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## Level 3 91736

### NCEA Education for Sustainability (EFS) 2018

**AS 91736: Analyse how different world-views, and the values and practices associated with them impact upon sustainability (4 credits)**

Achievement	Achievement with Merit	Achievement with Excellence	Overall level of attainment for 91736
Analyse how different world-views, and the values and practices associated with them, impact on sustainability.	Analyse in depth how different world-views, and the values and practices associated with them, impact on sustainability.	Critically analyse how different world-views, and the values and practices associated with them, impact on sustainability.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Analyses the values associated with different world-views and how these values are expressed in various practices.</li> <li>Uses evidence to explain the relationship between these values and practices, and aspects of sustainability.</li> <li>Draws conclusions about the present and future consequences of the different world-views for sustainability.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Draws informed conclusions, based on evidence and examples, about the similarities and differences of the world-views in terms of their impact on aspects of sustainability.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Draws insightful conclusions about the complexities associated with different world-views (and their related values and practices) and how these complexities impact on aspects of sustainability. The complexities may include shifts over time, conflicting values within world-views, or different views about sustainability.</li> </ul>	<b>M</b>

# **AS90832 - Analyse how different worldviews, and the values and practices associated with them, impact on sustainability**

## **Executive Summary**

I will be analysing Christian worldviews and Mormon world views. I will be researching about the similarities between these two religions as well as their beliefs, practices and values. I will also be researching if they have an impact on sustainability. These two religions also may have had change over time and I will also be focusing on that.

## **Section 1 - explanation of worldviews.**

### **Beginning of the Christian faith**

Christianity is a religion based on the teachings of Jesus Christ (Christ means the anointed one). Jesus is the anointed one from God our father who is the creator of the Universe. Christians believe that God and Jesus are perfect and no one in this world is equal to them. (Oleksiuk, 2009)

Christians base their beliefs on a book called the Bible. The bible is a collection of 66 books written and collected by Godly people. There are two parts of the bible called the New Testament - writings before Jesus were born, and the New Testament - writings after Jesus was born. The Bible is the most purchased book and it is now available in hundreds of different readable versions and languages.

Christians believe God has always existed and always will exist. Christians believe God is not a man but he is Spirit, and Spirit is not made out of flesh and bone. Christianity believes that there is only one God that exists and that God created the Universe, the earth and life.

Christian tradition traces us all back to Adam and Eve. The first book in the bible is called Genesis where it says that Adam and Eve came from a place called 'The Garden of Eden', somewhere in the ancient near east. God sent down Adam and Eve, a man and a woman to this Garden of Eden. God tells them they can eat any fruit from any tree except the tree of knowledge of good and evil. Satan appeared to Adam and Eve as a snake and tempted them both to eat from the Tree of knowledge. It is at this point the two become aware that they have done wrong. Disobeying God results in them being expelled from the Garden of Eden and suffering the effect of death (Oleksiuk, 2009). A verse from the book of Genesis says this **"The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever."** So the Lord God banished them from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken.

Many generations after Adam and Eve, God created Abraham to make into a great nation that will one day give birth to the Messiah, Jesus. Christians believe that Jesus was born as a human directly by God to release mankind from the bondage of sin and death Adam and Eve caused. (Oleksiuk, 2009)

Jesus lived on earth experiencing life as a human. Jesus performed many miracles on earth and all of this was written in the New Testament by people who had witnessed it in these times and we still read about it today. Jesus died on the cross to be a human sacrifice for our sins and then rose again after 3 days physically. This is often referred to by Christians as the ultimate gift - giving your own life to save the lives of others (Wikipedia, 2018) . A verse from the bible in the book of **John 3:16 says "For God so loved the world that he gave his only son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life"** (Gateway, 2018). People who are Christians aim to follow the Ten Commandments written in the Old Testament:

The Ten Commandments are:

1. Love God more than you love anything else
2. Don't make anything in your life more important than God - do not worship other idols
3. Do not use God's name in vain
4. Honour the Lord by resting on the seventh day of the week
5. Obey, love and respect your parents
6. Do not murder - love your enemies
7. Always be faithful to your husband or wife
8. Do not steal
9. Do not lie
10. Do not Covet; Be content with what you have

These commandments were rules sent down from God to stop chaos and sin (Gateway, 2018). In the bible it talks about the commandments and it says **"In fact, this is love for God: to keep his commands. And his commands are not burdensome"**. (Wikipedia, 2018)

Still today many Christians follow these commandments as best as they can.

To be a Christian it means to desire to be a follower of Jesus Christ, desire him, to fellowship with him and to bring glory to him by the way we live our life and how we treat others. Christians are taught to 'love your neighbour' but we also must have a relationship with God and aim to grow in that relationship and have faith in him. Having a relationship with Jesus/God helps our Christianity grow and become stronger; we believe that we become wiser and filled with more knowledge and love. (Oleksiuk, 2009)

Christians believe there are many ways we can talk to hear from God and receive answers to our prayers. (Oleksiuk, 2009) The Bible is one way to hear what God might be saying and there is also prayer. Although there are formal prayers for Christians, including Grace, dedications, weddings etc. many Christians enjoy the freedom to pray to Jesus throughout their day, while

doing their usual daily tasks - this is part of have a 'relationship with Jesus' rather than only following the usual 'religious formats'

In the afterlife Christians believe that we go to heaven or hell based on whether or not we had faith in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Saviour. Christians believe that we will not be judged for good works alone, but that God sees our hearts and intentions.

(Oleksiuk, 2009)

(Wikipedia, 2018)

**The second worldview** I have chosen to do is the religion of Mormonism. Mormonism is similar to Christianity in many ways but there are still some notable differences in what they believe. Mormonism is a religion that was discovered less than 200 years ago by a man named Joseph Smith. He claimed that he had a personal visit from God the Father and Jesus who had told him that 'all churches and their faiths were an abomination'. After this had happened Joseph then went off to restore 'true' Christianity and he claimed *his* church to be the 'Only true church on earth' (Ministries, 2018). In relation to Christians, Mormons contradict, modifies, and expands on the Bible. Mormons have four different Gospels (or books) that help them to grow in their relationship with God.

**The four gospels (sacred texts) are :**

1. The Bible- as long as it is translated 'correctly'.
2. The book of Mormon - which is a translated version that Smith had created in 1830.
3. Doctrine and Covenants - which contains a collection of revelations
4. The pearl of great price -Which is considered by Mormons to clarify teachings that were lost from the bible

What do Mormons believe about God? Mormons believe that God has not always been the great being of the universe; however he has achieved that position through righteous living and persistent effort (Believe, 2013).

A man named Brigham Young who was an American religious leader, politician and settler was the second president of the Mormon church which was later named 'The church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints'. Young taught people that Adam (from the book of Genesis in the Bible) was actually God and he was the father of Jesus Christ - although this teaching has been left by new modern Mormonism believers.

Mormons believe that there are different levels or Kingdoms in the afterlife (Believe, 2013). These Kingdoms are:

- Celestial Kingdom
- Terrestrial Kingdom
- Telestial Kingdom
- Outer Darkness

Mormons believe that they will end up in one of these Kingdoms in the afterlife depending on what they believe in and how they have lived their life. Mormon leaders have taught that Jesus is God, but also that any human can also become a God. Mormonism also says that Salvation can be earned by a combination of faith and good works. Mormons believe that you can talk to God by prayer. But they don't believe that this is a one way conversation. There is multiple ways Mormons believe they can receive God (Believe, 2013). Mormons follow the same Ten Commandments as Christians except they believe that it is okay to lie in certain circumstances. They think it is okay to lie if they are trying to protect the church.

Something that Mormons believe in that Christians do not believe in or stand by at all is polygamy. Polygamy started in the 1800s and was practiced by the Mormon Church because what they believed was that Joseph Smith had been given this revelation at the time. In biblical time polygamy was also permitted to be practiced and other times it was not permitted like in the New Testament. Mormons believe God had commanded few Mormons that they should practice polygamy (Wikipedia, Mormonism and Polygamy, 2018).

#### **Some reasons Mormons believe in polygamy is :**

1. It needed to be restored for a time to fulfil prophecy
2. To jumpstart church growth (multiply and replenish the earth)
3. To enable more woman to be eligible for the highest heaven (marriage is required)

These reasons are reasons why polygamy is okay to the Mormon religion. Mormons believe it is okay to have more than one wife because they believed this was a way of creating many more members of the church. If there is more women having children then there will be more membership of the church. Mormons also believe that to go to the Celestial Kingdom which is the highest kingdom to go to in the afterlife you must be married, so marrying more wives is a way that they save more women and they believe this can be their key to the highest kingdom in the afterlife. In contrast to Christians, Christians believe there is only Heaven and Hell and they also only believe that you should only have one husband or wife and you should be faithful to them and them only.

#### **Section 2 : Analysis in relation to aspects of sustainability**

Both religions can relate to aspects of sustainability. An example of how both worldviews relate to sustainability is how they both believe that we should serve to the poor and treat everyone equally.

Both Mormon and Christianity worldviews relate to aspects of sustainability. Both religions believe that we are all equal and that we should treat everyone equally. Christians believe no one is better than anyone else because we are all made in the image of God and he made each of us perfect in his own way but Mormons believe that people can live up to be like Jesus and can be as perfect as he is. Christians believe that we should give to the poor and we should treat these people with kindness and support **“Give generously to them and do so without a grudging heart; then because of this the LORD your God will bless you in all your work and in everything you put your hand to.”** And comparing this to the Mormon Bible, The Mormon Bible says **“If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.”** Both Religions have very similar views on looking at the social sustainability issue of poverty.

Mormons and Christians have different ways of using their money. Mormons tend to be a lot more closed in when it comes to using their money and tend to be more economically sustainable but this is not a positive impact on the community. (Believe, What Mormons Believe: Tithing, 2013) Mormons practice tithing and this means that 10% of your income should go towards the church and this money is used only for the church. Russell Nelson the President of the Church of the Latter-Day Saints believes that “tithing will free you from poverty”. Mormons use their money more so to upgrade their church and make it a bigger and better place (Believe, What Mormons Believe: Tithing, 2013). This is negatively affecting the society because Mormons are just asking for the community's money to help develop and better their church instead of using it to actually help people who are economically unsustainable. In contrast to this Christians believe that people do not have to give money to receive help from them. Christians also practice tithing in the church but we do not believe it must only be used for the church. Christians use this money to help the church help other people who are not as economically sustainable as we are. Christians want to make a positive impact on the community and they believe that by giving some of what we have and trying our best to look out for people in need is much more important than keeping the money to ourselves and not worrying about anyone else outside the church who are economically unsustainable (Seminary, 2013).

Christians and Mormons also have different ways of looking at the environment. Christians believe that God cares about his creation. God created the heavens and the earth, the rain for the plants, the plants for the animals to eat and the animals for humans to eat. God created everything and he cares for all of his creation. In the bible it says **“For the word of the Lord is right and true; he is faithful in all he does. The Lord loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of his unfailing love.”** Christians believe that we should manage God's creation, Humans are made in the image of God and each of us have a role to care for his creation **“Fill the earth and govern it, reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, and all the animals that scurry along the ground. Genesis 1:28”** In this verse we see words like Govern and reign so this verse is a command from God to take care of the earth (Conservation, 2018) . Christians believe this gives us permission to build cities for our people, to provide homes for

people to live and schools and work buildings for us to be economically sustainable. We have permission to clear forests for human civilisation as well. Throughout the bible creation is always there for God's Glory, Creation does not exist for our glory but for God's glory so Christians believe we should care for the creation and govern the creation in a way that we can bring Glory to God. This is how Christians believe we can keep the environment sustainable. Clearing forests to build work buildings for people also helps us to become more economically sustainable.

In contrast to this Mormon tradition also say our environment should also be taken care of. **“It pleaseth God that he hath given all these things unto man” (Doctrine and Covenants 59:20).** This verse is saying how God has given us so much and he believes we can take care of this (Saints, 2018) . The Mormon Church teaches that God created the earth to provide a place for humans to learn, progress and improve. The creation that God has gifted us with can be used joyfully but also very carefully and gratefully (Saints, 2018). Mormons believe we use his creation with judgement, gratitude, prudence and we must use this to benefit the future of the environment of our generation. By treating the environment like this Mormons believe this is a way of pleasing God and accomplishing his purpose to help mankind progress, improve and receive his blessings in time and eternity. Mormons believe that this helps them to sustain the creation that God has given them. Because of the commands that God has given them, they believe this will help the earth evolve. By treating the environment like this, Both Worldviews, Christian and Mormon believe that this is the best way to keep our environment sustainable. Something slightly different between the two worldviews is that Mormon are less sustainable in some ways (BYU, 2018). Mormons believe that they can do whatever they want on this earth, they still believe we should take care of the environment but there is no limit as to what they can and can't do. Because of this Mormons become less environmentally sustainable than Christians (Conservation, 2018)

### **Section Three; Comparison of each of the two worldviews**

Christianity and Mormonism have comparisons as well as similarities. A Comparison of both the world views is that they both have different views on how people should be treated and looked at. For example both views have different perspectives on the LGBT community.

Both religions have different worldviews on the Lesbian Gay Bi Transsexual Community also known as the LGBT community. Both religions have different perspectives on the subject and both think differently on the LGBT. The LGBT community are hugely impacted because both Mormon and Christians believe that marrying someone the same gender is not right which is a negative impact on the LGBT community as both religions believe this should not make the LGBT community feel any less of themselves (Believe, What Mormons Believe: Homosexuality , 2013).

First of all Christians believe we should not see them as our enemies. If Christians want to listen to the message of the Gospel and reflect the way Jesus lived we must learn to love our neighbour. In the bible Jesus says this **"1 Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters."** This verse in the Bible simply explains that all Christians should love one another as our own brother and sister. We believe we should not judge the LGBT community and we should treat them as our equals and no one has the right to judge them apart from God. **"12 there is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the one who is able to save and destroy. But you—who are you to judge your neighbour?"** Christians believe everyone is created in God's image which means we are all equal including the homosexual. God says we are all special and he loves each and every one of us and will always forgive us for our sins. This is a positive impact on the LGBT because even though Christians do not agree with the LGBT and their choices, they still believe that we should love them and always treat them with respect.

Comparing this to the Mormons worldview, Mormons believe that any sexual relations with people who are the same gender is a serious sin. They also believe that God created the definition of marriage which is to only be man and woman. Mormons say it is not their right to try and change how God created mankind to be. (Believe, What Mormons Believe: Homosexuality , 2013) Mormons say that it is actually okay to be interested in someone who is the same sex and it is fine to want more from that person, this is not a sin to the Mormon Church but it becomes a sin depending on how we act on it. Being Gay and Mormon does not work as Mormons believe that either you are Gay or you are a Mormon, you cannot be both (News, 2018). Even though Mormons do disagree with the idea of being a "Gay Mormon" but Mormon also believe that they should treat everyone with respect and love our neighbour. This is where Christianity and Mormonism have the same outlook on the LGBT community. This has an impact on the LGBT community because they want to feel accepted (Believe, What Mormons Believe: Homosexuality , 2013). Many LGBT communities have left their churches because they feel judged by the people who attend the church. This is a negative impact and both religions do not agree that anyone should feel unloved.

A present issue with the idea of the LGBT community is that Christians, as time goes on forget that God has told us we need to love everyone **"Love thy Neighbour"**. In the bible it says that man and women are designed for each other and it is a sin if male and male and female and female are together. "If a man lies with a male as with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination; they shall surely be put to death; their blood is upon them." Some people believe that this is still true to this day however as you may know the bible was written a long time ago. This verse was written in Leviticus which is the third book of the bible meaning it was written a long time before Jesus walked on this earth. While Jesus was on earth he taught us that the most important law to abide was love your neighbour as yourself meaning people who discriminate against LGBT community is not following this number one rule (Coalition, 2015).

Mormon also has a present issue with the LGBT community that is similar to the Christian worldview but also has few comparisons. A President and Prophet of the Mormon religion named Thomas Manson. Manson was a very traditional priest and he excluded LGBT

community that were attending the Mormon Church to the point where many from this community began to seek a church community of their own. Years from then the Mormon Church decided to expel same sex couples and stop their children from joining in the church activity. Mormons are making a present and future negative impact on the LGBT community because the LGBT will no longer feel accepted in what they use to call their own church which will make it a lot harder for them to join back into this environment (Believe, What Mormons Believe: Homosexuality , 2013). Comparing this to the Christian religion, Christians believe we should never exclude anyone no matter their differences. Christians aim to follow the Lords more important law which is to love our neighbour (Coalition, 2015). By Mormon excluding LGBT from the church this comes across as wrong to Christians which is a comparison between the both of them.

#### **Section 4 - Complexities explored**

Christianity and Mormonism have changed significantly over time from past till present. Both worldviews have had changes. Some of these changes are good changes and they have had a positive impact on people. Some changes that have been made over time have had a negative impact on people. Something that has also changed overtime is the Bible, both for Mormon and Christians.

The Holy Bible was created in between years of 1200 and 165 BC. The Bible has become the most widely read book in the history of the world and was and is still the most bestselling book in the world. 3.9 billion Copies sold over the past 50 years. Many people have different perspectives on this book (Insider, 2015). Many Christians and Mormons still believe that this book still is the actual word of God. Over the past 2000 years this book has changed in many ways. Because the Bible was written so long ago, people actually hand made the Bible which has caused a lot of changes and errors because so many different people had been writing it. In some Gospels, writers have changed parts of the resurrection story. Before Jesus dies on the cross he forgives people for their wrong, some Bibles do not include this which affects how people thought of Jesus. This had become a problem for the 2nd and 3rd century because some of them may think that God still blames the Jews for what they did to Jesus and this portrays that God was unforgiving which is not true (Insider, 2015). This would have affected both Christians and Mormons because both want to follow the word of God but because it has changed over time, the Bible may include false or missing information that may not actually be the right word of God.

Because the Bible is such an important value to both Christians and Mormons and because it has changed over time, this also changes Christian and Mormon Values because both follow the same rules in the Bible. By the Bible being changed this changes Christian and Mormon values like being forgiving to others even if they have done wrong to you. This has changed the value God had set to love our neighbour and by not forgiving our neighbour we are not portraying the right values God has set for both worldviews in the first place. This change over

time in the Bible has also caused Christian and Mormon Values to be changed over time which is really unfortunate.

The way the bible was once read is not how most people read the texts anymore. Old readings would not be considered socially sustainable anymore; as people first read the Bible they had mistaken the real meanings of it, understanding its messages differently (Insider, 2015). For example, believing that men are more important than women. Because of this some people in our modern society are now believing that this is still okay. This has caused our society to become socially unsustainable

Overall I have discovered that both World views have similarities but also have differences between them. Through my research I have discovered that everyone has their own perspective on how they should follow the word of God. Both Mormon and Christian have obstacles in their worldview that many people will find hard to come by which can be a negative impact. Ultimately both World Views are trying to live how they think Jesus Christ would want them to live. There is still lots of disagreement on how each religion takes the word of God but through my research I have learnt that both worldviews are still discovering the word of God and still making their on choices of how to adapt to it.

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## Merit Exemplar 2018

Subject	Education for Sustainability	Standard	91736	Total score	06
Q	Grade score	Annotation			
1	M6	The candidate has provided sufficient evidence for an M6-level answer. Informed conclusions have been drawn based on evidence and examples of the similarities and differences of the world-views in terms of their impact on aspects of sustainability.			