

Comparing LDS & Evangelical Christian beliefs



MAJOR ISSUES

ISSUE	EVANGELICAL CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE	LATTER-DAY SAINT DOCTRINE
The nature of God	While God is a personal being, he is a spirit that has no form. He is a being, a personality, but not a man. (Note: some Christian communities think of God as gender-neutral.)	God has a glorified physical body and is an exalted man, although as President Gordon B. Hinckley once said, we don't fully understand or comprehend what that means.
Post-New Testament church councils and creeds - especially the doctrine of the Trinity (belief that God the Father, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit are three persons but one being)	Post-New Testament councils and creeds are a significant and meaningful part of church history and helped to formulate Christianity. The doctrine of the Trinity is essential to Christian theology.	The simple teachings of first century Christianity were mixed with Greek philosophy, and clouded the correct perspective of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost as three separate persons and three divine beings.
Sufficiency of the Holy Bible	The Bible is the final, infallible and sufficient word of God. Additional scripture is both unnecessary and inappropriate.	The Bible is the word of God, but so are three additional books of scripture. The four volumes constitute what one LDS leader calls the "royal family of scripture," and LDS do not love one family member more than another.

RELATED ISSUES

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Grace	Salvation is undeserved, and comes by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone. Man cannot add to the finished work of Christ. Indeed, a Christ supplemented is a Christ supplanted.	We are saved by grace, which is freely given, the greatest of all God's gifts. But this gift must be received by faith in Christ, which is manifest in deeds of faithful discipleship and obedience to the Lord's commandments.
Man may become like God (related to the first issue, above)	God has always been God and will always be God, and that there will always be an infinite and uncrossable chasm between God and man.	Growth and progress are eternal features of God's plan and Bible language about becoming "heirs of God" and "partakers of the divine nature" means what it says. Through the Atonement, God's children may become more Christ-like and better prepared to dwell with and be like God.
Ongoing revelation	God answers prayers and provides inspiration and divine guidance. But revelation ended with the Bible, and no more is needed.	Living prophets and apostles receive revelation from God for the ongoing benefit of his children. This revelation enhances the personal inspiration and guidance one can receive through prayer and scripture study.