

Is Mormonism Christian? Pentagon's Stunning Classification Reopens a Decades-Old Battle

A quiet change inside the Pentagon has ignited a major debate about faith, truth and one of the most controversial questions in modern religion: What does it actually mean to be Christian?

According to , the Department of Defense recently overhauled its religious classification system for service members, reducing more than 200 faith categories down to just 31. In the process, members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints were no longer grouped under the Christian designation and were instead placed within an “Other Faith Groups” category.

The decision immediately sparked backlash from Utah Sens. Mike Lee and John Curtis, who argued that the federal government has no business determining who qualifies as a Christian.

Curtis reportedly pushed back against the move, saying government officials should not be acting as theological gatekeepers. Lee similarly criticized the decision and urged Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth to address the matter.

Pentagon officials, meanwhile, said the change was administrative in nature and intended to streamline religious classifications for chaplain services—not to make doctrinal declarations.



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The Hill reported that the Pentagon later changed the list again, which "...does not specify which religions fall under the Christian designation." As USA Today noted, the Pentagon said that its "mistake has been fixed," as they took away the label for Christian religions.

The reality is that Christianity has never been defined merely by what someone calls themselves.

A person can use the name of Jesus, quote Scripture and speak Christian language while holding beliefs that fundamentally contradict the gospel once delivered to the saints.

That is where the debate surrounding Mormonism becomes unavoidable.

For centuries, biblical Christianity has affirmed foundational truths such as the Trinity, the eternal nature of God, the sufficiency of Scripture and salvation by grace through faith in Christ alone. Mormon theology diverges significantly from these historic doctrines, presenting a different understanding of God, additional authoritative scriptures and teachings that place it outside the boundaries of orthodox Christianity.

This is why the question refuses to go away.

Can two faith systems that teach fundamentally different views of God, salvation and eternal truth ultimately be called the same religion?

That debate is not settled by politicians, military officials or public opinion polls.

It is settled by the Word of God.

The greater issue for believers is not whether the Pentagon got its classifications right or wrong. The greater issue is whether the church is willing to stand courageously for biblical truth in an age that increasingly blurs every theological line.

As culture rushes toward a “can’t we all just get along” version of spirituality, Christians must remember that truth still matters. Doctrine still matters. The gospel still matters.

Now more than ever, the body of Christ should be praying that the Holy Spirit would remove spiritual blindness, reveal the beauty of the true gospel and draw countless hearts into a genuine relationship with Jesus Christ as He is revealed in Scripture—not through tradition, additional revelation or human systems, but through the living and eternal Word of God.

Because eternity is too important for the church to remain silent.

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