

Media Mormon

Being a high school junior, I go to class everyday just like everybody else. I have social media accounts. I follow the fashion trends by society. I plan to go to college just like most high school students. And I am a Mormon. Throughout the years many questions have been tossed my way, such as: “How many moms do you have?”, “Is it true that you have to wear turtle necks and floor length dresses?”, “Are you engaged yet?”, “How many siblings do you have?”, or “Is it true that you can’t drink soda or eat chocolate?”. All of these questions are due to the Media Mormon.

The first question is by far my *favorite*. I like to call it the “Multiple Mom Syndrome”. It stems from when Mormons practiced polygamy many, many years ago. It will forever be a shadow cast on our lives. Since the media has so kindly made a production of *Sister Wives*, and written articles upon articles about non-Mormon churches that practice polygamy, eyes and questions have constantly been turned to the Mormons. My grandparents dealt with this issue, as did my parents, as have I, as will my children and my children’s children.

The next question is the most annoying. While we believe in modest clothing such as dresses that come to our knees, shirts that cover our shoulders and cleavage; we are allowed to follow the fashion trends. Yes, it is true I cannot wear a bikini but, I am allowed to go swimming. I don’t have to wear a one piece; I can wear a tankini.

Another standard that goes alongside our modesty standards is on that we call the “Word of Wisdom”. Due to this, people believe that we cannot eat chocolate or drink soda. That, my friends is false. I love to eat chocolate! And soda is often present at meals.

Yes, it is true, many Mormons do marry young. However, that has nothing to do with the “rules” of our religion. It simply has to do with our priorities and the emphasis we put on family. We are encouraged to gain an education. But we are also encourage to find a mate with whom we can spend the eternities. We believe that marriage performed in our temples have eternal bonds, rather than those that are lost at death. And while the marriage ceremony is sacred, it is not secret by any means. It is our conservative and traditional view of marriage and family that often comes under fire in today’s society.

The “Kids in Every Corner” disease has to do with our values placed on marriage. It is not that Mormons believe in a big family. As a matter of fact, I have non-Mormon friends who have more siblings than I. Once more, the media rears its ugly head, making a production out of *The Duggars*, who are Christian, but not Mormon. Thank you once again, social media!

The Media Mormon is believed to have more than one wife, own planets, and can’t show any skin. They are unable to have any fun, and are engaged at 19. The Media Mormon has 10 siblings, and all of them are unable to drink anything containing caffeine.

I am a Mormon; I have one mom and one dad. I’m a good student. I love following sports and attending games. I believe in dressing modestly – trying to keep my dresses to my knees and my clothing not too tight. I plan to wait for my boyfriend who will serve a full-time mission, spending two years serving people and teaching them about Jesus Christ. I drink hot chocolate in place of coffee. When I have a family of my own I want a reasonable amount of kids. Maybe, in the slightest of ways, I *am* a Media Mormon. And maybe, just maybe, I’m a normal sixteen year old who loves life and plans to make the most of it!