

## Mormon vs Biblical Teachings about Jesus

	Mormon Teaching	Biblical Teaching
<b>Conception</b>	Jesus was conceived by physical union between God the Father and Mary <sup>1</sup>	Jesus was conceived supernaturally by the Holy Spirit <sup>2</sup>
<b>Marital Status</b>	Jesus had several wives <sup>3</sup>	No indication that Jesus was married <sup>4</sup>
<b>Relationship to Satan</b>	Jesus was the brother of Lucifer (Satan) <sup>5</sup>	Satan is only a fallen, created angel <sup>6</sup>
<b>Origin</b>	Jesus was created <sup>7,11</sup>	Jesus always was, is now, and forever shall be God; all things were created through Jesus <sup>8</sup>
<b>Deity</b>	The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are three distinct gods <sup>9</sup>	There is only one God, but three distinct Persons in the Godhead <sup>10</sup>
<b>His Constancy</b>	Jesus is our elder brother who progressed to become a god <sup>11</sup>	Jesus has existed as God eternally <sup>12</sup>
<b>Role in Our Salvation</b>	Jesus Christ plays only an initial role in our salvation <sup>13</sup>	Salvation is through trust in the finished work of Christ on the cross alone, apart from any work by us <sup>14</sup>
	Certain sins are beyond the atoning blood of Christ <sup>15</sup>	Christ's sacrifice on the cross was complete <sup>16</sup>
	Jesus is only one of many saviors <sup>17</sup>	Jesus is the one and only Savior <sup>18</sup>
<b>Personal Relationship</b>	A personal relationship with Christ is discouraged as false doctrine <sup>19</sup>	A personal relationship with Christ is a central part of Christianity <sup>20</sup>

Bible quotations are from the New American Standard version. For information on sources of Mormon quotations, see the section titled "[Mormon Documents](#)".

**1. Mormon prophets have taught that Jesus was conceived by sexual intercourse** (physical union) between God the Father and Mary:

- Brigham Young taught: "The birth of the Savior was as **natural as are the births of our children**; it was the result of **natural action**. He partook of flesh and blood---was begotten of his Father as we were of our fathers" ([Journal of Discourses](#) vol.8, p.115); and "when the Virgin Mary conceived the child Jesus, the Father had begotten him in his own likeness [**flesh** and blood]. He was **not begotten by the Holy Ghost**" ([Journal of Discourses](#), vol.1, p.50).
- Brigham Young insisted: "I will say that I was naturally begotten; so was my father, and **also** my Savior Jesus Christ...he is the first begotten of his father in the flesh, and there was **nothing unnatural** about it" ([Journal of Discourses](#) vol.8, p.211); "Now remember from this time forth,

and for ever, that **Jesus Christ was not begotten by the Holy Ghost**" ([Journal of Discourses](#), vol.1, p.51).

- [Orson Pratt](#) (LDS apostle) taught: "the Father and **Mother of Jesus**, according to the flesh, must have been **associated together** in the capacity of Husband and Wife...as God was the first husband to her, it may be that He only gave her to be the wife of Joseph while in this mortal state, and that He intended after the resurrection to **again take her as one of his own wives** to raise up immortal spirits in eternity" ([The Seer](#). p.158, 1853).
- [Joseph Fielding Smith](#) wrote: "The birth of the Savior was a **natural** occurrence **unattended by any degree of mysticism**, and the Father God was the **literal parent of Jesus in the flesh** as well as in the spirit" (Religious Truths Defined, p.44).

This teaching persists today:

- [Bruce McConkie](#) (LDS apostle) states: "Christ was begotten by an Immortal Father **in the same way that mortal men are begotten** by mortal fathers" ([Mormon Doctrine](#), p. 547, 1979).
- Carfred Broderick (Mormon author) writes: "God is a procreating personage of flesh and bone...latter-day prophets have made it clear that despite what it says in Matthew 1:20, **the Holy Ghost was not the father of Jesus...The Savior was fathered by a personage of flesh and bone**" (Dialogue: A Journal of Mormon Thought, Autumn, 1967, p.100-101).

Despite the well-documented position of previous Mormon prophets, presidents, and apostles about the nature of Christ's conception, modern LDS apologists maintain that "Christ was born of a virgin". How can they? By changing the definition of the word "virgin". The reasoning goes like this: since Mary had sexual relations with an immortal man, not a mortal man, the phrase "virgin birth" still applies.

- [McConkie](#) explains: "Suffice it to say that our Lord was born of a **virgin**, which is fitting and proper, and **also natural**, since the Father of the Child was an **immortal** Being" (The Promised Messiah, p. 466).

**2. The Bible teaches that Jesus was conceived miraculously by the Holy Spirit**, fulfilling the prophecy of Isaiah that the Messiah would be born of a virgin:

- "The Lord Himself shall give you a sign: Behold a **virgin** will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel" (Is. 7:14).
- "Now the birth of Christ was as follows. When His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child **by the Holy Spirit**...for that which was conceived in her is **of the Holy Spirit**" (Matt. 1:18,20).
- "Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?'. And the angel answered and said to her 'The **Holy Spirit will come upon you** and the power of the Most High will overshadow you'" (Luke 1:34-5).

God intended that the birth of the Messiah would be a miraculous event that---like His resurrection---would provide evidence to the skeptical and confirm that the Messiah was indeed approved by the Father.

**3. Mormon leaders have taught that Jesus was a polygamist.** Because Mormon prophets considered polygamy a righteous principle and practiced it (despite reversals in doctrine and concessions to U.S. law by the LDS Church), it is easy to see why they taught Jesus was married and had multiple wives:

- Orson Pratt (LDS apostle) stated: "the great Messiah who was the founder of the Christian religion, **was a polygamist...marrying many honorable wives** himself...God the Father had a **plurality** of wives...the Son followed the example of his Father...both God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ **inherit their wives** in eternity as well as in time" ([The Seer](#), p.172, 1853).
- Jedediah M. Grant (second counselor to Brigham Young) stated: "the burst of public sentiment in anathemas upon Christ and his disciples, **causing his crucifixion**, was evidently based on **polygamy...a belief of a plurality of wives caused the persecution of Jesus** and his followers" ([Journal of Discourses](#), vol. 1, p.346).

Some Mormon leaders contend that the wedding at Cana was an account Jesus' marriage:

- Apostle Orson Hyde: "...**Jesus Christ was married at Cana** of Galilee... **Mary, Martha, and others were his wives** ... he begat children" ([Journal of Discourses](#), vol. 2, p.210).
- Jedediah M. Grant: "**Jesus was the bridegroom at the marriage of Cana** of Galilee, and he told them what to do... Now there was actually a marriage; and if Jesus was not the bridegroom on that occasion, please tell who was. If any man can show this, and prove that it was not the Savior of the world, then I will acknowledge I am in error. We say **it was Jesus Christ who was married**, to be brought into the relation whereby he could see his seed, before he was crucified" ([Journal of Discourses](#), vol.2, p.82).
- Orson Hyde: "It will be borne in mind that once on a time, there was a marriage in Cana of Galilee; and on a careful reading of that transaction, it will be discovered that no less a person than **Jesus Christ was married on that occasion**. If he was never married, **his intimacy with Mary and Martha, and the other Mary** also whom Jesus loved, must have been highly unbecoming and improper to say the best of it" ([Journal of Discourses](#), vol.4, p.259).
- Orson Pratt: "We have now clearly shown that **God the Father had a plurality of wives**, one or more being in eternity, by whom He begat our spirits as well as the spirit of Jesus His First Born... We have also proved most clearly that the **Son followed the example of his Father, and became the great Bridegroom** to whom kings' daughters and many honorable wives are to be married" ([The Seer](#), p. 172).

#### **4. The Bible makes no explicit or implicit statements about Jesus being married.**

The Mormon interpretation of John 2 as describing Jesus' own wedding ignores any reasonable reading of the plain text:

- The Apostle John's stated purpose in describing the wedding feast at Cana was to recount Christ's first miracle (Jn. 2:11).
- According to John, Jesus and the disciples came because his mother Mary was invited (Jn. 2:1). Why would Jesus or His mother need to be invited to Jesus' own wedding (John 2:2)?
- Why is someone else referred to as the bridegroom (John 2:9)?
- Why is there no mention of a physical wife or physical offspring for Jesus anywhere else in the gospels or epistles?

The fact that **Jesus did not marry during his incarnation** is consistent with the New Testament claim that Jesus is the bridegroom and the church (collectively) is His bride.

- "For the husband is the head of the **wife**, as Christ also is head of the **church**...love your **wives**, just as Christ also loved the **church**...A man shall leave his father and mother and shall cleave to his wife; and the **two shall become one flesh**. This mystery is great, but **I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church**" (Eph 5:23-32).
- "**He who has the bride is the bridegroom** [Jesus]; but the friend [John the Baptist] of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom's voice" (Jn. 3:29). This passage occurs later in John and is not referring to the wedding at Cana.
- The Bible describes the marriage supper of the Lamb to the **church, His bride** (Rev. 19:7; 21:2,9).
- The Bible forbids polygamy, calling it an abomination (Deut 17:17; see also section on [polygamy](#)). Since Jesus was a spotless lamb (1 Peter 1:19; Heb. 9:14) without sin (Is. 53:9; 2 Cor. 5:21), **he could not have committed polygamy**.

#### 5. The Mormon Church has taught that Jesus is the brother of Lucifer.

- President [Spencer W. Kimball](#) wrote "Long before you were born a program was developed by your creators ... The principal personalities in this great drama were a Father Elohim, perfect in wisdom, judgment, and person, and **two sons, Lucifer and Jehovah**." ([Teachings of Spencer W. Kimball](#), p. 32-33).
- [James Talmage](#) explains who Jehovah is: "**Jesus Christ was Jehovah**...Jesus Christ, who is the Jehovah of the Old Testament" ([Doctrines of Salvation](#), vol.1, p.11,27).
- Milton R. Hunter (one of the LDS General Authorities) explains "The appointment of Jesus to be Savior of the world was contested by **one of the other sons of God. He was called Lucifer...this spirit-brother of Jesus** desperately tried to become the Savior of mankind" ([The Gospel Through the Ages](#), p.15, 1945).
- [Joseph Smith](#) stated: "The contention in heaven was...Jesus said there would be certain souls that would not be saved; and the **Devil said he could save them all**, and laid his plans before the grand council, who gave their vote in favour of Jesus Christ. So the Devil rose up in rebellion against God, and was cast down" ([Journal of Discourses](#), vol. 6, p. 8).
- "And Satan came among them, saying: **I am also a son of God**" ([Pearl of Great Price, Moses 5:17](#)).
- See also [Mormon Doctrine](#), pp.192, 546-47, 589-90 and [Gospel Principles](#) p.15-16.

#### 6. The Bible describes Satan [Lucifer] as a created being:

- "You [Lucifer] were in Eden, the garden of God...on the day that **you were created**...you were the anointed cherub...you were blameless in your ways from the day **you were created** until unrighteousness was found in you...your heart was lifted up...you corrupted your wisdom" (Ez. 28:13,15,17).

- "Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which God **had made**" (Gen. 3:1).
- "Even Satan disguises himself as an **angel of light**. Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness" (2 Cor. 11:14-5). Based on the construction of these sentences, the distinction being made is about the **type** of angel that Satan appears to be. His servants can disguise themselves as servants of righteousness but are in reality servants of unrighteousness; likewise, Satan is an angel of darkness but can disguise himself as an angel of light. According to the Bible, angels are created beings.

Satan cannot be a son of God if he is an angel:

- "But to which of the angels did He [God] ever say, 'Thou art my Son, today I have begotten Thee?'" (Heb. 1:5).

**7. According to Mormon doctrine, Jesus was procreated as a spirit child of the Heavenly Father and Heavenly Mother** and later conceived physically by the Heavenly Father and an earthly mother: [The Ensign](#), Jan. 1989, pp.28-29; [Come Unto Christ](#) by Ezra Taft Benson, p.4).

- [Bruce McConkie](#) states: "Christ the Word, the Firstborn, had of course attained unto the status of Godhood **while yet in pre-existence**" ([What Mormons Think of Christ](#), p.36).
- Bruce McConkie continues: "He is the Firstborn of the Father. By obedience and devotion to the truth he attained that pinnacle of intelligence which ranked him as a God, as the Lord Omnipotent, **while yet in his pre-existent state**" (Mormon Doctrine, 1966, pg. 129).
- [Orson Pratt](#): "God the Father had a plurality of wives, one or more being in eternity, by whom **He begat our spirits as well as the spirit of Jesus His First Born**" (The Seer, p. 172).
- "Jesus Christ is not the Father of the **spirits** who have taken or yet shall take bodies upon this earth, for **He is one of them**. He is The Son, as they are sons and daughters of Elohim." ([Encyclopedia of Mormonism](#), vol.4, Appendix 4).

**8. The Bible declares that Jesus has always existed and that all things were created through Him:**

- "For **in Him** all things were created, both in the heavens and the earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities---**all things have been created through Him and for Him**" (Col. 1:16).
- "**In the beginning was the Word** and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...the Word became flesh and dwelt among us [Jesus]" (Jn. 1:1,18).
- "**All things came into being through Him** [Jesus]; and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being" (John 1:3).

**9. Mormons worship the Father and the Son as separate Gods.** Mormons teach that Jesus Christ is a God named Jehovah, a different God from God the Father, whose name is Elohim.

- [Bruce McConkie](#) states: "Three separate personages---Father, Son, and Holy Ghost---comprise the Godhead...As **each of these persons is a God**, it is evident from this standpoint alone, that a **plurality of Gods** exists. To us...these **three are the only Gods** we worship" ([Mormon Doctrine](#), p.576-7).

- James Talmage states: "This [the Trinity] **cannot rationally be construed to mean** that the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost are one in substance and person" ([A Study of the Articles of Faith](#), p.40).
- James Talmage states: "**Jesus Christ was Jehovah...**Jesus Christ, who is the Jehovah of the Old Testament. In all of scripture, where God is mentioned and where he has appeared, it was Jehovah...The Father has never dealt with man directly and personally since the fall" ([Doctrines of Salvation](#), vol.1, p.11,27).
- Joseph F. Smith stated, "Among the **spirit children** of Elohim, the first-born was and is **Jehovah, or Jesus Christ**, to whom all others are juniors" ([Gospel Doctrine](#), p.70).

In contrast, the Bible uses the names Elohim and Jehovah interchangeably for the one true God. The English form "Jehovah" was developed from four consonants (YHWH) from which we get the word "Yahweh," translated "LORD". The words "Yahweh" and "Elohim" are used together hundreds of times, as in: 'LORD our God', 'LORD my God', 'LORD his God', 'LORD your God'. For example: "The Lord [Jehovah] our God [Elohim] is one Lord [Jehovah]" (Deut. 6:4). See also Gen. 2:4-22; Deut. 4:1; Judges 5:3; 1 Sam. 2:30; Is. 44:6.

**10. The Bible portrays Jesus as one member of the Trinity.** Orthodox Christianity's established concept of God is that Jesus and the Father share the same essence (are one and the same God). A substantial part of the book of Colossians is dedicated to refuting a heresy denying Christ's Deity. A few of the relevant passages are given below in which Jesus is identified with, and acts as, [God](#):

Statements about Jesus' Deity:

- "In Him [Jesus] all the **fullness of Deity** dwells in bodily form" (Col. 2:9).
- "It was the Father's good pleasure for **all the fullness** to dwell in Him [Jesus]" (Col. 1:19).
- "He [Jesus] is the radiance of His [God] glory and the **exact representation of His nature**" (Heb. 1:3).
- "But of the **Son** He [God] says, 'Thy Throne **O God** is forever and ever'" (Heb. 1:8).
- "In the **beginning was the Word**, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...and the **Word became flesh** and dwelt among us" (John 1:1,14).
- Of Jesus it was announced: "These are the words of **Him who is the First and the Last**, who died and came to life again" (Rev. 2:8); the same claim made by God Almighty: "This is what the LORD says -- Israel's King and Redeemer, the LORD Almighty: **I am the first and I am the last**; apart from me there is no God" (Is. 44:6). Also, compare Rev. 22:13 with Is. 48:12.

Claims by Jesus about His Deity:

- Jesus claimed: 'I and the Father are **one**', meaning **in essence** not just purpose (from the Greek construction), a statement the Jews clearly understood because they "took up stones again to stone Him" (Jn. 10:30-31).
- Jesus also claimed: "Before Abraham was born, **I AM**" [ego eimi], a restatement of the name God used for himself to Moses, "**I AM WHO I AM**"; the Jews also understood its import and tried to stone Jesus. (Jn. 8:58-59; Ex. 3:14). See also Jn. 13:19, 18:5,6,8).

- Jesus makes the same claim again: "Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that **I AM**, you will die in your sins" (John 8:24).
- "Philip said to Him, 'Lord, show us the Father'...Jesus said to him...'He who has seen Me has seen the Father'" (Jn. 14:8-9).
- "He who beholds Me beholds the One who sent Me" (Jn. 12:45).

Jesus allowed Himself to be worshipped, despite the biblical edict that '**only God may be worshipped**' (Acts 10:25-26; Rev. 19:10; 22:9):

- "Thomas answered [to Jesus] 'My Lord and **My God**'" (John 20:28).
- "When I saw Him [Jesus], I **fell at His feet**" (Rev. 1:17).
- "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to **worship him**" (Matt. 2:2).

For more detailed explanations of the Trinity, refer to published articles by [Grider](#) and [Martin](#), and the [CARM webpage](#).

#### **11. Mormon leaders teach that Jesus is our elder brother who progressed to become a god.**

- Milton R. Hunter: "**Jesus became a God** and reached His great state of understanding **through consistent effort and continuous obedience** to all the Gospel truths and universal laws" ([The Gospel Through the Ages](#), p.51).
- [Bruce McConkie](#) states: "Christ the Word, the Firstborn, had of course **attained unto the status of Godhood** while yet in pre-existence" ([What Mormons Think of Christ](#), p.36).
- Bruce McConkie claimed: "Jesus kept the commandments of his Father and thereby **worked out his own salvation**, and also set an example as to the way and the means whereby all men may be saved" (The Mortal Messiah, Vol.4, p.434).
- McConkie continues: "He [Jesus] is the Firstborn of the Father. **By obedience and devotion to the truth he attained** that pinnacle of intelligence which ranked him as a God, as the Lord Omnipotent, while yet in his pre-existent state" ([Mormon Doctrine](#), p. 129).

**12. The Bible states that Jesus has existed as God eternally.** Here are a few of many verses stating this:

- "In the **beginning was the Word**... the Word was God... the **Word became flesh** and dwelt among us" John 1:1,14).
- "But **of the Son** He [God] says, 'Thy Throne O God is **forever and ever**'" (Heb. 1:8).
- "Christ Jesus, who although **He existed** in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped" (Phil. 2:6).
- "glorify me together with Thyself Father, with the glory which I ever had with Thee **before the world was**" (John 17:5).
- "God...has in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, **by whom also he made the worlds**" (Heb. 1:2).

**13. The Mormon church teaches that Jesus Christ plays only an initial role in our salvation.** In other words, the work of Christ on the cross is **insufficient** for our complete salvation (exaltation) and **we must also perform works** in order to be fully saved.

- The Book of Mormon says of salvation: "for we know that it is by grace that we are saved, **after all that we can do**" ([Book of Mormon](#), 2 Nephi 25:23).
- The Third Article of Faith states: "We believe that through the Atonement of Christ, all mankind may be saved, **by obedience to the laws and ordinances of the gospel**" ([Pearl of Great Price: Articles of Faith](#)).
- [Joseph Fielding Smith](#) explains what that last phrase means: "that which **man merits through his own acts** through life and by obedience to the laws and ordinances of the gospel" ([Doctrines of Salvation](#), vol. 1, p.134).
- [Spencer W. Kimball](#) stated: "living **all the commandments guarantees total forgiveness of sins** and assures one of exaltation...**trying is not sufficient. Nor is repentance** when one merely tries to abandon sin" (The Miracle of Forgiveness, p.164-165, 354-355).

More information can be found in the section on [salvation](#).

**14. The Bible clearly states that our complete salvation comes only through the finished work of Christ on the cross, apart from any work on our part.** One verse from the Bible sums up the problem with the Mormon concept of salvation:

- "For not knowing about God's righteousness, and **seeking to establish their own**, they did not subject themselves to the righteousness of God" (Romans 10:3).

This was Paul's description of the Jews but applies as well to Mormons and to anyone who thinks they need to, or can, add to the completed work of Christ. According to the Bible, our **works prove we have salvation**, but **cannot help us attain salvation**:

- "I do not frustrate the grace of God; **for if righteousness comes through the law, then Christ died needlessly**" (Gal. 2:21).
- "For by grace you have been saved through **faith**; and that **not of yourselves**, it is the gift of God; **not as a result of works**, that no one should boast" (Eph. 2:8,9).
- "The **blood** of Jesus Christ his Son **cleanses us from all sin**" (1 Jn. 1:7).
- Paul to the Phillipian jailer's question: "What must **I do** to be saved? **Believe** on the Lord Jesus Christ and you shall be saved" (Acts 16:31).
- Jesus to the thief on the cross, who **did nothing but trust Him as Messiah and King**: "Today you will be with me in Paradise" (Luke 23:43).
- Jesus: "**This is the work of God**, that you **believe on him** whom He [God the Father] has sent" (Jn. 5:29).
- "**He saved us not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness**, but according to his mercy." (Titus 3:5).
- "For Christ is the **end of the law for righteousness** to everyone who **believes**" (Rom. 10:4).



In contrast to Mormon leaders, in the New Testament the Apostle Paul clearly states the Gospel and salvation are without any works on our part. For specific references and discussion see the section on [salvation](#).

### 15. Mormon leaders have taught that certain sins are beyond the atoning blood of Christ.

- [Brigham Young](#) said: "It is true that the blood of the Son of God was shed for sins through the fall and those committed by men, yet **men can commit sins which it can never remit**...there are sins that can be atoned for by an offering on the altar...and there are sins that the blood of a lamb...cannot remit, but they **must be atoned for by the blood of the man**" ([Journal of Discourses](#), vol.4, p.53-54, also published in [Deseret News](#), p.235, 1856).
- Brigham Young also said: "There is not a man or a woman, who violates the covenants [fidelity in marriage] made with their God, that will not be **required to pay the debt**. The **blood of Christ will never wipe that out, your own blood must atone for it**" ([Journal of Discourses](#), vol.3, p.247)
- [Bruce McConkie](#) explains: "But under certain circumstances there are some serious sins for which the **cleansing of Christ does not operate**, and the law of God is that **men must then have their own blood shed to atone** for their sins" ([Mormon Doctrine](#), p.92).
- McConkie continues: "Christians speak often of the blood of Christ and its cleansing power. Much that is believed and taught on this subject, however, **is such utter nonsense and so palpably false that to believe it is to lose one's salvation**. Many go so far, for instance, as to pretend, at least, to believe that if we confess Christ with our lips and avow that we accept Him as our personal Savior, we are thereby saved. His blood, without other act than mere belief, they say, makes us clean" (What the Mormons Think of Christ, p.22).
- [Joseph Fielding Smith](#) shows that this idea originated with Joseph Smith: "Joseph Smith taught that there were certain sins so grievous that man may commit, that they will place the transgressors **beyond the power of atonement of Christ**. If these offenses are committed, then the **blood of Christ will not cleanse** them from their sins even though they repent. Therefore their **only hope is to have their own blood shed to atone**, as far as possible, in their behalf" ([Doctrines of Salvation](#), vol. 1, p.135); "the **law of sacrifice will have to be restored**...Sacrifice by the shedding of blood was instituted in the days of Adam and of necessity will have to be restored" ([Doctrines of Salvation](#), vol. 3, p.94).
- Brigham Young said: "Will you love your brothers and sisters likewise, when they have **committed a sin that cannot be atoned for without the shedding of their own blood**?...This is loving our neighbor as ourselves; if he needs help, help him; and if he wants salvation and it is **necessary to spill his blood on the earth in order that he may be saved**, spill it" ([Journal of Discourses](#), vol. 4, p.219-220).
- B.H. Roberts stated: "what is needful for the salvation of the soul where **one's sins place him beyond the reach of vicarious means of salvation** [by Jesus] --- then it is the **shedding of the sinner's own blood** that must be here referred to" ([A Comprehensive History of the Church](#), vol.4, p.129, 1965).

The LDS Church officially denies the **doctrine of Blood Atonement** now, even saying that it was never taught. Here are additional arguments to the contrary:

- Blood atonement was practiced in Utah during Brigham Young's presidency and during the presidency of his immediate successors. The facts have been extremely well documented in sources readily available to the public ([Tanner, Kelly](#)).
- The Salt Lake Tribune, wrote, "In the past decade, potential jurors in every Utah capital homicide were asked whether they believed in the **Mormon concept of 'blood atonement'**" (Concept of Blood Atonement Survives in Utah Despite Repudiation, Salt Lake Tribune, 11/5/94, p.D1).
- When child-killer James Edward Wood, a Mormon, was tried for the murder of 11-year-old Jaralee Underwood, he was visited by LDS Church leaders who "**talked to him about shedding his own blood**" (Salt Lake Tribune, 11/5/98, D1).
- University of Utah professor Richard J. Cummings writes: Accordingly, the **doctrine** [blood atonement] asserts that those who commit certain grievous sins such as murder and covenant-breaking place themselves beyond the atoning blood of Christ, and their only hope for salvation is to have their own blood shed as an atoning sacrifice. In his writings, Joseph Smith only **hinted at the doctrine**, Brigham Young successively **denied and asserted it**, Joseph F. Smith **ardently defended it**, and in more recent years, Hugh B. Brown repudiated it and Joseph Fielding Smith and Bruce R. McConkie both have **vigorously defended it in principle** while staunchly denying that the Church has ever put it into actual practice, whereas most other General Authorities have prudently preferred to remain silent on the subject. It should be noted that the whole notion of blood atonement is so obviously linked to the Mormon literal mind-set that it does not seem to admit of a mitigated, symbolic interpretation and is either accepted or rejected outright, depending on one's level of literalistic belief (Dialogue: A Journal of Mormon Thought, Vol.15, No.4, p.93).

**16. The Bible teaches that Christ's sacrifice on the cross was complete for all time** and that we cannot add to it with our works:

- "He is able to **save forever** those who draw near to God through Him" (Heb. 7:25).
- "He entered the holy place **once for all**, having obtained **eternal redemption**" (Heb. 9:12).
- "So Christ also, having been **offered once** to bear the sins of many, shall appear..." (Heb. 9:28).
- "He, having offered **one sacrifice for sins for all time**" (Heb. 10:12).
- "For by **one offering He has perfected for all time** those who are sanctified" (Heb. 10:14).
- "There is **no longer any offering for sin**" (Heb. 10:18).
- "Having forgiven us all our transgressions, having **cancelled out the certificate of debt...**He has **taken it out of the way**, having nailed it to the cross" (Col. 2:14).

Furthermore, the Bible teaches two very important and fundamental truths in regard to keeping the law:

A. Following the law cannot take away sin:

- "**our righteous deeds are like a filthy garment**" (Is. 64:6).

- "For the **law...can never by the same sacrifices year by year...make perfect those who draw near...but in those sacrifices there is a reminder of sins year by year. For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins**" (Heb. 10:1-4).
- "Every priest stands daily ministering and offering time after time the same **sacrifices, which can never take away sins**" (Heb 10:11).
- "For the **law made nothing perfect**" (Heb 7:19).
- "**by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified**" (Gal. 2:16).
- "For if righteousness comes through the law, then Christ died needlessly" (Gal. 2:21).
- "For if a law had been given which was able to impart life, then righteousness would indeed have been based on law" (Gal. 3:21-22).
- "Therefore the law has become a **tutor** to lead us to Christ, that we may be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, **we are no longer under a tutor**" (Gal. 3:24-25).

B. Even if an additional sacrifice would be acceptable to God, which it is not (Heb. 10:18), we are **not qualified** or **able** to **add anything** to our redemption, because **we meet none of the requirements**:

- a. Atonement requires the shedding of blood (Lev. 17:11).
- b. The sacrifice must be unblemished (Lev. 22:19).
- c. The sacrifice must be performed by an appointed Priest (1 Sam. 2:28).
- d. The High Priest must be lawfully clean (Ex. 29:1-9;19-35).

Jesus is the only one who has **fulfilled all** of these conditions: a) Heb. 9:22; b) 1 Peter 1:19; c) Heb. 2:14; 5:1; d) Heb. 9:22.

#### 17. Mormon Leaders have claimed that Jesus Christ is only one of many Saviors:

- According to Joseph Fielding Smith: "We are not the only people that the Lord has created. **We have brothers and sisters on other earths**. They look like us because they, too, are the children of God and were created in his image, for they are also his offspring" ([Doctrines of Salvation](#) 1:62).
- Brigham Young taught: "Sin is upon every earth that ever was created ... Consequently **every earth has its redeemer**, and every earth has its tempter" ([Journal of Discourses](#), vol. 14, p.71).

#### 18. The Bible states that Jesus Christ of Nazareth is the one and only Messiah.

- Jesus claimed: "**I am THE way**, THE truth, and THE life; no one comes to the Father but by Me" (Jn. 14:6).
- "For there is one God and **one mediator** also between God and men: the Man Christ Jesus" (1 Tim. 2:5).
- "There is **salvation in no one else**; for there is **no other name under heaven** that has been given among men by which we must be saved" (Acts 4:12).

## 19. Mormon leaders have discouraged their members from pursuing a personal relationship with Christ.

- Mormon Apostle and apologist Bruce McConkie warns: "I shall speak of our relationship with the Lord and of the true fellowship all saints should have with the Father. **I shall set forth what we must believe relative to the Father and the Son in order to gain eternal life...**many false and vain and foolish things are being taught in the sectarian world and even among us about our need to gain a special relationship with the Lord Jesus...**gaining a special relationship with Christ is both improper and perilous...**now I know that some may be offended at the counsel that **they should not strive for a special and personal relationship with Christ...**you have been warned, and **you have heard the true doctrine taught**" (from a speech given at a B.Y.U. devotional on March 2, 1982).

## 20. The Bible encourages a personal, intimate relationship of each believer with Christ because He is our only source of true life:

- Jesus said: "Abide in Me and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so **neither can you unless you abide in Me...apart from Me you can do nothing**" (Jn. 15:4-5).
- Jesus said: "I am the living bread that came down out of heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he shall live forever...unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, **you have no life in yourselves...**He who **eats my flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life...**My flesh is true food, and My blood is true drink" (Jn. 6:51-55).
- Jesus said: "I am the resurrection and the **life**" (Jn. 11:25).
- "For I have been crucified with Christ and **it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me**" (Gal. 2:20).
- "When **Christ who is our life** is revealed, then you also shall be revealed with Him in glory" (Col. 3:4).
- Paul's desire was: "that I may **know Him** [Jesus]" (Phil. 3:10).
- God is faithful, by whom you were called into the **fellowship** of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord" (1 Cor. 1:9).