

Some critical questions to ask of a Mormon

1. When it comes to understanding issues like how can one inherit eternal life, where do you place the Bible in terms of authority?

This is very important to begin any conversation with any cultist. If you cannot refer to the scriptures as the ultimate authority to understand God's way of salvation then it simply becomes your opinion vs. theirs.

Mormons believe in four "standard works"

- King James Version of the Bible
- The Book of Mormon
 - A translation of an ancient document that gives an account of three groups of people who migrated to the Americas from the Middle East, the latest of these arriving about 589 BC.
- The Doctrine & Covenants
 - A collection of modern revelations, most of which were given by LDS founder J. Smith.
- The Pearl of Great Price
 - A collection of smaller works.

Mormons believe:

If there are discrepancies between what the KJV and the Book of Mormon the Mormon will always take their book as superior. They have repeatedly stated that the Bible "is the word of God as long as it is translated correctly." Since it has been transmitted over the centuries, "it has suffered the loss of many a plain and precious parts." Thus the Book of Mormon must take precedence because it has not been copied over and over but is first witness to the word of God.

Joseph Smith: Doctrine & Covenants 73:4 Quoting Smith from July 2, 1833; "this day we finished the translating of the Scriptures....."

Orthodox position:

To call this a translation would be misleading at best. With no linguistic training whatsoever, whenever he opened the KJV and found something that disagreed with his teaching he reserved the right to modify the Bible. He even added a prophecy of his own birth to Gen 50:33. [There is no verse beyond 26 in our Bible.] Today Joe's modifications are listed as footnotes to their version of the KJV.

Refer to the letters from Smith and Professor Anthon of Columbia University.

2. Where do we find the ultimate authority for life?

Mormons will always refer to either the standard works, (placing the Bible as the least authoritative), or the continuing revelation of the churches prophets.

Most if not all cults lead by ultimately claiming the authority of God to be their own. Smith was given the authority to determine whether someone would ever see heaven. Brigham Young & his counselor stated, “the only way a latter –day saint could hope to enter the highest level of Mormon heaven, (the celestial kingdom), was if he had Joseph Smith’s permission. Apostle Bruce McConkie declared, “ all men in the latter days must turn to Joseph Smith to gain salvation.”

Consider some of the minor cults we’ve witnessed in our own time.

- David Koresh & the Davidians
- Jim Jones / Jonestown “People’s Temple” / Guiana church.

3. Who is Jesus and what did he do for his people?

Mormons believe

Jesus preexisted in heaven before he became a man but so did all of us. Jesus is the firstborn of all “spirit children” and the first of many who became a god. Although Jesus is a member of the godhead, we should not pray to him b/c he is a human. He is the literal son of God because God fathered him via a physical union with Mary. Jesus did secure “immortality” for all human beings, whether they believe in Him or not. After He rose from the dead He went to the Americas where he preached to Nephites. (Book of Mormon 3 Nephi)

Jesus was not only a pre-existing spirit but the spirit brother of the devil. [Pearl of Great Price, Moses 4:1-4]. He was also married to both Mary’s & Martha according to Apostle Orson Hyde “Journal of Discourses Vol. 4 pp 259- 260.

4. How are we saved?

[See Kingdom of the Cults page 220 & 221]