

Hi Hannah and thank you so much for your well thought out response. I assure you that we absolutely love that you are a customer and have used Apologia. We applaud your homeschooling efforts. We produce material that can be used by anyone who agrees with our doctrine. We obviously, however cannot compromise the truth and our belief system just to sell books. I'm sure you would disagree with that approach as well. You wouldn't compromise the teachings of the LDS just to sell materials to other religions. You would stand firmly to your beliefs and welcome others knowing that some will disagree.

Just to set your mind at ease: I've been studying the teachings of the Mormon Church for 35+ years. I own a large library of LDS materials and have read The Book of Mormon, The Pearl of Great Price, Doctrine & Covenants, and much more including The Articles of Faith of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints and many historical writings by the current and past presidents. I also own the entire 26-volume of the Journal of Discourses and have read and referenced much of it

Apologia and the individuals involved are Christians. One cannot call themselves a "Christian" unless they are followers of the biblical Jesus. A cult is a group that denies one or more key orthodox doctrines of the Judeo-Christian, historical church – the teachings of the New Testament Apostles.

IS THE Church of Jesus Christ of LDS A POLYTHEISTIC or MONOTHEISTIC RELIGION?

As Christians, we are 'monotheists' – we believe in ONLY 1 God as the scripture clearly teaches. We are not polytheists like Mormonism. Mormonism teaches there are many Gods (polytheism). (Mormon Doctrine, p. 163. – and they are not talking about false gods like the Bible does). In fact the LDS teach that the god you claim to worship was once a man who attained godhood. Mormon males plan to do the same. Don't use the ridiculous argument that there is "only one god with whom we have to do." This is a cop-out and a deception. Mormon doctrine is infinitely clear on its polytheistic teachings in the church. (all quotations I use are from Mormon authors in good standing and authoritative as well as clear doctrines taught by the LDS for decades):

[God used to be a man on another planet (Mormon Doctrine, p. 321; Joseph Smith, Times and Seasons, vol. 5, p. 613-614; Orson Pratt, Journal of Discourses, vol. 2, p. 345; Brigham Young, Journal of Discourses, vol. 7, p. 333).]

["God himself was once as we are now, and is an exalted man, and sits enthroned in yonder heavens!!! . . . We have imagined that God was God from all eternity. I will refute that idea and take away the veil, so that you may see," (Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, p. 345).]

[God the Father had a Father, (Joseph Smith, History of the Church, vol. 6, p. 476; Heber C. Kimball, Journal of Discourses, vol. 5, p. 19; Milton Hunter, First Council of the Seventy, Gospel through the Ages, p. 104-105).]

[After you become a good Mormon, you have the potential of becoming a god, (Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, p. 345-347, 354).]

["Then shall they be gods, because they have no end; therefore shall they be from everlasting to everlasting, because they continue; then shall they be above all, because all things are subject unto them. Then shall they be gods, because they have all power, and the angels are subject unto them," (D&C- (Doctrine & Covenants) - 132:20).]

["And they (the Gods) said: Let there be light: and there was light," (Book of Abraham 4:3).]

THE COJC of LDS BELIEVES THE TRINITY TO BE 3 SEPARATE GODS

[The trinity is three separate Gods: The Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost. "That these three are separate individuals, physically distinct from each other, is demonstrated by the accepted records of divine dealings with man," (Articles of Faith, by James Talmage, p. 35.).

"Many men say there is one God; the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost are only one God. I say that is a strange God [anyhow]--three in one and one in three. . .It is curious organization... All are crammed into one God according to sectarianism (Christian faith). It would make the biggest God in all the world. He would be a wonderfully big God--he would be a giant or a monster," (Joseph Smith, Teachings, p. 372).]

Hannah, I appreciate your zeal good values but you are in no way a Christian since you do not believe in the biblical Jesus. You have Christian values that are honorable but values without the biblical Jesus will only lead to your eternity in a Christ-less hell.

When you say "I am a proud loving follower of my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" as great of a statement that is, you are following and loving the wrong lord and savior. Here's what you are actually saying:

"I am a proud follower of my Lord (one of 3 separate gods) and savior (he cannot atone for some sins according to the LDS teachings) Jesus Christ (the brother of Satan, begotten by physical, sexual intercourse between god and his spirit daughter Mary).

[The first spirit to be born in heaven was Jesus, (Mormon Doctrine, p. 129).

Jesus and Satan are spirit brothers and we were all born as siblings in heaven to them both, (Mormon Doctrine, p. 163; Gospel Through the Ages, p. 15).

Jesus' sacrifice was not able to cleanse us from all our sins, (murder and repeated adultery are exceptions), (Journal of Discourses, vol. 3, 1856, p. 247).

"Therefore we know that both the Father and the Son are in form and stature perfect men; each of them possesses a tangible body . . . of flesh and bones," (Articles of Faith, by James Talmage, p. 38).

"The birth of the Saviour was as natural as are the births of our children; it was the result of natural action. He partook of flesh and blood - was begotten of his Father, as we were of our fathers," (Journal of Discourses, vol. 8, p. 115).

"Christ was begotten by an Immortal Father in the same way that mortal men are begotten by mortal fathers," (Mormon Doctrine, by Bruce McConkie, p. 547).

"Christ Not Begotten of Holy Ghost ...Christ was begotten of God. He was not born without the aid of Man, and that Man was God!" (Doctrines of Salvation, by Joseph Fielding Smith, 1954, 1:18).

"Elohim is literally the Father of the spirit of Jesus Christ and also of the body in which Jesus Christ performed His mission in the flesh..." (First Presidency and Council of the Twelve, 1916, "God the Father," compiled by Gordon Allred, p. 150).]

Hannah, the biblical Jesus was begotten by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary and is God in the flesh. He was not the first one born in heaven but is the eternal and only God. The bible is clear that there are no other Gods:

[There is only one God - Dt 6:4; 33:26-27; Isa 43:10; 45:5; 46:9; 1Ti 2:5]

[God is not a man - Nu 23:19; 1Sa 15:29; Hos 11:9.]

[God the Father has always existed as such - Dt 33:27; Isa 43:10; 44:6; 45:5, 21; 46:9; Mal 3:6; 1Co 8:4; 1Ti 2:5; Rev 1:8; 21:6; 22:13]

[God the Father, the eternal God is Spirit - Isa 55:8-9; 6:1-5; 57:15; Pss 90:2; 113:5-6; 123:1; Jn 4:24; 8:23 - Jesus said that a spirit does not have flesh and bones Lk 24:39 - As Psalms 90:2 and 93:2 state, God has been God "from eternity to eternity."]

[Jesus was and is Almighty God from everlasting to everlasting. He is the creator of all that exists and is "firstborn" over all creation in the sense that He is the preeminent originator of life and the universe (Mic 5:2; Ps 90:2; Jn 1:1-3; Ac 3:14-15; Col 1:16-17; Heb 1:2). This meaning for the word "firstborn" can be understood by comparing Genesis 41:51-52, which states that Manasseh was Joseph's "firstborn" son while Ephraim was the second, with Jeremiah 31:9, where God calls Ephraim the "firstborn." Obviously, "firstborn" does not always mean the one literally born first.]

Hannah, one of the saddest comments you made was "Never would our leaders or any true follower of Christ condone the "bashing" another religion while at church on Sunday or any other time."

You should be aware of the teachings of your own church. Apparently you were unaware the Mormonism was founded on the STRONG teaching that Christianity and Christians are of the devil, Christianity is nonsense, we are heathens, ignorant, NOT the true church, that there is NO salvation without accepting Joseph Smith, etc. (see references below). We are not the "bashers" - Joseph Smith was:

LDS teach the foundation of Mormonism is what supposedly happened to Joseph Smith: Smith was told by the two personages who stood in front of him, as one pointed to the other saying "This is my Beloved Son. Hear Him!" (the two personages were apparently God the Father, and Jesus Christ the Son). Then Smith asked the personages who stood above him which of all the sects was right - and which he should join. Smith said "I was answered that I must join none of them, for they were all wrong and the Personage who addressed me said that all their creeds were an abomination in His sight; that those professors were all corrupt... He again forbade me to join with any of them." (emphasis mine). This is ALL in reference to the same belief system we Christians have today.

If you have not learned yet, you will that the LDS believes that Jesus Christ was a polygamist:

"I discover that some of the Eastern papers represent me as a great blasphemer, because I said, in my lecture on Marriage, at our last Conference, that Jesus Christ was married at Cana of Galilee, that Mary, Martha, and others were his wives, and that he begat children." (Orson Hyde, Journal of Discourses 2:210)

The grand reason of the burst of public sentiment in anathemas upon Christ and his disciples, causing his crucifixion, was evidently based upon polygamy, according to the testimony of the philosophers who rose in that age. A belief in the doctrine of a plurality of wives caused the persecution of Jesus and his followers. We might almost think they were 'Mormons'" (Jedediah M. Grant, Journal of Discourses, 1:346]

Have you learned yet that Brigham Young, who held the office of President of the Mormon Church longer than any other man, taught that men must practice polygamy in order to become Gods:

["The only men who become Gods, even the Sons of God, are those who enter into polygamy." Journal of Discourses 11:269]

Have you forgotten that in order to gain entrance into the highest form of Mormon heaven, the Celestial kingdom, you must accept Joseph Smith, Jr. as a prophet of god. Faith in Jesus alone, Mormonism teaches, will force you to spend eternity in a lower form of heaven:

Tenth LDS President Joseph Fielding Smith stated in his book, doctrines of Salvation, that there is "No salvation without accepting Joseph Smith. The word "salvation," used in this context, must really mean "exaltation" because former Mormon apostle Bruce R. McConkie stated in his book Mormon Doctrine that general salvation is given to everyone regardless of belief. Personal salvation or exaltation to the highest form of Mormon heaven comes only by accepting Joseph Smith as a prophet of god and by following the laws of the LDS church. **[There is no salvation without accepting Joseph Smith as a prophet of God - Doctrines of Salvation, vol. 1, p. 188].**

Hannah, The Church of Jesus Christ of latter-day Saints, is not Christian. It uses Christian words and Christian ideas, but it changes the meaning of the words and alters those ideas. So, instead of God being the eternal God, the Mormonism God is an exalted man from another planet. Instead of Jesus being the creator of the universe (Col. 1:15-17), Jesus is the product of sexual relations between God and his goddess wife. Of course, when the LDS Church represents itself, it does not represent these "deeper" truths. Instead, they try to appear evangelical all the while hiding beneath the surface these unbiblical and false teachings.

Please leave the false teachings of the LDS and embrace the biblical Jesus. Use your zeal for the infinite God-man Jesus Christ. Give your heart to Him, not to the brother of Lucifer who was exalted to God-hood and was born to Jesus who as the LDS teach is a creation, the product of relations between god and his goddess wife who used to be people from another world (McConkie, Bruce, Mormon Doctrine, p. 192, 321, 516, 589), the literal spirit brother of the devil (McConkie, p. 192, 589). Your eternity depends on Who you worship. Please leave the false worship established by the LDS leadership and founders.

Finally, you said "I have heard all the arguments and the information from which the arguments care are false." Here's the challenge: find any false statements above. Nothing I have stated above is false but from the actual teachings of the LDS. In your search to try and falsify any of the above, make sure you have the authority of the church to believe differently than they have and are teaching. If key doctrines have changed, ask why.

While you are contemplating the deception you have lived with for so many years, consider the following questions that I and a friend have put together for you to answer:

1. If the principle of "progression" is eternally true, why is it that Jesus and the Holy Spirit are not gods of their own worlds?
2. If it is necessary to have a body in order to become a God, then how did the Holy Spirit, who does not have a body, attain the status of godhood.
3. If the book of Mormon is the most correct book of any on earth and contains the fullness of the gospel, then why does it not contain the essential Mormon doctrines of eternal progression, the priesthoods, the plurality of gods, that God is an exalted man, and the 3 degrees of glory?
4. If the book of Mormon was transmitted to us by the power of God, why does it have thousands of changes in it?
5. Why does the book of Mormon say that black skin is not "enticing" to God's people in 2 Nephi 5:21? "And he had caused the acursing to come upon them, yea, even a sore cursing, because of their iniquity. For behold, they had hardened their hearts against him, that they had become like unto a flint; wherefore, as they were white, and exceedingly fair and delightful, that they might not be enticing unto my people the Lord God did cause a skin of blackness to come upon them."
6. Why does the Mormon Church still claim the book of Abraham is inspired Scripture, when it has been demonstrated that it is not that, but is instead an Egyptian burial papyrus?
7. How could the Garden of Eden be in Missouri (according to Mormonism) when the Pearl of great Price 3:10-14 tells us it was the area of Assyria when it mentions the rivers of Eden located there?
8. Mormonism teaches an infinite regression of Gods, but an infinite regression of gods means that there is no first god by which his subjects were exalted to godhood. If there is no first God, how can there be a second and a third, and thus the Mormon doctrine of eternal progression?
9. If Elohim (which is God the Father in Mormonism) was once a man, then he changed from being a man to becoming God. How is this possible when the Bible says in Psalm 90:2, that God is God from everlasting to everlasting?
10. Joseph Smith said he saw God the father (and Jesus) in the first vision in 1820. Smith said he received the priesthood in 1829. In the Doctrine and Covenants 84:21-22 Smith said that you cannot see the face of God and live without the authority of the

priesthood. How did Joseph Smith see God when he didn't have the priesthood?

11. How did Joseph Smith carry home the Golden plates when the weight of the plates, if they had been pure gold, would have been over 200 pounds?

12. Some later Mormon apologists are theorizing that the Golden Plates were not pure gold, but an alloy weighing as little as 50 pounds. There is no mention by Joseph Smith receiving any supernatural help carrying the plates. How is it possible for Smith to run with 50 pounds of metal plates under his arm, for three miles, while being pursued and attacked three times?

13. In Mormonism, the father is called Elohim and Jesus is called Jehovah. But in 1 Kings 8:60 it says that "The Lord is God." Literally in the Hebrew it is "Jehovah is Elohim." How do you explain this passage that says Jehovah is Elohim?

14. In Mormonism, God and his wife are exalted beings from another world. We know that life forms from another planet are called aliens. Therefore, isn't it true that Mormons worship an alien from another world who they call their god?

15. Brigham Young, the second prophet of the Mormon Church, said that the birth of Jesus was "the result of natural action" (Journal of discourses, volume 8, page 115). He also said, "When the time came that His first-born, the Saviour, should come into the world and take a tabernacle, the Father came Himself and favoured that spirit with a tabernacle instead of letting any other man do it," (Journal of Discourses, vol. 4, p. 218). In light of this, how was Jesus born of the Virgin Mary?

16. In light of the previous question and Mormon doctrine saying that we are all literally the children of God, then wasn't Brigham Young teaching that God had relations with his spirit daughter?

17. According to Mormonism, Jesus was the one being married to Mary and Martha at the wedding of Cana in John 2. If this is so, then why was Jesus invited to his own wedding?

18. If the book of Mormon is true, why have both National Geographic and the Smithsonian Institute rejected it as being archaeologically reliable?

19. Why is it that there have been no archaeological discoveries at all that demonstrate what Joseph Smith said is "reformed Egyptian?"

20. Why does the book of Mormon contain the word "church" in 1 Nephi 14:3, 9, 10, 12 which was set around 600 BC, yet the word church was not used until the time of Jesus (Matt. 16:18)?

21. Why is the French word "adieu" in the book of Mormon in Jacob 7:27?

22. Why should I become a Mormon if when I die, I go to the middle level of heaven when that is where most Mormons will go anyway?

Please feel free to call me when you have answered the above questions. Feel free to show me any information I've provided above that is false.

"The sun still shines."

Larry Blythe, M.A.A.

Apologia Online Academy Director/Instructor

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