

The Only True Church

1. Read the following scenario:

Diana and Clark are walking to school one morning when Clark turns to Diana and says, “We’ve been good friends for a long time, so don’t take this the wrong way, but why do you Mormons say you belong to the true church? Don’t you think it’s arrogant to say your religion is true and everyone else’s religion is false?” Diana feels surprised by this question and had not considered that saying the Church is true might imply that all other churches are false.

2. Discuss with your partner what you think is the intent of Clark’s comment to Diana. How would you summarize his feelings and beliefs?

3. To prepare to role-play how you would respond to Clark, do the following:

a. Review paragraphs 4.1 through 4.11 in the Doctrinal Mastery Core Document. Focus on the key statement of doctrine and the doctrinal mastery passage in paragraph 4.4.

b. Read the following statements by modern-day prophets and apostles:

“The great religious leaders of the world such as Mohammed, Confucius, and the Reformers, as well as philosophers including Socrates, Plato, and others, received a portion of God’s light. Moral truths were given to them by God to enlighten whole nations and to bring a higher level of understanding to individuals.

“The Hebrew prophets prepared the way for the coming of Jesus Christ, the promised Messiah, who should provide salvation for all mankind who believe in the gospel.

“Consistent with these truths, we believe that God has given and will give to all peoples sufficient knowledge to help them on their way to eternal salvation, either in this life or in the life to come.

“We also declare that the gospel of Jesus Christ, restored to His Church in our day, provides the only way to a mortal life of happiness and a fulness of joy forever. For those who have not received this gospel, the opportunity will come to them in the life hereafter if not in this life.

“Our message therefore is one of special love and concern for the eternal welfare of all men and women, regardless of religious belief, race, or nationality, knowing that we are truly brothers and sisters because we are sons and daughters of the same Eternal Father” (First Presidency statement, Feb. 15, 1978, quoted in Robert L. Millet, “The Eternal Gospel,” *Ensign*, July 1996, 56).

“We must be a friendly people. We must recognize the good in all people. We don’t go about tearing down other churches. We preach and teach in a positive and affirmative way. We say to those of other faiths, ‘you bring with you all the good that you have and let us see if we can add to it.’” (“Messages of Inspiration from President Hinckley,” *Church News*, Nov. 7, 1998, 2).

c. As time permits, consider other divinely appointed sources that could help with this concern.

4. Take a few minutes to role-play with your partner how you would respond to Clark’s concern if you were Diana.

