

cannot be accounted for. The sugar factory has been built, and it has been built honestly. There has been no corruption, no speculation in the funds; everything has been done in a way that every honest man can look at it and be satisfied. We desire that this shall be the character of all our operations. Above all things we must be an honest people. You may talk about religion and speak about the Gospel, and say we have got the truth and the plan of salvation, and we have got the authority of the Priesthood; but if we are not honest, it does not amount to anything; for neither God nor honorable men love dishonesty. We must, therefore, be an honest people. Men must be honest in the handling of public funds. It is a shame and a disgrace to any man who is in office of any kind to not handle the funds with the greatest strictness and honesty. He is unfit for office, and he is unfit, until he repents, of being a member in the Church of Christ. The members of the Church of Christ ought to be honest. We should teach our children also to be honest in the handling of funds and everything entrusted to them.

We are also setting an example in regard to virtue. Yet I fear there is secret sin practiced among us. There is this, however, for our protection; God is cleansing this people and purging those who practice sin from their midst. Those who commit sin gradually leave the Church. They get into the dark and they become cold and indifferent, and finally leave the Church. If it were not for God's power in this respect, we would soon become corrupt, doubtless, as other people. But God in His wonderful providence has so arranged matters that impurity cannot live in this Church for any length of time. There is a cleansing process going on. God is cleansing His Church and He is purging out the wicked and the ungodly, and He is leaving the residue. No man can be confident of standing in this Church unless he is pure in heart; for the Holy Ghost will not dwell in unholy tabernacles. Men may deceive their fellowmen; women may deceive their sisters; but they cannot deceive God. They cannot commit sin and retain the Spirit of God. It will leave them sooner or later. It will decrease within them, and finally leave them, unless they repent of their sin. And this, my brethren and sisters, is our safety and the safety of this Church, that God is cleansing it and removing from the midst of the people the corrupt. Those who practice secret sin may hide it from their fellows, as some do, and think it is not known; but God will make it known. His Spirit will leave them, unless they repent with all their hearts and turn from their sins. God will have an honest people. He will have a pure people; He will have a virtuous people. He will cleanse us, and keep cleansing us until we shall be pure, and there will be a people found that are not hypocrites. The hypocrite will be cleansed from the midst of the Saints. In this way we will be built up and the Church will increase. There are people in this Church who are becoming more perfect every day, and Satan is having less power over them every day. As they listen to the word of God and seek to comply with the requirements of the Gospel, they grow stronger, and Satan has less and less power over the people.

He will have more power over the sinners, and he will exercise that power, and he will lead them away. But the righteous who are determined to serve God will become stronger and stronger. And do you know, my brethren and sisters, it is the great desire of my heart for myself and family and for the whole Church, that we may become so perfect in keeping the commandments of God that Satan will be comparatively bound, so far as we are concerned. I have felt led to say to the Saints in my speaking of late, that there are some sins that God has pronounced against that Satan does not have power over hundreds, and I hope thousands, of Latter-day Saints to lead them astray in these directions. I will instance adultery. I believe there are thousands—at least, I hope there are, and I believe there are, in this congregation of Latter-day Saints, that would rather die, rather meet any kind of fate that could be inflicted on their mortal bodies, than commit adultery. Do you not believe it? (Many responded, Yes.) I do believe it with all my heart. Then so far as this is concerned, Satan has ceased to have power over all the men and women who are in this condition. I believe there are hundreds and thousands in this congregation, and especially in the Church, who would rather die than commit whoredom—have illicit association with the other sex. I believe there are women by hundreds and by thousands who would rather die than commit those sins. Now, do you believe there is in any community as large a number of people to be found in this condition as can be found among the Latter-day Saints? I do not believe there is. I have no idea that there is. Therefore, so far as those two crimes are concerned, Satan has less power over us here than he has in some other places.

I might go on and speak about stealing, and dishonesty, and many other sins. I believe that the Latter-day Saints as a people are a more honest people, that they respect their obligations more than other people. We show this in our business associations and dealing. We have the credit for it everywhere. Men who have found fault with our religion frequently acknowledge that we are an honest people, and our credit is "glittering." But there are some things that we are still guilty of. I believe, however, that the young and rising generation will outgrow them. It is a strong temptation for a man, when he has got a piece of property and he has a chance to trade it or sell it, to let the buyer think it is better than it is. Now, if we were strictly honest, we would tell exactly the character of that which we have to sell. We would not allow a man to deceive himself; we would tell him the facts. But I know that we are all under the influence of the old traditions. The old traditions were that a man should have his own eyesight, and that the seller should not furnish him with anything to aid his perception or to enable him to perceive something that he would not otherwise see. It is a hard thing for men who have grown up under that system of things to refrain from it. You see everywhere where things are for sale the endeavor to make them appear better in the eyes of the purchaser than they are. We have got to change in this respect. Whenever a man yields to do a dishonest thing he yields to Satan, and Satan has influence and power over

him to that extent. We have got to learn to overcome these things, and to have Satan bound.

I do want with all my heart—I pray for it incessantly—that God will lessen the amount of apostasy among us. How will He do it? It can only be done by a horror of sin growing up in the hearts of our children, so that the consequences of indulging in sin will appear so terrible in every respect that a man will say, "I would rather die than do that." "I cannot do that, for if I do I yield to Satan and I endanger my salvation." I would like to see that feeling in my own breast and in the breasts of my family, and especially in the breasts of the rising generation in this Church. We all shun death; when we see it in our pathway we avoid it. In like manner I would like to see, and I know I will see, the day when men, seeing spiritual destruction in their pathway, will turn aside from it quicker than they would from death itself, because they know the consequences would be more serious in every respect than the mere death of the body.

My brethren and sisters, I feel this is a most important subject for us. Who is there among you that does not want to live and have your name live in the Church of Christ? Who is there that wants to be blotted out? Who is there that has labored, as many have, through life to keep the commandments of God, that now wants to fail, and their children pass out of the Church and fall into oblivion? When I hear of boys and girls marrying out of the Church, especially when they belong to good families, my heart is filled with inexpressible sorrow. I ask myself, what will be the fate of their offspring? Will their names be obliterated from among the Saints of God? One of the blessings that God gave to His ancient servants was that He would build them "a sure house;" and one of the great blessings that Jeremiah was commissioned to give to the descendants of Rechab because of their faithfulness in keeping the command of their father that they should not drink strong drink, etc., was the promise from God that "Jonadab the son of Rechab shall not want a man to stand before me for ever;" and when the genealogy of that family is found you will find the descendants of that man with the people of God, whether it be among us or among the ten tribes. And so with every man unto whom promises were made. The great promise that was made to Abraham was that in his seed all the nations of the earth should be blessed. It is the greatest promise apparently that the Father could give to him. Now, who is there among us that does not want his name preserved in the Church of Christ? Who does not want his children to live from generation to generation, through the calamities and the overwhelming destructions that are coming upon the inhabitants of the earth? I cannot think of anything that would fill me with deeper sorrow, next to the loss of my own salvation, than the thought that my name would be blotted out, that my descendants would be blotted out, and I would not have a man of my descent throughout the Millennium to stand before the Lord bearing the Priesthood. God forbid that such a fate should happen to any of us, especially those who have been faithful in the Church of Christ! Therefore, apos-