

Defending Your Faith – Knowing What You Believe 1 Pet 3:15 **CHRISTIANITY VS MORMONISM**

	BIBLICAL CHRISTIANITY	MORMONISM- Latter-day Saints
KEY PERSON OR FOUNDER DATE, LOCATION	Jesus Christ. Founded about A.D. 30-33, in the Judean Province of Palestine (Israel today), under the Roman Empire	Joseph Smith Jr. (1805-1844), founded the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-day Saints in 1830 in New York. Headquarters in Salt Lake City, Utah
KEY WRITINGS	The Bible, written originally in Hebrew and Aramaic (Old Testament), and Greek (New Testament)	The Book of Mormon; Doctrine and Covenants; Pearl of Great Price; The Bible (King James Version only or Smith's "Inspired Version"); authoritative teachings of Mormon prophets and other LDS "general authorities"
WHO IS GOD?	The one God is Triune (One God in three Persons, not three gods): Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Often the title "God" designates the first person, God the Father. God is a spiritual being without a physical body. He is personal and involved with people. He created the universe of nothing and of nothing. He is eternal, changeless, holy, loving, and perfect	God the Father was once a man, but became God. He has a physical body, as does his wife (Heavenly Mother). No Trinity. Father, Son and Holy Ghost are three separate gods. Worthy men may one day become gods themselves.
WHO IS JESUS?	Jesus is God, the second Person of the Trinity. As God the Son, He has always existed and was never created. He is fully God and fully man (the two natures joined, not mixed). As the second Person of the Trinity, He is coequal with God the Father and the Holy Spirit. In becoming man, He was begotten through the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. Jesus is the only way to the Father, salvation and eternal life. He died on a cross according to God's plan, as a full sacrifice and payment for our sins. He rose from the dead three days later, spiritually and physically immortal. For the next forty days He was seen by more than 500 eyewitnesses. His wounds were touched and He ate meals. He physically ascended to Heaven. Jesus will come again visibly and physically at the end of the world to establish God's kingdom and judge the world.	Jesus is a separate God from the Father (Elohim) He was created as a spirit child by the Father and Mother in Heaven, and is the "elder brother" of all men and spirit beings. His body was created through sexual union between Elohim and Mary. Jesus was married. His death on the cross does not provide full atonement for all sin, but does provide everyone with resurrection.
WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?	The Holy Spirit is God, the third Person of the Trinity. The Holy Spirit is a person, not a force or energy field. He comforts, grieves, reproves, convicts, guides, teaches and fills Christians. He is not the Father, nor the Son, Jesus Christ.	The "holy spirit" is not God, but rather an influence or electricity-like emanation from God (also called the "light of Christ").
HOW TO BE SAVED	Salvation is by God's grace, not by an individual's good works. Salvation must be received by faith. People must believe in their heart that Jesus died for their sins and physically rose again, which is the assurance of forgiveness and resurrection of the body. This is God's loving plan to forgive sinful people.	Resurrected by grace, but saved (exalted to godhood) by works, including faithfulness to church leaders, Mormon baptism, tithing, ordination, marriage, and secret temple rituals. No eternal life without Mormon membership.
WHAT HAPPENS AFTER DEATH?	Believers go to be with Jesus. After death, all people await the final judgement. Both saved and lost people will be resurrected. Those who are saved live with Jesus in Heaven. Those who are lost suffer the torment of eternal separation from God (Hell). Jesus' bodily resurrection guarantees believers that they, too will be resurrected and receive new immortal bodies.	Eventually nearly everyone goes to one of three separate heavenly "kingdoms," with some achieving godhood. Apostates and murderers go into "outer darkness"
OTHER BELIEFS OR PRACTICES	Group worship, usually in churches. No secret rites. Baptism and Lord's Supper (Communion). Active voluntary missionary efforts. Aid to those in need.: The poor, widows, orphans, and downtrodden. Christians believe that Jesus is the Jewish Messiah promised to Israel in the Old Testament (Tanakh). Jesus said His followers would be known by their love for one another.	No alcohol, tobacco, coffee, or tea. Baptism on behalf of the dead. Two-year missionary commitment encouraged. Door-to-door proselytizing. Secret temple rituals available only to members in good standing. Extensive social network. People of African ancestry not granted full access to Mormon priesthood and privileges until 1978.

