

## WHY BUILD TEMPLES?

Special buildings called *temples* have been built all over the world so Latter-day Saints can perform ordinances necessary for the next life. Most of the temple work is done on behalf of those who are already dead.



## KNOWING OUR MOTIVATION

### What is our purpose?

You would be hard-pressed to find anyone who would say that Mormon missionaries are motivated by anything but a sincere desire to share their faith with those who are not members of their church.

Why is it, then, that Bible-believing Christians who desire to share their faith with members of the LDS Church are oftentimes accused of being hateful and bigoted? Efforts on the part of Christians to discuss the teachings of Mormonism are often looked upon as acts of persecution. Could it possibly be, though, that these Christians really do care and want nothing more than to share their faith in a

public format, following what Ephesians 4:15 says, which is "speak the truth in love"?

During His earthly ministry, Jesus often times went to the temple in Jerusalem to engage the most religious people of His day, even though many were deeply offended by His message. Compelled by love, Jesus' disciples followed His example in sharing truth, although many did not like what they had to say.

If we didn't care, we wouldn't be here. In fact, we believe our motivation is no different than those missionaries who go door to door, spreading the Mormon gospel throughout the world. We may not agree with each other, but please know that we really do care!



## WOULDN'T YOU AGREE WITH THESE GA'S?

"Take up the Bible, compare the religion of the Latter-day Saints with it, and see if it will stand the test"

(President Brigham Young, *Discourses of Brigham Young*, p. 126).

"I think a full, free talk is frequently of great use; we want nothing secret nor underhanded, and for one I want no association with things that cannot be talked about and will not bear investigation"

(President John Taylor, March 2, 1879, *Journal of Discourses* 20:264).

"If a faith will not bear to be investigated; if its preachers and professors are afraid to have it examined, their foundation must be very weak"

(President George Albert Smith, August 13, 1871, *Journal of Discourses* 14:216).

"If we have the truth, it cannot be harmed by investigation. If we have not the truth, it ought to be harmed"

(J. Reuben Clark, *J. Reuben Clark: The Church Years*. Provo, Utah: BYU Press, 1983, p. 24).



## TEMPLE OPENS FOR TOURS

Thousands expected to see building during open house event

Visitors from all over the nation are expected to see the open house at the newly finished LDS temple built by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Once this event is complete, the temple will be closed to everyone except Mormons in good standing who have been granted temple access by obtaining an identification card called a "temple recommend."

In order to obtain a temple recommend, there are a number of requirements that must be met, including paying a full 10% tithe, agreeing not to consume "hot drinks" (tea and coffee) and wearing the temple garments "night and day." Participation in temple ceremonies is an important facet of the LDS faith since it is here Mormons learn special "key words," "signs" and "tokens."

Brigham Young, Mormonism's second president, proclaimed, "Your endowment is to receive all those ordinances in the house of the Lord, which are necessary for you, after you have departed this life, to enable you to walk back to the presence of the Father, passing the angels who stand as sentinels, being able to give them

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the key words, the signs and tokens, pertaining to the Holy Priesthood and gain your eternal exaltation in spite of earth and hell" (*Discourses of Brigham Young*, p. 416).

Without temples, Mormons are told that exaltation "for Godhood" in the next life is an impossibility. By obeying their church's laws and ordinances, faithful Latter-day Saints hope that they will one day achieve the status of "Gods" and "Goddesses," allowing them to be with their families into eternity.

While few would disagree with the idea that many Mormons are a hard-working and sincere people, it is important to examine the teachings of this religion.

If Mormonism is true, then by all means its leaders should be followed. If wrong, however, there are eternal consequences and this religion should be avoided at all costs.

We hope you will consider what we have to say in the way it was intended – with love as our main motivation. For more information, please contact a ministry listed on the back.



# MORMONISM & CHRISTIANITY

## WHAT ARE THE BIGGEST DIFFERENCES?

Ask any Latter-day Saint if the LDS Church is a “restoration” from biblical times and you will certainly receive a positive response. The problem is that there are many more differences than similarities when the activities/purposes of the LDS temples are compared with the biblical temple. Here are just some of the differences:

ANCIENT BIBLICAL		MODERN LDS
Only one temple (Jerusalem) was recognized	NUMBER	More than 160 LDS temples scattered across the world
Primary activity: Sacrifice of animals in accordance to the law	PURPOSE	Primary activity: “Ordinances” for the living and the dead
Worshippers went to the temple with an attitude of unworthiness before an all-holy God	WORSHIP	Worshippers attend the temple with a “recommend” and positive sense of worthiness
Priests serving in the temple had to come from the tribe of Levi (Num. 3:6-10)	PRIESTS	LDS Church allows “temple worthy” members with no pedigree to participate in rites
Absolutely no evidence that wedding ceremonies ever took place in the temple	WEDDINGS	Marriages for both “time and eternity” regularly take place in Mormon temples
No place for “sealing” of families for time and eternity	SEALINGS	Families are sealed together forever in special rooms
Holy of Holies was entered just one day a year, the Day of Atonement, by the high priest	HOLY OF HOLIES	Salt Lake temple has a “Holy of Holies,” but with an entirely different purpose
Seeking familiar spirits is expressly prohibited	FAMILIAR SPIRITS	Seeking familiar spirits is encouraged

For more on Christian beliefs visit [www.EvangelicalBeliefs.com](http://www.EvangelicalBeliefs.com)

# DETERMINING TRUTH

## How can we know what is really true?

By Rob Sivulka  
[www.MormonInfo.org](http://www.MormonInfo.org)

Everyone, at one time or another, has felt that something was good and right, only to have it later turn into a disaster. No matter how sincere we may have been in following those feelings, we were still wrong. Whether it's a matter of lying to ourselves, or that we are simply mistaken, the point is that our hearts – our feelings – are obviously not 100% trustworthy.

God's Word repeatedly warns of the dangers of our hearts. For example, the Bible teaches that “the heart is more deceitful above all else; who can know it?” (Jer. 17:9). Proverbs 14:12 and 16:25 say that “[t]here is a way that seems right to a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.” The problem with relying on our unreliable hearts is compounded when we realize three other points.

First, it is prideful to merely assume our testimonies are right and everyone else is wrong. People often have experiences that contradict our own. This can be true even when both parties are sincerely reading and studying the same materials.

People who reach contradictory conclusions to our own often claim the Holy Ghost has spoken to them or that they are experiencing the fruit of the Spirit while holding to something directly contrary to what we believe. We can't both be right, even though we may certainly both be wrong.

Second, Satan can transform into an angel of light and his ministers can masquerade as apostles of Christ (2 Cor. 11:13-15). They have been in the deceiving business a lot longer than we have, so they obviously know how to trip us up.

Third, the Bible says even God can send a strong delusion causing people to believe a lie (2 Thess. 2:11).

God allows this for those who persist in not following what He has already clearly revealed. Many people point to James 1:5 to show how we need to sincerely ask God for wisdom and it will be provided. This is certainly true, but it does not justify relying on the feelings of our hearts while being opposed to any other sources of information. God has commanded us to “[t]est all things and hold fast to that which is good” (1 Thess. 5:21).

Fortunately, God has given His word as a light unto our path (Psalm 119:105). There are three biblical tests for determining whether a prophet is indeed from the Lord.

The first is found in Deuteronomy 13:1-5, which states that a “prophet” who gives a sign or wonder but teaches us to follow other gods is a false prophet. He is leading us away from the God who has already been revealed. Jesus told His followers to watch out for false Christs and false prophets who would come later (Matt. 24:24).

The second test is found in Deuteronomy 18:21-22. If a prophet claims to come in the name of the Lord and says that something will come about, and it does not, then this person is a false prophet.

The third and final test is found in Matthew 7:15-20. Jesus teaches us to test a prophet by his fruit, since a good tree can't bear bad fruit and a bad tree can't bear good fruit. In other words, the overall character of his life and what results from it are to be considered.

It behooves every person to carefully test out the truth. Don't accept something just because it “feels” good. And be sure to test out the prophets with the Word of God to ensure their teaching conforms to what is true.



# COMMON QUESTIONS ANSWERED

Many receiving this newspaper may wonder why anyone would take the time to hand this to them or deliver it to their door. Here are some common questions we have heard; in just a few sentences, please allow us to answer them.

### QUESTION: Aren't Mormons Christians?

**ANSWER:** It depends. Is the Mormon in question forgiven? After all, forgiveness is what defines a Christian. We have found that because of the unreasonable high standards of Mormonism, few Mormons have such an assurance. Since Jesus came to save His people from their sins (Matt. 1:21), it is presumptuous to assume you are a Christian if you do not know if you are forgiven. Although the name of Jesus is used in the name of the LDS Church, unfortunately the Jesus of the Bible is much different. (See [www.mrm.org/jesus-of-mormonism](http://www.mrm.org/jesus-of-mormonism) for details.)

### QUESTION: Don't you have anything better to do than hand these newspapers out?

**ANSWER:** We believe that one of the most important things we can do is to share that which is true. Therefore, we want to let open house visitors know that there are many problems with Mormonism. You may not agree, but we are attempting to do this in a manner of gentleness and respect (1 Peter 3:16). We're very grateful that we live in America where we have the right to free speech via the First Amendment!

### QUESTION: Who paid for this newspaper?

**ANSWER:** The Christian ministries listed on the back provided the resources for this publication. They would love to hear from you.

### QUESTION: How much money are you getting paid to do this?

**ANSWER:** The answer, quite simply, is nothing. This newspaper is handed out by volunteers. Some of us are missionaries who raise our own support just like LDS missionaries, while others have regular jobs.

### QUESTION: We don't go to your events. Why do you come to ours?

**ANSWER:** If you really felt that we are lost, perhaps you should. Was the apostle Paul wrong when he attended local synagogues to preach the gospel or when he challenged the Athenians on Mars Hill in Acts 17? In the same way, we feel compelled to go wherever people need to hear this message of hope and truth.

### QUESTION: Aren't the Mormon missionaries teaching a positive gospel and not trying to tear people down?

**ANSWER:** Not entirely. According the LDS manual *Preach My Gospel*, the missionaries are told that their message of LDS belief must include the teaching of the "Great Apostasy." The foundation for the "restored gospel" is explained in Joseph Smith-History 1:19, which is found in the LDS scripture the Pearl of Great Price. According to this passage, Joseph Smith was supposedly told by God that the churches "were all wrong" and "all their creeds were an abomination in his sight; that those professors were all corrupt;" that "they draw near to me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me." If that same accusation were leveled at the LDS Church leaders and its members, would you consider that to be "positive" and uplifting?

### QUESTION: Have you gone inside the temple?

**ANSWER:** As a matter of fact, many of us distributing this paper have gone on the open house tour.

### QUESTION: Wouldn't you agree it's a magnificent building? In fact, there is a lot of fruit of the Mormon Church. Doesn't that show how this church is true?

**ANSWER:** Are you suggesting that because the LDS Church can afford to build elaborate temples, this somehow makes it a Christian church? The LDS Church has many nice-looking buildings scattered throughout the world, but if what takes place in them is not supported in the pages of the Bible, then the work done in them is not God-honoring. And if the faithful Latter-day Saint believes that regularly coming to this building to do good works will help them reach godhood and the celestial kingdom when only a relationship with the true God of the Bible will suffice, then perhaps this is not such a "magnificent" building after all.

MORE? [WWW.MRM.ORG/GET-INTO-HEAVEN](http://WWW.MRM.ORG/GET-INTO-HEAVEN)



# THE LDS GOSPEL IN A NUTSHELL

By Mark D. Champneys  
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Generally Mormons recognize that their only hope rests in the forgiveness of sins because “no unclean thing can dwell there” (Pearl of Great Price, Moses 6:57). The curious thing is that many members who are aware of this need are also conflicted about it.

Is the forgiveness of sins by grace or is it by works? We often hear the emphasis shifted back and forth. Mormonism's third Article of Faith says, “We believe that through Atonement of Christ, all mankind may be saved, by obedience to the laws and ordinances of the gospel.” Do people obtain grace by obeying laws? Oddly—for the Mormon—the answer is yes. Consider these LDS scriptures:

**Doctrine and Covenants 1:31-32** “For I the Lord cannot look upon sin with the least degree of allowance; nevertheless, he that repents and does the commandments of the Lord shall be forgiven.”

**Doctrine and Covenants 82:7** “...sin no more; but unto that soul who sinneth shall the former sins return, saith the Lord your God.”

Based on these verses, I have summarized and stated the LDS way of salvation in a nutshell:

***In Mormonism, before you can be forgiven of a particular sin by the atonement, you must successfully stop that sin permanently. So, in order to be forgiven of all sin for time and all eternity, you must successfully stop all sin permanently.***

Some years ago I visited with a sister missionary at Temple Square and explained that I was formerly an active Mormon who found the nutshell statement above to be very hopeless. She immediately denied that Mormonism teaches such a doctrine, so I encouraged her to check with her church leaders.

“The mission president's office is right here,” she said. “We could ask him.” The mission president graciously allowed us to interrupt his work. I explained that the sister and I disagreed on a doctrinal point.

“My understanding is that in order to be forgiven of a particular sin according to Mormonism, you must successfully stop that sin permanently,” I said. “So, in order to be forgiven of all sin for time and all eternity, you must successfully stop all sin permanently. The sister says that the church does not teach this.”

He immediately turned to her and said, “You're wrong.” Then he pointed at me and said, “You're right.” He admitted that he, too, had once felt hopelessness because of this church teaching. Surprised, I asked, “President, how did you deal with this problem?” He looked at the floor and seemed to be at a loss for words. “Well... I just don't think about it anymore,” he admitted.

I was stunned. That is the mission president's solution to the hopelessness of his own gospel? The sister missionary was visibly shaken by his response, but he quickly changed the subject.

## Where are you placing your hope?

In the LDS gospel? Or in the biblical gospel? The Bible teaches in Ephesians 2:8-9 that salvation comes by grace alone through faith. It must be received as an undeserved gift, or it cannot be received at all. As 1 John 5:13 says, “These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life.”

# LUCIFER'S ROLE IN THE MORMON TEMPLE

By Joel B. Groat  
www.irr.org

The private nature of the LDS temple endowment ceremony provokes considerable speculation. Besides the fact that initiates learn and perform a series of rituals with direct ties to Masonry, some have been troubled by information showing that Lucifer plays a significant role in the LDS endowment rites.

This article refers to the “live” version of the temple ceremony filmed in the Salt Lake City temple and includes minute-marker times for quotes or references to the temple ceremony so they can be easily verified.

Without a doubt this is a sensitive topic. Since Mormons themselves have made this information public and have expressed concerns over the LDS temple rituals, we wish to address it. We also want non-Mormons to have an accurate and factual understanding of what happens behind the closed doors of LDS temples.

## Lucifer in the Temple

An actor playing the role of Lucifer tempts Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden (21:45). Eve takes the forbidden fruit at Lucifer's suggestion, eats it, and pressures Adam to eat it as well. Adam acquiesces. Up to this point, the story loosely follows the biblical account (Genesis 3).

Lucifer's role in the temple ceremony goes beyond the Bible. He also teaches key points of LDS doctrine to Adam and Eve and, by extension, to every Mormon participating in the endowment ceremony.

## Lucifer's Apron

When Lucifer appears in the Mormon temple ceremony, he is wearing an apron and boldly claims: “It is an emblem of my power and Priesthoods” (25:15). There is no ambiguity here. The apron has nothing to do with God; it is an emblem of Satan's power and priesthoods.

A few minutes later when Adam and Eve hear God approaching, Lucifer tells them to make themselves aprons and hide (25:45). Adam replies, “Come, let us hide,” and at that point in the ceremony everyone is told to put on their aprons. So, for the rest of the ritual, on top of their white temple clothes, temple patrons wear a green apron—in obedience to Lucifer and symbolizing, since no other explanation is given, his power and priesthoods.

This stands in stark contrast to what happens in the Bible: God removes the fig-leaf coverings that Adam and Eve make and replaces them with animal skins that He provides. This foreshadows and represents the covering for sins provided by Jesus when he was slain on the cross as the Lamb of God (see John 1:29 and Hebrews 9:22).

To be clear, temple-worthy Mormons do not consider themselves in league with Lucifer, nor do they see Satan in any kind of positive light. However, they have implicitly aligned themselves with Lucifer's teachings and have put on the emblem of his power and authority over everything related to the Mormon God's power and priesthood authority. At no point in the ceremony do they reject the apron or remove it; in fact, many Mormons plan to some day be buried in it.

The fig-leaf apron represents man's attempt to deal with his sin and separation from God on his own. The temple ceremony further represents Satan's ploy to get man to provide a covering for sin apart from God.

## Do You Still Struggle with Sin and Unworthiness?

If you are a temple-worthy Latter-day Saint, how worthy do you feel right now of eternal life in the presence of Heavenly Father? When you are honest with yourself, how much does sin characterize and control your life and relationships? Maybe you're not involved in murder, or adultery and fornication, but how pure is your thought life? Are you ever angry enough to wound and damage your spouse and kids? Or do you struggle with a secret addiction to pornography?

Do you ever feel like you should be doing better? Do you find yourself feeling guilty, frustrated, fearful, and fake?

## The Solution is to Get Rid of the Apron

“Make you aprons” is what Lucifer tells Adam and Eve in the endowment ceremony. While Mormonism does include the atonement, it adds plenty of good works (including baptism and confirmation, obeying the commandments, etc.) that are necessary to make the atonement work. This is Lucifer's apron.

Contrast the LDS teaching with God's testimony found in the Bible:

- “He [God] saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy” (Titus 3:5).
- “For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 6:23).

The God of the Bible invites you to make a trade. You give Him your sinful thoughts, your selfish actions, your murder, adultery, and everything that blackens your soul. In exchange He will give you the perfect righteousness of His Son Jesus Christ, and the promise—yes, the guaranteed promise—of eternal life in His presence.

In stark contrast to Mormonism, Jesus said, “It is finished” (John 19:30). In effect He is saying, “I've done it for you. All of it. Now are you willing to humble yourself enough to simply take it?” The problem with the LDS system is that as long as you are required to contribute something to your own worthiness, you are left with the haunting question, “Have I done enough?”

Toward the end of the ceremony, Lucifer appears and makes a chilling declaration about all the Mormons in attendance: “If they do not continue in every covenant they make at these altars in this temple today, they will be under my power.”

Maybe the reason your life and relationships are not all they should be is because you're still spiritually tied to Lucifer's apron strings. It is possible to be set free by calling out in humility to Jesus and telling Him you will stop trying to contribute to your own worthiness as if His perfect righteousness is not enough to cover all your sins. Accept God's forgiveness, perfection and eternal life as free gifts. When you do, Jesus will cut your spiritual ties to Lucifer forever.

# SACRED OR SECRET?

## WHY ARE LDS TEMPLES SURROUNDED BY SUCH SECRECY? WHY ALL THE LOCKED DOORS?



Because those who have participated in the endowment ceremony make a covenant to not talk about what goes on inside LDS temples, it is often asserted that this is a “secret ceremony.” However, many Mormons become very offended by this connotation, claiming that the ceremony is not “secret” but rather “sacred.”

There are many areas deemed sacred by Latter-day Saints, yet Mormons seem to have no problem discussing them. For instance, the Book of Mormon is considered by them to be a sacred book, but few missionaries would hesitate to tell their testimony about this book and the message contained within its pages.

Until the ceremony was drastically revised in 1990, the temple ceremony itself contained portions that patrons (those who participate in the ceremony) were told to keep secret.

For instance, Mormons must learn three different tokens (handshakes) they feel are necessary for any hope to be able to return to their God after death. These include the first and second token of the Aaronic Priesthood and the First Token of the Melchizedek Priesthood or sign of the Nail and the Second Token of the Melchizedek Priesthood or Sure Sign of the Nail.

Each token came with an obligation of “secrecy.” After learning the “First Token of the Aaronic Priesthood,” a character portraying the Mormon God “Elohim” told the patrons, “I will now explain the covenant and obligation of secrecy which are associated with this token. . . .” They then had to “covenant” never to reveal these secret handshakes by promising, “Rather than do so, I would suffer my life to be taken.” The words “of secrecy” were deleted from the ceremony in 1990, but patrons are still told to “never reveal” what they have learned.

While it is true that the temple is *sacred* to the faithful Latter-day Saint, the fact that what goes on inside is to be kept from public knowledge fits the definition of *secret*. The fact is, the temple is *both* sacred *and* secret. Respected LDS historian Richard L. Bushman agrees. According to a 2008 newspaper article, “While some members will claim that Mormon temples are ‘sacred not secret,’ Bushman said that ‘temples are secret, plain and simple,’ noting that even members ‘don't speak to each other about it’” (“Seek understanding, not converts, Bushman urges Mormons,” *Deseret News*, March 6, 2008).



