

heaven and which are on earth." (Eph. 1:10.)

### Gospel includes all truth

The gospel reveals to us the need for Jesus to offer Himself as a sacrifice for the sins of men that all mankind may be redeemed, that man may be saved by believing in Him, by believing in all of His teachings, and by being obedient to them, and by being true hearers of the voice of Jesus. It is a life-long task to hear, to learn, to obey all the vast truths, for the gospel reaches into the eternities.

It has been said of our belief in divine revelation that "this declaration of religious belief in the Divine fountain of Truth, and His revelation thereof to man, embraces all truth in the universe: whether revealed or yet to be revealed; whether made known through the inspiration of the Almighty that "giveth understanding" to the spirit of man in his discoveries and developments in the material things of life; or whether manifest in things visible or in things invisible to mortal eyes. It embraces every scientific truth, every historic truth, every truth in philosophy, or logic, or

demonstrable fact. That is the scope of revealed religion. It is the system of law and order which prevails under heavenly control. It is the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ." (James H. Anderson, *God's Covenant Race*, 2nd ed., Salt Lake City: Deseret News Press, 1938, p. 132.)

We invite all to consider the truths spoken from this pulpit, with the suggestion of an ancient poet who said, "Fly no opinion because it is new, but strictly search, reject it if false, embrace it if 'tis true."

May that be done in the attitude of prayer.

I bear witness to the truth, that revelation and prayer are indispensable in attaining eternal life, and this I do in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

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### President Spencer W. Kimball

We have just listened to Elder John H. Vandenberg of the First Quorum of the Seventy.

Elder O. Leslie Stone of the First Quorum of the Seventy will now address us.

## Elder O. Leslie Stone

Of the First Quorum of the Seventy

My remarks today are directed primarily to young married couples and to those who are planning to be married, but perhaps they will apply to all of us who are married or who someday will be married. I would like to talk about the art of making your marriage successful.

Our Heavenly Father loves all of us and wants us to be happy. The scriptures record, "Men are, that they might have joy." (2 Ne. 2:25.) President Kimball has told us that the price of happiness is to keep the commandments.

(See *Faith Precedes the Miracle*, Salt Lake City: Deseret Book Co., 1972, p. 126.) Nowhere else are happiness and success more important than in your marriage.

### Temple marriage

*The foundation for a happy and successful marriage* is a marriage solemnized in the temple. To you who were married for time only, let me urge you to thoroughly investigate the blessings available to you by going to the temple

and having your family sealed to you for time and all eternity. Participating in these sacred ordinances should be your most important objective for achieving a successful marriage.

*When our Heavenly Father permitted us to come to this earth, He gave us our free agency, allowing us to make our own decisions. He also furnished us with guidelines to help us live righteously.*

In His wisdom He gives us many problems, for He knows that by meeting them and finding solutions we will gain knowledge and skills, develop character, and learn to overcome evil, all of which will help us while we are here on earth, as well as in the life hereafter.

We should, therefore, look at problems in marriage as opportunities for growth and development. As we meet the challenges successfully, we will enjoy peace, love, and tranquility in our marriage and in our home.

### **Maintain good relationship**

*One of the first things a couple must do is establish and maintain good relations with each other. If you want to be sweethearts, you must work at it. I admonish every one of you to do everything possible to make your companion happy. Be kind and considerate of each other. When problems arise, talk things over calmly and resolve differences promptly. On one occasion Elder Gordon B. Hinckley said that quiet speech in the home is the language of peace. (See *Conference Report*, Apr. 1971, p. 82.) President McKay used to say that we should never yell at each other in the home. And then, facetiously, he would add that maybe on one occasion it would be all right and that would be if the house were on fire. (See *Stepping Stones to an Abundant Life*, Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1971, p. 294.)*

Sometimes it is difficult for us to understand why our mates don't see things the same and arrive at the same conclusions as we do. People are different in their thinking and their under-

standing, and opinions often vary. Differences must be reconciled promptly if husbands and wives are to be happy and work as a team together.

*To achieve a successful marriage it is important to reach an understanding on what is expected of each of the marriage partners. Ordinarily the husband is the breadwinner, and he should be willing to work hard and to do all in his power to properly take care of the financial needs of his family. Such needs should be discussed and priorities set for the welfare of the entire family.*

The wife is the homemaker. It is her responsibility to see that a clean, orderly home is maintained. Some divorces have occurred where the wife becomes indifferent about her personal appearance, or becomes a careless housekeeper, or both. I cannot stress too strongly to the sisters the importance of personal cleanliness, good appearance, and maintaining a clean, orderly home.

In the beginning, if the wife's health permits, she is often temporarily employed outside the home. When this is the case, the husband should help with the housekeeping chores. If a man truly loves his wife, he will not want or allow her to work more than her health and strength permit. He will want to help her in every possible way.

When I was a young man, my wife would ask me to come and help her with the dishes, with making the beds, or with other household chores. Now, at this time in our lives, I ask her to come and help me wash the dishes, make the beds, and perform other household chores. The important thing is to work together and help each other.

*By your actions let everyone know you love each other.* Demonstrate consideration at all times. Brethren, open the door of the car for your wife or companion. When you enter or leave a building together, open the door and have her go in first. Help her to be seated before you are seated.

Sometimes our ladies don't allow us time to perform such courtesies. My advice to you sisters is to take the extra

time. If you jump out of the car a few times without his help, he will probably expect you to come and open the door for him. Sisters would do well to remember that a husband generally treats his wife the way she expects to be treated.

### Money management

Money management is very important. I'd like to give you four guides that I think would be helpful in this respect.

1. *First, always pay your tithing.* Keep yourself eligible for the great blessings the Lord has promised to those who obey this commandment. He made this statement in the scriptures:

"Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it." (Mal. 3:10.) I testify to you that this is true.

2. *Next, pay yourself something off the top.* Save something out of every dollar you earn. I suggest your goal be no less than ten percent of your income after you have paid the Lord His share.

Brigham Young once said: "If you wish to get rich, save what you get. A fool can earn money; but it takes a wise man to save and dispose of it to his own advantage." (*Discourses of Brigham Young*, ed. John A. Widtsoe, Salt Lake City: Deseret Book Co., 1941, p. 292.)

3. *Next, avoid using credit cards and charge accounts* for installment purchases. We are all being urged to "buy now pay later." This makes it sound easy and even glamorous to surround ourselves with luxuries before they are earned. My advice to all is to *save* now and *buy* later. This will not only save a high interest charge, but it will also keep couples out of financial bondage.

Our late President J. Reuben Clark, Jr., advised us: "Let us avoid debt as we would avoid a plague; where we are now in debt let us get out of debt; if not today, then tomorrow. Let

us straitly and strictly live within our incomes, and save a little." (*Conference Report*, Apr. 1937, p. 26.)

4. *Budget your income and outgo and do not live beyond your means.* To consistently spend more than you earn makes it impossible to keep solvent and difficult to control your "wants."

### Establish priorities

*Young couples especially should establish priorities.* In establishing priorities, remember that the family always comes first and foremost in your life. Next comes Church responsibilities and then your business affairs—the way you earn your living.

Remember the admonition of the Savior when He told his disciples, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." (Matt. 6:33.)

I testify that this is true and that it points the way to success in all respects.

*Time is one of our most valuable possessions.* Use it wisely. Remind yourselves often that things that matter most should not be left to the mercy of things that matter the least.

*We should all constantly evaluate our progress.* To live righteous lives and accomplish the purposes of our creation, we must constantly review the past, determine our present status, and set goals for the future. Without this process there is little chance of reaching one's objectives.

*I would admonish everyone within the sound of my voice to associate with good people.* Those with whom you associate will contribute to your success or your failure, and their actions and ideals will have a profound influence on life and your actions, either for good or evil. Learn to walk in the company of good people; shun evil by staying out of the devil's territory.

*Next, be honest in all matters.* Be honest with your spouse, with your family, with yourself, and with your neighbor. Honesty includes freedom from lying, deceiving, cheating, or stealing, as well as meeting our commitments.

Honesty also includes doing a good day's work. If we shirk our jobs, we are stealing time from our employers.

The business world and other employers are seeking those who are honest and dependable. This has always been the case and will continue to be so for all time.

Guard your reputation for honesty and dependability very carefully. It can be one of your most valuable possessions.

### Teach and train children

*As you become parents, you should feel responsible to teach and train your children.* Our scriptures make this very clear. In Doctrine and Covenants 68:25 we read, "Inasmuch as parents have children in Zion, or in any of her stakes which are organized, that teach them not to understand the doctrine of repentance, faith in Christ the Son of the living God, and of baptism and the gift of the Holy Ghost by the laying on of hands, when eight years old, the sin be upon the heads of the parents."

Notice it didn't say the Sunday School teacher or the Primary teacher. The sin is on the heads of the *parents*.

Home responsibilities and rearing children must be uppermost in the minds and actions of parents if a successful marriage is to be achieved. This famous statement made by our late President David O. McKay should always be remembered: "No other success can compensate for failure in the home." (*Conference Report*, Apr. 1964, p. 5.)

*Let love radiate in your home* and in all walks of life, not only to each other, but also to your children, your relatives, your friends, and your associates.

The Lord commanded us to love one another when he said, "Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself." (Matt. 22:39.) Quarreling, bickering, and fault-finding should be avoided at all costs. In 3 Nephi 11:29-30 the Lord made this significant statement:

"He that hath the spirit of con-

tention is not of me, but is of the devil, who is the father of contention, and he stirreth up the hearts of men to contend with anger, one with another.

"Behold, this is not my doctrine, to stir up the hearts of men with anger, one against another; but this is my doctrine, that such things should be done away."

And also in Mosiah 4:14, we read that parents are particularly responsible for the behavior of their children:

"And ye will not suffer your children that they go hungry, or naked; neither will ye suffer that they transgress the laws of God, and fight and quarrel one with another, and serve the devil, who is the master of sin, or who is the evil spirit which hath been spoken of by our fathers, he being an enemy to all righteousness."

### Stay close to the Church

*One of the most important things you will need to remember is to get on your knees for family prayers* both night and morning. Take turns thanking your Heavenly Father for the blessings He has given you and ask for those things you need that will be for your good. Our Heavenly Father always answers our prayers. Sometimes His answers are not what we expect or ask for, but I promise you His answers are always for our good. He knows better than we how our prayers should be answered.

*Also, find a few minutes each day to study and ponder the scriptures together.* In the scriptures we find answers to all of life's problems.

*Finally, I would give you a challenge to stay close to the Church.* Attend your meetings. Magnify your callings in the priesthood. Wives, support your husbands in their Church assignments; and husbands, support your wives in their Church callings. Go to the temple often and carry the spirit you feel there back into your homes. Be diligent in keeping the covenants you have made or will make in the house of the Lord.

At a fireside talk at Brigham Young University, President Kimball said, "Almost all marriages could be beautiful, harmonious, and happy, and eternal ones, if the two people primarily involved would determine that it should be, that it must be, that it will be." ("Marriage is Honorable," in *Speeches of the Year, 1973*, Provo: Brigham Young University Press, 1974, p. 257.)

May our Heavenly Father bless you abundantly in your efforts to make your marriage successful for both time and all eternity, I humbly pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Tabernacle Choir rendered, "How Excellent Thy Name" without announcement.

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### President Spencer W. Kimball

We have just listened to Elder O. Leslie Stone of the First Quorum of the Seventy, followed by the Tabernacle Choir singing, "How Excellent Thy Name."

We shall now be pleased to hear from Elder Gordon B. Hinckley of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, who will be our concluding speaker.

## Elder Gordon B. Hinckley

Of the Council of the Twelve

This conference, my brethren and sisters, is an important anniversary for me. It was an even twenty years ago that I first spoke from this pulpit as a General Authority of the Church. I was filled with fear and feelings of inadequacy that Sunday morning of 1958. Now, twenty years and forty conferences later, I still have some of those same feelings. And so I pray for the direction of the Holy Spirit that anxiety may be replaced by inspiration.

### Progress of the Church

Without wishing to look back, but rather to note the progress of the Church, I have checked a few figures given at that 1958 conference. The Church membership reported on that occasion stood at just over a million and a half. Yesterday the comparable figure given was almost four million, or a gain of roughly 166 percent in only two decades. In 1958 there were 273 stakes, with approximately 2,500 wards and branches. The figure given us yesterday

was 885 stakes at the close of the year, and as of last Thursday this had reached 937 either organized or approved for organization. Today there are approximately 7,500 wards and independent branches, three times the number there were twenty years ago.

These few figures are sufficient to illustrate the remarkable phenomenon that I personally have witnessed in the space of twenty short years. No boast is intended in this. Rather, I am grateful, for behind these figures I have seen men, women, and children in many lands whose lives have been enriched, in whose homes there is more of peace and love, and whose understanding of their place in the eternal plan of God has increased through membership in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

This remarkable growth has come about because there has been the courage to teach and the faith to listen on the part of tens of thousands who by the power of the Holy Spirit have received testimony of the living Christ, and of