

Directive on White Shirts & Clean Shaven Mike Baird

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Directive from Elder Sorensen

- Elder Sorensen is our Stake President's direct priesthood authority
- Elder Sorensen of the Presidency of the Seventy
" All priesthood holders should be clean shaven and wear white shirts and ties to church meetings." (Priesthood Leadership Meeting, February 17, 2005)

Doctrines & Principles – Directives, Guidelines, Policies & Organizations

- Doctrines and principles of the gospel do not change
- Directives, guidelines, policies, organizational things are based upon both doctrines and principles plus the current environment and circumstances
 - They may and sometimes do change
 - Changes to meeting schedules for example

Responsibility in Revelation

- I have heard some say words to the effect:
 - "I checked with (insert relative or friend's name here) and in their stake/ward they "have not heard of this"/"are not enforcing" the white shirts and no facial hair guideline"
- Dallin H Oaks
"Our Heavenly Father's house is a house of order, where his servants are commanded to "act in the office in which [they are] appointed" (D&C 107:99). This principle applies to revelation. Only the President of the Church receives revelation to guide the entire Church. Only the stake president receives revelation for the special guidance of the stake.

The person who receives revelation for the ward is the bishop. For a family, it is the priesthood leadership of the family. Leaders receive revelation for their own areas of responsibility. Individuals can receive revelation to guide their own lives. But when one person purports to receive revelation for another person outside his or her own area of responsibility—such as a Church member who claims to have revelation to guide the entire Church or a person who claims to have a revelation to guide another person over whom he or she has no presiding authority according to the order of the Church—you can be sure that such revelations are not from the Lord." (Dallin H. Oaks, "Revelation," New Era, Sept. 1982, 38)

- In our Stake we follow President Dalton
 - I have "tunnel vision" when he speaks then I follow
 - Doesn't matter what Cedar Mill Stake President or any other Stake President says or is saying
 - Example is Thursday night leadership meetings
 - Only stake in the region that does this
 - President Dalton feels this is what we should do to follow guidance from 1st Presidency in Letter sent to Stake Presidents and Bishops about meetings on Sunday
 - In the case of the Letter from Elder Sorensen
 - President Dalton presented in Bishopric Training
 - We as a bishopric agreed we should follow
 - We presented to the PEC and they agreed we should follow

Obedience

- D&C 1:38
"What I the Lord have spoken, I have spoken, and I excuse not myself; and though the heavens and the earth pass away, my word shall not pass away, but shall all be fulfilled, *whether by mine own voice or by the voice of my servants, it is the same.*"
- 2 Kings 5:1-14
" And *Elisha sent a messenger unto him*, saying, Go and wash in Jordan seven times, and thy flesh shall come again to thee, and thou shalt be clean...
But Naaman was wroth, and went away... So he turned and went away in a rage.

And his servants came near, and spake unto him, and said, My father, *if the prophet had bid thee do some great thing, wouldest thou not have done it? how much rather then, when he saith to thee, Wash, and be clean?*

Then went he down, and dipped himself seven times in Jordan, according to the saying of the man of God: and his flesh came again like unto the flesh of a little child, and he was clean."

- First Presidency on Reading the Book of Mormon
"The First Presidency Message in the August 2005 Liahona and Ensign magazine teaches of the divine message of the Book of Mormon and extends an invitation to all members to read it by the end of the year. Those who read the Book of Mormon will be blessed with an added measure of the Spirit of the Lord, a greater resolve to obey His commandments, and a stronger testimony of the living reality of the Son of God." (Letter from 1st Presidency to all members, July 25, 2005)

How you dress is a reflection of your inner self

- Dress & Appearance
"The way you dress is a reflection of what you are on the inside. Your dress and grooming send messages about you to others and influence the way you and others act.
Show respect for the Lord and for yourself by dressing appropriately for Church meetings and activities." (Strength of Youth pg 14-16)

Obedience & the Word of Wisdom

- We obey the Word of Wisdom not because of what Science may or may not say about elements of the Word of Wisdom
- We obey because we love the Lord and wish to obey

Pharisees

- At the time of Christ the Pharisees had made rules for keeping the commandments
 - How many steps you could take on the Sabbath
 - Causing seeds to fall off grass when walking was considered threshing
 - etc.
- The Pharisees missed the mark:
 - Luke 11:42
"But woe unto you, Pharisees! for ye tithe mint and rue and all manner of herbs, and pass over judgment and the love of God: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone."
- President Steve Dalton
"I do not want us to be as the Pharisees. We should teach the doctrines and principles. 'Teaching the doctrines of the gospel will improve behavior quicker than the teaching of behavior will improve behavior.'¹"
("In response to the question – what is a church meeting?", Beaverton OR West Stake Bishopric Training, April 7, 2005)
¹Boyd K Packer "Little Children," Ensign, Nov. 1986, pg 16
- We will not give detailed instructions about what President Sorensen has given us
 - For example we don't feel to give instructions to these and similar questions:
 - Where does my face start?
 - What length of sideburns may I have?
 - If a meeting is not at the church is it a church meeting?

Holy Ghost

- Bishop Mike Baird
"Each of us has the gift of the Holy Ghost. You will know by how you feel inside of you if you are complying or not." (Joint Priesthood/Relief Society meeting, Cooper Mountain Ward, April 10, 2005)