

A plea for civility and compassion

We must treat each other with **respect and dignity**

- We must **be honest** with one another **in a spirit of love**
- We must **be patient** with one another –
- We must **not be quick to criticize and judge**
- We **must not assume** others have bad motives
- We must **be charitable** with each other
- We must **trust each other in our common covenant**

DC 138:3 *Let the church again be admonished that the task of establishing Zion presses heavily upon us. Barriers and hindrances to the achievement of this goal should be removed as speedily as possible and practicable. To lay securely the foundations for Zion and her buildings the work should be accomplished in peace and harmony. Unity should prevail. To this end all the Saints should work together in the rich fraternity which can and will prevail among them when they keep faithfully the commandments. Great blessings are in store for the church if it will in faith and saintly devotion go forward in its tasks.*

Engaging in Christian disagreement

- requires us to recognize that we are all on the same side
- that we are not at war with each other
- that in fact we fight against another.

All disagreements must be conducted in a spirit of humility

Phil 2:2-5 *Fulfill ye my joy, that ye be like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others. Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus;*

DC 130:8 *The Spirit saith further: That the elders and delegates assembled in business capacity are counseled to cease permitting the spirit of recrimination and accusation to find place in their discourse, either public or private, as it tends to destroy confidence and create distrust not only in those present at councils where they occur, but to those to whom the knowledge of such a course of procedure comes by the voice of those who are present and witness what is said and done. There should be harmony, and the Spirit enjoins it upon all, that the Master may be remembered as in meekness and due sobriety he carried on the great work to which he was called.*

It's God's Sword

The sword of truth

It can cut and sever sin from our lives

It is God's sword – It is His to wield.

The sword of truth

It can cut and wound people

It is not ours' to wield and cut, but to simply share

Truth can almost always be taught

A wounded heart, is hard to mend

Treat each other with love and respect

Let this be your communication

Eph 4:29-32 *Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers. **And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God**, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamor, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice; And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you. When disagreements arise and offenses are given or taken - we must Be quick to forgive and reconcile*

Romans 14:19 *Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another.*

Colossians 4:6 *Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.*

I Peter 3:8-12 *Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another; love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous; Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing; but contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing. For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile; Let him eschew evil, and do good; let him seek peace, and ensue it. For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers; but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil.*

Colossians 3:12-15 *Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, long-suffering; Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any; even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.*

DC 129:9a-b *The Spirit saith further unto the church: The Lord is well pleased with the advancement which has been made in approaching unity during the conference year; 9b and though there may have been differences of opinion, these differences have been held in unity of purpose and desire for the good of my people, and will result in helping to bring to pass a unity of understanding.*

The experience of the week was similar to the one conveyed in the Herald for April 30, 1887. *“One of the best sessions of conference we ever attended was held in Kirtland from April 6 to 14 inclusive. Unity, with but slight exceptions, prevailed from first to last, and the peace and love of Christ seemed to pervade every heart. The topics treated by those who preached were timely, and were delivered with divine grace and wisdom. The prayer and testimony meetings were seasons of gladness, and were marked by a large endowment of the Holy Spirit. The council meetings proved fruitful of good results and tended largely to expedite conference business. The Saints and friends vied with each other in making the occasion most pleasant to all.”*