



Choosing A Church

What Should I Be Concerned About?

What Is The Standard Of Authority?

Tradition
Matthew 15

Mishna Traditions For The Sabbath Day

- **Wearing False Teeth Was Prohibited.**
- **Looking In A Mirror Was Prohibited.**
- **Spitting In The Dirt Was Prohibited.**
(Spitting on the grass was okay.)

What Is The Standard Of Authority?

Creeds

2 Timothy 4:3

The Doctrines & Discipline

1914: "The Ministers of our Church shall be prohibited from solemnizing the rites of matrimony between divorced persons, except in the case of innocent parties who have been divorced for the *one scriptural cause.*"

The Doctrines & Discipline

1940: "No Minister shall solemnize the marriage of a divorced person whose wife or husband is living and unmarried; but this rule shall not apply (1) to the innocent person when it is clearly established by competent testimony that the true cause for divorce was adultery *or other vicious conditions which through mental or physical cruelty or physical peril invalidated the marriage vow*, nor (2) to the divorced persons seeking to be reunited in marriage."

The Doctrines & Discipline

1960: In view of the seriousness with which the Scriptures and the Church regard divorce, a minister may solemnize the marriage of a divorced person only when he has satisfied himself by *careful counseling* that (a) the divorced person is sufficiently aware of the factors leading to the failure of the previous marriage, (b) the divorced person is sincerely preparing to make the proposed marriage truly Christian, and (c) sufficient time has elapsed for adequate preparation and counseling.

The Doctrines & Discipline

1984: "Where marriage partners, even after thoughtful consideration and counsel, are estranged beyond reconciliation, we recognize divorce as regrettable but *recognize the right of divorced persons to remarry.*"

What Is The Standard Of Authority?

Modern-Day Revelation Jude 3; Gal. 1:6-9

The Book Of Mormon

- Two groups of people traveled from the Holy Lands to ancient America.
- The Jaredites came c. 2500 B.C.
- The Nephites and Lamanites came c. 600 B.C.
- The Lamanites destroyed the Nephites c. 385 A.D.; They were cursed with dark skin and became the American Indians.
- Moroni, the last of the Nephites, hid golden plates with the story c. 421 A.D.
- Moroni, in 1827 - 1829, led Joseph Smith to the plates. He translated them.

Some Problems

- Failed Premise: No significant doctrine can be found in the Book of Mormon.
- Alma 37:38, dated at 73 B.C., speaks of the people using a "compass."
- 1 Nephi 18:25, dated at 589 B.C., speaks of "horses" and "asses."
- Alma 7:10 says Jesus was born in Jerusalem.
- Alma 46:13,15, dated at 73 B.C., calls them Christians.

Groups Founded On Modern-Day Revelations

Mormons, *Joseph Smith*
Scientology, *L. Ron Hubbard*
Christian Science, *Mary Baker Eddy*
7th Day Adventism, *William Miller*
Jehovah's Witness, *Charles Taze Russell*

"From time to time, there have arisen from among the ranks of Jehovah's people those, who, like the original Satan, have adopted an independent, faultfinding attitude...They say that it is sufficient to read the Bible exclusively, either alone or in small groups at home. But, strangely, through such 'Bible reading,' they have reverted right back to the apostate doctrines that commentaries by Christendom's clergy were teaching 100 years ago..."

The Watchtower, August 15, 1981.

What Should The Standard Of Authority Be?

"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."

-2 Timothy 3:16-17