

A Sense of the Sacred
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Introduction – The principle

- What is written on the outside of all temples?
 - "Holiness to the Lord"
- What does "Holiness to the Lord" mean?
- What other sacred places do we have?
- How do we approach sacred places?
 - Act?
 - Speak?
 - Dress?

Does Dress Matter?

- Does dress matter?
- Isn't what is on the inside matter the most?
 - Strength of Youth pg 14
- What message do we give when we dress casually at holy places and at holy events?
 - D Todd Christofferson:
"Casual dress at holy places and events is a message about what is inside a person. It may be pride or rebellion or something else, but at a minimum it says, "I don't get it. I don't understand the difference between the sacred and the profane." ("A Sense of the Sacred," New Era, Jun 2006, 28–31)
- Why then does it matter?
 - D Todd Christofferson:
"In that condition people are easily drawn away from the Lord. They do not appreciate the value of what they have. I worry about them. Unless they can gain some understanding and capture some feeling for sacred things, they are at risk of eventually losing all that matters most. You are a Saint of the great latter-day dispensation" ("A Sense of the Sacred," New Era, Jun 2006, 28–31)

- D Todd Christofferson:

" It offends God when we come into His house, especially on His holy day, not groomed and dressed in the most careful and modest manner that our circumstances permit. Where a member from the hills of Peru must cross a river to get to church, the Lord surely will not be offended by the stain of muddy water on his white shirt. But how can God not be pained at the sight of one who, with all the clothes he needs and more and with easy access to the chapel, nevertheless appears in church in rumpled cargo pants and a T-shirt?" ("A Sense of the Sacred," New Era, Jun 2006, 28–31)

When do these principles apply?

- What activities and events do this apply to?
- Ones that are sacred or deserve reverence
 - baptisms
 - baptisms for the dead
 - confirmations
 - blessings of the sick
 - administration of the sacrament
- What do these have in common? – Ordinances are performed
- D&C 84:20
Therefore, in the ordinances thereof, the power of godliness is manifest

Blessings of Developing a Sense for the Sacred

- Holy Ghost becomes your constant companion
- You learn and grown in understanding of truth
- D&C 50:24
That which is of God is light; and he that receiveth light, and continueth in God, receiveth more light; and that light groweth brighter and brighter until the perfect day
- D&C 93:11-13,19-20
he received not of the fulness at first, but continued from grace to

grace . . .

you shall receive grace for grace

On the other hand...

- What happens to those who do not reverence or appreciate holy things?
- You lose them
 - D Todd Christofferson:
" those who do not appreciate holy things will lose them. Absent a feeling of reverence, they will grow increasingly casual in attitude and conduct. They will drift from the moorings that their covenants with God could provide. Their feelings of accountability to God will diminish and then be forgotten. Thereafter, they will care only about their own comfort and satisfying their uncontrolled appetites. Finally, they will come to despise sacred things, even God, and then they will despise themselves." ("A Sense of the Sacred," New Era, Jun 2006, 28–31)

Treat Sacred Things with care

- How should we treat sacred things?
- Holiness grows from within
- As we are given more we must treat them with care
 - D&C 63:64
Remember that that which cometh from above is sacred, and must be spoken with care, and by constraint of the Spirit;
- Cast pearls before swine
 - D&C 41:6
For it is not meet that the things which belong to the children of the kingdom should be given to them that are not worthy, or to dogs, or the pearls to be cast before swine
 - What does that mean?
 - Sacred things should not be discussed with those who are not prepared to appreciate their value
 - Examples
 - Patriarchal blessing

Conclusions

- Develop "a Sense of the Sacred"
 - Must come from within
- Testimony