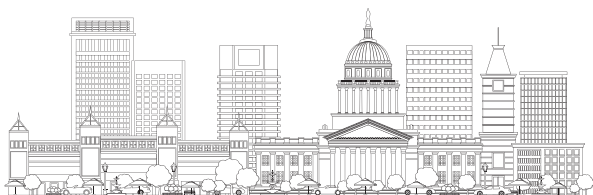


CONTENTS

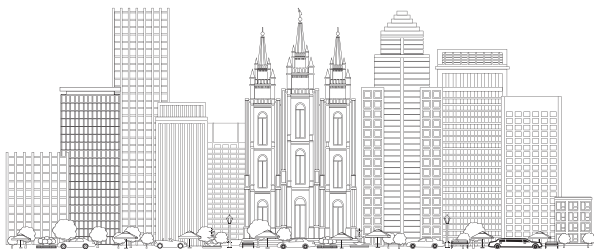


Introduction: Sharing the Truth in Love	1
1. The People Formerly Known as Mormons	3
2. ‘We Are Christians’	19
3. Joseph Smith – The Prophet of the Restoration.....	23
4. The Book of Mormon	35
5. The Word of Wisdom.....	43
6. The Plan of Salvation	49
7. God the Man	61
8. The Jesus of Mormonism	69

9. The Mormon Godhead.....	79
10. The Impossible Gospel	87
11. Jesus Is Enough	103
12. Sharing the Gospel with Mormons	111
Recommended Resources.....	123
Notes	125

INTRODUCTION:

SPEAKING THE TRUTH IN LOVE



I love Mormons. I find myself strangely drawn to them. They are some of the kindest, hardest-working, most helpful and honourable people you could ever meet. They value what I value. They are moral and upright, love their families and have a real desire to serve God. Your question following my declared love for them may be: So, why are you not a Mormon?

The answer is this: Though I love Mormons, I do not love Mormonism.

IT'S NOT CHRISTIANITY

Mormonism is much like the military. It can take a person and smarten them up. By following its dictates, a person can discover a sense of purpose, live by a moral code, feel valuable and find themselves part of a bigger, close-knit community. But there is something Mormonism cannot do – it cannot save.

In this brief look at what Mormonism teaches, we will see that it is as far from orthodox, historic, biblical Christianity as it could possibly be. Therefore, as lovely as they can be, Mormons are a lost people who need to hear, and respond to, the real gospel. As we seek to communicate the way of salvation with them, we need to *speak the truth in love*. By doing so, we can show them that we are not anti-Mormon (a term they use against any who challenge them), but are anti-Mormonism.

My prayer is that this book will not only give you information and tools to use as you speak to them, but will also generate within you a love for the people we call Mormons.

THE PEOPLE FORMERLY KNOWN AS MORMONS



... for I contend that the Latter-day Saints are the only good and true Christians, that I know anything about in the world. There are a good many people who profess to be Christians, but they are not founded on the foundation that Jesus Christ himself has laid (Joseph Fielding Smith).¹

MORMON MISSIONARIES

You can usually spot Mormons who knock at your door. They will be two smartly dressed young men, wearing suits, white shirts and ties. With their clean-cut images and a tidy haircut, they will also often, though not exclusively, have American accents. If you are still unsure who they are, check their name badges. Though typically aged between eighteen and twenty-five, they are inexplicably called 'Elder'. This badge identifies them as missionaries for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

TIP:

Though more commonly known by the nickname 'Mormons', which has stuck since the 1800s, they refer to themselves as Latter-day Saints, or 'LDS' for short. In 2018 President Russell M. Nelson announced that God had told him the Church should drop the moniker 'Mormons'.

Despite LDS missionaries usually being young men, they can also be female – 'Sisters' (who the

Mormon leadership has decided will typically be aged between nineteen and twenty-five) – or an older retired couple.

To ‘serve a mission’ for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is like a rite of passage for young Mormons. Parents hope that their children will heed the call and make them proud, proving themselves faithful to the only true and living Church of Jesus Christ on the earth today. Though spoken of as a choice, there is a certain amount of pressure applied to help you make the ‘right’ decision:

We affirm that missionary work is a priesthood duty – and we encourage all young men who are worthy and who are physically able and mentally capable to respond to the call to serve. Many young women also serve, but they are not under the same mandate to serve as are the young men. We assure the young sisters of the Church, however, that they make a valuable contribution as missionaries, and we welcome their service (Thomas S. Monson).²

THE MISSION SHOULD YOU CHOOSE TO ACCEPT IT

The 'mission' to which these young people hope to be called will be costly. It will require men to spend two years separated from their families, and women to spend eighteen months away from home. The funding for the mission must be raised by these young people themselves. There are also certain requirements of 'personal worthiness' that must be met, meaning that not every young LDS member can serve a mission even if they would like to do so. Those who go on mission must:

- Have faith in and a testimony of Heavenly Father; His Son, Jesus Christ; and the Holy Ghost
- Have a testimony of the Atonement of Jesus Christ and His role as the Saviour
- Have a testimony of the Prophet Joseph Smith and the restoration of the gospel
- Sustain the church authorities
- Keep the law of chastity (including avoiding pornography in any form)