

# Pastors' Perspective!

Supporting Christian Witness to Mormons

Because "some men...are...wanting to change the Gospel of Christ." Galatians 1:7

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## Mormons : Their new creation story.

Long before Moses reported some details of Creation, as we have them in Genesis in the Bible, Abraham received other details from God and recorded them in what is now known as the The Book of Abraham, 15 pages of new scripture in The Pearl of Great Price, reputedly a collection of writings by Abraham, Moses, and Joseph Smith. That's the position of the Mormon church.

Mormons have long complained that Christians misunderstand and misrepresent them—that Christians unfairly reject them. Some accuse Christians of defining Christianity too narrowly, thus deliberately excluding Mormonism.

In this paper (1) we look at facts: what Mormon scripture says, and (2) we have assumed only one thing about Christian faith: that it is monotheistic.

### Genesis (KJV)\*

1:1. *In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.*

1:26. *And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion....*

1:27. *So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.*

2:7. *And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.*

2:18. *And the LORD God said, It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.*

2:22. *And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man.*

\*In what Mormons consider inspired corrections to the KJV, known as the Book of Moses, in the Pearl of Great Price, the verses are written in the first person: "I, God, created man," etc., and God mentions his "Only Begotten" to Moses.

### Book of Abraham in Pearl of Great Price

4:1. *And the Lord said: Let us go down. And they went down at the beginning, and they, that is the Gods, organized and formed the heavens and the earth.*

4:26. *And the Gods took counsel among themselves and said: Let us go down and form man in our image, after our likeness; and we will give them dominion....*

4:27. *So the Gods went down to organize man in their own image, in the image of the Gods to form they him, male and female to form they them.*

5:7. *And the Gods formed man from the dust of the ground, and took his spirit (that is, the man's spirit), and put it into him; and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living soul.*

5:14. *And the Gods said: Let us make an help meet for the man, for it is not good that the man should be alone, therefore we will form an help meet for him.*

5:16. *And of the rib which the Gods had taken from the man, formed they a woman, and brought her unto the man.*

When Christians have addressed the Mormons' Book of Abraham, they have focused on the authenticity and history of materials used by Joseph Smith. Christians have attacked relentlessly, and Mormon apologists have defended vigorously.

Often overlooked is this: Christianity cannot accept that men and women are made "in the image of the Gods"—a most unchristian idea of Mormon religion.

NOTE: All Mormon scriptures, (KJV Bible, Book of Mormon, Doctrine and Covenants, Pearl of Great Price) and Mormon church footnotes to the text can be read at <http://scriptures.lds.org>

Every Christian can answer the question nagging at Mormons: "Why do people think we are not Christians?" Answer: "Because Christians do not believe in 'the Gods' of Mormon scripture."

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