

## REQUIREMENTS OF THE PRIESTHOOD

Address Delivered at the Annual Conference  
Of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, April 6, 1903, by

PREST. JOSEPH F. SMITH.

The Priesthood to be a credit—to the Church—Priests and Kings—America the home of the Free—Lions Cannot Enter Into the Kingdom of God—Evils Not Justified—Honorable Men Our Friends.

Brethren and sisters; I have been delighted, beyond my power to express, with the spirit of this conference, with the spirit of those who have spoken to us, with the subjects that they have dwelt upon, and with the reports which they have made to us in general conference assembled. I believe that, in the policy we have pursued, we are carrying out, in a measure at least, the original design and purpose in the Lord of holding these annual and semi-annual conferences. The Lord made it obligatory in former days that conferences should be held frequently, and that representatives from all the various branches and organized bodies of the Church should be present, with power and authority to report their condition and standing and to speak of any matter that would affect the welfare and prosperity of the people they represented. There is another purpose, I think, subserved in the policy that we have pursued, which I consider a worthy one, and that is this: We want the people to understand, and we want the world to understand, the great fact that it is not the prominent leaders of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints that wield all the influence among the people of this Church. We want it understood that we have fewer lay members in this Church, in proportion to the number of our membership, than you will find in any other church upon the globe.

### PRIESTS AND KINGS.

Nearly every man in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is a member of the Melchizedek Priesthood and may act in an official capacity by authority of that priesthood whenever called upon to do so. They are priests and kings, if you please, unto God in righteousness. Out of this vast body of priests we call and ordain or set apart our Presidents of stakes, our counselors, our High Councilors, our Bishops and their counsellors, our Seventies, our High Priests, and our Elders, upon whom rests the responsibility of proclaiming the Gospel of eternal truth to all the world, and who have the added responsibility and glorious responsibility of maintaining the dignity, the honor and the sacredness of that calling and priesthood. So that nearly every male person in the Church, who has reached the years of accountability, is supposed to be in his sphere, a pillar in Zion, a defender of the faith, an exemplar, a man of righteousness, truth and soberness, a man of virtue and of honor, a good citizen of the state in which he lives, and a staunch and loyal citizen of the great country that we are proud to call our home.

### AMERICA THE HOME OF THE FREE.

This great American nation the Almighty raised up by the power of His omnipotent hand, that it might be possible in the latter days for the kingdom of God to be established in the earth. If the Lord had not prepared the way by laying the foundations of this glorious nation, it would have been impossible for the saints to have been in the ministry of the monarchical governments of the world to have laid the foundations for the coming of His great kingdom. The Lord has done this. His hand has been over this nation, and it is His purpose and design to enlarge it. He will make it triumphant. He is spreading it abroad, and giving it deep root in the earth, that its branches may grow and spread, and its fruit be seen throughout the length and breadth of the land.

### EVILS NOT JUSTIFIED.

By their fruits ye shall know them. Men do not gather grapes of thorns, nor figs of thistles; neither does a bitter fountain send forth sweet water. We, as a people, deplore as much as anybody can the existence of evil amongst us. But when our brethren get up here and talk as some have done, "We have saloons; we have all the 'modern improvements'—WE have them—I wish they would take the pains to distinguish as to who 'we' is." If they

branches must be short and stocky. Long, slim branches are too weak to sustain the crop and they bend down or break. This condition can be seen in any old unpruned peach orchard. Strong, stocky limbs, therefore, are one requisite of the ideal tree.

Every fruit grower who wishes to prune should know a few botanical features of the peach tree to help him to make the best use of his tools in conforming to the ideal as nearly as circumstances will permit, but he should constantly keep in mind the two objects for which he is pruning. The ideal tree should be at least four inches in diameter at the head enabling the tree to withstand the wind and to support its crop far better than it could with a long trunk. The gathering of the fruit from a tree headed in this manner is easier, more convenient and prevent the branches from uniting as they should. This weakens the fork and makes it more easily split by the wind or a heavy load of fruit. On the other hand, when the trunk is too long, follows the growing tissue (Cambium layer) between the branches to make a strong union.

There are two principal objects strive for by the intelligent pruner, viz: a more vigorous growth, and better fruit. The first is obtained by giving each branch the maximum amount of sunlight and air, the second by removing by removing the fruit buds, and such weak wood as cannot produce fine fruit.

The pruner should form in his mind an ideal tree that possesses all the requisites of a perfect peach tree. He should take care of his tools in conforming to the ideal as nearly as circumstances will permit, but he should constantly keep in mind the two objects for which he is pruning. The ideal tree should be at least four inches in diameter.

One of the first things to watch is that a bud when developing into a branch, grows in the direction in which it points. This must be carefully watched, while pruning, in order to keep the branches the proper spread. When cutting back a branch, the topmost bud must point away from the center of the tree, in order to make the resulting branch grow in that direction.

The time to prune young trees, that are not expected to bear, is at the end of February or in March. Old trees whose fruit buds have been killed by severe winter weather should be pruned in these months.

In the fruit trees that have safely passed the winter, it is best to wait until the trees have shed the bloom and the young fruit has been set. This will give a better chance for the fruit to ripen than could have been done before the trees bloom. Often part of the buds are killed and part unharmed, in which case the pruning must be deferred until the fruit is ripe. Sometimes the only way to remove the dead or careless work can result only in degeneration or death.

### SUGGESTIONS ON SPRAYING.

The importance of spraying rests upon its efficiency, and this upon the time the spraying is done and how it is done. Spraying is worthless, if not done at the proper time to poison the insects and in a way that will be effective. The following rules have been published in the horticultural journals:

Set to it that the best unslacked lime is used in preparing Bordeaux mixture; always use Bordeaux mixture as soon as made; be sure to get in sufficient water to dilute it, and prove it by the ferrocyanide test.

Paris green is often adulterated by using material not poisonous; see that it is composed of 10 per cent arsenic by dissolving a sample in 90 per cent 96 degrees test. Ammonia will dissolve the arsenic; the residue is useless for poison.

The best kerosene oil is safest. Use rainwater in preparation of Bordeaux mixture, as it is free from salts. Soak tubs at least 24 hours before using it in cold water.

Before using any preparation, try it on small scale and perceive a few hours sun to see if no injury is done, and that the ingredients are strong enough to "kill and cure."

Poisons should be used every time the Bordeaux mixture is, as it can be applied only to one side of the leaves.

The formulas issued by the department of agriculture and the experiment stations are reliable; but I wish to insist on the importance of following directions above, and also to call special attention to the application of insecticides and fungicides.

Many large manufacturing firms have provided excellent outlets. In buying a sprayer be sure to get one of sufficient power to move a good deal of liquid.

The best time for the third pruning is after the bloom has fallen. All weak wood that has set fruit should be removed before the fruit begins to ripen.

Spraying should be done on a mild day, and never against a wind. Hold the nozzle so as to moisten both the upper

and lower parts of the tree.

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