

General Laws for the Members

D&C 42:1-29



*"Is the law then against the promises of God? God forbid: for if there had been a law given which could have given life, verily righteousness should have been by the law."
Galatians 3:21*

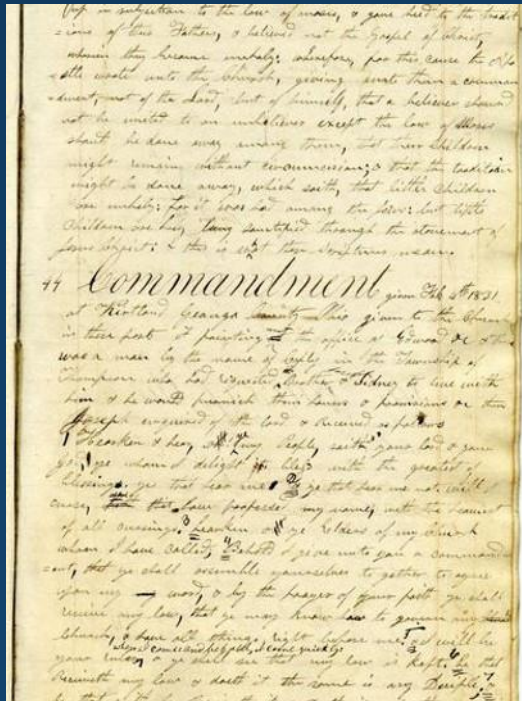


Background

February 9, 1831

Shortly after Joseph Smith arrived in Kirtland, 12 Elders of the Church gathered together and united in prayer, as the Lord had commanded them.

D&C 42:1-73



Joseph received further instruction on February 23 which was D&C 42:74-93.

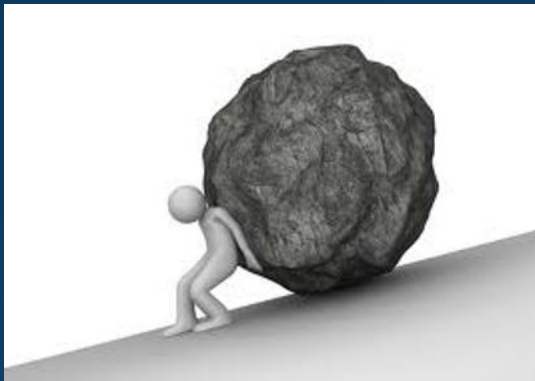
Taken together, these revelations are known as “the law of the Church”

Laws and Commandments

Restrictions



Write your worries in the Sand
Carve your blessings in Stone



Burdens



Annoyances

Limits



Laws and Commandments

The word *law* in a gospel sense refers to the statutes, judgments, and principles of salvation revealed by the Lord to man. Christ is the law.

He gave it and embodies its principles. In this sense, the law of the Lord is a revelation of His character and attributes.

“Behold, I am the law, and the light. Look unto me, and endure to the end, and ye shall live; for unto him that endureth to the end will I give eternal life.”

3 Nephi 15:9



Laws to Prepare Zion

God has given laws to assist us in our quest to become like the Father and the Son. No one can come to the Father except through obedience to the laws that Christ has given.

The violation of these laws is what constitutes sin (see 1 John 3:4).

The Lord in His infinite love and wisdom often gives laws to His children suited to their level of preparation.

The law of Moses was given to prepare the children of Israel for higher laws.

The laws given in section 42 were to enable the Saints to purify their lives in preparation for the establishment of Zion.

Student Manual

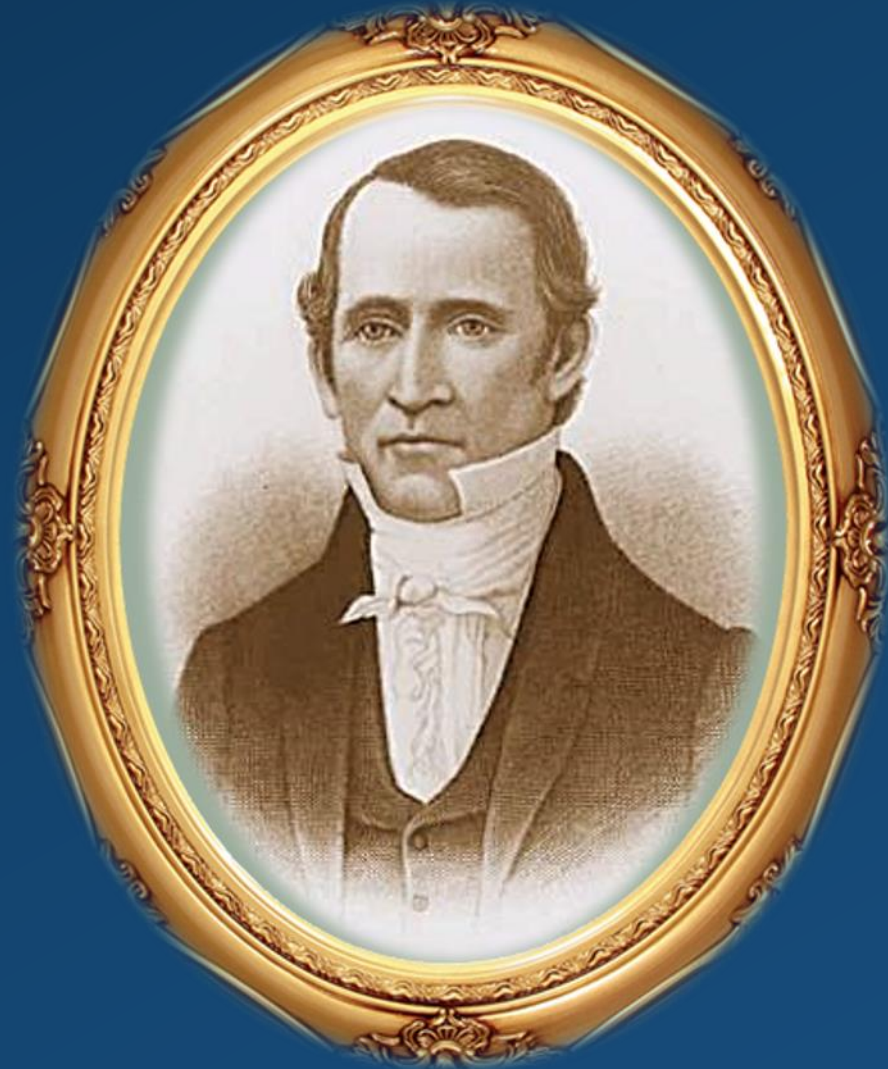


Commanded to Gather



Edward Partridge

He was appointed by the Lord and if he didn't live up to his covenants his position would be given to another worthy person



Situation

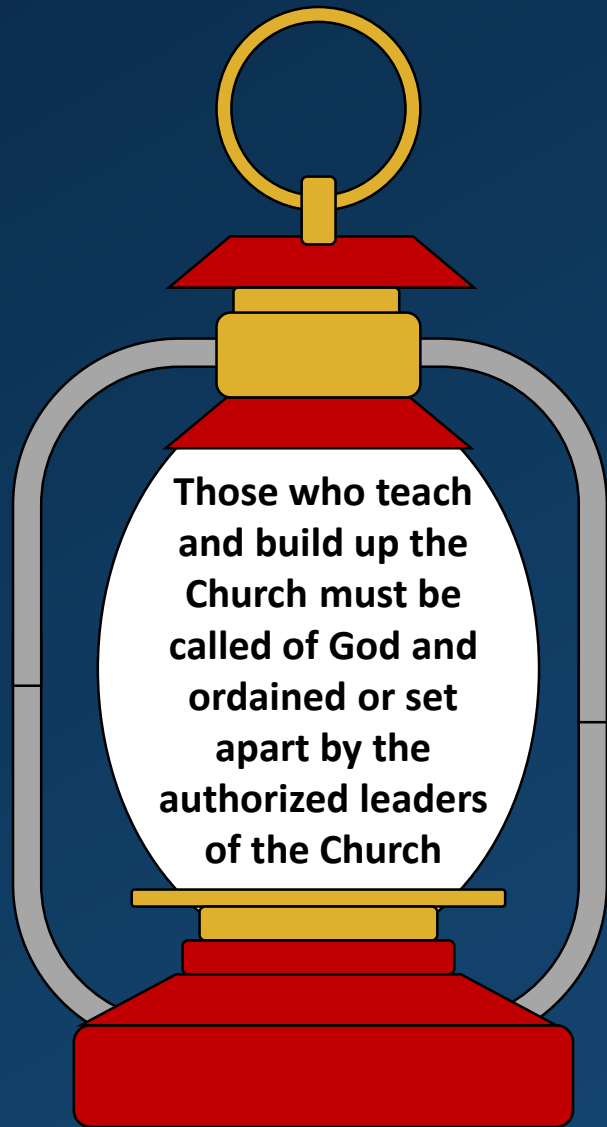
You are sitting in the chapel waiting for sacrament meeting to begin.



The members of the bishopric or branch presidency have been delayed and have not yet arrived.



Someone from the congregation gets up and explains that he would like to extend a few callings and teach some new doctrine that has been revealed to him.



How do Church members today learn that a person has received a ward or stake calling and will be set apart or ordained by Church leaders?

The names of those who are called are presented to the membership of the Church for a sustaining vote.

Principle of Common Consent

Sustaining

Sustaining Church leaders helps us know who has been called to lead and teach in the Church.

It can also help prevent individuals from assuming responsibilities that have not been assigned to them and for which they have no authority.





“It is known to the church that he has authority” of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles explained one reason why it is important to sustain those called to positions in the Church:

“This common procedure occurs whenever leaders or teachers are called or released from office or whenever there is reorganization in a stake or a ward or a quorum or in the auxiliaries.

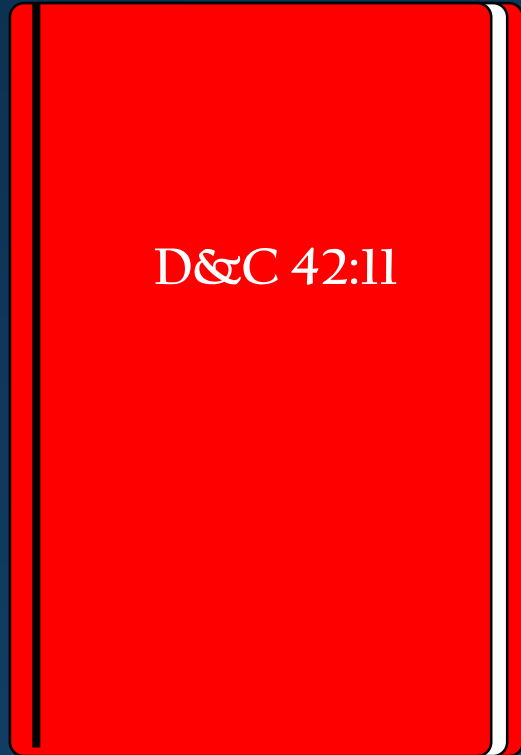
It is unique to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

“We always know who is called to lead or to teach and have the opportunity to sustain or to oppose the action. It did not come as an invention of man but was set out in the revelations In this way, the Church is protected from any imposter who would take over a quorum, a ward, a stake, or the Church”

President Boyd K. Packer



Doctrinal Mastery



Again I say unto you, that it shall not be given to any one to go forth to preach my gospel, or to build up my church, except he be ordained by some one who has authority, and it is known to the church that he has authority and has been regularly ordained by the heads of the church.

Responsibility



Elders

Teach the principles of the gospel contained in the Bible and the Book of Mormon.

Teachers

They shall keep the covenants and directed by the Holy Spirit.

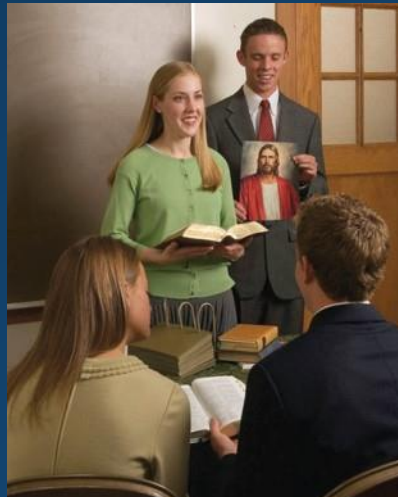
Priests



Teaching by the Spirit

“The scriptures say, ‘The Spirit shall be given unto you by the prayer of faith; and if ye receive not the Spirit ye shall not teach.’

This teaches not just that you won’t teach or that you can’t teach or that it will be pretty shoddy teaching.



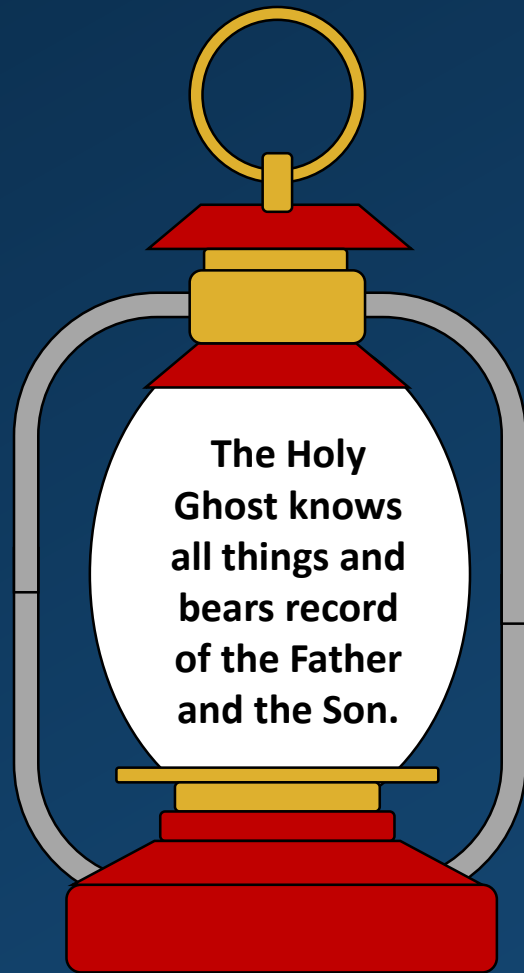
No, it is stronger than that. It is the imperative form of the verb. ‘Ye *shall not* teach.’

Put a *thou* in there for *ye* and you have Mount Sinai language. This is a commandment”

Jeffrey R. Holland



The Role of the Holy Ghost



Why is it important for us to have the Holy Ghost with us when teaching the gospel?

How can having the Holy Ghost with you help those you teach?



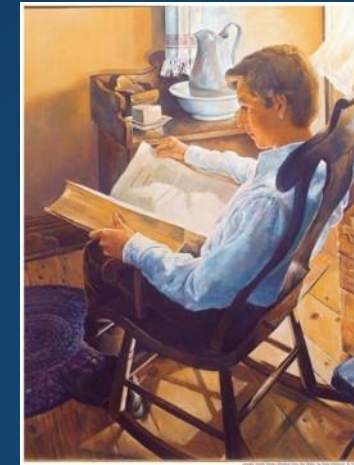
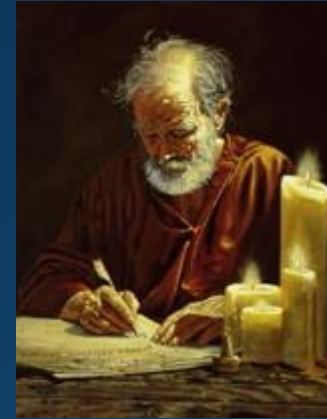
“But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.”

John 14:26-27

“No one should be called upon to teach and no one should attempt to teach the doctrines of the Church unless he is fully converted and has an abiding testimony of their truth.

This testimony can only be received through prayerful study and obedience to all the commandments of the Lord.



No man or woman can teach by the Spirit what he or she does not practice.

Sincerity, integrity and loyalty are essential factors, and these will be accompanied by the spirit of prayer.

The Comforter, ‘who knoweth all things,’ we should rely on, and then our teachings shall be approved of our Father in Heaven.”

President Joseph Fielding Smith



The "Shalt Not" Commandments

D&C 42:18-19

Lusting After Others

D&C 42:20

Stealing

D&C 42:21

Speaking evil of others

D&C 42:22-23

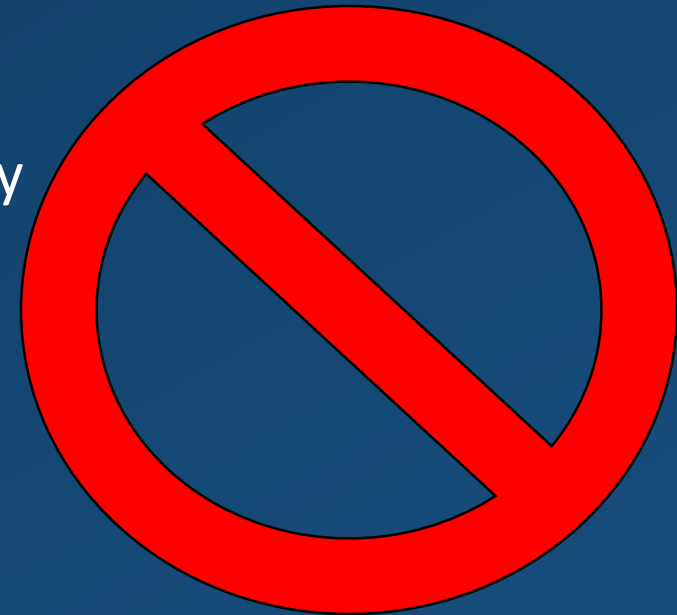
Killing

D&C 42:24-26

Adultery

D&C 42:27

Lying



Why is lust such a deadly sin?



“Well, in addition to the completely Spirit-destroying impact it has upon our souls, I think it is a sin because it defiles the highest and holiest relationship God gives us in mortality—the love that a man and a woman have for each other and the desire that couple has to bring children into a family intended to be forever.

Someone said once that true love must include the idea of permanence. True love endures.

But lust changes as quickly as it can turn a pornographic page or glance at yet another potential object for gratification walking by, male or female.”



Love VS Lust



*True love we are absolutely giddy about—
...; we shout it from the housetops...*

*Love makes us instinctively reach out to God and
other people.*

Love comes with open hands and open heart.

“These are just some of the reasons that prostituting the true meaning of love—either with imagination or another person—is so destructive. It destroys that which is second only to our faith in God—namely, faith in those we love. It shakes the pillars of trust upon which present—or future—love is built, and it takes a long time to rebuild that trust when it is lost. Push that idea far enough—whether it be as personal as a family member or as public as elected officials, business leaders, media stars, and athletic heroes—and soon enough on the building once constructed to house morally responsible societies, we can hang a sign saying, ‘This property is vacant.’”

Elder Jeffrey R. Holland



*...lust is characterized by shame and stealth and is
almost pathologically clandestine [obsessively
secretive]—the later and darker the hour the better,
with a double-bolted door just in case.*

*Lust, on the other hand, is anything but godly and
celebrates self-indulgence.*

Lust comes with only an open appetite.



Sources:

Video:

Why Does God Give us Commandments? (0:39)



Jeffrey R. Holland (“Teaching, Preaching, Healing,” *Ensign*, Jan. 2003, 41).

Doctrine and Covenants Student Manual Religion 324-325 Section 42

President Boyd K. Packer (“The Weak and the Simple of the Church,” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, Nov. 2007, 6).

President Joseph Fielding Smith (*Church History and Modern Revelation*, 1:184–85.)

Jeffrey R. Holland (*“Place No More for the Enemy of My Soul,”* *Ensign* or *Liahona*, May 2010, 44–45).

Teaching in the Church:

Elder Spencer W. Kimball spoke of the special obligations resting on those who teach the gospel:

“Apparently there were in the early church those who taught for doctrines the sophistries of men. There are those today who seem to take pride in disagreeing with the orthodox teachings of the Church and who present their own opinions which are at variance with the revealed truth. Some may be partially innocent in the matter; others are feeding their own egotism; and some seem to be deliberate. Men may think as they please, but they have no right to impose upon others their unorthodox views. Such persons should realize that their own souls are in jeopardy. The Lord said to us through the Prophet Joseph: [D&C 42:12–14].

“The great objective of all our work is to build character and increase faith in the lives of those whom we serve. If one cannot accept and teach the program of the Church in an orthodox way without reservations, *he should not teach*. It would be the part of honor to resign his position. Not only would he be dishonest and deceitful, but he is also actually under condemnation, for the Savior said that it were better that a millstone were hanged about his neck and he be cast into the sea than that he should lead astray doctrinally or betray the cause or give offense, destroying the faith of one of ‘these little ones’ who believe in him. And remember that this means not only the small children, it includes even adults who believe and trust in God. ...

“In our own society, the murderer who kills the body is hunted, imprisoned, and executed, but the character who kills the soul by implanting doubt and shattering faith is permitted not only to go free but also is often retained in high places. The body which is killed will rise again in the resurrection with little damage to its eternal welfare, but he whose faith has been shattered may suffer long ages before complete restoration of spiritual stature can be had, if at all.” (In Conference Report, Apr. 1948, pp. 109–10; see also D&C 52:9.)

The role of sisters in missionary work:

President Thomas S. Monson emphasized the Lord’s command that elders preach the gospel. He also explained the role of sisters in missionary work:

“First, to young men of the Aaronic Priesthood and to you young men who are becoming elders: I repeat what prophets have long taught—that every worthy, able young man should prepare to serve a mission. Missionary service is a priesthood duty—an obligation the Lord expects of us who have been given so very much. Young men, I admonish you to prepare for service as a missionary. Keep yourselves clean and pure and worthy to represent the Lord. Maintain your health and strength. Study the scriptures. Where such is available, participate in seminary or institute. Familiarize yourself with the missionary handbook *Preach My Gospel*. “A word to you young sisters: while you do not have the same priesthood responsibility as do the young men to serve as full-time missionaries, you also make a valuable contribution as missionaries, and we welcome your service” (“As We Meet Together Again,” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, Nov. 2010, 5–6).

Cleave Unto Her... D&C 42:22:

“‘Thou shalt love thy wife with all thy heart, and shalt cleave unto her and none else’ (D&C 42:22). To my knowledge there is only one other thing in all scripture that we are commanded to love with all our hearts, and that is God Himself. Think what that means!

“This kind of love can be shown for your wives in so many ways. First and foremost, nothing except God Himself takes priority over your wife in your life—not work, not recreation, not hobbies. Your wife is your precious, eternal helpmate—your companion.

“What does it mean to love someone with all your heart? It means to love with all your emotional feelings and with all your devotion. Surely when you love your wife with all your heart, you cannot demean her, criticize her, find fault with her, or abuse her by words, sullen behavior, or actions. “What does it mean to ‘cleave unto her’? It means to stay close to her, to be loyal and faithful to her, to communicate with her, and to express your love for her” President Ezra Taft Benson (“To the Fathers in Israel,” *Ensign*, Nov. 1987, 50).