

Examining Popular Doctrines

MORMONISM

Origin of the Church – Mormon Teaching

- The Book of Mormon in Mosiah 18:8-30 describes the beginning of the church in America. V17 says "And they were called the church of God, or the church of Christ, from that time forward." The footnote says this was "about B.C. 147"
- Mosiah 23:16 says "Alma was their high priest, he being the founder of their church"
- So the Book of Mormon says the "church of Christ" was founded by Alma in America in 147 BC

Origin of the Church – Bible Teaching

- The Bible teaches that the church did not exist until after Jesus died, and that Jesus was the founder of the church.
- Matt 16:18 – “I *will* build My church”
- Acts 20:28 – Jesus purchased the church with His own *blood*
- Eph 1:20-23 – Christ is the Head of His church which is His Body
- 1 Cor 3:11; Eph 2:20 – Jesus is the foundation, chief cornerstone on which the church is built

Origin of the Church – Conclusions

- The Book of Mormon contradicts the Bible about when the church began and who founded it. If any church existed in America in 147 BC, it could not have been the church of Christ. It would have existed 180 years too early to be Jesus' church. It would have had the wrong founder. It could not have belonged to Jesus because He had not yet paid for it. It would have been a building without a foundation and a body without a head

The Term “Christian” – Mormon Teaching

- The Book of Mormon in Alma 46:13-16 says that in America, "all those who were true believers in Christ took upon them, gladly, the name of Christ, or *Christians*, as they were called, because of their belief in Christ who should come." Obviously, this was supposed to have occurred *before* Christ came. The footnote says this occurred in B.C. 73

The Term “Christian” – Bible Teaching

- Acts 11:26 says, "And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch." So, the first use of the term "Christian" occurred in Antioch, many years after Jesus' death. The Book of Mormon contradicts the Bible in both time and place, for it says the term was used over 100 years earlier in America

Conditions of forgiveness - Mormon Teaching

- 2 Nephi 9:23,24 - The necessity of belief in Christ, repentance, and baptism in His name was taught. The footnote says this was “Between B.C. 559 and 545”
- 2 Nephi 30:2 - About the same time it was expressly stated that Gentiles who repent would be God's covenant people, and Jews who do not would be rejected
- 2 Nephi 31:5,11-14,17 - Also about the same time is found an express description of baptism in water, in the Holy Spirit, and in fire

Conditions of forgiveness - Mormon Teaching

- Mosiah 4:2 - Men cried out for the atoning blood of Christ to forgive their sins (about 124 BC). As a result, they received a remission of sins (v3)
- Mosiah 18:10-17 - Alma baptized people in water in the name of the Lord, so they were added to the church (about 147 BC)

Conditions of forgiveness - Mormon Teaching

- The Book of Mormon has the entire plan of salvation, including baptism and forgiveness by Jesus' blood, taught and actively practiced hundreds of years before Jesus died to shed His blood. And using the reasoning of Alma 39, logically the plan should have been known and practiced in every generation since Adam!

Conditions of forgiveness - Bible Teaching

- Matt 13:17 – Many desired to see and hear but did not...
- 1 Pet 1:10-12 – Salvation was not ministered to OT prophets
- Lk 24:47 – Jesus said repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name beginning at Jerusalem
- Eph 3:3-6, 9-10 – This mystery had been hidden in Christ

Conditions of forgiveness - Bible Teaching

- Rom 6:3 – Baptized into His death
- Heb 9:16-17 – A testament is only in force...
- The Book of Mormon contradicts the Bible, because it has many aspects of salvation being practiced long before they were truly in effect. Of course, it would be easy for Joseph Smith to include these things in the Book of Mormon, if in fact it was first written in his own day, rather than many centuries earlier as he claimed it had been

President and Head of the Church Mormon Teaching

- Doctrine and Covenants 107:65,91,92 (cf. 28:6) says that the Mormon Church has a prophet who serves as President and head of the church, presiding over the whole church like Moses

President and Head of the Church

Bible Teaching

- Eph 1:22-23 – Jesus is Head over all things to His church
- Eph 5:22-23 – Christ is head of the church
- The Mormon Church claims to have restored the true New Testament church. One of its major arguments to prove this is that it has restored the organization of the church. But where does the New Testament mention a "president" or human head who presides over the whole church?

Elders, Bishops and Deacons

Mormon Teaching

- Doctrine and Covenants 107:7,13,15 distinguishes "elders" from "bishops." In the Mormon Church these are two separate offices in two separate priesthoods. While a man may hold both offices, the fact is that many elders are not bishops. An elder and a bishop are two separate offices
- "Elders" in the Mormon Church are often young, unmarried men, who have no children
- In the Mormon Church, males can become "deacons" as young as 12 years of age

Elders, Bishops and Deacons Bible Teaching

Mormon "elders" do not have the qualifications of true elders

- Titus 1:5-6 – Husband of one wife, have children...

In the Bible "elder" and "bishop" are just two different terms for the same office

- 1 Pet 5:1-2 – Elders are to serve as overseers of the flock
- Acts 20:17, 28 – Elders are overseers of the flock
- Titus 1:5-7 – Elders must have qualifications of bishops

Elders, Bishops and Deacons Bible Teaching

"Deacons" in the Bible also had to be married and have children

- 1 Tim 3:8-12 – Deacons should be husbands of one wife, ruling their children...
- Mormon teachings on Elders, Bishops and Deacons are a clear contradiction to bible teachings