

Q&A Youth Fireside

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Doctrines and Principles

- Boyd K Packer

"The study of the doctrines of the gospel will improve behavior quicker than a study of behavior will improve behavior.

Preoccupation with unworthy behavior can lead to unworthy behavior. That is why we stress so forcefully the study of the doctrines of the gospel." ("Little Children," Ensign, Nov. 1986, 16)

"What do you think about caffeine drinks?"

"What kinds of drinks are allowed to have a little more caffeine in them?"

- D&C 88
- Example using a principle to answer a question instead of a list of behaviors:

- Joseph Anderson (Secretary to the First Presidency)

" Your letter of April 22nd addressed to the office of the First Presidency asks for information regarding the Church's attitude pertaining to the use of cola drinks, particularly as it pertains to the Word of Wisdom ... I am directed to tell you with reference to the cola drinks that the Church has never officially taken any attitude on this matter, but the leaders of the Church have advised, and do now specifically advise, against the use of any drink containing harmful habit-forming drugs under circumstances that would result in the acquiring of the habit. Any beverage that contains ingredients that would be harmful to the body should be avoided. " ("Letter dated 27 April 1971)

- Example of someone using a principle to guide them in a decision:

- Bishop H. Burke Peterson (Presiding Bishop)

" We know that cola drinks contain the drug caffeine. We know caffeine is not wholesome nor prudent for the use of our bodies. It is only sound judgment to conclude that cola drinks and any others that contain caffeine or other harmful ingredients should not be used. " (New Era, Oct 1975, p. 37)

"If you die suddenly after you have sinned, but you are planning to repent, what will happen to you?"

- All of us will have unrepentant sins when we die
- The question becomes what are we like?
- Alma 34:33-34

"What do you think about people of other religions and what do you think will happen to them?"

"Will good Christians go to the Spirit Prison or Spirit Paradise?"

- This type of judgment is in God's hands
 - We do not make such judgments about others either in or outside of our religion
- We need to understand what qualifications are in the scriptures for a person to be judged by God because they concern us
 - Paradise & Spirit Prison D&C 138:12-14, 20-23
 - Telestial: D&C 76:102-106
 - Terrestrial: D&C 76:72-80
 - Celestial: D&C 76: 51-54

"If God determines our trials and every trial in life has a different difficulty, so does everyone get the same difficulty of trials? If not then how is this fair?"

- No – we don't get the same degree of "difficulty"
- What is fair? Our society teaches that equality is fair.
- A better way to look at it is "what is needful?" for us to be refined
- We all agency to choose and we bring things upon ourselves so it is impossible for us to judge of others what is brought by God and by themselves
- It is impossible to judge what is a difficult trial and what is not
- God knows you and knows what is required to refine you
- Parable of the talents
- Parable of the laborers

"Is it wrong to have questions or to be unsure about parts of the Church?"

- Faith is a very personal thing;
- We are each free to choose whether and to what degree we will place our trust in the Lord
- Furthermore, people arrive at faith at different times in their lives and in different ways
- During our search for a testimony, and even as we try to strengthen our faith, it is likely that at one time or another we may experience a degree of uncertainty or questioning
- There is nothing wrong with having questions, so long as we remain honest in heart as we continue to seek understanding
- Our basic challenge is to keep our questions or doubts honest.
- What is the difference between honest and dishonest questioning?
- Honest questioning seeks true answers
 - It motivates the questioner to obtain a more complete understanding of the truth
 - The person with honest questions is sincerely seeking and promoting knowledge.
- Dishonest questioning, however, seeks to perpetuate itself.
 - Motivated by fault finding and hardness of heart, the dishonest person battles against understanding rather than for it
 - He soon moves from a state of uncertainty to a state of doubt, distrust, and perhaps even antagonism toward the idea or object of his uncertainty.
- What is the difference? Faith
- With an attitude of faith, the honest questioner can see that there is something above and beyond his present level of understanding
- He learns humility as he realizes that his own knowledge is not complete
- And he develops greater faith, both in himself and in God—faith that understanding, knowledge, and testimony can and will come in time after diligent effort, questioning, and seeking

"I thought the Godhead were separate beings. How does this work with 2 Nephi 31:21 and Mosiah 15:1-4?"

- 2 Nephi 31:21

- Look at cross references to one God
 - 3 Nephi 28:10-11

"Have or will they ever let a non-member in to the temple to watch his/her son or daughter get married"

- No they have not and I doubt they will ever
- Temple standards

"Why do we talk so much about obedience?"

- Plan of salvation
 - Given our agency
 - Only through obedience can we return to our Heavenly Father

"If this is the true church of God, why are there other religions?"

- Plan of salvation
 - Given our agency
 - There will be as many ways to live as we can think about

"What are the 70's and why do we have them?"

- D&C 107:25, 34, 38
- Practical sense the quorum of the 12 can not be everywhere as needed

"Why exactly do we have the dress standard that we have and why are they so different from the rest of society?"

"Why can we wear sandals to church and not flip flops?"

- For the Strength of Youth – Dress and Appearance
- Casual dress
 - In our society flip-flops that you wear to the beach, pool, kicking around are considered casual
 - Sandals that are nice are not
 - Regardless of what it is we show respect by not dressing casual at church as this does not show respect for yourself, for the Lord reflect on ourselves and send unintended messages

"Why do we go home teaching to members of the church?"

- D&C 84:111
- Members of the Priesthood have been commanded to "watch over" the church

"What do you fast and pray for most of the time?"

"Does Fasting and praying help your cause"

- Mostly for others
- Absolutely and unequivocally