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FIDELITY TO GOD AND EACH OTHER

Discourse delivered at the Salt Lake Stake Conference, in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Sunday Afternoon, March 3rd, 1895, by

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[REPORTED BY ARTHUR WINTER.]

I am pleased to meet with the Latter-day Saints in the Conference in this Stake. It is a pleasure I rarely have. I enjoyed the services this morning, listening to a number of our visiting brethren, and I only regret that you people were not here to hear them. It is encouraging to hear the testimonies of our brethren that we do not frequently have the privilege of listening to.

I have felt that there is a spirit that ought to be cultivated more extensively than it is in the souls of the Latter-day Saints, and that is, the spirit of loyalty and fidelity to the Kingdom, to the Priesthood, to the discipline of the Church, and to each other. It is a spirit that should be emphasized in every soul in regard to all matters pertaining to the Kingdom of God. We have been blessed as no other people. We have been favored as no other people upon the earth claim to have been favored. As we heard this morning from Elder Ivins, we have been favored with the restoration of the Gospel by an angel, and I do not remember to have heard that any other people upon the face of the earth have made that claim. And in connection with the Gospel, and as a very important part of it, we have had given to us the Holy Ghost, which bears record that the angel has come, and that the Gospel and the Priesthoods of Melchisedek and Aaron have been restored through messengers sent from heaven. No other people have made this claim but the followers of the Prophet Joseph Smith. And I feel that the spirit of loyalty should be cultivated in the hearts of the Latter-day Saints toward this mission that has been established among men. We understand what loyalty means to a sovereign or a prince, to a husband or a wife, and that same spirit of loyalty that we should manifest toward our sovereign king should be also manifest toward each other, and toward every rule and requirement of the Church. We have regulations given in regard to every quorum of the Priesthood, and every organization, branch, ward or stake; and there should be cultivated in the heart of every father loyalty to his ward, to his stake,

to his quorum, to his family. The same spirit should be cherished also by every son. It should be pronounced loyalty toward the institutions of Zion and the requirements of Heaven. There should be loyalty to this sacred ordinance, the Lord's Supper, of which we are partaking now. If we are loyal to this ordinance, we will be at the places where the Sacrament is prepared for us. We will not only be there, but we will be prepared to partake of it worthily. I say that fathers should plant carefully and securely in the hearts of their sons loyalty to God and to the principles of eternal life. Mothers should labor to plant that spirit of loyalty in the hearts of their daughters, that they will be true to God and to the laws of His Gospel. If sons and daughters are as loyal to the Gospel of salvation as they ought to be, they will never become unequally yoked with the unbeliever. For a man cannot be loyal and true to Heaven that would become unequally yoked with those who are not of our faith. Men who would do this must be weak in the faith and lacking in loyalty. Where the spirit of loyalty is properly cultivated there is no dissension, no contention, no inclination to be at war with the powers that be, no inclination to be in opposition to the rules and requirements of the Lord and His Church; but this spirit will make us true to every requirement. If we are loyal to the principle of tithing, which the Lord has laid down in His Church for us to follow, we will take pleasure in the payment of our tithing. If we are loyal to the requirements of the Lord in regard to the offerings necessary for the sustenance of the poor, we will not neglect the poor.

If we have the spirit of loyalty within us, it will impel us to meet every obligation and requirement. It comes from the inspiration of the Holy Ghost, and ought to burn continually within us. When we are called to leave home upon missions, it always brings our hearts back to this centre of gravitation, this gathering spot of Zion, and never allows us to entertain a feeling of alienation from the people of God or from the institutions of Zion. It knits our hearts closely to these and causes us to be so devoted to Zion and her interests that our happiness and joy are in her prosperity and advancement. We should not only be loyal to the Church as a whole, but we should be loyal to the ward, loyal to the quorum, loyal to the associations that are formed, loyal to the institutions of learning in Zion, loyal to every labor and rule established in the midst of the Church for the benefit of the people; that we would never allow a feeling in our hearts of oppo-

sition to what is determined upon as the proper policy or course in a ward, in a quorum or in a stake, but that we would be loyal to this. We should be loyal to the teachers who visit our homes, loyal to the Bishop, loyal to the Bishop's Court and its decision, loyal to the institutions that are given to us by the inspired servants of the Lord who stand immediately at our head. For Bishops are inspired men. They are entitled to give forth the word and will of the Lord to their wards and in relation to the affairs that are trusted to them. They are authorized, by their ordinations and appointments, to preside over all the interests of their wards. And every department of the ward should be loyal to that head; and the more profound and perfect the loyalty can be in the ward the greater the inspiration through the Bishop, through his counselors, and through the teachers who labor in the midst of the people, and the more successful they will be in seeing that there is no iniquity in the Church. If there is a spirit of disloyalty in heads of families in a ward, what chance do teachers stand in their labors? They work at a very great disadvantage. You who have been teachers know the variety of spirit that you have to meet. In some families a meek and lowly spirit is manifested. They seem to welcome you, and feast upon the instructions you give them. Other families you will find in opposition; always in contention and in difficulty—between parents sometimes, at other times between parents and children, and again between children. There is a lack of that spirit of loyalty to which I am referring, and which ought to be so carefully cultivated in the hearts of the Latter-day Saints; and it can only be cultivated and maintained by the Holy Ghost, which dwells where the soul is pure, where the body is uncontaminated and where righteousness is characteristic of every movement. Where there is a love in the heart for the truth, for honesty and virtue, there the Spirit of the Lord increases. Where this love diminishes, the Spirit of the Lord withdraws itself, until the soul is left barren and unfruitful for the want of that Spirit. There are local policies and regulations that pertain to the various departments of Zion to which every member of the Church should always be committed. They should always be in favor of order and of good government. The spirit of opposition, when discovered in ourselves and in those we have influence over, should be checked, and the spirit of loyalty and fidelity should be cultivated. We may know whether we are going in the right direction or not; for the Spirit of the Lord will satisfy our souls when we are walking in the right