

of the others, yet they are “one God” (Testimony of Three Witnesses in Book of Mormon), meaning that they are united as one in the attributes of perfection. Each occupies space and can be in but one place at one time, but each has power and influence that is everywhere present.”

### **Godhood**

“That exaltation which the saints of all ages have so devoutly sought is *godhood* itself. Godhood is to have the character, possess the attributes, and enjoy the perfections which the Father has. It is to do what he does, have the powers resident in him, and live as he lives, having eternal increase. It is to know him in the full and complete sense, and no one can fully know God except another exalted personage who is like him in all respects. Joseph Smith said: ‘God himself was once as we are now, and is an exalted man, and sits enthroned in yonder heavens!... I am going to tell you *how God came to be God*. We have imagined that God was God from all eternity. I will refute that idea, and take away the veil, so that you may see.... It is the first principle of the gospel to know for a certainty the character of God, and to know that we may converse with him as one man converses with another, and that he was once a man like us; yea, that God himself, the Father of us all, dwelt on an earth, the same as Jesus Christ himself did; and I will show it from the Bible....’”

### **Holy Ghost**

The *Holy Ghost* is the third member of the Godhead. He is a personage of spirit, a

Spirit Person, a Spirit Man, a Spirit Entity. He can be in only one place at one time, and he does not and cannot transform himself into any other form or image than that of the Man whom he is, though his power and influence can be manifest at one and the same time through all immensity.”

### **Pre-Existence**

“Life did not originate on this earth; it was transplanted from other and older spheres. Men are the literal spirit children, spirit offspring, of the Eternal Father; they were born to him as spirit progeny, as spirit entities having bodies made of a more pure and refined substance than that comprising these mortal tabernacles.

Further, *every form of life had a spirit existence in that eternal world before it came to dwell naturally upon the face of the earth*”.

The above quotations were taken from McConkie, Bruce, *Mormon Doctrine*, Second edition, Bookcraft, Salt Lake City, Utah, 1979. Bruce R. McConkie (July 29, 1915 – April 19, 1985) was a member of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS Church) from 1972 until his death.

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Pamphlet 568

## **What Does the Mormon Church Really Teach About...?**

### **Adam**

“He sat in the council of the gods in the planning of the creation of this earth, and then, under Christ, participated in the creative enterprise.”

“Adam (with the exalted title of Michael the Archangel) led the hosts of the righteous in the war in heaven.” (Rev. 12:7-9)

“Adam’s great part in the plan of redemption was to fall from the immortal state in which he first existed on earth and thus bring mortality and death into the world.”

“He is the head of all gospel dispensations (Teachings, pp. 167-169), the presiding high priest (under Christ) over all the spirits destined to inhabit the earth; and will reign as Michael, our prince, to all eternity.”

“He has returned to earth in our day, bringing keys and authorities to the Prophet Joseph Smith.”

### **America**

“America, meaning the United States of America, is the Gentile nation established on the Western Hemisphere in the last days ‘by the power of the Father,’ so that the true Church might be set up and preserved among men. The American nation as such—with all its freedoms, rights, and constitutional guarantees—came into being and continues to exist so that a proper

religious climate would prevail for the restoration and spread of the gospel”

### **Christ.**

“He is the Firstborn of the Father. By obedience and devotion to the truth he attained that pinnacle of intelligence which ranked him as a God, as the Lord Omnipotent, while yet in a pre-existent state.”

“In this life he received not of the fullness at the first, but went from grace to grace until, in the final triumph of the resurrection, he gained the fullness of all things; and all the power given him both in heaven and on earth”.

“Christ is the Father in the sense that he is the Creator, the Maker, the Organizer of the heavens and of the earth, and all things that in them are.”

### **Christendom**

“That portion of the world in which so-called Christianity prevails—as distinguished from heathen of Mohammedan lands—is called Christendom. The term also applies to the whole body of supposed Christian believers; as now constituted this body is properly termed *apostate Christendom*.”

### **Christian Era**

On the false assumption that Christianity had its beginning with our Lord’s mortal ministry, his birth was chosen to mark the beginning of the so-called *Christian Era*.”

### **Christianity**

“*Christianity* is the religion of the Christians. Hence, true and acceptable Christianity is found among the saints who have the fullness of the gospel, and a perverted Christianity holds sway among the so-called Christians of apostate Christendom”.

### **Church**

“Our Lord’s true *Church* is the formal, official organization of believers who have taken upon themselves the name of Christ by baptism, thus covenanting to serve God and keep his commandments.”

“With the coming of the great apostasy the primitive Church was lost, and the various churches or societies which have since grown up bear no particular similarity to the original.”

“There is no salvation outside this one true Church, the Church of Jesus Christ.”

### **Creation**

“It is an utterly false and uninspired notion to believe that the world was created out of nothing of that any created thing can be destroyed in the sense of annihilation”

“Christ, acting under the direction of the Father, was and is the Creator of all things.” “That he was aided in the creation of this earth by ‘many of the noble and great’ spirit children of the Father is evident from Abraham’s writings. Unto those superior spirits Christ said, ‘We will go down, for there is space there, and *we will take these materials, and we will make an earth whereon these may dwell.*’”

### **Divorce**

“The Lord permits divorce and allows the dissolution of the marriage union.”

### **Exaltation**

“Celestial marriage is the gate to exaltation, and exaltation consists in the continuation of the family unit in eternity. Exaltation is eternal life, the kind of life which God lives. Those who obtain it gain an inheritance in the highest of three heavens within the celestial kingdom.”

“They inherit in due course the fullness of the glory of the Father, meaning that they have all power in heaven and on earth”

### **Father in Heaven**

The designation *Father* is to be taken literally; it signifies that the Supreme Being is the literal Parent of Father of the spirits of all men. All men, Christ included, were born as his children in pre-existence.”

### **Gabriel**

“Gabriel came in modern times and conferred the keys of dispensation upon Joseph Smith. As with other angelic ministrants to this earth, Gabriel also spent his mortal probation here. He is Noah, the one who stands next to Michael or Adam in the priesthood hierarchy.”

### **Godhead**

“Three glorified and perfected persons comprise the *Godhead* or supreme presidency of the universe. They are: God the Father; God the Son; God the Holy Ghost.

“Though each God in the Godhead is a personage, separate and distinct from each