6. 125 factions; 16.2 adherents; 67k active missionaries.
7. Mormons are to preserve their bodies in the best of health & are cautioned in a revelation called the "Word of Wisdom" against the use of tobacco, alcohol, & caffeine/hot beverages.
8. The church requires all members to pay 10% of gross income. Conservatively, the church takes in $33 bil in tithe & $15 bil in business holdings (2017). Church owned businesses pay a tithe. It owns 15 umbrella corporations, each with multiple subsidiaries: 11 radio stations, a TV station, newspapers, book, & magazine publishing, Deseret Book Stores, 1 mil agricultural acres in US, ranching ops on 4 continents. 160 temples, 24 being built. Church's value: $40 mil.
9. The church owns 4 US schools: BYU (Utah, Idaho, Hawaii), LDS Business College. 50 outside US: 700k students total.
10. Mormons have more adherents in the *Who's Who in America,* scientific honor societies, & politics than any other one religion: huge emphasis on education, business, art, etc.

V. Notes & Questions

Resources:

- *Kingdom of the Cults* – Walter Martin
- Apologia Church & Studios
- *The Maze of Mormonism* – Walter Martin
- Waltermartin.com

Evangelizing Mormons

"Let no one be found among you who…practices divination or sorcery, interprets omens,…or who is a medium or spiritist…"
"If what a prophet proclaims in the name of the Lord does not take place or come true, that is a message the Lord has not spoken. That prophet has spoken presumptuously. Do not be afraid of him."
Deuteronomy 18:10-11, 22

I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel – not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed. As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed.
Galatians 1:6-9

I. Introduction

1. Joseph Smith
2. What that revelation was:
    a. Bible and churches all corrupt.
    b. The real people of promise came to the US.
3. Holy texts: The "Four Standard Works"
    a. KJV Bible (as far as it is translated correctly)
    b. The Book of Mormon
    c. Doctrines & Covenants
    d. Pearl of Great Price
4. Church Organization
    a. General Authorities
        a. First Presidency (1 "prophet" & 2 counselors)
        b. "Council of Twelve" apostles
        c. "1st Quorum of the Seventy" & its presidency
        d. "2nd Quorum of the Seventy" & its presidency
        e. A "Presiding Bishopric
        f. The Patriarch of the Church

II. Basic Beliefs

1. Theology of Mormonism
2. The True Priesthood
3. Doctrine of God (deny trinity; polytheistic: man can become a god)
4. The Holy Sprit (offspring of the father like Jesus and Lucifer)
5. The Virgin Birth (Mary impregnated through sex with Adam-God)
6. Salvation & Judgment
    a. Not by faith in Christ alone: requires baptism, obedience to the teaching of the Mormon Church, good works, and "keeping the commandments of God (which) will cleanse away the stain of sin."
7. Christ: the Mormon savior
8. Salvation by Grace?
9. Mormon eschatology

Contradictions & Controversies

a. Joseph Smith's refuted claims (very few of many)
b. Polygamy
c. "Persecution"
d. Sects
e. Racism
f. Book of Mormon: changes, plagiarism, no authority.

III. Evangelism

1. Defining terms (double speak)
    g. Holy Spirit, salvation, faith, Jesus Christ, etc.
2. *The 10 Most Important Things You Can Say to a Mormon* – by Rom Rhodes:
    a. The Mormon Church is not the "Restored Church."
    b. The Book of Mormon is man-made.
    c. The Bible is God's Word and it is trustworthy.
    d. The One True God is an Eternal Spirit Being.
    e. The Trinity involves 3 persons in One God.
    f. Humans are creatures and never become gods.
    g. Jesus is God, not the spirit-brother of Lucifer.
    h. Salvation is by grace through faith, not by works.
    i. The afterlife involves Heaven and Hell, not 3 degrees of glory.
    j. Jesus changed my life forever!
3. Practices from Apologia Studies evangelism:
    a. Tell the Mormon: you don't have to defend Joseph Smith or Brigham Young.
    b. "I read it and prayed and God told me it was true." – a feeling.
        i. What if a brother was sleeping with his gf before marriage and said he prayed about it and God told him its ok?
            1. Go to Scripture. Yes!
            2. Why not do that with the Book of Mormon?
    c. Mormons say they believe in Jesus too. But what Jesus? The Jehovah Witnesses have a Jesus, the Muslims have a Jesus – define who Jesus is.

IV. Quick Facts on the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints

1. The Bible is the Word of God insofar as it is correctly translated. There are 3 additional sacred books: the Book of Mormon, Doctrine & Covenants, & Pearl of Great Price.
2. The earth is one of several inhabited planets ruled over by gods and goddesses, who were at one time humans on other planets. Mormonism is polytheistic in its core.
3. The Trinity consists of 3 gods born in different times & places; the Father begot the Son & Holy Ghost as spirit-children through a goddess wife in heaven.
4. Humankind is of the same species as God. God begot all humans in heaven as offspring of his wife or wives, who were sent to earth for their eventual exaltation to godhood.
5. Salvation is resurrection, but exaltation to godhood, for eternal life in the Celestial heaven, must be earned through works.