

Salt Lake City, June 18, 1935

TO OUR BRETHREN IN THE COVENANT OF CHRIST:

Having permission from the Priesthood I feel impressed to address you as a servant of the Lord and under His direction. The work of the Lord is advancing and the efforts of Satan to defeat righteousness are being redoubled. Never before in the world's history have the powers of darkness made such a determined effort to defeat the will of heaven as is now the case, and never was the valiancy of the servants of the Lord put to a greater test. The line separating the sheep from the goats is becoming so high and broad that mankind is being forced on one side or the other; no longer can man stand astride the fence.

The fulness of the Gospel being the "United Order and the Order of Plural Marriage", these two principles of salvation must be lived. We have for some time been living at the one -- the Order of Celestial Marriage, but little attention has been given to the United Order. The time has come for the Saints of the Kingdom to learn to live both laws. Further progress cannot be made in any other course; indeed, instead of progress, from now on the Saints who will not heed this counsel, will begin to retrogress. Prompted by the spirit of this matter, several of the brethren in Arizona and in Utah have tendered to the Priesthood their entire holdings and have urged our receiving the same and having them so managed as to benefit the whole.

This is placing great responsibility on the servants of the Lord -- burdens we might easily feel like shirking, but this we can not do and remain true to our trust. We feel the time is here that the Saints should begin to prepare for the living of the United Order. It is a day of preparation. The great barriers against living this law are selfishness and jealousy. To "love our neighbor as ourselves", means advancement because it means the complete overcoming of ourselves. Men will not arrive at this point without a struggle. Satan will fight the proposition to the bitter end, and the day has come when men will be tried by the Priesthood. President Jedekiah M. Grant once predicted:

"If ever you are brought into the presence of God, and exalted to a seat in His Celestial Kingdom, it will be by virtue of the Holy Priesthood, therefore you have got to be proved, not only by being prompted by the Devil, but the PRIESTHOOD WILL TRY YOU -- IT WILL TRY YOU TO THE CORE."

This day of trial is upon us, and every man who does not find out for himself the right from the wrong, and learn to stand firmly for the right, will fall and will go over to the camps of the Adversary. Already the spirit of discontent is beginning to manifest itself among some of the brethren. Mild, but unjust criticism is being registered in such a subtle way as to create prejudice and ill-feelings. And thus Satan is gaining some foot-hold in the hearts of the Saints. The Lord is not pleased with this spirit, and unless it is quickly checked calamities will come upon His people. Unless we are one we are not His; unless we are willing to serve Him graciously we will have to be whipped into line by the judgments of God. This is inescapable. Let no man misjudge his neighbor; let no man treat lightly instructions from the Priesthood; let no man hesitate to receive direction. To be a good leader one first must learn to be a good follower; to be able to give direction wisely, one must be able to take direction graciously. Never, therefore, attempt an act that is not backed by heaven. There is no detail in our lives too trivial to warrant invoking the blessing of the Lord upon its accomplishment. Never listen to unconfirmed rumor. Do not judge one

until the right to judge is given you, and then be sure to hear both sides of every controversy you are called to sit in judgment upon, and judge righteously. Never indulge in gossip -- idle gossip; avoid loud laughter and light and frivolous speeches. God is not pleased with the conduct of many of His people. Those who have been blessed with the privilege of living higher principles, should show their appreciation by living better lives. Where much is given much is expected, and great knowledge is accompanied by responsibility commensurate therewith. A weakness among us is to form judgment from unconfirmed rumor, often resulting in injustices. The Priesthood of God cannot be exercised in ANY DEGREE of unrighteousness without forfeiting the power thereof. Gossip is the forked tongue of poison that Satan employs. The true covenant of brotherhood is:

"And I will now covenant with you before God, that I will not listen to nor credit any derogatory report against any of you, nor condemn you upon any testimony beneath the heavens, short of that testimony which is infallible, until I can see you face to face and know of a surety; and I do place unremitted confidence in your word, for I believe you to be men of truth."

Solomon wisely said:

"These six things doth the Lord hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto Him.

A proud look,
A lying tongue,
Hands that shed innocent blood,
An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations,
Feet that be swift in running to mischief,
A false witness that speaketh lies,
And he that soweth discord among brethren." -- Proverbs 6:16-19

Let the Saints avoid these sins as they would a foul disease. The last -- He THAT SOWETH DISCORD AMONG BRETHERN -- is especially important at this time.

God's judgments are on the way. His angels have been directed to act. If may seem to some" that the Lord delayeth His coming," but this is not true, it only seems so to man because of our mortality and faulty reckoning of time. God is not delaying His coming. His desire is to save all who will be saved, and those who are to be destroyed MUST have time to fill up the cup of their iniquity. Soon this land of Joseph will be drenched in blood -- as disastrous to the wicked as was the flood of Noah's day. The horrors of that day will make the faithful cry unto God to shut up the scene from before their eyes. These mountain valleys will be swept by the carnage of death until men's hearts shall sicken; but the land must be purified, and no flesh can hope to be saved except through the prayers and actions of the Priesthood of Almighty God. Every home will be affected, none will escape the cleansing. These times are being rapidly ushered in; prepare for them now. Stand in holy places. Save and store your grain and all non-perishable foodstuffs. Garner your strength as did our father Joseph in Egypt for famine is coming on this land and hunger will be felt by those who are headless of God's word. Waste not. Plant, cultivate and harvest in the spirit of Thanksgiving. Invoke the blessings of heaven upon your every action. Let the sick have faith to be healed. Keep out of the courts of the land. Settle your difficulties in a friendly and righteous way. "Let not the sun go down on your wrath." Let the Lord be your physician and your lawyer. Humble yourselves. Cease striving for 'riches, but for wisdom, and behold the mysteries

of God shall be unfolded unto you, and then shall you be made rich. Behold, he that hath eternal life is rich." If the Lord wants you to have wealth by which you may prove a blessing to the people, let Him place it in your hands under the direction of the Priesthood; but let us always seek to enrich our minds and bodies and glorify the Lord in our lives. The mountains are filled with gold and silver and other precious metals for the use of the Saints of God in their cities, temples and homes; and these blessings will be brought forth at the Lord's command, when Zion shall reign in their hearts; but we must await the time when God says, "Go forth and partake and enjoy:". Be meek and lowly; in humility there is strength and growth, while pride and vanity warp the soul.

Brethren, we must go on to perfection. We are among the spirits reserved to "right the fight", in this day. Christ Jesus is our Captain and King; our weapons are loyalty and Truth; we bear the shield of Love for our fellow men, and we are clothed upon by the garments of the Holy Priesthood. We cannot yield, we MUST NOT FAIL. Our enemies are not asleep. The present lull is ominous; the tiger of hate is pausing only to catch us unawares to leap upon us and tear us from our moorings. Our vigilance must not slacken and moment; we must avoid the very appearance of evil.

Let the husbands teach their wives the laws of marriage chasity and observe the same themselves; let them teach their sons and daughters to be noble and pure and to walk by faith. Let the wives live the laws of their husbands as the latter live the laws of the Lord; let them teach their young children -- teach them to love their fathers and accept their admonitions. To become a mother is only the beginning of life; to be 100% wife and mother, one must constantly teach her children and stand four-square by her husband-- the father of her children. Teach this to your wives; they are your counselors, not your leaders. Magnify your callings, but lead your households in patience, sympathy and kindness. Never yield your leadership, but be considerate and long-suffering. Remember that your wives and children have rights -- the principle of free agency must not be deprived them; the youngest child has its inalienable rights and must not be deprived of them.

Brethren, seek the Lord. Get a definite testimony of the Gospel and where the keys of the Priesthood rest and then follow your file leaders. They are bound to make mistakes in human judgment, for they are human, but their mistakes will be fewer as your support of them grows. Let the pure love of Christ guide you; purify and purge yourselves; crucify the dross of your lives. Fear not to do right, but fear to do evil. Let your lights shine from the hilltops of your good works, and be as firm in contending for the right as the eternities.

Cease your criticism of the brethren now leading the Church; let God judge them through the constituted channel. You may dislike and abhor their actions and teachings therein they are false, but these men are God's sons -- the workmanship of His hands, and we must not hate them or have a vindictive Spirit toward them. Leave judgment with those whose right it is to judge. Cease to be idle; God is not pleased with the idler. Study the word of Wisdom; get the spirit of it and live it. Study the law of Enoch and of Tithing and learn to live them. In fine, study the first law of heaven -- Obedience -- and learn to adhere to that law in all things, and the blessings of heaven will be poured into your laps until you are deluged. Overcome selfishness; love one another, and live by every word that proceedeth from the mouth of God.

As a servant of the Lord, an Apostle in His cause, I testify to the faithfulness and integrity and the pure love of our fellow servants in the Lord who have been endowed with the fulness of the Holy Priesthood. Upon the shoulders of these men rest the weight of the present dispensation in mortality. They need your prayers constantly. Sustain them; hold up their arms and receive their counsel. Forgive them freely their trespasses against you, either imaginary or real, and God will then more freely forgive your trespasses against Him. None are perfect -- no not one.

Our hearts go out to you our brethren. We love you with a sincerity and sacredness that knows no bounds. In your distress we suffer with you and in your joys we rejoice. Our lives are dedicated to the work. We need your help as you need ours, and as we all need the Lord's. Let us crucify the flesh within us and serve the Lord with and eye single to His glory, and I promise you that He will gight our battles and bring us off triumphant. Fear not your enemies but fear the consequences of evil.

In the Authority of the Holy Priesthood and in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, I bless you with the bounties of heaven and earth; with health and endurance; with wisdom and knowledge; with the mastery of the elements and with power to subjugate Satan and to attain to the blessings of Thrones, Powers, Dominions, Principalities and Exaltations, together with the blessings of Abraham and all the holy prophets and patriarchs since the days of Father Adam, under whose reign you will grow and increase into innumerable kingdoms. These are your blessings to the measure of your faithfulness in serving the Lord and keeping His commandments, and I am proud to remain

Your fellow servant in Christ Jesus,

J. W. Musser