

MORMONISM PART 2

Main Idea:

Godhood requires perfection

Apologetics 08.21.13

2 Corinthians 11:3-4,13-15

- ³ But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ. ⁴ For if someone comes and proclaims another Jesus than the one we proclaimed, or if you receive a different spirit from the one you received, or if you accept a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it readily enough...¹³ For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. ¹⁴ And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. ¹⁵ So it is no surprise if his servants, also, disguise themselves as servants of righteousness. Their end will correspond to their deeds.



Joseph Smith

- Very involved in occult practices
- Womanizer
- Never allowed anyone else to see the golden plates of the Book of Mormon
- Took the lives of his attackers vs. Jesus who willingly laid his life down

- “Unfortunately for the credibility of Mormonism, the entire structure is build upon Joseph Smith alone and either stands or falls with him.” - Ed Decker,

- *The Godmakers*, 184

What did the *Nauvoo Expositor* newspaper publish that led Joseph Smith to destroy it?

- “It is notorious fact, that many females . . . Are requested to meet Brother Joseph, or some of the Twelve [Apostles] at some insulated point, or at some particularly described place on the bank of the Mississippi, or at some room, which wears upon its front-
POSITIVELY NO ADMITTANCE...

- After having been sworn in one of the most solemn manners, to never divulge what is revealed to them, with a penalty of death attached, that God Almighty has revealed it to him, that she should be his [Joseph's] spiritual wife, “for it was right anciently and God will tolerate it again: but we must keep those pleasures and blessings from the world, for until there is a change in government, we will endanger ourselves by practicing it.”

II. God

- Revelation: 4 sources of authority
 1. The Bible is accurate “as far as it is translated correctly”
 2. The Book of Mormon is the most correct book
 3. The Doctrine and Covenants
 4. The Pearl of Great Price - clarifies teachings lost from the Bible

- Brigham Young taught Adam was God & the father of Jesus (Modern Mormon leaders reject this idea).
- God has a “body of flesh and bones as tangible as man’s.”

“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. Were it not so, the Holy Ghost could not dwell in us.” - *Doctrine and Covenants 130:22*

Authority within Mormonism

- “When our leaders speak, the thinking has been done. When they propose a plan, it is God’s plan. When they point the way, there is no other which is safe. When they give direction, it should mark the end of controversy.” - The Ward teachers lesson (Mormon Sunday School literature)

- *The Improvement Era*, Ward Teachers’ Message, “Sustaining the General Authorities of the Church,” June 1945, p.1.

Q: What do Bible-believing Christians believe about God contradicting Himself?

- Not so in Mormonism.

The Book of Mormon vs. Mormon Doctrine

The Book of Mormon	Mormon Doctrine
<p>There is only one God <i>Mosiah 15:1,5; Alma 11:28; 2 Nephi 31:21</i></p>	<p>Mormonism teaches there are many gods. <i>Joseph Smith, Journal of Discourses, vol. 6, p. 5.</i></p>
<p>The Trinity is one God <i>Alma 11:44; Mosiah 15:5; 2 Nephi 31:21</i></p>	<p>The Trinity is three separate gods. <i>James Talmage, Articles of Faith, p. 35. 1985.</i></p>
<p>God is unchanging <i>Mormon 9:9,19; Moroni 8:18; Alma 41:8; 3 Nephi 24:6</i></p>	<p>God is increasing in knowledge. <i>Joseph Smith, Journal of Discourses, vol. 6, p. 120.</i></p>
<p>God is spirit <i>Alma 18:24,28; 22:9,11</i></p>	<p>God has the form of a man. <i>Joseph Smith, Journal of Discourses, vol. 6, p. 3.</i></p>
<p>Eternal hell <i>Jacob 3:11; 6:10; 2 Nephi 19:16; 28:21-23.</i></p>	<p>Hell is not eternal. <i>James Talmage, Articles of Faith, p. 55.</i></p>
<p>Polygamy condemned <i>Jacob 1:15; 2:23,24,27,31;3:5; Mosiah 11:2,4; Ether 10:5,7</i></p>	<p>Polygamy was taught and practiced. <i>Brigham Young, Journal of Discourses, vol. 3, p. 266.</i></p>

III. Christ

- Brother of Lucifer/Satan
- Satan wanted to eradicate free will but Jesus wanted to affirm it.
- 1/3 of the spirit children followed Satan

IV. Man

- Pre-existence of the soul - thoroughly anti-Christian & pagan idea.
- “As man is, God once was. As God is, man can become.”
- “The central belief both in Mormonism and paganism is the ancient dream that men can become gods...Jesus called Satan “a liar and the father of it” - I.e., the father of *the* lie. No greater lie could be conceived than that humans could become gods” - Ed Decker & Dave Hunt

Spencer W. Kimball, former Mormon President

- “In each of us is the potentiality to become a God—pure, holy, true, influential, powerful, independent of earthly forces....We were in the beginning with God...Man can transform himself...He has in him the seeds of Godhood that can grow. He can lift himself by his very bootstraps.”
- *Salt Lake Tribune*, October 7, 1974 and September 18, 1974. In, *The God Makers*, 40.

Q: How did Satan deceive Adam & Eve?

- Genesis 3:1-5 Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden’?”² And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden,³ but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.’”⁴ But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die.⁵ For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

Q: Did Jesus ever offer
godhood to anyone?

- A: No, Jesus offered Himself.

Q: For a Mormon, what's the point of
becoming a god?

A: To rule over a planet and populate it
with spirit children.

V. Salvation

- Focus is on “becoming worthy.”

“This progress toward eternal life is a matter of achieving perfection. Living all the commandments [there are over 4300 in Mormonism] guarantees total forgiveness of sins and assures one of exultation through that perfection which comes by complying with the formula the Lord gave us.” -

President and Prophet Spencer W. Kimball

The logic = Godhood = perfection = no sin

“Marriage”

- “The only men who become Gods, even the Sons of God, are those who enter into polygamy.” - Brigham Young,
 - *The God Makers*, 182.
- “If we were to do away with polygamy...then we must do away with prophets and Apostles, with revelation and the gifts and graces of the Gospel, and finally give up our religion altogether.” - Wilford Woodruff, 4th President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

“Marriage”

- “Without it [plural marriage] we could never be exalted to associate with and become Gods...” -
President Joseph Fielding Smith

- *The Godmakers*, 191.

Doctrines & Covenants

132:61-62

- 61 And again, as pertaining to the law of the priesthood-If any man espouse a virgin, and desire to espouse another, and the first give her consent, and if he espouse the second, and they are virgins, and have vowed to no other man, then is he justified; he cannot commit adultery for they are given unto him; for he cannot commit adultery with that that belongeth unto him and to no one else. 62 And if he have ten virgins given unto him by this law, he cannot commit adultery, for they belong to him, and they are given unto him; therefore is he justified.

The Bible

- Deuteronomy 17:17a And he shall not acquire many wives for himself, lest his heart turn away,
*Solomon's polygamy

“The Lord has said that those who reject the principle [polygamy] reject their salvation, they shall be damned.”

- Apostle Orson Pratt

- *The Godmakers*, 188.

Q: If Joseph Smith and the early Mormon leaders taught the necessity of polygamy, what should we think of the Mormon Church since 1890?

Official LDS statement

- At various times, the Lord has commanded His people to practice plural marriage. For example, He gave this command to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, David, and Solomon ([Doctrine and Covenants 132:1](#)). At other times the Lord has given other instructions. In the Book of Mormon, the Lord told the prophet Jacob “Nor there shall not any man among you have save it be one wife: and concubines he shall have none... for if I will, saith the Lord of Hosts, raise up seed unto me, I will command my people; otherwise they shall hearken unto these things ([Jacob 2:27-30](#)).

Official LDS statement

- In this dispensation, the Lord commanded some of the early Saints to practice plural marriage. The Prophet Joseph Smith and those closest to him, including Brigham Young and Heber C. Kimball, were challenged by this command, but they obeyed it. Church leaders regulated the practice. Those entering into it had to be authorized to do so, and the marriages had to be performed through the sealing power of the priesthood. In 1890, President Wilford Woodruff received a revelation that the leaders of the Church should cease teaching the practice of plural marriage ([Official Declaration 1](#)).

<http://mormon.org/faq/practice-of-polygamy>

Connection?

- The “Official Declaration” was in 1890.
- Utah became a state on Jan. 4, 1896.

How to share the Gospel with Mormons

- Take their works-based understanding of salvation to its logical result:
Godhood = perfection = no sin
- Use the Ten Commandments to bring the knowledge of sin.
- Use the cross: True sinlessness.
- Explain repentance: change from sin.
- Explain faith: Total trust in Christ.

Any questions?