

## Doctrine of Christ Fellowships

### Baptism

On this wise shall ye baptize and there shall be no disputations among you. Verily I say unto you that whoso repenteth of his sins through your words and desireth to be baptized in my name, on this wise shall ye baptize them: behold, ye shall go down and stand in the water and in my name shall ye baptize them. And now behold, these are the words which ye shall say, calling them by name, saying, Having authority given me of Jesus Christ, I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. Amen. And then shall ye immerse them in the water and come forth again out of the water. And after this manner shall ye baptize in my name. For behold, verily I say unto you that the Father and the Son and the Holy Ghost are one, and I am in the Father and the Father in me and the Father and I are one. And according as I have commanded you, thus shall ye baptize. And there shall be no disputations among you as there hath hitherto been, neither shall there be disputations among you concerning the points of my doctrine as there hath hitherto been. For verily, verily I say unto you, He that hath the spirit of contention is not of me, but is of the devil, who is the father of contention, and he stirreth up the hearts of men to contend with anger one with another. Behold, this is not my doctrine, to stir up the hearts of men with anger one against another, but this is my doctrine, that such things should be done away.

Behold, verily, verily I say unto you, I will declare unto you my doctrine. And this is my doctrine and it is the doctrine which the Father hath given unto me, and I bear record of the Father and the Father beareth record of me and the Holy Ghost beareth record of the Father and me, and I bear record that the Father commandeth all men everywhere to repent and believe in me. And whoso believeth in me, and is baptized, the same shall be saved, and they are they who shall inherit the kingdom of God. And whoso believeth not in me and is not baptized shall be damned. Verily, verily I say unto you that this is my doctrine and I bear record of it from the Father. And whoso believeth in me believeth in the Father also, and unto him will the Father bear record of me for he will visit him with fire and with the Holy Ghost. And thus will the Father bear record of me and the Holy Ghost will bear record unto him of the Father and me, for the Father and I and the Holy Ghost are one. And again I say unto you, Ye must repent and become as a little child and be baptized in my name or ye can in nowise receive these things. And again I say unto you, Ye must repent and be baptized in my name and become as a little child or ye can in nowise inherit the kingdom of God. Verily, verily I say unto you that this is my doctrine. And whoso buildeth upon this buildeth upon my rock and the gates of hell shall not prevail against them. And whoso shall declare more or less than this and establish it for my doctrine, the same cometh of evil and is not built upon my rock, but he buildeth upon a sandy foundation and the gates of hell standeth open to receive such when the floods come and the winds beat upon them. Therefore go forth unto this people and declare the words which I have spoken unto the ends of the earth.

... and after that ye are baptized with water, behold I will baptize you with fire and with the Holy Ghost. Therefore blessed are ye if ye shall believe in me and be baptized after that ye have seen me and know that I am. And again, more blessed are they who shall believe in your words because that ye shall testify that ye have seen me and that ye know that I am. Yea, blessed are they who shall believe in your words and come down into the depths of humility and be baptized, for they shall be visited with fire and with the Holy Ghost and shall receive a remission of their sins.

[3 Nephi 5 RE / 3 Nephi 11:22-41, 12:1-2 LE]

I would recommend if at all possible that water for a living ordinance be performed in living water. I would not perform this in a font constructed by man, I would use the things God created. You are trying to connect to God. Use what He created. I recognize that there may be circumstances where that becomes impossible.

[Denver Snuffer, Talk #10, "Preserving the Restoration," p. 16]

And again inasmuch as parents have children in Zion, that teach them not to understand the doctrine of repentance, faith in Christ the Son of the living God, and of baptism and the gift of the Holy Spirit by the laying on of the hands when eight years old, the sin be upon the head of the parents, for this shall be a law unto the inhabitants of Zion, and their children shall be baptized for the remission of their sins when eight years old and receive the laying on of the hands. And they also shall teach their children to pray and to walk uprightly before the Lord. And the inhabitants of Zion shall also observe the Sabbath day to keep it holy.

[D&C 73 RE / D&C 68:25-29 LE]

Another requirement is a record of the names of those you baptize. You do not record their email addresses, vital statistics, phone numbers, or any contact information. Only names. Therefore, after you have complied to have power to baptize, and taught them the Doctrine of Christ and they have repented, and are being baptized, their name must be recorded. You choose recorders in your fellowships, and a recorder to compile the names from all the various fellowships. Someone has to keep the names in a record. Faithfully record the name every time there is a baptism. There will be various recorders in various locations. The various recorders need to submit them to a single central record keeper on an annual basis. Have the recorders from the various fellowships identify themselves. I can give them some further direction, but there should be annually compiled, a single volume, that will be deposited in a temple. Ultimately there will be a temple built.

[Denver Snuffer, Talk #10, "Preserving the Restoration," p. 21]

## **Sacrament**

The manner of their elders and priests administering the flesh and blood of Christ unto the church. And they administered it according to the commandments of Christ; wherefore, we know the manner to be true. And the elder or priest did minister it; and they did kneel down with the church and pray to the Father in the name of Christ, saying, O God the Eternal Father, we ask thee in the name of thy Son Jesus Christ to bless and sanctify this bread to the souls of all those who partake of it, that they may eat in remembrance of the body of thy Son, and witness unto thee, O God the Eternal Father, that they are willing to take upon them the name of thy Son and always remember him and keep his commandments which he hath given them, that they may always have his Spirit to be with them. Amen.

The manner of administering the wine. Behold they took the cup and said, O God the Eternal Father, we ask thee in the name of thy Son Jesus Christ to bless and sanctify this wine to the souls of all those who drink of it, that they may do it in remembrance of the blood of thy Son, which was shed for them, that they may witness unto thee, O God the Eternal Father, that they do always remember him, that they may have his Spirit to be with them. Amen.

[Moroni 4-5 RE / Moroni 4:1-3, 5:1-2 LE]

## Repentance

The Gospel of repentance is turning to face God.

[Denver Snuffer, Talk #10, "Preserving the Restoration," p. 14]

Be like your Master. Do what you can for those around you who are infirm. They are here in abundance; the brokenhearted, the families who are in need. If you want to be saved, help the Lord save others. Not by preaching and clamoring and demanding they view the world like you do, but by giving them a helping and charitable hand. Your most powerful sermon can be in the effort you make, and the time you take to let people know you care about them. If you would like to repent of your sins, take a look around at those in need and do what you can for them. That is the first step. When your heart is like His, then you open up so that He can enter in. And when your heart is unlike Him, well, there's no room for His love of others until He breaks it; which He will do.

[Denver Snuffer, Talk #3, "Repentance," p. 7]

You can be Christ-like. You can administer relief to those around you. You can, as He said, clothe the naked, feed the hungry, visit those who are in prison.... Your heart needs to be like Christ's heart; moved with compassion for others. And the way you do that is imitative at first. Then it is informed by the experience later, when you have acted consistent with His laws. What begins as imitation, and merely that, finds room within to have genuine compassion for the needs of others. Christ is the prototype, but you can be like Him. There are godly people walking around, many of them are elderly. Many of them have long since forgotten their own needs and they spend their lives in service of others.

[Denver Snuffer, Talk #3, "Repentance," pp. 7-8]

"The glory of God is intelligence, or in other words, light and truth. Light and truth forsaketh that evil one." [D&C 33 RE / D&C 93:36 LE] What if, instead of repentance being related to your misdeeds, which are so plentiful and persistent, and will continue; instead it is related to the acquisition of light of truth - that is intelligence? What if repentance requires you to take whatever it is you have that is a foolish error, a vain tradition, or a false notion and replace it with truth? ... You see repentance may have a whole lot more to do with your own feeble education in the things of God....

[Denver Snuffer, Talk #3, "Repentance," p. 9]

The fact of the matter is that you can fill yourself with the mind of God. If you fill yourself with the mind of God, you are going to find yourself in a position where you, like the scriptures recite, "have no more disposition to do evil but [only] to do good continually." [Mosiah 3 RE / Mosiah 5: 2 LE] That kind of repentance is as a consequence of the things of you know. That repentance comes as a consequence of the light and truth within you.

[Denver Snuffer, Talk #3, "Repentance," p. 10]

"... when he (the Lord) shall appear, the saints will be like him; and if they are not holy, as he is holy, and perfect, as he is perfect, they cannot be like him; for no being can enjoy his glory without possessing his perfections and holiness, no more than they could reign in his kingdom without his power." [Lectures on Faith 7] When He appears, you need to be like Him. Lay down the burden of guilt, lay down the burden of sin, stop focusing on that stuff, and become like Him. You become like Him by

doing His works. And you do His works by serving other; by ministering to the needs of others. When you do that, it is a natural by-product of that process, ordained by laws established before the foundation of the world that light and truth will grow within you. You will have compassion when you minister to the needs of others with compassion. Your heart will open too and receive within it light and truth, when your conduct reflects the same conduct as a merciful, holy and just God, whom you claim to worship. Worship Him by imitating Him. Worship Him by doing His works. Worship Him by making a living sacrifice. Set aside the junk that occupies you and go do something that is holy for someone else. However mundane and trivial it may seem to you, when you relieve the suffering of other people something changes in you. You become different. You become better. You become more like our Lord, because when you give whatever it is you give away, you get more in return. But make sure that what you give goes to relieve the suffering of others.

You are going to have a finish that path. You're going to have to rise up. If you expect to be in His presence when He returns (and He is coming in judgment), then you're going to have to be like Him. If you are not like Him, you will not be able to endure His presence. Take it seriously. Study it through. Seek to be like Him whom you worship. It is possible, but not while you are carrying a load of sins that trouble you and worry you and distract you. But that's what the Lord will remove from you. He can take all that away, but it is entirely up to you to choose, and then to do something to draw near to Him. He can't do that because that would violate your free will. *You* have to choose to be like Him.

[Denver Snuffer, Talk #3, "Repentance," p. 13]

It is knowledge that saves. Consequently, it is knowledge that you need, to repent and obtain. "Knowledge saves a man," said Joseph Smith. "A man is saved no faster than he gets knowledge," said Joseph Smith. [*Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, p. 217] Knowledge and salvation, knowledge and repentance, they are all related. But knowledge is not given so that you can take prideful advantage of the fact that you possess something. If you have it, it is given to make you a minister, a servant. Someone the Lord might be able to employ to raise others up. If you cannot elevate others, then you failed in your effort to be like Him. He came to serve. You serve too.

[Denver Snuffer, Talk #3, "Repentance," p. 15]

If knowledge saves, then it follows that repentance requires us to learn something.

[Denver Snuffer, Talk #3, "Repentance," p. 16]

The first order of repentance is to remember what God gave to us through Joseph. You do that, and then you find God is perfectly willing to pick it up and move it forward. You don't do that, and God will simply wait for you to get around to discharge the duty that is devolving upon you. God vouched for Joseph Smith. God spoke through him. I don't have the right to move one of his words. But I do have the right to listen to him, to follow what came through him, and to lay hold upon the blessings that were promised as a consequence of remembering him. To remember the words of Joseph is to remember your Lord. Remember Him. And do not let anyone tell you that they hold some authority that allows them to neglect, change, discard, veto, forget, or contradict what God told you through the voice of the Prophet.

[Denver Snuffer, Talk #3, "Repentance," p. 19]

## Priesthood

I asked the Lord that priesthood get extended beyond the confines of the men who have continually abused and neglected it. I was told that priesthood is confined to men because of the Fall and the conditions ordained by God at that time. Until we reverse things in the Millennium, that is the way it is going to remain, as to the ordinances thus far given in public. I asked the Lord to change that order. It is not going to change. I then asked the Lord that if only men were to hold priesthood for our public ordinances, then could only women vote to sustain them.

The saying pleased the Lord, for it was already in His heart. But He said to me, "There shall be a minimum of seven women to sustain the man in any vote, and if the man is married, his wife shall be one of them."

[Seven Women, Pearls of Great Price RE / Denver Snuffer, Talk #10, "Preserving the Restoration," p. 15]

Sustaining of a priest is only required in order for that priest to function outside the family as part of a larger fellowship of believers. Inside the family, there is no such requirement....

Seven women must sustain, one being the wife, if the man is married. Before sustaining, in any fellowship group, you should first ask if any are opposed. If there are people who are opposed, they should be given the opportunity to explain the reasons before there is any further vote taken, so that they know why there is opposition. Those who vote to sustain should consider the opposing views and the opposition's reasons, and deliberate about that before they go forward. But if seven women are still willing to sustain, go forward.

There are three steps. The first is ordination. Any man holding priesthood can ordain another man. Man alone can do this first step. The second, if you're functioning outside of a family, is sustaining, which requires seven women. And thirdly, and this can be done at any time, confirmation must come from heaven. Heaven must ratify....

All these should precede performing any ordinance in a fellowship. You should keep a record of the line of authority from the one who does the ordination. I would have in my possession a written certificate signed by the seven women proving the sustaining vote, and everyone involved should record it in their personal records, particularly the day when the Lord confirms the authority to the man. The priest ought to keep that in his personal record.

[Denver Snuffer, "Things That Keep Us Awake at Night," p. 14]

When you ordain someone to serve in these fellowships you should ordain no one to an office, only confer the priesthood. Have no offices. Let everyone be equal. Be without ranks. Keep your lines of authority. It will reckon through the one ordaining. But power can only come from Christ. Wait until the Spirit ratifies your ordination before you act. Do as Alma did, and ask Christ to give you power to baptize.

If someone is ordained to priesthood for the first time within your fellowship after April 2014 [LDS] General Conference, they should reckon their line of authority in these proceedings for this fellowship.

[Denver Snuffer, Talk #10, "Preserving the Restoration," p. 16]

Do you lay on hands to ordain? Yes ... Laying on hands, however, confers only the right to go to God to get power. Power in the priesthood comes from Him.

[Denver Snuffer, Talk #10, "Preserving the Restoration," p. 19]

## Fellowships

And the Lord called his people, Zion, because they were of one heart and of one mind, and dwelt in righteousness, and there were no poor among them.

[Genesis 4 RE / Moses 7:18 LE]

Yea, even he commanded them that they should preach nothing save it were repentance and faith on the Lord, who had redeemed his people. And he commanded them that there should be no contention one with another, but that they should look forward with one eye, having one faith and one baptism, having their hearts knit together in unity and in love one towards another. And thus he commanded them to preach. And thus they became the children of God.

And he commanded them that they should observe the Sabbath day and keep it holy, and also every day they should give thanks to the Lord their God. And he also commanded them that the priests whom he had ordained should labor with their own hands for their support. And there was one day in every week that was set apart that they should gather themselves together to teach the people and to worship the Lord their God, and also as often as it was in their power to assemble themselves together.

[Mosiah 9 RE / Mosiah 18:20-25]

... We need to have a renewed community. Not an organization, but a fellowship. Not a hierarchy, but a group of equals. The community needs to be renewed. Men who have been ordained already, should renew this in the manner just described in the example of Alma. Have a community of believers. Be accepted by them.

[Denver Snuffer, Talk #10, "Preserving the Restoration," p. 15]

As the scriptures warn ... we must overcome "jarrings," "contentions," "envyings," "strifes," "lusts" meaning ambitions, and "covetous desires." These conflicts need to be worked out before any gathering.... Before any gathering, we must be put through a refining process. We must grow; we must rise up first, before God will gather us to Zion.

[Denver Snuffer, Talk #10, "Preserving the Restoration," p. 21]

If you don't have any wisdom to impart to one another, get together and pray. Get together and read the scriptures....

[Denver Snuffer, Talk #10, "Preserving the Restoration," p. 34]

... and as all have not faith, seek ye diligently, and teach one another words of wisdom, yea, seek ye out of the best books words of wisdom, seek learning even by study and also by faith....

Appoint among yourselves a teacher and let not all be spokesman at once, but let one speak at a time and let all listen unto his sayings, that when all have spoken, that all may be edified of all and that every man may have an equal privilege. See that ye love one another, cease to be covetous, learn to impart one to another as the gospel requires, cease to be idle, cease to be unclean, cease to find fault one with another.... And above all things, clothe yourselves with the bonds of charity as with a mantle, which is the bonds of perfectness and peace. Pray always that you may not faint until I come. Behold and lo I will come quickly and receive you unto myself. Amen.

[D&C 30 RE / D&C 88:118, 122-125 LE]

## Tithing

In Grand Junction I spoke about tithing. I talked about organizing yourselves, collecting your own tithing and managing it yourselves, to assist the poor who are among you, and to do this by the voice of your own local group. Do it by common consent. Provide for those who need housing, food, clothing, healthcare, education and transportation. Do it by the voice of united agreement of you all in small groups in which all know one another.

[Denver Snuffer, Talk #10, "Preserving the Restoration," p. 21]

There is an effort underway to collect funds for a temple project that transcends every group. Other than that one "transcending each group project," there is no other general fund or aggregation of funds between fellowships. Each fellowship is independent in its own fund. There is no general fund collected even at these conferences. But conference sponsors may ask for donations to help defray the costs of the conference. That is up to them.

The relief of "the poor among you" refers to the poor among the individual fellowship. If there are no poor among you, then excess donations should go to the temple, but they can be shared as your fellowship determines by common consent.

[Denver Snuffer, "Things That Keep Us Awake at Night," p. 14]

Behold, now it is called today (until the Coming of the Son of man), and verily it is a day of sacrifice and a day for the tithing of my people, for he that is tithed shall not be burned at His coming, for after today cometh the burning. This is speaking after the manner of the Lord. For verily I say, Tomorrow all the proud and they that do wickedly shall be as stubble and I will burn them up, saith the Lord, for I am the Lord of hosts and I will not spare any that remaineth in Babylon. Wherefore if ye believe me ye will labor while it is called today.

[D&C 133 RE / D&C 64:23 LE]

O Lord, show unto thy servants how much thou requirest of the properties of thy people for a tithing.

Answer: Verily thus saith the Lord, I require all their surplus property to be put into the hands of the Bishop of my church of Zion for the building of mine house, and for the laying the foundation of Zion, and for the priesthood, and for the debts of the Presidency of my church. And this shall be the beginning of the tithing of my people. And after that, those who have thus been tithed shall pay one tenth of all their interest annually. And this shall be a standing law unto them for ever, for my Holy Priesthood saith the Lord.

Verily I say unto you, It shall come to pass that all those who gather unto the land of Zion shall be tithed of their surplus properties and shall observe this law or they shall not be found worthy to abide among you. And I say unto you, If my people observe not this law to keep it holy and by this law sanctify the land of Zion unto me, that my statutes and my judgments may be kept thereon that it may be most holy, behold verily I say unto you, It shall not be a land of Zion unto you. And this shall be an ensample unto all the stakes of Zion. Even so. Amen.

[D&C 94 RE / D&C 119:1-7 LE]