

PBC Equipping Class

Mormonism Handout

11/17/19

- What is apologetics?
 - Apologetics (from the Greek word, “apologia”) is the religious discipline of _____ religious doctrines through systematic argumentation and discourse.
 - Scripture reference: _____
- What is evangelism?
 - Evangelism (from the Greek word, “euaggelizo”) is _____ (heralding, proclaiming, preaching) the _____ (the message from God that leads us to salvation) with the _____ (hope, desire, goal) to glorify God and _____ (convince, convert) the hearers.
 - Scripture reference: _____
- Matthew 16:13-20 (NASB)
 - “Who do _____ say that the Son of Man is?” (v.13b)
 - “Who do _____ say that I am?” (v. 15)
 - “You are the _____, the Son of the Living God.” (v. 16b)
 - “Blessed are you, ...because flesh and blood did not _____ this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.” (v. 17a, c)
 - “...upon this _____ I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.” (v. 18b)
 - “Then He _____ the disciples that they should tell no one that He is the Christ.” (v. 20)

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- Cult Characteristics (Summary)
 - Different views on _____, the _____, and _____
- Evangelizing Mormons
 - Recognize you are dealing with a spiritual _____ (2 Pe 2:1-3).
 - Recognize who you are dealing with someone who is spiritually _____ and whose eyes can only be opened by God as the truth is proclaimed (2 Co 4:3-6).
 - Remember to fight the spiritual battle, correcting with _____ (Jude 3; 2 Ti 2:23-26).
 - Rely on Scripture which is _____ and unchanging (2 Ti 3:16-17).
 - Remind them of God's warnings about _____ to His Word, the Bible (Re 22:18-19).
 - Revere Christ, the Solid Rock, and _____ Him (Jn 1:1-4; Lk 1:34-35; Col 1:15-20; Heb. 1:1-6; Jn 20:27-28).
 - Regard highly and present clearly the biblical doctrine of _____ (Jn 3:14-18; Ro 10:8-14; ac 4:8-12; He 9:11-15; Eph 2:8-9; 1 Jn 5:9-12; 1 Co 15:40-41).
- Principles
 - Be patient, because it may be challenging to break with a strong culture.
 - Be aware of the language barrier and clearly define terms.
 - Be sensitive to the individual's experiences and beliefs. Today, they aren't so shocked that Joseph Smith was a loon and a criminal.

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- Focus on the central tenets of the Christian faith: God, Scripture, Savior, Sin, salvation, Heaven, Hell, etc. Jesus Christ is the all-sufficient and exclusive Savior and salvation is God's gracious gift.
- Be prepared to share why you believe the Bible is the perfect and authoritative Word of God. Mormons disbelieve it.
- Avoid side issues that lead to blind alleys (like polygamy, and underwear).
- Don't back up your research in discussion with a Mormon by saying you heard it from an ex-Mormon.
- Don't get in over your head and be humble.
- Share positive and challenging Christian literature, e.g. RC Sproul's *Holiness of God*.
- Live the Christian life; not just in being kind and compassionate, but in living a holy, godly life; not because you must, but because you love God and want to bring Him glory. Share your story of how you came to know the Lord through the Bible and use specific verses.
- TERM: SIN
 - MORMON: Specific acts; not man's basic nature.
 - CHRISTIAN: Basic nature and we are in rebellion until conversion (Mat 1:1; Eph 2:3; Rom 5:6).
- TERM: REPENTANCE
 - MORMON: For individual acts; not nature.
 - CHRISTIAN: For rebellion of nature (Jer 17:9; Lk 5:32)
- TERM: GOSPEL

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- MORMON: Mormon Church system and documents.
- CHRISTIAN: Message of Christ's death and resurrection as atonement for our sins (1 Cor 15:1-4; Gal 1:8).
- TERM: ETERNAL LIFE
 - MORMON: Exaltation in Celestial Kingdom (highest level only), ability to bear children in heaven; temple marriage required.
 - CHRISTIAN: Not limited to certain ones in heaven; and not dependent on human effort (1 Jn 5:12-13).
- Questions
 - You talk a lot about the atonement. What does that mean to you?
 - Have you been baptized for a dead person? Why? Where is that in the Bible?
 - Can you explain why there are modern prophets? Why don't they always agree?
 - Some Mormon prophets teach that Adam was Elohim (God). Do you believe that?
 - How did you become a Mormon? What do you like most about Mormonism?
- Resources
 - Alpha and Omega Ministries (www.aomin.org)
 - *Christianity, Cults & Religions*, Rose
 - *The Kingdom of the Cults*, Martin
 - *What Every Mormon Should Know*, Gruss and Thuet
 - *World Religions and Cults*, Hodge and Patterson