

What is The Truth About the Restored Gospel?

You Decide!

The Bible (& the Book of Mormon)



Or

LDS Church Doctrine



This pamphlet is intended to accurately represent the gospel message of both Christianity and the LDS religion.

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The Restored LDS Gospel

The “Restorer” of the Gospel

“When Christ came... he came as the great Restorer, the one who brought back again to earth the fullness of the gospel... Christianity did not begin a mere 2,000 years ago; it existed first in eternity, and then had its beginning on earth with Father Adam.” (*Mormon Doctrine*, McConkie, pg. 637)

Adam Received the Gospel

“Father Adam... received through divine revelations the Gospel of Jesus Christ – the same Gospel with the same principles and ordinances that we have today... Among the first Gospel principles that God revealed to Adam and Eve was that of eternal marriage.” (*Gospel through the Ages*, Hunter, pg. 59-60)

Multiple Restorations

“Since the gospel was first given to Adam, each time it was thereafter lost by apostasy and then revealed to man again has been a restoration of the gospel. Our Lord in his personal ministry, for instance, restored the original gospel, the same plan of salvation which he had revealed to Adam in the beginning.” (*Mormon Doctrine*, McConkie, pg.634-5)

The Final Restoration

“The most recent restoration took place [about] a hundred [and seventy five] years ago. At that time the Lord established the last and greatest of all the dispensations by revealing the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the Prophet Joseph Smith. Thus the true Church is now upon the earth with the promise that it shall never again be taken away.” (*Gospel through the Ages*, Hunter, vii)

The Fulness of the Gospel Contained in Both the Bible & the Book of Mormon

“The Book of Mormon is a volume of holy scripture comparable to the Bible. It is a record of God’s dealings with the ancient inhabitants of the Americas and contains, as does the Bible, the fulness of the everlasting gospel.” (*The Book of Mormon INTRODUCTION*, 1989)

The Fulness of the Gospel

“By fulness of the gospel is meant all the ordinances and principles that pertain to the exaltation in the celestial kingdom.” (*Doctrines of Salvation*, vol. 1, Joseph Fielding Smith, pg. 160)

REQUIREMENTS FOR EXALTATION

Latter-day Saints are taught that now is the time to fulfill the requirements for exaltation (see Alma 34:32-34). President Joseph Fielding Smith said, ‘In order to obtain the exaltation we must accept **the gospel** and all its covenants... and ‘live by every word that proceedeth forth from the mouth of God’ (Doc. of Salv., 2:43).

There are specific ordinances we **must** have received to be exalted:

1. We **must** be baptized and confirmed a member of the Church of Jesus Christ.
2. We **must** receive the Holy Ghost.
3. We **must** receive the temple endowment.
4. We **must** be married for time and all eternity.

In addition to the required ordinances, there are also many laws **we have to obey** to qualify for exaltation. **We must–**

1. Love God and worship him.
2. Have faith in Jesus Christ.
3. Live the law of chastity.
4. Repent of our wrong doings.
5. Pay honest tithes and offerings.

6. Be honest in our dealings with others and with the Lord.
7. Speak the truth always.
8. Obey the Word of Wisdom.
9. Search out our kindred dead and perform the saving ordinances of the gospel for them.
10. Keep the Sabbath day holy.
11. Attend our Church meetings as regularly as possible to renew our baptismal covenants. This is done as we partake of the sacrament.
12. Love and strengthen our family members in the ways of the Lord.
13. Have family and individual prayers every day.
14. Honor our parents.
15. Teach the gospel to others by word and example.
16. Study the scriptures.
17. Listen to and obey the words of the prophets of the Lord.
18. Develop true charity in our lives.

In other words, each person must endure in faithfulness keeping all the Lord’s commandments until the end of his life on earth.” (*Gospel Principles*, LDS Church, 1979, *Exaltation*, pg. 224-228).

The Crowning Gospel Ordinance

“The prophets have uniformly taught that– God’s great plan for the blessings of his children is eternal marriage... President Howard W. Hunter described celestial marriage as ‘the crowning gospel ordinance.’” (*Ensign*, May 2003, *Eternal Marriage*, Elder F. Burton Howard of the Seventy)

“The crowning Gospel ordinance requisite for Godhood is celestial marriage... Obedience to this law is absolutely necessary in order to obtain the highest exaltation in the Kingdom of God.” (*Gospel Through the Ages*, Hunter, pg. 118-119)

Over

The Bible [and Book of Mormon]

Both the Bible and Book of Mormon give warnings in regard to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Consider the statements made by Jesus and his Apostles and answer the questions following each passage.

Galatians 1:6-9 *“I marvel that you are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto **another gospel**: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would **pervert the gospel** of Christ. But though **we**, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which **we** have preached unto you, **let him be accursed**. As **we** said before, so say I now again, if any man preach any other gospel unto you than that you have received, **let him be accursed**.”*

QUESTIONS:

- What problem in regard to the **gospel** had crept into the Galatian churches?
- To whom would the Apostle Paul be referring when he says, “though **we**”; “which **we** have preached; “as **we** said”?
- What do you think it means when it says that anyone who dares to alter the gospel of Jesus will be **accursed**?

3 Nephi 11:39-40 Jesus is speaking, “Verily, verily, I say unto you, that this is my doctrine, and whoso buildeth upon this buildeth upon my rock, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against them. And **whoso shall declare more or less than this, and establish it for my doctrine**, the same cometh of **evil**, and is not built upon my rock; but he buildeth upon a

sandy foundation, and **the gates of hell stand open to receive such.**”

QUESTIONS:

- What did Jesus mean when he said, “**whoso shall declare more or less than this and establish it for my doctrine**”?
- What is the warning to anyone who adds to or takes away from the gospel of Jesus?

POINTS TO CONSIDER:

- * The LDS Church claims that both the Bible and Book of Mormon contain the “fulness of the everlasting gospel” (Book of Mormon Introduction, 1989)
- * LDS Prophet Joseph Fielding Smith said, “By fulness of the gospel is meant all the ordinances and principles that pertain to the exaltation in the celestial kingdom.” (Doctrines of Salvation, vol. 1, pg. 160)
- * Gospel Principles, a manual of the LDS Church tells us celestial marriage is a requirement for exaltation. (Gospel Principles, Exaltation, 1979)
- * President Howard W. Hunter described celestial marriage as “the crowning gospel ordinance.” (*Ensign, May 2003, Eternal Marriage, Elder F. Burton Howard of the Seventy*)

A New and Everlasting Covenant?

Doctrine & Covenants Section 132, the heading states, “Revelation given through Joseph Smith the Prophet, at Nauvoo, Illinois, recorded July 12, 1843, relating to the **new** and everlasting covenant... 1–6, Exaltation is gained through the **new** and everlasting covenant.”

D&C 132:1-6 states “Verily, thus saith the Lord unto you my servant

Joseph... behold, I reveal unto you a **new** and an everlasting covenant; and if ye abide not that covenant, then are ye damned; for no one can reject this covenant and be permitted to enter into my glory... And as pertaining to the **new** and everlasting covenant, it was instituted for the fulness of my glory; and he that receiveth a fulness thereof must and shall abide the law, or he shall be damned, saith the Lord God.”

QUESTIONS

- When was this ‘**new**’ gospel covenant introduced to the LDS Church?
- Considering Galatians 1:6-9 and 3 Nephi 11:38-39, would not a ‘**new**’ gospel covenant be a problem?
- If the ‘**new**’ and everlasting covenant was taught in ancient times by the prophets and later by Jesus & his Apostles, where in the ancient scriptures was this gospel principle taught?

Check It Out for Yourself

- * Not Jesus; Not any prophet; and Not any of the Lord’s Apostles ever taught the doctrine of celestial marriage.
- * No one in the Bible or Book of Mormon was married in a Jewish temple.

Total Silence?

It seems inconceivable that, in 1500 years of Biblical history and in 1,000 years of Book of Mormon history, the crowning ordinance of the gospel (eternal/temple marriage) was never mentioned.

A New Gospel Covenant?

It appears as though D&C 132 truly is a ‘**new**’ gospel covenant that was added by Joseph Smith. This is a HUGE problem

according to both the Bible (*in Galatians 1*) and Book of Mormon (*in 3 Nephi 11*).

Eternal Marriage According to Jesus

Only once did Jesus address the topic of marriage in the afterlife - this narrative is found in Matthew 22:23-30. Consider the following story and the question posed to Jesus... *“The same day came to him the Sadducees, which say that there is no resurrection, and asked him, saying, Master, Moses said, If a man die, having no children, his brother shall marry his wife, and raise up seed unto his brother. Now there were with us seven brethren: and the first, when he had married a wife, deceased, and, having no issue, left his wife unto his brother: Likewise the second also, and the third, unto the seventh. And last of all the woman died also. Therefore in the resurrection whose wife shall she be of the seven? for they all had her.”*

Stop Here - If eternal marriage was the crowning ordinance of Jesus Christ’s gospel, what important question would Jesus have asked these men?

Jesus would have asked, “Was the woman married to any of her husbands in the temple for time and all eternity?” But, Jesus did not ask that question, instead, *“Jesus answered them, Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God. For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven.”*

Is the “Restored” gospel of the LDS Church really the original gospel as taught by Jesus and his Apostles?

You decide!