

Resource Guide

“And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.” - Matt. 16:18

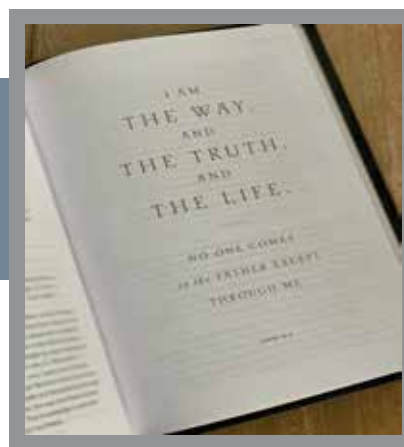


Photo by Tim Wildsmith

The following references and sources are listed corresponding to the presented video topics:

THE CHURCH -

LDS -

Note that the LDS church claims they have the fullness of the gospel and is “the only true and living church upon the face of the whole earth” (D&C 1:30). This implies that all the other Christian churches are false. Joseph Smith taught “that all churches and their creeds were an abomination” (1 Nephi 13:28; Pearl of Great Price, Joseph Smith – History 1:18, 19). Joseph Smith then set out to “restore true Christianity” and claimed his church to be the “only true church on earth” (Mormon Doctrine, p. 670; 1 Nephi 14:10). The LDS church says it is the “only true church” because it “is the only church that offers the true path to salvation in the celestial kingdom of God. It does this through saving ordinances performed by priesthood authority, the fulness of the gospel through additional scripture, and modern revelation through living prophets.” (latterdaysaintmag.com) “The position that The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is the only true church upon the face of the earth is fundamental,” said President Boyd K. Packer. (Oct. 1971 Conference Report). “We testify that the foregoing doctrine is the doctrine or gospel of Jesus Christ, in it’s fullness; and that it is the only true, everlasting, and unchangeable gospel; and the only plan revealed on earth whereby man can be saved.” (contentdm.lib.byu.edu)

-Gospel Doctrine, Joseph F. Smith, p. 11.

-The Doctrine and Covenants, 1:30.

-The Pearl of Great Price

-Joseph Smith History, 1:19.

-<https://latterdaysaint-mag.com/what-does-it-mean-that-this-is-the-only-true-church/>

-Proclamation of the Twelve Apostles of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. pg. 2 (contentdm.lib.byu.edu)

-gotquestions.org/Mormons.html

CHRISTIANITY -

Please take the time to look at these resources that explain the historical definition of the “The Christian Church” and true Christianity, established by Jesus Christ himself over 2000 years ago, never to be taken from the Earth. The true church is the bride of Christ (Revelation 21:2, 9; 22:17) and the body of Christ (Ephesians 4:12; 1 Corinthians 12:27). It cannot be contained, walled in, or defined by anything other than its love for Christ and its dedication to Him. The bride of Christ is not an institution, but is instead a spiritual entity made up of those who have by grace through faith been brought into a close, intimate relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ (Ephesians 2:8–9). (see also 1 Cor. 3:9; Heb. 8:6)

-britannica.com/topic/church-Christianity

-gotquestions.org/true-church.html

-focusonthefamily.com/faith/what-is-the-church/

-blog.tms.edu/upon-this-rock

JESUS CHRIST -

An overview of some of the differences can be found at: <https://probe.org/mormon-doctrine-of-jesus/>

LDS -

Note that some unique teachings of the LDS church regarding Jesus are that:

- He was a spiritual brother to Satan (who they claim was also a spiritual offspring of God). *Gospel Principles*, p. 15; *Pearl of Great Price Teacher Manual*, p. 327; *Teachings of Harold B. Lee*, pg. 36; *Gospel Through the Ages*, p. 15; *Times and Seasons*, 5:758.
- That Jesus's sacrifice was not enough for salvation as Brigham Young said your own blood must atone for some sins. "There is not a man or woman, who violates the covenants made with their God, that will not be required to pay the debt. The blood of Christ will never wipe that out, your own blood must atone for it . . ." *Journal of Discourses*, vol. 3, p. 247; see also, vol. 4, p. 53-54, 219-220. Also, that "it is by grace that we are saved, after all we can do." (2 Ne. 25:23, *Book of Mormon*)
- That Jesus was born in Jerusalem not Bethlehem (Alma 7:10, *Book of Mormon*)
- That Jesus was contaminated by fallen nature while in the flesh (Brigham Young, Nov. 29, 1857, *Journal of Discourses* 6:95-96).
- That the atoning sacrifice is emphasized in the Garden of Gethsemane, "It was there he underwent his greatest suffering for men, taking upon himself, as he did, their sins on conditions of repentance." (*Mormon Doctrine*, 1966 p. 555) See also *Gospel Principles*, ch. 12; *Doctrines of Salvation; Teachings of Ezra Taft Benson*, 14. "Where and under what circumstances was the atoning sacrifice of the Son of God made? Was it on the Cross of Calvary or in the Garden of Gethsemane? It is to the Cross of Christ that most Christians look when centering their attention upon the infinite and eternal atonement. And certainly the sacrifice of our Lord was completed when he was lifted up by men; also, that part of his life and suffering is more dramatic and, perhaps, more soul stirring. But in reality the pain and suffering, the triumph and grandeur, of the atonement took place primarily in Gethsemane" (*Doctrinal New Testament Commentary* 1:774.).
- LDS leaders have taught that Jesus' incarnation was the result of a physical relationship between God the Father and Mary (*Journal of Discourses*, vol. 8, p. 115; *Mormon Doctrine*, p. 547).
- LDS believe Jesus is a god, but that any human can also become a god (*Doctrine and Covenants* 132:20; *Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, p. 345–354).
- LDS teach that salvation of Jesus must be earned by a combination of faith and good works (*LDS Bible Dictionary*, p. 697).
- That Jesus was not eternal, born to God and Heavenly Mother, so he was not there from the beginning as the Bible says, his spirit did not exist before it was born. (*Gospel Principles*, p. 11) - also note a Heavenly Mother.
- That Jesus is not unique from the rest of mankind (D&C 93:21)
- That the blood of Christ shed on the cross did not have cleansing power and you would lose your salvation to believe so. "Christians speak often of the blood of Christ and its cleansing power. Much that is believed and taught on this subject, however, is such utter nonsense and so palpably false that to believe it is to lose one's salvation." LDS Tract *What the Mormons Think of Christ*, p.31).
- Gospel Principles*, Ch. 2, 3, and 12.
- Book of Abraham 3:27
- 2 Ne 25:23, *Book of Mormon*.

JESUS CHRIST -

CHRISTIANITY-

Who Did Jesus Say That He Is? James L. Morrisson - scriptureinsights.com/WhoDidJesusSay.html
plainbibleteaching.com/2017/05/31/the-godhead/
gotquestions.org/Mormons.html

APOSTACY / APOSTLES / PROPHETS -

Jesus gave the apostles The Great Commission (Matt. 28:19-20 "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.") For over 2000 years, faithful believers in Christ have indeed taken the words of Jesus to the ends of the earth. Today, Christianity is the world's largest religion, practiced by an estimated 2.4 billion people. The bible has been translated into 724 languages and the New Testament into an additional 1,617. The core Christian beliefs have remained intact. These beliefs are: the Bible is the inerrant word of God, all men and women are sinners, Jesus is the only hope for salvation, the Deity of Christ, the sacrificial death of Jesus, the bodily resurrection of Jesus, the return of Jesus and the promise of eternal life.

LDS -

Gospel Principles, Ch. 17. (alleged apostacy, restoration and organization of LDS church)

CHRISTIANITY -

ca.thegospelcoalition.org/article/10-things-you-should-know-about-the-great-apostasy/
lifeafterministry.com/2013/12/mormon-church-structure-how-the-church-is-organized/

Credo: Historical and Theological Guide to Creeds and Confessions of Faith in the Christian Tradition, 2005.
Jaroslav Pelikan.

Matt. 7:15, Jer. 14:14, 2 Cor. 11:12-15, Jer. 14:15-16, 2 Peter 2:1, 2 Peter 2:13, 2 Tim. 2:2, Matt. 16:18, Dan. 2:44, 1 Tim. 4:1-2, 2 Tim. 3:1-17.

GOD -

It is important that we have the correct view of the Holy and Eternal God. It is also important that we do not degrade the omnipotence of God or exalt ourself to God's status, however many works we accomplish.

LDS -

Joseph Smith taught the opposite. "I will go back to the beginning before the world was, to show what kind of being God is. What sort of a being was God in the beginning? Open your ears and hear, all ye ends of the earth, for I am going to prove it to you by the Bible, and to tell you the designs of God in relation to the human race, and why He interferes with the affairs of man. *God himself was once as we are now, and is an exalted man*, and sits enthroned in yonder heavens! That is the great secret. If the veil were rent today, and the great God who holds this world in its orbit, and who upholds all worlds and all things by his power, was to make himself visible,--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 as a man; for Adam was created in the very fashion, image and likeness of God, and received instruction from, and walked, talked and conversed with him, as one man talks and communes with another.” *Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, p. 345.

“The Father has a body of flesh and bones as tangible as man’s.” D&C 130:22

“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 132:20

Teachings of the Presidents of the Church Joseph Smith, p. 40

Mormon Doctrine, p. 516.

Achieving A Celestial Marriage, p. 129.

Teachings of Lorenzo Snow, p. 2.

Journal of Discourses, Vol. 13, p. 309

CHRISTIANITY -

Who is God? - The Fact

The fact of God’s existence is so conspicuous, both through creation and through man’s conscience, that the Bible calls the atheist a “fool” (Psalm 14:1). Accordingly, the Bible never attempts to prove the existence of God; rather, it assumes His existence from the very beginning (Genesis 1:1). What the Bible does is reveal the nature, character, and work of God.

Who is God? - The Definition

Thinking correctly about God is of utmost importance because a false idea about God is idolatry. In Psalm 50:21, God reproves the wicked man with this accusation: “You thought I was altogether like you.” To start with, a good summary definition of God is “the Supreme Being; the Creator and Ruler of all that is; the Self-existent One who is perfect in power, goodness, and wisdom.”

Who is God? - His Nature

We know certain things to be true of God for one reason: in His mercy He has condescended to reveal some of His qualities to us. God is spirit, by nature intangible (John 4:24). God is One, but He exists as three Persons—God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit (Matthew 3:16-17). God is infinite (1 Timothy 1:17), incomparable (2 Samuel 7:22), and unchanging (Malachi 3:6). God exists everywhere (Psalm 139:7-12), knows everything (Psalm 147:5; Isaiah 40:28), and has all power and authority (Ephesians 1; Revelation 19:6).

Who is God? - His Character

Here are some of God’s characteristics as revealed in the Bible: God is just (Acts 17:31), loving (Ephesians 2:4-5), truthful (John 14:6), and holy (1 John 1:5). God shows compassion (2 Corinthians 1:3), mercy (Romans 9:15), and grace (Romans 5:17). God judges sin (Psalm 5:5) but also offers forgiveness (Psalm 130:4).

Who is God? - His Work

We cannot understand God apart from His works, because what God does flows from who He is. Here is an abbreviated list of God’s works, past, present, and future: God created the world (Genesis 1:1; Isaiah 42:5); He actively sustains the world (Colossians 1:17); He is executing His eternal plan (Ephesians 1:11) which involves the redemption of man from the curse of sin and death (Galatians 3:13-14); He draws people to Christ (John 6:44); He disciplines His children (Hebrews 12:6); and He will judge the world (Revelation 20:11-15).

Who is God? - A Relationship with Him

In the Person of the Son, God became incarnate (John 1:14). The Son of God became the Son of Man and is therefore the “bridge” between God and man (John 14:6; 1 Timothy 2:5). It is only through the Son that we can have forgiveness of sins (Ephesians 1:7), reconciliation with God (John 15:15; Romans 5:10), and eternal salvation (2 Timothy 2:10). In Jesus Christ “all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form” (Colossians 2:9). So, to really know who God is, all we have to do is look at Jesus.

From - gotquestions.org/who-is-God.html

The Trinity - carm.org/doctrine-and-theology/what-is-the-trinity/

40 Scriptures confirming God is the *only* God -

Deut. 4:39, 6:4, 32:39

2 Sam. 7:22

1 Kings 8:60

2 Kings 5:15, 19:15

1 Chron. 17:20

Nehemiah 9:6

Psalms 18:31, 86:10

Isa. 37:16, 37:20, 43:10, 43:11, 43:13, 44:6,

44:8, 45:5, 45:6, 45:18, 45:21, 45:22, 46:9

Hosea 13:4

Joel 2:27

Zech. 14:9

Mark 12:29

John 17:3

Romans 3:30

1 Cor. 8:4, 8:6

Gal. 3:20

Eph. 4:6

1 Tim. 1:17, 2:3, 2:5

James 2:19

John 14:8-11, 14:5-7

HEAVEN -

God wants us all to believe on Jesus and be adopted as his children and live with him in heaven for eternity: “This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.” (1 Tim. 2:3-4) “The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.” (2 Peter 3:9)

LDS -

D&C 88 (3 Levels of Heaven)

“Every man and woman must have the certificate of Joseph Smith, junior, as a passport to their entrance into the mansion where God and Christ are.” (Brigham Young, October 9, 1859, Journal of Discourses 7:289).

“In order to enter the celestial a man must be true and faithful to the end, observing all things which the Lord has

commanded, otherwise he shall be assigned to some other kingdom, or to outer darkness if his sins so merit.” (Joseph Fielding Smith, *Doctrines of Salvation* 3:310).

“It is the celestial glory which we seek. It is the presence of God we desire to dwell. It is a forever family in which we want membership. Such blessings must be earned” (Thomas Monson, “*An Invitation to Exaltation*,” *Ensign* Conference Edition, May 1988, p.56).

“Those who inherit the highest degree of the celestial kingdom, who become gods, must also have been married for eternity in the temple” (D&C 131:1-4)

CHRISTIANITY -

truthstory.org/blog/what-is-heaven-biblical-overview/

bibleinfo.com/en/questions/where-is-heaven

bibleinfo.com/en/topics/hell

christiananswers.net/dictionary/heaven.html

Charles Spurgeon, ‘The Prince of Preachers’: “If heaven were by merit, it would never be heaven to me, for if I were in it I should say, ”I am sure I am here by mistake; I am sure this is not my place; I have no claim to it.” But if it be on grace and not works, then we may walk into heaven with boldness.”

SIN -

LDS -

Gospel Principles, p. 31-34

Pearl of Great Price, Moses 5:11

“All transgressions must be cleansed, all weaknesses must be overcome before a person can obtain perfection and godhood.” Spencer W. Kimball, *Miracle of Forgiveness*, pg. 16.

CHRISTIANITY -

gotquestions.org/fall-of-man.html

Romans 3:23

SALVATION -

LDS -

D&C 76:41-42

Gospel Principles, ch. 47

Miracle of Forgiveness, p. 206

Book of Mormon, 2 Ne: 25:23

Gospel Principles, p. 78-79

“It is hard to know when we have done enough for the Atonement to change our natures and so qualify us for eternal life” Henry B. Eyring, “*This Day*,” *Ensign* (Conference Edition), May 2007, p.90.

“His atonement paid for the sin of Adam and won victory over death, assuring resurrection and immortality for all men” (Dallin Oaks, “*What Think Ye of Christ?*” *Ensign* (Conference Edition), November 1988, p.65.

carm.org/mormonism/mormonism-and-the-atonement-of-jesus/ (please take the time to read this)

CHRISTIANITY -

godsbreath.net/2015/12/14/what-did-jesus-say-about-salvation/ (Scott J. Shifferd)
<https://www.focusonthefamily.com/faith/what-must-i-do-to-be-saved/>
faithward.org/what-is-salvation

BAPTISM -

LDS -

Gospel Principles, ch. 20, 21, 40
simplybible.com/f99g-notes-baptism-for-dead.htm

CHRISTIANITY -

christtherock.org/baptismteaching/
gotquestions.org/Christian-baptism.html
blueletterbible.org/Comm/stewart_don/faq/the-holy-spirit-and-us/06-when-does-a-person-receive-the-holy-spirit.cfm

GRACE -

LDS -

2 Ne. 25:23, *Book of Mormon*
Moroni 10:32, *Book of Mormon*
Spencer W. Kimball, *Miracle of Forgiveness* pg. 206 - <https://tilm.org/digital-dictionary/free-salvation/>

“The second greatest heresy in all eternity is the doctrine that denies the divine sonship, that sets up a system that says you can give lip-service to the name of Christ, but you are saved by grace alone without efforts and without work on your part.” Bruce R. McConkie, “*The Seven Deadly Heresies*” an address given at Brigham Young University on June 1, 1980. Transcribed from actual speech.

CHRISTIANITY -

christianity.com/wiki/christian-terms/what-is-grace.html
bible-knowledge.com/grace-of-god/
Ephesians 2:8

ON FALSE TEACHERS -

biblestudytools.com/topical-verses/bible-verses-about-false-teachers/
Gal. 1:6-9, Matt. 24:11, 24; 2 Cor. 11:4,13; 1 John 4:1, 2 Peter 2:12; Hebrews 13:9

More Differences in Terminology between Christianity and LDS

utlm.org/onlineresources/pdf/terminologydifferences.pdf