

5. Point out that it is impossible for a man in 1830 to establish a better church that Jesus did 2,000 years ago.

6. Ask him or her why they believe Christ would go through all the trouble of coming to earth and dying, just to let his church die out within just a few decades!

7. Show them a list of the Popes and ask them exactly where the Papal/apostolic lineage broke down.

8. When they bring up "unity" and "righteousness" bring up the "Danites", the "Mountain Meadows Massacre", their many "apostatized" leaders, and the 6 Mormon sects that now claim to be the only "true" Mormon church!

9. Scholars agree that the Bible is the most accurate ancient document in existence. It is the *Book of Mormon* that claims to tell of events from 600B.C. to 421A.D. without any supporting documents dating back to before 1830, not to mention the fact that archeology doesn't back the *Book of Mormon* up.

10. When they show you "the testimony of three witnesses" to prove that the golden plates existed, make sure they know that these three men (Oliver Cowdery, David Whitmer, and Martin Harris) all later left the church! When missionaries provide "the testimony of eight witnesses," investigate the tricky wording closely—they really don't testify to what Mormons claim they do. Many of these eight people also later left and worked against the Mormon church. And point out that eight other people also testified, under oath, that the *Book of Mormon* was actually a novel written by a Presbyterian minister named Solomon

Spaulding. They claim the manuscript was stolen by Sidney Rigdon (a friend of Joseph Smith's) just before Spaulding's death.

11. Tell them how Christ promised us that the gates of hell would not prevail against His church (Mt 16:18), that He would be with us "always" (Mt 28:20). Mormons must answer, "well, the gates of hell only prevailed for about 1760 years, until Joseph Smith came along."

12. Remind them that our church is the "pillar and foundation of the truth" (1 Tim 3:15).

Address Mormons with patience, prayer, and love—they won't be convinced by anything else...

If Mormons are not alienated and thus forced to cling to unsound beliefs, their church's sandy foundation will give to the weight of its own internal contradictions . . . And remember, we are built on the rock.

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Pamphlet 219

Mormonism

A Guide for when they Knock on Your Door

This is a delicate but necessary topic to address. Catholics must support individual Mormons in their search to know God. Yet, as long as the Mormon Church claims for itself the chair of St. Peter, which has belonged to the Pope in Rome for 2,000 years, and so long as The Book of Mormon for all practical purposes labels the Catholic Church as the, "whore of all the earth...whose founder is the devil" (1 Nephi 13 & 14), we must render a just defense and testify to the truth of Jesus Christ and the Catholic Church He instituted.

What is it that Mormons claim that should concern Catholics?

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints—better known as the Mormon Church—boldly claims to be what the Roman Catholic Church is . . . the *one* true Church established by Jesus Christ. It is unlike Protestant denominations which grew out of the Catholic Church beginning in the 16th century and which admit the Catholic Church can still offer salvation. The Mormon Church is totally unassociated with all of Christian history, and it claims that everyone who is not baptized into the Mormon Church either in this world or the "spirit world" following death, will go to hell. Today, most Mormons lead exemplary moral lives and they must be respected for

their deep religious convictions, but they will hide this, and all their peculiar beliefs from you by hiding the harsh reality of their beliefs by sugar-coating them with euphemisms and false-definitions (e.g. in Mormon terminology Jews are Gentiles).

What are some positive characteristics of Mormons?

Most Mormons are sincerely trying to serve the Lord as best they know how. They usually dress nice, work hard, attend church, and often dedicate years of their life to missionary work. Catholics today can learn a lot from how seriously Mormons put their faith into action.

What are some similarities between Mormonism and Catholicism?

Mormons accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior and they honor the Bible (albeit an erroneous King James Version). They have many similar sacraments to Catholics and their church is organized similar to ours, with the leader called a "prophet" instead of a Pope. Anything the prophet says as prophet is considered the words of God.

What is the history behind the Mormon church?

Joseph Smith (1805-1844) founded Mormonism 1830 after he had supposedly found the *Book of Mormon* written on golden plates in New York (he claimed the plates were later taken into heaven). Smith was killed by an enraged mob in 1844, while

he was in Jail for burning a publishing house which exposed him for practicing polygamy—up until 1852 the Mormon church claimed not to practice polygamy. The Mormon church was heavily persecuted at the time (they persecuted others, too), causing its members to move from Ohio to Missouri to Illinois and finally to Utah in the late 1840s.

What Mormons are unlikely to tell you is that Joseph Smith was a treasure hunter and even convicted of being a fraudulent fortuneteller in the 1820s. In 1837 church leaders organized the "*Danite*" vigilante band to combat all internal and external enemies, sometimes using murder. Mormon leaders also led the Mormon militia in the notorious "*Mountain Meadows Massacre*" in Utah in 1857 (look it up in the encyclopedia), and prophet Brigham Young cashed in on the affair.

What are some distinctive beliefs of the Mormon church?

1. It maintains that God was once just a man with a God above him. Mormons serve one Heavenly Father but accept that many may exist. They teach against the Trinity and believe that God, Christ, and the Holy Spirit are totally separate beings.
2. The *Book of Mormon* teaches that the devil founded all churches but their own (1 Nephi 13:26, 14:9-10).
3. It proclaims that *all* early apostles were killed or corrupted and thus Christ took His church from the earth in the first century AD!

4. It conducts baptisms for the dead.
5. "*Righteous*" Mormons believe that they will be married for all eternity and become a true God—with all the power our God currently has—plainly contradicting Matthew 22:30, Mark 12:25, Luke 20:35, Heb. 1:3, etc.
6. It officially encouraged polygamy from 1852-1890. Church prophets such as Lorenzo Snow, Brigham Young, and Joseph Fielding Smith also taught that God was lawfully married to, and had sex with, Mary to create Jesus, and that Jesus and the apostles were polygamous.
7. The Book of Mormon teaches that African Americans and American Indians have dark skin because of sins they committed before living on earth (II Nephi 5:21-22 and Alma 3:6).

How do I handle a Mormon missionary?

1. Love them and realize that YOU can be missionary for Christ to them.
2. Ask to see and read a copy of the *Doctrine & Covenants* and Joseph Smith's *King Follett Discourse*. The odd ideas speak for themselves!
3. Point out that the *Book of Mormon* teaches that God is God from all eternity and changeless (Mormon 9:9-10, Moroni 8:18, 1 Nephi 10:18), yet in 1844 Joseph Smith taught just the opposite—that God was once a man—in his *King Follett Discourse*.
4. Ask the missionary if they really believe the Catholic Church was founded by the Devil as 1 Nephi 13 & 14 state (and listen to how skillfully they deny it).