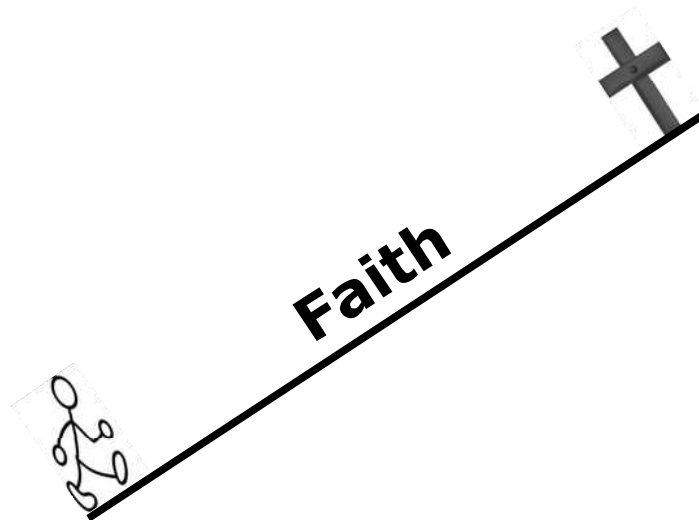


## Clearing Rocks from the Road to Redemption

**The above diagram** represents ten of the most common obstacles both biblical Christians and Latter-day Saints encounter when attempting to understand, share and defend their respective faiths. Any number of these “Rocks” may come into play during the course of dialog or debate.

Note that the path to the cross for Latter-day Saints is on an incline. This is because many LDS will suffer incredible loss (e.g. family, friends, social acceptance/status, financial security, etc.) for exchanging the LDS gospel of *works* for the biblical gospel of *grace*.

**The below diagram** represents the ideal sharing scenario—all potential Rocks have been cleared from the road to redemption. In other words, the only thing standing between Latter-day Saints and being forgiven of ALL their sins (besides the potential losses mentioned above) is pure and simple faith in the FINISHED work of Christ on the cross and acceptance of His absolutely free gift of salvation.



# Rock #2 Power Point

**"Bashing"**



**...becomes a rock on the road to redemption when LDS associate discussing, debating & defending doctrine with it!**

Many Latter-day Saints, especially LDS missionaries, have a jaded perception of what it means to have LDS doctrine scrutinized by non-LDS. "Bashing" is the term LDS often associate with this process. Sadly, this perception is all too often justified because of the unsavory treatment LDS experience at the hands of biblical Christians. More prevalent, however, it stems from a misunderstanding and/or unawareness of the biblical precedent of testing and debating doctrine.

The aim of this lesson is to (1) demonstrate that if discussing, debating and defending our doctrines in a Christ-like manner is "bashing," then bashing is not only biblical, but it is also advocated by LDS leaders and (2) point out the misperception held by many Latter-day Saints that LDS leaders never criticize the people and doctrines of other faiths.

## Discussing, Debating & Defending Doctrine is Biblical

### Jesus debated with the Sadducees (Mark 12:18-28).

- The doctrine of the resurrection was debated (Mk. 12:18, 26-27).
- Avoiding a doctrinal discussion is not giving “a good answer.”

One of the teachers of the law came and heard them [Jesus and the Sadducees] debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, “Of all the commandments, which is the most important?” (Mark 12:28 NIV)

### The apostle Paul “reasoned” with the Jews (Acts 17:2-4).

- The doctrine of Christ’s identity, atonement and resurrection was discussed.
- “Abusive” behavior IS *bashing* and grounds for ending doctrinal discussions (see Acts 18:6).
- It is our “responsibility” to discuss critical doctrine and warn others of God’s judgment. The “blood” of the condemned is on our heads (see Acts 18:6 & Ezekiel 33:7-9).

As was his custom, Paul went into the synagogue, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them [the Jews] from the Scriptures, explaining and proving that the Christ had to suffer and rise from the dead. (Acts 17:2-3a NIV)

### The apostle Peter commands us to defend our faith (1 Peter 3:15).

- Defending our doctrine is a divine command, not a simple suggestion.
- Doing so in a rude and disrespectful manner is grounds for ending doctrinal discussions.

But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect. (1 Peter 3:15 NIV)

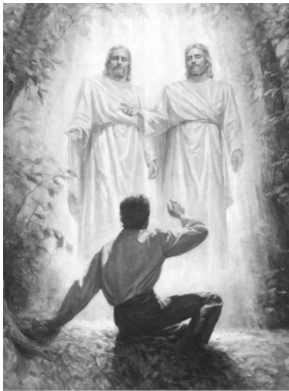
## LDS Leaders Encourage Testing LDS Prophets & Doctrine



"If Joseph Smith was a deceiver, who wilfully [*sic*] attempted to mislead the people, then he should be exposed; his claims should be refuted, and his doctrines shown to be false, for the doctrines of an imposter cannot be made to harmonize in all particulars with divine truth. If his claims and declarations were built upon fraud and deceit, there would appear many errors and contradictions, which would be easy to detect. The doctrines of false teachers will not stand the test when tried by the accepted standards of measurement, the scriptures."

**Joseph Fielding Smith, 10<sup>th</sup> LDS Prophet & President**  
*Doctrines of Salvation, 1975, 1:188*

## Do LDS Leaders "Bash" the Protestant Faith?



I was answered [by the LORD] that I must join none of them [Protestant churches; see v. 9], for they were all wrong; and the Personage [Jesus] who addressed me said that all their creeds were an abomination in his sight; that those professors were all corrupt;

**Joseph Smith, 1<sup>st</sup> LDS Prophet & President**  
*Joseph Smith—History 1:19 in The Pearl of Great Price*



"One of the most fallacious doctrines originated by Satan and propounded by man is that man is saved alone by the grace of God [*sola gratia*—a Latin tenet of the Protestant Reformation]; that belief in Jesus Christ alone is all that is needed for salvation."

**Spencer W. Kimball, 12<sup>th</sup> LDS Prophet & President**  
*The Miracle of Forgiveness, 1969, p. 55.*