Conversation Starters

- Have you ever been "witnessed" to by a Mormon or Jehovah's Witness?
- What was your experience like?

Discuss

Based on the various conflicts and tension points Mormons and Jehovah's Witnesses have with Christianity, we determined neither are in line with the Christian faith. From the identity of Jesus, the inspiration and authority of Scripture, and lack of archaeological evidence there was much we found to be not only out of line with Christianity, but counterfeit as a faith practice overall.

- Were there any surprises to you about either of these faiths?
- How did it compare to what you may have known already?

One of the primary takeaways regarding these two faith practices, and with any faith practice or teaching, is the importance of being clear regarding what you are taught and what you believe. The Bible also cautions us about this.

If what a prophet proclaims in the name of the Lord does not take place or come true, that is a message the Lord has not spoken... (<u>Deuteronomy 18:22 NIV</u>)

Many will come in my [Jesus] name, claiming, 'I am he,' and will deceive many. (Mark 13:6 NIV)

My dear friends, don't believe everything you hear. Carefully weigh and examine what people tell you. Not everyone who talks about God comes from God. There are a lot of lying preachers loose in the world. Here's how you test for the genuine Spirit of God. Everyone who confesses openly his faith in Jesus Christ... (1 John 4:1-3 MSG)

- Do you have clarity regarding your beliefs?
- What are some ways you can gain greater clarity?
- What about either of these faiths raised a caution flag for you?

While most followers of Mormonism and Jehovah's Witnesses participate in and do many good things, the faith itself fails in so many important areas, namely, Jesus and the idea of grace.

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God... (<u>Ephesians 2:8 NIV</u>)

He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. (<u>Titus 3:5 NIV</u>)

"Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." (Romans 10:13 NIV)

- What do we learn from these passages about grace?
- How does this compare to the teachings of Mormonism and Jehovah's Witnesses?
- Why is this distinction important to Christianity?



Next Steps

When learning about anything, questions are always a great place to start. Questions challenge us to think and help us to build a growing foundation for our beliefs. At Meck, we encourage bringing all of our spiritual questions to the table for discussion. Do you have questions that still need answers? Write them out. Spend some time planning how you will investigate them.

A great place to bring questions to is our <u>From Questions to Spiritual Conversations</u> class. You can also ask anything online here, and we'll send you some resources to help you as you learn.

If you want to get involved at Meck, a great place to start is with <u>Starting Line</u>, where you'll learn about our mission and even more options for you to get started on your journey here.

Further Reflection

Read <u>Deuteronomy 18:22 NIV</u>; <u>Mark 13:6 NIV</u>; <u>1 John 4:1-3 MSG</u>; <u>Ephesians 2:8 NIV</u>; <u>Titus 3:5 NIV</u>; <u>Romans 10:13 NIV</u>.

Pray

God, you are a gracious God and give us more than we deserve. Thank you for what we're learning about other faith practices and for a greater appreciation for Who You are and the amazing gift of grace. Help us to have good discernment and give us wisdom in all that we learn.

