

Davis County Ex-Mormon meetup Sunday May 18, 2025, 2:30 PM

[All links from Invitations.](#)

How to Find us: Sunday May 18, 2025 meetup is 2:30 PM at Smiths Marketplace, 1370 W 200 N, Kaysville, UT 84037. Entering Smith's turn right, take the up staircase on the right side of Starbucks, turn right on the 2nd floor at the top of the stairs, take 10 strides passing the lockers to the conference room entrance on the right. **Contact:** Francis 'Nelson' Henderson, 858-668-6943, francisnh12@gmail.com

Our purposes:

First, when leaving Mormonism, people often find that they no longer have community or support. Our goal is to provide support for each other and to build community. So, whether you are a member, or left the church recently, or have been out for years, or were never Mormon but are looking for community, come and socialize with us and share your story.

Secondly, we uncover the fallacies, deception, and misinformation employed by the LDS Church to gain control over our lives.

Subject of Discussion: Authoritarianism

From [last week](#), when a Church becomes authoritarian—when it centers obedience to external authority over inward transformation—it risks corrupting the very moral fiber it aims to cultivate.

Rejecting the Authoritarian Self

Authoritarian religion cannot survive without authoritarian people. While institutions may preach obedience, it is individuals who internalize and enforce that obedience upon themselves and others—sometimes unconsciously. Studies suggest that roughly 30% of the population across cultures are predisposed to seek strong authority figures, and many of these individuals bring this preference into their religious lives. But this tendency is not harmless. When church members trade away their moral responsibility for the comfort of certainty and hierarchy, they become co-creators of an authoritarian system. Their compliance gives power to leaders who reward loyalty over love and uniformity over [spiritual integrity](#).

The Danger of Unquestioned Internalization

What makes individual authoritarianism especially dangerous is that it often disguises itself as righteousness. Members may come to believe that judgmental attitudes, rigid rule-keeping, or distrust of difference are “spiritual” traits. In reality, these are psychological defenses—ways to avoid uncertainty, vulnerability, and personal accountability. People convert to authoritarianism not through reflection but



through fear, habit, and social pressure. Over time, they may lose the ability to distinguish between true spiritual conviction and mere conformity. Yet religious virtue—if it is to mean anything—must come from free and honest engagement with conscience, not reflexive submission to dogma or peer expectations.

A Moral Call to Individual Responsibility

No church doctrine, no leader, and no tradition can substitute for your responsibility to be morally awake. If your faith asks you to silence compassion, suppress questions, or judge others in the name of “obedience,” then something has gone wrong. Spiritual life begins with the courage to think, to feel, to love—and to resist becoming an [agent of coercion](#) (00:49)¹. Just as authoritarian churches must be challenged, so too must the authoritarian tendencies within ourselves. Let us not perpetuate harm by becoming instruments of unexamined authority. Let us instead be the kind of people who elevate others, protect freedom of conscience, and model a faith that draws its strength not from control, but from compassion.

¹ For any young Mormon thinking about serving a Mormon mission:

1. [You always have a choice](#) ☐. Run away from any human saying you don't have a choice or saying they know what God wants for you. It is for you to figure out what is healthiest for you.
2. When you were baptized you were far too young to make such a decision. Your brain doesn't fully develop till age 25. Your baptism was likely not a choice. Instead, it was something you did to please those you loved.
3. You are not given all the information you need. As a matter of informed consent, you should know that in 2022 many Mormon missionaries came home early due to depression, anxiety, and disbelief because they were not told the truth about the Church when they were growing up.

What would cause a faithful LDS young woman to question her belief after returning home early from her mission. [Leaving Early From My Mormon Mission](#) ☐ - Brinley Jensen Pt. 2, [40% leaving Church](#) within six (6) months after mission. ☐