

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

ABOUT THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

Are Mormons Christian?

Yes. Ezra Taft Benson, a former President of the Church, said: “We declare the divinity of Jesus Christ. We look to Him as the only source of our salvation. We strive to live His teachings, and we look forward to the time that He shall come again on this earth to rule and reign as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. In the words of a Book of Mormon prophet, we say to men today, ‘There [is] no other name given nor any other way nor means whereby salvation can come unto the children of men, only in and through the name of Christ, the Lord Omnipotent’ (Mosiah 3:17).”

Do Mormons believe in the Bible?

Yes. The Church reveres the Bible. The New Testament remains the best source for an intimate understanding of the character and personality of Jesus Christ during His mortal mission. In addition to the Old Testament and New Testament of the Bible, the scriptures, or “standard works,” of the Latter-day Saints also include the Book of Mormon, the Doctrine and Covenants, and the Pearl of Great Price.

Why does the Church have a prophet?

Modern apostles and prophets are a distinctive characteristic of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Church members view senior Church leaders – Joseph Smith, Brigham Young and the presidents of the Church that followed – as prophets of God in the same way they view Abraham, Moses, Isaiah and the apostles in the day of Jesus Christ. Thomas S. Monson is the current president and prophet of the Church.

Why does the Church have temples?

Latter-day Saint temples are considered houses of God, a place of holiness and peace separate from the preoccupations of the world. They provide a place where Church members make formal promises and commitments to God. They are also the place where the highest sacraments of the faith occur – the marriage of couples and the “sealing” of families for eternity. Temples are quite different from the thousands of regular chapels or meetinghouses all over the world that are used for Sunday services. Anyone, regardless of religion, may enter a Latter-day Saint meetinghouse and attend services. However, because of the purpose and sacredness of temples as “houses of the Lord,” only members of the Church who are in good standing are allowed to enter the temples.

Why don’t Mormons drink alcohol or coffee?

A health plan for the Church was first written down in 1833 by Joseph Smith as a revelation from God. Today, Latter-day Saints usually refer to these health guidelines as “the Word of Wisdom” (see D&C 89). The provisions of the health code include no alcoholic drinks, no smoking or chewing of tobacco, and no “hot drinks” – believed to refer specifically to tea and coffee.

Why does the Church have missionaries?

Missionary work is voluntary and is based on the New Testament pattern of missionaries serving in pairs, teaching the gospel and baptizing believers in the name of Jesus Christ (see, for example, the work of Peter and John in the book of Acts).

For more information about the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, please visit www.mormon.org or www.lds.org.