

FREEDOM OF RELIGION



One of the greatest freedoms we have in the United States is the freedom of religion - the right to worship and practice our beliefs according to the dictates of our own conscience. Let us examine how those in the Mormon Church and those in Christian Churches have exercised this freedom.

MORMONS HAVE THE FREEDOM to add new Scriptures to the Bible. They have added three new books of "scripture" since 1830. They have not been denied the freedom to alter the original texts of the Bible. In the Mormon Church edition of the Bible they have added Joseph Smith's own translation to many passages.¹

CHRISTIANS HAVE THE FREEDOM to believe that the Bible is God's only faithful and authoritative communication to mankind. Christians are free to tell Mormons that the Bible has been vindicated by God through the evidence of archeology.² In contrast, none of the coins, cities, or countries of the people in the Book of Mormon have ever been discovered by archeologists. Christians are free to tell Mormons that there is not one single bit of scholarship from the Hebrew or Greek texts to support the Joseph Smith Translation of either the Old or New Testament. Christians are free to believe God's only inspired Word, the Bible.

MORMONS HAVE THE FREEDOM to believe in many gods³ and that the Father was born as a man,⁴ was married, and now dwells with his wife in heaven.⁵ They gave birth to many spirit children, among whom were Jesus,⁶ Lucifer,⁷ and the Holy Ghost.⁸ The Mormons are also free to believe that Jesus was born on earth through a natural, physical, husband-wife relationship between Heavenly Father and Mary, the mother of Jesus.⁹ Mormons also believe that all faithful members have the possibility of becoming gods too.¹⁰

CHRISTIANS HAVE THE FREEDOM to believe that God spoke clearly about Himself in the Bible. When God said that He is the ONLY GOD in existence, that meant there cannot be other gods in Heaven.¹¹ Scripture also tells us that there are Three distinct Persons as the One God.¹² The Father is

God,¹³ the Son is God,¹⁴ the Holy Spirit is God,¹⁵ and yet there are NOT THREE GODS,¹⁶ but One God in Three Persons.¹⁷ Because there is only One God, men cannot become gods.¹⁸ The Bible says that God is eternal,¹⁹ invisible,²⁰ and Spirit.²¹ God the Son loved mankind enough that He took on human flesh, as Jesus Christ, and died for the sins of the world.²² He entered this world through the miracle of the Holy Spirit overshadowing Mary,²³ NOT by a relationship with an exalted man.²⁴

MORMONS HAVE THE FREEDOM to believe that Adam fell "upward,"²⁵ and that the human race is not guilty through Adam before a Holy God. They are free to believe that the Atonement of Jesus was only good for SOME sins, but not all sins.²⁶ They believe that God's grace is only the gift of a resurrected body,²⁷ and that one must do "temple work" to reach the highest heaven.²⁸

CHRISTIANS HAVE THE FREEDOM to believe the Bible when it says that if anyone desires to come to Jesus for forgiveness, he will not be cast out.²⁹ Jesus provided a complete Atonement covering any sins we have committed.³⁰ The Bible tells us that if we repent by turning away from our past and believe upon Jesus, He will forgive us freely by His grace, not by our own works. There is no way to improve upon God's plan and Jesus' atoning work for our salvation.³¹ Our good works will not earn for us forgiveness of our past sins or instill righteousness; only by trusting Jesus can we be sure of our salvation.³²

YOU CAN HAVE PERFECT FREEDOM NOW! You can invite the True Jesus from the Bible to become your Lord and Savior through faith in Him. Why not pray and ask Him to forgive you of your sins. Trust Jesus!

NOTES: (1) JOHN 1:1-14, GENESIS 50:53 (2) EVIDENCE THAT DEMANDS A VERDICT, JOSEPH McDONNELL (3) DOCTRINE AND COVENANTS 121:32 (4) D & C 130:22; THE SEER, PRATT, P. 132. (5) ARTICLES OF FAITH, TALMAGE, P. 443; SEER, P. 158 (6) A. OF F., P. 472. (7) GOSPEL THROUGH THE AGES, HUNTER, P. 15. (8) JOURNAL OF DISCOURSES 5:173 (9) A. OF F., P. 473; J. OF D. 1:51. (10) D. & C. 76:56-58. (11) ISAIAH 43:10 (12) MATTHEW 28:19. (13) ROMANS 1:7 (14) JOHN 20:28 (15) ACTS 5:3-4 (16) DEUTERONOMY 5:4 (17) MATT. 28:19 (18) ISA. 44:8 (19) DEUT. 33:27 (20) COLOSSIANS 1:15; HEBREWS 11:27 (21) JN. 4:24; 2 CORINTHIANS 3:17 (22) PHILIPPIANS 2:6-8 (23) LUKE 1:35 (24) LUKE 1:34 (25) DESERT NEWS, CHURCH NEWS, 7/31/55, P. 7 (26) DOCTRINES OF SALVATION, J.F. SMITH, VOL. 1:135 (27) WHAT THE MORMONS THINK OF CHRIST, MCCONKIE, P. 28 (28) MORMON DOCTRINE, MCCONKIE, P. 773-780 (29) JN. 5:37 (30) 1 JN. 1:1; REVELATIONS 1:5 (31) TITUS 2:5; EPHESIANS 2:8-10 (32) JN. 1:12; ACTS 4:12
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