



DOCTRINE & COVENANTS

& CHURCH HISTORY GOSPEL DOCTRINE CLASS

* GREEN MOUNTAIN 1ST WARD * LAKEWOOD, COLORADO * 23 AUGUST 2009 * PAGE 1 *

Lesson 31: "Sealed...for Time and for All Eternity", D&C 131:1-4; 132:4-33.

Introduction



TEMPLE MARRIAGE

- ☞ What did you do to prepare for temple marriage?
- ☞ What difference does it make to be married in the temple?
- ☞ What counsel could you give class members who have not yet been married in the temple to help them prepare?

Eternal marriage is essential in Heavenly Father's plan.

D&C 131:1-4; 132:4-33. These passages contain revelations from the Lord to the Prophet Joseph Smith about eternal marriage.

Elder Parley P. Pratt, one of the original members of the Quorum of the Twelve in this dispensation, recalled his feelings when he first heard the Prophet Joseph teach these doctrines:

"I had loved before, but I knew not why. But now I loved—with a pureness—an intensity of elevated, exalted feeling, which would lift my soul. ... I felt that God was my heavenly Father indeed; that Jesus was my brother, and that the wife of my bosom was an immortal, eternal companion. ... In short, I could now love with the spirit and with the understanding also" (Autobiography of Parley P. Pratt [1975], 298).

The First Presidency and Quorum of the Twelve Apostles have declared that *"marriage between man and woman is essential to [God's] eternal plan"* ("The Family: A Proclamation to the World," *Ensign*, Nov.

1995, 102; see also D&C 49:15).

D&C 131:1-4; 1 Corinthians 11:11. Marriage an essential part of God's eternal plan.

President Boyd K. Packer taught: *"The ultimate purpose of all we teach is to unite parents and children in faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, that they are happy at home, sealed in an eternal marriage, linked to their generations, and assured of exaltation in the presence of our Heavenly Father"* (*Ensign*, May 1995, 8).

President Joseph Fielding Smith said: *"Marriage, as understood by Latter-day Saints, is a covenant ordained to be everlasting. It is the foundation for eternal exaltation, for without it there could be no eternal progress in the kingdom of God"* (*Doctrines of Salvation*, comp. Bruce R. McConkie, 3 vols. [1954-56], 2:58).

Lesson Highlights

- Eternal marriage is essential in Heavenly Father's plan.
- Youth should prepare now for eternal marriage.
- After a husband and wife are sealed in the temple, they must abide in the covenant to receive the promised blessings.

A study of this lesson will help us understand that eternal marriage is an essential part of Heavenly Father's plan, to help youth prepare for eternal marriage, and to encourage married couples to abide in the marriage covenant.

Next Week

#32 "To Seal the Testimony" (D&C 135; *Our Heritage*, pp. 62-66)

D&C 132:15-18 explains that when a husband and wife are married only by civil law, their marriage will “*not [be] valid neither of force,*” even if they have made a vow to be together forever.

D&C 131:1-4; 132:19-24, 30-31 give insight into the blessings received by those who make an eternal marriage covenant in the temple by the proper authority:

- They will be together “*in time, and through all eternity*”. Their children may also be part of their eternal family. The receipt of these blessings is dependent upon our continued faithfulness to the covenants after making them.
- **D&C 131:1-3; 132:23-24** promise that the faithful will be exalted in the highest degree of the celestial kingdom with Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ.
- They will “*inherit thrones, kingdoms, principalities, ... powers, [and] dominions*” (**D&C 132:19**)

Youth should prepare now for eternal marriage.

Young people should be encouraged to prepare themselves for the blessings of a temple marriage. This is one of the most important decisions they will ever make, so our leaders emphasize temple marriage as a vital goal for each young man or woman.

Elder Richard G. Scott, speaking of eternal marriage, said: “*An essential priority of a prospective wife is the desire to be a wife and mother. She should be developing the sacred qualities that God has given His daughters to excel as a wife and mother: patience, kindness, a love of children, and a desire to*

- They will continue to have seed, or spirit children, throughout eternity (**D&C 132:19, 30-31**)
- “*They shall be gods, because they have all power*” (**D&C 132:20-21**)

Temple marriage also brings blessings in mortality. **Elder Joseph B. Wirthlin** said: “*The sweet companionship of eternal marriage is one of the greatest blessings God has granted to His children. Certainly, the many years I have shared with my beautiful companion have brought me the deepest joys of my life. From the beginning of time, marital companionship of husband and wife has been fundamental to our Heavenly Father’s great plan of happiness. Our lives are touched for good, and we are both edified and ennobled as we savor the sweet blessings of association with dear members of the family*” (*Ensign*, Nov. 1997, 32)

care for them rather than seeking professional pursuits. She should be acquiring a good education to prepare for the demands of motherhood. ... A prospective husband should also honor his priesthood and use it in service to others. Seek a man who accepts his role as provider of the necessities of life, has the capacity to do it, and is making concerted efforts to prepare himself to fulfill those responsibilities” (*Ensign*, May 1999, 26)

After a husband and wife are sealed in the temple, they must abide in the covenant to receive the promised blessings.

Sister Marjorie P. Hinckley, “*I was just sure the first ten years would be bliss. But during our first year together I discovered ... there were a lot of adjustments. Of course, they weren’t the kind of thing you ran home to mother about. But I cried into my pillow now and again. The problems were almost always related to learning to live on someone else’s schedule and to do things someone else’s way. We loved each other, there was no doubt about that. But we also had to get used to each other. I think every couple has to get used to each other.*” (in Sheri L. Dew, *Go Forward with Faith: The Biography of Gordon B. Hinckley* [1996], 118).

It takes love, work, and dedication to have a successful marriage. When a man and woman are sealed in the temple, they will receive the promised blessings only if they “*abide in [the] covenant*” (**D&C 132:19**).

D&C 42:22. This commandment applies equally to men and women.

President Spencer W. Kimball explained:

“*When the Lord says all thy heart, it allows for no sharing nor dividing nor depriving. ... “The words none else eliminate everyone and everything. The spouse then becomes preeminent in the life of the husband or wife, and neither social life nor occupational life nor political life nor any other interest nor person nor thing shall ever take precedence over the companion spouse. ... “Marriage presupposes total allegiance and total fidelity. Each spouse takes the partner with the understanding that he or she gives totally to the spouse all the heart, strength, loyalty, honor, and affection, with all dignity. Any divergence is sin; any sharing of the heart is transgression. As we should have ‘an eye single to the glory of God,’ so should we have an eye, an ear, a heart single to the marriage and the spouse and family*” (*Faith Precedes the Miracle* [1972], 142–43).

President Gordon B. Hinckley gave this simple counsel to married couples: “*Be fiercely loyal one to another.*” (*Ensign*, Feb. 1999, 4)

Gospel Doctrine Notebook

Record your thoughts on the teachings discussed in this lesson.

- What blessings have you received as a result of temple marriage in your family?
- What are some things you have done to strengthen the love between you and your spouse?

