

Ordinances and Covenants Part 2

Why Can't Everyone Enter the Temple

Your brother and his fiancée have made the choice to be sealed in the temple.

Shortly after receiving this exciting news, your parents get a phone call from Mrs. Lee, the mother of your brother's fiancée.

Mrs. Lee explains that she and her husband have recently learned that because they are not members of the Church, they cannot enter the temple to attend the sealing ceremony.

Mrs. Lee says in frustration, "Your church isn't very welcoming of outsiders. Why does it prevent people from entering the temple?" As you ponder Mrs. Lee's question, you begin to wonder the same thing.



What are some assumptions that Mrs. Lee might have about God, the Church, marriage, or the temple that could have led to her frustration?

Truths = His Plan of Salvation

One reason the Lord has specific standards for those who enter the temple is because we commit to live according to covenants that we make there.

Making covenants with God in the temple invites great blessings into our lives. However, there are also consequences if we fail to keep those covenants.

Therefore, the Lord's standards serve as a protection to those who are not committed to living according to the expectations the Lord has for those who make covenants with Him.

These same standards also protect the sanctity and holiness of the house of the Lord.



Before Going to the Temple



“We must be prepared before we go to the temple. We must be worthy before we go to the temple. There are restrictions and conditions set. They were established by the Lord and not by man. And, the Lord has every right and authority to direct that matters relating to the temple be kept sacred and confidential.” (1)



Tokyo Japan Temple



Sapporo Japan Temple

“Temples are built for the performance of sacred ordinances—not secret, but sacred.

A Temple is not a public house of worship. It is erected for special purposes.

Indeed after a Temple is dedicated only members of the Church in good standing may enter.” (2)

Why do you think it is important for someone to be both prepared and worthy to enter the temple?

What is the process for determining whether members of the Church are prepared and worthy to enter the temple?

How do the teachings from these statements help explain why the Lord has set specific standards that we must meet in order to enter the temple?





*Who shall ascend into the hill
of the Lord? or who shall stand
in his holy place?*

*He that hath clean hands, and
a pure heart; who hath not
lifted up his soul unto vanity,
nor sworn deceitfully.*

Psalm 24:3-4



Be Sensitive

Though the Lord requires that those who enter the temple must be prepared and worthy, we should be sensitive and show compassion toward those who are unable to enter the temple to attend their loved ones' sealings.



What are some ways that family members of different faiths can show respect for each others' beliefs at weddings and other family events?

How can the principles of acquiring spiritual knowledge help us as we strive to maintain good relationships with those not of our faith?

Sources:

Suggested Song: I Love to See the Temple Children's Songbook #95

1. *Preparing to Enter the Holy Temple*[booklet, 2002], 2.
2. *Teachings of Presidents of the Church: David O. McKay* [2003], 126.

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Seminary Manual (Old Testament) Lesson 110

Doctrinal Mastery Review

1. ____ Proverbs 3:5–6	a. Abraham was chosen before he was born.
2. ____ Isaiah 5:20	b. Jesus Christ bore our griefs and suffered for our sins.
3. ____ Moses 1:39	c. God reveals His secret to His prophets.
4. ____ Abraham 3:22–23	d. God's kingdom shall stand forever.
5. ____ Genesis 1:26–27	e. God's work and glory is to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of man.
6. ____ Joshua 24:15	f. Jeremiah was foreordained to be a prophet.
7. ____ Isaiah 1:18	g. God created man in His own image.
8. ____ Isaiah 53:3–5	h. Trust in the Lord with all thine heart, and He shall direct thy paths.
9. ____ Moses 7:18	i. To stand worthy in the Lord's presence, we must have clean hands and a pure heart.
10. ____ Isaiah 29:13–14	j. Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil.
11. ____ Ezekiel 37:15–17	k. Choose you this day whom ye will serve.
12. ____ Daniel 2:44	l. The Restoration is a marvelous work and a wonder.
13. ____ Jeremiah 1:4–5	m. Zion—one heart and one mind in righteousness.
14. ____ Ezekiel 3:16–17	n. Keep my covenant and ye shall be a holy nation.
15. ____ Amos 3:7	o. If we repent, our sins will be as white as snow.
16. ____ Exodus 19:5–6	p. The Bible and the Book of Mormon are joined together.
17. ____ Psalm 24:3–4	q. The Lord's watchmen give warnings from Him.

Answers: (1) h; (2) j; (3) e; (4) a; (5) g; (6) k; (7) o; (8) b; (9) m; (10) i; (11) p; (12) d; (13) f; (14) q; (15) c; (16) n; (17) l

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