

# WHAT'S WRONG WITH MORMONISM?

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Of all the major false worship systems which claim to be Christian, perhaps the easiest to debunk is Mormonism - that is, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints or simply, LDS. (See the links at this site's [home page](#) for "What's Wrong with ..." various other false religious systems.)

For example, the LDS and Roman Catholic Church (RCC) both claim to be the "one true Church." But pitted against the RCC, the LDS is no competition. Catholicism (another false "Christian religion") is a much more cunning and wily web of danger, with subtleties and deceptions strategically designed for greater effectiveness in victimizing the unwary. The false doctrines of Catholicism are much more shrewdly interwoven with truth and terminology common to true Christianity, causing great difficulty and frustration when attempting to dissemble it to reveal the contamination. Exposing LDS inventions, distortions and deceit is comparatively easy, and no thinking person should fall for them.

And beyond its more effective, comprehensive and adroitly-contrived *shtick*, the RCC has owned the corner in the religion marketplace seemingly forever, wielding its sometimes ruthless influence among religion's powerbrokers in ways the LDS can only envy and hope for. The RCC long ago seized "top dog" status for itself, allowing it to bully and pontificate while using its power and PR strategies to successfully fend off challenges to its self-appointed position and self-declared doctrines. The news media, social advocates, political pundits, secular leaders and various other authorities in all types of venues seek out Catholic church officials as the de facto and empirical experts whenever a need to consult the "official" religious view of a particular matter or event arises.

Mormonism comes nowhere near to such religious stature and clout. With a mere 2 centuries of history, it pales in comparison in its ability to ensnare the lost and to see to it that they remain lost and become even more lost. Of course, both the RCC and LDS have great success - as do many other false worship systems - due to the abundance of folks who are unwilling or unable to think and investigate the truth of Scripture for themselves.

Since "religion" to so many is mysterious and intimidating, the LDS and the many other purveyors of false doctrine are able to trap even the educated and powerful. Just like "average" people, those of greater achievement and success are thankful for organizations which are willing and able (so they claim) to tend to their members' spiritual needs. Their followers conveniently convince

themselves that such things transcend their mere common wherewithal and are, after all, the responsibility of their religious leaders. Since they are not really interested in God or spiritual things and would much rather pursue worldly desires, they are grateful to be able to entrust spiritual matters, including their very eternal destiny, to those who claim to have God's special calling and therefore possess greater access to revelations of obscure and profound truths not available to or digestible by everyday men.

But that type of claim is the very undoing of LDS teachings when folks properly measure proposed doctrine against legitimate Scripture (Acts 17:11). Mormons hope and expect to convince their prey to accept revelation which they claim to have received, no matter how preposterous it may be. Confusion and disagreement are ascribed to a lack of spiritual discernment caused by an individual's failure to trust revelation received by church leaders. Such folks are promised that submission to LDS direction and practice will allow them, also, to receive and understand new revelation. Any further resistance causes the "faith" of the doubter to be brought into question; that he does not trust God to reveal new truths and fails to recognize the need for it; that he disparages the Holy Spirit's power and role in continually revealing such truth to men.

However, when Scripture is not the sole anchor to which an individual and his judgment of offered doctrine is tethered, cultists can easily and strategically guide him into the mysterious domain of "personal revelation" or the trusting of leadership claims regarding what God has "revealed" directly and uniquely to them. When this is accomplished, there are and can be no checks and balances for the targeted candidate to rely upon. Once he allows himself to fall for the notion that extra-biblical revelation is both necessary and key, he has entered a no-man's land and has played right into the hands of his captors.

The Mormon heresy emphasizes and heavily relies upon this trust in personal revelation. In fact, the entirety of the LDS deception begins and ends with this concept. Of course, such revelation cannot be confirmed or authenticated except in the circular course which begins and ends with LDS claims. The very invention and foundation of the Mormon cult springs from Joseph Smith's fantastic claims of personal revelation which both came to him and were deciphered for him in a great supernatural mystery.

Robert Hales, a member of the LDS' Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, [has said](#), "*Personal revelation is the way we know for ourselves the most important truths of our existence.*" Obviously, this opens the door to unmanageable chaos and confusion. The LDS attempts to contain all that just as the RCC and other cults do; by establishing those among its leadership who have the final say regarding

the authenticity and legitimacy of any particular revelation. This is a common, telltale cult technique for controlling followers. But this works only until folks begin asking unwanted questions.

And yet, even though Mormon leadership manipulates and controls truth for itself, the LDS, as other cults, has been forced to reverse itself many times over its history in order to “resolve” whatever problems or to accommodate whatever self-serving needs have arisen. When, in addition to this, we consider that the claims of Joseph Smith and subsequent LDS leadership have been easily and repeatedly exposed for the shams that they are, there ought to be no chance that an educated, thinking, reasoning individual should fall for the LDS trap.

Nevertheless, this continues to occur because such education, thought and reason serve as protections only when they flow from an accurate grasp of Scripture and a willingness and ability to apply 1Jn 4:1 (among many other God-provided safeguards). When the unchanging, unfailing, empirical standard of Scripture is ignored or replaced, anything and everything is possible. As it is said, “He who does not stand for something will fall for anything.”

Another facet of LDS success in converting the unsuspecting is their deceptive incompleteness and dishonesty when evangelizing. In contrast, generally speaking, Jehovah’s Witnesses willingly and openly testify truthfully and completely to their held doctrines. Yes, Watchtower teachings are also at odds with Scripture, but JW’s don’t attempt to deceive and lure folks in with strategic ruses. For the most part, what JW’s present at your door is what you would hear, see and experience in their Kingdom Hall.

Mormons, on the other hand, come knocking with only their least outlandish claims and save their utter nonsense for later, after their prey has been reeled in. Mormons convict themselves just as the Pharisees of the NT did; that is, the Pharisees knew the truth (Mt 22:16; Mk 12:14; Lk 20:21; Jn 3:2!) - they simply chose their own interests instead. Likewise, Mormons openly testify to their knowledge that their doctrine is false by hiding it when evangelizing. They will appeal to commonly known and generally accepted Scriptural truths (though they twist, distort and mix them with various falsehoods), but they do not discuss - either at all, or in any way which risks exposure - their Book of Mormon, “Doctrine and Covenants,” “Pearl of Great Price” and Temple Ceremonies at your door. Those come in time.

The Catholics do not bother with evangelization. They use mystery, pompous claims and “brand-name recognition” to attract new folks - and fear and intimidation to retain current members (however, the power and success in

these have greatly diminished). Being more shrewd than other cults, they use a shell game to tie their own claimed and exclusive revelatory discoveries to deceptive historical hinge pins, church teachings, oral Tradition and whatnot.

But the RCC and JW's at least make the attempt to synchronize their added and distorted truths with legitimate truth. The LDS unashamedly does not concern itself with the obvious; that their added truth cannot possibly be brought in line with the truths of legitimate Scripture. As a result, there is absolutely no excuse for anyone who recognizes that God must be sovereign and empirical in all things - especially in establishing trustworthy, reliable, never-changing truth - to become ensnared by the LDS.

Excerpted from the [doctrine](#) link on this site:

*Although God and His workings are evident in creation, though He additionally reveals Himself and His truths through the agency of the Holy Spirit, and though many folks may experience dreams, visions, "coincidences" and various other confirmations from God, the Scriptures are the empirical standard by which all such perceived truths are either affirmed as true or denied as false.*

*Likewise, theological truths derived from scholastic and other endeavors are to be tested and proven against this unchanging, unailing standard. There is not, has never been, nor ever will be any revelation which corrects, supersedes or augments in any way any portion of the pristine originals of the Scriptures, however slight or insignificant the modification may seem from the view of man.*

*Any and all additional "revelation," whether through modern "prophets," "discoveries" of man (other than lost manuscripts of the inspired Word), new writings, modern theological, philosophical or other "breakthroughs," or any other claim of new or corrective revelation from or of God violate Scripture's commands not to add to or take away from God's inspired Word. Conflicts with Scripture which are justified as "oral teachings," "church tradition" or which are characterized in any other way are merely violations of Scripture. Such conflicts are resolved by simply adopting the view of Scripture. Any other course necessarily opens the door to an endless and irresolvable conflict among men in their futile attempt to wrest control of truth from one another - and from God.*

Ironically, the most effective nutshell summary of the fundamental error of Mormonism is provided to us by Mormons themselves. Proudly trumpeted and prominently displayed on the cover of their very own "Book of Mormon" is a subtitle which says it all: "Another Testament of Jesus Christ."

Without knowing any more of the specific errors of LDS doctrine and practice (and they are quite numerous and various), this subtitle of a book which was compiled according to a fantastic and literally incredible modern discovery of magic plates with illegible hieroglyphics, translated in a manner which can only be characterized in similar fashion, tells us all we really need to know.

For there can be no other Testament of Jesus Christ beyond the completed revelation which God has provided for us in the Scriptures. How can we be sure? The Scriptures themselves plainly declare it. And so, it is a rather simple matter to resolve: If the Scriptures are true, then the Book of Mormon is a hoax; if the Book of Mormon is true, then the Scriptures are a hoax. Or, as the adage places in proper perspective: “If it’s true, it’s not new; if it’s new, it’s not true.”

And yet, it is perplexing that Mormons, in irrational inconsistency, still claim the legitimate Scriptures - the 66 canonical books - to be God’s inspired Word, just as true believers do. They rightly view it as His inspired provision, yet somehow refuse to be pinned down by Scripture’s claims that it *alone* holds such authority. God’s Word specifically and emphatically precludes us from adding to, detracting from or modifying it in any way (see below).

Quite conveniently, the LDS view is that Scripture is inerrant only to the extent it is properly interpreted. The error in that claim is a bit subtle but ought to be readily apparent: Scripture *IS* inerrant. While it sounds virtuous to qualify its inerrancy upon proper interpretation, no process to which Scripture is subjected can alter its inerrancy. Application of some process may yield errors and falsehoods, but the inerrant Scriptures to which the flawed process was applied nevertheless retain their pristine purity. Through a deft sleight-of-hand, the LDS attempts to imperceptibly move the inerrant, empirical, trustworthy standard from the Scriptures themselves to the “proper” Mormon interpretation of them.

So, just as the RCC adds its “oral Tradition” and the teaching authority of its Magisterium to the Scriptures (actually, it places them *above* the Scriptures - they deny this but it is easily and logically proven by appealing to their own official documentation and practice), the LDS adds the Book of Mormon and their “Doctrine and Covenants,” “Pearl of Great Price” and Temple Ceremonies (not to mention Joseph Smith’s personal translation of the legitimate Scriptures; their so-called Inspired Version).

The Catholics claim that the whole of Scripture is the bible plus their Tradition (they capitalize Tradition to distinguish it from ordinary, non-Scriptural tradition). The LDS claims that the whole of Scripture is the bible plus the Book of Mormon and other items listed above. Worse, both false churches maintain an ongoing

provision for any necessary “course adjustments.” The Catholics assert that their Magisterium has the power to declare truth; the LDS places this power in their “current Prophet.” Of course, neither group seems concerned that the bible declares that it alone is Scripture, complete and perfect - not in need of any assistance from the additions and inventions of men:

- Rev 22:18-19 I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds anything to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book. <sup>19</sup>And if anyone takes words away from this book of prophecy, God will take away from him his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book.
- Dt 4:2 Do not add to what I command you and do not subtract from it, but keep the commands of the LORD your God that I give you.
- Dt 12:32 See that you do all I command you; do not add to it or take away from it.
- Pr 30:6 Do not add to his words, or he will rebuke you and prove you a liar.
- Ecc 12:11-12a The words of the wise are like goads, their collected sayings like firmly embedded nails-given by one Shepherd. <sup>12</sup>Be warned, my son, of anything in addition to them.

Next, we have Scripture’s warnings to guard against false teaching:

- 2Jn 10-11 If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not take him into your house or welcome him. <sup>11</sup>Anyone who welcomes him shares in his wicked work.
- Gal 1:6-7a I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you by the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel- <sup>7</sup>which is really no gospel at all.
- Pr 14:15 A simple man believes anything, but a prudent man gives thought to his steps.
- Eph 4:14 Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming.
- Col 2:8 See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ.
- 1Ti 4:1-2 The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons. <sup>2</sup>Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron.
- 1Ti 4:7 Have nothing to do with godless myths and old wives' tales; rather, train yourself to be godly.
- 1Ti 4:16a Watch your life and doctrine closely.
- 1Ti 6:3-4a If anyone teaches false doctrines and does not agree to the sound instruction of our Lord Jesus Christ and to godly teaching, <sup>4</sup>he is conceited and understands nothing.
- Tit 1:9-11 He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who

oppose it. <sup>10</sup>For there are many rebellious people, mere talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision group. <sup>11</sup>They must be silenced, because they are ruining whole households by teaching things they ought not to teach-and that for the sake of dishonest gain.

Tit 2:1 You must teach what is in accord with sound doctrine.

Tit 2:15a These, then, are the things you should teach.

Heb 13:9a Do not be carried away by all kinds of strange teachings.

### Scripture also warns against false prophets and deceivers:

2Co 2:17 Unlike so many, we do not peddle the word of God for profit. On the contrary, in Christ we speak before God with sincerity, like men sent from God.

2Co 11:13-15 For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, masquerading as apostles of Christ. <sup>14</sup>And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. <sup>15</sup>It is not surprising, then, if his servants masquerade as servants of righteousness. Their end will be what their actions deserve.

1Jn 4:1 Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world

Mt 7:15 "Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves.

2Pe 2:1-3 But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them-bringing swift destruction on themselves. <sup>2</sup>Many will follow their shameful ways and will bring the way of truth into disrepute. <sup>3</sup>In their greed these teachers will exploit you with stories they have made up. Their condemnation has long been hanging over them, and their destruction has not been sleeping.

Jude 4 For certain men whose condemnation was written about long ago have secretly slipped in among you. They are godless men, who change the grace of our God into a license for immorality and deny Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord.

Act 20:30 Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them.

Mt 24:4 Jesus answered: "Watch out that no one deceives you.

Eph 5:6-7 Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient. <sup>7</sup>Therefore do not be partners with them.

Col 2:4 I tell you this so that no one may deceive you by fine-sounding arguments.

2Th 2:3a Don't let anyone deceive you in any way,

Jam 1:16 Don't be deceived, my dear brothers.

2Pe 2:17 These men are springs without water and mists driven by a storm. Blackest darkness is reserved for them.

2Pe 1:20-21 Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. <sup>21</sup>For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

1Jn 2:26 I am writing these things to you about those who are trying to lead you astray.

### And Scripture cautions us regarding those who cause divisions:

Rom 16:17-18 I urge you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned. Keep away from them. <sup>18</sup>For such people are not serving our Lord Christ, but their own appetites. By smooth talk and flattery they deceive the minds of naive people.

Gal 1:7b Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ.

Tit 3:10-11 Warn a divisive person once, and then warn him a second time. After that, have nothing to do with him. <sup>11</sup>You may be sure that such a man is warped and sinful; he is self-condemned.

### We are warned to stick to the Truth!

2Co 10:5 We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

2Ti 3:14 But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it,

2Ti 4:2-4 Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage-with great patience and careful instruction. <sup>3</sup>For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. <sup>4</sup>They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.

Heb 2:1 We must pay more careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away.

1Jn 2:20-21 But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and all of you know the truth. <sup>21</sup>I do not write to you because you do not know the truth, but because you do know it and because no lie comes from the truth.

1Jn 2:27 As for you, the anointing you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about all things and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit-just as it has taught you, remain in him.

Rev 1:3 Blessed is the one who reads the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near.

Rev 22:7 "Behold, I am coming soon! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy in this book."

Anyhow, beyond this obvious, fundamental error of Mormonism, there is an incredible assortment of LDS doctrinal deceptions that make us wonder how anyone could possibly fall for them. Yet, despite Scripture's plentiful and

repetitive warnings, they do indeed. And, until Jesus finally returns, men will continue to embrace strange and false worship systems in place of the true and saving relationship with God that He desires for all.

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Here are just a few of many web links where you can find in-depth treatment of the specific errors of Mormon doctrine and practice:

[Mormonism Research Ministry \(excellent comprehensive treatment\)](#)

[Good News for LDS](#)

[An excellent video presentation of LDS origins](#)

[Utah Lighthouse Ministry](#)

[Sandra Tanner - "Why Mormons Leave" \(video\)](#)

[An excellent quick overview of frequently asked Mormon questions](#)

[A comprehensive listing and treatment of just about everything Mormon](#)

[Christian Apologetics & Research Ministry \(CARM\) on Mormonism](#)

[Mormonism in a nutshell](#)

[A quick comparison between Christian and Mormon doctrines](#)

[Mormon Doctrine - What does Mormonism teach?](#)

[Through the Maze Ministry](#)

[Are Mormons Christians?](#)

[Mormonism - Has anything changed?](#)

[Excellent comparison chart reveals changes in Book of Mormon \(1830\) vs current BOM](#)

[Take a virtual tour of the Mormon Great Temple in Salt Lake City](#)

[Beyond Mormonism](#)

[Why Are You LDS?](#)

[What Mormons Don't Tell](#)

[Recovery from Mormonism](#)

[Stories by ex-Mormons](#)