

The Mormon Doctrine of God

The primary concept that separates Mormonism from Christianity is the Mormon teaching about God. Mormon theology is polytheistic, teaching that there are many gods in the universe presided over by the Supreme God (Elohim). Furthermore, every male Mormon believes he may reach "exaltation" and become a god himself. The following quotations from official church publications demonstrate this teaching clearly. Smith stated:

"In the beginning the head of the *Gods* called a council of the Gods and they came together and concocted a plan to create the world and people in it."³

"God Himself was once as we are now and is an exalted man . . ."⁴

"The Father has a body of flesh and bones as tangible as man's; the Son also, but the Holy Ghost has not a body of flesh and bones but is a personage of spirit . . ."⁵

"Many men say there is one God; the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost are only one God. I say this is a strange God anyhow . . . all are to be crammed into one God . . ."⁶

"*God was once as we are now, and is an exalted man, and sits enthroned in yonder heavens . . .* I say if you were to see him today, you would see him like a man in form - like yourselves in all the person, image and very form of a man."⁷

"Here, then, is eternal life - to know the only wise and true God; *and you have got to learn how to be gods yourselves and to be kings and priests to God, the same as all gods have done before you, namely, by going from one small degree to another and from a small capacity to a great one; from grace to grace, from exaltation to exaltation, until you attain to the resurrection of the dead, and are able to dwell in the everlasting burnings, and to sit in glory, as do those who sit enthroned in everlasting power.*"⁸

Brigham Young preached, "When our father Adam came into the Garden of Eden, he came into it with a celestial body and brought Eve, *one* of his celestial wives, with him . . . He is our *father and our God and the only God with whom we have to do.*"⁹

"Gods exist, and we had better strive to prepare to be one with them."¹⁰

LDS prophet Lorenzo Snow said, "As man is, God once was; and as God is, man may become."¹¹

Apostle Parley Pratt wrote, "Each of these gods, including Jesus Christ and His Father, being in possession of not merely an organized spirit but a glorious body of flesh and bone . . ."¹²

From the foregoing it is apparent that Mormon polytheism (many gods) cannot be regarded as Christian monotheism (One God). These two are mutually exclusive as is easily confirmed in the Bible or any standard dictionary.

One cannot be both a polytheist and a Christian; Mormons are polytheists. Mormons would do well to read Genesis 3:5 which reveals that the author of their doctrine of progression to godhood is Satan--who apparently convinced Joseph Smith as he did Eve, Smith having continued the deception through Mormon theology. It was of Satan's nature that Our Lord spoke when He described him as "a liar and the father of it" (John 8:44). Mormons should be shown such Biblical evidence for the origin of this doctrine, which Smith propagated, as does his church today.

The God of the Bible

Holy Scripture completely refutes Mormonism. If one is right in every area of doctrine and wrong concerning the Person and Nature of God, he is wrong enough to forfeit eternal life. The Bible then answers the Mormons in terms no one can misunderstand.

Deuteronomy 6:4—"Hear, O Israel: *The LORD our God, the LORD is one!*" (NKJV, italics added).

Isaiah 43:10—"Before Me there was *no God formed, Nor shall there be after Me.*

Isaiah 44:6, 8—Thus says the LORD . . . "I am the First and I am the Last; *Besides Me there is no God . . .* Do not fear, nor be afraid; have I not told you from that time, and declared it? You are My witnesses. Is there a God besides Me? Indeed *there is no other Rock; I know not one.*"

Isaiah 45: 5, 22—"I am the LORD, and *there is no other; there is no God besides Me.* I will gird you, though you have not known Me . . . Look to Me, and be saved, all you ends of the earth! For *I am God, and there is no other.*"

1 Timothy 2:5—"For *there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus.*"

1 Corinthians 8:4-6—"Therefore concerning the eating of things offered to idols, we know that an idol is nothing in the world, and that *there is*

no other God but one. For even if there are *so-called gods*, whether in heaven or on earth (as there are many gods and many lords), yet for us *there is one God*, the Father, of whom are all things, and we for Him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, through whom are all things, and through whom we live."

Galatians 3:20—"Now a mediator does not mediate for one only, but *God is one.*"

It is the position of the Bible that there is only one true God. Men may make gods out of the angels, (2 Corinthians 11:14) wood, stone, metal or flesh; but they are not God by nature, only mere counterfeits of Him who is the Original, or as Christ put it, "the *only God*" (*monou theou*, John 5:44).

The Apostle Paul informs us that idols are nothing that they are "not by *nature* gods" (Galatians 4:8, in Greek) and that sacrifices and worship accorded to them is in actuality the adoration of demons. (1 Corinthians 8:4-6 and 10:19, 20).

Mormonism here treads on perilous ground, for it does not acknowledge that there is only one true God, and Pauline teaching exposes its naked polytheism.

The Nature of God

Joseph Smith, Jr., and his successor Brigham Young conceived of God the Father in material terms and taught as do all Mormons today that "the Father has a body of flesh and bones as tangible as man's . . ." (D & C 130:22).

It is important to note that the Bible deliberately contradicts this non-Christian concept and by no less an authority than Jesus Christ. Our Lord gave the final and authoritative definition of the Nature of His Father when He said: "God is Spirit" (John 4:24) and He further declared that "a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have." (Luke 24:39). The Mormons then are in gross error when they attempt to give God the Father a body of flesh and bones and Christians should be quick to point this out to them.

Another Gospel

Far from being the "restored" Church of Jesus Christ, which the Mormons claim, the Mormon religion is quite obviously one of those "other gospels" of which Scripture speaks and against which we are to stand as witnesses for Christ. The Apostle Paul admonishes us to