

Some Simple Comparisons Between Mormon and Biblical, Christian Theology

A Different God

Mormonism

1. Not Eternal: “God himself was once as we are now, and is an exalted man...I am going to tell you how God came to be God. We have imagined and supposed that God was God from all eternity. I will refute that idea, and take away the veil, so that you may see,...he was once a man like us; yea, that God himself, the Father of us all, dwelt on an earth, the same as Jesus Christ himself did;” (*Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, pp. 345-6).

2. One of Many: “...you have got to learn how to be Gods yourselves, and to be kings and priests to God, the same as all Gods have done before you” (*Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, p. 346).

“...there is an infinite number of holy personages, drawn from worlds without number, who have passed on to exaltation and are thus gods” (*Mormon Doctrine*, p. 577).

Biblical Christianity

1. Eternal: “Before the mountains were born, Or Thou didst give birth to the earth and the world, Even from everlasting to everlasting, Thou art God” (Psalm 90:2).

“Thy throne is established from of old; Thou art from everlasting” (Psalm 93:2).

“...I, the Lord, do not change;” (Malachi 3:6).

2. The One and Only: “Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel And his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: *I am the first and I am the last, And there is no God besides Me*’ (Isaiah 44:6). “To you it was shown that you might know that the LORD, He is God; there is no other besides Him....Know therefore today, and take it to your heart, that the LORD, He is God in heaven above and on the earth below; there is no other” (Deuteronomy 4:35, 39).

God has provided several means for testing the claims of men who say they are prophets of God. One of those means is whether or not they worship and teach of the true God, or of a false God other than the God of the Bible known to the children of Israel (Deuteronomy 13:1-5). The comparisons above make it crystal clear — though he used Christian names for God, Joseph Smith worshiped and taught of a god different from the God of the Bible. He was therefore a false prophet, and founder of a false religion. Mormons today continue to use biblical names for Deity, but they are worshiping the false god introduced and taught by Joseph Smith.

A Different Gospel

Mormonism

1. Debt still requires payment: “The Mediator turned then to the debtor. ‘If I pay your debt, will you accept me *as your creditor?*’ *Oh yes, yes,*’ cried the debtor.... ‘Then,’ said the benefactor, *you will pay the debt* to me and I will set the terms. It will not be easy, but it will be possible” (From a story by Mormon apostle Boyd K. Packer, illustrating the Mormon concept of the atonement, *Ensign*, May 1977, p. 55; emphasis added).

2. Forgiveness depends on works — “grace” plus works: “...for we know that it is by grace that we are saved, *after all that we can do*” (2 Nephi 25:23; emphasis added).

“...*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, ...unto the remission of your sins...” (Moroni 10:32–33).

“Eternal life hangs in the balance awaiting the works of men. This progress toward eternal life is a matter of *achieving perfection. Living all the commandments guarantees forgiveness of sins*” (Mormon prophet Spencer W. Kimball, *Miracle of Forgiveness*, p. 210; emphasis added).

“...the repentance which *merits forgiveness*. It is that the *former* transgressor *must* have reached ‘*a point of no return*’ to sin...where the *desire* or *urge* to sin is *cleared out of his life*” (*Ibid.*, p. 354-5; emphasis added).

From the comparisons above it is clear that the gospel of Mormonism is not the gospel preached by Paul. Paul warned about false gospels and their teachers: “I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ, for a different gospel; which is really not another; only there are some who are disturbing you, and want to distort the gospel of Christ. But even though we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to that which we have preached to you, let him be accursed. As we have said before, so I say again now, if any man is preaching to you a gospel contrary to that which you received, let him be accursed” (Galatians 1:6–9).

Biblical Christianity

1. Debt is canceled: “And when you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions, having *canceled out the certificate of debt* consisting of decrees against us and which was hostile to us; and *He has* taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross” (Colossians 2:13–14; emphasis added).

2. Forgiveness a free gift — grace apart from works: “For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works...” (Ephesians 2:8–9)

“For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from works of the Law” (Romans 3:28).

“Now to the one who works, his wage is not reckoned as a favor, but as what is due. But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is reckoned as righteousness, just as David also speaks of the blessing upon the man to whom God reckons righteousness apart from works” (Romans 4:4–6).

“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified as a *gift* by His *grace* through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus” (Romans 3:23–24).

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