

version than if he has to apologize for his own conduct when he tries to teach the advantages of adhering to the teachings of the Church.

That is our problem, brethren and sisters, to live in a way that every man who comes amongst us to study us will see the fine side of the gospel reflected in our lives and that he will have no just cause for adverse criticism of us. That is a large order, I will admit, but nevertheless it is the duty and responsibility of every man and woman in the Church to show by the way he lives the values that are in the gospel, and those values are usually spiritual. If you are highly spiritual, those values will shine from your eyes like the reflected light from a diamond. You can't prevent it. When you live it, it shows, and when you don't, it shows too, but it is a dark light which comes forth when you are not living the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Now I trust, brothers and sisters, that we may have the power of God to do it. When we bowed our heads here this afternoon, we asked God to give us his Spirit. It is my experience that when I enjoy the Spirit of God, it is because I try to put myself in conformity with it, and when I do that, I enjoy hearing what is prompted in others by the Spirit of God. If I can't do it, I get no pleasure out of it. So when we come to these gatherings, brethren, and when we undertake our duties as leaders in the wards and stakes, let us try and put ourselves in a position so that we can expect, when we ask it of God, his Spirit to guide and direct us.

May he bless us I pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

ELDER HAROLD B. LEE

Of the Council of the Twelve Apostles

Two of the speakers this afternoon have expressed their appreciation for the courtesy and the consideration that is given them by the Saints as they move out on Church assignments throughout the stakes and missions of the Church. I have likewise in my heart an appreciation for that service. Not the least of the compensations that come to me from my present appointment is the fact that wherever I am sent under such conditions, during that period of service, I am visiting with and laboring with the finest people in the community and the finest people in the world.

It is about some of the observations that I have made while thus privileged that I would like to speak for a few moments, and time is too short to go into much detail, but merely to mention a few of those observations.

DANGERS CONFRONTING OUR HOMES

Elder Moyle has called our attention to some of the tragic things that warn us that there are dangers confronting our homes. The increase of crime and the increase of divorce, the increase of

juvenile delinquency, all indicate that there is a weakening of the good influence of the family home, and an increase in the dangers that threaten to destroy it. From the stress that has been laid upon the subject of home and marriage, not only in the scriptures, but also in our conferences from time to time, it would appear that it has always been considered fundamental to the establishment of a strong religious life and the building of the kingdom that the homes of our people be safeguarded and marriage be held sacred.

In the first marriage that was performed upon this earth, the Lord made four significant declarations. First, that it was not good for man to be alone; second, that woman was formed to be a help meet for man; third, that they twain should be of one flesh; and fourth, that man should leave father and mother and cleave unto his wife.

At a later time the Lord reinforced that by saying:

. . . What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder. (Matt. 19:6.)

LOFTY CONCEPTS OF THE HOME

There is no other people on the face of the earth, that I know anything about, who have the lofty concepts of marriage and the sacredness of the home as do the Latter-day Saints. In a revelation given in our day the Lord said:

. . . 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. (D. & C. 49:15-16.)

There are, however, unmistakable evidences that the same dangers that are abroad are among us and are seeking to destroy this God-given institution, the home. Many there are who have given counsel in the scientific fields, relating to family life, but largely have their findings about the homes in the modern day been taken from broken and unhappy homes. It has been my privilege to visit, with the others of the General Authorities, regularly in the finest homes of our people, and it is from those visits that I have gleaned some things that I should like to mention to you, suggestive of the elements that build for strength and happiness in the home.

LOVE AND DESIRE FOR CHILDREN

If I were to name the first thing that impresses me always in these fine Latter-day Saint homes, I would say it was a love for and a desire for children. These are homes where the having of children was not delayed because of some social or educational or financial objective, and where the size of the families has not been limited by the practice of birth control.

A few years ago I read some statistics taken from the United States Census Bureau which indicated that out of 180,000 divorces for that given year, 57 percent were in homes where there were no children, 21.2 percent where there was only one child; and in families with five or more children, divorces ranged all the way from none to only .7 of one percent. Clearly is it evident that parental love and oneness that come from planned parenthood is a safe and sure guarantee to the happiness of the home.

MIRACLE OF MOTHERHOOD

Sometime ago I was privileged to hear something about the influence that had come from one of these homes in a letter that was written by a lovely daughter who had just given birth to her first baby. In the early hours of the morning the baby had come, and late in the afternoon she was in a reflective mood; in this reflective mood she had written home to her family. In her letter she told first about her impressions and feelings at the miracle of motherhood, how she had been privileged to be a participant in this wonderful creation. Then she wrote this:

I wonder that we women are not required to undergo even more than labor pains to bring these little ones from another world into this one. It seems so right that we through pain are forced to slip for a few minutes, at least, half-way into another sphere, to sort of bring our baby by the hand into this new world.

The beauty of that girl's thinking about the lofty ideals of womanhood and the sacred calling of the mother in the home is matched only by that which I heard in Canada when I interviewed a young man who was preparing to go on a mission. I sought to find out what his idea and standards had been with respect to honoring womanhood. He looked me unflinchingly in the eye and replied:

Brother Lee, my mother has taught me all my life that a mother can rear her daughter, but it takes a mother plus a good pure girl in order to rear her son properly.

GUARANTEES OF A HAPPY HOME

I am reminded of the remark of a young man to his sweetheart and her reply, when he planned to postpone their marriage because of finances. He said to her somewhat facetiously: "I think probably all I can promise you is a sagebrush home in Idaho," and she replied: "Well, that is fine, then if we ever get anything, it will belong to both of us and not just you."

I am thinking of that mother blessed with a family of girls who kneeled down each night and prayed God that somewhere there would be a mother rearing some sons worthy to become the husbands of her daughters, and then, the daughters finally

married. In talking with the mothers of the sons, she found that those mothers had been praying ever since their boys were born that somewhere God would be preparing some girls worthy to become the wives of their sons.

I say to you, brethren and sisters, such lofty concepts of home, family, and the responsibilities of home and family, are certain guarantees to a happy and successful home.

Coming home on the train from California this last week, I rode with one of these lovely mothers whom I have known and who has reared an excellent family. We talked about the things that had helped to keep her family in line. She said:

Brother Lee, I made it my practice and rule, when my children came along that I was going to make as many contacts with my children in the home as I possibly could. I was always there when they went to school; I planned to give up everything else, if necessary, to be there when they came home; I was there when they had their parties and their friends in the home; and I always waited up after the evening parties in order to greet my children when they came home from the party, because I found that at such moments I was able to encourage a frankness between us, and it permitted me to enjoy their confidences that over the years builded a comradeship which kept them safe in times of difficulty.

What a blessing is such a wise mother! Such children, so taught, with whom mothers and fathers have made such comrades, in times of stress and storm will turn to mother and father as the ship laboring in the storm to the port for safety.

LOVE IN THE HOME

The Apostle Paul, because apparently of the importance that he saw of love in the home, made this statement:

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. (Eph. 5:25, 28.)

And another prophet condemned the infidelity of men and their unfaithfulness to their companions, those who had failed in their parental responsibilities in these words:

For behold, I, the Lord, have seen the sorrow, and heard the mourning of the daughters of my people in the land of Jerusalem, yea and in all the lands of my people, because of the wickedness and abominations of their husbands.

. . . Ye have broken the hearts of your tender wives, and lost the confidence of your children, because of your bad examples before them and the sobbings of their hearts ascend up to God against you. And because of the strictness of the word of God, which cometh down against you, many hearts died, pierced with deep wounds. (Book of Mormon, Jacob 2:31, 35.)

CHILDREN MADE PARTNERS

I have found in these Latter-day Saint homes that one of

the characteristics that mark them as outstanding is that the family has been made into a partnership. Father and mother in the early days, managing the income, have given small weekly allowances to the children to make them partners. As they have grown older, there has been a sort of partial partnership with father and mother as the parent corporation, and still older, a full partnership, and then in old age the parents sell to the children and retire on the income from the properties thus disposed of. Learning how to do on the farm, having a part in homemaking and the family earnings is a sure guarantee against juvenile delinquency. The blase girl who is overpainted and immodestly dressed presents but the unlovely picture of the unhappy girl who is making a bid for a kind of popularity that personal endowments did not provide. The boy with his first smoke and the first drink and the beginning of profanity oftentimes is one who is trying to flag a feeling of inferiority, and acts thus to make himself seemingly equal to a difficult situation. The kinds of homes that I have been describing, as found among the leaders throughout the stakes and missions of this Church, are homes where delinquency is rarely to be found, because of the responsibilities that have been given to the children throughout their growing years. Individual responsibilities assigned to family members seems most vital in the building of these successful homes.

RESPECT FOR EACH OTHER

I see these families showing respect towards each other; father to mother, and affection for her, and mother to father; no quarrelings, no bickerings before the children at least, misunderstandings talked out sensibly—I saw one such home with nine lovely children where the children bear testimony to the fact that they have never heard their father and mother quarrel. The result is now that in the nine homes of these children, following this period of instruction, and the good example of parents, there are nine more lovely and secure families living happily together.

I contrast that with the lament of a father who said: "What is the matter with my family? In every one of their homes, now they are married, they are having trouble, and divorce is threatening." I saw the kind of home they grew up in, and I contrasted it with this other home where safety and security have been provided.

MAINTENANCE OF SPIRITUAL CONTACTS

The maintenance of spiritual contacts, the exercise of family prayers, the constant attention to Church duties have all been some of the things that have helped these homes to be successful, and so as I close with these few observations, may I remind you

that the Lord has said that those who are sealed in the temple by the Holy Spirit of Promise shall pass by the angels and the gods, which are set there, to their exaltation in all things.

May I call that to your attention, you brethren, reminding you that your marriages shall be eternal and shall be perpetuated through eternity only so long as you keep the covenants that you have made. The Spirit of Promise is the spirit which searches the hearts of men, and only when his sealing approval is given—only then will your blessings become eternal.

God grant that the homes of the Latter-day Saints may be blessed and that there shall come into them happiness here and the foundation for exaltation in the celestial kingdom in the world to come, for which I humbly pray, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

President J. Reuben Clark, Jr.:

Brother Ursenbach, I believe they have, in military matters, what they call a reserve, which they throw in at times when they feel there is an emergent need, so we will ask you to constitute for tomorrow a reserve force upon which we may call.

The Relief Society Singing Mothers of the Salt Lake Region will sing as the closing number: "Peace I Leave With You." The closing prayer will be offered by President Robert J. Potter of the Bear River Stake, of Garland, Utah, after which this conference will adjourn until 10 o'clock tomorrow, Saturday morning.

The proceedings of that session will be broadcast over KSL at Salt Lake City, and by arrangement through KSL, over the following stations: KDSH at Boise, KSUB at Cedar City, KID at Idaho Falls, KEYY at Pocatello, KDVC at Richfield, KJAM at Vernal, and over KTYL at Mesa by transcription.

We should like to express at this time our keen appreciation and gratitude to the Relief Society Singing Mothers for furnishing us with such beautiful and well rendered songs during this Conference.

Tomorrow morning the audience should be in their seats not later than ten minutes before the time of beginning.

The Presiding Bishopric will meet the Bishoprics of the Church here in the Tabernacle tonight at 7:00 p.m. The members of all Bishoprics and Ward Clerks are requested to be in attendance. The members of the Presidencies of Stakes are also invited.

Singing by the *Singing Mothers*: "Peace I Leave With You."

Elder Robert J. Potter, President of the Bear River Stake, offered the closing prayer.

Conference adjourned until Saturday, October 2, 10:00 a.m.