



How should I respond to a friend who asks a question about the Church that seems absolutely ridiculous?

If a friend asks a question that seems totally ridiculous, first try to figure out whether the question was serious. Are they asking this question simply because they heard something about the Church and seriously wanted to know if it's true? Or are they asking about something outrageous just to get a reaction? Either way, always be kind and calm in how you respond.

If it's an honest question, try not to make your friend feel silly for having asked. Answer the question directly. You may also want to ask questions of your own to see how interested your friend is in learning more. This could turn into a chance to share the gospel. If it's a mocking question, answer it as kindly and briefly as you can. Then try to move the conversation to something more pleasant and less divisive. **NE**

In the premortal council, Satan said he wanted everyone to be saved. What was so wrong with that?

In the Grand Council, “Satan . . . came before [the Father], saying—Behold, here am I, send me, I will be thy son, and I will redeem all mankind, that one soul shall not be lost, and surely I will do it; wherefore give me thine honor” (Moses 4:1). It may seem like Satan had noble intentions, but he didn't. He wasn't so much concerned with saving everyone as he was with taking the Father's honor, which is the Father's power (see D&C 29:36). “The devil . . . sought to take the kingdom of our God and his Christ” (D&C 76:28). He “rebelled against [God], and sought to destroy the agency of man” (Moses 4:3). “He became . . . the father of all lies” (Moses 4:4).

Satan's uprising was built on a lie. He said he could save everyone, but he also would have destroyed agency—our ability to choose and act for ourselves—by taking it away or by removing consequences. Heavenly Father's plan for our eternal progress requires agency—choices and consequences. His plan also requires a Savior to atone for our sins and make repentance possible. So Satan's offer was deceptive nonsense. All he really wanted was power. And he was willing to tell any lie to get it. **NE**