

Biblical Christianity and Mormon Comparison Chart

Topic	Biblical Christianity	Mormonism
GOD	There is only one God (Isaiah 43:11 ; 44:6,8 ; 45:5).	"And they (the Gods) said: Let there be light: and there was light (Book of Abraham 4:3).
	God has always been God (Psalm 90:2 ; Isaiah 57:15).	"God himself was once as we are now, and is an exalted man, and sits enthroned in yonder heavens!!! . . . We have imagined that God was God from all eternity. I will refute that idea and take away the veil, so that you may see," (<i>Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith</i> , p. 345).
	God is a spirit without flesh and bones (John 4:24 ; Luke 24:39).	"The Father has a body of flesh and bones as tangible as man's," (Doctrine and Covenants 130:22; Compare with Alma 18:26-27; 22:9-10). "Therefore we know that both the Father and the Son are in form and stature perfect men; each of them possesses a tangible body . . . of flesh and bones," (<i>Articles of Faith</i> , by James Talmage, p. 38).
TRINITY	The Trinity is the doctrine that there is only one God in all the universe and that He exists in three eternal, simultaneous persons: The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.	The trinity is three separate Gods: The Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost. "That these three are separate individuals, physically distinct from each other, is demonstrated by the accepted records of divine dealings with man," (<i>Articles of Faith</i> , by James Talmage, p. 35).
JESUS	Jesus was born of the virgin Mary (Isaiah 7:14 ; Matt. 1:23).	"The birth of the Saviour was as natural as are the births of our children; it was the result of natural action. He partook of flesh and blood - was begotten of his Father, as we were of our fathers," (<i>Journal of Discourses</i> , vol. 8, p. 115). "Christ was begotten by an Immortal Father in the same way that mortal men are begotten by mortal fathers" (<i>Mormon Doctrine</i> , by Bruce McConkie, p. 547).
	Jesus is the eternal Son. He is second person of the Trinity. He has two natures . He is God in flesh and man (John 1:1, 14 ; Col. 2:9) and the creator of all things (Col. 1:15-17).	Jesus is the literal spirit-brother of Lucifer, a creation (<i>Gospel Through the Ages</i> , p. 15).

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THE HOLY SPIRIT	The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity. He is not a force. He is a person. (Acts 5:3-4 ; 13:2)	Mormonism distinguishes between the Holy Spirit (God's presence via an essence) and the Holy Ghost (the third god in the Mormon doctrine of the godhood). "He [the Holy Ghost] is a being endowed with the attributes and powers of Deity, and not a mere force, or essence," (<i>Articles of Faith</i> , by James Talmage, p. 144).
SALVATION	Salvation is the forgiveness of sin and deliverance of the sinner from damnation. It is a free gift received by God's grace (Eph. 2:8 ; Rom. 6:23) and cannot be earned (Rom. 11:6).	Salvation has a double meaning in Mormonism: universal resurrection and . . . "The first effect [of the atonement] is to secure to all mankind alike, exemption from the penalty of the fall, thus providing a plan of <i>General Salvation</i> . The second effect is to open a way for <i>Individual Salvation</i> whereby mankind may secure remission of personal sins," (<i>Articles of Faith</i> , by James Talmage, p. 78-79).
	Salvation (forgiveness of sins) is not by works (Eph. 2:8 ; Rom. 4:5 ; Gal. 2:21).	"As these sins are the result of individual acts it is just that forgiveness for them should be conditioned on individual compliance with prescribed requirements -- 'obedience to the laws and ordinances of the Gospel,'" (<i>Articles of Faith</i> , p. 79).
BIBLE	The inspired inerrant word of God (2 Tim. 3:16). It is authoritative in all subjects it addresses.	"We believe the Bible to be the word of God as far as it is translated correctly. . ." (8th Article of Faith of the Mormon Church).

(chart adapted from CARM.org)