

Jesus Christ: creature or Creator?

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Gordon B. Hinckley, late President of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (the Mormon Church) talked about the Jesus as the Mormon Church believes he is:

“In bearing testimony of Jesus Christ, President Hinckley spoke of those outside the Church who say Latter-day Saints ‘do not believe in the traditional Christ. No, I don’t. For the traditional Christ of whom they speak is not the Christ of whom I speak. For the Christ of whom I speak has been revealed in this Dispensation of the Fullness of Times. He, together with his Father, appeared to the boy Joseph Smith in the year 1820, and when Joseph left the grove that day, he knew more of the nature of God than all the learned ministers of the gospel of the ages.’”¹

Pres. Hinckley’s words, “the traditional Christ of whom they speak is not the Christ of whom I speak” is revealing. Many Christians have been saying this for decades.² Then How *different is Jesus in Mormonism from the Jesus in the Bible?*

I Was Jesus the first child of God?

The Mormon Church teaches that (the) Heavenly Father was once a mortal man like us, who lived on a planet, and progressed to become a God.³ In Mormonism all men and women existed prior to this life as spirit children of God⁴ and all people must receive mortal bodies to prove their worthiness in their progression to become gods.⁵ Having a physical body and being tested are essential requirements of progression to godhood.⁶ **The Mormon Church also teaches that Jesus was the “first spirit born to our heavenly parents”⁷ and “became a God” by obeying all the laws of Mormonism before he came to earth and received a body.**⁸ This teaching contradicts Mormon teaching about the essential requirement for attaining godhood: having a body and tested. The same problem exists with the Holy Ghost, as the Holy Ghost in Mormonism is another god but does not have a body.⁹

By contrast, the Bible teaches that God the Father and Jesus eternally existed as God (Psalm 90:2, John 1:1-3, Exodus 3:14 with John 8:58, Isaiah 44:24 with Colossians 1:16). There was not a point in time when Jesus was not God. Even the *Book of Mormon* teaches the eternal nature of Christ (2 Nephi 27: 23, Mosiah 3:5, 8). “Behold, I am God; I am a God of miracles; and I will show unto the world that I am the same yesterday, today, and forever.” (2Nephi 27:23)

II Are Jesus and Satan spirit brothers?

The Mormon Church teaches that Jesus and Lucifer (Satan) are spirit brothers.¹⁰

By contrast, the Bible teaches that Jesus was creator of all things (John 1:3, Colossians 1:16-17). **Jesus was Lucifer’s creator, not Lucifer’s brother.** Lucifer is a created angelic being (Ezekiel 28:13-19). If Jesus were a creature, he would be a problem, not a solution to man’s dire sin predicament, because no creature can save another creature. It is only God, who can break the power of sin, who, by way of his eternal sacrifice, has atoned for our sins and brings us to eternal life.

1 Only God can save.

(Isaiah 43:10, 11, 45:21)

2 Jesus Christ saves.

(Matthew 1:21, Mark 2:5)

3 Therefore Jesus Christ in the Bible is God.

(John 1:1-3, 8: 58, Romans 9:5, Titus 2:13, 2 Peter 1:1)

The Mormon Jesus, as our spirit brother, who is a creature, cannot save us.

III Was Jesus conceived by the physical sexual act?

The Mormon Church and its top leaders teach that Jesus Christ was conceived by the physical sexual act between the Father and Mary.¹¹

See *Family Home Evening Manual* (1972, pp125-126), an official LDS teaching manual:

... how are children begotten? I answer just as Jesus Christ was begotten of his father...Now my little friends, I will repeat again words as simple as I can, and you ask your parents about it, that God, the eternal Father, is literally the father of Jesus Christ. (Joseph F. Smith, Box Elder Stake Conference Dec20, 1914 as quoted in *Brigham City Box Elder News*, 28 Jan.1915, pp.1-2)

On page 126 of the same official manual gives a graphic picture of an algebraic equation:

Daddy + Mommy = You
Heavenly Father + Mary = Jesus

By contrast, **the Bible teaches that Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit, who over-shadowed Mary, a true virgin** (Matthew 1:20, Luke 1:34-35). Even the *Book of Mormon* teaches that Jesus was conceived by the Holy Ghost. “Behold, he shall be born of Mary, at Jerusalem which is the land of our forefathers, she being a virgin, a precious and chosen vessel, who shall be overshadowed and conceive by the power of the Holy Ghost, and bring forth a son, yea, even the Son of God.” (Alma 7:10)

IV Does Jesus' blood cleanse us from *all* sin or not?

The Mormon Church teaches that Jesus' blood does not cleanse us from some serious sins such as murder.¹² Man must have his own blood shed to atone for these sins.

By contrast, *the Bible teaches that Jesus' blood on the cross cleanses us from all our sins* (1 John 1:7, 9).

But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. (1 John 1:7)

Even the *Book of Mormon* teaches that murder can be forgiven (3 Nephi 30:2).

Some Mormons try to say that the blood atonement teaching refers to the sin against the Holy Ghost in Matthew 12:31-32. The context of the passage is that the Pharisees identified the working of the Holy Ghost with the power of Satan. One of the roles of the Holy Ghost is to convict the world of sin (John 16:8). When people blaspheme the Holy Ghost, they set themselves against the Holy Ghost's convicting power. Unpardonable sin is unpardonable, *not* because its seriousness is beyond the saving power of Jesus' blood, but because these people *set themselves in opposition to the Spirit of God*.¹³ So they cannot cry out for mercy and forgiveness to God. The Mormon teaching on the blood of atonement is very disturbing, as it implies that a sinful person's blood is more powerful than Christ's for the forgiveness of serious sins.¹⁴

V Should we worship Jesus and pray to Jesus?

Latter-day Saints say that they pray *through* the Saviour. They often say that they have a personal relationship with Jesus. What do they mean? **The late LDS Apostle Bruce R. McConkie said that prayers are addressed to the Father only, and Latter-day Saints should not strive for a personal relationship with Jesus.**¹⁵ *Evangelical Christians, however, have a personal relationship with Jesus. We pray to Jesus as well as pray through Jesus, and worship him.* There are many instances in the New Testament where people give Christ the honour which he duly deserves.

- 1 Prayer is directly addressed to Jesus. (Acts 7:54-60, Romans 10:12)
- 2 Jesus is worshipped. (Hebrews 1: 6, John 20:28, Matthew 28: 17, Revelation 5:11-14)
- 3 Jesus is God with the authority to forgive sins. (Isaiah 43:11, 45:21 - Matthew 1: 21, Mark 2:5)

The Mormon Church teaches that Jesus is Jehovah in the OT.¹⁶ The Israelites were to pray to Jehovah (Deuteronomy 4:7, 2Chronicles 7:14, Jeremiah 29:7, 12). "Do not worship any other God for the Lord, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God" (Exodus 34:14) Did Jesus correct his disciples when they worshiped him? No. Why did Jesus accept their worship? (John 21:24-29) Because he is eternal God.

Conclusion : Pres. Hinckley admitted that Joseph Smith's first vision introduced a completely different view of the nature of God and a different concept of Jesus, which The Bible calls "another Jesus" (2 Cor. 11:4). The Mormon Church teaches a Christ other than the one in the New Testament, who cannot save us from sins. At the end of the day, we all will meet the real Jesus. What matters most is our living personal relationship with him. **Matthew 7:21-23** is a sober warning to us. If we do not *know* the real Jesus but claim to do things in his name, he will say he does not know us and we will be rejected (Matthew 7:23). Latter-day Saints cannot say to Jesus, "We went on mission to preach the restored gospel. We prayed in your name, kneeling down. We baptised people in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost." But they do not know the same Jesus. The Jesus in the Bible is eternal God with the authority to forgive your sins. Which Jesus has the power to save you from sins? Does the Mormon Jesus have the power to save you from sins?

1 *Church News*, Week ending June 20, 1998, p.7- *Church News* is a weekly newspaper published by the Mormon Church.

2 John Farkas, *THE JESUS CHRIST OF THE MORMON CHURCH* (www.frontiernet.net/~bcmmin/jesusmor.htm)

3 *Search These Commandments-A Melchizedek Priesthood Personal Study Guide*, pp. 152,153- an official Mormon Church teaching manual *Achieving a Celestial Marriage*, pp.129-132- an official Mormon Church teaching manual

4 *Gospel principles*, 2009, p.9- an official Mormon Church teaching manual

5 *Ibid*, p.10-11,279

6 *Doctrine & Covenants* 93:33-35- *D&C* -one of LDS's Standard Works (synonymous with canonised scripture), *Old Testament: Genesis-2 Samuel, Student Manual*, p.31- an official Mormon Church teaching manual

7 *Gospel principles*, 1997, p.11, *Doctrine & Covenants* 93:21,

8 *The Life and Teaching of Jesus & His Apostles*, p.15- an official Mormon Church teaching manual

9 *D&C* 130:22

10 *Gospel Principles*, 1997, pp.11, 17-18, *Moses* 5:13 (in *The Pearl and Great Price* - one of LDS's Standard Works)

11 *Family Home Evening Manual*, pp.125-126- an official Mormon Church teaching manual, *Mormon Doctrine* p.742.- a nonofficial Mormon source

12 *D & C* 42:18-19, *Doctrines of Salvation* vol.1, pp.133-138 - Writings of the tenth LDS president Joseph Fielding Smith, *Mormon Doctrine*, pp.92, 93

13 James R.White, *Letters To a Mormon Elder* (Minnesota, Bethany House Publishing, 1993) pp.237-238

14 *Ibid*, p.236

15 *Our Relationship With the Lord* -An Address at a Brigham Young University Devotional March, 1982

16 *LDS Bible Dictionary*, p.681, pp.710-711