

Film 272 Box 8
pp. 963, 964.

Heber J. Grant Letter Books

September 17th, 1923.

Mrs. Minnie Lisonbee,
Box 393, Mesa, Arizona.

Dear Sister:-

Your letter of the 12th inst. has just received the attention of myself and counselors.

I assure you that plural marriages as formerly practiced by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has ceased to exist, and that there is no person authorized to perform plural marriages, that all plural marriages such as your husband refers to in his letters to you are unlawful and unauthorized, and that if your husband enters into such a marriage he not only breaks the law of the land but the law of God and renders himself unworthy the fellowship of the Latter-day Saints.

I assure you also that the proper Church authorities stand ready to deal with any person entering into an unlawful, unauthorized plural marriage as far as fellowship in the Church is concerned, and that they are also ready to deal with any person performing such unauthorized and unlawful pretended marriages.

The fact is, Sister Lisonbee, your husband is being misled by persons who have been misled and who are living sinful lives in the sight of God and man, and it will be in order for you to give your husband to understand that if he take the step that he is contemplating he will be unworthy of you, and it will be your duty to impart this understanding to him, for you cannot be directly nor indirectly a party to such sinful conduct, and expect to retain fellowship in the Church.

When your husband tells you that "they are living that law now as much as they ever did," he refers to men and women who have been excommunicated from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and who are living in sin. If he tries to make you believe otherwise and is endeavoring to implicate the Church or Church authorities he is guilty of absolute falsehood and the truth is not in him. And furthermore, if it shall be found later on that your husband shall have joined the ranks of those who have entered into pretended plural marriages the Church authorities stand ready not only to deal with him on his fellowship in the Church, but to assist the officers of the law to deal with him as a law breaker as well.

I thank you for your letter and for the plain way in which you have written, and trust that you will have strength enough to stand for the right, regardless of what your husband may do in regard to this matter.

Your Brother,

/s/ Heber J. Grant

PS: I send you a carbon copy of this letter with the suggestion that you send it to your husband.