

	Biblical Doctrine	LDS Doctrine (The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints)
True Christianity	Established by Jesus Christ and built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets of the New Testament.	Lost subsequent to “the great apostasy” near the end of the first century; restored in 1830 through Joseph Smith Jr., the first prophet and president of the LDS Church.
Christ’s Atonement	Accomplished on the cross at Calvary as a free gift to man; satisfied the Father’s just punishment of our sins on the condition of our faith in Christ’s work <i>alone</i> .	Accomplished in the garden of Gethsemane and on the cross at Calvary as a free gift to man; satisfied the Father’s just punishment of our sins on the conditions of both our faith in Christ’s work <i>plus</i> our obedience to the laws and ordinances of the LDS Church (“works”).
Salvation	Being forgiven of all our sins and resurrected (the body and spirit reunited) to eternal life in <i>the one heaven</i> with the Father and the Son; conditional upon our faith in the merits of Christ’s work alone; saved from God’s just punishment of our sins and being condemned to hell.	<i>General salvation</i> : all men are unconditionally resurrected (the body and spirit reunited); eternal destination undetermined. <i>Individual salvation</i> : resurrection to <i>one of three LDS heavens</i> ; made possible by Christ’s work and conditional upon our merits or works; increased obedience results in a higher grade of salvation.
Faith Unto Salvation	Believing/trusting in Christ’s work alone to secure our salvation; necessarily excludes commandment-keeping (“works”) on our part; results in our obedience BECAUSE we are saved, not TO BE saved.	Believing/trusting in Christ’s work to make salvation possible; necessarily requires commandment-keeping (“works”) on our part TO BE saved.
Grace Unto Salvation	The <i>unmerited</i> favor and love of God; necessarily excludes works on our part; necessarily excludes boasting on our part; results in salvation being God’s <i>free gift</i> to us.	An enabling power given to us by God on the condition of our sufficient effort; results in our keeping God’s commandments; makes boasting on our part possible; makes salvation God’s <i>obligation</i> to us.
Church Ordinance	Baptism and Communion (the Lord’s Supper); commandments we obey BECAUSE we are saved, not TO BE saved.	Baptism, the laying on of hands to receive the Holy Ghost and various LDS temple ordinances; all are required TO BE saved in the highest LDS heaven (the celestial kingdom).
The Godhead	One Being, three co-equal and coeternal Persons (Father, Son and Holy Spirit); <i>divine nature</i> = the sole Creator of all things; eternal (without beginning); unchanging (has always been fully God); infinite, everywhere-present Spirit (immaterial); monotheism – the existence of only one God in the sense of absolute deity.	Three Beings, three Persons (Father, Son and Holy Ghost); not the sole Creators of all things; not eternal (the Father and Son came into existence as dependent, procreated beings); changing (the Father and Son progressed to becoming gods); finite, not everywhere-present in and of themselves (material Beings); the Father and Son are exalted men; polytheism – three gods and man may become a god as did the Father and the Son and all preceding gods.
Jesus Christ	God the Son; creator of all things including Lucifer and all spirits/angels; eternal and without beginning in His divine nature; miraculously conceived by the Holy Spirit in the virgin Mary to become a man (<i>human nature</i>); the Father and the Son are both referred to as “LORD” (Heb. <i>Jehovah</i>) and “God” (Heb. <i>Elohim</i>) in the Old Testament.	The Son is a god; created neither all things nor Lucifer and all spirits/angels (the spirit brother of Lucifer); a procreated spirit child of Heavenly Father and His wife in the preexistence; literally conceived by the Father, an exalted man, in Mary to become a man; the Son is the “LORD” (Heb. <i>Jehovah</i>) and the Father is “God” (Heb. <i>Elohim</i>) in the Old Testament.

Contrast Brings Clarity: Biblical Christianity & The LDS Church

	Biblical Doctrine	LDS Doctrine (The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints)
The Church	<i>Universal:</i> comprised of all those who have trusted in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior (“the body of Christ”); <i>local:</i> the body of believers in a geographic area.	The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (specifically, the organization that is authoritatively led by a modern-day prophet and apostles).
Eternal Life	Gained by <i>all</i> who trust in the work of Jesus Christ alone for their perfection; dwelling eternally with the Father and the Son in heaven (“the new Jerusalem”); also referred to as salvation.	Gained only by those who achieve perfection by obedience to all of the laws and ordinances of the LDS Church; dwelling eternally with the Father and the Son in the highest heaven (the celestial kingdom); also referred to as salvation in the strictest sense; tantamount to becoming a god.
Priesthood Authority	Jesus Christ alone is qualified to hold the Melchizedek priesthood by virtue of His eternity and sinless perfection as God the Son. All Christians are priests in the senses of leading people to peace with God and through sacrificial living. Christians receive authority as the adopted children of God and exercise authority with the Word of God in the Bible.	All male Latter-day Saints who meet the criteria of age and faithfulness may hold the Melchizedek priesthood authority. This priesthood was held by Jesus Christ and His apostles, but was later taken from the earth subsequent to “the great apostasy.” The Melchizedek priesthood authority, and thus Christ’s true Church, was restored through Joseph Smith.
Scripture	The 66 books of the Bible are the final authority in all matters of faith and practice for evangelical Protestants (“Scripture interprets Scripture”).	The Authorized King James Version of the Bible, Book of Mormon, Pearl of Great Price, and Doctrine and Covenants. Official declarations of the LDS Church may be on par with Scripture; official publications and the writings of LDS General Authorities may be used to interpret Scripture and doctrine.
Temples	The sacrifice of Jesus Christ put an end to Jewish temple sacrifice. Christians are now the temple of the Holy Spirit who indwells us.	Built so that worthy members of the LDS Church can perform various Church ordinances which are required for eternal life.

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