

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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Mormon religion : Real risks to true faith

It seems logical. Mormons will say that those who want to know what Mormons believe should ask them. "Just ask a Mormon, not others."

Mormons often claim that people criticize their church based on things that aren't correct. Mormons say "anti-Mormons" have an unchristian agenda: to destroy the beautiful Mormon faith. They say that large numbers of Christians

and the public mindlessly repeat the false accusations made by those who oppose their church.

But Mormons themselves have an agenda: The conversion of Christians and all others to their church. Convinced that no one will live in the presence of God apart from their church, they focus on conversion, not what they really believe. Conversion first; doctrine later.

It Happens

Christians and others alike can be troubled

• **Foreign students** attending a major university in the United States and participating in a well-known Christian campus ministry were recruited quietly by Mormon missionaries. Unfamiliar with Christian doctrine, the students

agreed to be baptized by Mormons so they would be Christians, they thought, and members of what the missionaries called "The Church of Jesus Christ." Christians intervened.

• **Two adult sisters and their mother** listened together to Mormon missionaries. One sister and the

mother left when it became clear that Mormon religion was aberrant. Alone and without support, one sister was overwhelmed as the missionaries finished their stories of the restoration of the gospel in 1800s, the living prophet in Salt Lake City, and the only true church with authority to baptize, marry, and administer other ordinances required for eternal life. The missionaries were young, earnest, and persistent, and they urged her to pray and read the Book of Mormon. She did, and she felt good. The missionaries pressed her to set a date to be baptized. She agreed. Not long after her baptism she married a Mormon.

• **A young man** befriended his peers working as Mormon missionaries and played basketball with them. He attended Mormon church services and the church's dances and other social events. He became a Mormon, only then to discover doctrines offensive to Christian faith. He returned to his Christian church.

• **Well-meaning Christians** argue with Mormons endlessly (and futilely) in blogs. Sometimes kind and correct, sometimes not, Christians and Mormons alike often focus on obscure, albeit important matters, overlooking the obvious. (See "A Suggestion," left.)

A SUGGESTION

(as in our January issue)

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."

How? Like this: Answer the door. Mormon missionaries. Christian says, "I am a Christian, and I know it bothers you when people say yours is not a Christian church, but I agree with them. Here's why: Because Christians do not believe in 'the Gods' of your church's scriptures."

Or initiate a conversation with Mormon acquaintances: "Fred, Peggy, I know it perplexes members of your church when people say it is not a Christian church. But many of us feel that way because...."

Christians can do themselves a favor by switching the subject from the Book of Mormon (the subject preferred by Mormons) to their Book of Abraham, which details a creation of *man in the image of the Gods*. Mormons are oblivious to the problem, and their church materials ignore the obvious affront to Christian truth.

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