

Lion and Lamb Apologetics'

100 Questions to Ask Your Mormon Friends

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Asking questions is a fantastic way to witness to your Mormon friends. Most Latter-day Saints will turn you off if you begin to preach to them or come across as one who is more interested in beating them over the head with a Bible. Remember, your Mormon friend has very likely been taught all his life that the Bible is only the word of God “as far as it is translated correctly” (Articles of Faith 1:8), and that “many plain and precious things” have been removed (1 Nephi 13:40). Even though this is not true, he thinks it is!

However, asking questions gives your Mormon friends hope that you are genuinely interested in learning more about their religion. It also is a great way to get them thinking about things they may have never thought about and researching into the false teachings of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Questions are great seed-planters that the Holy Spirit can make grow in their hearts and minds and, ultimately, lead them to Christ. They are also great conversation starters.

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General Questions

1. As someone who values religious truth, if there was the slightest possibility that you could be wrong, would you want to know?
2. As a Latter-day Saint, I am sure you take repentance very seriously. However, on page 67 of the LDS Church manual *Gospel Fundamentals* it states, "Our Father in heaven does not sin, and He does not allow people who sin to live with Him. To live with Him we must repent of our sins. To repent means to feel sorry for our sins and stop doing them." Have you stopped sinning? If not, how can you be sure you will live eternally with Heavenly Father? If the above statement is true, doesn't the fact you continually repent, prove you are not truly repentant; after all, people who stop sinning have no need to repent.
3. Mormonism teaches that having a physical body is necessary to become a god, so how did Jesus become a god before he had a body?
4. Alma 10:3 states that Lehi "was a descendant of Manasseh." If Native Americans are really descendants of Lehi and his son Laman, why does DNA deny any link between Native Americans and Lehi's Jewish heritage?
5. Do you think the LDS Church will reconsider its teachings that the Native Americans are descendants of the Jewish race now that DNA evidence has proven that they are actually descendants of the Asian race?
6. If polygamy was officially re-instituted by the Mormon Church, how would your wife feel about you taking another woman?
7. Since the LDS Church teaches that there was a complete apostasy of the true church on earth, does that mean that the three living Nephites and the Apostle John went into apostasy also?
8. Apostle Bruce R. McConkie said "a man may be damned for a single sin" (*Doctrinal New Testament Commentary* 3:257). Can you account for every single sin you have ever committed?
9. Your leaders have taught that salvation comes by faith and works. If this is true, then why did Joseph Smith insert the word "alone" into Romans 3:28 of his Inspired Version (a.k.a. the Joseph Smith Translation) of the Bible? (It reads, "Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith **alone** without the deeds of the law.")

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10. If the “decrees of God are unalterable” (Alma 41:8), why has your church made so many corrections over the years (i.e., Declarations 1 and 2, changes in the temple endowment ceremony, changes in the birth control doctrine, etc.)?
11. Why are Mormon Temple ceremonies secret to the public when the Old Testament temple ceremonies were open to public knowledge?

Mormon Prophets

12. Why does the Mormon Church still teach that Joseph Smith was a true prophet of God after he made a false prophecy about a temple being built in Missouri in his generation (*Doctrine and Covenants* 84:1-5)?
13. Joseph Smith said, “We have imagined and supposed that God was God from all eternity. I will refute that idea, and take away the veil, so that you may see” (*Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, p. 345). But the *Book of Mormon* says in Moroni 8:18, “For I know that God is not a partial God, neither a changeable being; but he is unchangeable from all eternity to all eternity.” Did God change? Or was He always God?
14. Joseph Smith said that a person “would get nearer to God by abiding by [the *Book of Mormon*’s] precepts than by any other book” (*Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, p. 194). Just what are those “precepts” from the *Book of Mormon* that God wants you to follow that cannot be found in other books like the Bible?
15. Joseph Smith inserted the word “not” in Romans 4:5 of the Inspired Version so that it reads, “...who justifieth not the ungodly...” Are you “godly”? If so, how did you get that way? If not, doesn’t that mean you are not justified before God?
16. Why would God need to justify a godly person anyway?
17. Since the time when Brigham Young taught that both the moon and the sun were inhabited by people, has the Mormon Church ever found scientific evidence of that to be true (*Journal of Discourses*, 1870, 13:271)?
18. Why did Brigham Young teach that Adam is “our Father and our God” when both the Bible and the Book of Mormon (Mormon 9:12) say that Adam is a creation of God (*Journal of Discourses*, Apr. 9, 1852, 1:50)?
19. President Brigham Young and other LDS leaders taught that those who were not valiant in the preexistence were marked in mortality with a “flat nose and black skin.” (See *Journal of Discourses* 7:290, *The Way to Perfection*, p. 101, *Answers to Gospel*

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Questions 2:175, Mormon Doctrine, p. 527.) Since it was this mark that would help distinguish who was not eligible to receive the priesthood, why do some people still bear the mark even though the priesthood ban was lifted in 1978?

20. If Brigham Young was a true prophet, how come one of your later prophets overturned his declaration which stated that the black man could never hold the priesthood in the LDS Church until after the resurrection of all other races (*Journal of Discourses*, Dec. 12, 1854, 2:142-143)?
21. Since the Bible's test to determine whether someone is a true prophet of God is 100% accuracy in all his prophecies (Deuteronomy 18:20-22), has the LDS Church ever reconsidered its teaching that Joseph Smith and Brigham Young were true prophets?
22. President Spencer Kimball said that only those who are "living all the commandments" are guaranteed "total forgiveness of sins" and assured of "exaltation" (*The Miracle of Forgiveness*, 208). Are you living all of the commandments? If not, how can you be sure you are forgiven?
23. Spencer Kimball also taught that "each command we obey sends us another rung up the ladder to perfected manhood and toward godhood; and every law disobeyed is a sliding toward the bottom where man merges into the brute world" (*Teachings of Spencer W. Kimball*, p. 153). How tall is this proverbial ladder? And which rung are you on?
24. Since the current LDS prophets sometimes contradict the former ones, how do you decide which one is correct?
25. Since there are several different contradictory accounts of Joseph Smith's first vision, how did the LDS Church choose the correct one?
26. Can you show me in the Bible the LDS teaching that we must all stand before Joseph Smith on the Day of Judgment?
27. President Joseph F. Smith said, "...it is absolutely necessary for every man and woman in the Church of Christ to work righteousness, to observe the laws of God, and keep the commandments that He has given, in order that they may avail themselves of the power of God unto salvation in this life" (*Conference Reports*, October 1907, p. 3) Yet Titus 3:5 states clearly that salvation is not gained by "works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy." How can salvation be wrought by God's mercy if you earned it through good works?

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Mormon Scripture

28. Can you show me archeological and historical proof from non-Mormon sources that prove that the peoples and places named in the *Book of Mormon* are true?
29. If the words “familiar spirit” in Isaiah 29:4 refer to the *Book of Mormon*, why do familiar spirits always refer to occult practices such as channeling and necromancy everywhere else in the Old Testament?
30. Why did Joseph Smith condone polygamy as an ordinance from God (*Doctrine and Covenants* 132) when the *Book of Mormon* had already condemned the practice (Jacob 1:15, 2:24)?
31. Why were the words “white and delightsome” in 2 Nephi 30:6 changed to “pure and delightsome” right on the heels of the Civil Rights campaign for blacks?
32. If God is an exalted man with a body of flesh and bones, why does Alma 18:26-28 and John 4:24 say that God is a spirit?
33. Why did God encourage Abraham and Sarah to lie in Abraham 2:24? Isn't lying a sin according to the Ten Commandments? Why did God tell Abraham and Sarah to lie when 2 Nephi 9:34 condemns liars to hell?
34. Why does the *Book of Mormon* state that Jesus was born in Jerusalem (Alma 7:10) when history and the Bible state that he was born outside of Jerusalem, in Bethlehem?
35. If the *Book of Mormon* is the most correct of any book on earth, as Joseph Smith said, why does it contain over 4000 changes from the original 1830 edition?
36. If the *Book of Mormon* contains the “fulness of the everlasting gospel” why does the LDS Church need additional works?
37. Presidents Brigham Young and Wilford Woodruff both taught that God is progressing in knowledge (*Journal of Discourses* 11:286, *The Discourses of Wilford Woodruff*, p. 3). Yet President Joseph Fielding Smith said that “this kind of doctrine is very dangerous” (*Doctrines of Salvation* 1:8). Which prophet was telling the truth?
38. If the *Book of Mormon* contains the “fulness of the everlasting gospel”, why doesn't it say anything about eternal progression?
39. Furthermore, why doesn't the *Book of Mormon* say anything about so many other important Mormon teachings such as celestial marriage, the Word of Wisdom, the

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plurality of Gods, the pre-existence of man, our mother in heaven, baptism for the dead, etc?

40. Why do you baptize for the dead when both Mosiah 3:25 and the Bible state that there is no chance of salvation after death?
41. Since the word “grace” means a free gift that can’t be earned, why does the *Book of Mormon* state “for we know that it is by grace that we are saved, after all we can do” (2 Nephi 25:23)?
42. Does the LDS Church still regard the *Pearl of Great Price* as Holy Scripture even after several prominent Egyptologists proved it was an ancient funeral scroll?
43. Alma 11:37 says that “no unclean thing can inherit the kingdom of heaven”? Are you clean? How did you get that way? And how long does this cleansing last?
44. Alma 11:37 also says that, as a Mormon, you “cannot be saved in your sins.” D&C 1:31 adds that God cannot “look upon sin with the least degree of allowance.” Do you struggle with sin? If so, can it be assumed that you are not saved?
45. D&C 25:15 says that unless a person keeps the commandments “continually,” he cannot go where God is. Do you keep the commandments continually? If not, where do Mormons like you go when they die?
46. If you cannot say that you do keep the commandments “continually,” then how do you explain 1 Nephi 3:7 where it says, “For I know that the Lord giveth no commandments unto the children of men, save he shall prepare a way for them that they may accomplish the thing which he commandeth them”?
47. Why does the Book of Abraham, chapters 4 & 5, contradict Alma 11 in stating that there is more than one God?
48. Why does *Doctrine and Covenants* 42:18 say there is no forgiveness for a murderer when 3 Nephi 30:2 says there is forgiveness for him?
49. If we are to believe that the Nephites are truly ancient “Mormons,” where in the *Book of Mormon* does it say they held the Melchizedek priesthood? Where does it say they practiced baptism for the dead? Or believe that men can become Gods? How about God having a body of flesh and bones?
50. What about the existence of a “heavenly mother”? Where does it say that all humans existed prior to this earthly existence? Or how Jesus and Lucifer are brothers?

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51. D&C 88:22 says that only those who abide a celestial law can hope to achieve the celestial kingdom. Are you keeping celestial law?
52. Are you “sufficiently humble” and “stripped of pride”? If not, Alma 5:27,28 says you are not prepared to die. If you think you are, doesn't this prove you're not?
53. President Brigham Young concluded his Adam-God sermon with these words: “Now, let all who may hear these doctrines, pause before they make light of them, or treat them with indifference, for they will prove their salvation or damnation” (*Journal of Discourses* 1:51). Do you believe Adam is God? If not, aren't you treating these “doctrines” lightly or with indifference”?
54. Wasn't Spencer Kimball treating Young's teaching with indifference when he called it a “false doctrine” (*Church News* 10/9/76)? If Young was correct, will Kimball be damned?
55. However, if Kimball was correct, doesn't this prove LDS prophets can teach false doctrine?
56. If the Adam-God doctrine isn't true, how come *Doctrine and Covenants* 27:11 calls Adam the Ancient of Days which is clearly a title for God in Daniel chapter 7?
57. Why does the *Book of Mormon* contain extensive, word-for-word quotes from the Bible if the LDS Church is correct in teaching that the Bible has been corrupted?
58. Why do the Bible verses quoted in the *Book of Mormon* contain the italicized words from the King James Version that were added into the KJV text by the translators in the 16th and 17th centuries?
59. If the Book of Mormon was engraved on gold plates thousands of years ago, why does it read in perfect 1611 King James Version English?

Mormon Doctrines Not Found in the Book of Mormon

60. Why does the *Book of Mormon* refute the Mormon teaching that More than one God exists? Alma 11:26-31, 44; 2 Nephi 31:21; 3 Nephi 11:27, 36; Mormon 7:7; Testimony of the Three Witnesses in the front of the *Book of Mormon*.
61. Why does the *Book of Mormon* refute the Mormon teaching that God is not spirit, but has a body of flesh and bones? Alma 18:2-5,24-28, 22:9-11; Mosiah 15:1-5.

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62. Why does the *Book of Mormon* refute the Mormon teaching that God has not existed eternally as God, but is an exalted man that once lived on a planet like we do, and progressed to become a god? 1 Nephi 10:18; Mosiah 3:5; 3 Nephi 24:6; Mormon 9:9-11, 19; Moroni 7:22, 8:18.
63. Why does the *Book of Mormon* refute the Mormon teaching that man can become a God? First Nephi 10:18; Mosiah 3:5; 3 Nephi 24:6; Mormon 9:9-11,19; and Moroni 7:22, 8:18 show that God existed eternally as God, therefore He could never have been a man in the past.
64. Why does the *Book of Mormon* refute the Mormon teaching that there is no eternal hell and punishment? Jacob 3:11, 6:10; 1 Nephi 15:35; 2 Nephi 9:16, 28:21- 25; Mosiah 2:39, 16:5,11; 27:31; Alma 42:16.
65. Why does the *Book of Mormon* refute the Mormon teaching that We pre-existed as spirits before we were born on earth? There is nothing in *Book of Mormon* on this subject.
66. Why does the *Book of Mormon* refute the Mormon teaching on marriage for eternity and temple work? There is nothing in the BoM on this subject.
67. Why does the *Book of Mormon* refute the Mormon teaching that polygamy is acceptable to God? Jacob 1:15, 2:24, 28, 3:5; Mosiah 11:2; Ether 10:5.
68. Why does the *Book of Mormon* refute the Mormon teaching that there are three degrees of glory (Three different heavens with increasing greatness in rewards)? There is nothing in the BoM on this subject.
69. Why does the *Book of Mormon* refute the Mormon teaching that we have a mother in heaven? There is nothing in the *Book of Mormon* about a Heavenly Mother.
70. Why does the *Book of Mormon* refute the Mormon teaching on the New Testament era “Melchizedek priesthood with its corresponding authority and offices of Elder, Seventy, and High Priest”? There is nothing in the *Book of Mormon* on this subject.
71. Why does the *Book of Mormon* refute the Mormon teaching on the New Testament era “Aaronic priesthood with its corresponding authority and offices of Deacon, Teacher, and Priest”? There is nothing in the *Book of Mormon* on this subject.
72. Why does the *Book of Mormon* refute the Mormon teaching on LDS Church organization with Stakes and Wards, a First Presidency, President of the church,

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Stake Presidents, Bishoprics, etc.? There is nothing in the *Book of Mormon* on this subject.

73. Why does the *Book of Mormon* refute the Mormon teaching on Baptism for the Dead, or a second chance for salvation? Alma 34:32-35; 2 Nephi 9:38; Mosiah 2:39, 3:25, 16:5, 11; 26:25-28.
74. Why does the *Book of Mormon* refute the Mormon teaching that the blood of Jesus Christ does not cleanse certain sins? There is nothing in the *Book of Mormon* on this subject.
75. Why does the *Book of Mormon* refute the Mormon teaching that the Holy Ghost and Lucifer are sons of God? There is nothing in the *Book of Mormon* on this subject.

Bible Questions

76. If marriage is essential to achieve exaltation, why did Paul say that it is good for a man not to marry (1 Corinthians 7:1)?
77. Since the Word of Wisdom teaches us to abstain from alcohol, why did Paul encourage Timothy to drink wine for his stomach (1 Timothy 5:23)?
78. If obeying the Word of Wisdom—which tells us to abstain from caffeine, alcohol and tobacco—is important for our exaltation, why did Jesus say that there is nothing that can enter a man to make him defiled (Mark 7:15)?
79. If Jesus is the Jehovah of the Old Testament and Elohim is referred to as God in the Old Testament, can you explain Deuteronomy 6:4 to me: “Hear, O Israel: the LORD (Jehovah) our God (Elohim) is one LORD (Jehovah)?¹
80. Isaiah 44:6,8 says that there is no God beside the God of the Bible and that this God does not know of any other gods. If this is Jesus (Jehovah) speaking—as attested to by such LDS leaders as Apostle Bruce McConkie (*The Promised Messiah*, p. 312)—does that mean Jesus does not know His own Father? If you were to actually become a god, would God know you?
81. In Alma 11:26-29 Amulek tells Zeezrom that there is only one “true and living God.” If that is true, which of the three Gods in the Mormon godhead is not true and/or living? God the Father? Jesus? Or the Holy Ghost?

¹ The Hebrew name for “LORD” is known as the Tetragrammaton (YHWH) and is more correctly transliterated as “Yahweh” rather than “Jehovah.” Your Mormon friend will not know this.

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82. Why does the Mormon Church teach that we can be married in heaven when Jesus said in Matthew 22:30 that in the resurrection men neither marry, nor are they given in marriage?
83. How can worthy Mormon males become Gods in the afterlife when God already said that before him no God was formed, nor will there be any Gods formed after him (Isaiah 43:10)?
84. If God had a father who was a God, how come Isaiah 44:8 says that he doesn't know him?
85. If God was once just a man who progressed to becoming a God, how do you explain Psalm 90:2: "...even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God"?
86. When asked in a *Time* magazine interview if God the Father was once a man, President Gordon Hinckley said, "I don't know that we teach it. I don't know that we emphasize it..." (August 4, 1997, p. 56). Was he telling the truth?
87. How can God be an exalted man when Numbers 23:19 says that God is not a man?
88. In Ephesians 2:8,9 the Apostle Paul states, "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast." When Paul uses the word "saved," is he making a reference to a general resurrection or exaltation?

LDS Church Teachings

89. Why does the Mormon Church teach that Elohim had sexual relations with Mary to produce Jesus when both Matthew and Luke teach she was a virgin (*The Seer*, January, 1853, 158)?
90. Why does the LDS Church teach that Jesus paid for our sins in the garden of Gethsemane when 1 Peter 2:24 says it was on the cross?
91. Why did Bruce McConkie write that a man may commit a sin so grievous that it will place him beyond the atoning blood of Christ (*Mormon Doctrine*, 1979, 93) when the Bible says that the blood of Christ cleanses us from all sin (1 John 1:7)?
92. Why does the LDS Church teach that man first existed as spirits in heaven when 1 Corinthians 15:46 says that the physical body comes before the spiritual?

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93. Since Jesus statement, “Be ye therefore perfect” (Matthew 5:48) is in the present tense, are you perfect right now? Do you expect to be perfect soon? According to Hebrews 10:14, how are we made perfect?
94. Why do Mormons say the sticks in Ezekiel 37 represent the Bible and the *Book of Mormon* when Ezekiel 37:20-22 tells us that the sticks represent two nations, not two books?
95. Why does the LDS Church teach that Jesus and Lucifer are spirit brothers when both the first chapter of John and Colossians teach that Jesus is the Creator of all things, including Lucifer?
96. Why do worthy Mormon males hold the Aaronic priesthood since Hebrews 7:11-12 clearly teaches that it was changed and superseded by something better?
97. If your leaders are correct about the complete falling away of the true church on earth, was Jesus in error when he said that the gates of hell would not prevail against it (Matthew 16:18)?

Final Questions

98. The Apostle John stated, “These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God” (1 John 5:13). If you were to die right now, do you know for certain if you will have eternal life?
99. If not, when will you finally know? Wouldn't you like to have this issue settled before you die?
100. Do you think you ever will if you remain in the Mormon Church?

This eclectic series of questions has been compiled and adapted over the years from various sources, including Mormonism Research Ministry, the Institute for Religious Research, Utah Lighthouse Ministry and others.