

Tender Mercies of Our Lord Jesus Christ

January 2018

Issue #5

Newsletter for Latter-day Saint brothers and sisters in prison, and also those imprisoned who are not members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, yet seek spiritual enrichment and the Savior's peace.

*"...the **tender mercies** of the Lord are over all those whom He hath chosen, because of their faith..." (1 Nephi 20)*

Cherished sisters and brothers, there is no question in my mind, **woman is the greatest creation that our Heavenly Father has ever made.** When I look around me and I see all of the beautiful creations of this world, none of them even come close to comparing with the beauty that is woman. I speak of the goodness and nurturing and caring and sympathy and love that are simply built-in to the character of woman.

Woman, it would appear, was the last of our Heavenly Father's creations. Truly He saved the best for last. A couple of weeks ago an amazing sister invited me to go caroling with her and some of her friends. I was just getting over a cold and so I didn't feel like I could sing, but I was incredibly touched by the generosity of this selfless daughter of God and her willingness to share of her time and gather others to bless the lives of some adults struggling with great trials. This was the sixth year she had organized caroling for this less-fortunate group. I also watched this dedicated sister gather mittens to take to homeless families at the



Road Home. What is it about woman that inspires her to be so kind and loving and wonderful to others? There are qualities that are deeply inherent in women that are simply not often as visible in men. **Next to the Savior, I am aware of no other creation that has more**

completely and universally blessed the lives of all of Heavenly Father's children, both daughters and sons, than the creation of woman. There are special qualities within women that even the finest of men may never aspire to. I simply and honestly believe that woman is the greatest AND MOST SACRED of all of Heavenly Father's creations. My beloved brothers, how are you treating the women in your life? Do you treat them like daughters of the glorious God that they are? Do you adore them? Do you honor them? Do you respect them? Do you cherish them? Do they **FEEL** your love and tenderness for them? Oh how I plead with my Father in Heaven that you do... or that you will if you previously have not. And my sisters, how do you see yourselves and other women? Do you see yourself and the women around you as daughters of an Almighty God who is king of this universe, therefore **EACH** of you is truly a princess? It is my powerful and fervent prayer that you do. I have seen the foul way both men and women can sometimes speak of women... and to women. Let us please strive to treat women as the sacred creations they are. My sisters and my brothers, my love for you is very real. My prayers for you are continuous. I have dedicated this newsletter to the great and sacred gift from Heavenly Father that is **WOMAN**.

– Brother D.



The following is by Elder Glenn L. Pace, a former member of the First Quorum of the Seventy. Elder Pace passed away a few months ago. *I loved this man*. He would have written a message in this newsletter. Thus, I am so pleased to include his message on women in this month's newsletter.



“The Family: A Proclamation to the World” states:

“All human beings—male and female—are created in the image of God. Each is a beloved spirit son or daughter of heavenly parents, and, as such, each has a divine nature and destiny. Gender is an essential characteristic of individual premortal, mortal, and eternal identity and purpose.” My focus will be on the divine nature and destiny of women and the sacred role they play in the sanctification and purification of men. I’m going to start by giving you two exclusive scoops. First, males and females are different. Second, those differences are more than physical. I developed a love and appreciation for womanhood in my childhood. My mother, sisters, grandmas, aunts, and female cousins and friends brought immeasurable love into my young life. This set the stage for the adult relationships with my wife, daughters, and granddaughters. All of the above have contributed to my feelings of reverence, adoration, and even veneration (worship) of righteous women.

In pondering the effect women have had on my life, I have concluded that there has been a metamorphosis of my spirit that could not have taken place without these relationships. Of course, the first woman in my life was my mother. How can I describe the impact of my mother’s love? The love in her eyes, her touch, her smell, her elegance, her tender heart, her sensitivity, her femininity. In addition to the loving care I received from my mother, I received similar nurturing from my big sister, who was my mentor and protector. My appreciation for women rose to a whole new dimension when our two daughters came into our lives. There is something angelic about daughters—at least in the eyes of their father. I have sometimes lamented that I wasn’t born with the perspective daughters brought into my life. If a man could be born with that insight, his respect for and treatment of a young woman during his dating years would improve significantly.

I have always been impressed with the love and respect our Savior bestowed upon the women in His life. As we read about these associations, our focus is generally on what He taught them and the love and understanding He gave them. **Have you ever considered the possibility that these women provided immense comfort to His burdened soul? It is my belief that He needed them as He journeyed toward living a perfect life so He could provide the ultimate sacrifice.**

I repeat that my associations and interplay with the righteous women in my life have created a metamorphosis of my spirit and have been purifying and sanctifying.

I’d now like to turn to the more intimate relationship of husband and wife and the impact that relationship has on our exaltation. I believe the Father’s statement “**It is not good that the man should be alone**” (Genesis 2:18) had a much more profound meaning than the obvious biological implications. It also went further than providing Adam with “company.” **Adam’s ability to obtain the purification necessary to get back into the presence of God was dependent upon his continuous association with Eve.** Remember what Adam said when Eve stood beside him for the first time: “**Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife, and they shall be one flesh**” (Abraham 5:18). Many years after the creation of Adam and Eve, Paul said, “**Nevertheless neither is the man without the woman, neither the woman without the man, in the Lord**” (1 Corinthians 11:11). In the Doctrine and Covenants we read: “**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.**” [D&C 131:1–3] Why can’t he obtain it? It’s not just because he didn’t obey a celestial commandment. It’s because he didn’t become a celestial being. There is a limit to our spiritual development as long as we are single. There is a spiritual development that can only be obtained when a man and a woman join their incomplete selves into a complete couple. Just as conception requires the physical union of male and female, perfection requires the union of the very souls of male and female.

Elder Richard G. Scott has said: “In the Lord’s plan, it takes two—a man and a woman—to form a whole. Indeed, a husband and wife are not two identical halves, but a wondrous, divinely determined combination of complementary capacities and characteristics.”

Men and women can accomplish marvelous things alone. However, they are incomplete until united intellectually, emotionally, physically, and, most important, spiritually. The world we live in has gone awry with its focus on the physical part of the male and female relationship. If there is too much focus on the physical, the vital areas of intellectual, emotional, and spiritual union are not being placed in an environment where they can flourish and grow. Our current society is so obsessed with “making love” that they are not developing a complete relationship that would enable them to “express love.”

Since melding our divine natures is a necessary element in bringing about perfection, we must guard against any deterioration of those natures. Sisters, keep in mind anything that detracts from your divine nature should be avoided. You live in a time when you have more opportunities and options available to you than any other women have had throughout the history of mankind. Some of these options will complement your God-given natures. Others will chip away at it. Some things will make you strong. Others will make you hard. Some will increase your spiritual sensitivity. Others will separate you from the Spirit. **If the world keeps chipping away at the divine nature of women, it is probable that our relationships in marriage will not bring about the sanctification necessary for exaltation or, as a minimum, the process will be delayed.**

My wife’s eternal nature and destiny was never clearer to me than at the temple marriage of our youngest son. Prior to the ceremony as I spoke of sacred things, I looked at my wife, who was seated next to our son. My spiritual eyes were opened, and I saw her shining in all of her glory as she basked in the warmth of having joy and rejoicing in her posterity. She was radiant. I saw before me a priestess, queen, and goddess. There is absolutely nothing the world can offer that could come close to the fulfillment she was feeling. There was no accomplishment in the world she could have attained that would have made me love her more or be more proud of her efforts. Her eternal nature was then and is now still intact.

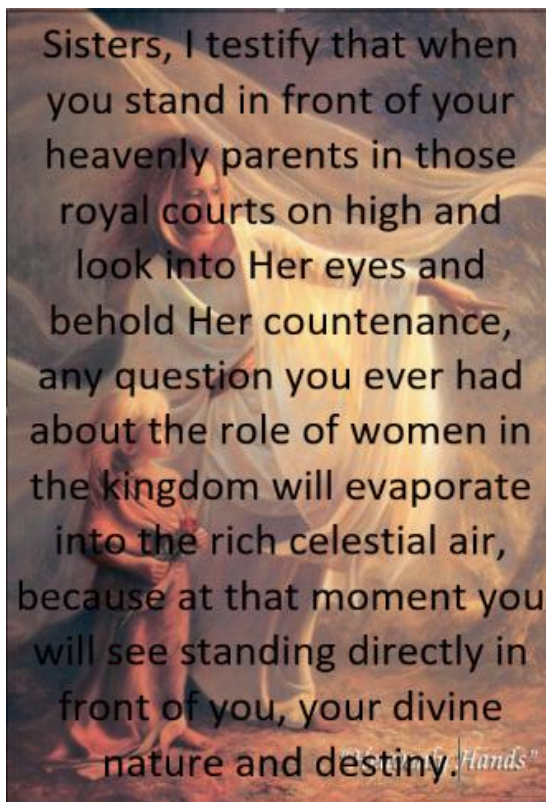
We commonly hear the phrase “Men have the priesthood and women have been given the blessing of procreation.” **Without perfection, neither assignment meets the full measure of its creation.** After perfection comes the ultimate role of god or goddess. These are eternal roles in which one continues to complement the other throughout all eternity. It is the marriage ceremony in the temple in which husband and wife receive the power to perfect their relationship and, thereby, obtain their exaltation. Elder John A. Widtsoe put it this way:

“Modern revelation sets forth the high destiny of those who are sealed for everlasting companionship. They will be given opportunity for a greater use of their powers. That means progress. They will attain more readily to their place in the presence of the Lord; they will increase more rapidly in every divine power; they will approach more nearly to the likeness of God; they will more completely realize their divine destiny. And this progress is not delayed until life after death. It begins here, today, for those who yield obedience to the law.”

I emphasize that the power coming down from heaven on those married in the temple by the holy priesthood cannot alone bring about the progress mentioned by Elder Widtsoe. It takes the righteous interplay of male and female.

I like the Quaker proverb “Thee lift me and I’ll lift thee and we’ll both ascend together.”

Sisters, I testify that when you stand in front of your heavenly parents in those royal courts on high and look into Her eyes and behold Her countenance, any question you ever had about the role of women in the kingdom will evaporate into the rich celestial air, because at that moment you will see standing directly in front of you, your divine nature and destiny. I say this in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.



Great Mormon Women

Kathy Eyring



Kathy was to prove to be more than a good wife and mother. She was to be another of those defining influences in the life of President Henry B. Eyring. The best example of that happened when Henry had been teaching at Stanford for about nine years. It was a richly satisfying time in their lives. He was given considerable freedom to design the classes he taught at Stanford. He returned for one year to Boston as the Sloan Visiting Faculty Fellow at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He had also entered the business world now, serving as an officer and director for Finnigan Instrument Corporation and becoming a founder and director of System Industries Incorporated, a computer manufacturing company. In the Church, he had taught early-morning seminary, served for a time in the bishopric of his

own ward, and then was called as the bishop of the Stanford First Ward, a campus ward.

But that was all to change. "One night," Elder Eyring reports, "Kathy nudged me and asked, 'Are you sure you are doing the right thing with your life?'" He stops for a moment and then explains, "I was surprised. Now remember my situation. I have tenure at Stanford. I am the bishop of the Stanford ward. We are living next to her parents. I love what I'm doing. It's like the Garden of Eden, all right? And then she asks me that question."

"Couldn't you do studies for Neal Maxwell?" she went on. Elder Eyring stops again. "You have to understand something. Neal A. Maxwell was the commissioner of education at that time. Kathy didn't even know him. I didn't know him."

When asked about that night, Kathy is not sure what it was that brought forth that question. "We were very happy there," she agrees, "but somehow I just felt like there was something more important that he should be doing. I knew that his teaching at Stanford was wonderful, but I felt there was something he could teach that could truly change lives." She knew about the Church Educational System (CES) and somehow remembered that Neal A. Maxwell was the commissioner. Thus, her comment.

It was enough. Henry determined he would pray about it. At first he got no answer, or so he thought. But it wasn't long after that when the phone rang and Commissioner Maxwell, who apparently knew of Henry Eyring, was on the line asking if Henry could come to Salt Lake City. He went.

"I was at my parents' house," Elder Eyring recalls, "so Elder Maxwell came over there. The first words out of his mouth were, 'Henry, I'd like to ask you to be the president of Ricks College.'"

Thus began this life-altering association with Elder Maxwell. The rest... as they say.... Is history. Elder Henry B. Eyring was sustained a member of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles in April of 1995 and became a member of the First Presidency in 2007.



Live Each Day Without Regret

Mary Ellen Smoot



Occasionally I place my hands on both sides of the face of one of my children or grandchildren when they are doing something that will bring immediate or long-term harm to themselves in the process. I look deeply into their eyes and carefully explain to them how much they are loved and cherished. Then I describe the harm that could result from the actions they have chosen.

I can envision the Savior holding our faces between his hands and pleading with each of us individually to remain steadfast and immovable and faithful to the God who made us.

Before coming to this mortal world, we lived together in the presence of a loving Heavenly Father. I imagine one of our favorite topics of conversation was what would happen when we passed through the veil and entered this earthly existence.

Now we are here. Even though we were instructed regarding the difficulties we would encounter on Earth, I doubt we understood or could have known how demanding and trying, how tiring and even sorrowful at times this mortal existence would be. We have no doubt all, at some point, felt that what we were experiencing was just too hard to bear. **I can imagine our Savior placing his hands on both sides of our faces and promising to help us in our trials.** President Gordon B. Hinckley has counseled the women of the Church: “**Rise to the**



great potential within you. I do not ask that you reach beyond your capacity. I hope you will not nag yourselves with thoughts of failure. I hope you will not try to set goals far beyond your capacity to achieve. I hope you will simply do what you can do in the best way you know. If you do



you will witness miracles come to pass.” (*Motherhood, a Heritage of Faith* [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1995],9). When I hear sisters say, “I simply do not have time to read my scriptures and pray!” I want to say as president Hinckley has counseled, “Rise to the great potential within you.” We may need to step back and consider if our actions are consistent with those things that matter most to us. **As we place first things first in our lives, we can live each day without regret.**

Favorite Scriptures:



Search and find these passages and mark them in your personal scriptures.

Book of Mormon:

And Ammon said unto her: Blessed art thou because of thy exceeding faith; I say unto thee, woman, there has not been such great faith among all the people of the Nephites (Alma 19:10)

The woman is the glory of the man. Nevertheless neither is the man without the woman, neither the woman without the man, in the Lord. (1 Cor 11:7,11)

:New Testament

And Adam said: This I know now is bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called woman, because she was taken out of man. Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife; and they shall be one flesh. (Moses 3:23-24)

Pearl of Great Price:

A virtuous woman is a crown to her husband (Proverbs 12:4)

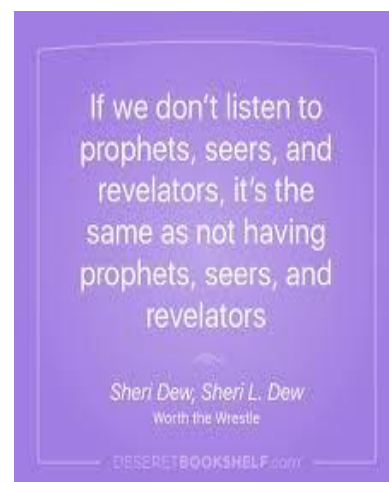
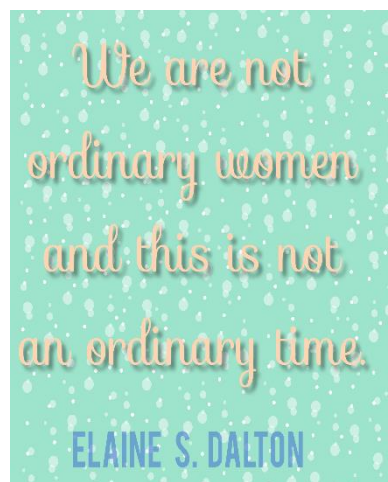
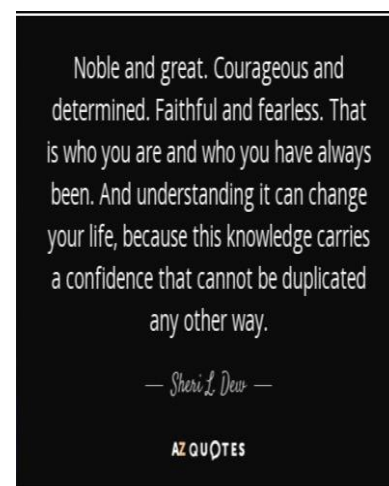
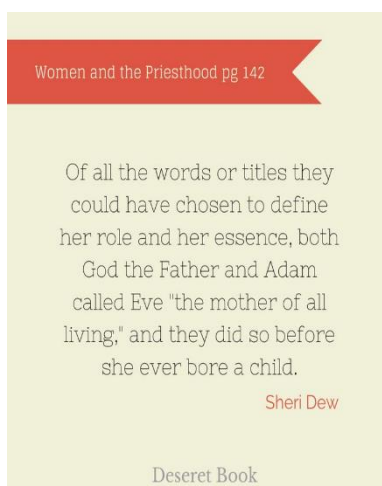
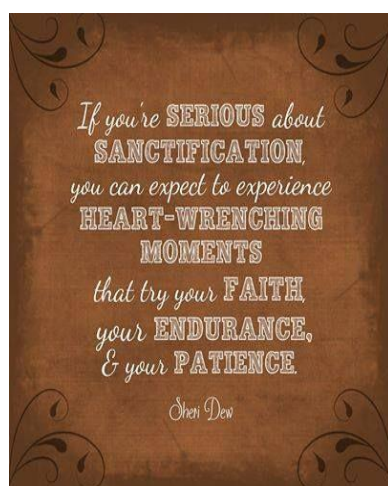
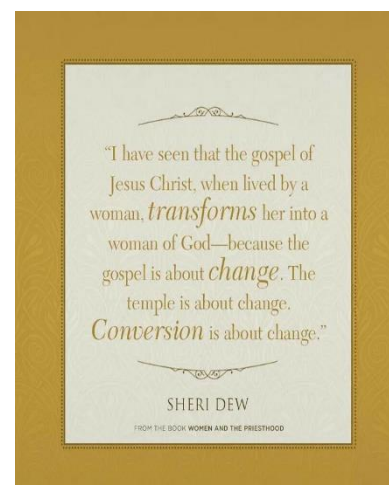
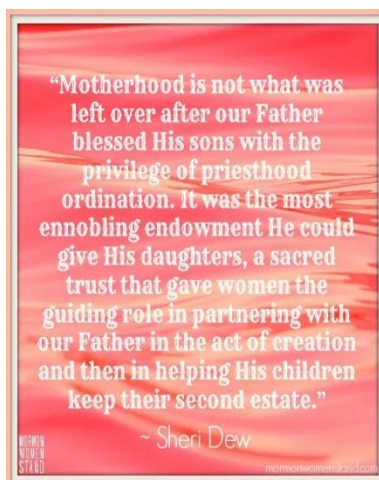
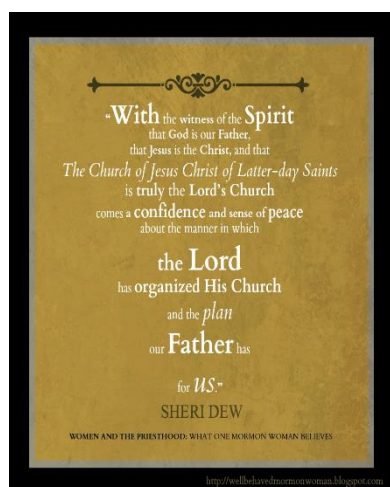
A woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised. (Proverbs 31:30)

:Old Testament

Doctrine and Covenants:

Marriage is ordained of God unto man... and they twain shall be one flesh, and all this that the earth might answer the end of its creation (Doctrine and Covenants 49:15-16)

Points To Ponder



Conference Talks – The Best of the Best...

THE WOMEN IN OUR LIVES

Gordon B. Hinckley - 15th President of the Church



My brethren and sisters, at the outset, if you will bear with me, I wish to exercise a personal privilege. Six months ago, at the close of our conference, I stated that my beloved companion of 67 years was seriously ill. She passed away two days later. It was April 6, a significant day to all of us of this Church. I wish to thank publicly the dedicated doctors and wonderful nurses who attended her during her final illness.

My children and I were at her bedside as she slipped peacefully into eternity. As I held her hand and saw mortal life drain from her fingers, I confess I was overcome. Before I married her, she had been the girl of my dreams, to use the words of a song then popular. She was my dear companion for more than two-thirds of a century, my equal before the Lord, really my superior. And now in my old age, she has

again become the girl of my dreams.

I am grateful to be able to say that in our long life together I cannot remember a serious quarrel. Small differences occasionally, yes, but nothing of a serious nature. I believe our marriage has been as idyllic as anyone's could possibly be.

I recognize that many of you are similarly blessed, and I compliment you most warmly, for when all is said and done there is no association richer than the companionship of husband and wife, and nothing more portentous for good or evil than the unending consequences of marriage.

I see those consequences constantly. I see both beauty and tragedy. And so I have chosen to say a few words today on the women in our lives.

I begin with the Creation of the world.

We read in the book of Genesis and in the book of Moses of that great, singular, and remarkable undertaking. The Almighty was the architect of that creation. Under His direction it was executed by His Beloved Son, the Great Jehovah, who was assisted by Michael, the archangel.

There came first the forming of heaven and earth, to be followed by the separation of the light from the darkness. The waters were removed from the land. Then came vegetation, followed by the animals. There followed the crowning creation of man. Genesis records that *“God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good”* (Gen. 1:31).

But the process was not complete.

“For Adam there was not found an help meet for him.

“And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof;

“And the rib, which the Lord God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man.

“And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman” (Gen. 2:20–23).

And so Eve became God's final creation, the grand summation of all of the marvelous work that had gone before.



Notwithstanding this preeminence given the creation of woman, she has so frequently through the ages been relegated to a secondary position. She has been put down. She has been denigrated. She has been enslaved. She has been abused. And yet some few of the greatest characters of scripture have been women of integrity, accomplishment, and faith. We have Esther, Naomi, and Ruth of the Old Testament. We have Sariah of the Book of Mormon. We have Mary, the very mother of the Redeemer of the world. We have her as the chosen of God, described by Nephi as *“a virgin, most beautiful and fair above all other virgins”* (1 Ne. 11:15).

She it was who carried the child Jesus into Egypt to save His life from the wrath of Herod.

She it was who nurtured Him in His boyhood and young manhood. She stood before Him when His pain-wracked body hung upon the cross on Calvary's hill. In His suffering He said to her, "Woman, behold thy son!" And to His disciple in a plea that he care for her, He said, "Behold thy mother!" (John 19:26–27).

Crossing through His life we have Mary and Martha, and Mary of Magdala. She it was who came to the tomb that first Easter morning. And to her, a woman, He first appeared as the resurrected Lord. Why is it that even though Jesus placed woman in a position of preeminence, so many men who profess His name fail to do so?

In His grand design, when God first created man, He created a duality of the sexes. The ennobling expression of that duality is found in marriage. One individual is complementary to the other. As Paul stated, "Neither is the man without the woman, neither the woman without the man, in the Lord" (1 Cor. 11:11).

There is no other arrangement that meets the divine purposes of the Almighty. Man and woman are His creations. Their duality is His design. Their complementary relationships and functions are fundamental to His purposes. One is incomplete without the other.

I recognize that we have many wonderful women among us who do not have the opportunity of marriage. But they, too, make such a tremendous contribution. They serve the Church faithfully and ably. They teach in the organizations. They stand as officers.

I witnessed a very interesting thing the other day. The General Authorities were in a meeting, and the presidency of the Relief Society were there with us. These able women stood in our council room and shared with us principles of welfare and of helping those who are in distress. Our stature as officers of this Church was not diminished by what they did. Our capacities to serve were increased.

There are some men who, in a spirit of arrogance, think they are superior to women. They do not seem to realize that they would not exist but for the mother who gave them birth. When they assert their superiority they demean her. It has been said, "Man can not degrade woman without himself falling into degradation; he can not elevate her without at the same time elevating himself" (Alexander Walker, in Elbert Hubbard's Scrap Book [1923], 204).

How very true that is. We see the bitter fruit of that degradation all about us. Divorce is one of its results. This evil runs rampant through our society. It is the outcome of disrespect for one's marriage partner. It manifests itself in neglect, in criticism, in abuse, in abandonment. We in the Church are not immune from it.

Jesus declared, "What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder" (Matt. 19:6).

The word man is used in the generic sense, but the fact is that it is predominantly men who bring about the conditions that lead to divorce.

After dealing with hundreds of divorce situations through the years, I am satisfied that the application of a single practice would do more than all else to solve this grievous problem.

If every husband and every wife would constantly do whatever might be possible to ensure the comfort and happiness of his or her companion, there would be very little, if any, divorce. Argument would never be heard. Accusations would never be leveled. Angry explosions would not occur. Rather, love and concern would replace abuse and meanness.

There was a popular song we sang many years ago, the lyrics of which said:

I want to be happy,
But I won't be happy
Till I make you happy, too.

How true this is.

Every woman is a daughter of God. You cannot offend her without offending Him. I plead with the men of this Church to look for and nurture the divinity that lies within their companions. To the degree that happens, there will be harmony, peace, enrichment of family life, nurturing love.

Well did President McKay remind us that "no other success [in life] can compensate for failure in the home" (quoted from J. E. McCulloch, *Home: The Savior of Civilization* [1924], 42; in Conference Report, Apr. 1935, 116).

Likewise, the truth of which President Lee reminded us: "The [greatest] work you will ever do will be within the walls of your own home" ("Maintain Your Place as a Woman," *Ensign*, Feb. 1972, 51).

The cure for most marital troubles does not lie in divorce. It lies in repentance and forgiveness, in expressions of kindness and concern. It is to be found in application of the Golden Rule.



It is a scene of great beauty when a young man and a young woman join hands at the altar in a covenant before God that they will honor and love one another. Then how dismal the picture when a few months later, or a few years later, there are offensive remarks, mean and cutting words, raised voices, bitter accusations.

It need not be, my dear brothers and sisters. We can rise above these mean and beggarly elements in our lives (see Gal. 4:9). We can look for and recognize the divine nature in one another, which comes to us as children of our Father in Heaven. We can live together in the God-given pattern of marriage in accomplishing that of which we are capable if we will exercise discipline of self and refrain from trying to discipline our companion.

The women in our lives are creatures endowed with particular qualities, divine qualities, which cause them to



reach out in kindness and with love to those about them. We can encourage that outreach if we will give them opportunity to give expression to the talents and impulses that lie within them. In our old age my beloved companion said to me quietly one evening, “You have always given me wings to fly, and I have loved you for it.” I once knew a man who has since passed on but who insisted on making all of the decisions for his wife and children. They could not buy a pair of shoes without him. They could not take a piano lesson. They could not serve in the Church without his consent. I have since witnessed the outcome of that attitude, and that outcome is not good. My father never hesitated to compliment my mother. We children

knew that he loved her because of the way he treated her. He deferred to her. And I shall ever be profoundly grateful for his example. Many of you have been blessed likewise.

Now I might go on but it is not necessary. I wish only to give emphasis to the great, salient truth that we are all children of God, both sons and daughters, brothers and sisters.

As a father, do I love my daughters less than I love my sons? No. If I am guilty of any imbalance, it is in favor of my girls. I have said that when a man gets old he had better have daughters about him. They are so kind and good and thoughtful. I think I can say that my sons are able and wise. My daughters are clever and kind. And **“my cup runneth over”** (Ps. 23:5) because of this.

Women are such a necessary part of the plan of happiness which our Heavenly Father has outlined for us. That plan cannot operate without them.

Brethren, there is too much of unhappiness in the world. There is too much of misery and heartache and heartbreak. There are too many tears shed by grieving wives and daughters. There is too much negligence and abuse and unkindness.

God has given us the priesthood, and that priesthood cannot be exercised, **“only by persuasion, by long-suffering, by gentleness and meekness, and by love unfeigned; by kindness, and pure knowledge, which shall greatly enlarge the soul without hypocrisy, and without guile”** (D&C 121:41–42).

How thankful I am, how thankful we all must be, for the women in our lives. God bless them. May His great love distill upon them and crown them with luster and beauty, grace and faith. And may His Spirit distill upon us as men and lead us ever to hold them in respect, in gratitude, giving encouragement, strength, nurture, and love, which is the very essence of the gospel of our Redeemer and Lord. For this I humbly pray, in the sacred name of Jesus Christ, amen.

Final thought from the editor: My dear brothers and sisters, “woman” is a subject that desperately needs to be pondered more often. We must do better in how we view and treat the wonderful daughters of God in our lives.

Woman truly is our Heavenly Father’s greatest and most sacred creation. It is my deep prayer that you will please recognize how precious the women in your life are both to you and to your Heavenly Father and your Savior. Please treat them with the utmost of tenderness and love and adoration and respect. Cherish them. Please let them feel every day that they are loved beyond their greatest imagination of what love could be. Consider writing the women of your life a loving and kind, uplifting and affectionate letter today. Whether they be your mothers or your sisters, your wives or your grandmothers, your daughters or your nieces or friends, please help them to feel how precious they are today and every day. This is my fervent prayer in the name of Jesus Christ amen. Remember brothers and sisters that I love you with all my heart. I love being a part of your lives through this newsletter. I hope that you find these messages uplifting and helpful as we strive together to become all that our Heavenly Father will have us become.

-Brother D.