

The Mormon Gospel

“I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you by the grace of Christ and are turning to

A DIFFERENT GOSPEL

which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ. But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let him be eternally condemned! As we have already said, so now I say again: If anybody is preaching to you a gospel other than what you accepted, let him be eternally condemned!”
(Galatians 1:6-9)

◆ How shall we proceed? ◆

“In your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.”
(1 Peter 3:15)

1. Different Church

Doctrine & Covenants – 1:29-30

“Joseph Smith... was given the power to lay the foundation of this church, and to bring it forth out of obscurity and out of darkness, the only true and living church upon the face of the whole earth, with which I, The Lord, am well pleased.”

DIFFERENCE: “ Jesus said, I will build my church and the gates of Hades will not overcome it” (Matthew 16:18).

Joseph Smith set out to fix what was not broken. The church is made up of born again (not perfect) believers. The church is not an organization – it is the body of Christ, i.e., people. (1 Corinthians 12:27) No one can say that their specific organization is the one true church. Anyone who is “in Christ” is his church.

2. Different Scripture

2 Nephi 29:6-9 – The Book of Mormon

“Thou fool, that shall say: A Bible, we have a Bible, and we need no more Bible... Because I have spoken one word ye need not suppose that I cannot speak another?”

Joseph Smith

“The book of Mormon is the most correct book on earth.”

The LDS claim four Scriptures:

The Book of Mormon – Doctrine & Covenants – Pearl of Great Price and The King James Version (so long as it is translated properly)

DIFFERENCE: “If a prophet or one who foretells by dreams, appears among you and announces to you a miraculous sign or wonder, and if the sign or wonder of which he has spoken takes place, and he says,

‘Let us follow other gods’ (gods you have not known) ‘and let us follow them,’ you must not listen to the words of that prophet or dreamer” (Deuteronomy 13:1-4).

The LDS church clearly teaches things that go against what has been previously taught about God.

The Apostle Paul speaks of the rule of orthodoxy in Galatians 1:6-9.

Nothing can be added to the Bible and no teaching may contradict it.

3. Different God

Doctrine & Covenants – 130:22

“The Father has a body of flesh and bones as tangible as man’s.”

Joseph Smith in the King Follet sermon

“God himself was once a man as we are now, and is an exalted man, and sits in enthroned in yonder heavens!”

DIFFERENCE: “In the beginning God” (Genesis 1:1). “God is Spirit” (John 4:24). “Spirit does not have flesh and bones” (Luke 24:39). “Hear O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one” (Deuteronomy 6:4). “You shall have no other gods before me” (Exodus 20:3).

God is separate and holy from all creation. God is eternal and never changes. There has never been any other god in existence anywhere in the universe or at any other time, now or in eternity. God is not an exalted man.

4. Different Jesus

Alma 7:9-10 – The Book of Mormon

Jesus would be born in Jerusalem.

Doctrines of Salvation, by Joseph Fielding Smith, 1954, 1:18

“Christ was not Begotten of Holy Ghost ...Christ was begotten of God. He was not born without the aid of Man, and that Man was God!”

Gospel Doctrine, p.70 – Sixth LDS President Joseph F. Smith

“Among the spirit children of Elohim, the first-born was and is Jehovah, or Jesus Christ, to whom all others are juniors.”

DIFFERENCE: “In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God” (John 1:1). Jesus always existed eternally with the Father and was never born spiritually. “The Word became flesh and dwelt among us” (John 1:14). Jesus took on an additional nature (humanity) by being born in Bethlehem.

5. Different Humanity

Doctrine & Covenants – 93:29

“Man was also in the beginning with God.”

Joseph Smith in the King Follet sermon

The whole design of the gospel is to lead us onward and upward to greater achievement, **even, eventually, to godhood.**

President Lorenzo Snow

“As God now is, man may become!”

DIFFERENCE: In the beginning God (Genesis 1:1). God existed before all things. Human beings are part of the created order. There was a time when man did not exist, neither spiritually nor physically. Human beings will not progress to godhood. Only God is eternal.

6. Different Fall

Mormon.org

“As God’s first children on earth, Adam and Eve were living in their garden paradise. They didn’t feel any sorrow or pain, which might seem nice, except that without it, they also couldn’t feel joy. They didn’t remember their pre-earth life. If they hadn’t eaten the forbidden fruit, they would have lived like that forever and never had children. Mankind never would have been born or the world populated.”

2 Nephi 2:25 – The Book of Mormon

“Adam fell that men might be; and men are, that they might have joy.”

DIFFERENCE: “God saw all that he had made and it was very good” (Genesis 1:31). There was nothing missing or lacking. The fall was not good and it did not bring joy. The fall brought the curse of death, horrible suffering and separation from God. All of creation was murdered by a lie brought on by the father of lies. Because of the fall all are under the judgment of God with the potential of the horror of eternal separation from God in hell.

7. Different Salvation

2 Nephi 25:23 – The Book of Mormon

“It is by grace that we are saved, after all we can do.”

Miracle of Forgiveness, Spencer W. Kimball, p. 206

“One of the most fallacious doctrines originated by Satan and propounded by man is that man is saved alone by the grace of God; that belief in Jesus Christ alone is all that is needed for salvation.”

DIFFERENCE: Jesus said, “I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life” (John 5:24).

“All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Jesus Christ” (Romans 3:23-24).

“It is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast” (Ephesians 2:8-9).

8. Different Heaven

Mormon.org

“The ability to procreate throughout eternity is reserved for Mormon couples who have complied with all the requirements for exaltation. Exaltation is the attainment of Godhood.”

CELESTIAL KINGDOM: “The highest kingdom of glory in the LDS concept of heaven, available only to Mormons who exhibited complete obedience to LDS laws and ordinances during their entire lifetimes.”

TERRESTRIAL KINGDOM: “The residents of this kingdom will be visited by Jesus Christ but will be separated from God the Father throughout eternity.”

TELESTIAL KINGDOM: “The lowest kingdom of glory. The residents of this kingdom will be visited by the Holy Ghost, but not by the Father or the Son.”

DIFFERENCE: “The people of this age marry and are given in marriage. But those who are considered worthy of taking part in that age and in the resurrection from the dead will neither marry nor be given in marriage” (Luke 20:34-35).

There is only one eternal heaven and all who go there are in full fellowship with God. “...away from the body, at home with the Lord” (2 Corinthians 5:8).

9. Different Authority

Moroni 10:4 – The Book of Mormon

“Ask God, the Eternal Father, in the name of Christ, if these things are not true; and if ye shall ask with a sincere heart, with real intent, having faith in Christ, he will manifest the truth of it unto you by the power of the Holy Ghost.”

Also, Joseph Smith and the succession of Presidents which have formed The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints have taken over as the supreme authority for doctrine and practice.

DIFFERENCE: “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?” (Jeremiah 17:9)

Feelings cannot be our authority. Our hearts can deceive us. It is very much like eating from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil: we become our own gods to determine was it true or false, right or wrong.

“Test all things; hold on to that which is good” (1 Thessalonians 5:21).

No human is to take authority over the Bible. Joseph Smith and the Presidents that have followed him cannot override what was previously revealed in the Bible.

Jesus said, “Many false prophets will come...” (Matthew 24:24). We don’t test truth with feelings, but with Scripture. And we are not to follow false prophets.

10. Different Vocabulary

Every important word and concept must be qualified with a definition or conversation becomes pointless.

There lies the DIFFERENCE.

CONCLUSION

The gospel never changes. The gospel is simple. There are no secret ceremonies or rituals. The gospel is not meant to be obscure, but clear and full of light. The gospel is based on God's love.

“God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life”
(John 3:16).

While the gospel is based on love, it is also based on God's justice.

“For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already... (John 3:17-18).

John, chapter three, begins with Jesus in conversation with Nicodemus. There could be no one more religious and good (from a human perspective) than Nicodemus. Yet, Jesus said to him, “I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again” (John 3:3).

We must be born again because we are all born dead in our sins. Yes, even people as religious and good (like Nicodemus) are born spiritually dead. However, we can be made alive through Christ.

“For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive”
(1 Corinthians 15:22).

“As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins...
...God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions – it is by grace you have been saved” (Ephesians 2:1-5).

There is absolutely nothing any human being can do to satisfy the justice of God. No one can ever be good enough or religious enough to measure up to God's holiness. All fall short. However, both the love of God and the justice of God meet at the cross of Christ.

“All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood. He did this to demonstrate his justice, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished. – He did it to demonstrate his justice at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus” (Romans 3:23-26).

No one in heaven or on earth can justify themselves. It must come through God's provision and by his grace. This is the true gospel: Good News!

Say “Yes” to this simple and powerful gospel

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