

On Moral Issues of the Day

A Fifth Sunday Lesson

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Sterling Park Ward

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Four Principles

1. Faith--not understanding--is the prerequisite for obedience (Ether 12:6)
2. The moral issues we will talk about are personal to you -- you must decide what you will do
3. We will not stand in judgment of others' adherence to these moral codes
4. We will be sure the Holy Ghost confirms that our behavior with regard to moral issues aligns with Heavenly Father's will

Building Usage

1. No recordings in the Chapel (image, audio, video)

Clothing

1. Active members should wear "best dress" to Sunday meetings, including dress shoes and ties

Bodily Disfigurements

1. Tattoos and piercings are discouraged
2. Cosmetic surgery for vanity is questionable
3. We should be guided by the Spirit in donating or receiving bodily organs or tissues for medical purposes

Temple

1. Temple clothes may be made at home ONLY under the direction of the Relief Society President
2. Do not make your own garments

Death and Dying

1. We should not extend life unreasonably
2. Suicide, assisted suicide, and euthanasia, however, are violations of the commandments
3. Legal autopsies are fine
4. Cremation is discouraged
5. Stillborn children are not blessed nor do they have temple work done

Birth Control

1. Decisions concerning the timing and number of children a couple will have is between them and the Lord
2. Surgical sterilization is strongly discouraged
3. Abortion as birth control is a serious sin

Genetic Material

1. Genetic material, like sexual relations, should be kept within the bonds of marriage
2. We discourage
 - Allowing a non-spouse to use your genetic material
 - Using non-spouse genetic material in your procreation efforts
 - Engaging in surrogate pregnancies, either as a provider, a receiver, or a financial sponsor

Bearing Children

1. A member who sires or bears a child out of wedlock is subject to church discipline
2. Children are better off being sealed to their parents than not being sealed
 - Therefore children born out of wedlock should be given up for adoption to LDS social services, who will find a temple worthy couple to whom the child will be sealed

Homosexuality

1. Same sex attraction is not a sin
2. Same sex sexual behavior is a sin
3. The Church opposes same sex marriages
4. The same chastity rules apply to single people, whether they have homosexual or heterosexual preferences
5. Entertaining sexual fantasies (homosexual or heterosexual) is a sin

The Occult

1. Do not affiliate with occult groups, practices, or games
2. Do not participate in hypnosis for demonstration or entertainment purposes

Miscellaneous

1. The church name and logo-type may only be used for official church purposes
2. Ditto for lists of church members
3. Abuse and cruelty are sins
4. Shun gambling in all forms
5. Shun pornography in all forms
6. Be wary of "self-awareness" groups
7. Be wary of "Mormon" symposia