Jesus of the Bible

“For if one comes and preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted, you bear this beautifully.” (2 Corinthians 11:4)



A Different Jesus?

The Jesus of the Bible

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.” (John 1:1-3)



A Different Jesus?

The Jesus of the Bible

“He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities - all things have been created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.” (Colossians 1:15-17)



A Different Jesus?

The Jesus of Mormonism

“Jesus Christ and Lucifer are indeed offspring of our Heavenly Father and, therefore, spirit brothers.” (*Ensign*, June 1986)

source: <https://www.lds.org/ensign/1986/06/i-have-a-question?lang=eng>

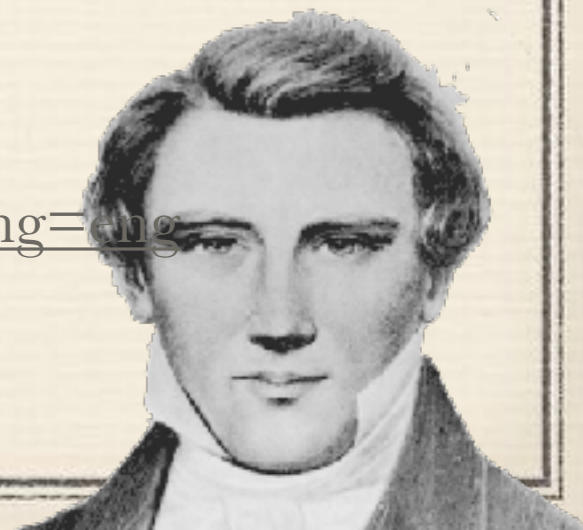


A Different Jesus?

The Jesus of Mormonism

“Jesus Christ is the literal Son of God. We believe absolutely that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, begotten of God, the first-born in the spirit and the only begotten in the flesh; that He is the Son of God just as much as you and I are the sons of our fathers.” (Heber J. Grant, *Teachings of Presidents of the Church*, 2011)

source: <https://www.lds.org/manual/teachings-heber-j-grant/chapter-24?lang=eng>



A Different Jesus?

Conclusion

The Jesus of Scripture is the creator of all things, including Lucifer himself. Nowhere does the Bible teach that Jesus came into existence from heavenly parents.





The Gospel and Salvation

The Gospel and Salvation

Biblical Salvation - don't get it wrong!

“But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed!” (Galatians 1:8)



The Gospel and Salvation

Saved...what does it mean?

“Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through him. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.” (Romans 5:9-10)



The Gospel and Salvation

Saved...how?

“That if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.” (Romans 10:9)



The Gospel and Salvation

Salvation...by grace, faith...and works?

“He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to his mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit...so that being Justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.” (Titus 3:5, 7)



The Gospel and Salvation

Justification = declared righteous

“Now to the one who works, his wage is not credited as a favor, but what is due. But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is credited as righteousness.” (Romans 4:4-5)



The Gospel and Salvation

Justification = declared righteous

“Not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith.” (Philippians 3:9)



What must
I do to
be...come
a God?



The Gospel and Salvation

Mormon Salvation - multiple meanings

1. General Salvation: everyone is resurrected

“Through the Atonement and Resurrection of Jesus Christ, all people will be resurrected - saved from physical death...everyone is saved, regardless of choices made during this life.” ([LDS.org](https://www.lds.org))

source: <https://www.lds.org/topics/salvation?lang=eng>



The Gospel and Salvation

Mormon Salvation - multiple meanings

2. Eternal life, or individual exaltation

“Eternal life is to know Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ and dwell with Them forever - to inherit a place in the highest degree of the celestial kingdom. This exaltation requires that men receive the Melchizedek Priesthood, and that all Church members make and keep sacred covenants in the temple, including the covenant of eternal marriage. If the word salvation is used in this sense, no one is saved in mortality. That glorious gift comes only after the Final Judgment.” ([LDS.org](https://www.lds.org))

source: <https://www.lds.org/topics/salvation?lang=eng>



The Gospel and Salvation

Mormon Exaltation: requirements

1. Be baptized
2. Receive the Holy Ghost
3. Become a confirmed Church member
4. Receive Melchizedek Priesthood
5. Receive temple endowment
6. Be married for eternity
7. Keep all the commandments

source: <https://www.lds.org/manual/gospel-principles/chapter-47-exaltation?lang=eng&r=1>



The Gospel and Salvation

Mormon Salvation - 3 Kingdoms of Glory

“There are three kingdoms of glory: the celestial kingdom, the terrestrial kingdom, and the telestial kingdom. The glory we inherit will depend on the depth of our conversion, expressed by our obedience to the Lord’s commandments.” ([LDS.org](https://www.lds.org/topics/kingdoms-of-glory?lang=eng))

source: <https://www.lds.org/topics/kingdoms-of-glory?lang=eng>

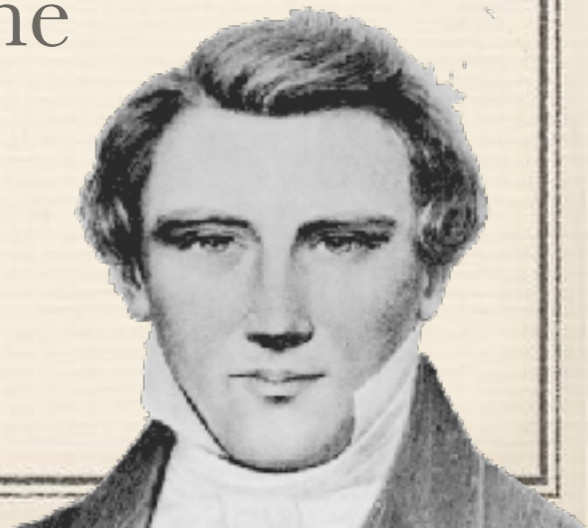


The Gospel and Salvation

Mormon Salvation - 3 Kingdoms of Glory

1. Celestial Kingdom: the ultimate goal for the Mormon. To become a God and live eternal with Heavenly Father, Jesus, and family.
2. Terrestrial Kingdom: receive the presence of Jesus, but not the fulness of the Father. Includes non-valiant Mormons, and those who rejected the Mormon gospel in their mortal life, but later received it in the postmortem spirit world ([D&C 76:73-74](#))

source: <https://www.lds.org/topics/kingdoms-of-glory?lang=eng>



The Gospel and Salvation

Mormon Salvation - 3 Kingdoms of Glory

3. Telestial Kingdom: deniers of the gospel, who go there after they are redeemed from spirit prison or hell.

Perdition: possibly ex-Mormons, the devil and angels. Committed unpardonable sins.

source: <https://www.lds.org/topics/kingdoms-of-glory?lang=eng>



The Gospel and Salvation

Mormon Salvation - grace plus works

“For we labor diligently to write, to persuade our children, and also our brethren, to believe in Christ, and to be reconciled to God; for we know that it is by grace that we are saved, after all we can do.” (2 Nephi 25:23)

source: <https://www.lds.org/scriptures/bofm/2-ne/25.23%2C26?lang=eng#22>



The Gospel and Salvation

Mormon Salvation - grace plus works

“Yea, come unto Christ, and be perfected in him, and deny yourselves of all ungodliness; and if ye shall deny yourselves of all ungodliness, and love God with all your might, mind and strength, then is his grace sufficient for you, that by his grace ye may be perfect in Christ; and if by the grace of God ye are perfect in Christ, ye can in nowise deny the power of God.” (Moroni 10:32)

source: <https://www.lds.org/scriptures/bofm/moro/10.32?lang=eng#31>

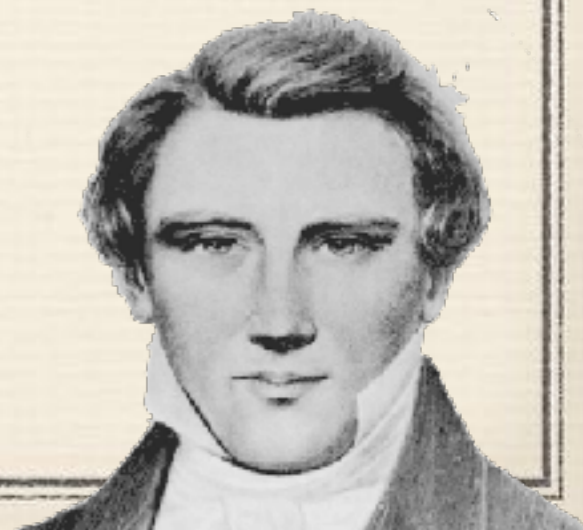


The Gospel and Salvation

Mormon Salvation - grace plus works

“And, if you keep my commandments and endure to the end you shall have eternal life, which gift is the greatest of all the gifts of God.” (D&C 14:7)

source: <https://www.lds.org/scriptures/dc-testament/dc/14.7?lang=eng#6>



The Gospel and Salvation

Mormon Salvation - grace plus works

“There are commandments we must follow, ordinances we must receive, and ways we must pattern our lives in order to be saved in the kingdom of God.” (*New Testament Teacher Resource Manual Romans 12-16*)

source: <https://www.lds.org/manual/new-testament-teacher-resource-manual/the-epistle-of-paul-the-apostle-to-the-romans/romans-12-16?lang=eng>



The Gospel and Salvation

Summary and Conclusion

The Mormon Gospel is impossible.



HOLY
BIBLE

THE
BOOK
OF
MORMON

Another Testament
of Jesus Christ

Is Mormonism Christian?

Is Mormonism Christian?

- ❖ Mormonism denies the Biblical reality of monotheism
- ❖ Mormonism has a different Jesus
- ❖ Mormonism has a different gospel which denies salvation by grace alone through Christ alone, by faith alone



Is Mormonism Christian?

What now?



Is Mormonism Christian?

- ❖ Know what you believe and why you believe it
- ❖ Learn what Mormons believe and why they believe it
- ❖ Be prepared! You'll likely encounter a Mormon before the end of the year.



-Question-

