

COMPARING MORMONISM WITH BIBLICAL CHRISTIANITY

GOD AND THE TRINITY

Mormonism: God was once a man and has now progressed to godhood. He is the physical father of Christ the Son, the Holy Spirit, and all people. The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are three distinct gods, and many other gods exist.

Christianity: There is one God, an eternal spiritual being who is infinite and perfect in all His attributes. God exists eternally in three distinct, fully divine persons—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

SCRIPTURE AND REVELATION

Mormonism: Four sources of authority are recognized: (1) The Book of Mormon, (2) The Doctrine and Covenants, (3) The Pearl of Great Price, and (4) The King James Version of the Bible.

Christianity: Scripture alone is the Christian's ultimate source of authority. The 66 books of the Old and New Testaments comprise God's final written revelation to man, a revelation that is inspired by God's Spirit and thus without error. All Scripture is a testimony to God's saving work in Christ.

MAN

Mormonism: Men and women are spirit sons and daughters of God. They are basically good in their eternal nature but prone to error in their earthly nature. All men and women are now being tested in order to progress to godhood.

Christianity: Men and women are created in the image of God. Due to the sin of the first man, Adam, all men are now born guilty before God and possess a sinful nature. Only by God's grace can man be restored to a right relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

JESUS AND SALVATION

Mormonism: Jesus is the firstborn spirit-child of the heavenly Father and a heavenly mother. Jesus is a secondary god who does not possess deity in himself but only progressed to deity in the spirit world. Jesus did not die to endure God's wrath in our place, but rather to enable us to return to our original state as spirit children. We are saved by grace and human effort. In addition to faith and repentance, salvation requires moral endurance, baptism, and other ordinances.

Christianity: Jesus Christ is the fully divine Son of God through whom all things were created. Although He existed eternally with the Father and the Spirit, Christ, the Son, took on flesh for our salvation. He is therefore fully divine and fully human. He lived a life of perfect obedience, died on the cross to take God's judgment for sin upon Himself, and conquered sin and death by rising from the dead. Those who turn from their sin and trust in Jesus as Savior and Lord are reconciled to God forever.

JUDGMENT AND ETERNITY

Mormonism: Everyone will be resurrected unto immortal life in a heavenly kingdom. However, one of three potential destinations await every person: (1) Celestial Glory (for faithful, married Mormons), (2) Terrestrial Glory (for unworthy Mormons and other good people who accept Mormonism only after their death), and (3) Telestial Glory (like hell for the wicked, but not eternal).

Christianity: All who have put their trust in Jesus Christ will spend eternity in heaven in perfect fellowship with God in heaven. Those who continue in their sin and do not receive God's salvation in Christ will face God's just judgment in hell. Scripture describes hell as a place of eternal, conscious torment.

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