

“Ye Are the Temple of God”

Lesson
33
Summary

1 Corinthians 1–6

Scripture Summary:

True saints are perfectly united in the same mind and in the same judgment—Preach the gospel and save souls—The gospel is preached by the weak and the simple. The gospel is preached by the power of the Spirit—The Spirit reveals all things to the saints—The unregenerated 'natural man' cannot receive the things of the Spirit of God. Milk comes before meat in the Church—Men's works shall be tried by fire—The saints are the temple of God, and if faithful they shall inherit all things. Christ's ministers must be faithful—The apostles suffer, minister, keep the faith—The kingdom of God is not in word but in power. The Church cannot fellowship sinners—Christ our passover is sacrificed for us. Brethren should not go to law with each other—The unrighteous shall not be saved—True saints are the temple of the Holy Ghost.

Supplemental Holy Land and Jewish insights:

Respect Rather than Contention: Paul teaches that since there will always be reasons for differing points of view, yet, disagreeable and contentious tendencies must be removed. This doctrine has been repeated by subsequent apostles and prophets and is recorded throughout the scriptures. This part of Jewish philosophy bases itself on the Torah (The Biblical Law). “In Resh Lakish's addresses, both to academy pupils and to the general public . . . he enjoined scholars to be amiable to each other and to respect one another in their halakhic discussions for “if a sage becomes angry, his wisdom departs from him.” “The term "wisdom" (Hebrew *hokhmah*) has a wide range of meanings in different contexts, ranging from intelligence to an ethical and religious quality of life. Wisdom, however, was not considered to be just intellectual ability or capacity; true wisdom had to be based on the fear of God and on a moral way of life.” (Encyclopedia Judaica Jr.)

In Moral Conflict, Joseph “Got Himself Out.” An example of moral strength is found in ancient Joseph, the son of Jacob. He was a trusted servant of Potiphar yet refused the amorous overtures of Potiphar's wife. In a compromising situation he simply “got himself out.” (Genesis 39:11-12)

Body and Soul: In LDS doctrine, the body *with* its spirit constitutes the soul (DC 88:15). It is our responsibility to bring and maintain our bodies into a wholeness of physical, emotional, and spiritual health. Even though Judaism generally refers to the soul as only the spirit of a person, Jewish thought is relevant. “. . . man must serve God with his soul and his body. A person's soul is that part of him that loves God and . . . wants to be like Him . . . the *mitzvot* which God gave are to be performed with the body. Thus the physical actions of man are sanctified . . . even sex . . . in the proper framework, marriage, is in accordance with the will of God and is a *mitzvah*.” (Encyclopedia Judaica Jr.)

Sexual Purity: “The regulations concerning sexual relations between husband and wife (termed *tohorat ha-mishpahah*, literally, "family purity"), constitute another integral component of the laws of purity which still apply today. According to biblical law, a couple must abstain from sexual intercourse while the wife is a *niddah*, i.e., during her period of menstruation. The *halakhah* as it developed over the generations extended the biblical prohibition somewhat, and as it is presently codified, stipulates that sexual intercourse (as well as intimacies which may lead to it) is forbidden from the time the woman expects her menses until seven "clean" days (that is, days on which no blood whatsoever is seen) have elapsed. A minimum of five days is fixed for the menses themselves, so that the minimum period of separation is 12 days. In the evening of the seventh clean day, the woman immerses herself in a *mikveh* and normal marital relations are resumed until the next menses are expected.” “Like other basic human desires, sex is regarded in a positive light in Jewish teaching, especially as it is the means of fulfilling the first biblical commandment: "Be fruitful and multiply." Judaism does not encourage the unbridled fulfillment of desire, however, but rather imposes restrictions which raise the act to the level of holiness.” (Encyclopedia Judaica Jr.)

Detailed Legislation Concerning Sexual Behavior: Noted in the Bible, the Talmud and subsequent rabbinic literature: “Celibacy (complete abstinence from all sexual activity) is discouraged as an unnatural state and detrimental to the human personality. The primary restriction of sexual activity in Jewish law is that it should take place within marriage, as an expression of love between husband and wife as well as out of a desire to fulfill God's commandments . . . which ensure that the couple does not indulge in sex on impulse but rather directs the act to holiness.” “Judaism encourages modesty as one of the means to chastity. Thus the Jewish woman is enjoined to dress and act modestly at all times. Furthermore, a man is forbidden to be alone with a woman with whom he is not permitted to have sexual relations from considerations of both chastity and modesty.” (Encyclopedia Judaica Jr.)

Latter-day Saint Doctrine Is More Definitive: Any sexual contact or activity with any body, including your own body, that leads to improper sexual emotions is simply unwarranted. Obviously, the world's mass media culture generally disagrees with such a standard.

Disagreements and Disputes – Arbitration and Judgements: Too often, disagreements turn onto disputes and they generally result in anger. The Lord gave us a simple instruction in resolving disputes. “. . . first be reconciled to thy brother . . . agree with thine adversary quickly . . .” (Matthew 5:23-25) Personal reconciliation sometimes requires arbitration and the judgement of disengaged persons; therefore, a judicial system was established in Biblical times. “The Hebrew word for court is *bet din* (plural: *battei din*), which literally means "house of judgment" The Torah stresses that justice must not be meted out by the parties themselves but must be administered by impartial judges. Indeed, it was Moses who first organized courts on the advice of his father-in-law, Jethro. Upon Israel's entry into their land, they were obligated to establish courts in every town. According to the Talmud, towns with less than 120 inhabitants had to have courts consisting of three judges while larger towns had to have courts consisting of 23 judges. The court of three judges exercised jurisdiction over cases involving fines, divorce, conversion, and absolution from vows. The court of 23 judges exercised jurisdiction over cases including those involving capital punishment.”

The Judge Brings “Shalom,” Peace: “The *shofet*, or judge, had to meet strict qualifications, besides just knowing the law. Among these qualifications were piety, wisdom, humility, gentility and human understanding. When Moses set up the first courts, he looked for "able men such as fear God, men of truth, hating unjust gain" (Exodus 18:21) and "wise men, and understanding and full of knowledge" (Deuteronomy 1:13). They were charged to "hear the causes between your brethren and judge righteously between a man and his brother and the stranger," not to be partial in judgment but to "hear the small and the great alike, fear no man, for judgment is God's" (Deuteronomy 1:16--17).” “In the Talmud *shalom* is the most exalted ideal of the rabbis next to justice. The rabbis knew that only true justice could bring a true peace and that without justice peace could not be attained or preserved between nations or people. The prophet Zechariah (8:16) put it: "Speak truth to each other and judge judgments of equity (*shalom*) in your gates" --- only justice can completely settle disputes.” (Encyclopedia Judaica Jr.)

LDS Judgement: Latter-day Saints are also advised to settle differences and disagreements before they develop into disputes. “Being the kingdom of God on earth and having a perfect organization, provision is made in the Church for the trial of transgressors against church standards and for the settlement of disputes between church members and groups. It is the practice of the Church for home teachers (or other specially assigned brethren) to investigate alleged transgression and then, if necessary, bring charges against accused persons, either before a bishop's court or a stake presidency and high council.” (Bruce R. McConkie, Mormon Doctrine, Page 134) “High Councilors, do you have any trials before you? "Yes." Have the brethren complained of each other? "Yes." Are their feelings alienated one from the other? Bishops, do you have any trials? Are the feelings of the brethren in your Wards alienated? "Yes." What should they do in such cases? They should follow the rules laid down, and be reconciled to their brethren forthwith. I think that it can be shown that the great majority of difficulties between brethren arises from misunderstandings rather than from malice and a wicked heart, and instead of talking the matter over with each other in a saint-like spirit, they will contend with each other until a real fault is created, and they have brought a sin upon themselves. When we have done good ninety-nine times and then do an evil, how common it is, my brethren and sisters, to look at that one evil all the day long and never think of the good. Before we judge each other we should look at the design of the heart, and if it is evil, then chasten that individual, and take a course to bring him back again to righteousness.” (Discourses of Brigham Young, Page.149 -150)

Respect: The principle of respect for our tabernacles of flesh, temples of God, governs the spiritual, emotional, and physical context of life. Our complete morality can be measured by the respect we have for ourselves, each other, and, thereby, our God.

Daniel Rona, born in Israel and living in Jerusalem has authored Old & New Testament and Book of Mormon Supplement Study Materials to be used in conjunction with the weekly LDS Gospel Doctrine Lesson study. NOTE: Three versions of the supplemental study materials are available FREE at www.HolyLandsRevealed.com. (Just click "LDS SUPPLEMENTS")

(1) a short e-mailed WEEKLY REMINDER

(2) a one-page two-sided SUMMARY HANDOUT (plus a "PDF" version for printing)

(3) the COMPLETE SUPPLEMENTAL MANUAL LESSONS. All are available FREE at www.HolyLandsRevealed.com

You may copy and print the information from any of the website versions to distribute to your class members and friends.

