

UNIT 2.B.: PURPOSE: CALLING & GIFTEDNESS

A CALL TO SANCTIFICATION & DISCIPLESHIP

After we have accepted the truth of the gospel and made a commitment to Christ, God's grace draws us toward living sanctified lives. We want to understand what it means to be a "disciple of Christ." We naturally want to know the disciplines that are involved in living such a life. Becoming a disciple of Christ is what this series of lessons tries to address. Theologians sometimes refer to this aspect of the Holy Spirit's work as "**sanctifying grace**."

D & C 17:6c (discipleship & sanctification):

And we know, also, that **sanctification** through the **grace** of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, is just and true, to all **those who love and serve God with all their mights, minds, and strength**.

D & C 17:6d-e then takes an anti-Calvinist turn when it stops to issue a warning that **it's possible to fall from grace**, something that new believers should all be aware of in considering the path to sanctification:

... but there is a possibility that man may fall from grace and depart from the living God. Therefore let the church **take heed** and pray always lest they fall into temptations; yea, and even let those who are sanctified, **take heed** also [see Hebrews 6:4-6].

Ephesians 4:22-24 (discipleship & sanctification):

And now I speak unto you . . . **put off the old man**, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; and be renewed in the mind of the Spirit; and that ye **put on the new man**, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

Romans 6:4-8 (discipleship & sanctification):

Therefore **we are buried with him by baptism into death**; that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so **we also should walk in newness of life**. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his **death**, we shall be also in the likeness of his **resurrection**; knowing this, that **our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed**, that **henceforth we should not serve sin**. For he that is dead to sin is freed from sin. Now if we be dead with Christ, **we believe that we shall also live with him**.

Helaman 2:31 (discipleship & sanctification):

Nevertheless, they did **fast** and **pray** oft, and did wax stronger and **stronger in their humility**, and firmer and **firmer in the faith** of Christ, unto the **filling their souls with joy and consolation**, yea, even to the **purifying and the sanctification of their hearts**, which sanctification cometh because of their **yielding their hearts unto God**.

Romans 12:1-2 (discipleship & sanctification):

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye **present your bodies a living sacrifice** [discipleship], **holy** [sanctification], acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world; but **be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind**, that ye may prove what that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God is.

Ephesians 4:13 (discipleship & sanctification):

Till we, in the **unity** of the faith, all come **to the knowledge of the Son of God**, unto a **perfect man**, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;

A COMMON CALL TO MINISTRY (SERVICE)

Just as we were called by God to covenant with him at baptism, **all believers in Christ are then called to take up their cross and follow him in the path of discipleship**. In this lesson, we're referring to a "common call" because every member of Christ's church has a common call to divinely appointed duties that are clearly identified in scripture. In this section we give examples of three scriptural passages that identify a **member's duties**, but there are many more.

Mosiah 9: Alma 1's Invitation to Be Baptized

Prior to the cross, Alma 1 gave an invitation to 204 people at the waters of Mormon to make a baptismal covenant. In that invitation he identified a list of member's duties that all believers share in common. **Mosiah 9:38-40** says we all have a sacred duty to:

- come into the fold of God [John 3:3-5],
- be called his people [Luke 9:26],
- bear one another's burdens that they might be light [Isaiah 58:6-8],
- mourn with those who mourn [Matthew 5:6],
- comfort those who stand in need of comfort [Matthew 25:35-47],
- stand as witnesses of God at all times until death [D&C 76:6g].

Mosiah 2: King Benjamin on the Sacred Duties of All Members

In **Mosiah 2:20-50**, King Benjamin said the person who had experienced a genuine salvation, or what Alma 2 called a "mighty change" (Alma 3:29), **should become a disciple and bear fruit in the following ways**:

- Always remember the greatness of God.
- Humble yourselves.
- Call on the name of the Lord daily.
- Always retain a remission of your sins.
- Grow in knowledge.
- Live peaceably.
- Don't allow your children to go hungry.
- Don't let children fight and quarrel.
- Teach them to love one another.
- Succor those who stand in need with your substance.
- Give to the beggar and don't turn him away, and don't say "He has brought this upon himself", or else you won't enter the kingdom.
- Impart of your substance.
- Don't condemn the beggar.
- If you have substance, you must give.
- Don't covet.
- Feed the hungry.
- Clothe the naked.
- Visit the sick and bring them ministry.
- Be diligent about the above duties, but do them in wisdom and order.
- Return anything you borrow.

Becoming a Disciple of Christ

- Carefully examine your thoughts, words and deeds.
- Continue in faith unto the end of your lives.

Romans 12: Apostle Paul on the Sacred Duties of All Members

In **Romans 12:1-21**, the apostle Paul lists more **duties that apply to the office of “member”** in Christ’s Church:

- Present your bodies as a holy, living and acceptable sacrifice to God.
- Don’t be conformed to this world.
- Be transformed by the renewing of your mind.
- Carefully examine the facts to clearly identify what God’s will is.
- Don’t think of yourself more highly than you ought to, but think soberly.
- Besides a common call to ministry, every member has individual gifts and callings such as prophecy, ministering to the needs of others, teaching, exhortation, giving, leadership, showing mercy.
- Love others in a genuine manner.
- Abhor that which is evil, and cleave to the good.
- Be kind to one another, love others, honor them, give them preference.
- Don’t be slothful in business, be fervent in your efforts, serve the Lord.
- Rejoice in hope.
- Be patient in tribulation.
- Be instant or quick to pray.
- Give to the needs of the saints.
- Be hospitable.
- Bless your persecutors, and don’t curse them.
- Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.
- Think the same way toward one another.
- Condescend to those of low estate, and don’t be conceited.
- Don’t return evil for evil done to you.
- Be honest in all your dealings before people.
- Make every effort to live peaceably with every person.
- Never seek to avenge a wrong (e.g., don’t seek revenge).
- If your enemy is hungry feed him, if he is thirsty give him drink.
- Don’t be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with the good that you do.