

Katy 1st Ward Spiritual Message #30

WHAT IS THE SPIRITUAL ALTERNATIVE?

A few members are choosing to leave the church over doctrinal issues they have with the church. Others are living because of past teachings or actions of early church leaders. Some are leaving because of their unwillingness to accept some of the new policies set forth by the current leaders.

If you are planning on leaving the LDS church then my question for you is: what will be your spiritual alternative?

What will be your new core beliefs? Are you willing to now abandon all of your LDS beliefs and believe and accept all of the standard Christian teachings listed below instead? As Elder Holland once said, "When you pick one end of a stick you pick up the other end too" (Elder Holland April Conference, 2004). You can't have your cake and eat it too.

Many people seem to think they can leave the church without leaving the gospel. If you leave the church then you can't take Joseph Smith's teachings found in the LDS church with you to some other church. Are you willing to leave all that you believe behind? Are you willing to accept the standard Christian church doctrinal teachings as your own? What about your children and grandchildren? Do you think they will continue to follow the standards of the church or will they start to follow the ways of the world? What will become of them?

Here are 30 standard Christian teachings listed below. Will this now be your spiritual creed? They are taken from my conversations with Christian ministers in the past and also taken in part from the web page: <http://christianity.about.com/od/christiandoctrines/a/basicdoctrines.htm>

1. Christianity as a religion encompasses a wide range of denominations and faith groups, and each subscribes to its own set of doctrinal positions.
2. God is three in one or a Trinity.
3. God is a spirit and does not have a physical body of flesh and bones.
4. God the Father is the first Person of the Trinity, which also includes his Son, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit.
5. God Christ and the Holy Ghost are the same being.
6. Christ was God the Father as a man on the earth.
7. You will be married until death due you part, then you are divorced.
8. In the next life there is no marriage or family life. You will live alone.
9. We will all be married to Jesus in the next life.
10. Salvation is a free gift of God requiring nothing from us.
11. All you have to do is confess Jesus to be saved.
12. Only people who are saved go to heaven to live with Jesus.
13. Even if you were born in a time or place where you never had the opportunity to hear of Christ, if you are not saved you will still go to hell.
14. If you are saved then you can commit any sin and still go to heaven.
15. You don't have to live the commandments to go to heaven.
16. You don't need to pay tithing unless you want to.

17. There is no requirement or even expectation to take your family to church any further, especially once they are saved.
18. There is no revelation in our day and time.
19. The Bible is the only scripture on the earth.
20. There are no Prophets or Apostles in our day and age.
21. There are no miracles performed by God's servants like in the NT times.
22. The Book of Mormon was written by Joseph Smith not early American prophets.
23. You become a minister by getting a degree from a school not by the laying on of hands by someone holding the priesthood from God.
24. There is no need to search out our ancestors because there is nothing we can do to help them in the next life.
25. We have no obligation to share the gospel with other people.
26. There is only one heaven and hell not 3 degrees of glory.
27. Your patriarchal blessing and temple marriage are null and void.
28. You no longer hold the priesthood and cannot give priesthood blessings.
29. There is no eternal progression; you will not have children or posterity in next life.
30. The 10 commandments are now just the 10 suggestions for those who want to even live them at all.

Brigham Young once said: ""We are in the midst of the ocean. A storm comes on, and, as sailors say, she labors very hard. 'I am not going to stay here,' says one; 'I don't believe this is the "Ship Zion."' 'But we are in the midst of the ocean.' 'I don't care, I am not going to stay here.' Off goes the coat, and he jumps overboard. Will he not be drowned? Yes. So with those who leave this Church. It is the 'Old Ship Zion,' let us stay in it."'

Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Brigham Young (1997), 82–83*

So I ask again, if you or someone you know is about to leave the church, WHAT IS THE SPIRITUAL ALTERNATIVE THEN?

Brother [Vail](#)

*The Brigham Young quote was taken from a talk by Elder Ballard
<https://www.lds.org/general-conference/2014/10/stay-in-the-boat-and-hold-on?lang=eng>

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