



However, if we start our conversation with “would you watch this video with me?” We will immediately be put “back on our heels” and have to take a defensive posture. Why? Because they will ask “why do you attack the Mormons?”

Having this understanding in advance is to our advantage. Instead of being put back on our heels, we can put them back on theirs by asking the question first, “do you attack other churches?” When they say no, we can have them read the verses (from the outline). This levels out the playing field and robs them of one of their most common reasons for not talking with us. We are not attacking them, we are responding in love to accusations against us.

So what do we do when they still say “no?” Don’t get angry (visibly). Our God given role is simple “be **ready** to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you...” (1st Peter 3:15). God does not require us to force the truth on anyone. If they don’t want to listen, then they don’t get to.

They must see that we genuinely care about them.

In this type of witnessing the strong temptation exists to turn a conversation into a “winner/loser” situation. This must be avoided! We are not trying to the prideful victors holding up the shiny trophy after winning the championship. We are trying to introduce them to the real Jesus who has the power to save their souls. Consider the balance presented in the following Bible verses:

“be ready to give a **defense** to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with **meekness and fear;**” (1st Peter 3:15)

“in **humility correcting** those who are in opposition...” (2nd Timothy 2:25)

“...speaking the **truth in love...**” (Ephesians 3:15)

Are we to defend the faith? Yes! Are we to correct those who are in opposition? Yes! Are we to speak the truth? Yes! But... and this is a big “but!” We are to do it with meekness, fear, humility, and love; and they need to see it in the way we act.

Additional LDS quotes attaching Christians.

“The Christian world, so-called, are heathens as to the knowledge of the salvation of God.” (Brigham Young, Journal of Discourses 8:171)

“With regard to true theology, a more ignorant people never lived than the present so-called Christian world. (Brigham, JD 8:199)

“After the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was organized, there were only two churches upon the earth. They were known respectively as the Church of the Lamb of God and Babylon. The various organizations which are called churches throughout Christendom, though differing in their creeds and organizations, have one common origin. They all belong to Babylon.” (Gospel Truth, pg. 324)

Do LDS leaders sometimes say nice things about Christian Churches? Yes, but it does not erase what they really think. Space is limited in this flyer but quotes like above are plentiful and easy to find in LDS literature.

\$100 Challenge

A quick way to turn the tables when asked, “Why do you attack the Mormon Church is to ask, “Can you name one Church the LDS church does not attack? If you can name one, I’ll give you \$100. Then show them some of the LDS quotes from this tract.

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Reasonable Questions series

WHY DO
CHRISTIANS
~~ATTACK~~ MORMONS?
CHALLENGE

\$100 challenge inside...

by james hazelton



Why do you attack Mormons?
Why can't you just tell me what you believe?

We don't attack other churches.
Are you one of those Anti-Mormons?
Why are you trying to destroy our faith in Christ?

When Christians kindly challenge the belief system of Latter-day Saints we are often met with statements or questions like above. Is this really fair? Are we simply mean spirited people out to offend our Mormon neighbors?

Generally speaking, Christians challenge the truth claims of Mormonism because we care. We are aware of Biblical warnings of false teachers and have warranted concerns about LDS beliefs. Unfortunately, our loving confrontation is often misinterpreted as personal attack. This tract is an aid to move past accusatory statements so we can start talking about important concerns.

Can we get past the "you're attacking me" comments? Yes!

A good question to ask when accused of attacking is, "Do you guys attack other churches?" 99% of the time the answer will be something like; "Of course not. We believe there is good in all faiths."

Our goal should not be to "win the debate" but rather win a friend whom we can spend eternity with in heaven. Follow an outline like below to get past this difficult and common hurdle to evangelism.

Christian: Do you attack other churches?

Mormon: Of course not...

Christian: Can you read 1st Nephi 14:10 out loud for me?

Mormon: Yes... "Behold there are save two churches only; the one is the church of the Lamb of God, and the other is the church of the devil; wherefore, whoso belongeth not to the church of

the lamb of God belongeth to that great church, which is the mother of abominations; and she is the whore of all the earth."

Christian: How many churches are there, and which one is the Mormon church?

Mormon: "Two... We are the church of the Lamb of God."

Christian: If I'm not a Mormon, which church do I belong to? Is it "the church of the Devil?" "the mother of abominations?" the "whore of all the earth?"

Note: Often the Latter-day Saint will say...

Mormon: "You are taking that out of context?"

Christian: If it doesn't mean what it says then what does it mean?... You seem to be very nice and sincere. However, could you also read Joseph Smith—History 1:19? It is where Joseph asked God which church to join.

Mormon: Sure... "I was answered that I must join none of them, for they were all wrong; and the Personage who addressed me said that all their creeds were an abomination in his sight; that those professors were all corrupt; that 'they draw near to me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me, they teach the doctrines and the commandments of men, having a form of godliness, but they deny the power thereof.'"

Christian: I'm pretty sure these are not new verses to you. Have you heard them before?

Mormon: Yes.

Christian: I brought them up for a good reason. I would like to discuss with you some very important issues that challenge the validity of the LDS faith. I wanted you to read these verses so you would not say "We don't attack other churches... why are you attacking us?"

Christian: I am not mean, I don't hate you, in fact I care very much about you. This is why I feel it is necessary to talk about some of the revolutionary claims Joseph Smith made about what is and is not truth. Would you be willing to watch a video (read a book, tract etc) with me?

Mormon: Is it "Anti-Mormon?"

Christian: I care about you. Please keep in mind that the LDS church attacked us. We are merely responding to being called things like "the mother of all abominations, whore of all the earth, the church of the devil, corrupt, etc." I have very sincere concerns about the truth claims of the Mormon Church. Will you watch this video (read this book, tract, etc) with me.

Mormon: I never really thought of it from your perspective before... about us attacking you first. Sure, I will hear what you have to say but lets keep it friendly.

Christian: Sounds great... can you come over for dinner on Thursday? We will eat and then watch the video.

Mormon: See you then. Thanks for not being like those mean "Anti's" I see on the news yelling at Mormons.

What to do when they say "no."

The above outline represents the perfect scenario we dream of in our minds. Obviously, it will not always go this well, but sometimes it will.

Our desire is to get the Latter-day Saint to sincerely examine the tough issues (Misuse of Bible verses, Archeology and the Book of Mormon, Racism, Polygamy, the Trinity, Salvation by Grace, etc.).

(continued on back ...)