

Celestial Law

In this short video I wish to go over what we know about Celestial law. For an application of why we need to be living it in order for the Savior to make a city a City of Holiness see pretty much any of my other videos.

D&C 105:5

5 And Zion cannot be built up unless it is by the principles of the law of the celestial kingdom; otherwise I cannot receive her unto myself.

Elder Bruce R McConkie summarized Celestial Law thus:

“Celestial law (see also Celestial Kingdom, Celestial Marriage, Consecration, Obedience) is that law by obedience to which men gain an inheritance in the kingdom of God in eternity. It is the law of the gospel, the law of Christ, and it qualifies men for admission to the celestial kingdom because in and through it men are “sanctified by the reception of the Holy Ghost,” thus becoming clean, pure and spotless (3 Nephi 27:19-21).

“And they who are not sanctified through the law which I have given unto you, even the law of Christ,” the Lord says, “must inherit another kingdom, even that of a terrestrial kingdom, or that of a telestial kingdom. For *he who is not able to abide the law of a celestial kingdom cannot abide a celestial glory.*” (D&C 88:21-22) Those who have the companionship of the Holy Ghost and are guided thereby in their lives are “able to abide the law of a celestial kingdom” including the law of consecration **or anything else the Lord might ask of them**. They are the ones- “united according to the union required by the law of the celestial kingdom” (D&C 105:1-5)-will build up Zion in the last days.

(Mormon Doctrine, p.117, bold font added)

By this summary we learn that those who build up Zion must first be living celestial law. Ergo, if no one is living celestial law there cannot be any Zion, ergo, there is no Zion for the Savior to come to. Those familiar with the temple should be aware that the law of sacrifice and obedience, the preparatory gospel, moves one from a telestial sphere to a terrestrial sphere. Living the celestial law moves one into the celestial sphere. In order to enter the celestial sphere, one of the things you commit to is full consecration- this is required to enter the celestial sphere. The subject of the law of consecration deserves its own time, but needless to say, D&C 105:4 is required for the City of Holiness. Obviously all of the things required to get one from a telestial sphere to a terrestrial sphere is carried over and is required to get you from the terrestrial sphere to the celestial sphere- thus everything already learned is carried over and folded into the celestial law.

The part of celestial law that seems to ruffle people’s feathers is that of celestial marriage, which is not required to enter the celestial sphere, but is required to obtain the highest degree in the celestial sphere. This doctrine already begins to ruffle people’s feathers and they immediately begin to rationalize away the doctrine being taught with loopholes, exceptions etc. But the

doctrine is clear- Jesus taught that men are neither given nor taken in marriage after the resurrection. James E. Talmage in, *Jesus the Christ*, further clarifies:

"Jesus answered and said unto them, Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God. For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven." The Lord's meaning was clear, that in the resurrected state there can be no [marriage]... Luke records the Lord's words as follows in part: "But they which shall be accounted worthy to obtain that world, and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry, nor are given in marriage: Neither can they die any more: for they are equal unto the angels; and are the children of God, being the children of the resurrection." In the resurrection there will be no marrying nor giving in marriage; for all questions of marital status must be settled before that time, under the authority of the Holy Priesthood, which holds the power to seal in marriage for both time and eternity." (*Jesus the Christ*, p.509)

President Kimball, who was a prophet of God, speaking as a prophet of God, over the pulpit, gave the following true story (which was also in the *Young Women's* manual for many years):

"A few years ago a young couple who lived in northern Utah came to Salt Lake City for their marriage. They did not want to bother with a temple marriage, or perhaps they did not feel worthy. At any rate, they had a civil marriage. After the marriage they got into their automobile and drove north to their home for a wedding reception. On their way home they had an accident, and when the wreckage was cleared, there was a dead man and a dead young woman. They had been married only an hour or two. Their marriage was ended. They thought they loved each other. They wanted to live together forever, but they did not live the commandments that would make that possible. So death came in and closed that career. They may have been good young people; I don't know. But they will be angels in heaven if they are. They will not be gods and goddesses and priests and priestesses because they did not fulfill the commandments and do the things that were required at their hands.

"Sometimes we have people who say, 'Oh, someday I will go to the temple. But I am not quite ready yet. And if I die, somebody can do the work for me in the temple.' And that should be made very clear to all of us. The temples are for the living and for the dead only when the work could not have been done. Do you think that the Lord will be mocked and give to this young couple who ignored him, give them the blessings? The Lord said, 'For all contracts that are not made unto this end have an end when men are dead.' (D&C 132:7)"

(in *Conference Report*, Japan Area Conference 1975, pp. 61–62)

As soon as you, as members, begin to dissect the words of the prophet, spoken as a prophet over the pulpit, as true or not true, old-fashioned, etc you destroy the mantel of prophet and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Either all of it is true or none of it is true. As President John Taylor said, "the kingdom of God or nothing!"

In case one might be tempted to rationalize this quote from President Kimball away as "off the cuff" or a one-time deal, and that he was rebuked and repented afterwards, I give you a section of the First Presidency Message in the *Ensign* 1979 that he wrote:

“No one who rejects the covenant of celestial marriage can reach exaltation in the eternal kingdom of God.

“In the celestial glory there are three heavens or degrees;

“And in order to obtain the highest, a man must enter into this order of the priesthood [meaning the new and everlasting covenant of marriage];

“And if he does not, he cannot obtain it.

“He may enter into the other, but that is the end of his kingdom; he cannot have an increase.” (D&C 131:1–4.)

He cannot have an increase! He cannot have exaltation!

The Lord says further in the 132nd section of the Doctrine and Covenants:

“No one can reject this covenant and be permitted to enter into my glory” (D&C 132:4).

No one! It matters not how righteous they may have been, how intelligent or how well trained they are. No one will enter this highest glory unless he enters into the covenant, and this means the new and everlasting covenant of marriage.

These are the words of the Lord. They were said directly to us.

“And as pertaining to the new and everlasting covenant, it was instituted for the fulness of my glory; and he that receiveth a fulness thereof must and shall abide the law. ...

“Therefore, when they are out of the world they neither marry nor are given in marriage; but are appointed angels in heaven, which angels are ministering servants [they may be worthy and righteous, but they are ministering servants], to minister for those who are worthy of a far more, and an exceeding, and an eternal weight of glory.

“For these angels did not abide my law; therefore, they cannot be enlarged, but remain separately and singly, without exaltation, in their saved condition, to all eternity; and from henceforth are not gods, but are angels of God forever and ever.” (D&C 132:6, 16–17.)

Some might say, “Well, I’d be satisfied to just become an angel,” but you would not. One never would be satisfied just to be a ministering angel to wait upon other people when he could be the king himself.

And so we repeat: It is the normal thing to marry. It was arranged by God in the beginning, long before this world’s mountains were ever formed. Remember: “Neither is the man without the woman, neither the woman without the man” (1 Cor. 11:11).

(The Importance of Celestial Marriage, Ensign 1979)

I hear one say, “Micah, you teach hard doctrines! Surely the Lord does not require this of us!?” To which I respond, that men say the same thing when being taught the law of sacrifice and

obedience which moves them to the terrestrial sphere from the telestial sphere. And then say the same thing being taught the celestial law and the requirements to the temple etc. It is only “hard doctrine” to those who are not living it and who are unwilling to do so. ie. those who are not doing and have no desire to do. The Lord, when asked, how many will be saved in the highest degree of the Celestial kingdom, responded:

Matthew 7:13-14

13 Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:

14 Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

And the Savior reiterated this to the Prophet Joseph Smith when he said,

D&C 132:21-25

21 Verily, verily, I say unto you, except ye abide my law ye cannot attain to this glory.

22 For strait is the gate, and narrow the way that leadeth unto the exaltation and continuation of the lives, and few there be that find it, because ye receive me not in the world neither do ye know me.

23 But if ye receive me in the world, then shall ye know me, and shall receive your exaltation; that where I am ye shall be also.

24 This is eternal lives—to know the only wise and true God, and Jesus Christ, whom he hath sent. I am he. Receive ye, therefore, my law.

25 Broad is the gate, and wide the way that leadeth to the deaths; and many there are that go in thereat, because they receive me not, neither do they abide in my law.

D&C 121:34-35

34 Behold, there are many called, but few are chosen. And why are they not chosen?

35 Because their hearts are set so much upon the things of this world, and aspire to the honors of men,...

Now that we have thoroughly ruffled people’s feathers, now is the best time to pluck them, and what better time to do it since we are already in D&C 132! And that is the topic of plural marriage in Celestial law.

But before I can even get into it, I have to combat one of the most pernicious, and frankly idiotic teachings that is a misconception regarding that of the church teaching and practicing that of eternal plural marriage. And what is that misconception? That we as a church stopped teaching it and stopped practicing it back with the Manifesto. This is utterly wrong. There is a member of my branch here in Kenora who practices plural marriage, our prophet of God practices plural marriage, Elder Oaks practices plural marriage etc. etc. (that’s 2/3 of our Presidency!)

“Burn him!” I hear one yell. “Excommunicate him!” I hear another shriek. “False doctrine!” screams the last. “Wait” says I, “let me explain.”

When a couple is sealed in the church, and then that couple is separated through death or civil divorce, the man can get sealed to another woman (even if the first woman he was sealed to is still alive). The woman on the other hand, has to get a temple divorce before she can get sealed to another man (ask Elder Oaks about this). What is this? This is plurality of wives. There is no such thing as a plurality of husbands. The only reasons why members of the church would be okay with this but yet staunchly against plural marriage being openly practiced in mortality in the church is because they either A. don't actually believe in a life after death, B. don't actually believe in the sealing power of celestial marriage, C. you feel like it will be easier to accept in the next life vs. this life (Alma 34:33-35 debunks this last theory). I would also say that if any of the three above are true- you don't have faith in the afterlife, you don't have a testimony of the sealing keys of the Priesthood, and you fear men more than God, I've got news for you, accepting this doctrine won't matter for you regardless because you won't be making it to the highest degree of the Celestial Kingdom. If any of these do apply to you, I plead with you to repent and come fully into the Savior's camp or as President Nelson recently said, “Do whatever it takes to strengthen your faith in Jesus Christ by increasing your understanding of the doctrine taught in His restored Church and by relentlessly seeking truth. Anchored in pure doctrine, you will be able to step forward with faith and dogged persistence and cheerfully do all that lies in your power to fulfill the purposes of the Lord” (The Future of the Church: Preparing the World for the Savior's Second Coming, Ensign, April 2020).

The best way I feel to get one to understand why plural marriage is part of Celestial law and why it has to be a part of Celestial law or as Elder Bruce R. McConkie noted, “**obviously** the holy practice will commence again [during] the ushering in of the millenium” (Mormon Doctrine, p.578, emphasis added) is with that of an analogy:

In the United States of America we have something that is referred to as the second amendment, “the right to bear and keep arms [guns]”. This is the law of the land. Does this mean that every single American owns a gun? No. If I found somebody there in America who didn't own a gun, could I then say “see, that isn't the law of the land! Get rid of all guns!”? No. Someone there not owning a gun doesn't prove a thing. What proves something is, can I point to somebody there that owns guns and who isn't being arrested for owning them. If I can do that then I can prove that the law of the land must allow for the citizens to own guns. With that in mind, if heaven, the Celestial law, did not allow for guns and I had two guns, I would have to eject my guns before I went up into heaven. Or I wouldn't be allowed in. Now let's relate this to plural marriage. If the law of the Celestial kingdom did not allow open plurality of wives, all of the people who have a plurality of wives would have to eject their plurality of wives before entering in. Or they wouldn't be allowed in. If the Celestial law does not contain in it the allowance of the open practice of plural wives, President Nelson will have to say “bye, bye” to one of his wives and watch her float down to a lesser degree. Which doesn't seem very fair to her!

“But wait!” I hear one exclaim, “Just because that is the way in heaven, doesn’t mean it has to be that way here on earth!” To which I would draw your attention back to the scripture I read at the beginning, D&C 105:5, which says:

D&C 105:5

5 And Zion cannot be built up unless it is by the principles of the law of the celestial kingdom; otherwise I cannot receive her unto myself.

If we are not living the Celestial law, we cannot redeem and build Zion. And in the words of Parley P. Pratt, “if such a city is never built, the Lord will never come.” Why? Because the Lord cannot accept a city, He cannot make it a City of Holiness, unless that city is living Celestial law. If America was going to accept another state into the union, accept it into its bosom, annex it, but that country had a law that anybody who owned a gun would be excommunicated from the state, would such a state ever be able to be annexed as is? No. They would have to change their law and be living it before America would accept it. Likewise, the Celestial law contains in it stipulations for the allowance of the practice of open plural marriage (and by open I simply mean in the flesh, I’ve already discussed how we are still practicing it in spirit) whereas the law of the Church of the Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints excommunicates all members who openly practice plurality of wives. Such a city could never be accepted of the Lord. Such a city would not allow for Father Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Brigham Young and Joseph Smith to walk the streets of it save by being excommunicated and being kicked out of the city themselves. This is why Elder McConkie said, “it obviously has to come back”. Does this mean that every member of the church will practice plural marriage? Just like the guns, this is not an argument. We know that Celestial law contains in it, among other things, the law of consecration, also known as the union of all things, as well as plurality of wives, also known as celestial marriage. I recommend for those struggling with this to read Doctrine and Covenants 132 in its entirety and study it prayerfully.

I will close with the words of President Kimball from the same talk:

“The Lord’s program is unchangeable. His laws are immutable. They will not be modified. Your opinions or mine do not make any difference and do not alter the laws. Many of the world think that eventually the Lord will be merciful and give to them unearned blessings. Mercy cannot rob justice. College professors will not give you a doctorate degree for a few weeks of cursory work in the university, nor can the Lord be merciful at the expense of justice. In this program, which is infinitely greater, we will each receive what we merit. Do not take any chances whatever. Be sure that your marriage is right. Be sure that your life is right. Be sure that your part of the marriage is carried forward properly.”

We share this with you in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.