

## Priesthood Study Series

### Study #14 - Sacrament of Marriage

#### The Origin and Nature of Marriage

- ◆ **Genesis 2:23-24,30,31** “And I, the Lord God, said unto mine Only Begotten, that it was not good that the man should be alone; Wherefore, I will make an help meet for him. Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife, and they shall be one flesh.”
- ◆ **Mark 10:6, 7** “But from the beginning of the creation, God made them male and female. For this cause shall a man leave his father, and mother, and cleave to his wife; and they twain shall be one flesh”
- ◆ **Ephesians 5:25, 28, 31**—“Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; . . . So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. . . . For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.”
- ◆ **Proverbs. 18:22** “Whoso findeth a good wife hath obtained favour of the Lord.”
- ◆ **D&C 49:3b.c** “I say unto you, that whosoever forbiddeth to marry, is not ordained of God, for marriage is ordained of God unto man. Wherefore it is lawful that he should have one wife, and they twain shall be one flesh, and all this that the earth might answer the end of its creation and that it might be filled with the measure of man, according to his creation before the world was made.”
- ◆ **D&C 42:7** “Thou shalt love thy wife with all thy heart, and shall cleave unto her and none else.”

#### Marriage is a Covenant Relationship

- ◆ The Foundation of marriage. Marriage is like a house. If it is to last, it needs a solid foundation. The bedrock upon which the foundation of marriage must rest is an unconditional, mutual covenant that allows no external or internal circumstances to ‘put asunder’ the marital union that God Himself has established.  
This covenantal commitment and conviction that God has united our lives in holy matrimony give us reasons to believe that He will enable us to stay together, even when our marriages appear to be “for worse.” It is this covenant foundation that will motivate us to seek God’s help in trying again to make successes of our marriages, even when our needs are our relationships seem to sour.  
The foundation ensuring the stability and permanence of marriage is the mutual commitment of a couple to cleave to one another “for better or worse.” **Source: *The Marriage Covenant*, Samuele Bacchiocchi**

#### Marriage as a Sacrament

- ◆ Marriage is commended by God.
  - It is a covenant made before God.
  - It is administered by the priesthood.
  - It’s symbol is the joining of hands.
  - It’s sacrifice is the joining of two lives as one.
  - It is a public ceremony.
  - There are prescribed words given. (*See D&C III*)

If any part is left out it becomes only a ceremony, possibly religious in nature.

*Ordinances & Sacraments of the church, Yale & Brockway, page 1*

## **While not a revelation, Section 111 contains advice and counsel as to general instructions pertaining to marriage!**

- ◆ ***D&C 111:1a-d*** “According to the custom of all civilized nations, marriage is regulated by laws and ceremonies; therefore we believe, that all marriages in this Church of Christ of Latter Day Saints should be solemnized in a public meeting, or feast, prepared for that purpose.

And that the solemnization should be performed by a presiding high priest, high priest, bishop, elder or priest, not even prohibiting those persons who are desirous to get married, of married by other authority” [Civil or religious authority outside church]

We believe that it is not right to prohibit members of this church from marrying out of the church, if it be their determination so to do, but such persons will be considered weak in the faith of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”

***D&C 111:2a-d*** “Marriage should be celebrated with prayer and thanksgiving; and at the solemnization, the persons to be married, standing together, the man on the right, and the woman on the left, shall be addressed, by the person officiating, as he shall be directed by the Holy Spirit; and if there be no legal objections, he shall say, calling each by their names: “You both mutually agree to be each other’s companion, husband and wife, observing the legal rights belonging to this condition; that is, keeping yourselves wholly for each other, and from all others, during your lives. And when they have answered Yes, he (the minister) shall pronounce them husband and wife in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and by virtue of the laws of the country and authority vested in him; May God add his blessings and keep you to fulfill your covenants from henceforth and forever. Amen.”

## **General Marriage Considerations**

1. Other things being equal, the chances of both (husband and wife) having a happy marriage and of continued growth spiritually are improved by marriage in the church.
2. Entering into marriage is a significant event. We can expect help and direction by constant prayer.
3. All young church members should seek wide fellowship among other church youth. [They must be prepared from childhood so that when the time comes they are prepared to, most probably, make the second most important covenant in their lives — REG]
4. Marriage within the church is of itself no guarantee of a happy union. Other factors which make for a stable marriage must also be considered.
5. The non-member whom the church member proposes to marry should understand how the member feels about his or her church prior to marriage.
6. The church member should endeavor to win his non-member partner to the faith prior to marriage rather than hoping that marriage will tend to bring the spouse into the fellowship. This is best done by demonstration of what their faith means that requires the exercise of patience, persistence, and selfless love.

*Ordinances & Sacraments of the church, Yale & Brockway, page 110-111*

- ◆ “The seriousness of the marriage relationship should be emphasized to the contracting (covenanting) parties. The necessity of keeping their vows inviolate is imperative. Church law on marriage and remarriage should be understood and applied. Where non-members do not measure up to these standards, they should be refused.” *The Priesthood Manual, 1964, pg.129*

## Instructions to the Priesthood

- ◆ He shall recognize that the presiding elder is the chief administrative officer of the branch. All marriages in this church should be conducted under the direction of the presiding elder even though some other elder or priest is to officiate at the wedding proper.
- ◆ Immediately upon receiving the request to perform a marriage, the minister should consult the presiding elder. He will then provide the minister with a set of rules for church weddings (if such rules have been prepared for the use of the building, and so forth)
- ◆ The minister shall conform to the laws of the state as well as to the laws of the church.
- ◆ The minister shall solemnize a marriage only if the contracting (covenanting) parties shall have given him sufficient time in their request before the date set for the marriage. He shall ascertain the right of the parties, according to the laws of God and this church, to contract (solemnize) a marriage, by asking if either party has had any previous marriage. If there has been a previous marriage, a complete inquiry shall be made by the minister. Where divorce has been involved, sufficient time will be required for the necessary research through the proper channels before there is an authorization of this marriage.
- ◆ Since it is obvious that only a limited amount of instruction can be given and assimilated in a few days, the minister should prepare for these periods of instruction with considerable care so that he will be as thorough as possible in his ministry (and counseling).
- ◆ The minister shall make the following records and reports:
  - Fill in all information, sign, and obtain signatures as required on the marriage certificate of the state in harmony with the laws of this state. These signatures shall be obtained immediately following the wedding.
  - Make a report of the marriage for the branch and make sure that it is recorded.
  - The minister should keep a personal record of all marriages solemnized by him. The laws of some states require such a record to be kept. This is true about marriages which take place outside of the auspices of the church, which involve non- members, as well as members of the church.

*Ordinances & Sacraments of the church, Yale & Brockway, page 114-115*

## The Marriage Service

- ◆ **An Outline**
  - Statement of facts to the assembly of people including:
    - License issued by law authorizing the marriage of (name of groom) and (name of bride)
    - Are there any legal objections?
  - Invocation
  - Statement about the Sacrament of marriage
  - Charge addressed to groom
  - Charge addressed to bride
  - Ring ceremony
  - Joining of right hands and marriage pledge (D&C 111:2)
  - Pronouncement of the couple as husband and wife
  - Benedictory statement and prayer

*The Ministry of the Elder, Dwight D.W. Davis, page 106*

### **No SET FORM established for Weddings**

- ◆ “The church has no set form for a marriage ceremony except the requirement that the “joint vow” as contained in D&C 111 shall be used verbatim in all marriages performed in this church.”  
*Ordinances & Sacraments of the church, Yale & Brockway, page 126*
- ◆ Suggested guides are contained in several church publications including: *Ordinances & Sacraments of the church*, Yale and Brockway, and *The Priesthood Manual*, Herald House.