

# ComeServe Principles

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## Principles:

### Repentance

Repentance is essential to salvation and is included in the Doctrine of Christ as a commandment of the Father. Repentance is the turning away from sin and ignorance and the turning unto Christ and obtaining knowledge, the glory of God, or in other words, light and truth. We are commanded to come unto Christ. Repentance includes faith in Jesus Christ, becoming as a little child and bringing forth the sacrificial fruit of a broken heart and contrite spirit meet for baptism of water and of fire and the Holy Ghost. The first fruits of repentance is baptism, which acts as a testimony and witness before God and unto the people that you have repented, received a remission of sins and are worthy (qualified) to partake of the emblems of the sacrament. Repentance and baptism is required for those who are accountable and capable of committing sin, to fulfill the commandments, which brings a remission of sins. Those who truly repent are Christ's church.

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### Charity Never Fails:

Since God is love, we can only truly come to know him if we develop this trait within ourselves. As the Love of God grows within us, we will feel a desire to prioritize others above ourselves through service. Our hearts will be purified, our knowledge of God will increase, and our faith will be strengthened.

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### Foundation

Jesus Christ has clearly taught what rock and foundation we should build upon so we will not fall:

1) Doctrine of Jesus Christ

2) The Sermon at Bountiful

3) The Sacrament

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### Premortal Life

We existed as children of God in spirit form before we came to this Earth. We rejoiced at the opportunity to come to this Earth. We came here to be proven to see if we would do what the Lord commands us.

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### The Book of Mormon

Joseph Smith told the early Latter-Day Saints that “the Book of Mormon was the most correct of any book on earth, and the keystone of our religion, and a man would get nearer to God by abiding by its precepts, than by any other book.” Those same early LDS were placed under condemnation, in part, for their failure to value and to “do” that which was contained within the book. The Doctrine of Christ, the Sermon at Bountiful, the proper way to baptize and to administer the bread and wine, as well as many other important teachings are all contained in the Book of Mormon.

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### The Golden Rule

Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

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### Baptism

We believe in being baptized by immersion by one who is authorized of God.

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### Self Governance for Fellowships.

Fellowships, like individuals and family's, must learn to govern themselves in accordance with their own needs and circumstances and revelation.

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### Coming Unto Christ

Each person's journey must be directed by the Light of Christ within them as well as the truth of the Word of God wherever it be found with the goal being to lead each soul to Jesus Christ by a broken heart and a contrite spirit, in repentance and obedience to God.

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## Be One

God desires all mankind to come together in a unity of faith regarding the things of God and of spiritual progression. All believers in The Deity should be of one heart and one mind when it comes to the way to obtain salvation and eternal life. This unity will be achieved through the Doctrine of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, whose life is the example we all should emulate and whose words and teachings are the truth and only way to lead all mankind into peace and unity with God in this life and the next. God has said, "If you are not one, you are not mine".

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## Prayer

Prayer is the method given to us to speak to God. He has commanded us to do so. We are to pray in secret, in public, and in our families. We are told to address our Father and to do so in the name of his Son. We are asked to involve God through prayer in all our performances that it might be consecrated unto us for the welfare of our very souls. We are promised that His spirit will be upon us as we pray always and that our failure to do so opens us to temptation and error. Through incessant prayer, we can come to a knowledge of the Glory of God, and gain a manifested relationship with him.

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## Abuse of Power by Men in Authority

34 Behold, there are many called, but few are chosen. And why are they not chosen?  
35 Because their hearts are set so much upon the things of this world, and aspire to the honors of men, that they do not learn this one lesson— 36 That the rights of the priesthood are inseparably connected with the powers of heaven, and that the powers of heaven cannot be controlled nor handled only upon the principles of righteousness.  
37 That they may be conferred upon us, it is true; but when we undertake to cover our sins, or to gratify our pride, our vain ambition, or to exercise control or dominion or compulsion upon the souls of the children of men, in any degree of unrighteousness,

behold, the heavens withdraw themselves; the Spirit of the Lord is grieved; and when it is withdrawn, Amen to the priesthood or the authority of that man. 38 Behold, ere he is aware, he is left unto himself, to kick against the pricks, to persecute the saints, and to fight against God. 39 We have learned by sad experience that it is the nature and disposition of almost all men, as soon as they get a little authority, as they suppose, they will immediately begin to exercise unrighteous dominion. 40 Hence many are called, but a few are chosen. 41 No power or influence can or ought to be maintained by virtue of the priesthood, only by persuasion, by long-suffering, by gentleness and meekness, and by love unfeigned; 42 By kindness, and pure knowledge, which shall greatly enlarge the soul without hypocrisy, and without guile— 43 Reproving betimes with sharpness, when moved upon by the Holy Ghost; and then showing forth afterwards an increase of love toward him whom thou hast reprov'd, lest he esteem thee to be his enemy;

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Righteousness (We must learn to work by faith)

There are ONLY two ways, the way of FEAR and the way of Faith God has given all His intelligent creatures Agency (Liberty), the right to be self governing. As such, they are FREE, to act for themselves. God promotes (controls) His kingdom by gaining the Faith of His Creatures. He does this through persuasion, long-suffering, gentleness, meekness, and by love unfeigned, known to us as the "Principles of Righteousness". God never uses "Compulsion". When God commands, his creatures obey, NOT because they have to, but because they want to, indeed, they are anxious for him to give commandments, for all of his commands are a blessing to them. They are the "words of life". Worlds come into being and they say, Come, Lord of light, come and be our God also!", all because of the FAITH they have in HIM! Because God has ALL knowledge and wisdom, he knows perfectly how to gain the faith of all His creations. We each have some knowledge and wisdom to offer. We each have our gifts, but we must not impose our way upon our brothers and sisters, rather, we must gain their faith through persuasion, long-suffering, and love unfeigned. This is often the long way, the hard way, the tears way, but this is the righteous way, the "Way of the Lord". We must emulate Him and learn to "Work by Faith".

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## Tithing

In order to be equal in all things and have no poor among us, we practice the law of tithing. According to this law, we consecrate all of our surplus property and/or income to be used for this purpose. We do this because, in our love for our brothers and sisters, we can not bear to see any among us suffer in want while we have means to assist them.

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## Scripture Study

All are encouraged to regularly read and study the scriptures individually, collectively in fellowship groups, in families, or among friends. Let the Holy Ghost guide and enlighten your scripture study. As we do so, it is up to us to then live according to their commandments, teachings, precepts, advice, counsel and warnings.

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## Marriage

Marriage is intended to be between one man and one woman. No man is to have, save it be one wife and concubines he shall have none. Marriage by the Lord's word, received as a covenant between the woman and the Lord, the man and the woman, and the man and the Lord, will endure beyond death and into the Father's Kingdom, worlds without end.

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## Jesus Christ

Jesus Christ is the Son of God and the Creator, Savior, Redeemer and Judge of the world. He is the prototype of the saved man. He came to this earth to give us the example we must follow in order to be saved. He died and was resurrected so that we can be resurrected, too. We must come to know him by following his example, his teachings, and his commandments in order to become part of his family and be saved.

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## Recover the lost sheep of Israel

Recover the lost sheep of Israel so that the covenant of the Father might be fulfilled and that Zion may be established in the last days.

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## The Holy Ghost

The Holy Ghost is the promised gift of the Father to those who have faith in His Son Jesus Christ, repent and receive baptism. The Holy Ghost will speak to your mind and heart, bearing witness to the truthfulness of all things. We should desire and seek to hear, understand and obey God's will through the Holy Ghost.

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## AGENCY

God desires us to be obedient to His commandments, He also desires that it be done with our whole heart and a willing mind. Though obedience may be His paramount commandment, agency is the foundation upon which it rests. Without agency only compulsion, the satanic plan, remains. As God allows us our agency, so should we in like manner afford others that same right. We should interact with others, only by persuasion, long suffering, gentleness, meekness, kindness, pure knowledge and genuine love. Because of agency, only those who freely choose to obey Him will be a part of His kingdom, and thereby, God's dominion flows unto Him eternally and without compulsory means.

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## Salvation

In the beginning the progenitors of the human race lived in and interacted with the presence of God. Through sin and rebellion men were cut off from God's presence. The Principle of Salvation is God's work to save and redeem His children by bringing them back into His presence.

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## Second Comforter

The ultimate goal in this life is to receive our Second Comforter, which is to develop a person relationship with our Savior, to literally see and feel and know Him, whether in the body or in the spirit.

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## Mutual Respect

For thus saith the Lord: Ye shall not esteem one flesh above another, or one man shall not think himself above another. Mosiah 23:8 All Shall be respected and no one regarded above another.

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The Godhead There are two personages or beings who constitute the great, matchless, governing and supreme power over all things, and by whom all things were created; namely, the Father and the Son. The Father is a personage of spirit, glory, and power, and possesses all perfection. The Son is a personage of tabernacle, or flesh, like unto the form of man, and is in the express image of the Father, and was ordained of the Father from before the foundation of the world to atone for the sins of all those who should believe on his name. The Son possesses a fullness of the Mind of the Father, which is also called the Spirit of the Father, Spirit of God, Spirit, Holy Spirit, or Holy Ghost, and this fullness unites the Father and the Son as one; thus, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, constitute the Godhead and are one. The Spirit is shed forth upon all who believe on the name of the Son and keep His commandments: and all those who keep His commandments shall grow up from grace to grace and become heirs of the heavenly kingdom and joint heirs with Jesus Christ; possessing the same mind, being transformed into the same image or likeness, even the express image of Him who fills all in all, being filled with the fullness of His glory, and will become one in Him, even as the Father, Son and Holy Spirit are one.

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## Faith

Faith, different from mere belief, is a principle of action and power in God and in mortals. Faith with power to save must be centered in Jesus Christ and is acquired by hearing the testimony of those who actually know Him and can teach others correctly who and what He is. The testimony and teachings offered by true witnesses and messengers enable correct belief and understanding of His character and what He requires of his followers. Faith in Christ begins by acting on correct belief and understanding, obeying God and sacrificing what He asks. As we do so, we receive

greater understanding and power until we are brought back into His presence, know Him personally and are taught by Him.

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Teach children to honor God Children are the means to preserving Zion. We are to bring up our children in light and truth and to teach them to love and serve one another. Children need to be taught meekness and humility and to walk fearfully before the Lord. Children need to be taught and challenged. Children are capable of understanding a great deal more than we teach them.

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#### We are Not LDS

"We are in the main, presently, an offshoot of the modern Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS), some having been cast off and other's having chosen to leave. Some still remain among them but with disaffections. Our differences with them arise from having observed among their teachings, practices and traditions a sad departure from the principles of the restoration of the Gospel of Jesus Christ as revealed both in the Book of Mormon and through the instrumentality of the prophet Joseph Smith. While we recognize much of the Light of Christ among their membership, as a consequence of having ourselves been subject to the leadership of the LDS church we have assessed our own standing before God as wanting. To remedy this situation for ourselves and others we are attempting to re-establish the direct link to Jesus Christ once enjoyed by Later Days Saints but which was subsequently lost (by voice of the Lord) and had never been regained. Regarding the often cited issue of polygamy we hold no sympathy for it recognizing it as a false doctrine of man that arose out of wicked desires of some men and not being desired of God for his people.

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## Priesthood Authority

Authority is required in order to administer and perform ordinances such as baptism, the sacrament, and the covenant. These ordinances require priesthood authority in the man performing them. The following explains how ordinances can be performed with authority given by Jesus Christ, rather than by our attempting to take the authority upon ourselves. It points to how we can have men called of God in our day. To receive authority, a man must first be ordained by another man who has authority, and second, ask for and receive power directly from God. A man need not be re-ordained if he was ordained to the priesthood before April of 2014 and can trace his line of authority back to Christ through Joseph Smith. If ordained after that date, he should be ordained by a man with authority in a fellowship, and a proper record should be kept of his line of authority stemming from the fellowship's proceedings. When ordaining a man to the priesthood, ordain him to "the Holy Priesthood after the Order of the Son of God," by the laying on of hands. In all cases, the ordination is not the end, but the means to which the end may be received, which end is to receive an errand from the Lord. Power in the Priesthood can only come from Christ. Therefore, a man should follow the pattern laid out in the Book of Mormon and get authority from Christ's word, spoken to him by the power of the Spirit, to ratify the ordination before acting. If the man wishes to perform priesthood ordinances outside his own family, he must also be approved or sustained by at least seven women who are acquainted with his daily walk. If married, his wife must be one of the seven. As soon as an ordinance is needed, women are qualified to vote. After the vote, it is recommended that all of the women who vote to sustain the man sign a certificate, so the man can demonstrate that he has been sustained. Removing the authority to perform public ordinances is likewise to be done by the vote of women acquainted with the man's daily walk. If a man's worthiness to perform ordinances outside his family is called into question, then a conference of twelve women in his home fellowship, or in private at a general conference, can be convened to deal with the question. In removing authority, at least two witnesses should speak against the accused, and he should be allowed to speak on his behalf and call such witnesses as he chooses. Men can be witnesses, but only women are allowed to vote. Removal must be by unanimous vote of all twelve of the women present to end the man's authority to perform ordinances outside his family. Reinstatement of the man's authority must be considered by the same council of twelve women when the man petitions for the decision to be rescinded and requires seven of the twelve to agree upon his reinstatement, which can occur at any time. Blessings of healing and of relief may be given by men and women according to their faith. Blessings are given meekly, not to support a craft, or for money, or to receive the praise of men, and should freely be given when solicited by the beneficiary or the beneficiary's family. The administration of these blessings should follow the dictates of prudence, skill, and the Spirit

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## Avoiding Errors and Deception

The Lord has said, "To avoid deception, study the thoughts and impressions you receive: if they fill with pride, vainglory, laziness, an ambition to control and lead, or suggest that you alone are faithful while all around you are in error, they are not of me, but are of the Devil. I, the Lord, tell you truly that the humility and meekness required for those who would be my servants is hardly found on the Earth. Repent, therefore, and adopt the ways of your Lord." Regarding Priestcraft; getting gain is not just financial, it can include obtaining any advantage from others. Power over others includes gaining the pseudo-authority to have your viewpoint respected as authoritative, whether you are right or wrong. Only the truth should compel respect. No official, expert, compelling personality or charismatic charmer should have authority or power over others. Priestcraft exalts the practitioner and rewards him with praise, gain and misleads him to think himself an important light unto the world. We only have such light as we can reflect from the Lord. (Mosiah 2:20-21) If we manage to reflect any of His light then we do not deserve praise or credit for that modest achievement. Rather we should render praise to Him who is the light of the world (3 Ne. 11:11.). Gifts from God belong to the body of believers and should be used to promote faith in God. (D&C 46: 10, 26.) Gifts were not intended to produce a monetary profit and should not be practiced for money. (Acts 8: 20.). It is not appropriate for anyone to collect money from the flock for their individual support and enrichment. Nor should those who ought to be equal have the ambition to "lord it over the flock."

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## The Character and Attributes of God

God has all faith and power, and is the same as He was before the world was created as He is now, and as He always will be. [LoF 3:13, 4:5] God has all mercy, and He is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, abundant in goodness, and he was so from everlasting, and will be to everlasting. [LoF 3:14, 4:7] God has all right actions, or justice, and He never changes. His course is one eternal round and He is always willing to teach. He teaches by the power of grace, and gives liberally, to the just and the unjust. [LoF 3:15, 4:6, James 1:2 RE, Ether 5:5 RE] God has all truth and He is truthful and cannot lie. [LoF 3:16, 4:8] God has all correct judgment against the wicked, and He is no respecter of persons (of whatever race or color, young or old, bond or free, male or female) but every nation that fears God and works

righteousness is accepted of Him. [LoF 3:17, 4:7] God has all knowledge, and He is loving. He is love. [LoF 3:18, 4:4]

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### Forgive all men

Wherefore I say unto you that ye had ought to forgive one another, for he that forgiveth not his brother his trespasses standeth condemned before the Lord, for there remaineth in him the greater sin. I the Lord will forgive whom I will forgive, but of you it is required to forgive all men, and ye had ought to say in your hearts, Let God judge between me and thee and reward thee according to thy deeds. T&C 133:2

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### Law of Sacrifice

Since the days of Adam to the days of Christ, and now to our day, God has required sacrifice from those who would be His people. It is the means He has ordained to enable us to develop and strengthen our faith in His Son, Jesus Christ. Living this law will help us to learn our standing before God, progress to a more sure knowledge of Jesus Christ, and obtain the promise of Eternal Life. This law points to Christ and His infinite atoning sacrifice as the Lamb of God for each of us. As we follow Christ and learn to emulate Him by obedience to this law, our lives will become living sacrifices. The law of sacrifice will show us what we cherish most in our hearts and help us to overcome desires of the flesh and for the things of this world, whereupon we will fulfill the commandment to love God with all of our heart, might, mind, and strength. It will promote oneness and unity among God's covenant people as each person learns to lose himself in service to God and all others.

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## Zion

Zion is a place, a time, a prophecy, a pattern, a goal, a list of attributes, a heritage, and a principle that encompasses all principles of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Lack of understanding these concepts as expressed in the scriptures and teachings of Joseph Smith are a serious impediment to finding unity among us and accomplishing this goal.

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Love your neighbor

Love your neighbor as you love yourself.

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## Obedience to God

Blessings received from God are a result of obedience to Him. Sin is disobedience to God, and results in spiritual death which is our separation from God. Our obedience should be to God and not to man, though God does deliver His word through mortal messengers. Obedience entails receiving and doing all that He directs us to do. His direction and commandments can be received in multiple ways: the word of past messengers preserved in scripture, current messengers, angelic messengers, personal visitations with the Lord, and through the Holy Spirit to our own minds and hearts. Satan can also appear as an angel of light. In order to discern correctly the Word of God in order to obey, one must seek out fruits of truth and error in the information one receives.

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## Sovereignty

A group of equals does not govern each other. The individuals govern themselves. This statement of principles is a general guide for the covenant body provided by wisdom and not constraint. Zion is founded first, by the pure hearted individual; second, by the pure hearted family; and finally, by a pure hearted body of believers. Sovereignty resides with the individuals. Any rights, principles, powers, or doctrinal interpretations are retained by the individuals. Everyone maintains the right to freely associate according to the dictates of their own conscience. God commands each person to discern and judge for themselves what is in accordance with their own conscience. People have the right to not be trammled, but they also must not trammel others. In any conflict, let the Lord decide who has done right. Judgment is the Lord's role. He is the great judge. He has asked us to forgive everyone.

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## Bless Your Enemies

Jesus said, "Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them who despitefully use you and persecute you that ye may be the children of your Father who is in heaven, for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good."