Recovery from Mormonism (RfM) discussion forum.

Recovery Board : RfM

Most Mormons I know are phony, fair-weather friends. Am I off-base?

Posted by: sharapata () Date: July 11, 2015 01:06AM

I know I shouldn't make sweeping generalizations, but, I swear, it's no lie – the TBM friends who have been in my life, some since childhood, are poof, gone, out of my life, ever since I have left the Church. I don't mean some of them. It has now been about 10 years and they are ALL GONE. College roommates. Former missionary companions. High school friends. Even my extended TBM family make ZERO effort to reconnect. It's like I have the plague. I suppose I should now finally give up hope, but my memories of happier times with people I thought would be with me for life make me sad and depressed, and I still struggle at times to "move on".

Re: Most Mormons I know are phony, fairweather friends. Am I off-base? Posted by: snuckafoodberry () Date: July 11, 2015 01:09AM

Yes, I always feel sorry for people when they first leave the church but claim their friends have stood by them. It is only a matter of time before those friendships fall away, sometimes in hurtful ways.

Edited 1 time(s). Last edit at 07/11/2015 01:10AM by snuckafoodberry.

Re: Most Mormons I know are phony, fair-weather Posted by: madalice () friends. Am I off-base? Posted by: madalice () Date: July 11, 2015 01:20AM

I've lived in a lot of different wards, and had a LOt of friends and family in the church over 50 years.

They ALL went awol within 12 months of my resignation. You're not imagining things. And just so you know, it's not you that has the problem. It's them.

They do this to anyone who leaves the church or who moves out of the ward. It doesn't matter who it is.

Re: Most Mormons I know are phony, fair-weather Posted by: sharapata () friends. Am I off-base? Date: July 11, 2015 01:23AM

Thanks; I should have added in my first post of when my brother committed suicide in 2007. It is times like that when you know who your true friends/family are, and, all I can say is I swear I got more sympathy from complete strangers than I did from these people, if any at all. That's when I knew I had to start over... Re: Most Mormons I know are phony, fair-weather friends. Am I off-base?

Posted by: GNPE () Date: July 11, 2015 01:31AM

As a (past) student of sociology, I would say that Everything in the Morg Culture is inter-woven. this aspect seems to be related to the Uber-judgmentalism that is often mentioned & described here.

such things as changing boundaries & shifting - transient HT & VT assignments add to this.

'Nothing in Morland happens by accident'!

Edited 1 time(s). Last edit at 07/11/2015 01:33AM by GNPE.

Re: Most Mormons I know are phony, fairweather friends. Am I off-base? Posted by: Doubting Thomas () Date: July 11, 2015 10:06AM

I agree with you. The Mormon Church is the foundation for EVERY Mormon friendship. Thus when the foundation is gone, no matter what other common interest you had, or wonderful experiences you shared, the friendship disappears once you leave Mormonism.

My personal experience is exactly what the OP described.

Re: Most Mormons I know are phony, fair-weather friends. Am I off-base? Posted by: Ex-Sis () Date: July 11, 2015 01:40AM

Many of them only speak Mormonese. Everything relates to Mormonism; they don't even realize they speak like that.

They don't value relationships they no longer perceive as eternal. Why waste time when they can impress a fellow Mormon, benefit from another Mormon, move up in the pecking order...?

They are terrified you know something they don't. They do not want to risk their world view/lifestyle/family/friends.

Monkey see, monkey do. Shunning is contagious.

They assume you sinned, or have hidden sin... and it is part of their responsibility to help punish you back into the church.

Real friends who accept you are a breath of fresh air vs phony, conditional friendships.

It is baffling how they can disregard all your shared history/fun experiences/supporting one another... For family, you need to treat it as a death. Continue to reach out on holidays, birthdays... only as it feels comfortable to you (don't expect reciprocity). Some of them will inevitably leave in the future, and possibly seek you out to help them navigate the pain you already weathered.

((Hugs for new friends/good times))

Re: Most Mormons I know are phony, fair-weather friends. Am I off-base? Posted by: verilyverily () Date: July 11, 2015 01:42AM

If you are not in the cult, you are not worth their time. Get over it as best as you can.

Re: Most Mormons I know are phony, fair-weather Posted by: verilyverily () friends. Am I off-base? Date: July 11, 2015 02:53PM

Since they can't really talk about anything but the cult (since it takes up all but perhaps 20 hours of their entire week including nights), what are they going to talk to a non cult member about? They dump and shun asap. They are much holier than thou so do them a favor and disappear asap.

Re: Most Mormons I know are phony, fair-weather friends. Am I off-base? Posted by: brandywine () Date: July 11, 2015 01:48AM

You are right on with the majority.

Re: Most Mormons I know are phony, fair-weather	Posted by: donbagley ()
friends. Am I off-base?	Date: July 11, 2015 02:19AM

If they don't shun you, they'll make you wish they would.

Re: Most Mormons I know are phony, fairweather friends. Am I off-base? Posted by: Brother Of Jerry () Date: July 11, 2015 02:28AM

Most of them subconsciously, if not overtly, know Mormonism is a house of cards, and those who have escaped can bring the house crashing down. We scare them to death.

Re: Most Mormons I know are phony, fairweather friends. Am I off-base?

Posted by: newnameabigail () Date: July 11, 2015 05:28AM

It's not only when you leave the cult. They simply don't care for you unless they5are somehow assigned to take care. I remember when I stopped to attend church a few years ago. Noone cared noone asked. I was suffering from depression, was unable to do anything. The VT dont stop by the HT don't stop by – no mishs, noone came over to offer me sacrament. Of course they are all your best friends, as long as you don't need them. The same ppl who claimed to be my friends don't even noticed, that I was gone. However I always was the one who if said I'm your friend really meant that I'm your friend – that was a huge crack in my shelf though when I realized that it never was vice versa.

Re: Most Mormons I know are phony, fair-weather friends. Am I off-base? D

Posted by: jan () Date: July 11, 2015 07:37AM

I have a very dear elderly lady TBM friend. She and I used to go to the temple together, back in the day. She knows I've left and we're still very close. She never mentions Mormonism and I only bring up things that annoy me to the point that I can't contain myself.

Re: Most Mormons I know are phony, fairweather friends. Am I off-base? Posted by: Doubting Thomas () Date: July 11, 2015 10:09AM

That's awesome. Of course there are genuine Mormons who care more about people and true Christian principles more than the culture.

Piecrust friendships

Posted by: axeldc () Date: July 11, 2015 08:43AM

Mormons make piecrust friendships: easily made, easily broken. Just having your ward boundaries redrawn is enough to end some friendships: out of sight, out of mind.

When I quit going to church, within 6 months I was down to 3 Mormon friends. Eventually, they all faded away because they were busy with church, and it was awkward for them to be around me as a non-TBM.

I ran into a few of my Mormon "friends" at the grocery store or on the street. They made it clear that if I wasn't attending church, they wanted nothing to do with me. "Oh, we don't see you anymore!" I replied, "I haven't moved. My phone number is the same." "Well, hope we see you at church next Sunday."

If you aren't a TBM, then your only value to them is as a reactivation project. You don't even have to resign for them to defriend you.

Re: Piecrust friendships

Posted by: Doubting Thomas () Date: July 11, 2015 10:14AM

This is true, you don't have to resign to lose the friendships. You just have to make it know you left because you no longer believe the claims of Mormonism and you're not coming back. Once that is clear you are "persona non grata."

You represent a risk to the rest of the population. It takes STRONG family ties to weather this storm and keep your marriage and relationships with your children.

TSCC never seems more cultish than when you leave. You see all the weirdness and you experience all the weirdness.

Re: Piecrust friendships

Posted by: axeldc () Date: July 11, 2015 12:28PM

When I first left the church, I worried that going back would make me miss it. However, every time I've attended since then has just made me realize how weird it is. The longer you are out, the weirder it seems.

The only thing I got out of church after I left was attending my parents' ward and seeing people I grew up with. Their only questions were about why I wasn't married and when I would have kids. Other than childhood members, I felt no connection to them at all.

It's been a long time since I've been to church, and the last few times I went as for funerals. Even that was too much for me.

Re: Most Mormons I know are phony, fair-weather	Posted by: Bert ()
friends. Am I off-base?	Date: July 11, 2015 08:52AM

How do you know you just met a Mormon? They ask you where you go to church. What do Mormons, all Mormons talk about? Only themselves or their church.

Mormons see everyone as an opportunity. You are either in agreement with them and want to hear their "message". Or you are their next fraud victim. Or you are no longer a full person who deserves respect of any kind.

Re: Most Mormons I know are phony, fair-weather friends. Am I off-base? Posted by: slskipper () Date: July 11, 2015 09:05AM

They are taught that the only thing that matters in their lives is activity in the church. So their entire outlook and all their relationships are based on the requirements of the LDS institution. They really cannot conceive of any friendship beyond what the church orders them to establish.

I have to admit I have one friend who has stuck by me

Posted by: cl2 () Date: July 11, 2015 09:11AM

but we met at work YEARS ago. We had some issues there for a while when I resigned. She told me she needs me in her life too much to ever let this come between us. She has definitely toned down her mormon speak.

I had my shunning begin when my husband left me. My leaving the lds church wasn't much as far as shunning compared to that experience. The few friends I had left from my past, they found out I was "single" and I've never heard from them since (almost 20 years).

I went inactive before he left because I didn't want my children treated poorly. When my daughter went back after we had been out over 10 years, the ward celebrated and they still are.

Most of my mormon neighbors I get along with. I wouldn't call them "friends," although there are a few who I do consider friends. The women come to talk to me when they are upset about something mormon.

I have to admit I live in a unique area, lower middle class and there isn't a lot of putting on a show. This is the best ward I ever lived in in my entire life.

I grew up with that type of mormon though. I could NEVER go back to my home ward and be welcomed like my daughter was. Before I ever went inactive, I purposely cut off most of my ties to my mormon friends from high school, from my home ward.

I do have to add that when someone new moves in the ward, they sometimes decide I'm their project. It doesn't last long. Others must tell them to leave me alone or they find out I have a boyfriend and I'm still legally married to my ex.

Edited 2 time(s). Last edit at 07/11/2015 09:15AM by cl2.

Re: Most Mormons I know are phony, fair-	Posted by: ificouldhietokolob ()
weather friends. Am I off-base?	Date: July 11, 2015 12:23PM

Like any large group of people, you'll find good ones, mediocre ones, and bad ones among mormons. I've known (and still do know) mormons that are terrific friends, that have remained friends despite my leaving and criticizing the church. They're far more rare than the other kind, yes -- but clearly being a mormon doesn't prevent you from being a real friend.

That said, it's clear the church's culture encourages "fair weather friends" -specifically its teachings to distance yourself from people who would influence you for "evil" -- that is, ex-mormons, those asking hard questions, those who (gasp!) have a beer now and then, etc.

Re: Most Mormons I know are phony, fair-weather Posted by Date: July 11,

Posted by: Shummy () Date: July 11, 2015 12:36PM

Too much cog-diss to fit in the Mormon noggin that is already about to burst with

it.....

that of holding to bonds of friendship, as opposed to upholding the pariah status proclaimed from the pulpit.

Paralysed with paranoia, the weakened mind will simply turn away.

Don't take it personally.....it's not your fault.

Re: Most Mormons I know are phony, fair-weather Posted by: amyjo () friends. Am I off-base? Posted by: 11, 2015 12:44PM

I've found my dearest and nearest friends in life happened when I was a younger woman, and including teenager and young adult, and those were the years I was a practicing Mormon for the most part, absent a couple years I was agnostic between 17 and 19.

Some were LDS, others were not. I still have some LDS friends that have lasted through the years. We're not super close, but I know I could call on them and they would be there for me to listen and care.

Same for some of my LDS cousins, and one TBM brother. Another TBM brother I've disowned. Most of my Mormon friends came and went. But so did all my other friends since my New York City days and before that when I used to live in Idaho and California, and Utah for a short stint.

Friends are something to be cherished while we have them, and cultivated while we can. Some of my closest and dearest have already passed away. With the Internet has helped to reunite old classmates from grade school and junior high I've lost contact with over the years. Many of them have died too! Those who are left are just reminded how short our lives are, and how swiftly fly the days and years.

Some Mormons are truly fair weather. Probably the majority of what's left in the church today even. My TBM family sure seems stiff at the collar. But the Mormon cousins who've left Mormonism behind are more like me lol. We're just an awkward crazy bunch of old hipsters that still love and support each other. If it wasn't for the Internet though, we'd be more isolated than we are because of moving around the country for jobs and work while raising families.

Now I fellowship at a Jewish synagogue, where the people genuinely welcome each other and seem genuinely caring about one another. I've been there for a few years, and haven't found them to be fair weather or gossipy. In fact, gossip is frowned on there. (It's referred to as having "the Evil Eye," and is considered malicious slander.) Quite the opposite of the Relief Society Gossip Society.

Edited 1 time(s). Last edit at 07/11/2015 12:46PM by amyjo.

Re: Most Mormons I know are phony, fair-weather Posted by: Fleeting () friends. Am I off-base? Date: July 11, 2015 01:04PM

TBMs have thoroughly internalized the concept that Church Co Inc. comes first in all things, especially when dealing with image, saving face, etc.

Thus if a person decides they no longer believe in the LDS ways, are in any way critical or are seen as a threat to the sickly-sweet personas effected by so many TBMs that they tighten up the blinders almost instinctively and the "threat" is no longer on their radar.

I don't think most TBMs know how to be real friends or deal with differences of opinion in a healthy manner.

Re: Most Mormons I know are phony, fair-weather Posted by: 3X (nli) () friends. Am I off-base? Date: July 11, 2015 04:20PM

Mormon culture is very shame-based, one specific type of shame being induced by the appearance of evil – to include associating with those in apostasy. The culture is also an identity schema: if you reject the religion, by extension you reject its adherents. Whatever basis might exist for a mormon "friendship", it is typically disolved by the exit of one of the parties from the church.

And that's why, in my opinion, mormonism is a syndrome: an unhealthy state of being, typically persisting through enmeshment of and/or suppression of the personality.

It is also why the most appropriate venue for "mormon studies" is in the psychology department of appropriate universities.*

*Recognizing that the mercantile activities of LDS, Inc, might legitimately be studied in an MBA program.

Re: Most Mormons I know are phony, fair-weather Posted by: GodLedMeOut () friends. Am I off-base? Date: July 11, 2015 04:35PM

I am so persona-non-grata, it's a wonder SIRI talks to me!

Re: Most Mormons I know are phony, fair-weather Posted by: michaelc1945 () friends. Am I off-base? Date: July 11, 2015 05:09PM

You are definitely on base with your conclusions.

Re: Most Mormons I know are phony, fair-weather Posted by: amyjo () friends. Am I off-base? Posted by: amyjo () Date: July 11, 2015 08:34PM

In all reality though, the more I thought about this post today the more I realize that it isn't only Mormons. Most of the population are fair weather friends. It is really a rare thing to find a treasured and true friend, there are way more superficial and shallow people to go around than people willing to go out of their way for a friend and go the extra mile to show someone they care. A warm smile, a friendly gaze, a listening ear and a caring heart are not so common except among tried and true friends.

There aren't too many people I consider that kind of trustworthy to merit a deep and personal friendship. It seems like most if not many friendships are based on consideration and bargaining something of worth in exchange for someone else's time, even friendship and companionship are leveraged and used as bargaining chips &/or status quo within communities, churches, businesses, and sadly families.

Like poor people lament, but all too true that show me a poor person, and I'll show you a person with few or no friends. Whereas a wealthy man may have the appearance of many friends, but that's really all it is, is superficial based on his possessions and perhaps what or who he knows (connections.) Of course that's important to the social fabric we surround ourselves with, but as to depth and quality of friendship still superficial and all too often shallow; flimsy at best while devoid of any real trust and devotion.

Edited 1 time(s). Last edit at 07/11/2015 08:52PM by amyjo.

Re: Most Mormons I know are phony, fair-weather friends. Am I off-base? Posted by: Cleo () Date: July 11, 2015 08:45PM

I golf twice weekly with TBM buddies that know I'm "out." They joke around about it with me and are totally cool – not all are dicks.

Re: Most Mormons I know are phony, fair-weather Posted by: Breeze () friends. Am I off-base? Posted by: Breeze () Date: July 12, 2015 06:52AM

Not off base. I thought it was my fault, at first. I probably would still take it personally, if it weren't for RFM, and my non and ex Mormon friends.

I'm writing about my own personal experience, only.

I do not have one Mormon friend in my former ward and stake, in my neighborhood, and I have lived in the same house for 25 years.

Not one.

Luckily, my neighborhood was only half Mormons, and more non-Mormons have moved in since. We're able to sort of ignore the rude Mormon behavior, and we never talk about it.

I have some Mormon friends, since elementary school, high school, and BYU--but these have led "unconventional" Mormon lives. Three have never been married, one is married with no children, two are divorced, and one couple are divorced but still living together. Even though these people are still good Mormons, just the slightest detail that doesn't exactly fit the mold, makes them marginalized. I guess they have nothing to lose, by being friends with an apostate like me.

Like Cl2, the greatest shunning happened when my husband abandoned us. Mormonism is a couples-only society. Any social contact (outside of callings and assignments) was to fix me up with someone, or to force me to attend Mormon singles functions.

A few of the Mormon parents would not allow their children to play with children from "a broken home." Sure enough, when I got divorced, those kids stopped playing at our house, and vanished from our life.

For a while, I wondered, "Why did I attract such awful friends? Was I such a terrible person, that only shallow, dishonest, scummy people were willing to be my friends?" That's what you get, when you are taught from infancy to seek out only Mormon friends, and Mormon boyfriends. I figure that having weak relationships is one of the many handicaps of being a Mormon. The loss of those friendships is the price you pay for leaving. It took years to understand that not having these people in my life has actually made my life better.

Recovery from Mormonism www.exmormon.org
www.exmonnen.org

I