

The Primary Thing

by Jim Smithson | Nov 14, 2017 | Faith, Featured | 4 comments



1. Asking if the Mormon Church is “true” is not the right question.
2. Mormons assume that belonging to the right church is the Primary Thing.
3. A church or religious group can be instrumental and helpful. It can sometimes even be necessary. But it can’t be the Primary Thing.
4. The Primary Thing is always and only about realizing a more loving, mature, inclusive relationship with God, with others, and ultimately with all things.
5. A church or religious group can be helpful to the degree it offers guidelines, rituals, doctrines, and traditions that “point” forward and beyond itself to the Primary Thing.
6. A church or religious group can become harmful if it distracts from the Primary Thing by pointing mostly to itself and its own particular guidelines, rituals, doctrines, and traditions.

7. Instead of asking if the Church is true, it might be better to be asking: Is the Mormon tradition “true enough”? Can it point forward and beyond itself to the Primary Thing? Can it provide a foundation for continued spiritual growth and development?

Share This Post! Because Sharing Really is Caring!



Jim Smithson

Jim is a sociologist by trade. He and Merrie live in colorful Salt Lake City, trying to be Green, vote Blue, and cheer Red.

All posts by Jim Smithson

4 Comments



Julie on November 14, 2017 at 2:01 pm

Every aspect of the church leads you to become closer to the Savior.

Reply



Tim Bone on November 14, 2017 at 2:43 pm

Does Jesus Christ fit in here somewhere, or is he not to be named?

Reply



Jim on November 15, 2017 at 8:59 am

How about #4 in light of Matthew 22 or John 13?

Reply



Tim Bone on November 15, 2017 at 2:13 pm

Jim, Number 4 is the exact mantra of the spiritual-but-not-religious crowd for whom “God” is an ambiguous entity (if an entity at all), the first principles and ordinances of the Gospel are not compelling, and Jesus is lumped in as an equal with any number of other wise men and women – Joseph Smith likely not among them. Our missionaries can hardly go out to the world and testify that the Restoration is “true enough”.