

Newsweek & Washington Post **Guest Voices: Are Mormons Christians?**

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I submit that I have something of value to say on the subject of whether or not "Mormons are Christians" and in particular whether or not a devout Mormon could serve well as a President of these United States of America, because, although I am presently an "inactive Mormon" I was a VERY active member of that Church for 16 years (witnessing many of their top leaders up close) and benefited physically & spiritually in ways for which I'm grateful (and on the basis of hard scientific evidence still believe some of their "peculiar" beliefs) though after a year of RCIA I was received into the Roman Catholic Church by Adult Baptism at Easter of 2,001. If one judges Mormons by their Attitudinal Ideals and their Behavioral Ideals (as rendered definitively by Jesus in Matthew 25 where He SPECIFIES how He will "divide the sheep from the goats" on the Final Judgment Day) then Mormons are EXEMPLARY Christians because they are good neighbors, good citizens, practice what they preach, and (like Jews, who in fields that require diligence & creativity & higher education are over-represented by a FACTOR of 20 in comparison to their percentage of the USA's population) they contribute far more than their proportional share to the advancement of human civilization, in that, regarding every field into which they enter, metaphorically they "consistently produce vastly more than they consume"! The Protestant & Catholic 'scholars' who imagine that they have debunked the Ancient History of the New World as presented in the Book of Mormon (namely that the higher civilization of the Olmecs & later Maya were produced by transoceanic contact with voyaging Hebrews and that Jesus appeared to the Maya after his death & Resurrection) are pathetically ignorant of hard archaeological facts. There is factual information in the Book of Mormon which could not possibly have gotten there in 1830 by natural means! But alas some verses provide irrefutable evidence that, far from being a Prophet, Joseph Smith was actually a Victim of Satanic deception & oppression. Anyone who wants a list of irrefutable archaeological evidence can consult my etisbew innoventek tod moc. Weary of ignorant evangelicals calling Mormons 'cultists' when they know not whereof they speak, I remain, patiently, Dr. RWB

POSTED BY: DR. ROBERT W. BASS | DECEMBER 10, 2007 10:12 AM

RWB --

Perhaps here we have it.

You say you are an inactive Mormon. You say you were received into the Roman Catholic church.

So what are you? Are you a Mormon or a Catholic?

Can one be a Catholic and an "inactive" anything else at the same time.

Catholicism rests on the Creed, read near the close of the Liturgy of the Word during every Mass. Those who recite it say that they believe, as Ego Nemo points out, in "one, holy, Catholic and apostolic church" and in "one baptism for the forgiveness of sins."

Do you believe these things or do you not? Do you believe these things and then believe things in addition to these things?

If so, you may have misunderstood the doctrine you were to learn as a catechumen.

Please reflect in your heart whether by saying you are an "inactive Mormon" you are really a faithful Catholic.

POSTED BY: HEY DOC | DECEMBER 10, 2007 10:24 AM

To the reader who signs himself as "hey doc!" and who asks how I can be an "inactive Mormon" and a 2001-Baptized Roman Catholic and whether I believe the Catholic creeds. Firstly, I am classified by the LDS Church as an "inactive Mormon" because I haven't been excommunicated, and since I haven't attacked the church (note that I said that if one judged LDS adherents by their "attitudinal ideals" and "behavioral ideals" then they are "EXEMPLARY Christians!") then the mere fact that I joined another denomination will not suffice for them to excommunicate me. As for what I now believe, I believe every word of the Apostle's Creed (as exposted by Gary Wills in his recent book "Why I am a Catholic" [after his book attacking "structures of deceit" in the Papacy] which is recited by the congregations every Easter (or when the audience has many children) while I have reservations about the Athanasian interpretation of the Trinity (as expressed in the Nicene Creed of 325 AD) as opposed to the Arian interpretation. I'm glad I was Baptized by a Catholic Priest because at that moment I was in "physical contact" with Jesus as opposed to merely "spiritual contact" because in the eyes of an intelligence "outside of time [like God]" on the shoulder of the Priest touching me was the hand of a Bishop on whose shoulder was the hand of another Bishop and going all the way back for ~2,000 years to Saint Peter who of course had been touched by Jesus. The Nicene Creed was adopted by vote under pressure from Emperor Constantine to settle the feud between Arians and Athanasians (whose historical details are as enlightening as internecine Mafia warfare), but two years later Bishop Eusebius wrote to the Emperor "I wish to change my vote, which I did only under fear of Your Majesty" and subsequently the Emperor was Baptized on his deathbed by an Arian Priest and his successors and the Court were all Arians for several generations until the Athanasians staged a comeback and have been dominant ever since. But the Athanasian conception of the Trinity violates Aristotle's Law of the Excluded Middle, which is the basis of all logic, mathematics, science and genuine reason. Jesus said "I am the TRUTH and the way and the life" and the TRUTH is not self-contradictory, regardless of politicized fights in 325 AD to establish what theologians call the "paradoxical version of the Trinity." The Apostle's Creed is all I am required to believe in order to become a Baptized Catholic and it (not the paradoxical Nicene Creed) is the one used at Baptisms (or around children) and once per year at Easter. So, Mr. "hey doc" study some history besides what they offer in the Catechism. Also note how Jesus HIMSELF states definitively and very SPECIFICALLY exactly how He is going to "divide the sheep from the goats" on the Final Judgment Day, and note that His specific criterion has EVERYTHING to do with a truly compassionate heart, as demonstrated by ACTIONS, and nothing to do with propositional doctrines!

POSTED BY: DR. ROBERT W. BASS | DECEMBER 11, 2007 7:37 AM
