

## THOU SHALT NOT SWEAR

4 Nov 1979 Fast & Testimony meeting  
Pleasant View First Ward, Sharon East Stake  
H. Tracy Hall, Bishop

IT HAS BEEN SAID OF OLD, "SPEECH IS A MIRROR OF THE SOUL:  
AS A MAN SPEAKS, SO IS HE." A MOST IMPORTANT COMMANDMENT  
FROM THE TEN AS STATED IN <sup>Exodus 20:7 &</sup> DEUTERONOMY 5:11 IS , THOU SHALT NOT  
TAKE THE NAME OF THE LORD THY GOD IN VAIN; FOR THE LORD WILL  
NOT HOLD HIM GUILTLESS THAT TAKETH HIS NAME IN VAIN."

WE UNDERSTAND FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT RECORD AND FROM OUR  
MODERN PROPHETS THAT THIS COMMANDMENT COMPREHENDS MORE THAN  
ONLY USING THE SACRED NAMES OF DIETY IN VAIN. IT INCLUDES  
USING SWEAR WORDS OF ANY KIND RELATING TO GOD'S HANDIWORK OR  
PURPOSES. AN EXAMPLE IS THE USE OF VULGAR WORDS TO MOCK GOD'S  
LAW OF CHASTITY.

~~WE OWE IT TO OUR PARENTS, TO THE SAVIOUR, AND TO OUR  
FATHER IN HEAVEN TO OBEY THIS COMMANDMENT. I MIGHT ALSO SAY  
THAT WE OWE IT TO OUR FRIENDS AND TO ALL OUR BROTHERS AND  
SISTERS UPON THIS EARTH.~~

ABOUT TWO YEARS AGO, I READ IN THE NEWSPAPER THAT EACH  
NEWLY BORN CHILD IN OUR COUNTRY IS HEIR TO FIFTEEN THOUSAND  
DOLLARS OF DEBT- HIS OR HER SHARE, AS A NEW CITIZEN OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. STAGGERING? YES! AND SHE OR HE  
WILL BE REQUIRED TO PAY THIS AND MORE AS TAXES DURING LIFE  
IN THIS LAND. THERE IS NOTHING MORE SURE THAN TAXES, SAVE IT  
BE DEATH, AND THE CHILD WILL IN DUE TIME SUBMIT TO BOTH.

THERE ARE, HOWEVER, MORE IMPORTANT DEBTS THAN THESE  
FINANCIAL DEBTS. WHAT ARE THEY? WHAT OF THEM? INTERESTINGLY,  
FOR THESE DEBTS WE HAVE A CHOICE AND CAN EITHER PAY THEM OR

NOT PAY THEM. ~~BELIEVE ME,~~ WHENEVER FREEDOM OF CHOICE IS AVAILABLE IN A MATTER, IT IS ~~AS CERTAIN AS DEATH AND TAXES~~ THAT THAT MATTER IS IMPORTANT!

I HAVE OFTEN HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF STANDING AT THE GRAVESITE OF PARENTS AND OF PROGENITORS BACK TO THE FIFTH GENERATION AND REFLECTED ON SOME OF THESE OTHER DEBTS. CAN WE MEASURE THE VALUE OF LOVING, UNSEFISH CARE, SACRIFICE AND SUSTENANCE FROM GOOD PARENTS IN A GOSPEL ORIENTED HOME? IT WOULD, INDEED, BE DIFFICULT BUT SURELY HAS A VALUE FAR IN EXCESS OF ONE PERSON'S SHARE OF THE NATIONAL DEBT. SHOULD WE REPAY IT? NOT BY CIVIL LAW, BUT EVERY SON AND DAUGHTER OF THE FATHER ~~AND IN~~ ~~MOTHER~~ OF HEAVEN SHOULD PALE AT ST. PETER'S GATE IF THIS OBLIGATION WERE NOT RETIRED.

DEBTS TO PARENTS AND PROGENITORS CAN NOT BE PAID IN FULL DIRECTLY ~~TO THEM~~ BUT ARE PAID TO FUTURE GENERATIONS. ~~HOWEVER,~~ PARENTS FEEL MORE THAN REPAID WHEN THEIR CHILDREN KEEP THE COMMANDMENTS.

BOYS AND GIRLS, YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN, SOME OF YOU ARE NOT KEEPING THE COMMANDMENT RELATED TO SWEARING. YOU ARE USING DIRTY WORDS, TELLING DIRTY STORIES, AND LOOKING AT AND SHOWING DIRTY PICTURES. YOUR PARENTS DO NOT KNOW THAT YOU ARE DOING THESE THINGS AND YOU ARE BETRAYING THEM IF YOU PERSIST IN IT.

(1) SWEARING IS HABIT FORMING. I ~~CAN~~ SAY THIS FROM EXPERIENCE. ~~AS WELL AS FROM OBSERVATION.~~ WHILE IN THE U.S. NAVY DURING WOLD WAR II, I LEARNED TO USE D. & H. AND CAN WELL RECALL THE DIFFICULTY ~~THAT I~~ EXPERIENCED AFTER THE WAR TO GET THESE TWO WORDS OUT OF MY SYSTEM.

(2) VULGARISMS ARE DIFFICULT TO ERASE FROM THE MIND.

(3) FROG IN HOT WATER STORY / GRADUALISM.

T.V. GRADUALISM.

(4) SWEARING LIMITS ONE'S ABILITY TO SPEAK EFFECTIVELY, CONCISELY, CLEARLY, HONESTLY, AND CONVINCINGLY.

(5) DIRTY WORDS, STORIES, AND PICTURES CLOUD OUT VALUABLE THOUGHTS AND LEAD TO IMMORAL PREOCCUPATIONS. I HAVE KNOWN MEN WHO ARE TOTALLY OCCUPIED WITH VULGARITY. THEY RARELY THINK OF ANYTHING WITHOUT PLACING IT IN AN OBSCENE SETTING.

(6) THE SPIRIT OF GOD CAN NOT BE WITH US WHEN WE SWEAR, HAVE IMPURE THOUGHTS, OR <sup>otherwise</sup> REBEL AGAINST OUR CREATOR.

(7) IMPROPER THOUGHTS CAN LEAD TO IMPROPER ACTS.

LET ME READ A STORY TO YOU THAT YOU HAVE HEARD BEFORE FROM THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF PARLEY P. PRATT WHILE HE, JOSEPH SMITH AND ABOUT FIFTY OTHER BRETHREN WERE JAILED AT THE UNFINISHED COURT HOUSE <sup>IN</sup> ~~AT~~ RICHMOND, MISSOURI IN THE DEAD OF WINTER, (READ PAGES 210-211 OF CHAPTER 26)

BROTHERS AND SISTERS, WE OWE IT TO JOSEPH SMITH NOT TO SWEAR. WE OWE IT TO OUR SAVIOUR, ~~JESUS THE CHRIST~~ NOT TO SWEAR. DID <sup>JESUS</sup> ~~HE~~ NOT SACRIFICE HIS LIFE FOR OUR SINS AND MAKE THE RESURRECTION POSSIBLE? HOW ABOUT OUR HEAVENLY FATHER? THROUGH THE "OATH AND COVENANT OF THE PRIESTHOOD" HE HAS PROMISED TO GIVE US ETERNAL LIVES AND EVERYTHING THAT THE FATHER HAS <sup>BUT</sup> IF WE WILL <sup>IN</sup> KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS.

IN CONCLUSION, SPEECH IS A MIRROR OF THE SOUL; AS A MAN SPEAKS, SO IS HE. WE OWE IT TO OURSELVES, OUR PARENTS, THE PROPHETS, THE SAVIOUR, AND TO OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN TO AVOID DIRTY WORDS, DIRTY STORIES, AND DIRTY PICTURES.

MY YOUNG FRIENDS, SOME OF YOU WILL BE FEELING, ABOUT NOW, THAT YOU HAVE BEEN CHASTIZED BY THE BISHOP, WHICH INDEED YOU HAVE, BUT LET ME HASTEN TO TELL YOU THAT I LOVE EACH ONE OF

YOU VERY MUCH AND AM <sup>VERY</sup> ANXIOUS FOR YOUR SUCCESS AND WELL  
BEING. I HOPE THAT YOU CAN FEEL MY CONCERN AND DESIRE TO  
BE HELPFUL. WRONG DOING WILL NEVER BRING HAPPINESS. YOUTHFUL  
MISTAKES NEED CORRECTION, NOW BEFORE A LIFELONG PATTERN <sup>of error</sup> SETS IN.

(BEAR TESTIMONY)

\*