

men, charity, forgiveness, longsuffering, patience, love unfeigned, kindness one towards another, every effort to be exerted to prevent brethren from going to law one with another, and to settle their difficulties between themselves. They have a chaplain, and a lecturer or preacher, and among other things it is the duty of the chaplain to be present and open the meetings and officiate in all the burial services of the members of the association. I suppose that these are some things that are common to all these secret organizations. It is no harm for any one to believe in all these good things. President Woodruff has been preaching these very same principles for some sixty years, and he has at no time advised you to join a secret association in order that you may be taught these principles or that you may the better practice them. He has taught that these are the commandments of God to the people, and that it is their duty to observe these precepts, and that, too, without taking an oath to become associated with any secret society. But one of the provisions of this constitution requires that each member of this secret association shall stand by the principles of the association unto death. That is pretty strong. Suppose, for instance, an Elder of the Church has entered into this association and has taken upon himself this covenant, and something should arise which should be derogatory to his interests as a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, what position would he be in? He would be under the necessity of either violating his covenants with the Church or the oath that he had taken in that secret society. He would prove himself in either case a traitor. Therefore, it is better that we should not mix up with these entangling alliances. I tell you, in the name of Israel's God, that the Almighty has established in this Church every principle necessary for the salvation, for the happiness, prosperity, development and growth, both in temporal and spiritual things, of the children of God; and we have no need to go outside to find these. In connection with this, I want to read a word or two from the revelations of God to us through the Prophet Joseph Smith:

Otherwise Satan seeketh to turn their hearts away from the truth, that they become blinded and understand not things which are prepared for them;

Wherefore a commandment I give unto you, to prepare and organize yourselves by a bond or everlasting covenant that cannot be broken.

And he who breaketh it shall lose his office and standing in the church, and shall be delivered over to the buffetings of Satan until the day of redemption.

Behold, this is the preparation wherewith I prepare you, and the foundation, and the ensample which I give unto you, whereby you may accomplish the commandments which are given you.

That through my providence, notwithstanding the tribulation which shall descend upon you, that the church may stand independent above all other creatures beneath the celestial world.

This is the purpose that God had in view in establishing this Church and calling you from darkness into the marvelous light of the Gospel, that His "church may stand independent above all other creatures beneath the celestial world," in which the foundation is laid of every provision necessary to be carried out for the feeding and clothing of the poor, the protection of the weak,

and the administering of comfort and cheer unto the widows and fatherless, the destitute and sick. All these provisions have been amply established in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints; and there is not a soul within the pale of the Church upon the earth that needs to go and seek succor or comfort from the world, whereby he enters into covenant and agreement with the world that he may find protection, or assistance, or means for his burial. Cannot the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints bury its own dead who unfortunately lack the means for their own burial? Are we so poor that we cannot look after our members under such circumstances? Have we ever deserted the widow and the fatherless when they have made application for assistance? Have we turned our back upon the poor, the imprisoned, and upon those that were afflicted, when they were faithful and worthy members in the Church? Never, to my knowledge; and we never will. It is wrong to join these associations. By doing it you place upon yourselves burdens and you put bands around your necks by which others will lead you whithersoever they will; and you are no longer free to serve God as men and women ought to be who are made free by the liberty of the Gospel of Christ.

#### PERSONALITY OF GOD.

I have one more subject in mind, though it may be unnecessary to speak of it before this congregation, or to dignify those who are in error by mentioning them here; but when you take into consideration the fact that these very men who are advocating error and false doctrine, and finding sympathizers in the Church, are Elders in Israel, men who have been on missions, you may see the propriety of referring to them here. They have got their thoughts fixed on one idea, which they have followed to an extreme, and they have formulated a plan by which they suppose they have defined how God can be three Persons and yet one Person, and they tell you all about it by publishing a series of pamphlets. Taking the scriptures for a standard, they try to show that God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost are one Person, as well as being one in attributes. If you will indulge me just a few moments, I desire to call your attention to a few things that are written with regard to this matter, and then I trust there will be no necessity of talking about it any more. Those who are indulging in this fallacy ought to be guided by the Holy Spirit, by common sense and by the judgment of men who have had experience in the Church, and forsake their error and folly, call in their pernicious publications, and cease to try to lead away the unwary and the ignorant. In the first place, I will read a few words from the Second Lecture on Faith in the Book of Doctrine and Covenants:

"We here observe that God is the only supreme governor and independent being in whom all fullness and perfection dwell; who is omnipotent, omnipresent [that is, not in person, but by His power and spirit], and omniscient; without beginning of days or end of life; and that in him every good gift and every good principle dwell; and that he is the Father of lights; in him the principle of faith dwells independently, and he is the object in whom the faith of all other rational and accountable beings center for life and salvation."

Again, in the Seventh Lecture on Faith:

"All these sayings put together give as clear an account of the state of the glorified saints as language could give—the works that Jesus had done they were to do, and greater works than those which he had done among them should they do; and that because he went to the Father. He does not say that they should do these works in time; but they should do greater work, because he went to the Father. He says in the 24th verse: 'Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory.' These sayings, taken in connection, make it very plain that the greater works which those that believed on his name were to do were to be done in eternity, where he was going and where they should behold his glory. He had said, in another part of his prayer, that he desired of his Father that those who believed on him should be one in him, as he and the Father were one in each other. 'Neither pray I for these (the Apostles) alone, but for them also who shall believe on me through their words, that they all may be one;' that is, they who believed on him through the apostles' words, as well as the apostles themselves, 'that they all may be one, as thou, Father, art in me and I in thee; that they also may be one in us.'"

Here is the language of the Savior himself, quoted by the Prophet Joseph, distinctly setting forth a principle that your minds cannot be blinded upon, if you will only open your eyes and your understanding to this saying. How can the Apostles become one in Christ as Christ and God are one, if Christ and God are one person? Can the Twelve Apostles become one person? And how can all they that believe on the words of the Apostles also become one with the Apostles in Christ as Christ is one with God, if God and Christ are one person? Of course, the absurdity appears at once. I do not need to multiply words in regard to this matter, because every child ought to know better than that because Christ is God because of the Spirit and the Son, because of the flesh, therefore that He and the Father are one person, or body, and the Holy Ghost is one in them, and they three are only one being. Strange as it may seem to you, this is the doctrine advocated by men who profess to be Elders in the Church.

In conclusion upon this matter, I want to read the positive word of the Lord, that cannot be denied. You may twist the scriptures as you please; but if you believe the truth and are willing to be guided by it, you will have to come back to this that I shall read to you, and then it will clear up all mystery from your minds with relation to the personality of the Father and the Son. Joseph Smith, on April 2nd, 1843, declared as follows:

"The Father has a body of flesh and bones as tangible as man's; the Son also."

Then how are you going to get them into one person? President Cannon says this agrees with what Paul says. Of course; it agrees with all the scriptures of divine truth, and with every manifestation of God to man since the beginning of the world to the present time. Then the Prophet says:

"But the Holy Ghost has not a body of flesh and bones, but is a personage of Spirit. Were it not so, the Holy Ghost could not dwell in us."

When Joseph Smith, a boy of 14 years of age, went out into the woods to ask the Lord to guide him into the right church, he knelt down and prayed, and after he was delivered from the power of the adversary, who tried to destroy him, two heavenly personages appeared before him. One of these personages,