

## D & C Lesson 31

### “SEALED . . . FOR TIME AND FOR ALL ETERNITY”

Prepared by Duane S. Crowther, August 2001

#### 1. Two glorious revelations on marriage

##### A. *D&C 131* [May 16 & 17, 1843]

1. “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*]

##### B. *D&C 132* [July 12, 1843]

1. “I reveal unto you a new and an everlasting covenant; and if ye abide not that covenant, ye are damned; for no one can reject this covenant and be permitted to enter into my glory. For all who will have a blessing at my hands shall abide the law which was appointed for that blessing, and the conditions thereof, . . . 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, or he shall be damned, saith the Lord God.” [*D&C 132:4-6*]

2. “If a man marry him a wife in the world, and he marry her not by me nor by my word, and he covenant with her so long as he is in the world and she with him, their covenant and marriage are not of force when they are dead, and when they are out of the world; . . . 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, 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 132:15-17*]

C. A. *Elder Parley P. Pratt*, one of the original members of the Quorum of the Twelve in this dispensation, recalled his feelings when he first heard the Prophet Joseph teach these doctrines: “I had loved before, but I knew not why. But *now I loved—with a pureness—an intensity of elevated, exalted feeling, which would lift my soul. . . . I felt that God was my heavenly Father indeed; that Jesus was my brother, and that the wife of my bosom was an immortal eternal companion. . . . In short, I could now love with the spirit and with the understanding also.* [*Autobiography of Parley P. Pratt, 1975, p. 298*]

#### 2. What does it mean to be exalted?

A. A husband and wife will be together “in time, and through all eternity.” [*D&C 132:19*]

B. They will be exalted in the highest degree of the celestial kingdom with Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ. [*D&C 131:11-3; 132:23-24*]

C. They will “inherit thrones, kingdoms, principalities, . . . powers, [and] dominions”

[D&C 132:19]

D. They will continue to have seed, or spirit children, throughout eternity.  
[D&C 132:19, 30-31; 131:4]

E. “They shall be gods, because they have all power.” [D&C 132:20-21]

F. See D&C 76:50-70, which describes the blessings of attaining the Celestial kingdom.

### 3. Statements on the essential nature of eternal marriage

A. **The First Presidency and the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles:** “*Marriage between man and woman is essential to [God’s] eternal plan.*” [“The Family: A Proclamation to the World,” *Ensign*, November 1995, p. 102] See *1 Cor. 11:11*: “Neither is the man without the woman, neither the woman without the man, in the Lord.”]

B. **President Joseph Fielding Smith:** “Marriage, as understood by Latter-day Saints, is a covenant ordained to be everlasting. *It is the foundation for eternal exaltation, for without it there could be no eternal progress in the kingdom of God.*” [*Doctrines of Salvation*, vol. 2, p. 58]

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

### 4. Statements on the blessings of eternal marriage

A. **President Spencer W. Kimball:** “Marriage is perhaps *the most vital of all . . . decisions* and has the most far-reaching effects, for it has to do not only with *immediate happiness*, but also with *eternal joys*. It affects not only the two people involved, but also their families and particularly *their children and their children’s children* down through the many generations.” [“Oneness in Marriage,” *Ensign*, March 1977, p. 3]

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

### 5. Marriage isn’t always easy

A. **Marjorie P. Hinckley:** “I was just sure the first ten years would be bliss. But during our first year together I discovered . . . there were a lot of adjustments. Of course, they weren’t the kind of

thing you ran home to mother about. But I cried into my pillow now and again. *The problems were almost always related to learning to live on someone else's schedule and to do things someone else's way.* We loved each other, there was no doubt about that. *But we also had to get used to each other.* I think every couple has to get used to each other.” [Go Forward with Faith: The Biography of Gordon B. Hinckley, 1996, p. 118]

B. “It takes love, work, and dedication to have a successful marriage. When a man and woman are sealed in the temple, *they will receive the promised blessings only if they ‘abide in [the] covenant.’*” [Gospel Doctrine Teacher’s Manual, 1999, p. 179]

## 6. Choosing a companion

A. **President Gordon B. Hinckley:** “Choose a companion of your own faith. You are much more likely to be happy. Choose a companion you can *always honor*, you can *always respect*, one who will *complement you* in your own life, one to whom you can *give your entire heart*, your entire love, your entire *allegiance*, your entire *loyalty*.” [“Life’s Obligations,” *Ensign*, February 1999, p. 2]

B. **Elder Richard G. Scott of the Quorum of the Twelve:** “There is more to a foundation of eternal marriage than a pretty face or an attractive figure. There is more to consider than popularity or charisma. As you seek an eternal companion, *look for someone who is developing the essential attributes that bring happiness: a deep love of the Lord and of His commandments*, a determination to live them, one that is *kindly understanding, forgiving of others*, and willing to *give of self*, with the *desire to have a family* crowned with beautiful children and a commitment to teach them the principles of truth in the home.

“An essential priority of a *prospective wife* is the desire to be a wife and mother. She should be developing the sacred qualities that God has given His daughters to excel as a wife and mother: patience, kindness, a love of children, and a desire to care for them rather than seeking professional pursuits. She should be acquiring a good education to prepare for the demands of motherhood.

“A *prospective husband* should also honor his priesthood and use it in service to others. Seek a man who accepts his role as provider of the necessities of life, has the capacity to do it, and is making concerted efforts to prepare himself to fulfill those responsibilities.” [Ensign, May 1999, p. 26]

## 7. A basic requirement for happiness: The need for loyalty and fidelity in marriage

A. **D&C 42:22-24:** “Thou shalt love thy wife with all thy heart, and shalt cleave unto her and none else. And he that looketh upon a woman to lust after her shall deny the faith, and shall not have the Spirit; and if he repents not he shall be cast out. Thou shalt not commit adultery; and he that committeth adultery, and repenteth not, shall be cast out.”

B. **President Gordon B. Hinckley:** “Be fiercely loyal one to another.” [Ensign, February 1999, p. 4]

C. **President Spencer W. Kimball:** “When the Lord says *all thy heart*, it allows for *no sharing nor dividing nor depriving*. . . .

“The words *none else* eliminate everyone and everything. The spouse then becomes preeminent in the life of the husband or wife, and neither social life nor occupational life nor political life nor any other interest nor person nor thing shall ever take precedence over the companion spouse. . . .

“Marriage presupposes total allegiance and total fidelity. Each spouse takes the partner with the understanding that he or she gives totally to the spouse all the heart, strength, loyalty, honor, and affection, with all dignity. Any divergence is sin; any sharing of the heart is transgression. As we should have ‘an eye single to the glory of God,’ so should we have an eye, an ear, a heart single to the marriage and the spouse and family.” [*Faith Precedes the Miracle*, 1972, pp. 142-43]

D. “When a man and woman are married in the temple, they covenant to be true to one another and to be true to the Lord. What are some of the things that married couples can do to strengthen their love for each other and for the Lord? . . . Praying and reading the scriptures together, seeking to be guided by the Spirit together, holding family home evening, going on dates together, taking time to talk to one another, helping one another around the house, and attending the temple together.” [*Gospel Doctrine Teacher’s Manual*, 1999, p. 180]

## **8. Faithful Saints will not be denied the blessings of eternity**

**A. Elder Dallin H. Oaks of the Quorum of the Twelve:** “We know that many worthy and wonderful Latter-day Saints currently lack the ideal opportunities and essential requirements for their progress. Singleness, childlessness, death, and divorce frustrate ideals and postpone the fulfillment of promised blessings. In addition, some women who desire to be full-time mothers and homemakers have been literally compelled to enter the full-time workforce. But these frustrations are only temporary. The Lord has promised that in the eternities no blessing will be denied his sons and daughters who keep the commandments, are true to their covenants, and desire what is right.

“Many of the most important deprivations of mortality will be set right in the Millennium, which is the time for fulfilling all that is incomplete in the great plan of happiness for all of our Father’s worthy children. We know that will be true of temple ordinances. I believe it will also be true of family relationships and experiences.” [*Ensign*, November 1993, p. 75]

**B. Elder Richard G. Scott of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles:** “If you are single and haven’t identified a solid prospect for celestial marriage, live for it. Pray for it. Expect it in the timetable of the Lord. Do not compromise your standards in any way that would rule out that blessing on this or the other side of the veil. The Lord knows the intent of your heart. His prophets have stated that you will have that blessing as you consistently live to qualify for it. We do not know whether it will be on this side or the other side of the veil. But live for it. Pray for it.”

[*Ensign*, May 1999, p. 27]