

## Core Beliefs Contrasted

Topic	Mormon (LDS) Belief	Baptist Belief
Authority	Bible <b>plus</b> Book of Mormon and modern revelation	<b>Bible alone</b> (sola Scriptura)
God	Godhead = Father, Son, Holy Ghost as <b>three separate beings</b>	<b>One God</b> in three persons (Trinity)
Jesus Christ	Savior, literal Son of God (has not existed eternally), spirit-brother of humanity	Eternal Son of God, <b>fully God and fully man</b>
Salvation	By grace <b>plus</b> faith, ordinances, and obedience	By <b>grace alone through faith alone</b>
Human Nature	Humans are literal spirit children of God	Humans are created beings, fallen by sin
Afterlife	Multiple degrees of glory	Heaven or Hell
Church Authority	Restored priesthood through Joseph Smith	Priesthood of <b>all believers</b>
Revelation Today	Ongoing revelation through prophets	Revelation completed in Scripture

## Key Doctrinal Differences Explained

### Scripture

- **Mormon:** Bible is inspired “*as far as it is translated correctly*,” supplemented by LDS scriptures.
- **Baptist:** Bible is **fully sufficient, final, and authoritative**.

*Baptists reject additional scripture as unbiblical.*

### God

- **Mormon:** God the Father has a physical body; humans may eventually become like God.
- **Baptist:** God is eternal, uncreated, spirit, and **wholly unique**.

*Baptists affirm Isaiah 43:10—no other gods before or after Him.*

### Jesus Christ

- **Mormon:** Jesus is divine but distinct from the Father in being.
- **Baptist:** Jesus is eternally God, co-equal with the Father.

*This difference is foundational and affects the entire theology.*

## Salvation

- **Mormon:** Salvation involves faith, repentance, baptism, temple ordinances, and enduring obedience.
- **Baptist:** Salvation is a **free gift**, received by faith alone, in Christ alone, and not earned.

*LDS teaching adds works to grace (Ephesians 2:8–9).*

## Human Destiny

- **Mormon:** Faithful believers may achieve exaltation and eternal progression.
- **Baptist:** Believers glorify God forever but **do not become divine**.

## Afterlife

- **Mormon:** Three kingdoms of glory; nearly all are resurrected to some degree.
- **Baptist:** Final judgment leads to **heaven or hell**.

## Church & Authority

- **Mormon:** True church restored in 1830; exclusive priesthood authority.
- **Baptist:** Church founded by Christ in the 1st century; authority rests in Scripture.

## To Summarize:

**Mormonism** presents itself as a restored form of Christianity with additional scripture, modern prophets, and a different understanding of God, salvation, and eternity.

**Evangelical Baptists** hold to historic Christian orthodoxy: One eternal God, Salvation by grace alone through faith alone, Scripture as the final authority.

Because of these differences—especially regarding **God, Christ, and salvation**—Mormonism is not doctrinally Christian, despite shared moral language and use of biblical terms.