

# SIX THINGS THEY WON'T TELL YOU IN TEMPLE SQUARE

## Introduction

The purpose of this is to let you know six things the tour guides of the Salt Lake City Temple Square will not tell you. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, or the Mormon Church, is a master when it comes to public relations. They realize that there are particular teachings that are better left undisclosed with those just being introduced to their church. We, on the other hand, do not accept this approach, and think that many would think twice before becoming interested in this faith if they were only given some basic and important facts up front. To use a simple phrase... **BUYER BEWARE!!**

## The Six Things

1. Mormon scripture teaches that *all* the various Christian denominations, particularly the Presbyterians, Baptists and Methodists, are all considered by Jesus Christ to be "wrong", their creeds are all an "abomination", and all those who believe in them are "corrupt". (Joseph Smith--History 1:19, *Pearl of Great Price*, emphasis added)
2. Mormon scripture, prophets and apostles teach that there is more than one god who created this world, that there are many gods who rule over other worlds, and that worthy Mormons may one day become gods themselves. Even though Mormons claim there is only one God for them, they still believe that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are separate gods who are only one in their purpose rather than in a being which they share eternally. (The late apostle Bruce R. McConkie, *Mormon Doctrine*, pp. 576-577, Joseph Smith, *Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, pp.

346-347, The late prophet Lorenzo Snow, *The Life of Lorenzo Snow* by Thomas C. Romney, p. 46, & Abraham 4:1, *The Pearl of Great Price*)

3. Mormon scripture, prophets and apostles teach that God the Father is an exalted man with flesh and bones. (Smith, *Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, p. 345, & Doctrine and Covenants 130:22)

4. Mormon prophets and apostles teach that God the Father has at least one wife by which we were all literally born from as spirit children prior to coming to this earth. Some of these prophets and apostles have even taught that Jesus had wives and children. (McConkie, *Mormon Doctrine*, pp. 516-517, Apostle Orson Pratt, *The Seer*, p. 172, & The prophet Brigham Young, *Journal of Discourses*, Vol. 1, p. 50)

**NOTE:** Most Mormons are unaware that Brigham Young taught that in fact Adam was the God of this world. Only members of fundamentalist Mormon groups (not affiliated with The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints) hold to this doctrine today. Regardless of this identification of God as being Adam, no one denies that the Mormon prophet Young believed that God the Father has more than one wife.

5. Even though the presentation at the Christus statue begins by saying, "Behold, I am Jesus Christ. I created the heavens and the earth, and all things that in them are", there are many things that Mormons believe Jesus did not create. For example, He did not create our spirits, nor Lucifer, nor even the planet that He was born on as a spirit. The reason for this is because Mormons believe that Jesus and Lucifer are literally brothers, and we as humans are all the younger brothers and sisters of them. We were all born of heavenly parents, who did the creating work of their world (not all worlds whatsoever) before we arrived spiritually in heaven. (Milton R. Hunter, *The Gospel Through the Ages*, p. 15)

6. Even though the video monitor presentation, "Are members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Christians?", ends by stating that they worship Jesus Christ,

they will not pray directly to Him. Rather, they can only pray directly to the Father in the name of Jesus. (McConkie, *BYU DEVOTIONAL*, March 2, 1982, pp. 17, 19 & 20)

### **A Christian Response**

Some Mormons may quibble that some of these sources are nonscriptural, and are thus simply the opinions of men with no binding authority. But the Bible says that if so-called prophets and apostles teach other gods than what God has already clearly revealed about Himself, we are to consider them to be false (cf. Deuteronomy 13:1-5, 2 Corinthians 11:3-4, 13-15, & Galatians 1:6-9). What difference does it make if the preceding sources are deemed by the Mormon church to be scriptural or not? If this is truly what they taught, then it seems quite obvious that these individuals are not teaching the God of the Bible, and thus should be considered as **non**Christian (i.e., they are not following the true Christ).

Other Mormons may quibble that the Bible is full of errors and has been through many a translation such that many "plain and precious truths" have been left out of the translation we have today. Thus, Mormons unquestionably rest their faith in what their church tells them to believe, so long as they receive affirmation from what is called a "burning in their bosoms". Christians, on the other hand, find no reason to think that many truths have been taken from Scripture. Why is it that all the various manuscripts of the Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek Scriptures, from which all the various versions come, are remarkably consistent with each other? Where is all the evidence that these manuscripts were cut up in such a way so as to delete the "plain and precious truths" found today in the restored Mormon Scriptures? Christians find no reason to doubt the words of the Lord Jesus when He said that "Scripture cannot be broken" (John 10:35), and "Heaven and earth shall pass away but my words shall not pass away" (Mat. 24:35). It is the word of God, not our "burning in our bosoms", that is a light to our path (Psalms 119:105).

Other Mormons may quibble that "it's all a matter of interpretation"... as if no reasons could be offered in support of a position. Of course Christians have "their



interpretation”, but why think that there’s no way to support one over the other? Children have certain interpretations of certain matters that grown-ups know are inferior to their own. This shows that even though we all have interpretations, some are better than others and those that are better usually have better reasons for them.

Briefly, the Christian interpretation of the Bible teaches that there was *only one* God who did the creation work of any world that was ever created (not a team of Gods that formed a Godhead) (Isaiah 43:10, 44:24, 45:12, & 46:9). The Bible also teaches that God is not *limited* to a body that He *needs* to become a God. He is too great for a body (1 Kings 8:27, Hosea 11:9, & John 4:21-24). He is God *unchangeably* from everlasting to everlasting (Malachi 3:6 & Psalms 90:2).

The Bible also teaches that Jesus created everything that was ever created from the beginning of heaven and earth (John 1:1-3, 14, & Colossians 1:15-18). Hence, wherever we were made, we were made by God the Son. This is why Christians have no problem praying to Jesus (cf. Stephen’s prayer in Acts 7:59). Though He became fully man, He has always been fully God and ought to be treated as such (Philippians 2:5-8, & Col. 2:9). More specifically, He is the *second* person of God. The Christian God is more than one person; He is actually three persons (Father, Son, & Holy Spirit) who are not unlike radically connected Siamese twins (compare Isa. 44:24 with Genesis 1:26-- the being of God created *alone* with the plurality of persons that His being is comprised of). There was never a time when one of the persons was without the others.

As Christians, we ask you to please weigh very carefully your concept of God. Your eternal salvation depends on whether you really know God or are simply following man-made idols. As Jesus said, “[I]f ye believe not that I am *he*, ye shall die in your sins” (Jn. 8:24).

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