

Mormonism and Jehovah's Witnesses Second Handout

Commonly Mentioned Modern Cultural Practices of Mormons:

- Tithe
 - Mormon's tithe quite strictly. It is nearly impossible to advance in the temple structure without verified tithing records.
- Two year mission
 - While not required, a strong culture is built around 19-21 year-olds going on a two-year mission for the church. This is why you will often see young Mormons in pairs around the city.
- Wearing the temple under garment at all time when possible
 - The special temple undergarments are worn by those particularly serious about the temple worship practices.
- Submission to elders and prophets
 - The modern Mormon church believes 12 "Apostles" in the Mormon church are ordained by God and speak for God, just as the original twelve apostles.

Evangelical FAQ's About Mormons:

- Are Mormon's polygamous?
 - [Not anymore. They did until 1890, according to a revelation to Wilford Woodruff](#)
- What goes on in a Mormon Temple?
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=leKK2YAzLWE>
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VngM80qCOJw>
 - Aside from the usual services which look largely like a Christian church service, other practices, including secret handshakes and prayer/worship rituals do take place in Mormon temples.
- Do Mormons believe they'll get their own planet?
 - Not that I've seen. Their official public doctrine states: "There are three kingdoms of glory: the celestial kingdom, the terrestrial kingdom, and the telestial kingdom (see 1 Corinthians 15:40–42). Those who are valiant in the testimony of Jesus and obedient to the principles of the gospel will dwell in the celestial kingdom in the presence of God the Father and His Son, Jesus Christ, and with their righteous family members."
 - Mormons believe which Kingdom you end up in is a direct result of how well you followed the "the narrow path" in this life
- Do Mormons believe Jesus and Satan were brothers?
 - Yes. They think all humans were "spirit brothers/sisters" in their "premortals" form. Their [mastery of core doctrine](#) states: "Those who followed Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ were permitted to come to the earth to experience mortality and progress toward eternal life. Lucifer, another spirit son of God, rebelled against the plan. He became Satan, and he and his followers were cast out of heaven and denied the privileges of receiving a physical body and experiencing mortality." Citing "Pearl of Great Price", Moses, Chapter 4

Evangelical FAQ's About Jehovah's Witnesses:

- Do JW's believe only 144,000 people will be saved?
 - No. JW's believe 144,000 among those who believe as they do [will be chosen to "Rule with Christ"](#) as a special privilege above and beyond being saved to resurrection.
- [Do JW's believe you go to heaven after death?](#)
 - No. JW's believe your soul enters a state of sleep until the resurrection when you are awakened to eternal life in God's kingdom. They also believe that many who would be faithful, but didn't have the chance to learn of the true name of God, "Jehovah," will be given a chance to learn about him shortly after their resurrection.
- Do JW's have a list of 141 prohibitions?
 - It's unclear how many things are prohibited by the church, but some strange ones include [associating with the YMCA](#), [joining Alcoholics Anonymous](#), [throwing rice at weddings](#), and [supporting the Salvation Army](#). There are many actions prohibited by the JW's, usually relating back to the rationale of keeping oneself unstained by the world or what they see as supporting the system of Satan.
- Isn't there a history of racism?
 - Yes, consistent with the general racism of the era. [Many Watchtower publications from before the 1970's contained overtly racist sentiments](#), such as the superiority of white skin, and [the general idea that being white was morally preferable to being black](#).
- Do JW's practice wife-swapping?
 - No. While different members of Jehovah's Witnesses have engaged in various sexual sins, as is true of certain members of all religions sub-groups, it has never been a part of JW teachings to swap wives.