

JESUS

NEWSLETTER ~ MAY/JUNE 2010

240-A W. CHAPMAN AVE
P.O. BOX 489
ORANGE, CA 92856
(714) 997-3498

FAX (714) 997-3499
E-MAIL bill@exmormonsforjesus.org
WEB www.exmormonsforjesus.org

OUR FAITH WILL WORK BY LOVE OR IT WILL NOT WORK AT ALL



FROM CHAR'S DESK

When talking to Mormons, I have noticed their emphasis is often on Christ as their example. They try really hard to do what Jesus would do, even wearing a bracelet with the initials, WWJD, on it. However, Jesus is not primarily our example. You could spend a lifetime following Him as your example and never come to know Him as your Lord. You could give Him all your deeds and works (which often leads to arrogance and pride) but never give Him yourself. I remember a Christian song I learned many years ago:

*ALL HE WANTS IS YOU
NO ONE ELSE WILL DO
NOT JUST A PART
HE WANTS ALL OF YOUR HEART
ALL HE WANTS IS ALL OF YOU
ALL HE WANTS IS YOU.*

When we surrender our whole selves to Him, then we can follow Him as our example, never before. If you follow Him as your example without knowing Him as your Lord, it merely leads to anxiety and tension. He didn't come to give us a set of rules to follow. He came to show us we couldn't follow them without being born again and accepting Him as the Lord of our lives. After that, His yoke becomes easy and His burden becomes light and He receives all the glory. What a wonderful Savior!

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Good works will never produce salvation, but salvation should always produce good works!

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~ Jenell's Jots & Tittles ~

LIFE'S MOST PROFOUND DECISION?

In the introduction to the "Achieving A Celestial Marriage" manual, we read: "*There is probably no decision in all of life, and perhaps in eternity, that has a more profound effect on our eternal destiny than that concerning marriage. In the relationships of husband and wife and parent and child we begin to approach the diving calling of godhood. Our heavenly Father and mother live in an exalted state because they achieved a celestial marriage* [referring to a marriage performed in an LDS temple]. *As we achieve a like marriage we shall become as they are and begin the creation of worlds for our own spirit children.*" (p.1, my emphasis)

Yet when the Sadducees quizzed Jesus on the subject of marriage in the next life, He informed them: "...in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in (Continued on page 2)

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marriage, but are like angels in heaven.” (Matt.22:30 NAS, also found in Mark 12:25 & Luke 20:35). I think all Christians would agree that the most important decision in “all of life” (and for sure in eternity) would have nothing to do with marriage and everything to do with Jesus. How sad that they could get it so wrong!

(Note: The “Achieving A Celestial Marriage” manual is published by Corporation of the President of the LDS church which makes it an *official* book)

ASK A MORMON

Mormons scoff at the Christian, Biblically based belief in the Trinity, and would tell us that the Father, Son and Holy Ghost are three different gods among many as Joseph Smith taught: *“Many men say there is one God; the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost are only one God! I say that is a strange God anyhow—three in one, and one in three!...All are to be crammed into one God, according to sectarianism. It would make the biggest God in all the world. He would be a wonderfully big God—he would be a giant or monster...”* (“History of the Church”, Vol.6, p.476).

While the *Book of Mormon* lacks a theologically sound position on the Trinity, it also does not share the Mormon concept, yet Joseph Smith stated: *“I told the brethren that the Book of Mormon was the most correct of any book on earth, and the keystone of our religion, and a man would get nearer to God by abiding by its precepts, than by any other book”* (Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith”, p.194). A good question for your Mormon acquaintances might be to ask them why their “*most correct of any book on earth*” clearly disagrees with Joseph Smith as follows:

“And now, behold, this is the doctrine of Christ, and the only and true doctrine of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, which is one God, without end. Amen.” (2 Nephi 31:21)

“Teach them that redemption cometh through Christ the Lord, who is the very Eternal Father. Amen.” (Mosiah 16:15)

“Now Zeezrom saith again unto him: Is the Son of God the very Eternal Father? And Amulek said unto him: Yea, he is the very Eternal Father of heaven and of earth....but every thing shall be restored to its perfect frame, as it is now, or in the body, and shall be brought and be arraigned before the bar of Christ the Son, and God the Father, and the Holy Spirit, which is one Eternal God...” (Alma 11:38, 39, 44)

“Behold, I am he who was prepared from the foundation of the world to redeem my people. Behold, I am Jesus Christ. I am the Father and the Son...” (Ether 3:14)

Most Mormons want to respond by saying that these verses just mean they are one in purpose, or “united as one in the attributes of perfection” (“Mormon Doctrine”, p.319). However, one would have to call that a private interpretation as that rather weak excuse can not be substantiated in the *Book of Mormon* itself!

While the word “Trinity” is not found in the Bible, the Trinitarian concept is. If any of our readers would like more information on this Biblical doctrine, please contact us and request “The Trinity According to Scripture” or “Why Christians believe In The Trinity”. A donation to cover postage would be appreciated, thank you.

MORMONISM & CHRISTIANITY ARE THEY COMPATIBLE?

Mormons love to portray themselves as Christians and do not understand when the body of Christ excludes them from that category. It often comes down to them thinking that we do not know of their good works and the many members who have Christ-like values and morals. However, we need to help them understand that it is their theology and doctrine, not their behavior, that eliminates them as Christians.

Because this is such a sensitive issue with Mormons, we might help them to understand by saying something to the effect of: “I’m a Mormon but I don’t believe the Book of Mormon is the word of God. I’m a Mormon but I believe Joseph Smith was a false prophet. I’m a Mormon but I don’t believe in the Mormon priesthood. I’m a Mormon but I don’t believe in baptism for the

dead, Mormon temples or anything that goes on in there.”

They would quickly deny that such a person could be a real Mormon. Obviously a person who claims to be a Mormon and doesn't accept the very doctrine that make Mormons what they are, can not be one. In the same way, it must be conceded that a Mormon who claims to be a Christian cannot deny those doctrines that make a Christians what they are. The two religions are just not compatible, and hopefully this line of communication will open up further comparisons to help your Mormon friends take a closer look at their faith and give you opportunity to share the differences.

(Note: Some quotes and ideas from this article were taken from the book, “Questions To Ask Your Mormon Friend” by Bill McKeever and Eric Johnson).

CITATIONS OF CONCERN (From LDS Leaders)

Brigham Young stated: *“The only men who become Gods, even the Sons of God, are those who enter into polygamy...I heard the revelation on polygamy, and I believed it with all my heart, and I know it is from God – I know that he revealed it from heaven; I know that it is true, and understand the bearings of it and why it is.”* (“Journal of Discourses” Vol.11, p.269)

Of course all Christians know it is absurd to think anyone can *become a God*, however, many Mormons are striving towards that goal. We wonder if they know their quest is in vain now that polygamy has been abolished by their leadership?

IN HARMONY WITH THE STANDARD WORKS

In speaking of the Latter-day Saints “standard works” (KJV Bible, Book of Mormon, Doctrine & Covenants and Pearl of Great Price), the late Mormon Apostle, Bruce R. McConkie, made the following statement:

*“...Even the writings, teachings, and opinions of the prophets of God are acceptable only to the extent they are in harmony with what God has revealed and what is recorded in the standard works. When the living oracles speak in the name of the Lord or as moved upon by the Holy Ghost, however, their utterances are then binding upon all who hear, and **whatever is said will without any exception be found to be in harmony with the standard works.** The Lord’s house is a house of order, and **one truth never contradicts another.**”* (“Mormon Doctrine”, p.765, 1979 edition, my emphasis)

While we agree that when the “living oracles” of God speak in the name of the Lord, they must harmonize with scripture and that “one truth never contradicts another”, sadly such is **not** the case in Mormonism! Take, for instance, their stand and view on the Negroes. In McConkie’s 1966 edition of his book, “Mormon Doctrine”, he shared the following:

*“Negroes **in this life** are denied the priesthood; under **no circumstances** can they hold this delegation of authority from the Almighty (Abra.1:20-27.) The gospel message of salvation is not carried affirmatively to them (Moses 7:8, 12, 22)...The present status of the negro rests purely and simply on the foundation of pre-existence...The negroes **are not equal** with other races where the receipt of certain spiritual blessings are concerned, **particularly the priesthood** and the temple blessings that flow therefrom, but this inequality is not of man’s origin. It is the Lord’s doing, is based on his eternal laws of justice, and grows out of the lack of spiritual valiance of those concerned in their first estate.”* (p.527, my emphasis)

Please notice that McConkie backed up the above statement with LDS **scripture** (“Pearl of Great Price”), and he quite correctly stated his church’s position at that time. However, when it was no longer politically correct or expedient for their cause, the Mormon god changed his mind and on June 1, 1978, the blacks were allowed to hold the Mormon priesthood for the first time.

In later editions of his book, “Mormon Doctrine”, McConkie was forced to eat his words and dance around the issue with some fancy double talk. So one

might wonder what happen when two “truths” *did* contradict and the teachings of their “living oracles” did *not* harmonize with their standard works? Well, most chose to ignore the standard works and do as they have always done, stick their heads in the sand and continue to blindly follow their leaders!

Their changing policy on Negroes is just one example, but almost every one of their beliefs (i.e. plurality of gods, baptism for the dead, polygamy, etc.) is contradicted by their foremost standard work, the “Book of Mormon”. So while it may sound good to boast in a belief of scriptural superiority, we find it is merely that, a boast and not a fact! We pray that Mormons will come to realize this truth and turn from this man-made, false religion, to the True God of the Bible!

GOD’S ONLY TRUE & LIVING CHURCH

A recent article in a Mormon magazine stated: *“Each person who accepts the restored gospel of Jesus Christ [Mormonism] receives a testimony by the power of the Holy Ghost that our Heavenly Father lives, Jesus Christ is the Savior, Joseph Smith is the prophet of the Restoration, the Book of Mormon is true, and **The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is God’s only true and living church on the earth today.**”* (“The Ensign”, March 2010, p.32, my emphasis)

**EX-MORMONS FOR JESUS
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ORANGE, CA. 92856**

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Mormons do not understand that “God’s only true and living church” is the body of Christ, believers who are born again and led by one Spirit, and these come from many different denominations. This church is built on the foundation laid by the Apostles and holds the doctrines which they preached (1 Cor.15:1-4, Gal.1:8). The gates of hell will not prevail against this church (Matt.16:18), and it will never die out because living **people** are the temple (1 Cor.3:16, 6:19; 2 Cor.6:16), and our Savior will never forsake us (Matt.28:20).

How grateful we are to have experienced the True Jesus who saves us, not the place where we claim church membership! The ministry of Ex-Mormons For Jesus exists that Mormons may also come to know this marvelous blessing.

SUPPORT GROUP MEETINGS

We hold monthly support group meetings at 7:30 p.m. on the 2nd Tuesday of every month. These gatherings include a mini-lesson, testimony of an ex-Mormon, a question and answer time, and refreshments. All are welcome - those who have a burden to reach the Mormons, those who want to learn more, those who need support, and the Mormons themselves. The address is 240-A W. Chapman Ave. in Orange and we look forward to seeing you there.

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