

5 Things I Wish Latter-Day Saints Knew (Part 1)

5. What humility is.

No, I'm not saying I wish members were more humble, I wish they understood what the actual definition is. Too many LDS accept the world's definition of humility or worse a Presbyterian or sectarian notion of it. Members are so confused as to the definition that they will label act as "acts of humility" which are in fact "acts of pride"- the literal opposite of humility. If this is you, don't be offended or deflated, you are in good company. Ammon's brothers (ie. The other sons of Mosiah) also struggled with understanding the definition of humility when they accused Ammon of being prideful. Ammon countered this with the true definition of humility (Alma 26):

11 But Ammon said unto him: I do not boast in my own strength, nor in my own wisdom; but behold, my joy is full, yea, my heart is brim with joy, and I will rejoice in my God.

12 Yea, I know that I am nothing; as to my strength I am weak; therefore I will not boast of myself, but I will boast of my God, for in his strength I can do all things; yea, behold, many mighty miracles we have wrought in this land, for which we will praise his name forever.

16 Therefore, let us glory, yea, we will glory in the Lord; yea, we will rejoice, for our joy is full; yea, we will praise our God forever. Behold, who can glory too much in the Lord? Yea, who can say too much of his great power, and of his mercy, and of his long-suffering towards the children of men? Behold, I say unto you, I cannot say the smallest part which I feel.

35 Now have we not reason to rejoice? Yea, I say unto you, there never were men that had so great reason to rejoice as we, since the world began; yea, and my joy is carried away, even unto boasting in my God; for he has all power, all wisdom, and all understanding; he comprehendeth all things, and he is a merciful Being, even unto salvation, to those who will repent and believe on his name.

36 Now if this is boasting, even so will I boast; for this is my life and my light, my joy and my salvation, and my redemption from everlasting wo. Yea, blessed is the name of my God, who has been mindful of this people, who are a branch of the tree of Israel, and has been lost from its body in a strange land; yea, I say, blessed be the name of my God, who has been mindful of us, wanderers in a strange land.

So, if you still don't understand the real definition of humility let's continue on with this question- "what is pride?" which is the antonym to humility. Is pride simply thinking you are great? Is pride simply believing that you have worth? Is pride simply believing that you have an eternal worth? God forbid! It is the first thing we teach people as missionaries. You are special! You are a child of God! Your worth is eternal! So is this pride? No! Pride is when you choose to follow your own path, your own decisions, the decisions of another or a path another has laid out for you VS following the Lord's command and that of the keys of God. Simply put, it is when a man or woman pits his or her own will against that of the Lord's. (If this is still confusing to you, read or watch my Agency in Progression series).

So, continuing, when do members virtue signal what they believe to be their humility when in fact they are proclaiming with a loud speaker their pride? Ammon gave us both pieces to the puzzle- you have to first acknowledge your weakness, your nothingness, your ignorance but this is only half of the equation. What you do with this information determines whether or not you are a prideful person or a humble person. Now that you have identified your weaknesses, what is the Lord's will for you? Is it to glory in,

proclaim loudly and virtue signal your weaknesses and then do nothing about it? Let us read what the Lord's will is (Ether 12):

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.

What is the Lord clearly saying here? He is saying that you acknowledge your weaknesses AND IF YOU ARE HUMBLE he will make your weaknesses into strengths. If you have been proclaiming your weaknesses over the pulpit at fast and testimony meeting for years and years it is not a sign of humility, it is a sign of pride. Why? Simply put, you are relying entirely on your own strength and thus are staying weak. This is not the will of the Lord. You are refusing to grasp the hand of the Lord, his hand, his arms as the Lord says, are continually open to you. You cannot be humble in weakness, you can only be humble in strength; humility is not the same as being humbled.

4. What judging is.

Much like above, I'm not saying that I wish members would stop judging, I wish members understood what the doctrine of judging is. If I can't get that, for the love of truth, will members at the very least stop teaching it. If I hear a member one more time say "don't judge!" I might just give up the ghost. If I have to hear one more talk with a story like that of the woman who thought her neighbor couldn't wash her clothes in which the teller of the story says and I quote "this lady judging her neighbor and the cleanliness of her clothes says more about the judger than the person being judged"; if I have to hear another such story and I'm the only person that understands the irony and hypocrisy of it, I'm going to have an aneurysm. The entire purpose of telling stories like that is for the person telling the story and those listening to the story to judge the person in the story for judging. Does nobody understand how idiotic that is? What if the lady in that story, her mother died two weeks ago and the one thing she remembered from her mother was the importance of clean clothes, the quote from her mother ringing in her head, "clean laundry symbolizes a mother's love for her family" and normally she would not have been so hard on her neighbor but she was struggling with this death, and YOU Mr or Mrs reading this story judged her without knowing all the facts! That says more about YOU than about HER! Can no one see how this never ends? Can no one see how illogical this is? It is because none of you understand judging. To make this crystal clear, I will be as plain and simple as possible, there are only two cases in which you are NOT supposed to judge someone or something. ALL other cases of "judging" are not only permitted, they are commanded. As Moroni said in Moroni 7:

15 For behold, my brethren, it is given unto you to judge, that ye may know good from evil; and the way to judge is as plain, that ye may know with a perfect knowledge, as the daylight is from the dark night.

16 For behold, the Spirit of Christ is given to every man, that he may know good from evil; wherefore, I show unto you the way to judge; for every thing which inviteth to do good, and to persuade to believe in Christ, is sent forth by the power and gift of Christ; wherefore ye may know with a perfect knowledge it is of God.

17 But whatsoever thing persuadeth men to do evil, and believe not in Christ, and deny him, and serve not God, then ye may know with a perfect knowledge it is of the devil; for after this manner doth the devil work, for he persuadeth no man to do good, no, not one; neither do his angels; neither do they who subject themselves unto him.

18 And now, my brethren, seeing that ye know the light by which ye may judge, which light is the light of Christ, see that ye do not judge wrongfully; for with that same judgment which ye judge ye shall also be judged.

19 Wherefore, I beseech of you, brethren, that ye should search diligently in the light of Christ that ye may know good from evil; and if ye will lay hold upon every good thing, and condemn it not, ye certainly will be a child of Christ.

The two cases are:

1. Final Judgment: ie. "that young man will never make it to the celestial kingdom". This does not include saying this such as "if a man does not repent he will be cut off," that is simply doctrine. It is however when you affirmatively paint somebody in a light and do not leave the door open for repentance. Once an individual has died there are many cases of prophets, apostles etc clearly identifying the final state of those people, "for behold the day of their probation is over."
2. The why or the motives of anybody's actions or decisions. For example, . "Jacob voted for Trump because he has darkness in his heart" or "Sister Peacock doesn't homeschool her kids because she doesn't care about her kids" for the Lord alone knows the heart and intentions of men. This does not include the actions themselves, ie. "Sister Peacock not homeschooling her kids is a dereliction of duty"-that is allowed.

As I have said, all other forms of judging is not only allowed but commanded to be done and done righteously. Moroni gave us a key to understanding how to judge righteously but Alma paints how we are to judge righteously crystal clear (Mosiah 26: 33-34):

33 And it came to pass when Alma had heard these words he wrote them down that he might have them, and that he might judge the people of that church according to the commandments of God.

34 And it came to pass that Alma went and judged those that had been taken in iniquity, according to the word of the Lord.

We are to judge using the light of Christ, the Holy Ghost and the spirit of prophecy, and the word of God. It is also important to note that even with the two cases that we are not supposed to judge, the keys of the priesthood are commanded to do. They are judges in Israel and they, using the spirit of the Lord, can and will discern the hearts of men, and they will be involved in final judgement.

3. "Surely the Lord God will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets."
(Amos 3:7)

I can hear it already, "Micah, you think that the church doesn't understand THIS? Our church is built on this!" And yet you don't understand it! I have heard apostles of the Lord say things that let's me know that even they don't understand it. "No man knoweth the day nor the hour!" or "the seventh seal has

been opened!” or “there will be a call out, not through the keys but through individuals!” and on and on and on. Joseph Smith, who is THE revealer of truth in this dispensation, said that when Christ said “no man knoweth the day nor the hour” he was referring to at that moment but that if God were to remain not a liar the Lord would have to at some point reveal even the day and the hour of those special events before it happens and the prophet will then warn the people. If you believe for example that no man knoweth the day nor the hour NOR shall, you do not believe Amos 3:7. If you believe for example that the seventh seal was opened in the year 2000 and the prophet of God didn’t let us know of such a monumental important event you don’t believe Amos 3:7 or Joseph Smith. The Lord tells the prophets to tell the people. Telling Noah that it was going to flood and then telling Noah NOT to tell the people smacks of incompetence.

2. The standards for women are the same as the standards for men.

This, much like the last one, will have a lot of members scratching their heads and saying, “What? Of course they are the same.” But yet none of you believe it. I will give a couple examples but these examples are by no means all inclusive, they are merely a drop in the bucket, but I for the sake of length will just give you some of my favorites. If people want an entire 30 minute video on just this, trust me, I can provide!

- a. Modesty: But aren’t these already the same? No. Not even close. Men’s garments have not changed in almost 200 years. Women no longer need to pin up their garments on their knees or shoulders, they are basically wearing boxer briefs and sleeveless shirts with cleavage a plenty, and they are wearing them “properly”. If men showed up to a swimming event with a rash guard (shirt) and a speedo they would be asked to leave. They are required to wear shorts down to the knee. Women on the other hand can wear lingerie to swim, its called a bodysuit, and they are called modest while doing it. Men are required to wear a white shirt, tie, pants, dress shoes to affiliate in the ordinances of the priesthood, women can wear flip flops, pencil skirts, or lulu lemons to church. Famous LDS female artists such as Lindsey Stirling can dance around in a stripper outfit and there isn’t so much as a peep!
- b. Tattoos and Piercings: What’s the standard for men? No tattoos, no piercings, no exceptions. Back in the 2000s when they raised the bar on missionaries a tattoo for men would disqualify him from a mission. Women, on the other hand, their standard is “whatever is socially acceptable.” For if a single set of earrings is “socially acceptable” in white communities and therefore is ok, a lip disc which is socially acceptable in Africa should be equally accepted or there is no principle in it thus there is no truth in it thus God is not in it. So if you allow the standard for white women to be “whatever is socially acceptable in your community” this by virtue of the principle opens up all tattoos and all piercings based on the social acceptability of it. Gordon B Hinckley when instituting this famously said “I want to stay married/living with my wife” meaning because women were weak and were prone to anger and would not accept an equal standard they were given a lesser standard.
- c. Idleness: The standard for men is “work, work, work, don’t play video games- they are a waste of time, violent and evil!” The standard for women is “read (or write *Twilight*) anything you want even if it has explicit violence or sexual scenes, spend hours and hours

- and hours doing nothing on social media, and not only will we not say anything about it we will pat you on the back and tell you that you are doing missionary work!" Imagine if a teenager playing Call of Duty when told by his mother "you've spent too much time on that today" his response was "but Mom, I'm doing missionary work!" Can you imagine that? He would be laughed to scorn.
- d. Sin of coveting or the sin of the lust of the eyes: When a man looks on a woman to lust after her, he is coveting his neighbor's wife. When a woman looks at another house to lust after it, she is coveting another woman's house. Now obviously if the man masturbates or if the man has sex with the woman the sin becomes far more severe. Likewise, if a woman steals, plunders or murders to take the objects the sin becomes far more severe. But when the sin is simply the sin of coveting, it is the same sin and equally damning. There is no difference between a man looking through a pornographic magazine, wishing he had a wife like that, then a woman looking through a magazine of "things," wishing she had things like that. When a couple is married they not only promise to lock their hearts together physically/sexually, they promise to lock their hearts together economically/financially, "for better or worse", yet when a man covets "it kills love" and when a woman covets it is called "a girls night out" or "a husband's duty to provide."
 - e. The duty to work: We learn in the Book of Moses Chapter 5 "Adam began to till the earth and to have dominion over all the beasts of the field, and to eat his bread by the sweat of his brow." But what Latter-Day Saints fail to accept is the following line "and Eve, also, his wife, did labor with him." In the Book of Mormon, we learn of the Nephites (Mosiah 10) that the Nephite men "did till the ground, and raise all manner of grain and all manner of fruit of every kind." But Latter-Day Saints fail to accept what follows "and the women did also work, and did spin, and toil, and work all manner of fine linen, yea, and cloth of every kind." You can also learn about the history of Nauvoo in which the men were in some cases miles away cutting down trees and sending them down river, while the women maintained the entire farm. Unprecedented in the history of mankind, from Adam to today, is the standard in the eyes of a lot of Latter-Day Saints that men of God are "to provide all the money" and the women of God are to "send their kids to public school and spend all the money."

1. What a testimony is.

If I have to listen to one more story-mony, travel-mony, complain-amony, brag-amony, virtue signal-amony, preach-amony, AA-amony etc etc etc.... I will stand up and profusely vomit all over you! All joking aside, thank God for COVID, it ended "testimony meeting." Okay, okay, okay, joking aside, can you learn what a testimony is, please. If you can't figure it out, stay seated, people will be by shortly to give you a lollipop before nap time. Okay, okay, okay, okay, all joking aside, seriously, a testimony is "I know ____ because of _____. Amen." If you are saying anything other than this, you my friend, are confused, but don't be worried, people will be by shortly to wipe the drool from your chin. The Lord wants your testimonies, nothing else. If you don't give Him your testimony and give him something else, you are robbing Him. "Will a man rob God? Yet ye are robbing Him!" There is a time and a place for most things, testimony meeting is for testimonies. If you, as a member, refuse to do this, there can be only two reasons for it- either 1. You are unaccountable, meaning you are under the age of 8 mentally or 2. You are a prideful individual, pitting your will against that of the Lord's. I love you brothers and sisters, I

hope you understand my sense of humor, I hope you enjoyed this list of 5 things, let's make testimony meeting great again! In the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.