

# LDS Doctrine

*"The world has been unable to place a finger upon anything that is inconsistent or out of harmony in the revelations of Joseph Smith with that which has been revealed before, or predicted by the prophets and the Lord Himself." (J. Fielding Smith, Doctrine of Salvation, Vol. 1, p. 189,302)*

*"I say to the whole world, receive the truth, no matter who presents it to you. Take up the Bible, and compare the religion of the Latter-day Saints with it, and see if it will stand the test. (Brigham Young, Journal of Discourses, 16:46)*

*"Convince us of our errors of doctrine, if we have any, by reason, logical argument, or by the Word of God, and we will ever be grateful... that you have been instruments in the hands of God of redeeming your fellow beings." (Orson Pratt, The Seer, p. 15)*

## Beliefs & Practice:

- Feelings dictate truth

Doctrine and Covenants 9:8,9 "...you must study it out in your mind; then you must ask me if it be right, and if it is right I will cause that your **bosom shall burn** within you; therefore, **you shall feel that it is right**. But if it be not right you shall have no such feelings, but you shall have a stupor of thought."

- Truth is not based on a feeling (feelings can be deceptive).

- Sincerity or subjective experience does not dictate Truth (people can be sincerely wrong).

- Truth is open to examination

- The truth can be painful (Galatians 4:16-18), yet it will set us free (John 8:32; Romans 3:2).

Proverbs 28:26 "He who trusts in his own heart is a fool."

Proverbs 14:12 "There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death."

Jeremiah 17:9 "The heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked, who can know it?"

Acts 17:11 "They searched the Scriptures to see if these things were true."

1 Thessalonians 5:21 "Test all things, hold fast to what is good."

1 John 4:1,12 "Do not believe every spirit, test the spirits to see whether they are from God..." "No one has ever seen God... if we love one another, God lives in us..."

2 Timothy 2:15 "Rightly dividing the word of truth."

- LDS Testimony

I know that the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints is the true church...

I know that Joseph Smith was a true prophet...

I know that the Book of Mormon is true...

I have prayed about it and have received a testimony that it is true...

- **Moroni 10:4,5** "...I would exhort you that ye would ask God the Eternal Father, in the name of Christ, if these things are not true; and if ye shall ask with a sincere heart, with real intent, having faith in Christ, he will manifest the truth of it unto you, by the power of the Holy Ghost. and by the power of the Holy Ghost ye may know the truth of all things."
- Mission (perfect the saints, proclaim the gospel, redeem the dead)
- Articles of Faith (13)
- View of the Bible/Restoration (1 Nephi 13:28,32)
  - "True only in so far as it is translated correctly"
  - "Corrupted" "Plain and precious things have been removed" "Untrustworthy" "Lost" "Incomplete"
  - Accept KJV only
  - Joseph Smith's Translation (JSV)
  - (Is. 40:8; Matt. 5:18; 24:35; 1 Pet. 1:23)(Dead Sea Scrolls 98% accurate)
  - (Warning: Prov. 30:5,6; Rev. 22:18,19; Deut. 4:2; 5:22; 12:32)
- Prophets
  - Amos 3:7
  - Living prophet takes precedence over scripture or dead prophet's teaching.
  - Ongoing revelation/open canon (Jude 3, 2 Pet. 1:12-14,19-21; 2 Tim. 1:13,14; Acts. 17:11)
  - (Test of a prophet: Deut. 13:1-5; 18:18-22; Jer. 28:9; 1 Cor. 14; Ezek. 33:33; Lk. 16:16; 24:27; Heb. 1:1,2)
- Baptism (signifies the covenant to abide by all the laws and requirements (works) of the gospel, forgives sins, bestows church membership, Holy Spirit is given by laying on of hands by proper authority. Children are baptized at age 8 (D & C 68:27; 39:6) (1 Pet. 3:21; 1 Cor. 1:17; Lk. 23:39-43; Gal. 3:26; Titus 3:5; Eph. 2:8,9; 1 John 1:7; 2:2) (Acts 2:4; 6:6; 8:18; 10:44-48; 19:6)
- Priesthood (1 Pet. 2:5,9,10; Matt. 27:51; Heb. 7:11-28; 9:10)
- Words of Wisdom (D & C 89) – prohibits against drinking coffee, liquor, tobacco, tea, hot drinks, caffeine
- Eternal Intelligences (D & C 93:23,29; 88:13; Abraham 3; intro 18-23)(Mind/consciousness w/o an eternal God)
- Pre-mortal/Preexistence (Abraham 3:18-23; 5:7,8)
  - spirit = matter (D & C 131:7,8)
  - memory erased
  - (1 Corinthians 15:46; Hebrews 1:5; John 1:12; Galatians 3:26; John 3:13,16; 6:38 "only Son"; 1 John 3:10,11)
- Present: Free Agency (Choose The Right: CTR)(Ether 3:16)(probationary period)

- Post Mortality (paradise or spirit prison/temporary suffering for sins)(D & C 138)(Luke 23:43 Thief on the cross)
- Eternal States: (Degrees of glory: D & C 76:58-109; 88:96-115)(1 Cor. 15:40,41; 2 Cor. 12:2,4)
  - Celestial (D & C 132:16,17; 88:107; 76:58,64-70) (Eternal life/living as god/eternal families/exaltation)
  - Terrestrial (D & C 76:71-80) (good non-Mormons and unfaithful Mormons who receive gospel in spirit prison)
  - Telestial (D & C 76:81-89,109) (majority, clean through suffering in spirit prison)
  - Outer Darkness (D & C 29:36-39) (Satan, fallen spirits, and apostates)
    - Brigham Young stated in Journal of Discourse, V8, p.222 "There are no women in hell."
    - (1 Corinthians 15:40,41; 2 Corinthians 12:2,4; Hebrews 9:27; 10:26,27; Rev. 21:27; Matt. 25:41,46)
    - "Some degree of salvation will come to all who have not forfeited their right to it." (Talmage, Article of Faith, p. 91)
- Temple Works (endowments (garments), celestial marriage, redeeming the dead) (D & C 127, 128, 132, 124, 138)
  - (1 Cor. 3:16,17; 6:19,20; 1 Tim. 2:5,6)
  - Problem: There are no temples in heaven. Only one temple/Jerusalem. Believers=Temple
  - Problem: There are no secret temple rites/names/handshakes/veil/vows in the Bible.
  - Problem: Marriage was never performed in the temple in the Bible.
  - Baptism for the dead (D & C 124:29-30; 127:5-7; 128:1-5,13,15,18; 138:32,33)
    - (Doctrines of the Gospel, p. 85) "*The Lord has commanded that vicarious baptisms be preformed to enable those who receive the gospel in the spirit world to enter his kingdom.*"
    - (1 Corinthians 15:29; 1 Peter 3:19,20; 1 Peter 4:6; Matthew 22:30; Lk. 16:19-31)
  - Genealogies (Heb. 9:27; 2 Cor. 6:2; 1 Timothy 1:4; Psalms 49:7; Titus 3:9; 1 Peter 1;18,19)
  - Celestial marriage/polygamy (D & C 132:4,15-17,131)(Journal of Discourse 2:14; 5:203; 11:269; 21:9)
    - "The only men who become Gods... are those who enter into polygamy." Jor D, V11, p. 269)
    - Joseph Smith, Brigham Young, John Taylor, Wilford Woodruff, Lorenzo Snow, Joseph F. Smith, Herber J. Grant all were polygamists as presidents. (See wives listed on their gravestones)
    - (Matthew 22:30)

### Doctrinal Differences:

- Polytheism (many gods)(Acts 17)
  - \* **The Plurality of gods** is false doctrine (D & C 132:37; 121:28; Abraham 3:22-28; 4:3,4,26; 5:)
  - (Joseph Smith, History of the Church, V.6, p. 473,474) "*I will preach on the plurality of Gods... I wish to declare I have always and in all congregations when I have preached on the subject of the Deity, it has been the plurality of Gods.*"
  - (J. F. Smith, Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, p. 370-372,345,346,349) "*I will preach on the plurality of Gods. The head of the Gods appointed one God for us (Elohim)... Many say there is one God... I say that is a strange God - 3 in 1/1 in 3. All crammed into one... It would make the biggest God... he would be a giant or a monster...*"
  - (Pratt, Journal of Discourse, V. 2, p. 345) "*If we should take a million of worlds like this and number their particles, we should find that there are more gods than there are particles of matter in those worlds.*"
  - (McConkie, Mormon Doctrine, p. 576,577 "*A plurality of Gods exist... "...each of these persons is a God..."*")

*"There are an infinite number of holy personages.... worlds without number, who have passed on to exaltation and are thus Gods...."*

(Isaiah 40:14,18,25,28; 43:10-13; 44:6,8,24; 45:5,6,14,18,, 21,22;46:6,9,10; Hebrews 6:13; 1 Corinthians 8:4-6)

- **Different Heavenly Father (Elohim)**

- \* **God has always been God and was not once an imperfect man** (D & C 130:22; 132:19,20)

- (Hos. 11:9; Is. 14:14; Ez. 28:2; Ps. 90:2; 102:27)

- (Joseph Smith, "The King Follett Funeral Discourse", pp. 8-10) *"God Himself was once as we are now, and is an exalted man... We have imagined and supposed that God was God from all eternity. I will refute that idea... he was once a man like us... dwelt on an earth, the same as Jesus Christ himself did... (He is) like a man in form - like yourselves... You have got to learn to be Gods yourselves... the same as all Gods have done before you... by going from one small degree to another... from exaltation to exaltation... until you arrive at the station of a God... the same as those who have gone before... I will take (my Father's) place and become exalted myself."*

- \* **God does not have an exalted physical body** (Abraham 4:26; D & C 130:22; 132)

- (John 4:24; 1 Tim. 1:17; 6:16; Ps. 139:7; Jer. 23:23,24; Col. 1:15; Job 9:11)

- (Le Grand Richards, A Marvelous Work & Wonder, p. 12) *"We learn (from the first vision) other truths, that God the Father and his son Jesus Christ are separate and distinct personages and that man is literally created in the image of God."*

- (B. H. Roberts, The Mormon Doctrine of Deity, p. 255) *"What is God? He is a material intelligence, possessing both body and parts. He is in the form of man, and is in fact of the same species; and is a model, or standard of perfection to which man is destined to attain; he being the great Father, and head of the whole family. If we are all the same species as God, then the only difference between them (God, Jesus, Lucifer) and us are time and level of progression."*

- (Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, p. 345) *"If you were to see him today, you would see him like a man in form..."*

- (J. F. Smith, Doctrines of Salvation, V. 1, p. 2) *"The vision of Joseph Smith made it clear the Father and the Son are separate personages, having bodies as tangible as the body of man."*

- (Gospel Principles, p. 6, 100) *"God is a glorified and perfected man, a personage of flesh and bones."*

- \* **God is eternal/unchangeable. There is no law of eternal progression** (D & C 130:18,19)

- (Hunter, Gospel Through The Ages, p. 127-129,12) *"Our Eternal Father has attained His position of exaltation and Godhood by obedience to the great law of progression."*

- (Hunter, Gospel Through The Ages, p. 114,115) *"God... took advantage of every opportunity to learn the laws... righteously obeyed it... through absolute obedience... until He attained the status of Godhood."*

- Problem of infinite regression (Who created the first man?)(first man/dependent finite being)

- Are there no first parents?

- Who created the first woman?

Psalms 90:2; 93:2; 102:27

\* **Man can never become god or exalted** (D & C 132:19,20)

**"As man is, god once was, as God is, Man may become"**

(J. F. Smith, Teachings, p,346-348) *"You have got to learn how to be Gods yourselves... until you arrive at the station of a God... I will take his place and thereby become exalted myself..."*

(Joseph Smith, Life and Teachings of Jesus and his Apostles, p. 24) *"You have got to learn how to be Gods yourselves... the same as all Gods have done before you, namely by going from one small degree to another..."*

(Apostle G. Canon, Gospel Truth, v. 1, p. 131,9 *"True evolution... the evolution of man until he shall become a god."*

(McConkie, The Promised Messiah p. 305) *"Man is God in embryo (same species)."*

(B. H. Roberts, The Mormon Doctrine of Deity, p. 255. *"What is God? He is a material intelligence, possessing both body and parts. He is in the form of man, and is in fact of the same species; and is a model, or standard of perfection to which man is destined to attain; he being the great Father, and head of the whole family. If we are all the same species as God, then the only difference between them (God, Jesus, Lucifer) and us are **time** and level of progression."*

(Life and Teachings of Jesus and Apostles, p. 327, 453, 130) *"Those who gain eternal life become gods!"*

(Gen. 3:5; Is. 14:14; Ezek. 28:2; Jn. 3:13; Acts 14:11-16; 1 Cor. 15:44-50; Ps. 82:6; 51:21; 50:21; 144:3,4; Hosea 11:9

\* **God was not married** (goddess wives able to bear spirit children)(Isaiah 44:24)

### The Bible Says:

Psalms 16:4 "The sorrows of those will increase who run after other gods."

Deuteronomy 13:1-5 "If a prophet, or one who foretells by dreams appears among you... and he says, 'Let us follow other gods' (gods which you have not known)... you must not listen to the words of that prophet or dreamer. The LORD your God is testing you to find out whether you love him with all your heart..."

### • Different Son

\* **Jesus is not the Spirit brother of Satan** (in preexistence)(We are not related.)

(Col. 1:16-19) (Heb. 1:6; Rev. 1:8,17,18)(Ezek. 28:13-15; Is. 14:12-17)

\* **Jesus did not have a beginning** ("firstborn" D & C 93:21-23,29)

- Misunderstand "firstborn" and "begotten" meaning created, birthed, or having a beginning.

(Heb. 5:4-10; 11:17; Jn. 1:14; Ps. 2:7 "begotten" means designated/sole representative/unique)

("firstborn" means preeminent/not first born – example Hebrews 1:6; Col. 1:18; Gen. 48:14,17-19)

\* **Jesus is not the literal offspring of Elohim/Mary**

What do we mean when we say that Jesus was the "Son of God"?

(McConkie, *Mormon Doctrine*, 1979, p. 743; 546,547) "*Christ was born into the world as the literal Son of this Holy Being... he was born in the same literal sense that any mortal son is born to a mortal father. He was begotten, conceived, and born in the normal and natural course of events...*"

(Young, *Journal of Discourses*, 11:268) "*The man Joseph ... (had but) one wife, but Mary, the wife of Joseph, had another husband...*"

(McConkie, *A New Witness For The Articles Of Faith*, 1985, p.67) "*All men were born as the sons of God in the spirit, one man (Christ only) was born as the Son of God ... He is the only begotten in the flesh. God was his Father; Mary was his mother. His Father was an immortal man; his mother a mortal woman. He is the Son of God in the same literal, full, and complete sense in which he is the Son of Mary.*"

(Apostle Orson Pratt, *Seer*, 1853, p. 158) "*The fleshly body of Jesus required a Mother as well as a Father... "the Father and Mother of Jesus... must have been ... in the capacity of Husband and wife... the virgin Mary must have been the lawful wife of God... He had a lawful rite to overshadow the virgin Mary in the capacity of a husband... for the law which He gave... was not intended to govern Himself... Inasmuch as God was the first husband to her, it may be that He only gave her to be the wife of Joseph while in this mortal state, and that He intended after the resurrection to again take her as one of his own wives to raise up immortal spirits in eternity."*

- Problem: Virginity? Holy Spirit? Adultery? Incest?

(Is. 7:14; Lk 1:27, 31,34,35; Matt. 1:18,20)

\* **Jesus did not become God through obedience. Jesus is eternal God.**

(Jn. 1:1,15; 8:58; 10:30; Col. 1:15; 2:9; Heb. 1:3; Phil. 2:6; Mk. 2:5-12; Jn. 5:22,23; Heb. 1:6)

(Creator: John 1:1-3; Col. 1:15-17; Heb. 1:2,3)(Able to forgive sins: Mark 2)(Worshiped: Heb. 1:6)

\* **Christ's atonement took place on the Cross.** (not in the garden/insufficient: allows only resurrection/immortality/frees from Adam's sin)(D & C 19:18,19)(no cross on churches)  
(1 Jn. 1:7; Heb. 9:14; Rom. 5:9; Rev. 1:5; 1 Pet. 2:24; 3:18; Col. 1:13,14)

\* The claim that the Book of Mormon states Christ returned to the Americas and set up his church is false.

\* Jesus will not return to Independence, Missouri (D & C 103:11-14; 116)

• **Different Spirit** (D & C 139:22)(Eph. 4:4; 1 Cor. 12:4-6,11; Acts 5:3,4; Is. 6:9; Acts 28:25,26)

(Talmage, *Articles of Faith*, p. 42,43,48) "*The Holy Ghost is a spiritual body waiting to take himself a body as the Savior... or the gods before them...*" (J. Smith)

Problem: Biblical word for Holy Spirit/Holy Ghost is the same. No difference.

• **Different View Of Man**

\* There is original sin (Rom. 3:10-13,23; 5:12,19; Ps. 51:5; Jer. 13:23; Prov. 20:9; 22:15; Ecc. 7:20; 1 Jn. 1:8)

\* Nature of man is inherently not good (D & C 29:46,47)

(Yet the Bible says: Ps. 51:5; Eph. 2:1-3; 1 Jn. 3:4; 5:17; Jer. 13:23; Rom. 3:9-12; 5:12,19; Prov. 22:15)

- free agency (D & C 11:12)
- \* Adam's fall brought destruction, not blessing/joy (Genesis 3 –v- 2 Nephi 2:22-25; Moses 5:10,11)
- \* Certain sins are beyond the atonement (murder, apostasy, adultery)
  - Only willful, conscious sin is wrong.
  - (1 Jn. 3:4; 5:17; Rom. 1:21,28,31; James 4:17; Heb. 10:29)
- **Different View Of Creation** (Abraham 1:31; 3:18,24; 4:1-3)(Kolob: Abraham 3:3-16)
  - \* Council of the gods reorganized pre-existing matter
  - Smith, History of the Church of Later-day Saints, 1978, 6:308, "Pure principles of element can never be destroyed... they may be reorganized ... they had no beginning and can have no end."
  - (Romans 4:17; Genesis 1:1; John 1:3; Hebrews 11:3; Psalms 33:6,9; Nehemiah 9:6; Acts 17:25; Isaiah 44:24)