

Withdraw

There are two places where Paul commands churches to withdraw from sinners (1 Cor. 5; 2 Thes. 3). That is double the number we need for authority to do it. Disfellowship of the stubbornly sinful is essential to faithfulness and purity of the Lord's people.

When is the last time the congregation you are a part of withdrew from someone? Has it been years or even decades? Maybe there are few problems in the group. Maybe it is small and everyone is doing what they ought to do, including repenting of their sins (Acts 8:18-24).

However, it may be that some churches are ignoring the sin or the command to withdraw. Sometimes things get swept under the rug. At others, neglect and unconcern result in a lack of action. Whichever way it is, for whatever reason, it is wrong—sinful. Churches have a divine obligation to withdraw from Christians who will not repent of their sins.



Hebron Herald

Published by the Hebron Lane Church of Christ
Shepherdsville, KY

Volume 32 Number 1

January 2008

Politics and Faith

Over the past month or so there has been a big deal made out of political candidates and their personal faith. Mitt Romney and Mike Huckabee are essentially the focus of the fuss. The former is a Mormon, the latter a Baptist. Evangelicals are shunning Romney and reportedly flocking to Huckabee. Romney was forced to give a speech on religion in America, where people expected him to explain Mormonism—they were disappointed.

Following are some plain points about the Mormon religion.

Joseph Smith, Jr. claimed to receive plates with the *Book of Mormon* on it from the angel Moroni in 1827 at Palmyra, NY. He published the BOM in 1830. Thousands of changes have been documented since that time.¹

But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed.

- Galatians 1:8

The BOM purportedly records the history of God's work in North America in ancient times. It covers a period of about 2,600 years, from 2200 B.C. to 421 A.D. Two groups are discussed, the Jaredites and the Nephites. The Jaredites came to North America after the Tower of Babel (2,250 B.C.). The Nephites came before destruction of Jerusalem around 600 B.C. The Nephites split into two groups, the Nephites, who were righteous, and the Lamanites: wicked and cursed with dark skin (American Indians). The two factions warred around 385 A.D. in Palmyra, NY. The Lamanites were victorious. Jesus appeared to Nephites shortly after His resurrection and told of them of the gospel, including baptism and the Lord's Supper.

www.HebronLaneChurch.com

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit #10
Shepherdsville, KY

Church of Christ
3221 E. Hebron Ln.
Shepherdsville, KY
40165-8959

Assemblies

Sunday Morning 9:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening 5:00 p.m.
Wednesday 7:30 p.m.

Elders

Tom Brown
Laymon Byers
John Smith

Evangelists

Ron Halbrook
halbrook@insightbb.com

Steven Deaton
sfdeaton@insightbb.com

502-957-5115

There is only one problem with this, it is all fictitious.

The BOM makes false claims that are not supported by evidence. It states there were buildings in North America in 322 A.D. (Mormon 1:7); brass, iron, steel, etc. (2 Nephi 5:15); silks, fine linen, cattle, oxen, etc. (Ether 9:17-19). None of these were known in North America in the fourth century. It claims there was shipping, building ships, temples, etc. (Helaman 3:14), swords, breastplates, arm-shields (Alma 43:18, 19); cities sunk in the sea (3 Nephi 8:8-10, 14; 9:4-6, 8)—all in North America in ancient times. There is abundant evidence for Indians and their societies, but absolutely none for the claims of the Book of Mormon.

There is also a major problem with the BOM because it states the inhabitants of North America were of Jewish descent either from 2200 B.C. or 600 B.C. Modern science, namely DNA testing, proves false. Only the extremely ignorant or gullible could believe otherwise.

Another work of Joseph Smith, Jr. is *Doctrines and Covenants*. It states that God has flesh and bones (Section 130:22), something denied by the Bible (Jn. 4:24; Lk. 24:39). It says Enoch was translated at 430 years old (Section 107:49), but the Bible says it was at 365 (Gen. 5:23). It contradicts the Bible by claiming Jesus promised John he would not die (Section 7:1-3), but the apostle specifically denies this (Jn. 21:20-24).

Mormonism teaches that man can become a god. It believes Jesus was a man who was exalted to goodness. Notice one quote documenting this false doctrine.

“First, God himself, who sits enthroned in yonder heavens, IS A MAN LIKE UNTO ONE OF YOURSELVES...the Father of us all dwelt on an earth the same as Jesus Christ himself did,...YOU HAVE GOT TO LEARN HOW TO BE GODS YOURSELVES...’ (*Times and Seasons*, Vol. 5, pp. 613-614).”²

Mormons believe in a hell and, as Walter Martin, author of *The Kingdom of the Cults*, writes, “In Mormon theology, there are three heavens: the telestial, the terrestrial,

and the celestial.”³ Hell is for Satan, his angels, and apostate Mormons. The Telestial heaven is for the wicked of the world. The Terrestrial heaven is for men who rejected Mormonism, but were good, religious. The Celestial heaven is for the faithful Mormons—will eventually achieve godhood.

The Bible teaches two destinies for the souls of men; heaven and hell (Matt. 24:14-46; Rom. 2:5-11; 2 Thes. 1:6-10; cf. Lk. 16:19-31). Terrestrial and celestial bodies in the New Testament refer to earthly bodies versus heavenly bodies, not anything in the afterlife (1 Cor. 15:35-49). Paul mentioned the “third heaven” but it was a reference to heaven itself (2 Cor. 12:1, 2).

Mormons believe families will dwell together forever. “Families can be together forever—not just for this life.” “The Lord revealed to the Prophet Joseph Smith that the ‘same sociality which exists among us here will exist among us there [in eternity], only it will be coupled with eternal glory’ (*Doctrine and Covenants* 130:2).”⁴ “Marriage and family are central focal points in God’s plan for the eternal destiny of His children.”⁵ This is just utterly false. There are no family relationships in the afterlife (Matt. 22:23-33).

So, what does all of this mean? Mormonism is false. What impact does it have on viability of a political candidate? Very little in my opinion. How is a Mormon who believes in some wild doctrines any different than a Roman Catholic that worships Mary or prays to dead people? How is the Catholic different from a Jew who denies Jesus is the Christ or the Baptist that denies sin will send you to hell after becoming a Christian? Frankly, I cannot see any difference based purely on the “religious factor.” They all believe and practice error.

¹ Tanner, Jerald and Sandra. *Mormonism: Shadow or Reality?* Salt Lake City: Utah Lighthouse Ministry, 1987.

² Tanner. *Mormonism: Shadow or Reality?*

³ Martin. *The Kingdom of the Cults*.

⁴ What Happens To Families After Death? < <http://www.mormon.org/learn/0,8672,1146-1,00.html>>

⁵ God’s Plan for Families. < <http://www.mormon.org/learn/0,8672,1198-1,00.html>>