

On The Record

A CHRONOLOGY OF LGBTQ+ MESSAGING WITHIN THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

Diabolical, blasphemy, pervert, unnatural, abnormal, an affliction, immoral, impure, victim, under the control of Lucifer, weak, transgressor, evil, ridiculous, sinful, ugly, predator, sin of the ages, deceitful, abominable, detestable, crime against nature, malady, confused, degenerate, addict, unmanly, unseemly, desperate, diseased, helpless, promiscuous, enslaved, contaminate, carnal, selfish, aggressive, brutal, abusive, violent, hopeless, corrupt, filthy, dreadful, unhappy, counterfeit.

These are descriptors used by church leaders to define homosexuality and the LGBTQ+ community—in and out of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

This booklet contains a collected sample of comments, documents and historical messages concerning the topics of homosexuality and gender identity. Many of the positions and postures contained within this document are no longer used as doctrines or policies of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Some readers may find these statements to be painful and difficult to read.

If we are to understand the progress that has been made to better understand sexuality and gender identity as a religious community, we must understand where we've been. This document is intended to establish a historical trail of the Church's education, policy, disclosure, and messaging regarding sexuality and gender identity.

*“Whether by mine own voice
or by the voice of my servants,
it is the same”*

Doctrine and Covenants 1:38

This document has been designed to guide the reader through a chronological path along the course of Latter-day Saint and LGBTQ+ history.

This resource highlights in a time-line the official policies and doctrines taught by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints regarding sexual orientation and gender identity. This document also includes the political, social, and public statements the Church and its leaders, members and supporters have made.

This file has been designed as an interactive PDF which allows the reader to examine the original source from which the story, quote, video, or periodical was obtained.

The reader is encouraged to explore all the sources and links provided herein and familiarize themselves with the history and policies of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day. This is not an exclusive list of every quote or resource on this subject. As such, the document will continue to be updated over time and new versions will be available by clicking this link: www.LatterGayStories.org/record

Questions or comments about this document can be sent to:

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HOLD DOWN THE **CTRL BUTTON** WHILE CLICKING ON THE LINK.



Sodom And Gomorrah Destroyed for Rejecting the Prophets, Not Destroyed for Homosexuality

"And where there is a priest of God—a minister who has the power and authority from God to administer in the ordinances of the gospel and officiate in the priesthood of God—there is the kingdom of God.

"And, in consequence of rejecting the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the Prophets who God hath sent, the judgements of God have rested upon people, cities, and nations, in various ages of the world, which was the case with the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah, that were destroyed for rejecting the Prophets."

Joseph Smith

President, Church of Jesus Christ

"Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith"

Page: 271

[[SOURCE LINK](#)]



"The plea of many this day is, that we have no right to receive revelations; but if we do not get revelations, we do not have the oracles of God; and if we do not have the oracles of God, they are not the people of God."

Joseph Smith, Jr.

First Recorded Discipline of Same-Sex Activity

The first alleged account of discipline for sodomy (referred to as buggery) involved the May 1842 excommunications of John C. Bennett and Francis Higbee.



John C. Bennett, was an influential friend of the prophet Joseph Smith. Professionally, Bennett was a trained physician and provided medical services to the city of Nauvoo. John Bennett also served as the Mayor of Nauvoo, Illinois and Major-General of the Nauvoo Legion.

William Smith, the brother of the Prophet publicly accused Bennett of having sexual relations with men. Historians also record that Joseph Smith caught Bennett having sex with 21-year-old Francis Higbee on July 4, 1841.

Bennett was also accused of seducing the "sisters" of Nauvoo, leading historians to believe he was not a homosexual in the modern sense but rather polyamorous or bisexual; open to a variety of sexual experiences.

Church records confirm that Higbee and Bennett were excommunicated: guilty of "a crime not fit to be named."

Andrew F. Smith

Author, *The Sainly Scoundrel: The Life and Times of Dr. John Cook Bennett*

[\[SOURCE LINK \]](#)

Declined to Exonerate Joseph Smith from Buggery

Shortly after John C. Bennett was excommunicated, Bennett publicly accused Joseph Smith of also having multiple sexual relationships alluding that these relationships extended "among the sexes."

In defense, Joseph Smith published a lengthy post in *The Wasp* assassinating the character of Bennett and himself denying that he was married to, or had relations with other women, including relationships with "other sexes." Bennett's character assassinations were published from June to July 1842.

Joseph Smith then immediately assembled citizens of Nauvoo to "manifest to the world that so far as we are acquainted with Joseph Smith, we know him to be a good, moral, virtuous, peaceable and patriotic man, and a firm supporter of the law, justice, and equal rights; that he at all times upholds and keeps inviolate the constitution of this State and of the United States."

A vote among the citizens was called to affirm the published statement and dignifying Joseph Smith in an attempt to exonerate him of the charges of buggery/multiple wifery.

**Three people voted against affirming Joseph Smith.
One of those three dissenters was Elder Orson Pratt, an apostle.**

*"Pres. Joseph Smith spoke in reply [on July 22, 1842]—Question to Elder Pratt, "Have you personally a knowledge of any immoral act in me toward the female sex, **or in any other way?**"*

Answer, by Elder Pratt, 'Personally, toward the female sex, I have not.'"

Since *The Wasp* had already raised the topic of Bennett's bisexuality and the prophet's alleged toleration and participation of it, Joseph Smith's 'in any other way?' was an implicit challenge for Pratt to charge him with 'buggery' as well. Pratt declined to answer whether Joseph Smith had committed 'any immoral act' with someone other than a woman, but also declined to exonerate the prophet from such a charge.

The Nauvoo Wasp

June 25, 1842 Vol I. No. 11

[\[SOURCE LINK \]](#)

The Joseph Smith Papers

Times And Seasons, August 1, 1842, p. 869

[\[SOURCE LINK \]](#)

Sodomy Laws in the Utah Territory: Castrations Ordered by Brigham Young

The first law to address sodomy in Utah was written in 1851.

The criminal code specifically prohibited any “man or boy” from engaging in, or attempting to engage in, “any sexual intercourse with any of the male creation.” (Laws and Ordinances 1919)

The 1851 law was found to be unenforceable and the new 1852 code removed the 1851 sodomy language. Because sodomy was no longer mentioned in the territorial law, it was thereby **legal** in the Utah Territory.

Early Utah records suggest a religious stigma attached to homosexuality (buggery/sodomy) throughout the Utah Territory—even though the government of the territory showed no further interest in outlawing it.

Females (lesbians) were not held to the same standard enforced against men regarding the original sodomy law—especially in religious circles.

As an example: in 1856 a married woman from Salt Lake City was publicly accused of trying to seduce the daughter of a local man but no charges were ever brought against her. However, only a year later, a man was brought before the law and his church leaders, the man was castrated for a “sexual crime”.

The government (which was also run by Latter-day Saint Church leaders) did not enforce new sodomy laws, but the Church of Jesus Christ began to mete out penalties of their own.

From 1857 to 1859 there were at least three castrations sanctioned while Brigham Young, the president of the Church.

In February of 1876 the Utah territory legislature enacted laws that once again criminalized sodomy—**defined as anal sex**. If found guilty, the penalty was 10 years imprisonment.



Chuck Stewart

“Proud Heritage: People, Issues, and Documents of the LGBT Experience”
p. 1200

[SOURCE LINK]

Three Instances of Castration

1857

24-year-old, Thomas Lewis: castrated for a “sexual crime” by Bishop Snow of Manti, Utah.

1858

Henry Jones: Castrated by “men disguised as Indians” for a “sexual crime.”

1859

Unnamed man, castrated for a “sexual crime” believed to be castrated by the same, Bishop Snow of Manti.

Concerning Bishop Warren S. Snow: Brigham Young said, Bishop Snow was “trying to do what was right.” He further added, “...he should be sustained in his calling.”

FAIR

Castration as a punishment among 19th century Mormons
FairLatterDaySaints.org

[SOURCE LINK]



Spirits in Heaven Would Thank God for Preventing [Gays] To Be Born

"... or if we, like the Sodomites or Canaanites, were full of all manner of lawless abominations, holding promiscuous intercourse with the similar sex, and stooping to a level with the brute creation, and predisposing our children, by every means in our power, to be fully given to strange and unnatural lusts, appetites, and passions, would it not be a mercy to cut us off, root and branch, and thus put an end to our increase upon the earth?

You will all say it would.

The spirits in heaven would thank God for preventing them from being born into the world under such circumstances.

...

Yes, they would; for they could say—"Now there is an opportunity for us to take bodies in the lineage of a noble race, and to be educated in the true science of life, and in the commandments of God."

O what an unspeakable contrast, between being a child of Sodom, and a child of Abraham!"

Parley P. Pratt

Quorum of the Twelve Apostles
Journal of Discourses

10 April 1853, "Heirship and Priesthood," p. 259

[SOURCE LINK]

Brigham Young Responds to Transgenderism

Church historian A. Milton Musser wrote in his personal journal, the story of how he came to *adopt* a daughter. Musser's journal entry might indicate the first written account of transgenderism (or gender non-conforming dress) in the Salt Lake Valley and the subsequent response by the President of the Church, Brigham Young.

"Almerin Grow has given me his daughter (now twelve years old) to raise. He has appointed me as her guardian. Prest Young has given him a mission to "go south and never return." Though naturally smart, he has become immeasurably insane ... wearing his wives clothing, etc."

Almerin was expelled by Brigham Young in 1858 and lost custody to all of his children. Grow continued to petition Brigham Young for custody of his children in exchange for being expelled from Salt Lake. Brigham Young never granted his repeated requests. Almerin Grow died at the age of 91 in California, having never returned to Salt Lake City.

A. Milton Musser

Musser Writings | Church History
Vol. VIII p. 31 (also p. 75 in link)

[SOURCE LINK]



Polygamy: A Remedy to Homosexuality?

In George Q. Cannon's April 1879 General Conference address, the apostle gave scathing remarks against "the false tradition" of heterosexual monogamy, celibacy, and 'the crime against nature'.

Cannon's conference address focused on the disproportionate number of women (potential wives) in comparison to the number of men in Zion. Cannon believed women who wanted to marry, should marry—even if it was plurally. His remarks also allude that polygamy (and keeping men occupied with wives) might prevent those men from pursuing homosexuality.

"But it is a most difficult thing to get these Latter-day Saints to understand the principles that are as plain as the noonday sun—that they should receive readily, and why? Because, as I have said, they are heirs of the traditions of centuries that have come down through the dark ages. It is a wonderful thing to do what we have done respecting woman. Look at what monogamy has done. Look at its effects; trace its influence from the death of the Apostles, or soon afterwards, down to this the nineteenth century, and what do we behold? Why, in every generation a large percentage of our sisters has been consigned either to that nameless condition of which it is a shame to speak, or have died without ever knowing the joys of maternity."

George Q. Cannon

1st Counselor in the First Presidency

General Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

April 6, 1879

[SOURCE LINK]





The Prophet's Son A Homosexual?

In 1879 John Taylor was the President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. His presidency consisted of George Q. Cannon as his first counselor and Joseph F. Smith as his second counselor.

As had become customary, early Latter-day Saint leaders generally handled the punishments of same-sex relationships with discretion. Often a person accused of *faggotry*, *buggery*, or *sodomy* was exiled or ostracized from the Mormon community. Because the Church doesn't hold public records on such discipline, we are left with the personal journal entries of how Latter-day leaders exercised their authority over queer Latter-day Saints.

The second counselor to President John Taylor was Joseph F. Smith. President Smith served his mission in what is now the island state of Hawai'i. Smith developed a habit of using Hawai'ian words in his writings—especially when it came to sensitive subjects.

In November 1879, President Joseph F. Smith held a “long discussion” with 26-year-old Arthur Bruce Taylor, the eldest son of President John Taylor, prophet of the Church.

At the conclusion of the meeting, President Smith wrote detailed notes about the conversation in his personal journal. Among the writings was the acknowledgement that [Arthur] Bruce Taylor was admittedly “acane!”

Aikāne refers to: *ai* or intimate sexual male relationship; and *kāne* or male/husband. Among men, the sexual relationships usually begin when the partners are teens and continue throughout their lives. One who is labeled aikane is unashamed of their sexuality or experience. In Hawai'ian culture, there is no stigma attached to those who are aikāine. The relationships were official and in no way hidden. The sexual relationship was considered natural by the Hawaiians of that time. Hawaiians had created a social structure that maximized harmonious living by embracing all ohana (family) and sanctioning many types of relationships, including aikāne (same-sex love), māhū (transgender people), hānai (adoption), and punalua (multiple lovers).

Shortly after A. Bruce Taylor's meeting with Joseph F. Smith, he moved away from Salt Lake City and relocated to Baker City, Oregon where he practiced law.

Bruce Taylor died in 1934 at the age of 80. **He never married.**

Joseph F. Smith

2nd Counselor in the First Presidency
Joseph F. Smith Family Papers 1860-1944
November 19, 1879

[SOURCE LINK]

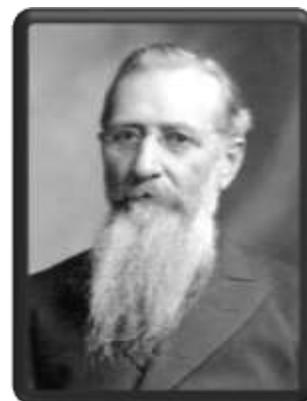
Cut Them Off from the Church

September 4, 1882, Joseph F. Smith, then a member of the First Presidency was made aware of a group of teenage males in the Richfield, Utah Stake that were “actively” engaged in homosexual activities.

President Smith's response to the stake presidency was pointed:

“Get the names of all of them & cut them off the church for obscene, filthy & horrible practices.” To the group of young men, Joseph F. Smith referred to the activity as a **“monstrous iniquity, for which Sodom & Gomorrah were burned with fire sent down from heaven.”**

In this statement, Joseph F. Smith made a complete reversal of his prophet-uncle's non-sexual interpretation of Sodom's destruction. Parley P. Pratt and George Q. Cannon also pushed this familiar narrative, deviating from Joseph Smith's teachings on the subject.



Joseph F. Smith

2nd Counselor in the First Presidency
Joseph F. Smith Family Papers 1860-1944
September 1882

Cited by D. Michael Quinn
*Same-Sex Dynamics among Nineteenth-Century Americans:
A Mormon Example*

[[SOURCE LINK](#)]



Madam Pattirini

Brigham Morris Young, the 35th child of Brigham Young and Margaret Pierce was a cross-dressing drag artist who performed under the pseudonym “Madam Pattirini”.

Madam Pattirini sang in north and central Utah venues from 1885 to the 1900's. Some of Young's performances were also held in the Tabernacle at Temple Square. Morris could produce a convincing falsetto, and many in the audience did not realize that Pattirini was indeed Brother Morris Young.

Historical accounts detail Young's cross-dressing as strictly for public entertainment. There is no evidence supporting the idea that Morris was a queer identifying person. He just loved the dress!

Morris Young was also one of the original founders of the Young Men's Mutual Improvement Association, the predecessor to the current Young Men program within the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

[[SOURCE LINK](#)]



The David And Jonathan of the Primary

Sarah Louise “Louie” Bouton Felt was the first general president of the children’s Primary organization, a calling she faithfully served and dedicated her time to from 1880 to 1925. She was also the co-founder and frequent writer of *The Children’s Friend*, the pioneer edition of the current *Friend* magazine.

On September 14, 1878, Louie B. Felt was chosen by Eliza R. Snow to be the president of the Primary Association in the Salt Lake 11th Ward of the church. On June 19, 1880, Felt was selected as the first general president of the Primary by John Taylor, who was then the President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles and the acting church president. Felt was set apart by Taylor, who was assisted in the blessing by Eliza R. Snow.

It is widely believed that Louie Felt was also a lesbian.

Latter-day historians also believe that May Anderson, her successor in the General Primary Presidency, was her romantic partner. May Anderson was not the only woman Louie Felt fell affectionately for. Journal entries and personal stories reveal that Felt had intense and committed relationships with other women as well.

Historians are confident that at least one of these relationships was romantic.

When Louie was 16 years old, she married Joseph Felt, a man much her senior. According to a biographical sketch published in 1919 in *Children’s Friend*, Louie “fell in love with” Lizzie Mineer a single woman, in 1874, and from that love, encouraged her husband to marry her as a plural wife. Louie’s affection to Lizzie was in part to bring children into the family (Louie herself was infertile), and for the loving companionship that Louie desired in her life. Joseph agreed and married Lizzie Mineer a year later in 1875, and in 1881 married Elizabeth Tidwell.

Shortly after the 1890 Manifesto against polygamy was signed, Louie’s polygamous husband Joseph, moved out of the family home and shortly thereafter May Anderson moved in. Louie and May continued to live together, sleeping in the same bedroom of a multi-room home, for 40 years until Louie’s death.

Within the Church they were often referred to as the “David and Jonathan of the Primary,” **a term they embraced.**

May Anderson never married during her life. Even after the death of one of Joseph’s junior wives, Elizabeth Tidwell, Louie and May raised the children of Joseph and Elizabeth together.

Journals from those step-children detail the close relationship of Louie and May, including the acknowledgement that each shared “an affinity for each other.”

[SOURCE LINK]

Oscar Wilde And the Uprising of Sodomites

The citizens of Salt Lake were looking forward to the visit of that famous personage, the "singularly deep young man" of the Aesthetic Movement, Oscar Wilde, who chose a stop in Utah on his extensive 1882 American tour.

Oscar Wilde, dressed in an outrageous manner for his American lecture tour. The 6'4" Wilde would often sport shoulder length hair in ringlets, matching black velvet coat and knee breeches, a vest, black stockings, silver buckles on pointed shoes, with ruffles on his shirt and cuffs.

He was everything a Mormon leader didn't want their members to embrace.

Wilde was touring the United States from England, preaching the "Gospel of The Aesthetic Movement." The Aesthetic Movement was popular during the latter half of the 19th century. It was a movement that celebrated good—natural art. Wilde believed people should surround themselves with beautiful things in order to be happy. He became such a proponent that he was dubbed the "Sun Flower Apostle." His followers often wore sunflowers as a show of affection.

The Latter-day Saints leaders were not excited that Oscar Wilde was visiting Zion. It was their goal to remain in the world—not of the world, and Wilde threatened that goal. However, church leaders agreed (as was custom) to host Oscar Wilde and his male partner through Utah's capitol city while he visited.

Wilde met with Church President, John Taylor at his home, the Gardo House, on 70 East South Temple. The home was built by Brigham Young for one of his wives, Amelia. President Taylor was proud of the house, its décor and furnishings. Wilde was then invited to tour the Tabernacle near the unfinished Salt Lake Temple. As the "apostle of aesthetics" Wilde was disturbed by the "soup kettle" design of the Tabernacle and commented that it was large enough to hold 14 polygamous families. He joked that the seating was wife, wife, wife, wife, wife, wife, wife, husband, wife, wife, wife, wife, wife, wife...

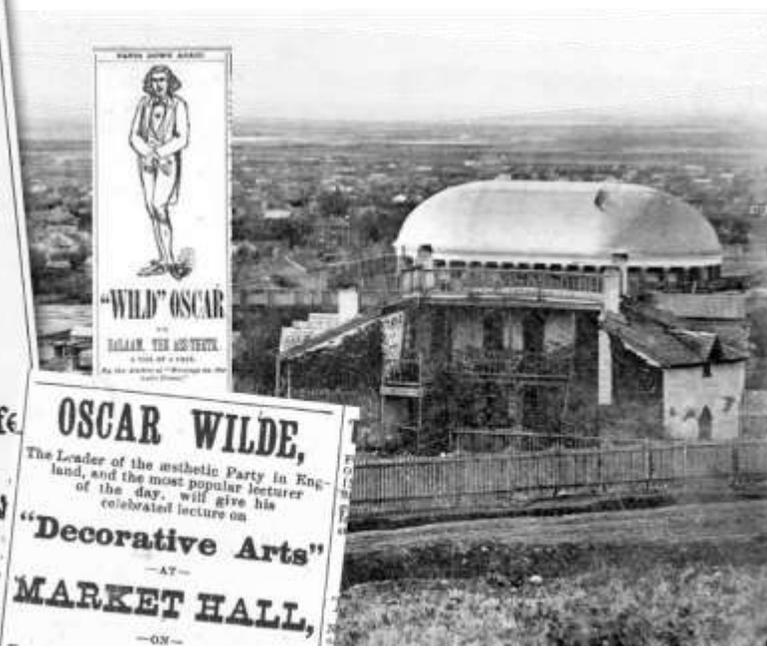
Wilde, who was traveling around the United States to promote natural art was repulsed to see that Latter-day Saints had painted pine columns to look like marble pillars and commented that Mormon decorations were only suitable for a jail. He mocked the Mormons for their disappointing aesthetics.

Mormon leaders were furious at Oscar Wilde's review of their city.

Their fury intensified when during the evening lecture for which Wilde had traveled to Utah to deliver, seated in the front row of the Salt Lake theater were effeminate men wearing sunflowers in their lapels. Wilde, who was pending trial in England for being homosexual had attracted a mass of queer Salt Lake area men, and this infuriated leaders of the Church, George Q. Cannon being the most outraged.



Not only had Wilde offended the leaders of the Church, but he had given rise to the sodomites in Utah—sodomite men from their own Mormon congregations.



God Must Wipe Out the Gays in Zion

"If we may believe that which is told to us, without going into researches ourselves, it and other kindred wickedness, is far too common. The same sin that caused the utter destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah! This and other abominable crimes are being practiced.

**"How will these be stopped?
Only by the destruction of those who practice them.**

"Why, if a little nest of them [homosexuals] were left that were guilty of these things, they would soon corrupt others, as some are being corrupted among us.

"In coming to these mountains, we hoped to find a place where we could live secluded from the abominations of Babylon. But here in this secluded place wickedness intrudes itself, and is practiced in this land which we have dedicated to the Lord as a land of Zion!

"How can this be stopped?

"Not while those who have knowledge of these filthy crimes exist. The only way, according to all that I can understand as the word of God, is for the **Lord to wipe them out, that there will be none left** to perpetuate the knowledge of these dreadful practices among the children of men.

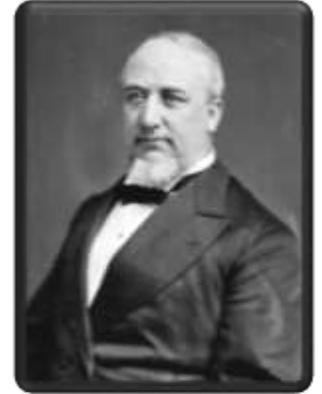
"And God will do it, as sure as He has spoken by the mouths of His prophets."

George Q. Cannon

1st Counselor in the First Presidency

October 1897, "Report of the 68th Semiannual General Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints," pp. 65-66

[SOURCE LINK]



There is No Gender Outside of the Celestial Kingdom

"In both of these kingdoms [i.e., the terrestrial and telestial] there will be changes in the bodies and limitations. They will not have the power of increase, neither the power or nature to live as husbands and wives, for this will be denied them and they cannot increase.

"Those who receive the exaltation in the celestial kingdom will have the 'continuation of the seeds forever.' They will live in the family relationship. In the terrestrial and in the telestial kingdoms there will be no marriage.

"Those who enter there will remain 'separately and singly' forever. Some of the functions in the celestial body will not appear in the terrestrial body, neither in the telestial body, and the power of procreation will be removed.

"I take it that men and women will, in these kingdoms, be just what the so-called Christian world expects us all to be—neither man nor woman, merely immortal beings having received the resurrection."

Joseph Fielding Smith

President, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
"Doctrines of Salvation," vol. 2, pp. 287-288 (original)

[SOURCE LINK]



Secret Surveillance of Homosexual Latter-day Saints

"In November 1945 Presiding Bishop LeGrand Richards launched a continued surveillance of church-owned Belvedere Hotel and Temple Square Hotel to discover the 'evil [homosexual] practices' of tenants.

"...the hierarchy [President David O. McKay, J. Reuben Clarke, Mark E. Peterson and Charles H. Olsen (Salt Lake City Chief of Police)] expanded the scope of its investigations.

"About this same time First Presidency counselor Clark asked former bishop Gordon Burt Affleck to organize a similar surveillance in the men's steam room of the Deseret Gymnasium."



Personal Diary
shared in *"The Mormon Hierarchy: Extensions of Power,"*
D. Michael Quinn, November 27, 1945 p. 445

[[SOURCE LINK](#)]

We Call It 'Homosexuality'

"So also the person who teaches or condones the crimes for which Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed—we have coined a softer name for them than came from old; we now speak of homosexuality, which, it is tragic to say, is found among both sexes.

"I wonder if you girls have ever reflected on the thought that was in the mind of the man who first began to praise you for your boyish figures. Not without foundation is the contention of some that the homosexuals are today exercising great influence in shaping our art, literature, music and drama.

"Mothers, let no lack of teaching on your part lead to such a tragedy. Teach your daughters and equally your sons, the truth about his transgression."

It should be noted this is the first recorded instance where the words "homosexual" and "homosexuality" were used by a Church official in public.



President J. Reuben Clark
2nd Counselor First Presidency
"Home and the Building of Home Life"
General Relief Society Conference, October 2, 1952

[[SOURCE LINK](#)]

Filthy Crime of Homosexuality

"Put your trust in God, my boys, and keep your powder dry.

"And what is your powder? ... The man who is unchaste has wet powder. The man who is guilty of that filthy crime of homosexuality, has wet powder."

President J. Reuben Clark

2nd Counselor First Presidency

"Home and the Building of Home Life"

Priesthood Session General Conference, October, 1954

Page 80

[[SOURCE LINK](#)]



Homosexuality Is the Sin of Sodom and Gomorrah

"I want to warn this great body of priesthood against that great sin of Sodom and Gomorrah, which has been labeled as a sin second only in seriousness to the sin of murder.

"I speak of the sin of adultery, which, as you know, was the name used by the Master as He referred to unlicensed sexual sins of fornication as well as adultery; and besides this, the equally grievous sin of homosexuality, which seems to be gaining momentum with social acceptance in the Babylon of the world, of which Church members must not be a part."

Harold B. Lee

President, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

"Teachings of the Presidents of the Church: Harold B. Lee," p. 189

[[SOURCE LINK](#)]

It should be noted that Joseph Smith taught the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed because they rejected the prophets, not as a result of homosexuality. (See Ezekiel 16:49)

Parents Should Want Their Child Dead Rather Than Unchaste

"Loss of virtue is too great a price to pay even for the preservation of one's life—better dead clean, than alive unclean. Many is the faithful Latter-day Saint parent who has sent a son or daughter on a mission or otherwise out into the world with the direction:

"I would rather have you come back in a pine box with your virtue than return alive, without it."

Bruce R. McConkie

Apostle, Quorum of the Twelve

"Mormon Doctrine," 1958 Edition p. 116

[[SOURCE LINK](#)]



Second Only to Murder

"Every degree and type of lewdness, lasciviousness, and licentiousness; of concupiscence, prostitution, and whoredoms; of sodomy, onanism, and homosexuality; of masturbation, incontinence, and perversion; of rape, seduction, and infidelity; of adultery, fornication, and uncleanness—all these things as well as many other are among Lucifer's chief means of leading souls to hell.

...

"We hold that sexual sin is second only to the shedding of innocent blood in the category of personal crimes; and that the adulterer shall have no part in the exaltation of the blessed."

Bruce R. McConkie

Apostle, Quorum of the Twelve

"Mormon Doctrine," 1958 Edition pp. 638-639

[[SOURCE LINK](#)]



Unpardonable Sin of Homosexuality

On February 2, 1962 apostle Harold B. Lee visited the BYU campus in Provo, Utah to deliver two separate devotionals. The first devotional, titled "*Sweet Are the Uses of Adversity*," was held in the Smith Fieldhouse on February 2, 1962; the second speech, "*The Light of Christ*," was given at the BYU Institute of Religion the following day.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints deleted the second speech, "*The Light of Christ*," from all online resources. The archives at BYU no longer show President Lee's February 3rd speech in its schedule of devotionals for 1962.

What said was so damning that the Church felt compelled to remove Lee's speech?

President Lee called the homosexual (not the act of homosexuality) "unpardonable" and gave a lengthy anecdote about a woman in love with another woman stating that the ugly practice and unpardonable sin of homosexuality is more common than we realize.

Harold B. Lee

Apostle, Quorum of the Twelve

BYU Institute of Religion, February 3, 1962



Homosexuals Reject God

"Legislators are being asked to rule that homosexuals and other deviates should be allowed to practice their depravities legally and without restriction.

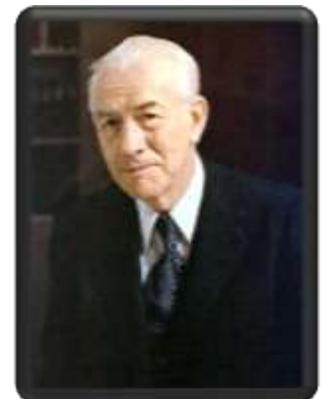
"This is one of the great evidences of the apostasy of mankind from the teachings of Christ. To reject or try to change the moral law of God is to reject God."

Mark E. Petersen,

Apostle, Quorum of the Twelve

General Conference Address, April 1965

[[SOURCE LINK](#)]



Electroshock Therapy Program | Brigham Young University

Shortly after a May 21, 1959 meeting at BYU, President Ernest Wilkinson, apostles Mark E. Peterson and Spencer W. Kimball, Dallin H. Oaks and the executive committee of the Church Board of Education discussed the "growing problem in our society of homosexuality." As a result of that meeting, BYU began a program of aversion therapy created to repair or reorient homosexuality among Mormon males.

The program consisted of a series of electroshock, vomit, visual, and pain stimulation therapies.

The aversion therapy was instituted on-campus at BYU-Provo in 1959 and continued into the 1970s. Therapy was held in the basement of the Smith Family Living Center. After failing results and the details about the program leaked among students and members of the Church, BYU officials phased it out in 1983.

From the beginning of the program, LDS mental health counselors, Latter-day Saint bishops, stake presidents, mission presidents, general authorities, and the BYU Standards Office (equivalent to today's Honor Code Office) were the key sources in referring men to the BYU aversion program.

From 1971 to 1980, Dallin H. Oaks, then president of BYU, placed Gerald J. Dye as administrator over the University Standards Office (renamed the Honor Code Office in 1991). Dye testified that during his service over the Standards Office, the "set process" for homosexual BYU students referred to his office for "less serious" offences "was to require that they undergo some form of therapy to remain at BYU, and that in special cases this included electroshock and vomiting aversion therapies."

An independent BYU newspaper exposed the aversion therapy program and featured the stories of two men who were subjects of the BYU program. Shortly after both men independently confessed their homosexual feelings to the Standards Office, each were referred to the BYU Counseling Center where the electroshock aversion therapy was administered. Using pornographic pictures of males and females, and with electrodes fitted on their penises, the therapy was administered. Neither man in this report agreed that the program was successful. Their experiences match most reports which state that BYU's homosexual aversion therapy was ineffective in changing sexual orientation.

Max Ford McBride, a student at BYU, administered electroshock aversion therapy on 17 men using a male arousal measuring device placed around the penis and electrodes on the bicep. He published a dissertation on the use of electrical aversive techniques to treat ego-dystonic homosexuality.

[\[READ THE MCBRIDE DISSERTATION HERE\]](#)

[HOW DAMAGING WAS THE BYU AVERSION THERAPY PROGRAM? CLICK HERE TO WATCH THIS...](#)





The Church Details A Conversion Therapy Plan

The Cure: Self Mastery [over homosexuality]

The Vehicle: the Church

The Medication: the Gospel

The Treatment: Constructive activity so full of good works
there is no time nor thought for evil.

Spencer W. Kimball

Apostle, Quorum of the Twelve

July 10, 1964, "A Counseling Problem in the Church"

BYU Devotional for LDS Seminary & Institute Instructors, p. 20

[[SOURCE LINK](#)]

Church Admits to Secret Program Targeting Homosexuals

In 1964 the First Presidency and Quorum of the Twelve announced their efforts to secretly facilitate a reparative therapy program hidden from the public view of the Church and undisclosed to the local leaders of homosexual men and women in their congregations.

The program included protocol to spy on suspected gay church members, the employment of a private investigator to root-out homosexual Latter-day Saints, and conspiring with local police departments to find cases of homosexuality in Utah. This clandestine church committee also used the personal bishop and stake president interviews to disclose known homosexuals.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints released the details of this program to the Seminary and Institute teachers at a BYU Devotional in 1964 after word spread that the church was using the L.D.S. Psychiatrists (LDS Family Services) to engage conversion/reparative programs.

"A Counseling Problem in the Church"

BYU Devotional for LDS Seminary & Institute Instructors

Spencer W. Kimball, July 10, 1964

[[READ THE FULL ADDRESS HERE \(BEGINS ON PAGE 13\)](#)]

Homosexuality is a Disease | Marriage Will Cure Homosexuality

"We know such a disease [homosexuality] is curable. Men have come dejected, discouraged, embarrassed, near terrified and have gone out later full of confidence and faith in themselves, with self-respect again, the confidence of their families, their home ties strengthened, and ready to manfully take their part in society and even in the Church on an approved cured basis."

Spencer W. Kimball

Apostle, Quorum of the Twelve

July 10, 1964, "A Counseling Problem in the Church"

BYU Devotional for LDS Seminary & Institute Instructors

[[SOURCE LINK](#)]



BYU Cannot Be Contaminated by Homosexuals

On September 12, 1962, apostles Spencer Kimball and Mark Peterson and BYU President Ernest Wilkinson agreed on a university policy that "no one will be admitted as a student [to BYU] ... whom we have convincing evidence is a homosexual." Using the diverse platforms of the Church (including private, personal interviews with bishops and stake presidents), the group of church leaders who supported this idea agreed to share information about individual cases of homosexual members between local leaders (bishops/stake presidents), church administration and BYU administration.

This policy was reiterated in Wilkinson's address to BYU in September 1965 when he stated the following:

"BYU does not intend to admit to our campus any homosexuals. If any of you have this tendency and have not completely abandoned it, may I suggest that you leave the University immediately after this assembly; and if you will be honest enough to let us know the reason, we will voluntarily refund your tuition.

We do not want others on this campus to be contaminated by your presence."

...

"I know there is a natural tendency not to report on one's friends, that in our diseased society there has grown up the false code that one ought not to 'rat' on his friends."

Ernest W. Wilkinson

President, Brigham Young University

"Make Honor Your Standard," Ernest Wilkinson BYU

September 23, 1965

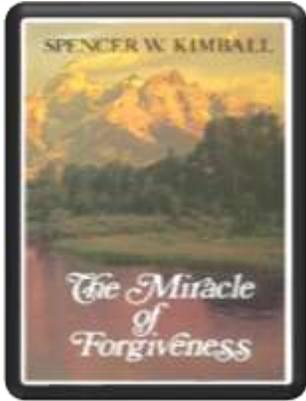
[READ THE TRANSCRIPT HERE](#)

[LISTEN TO THE AUDIO EXCERPT
OF THIS TALK](#)



[LISTEN TO THE FULL AUDIO VERSION OF THIS TALK](#)

The Miracle of Forgiveness



The late LDS President Spencer W. Kimball's *The Miracle of Forgiveness* was a classic but controversial book that shaped Mormon sexual assumptions for generations. Recently, however, it has quietly disappeared from full distribution.

The much-circulated 1969 treatise on guilt, wrongdoing and repentance by then-apostle Spencer W. Kimball presented many strong opinions such as masturbation "too often [leading] to ... homosexuality," the existence of homosexuals being a "crime against nature," homosexuality being a gateway to bestiality, and premarital sex being "the sin next to murder."

"All such deviations from normal, proper heterosexual relationships are not merely unnatural," he wrote, "but wrong in the sight of God."

The publisher sold at least 1.7 million copies of "The Miracle of Forgiveness."

Homosexuality: Excommunicable

The 1968 General Handbook of Instructions was updated to include, for the first time in the history of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, "homo-sexual acts" as an excommunicable offense.

1968 Handbook of Instructions, p. 122

[SOURCE LINK]

Crime Against Nature

"Thus, prophets anciently and today condemn masturbation ... While we should not regard this weakness as the heinous sin which some other sexual practices are, it is of itself bad enough to require sincere repentance. What is more, it too often leads to grievous sin, even to that sin against nature, homosexuality. For, done in private, it evolves often into mutual masturbation - practiced with another person of the same sex, and then into total homosexuality [77-78]."

"Sin in sex practices tends to have a 'snowballing' effect. As the restraints fall away, Satan incites the carnal man to ever-deepening degeneracy in his search for excitement until in many instances he is lost to any former consideration of decency. Thus, it is that through the ages, perhaps as an extension of homosexual practices, men and women have sunk even to seeking sexual gratification with animals [78]."

"Many have been misinformed that they are powerless in the matter, not responsible for the tendency, and that God 'made them that way'. This is as untrue as any other of the diabolical lies Satan has concocted.

"It is blasphemy. Man is made in the image of God. Does the pervert think God to be 'that way [85]?"

"Sometimes not heavenly but earthly parents get the blame. Granted that certain conditions make it easier for one to become a pervert, the second Article of Faith teaches that a man will be punished for his own sins. He can, if normal, rise above the frustrations of childhood and stand on his own feet [85]."

Spencer W. Kimball

Apostle, Quorum of the Twelve

"*The Miracle of Forgiveness*," Chapter Six,
1969, pp. 77-78, 85

[SOURCE LINK]

Pornography Causes Homosexuality

“A normal 12 or 13-year-old boy or girl exposed to pornography literature could develop into a homosexual. You can take healthy boys or girls and by exposing them to abnormalities virtually crystallize and settle their habits for the rest of their lives.

Some are even saying, “What is wrong with becoming a homosexual? In one church, a leader recently preformed a marriage between two male homosexuals. As a matter of fact, some of the world news media made quite a story of it. Any yet who is responsible for this moral decay? The children? Hardly. It is we adults, those of us who permit the sale of filth on our newsstands and also broadcasting of it over airways.”

Victor L. Brown,

2nd Counselor in Presiding Bishopric
April 4, 1970, *General Conference Reports*, p. 31

[SOURCE LINK]



The Transsexuality Doctrine

"The Lord said: 'Let us make man in our image after our likeness; and it was so. . . And I, God, created man in mine own image, in the image of mine Only Begotten created I him; male and female created I them.' (Moses 2:26.27)

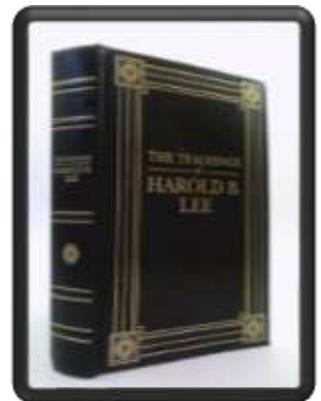
“Do you need anything else to prove the falsity of any such hellish doctrine as this so-called 'transsexuality' doctrine of some wild dreamer? The Lord created male and female, and He didn't have a woman's soul trapped in a man's body, or vice versa.”

Harold B. Lee

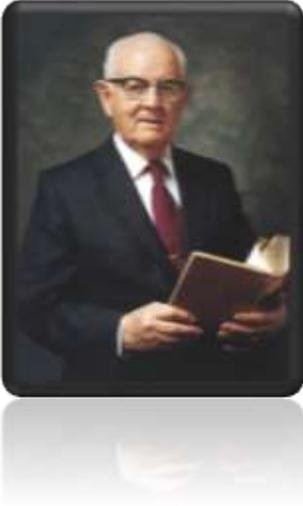
“The Teachings of Harold B. Lee”

written by Clyde J. Williams, August 7, 1970

Quote also available at the Fifth Annual Priesthood Genealogical Research Seminar, BYU



Curious People Become Gay but They Can Change



"Some begin the ruinous practice of perversion through curiosity and then become entangled in its tentacles [p. 3]."

"One of Satan's strongest weapons is to make the victim believe the practice incurable regardless of one's effort ... Satan tells his victims that it is a natural way of life; that it is normal; that perverts are a different kind of people born 'that way' and that they cannot change. This is a base lie ... authorities in the field have proclaimed that homosexuality, like fornication, adultery, robbery, and other detestable sins is curable [p. 11]."

Spencer W. Kimball

Acting President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles,
"New Horizons for Homosexuals"

LDS Church published pamphlet, 1971, pp. 3, 11

[[SOURCE LINK](#)]

Gays and Their Allies Are Degenerate

"So long as you tolerate this 'gay world' and its degenerate people, you are in a very desperate situation and you are playing with fire just like a child who might be pounding a bomb with a hammer.

"Homosexuality can be cured if the battle is well organized and pursued vigorously and continuously."

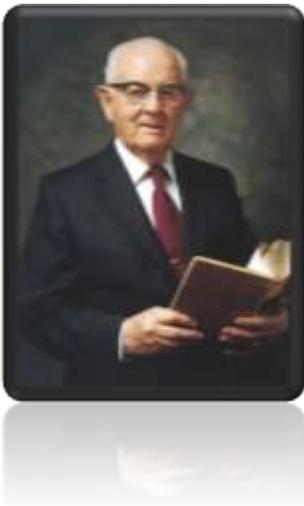
Spencer W. Kimball

Acting President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles,
"New Horizons for Homosexuals"

LDS Church published pamphlet, 1971, pp. 13, 14

[[SOURCE LINK](#)]

Homosexuals are not Godly



"When you reach the point where you justify yourself; sear over your conscience; pretend it is not sin; admit that you are 'licked', and that you cannot overcome it—that is the sad day. When one so far succumbs that he says, 'This is the way I wish to live; here I find my satisfactions; I commit no immorality; I will not change,' then the tragic moment has come. When one says, 'I am different; God made me this way; my parents are to blame; my upbringing was responsible,' certainly he has arrived at a pitiable place. God made no man a pervert.

"To blame a weakness and transgression upon God is cowardly."

Spencer W. Kimball

Acting President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles,
"New Horizons for Homosexuals"

LDS Church published pamphlet, 1971, pp. 13, 14

[[SOURCE LINK](#)]

Only True Men Should Hold the Priesthood

“The Lord defined some very basic differences between men and women. He gave the male what we call masculine traits and the female feminine traits. He did not intend either of the sexes to adopt the other's traits but, rather, that men should look and act like men and that women should look and act like women.

“When these differences are ignored, an unwholesome relationship develops, which, if not checked, can lead to the reprehensible, tragic sin of homosexuality.

“In other words, we have a responsibility as priesthood bearers to be examples of true manhood.”

Victor L. Brown Sr.,
2nd Counselor in Presiding Bishopric
"The Meaning of Morality"
General Conference April 1971

[[SOURCE LINK](#)]



Transgender? You Will Answer to Your Maker

"Some people are ignorant or vicious and apparently attempting to destroy the concept of masculinity and femininity. More and more girls dress, groom, and act like men. More and more men dress, groom, and act like women.

The high purposes of life are damaged and destroyed by the growing unisex theory. God made man in his own image, male and female made he them. With relatively few accidents of nature, we are born male or female.

The Lord knew best.

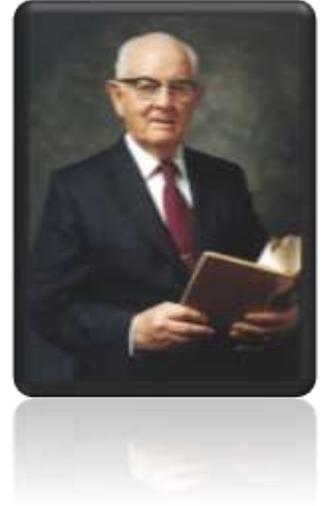
Certainly, men and women who would change their sex status will answer to their Maker.

We hope this is another trumpet call. President J. Reuben Clark, Jr., said: *'Our very civilization itself is based upon chastity, the sanctity of marriage, and the holiness of the home. Destroy these and Christian man becomes a brute.'*

Spencer W. Kimball

President, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
"God Will Not Be Mocked"
October General Conference 1974

[[SOURCE LINK](#)]



Mixed Orientation Marriage: A Cure to Homosexuality

Card's definition of male homosexuality was "a conditioned avoidance of an adult female in a domestic setting." According to Card, lesbianism is caused when "the husband or father has been covertly seductive, buying the girl slinky dresses and all sort of things and at the same time the girl cannot relate to the mother."

As to "curing" homosexuality, he said that, "I'm afraid that the measure of success that I'm looking for is [heterosexual] marriage."

Dr. Robert D. Card, M.D.

"Counseling the Homosexual in a Private Practice Setting",
AMCAP (Association of Mormon Counselors and Psychotherapists),
annual journal, Vol. 1, No. 1, 1975, pp. 10-13

[[SOURCE LINK](#)]



It should be noted that Dr. Robert Card was one of the key therapists behind the electroshock and vomit conversion therapy program at BYU. This practice was intended to rid men of homosexual thoughts and tendencies, with the end goal of converting their sexuality from gay to straight.

Masculinity: An Example of a True Man

In an effort to stress the importance of promoting gender roles and the duties of a man, apostles and the Church's president, Spencer W. Kimball, spent over a decade instructing members about the specific roles of men and women in society. Homosexuality was of grave concern for Latter-day Saint leaders. Their official messaging included the idea that the development of homosexuality was a result of multiple possible factors including disturbed family backgrounds, poor relationships with peers, a domineering mother, a passive father, feminism, masturbation, lack of family support, depression, and proselyting (the interaction with a gay person or talking about being gay).

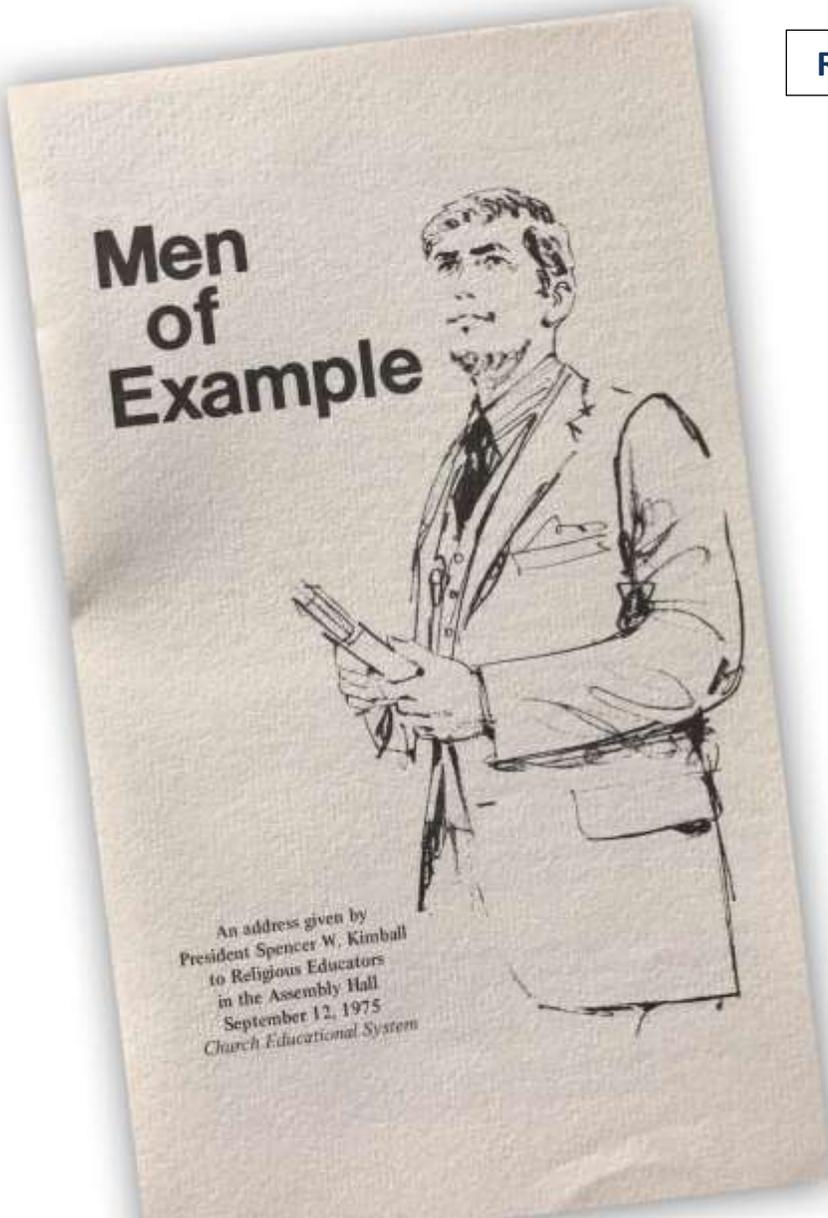
To help reinforce the gender roles within the Church, Spencer W. Kimball delivered a message to CES educators in the Assembly Hall at Temple Square. The talk was later published. It set forth the "manly" roles consistent with masculinity. It advised that marriage and faithfulness to a spouse is the answer to difficult life problems, and it set forth the path expected of all men in the Church.

Spencer W. Kimball

President, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
Church Educational System Training | Assembly Hall
September 12, 1975

It should be noted that the online version of this message has been altered by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Pages 8 and 9 have been omitted from the online publication of President Kimball's message.

[READ THE ORIGINAL BY CLICKING HERE](#)



Men of Example

An address given by
President Spencer W. Kimball
to Religious Educators
in the Assembly Hall
September 12, 1975
Church Educational System

I want our youth to choose well their companions when they make their friends, and even more when they begin their courting, partly because they see in their loved teacher or director all the qualities making up the ideal. They should see an intelligent and well-adjusted wife and mother fully supporting her husband and doing her part to build the near perfect husband-wife relationship.

I hope that these youth will see their instructors contributing wisely to community life as dignified, happy citizens and to Church life as devout, dependable, and effective leaders. I hope they love you, for those whom we love, we serve. "How do I find the right wife?"

I am frequently asked in groups of missionaries who are beginning to think in that direction. My answer always is, "Find one like my wife, and then you will be all right." I hope you feel that way, too, about your wife.

[READ THE REDACTED VERSION FROM THE CHURCH BY CLICKING HERE](#)



Lack of Love leads to Homosexuality

“Children learn how to love in a stable, healthy family. Parents need to know that lack of proper affection in the home can result in unnatural behavior in their children such as homosexuality.”

Victor L. Brown Jr.

Area Director Welfare Services, BYU Professor
“Two Views of Sexuality,” *Ensign*, July 1975, p. 50

[SOURCE LINK]

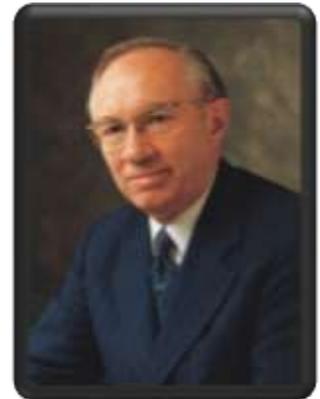
Outside Influence Create Homosexuality

“Speaking about a young gay man who had recently visited Hinckley, he said, “We talked of the influences that had put him where he is, of the home from which he came, of associations with other young men, of books and magazines read, of shows seen.”

Gordon B. Hinckley

Apostle, Quorum of the Twelve
October 1975, “*Opposing Evil*,”
Ensign, November 1975, p. 38

[SOURCE LINK]



BYU Admits to Secret Surveillance of Homosexuals

Brigham Young University says its security police staked out homosexual bars in Salt Lake City to investigate homosexual activity at the Mormon-owned school, but stopped the practice once administrators learned of it.

Paul Richards, director of public relations for the university, confirmed yesterday allegations by the American Civil Liberties Union that security officers ventured off campus and wrote letters to a homosexual-oriented newspaper soliciting responses as part of a crackdown on homosexuals.

“No one is predestined to a perverted use of these powers.”

The Mormon Church has a strict ban on homosexuality.

“Those things were done,” Mr. Richards said. “But, when President [Dallin] Oaks got involved, he said, ‘Cut that out right now.’ “

Mr. Richards said the surveillance had occurred more than a year ago, before the Utah Legislature approved a controversial bill giving peace officer status to campus police.

New York Times article

September 27, 1979
Section A, Page 16

[SOURCE LINK]



To *Young Men Only* (also known as "Message to Young Men") is a Conference talk delivered by apostle, Boyd K. Packer on October 2, 1976, at the priesthood session of the 146th Semiannual General Conference of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The message is addressed to young men of the Aaronic priesthood and discusses issues of human sexuality, puberty, and morality. **It was from this talk that the infamous "Little Factory" example was shared.**

Unlike most general conference talks, "Message to Young Men" was not published in the Church's official magazine, *The Ensign*, instead, the talk was published in 1980 as a 14-page pamphlet, entitled "To Young Men Only."

Note: In 2016, this pamphlet was discontinued and removed from the LDS Church's website. The video recording of the Conference address is also no longer available on the Church's website and all suggestions that the address was ever given have been deleted. The talk from Boyd K. Packer has been criticized on various grounds that it encourages violence against homosexuals, contains inaccurate assumptions regarding sexuality, and promotes excessive male patriarchy.

[READ: TO YOUNG MEN ONLY BY CLICKING HERE](#)

There is a falsehood that some are born with an attraction to their own kind, with nothing they can do about it. They are just "that way" and can only yield to those desires. That is a malicious and destructive lie. While it is a convincing idea to some, it is of the devil. No one is locked into that kind of life. From our premortal life we were directed into a physical body. There is no mismatching of bodies and spirits. Boys are to become men—masculine, manly men—ultimately to become husbands and fathers. No one is predestined to a perverted use of these powers.

Even those who have been drawn into wicked practices and are bound by almost unyielding habits can escape. If one of you seems trapped that, escape. Go to your father or bishop, please. Your parents, your bishop, the servants of the Lord, the angels of heaven and the Lord himself will help redeem you from it.

Young Latter-day Saint men, do not tamper with these powers, neither with yourself alone nor with one of your own kind. Never let anyone handle or touch those very personal parts of your body which are an essential link in the ongoing creation.

Many of the world would, I am sure, be amused by this. They live by

TO YOUNG MEN ONLY



BOYD K. PACKER

In the October 1976 General Conference, Boyd K. Packer shared the following story as part of his talk in the Priesthood Session. Packer described a situation where a gay missionary “came out” to his companion. The senior companion reacted by physically assaulting his gay mission companion. Packer retold this story in his Conference address and used the General Conference pulpit to encourage others to follow the same course of action.

Packer: “While I was in a mission on one occasion, a missionary said he had something to confess. I was very worried because he just could not get himself to tell me what he had done.

After patient encouragement, he finally blurted it out. ‘I hit my companion!’

‘Oh, is that all?’ I said in great relief!

‘But I floored him,’ he said.”

Packer: “My response was, ‘Well, thanks. Somebody had to do it, **and it wouldn’t be well for a General Authority to solve the problem that way.**’ I am not recommending that course to you [speaking to the General Priesthood audience], **but I am not omitting it either.**”

Note:

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints removed all written, audio, and digital versions of this Conference talk.

Officially, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints explains that this talk has been “retired.”

WATCH the ORIGINAL General Conference Address

BY CLICKING HERE



Poor Familial Relationships Result in Homosexuality

[President Clarke read a letter from a self-hating gay man who had a poor relationship with his father]

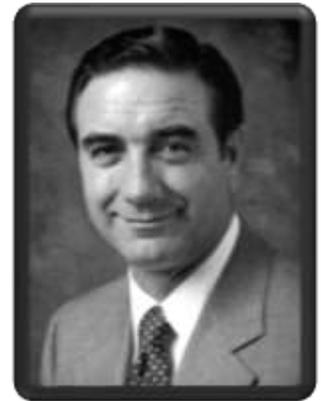
"It should go without saying that many of these problems would be alleviated if parents would spend more time teaching and rearing their children. Related to the story that I gave at the beginning of my talk is evidence of a clinical researcher who, after studying 850 individual cases, stated: "Homosexuality would not occur where there is a normal, loving father-and-son relationship."

"Any of our people living in righteousness would normally avoid being involved in these problems."

J. Richard Clarke

2nd Counselor in Presiding Bishopric
"Ministering to Needs through LDS Social Services,"
April 1977 General Conference

[\[SOURCE LINK\]](#)



Stronger Homes Will Result in Fewer Homosexuals

"The growing permissiveness in modern society gravely concerns us. Certainly our Heavenly Father is distressed with the increasing inroads among his children of such insidious sins as adultery and fornication, homosexuality, lesbianism, abortions, pornography, population control, alcoholism, cruelty expressed in wife-beating and child-abuse, dishonesty, vandalism, violence, and crime generally, including the sin of living together without marriage.

"We call upon our Church members everywhere to renew their efforts to strengthen the home and to honor their parents, and to build better communications between parent and child.

"Important as it is, building stronger homes is not enough in the fight against rising permissiveness. We therefore urge Church members as citizens to lift their voices, to join others in unceasingly combating, in their communities and beyond, the inroads of pornography and the general flaunting of permissiveness. Let us vigorously oppose the shocking developments which encourage the old sins of Sodom and Gomorrah, and which defile the human body as the temple of God."

Spencer W. Kimball

President, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
"The Foundations of Righteousness"
October 1977 General Conference

[\[SOURCE LINK\]](#)



To The One

"What I say in this presentation will be serious and solemn. I will not speak to everyone. I ask for the indulgence of the 'ninety and nine,' while I speak to 'the one.'

"Finding the cause of this condition is an essential step in developing a cure... It is not desirable; it is unnatural; it is abnormal; it is an affliction.

When practiced, it is immoral. It is a transgression [p. 2]."

"I accept that word [homosexual] as an adjective to describe a temporary condition. I reject is a noun naming a permanent one [p. 2]."

"The reason why we in the Church do not talk more openly about this subject... is because with many things, it is easy—very easy to cause the very things we are trying to avoid [p. 3]."

"Some who become tangled up in this disorder become predators. They proselyte the young or the inexperienced [pp. 5-6]."

"Perversion may have some very physical expressions, but it is not a physical disorder. A most extensive physical examination will not reveal one shred of evidence that it is [p. 9]."

"Have you explored the possibility that the cause, when found, will turn out to be a very typical form of selfishness - selfishness in a very subtle form? [pp. 10-11]."



Boyd K. Packer,

Apostle, Quorum of the Twelve

March 5, 1978, BYU Twelve Stake Fireside address,
later printed, "To The One" pamphlet published in 1978

[SOURCE LINK]

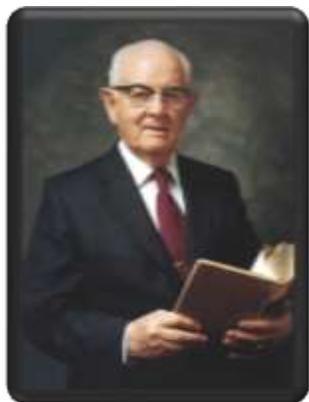
An Unchecked Man Might Become Homosexual

"Once the carnal in man is no longer checked by the restraints of family life and by real religion, there comes an avalanche of appetites which gathers momentum that is truly frightening. As one jar loose and begins to roll downhill, still another breaks loose, whether it is an increase in homosexuality, corruption, drugs, or abortion. Each began as an appetite that needed to be checked but which went unchecked. Thus, misery achieves a ghastly monument."

Spencer W. Kimball,

President, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
"Listen to the Prophet," April General Conference 1978

[SOURCE LINK]



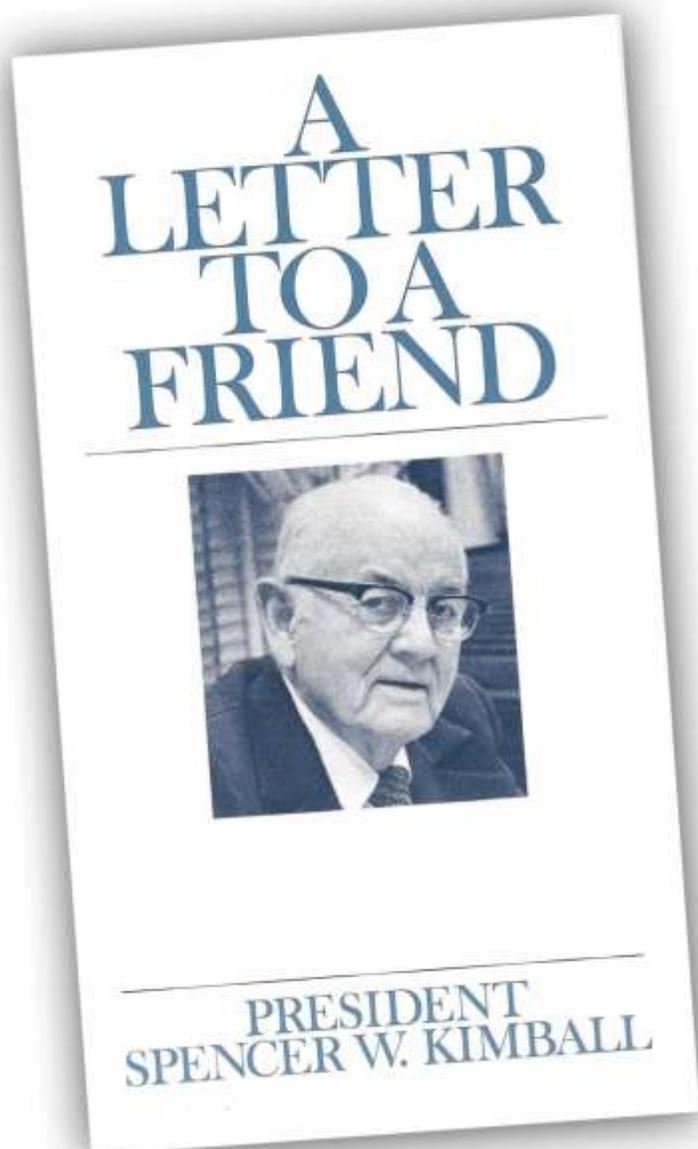
A LETTER TO A FRIEND

The pamphlet was originally written in 1971 by then apostle, Spencer W. Kimball. The First Presidency prevented the pamphlet from being published and distributed among the general membership of the Church; however, copies were produced for bishops, branch presidents and Stake presidents. In 1978, after President Kimball was ordained as the Prophet, the Church distributed the pamphlet publicly.

A *Letter to a Friend* was criticized for its harsh tone and blatant opposition to scientific research regarding homosexuality. It promised that prayer, repentance, faithful church service, and fasting, among other promises, would successfully cure homosexuality. **Kimball affirms that homosexuality is “second only to a murder.”** He further proclaims that God did not create a homosexual, but he is the product of Satan.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints retired *A Letter to a Friend* pamphlet after the death of President Spencer W. Kimball. The Church further removed all printed copies and official references to it from all Church sources. Only the original printed copies (and digital reproductions) of this pamphlet remain.

[CLICK HERE TO READ THE FULL PAMPHLET](#)



In Summary

REMEMBER:

Homosexuality CAN be cured if the battle is well organized and pursued vigorously and continuously.

Homosexuality, like other serious sins, CAN be forgiven by the Church and the Lord if the repentance is total, all-inclusive, and continuous.

Homosexuality is not the fault totally of family conditions. Every normal person must answer for his own sins.

God did not make men evil. He did not make people “that way.”

The bishop has power and resources far beyond secular training (see D&C 46:27).

Satan will continue to thwart all efforts to change a life (see Luke 22:31-32).

Prayer is most important in recovery (see Luke 22:46).

Scripture reading provides a clean atmosphere.

ABANDONMENT of persons, places, things, and situations that have been associated with the transgression is vital. Substitution of good for bad is the answer (see Luke 11:21-26).

Remember also, if you repent, the

“...burden shall be taken away from off thy shoulder, and his yoke from off thy neck, and the yoke shall be destroyed...” (2 Nephi 20:27).

We urge you to talk with your parents, your stake president, or your bishop and help will come. Having read this letter, you will never in time nor eternity forget it, nor its message totally. The Lord will bless you for every effort you make. May his peace eventually come back into your soul.

Our kind wishes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Spencer W. Kimball'.

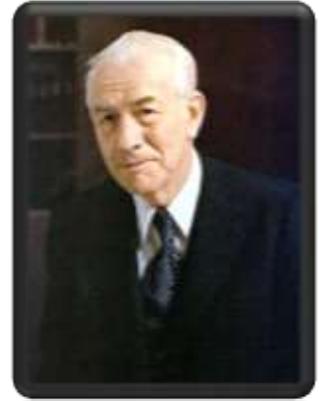
President Spencer W. Kimball

Homosexuals Not Created in God's Image

"It was not God who made them [homosexuals] that way...
He gave all mankind free agency."

Mark E. Peterson

Apostle, Quorum of the Twelve
December 16, 1978, "Sin is No Excuse," Church News, p. 16



The Homosexual Cannot Be Exalted

"It has come to our attention that many homosexuals who hide their perversion in public cry out when among their 'gay' groups, 'God made us this way. We are still children of God. He understands; He knows our hearts. We faithfully hold family home evenings, we pray, we attend Church. Why don't the Brethren understand? Why will they not listen? We were just made different. It is not our fault. God will surely judge us differently from our brethren.'

"And so, they envy the 'normal' member of the Church who lives an upright and circumspect life, saying, 'If only the Brethren understood.'

"To condone homosexuality is not an act of charity. Perversion is perversion. All the reasoning of the greatest minds in the world cannot change the seriousness of the transgression. Worlds without end, the homosexual cannot be exalted. That is it—as plainly, simply, and clearly as one can state."

Vaughn J. Featherstone

of the Seventy
"Charity Never Faileth," BYU Speeches
February 27, 1979

[SOURCE LINK]



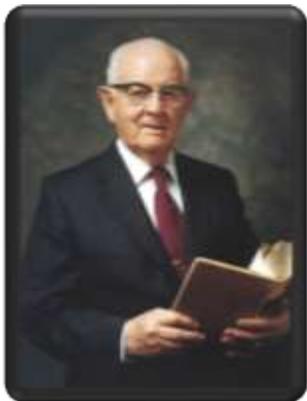
Effective Fathering Prevents Homosexuality

According to Ed Lauritsen, "[N]urturant fathering ... almost serves as a form of psychological immunization against homosexuality in most cases." He also told his audience that "it is incumbent upon ...all LDS clinicians to labor for the **prevention** of homosexuality." He indicated that every time "we assist a man toward improving his relationships with his children... we are, in effect, helping him reduce the possibility of homosexuality among his children, and in turn, among his children's children."

Ed D. Lauritsen

Values Institute, BYU
February 6, 1979, "The Role of the Father in Male Homosexuality,"
paper presented to LDS Social Services





Gays Are Not Created in the Image of God

"God made me that way, some say, as they rationalize and excuse themselves for their [homosexual] perversions. 'I can't help it,' they add. This is blasphemy. Is man not made in the image of God, and does he think God to be 'that way?'"

Spencer W. Kimball

President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, October 1980, "President Kimball Speaks Out on Morality," Ensign, November 1980, p. 97

[\[SOURCE LINK\]](#)

Homosexuality Is A "Learned" Behavior

"May I share with you some conclusions I have reached. First, homosexuality is learned, not inherent [p. 1]."

"The first phase is ***pre-homosexual role confusion** in childhood and includes parent-child disturbances, gender and role distortion, relationship skill deficits, and erotization [emphasis added, p. 4]."

"The second phase, ****pre-homosexual compensation**, involves unilateral masturbatory fantasy... fragmentation, and self-focus [emphasis added, p.5]."

"The third phase is **crisis of [role] fit**, a severe realization of being different.

"The final phase is **homosexual role** resolution or 'merging'... where the person and the role merge [emphasis added pp. 3-4]."

Victor L. Brown Jr.

DSW, Board of Governors, Assoc. of Mormon Counselors & Psychotherapists (AMCAP) and Area Director, LDS Social Services, p. 1,4, 5, 3-4, April 1, 1981

* Brown later relates this role confusion to "troubled, even pathological parent-child and parent-to-parent relationships."

** Brown later defines this as partially involving "masturbatory fantasy."

[\[SOURCE LINK \]](#)



Masturbation Leads to Homosexuality

"Masturbation is the introduction to the more serious sins of exhibitionism and the gross sin of homosexuality."

Spencer W. Kimball

President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, October 1980, "President Kimball Speaks Out on Morality," Ensign, November 1980

[\[SOURCE LINK\]](#)

Homosexuality Is an Acquired Addiction

“If children have a happy family experience, they will not want to be homosexual, which I am sure is an acquired addiction, just as drugs, alcohol and pornography are.”

Elder Hartman Rector, Jr.
Apostle, Quorum of the Twelve
“Turning the Hearts”
April 5, 1981 General Conference

Note: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints made significant redactions to this talk by deleting nearly half of this specific General Conference message. When it was later offered in print version much of Elder Hartman Rector’s original speech had been removed.

To hear the original address without the transcript manipulation you must listen to the audio version of the April 1981 General Conference talk (link provided below).

Watch the original, unredacted conference talk by

CLICKING HERE



Read the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints’ revised version of this talk by

CLICKING HERE

Written in 1981, a booklet, simply called: “Homosexuality,” was published by the First Presidency and the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles. The booklet was intended to help local leaders in their efforts to provide methods of conversion therapy to men and women in their branches, wards, and stakes who were identified as homosexuals.

“This booklet contains information to help Church leaders **understand and treat** the problem of homosexuality.

“Homosexuality is of grave concern to the Church because—

1. It violates the Lord’s eternal plan for man’s progress by perverting the proper use of procreative powers and loving relationships.
2. It deprives God’s children of the happiness and fulfillment possible on in family life.
3. It debases and demeans those involved.
4. It is as sinful as heterosexual adultery and fornication.
5. It may involve violent and criminal behavior.

“Members of the Church who engage in homosexual behavior need the help of an inspired priesthood leader. They must accept responsibility for their sinful behavior and develop the determination to change their lives.”

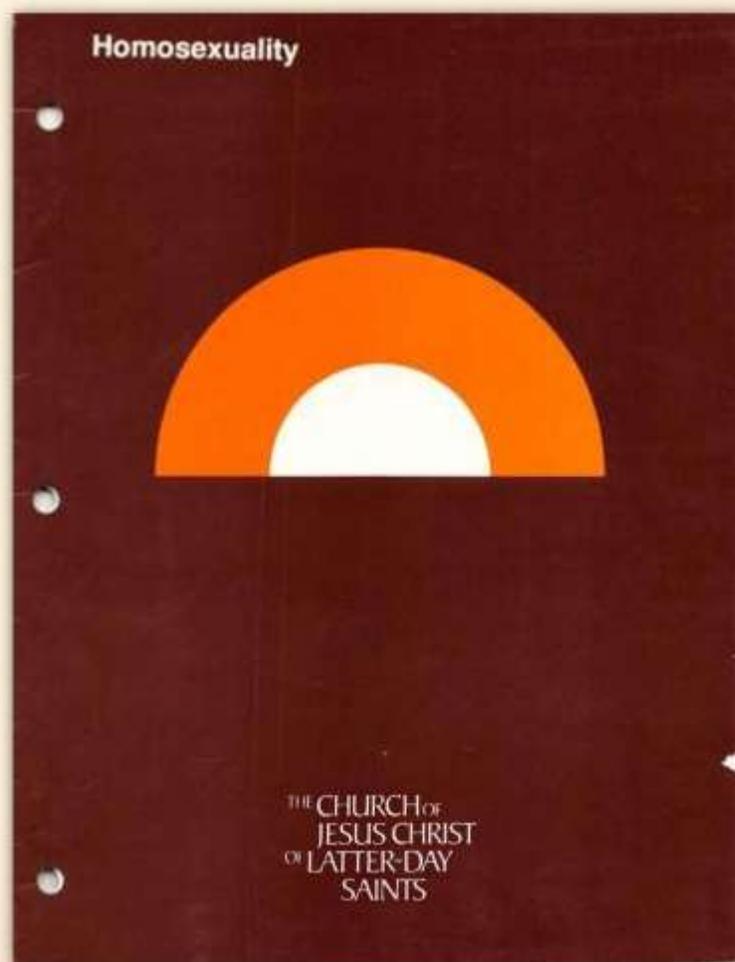
The Church presents in this manual that homosexuality is caused by four factors:

- 1. Disturbed Family Background**
- 2. Poor Relationship with Peers**
- 3. Unhealthy Sexual Attitudes**
- 4. Early Homosexual Experiences**

In the late 1990’s the Office of the First Presidency requested that all copies of this manual be removed from circulation and intended that they be destroyed.

The link below contains a page-by-page scan of a surviving copy.

[CLICK HERE TO READ THE BOOKLET](#)



Gays and Lesbians: No Moral Values



"We have seen introduced into many school systems false ideas about the theory of man's development from lower forms of life, teachings that there are no absolute moral values, repudiation of all beliefs regarded as supernatural, permissiveness about sexual freedom that gives sanction to immoral behavior and 'alternative life-styles' such as lesbianism, homosexuality, and other perverse practices.

Such teachings not only tend to undermine the faith and morals of our young people, but they deny the existence of God, who gave absolute laws, and the divinity of Jesus Christ."

Ezra Taft Benson

President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles
"Great Things Required of Their Fathers"
Priesthood Session General Conference, April 1981

[SOURCE LINK]

Dating and Marriage: A Key to Eliminating Homosexual Behavior

"The individual can more easily eliminate all overt homosexual behavior, friends, and places by replacing them with more appropriate friends and activities.

- a)** Encourage the member to be in appropriate situations with members of the opposite sex, even if he has to force himself. If he is single, he might attend activities for singles with increasing frequency, and in other ways surround himself with good LDS people.
- b)** Encourage him (if single) to begin dating and gradually increase its frequency. He might discuss dating practices, expectations and fears with a member of the opposite sex or with those assisting him.
- c)** Encourage him to discuss with his bishop or his assigned resource person(s) those appropriate masculine or feminine roles and practices which he should exemplify. Have him observe those of the same sex whom he admires and respects, and suggest that he try to emulate their behavior and characteristics.

"Masturbation is a sin, but is not homosexuality when practiced alone... Self-masturbation is almost universal among those who engage in homosexual behavior, and is a very difficult habit for most to overcome."

Homosexuality: Second Edition

Published by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
1981 p. 6

[SOURCE LINK]

Homosexuality: Worse Than Abortion or Adultery

"The American Psychiatric Association recently voted to remove homosexuality from its list of disorders, even though one study pointed out by our own Allen Bergin showed that 50 percent of the male homosexuals surveyed in one American city had at least 500 sexual partners and 28 percent of them had had 1,000 partners."

(see "Bringing the Restoration to the Academic World: Clinical Psychology As a Test Case," *BYU Studies* 19 [1979]: 449, 464)

"If that is normal behavior, we've got problems. ... avoid at all costs, no matter what the circumstances, of abortion and homosexuality. As serious as is fornication or adultery, you must understand that abortion and homosexuality are equally wrong and may be worse. ... They may also be called upon to face a Church court, at the peril of their membership in the Church."



Bruce Hafen

President of Ricks College, August 28, 1982,
"The Gospel of Romantic Love," *BYU Devotional Speech*

[[SOURCE LINK](#)]

Failure of Parents in The Home

"Today we are aware of great problems in our society. The most obvious are sexual promiscuity, homosexuality, drug abuse, alcoholism, vandalism, pornography, and violence.

"These grave problems are symptoms of failure in the home—the disregarding of principles and practices established by God in the very beginning.

"Because some parents have departed from the principles the Lord gave for happiness and success, many families throughout the world are undergoing great stress and trauma. Many parents have been enticed to abandon their responsibilities in the home to seek after an elusive 'self-fulfillment.'"

These three paragraphs are quoted again by Ezra Taft Benson verbatim in the July 1992 First Presidency message.



Ezra Taft Benson

President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles
October General Conference Address
Ensign, November 1982,
"Fundamentals of Enduring Family Relationships."

[[SOURCE LINK](#)]

Homosexual Relationships Are Dead-end

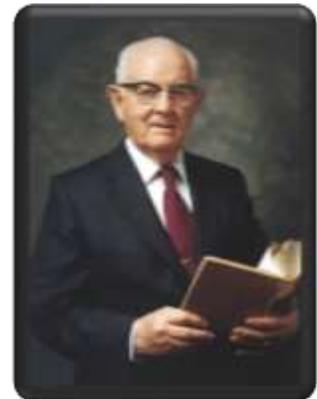
"Homosexual relationships are dead-end. What would this man do for you, or these men, should you suddenly fall victim to a dread disease, an incurable disease?"

"Suppose your body shriveled; suppose you could no longer satisfy sexually; suppose you could no longer be 'used.'

"How long would the alleged friendship or friendly ties last?"

Spencer W. Kimball

President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
Personal Letter written Dec. 20, 1965 published in 1982
'The Teachings of Spencer W. Kimball,' pg. 274.



[SOURCE LINK]

A Priesthood Holder Would Not be Homosexual

"A priesthood holder is virtuous. Virtuous behavior implies that he has pure thoughts and clean actions. He will not lust in his heart, for to do so is to 'deny the faith' and to lose the Spirit. He will not commit adultery 'nor do anything like unto it.' This means fornication, homosexual behavior, self-abuse, child molestation, or any other sexual perversions."

Ezra Taft Benson

President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles
October 1983 General Conference, "What Manner of Men Ought We to Be?"

[SOURCE LINK]



Handbook of Instruction change

The Church Handbook of Instruction was updated to state that a church court "may be convened to consider" serious transgressions including "homosexuality" and "lesbianism" but is not required.

Church Handbook of Instruction
Printed: 1983, pg. 51

[SOURCE LINK]

Transsexual Operations: Church Handbook Update

"The Church counsels against transsexual operations, and members who undergo such procedures require disciplinary action. Church members who are doctors who perform such operations may also require disciplinary action. Investigators who are considering transsexual operations should not be baptized.

Investigators who have already undergone transsexual operations may be baptized if otherwise worthy on condition that an appropriate notation be made on the membership record so as to preclude such individuals from either receiving the priesthood or temple recommends. Members contemplating transsexual operations should be informed that the Church counsels against such procedures, but any disciplinary action is deferred until the individual has made a decision whether to undergo the operation.

A change in a member's sex ordinarily justifies excommunication. After excommunication such a person is not eligible again for baptism. Questions on difficult cases can be forwarded by local priesthood leaders to the Office of the First Presidency."

Transgender members of the Church comment that after reading this 1983 policy update, they felt 'cursed' or 'marginalized' when compared to a transgender member who converted to the Church after their physical or social transition.

As written, the policy required members of the Church (not converts) to face a disciplinary council for transitioning, are excommunicated and never again able to be rebaptized; while converts who transitioned previous to their baptism are considered "worthy" and they receive an annotated membership record, but gain the benefit of church membership.



Church Handbook of Instruction

Section Titled: Transsexual Operations

Printed: 1983, pg. 52-53

[SOURCE LINK]



Oaks creates talking points for church leaders if media requested comment

In 1984 Dallin H. Oaks delivered to the First Presidency a confidential memorandum titled *"Principles to Govern Possible Public Statement on Legislation Affecting Rights of Homosexuals."* This memorandum proposed general principles to guide church leaders, Apostles, General Authorities, and the Prophet who would use the information to prepare public statements against homosexuality.

Page 1: Homosexual relations are "vile afflictions" and an "abomination."

Page 5: "Homosexuality can be cured if the battle is well organized and pursued vigorously and continuously."

Page 5: "Homosexuality, like other sins, can be forgiven by the Church and the Lord if the repentance is total, all-inclusive, and continuous."

Page 10: "... penalties against homosexuals makes them martyrs and wins them public sympathy and some powerful liberal support they can use to their advantage on more important issues."

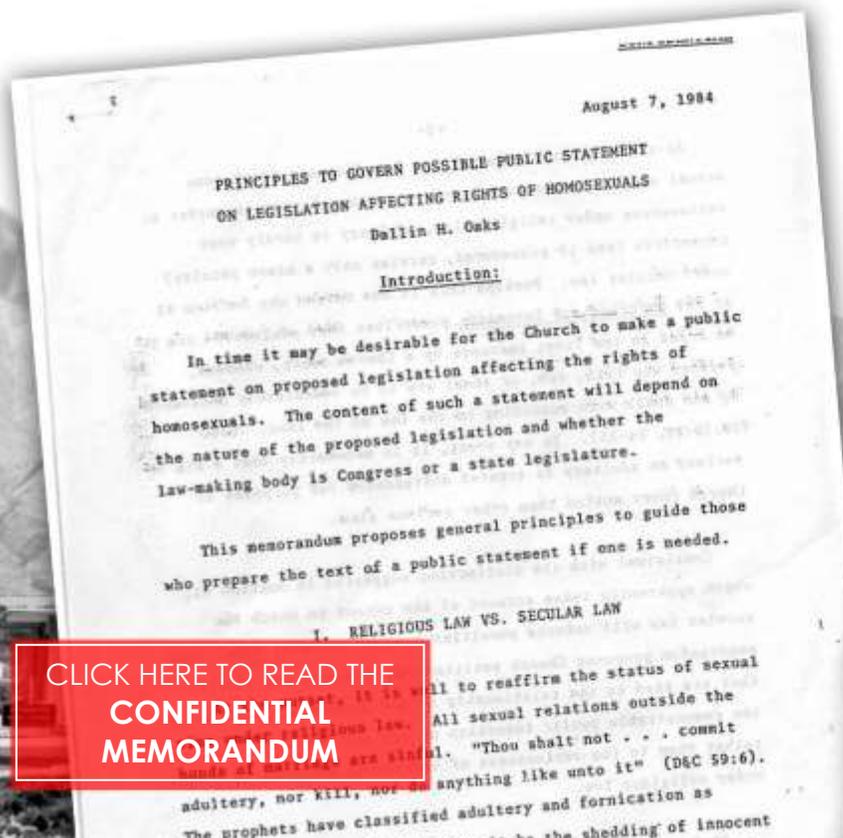
Page 11-12: "The gay rights groups present themselves as victims of intolerance against the condition of homosexuality and of broad-based discrimination against persons with that condition. However, there is little evidence of such intolerance or such broad-based discrimination."

Page 13-14: The church SHOULD argue FOR laws that discriminate against homosexuals in the following jobs: "Arguments for job discrimination against homosexuals are strongest in those types of employment and activities that provide teaching, association and role models for young people. This would include school teachers (especially at the elementary and secondary levels), and youth leaders and counselors (such as scoutmasters, coaches, etc.)."

Page 14: The church SHOULD argue FOR laws that only allow homosexuals jobs where they are not a threat. "... jobs which pose no threat to youth or the values described above. Such jobs, which would seem to be done by a homosexual as by another person, would include factory and other laboring jobs involving an adult workforce. "

Page 16: "I recommend that if an anti-job discrimination law is proposed to protect homosexuals, the Church should oppose the law if it did not contain a youth-protection. ... the need for the good of society to protect youth from homosexual proselyting and role models among their teachers and counselors."

Page 19: "One generation of homosexual "marriages" would depopulate a nation, and, if sufficiently widespread, would extinguish its people. Our marriage laws should not abet national suicide."





Desirable to Exclude Homosexuals

"It would also be desirable to permit employers to exclude homosexuals from influential positions in media, literature, and entertainment, since those jobs influence the tone and ideals of society."

Dallin H. Oaks

Apostle, Quorum of the Twelve
"Principles to Govern," August 7, 1984

[[SOURCE LINK](#)]

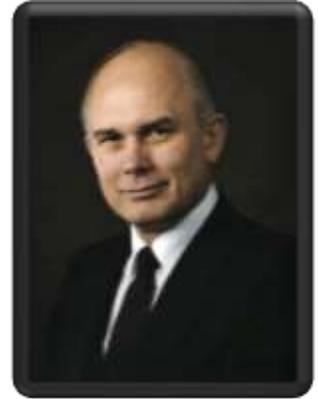
Gay Marriage Is National Suicide

"One generation of homosexual 'marriages' would depopulate a nation and, if sufficiently widespread, would extinguish its people. Our marriage laws should not abet national suicide."

Dallin H. Oaks

Apostle, Quorum of the Twelve
"Principles to Govern," August 7, 1984

[[SOURCE LINK](#)]



Sex: A Cause of Homosexuality

"Such stimulation can lead to acts of homosexuality, and they are evil and absolutely wrong."

Richard G. Scott

Apostle, Quorum of the Twelve
October General Conference 1984, "Making Right Choices."

[[SOURCE LINK](#)]

Pornography Leads to Homosexuality

"I have come to understand some of the behaviors that lead to transgression. What are they? Generally, they are various personal indulgences based on selfishness. One of the greatest of these is the use of pornography. Pornography is related to such sins as self-abuse, homosexuality, fornication, adultery, child and spouse abuse, incest, rape, and cruelty."

Theodore M. Burton

Of the Seventy
June 3, 1986, "A Marriage to Last through Eternity,"
BYU Devotional. Also printed in Ensign, June 1987, p. 12

[[SOURCE LINK](#)]



You Can Overcome Homosexuality with the Church

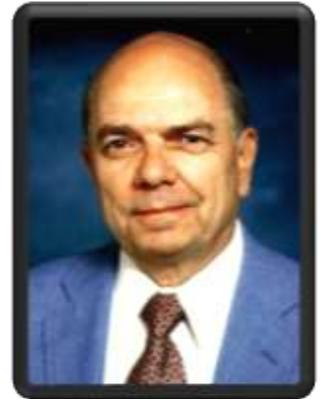
"... a person may suffer from homosexual inclinations that are caused by some combination of biology and environment, the gospel requires that he or she develop firm self-discipline and make an energetic effort to change.

"That many former homosexuals have done so and have become successful in marriage and family life shows that people can overcome such problems and live according to gospel principles."

Dr. Allen E. Bergin

Professor of Psychology, BYU
Ensign, "Questions and Answers," October 1988

[[SOURCE LINK](#)]



Make an Effort to Change

"Growing numbers of people now campaign to make spiritually dangerous life-styles legal and socially acceptable. Among them are abortion, the gay-lesbian movement, and drug addiction.

...

"Several publications are now being circulated about the Church which defend and promote gay or lesbian conduct. They wrest the scriptures attempting to prove that these impulses are inborn, cannot be overcome, and should not be resisted; and therefore, such conduct has a morality of its own. They quote scriptures to justify perverted acts between consenting adults. That same logic would justify incest or the molesting of little children of either gender. Neither the letter nor the spirit of moral law condones any such conduct.

...

Illicit or perverted conduct leads without exception to disappointment, suffering, to tragedy.

...

Why, they ask, does this happen to me? It is not fair! They suppose that it is not fair that others are not afflicted with the same temptations. They write that their bishop could not answer the "why," nor could he nullify their addiction or erase the tendency."

Boyd K. Packer

Apostle, Quorum of the Twelve
October 1990 General Conference, "Covenants."

[[SOURCE LINK](#)]



In 1992 the First Presidency released this booklet to bishops and stake presidents within the Church. As stated in the opening pages of the booklet, its design was intended to help Church leaders solve the issues of homosexuality among their congregations.

“This booklet will help Church leaders assist members, both men and women, who are troubled by homosexual problems. Participation in such behavior is of particular concern because it violates the commandments of God, is contrary to the purposes of human sexuality, distorts loving relationships, and deprives people of the blessings that can be found in family life and in the saving ordinances of the gospel.”

“Reading this booklet will help leaders understand the nature of homosexual problems and the steps they can take to assist those who want to bring their lives into harmony with the teachings of the Savior.”

UNDERSTANDING
AND HELPING
THOSE WHO HAVE
HOMOSEXUAL
PROBLEMS

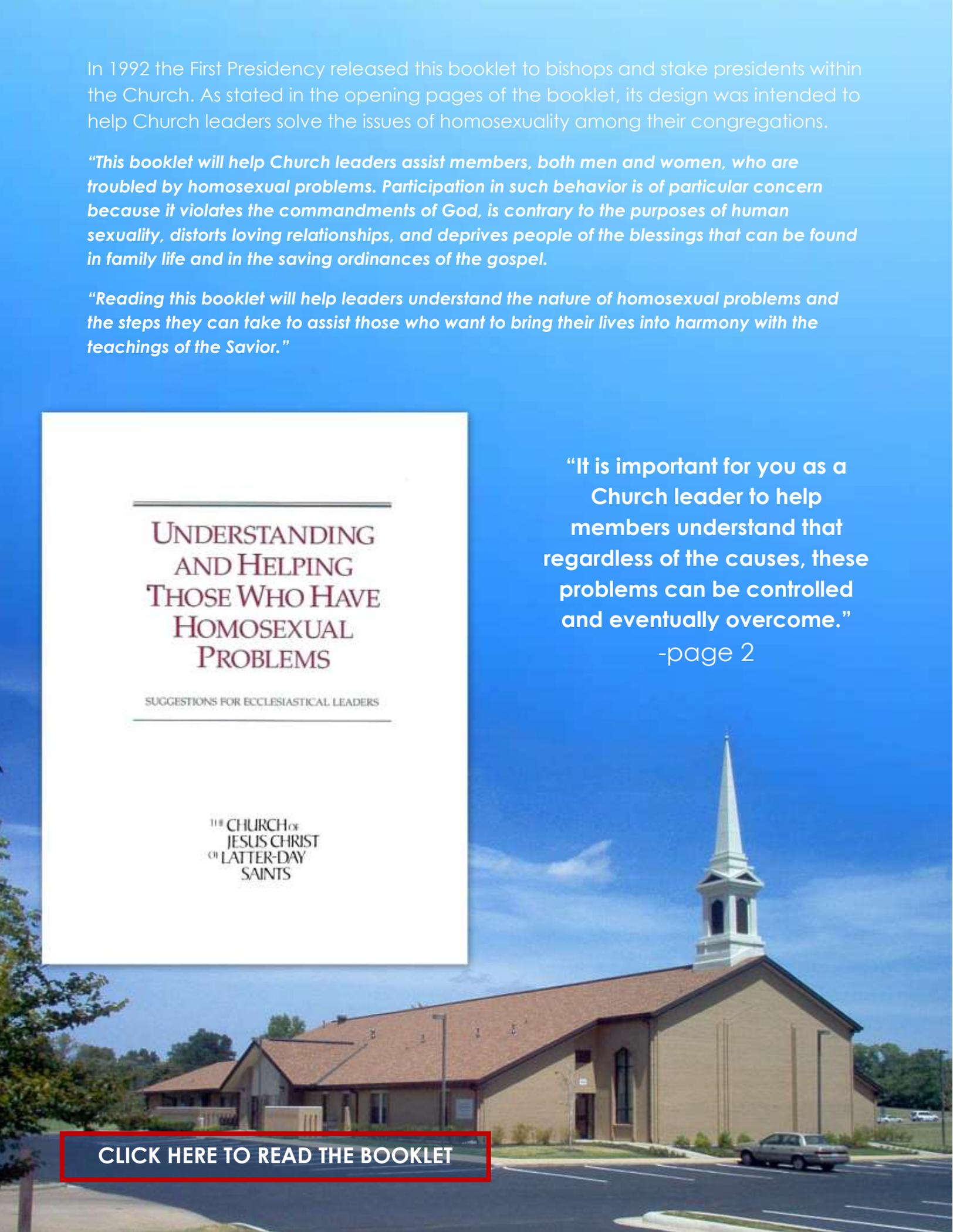
SUGGESTIONS FOR ECCLESIASTICAL LEADERS

THE CHURCH OF
JESUS CHRIST
OF LATTER-DAY
SAINTS

“It is important for you as a Church leader to help members understand that regardless of the causes, these problems can be controlled and eventually overcome.”

-page 2

[CLICK HERE TO READ THE BOOKLET](#)



Parents Enable Children to Be Gay

"Today we are aware of great problems in our society. The most obvious are sexual promiscuity, homosexuality, drug abuse, alcoholism, vandalism, pornography, and violence.

"These grave problems are symptoms of failure in the home—the disregarding of principles and practices established by God in the very beginning.

"Because some parents have departed from the principles the Lord gave for happiness and success, many families throughout the world are undergoing great stress and trauma. Many parents have been enticed to abandon their responsibilities in the home to seek after an elusive 'self-fulfillment.'"



Ezra Taft Benson

President, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
July 1992, "First Presidency Message:
Salvation - A Family Affair," Ensign

[\[SOURCE LINK\]](#)

Mixed Orientation Marriage an Answer to Homosexuality

"President Joseph Fielding Smith taught us: 'Habits are easily formed. It is just as easy to form good habits as it is to form evil ones.'

"I know another good man who was reared in a family without the blessings of the gospel. Through a series of unfortunate events in his early youth, he was introduced to homosexuality, and gradually he became a prisoner of this addictive behavior.

...

"My friend contacted the Church and was taught the gospel and was baptized. Within a relatively short time, he married a lovely young woman, and they are the parents of several beautiful children. He and his wife are very dynamic and committed servants of the Lord, influencing many others for good."

Spencer J. Condie

Of the Seventy
"A Mighty Change of Heart," Ensign,
November 1993



[\[SOURCE LINK\]](#)

Gender Identity



“When we speak plainly of divorce, abuse, gender identity, contraception, abortion, parental neglect, we are thought by some to be way out of touch or to be uncaring.

“Some ask if we know how many we hurt when we speak plainly.

“Do we know of marriages in trouble, of the many who remain single, of single-parent families, of couples unable to have children, of parents with wayward children, or of those confused about gender?

“Do we know? Do we care?

“Because we do know and because we do care, we must teach the rules of happiness without dilution, apology, or avoidance. That is our calling.”

Boyd K. Packer

Apostle, Quorum of the Twelve
General Conference, “*The Father and the Family*,” April 1994

[[SOURCE LINK](#)]

You Are Not Born Gay. You Can Repent of Homosexuality

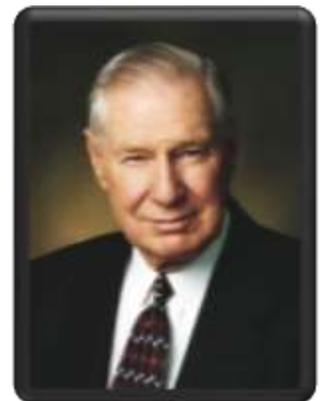
“There is some widely accepted theory extant that homosexuality is inherited. How can this be? No scientific evidence demonstrates absolutely, **absolutely** that this is so.

“Besides, if it were so, it would frustrate the whole plan of mortal happiness. Our designation as men or women began before this world was. In contrast to the socially accepted doctrine that homosexuality is inborn, a number of respectable authorities contend that homosexuality is not acquired by birth.

“The false belief of inborn sexual orientation denies to repentant souls the opportunity to change and will ultimately lead to discouragement, disappointment, and despair.”

James E. Faust

Apostle, Quorum of the Twelve
November 15, 1994, BYU address, “*Trying to Serve the Lord Without Offending the Devil*,” reprinted as the First Presidency Message in the September 1995 Ensign, “*Serving the Lord and Resisting the Devil*.”



[[SOURCE LINK](#)]

Sexual Immorality Leads to Homosexuality



"Sexual immorality creates a barrier to the influence of the Holy Spirit with all its uplifting, enlightening, and empowering capabilities. It causes powerful physical and emotional stimulation.

"In time, that creates an unquenchable appetite that drives the offender to ever more serious sin. It engenders selfishness and can produce aggressive acts such as brutality, abortion, sexual abuse, and violent crime. Such stimulation can lead to acts of homosexuality, and they are evil and absolutely wrong."

Richard G. Scott

Quorum of The Twelve

October 1994, "Making the Right Choices," *Ensign*, Nov. 1994, Reprinted in *New Era*, "Serious Questions, Serious Answers," October, 1995, p. 4

[[SOURCE LINK](#)]

Being Gay Is a Choice, A Mortal Experience

"It is easy to hypothesize that inheritance plays a role in sexual orientation. However, it is important to remember, as conceded by two advocates of this approach, that 'the concept of substantial heritability should not be confused with the concept of inevitable heritability.

...

"Most mechanisms probably involve interactions between constitutional predispositions and environmental events. (Quotes R. C. Friedman and J. Downey, *Neurobiology and Sexual Orientation: Current Relationships*, *Journal of Neuropsychiatry* 5 (48 (1991): 1089-96.)

"Satan seeks to undermine the principle of individual accountability, to persuade us to misuse our sacred powers of procreation, to discourage marriage and childbearing by worthy men and women, and to confuse what it means to be male or female.

...

"We should note that the words homosexual, lesbian, and gay are adjectives to describe particular thoughts, feelings, or behaviors . . . It is wrong to use these words to denote a condition, because this implies that a person is consigned by birth to a circumstance in which he or she has no choice in respect to the critically important matter of sexual behavior. Feelings are another matter. Some kinds of feelings seem to be inborn. Others are traceable to mortal experiences.

"Still other feelings seem to be acquired from a complex interaction of 'nature and nurture.'" All of us have some feelings we did not choose, but the gospel of Jesus Christ teaches us that we still have the power to resist and reform our feelings (as needed) and to assure that they do not lead us to entertain inappropriate thoughts or to engage in sinful behavior."

Dallin H. Oaks

Apostle, Quorum of the Twelve

"Same-Gender Attraction," *Ensign*, October 8, 1995

[[SOURCE LINK](#)]

God created us male and female. What we call gender was an essential characteristic of our existence prior to our birth.

"I tried to describe the crucial distinctions in my answer to the television reporter who implied that the Church taught that 'these people are somehow pariahs.' I said:

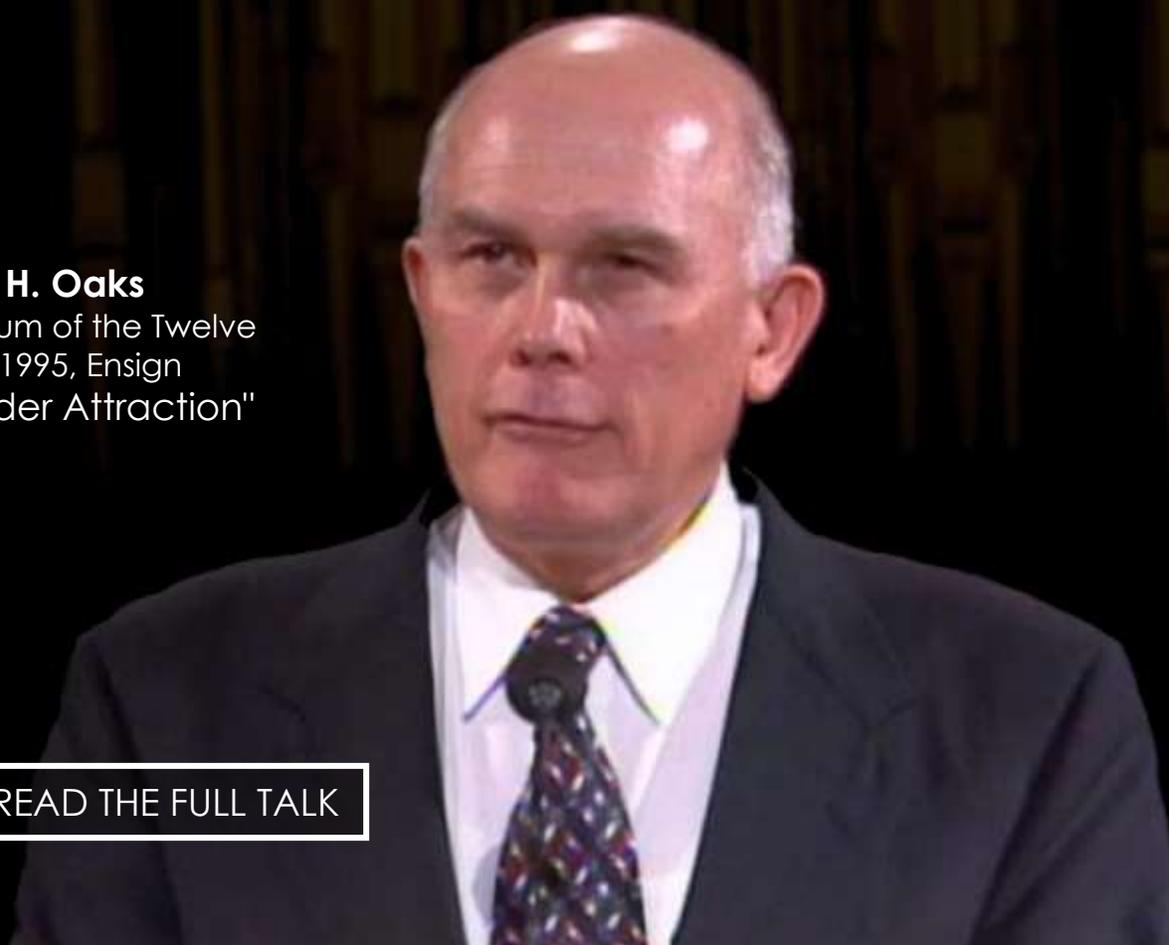
'The person that's working [to resist] those tendencies ought not to feel himself to be a pariah. Now, quite a different thing is sexual relations outside of marriage. A person engaging in that kind of behavior should well feel guilt. They should well feel themselves estranged from God, who has given commandments against that kind of behavior. It's not surprising to me that they would feel estranged from their church. What surprises me is that they would feel that the Church can revoke God's commandments. ... To the woman taken in adultery, He [the Savior] was merciful and loving ... but He said, 'Go thy way and sin no more.'

'He loved the sinner; he condemned the sin.

'I think the Church does the same thing, imperfectly perhaps, but that's what we teach our members: **love the sinner, condemn the sin.**

'The struggles of those who are troubled by same-sex attraction are not unique. There are many kinds of temptations, sexual and otherwise. The duty to resist sin applies to all of them.'"

Dallin H. Oaks
Apostle, Quorum of the Twelve
October 1995, Ensign
"Same-Gender Attraction"



[CLICK HERE TO READ THE FULL TALK](#)

Same-Sex Attraction: A Weakness and Trial

"Same-gender attraction was my trial. I am grateful for the Savior, who atoned for my sins, who heals my pain, and who helps me live and be as he would have me be.

"I don't know all the reasons for this weakness of mine ...

"As I learned later through study, prayer, and counseling, same-sex attraction is often a misguided feeling motivated by a longing for true brotherly love or a desire for masculine characteristics one feels he lacks.

...
"With constant prayer, vigilance, effort, and support, I made gradual but solid progress.

...

"I have learned that with the help of Heavenly Father, the Lord, our Church leaders, inspired professionals, and caring friends and family members, same-gender attraction can be successfully resisted and overcome."

"Becoming Whole Again"

Ensign, January 1997, Name Withheld

[SOURCE LINK]

The Church Will NOT Support Anyone in A Same-Sex Marriage



"We want to help these people, to strengthen them, to assist them with their problems and to help them with their difficulties. But we cannot stand idle if they indulge in immoral activity, if they try to uphold and defend and live in a so-called same-sex marriage situation.

"To permit such would be to make light of the very serious and sacred foundation of God-sanctioned marriage and its very purpose, the rearing of families."

President Gordon B. Hinckley

President, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

"What Are People Asking About Us?" October General Conference, 1998

[SOURCE LINK]

Church Invites Members to Participate in Anti-LGBTQ Legislation

In May of 1999, the North America West Area Presidency, a group of men composed of Area Seventies sent a letter to all area and stake presidents directing that a letter be read in all California sacrament meetings. The letter directed all members to "do all you can by donating your means and time" to ensure that Proposition 22 passed.

A follow up letter from Elder Douglas Callister, a Seventy, assigned Stake Presidents to invite church members to specifically donate to the "Defense of Marriage Committee" in order to pass Prop 22. A third letter was distributed 6 weeks prior to the vote asking members to "redouble their efforts: and place "provided yard signs" in their lawns.

READ LETTER ONE

READ LETTER TWO

READ LETTER THREE

Homosexuality is not natural and is a learned behavior

"Homosexuality is not innate and unchangeable. Research has not proved that homosexuality is genetic. ... What is clear is that homosexuality results from an interaction of social, biological, and psychological factors. These factors may include temperament, personality traits, sexual abuse, familial factors, and treatment by one's peers."

A. Dean Byrd, Ph.D.

Assistant Commissioner of LDS Family Services

"*When a Loved One Struggles with Same-Sex Attraction*," Ensign, Sept. 1999

[[SOURCE LINK](#)]



Gays and Lesbians Are Welcome in the Church

"There is no justification to redefine what marriage is. Such is not our right, and those who try will find themselves answerable to God.

"I wish to say that our opposition to attempts to legalize same-sex marriage should never be interpreted as justification for hatred, intolerance, or abuse of those who profess homosexual tendencies, either individually or as a group.

"As I said from this pulpit one year ago, our hearts reach out to those who refer to themselves as gays and lesbians.

"We love and honor them as sons and daughters of God. They are welcome in the Church. It is expected, however, that they follow the same God-given rules of conduct that apply to everyone else, whether single or married."



Gordon B. Hinckley

President, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
October General Conference, 1999

"*Why We Do Some of the Things We Do*"

[[SOURCE LINK](#)]

Homosexuals are "Anti-Family"

"The anti-family faction has targeted the human rights system because it is a direct path to power. The power they seek is the power to curtail the freedom of most of humanity and to do it, ironically, in the name of human rights ... Though the anti-family movement sometimes masks its agenda as a call for greater 'tolerance,' it becomes ever more clear that the intent is to eliminate all opposition and force all countries and cultures to conform to their radical vision."

Kathryn Balmforth, J.D.

Director, BYU World Family Policy Center

"*Hijacking Human Rights*", World Congress of Families, November 17, 1999

[[SOURCE LINK](#)]



Avoid Homosexuals 'As the Plague'



"Avoid as the plague social interaction with persons who justify, encourage or engage in homosexual behavior. Stay away from places where those challenged by same-gender attraction congregate. Flee temptation in every form.

...

"The question invariably arises as to whether persons with same-gender attraction can ever change. While some assert-not on acceptable evidence-that same-gender attraction is immutable and unchangeable, there is good evidence that some individuals have indeed changed to a normal heterosexual lifestyle and thought pattern."

Elder Alexander B. Morrison

Of the Seventy

"Some Gospel Perspectives on Same-Gender Attraction"

Keynote address, 10th Annual Evergreen Conference, September 16, 2000

[[SOURCE LINK](#)]

Homosexuality is a personal choice

"Normal desires and attractions emerge in the teenage years; there is the temptation to experiment, to tamper with the sacred power of procreation. These desires can be intensified, even perverted, by pornography, improper music, or the encouragement from unworthy associations. What would have only been a more or less normal passing phase in establishing gender identity can become implanted and leave you confused, even disturbed.

"If you consent, the adversary can take control of your thoughts and lead you carefully toward a habit and to an addiction, convincing you that immoral, unnatural behavior is a fixed part of your nature.

"With some few, there is the temptation which seems nearly overpowering for man to be attracted to man or woman to woman. The scriptures plainly condemn those who 'dishonor their own bodies between themselves ... men with men working that which is unseemly' or 'women [who] change the natural use into that which is against nature.'

"The gates of freedom, and the good or bad beyond, swing open or closed to the password **choice**. You are free to choose a path that may lead to despair, to disease, even to death."

Boyd K. Packer

Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

October 8, 2000, General Conference Address

"Ye Are the Temple of God," Ensign, November 2000

[[SOURCE LINK](#)]



The Church Teaches You're Able to Change

"The Church refutes the idea that homosexual orientation is genetically determined... Furthermore, a genetic/biological cause of homosexual attraction has not found support in the scientific literature.

"Science has never proved a genetic link to sexual orientation. Moreover, the Church repeatedly, in nearly every statement about homosexual relations, teaches that homosexual attraction is not inherent to a person's particular genetic make-up and that they are quite able to change."

A. Dean Byrd, PhD.

of LDS Family Services

October 2001, *Homosexuality and the Church of Jesus Christ: Understanding Homosexuality According to the Doctrine of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*, Cedar Fort Press

[[SOURCE LINK](#)]



Celibacy: Same for Homosexual and Heterosexual people



"It is no different for those who struggle with same-gender attraction than for those who are heterosexual. In both instances, men and women must abstain completely from sexual relations outside of a lawful marriage between husband and wife... The same is true of those with same-gender attraction, who despite persistent effort cannot overcome that attraction and marry someone of the opposite gender."

Sharon G. Larsen

Counselor, Young Women General Presidency

"God's Love" Keynote address, 11th Annual Evergreen conference,
Sept. 15, 2001

[[SOURCE LINK](#)]

Homosexuality Distorts Loving Relationships

"Like other violations of the law of chastity, homosexual activity is a serious sin. It is contrary to the purpose of human sexuality. It distorts loving relationships and prevents people from receiving the blessings that can be found in family life and the saving ordinances of the gospel."

"True to the Faith, a gospel reference."

Published by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, October, 2001

[[SOURCE LINK](#)]

My Battle With Same-Sex Attraction

"... Any desire I have had to act on this temptation has been overshadowed by a stronger desire to serve the Lord. I have come so far, and while I do not know if my healing will be complete in this life or in the next, I do know that God is aware of my efforts, that He is actively involved in my life, and that He will bless me with a complete and total healing when the time is right."

Name Withheld

August 2002 Ensign, *My Battle With Same-Sex Attraction*

[SOURCE LINK]

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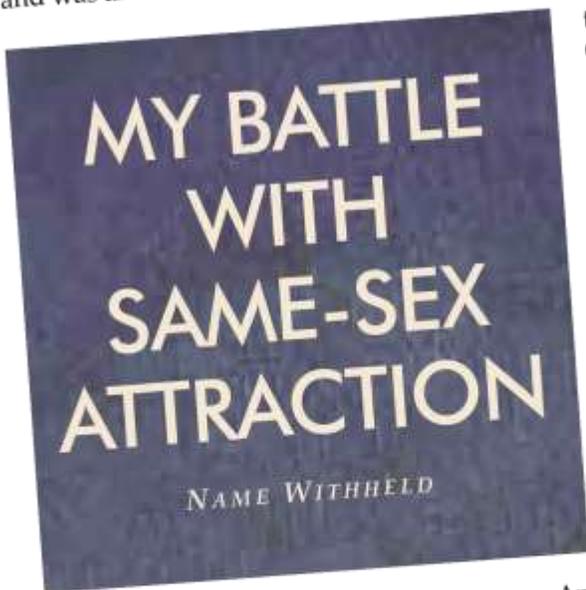
But that wasn't true—He loved me! He understood my challenges far better than I did, and He would help me repent and return to Him! I left the bishop's office with a lighter heart.

I started coming back to church and taking the first steps of repentance. It wasn't easy to break away from the lifestyle I had been living for so long, and there were times I felt discouraged and overwhelmed, wondering if I could continue alone.

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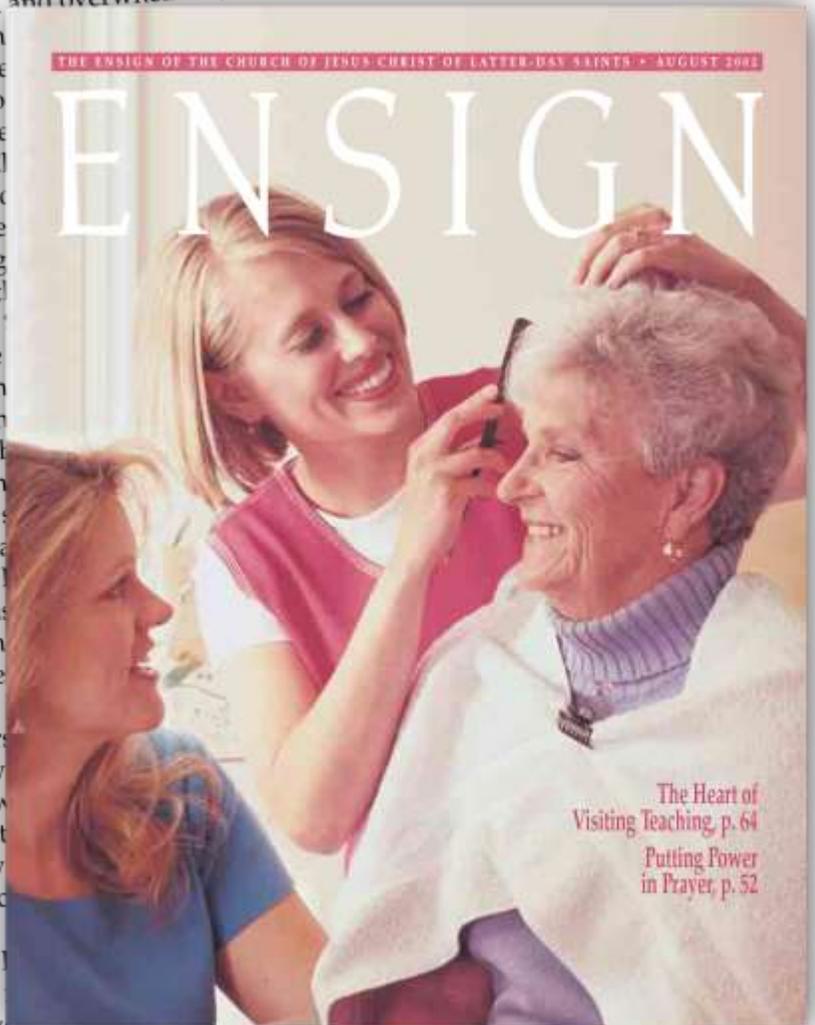
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In the world there is a debate

Loneliness is of the Lord

The Church has previously issued two statements in support of a constitutional amendment on marriage—on July 7, 2004, and on October 19, 2004.

“We of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints reach out with understanding and respect for individuals who are attracted to those of the same gender. We realize there may be great loneliness in their lives but there must also be recognition of what is right before the Lord.

“As a doctrinal principle, based on sacred scripture, we affirm that marriage between a man and a woman is essential to the Creator’s plan for the eternal destiny of His children. The powers of procreation are to be exercised only between a man and a woman lawfully wedded as husband and wife.

“Any other sexual relations, including those between persons of the same gender, undermine the divinely created institution of the family. The Church accordingly favors measures that define marriage as the union of a man and a woman and that do not confer legal status on any other sexual relationship.”

First Presidency Statement

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
Originally delivered July 4, 2004 and October 19, 2004
Republished in Ensign, July 2006

[[SOURCE LINK](#)]

Christ and the Resurrection is the cure

"No matter what the challenge or problem is, Jesus Christ can rescue us provided we submit our will to him. A young man struggling with a moral problem cannot say to the bishop, 'No one knows my problem! No one knows how to help me!'

...

“For those who may be struggling with nature, with thoughts and feelings that are opposite from what the Church teaches, please know that the Savior has the power to help. He can assuage one’s feelings, he will assist one in his efforts to abstain, he will help one live in harmony with the principles of eternity.”

Elder Merrill Bateman

Presidency of the Seventy

“The Physical Body and the Power of the Atonement”
Keynote address: September 18, 2004

[[SOURCE LINK](#)]



Gay people have a problem

An excerpt from Larry King Live featuring an interview with President Gordon B. Hinckley answering questions about Church policy and doctrine

KING: "... I know that the Church is opposed to gay marriage."

HINCKLEY: "Yes."

KING: "Do you have an alternative? Do you like the idea of civil unions?"

HINCKLEY: "Well, we're not anti-gay. We are pro-family. Let me put it that way. And we love these people and try to work with them and help them. We know they have a problem. We want to help them solve that problem."

KING: "A problem they caused or they were born with?"

HINCKLEY: "I don't know. I'm not an expert on these things. I don't pretend to be an expert on these things. **The fact is, they have a problem.**"

A Conversation with Gordon B. Hinckley,
President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
CNN: Larry King Live, Aired December 26, 2004

[[SOURCE LINK](#)]



The Church Has Only Spoken Kindness to Gays

“About a week ago, a letter published in the Deseret Morning News’ Readers Forum titled, ‘LDS Brethren hateful to gays’ included this paragraph:

“From what I have witnessed in conference for the past few years, the brethren have rarely missed an opportunity to tell gay people exactly what the church thinks of them. I know that in some people’s distorted logic, this is ‘true’ kindness, but my gay friends don’t feel the warmth. It feels more like hatred to them.”

“I respect the right of the letter’s author to express her opinion. I haven’t missed a Church annual or semiannual conference in more than 20 years. Never have I heard a word or sentence uttered that expressed other than kindness toward individuals with same gender attraction.

...

“Learning what causes same gender attraction is important only from the perspective of prevention. Understanding the biological or environmental mechanisms whereby a person acquires it may lead to a method to prevent the disorder in others.”

Elder James O. Mason

of the Seventy

“The Worth of a Soul Is Great”

September 17, 2005

[SOURCE LINK]

The “Cure” Is in Manly Things

**Elder L. Tom Perry presides and host a Priesthood Leadership Council;
Quote from the question and answer portion of the meeting:**

Q. “How do you help a young man or young woman who comes in and says ‘**I think that I’m gay?**’”

A. Elder Perry. “Give them association with **manly things**, strong men that represent the ideal of relationships, a man who is vigorous and knows the power he holds.”

Elder L. Tom Perry

Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

Priesthood Leadership Council

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Layton, Utah

[SOURCE LINK]



2006 Handbook of Instruction and Mission President Handbook Updates

Church Handbook of Instructions | In 2006 the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints updated the Handbook of Instructions, the manual used by Bishop and Stake presidents. The Handbook is used to administer the policies and doctrines of the Church. During the release of the new manual, Bishops and Stake presidents were told "to collect and destroy all copies of the previous 1998 version."

The 2006 version of the Handbook of Instruction clarifies that the church "reaches out with understanding and respect" to same-sex attracted individuals. (see pages 187-188)

Mission President's Handbook | The Church updates the Mission Presidents Handbook, the instruction manual for Mission Presidents. The new Handbook recommends that "unless there are unusual circumstances," a missionary who makes a belated confession to a "serious transgression" like "homosexual acts" committed before their missionary service be sent home.

The manual also specifies that any baptismal candidate who confesses to a "homosexual transgression" during a baptismal interview (usually with a mission district leader) requires a "searching interview" with the president of the local mission in order to be approved for baptism.

[[CLICK HERE TO READ: 2006 HANDBOOK OF INSTRUCTIONS](#)]

[[CLICK HERE TO READ: 2006 MISSION PRESIDENT MANUAL](#)]

The Mormons

PBS produces a four-hour documentary titled 'The Mormons.' The documentary features Church leaders, members, former members and outsiders sharing their views of Mormonism.

TREVOR SOUTHEY, Artist: *"Being gay in that culture is beyond hell because the family is the center of Mormonism. It is the sacred, potent unit, and you don't even really want to make a family, if you choose to follow your instincts. That's why when I went to the counselor, I wanted to be cured so badly. I fasted and I prayed and I went through this whole thing. And I remember dating girls and then- and nothing worked. And I just decided, 'This year, I'm going to do it,' and that's how I ended up marrying within two-and-a-half months of meeting my poor, unfortunate wife."*

MARLIN K. JENSEN, Church Historian: *"There is a single standard of morality for all members of the church. The only marriage sanctioned by God is of a man to a woman. So there is really no allowance within our doctrine for a homosexual relationship of woman-to-woman or man-to-man. And obviously, that creates a lot of pain. And the thing that we have to ultimately say to someone like that is, 'If you're going to live your life within the framework of the gospel and within the framework of our doctrine, then you've got to choose to marry someone of the opposite sex. And if you can't do that honestly, then your choice has to be to live a celibate life.'"*

[[SOURCE LINK](#)]

2006 Church Public Relations Interview | Dallin H. Oaks and Elder Lance Wickman

The following interview was conducted in 2006 with Elder Dallin H. Oaks, a member of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles of the Church, and Elder Lance B. Wickman, a member of the Seventy. These senior Church leaders responded to questions from two members of the Church's Public Affairs staff.

The transcript of the interview appears below in order to help clarify the Church's stand on these important, complex and sensitive issues.

The Church has never released the audio or video of this interview.

In the interview, Elder Wickman states that the church "doesn't counsel against" conversion therapy and that it "may be appropriate" for an individual to use clinical therapy to seek to diminish or eliminate homosexual feelings. However, Oaks states they "can't endorse" the "aversive therapies" recommended in the past to fix "this affliction" and they "don't accept responsibility for those abuses" suffered by individuals who had experienced this now disavowed therapy method.

On same-sex civil unions and domestic partnerships, Elder Oaks states that giving these couples the same government rights given to a man and woman marriage is **"not right"** and **"not appropriate."**

He added that a **mixed-orientation marriage would be appropriate** for a gay member who could "deal with [homosexual] feelings" and "put them in the background" and felt a "great attraction" to someone of the opposite sex.

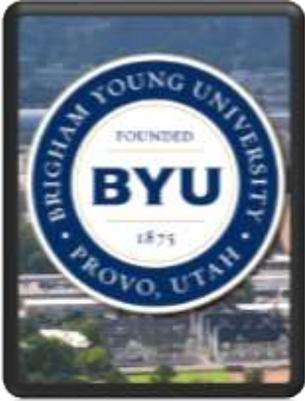
Elders Oaks and Wickman compared homosexual Mormons to those with physical or mental disabilities who will also not be able to marry, and add that **"same-gender attraction did not exist in the pre-earth life and neither will it exist in the next life."**

Concerning family acceptance and inclusion of homosexual children, Oaks advises parents of LGBT children to tell their gay children: "don't expect to stay overnight. Don't expect to be a lengthy house guest. Don't expect us to take you out and introduce you to our friends, or to deal with you in a public situation that would imply our approval of your 'partnership.'"

Oaks further stated "the Lord's way is to love the sinner while condemning the sin."

[READ THE FULL INTERVIEW HERE](#)





BYU fires professor for speaking for LGBTQ rights

Jeffrey Nielsen, adjunct professor at BYU, is notified of his termination (by letter) days after his op-ed supporting same-sex marriage is featured in the Salt Lake Tribune newspaper.

"In accordance with the order of the church, we do not consider it our responsibility to correct, contradict or dismiss official pronouncements of the church... Since you have chosen to contradict and oppose the church in an area of great concern to church leaders, and to do so in a public forum, we will not rehire you after the current term is over."

June 4, 2006

[READ THE ORIGINAL OP-ED HERE](#)

[READ THE FOLLOW UP RESPONSE](#)

Church Responds to Nightline Story

On June 7, 2006 ABC's Nightline ran a story on members and former members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints who struggle with "same-gender attraction." This issue is one that evokes strong emotions and, unfortunately, often perpetuates negative stereotypes on both sides of the debate.

Comment by Daniel Holsinger: *"There is a very strong notion that I am a sinner — fundamentally who I am is hated and reviled by God. I am alone; there is no one else like me."*

Comment by Morgan Smith: *"We're not recovering from God, but we are recovering from the put-downs, the discrimination, the people that come along and say that if you're gay, you're not good."*

The Church specifically responds to the two quotes from gay members of the Church:

"The Church teaches that all of us are sons and daughters of God and should be honored and respected as such. We reach out to assist people with all of the challenges of life. Those who struggle with same-gender attraction are certainly not excluded from the circle of love and fellowship the Church hopes to provide.

"The defining factor for each of us is that we are children of God, born on this earth for a purpose and with a divine destiny. Our challenge and opportunity is to overcome the temptations and difficulties that lead us away from God."

Newsroom | Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

June 7, 2006

[SOURCE LINK]

Forget the Cause, Just Change

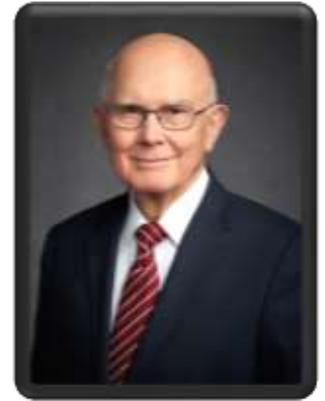
Within this conference talk Elder Dallin H. Oaks quotes a man saying "change is possible" but don't "focus on the causes of same-gender attraction." Oaks then continues explaining if faith, prayers, and priesthood don't "heal you from an affliction" that the "Atonement will surely give you the strength to bear the burden."

Elder Dallin H. Oaks

Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

"He Heals the Heavy Laden", October 2006 General Conference

[SOURCE LINK]



2007 BYU Honor Code Update

"Brigham Young University will respond to homosexual behavior rather than to feelings or orientation and welcomes as full members of the university community all whose behavior meets university standards.

"One's stated sexual orientation is not an Honor Code issue. However, the Honor Code requires all members of the university community to manifest a strict commitment to the law of chastity."

Sexuality change is possible through Christ

"First, let's be absolutely clear on what God wants for each of us. He wants us to have all of the blessings of eternal life. He wants us to become like Him. To help us do that, He has given us a plan. This plan is based on eternal truths and is not altered according to the social trends of the day.

"At the heart of this plan is the begetting of children. They were commanded to 'be fruitful, and multiply,' and they chose to keep that commandment. We are to follow them in marrying and providing physical bodies for Heavenly Father's spirit children. Obviously, a same gender relationship is inconsistent with this plan."

Elder Jeffery R. Holland

Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

"Helping Those Who Struggle With Same-Gender Attraction"
October General Conference, 2007

[SOURCE LINK]



Not a Failure

"A family with a gay child is not a failed family. It's a family with a member who needs special love and understanding and who has love and understanding to give back."

Chieko N. Okazaki

General Relief Society Presidency

"Turning Hearts to the Family," What A Friend We Have in Jesus
Also featured online link below:

[SOURCE LINK]



God Loveth His Children pamphlet

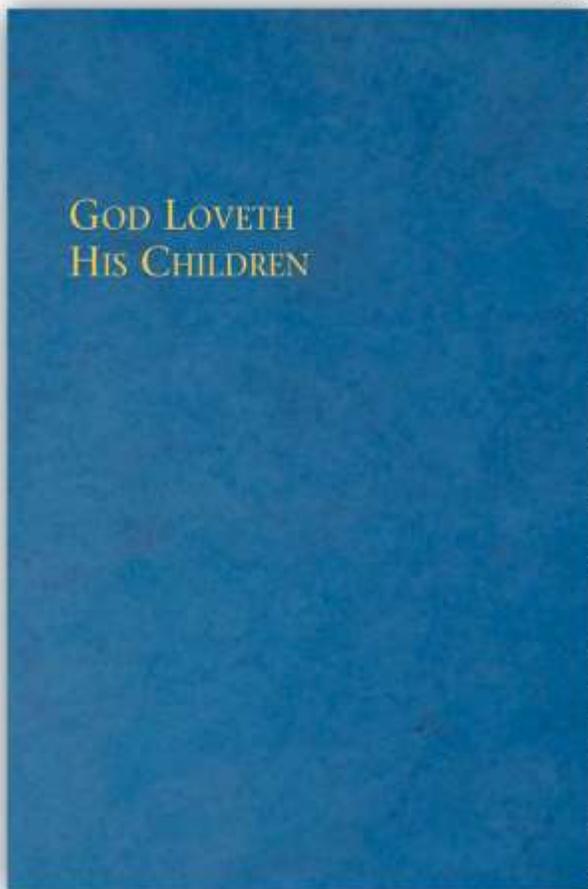
"God Loveth His Children" is a pamphlet produced by The Church for members with same-sex attraction attractions. It was approved in April 2007 and was announced in July 2007 through a letter to LDS Church bishops and stake presidents, unlike many other pamphlets on this topic, this one is available in 27 languages.

The pamphlet represents an official statement from the church, and follows the interview with Elder Dallin H. Oaks and general authority Lance B. Wickman in April of that year.

"God Loveth His Children" acknowledges the reality of same-gender attractions and makes clear that they are not sinful. It adds that "the desire for physical gratification does not authorize immorality by anyone." It emphasizes the importance of a heterosexual marriage, and that although many members have "overcome same-gender attraction in mortality, others may not be free of this challenge in this life."

It extends the belief that our "desires will be perfected in the next life so that every one of God's children may find joy in a family consisting of a husband, wife, and children."

[CLICK HERE TO READ THE PAMPHLET](#)



made. Partaking of the sacrament, singing the hymns
and listening to uplifting talks all contribute to your sp
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people with same-gender attraction have felt reje
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on to filling your garden with positive influenc
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aunt homosexual tendencies or make them the
subject of unnecessary observations
to choose as f

Secret Video Leaked

In 2016, 15 videos of LDS Apostles and other General Authorities were leaked to the public. The videos show Church leaders candidly expressing their views on political and sociological topics, including LGBT discussion and legislation.

"Most of these videos appear to be from briefings received by senior church leaders between 2007 and 2012," said Eric Hawkins, spokesman for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. "In these committee meetings, presentations are routinely received from various religious, political and subject-matter experts on a variety of topics... The purpose is to understand issues that may face the church and is in pursuit of the obligation church leaders feel to be informed on and have open discussion about current issues. This is an informational forum, not a decision-making body."

In this particular video clip, filmed on November 19, 2008, the Apostles are briefed on sociological issues including California's Proposition 8, the power of the Church, Barack Obama and the LGBT "movement," and how the Church should phrase the LGBT topics to inflict as much verbal conflict as possible to the gay community.

- Apostles desire political power over the LGBT community (no mention of love to gay members).
 - "If this becomes a vote of the gays versus the Mormons we're going to lose twice."
- The apostles are assured that the LGBT community will not gain favor with the Obama administration
- Prop 8 solidified the Church's future (and convinced them they were on the right side of public opinion).
- The Apostles understand the difference between same-**gender** attraction and same-**sex** attraction and the Church has intentionally used the word "same-sex" to make it sound harsher and more repulsive.
- The Apostles are surprised that legitimate organizations in America support the LGBT community.

[CLICK HERE TO WATCH THE VIDEO CLIP](#)



[CLICK HERE TO WATCH ALL 15 LEAKED VIDEOS](#)

Preserving Traditional Marriage and Strengthening Families

"The Church's teachings and position on this moral issue are unequivocal. Marriage between a man and a woman is ordained of God, and the formation of families is central to the Creator's plan for His children. Children are entitled to be born within this bond of marriage.

...

"We ask that you do all you can to support the proposed constitutional amendment by donating of your means and time to assure that marriage in California is legally defined as being between a man and a woman. Our best efforts are required to preserve the sacred institution of marriage."

First Presidency Letter to Members of the Church

June 30, 2008

[\[SOURCE LINK\]](#)



The Resurrection Will Fix You



"If you are faithful, on resurrection morning—and maybe even before then—you will rise with normal attractions for the opposite sex.

"Some of you may wonder if that doctrine is too good to be true. But Elder Dallin H. Oaks has said it **MUST** be true, because there is no fullness of joy in the next life without a family unit, including a husband and wife, and posterity.

"And men (and women) are that they might have joy."

Bruce Hafen

Of the Seventy

Evergreen International Conference, September 19, 2009

[\[SOURCE LINK \]](#)

2010 Church Handbook of Instruction Updated

The 2010 edition of the Church Handbook noted that the records of adult members who have participated in "repeated homosexual activities" would be permanently annotated. It also advised that those who have "participated in homosexual activity during or after the last three teenage years will not normally be considered for missionary service."

The 2010 Handbook update also states that members who "feel same-gender attraction but do not engage in any homosexual behavior" may receive church callings and hold temple recommends."

Compare this 2010 update to the previous version which read: "***If members have homosexual thoughts or feelings or engage in homosexual behavior, Church leaders should help them have a clear understanding of faith in Jesus Christ, the process of repentance, and the purpose of life on earth. Leaders should also help them accept responsibility for their thoughts and actions apply gospel principles in their lives.***"

[\[SOURCE LINK \]](#)

Same-Sex Attraction is A Mortal Flaw

"If someone seeking your help says to you, 'I am homosexual' or 'I am lesbian' or 'I am gay,' correct this miscasting. Heavenly Father does not speak of His children this way, and neither should we. It is simply not true. To speak this way sows seeds of doubt and deceit about who we really are. It belittles, depreciates and disparages the individual.

...

"Same-gender attraction is a mortal challenge. As with all such limitations, in and of itself it is neither evil nor sinful. For example, same-gender attractions that result in genuine friendships and beloved, righteous associations are desirable and praiseworthy.

"But as with all mortal conditions, if the inclination of same- or opposite-gender attraction leads a person to violate the laws of God or to mar one's immortal possibilities, this inclination needs to be controlled and overcome."



Keith McMullin

Presiding Bishopric, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
20th Annual Evergreen International Conference, September 2010

[[SOURCE LINK](#)]

Church Alters President Packer's Conference Talk

President Boyd K. Packer delivered his October 2010 General Conference talk stating that The Family: A Proclamation to the World "qualifies according to the definition as a revelation."

Immediately after declaring the Proclamation a revelation, Packer continued by saying, *"some suppose that they were pre-set and cannot overcome what they feel are inborn tendencies toward the impure and unnatural. Not so! Why would our Heavenly Father do that to anyone? Remember, he is our father."*

His characterization of same-sex physical attractions as "impure and unnatural" tendencies that can be "overcome" sparked a protest of thousands of individuals on October 7 which surrounded Temple Square.

When the written talks were released, President Packer's words were altered in the print version of his speech to say: *"Some suppose that they were preset and cannot overcome what they feel are inborn temptations toward the impure and unnatural. Not so! Remember, God is our Heavenly Father"*

Shortly after the conference address, LDS spokesman Michael Otterson issued a strongly worded condemnation of bullying and belittling of gays, saying, "Their struggle is our struggle."

The line indicating that The Family: A Proclamation to the World was revelation was completely omitted.

Boyd K. Packer

Apostle, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
General Conference, "Cleansing the Inner Vessel", October 2010



[[SOURCE LINK](#)]

Uchtdorf: God Loves All His Children

Exactly three weeks after the October General Conference, and amid the protests that were sparked by Boyd K. Packer's talk where he doubled down on rhetoric saying homosexual "tendencies" can be "overcome," and that The Family: A Proclamation To The World was revelation, Elder Dieter Uchtdorf delivered a gentle toned public rebuttal to Packer's General Conference comments.

Elder Uchtdorf spoke from the Conference center with the message relayed to stake and ward houses throughout the Church. Reiterating the church's position that it doesn't know the cause of homosexuality and that it doesn't matter.

"Many questions in life, however, including some related to same-gender attractions, must await a future answer, even in the next life, until then, the truth is, God loves all his children, and because he loves us, we can trust him and keep his commandments."

In an historic move, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints revised two separate sections of Packer's questionable General Conference talk. First, the word "tendencies" was changed to "temptations" in the written and printed versions and the sentence indicating that The Proclamation was a revelation was completely omitted.

Dieter Uchtdorf

Apostle, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
Special Address: Conference Center, October 24, 2010

[[SOURCE LINK](#)]

For the Strength of Youth: Lesbianism

The ninth version of the For Strength of Youth pamphlet was released adding new text about lesbianism.

"Homosexual and lesbian behavior is a serious sin. If you find yourself struggling with same-gender attraction or you are being persuaded to participate in inappropriate behavior, seek counsel from your parents and bishop. They will help you."

For the Strength of Youth

Pamphlet, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
January 2011, page 35

[[SOURCE LINK](#)]

We Should Be Loving and Compassionate

"As a church, nobody should be more loving and compassionate," Elder Cook said. "Let us be at the forefront in terms of expressing love, compassion, and outreach. Let's not have families exclude or be disrespectful of those who choose a different lifestyle as a result of their feelings about their own gender."

Quentin L. Cook

Apostle, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
MormonsAndGays.org (now unpublished)
December 6, 2012

[[SOURCE LINK](#)]



Marriage Lifted My Burden of Same-Sex Attraction

In 2012 an anonymous story was published on the Church's website detailing the story of a gay man who married a woman to overcome his same-sex attraction. The article was later revised adding an editor's note indicating that marriage is not a "solution" or "fix" for same-sex attraction.

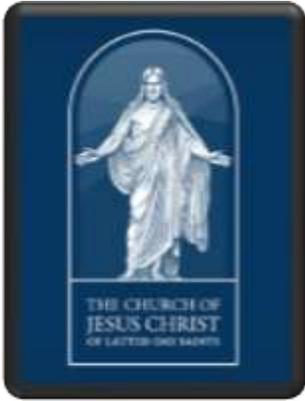
"I knew that if I obeyed, Heavenly Father would somehow compensate my efforts and allow me to make peace with my situation at some level.

"I found that my burden had been lifted sufficiently to pursue marriage. My struggle with same-sex attraction rarely comes up these days."

Truly Happy Now

Website story, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
ChurchofJesusChrist.org
Name Withheld, 2012

[SOURCE LINK]



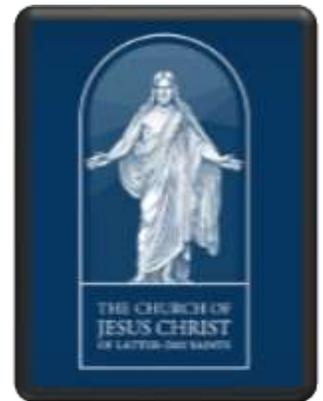
What is the Church's Position on Homosexuality?

"The Church opposes homosexual behavior, and we reach out with understanding and respect to people with same-gender attraction.

"If you know people who have a same-gender attraction, follow the same principles you do in your other friendships: Choose your friends carefully. They will greatly influence how you think and act, and even help determine the person you will become. Choose friends who share your values so you can strengthen and encourage each other in living high standards."

New Era Magazine
Question and Answer
January 2012

[SOURCE LINK]



Sexuality: It Is NOT A Choice

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints released a website called: MormonsAndGays, featuring the official positions of the Church regarding this topic.

In the section titled: *Love One Another*, the Church, for the first time, officially stated that "individuals do not choose to have such attractions."

MormonsAndGays.LDS.org
(now deleted website)
December 2012

[SOURCE LINK]

Children of Same-Sex Families Are Victims of Abuse

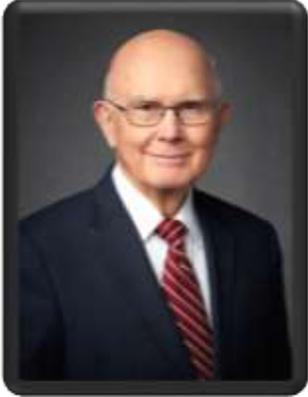
“... the evidence is clear that their children are at a significant disadvantage when compared with children raised by married parents.

...

“Whatever we may say about these couples forgoing marriage, studies show that their children suffer significant comparative disadvantages.

“For children, the relative stability of marriage matters.

“We should assume the same disadvantages for children raised by couples of the same gender. The social science literature is controversial and politically charged on the long-term effect of this on children, principally because, as a New York Times writer observed, ‘same-sex marriage is a social experiment, and like most experiments it will take time to understand its consequences.’”



Dallin H. Oaks

Apostle, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
General Conference, October 2012
“Protect the Children”

[SOURCE LINK]

Proper Faith and the Atonement Will Change Your Sexuality

“We all struggle with imperfections, some not of our choosing, but we also believe in an infinite Atonement that has the capacity in this life or the life to come to endow us with every power necessary to convert our weaknesses and imperfections to strengths. The Lord promised us: ‘for if they humble themselves before me and have faith in me, then will I make weak things become strong unto them.’

“If someone has same-gender tendencies then it is his or her duty to
(i) abstain from immoral relationships just as a single heterosexual must do, and
(ii) do all within his power to avail himself of the refining, perfecting powers of the Atonement. In the interim, however, those who do have same-gender tendencies but do not act on them are worthy to hold Church positions and receive a temple recommend.”

Tad R. Callister

Of the Seventy
BYU Idaho Devotional, January 22, 2013
“The Lord’s Standard of Morality”

[SOURCE LINK]



Marriage Should be Your Primary Goal



“Your wonderful youth of the noble birthright, you need to understand the far-reaching consequences of society’s current skirmish over the very definition of marriage. The present debate involves the question of whether two people of the same gender can be married.

...

“Your faith in Jesus Christ and His gospel will give you the courage to marry and to bring children into your family while you are young and able to have them. When you are my age, you will prize your children, your grandchildren, and their children above any fame or fortune that otherwise might have come.”

Russell M. Nelson

Apostle, Quorum of the Twelve Apostles
CES Youth Devotional, September 6, 2013

“Youth of the Noble Birthright: What Will You Choose?”

[SOURCE LINK]

Sodom and Gomorrah | Old Testament Manual

“Same-sex attraction, or homosexuality, is a sensitive issue that requires kindness, compassion, and understanding. However, all violations of the law of chastity, including homosexual behavior, are serious sins.

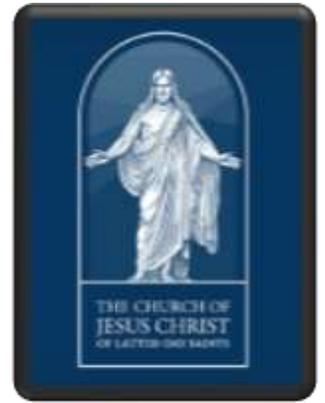
“Those who experience same-sex attraction can enjoy all of the blessings of the gospel as they keep the covenants they have made with God.

As they choose to live the law of chastity, they can have pure and virtuous thoughts and avoid lusting.”

Genesis 18 | Old Testament Manual

Page 56 in the manual

[SOURCE LINK]



Church Announces Instructions to Leaders on Same-Sex Marriage

“Consistent with our fundamental beliefs, Church officers will not employ their ecclesiastical authority to perform marriages between two people of the same sex, and the Church does not permit its meetinghouses or other properties to be used for ceremonies, receptions, or other activities associated with same-sex marriages. Nevertheless, all visitors are welcome to our chapels and premises so long as they respect our standards of conduct while there.”

First Presidency

Letter to All Congregations
January 10, 2014

[SOURCE LINK]

Church Survey: Being Gay is not an Option

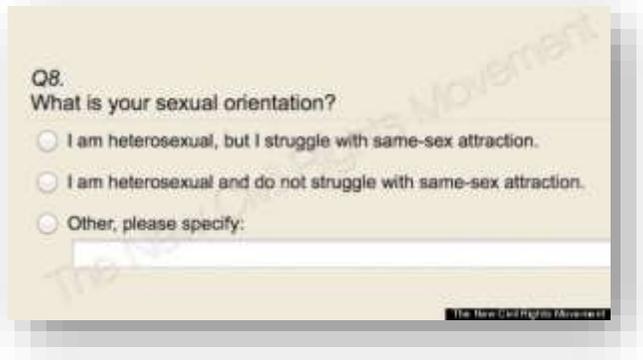
A survey was distributed by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints to every adult Latter-day Saint in Utah in an effort to understand the sexuality of their membership.

The two options respondents were able to choose were:
Heterosexual or **Heterosexual**.

After respondents complained about not having an option that allows gay, lesbian, or bisexuality, the Church revised the question by adding “other” to the survey.

April 2014, Membership Survey

[SOURCE LINK]



Marriage Should be Your Primary Goal

“You may know someone who struggles with same-sex attraction or has made a decision to live in a same-sex relationship. Your love for that person as a son or daughter of God can create an inward struggle as you try to love and support him or her and still stand for the Lord’s eternal plan of happiness.

“Let us be clear: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints believes that the experience of same-sex attraction is a complex reality for many people. The attraction itself is not a sin, but acting on it is. Even though individuals do not choose to have such attractions, they do choose how to respond to them. With love and understanding, the Church reaches out to all God’s children, including [those with same-sex attraction].

“The Church does not teach or advocate shunning or other unchristian-like actions.”

M. Russell Ballard

Apostle, Quorum of the Twelve Apostles
CES Youth Devotional, May 4, 2014

“The Lord Needs You Now!”

originally titled *“Be Still and Know That I Am God.”*

[SOURCE LINK]



The Eternal Family | Teacher Manual

“Our gender was established before we were born into mortality and is an essential characteristic of our eternal identity. Church leaders distinguish between same-sex attraction, which is not sinful, and homosexual behavior, which is considered sinful because it conflicts with Heavenly Father’s plan for our exaltation.”

The Eternal Family | Teacher Manual
Lesson 8: Gender and Eternal Identity

[SOURCE LINK]

Latter-day Saints Okay to Support Same-Sex Marriage



Question from reporter: “So can LDS members hold political beliefs even though they’re different from what church leaders teach from the pulpit?”

Elder D. Todd Christofferson: “Yes. We have individual members in the church with a variety of different opinions, beliefs and positions on these issues and other issues. In our view, it doesn’t really become a problem unless someone is out attacking the church and its leaders — if that’s a deliberate and persistent effort and trying to get others to follow them, trying to draw others away, trying to pull people, if you will, out of the church or away from its teachings and doctrines.”

D. Todd Christofferson

Apostle, Quorum of the Twelve Apostles
Church of Jesus Christ News Conference
March 13, 2015

[[SOURCE LINK](#)]

Apostle speaks of need for understanding, love and compassion

“Society, law and popular opinion may change, but we know that society’s version of the family cannot and will not substitute for God’s purpose and plan for His children.

“This doctrine explains our strong position on the family. We also believe we are to reach out to all people with understanding, love and compassion.

“We must rally all the support we can to strengthen and protect our faiths, families and freedom. Some are actively trying to strip us of these rights.”

Elder Ballard also encouraged those in the audience to “extend a hand of fellowship to those with whom we disagree.”

M. Russell Ballard

Apostle, Quorum of the Twelve Apostles
World Congress of Families
October 27, 2015

[[SOURCE LINK](#)]



LDS Family Services Officially Announces End to Conversion Therapy Program

“Therapists with LDS Family Services do not offer any kind of sexual-orientation change efforts... but they are willing to help members who desire to reconcile same-sex attraction with their religious belief.

“The church maintains professional relationships with a variety of organizations to ensure the diverse needs of church members can be met in an individualized and ethical way ... and may refer those seeking counseling to professional therapists, but [it is] not in the business of recommending third-party for-profit organizations, retreats or workshops.”

Doug Anderson

Spokesman, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
October 2015

[[SOURCE LINK](#)]

November 2015 | The Policy of Exclusion

On November 3, 2015, just months after the Supreme Court of the United States approved same-sex marriages, the LDS Church took formal steps to define marriage equality as a form of apostasy in its "Handbook of Instructions." The Church did not publicly announce the changes, but quietly updated the manual. The Handbook changes were leaked to the public on November 5, 2015.

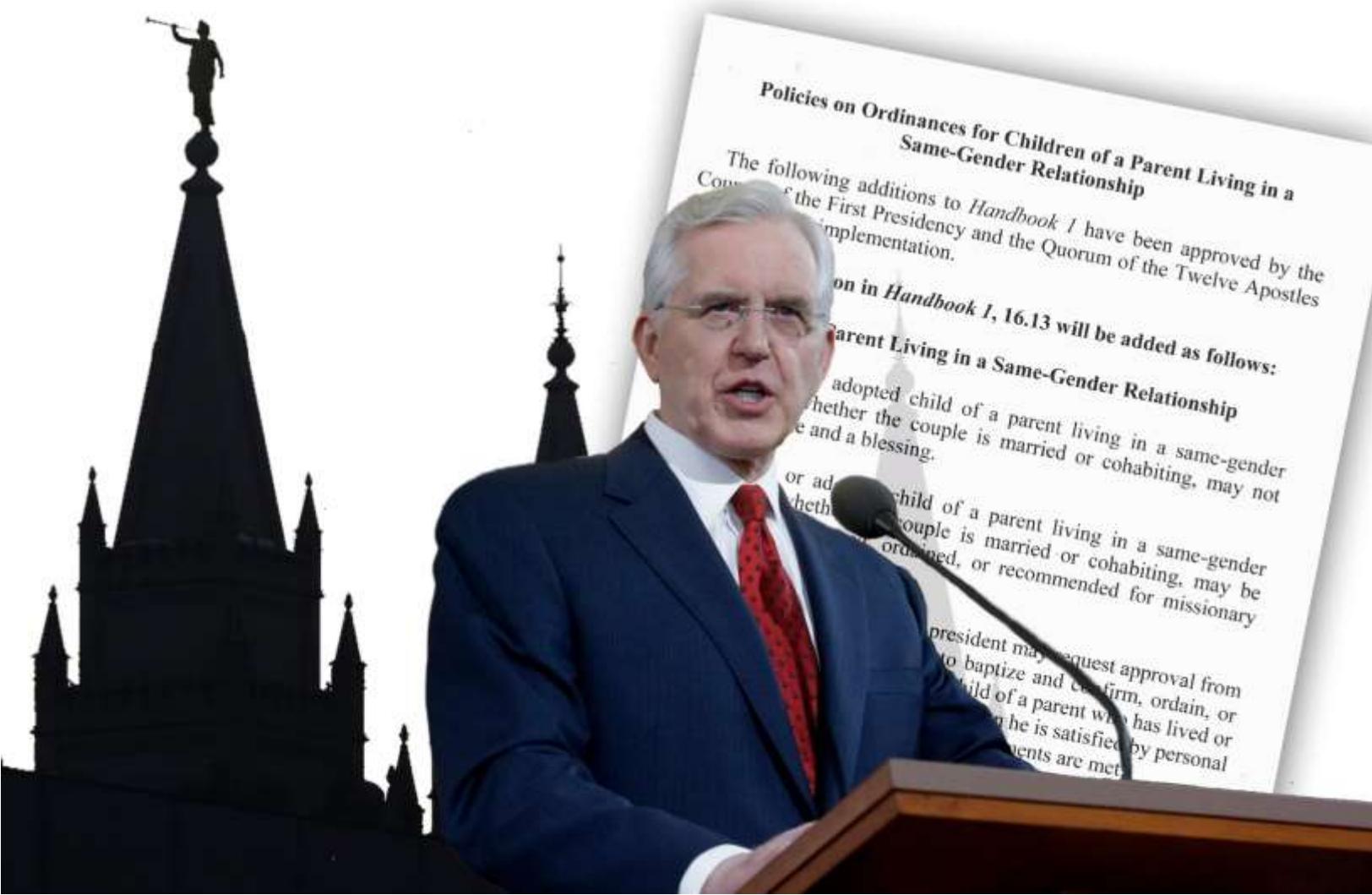
Changes:

- A natural or adopted child of a parent living in a same-gender relationship, whether the couple is married or cohabiting, may not receive a name and a blessing.
- A child living with parents in a same-sex relationship may not be baptized, confirmed, ordained or serve a mission unless the following happen: ordinance is approved by First Presidency, child specifically disavows their parent(s) same-sex relationship, and the child moves out of the home of the same-sex parent(s).
- Any person in a same-gender marriage is now considered an apostate and should be excommunicated.

The policy not only describes Latter-day Saints in same-sex couples as apostates of the faith, it also establishes disciplinary actions that Church leaders can take against same-sex couples, including excommunication. In an unprecedented move, the bulk of the new policy takes aim at the children of same-sex couples.

This policy, commonly referred to as the "November Policy," marks the first time a Christian church has enshrined a baptismal and ordinance ban on children of same-sex couples. The new section of the handbook is listed under the heading "Children of a Parent Living in a Same-Gender Relationship."

[[READ THE 2015 POLICY OF EXCLUSION HERE](#)]



The Fallout and Timeline of the November 2015 Policy of Exclusion

On November 6, 2015, the day after the Policy was leaked to the public, Elder D. Todd Christofferson, a member of the Church's Quorum of the Twelve apostles, stated that the policy was about love and protecting children from difficulties, challenges, and conflicts between parents and the church.

On November 13, 2015, the First Presidency released a letter clarifying that the policy only applied to children who lived mostly with the parent in a same-sex relationship, and that those who had already received ordinances before the change could continue with further ordinances.

November 14, 2015, the day following the First Presidency message, around 2,000 members gathered across from the Church Office Building to submit their resignation letters in response to the policy change, with thousands more members of the Church resigning online in the weeks after.

Church leaders, at local levels, began to report suicides and suicide ideation in their wards and branches among LGBTQ members in their congregations.



November 6, 2015 | The First Response

On November 6, 2015, the day after the Policy was leaked to the public, Elder D. Todd Christofferson, a member of the Church's Quorum of the Twelve apostles stated that "the policy was about love and protecting children from difficulties, challenges, and conflicts between parents and the church."

[WATCH THE INTERVIEW HERE]



November 13, 2015 | The Clarification

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[READ THE STATEMENT HERE]



November 14, 2015 | The Aftermath

November 14, 2015, the day following the First Presidency message, an estimated 2,000 members gathered adjacent to the Church Office Building to submit their resignation letters in response to the policy change, as many as 5,000 members of the Church resigning online in the weeks after.

[WATCH THE VIDEO HERE]

The Church “Mourns” The Increase in LGBTQ Suicide After the Policy

The Church issued the following statement after it was disclosed 32 families had reported deaths of a child or sibling. Most of the suicides (27) were men, but three were female and two were transgender. The average age was 17. All were between the ages of 14 and 20. It was reported that 26 deaths took place in Utah, four in Idaho and one each in Arizona and the New England area.

Utah health department officials have confirmed the majority of the suicides in that age range in Utah since the start of November.

“Every soul is precious to God and to the church and the loss of life to suicide is heartbreaking. Those who are attracted to others of the same sex face particular challenges and pressures in this regard, both inside and outside the church. We mourn with their families and friends when they feel life no longer offers hope. Each congregation should welcome everyone. Leaders and members are taught to follow the example of Jesus Christ and to reach out in an active, caring way to all, especially to youth who feel estranged or isolated.

“The church has repeatedly stated that those who feel same-sex attraction and yet choose to live the commandments of God can live fulfilling lives as worthy members of the church. We want all to enjoy the blessings and safety offered by embracing the teachings of Jesus Christ and living the principles of His gospel.”

Dale Jones, spokesman,

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, January 28, 2016

[READ THE NEWS RELEASE HERE]

Dallin H. Oaks Responds to “Suicide Epidemic”:

During an interview while in Washington D.C., Elder Oaks was asked if the suicide epidemic in the Church was the responsibility of the Church, cloaked in religious freedom.

Reporter: *“Less than a year ago, right here in Washington, DC, my friend killed himself. He was Mormon and gay. You’ve gone on record that the church does not give apologies. Does religious freedom absolve you from responsibility in the gay Mormon suicide crisis?”*

Oaks: *“That’s a question that will be answered on judgment day,”* Oaks responded. *“I will be accountable to a higher authority for that.”*

KUTV News Interview with Dallin H. Oaks

February 14, 2016

[READ THE STATEMENT HERE]



There Are No Homosexuals in the Church

During a February 23, 2016 meeting in Chile, Elder David Bednar, Apostle of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, claimed that he and his fellow Latter-day Saints “do not discriminate” against gay and lesbian members because “there are no homosexual members of the church.”

He continued, “We are not defined by sexual attraction. We are not defined by sexual behavior... We determine how we respond to the variety of challenges that we face in mortality... Marriage between a man and a woman is ordained of God, and the family is central to the father’s plan for the eternal destiny and happiness of his children. That plan is halted in anything but a marriage between a man and a woman.”



David A. Bednar

Apostle, Quorum of the Twelve Apostles
Chile Devotional
February 23, 2016

[[WATCH THE VIDEO CLIP HERE](#)]

Satan’s Lies

“We avoid declaring that our Heavenly Father defines marriage as being between a man and woman because we don’t want to offend those who experience same-sex attraction. And we may find it uncomfortable to discuss gender issues or healthy sexuality.

“Certainly, sisters, we need to use sensitivity, but let us also use our common sense and our understanding of the plan of salvation to be bold and straightforward when it comes to teaching our children and youth the essential gospel principles they must understand to navigate the world in which they live. If we don’t teach our children and youth true doctrine—and teach it clearly—the world will teach them Satan’s lies.”



Bonnie L. Oscarson

Young Women General President
“Rise Up in Strength, Sisters in Zion”
October General Conference, 2016

[[SOURCE LINK](#)]

We Denounce Conversion Therapy

[The] church “denounces any therapy that subjects an individual to abusive practices. We hope those who experience the complex realities of same-sex attraction find compassion and understanding from family members, professional counselors and church members.”

Eric Hawkins

Spokesman, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, March 2016

[[SOURCE LINK](#)]

Gay, Post Mormon and Centerstage: The Mackintosh Story

In an unprecedented move for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, the official website centered around LGBT topics, MormonAndGay.org, highlights the video story of the Mackintosh family.

The family story includes the personal and candid experience of Scott and Becky's gay son, Xian, navigating his journey outside of the Church's dictates to be "single and celibate."

[WATCH THE VIDEO HERE]

Published March 16, 2017



Your Marriage Is Counterfeit

"Marriage between a man and a woman is ordained of God, but same-sex marriage is only a counterfeit. It brings neither posterity nor exaltation.

"Although his imitations deceive many people, they are not the real thing. They cannot bring lasting happiness.

"God warned us about counterfeits in the Doctrine and Covenants. He said, 'That which doth not edify is not of God, and is darkness.'" (D&C 50:23)



Larry Lawrence
Of the Seventy
"The War Goes On"
Ensign, April 2017

[SOURCE LINK]

There Is Room for You, But...

"There is room for those with differing sexual attractions. In short, there is a place for everyone who loves God and honors His commandments as the inviolable measuring rod for personal behavior, for if love of God is the melody of our shared song, surely our common quest to obey Him is the indispensable harmony in it.

"'Come as you are,' a loving Father says to each of us, but He adds, 'don't plan to stay as you are.'"

Jeffery R. Holland
Apostle, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
"Songs Sung and Unsung"
General Conference, April 2017



[SOURCE LINK]

Homosexuality is a Temptation That Many Can Overcome

“Don’t define yourself by a temptation, or by some condition at birth, you are a child of heavenly parents.

“One thing that distresses me is to see people classify themselves, as early as age 12 as lesbian, or bisexual or homosexual. That is a self-defeating characterization because it changes the way people relate to you, it inhibits your growth and it stands in contrast to saying to a circle of people who love you and understand you:

“‘I am troubled by same-gender attraction.’

“Don’t label yourself.

“I have letters in my file from people who classified themselves once as homosexual and after a lot of life experiences, they cease to have those feelings, repented of transgressions along the way, married and had children.”



Dallin H. Oaks

Apostle, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
Kansas Youth CES Fireside
August 26, 2017

[LISTEN TO THE RECORDING HERE]

I Believe You Have A Place in the Kingdom

“I want anyone who is a member of the Church who is gay or lesbian to know I believe you have a place in the kingdom and I recognize that sometimes it may be difficult for you to see where you fit in the Lord’s Church, but you do.

We need to listen to and understand what our LGBT brothers and sisters are feeling and experiencing. Certainly, we must do better than we have done in the past so that all members feel they have a spiritual home where their brothers and sisters love them and where they have a place to worship and serve the Lord.”

M. Russell Ballard

Apostle, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
BYU Devotional, November 14, 2017



[SOURCE LINK]

Gay Attraction is Not a Sin: Acting on It Is.

“The experience of same-sex attraction is a complex reality for many people. The attraction itself is not a sin, but acting on it is. Even though individuals do not choose to have such attractions, they do choose how to respond to them. With love and understanding, the Church reaches out to all God’s children, including our gay and lesbian brothers and sisters.”

Official Statement

MormonAndGay.LDS.org (now unpublished website)

[SOURCE LINK]

President Nelson Press Release: LGBTQ question

The first question at the press conference was concerning how the Church plans to move forward with LGBTQ concerns.



"God loves His children and He wants them to have joy," President Nelson said. "We know that there are challenges with the commandments of God—challenges to be worthy to enter His holy presence when we are through with this mortal experience.

"We are trying to help people find happiness and joy in this life and prepare them for their great possibilities in the world ahead. God loves His children and we love them, and there is a place for everyone who wishes, regardless of their challenges, to be with us in the Church."

President Oaks added: *"Surely your [President Nelson's] statement of the love of God for all of His children is the pole star for our relationship with every living person on this planet. At the same time, because of God's love for His children, He has given us commandments. He has given us a plan to achieve the highest blessings He has for His children. And as leaders of His Church, we have the responsibility to teach love and also to teach the commandments of God and the high destination that He has prescribed for His children."*

First Presidency Press Conference

First Press Conference with newly called President of the Church
January 16, 2018

[SOURCE LINK]

Church Affirms They No Longer Provide “Reparative Therapy”

“We assist individuals and families as they respond to same-sex attraction. Our therapists do not provide what is commonly referred to as 'reparative therapy' or 'sexual orientation change efforts.'”

“However, when clients self-determine to seek assistance for individual and family issues associated with same-sex attraction, we help them strengthen and develop healthy patterns of living. We assist clients who desire to reconcile same-sex attraction with their religious beliefs.

“Our services are consistent with applicable legal and ethical standards, which allow self-determined clients to receive assistance with faith-based or religious goals.”

Church Spokesman Response to Deseret News

February 7, 2018

[SOURCE LINK]

Love Can Literally Make the Difference

“Whether those different realities mean that they look, act, feel, or experience life differently than we do, the unchanging fact is that they are children of loving Heavenly Parents and that the same Jesus suffered and died for them and for us.

“For not just our LGBTQ+ sisters and brothers but for many people, the choice to love can literally make the difference between life and death.”

Eric Huntsman

Professor, Brigham Young University | Provo
BYU Devotional, August 7, 2018

“Hard Sayings and Safe Spaces: Making Room for Struggles as Well as Faith.”

[SOURCE LINK]



Gay People Deserve Lower Heaven: That's Not Hate, it's Doctrine

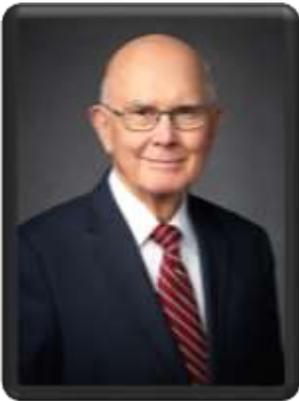
In a youth fireside, President Oaks declares that those in same-sex relationships are worthy of a lower kingdom, just not the one prepared for heterosexuals.

“... only marriage between a man and a woman will only lead to the highest degree of the celestial kingdom. ... [i]f you can get over the idea that I hate you, or I don't respect you because of what you are, or what you believe, and then point out that the doctrine of our church doesn't say that people who don't believe the way we do are going to hell, we have a better concept of the kingdom of glory.”

Dallin H. Oaks

Apostle, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
Youth CES Fireside

[LEAKED AUDIO FROM YOUTH FIRESIDE]



We Love You. We Love You.

“I walked into the room, sat down across a table from my mission president, and put my head in my hands, and said, 'President, for as long as I can remember, I have only been attracted to other boys. President, I'm gay.' I started weeping. Cause I couldn't believe I had said it out loud.

“My mission president darted his hands across the table and firmly grabbed onto mine. 'This is who you are,' he said. 'And we love you. We love you. We would never think any less of you. We love you.'”

“The impact of my Mission President's incredibly warm and positive reaction was important because it prepared the way for me to be able to handle the incredibly, overwhelmingly negative reactions I would get from... every... other... priesthood leader... and family member I came out to after.”

Story By Calvin Burke

Published in LDS Living Magazine, August 27, 2018

[SOURCE LINK]



LGBT 5th Sunday Conference in Utah Ward

Bishop Paul Augenstein and his wife Susie organize a 5th Sunday meeting about the needs of LGBTQ Latter-Day Saints in their Riverton, Utah ward.

Inspired by the 2017 BYU address by M. Russell Ballard, the Augenstein's felt their ward needed to "listen to and better understand" the LGBT community.

The 5th Sunday Conference included speakers who identified as gay and lesbian, parents of LGB children, and allies.

Bishop Paul Augenstein
Bishop, Riverton Utah Ward

[PAUL AND SUSIE SHARE THEIR STORY HERE]

[VISITOR STORY OF THIS CONFERENCE]



Confused Gender: Maleness and Femaleness

"... some are troubled by some of our Church's positions on marriage and children. Our knowledge of God's revealed plan of salvation requires us to oppose current social and legal pressures to retreat from traditional marriage and to make changes that confuse or alter gender or homogenize the differences between men and women.

"We know that the relationships, identities, and functions of men and women are essential to accomplish God's great plan.

"... we are beloved children of a Heavenly Father, who has taught us that maleness and femaleness, marriage between a man and a woman, and the bearing and nurturing of children are all essential to His great plan of happiness. Our positions on these fundamentals frequently provoke opposition to the Church.

"We consider that inevitable. Opposition is part of the plan, and Satan's most strenuous opposition is directed at whatever is most important to God's plan. He seeks to destroy God's work.

"His prime methods are to discredit the Savior and His divine authority, to erase the effects of the Atonement of Jesus Christ, to discourage repentance, to counterfeit revelation, and to contradict individual accountability. He also seeks to confuse gender, to distort marriage, and to discourage childbearing—especially by parents who will raise children in truth."

Dallin H. Oaks

Apostle, Quorum of Twelve Apostles
"Truth and the Plan"
General Conference, October 2018

[SOURCE LINK]



The November 2015 Policy: Rescinded

"Children of parents who identify themselves as lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender may now be blessed as infants and baptized in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints without First Presidency approval," President Dallin H. Oaks announced Thursday morning, April 4.

In addition, the Church will no longer characterize same-gender marriage by a Church member as "apostasy" for purposes of Church discipline, although it is still considered "a serious transgression."

The changes, issued at the direction of the First Presidency and announced during the leadership session for the Church's 189th Annual General Conference, "do not represent a shift in Church doctrine related to marriage or the commandments of God in regard to chastity or morality," wrote the First Presidency in an official statement released by the Church.

"The doctrine of the Plan of Salvation and the importance of chastity will not change."

Effective immediately:

- Children of parents who identify themselves as lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender may be baptized, if the custodial parents give permission for the baptism and understand both the doctrine that a baptized child will be taught and the covenants he or she will be expected to make.
- A non-member parent or parents (including LGBT parents) can request that their baby be blessed by a worthy Melchizedek Priesthood holder. These parents will need to understand that congregation members will contact them periodically, and that when the child who has been blessed reaches 8 years of age, a Church member will contact them and propose that the child be baptized.
- While Church leaders still consider a same-gender marriage by a member to be a serious transgression, it will not be treated as apostasy for purposes of Church discipline. Instead the "immoral conduct in heterosexual and homosexual relationships will be treated in the same way.

Official Statement

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
Policy Changes Announced for Members in Gay Marriages, Children of LGBT Parents
April 4, 2019

[[SOURCE LINK](#)]



Understanding the Policy of Exclusion: A Changing Revelation

President Nelson has long advocated that the process of creating the 2015 Policy of Exclusion was inspired by God and given by revelation. Nelson said:

“This prophetic process was followed in 2012 with the change in minimum age for missionaries and again with the recent additions to the Church’s handbook, consequent to the legalization of same-sex marriage in some countries. Filled with compassion for all, and especially for the children, we wrestled at length to understand the Lord’s will in this matter. Ever mindful of God’s plan of salvation and of His hope for eternal life for each of His children, we considered countless permutations and combinations of possible scenarios that could arise. We met repeatedly in the temple in fasting and prayer and sought further direction and inspiration. And then, when the Lord inspired His prophet, President Thomas S. Monson, to declare the mind of the Lord and the will of the Lord, each of us during that sacred moment felt a spiritual confirmation. It was our privilege as Apostles to sustain what had been revealed to President Monson. Revelation from the Lord to His servants is a sacred process, and so is your privilege of receiving personal revelation.”

Nelson’s January 2016 speech at BYU Hawaii declaring the Policy a “revelation” was included in the “Doctrinal Mastery” manual for seminary teachers. However, the Church correlation committee removed Nelson’s talk and commentary from the manual.

Eric Hawkins, spokesman for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints “confirmed that the Nelson illustration has been removed from the lesson on “Prophets and Revelation.”

[SOURCE]

Did God reveal an inaccurate truth, or did men get it wrong?

It was “Revelation” ...

*“And then, when the Lord inspired His prophet, President Thomas S. Monson, to declare the mind of the Lord and the will of the Lord **[instituting the policy excluding the children of gay Latter-day Saints from ordinances]** each of us during that sacred moment felt a spiritual confirmation.”*

Russell M. Nelson

Apostle, Quorum of Twelve Apostles
“Becoming True Millennials”
BYU Hawaii Devotional, January 2016

[SOURCE LINK]

...And Now the Lord Changed

*“These policy changes **[policy excluding the children of gay Latter-day Saints from ordinances]** come after an extended period of counseling with our brethren in the Quorum of Twelve Apostles and after fervent, united prayer to understand the will of the Lord on these matters.”*

First Presidency Announcement

General Leadership Meeting
“A Message From the First Presidency”
April 9, 2019

[SOURCE LINK]



The Phenomenon



“We are confronted by a culture of evil and personal wickedness in the world. This includes: dishonesty, pornography, perversions, the diminishing of marriage and childbearing, the increasing frequency and power of the culture and phenomenon of lesbian, gay, and transgender lifestyles and values.

“A major cause of these cultural deteriorations is the loss of belief in absolutes.”

Dallin H. Oaks

Apostle, Quorum of Twelve Apostles
BYU Hawaii Devotional, June 2019
“Anxiety in Stressful Times”

[[SOURCE LINK](#)]

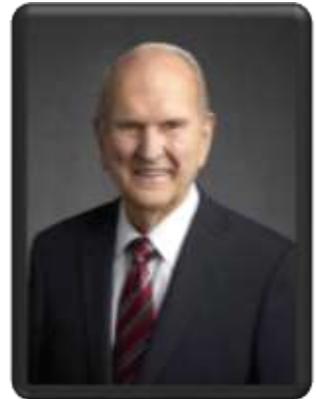
God Does Not Change

“Let’s consider the definition of marriage. In recent years, many countries, including the United States, have legalized same-sex marriage. As members of the Church, we respect the laws of the land and abide by them, including civil marriage.

“The truth is, however, that in the beginning—in *the beginning*—marriage was ordained by God! And to this day it is defined by Him as being between a man and a woman. God has not changed *His* definition of marriage.”

Russell M. Nelson

President, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
BYU Devotional, September 17, 2019
“The Love and Laws of God”



[[SOURCE LINK](#)]

LGBT is Not Agreeable

“This Church was restored so that families could be formed, sealed, and exalted eternally. That teaching has important implications for persons who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender, commonly referred to as LGBT. President Nelson has also reminded us that we don’t ‘have to [always] agree with each other to love each other.’

“Our walk must be considerate of children who are uncertain about their sexual orientation, but it discourages premature labeling because, in most children, such uncertainty decreases significantly over time.”

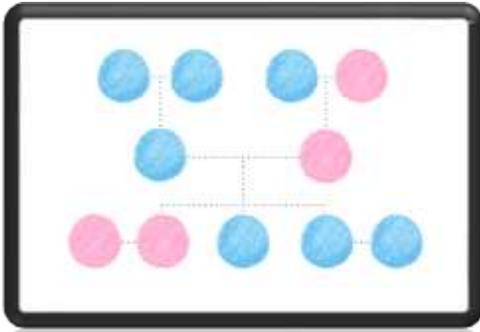
Dallin H. Oaks

Apostle, Quorum of the Twelve Apostles
October General Conference 2019, “Two Great Commandments”

[[SOURCE LINK](#)]



Family Search: Same-Sex Relationships Acknowledged



As the result of a growing diversity of family relationships, FamilySearch now provides the ability for users to document same-sex family relationships.

“Consistent with the doctrine of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, only marriages between people of the opposite sex may be solemnized or sealed in the temple.”

“FamilySearch changes, however, do not reflect a change in Church doctrine,” according to an official Church statement.

[[SOURCE LINK](#)]

Church: We Support LGBTQ Protections

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints lends its support to the Federal Fairness for All Act. The bill preserves religious freedom and protects lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender (LGBT) people from discrimination.

“The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints commends the introduction of federal legislation that seeks to preserve religious freedom and protect LGBT individuals from discrimination. We’re grateful for the leadership of Utah Representative Chris Stewart and other congressional supporters of this cause. The nation is more united when diverse individuals and groups can work cooperatively to advance sound policy. Alongside other religious organizations and denominations and important leaders of the LGBT community, the Church endorses this balanced approach that fosters greater fairness for all.”

[Read the Full Text of The Fairness For All Act HERE](#)

[[SOURCE LINK](#)]



Three Fundamental Truths

President Dallin H. Oaks, first counselor in the First Presidency, offered remarks about the eternal nature of God's children, His plan for them and the commandments to love God and to love our neighbors.

“While God’s commandments forbid all unchaste behavior and reaffirm the importance of marriage between a man and a woman, the Church and its faithful members should reach out with understanding and respect to individuals who are attracted to those of the same sex or whose sexual orientation or gender identity is inconsistent with their sex at birth. We do not know why same-sex attraction and confusion about sexual identity occur. They are among the challenges that persons can experience in mortality, which is only a tiny fraction of our eternal existence.

“First, ... that God created male and female,
and that this binary creation is essential to the plan of salvation.

“Second, modern revelation teaches that eternal life, the greatest gift of God to His children, is only possible through the creative powers inherent in the combination of male and female joined in an eternal marriage (see Doctrine and Covenants 132:19). That is why the law of chastity is so important.

“Finally, the long-standing doctrinal statements reaffirmed in [*The Family: A Proclamation to the World*] 23 years ago will not change. They may be clarified as directed by inspiration. For example, the intended meaning of gender in the family proclamation and as used in Church statements and publications since that time is biological sex at birth.

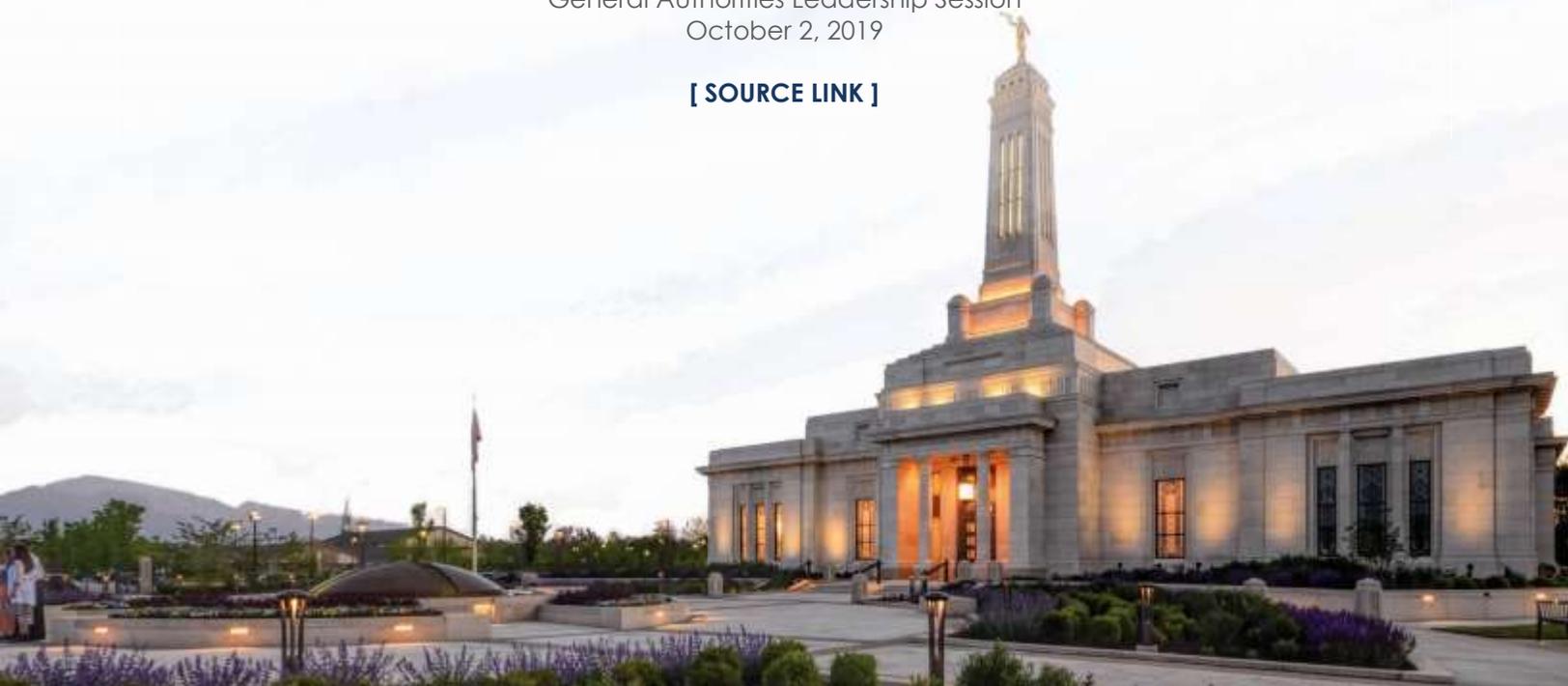
“When counseling with any members experiencing challenges related to their sexual orientation, Church leaders should affirm that God loves all His children, including those dealing with confusion about their sexual identity or other LGBT feelings... Such members and their families have unique challenges. They should be offered hope and be ministered to as directed by the Spirit according to their true needs, remembering the admonition of Alma to mourn with those that mourn and comfort those who stand in need of comfort.

“Because we love God and understand His great plan of salvation and the significance of His commandments, we manifest our love for our neighbors by helping them come unto Christ, repent, and keep His commandments. This is part of bearing one another’s burdens that they may be light.”

Dallin H. Oaks

Apostle, Quorum of the Twelve
General Authorities Leadership Session
October 2, 2019

[SOURCE LINK]





Conversion Therapy Ban: Ok'd by Church

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, members of the Utah legislature, and LGBTQ advocates have coalesced around a proposed ban on conversion therapy for minors.

The positive nod by the LDS church is a signal to lawmakers that a bill sitting idle in the Utah legislature **aimed at banning conversion therapy** should move forward.

Utah governor Gary Herbert, announced that groups involved in the emotional debate have finally agreed on language that would prohibit the discredited practice that attempted to change the sexual orientation or gender identity of young people.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints had previously (and publicly) opposed conversion therapy and said its own therapists no longer employ the practice. Conversion therapies were designed to convert a person's sexuality or gender identity.

Often, a gay person was offered hope that through various therapies they could become straight effectively eliminating their same-sex attractions/identities.

The rule banning conversion therapy took effect January 22, 2021.

[READ THE FINAL RULE HERE](#)



Oaks to Married Adult Fireside: I Offer You My Hope

From a devotional address given to young married couples at the Los Angeles California Santa Monica Stake Center.

“How can we give hope to those with same-sex attraction of living a happy and fulfilling life when they don’t see a traditional marriage while on earth, and how should we talk to our children as they learn about LGBT issues at school?”

“First, for those who experience same-sex attraction, consider these inspired assurances:

“You are a son or daughter of God, and our hearts reach out to you in warmth and affection. Notwithstanding your present same-gender attractions, you can be happy during this life, lead a morally clean life, perform meaningful service in the Church, enjoy full fellowship with your fellow Saints, and ultimately receive all the blessings of eternal life.

“Second, “God’s love is so great that He requires His children to obey His laws because only through that obedience can they progress toward the eternal destiny He desires for them. Thus, in the Final Judgment [which follows the universal Resurrection] we will all be assigned to the kingdom of glory that is commensurate with our obedience to His law.

“Third, in my persistent prayerful ponderings, I have never found a better, shorter answer to the innumerable questions on this subject than a thorough knowledge of and total faith in the love of our Heavenly Father and the plan of salvation He has established for the blessing of all of His children. The central truth of that plan is the Atonement of His Only Begotten Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. If we trust in the Lord and His plan, **we will have the strength to resist the satanic imitations and satanic temptations** to abandon our quest for eternal life, *“the greatest of all the gifts of God”* (Doctrine and Covenants 14:7).

“Children raise questions. Answering their questions in an appropriate way is one of the most important things parents can do. When you are asked a difficult question, such as a puzzler about Church history or doctrine, be honest and positive and tell what you know. If necessary, say you don’t know. But be sure to say what you do know: *“I know that Joseph Smith was a prophet of God.”*

Dallin H. Oaks

First Counselor, First Presidency

Full version of his address under the title *“Keeping the Faith on the Front Line”*

Publicly distributed: June 2020

[SOURCE LINK]

2020 General Handbook of Instructions

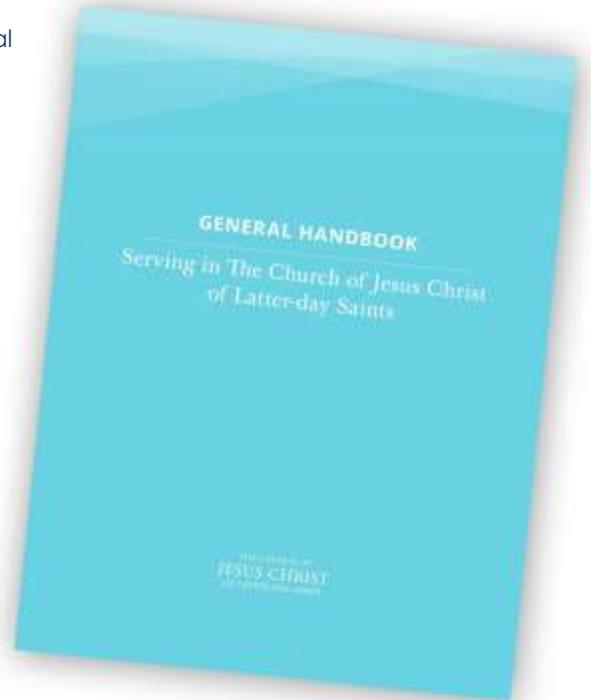
UPDATED

A new, universally available administrative handbook for all Latter-day Saint leaders and members has replaced Handbook 1 and Handbook 2, which the Church has now labeled “obsolete.”

The First Presidency announced the release of the handbook in a letter to general and local leaders. A key element of the new handbook is the continued emphasis of the Church on helping all come to Christ, according to the letter. Additionally, the handbook content has been organized “around Heavenly Father’s work of salvation and exaltation.”

NOTABLE LGBTQ+ CHANGES IN THE HANDBOOK

- As revealed in April 2019, same-sex marriages are no longer listed as an act of apostasy. Further, same-sex relationships are no longer listed as “behavior requiring discipline” in a disciplinary (now called a membership) council.
- Same-sex marriages are not approved or sanctioned, but acknowledged.
- Membership councils are optional for same-sex marriage; placing heterosexual and homosexual “sins” at the same degree of severity. It should be noted that “same-sex sexual activity” appears to no longer be classified in the Handbook as more “perverted” or “abominable” than straight, unmarried sex.
- Latter-day Saints who are LGBTQ and are “striving” to live the law of chastity, are allowed to hold a calling.
- The gender of a Latter-day Saints will only be recognized as “one’s biological sex at birth.”
- The church will now allow a member to identify as transgender. Transgender individuals may be baptized, confirmed, receive the sacrament, and participate in meetings, etc. However, will not receive priesthood, if already transitioned or in the process of transitioning to male.
- The church has created a system that allows transgender members the option to update their preferred name and/or pronouns in the membership record system.
- Transgender individuals are discouraged from completing any medical or surgical operations, or from engaging in “social transitions” (changing their gender identity, name, pronouns, dress/clothing/ styles) as a part of their transition. If they participate in medical or surgical transitions, the member’s record will be annotated adding a “membership restriction.” That annotation will be applied to the member’s record for the duration of their transition.
- Most transgender members who have undergone transgender related surgery are forbidden from temple service or the exercising of priesthood.
- Transgender individuals considering transgender-related surgery are not allowed to be baptized. Transgender individuals who have already undergone such surgery can only be baptized with First Presidency approval, and will be banned from priesthood participation or temple attendance as members.
- Any display of romantic behavior and/or discussing one’s sexual orientation is discouraged during church services.



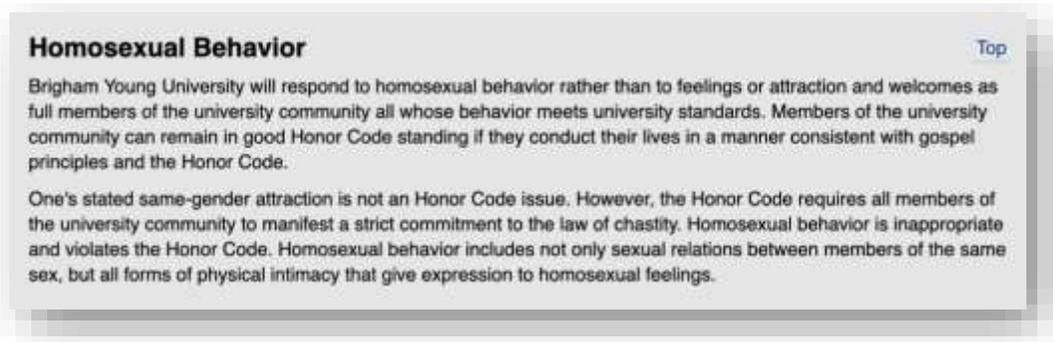
[[READ THE LETTER ANNOUNCING THE HANDBOOK UPDATE HERE](#)]

[[READ THE UPDATED 2020 GENERAL HANDBOOK OF INSTRUCTIONS HERE](#)]

BYU Updates Honor Code

On February 19, 2020 the Church Educational System updated the BYU Honor Code for all Church schools. Notable was the complete removal of the homosexual section in the code.

Old language:



The updated Honor Code policy reads:

“Sexual misconduct; obscene or indecent conduct or expressions; disorderly or disruptive conduct; participation in gambling activities; involvement with pornographic, erotic, indecent, or offensive material; and any other conduct or action inconsistent with the principles of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and the Honor Code is not permitted.”

2020 BYU Honor Code
Church Educational System

[SOURCE LINK]

CES “Clarifies” Honor Code Changes

In the days following the update to the Honor Code, administration officials at BYU informed students that they would no longer be disciplined for same-sex affection like holding hands, dating, or kissing.

Confusion surrounding this policy among different BYU campuses lead to widespread speculation regarding the policy update.

Shortly after the Honor Code announcement, CES officials countered that “there may have been some miscommunications,” but CES officials refused to elaborate on what those miscommunications were.

On March 4, 2020, two weeks after the Honor Code was updated, Elder Paul V. Johnson, Commissioner of the CES stated:

“Same-sex romantic behavior cannot lead to eternal marriage and is therefore not compatible with the principles included in the Honor Code.”

2020 BYU Honor Code
Church Educational System

[SOURCE LINK]



Church discontinues MormonAndGay.LDS.org Replaces with new: Same-Sex Attraction and Transgender sub-websites

In June 2020, the Church quietly retired the *MormonAndGay.LDS.org* website. The website was originally created to articulate the Church's position regarding same-sex attraction and the stories of individual members impacted by this topic.

The former website featured candid videos from Latter-day Saints who had professed vows of celibacy in-line with current Latter-day teachings which requires gay members to avoid dating and all same-gender romantic relationships. The former site also offered teaching strategies and a FAQ (frequently asked questions) section for church leaders to better understand how to minister to LGBTQ+ church members.

The new version of the website now features two separate sub-pages. One features the topic of Same-Sex Attraction and the other is exclusively aimed at Transgender understandings.

[[VISIT NEW SAME SEX ATTRACTION SITE HERE](#)]

[[VISIT NEW TRANSGENDER SITE HERE](#)]

Same-Sex Attraction website features six new sections:

- **Individuals**
- **Family and Friends**
 - **Leaders**
- **Member Stories**
 - **Videos**
 - **About**

Examples of topics covered in the new website:

- **How can I help members feel loved, welcomed, and inspired at church?**
 - **Is Same-Sex Attraction a sin?**
- **My loved one is gay. What should I do?**
- **Does the plan of salvation apply to gay people?**
- **Will my same-sex attraction go away?**

Transgender website features two sections:

- **Understanding**
- **Supporting**

Examples of topics covered in the new website:

- **Does God love me?**
- **Am I welcome at church?**
- **If I am faithful, will my experience of gender incongruence go away?**
- **What is the Church's position on transitioning?**
- **Can I support someone who is transgender?**
 - **How do I respect differences?**
- **Is professional counseling helpful for transgender people?**

THE CHURCH OF
JESUS CHRIST
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

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Same-Sex Attraction

Individuals Family and Friends Leaders Member Stories Videos About

Same-Sex Attraction



Handbook Changes Again

Section 38.6 outlines the Church's policies and procedures on several moral issues. Some policies are new and some have been updated. Some may be updated in the future.

38.6.15 | Same-Sex Attraction and Same-Sex Behavior

The Church encourages families and members to reach out with sensitivity, love, and respect to persons who are attracted to others of the same sex. The Church also promotes understanding in society at large that reflects its teachings about kindness, inclusiveness, love for others, and respect for all human beings.

The Church does not take a position on the causes of same-sex attraction.

God's commandments forbid all unchaste behavior, either same-sex or heterosexual. Church leaders counsel members who have violated the law of chastity. Leaders help them have a clear understanding of faith in Jesus Christ and His Atonement, the process of repentance, and the purpose of life on earth.

Behavior that is inconsistent with the law of chastity may be cause for holding a Church membership council (see [38.6.5](#)). It can be forgiven through sincere repentance.

If members feel same-sex attraction and are striving to live the law of chastity, leaders support and encourage them in their resolve. These members may receive Church callings, hold temple recommends, and receive temple ordinances if they are worthy. Male Church members may receive and exercise the priesthood.

The circumstances of some faithful members do not allow them to receive the blessings of eternal marriage and parenthood in this life. They will receive all promised blessings in the eternities, provided they keep the covenants they have made with God (see [Mosiah 2:41](#)).

The Church provides the following resources to better understand and support people whose lives are affected by same-sex attraction:

- [“Same-Sex Attraction,” Gospel Topics, topics.ChurchofJesusChrist.org](#)
- [“Same-Sex Attraction,” Life Help, ChurchofJesusChrist.org](#)

In addition to the inspired help of Church leaders, members may benefit from professional counseling. Leaders may contact Family Services for assistance. See [31.2.6](#) for contact information.

38.6.16 | Same-Sex Marriage

As a doctrinal principle, based on the scriptures, the Church affirms that marriage between a man and a woman is essential to the Creator's plan for the eternal destiny of His children. The Church also affirms that God's law defines marriage as the legal and lawful union between a man and a woman.

Only a man and a woman who are legally and lawfully wedded as husband and wife should have sexual relations. Any other sexual relations, including those between persons of the same sex, are sinful and undermine the divinely created institution of the family.

[[ACCESS CURRENT HANDBOOK HERE](#)]

The Divine Purpose of Sexual Intimacy

In August 2020, Elder Dale Renlund and his wife, Sister Ruth Renlund penned an article about sexuality and intimacy. The article was published in the Ensign and Liahona magazines. Highlights in this article include these quotes:

“Flawed reasoning and Satan’s deceptions have produced distracting philosophies that claim to eliminate the need for obeying God’s commandments, especially the law of chastity. Satan’s opposing voice is loud, and his philosophies are often enticing.

“Male and female spirits were created to complement each other. That is why gender is not fluid in the eternities—because it provides the basis for the ultimate gift Heavenly Father can give, His kind of life.

“Marriage was intended by God *“to mean the complete merger of a man and a woman—their hearts, hopes, lives, love, family, future, everything ... to be ‘one flesh’ in their life together.”* We cannot achieve the kind of life our Heavenly Father enjoys by ourselves or without a complete commitment to fidelity within a marriage to our husband or wife according to God’s plan.

“Not all Heavenly Father’s children have the opportunity in this life to experience sexual intimacy in married relationships according to God’s law. Some will not have the opportunity to marry. Others are convinced that their unique circumstances make living the law of chastity so challenging and unfair that they can choose to ignore it.

“Our proper expression of sexuality makes it possible for God’s plan to unfold on earth and in the eternities, qualifying us to become like our Heavenly Father. God promises eternal life for the faithful that includes eternal marriage, children, and all other blessings of an eternal family.”

Elder Dale Renlund and Sister Ruth Renlund

Apostle, Quorum of Twelve Apostles
“The Divine Purpose of Sexual Intimacy”
August 2020

[[READ FULL TALK HERE](#)]

To the Transgender Person: Love

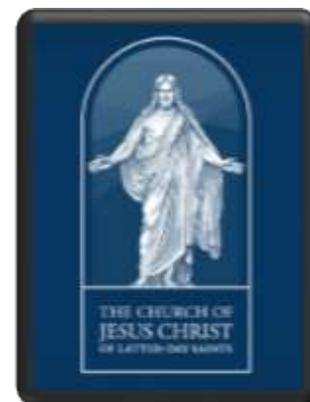
“One day as I checked social media, I came across a post that took my breath away. One of my good childhood friends had just come out as transgender. And they also explained that they had decided to withdraw from Church activity completely and pursue a new lifestyle.

“All of Heavenly Father’s children are worth loving, encouraging, and saving. Our job isn’t to focus on what everyone else is doing wrong—our job is to use our own agency to keep the commandments and find our way back to Heavenly Father. Our job is to also follow the Lord’s commandments to 1) **Love God** and 2) **Love One Another.**”

Name of Author Withheld

“Our Job Is Not To Throw Stones”
December 2020 | Digital Article Only

[[READ FULL TALK HERE](#)]



BYU's Iconic Y in Color

Students supporting the Color The Campus group encouraged members of the on-campus community at BYU to wear rainbow colors in support of the LGBTQ+ community.

The event was organized by Bradley Talbot, a gay BYU student.

After the lighting of the Y, Talbot posted on the Color the Campus Twitter page, inviting BYU to choose to be an advocate and not an obstacle to the LGBTQ+ community. He added that it would not stop them either way.

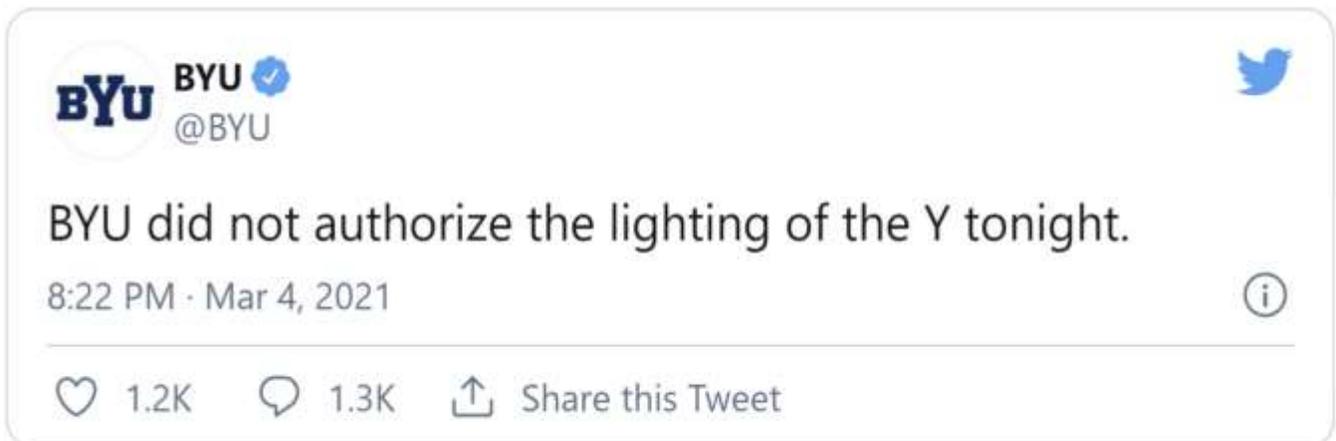
“We at Color the Campus invite the BYU Board of Trustees to follow the Apostolic counsel of President M. Russell Ballard, ‘to listen to and understand what (their) LGBT siblings are feeling and experiencing.’”

Talbot said on the Color the Campus Twitter page.

“We invite the Board of Trustees to meet with LGBTQ+ BYU students to hear their stories, so they understand the effects their actions have on some of most marginalized & victimized students at CES schools. “It’s not a symbol of protest; it’s a symbol of unity,” Talbot said.

“We are here and we are going to be supporting and loving (LGBT students and faculty) no matter what. And we hope to do that with BYU.”

BYU was quick to respond to the rainbow-colored lighting of the iconic Y:



BYUtv: Exploring Ways To Include LGBTQ Characters

BYUtv is “exploring ways” to include LGBTQ characters in its future programming, although its management stopped short of making any promises about when or how that could happen.

BYUtv statement: “As a young network committed to bringing together religious and non-religious audiences, BYUtv is learning and exploring ways to partner with diverse content creators, writers and talent to implement meaningful co-viewing experiences for our target audience (children 8-15 and their parents). While BYUtv has not referenced LGBTQ+ topics and characters in the five original scripted series it has aired to date, we desire to address subjects – including LGBTQ+ – that are important to our growing and diverse audience.

“There are no policies that would exclude the network from including characters who identify as LGBTQ+, and BYUtv is exploring ways to do so.”

BYUtv Statement

[SOURCE LINK]



Allies and LGBTQ People: Modern Day Time Bombs

“[Satan’s] plan is in direct opposition to the family proclamation. It is an insidious attempt to destroy the nuclear family and God’s moral values. He disguises his plan of attack with alluring labels such as “*pro-choice*” for abortion, “love and compassion” for endorsement of same-sex marriage, and “*environmental emergency*” for promotion of a zero-growth population agenda.

“Each of these proposals, however, constitutes a frontal attack on the family unit and its survival. These “*solutions*” are nothing less than time bombs wrapped with glitter and a glamorous bow. Ultimately, the day of reckoning will come and the explosion will occur.

“One cannot circumvent God’s commands and expect to escape the divine consequences, regardless of how decorated the package may be or how cosmetically appealing the language may sound.”



Elder Tad R. Callister

Emeritus General Authority Seventy

“*A Fence at the Top or an Ambulance at the Bottom?*”
Church News | May 22, 2021

[SOURCE LINK]

An Apology

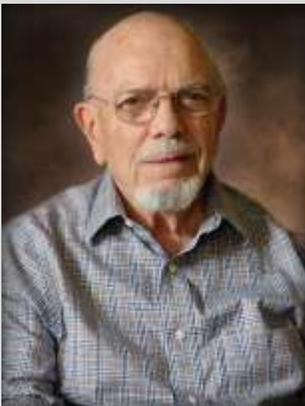
Allen Bergin Apologizes

Shortly after the *On the Record* project was released, Dr. Bergin reached out to the LatterGayStories podcast with a formal apology. Since his days in the General Sunday School, and years after teaching at BYU, Bergin had a change of heart on the subjects for which he was quoted above in this document (pages 23, 37, 42).

Additionally, two of Allen Bergin's sons are gay, as is a grandson.

As many of us can testify, when someone close to you is impacted by this topic, you take a deeper look at traditional beliefs and religious position.

Dr. Bergin's apology is quoted below:



As a mental health professional and psychology professor from 1961 until my retirement in 1999, I was among the traditionalists who believed that homosexuality was a disorder and that it could be treated and changed to some degree. I was a professor of some renown at Columbia University and Brigham Young University, and my views have carried influence in some circles.

"I regret being part of a professional, religious, and public culture that marginalized, pathologized, and excluded LGBT persons. As a father of two gay sons and grandfather of a gay grandson, I've been given a personal education that has been painful and enlightening. "To the general public, I say — Stop. Listen. Learn. Love. To myself, my posterity, my colleagues, my fellow church

members, and my political leaders, I say — apologize and compensate those of God's children who have been afflicted by our treatment of them when they should have been embraced and loved. Give them their rightful place in society and in church so they may be nurtured and progress in their spiritual, social, and professional lives.

"We are all children of the same Heavenly Parents, who I believe love and value all their children, regardless of sexual orientation, and who grant each of us the same opportunity to receive Jesus Christ's Grace. I will continue my efforts for the rest of my days to receive that Grace for myself and to point others toward His healing and redeeming power."

Dr. Allen E. Bergin

Allen E. Bergin Apology

[SOURCE LINK]

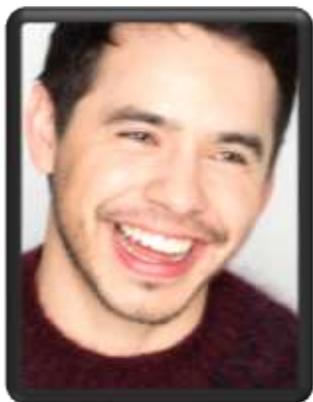
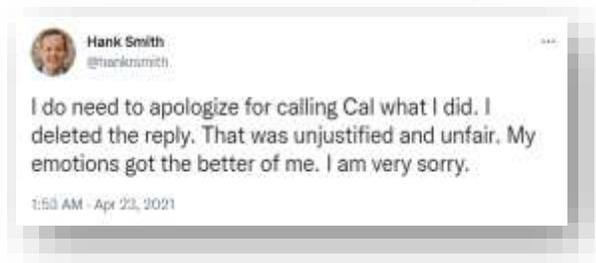
Korihor

BYU teaching professor, Hank Smith, uses social media to publicly label Calvin Burke, a gay BYU student, “Korihor”. The name is a reference to a Book of Mormon character known as an anti-Christ who didn’t believe in God—and actively preached against the faithful. According to the Book of Mormon, Korihor eventually lost his ability to speak and was trampled to death—an outcome Latter-day Saint scripture celebrates.

BYU did not react publicly to Smith’s comments, leaving some LGBTQ students fearful of the school’s support of Hank Smith’s message. A day later, Smith deleted the Tweet after hundreds spoke out against the Tweet.

Hank Smith was never punished for his comments by his employer, Brigham Young University.

April 22, 2021
[SOURCE LINK]



David Archuleta Comes Out

American Idol alumnus and high-profile Latter-day Saint, David Archuleta comes out as a member of the LGBTQ community in a heartfelt social media post. Archuleta’s coming out message brings to light the LDS church’s strong stance against same-sex marriage and how queer Latter-day Saints find it increasingly difficult to remain faithful church members despite their devotion to the religion.

June 11, 2021
[SOURCE LINK]

BYU to create “Office of Belonging”

BYU President, Kevin Worthen announced the formation of a new Office of Belonging.

“Worthen emphasized that the Office of Belonging will not only be core to BYU’s efforts to root out racism, but also to combat “prejudice of any kind, including that based on race, ethnicity, nationality, tribe, gender, age, disability, socioeconomic status, religious belief and sexual orientation.”

August, 2021
[SOURCE LINK]



More Musket Fire

Former President of Brigham Young University, and senior Apostle, Elder Jeffery R. Holland spoke at the 2021 University Conference at the Provo, Utah BYU Campus. Holland's talk focused on defending the Church and its doctrine by using the metaphor of **musket fire** to affirm the church's position on same-sex marriage. Holland also targeted the 2019 BYU valedictorian, Matt Easton, for coming out in his university approved graduation speech.

"If a student commandeers a graduation podium intended to represent everyone getting diplomas in order to announce his personal sexual orientation, what might another speaker feel free to announce the next year until eventually anything goes?"

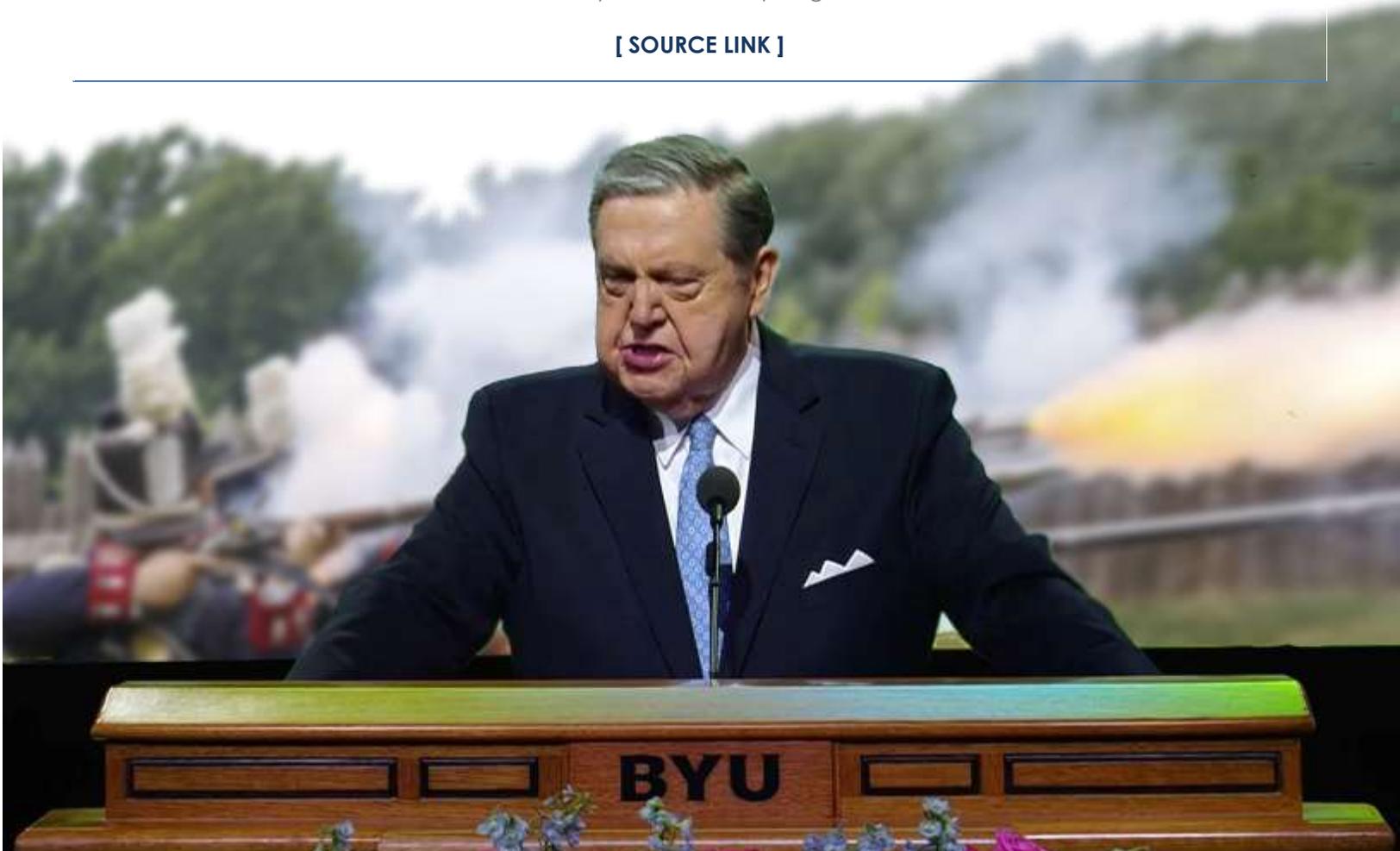
Holland continued by accusing Easton of "**divisiveness.**"

"In a way [,] [Latter-day Saint] scholars at BYU and elsewhere are a little bit like the builders of the temple in Nauvoo, who worked with a trowel in one hand and a musket in the other. Today scholars building the temple of learning must also pause on occasion to defend the kingdom. ... Then Elder Oaks said challengingly, "I would like to hear a little more musket fire from this temple of learning." He said this in a way that could have applied to a host of topics in various departments, but the one he specifically mentioned was the doctrine of the family and defending marriage as the union of a man and a woman."

Elder Jeffery R. Holland

Apostle, Quorum of the Twelve Apostles
2021 University Conference | August 23, 2021

[SOURCE LINK]



Federal Government Opens LGBTQ Investigation against BYU

BYU students who hold hands with or kiss people of their same gender can be punished under BYU Honor Code rules.

The U.S. Department of Education has opened a civil-rights investigation into how LGBTQ students are disciplined at Brigham Young University, a private religious school.

The complaint under investigation came after the school said it would still enforce a ban on same-sex dating even after that section was removed from the written version of the school's honor code.



October 2021
[\[SOURCE LINK \]](#)

President Dallin H. Oaks Urges “A Better Way” Claims BYU’s Electroshock Therapy was absent at the church owned University

Delivering an address to the University of Virginia's 2021 Joseph Smith Lecture on religious liberty, Dallin H. Oaks, a member of the Church's First Presidency, spoke about creating a new, “workable” balance between religious freedom and non-discrimination.

Oaks pointed believers to a “better way” by stressing the Christ-centered virtues of loving, listening, respecting, negotiating, persuading, balancing, tolerating, cooperating, reconciling, accommodating — any peaceful means that focus on the common good and “resolve differences without compromising core values.”

In a private meeting prior to the Lecture, Oaks was asked about BYU's history with electroshock therapy, particularly during the time when Oaks was the university President.

“Let me say about electroshock treatments at BYU, when I became president at BYU that had been discontinued earlier and it never went on under my administration,” Oaks said.

Dallin H. Oaks

Apostle, Quorum of the Twelve Apostles
2021 University of Virginia Joseph Smith Lecture | November 12, 2021

[\[SOURCE LINK \]](#)



[Watch the private Q&A HERE](#)



[Watch the public speech HERE](#)

WARRANT MISDEMEANOR

Traffic

Nontraffic

BYU Bans “Unauthorized” Protests on Campus and Y Mountain

Citing safety and the protection of property, school officials at Brigham Young University quietly made a rule change to what it now calls their “demonstration policy”.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, which operates BYU, has written rules for protesting on the private campus. The rules to govern campus protests were originally called the “Public Expression Policy” this change now labels it a “Demonstration Policy.”

The updated policy stems from LGBTQ demonstrations that have become common on the campus. The rules require all “protestors” to apply for a permit to demonstrate, it also prohibits any unauthorized lighting of the Y Mountain hillside. The university owns the Y Mountain but as a condition of its purchase, the US Government required the school to grant public access in perpetuity.

BYU threatens all violators with criminal citation and arrest.

Read the Official Demonstration Policy
December 20, 2021
[\[SOURCE LINK \]](#)





U.S. Department of Education Dismisses Investigation

Attorneys for the DOE dismissed the investigation opened against BYU in October 2021 ruling that the University was acting within its rights under Title IX exemptions to discriminate against LGBTQ students at on its campuses. The DOE also ruled that the Office of Civil Rights lacked jurisdiction to investigate the school any further.

Read BYU's Response to the Investigation
February 10, 2022

[[SOURCE LINK](#)]

Brigham Young University Begins “Culling” LGBTQ+ Affirming Professors

Despite top performing credentials, some LGBTQ+ affirming adjunct professors at BYU Provo were booted from the campus faculty rolls. Because Utah is an “employment at will” state, employers are not obligated to disclose why the terminations happened, but for some faculty members, they were only told their terminations “came from the top.”

One month prior to the terminations, BYU updated its employment rules requiring all new faculty members to hold **current** temple recommends. According to some impacted professors, the lack of a current temple recommend did not play a factor in the firings, because theirs were active as were their ecclesiastical employment endorsements.

“Two tenured professors told The Salt Lake Tribune they have been counseled by administration in the past year about their LGBTQ allyship. They were not fired but were told to stop speaking against the church’s leaders, they said. The Tribune agreed not to name them because they fear further retribution.”

[[SOURCE LINK](#)]





LDS Leaders Support Arizona's Gay Rights Bill

“The church is pleased to be part of a coalition of faith, business, LGBTQ people and community leaders who have worked together in a spirit of trust and mutual respect to address issues that matter to all members of our community.

It is our position that this bipartisan bill preserves the religious rights of individuals and communities of faith while protecting the rights of members of the LGBTQ community, consistent with the principles of fairness for all.”

February 2022
[SOURCE LINK]

BYU Administration Quietly Cancels Transgender Voice Therapy at BYU Clinic

Clinic staff informed its transgender clients that the administration at BYU, had cancelled all gender-affirming speech therapies because providing them doesn't align with the faith's policies.

Transgender clients often use those services to help match the tone and pitch of their voice to their gender identity. ASHA, the accrediting council which oversees the Communication and Disorders Department at BYU issued a statement affirming that the cancelation was **“in direct opposition to practice expected”** of accredited schools.

“BYU is putting its certified speech-language pathologists (CCC-SLPs) in an untenable position,” the statement said. **“These employees are now being directed to act in a manner contrary to their responsibilities under the ASHA Code of Ethics.”**



Cartoon drawn by Olivia Petersen and shared publicly during the media coverage of this event.

A timeline of events, including all documents, press releases, statements and leaked files are included here:

March 2022
[SOURCE LINK]



Church Educational System Updates Employment Requirements

Under the direction of Elder Clark G. Gilbert, the newly called commissioner of the CES, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints announced updated questions that new and current employees will be asked by their ecclesiastical leaders to determine if they are *worthy* of Church employment.

One question explicitly targets current and potential church employees regarding their personal beliefs:

“Does this member have a testimony of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and of its doctrine, including its teachings on marriage, family, and gender?”

[SOURCE LINK]

BYU Idaho Updates Student Endorsement Requirements

“The Board of Trustees of BYU-Idaho requires every student attending the university to have an annual ecclesiastical endorsement. This will be completed by the bishop of the ward in which the student and/or membership record resides. The continuing endorsement must be completed prior to registering for classes.”

One endorsement question was updated to include the following verbiage:

- The student lives a chaste and virtuous life, including the avoidance of pornography, abstinence from sexual relations outside of marriage, **and abstinence from homosexual conduct.**

BYU-I would later remove the “abstinence from homosexual conduct” line after receiving inquiries from media outlets asking for comment.

[SOURCE LINK]

The screenshot shows the BYU-Idaho website with the following text:

The Board of Trustees of BYU-Idaho requires every student attending the university to have an annual ecclesiastical endorsement. This will be completed by the bishop of the ward in which the student and/or membership record resides. The continuing endorsement must be completed prior to registering for classes.

The bishop verifies the following:

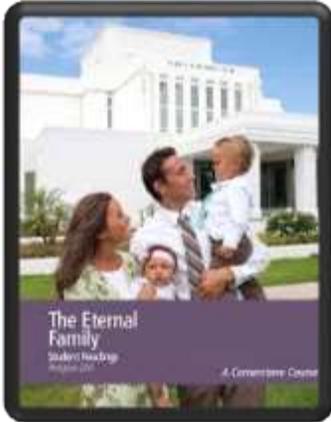
- If LDS, the student is in full fellowship in the Church
- The student lives a chaste and virtuous life, including avoidance of pornography, abstinence from sexual relations outside of marriage, and abstinence from homosexual conduct
- The student lives the Word of Wisdom by abstaining from alcoholic beverages, tobacco, coffee, tea, and other harmful substances
- The student demonstrates appropriate and consistent church activity
- The student is honest

The student verifies they are striving to live the Honor Code. Students will renew their endorsement during the first semester of their assigned track. Online students without an assigned track will review their endorsement annually during the semester of their initial enrollment.

Church Updates Student Curriculum to include “Same-Sex Attraction” and “Transgender” topics

The Eternal Family Teacher Material (Religion 200) was updated to include more broad and detailed lesson materials regarding the subjects of sexual orientation and gender identity.

Two chapters, 7 and 8 are dedicated to these topics.



“We are all beloved children of heavenly parents. We are also individuals with unique talents, abilities, and experiences. Some of God’s children experience same-sex attraction or identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender, which is often abbreviated LGBT.

How have you responded to others who experience same-sex attraction or identify as LGBT? If you experience same-sex attraction, what has your experience been like with family, friends, and members of the Church?

As you study this material, consider what you can do to be more like the Savior and treat all of Heavenly Father’s children with love, inclusion, and respect.”

[[SOURCE LINK](#)] [[READ THE STUDENT MANUAL](#)]



The Eternal Nature and Purpose of Gender

Our gender was established in our premortal life and is essential in fulfilling our Heavenly Father’s plan for our salvation and exaltation in families. In this lesson, students will have an opportunity to explain how God’s plan helps us understand the eternal importance of our gender. This lesson will also provide guidance for students who may have questions related to gender.

What are some things I should know about same-sex attraction?

Such terms as *gay* (sometimes used generally to refer to someone attracted to others of their own sex, and otherwise used specifically to refer to a man attracted to men), *lesbian* (a woman attracted to women), or *bisexual* (a man or woman attracted to both sexes) may be used to indicate a feeling, an identity, or a lifestyle. Remember that regardless of the term or terms a person uses to identify his or her sexual feelings or orientation, our most important identity is as a “beloved spirit son or daughter of heavenly parents” (“The Family: A Proclamation to the World,” ChurchofJesusChrist.org).

Queer and Transgender Couples/Individuals Will Not Receive Exaltation

“[T]he kingdom of glory we receive in the Final Judgment is determined by the laws we choose to abide by in our Heavenly Father’s loving plan. Under that plan there are multiple kingdoms so that all of His children can be assigned to a kingdom where they can “abide.”

...

Fundamental to us is God’s revelation that exaltation can be attained only through faithfulness to the covenants of an eternal marriage between a man and a woman. That divine doctrine is why we teach that “gender is an essential characteristic of individual premortal, mortal, and eternal identity and purpose.

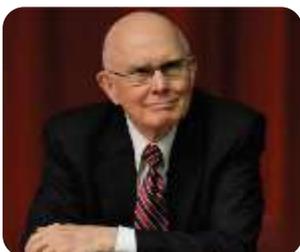
That is also why the Lord has required His restored Church to oppose social and legal pressures to retreat from His doctrine of marriage between a man and a woman, to oppose changes that homogenize the differences between men and women or confuse or alter gender.

Our Heavenly Father’s plan allows for “opposition in all things”, and Satan’s most strenuous opposition is directed at whatever is most important to that plan. Consequently, he seeks to oppose progress toward exaltation by distorting marriage, discouraging childbearing, or confusing gender.”

President Dallin H. Oaks
Apostle, Quorum of the Twelve Apostles
2022 April General Conference
“Divine Love in The Father’s Plan”

[SOURCE LINK]

ADDITIONAL SOURCES:



SECRET RECORDING TO LDS YOUTH

**Dallin H. Oaks to Church Members:
Gays Will Inherit Lower Kingdom, But Not
The Celestial Kingdom**

“...that’s not hate, it’s doctrine.”

LISTEN HERE: [SOURCE LINK]





Rainbow Colored Graduation Gown

Jillian Orr, a gay BYU student, stunned a packed graduation ceremony at Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah by exposing a rainbow flag sewn-inside her graduation gown. She flashed the pride colors while accepting her diploma.

“As Jillian Orr walked across the stage at the Marriott Center she opened her gown to show the colors stitched inside. She said she made the gesture to protest the school's policy which essentially bans same-sex relationships.

“I wanted to give the message to other students that I made it through and that they can make it through.”

Jillian received national attention for her graduation gown, with millions and millions of people hearing her story and voicing their support through social media.

Orr says that no one with the school has contacted her after her “flash.”

[SOURCE LINK]



Area Seventy: Rainbow Flags Compromise God's Love

Elder Michael John U. Teh, a General Authority Seventy spoke at the Sunday session of the Alpine Utah Stake Conference in June of 2022 addressing the audience about LGBTQ topics. He provided counsel and instruction on how to manage members' relationship with LGBTQ+ people, while still remaining loyal to God's laws.

Elder Teh begins by affirming that the prophets and apostles love LGBTQ people—even in their struggle and challenge.

“I tell you there's no one, no group of people who love them more than our prophets, seers, and revelators.”

He then continues: **“[the rainbow flag] shouts out more than just I love Peter. It will—it may lead people to believe that I believe in same gender marriage, that I support same gender marriage, which I do not. It may lead people to believe that I don't believe gender is an essential part of God's plan for his people.”**

...

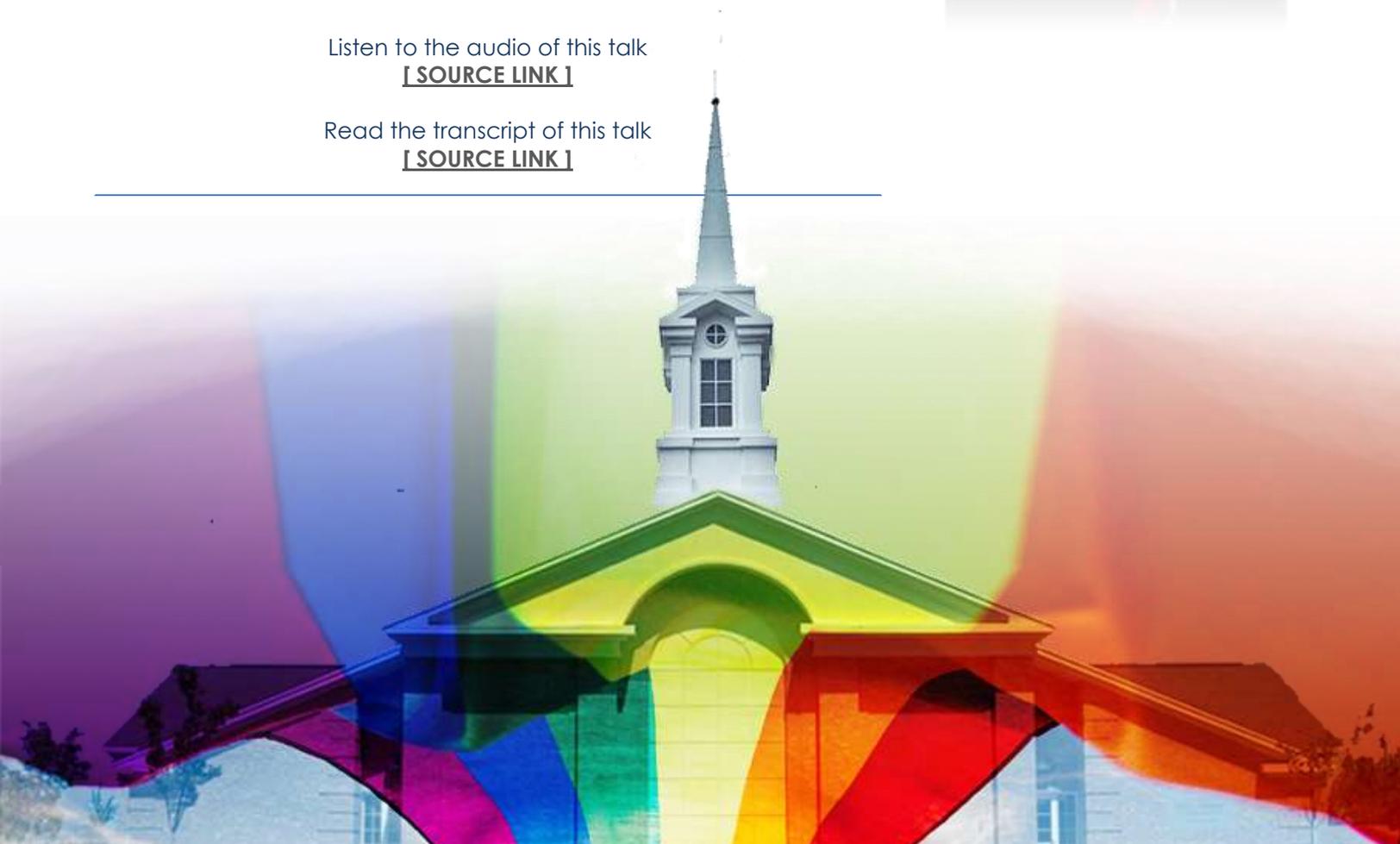
“But I cannot break God's commandments. I cannot compromise my love for God. ... whether in this life or perhaps the one next ... I do know God loves all of his children, and that I can support them in many other ways but not in the ways that would cause me to compromise my love for God.

Listen to the audio of this talk

[\[SOURCE LINK \]](#)

Read the transcript of this talk

[\[SOURCE LINK \]](#)



Latter-day Saint Leaders Call for Support of LGBTQ+ Rights in Florida

In a letter published in the Miami Herald, Latter-day Saint leaders, co-signed with other faith communities, asked Floridians to support LGBTQ+ non-discrimination legislation.

“No one should be denied these protections based on their sexual orientation or gender identity, and likewise religious persons and institutions should be protected in practicing their faith,” the letter writers said.”

“LGBTQ rights and religious rights do not have to be in conflict,” the letter’s signees wrote. “...Now is the time to set aside political motives, malice and misrepresentations and commit to respectful dialogue and good-faith engagement.”

The letter was signed by two area seventies of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Elders Victor P. Patrick and Daniel P. Amato.



A Call For Peace
An Open Letter to Floridians
September 1, 2022

[SOURCE LINK]

Faith Matters Launches LDS LGBT Resources What About Our Gay Brothers and Sisters?

The Faith Matters Foundation aims to create a space in which an expansive, radiant approach to the restored gospel can be considered and discussed.

“Virtually all of us have LGBT acquaintances or family members. It is clear, as the church itself seems to affirm, that for the vast majority of our LGBT brothers and sisters, sexual identity/attraction is not a choice. It is a fact of life.

Our younger generations seem to have little problem accepting gay people and gay couples as friends and neighbors. The sex lives of their gay friends and neighbors are of little concern to them, just as their own sex lives are presumably of little concern to their gay friends. It is seen as simply one aspect of their lives; it does not define them as people.

Still, we as a church remain deeply conflicted on this issue.”

FaithMatters.org
Big Question #6

[SOURCE LINK]





THE CHURCH OF
JESUS CHRIST
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

Official Church Statement

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Supports The Respect for Marriage Act

The Church said in a November 15, 2022 statement that it supports proposed federal legislation intended to protect gay-marriage rights, as long as it also protects the right of religious groups to believe such unions are against God's word.

“We believe this approach is the way forward. As we work together to preserve the principles and practices of religious freedom together with the rights of LGBTQ individuals, much can be accomplished to heal relationships and foster greater understanding.”

Official Statement
Church Newsroom
November 15, 2022

[SOURCE LINK]

PUBLIC REACTIONS TO THE STATEMENT:

*“It answers, once and for all, the question, ‘Can members of the church support same-sex marriage?’ **The answer is yes, and the church does, too** [as long as the wedding takes place outside of the faith] ... “This news is an enormous relief to families of gay children who can now comfortably shower their gay children with the same love and support they give their straight children who marry.”*

Allison Dayton | Lift + Love Foundation

“This move is part of the Church’s overall theology; essentially sustaining the law of the land, recognizing that what they dictate and enforce for their members in terms of their behavior is different than what it means to be part of a pluralistic society.”

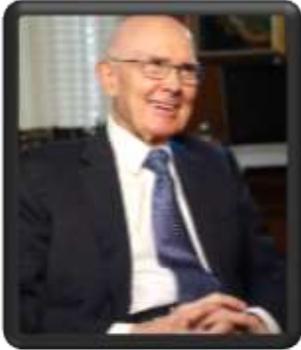
Patrick Mason | Utah State University
| Mormon Studies

“This statement is a dramatic reversal of previous teachings. Dating as far back as the 1970’s the faith has combated efforts to legalize same-sex marriage, which it framed as “a threat to children, churches, and the nation as a whole.”

Taylor Petrey | Professor, Kalamazoo College and author of *Tabernacles of Clay: Sexuality and Gender in Modern Mormonism*.

Church Clarifies Its Support for the Respect for Marriage Act

“We see a need to clarify the Church's position on that new law,” said President Oaks, speaking on behalf of the First Presidency. “While the Respect for Marriage Act codified same-sex marriage in federal law, the act also provided needed protections for religious expression. “Putting such protections in the federal law was a big step forward.”



The focus of the Church's efforts in support of the national Respect for Marriage Act “was not on same-sex marriage, but on ensuring the act contained the necessary protections for religious freedom,” he said, adding that at the time the act was adopted, “the Church publicly reaffirmed our Church doctrine approving only marriage between one man and one woman.”

According to Oaks the Respect for Marriage Act, as signed into law:

- Includes valuable provisions to assure no federal or state laws could be used to harm the religious or conscience rights of faith-based institutions or their members.
- Ensures that religious organizations, religious schools and their staff do not have to perform or host same-sex marriages or celebrations, particularly inside temples.
- Protects the tax-exempt status of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.
- Protects the grants, licenses, contracts and accreditation at BYU and other church schools/institutions.
- Provides that its own provisions cannot be used to violate anyone's rights to religious freedom.

Official Statement

Church Newsroom

February 12, 2023

[SOURCE LINK]

Russell M. Nelson Receives Peace Prize for Building Bridges of Understanding

Upon accepting the Gandhi-King-Mandela Peace Prize for his work defending marginalized communities, Nelson affirmed,

“I have stated before and repeat today that racism, sexism, and a host of other ‘isms’ are universally and tragically limiting in the way we regard and treat each other. Any abuse or prejudice toward another because of race, nationality, gender, sexual orientation, culture, or any other identifiers is offensive to our Maker and defies the first and second great commandments— that we should love God with all our hearts and our neighbors as ourselves.”



Official Statement

Church Newsroom

April 13, 2023

[SOURCE LINK]

A Summary of LDS Changes in LGBTQ+ Teachings

Topic	Early Teaching	Transitional Teaching	Current Teaching
Being Gay Is A Choice	PEOPLE CHOOSE TO BE GAY [1] [2] [3] [4]	BEING GAY MIGHT BE A CHOICE [5]	NO POSITION [6]
Causes of Homosexuality	ADDICTION [7] MASTURBATION [8] PORNOGRAPHY [9] FAMILY DYSFUNCTION [10] SMOTHERING MOTHER [11] DISTANT/WEAK FATHER [12] SEXUAL ABUSE [13] SELFISHNESS [14] TALKING ABOUT IT [15]	BIOLOGICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS CAUSE HOMOSEXUALITY [17]	NO POSITION [18]
Identity & Labels	WRONG TO USE "GAY" LABELS [19] [20] [21]		IDENTIFYING AS "GAY" IS ACCEPTABLE [22] [23]
Sexual Orientation Change Efforts	ELECTROSHOCK THERAPY USED AS A REMEDY [24] REPARATIVE THERAPY [25] CURABLE DISEASE [26] SHOULD BE OVERCOME [27]	CONVERSION THERAPY MAY BE APPROPRIATE [28] CHURCH DENOUNCES ANY ABUSIVE PRACTICES [29]	REPARATIVE THERAPY AND OTHER SEXUAL ORIENTATION CHANGES ARE NO LONGER PRACTICED [30] [31]
Heterosexual Dating and Marriage (as a cure)	MIXED ORIENTATION MARRIAGE AS A THERAPUTIC STEP [32] [33] [34] [35]		MIXED ORIENTATION MARRIAGE SHOULD NOT BE USED AS A SOLUTION [36] [37]

An Official Apology

This space is reserved for an official apology from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints for the damage that many of these teaching inflicted on the lives of the LGBTQ+ individuals, their families, and friends.

Some of these individuals are no longer here to receive that apology.

Produced by LatterGayStories.org

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