

Is Mormon a Che Gau? 摩爾門教是邪教嗎？

Mormons, members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, follow the teachings of Jesus Christ. Why then do some say that they are a Che Gau? The following three reasons are most likely:

摩門或摩爾門教徒〔後者為教會最新的官方翻譯，以下內容均以「摩爾門」一詞作解釋〕，即耶穌基督後期聖徒教會的成員。他們跟從耶穌基督的教導，何故有些人指摩爾門教為邪教呢？常見的原因有三：

- 1) **Some people equate different with bad.** Although Mormons believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and the Savior of the world, they have several other beliefs that are different from most Christian churches. For example, they believe in continuing revelation. While most religions believe that God called prophets in ancient times, Mormons believe that God continues to call prophets in our day. Another example is The Book of Mormon. In addition to the Bible, which is used by all Christian churches, members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints also believe that an ancient book of scripture from the Americas, The Book of Mormon, contains the word of God as revealed to ancient prophets. Latter-day Saints (Mormons) say that The Book of Mormon is a second witness that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

有些人認為不同就是不好——摩爾門教徒同樣篤信耶穌基督是神的兒子以及救世主，但他們有些信仰則和其他基督教派有所不同的。例如：他們相信持續不斷的啟示。大多數宗教相信神只曾在古代召喚先知，而摩爾門教徒則相信神在我們這個世代仍然繼續召喚先知。另一個例子就是《摩爾門經》。除了所有基督教派皆使用的聖經外，耶穌基督後期聖徒教會的成員亦相信這部來自美洲大陸的古代經文《摩爾門經》包含了神向古代先知揭示的話。後期聖徒（摩爾門教徒）說，《摩爾門經》是見證耶穌基督是神的兒子的第二個見證。

- 2) Chinese languages contain many **homophones** (characters that sound alike). Opponents of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints use the fact that the character Mo; which is used in Mormon, Moses, Motorcycle, modern and friction; sounds like the character Mo used in devil and magic. However Mo (*show bold character*) is not Mo (*show bold character*). These two characters have very different meanings. Furthermore, since the word Mormon is the transliteration of a proper noun 'Mormon' from English it doesn't contain a meaning beyond representing the original sound of the English name. Other examples of transliterations are Moses (a proper noun from the Bible), bowling, salad and bus. The characters in these words were chosen to represent the sounds of the English words and do not have additional meaning in this specific use. Hopefully, your salad does not contain sand.

中文有許多同音字，摩爾門教的「摩」是摩西、摩托車，摩登和摩擦的「摩」，而不是魔鬼或魔術的「魔」。兩字雖然同音，但意思則全然不同。耶穌基督後期聖徒教會的反對者卻利用「摩」與「魔」同音這一點來針對教會。此外，「摩」字本身在此是沒有意思的，教會純粹取其音作為「Mormon」的音譯。中文裡其他音譯的例子包括：摩西（聖經裡的專有名詞）、保齡球，沙律和巴士。這些字用作該英文單詞的音譯只因其讀音相近，並沒有額外的意義。但願你的沙律裡沒有沙。

- 3) **Secret versus Sacred Temples:** In addition to chapels (*note: use the most common term for church meeting house here*) where all sincere seekers of truth, members and non-members alike, are welcome to attend and participate in meetings, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints also has consecrated buildings called temples. These buildings, similar to the temples of the Bible, are considered sacred structures and are referred to as The House of the Lord. Once these buildings have been dedicated, only worthy members of the church are able to enter and participate in the sacred ordinances performed therein, such as marriage for time and all eternity. It has been a usual practice for temples, such as the one in Hong Kong, to be open to public tours before they are consecrated for the sacred work performed therein.

神聖而不神秘的聖殿：所有追求真理的人，不論是否摩爾門教徒，都歡迎來到其教堂參與聚會。除了教堂以外，耶穌基督後期聖徒教會亦興建另一種建築物，稱為聖殿。這類建築物像聖經裡記載的聖殿一樣，教會成員視之為神聖的地方，稱之為主的殿。當中所進行的教儀，如締結永恆婚姻，神聖無比，所以當這些建築物奉獻之後，就只有教會配稱的成員才能進入和參與其中進行的神聖教儀。建築物本身並不神秘，在大多數情況下，例如在香港，在聖殿奉獻和進行神聖教儀之前，皆會先開放給大眾進內參觀。

The term 'cult' (che gau) is commonly used to represent small groups with a charismatic leader who separate themselves from society in general. With a worldwide membership of over 15 million and services in over 180 languages, Mormons don't fit this commonly used definition. In addition, members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormon) are active in the societies in which they live. Mormons serve as ambassadors, hold high-level positions in a wide range of companies, and have been supported by nearly 50% of the population in a bid for the Presidency of the USA. As the fourth largest Christian religion in the USA and with more members outside the USA than inside, they are definitely neither small nor isolated.

「邪教」一詞通常用來指稱一些由具有魅力的領袖所帶領的小團體，領袖本身與社會隔絕。摩爾門教全球的成員超過 1500 萬，成員使用的語言超過 180 種，與邪教的定義絕不相符。另外，大多數耶穌基督後期聖徒教會（摩爾門教）的成員皆熱心

參與社區事務，有摩爾門教徒擔任大使，在大小公司擔任要職，亦獲得近百分之50的美國國民支持為美國總統候選人。該教會是美國第四大的基督教派，且美國國外的成員人數比美國國內還要多，他們絕對不小，更不離群。

In spite of these facts some still choose to promote the negative term 'cult' (che gau) in an attempt to make their own religious beliefs look better by spreading hate for those that are different.

儘管如此，有些人還是會選用「邪教」一詞，企圖排斥與自己的宗教信仰相異的宗教。