

Rebellion versus Weakness

The YouTube video will be titled “The Truth About Pornography.” I’m doing this because I know that if I entitled it “Rebellion versus Weakness” people wouldn’t take the time to learn. This is not deception; this paper will give you the truth about pornography but so much more than just that. This paper will unfold sin in a way that will be for your edification and enlightenment and hopefully for your salvation. I have discussed in my previous paper, “The Prepared Shall Not Fear” that many members will dissect the commandments of God into two categories, that of temporal commandments and that of spiritual commandments. And I go into great detail using the words of President Benson to prove beyond any reasonable doubt that the Lord makes no such differentiation. The Lord does not break commandments into temporal and spiritual with spiritual being weighted more than temporal commandments; the Lord however does break the disobeying of commandment into two categories with one being far more severe than that of the other, regardless of the sin being committed.

“The joyful news for anyone who desires to be rid of the consequences of poor choices is that the Lord sees weaknesses differently than He does rebellion. Whereas the Lord warns that unrepented rebellion will bring punishment, when the Lord speaks of weaknesses, it is always with mercy.” (Richard G. Scott, Personal Strength through the Atonement of Jesus Christ, October 2013 General Conference).

I’m going to use a card analogy because it is the best way to explain this, I apologize if you are not familiar with cards. Sins come like a deck of cards, with varying degrees from 2 all the way up to an Ace which is high- this is how sins work with some sins being extremely severe or “high” like an Ace (such as shedding innocent blood). And other sins are still sins but they are far less severe (such as telling a white lie). However, there is a trump. Now a trump is a specified suit of cards ie. heart, club, spade or diamond, that beats all other cards not of that suit. So if spade was the “trump” a 2 of spades beats out a king of hearts. This does not mean that there isn’t varying degrees in the trump class, meaning a 10 of spades is still more severe than a 4 of spades. This is how sin works. The “trump” suit to the Lord is “acts of rebellion.” There have been and there will be what seem to you to be “minor sins” that get people completely cut off (Satan’s followers, Saul, Eli, even Laman and Lemuel, etc). And yet there are and will be cases of people committing what you think to be far more serious sins and yet they will not be cut off. Why? Because their sin was a sin of weakness/passion and not a sin of rebellion. One such example that many members probably aren’t aware of that will be shocking to a lot of members to read of, but that I feel is extremely important to bring to light, is that of the story of Judah (yes, Judah, the son of Israel that birthed the tribe of Judah and thus Jesus Christ, which comprises modern day “Jews,” the son through which all the blessing of Judah flow). Judah married a Canaanite (this was marrying outside of the covenant), he then had 3 sons with her.

Genesis 38:11-26

6 And Judah took a wife for Er his firstborn, whose name was Tamar.

7 And Er, Judah’s firstborn, was wicked in the sight of the Lord; and the Lord slew him.

Ok, it is important to note here that the first son was wicked and was slain because of it. Hang a lantern here because we are going to read of deeds that you will probably find to be “far more wicked” yet the Lord didn’t kill the person who committed the deeds, therefore the sin of Er, his wickedness, must have been that of rebellion.

8 And Judah said unto Onan, Go in unto thy brother’s wife, and marry her, and raise up seed to thy brother.

9 And Onan knew that the seed should not be his; and it came to pass, when he went in unto his brother’s wife, that he spilled it on the ground, lest that he should give seed to his brother.

10 And the thing which he did displeased the Lord: wherefore he slew him also.

Trying to be as uncrude as possible, let’s talk about what happened here. The oldest son had property that would have been lost to his wife Tamar and would have been reabsorbed into the family, thus given to the second son Onan. A brother could be a “temporary husband” for a brother’s widow until she conceived a son at which point in time the temporary marriage would be annulled and the inheritance of the brother would pass to this new son. Onan did not want his brother’s stuff to leave the family, but didn’t mind the perks of having another wife, temporary or otherwise. So how does he keep her a temporary wife forever while also retaining his brother’s stuff? The answer is birth control and the method of birth control that he attempts is withdrawal. Once again, there might be a lot more severe sins than greed (wanting his brother’s stuff) but it was the act of rebellion (birth control) that got him killed. Continuing with the story,

11 Then said Judah to Tamar his daughter in law, Remain a widow at thy father’s house, till Shelah my son be grown: for he said, Lest peradventure he die also, as his brethren did. And Tamar went and dwelt in her father’s house.

Now what’s happened? Judah, once again the man through which of the blessings of the tribe of Judah flow, is afraid for the life of his last son, doesn’t give Tamar the property of his oldest son, but rather sends Tamar back to her father’s house, shamed in being used by two husbands, with a promise of the third son.

12 ¶ And in process of time the daughter of Shuah Judah’s wife died; and Judah was comforted, and went up unto his sheepshearers to Timnath, he and his friend Hirah the Adullamite.

13 And it was told Tamar, saying, Behold thy father in law goeth up to Timnath to shear his sheep.

14 And she put her widow’s garments off from her, and covered her with a veil, and wrapped herself, and sat in an open place, which is by the way to Timnath; for she saw that Shelah was grown, and she was not given unto him to wife.

We are starting to get an idea of what might be Tamar’s plan, but more specifically we are told that Judah hasn’t given her his son yet. Once again, Judah sins by not keeping a promise and yet lives.

15 When Judah saw her, he thought her to be an harlot; because she had covered her face.

16 And he turned unto her by the way, and said, Go to, I pray thee, let me come in unto thee; (for he knew not that she was his daughter in law.) And she said, What wilt thou give me, that thou mayest come in unto me?

17 And he said, I will send thee a kid from the flock. And she said, Wilt thou give me a pledge, till thou send it?

18 And he said, What pledge shall I give thee? And she said, Thy signet, and thy bracelets, and thy staff that is in thine hand. And he gave it her, and came in unto her, and she conceived by him.

Ok, so we have now in the Old Testament a very clear recording of prostitution. This is not an unplanned adultery, this is not a lust of the eyes, this is not coveting, this is full blown prostitution directly after your wife dies. On top of all that, in this act of paying for sex, he apparently doesn't even care if he gets this prostitute pregnant! Which he does.

19 And she arose, and went away, and laid by her veil from her, and put on the garments of her widowhood.

20 And Judah sent the kid by the hand of his friend the Adullamite, to receive his pledge from the woman's hand: but he found her not.

21 Then he asked the men of that place, saying, Where is the harlot, that was openly by the way side? And they said, There was no harlot in this place.

22 And he returned to Judah, and said, I cannot find her; and also the men of the place said, that there was no harlot in this place.

23 And Judah said, Let her take it to her, lest we be shamed: behold, I sent this kid, and thou hast not found her.

It should be fascinating to note that Judah had no shame in paying for a prostitute, had no shame in potentially getting her pregnant, and had no shame not only in telling his friend that he laid with a prostitute, but he was getting his friend to pay the prostitute. His only shame was that he got the deed for free.

24 ¶ And it came to pass about three months after, that it was told Judah, saying, Tamar thy daughter in law hath played the harlot; and also, behold, she is with child by whoredom. And Judah said, Bring her forth, and let her be burnt.

So, after everything that happened in this family up to this point in time, Judah is now ready to burn Tamar because she is pregnant. He doesn't even know if she was forcibly impregnated, he is not even waiting to learn the details.

25 When she was brought forth, she sent to her father in law, saying, By the man, whose these are, am I with child: and she said, Discern, I pray thee, whose are these, the signet, and bracelets, and staff.

26 And Judah acknowledged them, and said, She hath been more righteous than I; because that I gave her not to Shelah my son. And he knew her again no more.

He doesn't say that his daughter in law is without sin, but he does say that her sin is less. Reading this story, a member today would probably think that the sins committed by Judah were far more severe and deserving of death than that of his first two sons. And members might also be wondering why such a story was even included in the Old Testament. Because a 2 and a 4 of spades, the trump suit, are more severe than a king of hearts and a queen of hearts.

Another quick story to illustrate the point is that of Noah. Noah preached for 120 years, built his ark and the only people that he could get into the ark were that of his sons. Jesus shut the ark, the rains started, Noah then had to listen to the screams and the scratches and poundings on the door, among who were most likely Noah's daughters. Noah had to sit helpless and listen to them all drown. When the ark finally landed a year later one of the very first things recorded that Noah did was to get so plastered drunk that when he passed out he didn't even notice when his son Ham came in and "discovered his nakedness" ie. took the clothes right off his body. He was pretty drunk. And to this did God punish Noah for his drunken behavior? Nope, instead the curse upon Ham's descendants was reaffirmed and Ham was kicked out of the family. Some might think that getting so drunk in front of your family and passing out is a more serious sin than taking a man's clothes and "who you decide to marry" (ie. marrying outside the covenant), yet that's not what we learn here. Acts of rebellion once again are far more severe than act of weakness.

One final example that I will use at this time is that, once again, of David and Saul (which I used in my paper "The Prepared Need Not Fear). Saul was trying to imprison, banish, possibly even put to death, David. David snuck into the camp of Saul and cut off the symbol of Saul's priesthood office. When David showed the severed emblem to Saul's camp in the morning, God rebuked David and not Saul. Once again, weakness is not the same as open rebellion.

I don't find it personally important to note at this time my own worthiness, but I know that there will be those reading this who will be rushing to the conclusion that I am justifying sin. Like I said, I don't make it a habit of proclaiming my worthiness but I will simply say here that I didn't have sex until I was married, I have only had sex with my wife, the most I have ever broken the Word of Wisdom in my entire life was 1. As a deacon I ate chocolate covered coffee beans from a dispenser at a movie rental store unknowingly and 2. I was given and drank a big gulp of some (awful) "lemonade" which turned out to be iced tea while on my mission. I have always had a temple recommend and I have never been disqualified from having one. The purpose of this paper isn't to justify sins of weakness, it is hopefully to get Saints to realize how much more severe the sins of rebellion are. Sins of rebellion that are now worn proudly and openly among us.

1 Samuel 12:14-25

14 If ye will fear the Lord, and serve him, and obey his voice, and not *rebel* against the commandment of the Lord, then shall both ye and also the king that reigneth over you continue following the Lord your God:

15 But if ye will not obey the voice of the Lord, but *rebel* against the commandment of the Lord, then shall the hand of the Lord be against you, as it was against your fathers.

16 ¶ Now therefore stand and see this great thing, which the Lord will do before your eyes.

17 Is it not wheat harvest to day? I will call unto the Lord, and he shall send thunder and rain; that ye may perceive and see that your wickedness is great, which ye have done in the sight of the Lord, in asking you a king.

18 So Samuel called unto the Lord; and the Lord sent thunder and rain that day: and all the people greatly feared the Lord and Samuel.

19 And all the people said unto Samuel, Pray for thy servants unto the Lord thy God, that we die not: for we have added unto all our sins this evil, to ask us a king.

20 ¶ And Samuel said unto the people, Fear not: ye have done all this wickedness: yet turn not aside from following the Lord, but serve the Lord with all your heart;

21 And turn ye not aside: for then should ye go after vain things, which cannot profit nor deliver; for they are vain.

22 For the Lord will not forsake his people for his great name's sake: because it hath pleased the Lord to make you his people.

23 Moreover as for me, God forbid that I should sin against the Lord in ceasing to pray for you: but I will teach you the good and the right away:

24 Only fear the Lord, and serve him in truth with all your heart: for consider how great things he hath done for you.

25 But if ye shall still do wickedly, ye shall be consumed, both ye and your king.

Things you should pick up from this: Once again, weakness is forgiven so long as you do not turn aside from the Lord, rebellion is very serious even if it seems like a trivial thing, ie. desiring the wrong type of leadership so much so that it will get you cut off.

Isaiah 1:18-20

18 Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.

19 If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land:

20 But if ye refuse and *rebel*, ye shall be devoured with the sword: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

Once again, if you reason with the Lord, you don't turn aside from him, even if your sins of weakness are extremely grievous, dark blood red, it doesn't matter, the Lord promises you that he can make you white as snow. But the same promise is not made to those who rebel, in fact it doesn't even specify how much sin you have, how much red you have, if you rebel you are gone.

1 Nephi 2:18-24

18 But, behold, Laman and Lemuel would not hearken unto my words; and being grieved because of the hardness of their hearts I cried unto the Lord for them.

19 And it came to pass that the Lord spake unto me, saying: Blessed art thou, Nephi, because of thy faith, for thou hast sought me diligently, with lowliness of heart.

20 And inasmuch as ye shall keep my commandments, ye shall prosper, and shall be led to a land of promise; yea, even a land which I have prepared for you; yea, a land which is choice above all other lands.

21 And inasmuch as thy brethren shall *rebel* against thee, they shall be cut off from the presence of the Lord.

22 And inasmuch as thou shalt keep my commandments, thou shalt be made a ruler and a teacher over thy brethren.

23 For behold, in that day that they shall *rebel* against me, I will curse them even with a sore curse, and they shall have no power over thy seed except they shall *rebel* against me also.

24 And if it so be that they *rebel* against me, they shall be a scourge unto thy seed, to stir them up in the ways of remembrance.

Once again, Nephi is not praised and exalted by the Lord for being sinless (we will get to this specifically later), but rather Nephi seeking the Lord, that is what he was praised for. It's important to note that at this point in time we know for a fact that Nephi killed a man, stole that man's property and then was deceptive and lied to that man's servant. Laman and Lemuel on the other hand as far as we know never stole anything, never killed anyone, never lied, yet their sin of open rebellion got them completely cut off and Nephi exalted. It is also made clear here, that to rebel against the Lord's anointed is to rebel against the Lord himself.

Mosiah 15:26-27

26 But behold, and fear, and tremble before God, for ye ought to tremble; for the Lord redeemeth none such that *rebel* against him and die in their sins; yea, even all those that have perished in their sins ever since the world began, that have wilfully *rebelled* against God, that have known the commandments of God, and would not keep them; these are they that have no part in the first resurrection.

27 Therefore ought ye not to tremble? For salvation cometh to none such; for the Lord hath redeemed none such; yea, neither can the Lord redeem such; for he cannot deny himself; for he cannot deny justice when it has its claim.

We now have a very good definition of rebellion vs weakness. Rebelling is when one knows the mind of God and actively chooses another path or another mind. That same man comes out in open rebellion against God. This is not the same as somebody who knows the mind of God, wants to follow the mind of God and due to temptations and weaknesses of the flesh succumbs.

D&C 76:25-26

25 And this we saw also, and bear record, that an angel of God who was in authority in the presence of God, who *rebelled* against the Only Begotten Son whom the Father loved and who was in the bosom of the Father, was thrust down from the presence of God and the Son,

26 And was called Perdition, for the heavens wept over him—he was Lucifer, a son of the morning.

A decision that might be viewed by some to be a small thing was significant enough to cast you out from the entire plan of salvation. Once again, why? Because everyone there had clear knowledge and either declared their allegiance with the Lord or came out in open rebellion.

Moses 4:3-4

3 Wherefore, because that Satan *rebelled* against me, and sought to destroy the agency of man, which I, the Lord God, had given him, and also, that I should give unto him mine own power; by the power of mine Only Begotten, I caused that he should be cast down;

4 And he became Satan, yea, even the devil, the father of all lies, to deceive and to blind men, and to lead them captive at his will, even as many as would not hearken unto my voice.

The war continues; those that come out in open rebellion knowingly or unknowingly simultaneously come out waving proudly the banners of Satan.

1 Samuel 15:22-24

22 And Samuel said, Hath the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.

23 For *rebellion* is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the Lord, he hath also rejected thee from being king.

24 ¶ And Saul said unto Samuel, I have sinned: for I have transgressed the commandment of the Lord, and thy words: because I feared the people, and obeyed their voice.

Once again, this story confirms that perceived minor acts of sin cost people everything if they are sins of rebellion. Saul is told to sack a village and then he is told afterwards to sacrifice all of the animals to God. However, once Saul sacked the town the people convinced him to only sacrifice a portion of the animals and then keep the rest. This would be like if the keys came to you and told you to sell your property and instead of paying 10% tithing they wanted you to pay 100% tithing. Once the property sold, your wife and kids convinced you to pay 10% tithing (because that is what God requires) and that act was enough to get you to lose everything.

These passages also give us a crucial bit of doctrinal insight into rebellion. We have learned that coming out in open rebellion puts you in the camp of Satan (knowingly or unknowingly) but here we also learn something else and that is that the sin of rebellion is synonymous with idolatry. The sin of idolatry is when you serve mammon, the world, the things of man's creation, more

than (or other than) that of God himself. There is a reason why the first 4 of the 10 commandments deal with idolatry, and the 5th commandment of the 10 commandments gives you the type. Idolatry then becomes synonymous with “the trump card.” Sins of idolatry are the worst sins that a person can commit in this life. What also is taught here is why so many people fall prey to the most grievous of sins, idolatry, and that was that Saul feared the people and obeyed their voice. Or as the Lord put it in Doctrine and Covenants 121:34-35, “behold, there are many called, but few are chosen. And why are they not chosen? Because their hearts are set so much upon the things of this world, and aspire to the honors of men.”

Alma 9:23-24

23 And now behold I say unto you, that if this people, who have received so many blessings from the hand of the Lord, should transgress contrary to the light and knowledge which they do have, I say unto you that if this be the case, that if they should fall into transgression, it would be far more tolerable for the Lamanites than for them.

24 For behold, the promises of the Lord are extended to the Lamanites, but they are not unto you if ye transgress; for has not the Lord expressly promised and firmly decreed, that if ye will *rebel* against him that ye shall utterly be destroyed from off the face of the earth?

Things that we should pick up on: once again, a group of people who are just as wicked as another group of people but have the gospel light among them are punished far more severely because of their open rebellion. So it would be better for the Lamanite practicing polygamy than it would be for the Nephite choosing to not pay his tithing.

Now we need to answer two important questions, 1. Why does the Lord as Elder Scott explained above, show compassion and mercy to weakness? And 2. When the Lord as well as Elder Scott refer to weakness are they referring to a broken bone, a limp leg, a chronic disease etc or are they referring to actual sins?

Ether 12:27

27 And if men come unto me I will show unto them their weakness. I give unto men weakness that they may be humble; and my grace is sufficient for all men that humble themselves before me; for if they humble themselves before me, and have faith in me, then will I make weak things become strong unto them.

So why does the Lord show compassion upon weakness? Because the Lord is who gives us the weakness. Imagine a father giving a son a heavy pack to lift, knowing that it is just heavy enough to cause the son to grow physically stronger but yet too heavy so at times he will stumble and fall to the ground. And imagine said father, when that son falls on the ground, being completely unforgiving and uncompassionate and hardhearted etc. Such a man or a God would be a monster.

Jacob 4:7

7 Nevertheless, the Lord God showeth us our weakness that we may know that it is by his grace, and his great condescensions unto the children of men, that we have power to do these things.

2 Nephi 25:23

23 For we labor diligently to write, to persuade our children, and also our brethren, to believe in Christ, and to be reconciled to God; for we know that it is by grace that we are saved, after all we can do.

Does God need to forgive and apply his grace to a broken leg? Does God need to apply grace and forgive to a chronic illness? A man coming down with boils, a man being born blind etc etc are not necessarily manifestations of an individual's sin and do not need to be forgiven by the Lord. This flawed logic caused Job's friend to accuse him of gross sin, as well as the man born blind whom Jesus healed.

In case you are still not convinced that weaknesses, weaknesses of the flesh, deal with sins and not just physical ailments, I quote Nephi:

2 Nephi 4:17-19, 26-27

17 Nevertheless, notwithstanding the great goodness of the Lord, in showing me his great and marvelous works, my heart exclaimeth: O wretched man that I am! Yea, my heart sorroweth because of my flesh; my soul grieveth because of mine iniquities.

18 I am encompassed about, because of the temptations and the sins which do so easily beset me.

19 And when I desire to rejoice, my heart groaneth because of my sins; nevertheless, I know in whom I have trusted.

26 O then, if I have seen so great things, if the Lord in his condescension unto the children of men hath visited men in so much mercy, why should my heart weep and my soul linger in the valley of sorrow, and my flesh waste away, and my strength slacken, because of mine afflictions?

27 And why should I yield to sin, because of my flesh? Yea, why should I give way to temptations, that the evil one have place in my heart to destroy my peace and afflict my soul? Why am I angry because of mine enemy?

We have already learned that Nephi killed a man, stole his property not only once (Laban's clothes and sword) not twice (Laban's plates of brass) but three times (Laban's slave Zoram) and then was deceptive and lied to Zoram, yet the Lord chose him over his brothers who as far as we know never committed such acts, but whom rebelled. Members of the Church in most cases won't even blush with Nephi decapitating a man, stealing his stuff and lying, but yet they will get flustered when they read the story of Laman and Lemuel not helping Nephi build the ship! And this is because knowingly or unknowingly most members of the Church understand that sins of rebellion, regardless of the deed, are more severe. And that even if a man kills another person, lies and steals property in one night, members know:

Galatians 5:18

18 But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law.

Nephi also knows this. These are not the things Nephi was talking about in 2 Nephi 4. So this weakness that comes by means of the flesh, giving in to those temptations, are sins. We have already read above how the Lord told Nephi that he was chosen because “he sought the Lord” not because Nephi was perfect. Elder Neal A Maxwell explained this perfectly by saying, “the Lord does not begin by asking our ability, only our availability, and when we prove our dependability he increases our capability.” Nephi is upset, he is sad, that due to the weaknesses of the flesh he commits sins of weakness. But he also proclaims in the same breath that he is trusting the Lord and that is his entire focus. The sins that he commits are not sins of rebellion. He is not looking at what the Lord is telling him to do, “thinking about it,” and then actively choosing another path. Joseph Smith tried to teach this doctrine and it was one of the top 5 reasons he was killed in the end- and that was the doctrine of calling and election or as it came to be known “unconditional exaltation.” Bruce R McConkie summarized the prophet’s teaching thus, ““The more sure word of prophecy means a man’s knowing that he is sealed up unto eternal life, by revelation and the spirit of prophecy, through the power of the Holy Priesthood.” (D&C 131:5). Those so favored of the Lord are sealed up against all manner of sin and blasphemy except the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost and the shedding of innocent blood. That is, their exaltation is assured; their calling and election is made sure, because they have obeyed the fulness of God’s laws and have overcome the world. Though such persons “shall commit any sin or transgression of the new and everlasting covenant whatever, and all manner of blasphemies, and if they commit no murder wherein they shed innocent blood, yet they shall come forth in the first resurrection, and enter into their exaltation” (D&C 132:26)” (Mormon Doctrine p.110). So what does this mean? It means after one’s calling and election is made sure they still will make sins of the flesh, sins of weakness. But the Lord will forgive them of ALL of those sins, it doesn’t matter how severe they are. The reason for this? Because the Lord knows that none of these sins will be sins of rebellion. In fact, at that point in time the only sin left that would be classified as a sin of rebellion would be to deny the Holy Ghost or in other words, shed innocent blood. Such rebellion at that time will make you a son of perdition. Once again confirming crystal clear that the Lord views sins of rebellion as being so much more severe than sins of weakness and sins of the flesh.

We have arrived at pornography at last. Now after everything you have learned, let me put forth a few hypothetical situations:

1. A young man (priest) with a temple recommend who really want to serve the Lord, he goes over to a friend’s house and his friend, unbeknownst to the priest, hands him some pornography. The young man succumbs to temptation. The young man immediately repents and proceeds on with his life for the next couple months and then succumbs to temptation again. Immediately he repents etc etc.
2. A woman learns the doctrine that her body is a temple. She then gets in the car, drives to a tattoo parlor and gets a tattoo. She then proclaims, “the Lord loves me how I am, regardless of what I do to my body. I reject that doctrine” and then not only proceeds to

wear her tattoos openly with pride but proceeds to add to her tattoo collection throughout her life, possibly even using her tattoos as a piece of her identity.

3. A man in the church learns the doctrine of the Word of Wisdom, reads the line that those who live the Word of Wisdom should be able to “run and not faint” and also understands the doctrine of moderation in all things, but proceeds to eat whatever he wants, whenever he wants, never exercises, never makes the attempt to lose weight and then lives this way for half a century.
4. A woman goes to the temple, has “understanding garments” read to her, accepts it and then proceeds to pick and chose when and where she wears them, sometimes pinning them up to wear certain clothes, throughout her life.
5. A ward member knows that church starts at 10am and that the prophets of God have asked members to show up ten minutes early before meetings to sit reverently. But they actively chose to show up at 10:10 because and I quote “I don’t want to be sitting there early with nothing to do.”
6. Prophets of God for almost 120 years have counseled members to grow their own garden, have a food storage, etc. Members then go off and buy a motorcycle and a boat while asking for fast offerings and expecting when troubles start the Lord will provide manna from heaven.
7. The prophets have counseled us for 120 years to get out of debt. A 55-year old man, who has been in debt his entire life, finally pays off his car debt (and only his car debt) and is freed up an extra \$300/month. He immediately goes out and buys a \$30,000 Toyota truck, paying off the debt \$300/month at a time.
8. You, as a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, know the doctrine of the plan of salvation. And yet for your entire life you have been an advocate for homosexual marriage.
9. You, as a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, understand the war in heaven, the ideology upon which that war was fought, and the words of modern prophets from Joseph Smith on clarifying beyond any reasonable doubt to any individual of “common intelligence” or above that socialism and communism are Satan’s kingdom. Yet you campaign for and support socialistic and communistic people, platforms, programs, parties and candidates.

I could go on and on and on and on. Members that think that pornography is the scourge, or that pornography is the thing that weeds out the church do not understand the scriptures, they do not have the spirit of prophecy, and are woefully ignorant.

I challenge anyone to find me a reference anywhere that a civilization was destroyed because of pornography use. I challenge anyone to find references to pornography being the killer in the last days in the Book of Mormon, the book of Isaiah or the book of Revelation. The sin that comes up again and again and again is the sin of idolatry, is the sin of rebellion. When one has the truth, when one has the light and they actively choose another path, not because of a weakness of the flesh, but rather due to their own ignorant pride.

So what is the truth about pornography? I can testify to you in the name of Jesus Christ that if you fight it and actively work against it and your desire is to rid yourself of it but yet you still have succumbed to the sin of the temptation, the weakness of the flesh (much like an individual who is on a diet who breaks down and eats the cookie), I can testify to you in the name of Jesus Christ, that as many times as you speedily repent and come back to the Lord with full purpose of heart, that he will forgive you (get back on your diet, get back on the train).

But I will also say this, and I will testify of this in the name of Jesus Christ, that those that know the will of the Lord and actively choose another path because “they know better” regardless of the severity of your perceived misdeed, you will not find forgiveness, you will not find mercy unless you speedily repent before He cuts you off. The longer you spend in rebellion, the riskier it becomes that you will be cut off forever and you reach the point of no return. If you don’t understand what the point of no return is, I would suggest reading the book, *The Miracle of Forgiveness* by President Kimball or watch/read my paper “Agency in Progression.”

Brothers and Sisters, the Lord does not hate you or will cut you off because of your weaknesses. The Lord hates and will cut people off because of their rebellion. Keep going to the Lord, keep fighting through your weaknesses and I can promise you that the Lord will eventually make those weaknesses into strengths.

I say this in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.