

## SOCIAL LAWS OF THE KINGDOM

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 of Latter Day Saints  
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SCRIPTURE: I John 3:11-18

This is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous. Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you. We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death. Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him. Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him? My little children, let us love not in world, neither in tongue, but in deed and in truth.

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(God) hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation.

Physically, all men are the sons of God. There are certain physical differences between races, such as variation in skin coloring, but physically men are all made in the same image. It is now universally accepted as a fact that Paul was wiser than he knew when he said that all nations of men are of one blood. In a laboratory, the chemist or technician can detect absolutely no difference between the blood from individuals of the black, brown, red, yellow or white races. Regardless of the skin coloring, the blood falls into the same familiar classifications which are the basis for all blood transfusions, and can be interchanged between the several races without any harmful effects whatever. God made us all. He made us all of one blood. He is equally concerned about every race, every nation, every color of man. He loves all alike. Therefore men who recognize God as Creator and owner of the good earth will recognize that every man on earth has equal claim with every other man to the resources which God has provided in his creation -- subject of course to men's willingness to share equally in the responsibility and the labor of producing what God's creation has made possible.

Since the days of Cain and Abel, men have continued to set up artificial barriers which divide them from each other, and which keep them out of the kingdom of God. There are racial, national, financial, social, and religious barriers -- to name only a few. There is a tendency in every man to regard his race as the master race, the race which all other races were made to serve. There is a tendency in every man to regard his nationality, his social group, his religious group, his financial group, as the best group, the one most favored by God, the one to whom all other groups should give service and proper respect. There is a tendency in every man to regard himself as the center of the universe, the one for whom the world was made, the one for whom all lesser breeds and lesser individuals of the same breed should be working. We like to think of ourselves as living some day in the best section of the Holy City, and although I suppose few of us put it thus baldly into words, we just naturally suppose that none of our neighbors will have a skin coloring different from our own, but will be properly placed in a rather nice slum section out beyond the golden streets which they wouldn't appreciate anyway. This is selfishness and sin of the worst kind. From this attitude stem all the other sins in the catalogue, for self-centeredness is original sin -- is the basis for all other sin.

If God is the kind of God we say he is, the Father of all mankind, who has made of one blood all nations, his kingdom will be quite cosmopolitan. It will not be composed exclusively of men of any one nation, or race, or color, or profession, or

denomination. Citizenship will not be determined on the basis of education, or financial net worth. Those who insist on a certain exclusiveness in the social contacts of this life would hardly feel at home there, and will probably be glad to go somewhere else where their artificial barriers between them and their brethren can be maintained.

There are inevitably certain natural differences which divide men into social groups. We differ in our natural and acquired interests. For example, I should be completely uncomfortable in the society of a group of mathematicians discussing the Einstein theory, because I have always found mathematics difficult and boring. But at the same time I am willing to accept the mathematicians as my equal, because I recognize the tremendous part that mathematics plays in our complex modern world, and my need for what he can give. I wouldn't object to living next door to him, and even if we couldn't talk mathematics over the back fence, we could find some other common ground on which we could meet and converse and enjoy each other socially. So it should be in the kingdom of God. There will be natural groupings according to interest, but because of love, all will live together in peace and harmony; each will recognize the inherent worth of every other.

Cain and Abel had different interests; but a tiller of the soil and a keeper of sheep should have been able to get along together and help each other. A division according to interests is not bad, if each party loves and respects the other. But in the case of Cain and Abel a different kind of division entered -- a division of envy, jealousy, hatred -- a division in which Cain felt himself superior to Abel. This division led to the world's first murder. It takes only one person to make this kind of division. There was little or nothing which Abel could do about it. Even a righteous man who is full of love for his brother cannot bring about unity with a man who persists in giving offence and continues completely unrepentant.

The social law of the kingdom, however, does not excuse a man for hating his brother simply because the brother is a sinner, or a persistent, unrepentant offender. The kingdom law is that we should love even our enemies, and those who hate us and spitefully use us. We should love them enough to sacrifice our own security, our own comfort, that they might be clothed and fed and educated, and perhaps converted to better ways by the example of our love. The law of the kingdom is "Do unto others as you would that others should do unto you." We are not justified in waiting until others love us, and do to us as we think they should. "Do unto others" is a command that requires action, not passivity. The cup of cold water given according to this command in the name of Christ shall never go unrewarded. If we love God, we will love our neighbor as ourselves, whether he loves us or not. This is the social law of the kingdom, and on this principle hang all the economic principles of the kingdom.

Although it is true that all men are sons of God in the sense that they are God's creation, it is also true that many men have deliberately or carelessly chosen not to be the sons of God in the spiritual sense. Because of their natures, their desires, their allegiances, they are the sons of the devil. As sons of the devil, they have no right to claim an inheritance in the kingdom of God. Only those who have been spiritually begotten of God, who have been born again, who have partaken of the life and nature of God through Jesus Christ, can expect an inheritance in his kingdom. This kind of selection, however, has absolutely nothing to do with race or color or nationality. All men, of all races and nations, may become spiritual sons and daughters of God by receiving the new birth through Jesus Christ. In Christ there is neither Jew nor Greek, neither bond nor free, neither male nor female, for all are one in Christ Jesus.

In a kingdom composed of new-born sons of God, a kingdom from which all offenses have been purged away, there will be perfect love between each man and all his brothers in Christ. There will be no distinctions of race or creed or color. There will be no classes based on wealth, or culture, or education. There will be no "best families," no nobility. There will still be differences of interest and ability, but each will respect and love every other for what he is, and for what he can contribute to the group. The social law of the kingdom then is, "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself" and this law grows out of the command to love God, who is the father of all.