

Temple Marriage Outline – Mike Baird

What is the new and everlasting covenant of marriage?.....	2
Purpose.....	2
It is not the new and everlasting covenant	2
What is the new and everlasting covenant then?.....	2
Must be sealed by the Holy Spirit of Promise to be of efficacy	3
What are the blessings of eternal marriage?	3
Blessings of Abraham	3
Eternal Lives.....	4
What does it mean to be "born in/under the covenant"?	5
What are the blessings of being born in/under the covenant?	5
Heirs of the covenant	5
Part of an eternal family	6
Parents have claim on children, children have claim on parents	6
Heirs to the blessings of Abraham.....	6
Reclaiming those born under the covenant	7
Can parents claim disobedient children?	7
Are you guaranteed exaltation if you are born in the covenant?	7
What about those not born in the covenant?	8
May claim blessings if they are sealed	8
No claim by parents on children, or children on parents.....	8
May only be sealed to two parents – not just one.....	8
No blessings denied the faithful.....	9
Effects of divorce after a temple marriage	9
Cancellation of Sealing.....	9
Living Women.....	9
What happens to sealing of children when a woman remarries?.....	9
Living Men.....	10
Status of children born after a sealing is canceled or revoked	10
Effect on children born in the covenant	10
Effects of unrighteousness.....	11
Seal of Holy Spirit of Promise is withdrawn	11
Excommunication or name removal	11
Righteous spouse sealed to an unrighteous spouse	11
After this life	11
Adjustment of ordinances during the Millennium	11
Sealing of Deceased Members	12
Agency	12
Those who don't enter temple marriage.....	12
Men who chose not to marry	12
Women who do not marry	13
Sealing Power.....	13

What is the new and everlasting covenant of marriage?

- Temple marriage is referred to in the scriptures as "the new and everlasting covenant of marriage"
 - D&C 131:2
"And in order to obtain the highest, a man must enter into this order of the priesthood [meaning **the new and everlasting covenant of marriage**];"

Purpose

- "to seal a husband and wife for time and eternity, depending on their faithfulness " (Handbook of Instructions, pg 70)

It is not **the new and everlasting covenant**

- D&C 132:4
" For behold, I reveal unto you **a** new and an everlasting covenant; and if ye abide not that covenant, then are ye damned; for no one can reject this covenant and be permitted to enter into my glory"
- Joseph Fielding Smith
" Here we discover that marriage for eternity is not *the* new and everlasting covenant, but *an* everlasting covenant embraced in the new and everlasting covenant which covers all things" (Answers to Gospel Questions, 1: 63)

What is the new and everlasting covenant then?

- See [New & Everlasting Covenant \(the\) - outline](#) by Mike Baird
- Joseph Fielding Smith
"The new and everlasting covenant is the fullness of the gospel.(D&C 66:2) It is composed of "All covenants, contracts, bonds, obligations, oaths, vows, performances, connections, associations, or expectations" that are sealed upon members of the Church by the Holy Spirit of promise, or the Holy Ghost, by the authority of the President of the Church who holds the keys.(D&C 132:7) The President of the Church holds the keys of the Melchizedek Priesthood. He delegates authority to others and authorizes them to perform the sacred ordinances of the priesthood." (Answers to Gospel Questions, 1: 63)

Must be sealed by the Holy Spirit of Promise to be of efficacy

- Efficacy: the power to produce an effect
- D&C 132:7

"And verily I say unto you, that the conditions of this law are these: All covenants, contracts, bonds, obligations, oaths, vows, performances, connections, associations, or expectations, that are not made and entered into and *sealed by the Holy Spirit of promise*, of him who is anointed, both as well for time and for all eternity, and that too most holy, by revelation and commandment through the medium of mine anointed, whom I have appointed on the earth to hold this power... are of no efficacy, virtue, or force in and after the resurrection from the dead; for all contracts that are not made unto this end have an end when men are dead"
- See [Holy Spirit of Promise - outline](#) by Mike Baird

What are the blessings of eternal marriage?

Blessings of Abraham

- D&C 132:30-33

" Abraham received promises concerning his seed, and of the fruit of his loins—from whose loins ye are, namely, my servant Joseph—which were to continue so long as they were in the world; and as touching Abraham and his seed, out of the world they should continue; both in the world and out of the world should they continue as innumerable as the stars; or, if ye were to count the sand upon the seashore ye could not number them. This promise is yours also, because ye are of Abraham, and the promise was made unto Abraham; and by this law is the continuation of the works of my Father, wherein he glorifieth himself.

Go ye, therefore, and do the works of Abraham; enter ye into my law and ye shall be saved.

But if ye enter not into my law ye cannot receive the promise of my Father, which he made unto Abraham;"
- Blessings of Abraham Promised Those Entering Celestial Marriage

" In the 132nd section, the Lord reveals to the Prophet Joseph Smith

that the blessings promised to Abraham would be available to all, contingent upon entering into the law of celestial marriage and being true to the conditions of that covenant. (See verses 29-33.)

Celestial marriage is the covenant of exaltation, and one of its blessings is that of eternal increase: not only posterity, but increased knowledge and wisdom. (Hugh B. Brown, Continuing the Quest.)

The requirement for obtaining access to all the blessings of Abraham was specifically declared by the Lord in verses 32 and 33." (LDS Church News, 1989, 08/26/89)

Eternal Lives

- Joseph Fielding Smith
"What does marriage mean to members of the Church? It means that they are receiving in that ordinance the greatest, the crowning blessing, the blessing of eternal lives. Now that's the way the Lord puts it, "eternal lives," which means not only will the husband and the wife enter into eternal life, but their children who were born under the covenant likewise will be entitled through their faithfulness to eternal lives. And further, that the husband and the wife after the resurrection of the dead will not come to an end. By that the Lord means that they will have a continuation of the seeds forever, and the family organization does not come to an end." (Conference Report, October 1951, Morning Meeting 121)
- Joseph Smith
"Except a man and his wife enter into an everlasting covenant and be married for eternity, while in this probation, by the power and authority of the Holy Priesthood, they will cease to increase when they die; that is, they will not have any children after the resurrection. But those who are married by the power and authority of the priesthood in this life, and continue without committing the sin against the Holy Ghost, will continue to increase and have children in the celestial glory." (Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, 300)
- Brigham Young
" Those who are faithful will continue to increase and this is the great blessing the Lord has given to, or placed within the reach of, the children of man, even to be capable of receiving eternal lives. To have such a promise so sealed upon our heads, which no power on earth, in heaven, or beneath the earth can take from us, to be sealed up to the day of redemption and have the promise of eternal lives is the greatest gift of all." (Journal of Discourses 2:301, June 3, 1855)

- Lorenzo Snow
 "When two Latter-day Saints are united together in marriage, promises are made to them concerning their offspring that reach from eternity to eternity. They are promised that they shall have the power and the right to govern and control and administer salvation and exaltation and glory to their offspring worlds without end. And what offspring they do not have here, undoubtedly there will be opportunities to have them hereafter. What else could man wish? A man and a woman in the other life, having celestial bodies, free from sickness and disease, glorified and beautified beyond description, standing in the midst of their posterity, governing and controlling them, administering life, exaltation and glory, worlds without end." (Deseret Weekly News 54:481, March 13, 1897)

What does it mean to be "born in/under the covenant"?

- The terms "in" and "under" are used interchangeably in this context
- "Children born to parents who have been sealed in the temple are born in the covenant of their parents' sealing." (Official Policies and Announcements , LDS Church News, 1994, 6/25/94)
 - Children who are born to parents married in the new and everlasting covenant of marriage are "born under the covenant" or "born in the covenant"

What are the blessings of being born in/under the covenant?

Heirs of the covenant

- William E. Berrett
 "Not only does the covenant of marriage in the temple bring blessings to the husband and wife, but many of these blessings are had by their children born after such marriage. We say of such children that they are "born under the covenant" and are hence "covenant children" or "heirs of the covenant." As children born under the covenant of marriage in the civil state become heirs of the property and contracts rights of their parents, so children born of parents having a covenant with God become heirs of that covenant and are entitled to their share of the blessings which flow from it" (The Restored Church, 653)

Part of an eternal family

- "Children born to parents who have been sealed in the temple are born in the covenant of their parents' sealing. These children automatically become part of an eternal family." (Official Policies and Announcements , LDS Church News, 1994, 6/25/94)
- "The family through the power of the sealing is made perpetual, that is to say, it will continue beyond the grave. It is by this authority that generation is linked to generation in one grand whole, from the days of Adam to the end of time, composed of all those who are entitled, through their faithfulness to exaltation in the celestial kingdom of God."" (Elijah: Clothed with Fulness of Priesthood Might, Power , LDS Church News, 1994, 05/28/94)

Parents have claim on children, children have claim on parents

- Joseph Fielding Smith
"Death does not separate righteous parents who are joined by decree and authority of the Father, neither does it take from these parents their righteous children, for they are born under the covenant, and therefore, their parents have claim upon them forever.
President Brigham Young has said: "When a man and woman have received their endowments and sealings, and then had children born to them afterwards, these children are legal heirs to the kingdom and to all its blessings and promises, and they are the only ones that are on this earth."...
They may receive a greater guidance, a greater protection, a greater inspiration from the Spirit of the Lord; and then there is no power that can take them away from their parents." (Doctrines of Salvation, 2:89)
- "By this authority parents have claim upon their children who are born under the everlasting covenant." (Elijah: Clothed with Fulness of Priesthood Might, Power , LDS Church News, 1994, 05/28/94)

Heirs to the blessings of Abraham

- "Brigham Young taught that children who are born in the covenant—born to parents sealed in the temple—automatically receive these same blessings, if they, too, fulfill the above conditions.
"When a man and woman have received their endowments and sealings, and then had children born to them afterwards, those children are legal heirs to the Kingdom and to all its blessings and promises. . . "
(Discourses of Brigham Young, p.196)" (LDS Church News, 1989, 08/26/89)

Reclaiming those born under the covenant

- Joseph Fielding Smith

"Those born under the covenant, throughout all eternity, are the children of their parents. Nothing except the unpardonable sin, or sin unto death, can break this tie. If children do not sin as John says, "unto death," the parents may still feel after them and eventually bring them back near to them again. On this point President Brigham Young has said: "Let the father and mother, who are members of this Church and kingdom, take a righteous course, and strive with all their might never to do a wrong, but to do good all their lives; if they have one child or one hundred children, if they conduct themselves towards them as they should, binding them to the Lord by their faith and prayers. I care not where those children go, they are bound up to their parents by an everlasting tie, and no power of earth or hell can separate them from their parents in eternity; they will return again to the fountain from whence they sprang."" (Doctrines of Salvation, 2:90)

Can parents claim disobedient children?

- Joseph Fielding Smith

"All children born under the covenant belong to their parents in eternity, but that does not mean that they, because of that birthright, will inherit celestial glory. The faith and faithfulness of fathers and mothers **will not save** disobedient children." (Doctrines of Salvation, 2:91)

- Joseph Fielding Smith

"But children born under the covenant, who drift away, are still the children of their parents; and the parents have a claim upon them; and if the children have not sinned away all their rights, the parents may be able to bring them through repentance, into the celestial kingdom, but not to receive the exaltation. Of course, if children sin too grievously, they will have to enter the telestial kingdom, or they may even become sons of perdition." (Doctrines of Salvation, 2:91)

Are you guaranteed exaltation if you are born in the covenant?

- Joseph Fielding Smith

"No matter how a person is sealed he will be assigned to his proper place. If a person is sealed to his parents, or is born under the covenant, and then he lives a telestial law, to the telestial kingdom he will go, or to the terrestrial. Salvation is an individual responsibility. Only through

living the gospel can we enter the celestial kingdom." (Answers to Gospel Questions, 5:169)

- Joseph Fielding Smith

"All children born under the covenant belong to their parents in eternity, but that does not mean that they, because of that birthright, will inherit celestial glory." (Doctrines of Salvation, 2:91)

- "Being born in the covenant entitles children to an eternal parentage, depending on their faithfulness. However, it does not guaranteed that children will be sealed to their natural parents if the parents or children are not faithful." (Handbook of Instructions, 2006, pg 86)

What about those not born in the covenant?

May claim blessings if they are sealed

- "Children who were not born in the covenant can become part of an eternal family by being sealed to their natural or adoptive parents. These children receive the same right to blessings as if they had been born in the covenant" (Handbook of Instructions, 2006, pg 86)

No claim by parents on children, or children on parents

- Joseph Fielding Smith

"Children, on the other hand, who are born to parents who were married until death separates them, have no claim upon such parents, and such parents have no claim upon the children after the resurrection from the dead." (Doctrines of Salvation, 2:89)

- Brigham Young

"For instance, a man and his wife come into the Church, and they have a family of children. These children have been begotten out of the covenant, because the marriage of their parents is not recognized by the Lord as performed by his authority; they have, therefore, to be sealed to their parents, or else they cannot claim them in eternity; they will be distributed according to the wisdom of the Lord, who does all things right..." (Discourses of Brigham Young, 399)

May only be sealed to two parents – not just one

- Children who were not born in the covenant

"A child may be sealed only to two parents – a husband and wife – and not to one parent only." (Handbook of Instructions, 2006, pg 86)

No blessings denied the faithful

- Joseph Fielding Smith

" We have the assurance that the Lord will reward every soul according to his or her works. He will judge each of us by the intent of the heart. If any worthy person is denied in this life the blessings which so readily come to others, and yet lives faithfully and to the best of his or her ability in striving to keep the commandments of the Lord, then nothing will be lost to him. Such a person will be given all the blessings that can be given. The Lord will make up to him the fulness after this life is ended and the full life has come. The Lord will not overlook a single soul who is worthy, but will grant to him all that can be given which those, apparently more fortunate, received in this life" (Doctrines of Salvation, 2:177)

Effects of divorce after a temple marriage

Cancellation of Sealing

- There is no such thing as a "Temple divorce"
- While a couple may be legally divorced it does not cancel the sealing - they remain sealed
- A sealing may be cancelled
 - Granted only by the First Presidency who have power to "to bind on earth and in heaven" and to "loose on earth and in heaven"
 - See [Sealing Power](#) outline by Mike Baird

Living Women

- "A living woman may be sealed to only one husband. if she is sealed to a husband and later divorced she must receive a cancellation of that sealing from the First Presidency before she may be sealed to another man in her lifetime " (Handbook of Instructions, 2006, pg 85)

What happens to sealing of children when a woman remarries?

- "If a woman who has been sealed to a former husband remarries, the children of her later marriage are born in the covenant of the first marriage unless they are born after the sealing was cancelled or revoked due to excommunication or name removal " (Handbook of Instructions, 2006, pg 86)

- Note: I have personal experience where such a couple applied for a cancellation of the sealing for the wife after the birth of their first child in order that they might be sealed. When notice of the cancellation was given by the First Presidency the couple was also given permission by the First Presidency to have their child sealed to them (Personal Experience as bishop of Cooper Mountain Ward, April 2005)

Living Men

- "If a husband and wife have been sealed and later divorced, the man must receive a sealing clearance from the First Presidency before another woman may be sealed to him. A sealing clearance is necessary even if (1) the previous sealing has been cancelled or (2) the divorced wife is now deceased." (Handbook of Instructions, 2006, pg 85)
- Note: A man may have more than one woman sealed to him

Status of children born after a sealing is canceled or revoked

- "Children who are born after their parents' sealing is canceled or revoked are not born in the covenant." (Handbook of Instructions, 2006, pg 87)

Effect on children born in the covenant

- "Children who are born in the covenant or sealed to their parents remain so even if the sealing of parents are later 1) canceled or 2) revoked by excommunication or name removal of either parent." (Handbook of Instructions, 2006, pg 87)
- Joseph Fielding Smith
"When a man and a woman are married in the temple for time and all eternity and then separate, the children will go with the parent who is justified and who has kept the covenants. If neither of them has kept his covenants, the children may be taken away from both of them and given to somebody else, and that would be by virtue of being born under the covenant." (Doctrines of Salvation, 2:91)
- Joseph Fielding Smith
"A child is not to be sealed the second time when born under the covenant, but by virtue of that birthright can be transferred" (Doctrines of Salvation, 2:92)

Effects of unrighteousness

Seal of Holy Spirit of Promise is withdrawn

- See [Holy Spirit of Promise](#) outline by Mike Baird
- D&C 20:31-34
 - “man may fall from grace”
- Joseph Fielding Smith:
”If one or both of these covenanting persons break that covenant by which they were sealed by the Holy Spirit of promise, then the Spirit withdraws the seal and the guilty party, or parties, stand as if there had been no sealing or promise given. All covenants are sealed based upon faithfulness.” (Doctrines of Salvation, Vol II, pg 98)

Excommunication or name removal

- "After a husband and wife have been sealed in a temple, if one of them is excommunicated or has his or her name removed from the Church membership records, his or her temple blessings are revoked. However the sealing blessings of the innocent spouse or children are not affected." (Handbook of Instructions, 2006, pg 86)

Righteous spouse sealed to an unrighteous spouse

- Joseph Fielding Smith
" If a man or a woman who has been sealed in the temple for time and eternity should sin and lose the right to receive the exaltation in the celestial kingdom, he or she could not retard the progress of the injured companion who had been faithful. Everyone will be judged according to his works, and there would be no justice in condemning the innocent for the sins of the guilty" (Doctrines of Salvation, 2:177)

After this life

Adjustment of ordinances during the Millennium

- Joseph Fielding Smith
"We may be sure that the Lord is not going to permit any ordinance which we perform incorrectly, through our lack of understanding, to be left binding forever without correction. During the millennium there will be a great deal of adjusting where we, for lack of proper knowledge, have performed sealings ignorantly, but according to our best judgment" (Doctrines of Salvation, 2:177)

Sealing of Deceased Members

- Deceased Women
"A deceased woman may be sealed to all men to whom she was legally married during her life. However, if she was sealed to a husband during her life, all her husbands must be deceased before she may be sealed to a husband to whom she was not sealed during life." (Handbook of Instructions, 2006, pg 86)
- Deceased Men
"A deceased man may have sealed to him all women to whom he was legally married during his life if they are deceased or if they are living and not sealed to another man." (Handbook of Instructions, 2006, pg 86)
- Deceased Couples who were Divorced
"Deceased Couples who were divorced may be sealed by proxy. These sealings often provide the only way for children of such couples to be sealed to parents." (Handbook of Instructions, 2006, pg 86)

Agency

- We have our agency in the after life that may be applied with regards to sealings etc.
- First Presidency
" Please assure Sister <name withheld> of our interest in her welfare, and counsel her to put her trust in the Lord. Remind her that there will be agency in the hereafter, as there is in this life, and that she will not remain sealed to anyone to whom she does not desire to be sealed. Knowing that God is just and will not deprive her of any blessings she has rightfully earned can give her comfort and assurance." (Jan 2009, Excerpt from letter from the First Presidency to President Steven Dalton regarding a woman who had been sealed to her first husband requesting a cancellation of that sealing in order to be sealed to her second husband, both of whom were deceased)

Those who don't enter temple marriage

Men who chose not to marry

- Joseph Fielding Smith
"If a man refuses to take upon himself the responsibilities of married life, because he desires to avoid the cares and troubles which naturally will follow, he is taking a course which may bar him forever from the responsibilities which are held in reserve for those who are willing to keep in full the commandments of the Lord. His eternal progression will

thus be limited. Like the Sadducees of old, he will be numbered among the angels who cannot be enlarged. It will not be his privilege to be numbered among the sons of God, and thus be entitled as an heir to partake of the blessings reserved for those who receive an inheritance in the Father's kingdom." (Doctrines of Salvation, 2:74)

- Joseph Fielding Smith

"Any young man who carelessly neglects this great commandment to marry, or who does not marry because of a selfish desire to avoid the responsibilities which married life will bring, is taking a course which is displeasing in the sight of God. Exaltation means responsibility. There can be no exaltation without it." (Doctrines of Salvation, 2:74)

Women who do not marry

- Joseph Fielding Smith

"You good sisters, who are single and alone, do not fear, do not feel that blessings are going to be withheld from you. You are not under any obligation or necessity of accepting some proposal that comes to you which is distasteful for fear you will come under condemnation. If in your hearts you feel that the gospel is true, and would under proper conditions receive these ordinances and sealing blessings in the temple of the Lord; and that is your faith and your hope and your desire, and that does not come to you now; the Lord will make it up, and you shall be blessed-for no blessing shall be withheld." (Doctrines of Salvation, 2:76)

- Joseph Fielding Smith

"If in her heart the young woman accepts fully the word of the Lord, and under proper conditions would abide by the law, but refuses an offer when she fully believes that the conditions would not justify her in entering a marriage contract, which would bind her forever to one she does not love, she shall not lose her reward. The Lord will judge her by the desires of the heart, and the day will come when the blessings withheld shall be given, though it be postponed until the life to come." (Doctrines of Salvation, 2:77)

Sealing Power

- See [Sealing Power](#) outline by Mike Baird