

“Mormonism: Part III”

Lesson #6

The Articles Of Faith

Thirteen Brief Statements Summarizing The **Fundamental Beliefs** Of The Church Of Jesus Christ Of The Latter-Day Saints. Written By Joseph Smith In 1842 (The Pearl Of Great Price)

1. **The Godhead**
2. **Sin**
3. **Salvation**
4. First **Principles** And **Ordinances**
5. Priesthood **Authority**
6. Church **Organization**
7. Spiritual **Gifts**
8. **Scripture**
9. Continuing **Revelation**
10. **Last Things**
11. Religious **Freedom**
12. **Government**
13. Christian **Conduct**

10 Categories Of Comparisons

#1 Ultimate Authority

Key Question: What Determines **Truth**?

1. **The Holy Bible** With Qualifications
 - **Translation** - Language Changed Creating **Errors** And **Omissions**
 - **Transmission** - Plain and Precious Truths Were **Lost**.

LDS Claim: Original Meaning Was **Lost**, Teachings Were **Changed**, Central Truths **Omitted**, And Doctrines Were **Corrupted**

2. The Book Of **Mormon**

A Collection Of **15 Books** Published By Joseph Smith (1830)

- Original Language **Reformed Egyptian**
- Ancient Records Engraved Upon **Golden Plates**
- Translated By The Use Of Supernatural **Instruments** And **Divine Power**

Claim: The Book Of Mormon Is **Another Witness** Of Jesus Christ That **Restores Truths** Lost Or Corrupted

3. **Doctrine** And **Covenants**

A Collection Of **Revelations**, **Commandments**, **Instructions** And **Official Declarations** Accepted As Scripture By The Church Of Jesus Christ Of The Latter-Day Saints.

(**138** Sections And **2** Official Declarations)

Purpose: Establish **Doctrine**, Priesthood **Authority**, Church **Organization**, **Ordinances** And **Instructions** For The Restored Church.

4. **The Pearl Of Great Price** (1851)

A Collection Of Religious Writings Attributed To Joseph Smith. It Contains Teachings About The **Creation**, The **Nature Of God**, The **Premortal Existence** Of Mankind, Joseph Smith's Prophetic **Calling** And The Fundamental **Beliefs** Of Mormonism

Five Principle Sections

1. The Book **Moses**
2. The Book **Abraham**
3. Joseph Smith - **Matthew**
4. Joseph Smith - **History**
5. **Articles Of Faith**

5. **Continuing Revelation** (Article Of Faith 1:9)

Question

Biblical Christianity

Mormonism

- | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|
| • What Is Scripture? | • <u>66 Books</u> Of The Bible | • <u>Four Standard Works</u> |
| • Is The Bible The Final Written Authority? | • <u>Yes</u> | • <u>No</u> |
| • Can New Scripture Be Received? | • <u>No</u> | • <u>Yes</u> |
| • Are Living Prophets Authoritative? | • <u>No</u> | • <u>Yes</u> |
| • How Is Doctrine Tested? | • <u>Scripture</u> | • By The <u>Scripture & Prophets</u> |

#2 View Of God

Key Question: **What** Is God, **Who** Is God, And Has God **Always** Been God?

LDS Teaching - Heavenly Father, Jesus Christ And The Holy Ghost Are **Three Separate** Beings

- **Distinct** Beings United In **Purpose, Love, Will, And Doctrine**

- Heavenly Father Has A **Physical Body** (D&C 130:22)
- Heavenly Father Was Once As **Man Is Now**
- Lorenzo Snow (5th LDS President) “As Man **Now Is**, God Once Was: As God **Now Is**, Man **May Be**.”

Doctrine

- Number Of Gods
- Trinity
- God’s Nature
- God’s Beginning
- God’s Body

Christianity

- **One God** Eternally
- One Divine Being, **Three Persons**
- **Eternal Uncreated** Spirit
- **Never Began** To Be A God
- God The Father Is **Spirit**, God The Son **Incarnate**

LDS Teaching

- **3 Distinct Divine Beings** In The Godhead
- 3 Separate Beings, **Perfectly United**
- Heavenly Father Is An **Exalted Embodied** Being
- God Was Once A **A Man**
- Father And Son Both Possess Glorified **Physical Bodies**

#3 Humanity

Key Question: **What** Is Man, **Where** Man Came From, And **Why** We Exist.

1. Mankind **Existed Before Birth**
 2. Mankind Is The **Children Of Heavenly Parents**
 3. Mankind Exists For Heavenly Father’s **Plan Of Salvation**
- Human Beings / Spirit Children Came To Earth To Receive **Physical Bodies**, Exercise **Agency**, Experience **Opposition**, Develop **Faith**, Obey God’s **Commands** And Prepare For **Eternal Life**

Biblical Christianity - Man Is A **Created Being**, Made In **God’s Image**, Distinct From **His Creator**, Fallen Through **Sin**, And Dependent Upon God’s Grace For **Salvation** And **Glorification**

LDS Teaching - Human Beings Are **Spirit Children** Of **Heavenly Parents** Who Lived Before **Mortal Birth**. Each Came To Earth To Receive **Physical Bodies**, **Gain Experience** And **Possess The Potential** Through Jesus Christ To Become Like Their **Heavenly Father** Through **Exaltation**.

<u>Question</u>	<u>Christianity</u>	<u>LDS</u>
• Where Did Mankind Originate?	• <u>Created</u> By God	• Existed Before <u>Birth</u> As Spirit Children Of <u>Heavenly Parents</u>
• Did Humans Exist Before Birth?	• No <u>Premortal Existence</u>	• <u>Yes</u>
• Who Are Our Spiritual Parents?	• God IS Our Father Through <u>Adoption</u>	• Heavenly <u>Father</u> And A Heavenly <u>Mother</u>
• Why Are We On Earth?	• To <u>Glorify</u> God And Live According To <u>His Purposes</u>	• To Receive <u>Bodies</u> , Gain <u>Experience</u> , Exercise <u>Agency</u> . And Progress Toward <u>Exaltation</u>

#4 Sin And The Fall Of Man

Key Question: What Is **Sin**, What Happened When Adam & Eve **Disobeyed God** And How Did The Fall Affect The **Human Race**

Biblical Christianity: Adam's Disobedience Brought **Sin** And **Death** Into Human History. All Human Beings Are **Fallen** Who Need **Sinners** And **Redemption and Reconciliation** With God Through Jesus Christ.

LDS Teaching: Adam And Eve's Transgression Introduced **Mortality**, **Physical Death**, And **Spiritual Separation** From God.

The Fall Was An Essential Step In Heavenly Father's **Plan** Making **Mortal** Life, **Family Life**, And **Eternal Progression** Possible.

Question

Biblical Christianity

LDS Teaching

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| • What Is Sin? | • <u>Transgression</u> Of God's Law, Arising From Fallen Human Nature | • Violation OF God's Commandments For Which <u>Individuals Are Accountable</u> |
| • Was Adam's Act Disobedience? | • <u>Yes</u> | • <u>Yes</u> |
| • Was The Fall Necessary For Human Progression? | • <u>No</u> | • <u>Yes</u> Essential To God's Plan |
| • What Did The Fall Bring? | • <u>Sin, Death & Judgement</u> | • <u>Mortality</u> , Spiritual <u>Separation</u> , <u>Death</u> And <u>Opportunity For Progression</u> |
| • Do Descendants Inherit Adam's Guilt? | • <u>Yes</u> | • <u>No</u> |
| • Is Mankind Fallen? | • <u>Yes</u> | • <u>Yes</u> |
| • Does Mankind Need Jesus Christ? | • <u>Yes</u> | • <u>Yes</u> |
| • How Is The Sinner Reconciled To God? | • Through Christ By <u>Grace Through Faith</u> | • Through Christ's Atonement, With <u>Faith</u> , <u>Repentance</u> ad <u>Gospel Ordinances</u> In LDS Teaching |

THE ARTICLES OF FAITH OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

CHAPTER 1

- 1** We believe in God, the Eternal Father, and in His Son, Jesus Christ, and in the Holy Ghost.
- 2** We believe that men will be punished for their own sins, and not for Adam's transgression.
- 3** We believe that through the Atonement of Christ, all mankind may be saved, by obedience to the laws and ordinances of the Gospel.
- 4** We believe that the first principles and ordinances of the Gospel are: first, Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ; second, Repentance; third, Baptism by immersion for the remission of sins; fourth, Laying on of hands for the gift of the Holy Ghost.
- 5** We believe that a man must be called of God, by prophecy, and by the laying on of hands by those who are in authority, to preach the Gospel and administer in the ordinances thereof.
- 6** We believe in the same organization that existed in the Primitive Church, namely, apostles, prophets, pastors, teachers, evangelists, and so forth.
- 7** We believe in the gift of tongues, prophecy, revelation, visions, healing, interpretation of tongues, and so forth.
- 8** We believe the Bible to be the word of God as far as it is translated correctly; we also believe the Book of Mormon to be the word of God.
- 9** We believe all that God has revealed, all that He does now reveal, and we believe that He will yet reveal many great and important things pertaining to the Kingdom of God.
- 10** We believe in the literal gathering of Israel and in the restoration of the Ten Tribes; that Zion (the New Jerusalem) will be built upon the American continent; that Christ will reign personally upon the earth; and, that the earth will be renewed and receive its paradisiacal glory.
- 11** We claim the privilege of worshiping Almighty God according to the dictates of our own conscience, and allow all men the same privilege, let them worship how, where, or what they may.
- 12** We believe in being subject to kings, presidents, rulers, and magistrates, in obeying, honoring, and sustaining the law.

13 We believe in being honest, true, chaste, benevolent, virtuous, and in doing good to all men; indeed, we may say that we follow the admonition of Paul—We believe all things, we hope all things, we have endured many things, and hope to be able to endure all things. If there is anything virtuous, lovely, or of good report or praiseworthy, we seek after these things.