

Invitation For Critical Thought

1. **Passing on the Priesthood Authority:** There is no evidence in the Bible that Jesus ever laid his hands on any of the apostles in order to pass on the priesthood. If Jesus is our example, why is the “laying on of hands” so important to the LDS Church when Jesus never did it?
2. **Sealed to your Spouse to qualify for eternal life (living in the presence of God):** All evidence in the Bible indicates that Jesus was single and was never sealed inside of a temple. Jesus actually encourages people to be single/live like a eunuch for the sake of the kingdom:
 - a. Matthew 19:10-12 “The disciples said to him, “If this is the situation between a husband and wife, **it is better not to marry.**” Jesus replied, “Not everyone can accept this word, but only those to whom it has been given. For there are eunuchs who were born that way, and there are eunuchs who have been made eunuchs by others—and **there are those who choose to live like eunuchs for the sake of the kingdom of heaven. The one who can accept this should accept it.**”

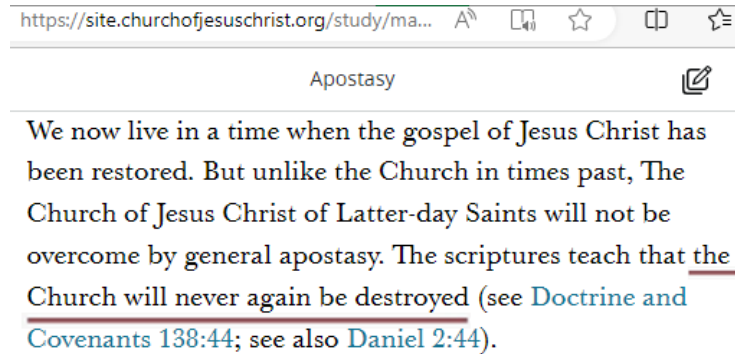
2a . The apostle Paul also encourages people to be single like him, implying that he is not married:

1 Corinthians 7:8 “Now to the unmarried and the widows I say: **It is good for them to stay unmarried, as I do.**”

- i. *You can't be sealed to your spouse if you are single and don't have a spouse. Why would both Jesus and Paul encourage people to remain single and unmarried if the consequence is to miss out on eternal life?*

3. **Marriage/Sealed to one's spouse in the temple, wearing temple garments and baptisms for the dead:** There is no evidence in the Bible to suggest that any of these ordinances were ever practiced in any temple that the Israelites used.
 - a. Objection - 1 Corinthians 15:29 “Else what shall **THEY** do which are **baptized for the dead**, if the dead rise not at all? why are they then baptized for the dead?”
 - i. Paul says, “They” because he is referring to a different group of people who practice this ritual of baptizing the dead. If Paul and other Christians were participating in this ritual, then Paul would have said, “What shall **WE** do which are baptized for the dead.” Christians never practiced baptism for the dead, but other pagan groups at that time did. They are the groups Paul is referring to in this passage here. The ordinances that are practiced in the LDS temples are completely different from the ordinances that were practiced in the Old Testament. Why?

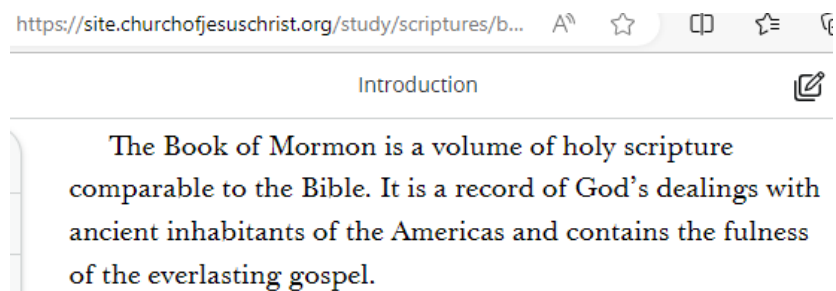
4. **The Bible - 8th Article of Faith, & 1 Nephi 13:28:** Joseph Smith and the Book of Mormon teach that many important truths have been removed from the Bible. Of the two options below, which one would most likely be a lie that Satan would tell you in order to lead you astray?
- God is strong enough to protect His Word/the Bible
 - God is NOT strong enough to protect His Word/the Bible
5. **The Great Apostasy:** Below is a screenshot from the official LDS Church website:



Matthew 16:18 “And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock **I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”**

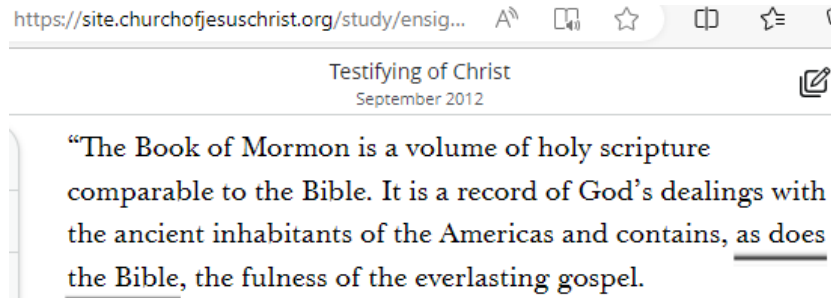
Jesus taught that his church will last forever and never be destroyed. Not even the gates of hell will overpower and destroy His Church according to the passage above (*also see Jude 1:3 which tells us that the faith/gospel was delivered to the saints once and for all*). But the LDS Church teaches that the church Jesus built was destroyed and then 1800 years later Joseph Smith restored Jesus’ church. Who should we trust: The words of Jesus? Or the words of a man?

- 6b. *Of the two options below, which one would most likely be a lie that Satan would tell you in order to lead you astray? Which one sounds like a lie?*
- Jesus is strong enough to protect his church from being destroyed
 - Jesus is NOT strong enough to protect his church from being destroyed
6. **Does the Book of Mormon contain the fullness of the everlasting gospel as it claims on its introduction page? Yes or No**



7b. Does the Bible contain the fullness of the everlasting gospel? Yes or No

7c. Prior to 2013, the BOM introduction page clearly stated that both the BOM and the Bible each separately contain the fullness of the everlasting gospel (see screenshot below from the office LDS website). Why did the LDS Church choose to remove “as does the Bible” from the revised 2013 edition of the BOM introduction page?



7. **The LDS Church teaches that David committed murder, which is an unforgivable sin.** God chose not to forgive David and is now forever separated from God and his forever family in the telestial kingdom. 2 Samuel 12:13 says, "Then David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD." Nathan replied, "The LORD **has taken away your sin**. You are not going to die." Why does the LDS Church teach that God did not forgive David for of his sins (including murder) when the Bible clearly teaches that God did forgive David of his sins?
8. **All throughout Scripture, there is only one person who is ever called, "A man after God's own heart" (Acts 13:22).** We read on Psalm 51 how incredibly repentant and sorrowful David was for committing murder. We read how he desperately bowed before God for his forgiveness. Does it make sense that God in all of his love, mercy and grace would look at the one person who was ever called "a man after God's own heart," hear his sincere cry of repentance and plea for forgiveness, and say to him, *"Yes David, I know that you are truly sorry. Yes, I know that you are a man after my own heart. And yes, I do have the power to forgive your all of your sins, including murder...but I am NOT going to. And because of my decision to not forgive your sin, you will never be able to live my presence and will before eternally separated from me and your forever family."* Does this sound like a decision that an all-loving, all-merciful, and all-gracious God would make?
9. What does the New Covenant in Christ say about temples?

Acts 17:24 "The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands."

1 Corinthians 6:19 "Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you,"

Revelation 21:22 "I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple."

- According to God's Word, there is no longer a need for temples because Jesus is my temple and he can be your temple as well! As a born again Christian, I don't "go" to God's temple... "am" God's temple. Jesus alone is everything we need. **Why then does the LDS Church try to bring us back under the Old Covenant by teaching us that we need temples today?**

Psalm 119:105 "Your WORD is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path."

Thank you for your time, my friend. I encourage you to seek the truth of God's Word above all else. I sincerely pray that God will speak truth directly from His Word into your heart.