

Don't Change God's Word

Scripture: Deuteronomy 4:2, 12:32, 18:20-22; Proverbs 30:6;
Revelation 22:18, 19; Galatians 1:6-9

Tolerance: Be open minded, accept everyone, be careful not to offend anyone, and accept all religions and viewpoints as equally true

Question: If we are not convinced that something is wrong, why would we need to tolerate their different views?

This is not an accurate understanding of tolerance

Real Tolerance: Understanding the position of others, knowing why you disagree, living alongside them, loving them, and confronting their false ideas with Biblical truth

The Mormons

Joseph Smith –

In 1820 Joseph Smith wanted to know which church was the right one. He was supposedly told in a vision that the true gospel had been corrupted and lost due to apostasy. He was instructed to have nothing to do with the churches in existence and that through him God would restore to earth the true religion.

Mormonism is based on a series of visions by Joseph Smith (Between 1820 - 1827) Supposedly Joseph Smith received as series of visions from the angel Moroni .

Moroni told Smith of a set of gold plates that contained “the fullness of the gospel.”

In 1827 Smith began his translation. The angel is said to have taken the tablets after Smith finished translating what is now called the Book of Mormon.

Formally organized in 1830

Members are referred to as “Latter-Day Saints” because the true gospel was supposedly lost for centuries and only restored in the latter days of the 1820s

➤ The Bible

“We believe the Bible to be the Word of God as far as it is translated correctly; we also believe the Book of Mormon to be the Word of God”

(Taken from Mormon Articles of Faith)

Mormons teach that it is the Word of God, it is scripture.

Not a replacement for the Bible but a supplement to it.

➤ Salvation



“We believe that through the Atonement of Christ, all mankind may be saved, by obedience to the ordinances of the gospel”

(Taken from Mormon Articles of Faith)

The first principles and ordinances of the gospel are:

1. Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ
 2. Repentance
 3. Baptism by immersion for the remission of sins
 4. Laying on of hands for the gift of the Holy Ghost
- (Taken from Mormon Articles of Faith)

➤ Jesus Christ

- The First Article of Faith of the Mormon Church speaks of Jesus Christ as the Son of God (Mormons consider themselves Christians on the basis of this statement)
- Mormons teach that the Father God and a Mother God conceived spirit children and that Christ was the very first one.
- Mormons teach that Jesus and Lucifer were brothers during their spiritual existence, and Lucifer even offered to become the savior. But Lucifer disagreed with part of God's plan and was cast out of Heaven.
- Mormons teach that Jesus was born into this world as the product of a sexual union between Mary and God the Father.
- Mormon doctrine teaches that Jesus Christ lived as a man and became a god as the result of His devotion to the gospel truth and law.
- Mormons teach that Jesus was married, possibly to Mary, Martha or Mary Magdalene
- Mormons teach that Jesus appeared as a resurrected being on the North American continent in A.D. 34

Examples of those who were will to go to great sacrifices in order to spread the Word throughout the world in common languages because they knew it to be the only Word of God:

John Wycliffe (AD 1320-1384)

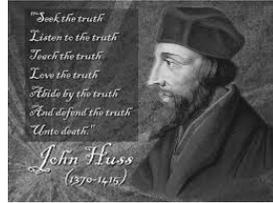
- Educated at Oxford University in England and received a doctor of theology degree in 1372
- According to the Roman Catholic Church only the true church could correctly understand the Scriptures
- Wycliffe agreed but got his definition of church from the New Testament instead of church tradition
- Wycliffe's position was that the church was not built on popes, priests or sacraments
- He maintained that no pope or council was infallible, and that if their views contradicted the Bible, those views were wrong
- He taught that the church consisted of every person called by God to faith in Jesus Christ
- In answer to the question, “How must the Word of God be preached?” Wycliffe answered, “Appropriately, simply, directly, and fro a devout, sincere heart.”
- Wycliffe believed that every church member should strive to understand the Bible
- Bible Translator



- He died of paralysis – Years later due to their hatred of him, the Catholics had his bones dug up, burned and his ashes cast upon the waters

John Huss (1369 – 1415)

- Huss was intent on maintaining the Word of God as the authority over Christian doctrine and he spoke boldly and courageously against the compromises he saw in the church such as altering the Lord's Supper and selling indulgences.
- As a result, he was burned at the stake – giving his life so the Word of God might remain the pure standard of the church.



Martin Luther (AD 1483-1546)

- A German monk in the Roman Catholic Church
- Martin Luther came to faith in Christ being convinced that people were not justified by works or by church membership but by faith in Christ. He spent the rest of his life emphasizing justification by grace through faith
- Luther's mind was changed due to the study of the Word of God – Scripture shaped his thinking
- Key figure in the Reformation



Luther's 95 Theses (1517)

- Luther, protested the sale of indulgences by publishing a list of 95 topics to stimulate public debate and academic dialogue

The "Diet of Worms" (AD 1521)

A gathering between the Roman Catholic Church and Martin Luther for the purpose of testing whether Luther would withdraw his writings

William Tyndale (1490-1536)

- Could be called the father of the English Bible
- Tyndale was determined to produce an accurate English version translated from the original Hebrew and Greek and to make it available to all God's people
- Church authorities were opposed to this plan and Tyndale was forced to go underground with his work
- Tyndale was successful in translating all of the NT and some of the OT
- Tyndale was strangled and then burned at the stake in Brussels on October 6, 1536

