

2 of the major doctrines of the Protestant reformation...

Sola Fide =

Salvation by Faith Alone in Christ

Sola Scriptura =

Authority of the Scriptures Alone

As Protestants, we are justified by faith alone. This separates us from the belief of the 7 Catholic sacraments that are required for salvation, or becoming a Mormon missionary, or serving as a Jehovah's witness going door to door. Religious works are required by cults to hope for the possibility of salvation, with no guarantee! These works help further the secure establishment of a religious organization, but are counterfeit efforts to earn Gods love. The Holy Spirit does not require the help of religion for Him to build His church.

All cults seem Christian in some ways, but add to or control the authority of scripture such as the apocrypha for Catholics. They also elevate the Popes ability to speak "ex-cathedra" which gives him God like authority and reserve extra authority through the traditions of the church. These are all equal to the Bible itself. Jehovah's witness' only use their own "new world" authorized translation and limit all interpretation to the watch tower society in New York. Mormons use several books they consider authoritative such as "Doctrines and Covenants", "the pearl of great price", and the book of Mormon. All these examples violate "Sola Scriptura"

Protestantism vs. Catholicism

Protestant	Catholic
Pope is not the authority of the church	Pope is the authority of the church
Salvation is by faith alone	Faith and good works needed for salvation
Bible is the source for teachings	Bible and other church teachings are the basis for teachings
Individuals interpret the Bible	Priest and Pope interpret the Bible
Communion – Jesus' presence	Communion – Jesus' body

Catholicism vs Protestantism

	Catholics	Protestants
Pope	Heads the church, Vicar of Christ	No human is infallible and Jesus alone heads up the Church
Big Fancy Cathedrals	"humanity must discover its unity and salvation" <i>within a church.</i>	All Christians can be saved, regardless of church membership.
Saints	Pray to saints (holy dead people) in addition to God and Jesus.	acknowledge saints, but don't pray to them
Celibacy & Nuns	Catholics only	Priests/Pastors can marry
Scripture	Tradition & bible	Only the word of god
Interpretation	Only the pope can interpret the bible	Individual Interpretation
Confession of sins	To God through priests	To God through Jesus

God Teaches	The Pope Teaches
Salvation is only through Christ (Acts 4:12).	Salvation is through the Roman Catholic Church and its sacraments (846, 1129).
You are saved by faith and not by works (Ephesians 2:8-9).	You are saved by faith plus works (1815,1821,2010,2027).
All who rely on observing the law--commandments--for salvation are under a curse (Galatians 3:10).	Obedience to the commandments is necessary for salvation (2068).
Salvation occurs at the moment you repent and believe the gospel (Acts 20:21 , Ephesians 1:13).	Salvation is a process from baptism through purgatory (161, 162, 1254, 1255).
Only Jesus purifies sin (Hebrews 1:3 , Colossians 1:22).	Purgatory purifies sin (1030,1031).
You can know that you have eternal life (John 10:27-30 , 1 John 5:13).	You sin if you presume to be saved without merit (2090-2092).
The sacrifice of Jesus is finished (John 19:30).	The sacrifice of Jesus continues in daily Mass (611, 1405).

Martin Luther vs. the Church Continued...

D) How did Luther's beliefs differ from the Catholic Church?

Catholic Church early 16 th century	Martin Luther
✓ Salvation (entry to heaven) can only be reached by receiving the sacraments (sacred rituals) of the Church.	✓ Salvation can be reached through faith alone.
✓ Use of elaborate ceremonies.	✓ Elaborate ceremonies are not necessary.
✓ The clergy are necessary to help you understand the truth of the Bible.	✓ The Bible is the only source of truth, not the clergy.
✓ The Bible should only be written in Latin .	✓ The Bible should only be written in the vernacular (every day language)
✓ Clergy cannot marry.	✓ Clergy should be able to marry and have children.
✓ Prayer to Saints.	✓ Prayer only to God or Jesus.

Truth Versus Lies – what JW's believe

Elements of Faith	Historic Christianity	Jehovah's Witnesses
Person of Jesus Christ	One divine Person, eternal, with two natures-human & divine. Born on earth as a fully human being. Supreme example of God's character & His love for humanity. Full and final revelation of God and His love. John 1:1-13	A created being with stages of existence: 1. Archangel Michael or the Word. 2. Jesus, perfect man, became Messiah at his baptism; 3. After his spiritual resurrection, became Michael again but retains the name Jesus.

Truth Versus Lies – what JW's believe

Elements of Faith	Historic Christianity	Jehovah's Witnesses
Supreme Being	One personal / supreme God who is Creator & Lord of everything that exists. He eternally exists as Triune God: Father, Son, Holy Spirit. Gen. 1; Deut. 6:4; Matt. 28:19.	One God, properly called Jehovah. His Holy Spirit is an impersonal force. Reject the doctrine of Trinity.

Truth Versus Lies – what JW's believe

Elements of Faith	Historic Christianity	Jehovah's Witnesses
Sources of Authority	Bible (Old & New Testaments). Unique, revealed, factual, accurate, & inspired Word of God. Sole authority for faith & practice. 2 Tim. 3:16-17.	Bible (New World Translation of Holy Scriptures) as interpreted by Watchtower Bible and Tract Society.

Truth Versus Lies – what JW's believe

Elements of Faith	Historic Christianity	Jehovah's Witnesses
Solution to the Basic Human Problem	Salvation-release from the guilt & power of sin - is God's gift of grace through Christ's atonement, received through personal faith in Christ. Eph. 2:8-9	Allegiance to Jehovah plus works (baptism, faithfulness in Kingdom Hall work; those ignorant of Jehovah given a chance to believe during millennium).

Mormonism

Christianity vs. Mormonism

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|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ One God of the Universe | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ One God of this world but many gods in the universe |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ One God makes up the Trinity | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ three separate gods make up one godhead |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ God's power is unlimited, beyond human understanding | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ God's power is limited by human attributes |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ God is without beginning or end | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ God has a beginning - is an offspring of another god |

We are told
that we are...

Mormons

- Book of mormons
- Doctrine and Covenants
- Pearl of Great Price.
- Rejects that Father, Son and Holy Spirit are "one" The Holy Spirit is separate from God and Jesus. More than one God.
- Heavenly Father that has a physical body
- Free to do good and evil
- Has a second chance afterlife during a period of "learning and preparation" after death
- Afterlife: all spirits go to the the spirit world. The good spends time in the spirit paradise while the evil go to prison
- Hell: wicked enter "spirit prison" then considered "Outer Darkness" for eternity.
- Symbol: Cross is not used. Trumpet is seen atop of Mormon temples
- Deny sin of human
- Worship in chapel or temple
- Salvation: works are more important

Same

- Has Jesus
- Bible
- Jesus is Son of God, savior
- Believe the resurrection of Christ
- Jesus died for us
- Baptism
- Lord's Supper
- Salvation: works and faith

[Christianity Vs. Mormonism](#)

Christians

- Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are "one":
- God does not have a body
- Human has sin
- Free to do whatever is wanted is not good
- Bad souls are sent to Hell, a place of eternal torment and distance from God while believers go to Heaven eternity.
- Place of worship is Chruch
- Symbols: cross, fish
- Salvation: faith is more important
- Jesus died for us because God wanted us to know about him directly.

SIGNS of a "Christian" Cult



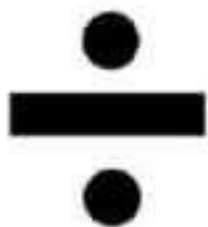
They add to the Word of God. It's never the Bible alone as its authority. Publications such as The Book of Mormon, Pearl of Great Price, Science & Health, and AWAKE and Watchtower magazines are given equal and greater importance over Scripture.



They subtract from the Diety of Jesus. They will say he's a prophet, a teacher, the devil's brother, Michael the archangel, the son of God - but never God in the flesh. They may also subtract from the personhood of the Holy Spirit by reducing Him to an impersonal force used by God.



They multiply works to gain salvation. It is never grace alone. You must join them, be baptized, you must go door to door, you must strictly obey commandments, no one is saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ alone.



They will divide your loyalties. They are an antichrist group. You are deceived into placing your primary loyalty toward the cult and its leaders instead of the Lord Jesus Christ. Also, you are discouraged from associating with non-members, and forbidden to have anything to do with ex-members. Where true Christians are encouraged to maintain contact and closeness with unbelieving family members, these groups do not.